

Volt The Hague Election programma

DEAR FELLOW CITIZENS,

Welcome to Volt; a European party offering cross-border solutions to modern day challenges. Yesterday's ideas don't work in today's world. Volt wants to move forward. We are introducing a new, optimistic brand of politics. We have plenty of fresh, innovative ideas - and what's more we have the guts and determination to carry them out. Volt is not afraid to make the necessary choices for the city of The Hague of the future.

We want The Hague to be a vibrant city, with affordable housing for all, zero poverty, and efficient public transport. Progress is possible if we choose connection over division. Progress is possible if we work together. Volt is convinced that we will achieve more if we work together in The Hague, in the Netherlands and in Europe. We can learn from each other, and from similar municipalities in the Netherlands and in other European countries.

Volt is the only Europe-wide party, with its own people throughout Europe. This unique extra dimension gives us access to the knowledge, skills and cooperation needed to optimise our The Hague. Together, we can make plans for our shared interests, for our future and that of our neighbours, friends and family. What unites us is so much stronger than what divides us.

A new generation of politicians can't wait to get started. We look forward to representing The Hague locally, nationally and in Europe. We look forward to representing Volt voters within the city council.

We hope we have inspired you,

Mylene Tabernal & Jonne Tuijn

Co-leaders of Volt The Hague

5 CHALLENGES FOR THE HAGUE

This election programme is full of new ideas for the future of The Hague. We understand that you don't have time to read everything. That's why we have listed our most important challenges and positions for you.

1. A CITY WHERE WE WORK TOGETHER

Volt chooses to connect in a city that buzzes with diversity. We see plenty of opportunities to bring people, neighbourhoods and ideas together. That means a political approach that listens, explains and actively involves residents, and encourages grassroots initiatives. Sport, culture and volunteering play a key role. In this way, we will create an inclusive city of The Hague with progress based firmly on cooperation.

2. CITY OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Hague will become a more beautiful city when everyone can participate and has equal opportunities. The Hague Social House, modelled on Mechelen, will give us a single, clear point of contact where social services, care, education and assistance for the homeless come together. We will be a municipality that listens and inspires confidence. Support must be accessible, humane and close at hand, tailored to each individual's situation and capabilities.

3. A CITY WHERE YOU FEEL AT HOME

The Hague is growing and changing, which brings both challenges and opportunities. More and more people want to live here, but affordable housing is scarce, the streets are crowded, and not everyone feels safe or completely welcome. Volt wants to change this. We will do so with a housing fund for affordable and sustainable housing, as in Vienna, with safe and liveable streets where children can cycle independently. We will create a city where newcomers can participate immediately, as well as a preventive, people-oriented approach to safety. Together we will make The Hague a city where everyone can truly feel at home.

4. CITY OF THE FUTURE

By 2040, the city can be sustainable, smart and liveable for everyone. Buildings will be circular and climate-proof, the power grid will be ready for the energy transition, and green roofs and parks will provide cooling and fresh air. Technology will support residents without losing the human touch, while the economy will flourish with innovation, tourism and international entrepreneurship. Volt is determined to future-proof The Hague by working together with residents, businesses and other cities.

5. CITY WITHOUT BORDERS

The challenges faced by residents of The Hague, whether they concern social services, the labour market or public transport, do not stop at the municipal boundaries. Real solutions require an approach that transcends these boundaries.

The Hague is an international city, where people from all corners of the world live, work and contribute to society. There are opportunities here that we must seize. We will draw on the best examples from Europe to make The Hague an even more beautiful and accessible city for everyone. Cross-border thinking is in Volt's DNA!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CITY WHERE WE WORK TOGETHER (Page 7)

- 1.1 The Volt way of collaborative politics (Page 8)
- 1.2 Engaged residents (Page 10)
- 1.3 Transparent governance (Page 12)
- 1.4 Coming together through sports and culture (Page 14)

2. CITY OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES (Page 16)

- 2.1 The Hague's social house and financial worries (Page 17)
- 2.2 Care and well-being (Page 20)
- 2.3 Homelessness and rooflessness (Page 23)
- 2.4 Education (Page 25)
- 2.5 Diversity and inclusivity (Page 28)

3. CITY WHERE YOU FEEL AT HOME (Page 31)

- 3.1 Enough high-quality housing (Page 32)
- 3.2 Traffic and accessibility (Page 36)
- 3.3 Integration of newcomers (Page 39)
- 3.4 Safety (Page 42)

4. CITY OF THE FUTURE (Page 45)

- 4.1 Sustainable future (Page 46)
- 4.2 Nature and recreation (Page 49)
- 4.3 New economy (Page 51)
- 4.4 Digital services and accessibility (Page 55)

5. CITY WITHOUT BORDERS (Page 58)

- 5.1 International city (Page 59)
- 5.2 Collaboration with the region (Page 61)
- 5.3 Looking across borders (Page 63)

FINANCES (Page 65)

1. City where we work together

Volt wants politics that unite rather than divide. We achieve this by listening, explaining, and actively involving residents in decisions. Transparency and openness are indispensable in this process. We also strengthen these connections outside of politics. Through sports, culture, and volunteering, we bring people together and build a close-knit, inclusive city. In this way, we build a city where everyone feels welcome and where new opportunities for meeting and collaboration arise

1.1 VOLT'S WAY OF COLLABORATIVE POLITICS

In The Hague, Volt will bring a new, collaborative energy to local politics. In a city bursting with diversity and potential, no one dares to make the real choices necessary for progress. Differences too often lead to distance and inequality, and consequently, to stagnation. Parties and individuals hesitate to look beyond their own self-interests. It is time for a party that stands for connection. It is time for something new. It is time for Volt.

In The Hague, political debate still revolves too often around politicians and parties, and too little around the needs of the residents. We all notice it: residents feel unheard, trust in city government is low, and for many, politics is a "far-from-my-bed show" (irrelevant to daily life). The emphasis has too often been on what goes wrong and on pointing fingers, which leads to polarization instead of cooperation. Volt deliberately chooses a different course. We are committed to working together on a positive vision for the future, where we strengthen rather than weaken one another. We all want a city council that listens, learns, and collaborates. No symbolic politics or party interests, but practical solutions and honest choices. That is exactly what Volt stands for.

Furthermore, Volt wants to make choices, especially when they are difficult. Whether it concerns the distribution of scarce space, the necessity of climate measures, or tackling structural inequality: we look at the facts and do not beat around the bush. Honest politics means you don't just tell everyone what they want to hear, but you do explain why you do what you do. This includes taking responsibility, both for today and for tomorrow.

How does Volt demonstrate this?

- **City interests** over party interests;
- **Long-term benefits** over short-term gains;
- **Connection** over distance between social groups;
- **Resident-led initiatives** over initiatives from the municipality;

- **Priority for those who aren't making it**, and attention for those who are already succeeding;
- **Tackling problems holistically** rather than choosing one-dimensional solutions;
- **The power of the small-scale** over disappearing into the masses.

What do we mean by that?

Volt looks beyond party politics and thinks based on what The Hague truly needs. We choose cooperation, even with parties that think differently. What counts is the result for the city and its residents, not who came up with the plan.

Moreover, Volt chooses policies that look beyond the next election. Whether it concerns housing, climate, or poverty: we choose structural, systemic solutions that The Hague will still benefit from in 20 or 50 years. The "whim of the day" is less important than the point on the horizon.

Too often, contradictions between groups in the city are magnified. Volt chooses to connect worlds: between rich and poor, young and old, local, regional, and international. We build bridges where others throw up walls. This is the only way we can realize opportunities for everyone.

Additionally, residents often know best what is needed in their own neighborhood. Volt is committed to supporting and enabling bottom-up initiatives. We don't choose to impose things from above, but to do things together, such as through a citizens' panel or neighborhood association.

Volt prioritizes people who are at risk of getting stuck or being excluded for whatever reason. We help those who need it most. At the same time, we don't forget those who are already doing well. They deserve space and trust.

Complex problems cannot be fought with easy solutions; in The Hague, they are often interconnected. That's why Volt chooses an integrated approach. For example, improving education also requires a different way of thinking about accessibility and traffic safety. Working on a healthy living environment also touches on culture, sports, and greenery on the streets.

Thinking on a grand scale can sometimes come at the expense of the human element, and that is not always necessary. For instance, when neighbors have an idea for the design of their street, we want to listen. Volt believes in the power of the small-scale, the local, and the personal. In neighborhoods where people know and see each other, trust grows. And with that, a strong city grows.

1.2 ENGAGED RESIDENTS

Diversity is the strength of The Hague. Volt wants local democracy in The Hague to be just as inclusive, innovative, and future-oriented as the city itself. The municipality is already taking steps to involve residents: there are neighborhood budgets, district meetings, youth platforms, and participation tracks. International residents are also increasingly getting the chance to have their voices heard. Yet, democracy falls short in terms of representation and influence. Many forms of participation are non-binding, temporary, or repeatedly reach the same groups. Young people, people with a migration background, and international residents of The Hague still often feel unheard.

At the same time, the gap between residents and politics is growing. Decisions are often made without it being clear how resident input was weighed. This undermines trust, increases polarization, and fuels populism. If we do nothing, The Hague will become further divided.

Volt envisions a future where participation is not an afterthought, but a standard part of policy—where every resident, regardless of background or language, knows how they can exert influence. Above all, a future where the municipality feels responsible for listening and taking input from the city seriously.

Volt's Plans:

- **Volt listens to residents** and makes an effort to explain why we do or do not choose a specific proposal.
- **Permanent neighborhood panels and a duty to follow up:** A representative neighborhood panel in every district and a municipal obligation to process recommendations and provide public feedback.
- **Annual Citizens' Assembly:** At least once a year for the entire city and at the district level, with mandatory follow-up by the municipality.
- **Participation Reporting:** Making it transparent for every council proposal which parties were involved, what input was gathered, and how it was processed.
- **More influence for youth:** Expansion of The Hague Youth Council, an annual youth conference, and a direct link to decision-making.
- **International Residents' Forum:** An advisory body of international residents, multilingual information, and collaboration with The Hague International Centre.
- **European and digital democratic innovation:** Joining the *European Capital of Democracy* network, experimenting with allotted (randomly selected) citizen panels or a citizen parliament, and secure, multilingual online participation tools.

Our plans in detail:

Volt Listens Volt always strives to listen to the residents of The Hague. As much as possible, we test proposals that we submit or support in the city council with relevant organizations, such as neighborhood and residents' associations. We take their wishes and concerns seriously. If we deviate from a recommendation, we are always prepared to explain why.

City-wide and Local Citizens' Assemblies Volt wants The Hague to organize a city-wide Citizens' Assembly every year on a major theme, such as sustainability, traffic, or housing. In addition, the municipality must hold annual Citizens' Assemblies in each district regarding local issues. Participants are chosen by lot (sortition), receive independent information, and work toward concrete recommendations. The city council and the executive board will have a formal duty to follow up: every recommendation will be put on the agenda within eight weeks and answered publicly. This will also address what is and isn't being adopted and why.

Participation Reporting Every council proposal will include a standard participation report: who was asked, who was reached, what was gathered, what alternatives were considered, and how the input was processed. These reports will be published online so that it is transparent to everyone how decisions are reached.

More Influence for Youth Volt will increase the role of The Hague Youth Council and link it to an annual Youth Policy Consultation with aldermen and council members. Proposals from this consultation will have a formal path to decision-making, including the right to place items on the agenda and receive feedback. Participation will be made accessible through compensation, coaching, and meetings scheduled during school and study hours. Every year, we will organize a "The Hague Youth Conference," where the top 5 proposals must be discussed in the city council.

Involving International Residents The Hague has about 70,000 temporary international residents. A large portion of them are eligible to vote in municipal elections. Volt wants the municipality, together with The Hague International Centre, to establish an international residents' forum to provide solicited and unsolicited advice to the city government on topics that affect them. Information about elections and participation will be provided in multiple languages by default, and there will be information sessions regarding elections and neighborhood projects.

European and Digital Democratic Innovation Volt wants The Hague to join the *European Capital of Democracy* network and for the municipality to make the democratic innovations it implements visible. For example, we will experiment with allotted citizen panels or citizen parliaments, following Belgian and Irish examples, and build an online, multilingual, privacy-friendly participation portal with features for ideas, polls, neighborhood budgets, and co-creation. The portal must be accessible via smartphone as well as in libraries and community centers, with on-site support.

1.3 TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE

Trust in politics is a fundamental building block of a healthy democracy. When you don't know how decisions are made, or feel that business is being conducted behind closed doors, trust disappears quickly. Transparency is therefore not an afterthought, but a prerequisite for credible governance. First and foremost, this requires commitment from public representatives and the way they explain their decisions. They can be supported by methods that clearly explain policy choices, actively share information, and maintain openness about outside influences. In this way, the municipality can demonstrate that it has carefully weighed its choices. This creates space for dialogue and strengthens the sense of collective responsibility for the city. Transparency makes politics more accessible and, therefore, more reliable.

Volt's Plans:

- The Hague has already taken important steps toward greater openness, such as the **algorithm register, open data, and the ICT dashboard**. Volt wants not only to continue these initiatives but also to broaden them.
- Municipal information must not only be public but also **easy to find and accessible**. We will achieve this, for example, by centering it in one location and explaining as much as possible at a **B1 language level**.
- We will allocate more resources to the municipality's **information management**, partly to fulfill obligations under the **Open Government Act (Woo)**.
- We will create **insightful dashboards** with data on political themes in the city, such as migration, parking pressure, and the housing shortage.
- Lobbyists and interest groups influence our city government without it being visible. Therefore, The Hague will become the second municipality in the Netherlands to introduce a **local lobby register**.
- We will continue to reserve sufficient resources and space for **free local journalism** through an independent journalism fund.

Our plans in detail:

Building on Transparency In recent years, the Municipality of The Hague has taken significant steps toward a transparent and open government. Volt applauds this development and wants to actively build upon it. Thanks to facilities such as the Council Information System (RIS), the Hague Data Platform, 'The Hague in Figures,' the 'Digital Mirror City,' the subsidy register, the activities register, and the financial P&C platform, residents can increasingly monitor what the municipality is doing. Volt advocates for further investment in this openness.

Algorithm Register A concrete example is the algorithm register, which provides insight into the use of algorithms and AI within municipal processes. Residents must be able to understand when and how automated systems are used in decision-making that affects them. Therefore, we

want the municipality to actively maintain the algorithm register and transparently state in decisions whether, and which, algorithms played a role.

Open Source Strategy We propose a mandate for "**open source**" for all software purchased with public funds. True digital security and reliability are not created by hiding systems, but by making them open and auditable.

Findability and Accessibility We are also focusing on findability and accessibility. Although much information is public, it is sometimes difficult to find. With many separate URL links and no central platform, searching for information can be like looking for a needle in a haystack. Volt wants the municipality to create a single page where all municipal information can be found, possibly with links to external pages. The Hague has a higher-than-average number of low-literate residents; therefore, it is vital that information is accessible. We want all municipal information to be presented at a **B1 language level** as much as possible.

Information Management Proper information management is essential for a transparent and efficient municipality. Volt wants The Hague to invest more in this, partly to meet the requirements of the Open Government Act (WOO). Furthermore, it improves and speeds up internal collaboration and decision-making.

Public Lobby Register Following the example of Rotterdam, Volt wants The Hague to be the second municipality in the Netherlands to introduce a **mandatory and public lobby register**. Similar initiatives are already being implemented elsewhere in Europe, from Madrid to the European Commission. This makes it clear who is sitting at the table with the city government, for what purpose, and on which topics. This is fair to residents, civil society organizations, and other interest groups. Lobbying is a legitimate activity, but without clear rules, it can lead to skewed power dynamics and opaque decision-making. A lobby register strengthens trust in politics and ensures more openness regarding how a decision was reached.

Independent Journalism Fund Volt wants The Hague to continue supporting local media with an independent fund to provide structural support for local journalism—without political influence, of course. This gives the local press the space to hold the city government accountable and better involve residents in decision-making. This strengthens transparency and the broader public discourse.

1.4 COMING TOGETHER THROUGH SPORTS AND CULTURE

Cultural and sports institutions are accessible, safe spaces where people from diverse backgrounds come together. Think of reading hours for young children, social gatherings for the elderly, and exhibitions focusing on societal themes such as informal care, loss, or recovery. These places play a vital role in strengthening well-being within the neighborhood. Furthermore, exercising together, joining a choir, taking a painting class, or visiting a theater reduces stress. It prevents social isolation and promotes "positive health." In short, participation in culture or sports demonstrably reduces the likelihood of physical and psychological complaints.

Volt views sports and culture as one of the foundations upon which we build a caring and connected city—not as something separate from other policy areas, but as a powerful tool that strengthens the social domain, healthcare, and welfare organizations. Investing in this means investing in the resilience of our society. This represents a massive opportunity for The Hague.

Volt's Plans:

- **Sports and culture bring people together.** Spaces and associations such as sports clubs, libraries, playgrounds, museums, and theaters must be given sufficient room to operate.
- **We link sports and culture with healthcare and well-being** to sustainably strengthen mental health, resilience, and community spirit in every neighborhood.
- Volt wants **volunteers and informal caregivers** to be structurally involved and valued as full partners in municipal policy, with better rewards.
- We are **expanding the network of culture and sports coaches** throughout the city.
- Volt wants to grow the cultural and sports sector in The Hague with **long-term plans, less bureaucracy, and multi-year subsidies**, creating an accessible offering for everyone.
- The Hague must **preserve and strengthen community centers, neighborhood houses, and associations** as accessible meeting places for all residents, providing both financial and organizational support.
- We are working toward **The Hague as European Capital of Culture in 2033**.

Our plans in detail:

More Certainty for Culture, More Offerings for The Hague Volt wants culture in our city to have the room to grow. Therefore, we advocate for plans that look eight years ahead. This gives cultural institutions more certainty so they do not have to constantly re-prove their value. This means more stability and less bureaucracy, allowing the sector to spend its time primarily on organizing great activities for the city. Municipal subsidies should more often be granted on a multi-year basis, with a minimum of two years. This requires an intensive dialogue between the municipality, cultural partners, and also the province and neighboring municipalities. This

creates a better-distributed cultural offering for all residents of The Hague across the region. We are also looking at how subsidies can be distributed more fairly and simply: less red tape, more trust. This ensures that culture remains accessible to everyone, in every neighborhood, for both young and old.

Volunteering Volt recognizes the indispensable role of volunteers and informal caregivers in our city. Every day, they commit themselves to their fellow citizens and contribute to solutions for urgent challenges such as poverty, well-being, and sustainability. Volunteering deserves a structural place in municipal policy—not as an afterthought, but as a full partner in shaping the city. Additionally, Volt wants volunteers and informal caregivers to receive higher-quality rewards as a token of appreciation for their efforts. Ultimately, The Hague should strive to become the **European Volunteering Capital** within the next five years.

Culture and Sports Coaches We want to strengthen and supplement the network of culture and sports coaches in the city. These coaches actively build connections between cultural institutions, sports clubs, healthcare professionals, and welfare work. They organize events, identify needs in the neighborhood, involve residents, and ensure that physical activity and art also reach people at home or in care settings.

Preserving and Strengthening Meeting Places Volt sees community centers, neighborhood houses, and associations as the beating heart of The Hague. This is where people meet, initiatives arise, and connection grows. These places therefore deserve structural support from the municipality—financially, but also organizationally. We want community centers and associations to remain accessible and affordable for residents, to be well-maintained and sustainably supported, and for volunteers to receive help with recruitment and training. Boards and organizations should also be able to count on training and guidance. Volunteering provides energy, connects people, and strengthens society. With targeted subsidies and support, we ensure that associations remain vital and open to everyone.

Intercultural Meeting Days Volt wants to maintain annual recurring events, such as the **Embassy Festival**. These are places where international residents share music, food, stories, and art from their countries and cultures. This creates an accessible and festive way to meet one another and learn about each other's backgrounds.

The Hague: European Capital of Culture 2033 Volt proposes the goal for The Hague to nominate itself as the European Capital of Culture in 2033. This offers a unique opportunity to showcase the rich culture, history, and international identity of The Hague to Europe. It provides a boost to the local economy, stimulates cooperation between cultural institutions, and strengthens the cultural and international image of the city. Being the Capital of Culture means not only a year full of events that bring our city together but also a lasting investment in culture, infrastructure, and international networks. It offers opportunities for sustainable growth, talent development, and innovation in the creative sector.

2. CITY OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Many residents of The Hague feel like they are standing on the sidelines every day while the rest of the city just keeps moving forward. This is because they have little money left over, are in debt, or are out of work. This isn't a 'far-from-your-bed' story (something that only happens to others); it can happen to any of us. A divorce, a job loss, an illness: life can change in an instant. And before you know it, you too might struggle to make ends meet, or our children might fall behind at school. This affects us all. Because when people are structurally unable to participate, our city loses its character. That is why we offer help to those who need it. Volt wants a city that offers opportunities for everyone.

2.1 THE HAGUE SOCIAL HOUSE AND FINANCIAL WORRIES

The current approach to poverty and care in The Hague is fragmented and bureaucratic. Residents get lost between service desks, foundations, funds, and forms, while aid workers—despite their best intentions—spend more time on administration than on actual help. Regulations are often temporary, complex, and require repeated proof, which ultimately delays assistance. Having multiple contact persons and having to tell one's story over and over again drains energy and trust; small problems soon grow into a life of stress, shame, and despondency.

Volt wants every resident of The Hague with a request for help to be able to turn to the **"Haags Sociaal Huis"** (The Hague Social House). This is an approach that is simple, human, and local—based on trust, concrete opportunities, and building a life. The goal is a city with a single point of entry for help, dedicated contact persons, and fast, practical support. In this way, we reduce bureaucracy, increase trust, and prevent problems from becoming larger than necessary. The Social House is based on proven examples from Mechelen.

Volt's Plans:

- **One desk, one aid worker:** We choose a radical simplification of services within our municipality's social security system. All help is accessed through one entry point, one form, and one social worker.
 - **Front-office/Back-office structure:** The municipality will organize itself with a front-office as the permanent point of contact for residents (staffed by generalist social workers), while the back-office provides expertise on specific regulations.
 - **Empowered social work:** Social workers will be given the space, trust, and responsibility to act professionally with customized solutions, free from excessive bureaucracy.
 - **Neighborhood-based aid:** We will organize assistance locally in the neighborhoods, with short lines of communication to residents, schools, healthcare, and social organizations.
 - **An integrated approach:** We choose a collaborative strategy involving the municipality, education and healthcare institutions, foundations, and employers to structurally break the cycle of poverty.
 - **Participation and talent development:** We focus on work, education, and social participation, starting from each individual's talents and possibilities.
 - **Youth "Building Depot" (Bouwdepot):** We will start a pilot program to support vulnerable young people financially without further conditions.
 - **Simplified income support:** We will simplify the rules for income support, provide more "free-to-spend" cash assistance, and use fixed budgets for necessary costs so that residents can be helped more quickly and appropriately.
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Our plans in detail:

The Foundation: One Desk, One Aid Worker In The Hague, we will establish a Social House in every district. This will house the desk for income-support schemes, as well as other social services, such as the child health clinic (*consultatiebureau*) or the volunteer sign-up point. Those who need help only have to tell their story once. From the first contact, there is one permanent social worker who coordinates the request for help long-term—from debt restructuring to housing support. This prevents people from getting lost between various desks and fragmented aid.

Simple Service Delivery The municipality will set up a front-office and a back-office. The desk (front-office) is where residents go for low-threshold personal contact, clarification of their needs, and the initiation of help. This desk is staffed by social workers who know the client, have a general understanding of all regulations, and can apply for aid on the client's behalf. A support team (back-office) provides technical knowledge, administrative processing, and specialist input—for example, regarding debt settlement, legal questions, or mental healthcare (GGZ). They answer questions from the front-office. The back-office should ideally include not only municipal departments but also outsourced services and local foundations with the same goals.

For example: where a family currently might have contact with five different aid workers from five different organizations (each with their own administration), they will soon have one social worker with generalist knowledge, supported by a back-office where all these organizations collaborate. This saves time, reduces errors, and lowers costs. For residents, this means one face, fast help, and clarity. For the municipality, it means more efficient use of expertise and less time wasted on transfers between departments.

Empowered Social Work Inspired by the proven approach in Mechelen, we invest in social work as a profession. Aid workers are given decision-making power and do not have to justify every small step; instead, they are evaluated on the results for the resident. Less administration means more time for personal contact and customization.

Accessible, Local, and Close by Every district will have a *Haags Sociaal Huis* with staff who know the neighborhood well and work closely with schools, GPs, neighborhood organizations, and volunteers. We follow the principle of "follow the energy": we connect with existing networks and initiatives and strengthen what already works. Help is visible and accessible, with fixed walk-in times (no appointment necessary), combined with digital access via chat, phone, and video through one central number and a clear website.

Integrated Approach Poverty often has multiple causes: debt, unemployment, and health problems. Therefore, we link income support to access to education, debt relief, childcare, and mental healthcare. We work with permanent partners in the back-office to ensure no one falls through the cracks.

Youth Building Depot (Bouwdepot) Volt wants The Hague to start a pilot where vulnerable young people receive monthly financial support without further conditions. This is called a

Bouwdepot (Building Depot). Experience in other municipalities has been very positive: after one year, 30% of participants have a full-time job, and the number of participants with debt decreases significantly.

Simple Regulations Finally, the rules surrounding income support have become far too complex. Currently, only 3 out of the 16 "Stork Schemes" (*Ooievaarsregelingen*) take the form of "free-to-spend" money. People often know their own needs best, but aid in the form of credits or specific items doesn't always align with those needs. We will simplify these schemes and provide cash assistance wherever possible. We will also abolish the need for individual applications for costs that are always necessary—such as school supplies, sports clubs, glasses, or dental care. These will be made directly available through fixed thematic budgets.

2.2 CARE AND WELL-BEING

Every resident of The Hague must be able to count on high-quality, understandable, and accessible care. In neighborhoods like Laak, Escamp, Duindorp, and the Schilderswijk, we see many people facing significant hardships. Families with multiple overlapping problems often receive too little help or get lost in a maze of rules and service desks. Volt The Hague believes that care must begin precisely where the problems are greatest. We are building a healthcare system that is local, clear, and works for everyone—a system where parents, informal caregivers, and healthcare professionals are truly heard and supported. We achieve this by strengthening existing initiatives and simplifying regulations. We choose customized care, organized within the neighborhood, with a focus on those who are struggling.

Volt's Plans:

- **One desk and one aid worker** for all care inquiries, integrated into the Social House. Every resident will have one permanent contact person for personal and accessible support.
- **Sports and culture** will be used to strengthen mental health and social cohesion through collaboration with care organizations and structural involvement in policy.
- We are investing in **safe, inclusive, and accessible sports** for everyone, with high-quality facilities and events such as "The Hague Sports Day."
- **Early detection at schools** for children needing help, supported by small care teams per school.
- **Youth care** will also feature one desk and a permanent social worker per case. They will coordinate care, tackle issues early, and provide support until the individual can participate independently, even after they turn 18.
- Volt encourages **living at home as long as possible** with strong support for informal caregivers, while also investing in small-scale, neighborhood-oriented care facilities.
- We will address **low vaccination rates** using mobile clinics, pop-up centers, multilingual information, and collaboration with local community leaders.
- An **annual, public, neighborhood-based monitor** will be established to make waiting times, care access, and quality transparent to drive improvements.

Our plans in detail:

Accessible Care with One Click, One Desk, and One Contact Person Volt wants every resident to be able to turn to one clear desk for care inquiries. Therefore, we are integrating care into our plan for the *Haags Sociaal Huis*. Until then, we will utilize the existing "Servicepunten XL," ensuring they are open longer and more frequently. Care seekers will receive help from a permanent contact person in the neighborhood—a professional social worker who is skilled in communication, takes time for your story, is multilingual, and understands how stress impacts daily life. This support is offered via the municipality. Existing organizations stand ready to provide specialized input through this contact person. If necessary, help will also be provided through home visits so that no one gets stuck in paperwork or digital forms.

Sports and Culture's Contribution to Well-being Volt The Hague views sports and culture as indispensable forces for strengthening mental health and breaking social isolation. By actively connecting cultural institutions, local sports clubs, and neighborhood initiatives with care organizations, we make sports and culture a standard part of daily life. In consultations regarding youth aid, the Wmo, elderly care, and mental health (GGZ), representatives from the *Haags Cultuuroverleg* (The Hague Culture Consultation) will have a standard seat at the table.

Investing in Sports and Movement The Hague will invest in high-quality sports fields and halls while stimulating cooperation between clubs. Through the annual "The Hague Sports Day" and the existing "Exercise Desk" (*Beweegloket*) in the Social House, sports and movement are made visible and accessible, helping everyone find a suitable activity.

Early Detection in Schools Volt wants to strengthen care around schools and childcare. Bridge-builders (*brugfunctionarissen*) and toddler consultants play a key role here by identifying problems early and referring parents. Every primary school and child center must have access to a small care team that can act immediately.

Youth Care A social worker will serve as the permanent point of contact and ensure that the "walls" between municipal youth aid, the Wlz, and the Health Insurance Act do not harm the care seeker. This worker is given sufficient time for diagnosis, supported by specialist colleagues. Care does not stop at 18; young adults will remain supported until they can live, work, or study independently.

Vaccinations To increase vaccination rates in certain neighborhoods, the municipality will offer information via mobile vaccination sites and pop-up centers in high-traffic areas. This includes multilingual outreach via trusted ambassadors, such as GPs and religious leaders, and collaboration with schools and sports clubs.

The Hague Care Monitor Finally, Volt wants an annual neighborhood-oriented care monitor. This monitor will show, for example, how long people are waiting for care and where improvements are needed. This information will be shared publicly on the municipal website and discussed in district-level meetings.

2.2 CARE AND WELL-BEING

Every resident of The Hague must be able to count on high-quality, understandable, and accessible care. In neighborhoods like Laak, Escamp, Duindorp, and the Schilderswijk, we see many people facing significant hardships. Families with multiple overlapping problems often receive too little help or get lost in a maze of rules and service desks. Volt The Hague believes that care must begin precisely where the problems are greatest. We are building a healthcare system that is local, clear, and works for everyone—a system where parents, informal caregivers, and healthcare professionals are truly heard and supported. We achieve this by strengthening existing initiatives and simplifying regulations. We choose customized care, organized within the neighborhood, with a focus on those who are struggling.

Volt's Plans:

- **One desk and one aid worker** for all care inquiries, integrated into the Social House. Every resident will have one permanent contact person for personal and accessible support.
- **Sports and culture** will be used to strengthen mental health and social cohesion through collaboration with care organizations and structural involvement in policy.
- We are investing in **safe, inclusive, and accessible sports** for everyone, with high-quality facilities and events such as "The Hague Sports Day."
- **Early detection at schools** for children needing help, supported by small care teams per school.
- **Youth care** will also feature one desk and a permanent social worker per case. They will coordinate care, tackle issues early, and provide support until the individual can participate independently, even after they turn 18.
- Volt encourages **living at home as long as possible** with strong support for informal caregivers, while also investing in small-scale, neighborhood-oriented care facilities.
- We will address **low vaccination rates** using mobile clinics, pop-up centers, multilingual information, and collaboration with local community leaders.
- An **annual, public, neighborhood-based monitor** will be established to make waiting times, care access, and quality transparent to drive improvements.

Our plans in detail:

Accessible Care with One Click, One Desk, and One Contact Person Volt wants every resident to be able to turn to one clear desk for care inquiries. Therefore, we are integrating care into our plan for the *Haags Sociaal Huis*. Until then, we will utilize the existing "Servicepunten XL," ensuring they are open longer and more frequently. Care seekers will receive help from a permanent contact person in the neighborhood—a professional social worker who is skilled in communication, takes time for your story, is multilingual, and understands how stress impacts daily life. This support is offered via the municipality. Existing organizations stand ready to

provide specialized input through this contact person. If necessary, help will also be provided through home visits so that no one gets stuck in paperwork or digital forms.

Sports and Culture's Contribution to Well-being Volt The Hague views sports and culture as indispensable forces for strengthening mental health and breaking social isolation. By actively connecting cultural institutions, local sports clubs, and neighborhood initiatives with care organizations, we make sports and culture a standard part of daily life. In consultations regarding youth aid, the Wmo, elderly care, and mental health (GGZ), representatives from the *Haags Cultuuroverleg* (The Hague Culture Consultation) will have a standard seat at the table.

Investing in Sports and Movement The Hague will invest in high-quality sports fields and halls while stimulating cooperation between clubs. Through the annual "The Hague Sports Day" and the existing "Exercise Desk" (*Beweegloket*) in the Social House, sports and movement are made visible and accessible, helping everyone find a suitable activity.

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2.4 EDUCATION

Just like elsewhere in the Netherlands, our education system in The Hague is under pressure. Teacher shortages, outdated school buildings, and widening gaps in opportunity mean that not all children and young people can learn and develop optimally. At the same time, we see that low literacy and a lack of digital skills prevent many residents from fully participating in society. Volt believes that good education is the foundation for equal opportunities, personal development, and a future in which every resident of The Hague can participate.

We believe that education must be more than just the transfer of knowledge: it must make children and young people healthy, resilient, and skilled. School should be a place where children not only learn but also come together, feel safe, and develop the skills they need to participate actively and independently in society.

Volt's Plans:

- **Tackling the teacher shortage:** Volt supports the current approach involving new training programs, career-switchers (*zij-instroom*), high-quality guidance, and collaboration between schools and the business community.
- **Sustainable schools and green playgrounds:** Investing in fully sustainable buildings and green schoolyards to aid climate adaptation, biodiversity, and student well-being.
- **Care within schools:** Every school will have a dedicated social worker and multifunctional spaces for accessible support, consultation, and parental contact.
- **Combatting low literacy:** Early identification and customized programs to ensure everyone can participate fully in society.
- **Digital skills:** Targeted support for digital literacy via schools, libraries, and the *Haags Sociaal Huis*.
- **Free healthy school meals:** Promoting health, concentration, and performance for all children while reducing socio-economic disparities.
- **Smart financing:** Utilizing European subsidies, municipal co-financing, and multifunctional use of school buildings.

Our plans in detail:

Addressing the Teacher Shortage Good education starts with good teachers. We build on existing initiatives like the *Haagse LerarenPas* (The Hague Teacher Pass) and programs like *Ontwikkeldoor*. We want to make the profession more attractive by reducing workload, offering variety in work, and assisting teachers with finding housing in the city.

Sustainable School Buildings with Green Playgrounds Our goal is for all schools to be fully sustainable by 2035, utilizing solar panels, heat pumps, and circular materials. We are also investing in cooling, green, and water-friendly play areas to promote biodiversity and climate adaptation.

Space for Meeting and Care in School Preventive help becomes more accessible when every school has a permanent social worker. By designing school buildings with multifunctional spaces, we create room for classroom assistants to work with small groups, relieving teachers and providing more targeted support for students.

Every Child to School Volt wants every child to have the chance to develop. When children stay home (school dropouts/truancy), they miss out on essential growth. The compulsory education officer (*leerplichtambtenaar*) will be given more room for customization and direct contact with the child. Families will also be able to report issues directly to the municipality if schools or regional partnerships fail to provide a solution.

Tackling Low Literacy In The Hague, an estimated one in four residents between the ages of 16 and 65 has low literacy—significantly higher than the national average. Volt wants to prevent this through early detection at clinics and schools, followed by customized training paths inspired by successful regional examples.

Digital Skills Digital literacy is essential for modern life. Volt wants a tailored approach to help residents with government services (*DigiD*, *MijnOverheid*), video calling, and recognizing cyber threats like phishing.

School Breakfast/Meals Volt advocates for providing free healthy school meals to all students. Research shows this improves concentration and performance. By offering these meals for free, we ensure that every child, regardless of background, has access to healthy food, bridging the socio-economic gap.

Slim Financing Volt will leverage all opportunities to make school improvements affordable by utilizing European subsidies, such as the **European Regional Development Fund** and **Erasmus+**, for green initiatives and digital innovation. Additionally, we will encourage the multifunctional use of school buildings, such as renting them out to associations and community initiatives outside of school hours.

2.5 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY

Volt is building a The Hague where everyone is welcome, can participate, and can utilize their talents. With 180 nationalities and countless backgrounds, The Hague is one of the most diverse cities in the country; we see this as a strength that makes the city more beautiful and allows it to grow socially, culturally, and economically. We are taking concrete actions for equal opportunities, accessibility, and connection. This is how we make our city fairer, stronger, and more pleasant to live in—that is the core promise of Volt.

Inclusion is not an "add-on," but the foundation of good governance. In this regard, The Hague can still learn a lot from European examples. **Barcelona** and **Madrid**, as "Human Rights Cities," have anchored human rights principles in municipal policy with dedicated non-discrimination bureaus and structural cooperation with residents. **Edinburgh** applies "feminist urban planning," where urban design is viewed through the lens of inclusion and safety for everyone: wide sidewalks, good lighting, accessible public facilities, and gender budgeting are standard there. **Timișoara** (Romania), as the 2023 European Capital of Culture, showed how cultural redevelopment (such as the Faber center in an old factory) creates new meeting places that stimulate connection between groups.

Volt's Plans:

- **Diversity and inclusion** will be weighed in all decisions for new policy, whether regarding social policy or the design of public space.
- We will safeguard **capacity and expertise** within the municipality regarding inclusion.
- The municipality will **structurally collaborate with social organizations** to make all municipal policies as inclusive as possible.
- All municipal facilities, buildings, public transport, and sports/cultural facilities will be made **accessible for people with disabilities**.
- The municipality will actively promote that **everyone can be themselves** through public campaigns and support for events like Pride.
- The Municipality of The Hague will become a **model employer** and prioritize doing business with companies that have diverse policies and corporate cultures.
- **BOAs (Enforcement Officers)** and other municipal employees will receive training to recognize and tackle street intimidation and hate crimes against women and LGBTQI+ individuals.

Our plans in detail:

Inclusion in All Policy Henceforth, all policy proposals must undergo an "inclusion and equality test" to determine how they contribute to equal opportunities and combat exclusion. Additionally, the municipality will draft an annual inclusion report with measurable goals, concrete timelines, associated budgets, and clear responsibilities.

A Municipality That Speaks Out Volt stands for a city where everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, can fully be themselves. This requires structural attention, funding, protection, and visibility. Therefore, we choose structural municipal support for Pride events, Coming Out Day, and community initiatives. We will facilitate local meeting places for youth, families, and anyone wishing to connect with the LGBTQI+ community—offering space for coffee and workshops by day (such as *Jong & Out*) and low-threshold activities like film nights by night.

A Municipality That Leads by Example According to Volt, the local government should lead the way in diversity policy. Vacancy texts must appeal to a diverse target group and contain no unnecessary barriers. **Anonymous applications** will become the norm for the first round, and we will ensure diverse and trained selection committees. In public procurement (tenders), we will consistently include diversity criteria, such as the employment of people with migration backgrounds or disabilities.

Cooperation with Social Organizations The municipality must commit to structural collaboration with organizations working with LGBTQI+ individuals, people with disabilities, migrants, the elderly, and youth. Each district will be researched to see which specific groups need extra support—such as Eritrean newcomers struggling with language access or elderly migrants with specific care needs. Furthermore, volunteering will be made more attractive and better aligned with professional life. Volunteering will be explicitly linked to work-related environments where Dutch is actively spoken, helping newcomers learn the language in a natural context.

One Desk for LGBTQI+ Seekers of Help LGBTQI+ individuals in need of care or support can also turn to the **Sociaal Huis** (Social House). A permanent aid worker will help them navigate meeting places in the city, care options, and serve as a partner for all requests for help.

Accessibility for Everyone To lower barriers for people with disabilities or psychological vulnerabilities, we will ensure physical accessibility of locations, offer low-stimulus (*prikkelarme*) activities, deploy sports and cultural buddies where possible, and arrange transport support where needed.

Training BOAs Against Street Intimidations Too often, women and LGBTQI+ individuals face intimidation or violence on the streets. Therefore, The Hague's BOAs and municipal staff will receive specialized training. To assist victims, we are committing to better support during the reporting process, expansion of the online reporting point, and public awareness campaigns.

3. CITY WHERE YOU FEEL AT HOME

A city where you feel at home is a city where you feel welcome, live comfortably, and can walk the streets safely. To achieve and maintain this, we face many challenges in The Hague. The Hague is growing, and more residents mean we must build enough high-quality housing, organize our mobility more integrally and sustainably, and make room for everyone who wants to find their place here. At the same time, we want our city to remain safe, livable, and connected.

Volt therefore chooses a broad approach: affordable and sustainable housing for all target groups, approaching traffic and accessibility in the broadest sense of the word, a human-centered and opportunity-driven approach to migration and integration, and a preventative and just vision for safety. Together, we are building a The Hague that is not only stronger, fairer, and future-proof, but a place where you truly feel at home!

3.1 ENOUGH GOOD HOUSING

The housing crisis is now being felt across all layers of society. Students cannot find rooms, starters are forced to rely on scarce and therefore expensive private rentals, and the elderly are also unable to find affordable, suitable housing. As a municipality, we can do a lot by gaining a grip on construction, ensuring many new homes in an attractive environment, and learning from other cities in the Netherlands and Europe.

Volt aligns itself in The Hague with existing plans to add 4,000 homes per year, but we will always advocate for adding more homes to new developments where possible and exceeding that target. In doing so, densification in the city is necessary so that we can allow more people to live within the built environment and keep our green spaces green. Existing homes must be made sustainable at an accelerated pace; here, we focus on increasing the use of the sustainability fund for Homeowners' Associations (VvEs), and where aesthetic regulations (*welstandsregels*) make sustainability more difficult, we will adjust them.

Volt's plans:

- We continue to ambitiously build new homes in The Hague; at least 80% of all new homes must be social or affordable.
- Volt wants to focus on mixing functions in construction projects; in this way, we turn The Hague into a "15-minute city."
- By establishing a housing fund, we ensure that the municipality itself contributes to building homes and profits from the returns.
- We give full scope to new forms of cooperative housing.
- Neighborhoods where different people meet are stronger; therefore, we are working on more mixed neighborhoods in The Hague.
- We make home sharing and splitting easier, so that more people can live in existing homes.
- In new construction, we make agreements regarding the throughput (*doorstroom*) of residents from social rental housing.
- We continue to actively work on enforcement against abuses in the rental market and will enforce against vacancy.
- In new construction, we make space for shared cars and other forms of shared mobility and ensure good public transport connections.
- Within our construction ambition, we always maintain focus on adding homes for people who require care.

Our plans in detail:

We strive for at least 80% of the homes to be added to be social and affordable. In The Hague, the number of social rental homes must increase; we aim to build 40% social housing in the coming years. These social rental homes must be in the hands of corporations as much as possible; we will make agreements with them regarding maintenance.

Many people who want to live in the Hague region for their work struggle to find a suitable owner-occupied or rental home but do not qualify for social housing. Therefore, we choose to build 40% affordable rental and owner-occupied homes. This ensures that starters, young families, and seniors who want to live smaller can find a suitable and affordable home.

15-minute city In both large and small construction projects, we ensure that living, working, and shopping are mixed as much as possible. This ensures an equal distribution of facilities across the city and that all daily needs are within reach within a 15-minute walk or bike ride. We adapt the public space accordingly and look to examples such as those in Paris.

Housing fund Volt wants to learn from the Vienna model for housing, where the municipality holds a large share of the housing stock. In this, we are starting at zero in The Hague, but that is no reason not to do it. By establishing a housing fund, we want The Hague, together with developers and private investors, to build houses itself. This way, we have a grip on the allocation of these homes, and the municipality itself profits from the rental income and can reinvest these in the livability of the city.

Cooperative housing In addition to its own housing fund, Volt also wants the municipality of The Hague to give full scope to and facilitate cooperative housing forms that arise from residents themselves. In several places in the Netherlands, people have already set up initiatives where they are joint owners and managers of their living environment, such as *De Nieuwe Meent* in Amsterdam or *Stroom* in Utrecht. These housing forms have, for example, extra focus on sustainability or social participation. In this way, we give residents the space and possibilities to realize their housing needs as a collective while simultaneously creating living space.

Urban renewal In urban renewal, for Volt, preserving and creating new communities comes first. Therefore, we will focus as much as possible on adapting and making existing buildings sustainable during urban renewal. For Volt, demolition-new construction is not excluded, with the starting point that at least the same amount of equivalent housing is rebuilt, and especially that additional homes are added. This ensures that people from the neighborhood can return as much as possible to a home that fits their situation. In this way, we preserve communities in the neighborhood and add more homes. We are also looking at where in the city we can add floors to existing buildings. For this, we will come up with an "adding-up vision" (*optop-visie*) with the goal of making The Hague a leading municipality in this regard. Finally, we want to renew existing buildings at an accelerated pace; this makes the city climate-resilient and lowers energy costs for people. We stimulate VvEs in this as much as possible and look at adjustments where regulations limit this sustainability.

Neighborhoods where we meet In The Hague, there are many clear differences between neighborhoods. For new developments, Volt therefore wants to focus on as much diversity as possible in the type of new homes. In demolition-new construction, at least the same number of equivalent social rental homes or mid-market rentals must return, in addition to adding as many other types of homes as possible of a kind that are not yet prevalent in that neighborhood. Think

of more social housing in a neighborhood that now mainly consists of owner-occupied homes. In this way, we create stronger neighborhoods where different groups meet.

Throughput We promote throughput (*doorstroom*) in the housing market, such as with agreements in new construction projects, to give priority for a portion of the mid-market rental and owner-occupied homes to those moving on from the social rental sector. We are also looking at whether a throughput broker (*doorstroommakelaar*) can be deployed in The Hague.

Home sharing Volt The Hague wants it to be easier to rent a house with several people on one contract by applying so-called "friends contracts." Currently, the rules and preferences of many landlords hinder this; we will adjust these rules and thus promote living together. Additionally, we make splitting homes into multiple apartments or the rental of rooms more attractive under the right conditions.

Student housing More and more students are coming to The Hague. Volt sees a good home as the basis for an enjoyable student life. Together with the various housing corporations, we focus on building sufficient student houses. In this, we want there to be not just studios, but also houses with space for meeting and living together. On the private market, we make rules for room rentals simpler under the right conditions.

Living with different generations We promote landlady/landlord rentals (*hospitaverhuur*), where people who have a room to spare can rent it out to, for example, an (international) student. Additionally, we want a broad pilot with the rental of student rooms in nursing homes for the elderly. In exchange for lower rent, the residents receive tasks in keeping the older residents company. In this way, we stimulate connection between generations and combat loneliness among both the young and the old.

Enforcement on the rental market and vacancy In the tight rental market, too many tenants suffer from overdue maintenance, other abuses, or rogue rental practices. Volt believes that the municipality must continue to actively enforce this and proposes that The Hague "property brigade" (*pandbrigade*) receive more capacity.

Vacancy Offensive If it were up to Volt, the municipality will enforce more actively against people who have homes or other buildings suitable for habitation standing empty for too long. We will work on this by introducing active vacancy management and a vacancy levy. We are also looking at whether we can promote living above shops where this is not yet happening.

Temporary construction For various reasons, certain land may temporarily not be in use. Volt wants us to investigate the possibility in The Hague of whether temporary homes can be placed on this land in these cases.

Shared mobility in new construction In large new construction projects, it is often not possible to provide all homes with a parking space. Therefore, Volt The Hague wants clear agreements to be made with developers that a minimum percentage of the realized parking spaces is filled with shared mobility. In this, we keep an eye on entrepreneurs and their needs. We also ensure

that large housing projects are located near high-quality public transport connections as much as possible.

Small-scale care facilities Within the ambition for building homes and other facilities, we keep a particular eye on people who need care on a small scale. In new construction projects, there must always be focus on adding homes that are suitable for people with a care need, such as life-course resistant homes (*levensloopbestendige woningen*) or adapted care homes. We also stimulate new residential groups in which people can meet and support each other.

3.2 TRAFFIC AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Hague is growing rapidly, leading to increased displacement. This growth causes a mobility crisis that threatens livability. The city has the highest car density and the most dangerous traffic of all Dutch cities. Air pollution shortens the lives of residents in The Hague by over a year, nearly half experience noise nuisance, and children cannot safely cycle to school independently. At the same time, almost half of households do not own a car, yet public space is primarily designed for car infrastructure and parking spaces. Playing outside or taking a walk is hardly possible in some places. Without intervention, the city will become completely congested, public space will become scarce, and livability will decline.

Volt chooses a fundamentally different course: a city where an 8-year-old child can safely cycle to school independently. To achieve this, we look, among other things, at the approach in Helsinki, where they succeeded in having zero traffic fatalities for an entire year through a broad package of measures. This will be our benchmark for traffic safety.

Accessibility is an integrated issue that is not just about the car, but about all forms of transport together. In many cases, the bicycle becomes the fastest means of transport, followed by public transport. Residents must be able to consciously choose the right means of transport at the right time. By making travel by bicycle safer, faster, and more attractive, more people can choose sustainable mobility more often. In this way, we build a fair, healthy, livable, and future-proof city where everyone can move well.

Volt's Plans:

- **An "8-year-old test"** will be used for every mobility project to assess whether an 8-year-old child can use it safely and independently.
- **The default speed limit in The Hague will be 30 km/h.** 50 km/h is only permitted under strict safety and livability conditions.
- **We will reduce the number of parking permits in the city.** Parking spaces will be redesigned for bicycle parking, greenery, play space, meeting places, and terraces.
- **Large cars will pay more for parking permits and parking spaces** to make the use of space fairer.
- **We are investing in cycling and public transport.** Fast cycle routes, bicycle streets, and public transport connections will be expanded.
- **Shared mobility will be organized safely and clearly** with fixed locations for shared bicycles, shared scooters, and shared cars.
- **The public transport network will be expanded** with bus lanes, tram connections, and long-term research into a Hague metro network.
- **We will maintain the current zero-emission zones** that make the city cleaner and healthier. We are also focusing on emission-free vehicles, parcel hubs, and a scrapping scheme for old cars.
- **Mobility budgets for car, bicycle, and public transport will be integrated,** and revenue from parking fees will go toward sustainable mobility.

Our plans in detail:

8-Year-Old Test: Safety First With every change or renewal of roads and intersections, a test will be conducted to see if an 8-year-old child can use it safely and independently. This test works according to the "comply or explain" principle. The executive board must clearly explain why they would deviate from this. This becomes the new norm for traffic safety, with the highest priority given to known school routes.

Standard Speed to 30 km/h In The Hague, 30 km/h will be the norm. Only if a road truly meets strict conditions may 50 km/h be driven. This is only possible if there are safe, separate cycle paths; no schools, playgrounds, or care institutions are nearby; air quality and noise are good enough for local residents; and the road is safe to cross—even for an eight-year-old child. At busy intersections, this may mean adapting 50 km/h roads to lower the speed and improve visibility, for example with roundabouts, road narrowing, or chicanes. Additionally, there will be a plan to design all 30 km/h roads more safely, with speed bumps, flower boxes, and narrowing, making speeding impossible.

Fair Distribution of Street Space Space in the city is scarce, and streets take up a large part of it. Volt wants to distribute this space more fairly and therefore chooses a ceiling on the number of parking permits in the city center and pre-war neighborhoods, which will be lowered by 2% annually. This creates more room for a livable and attractive city, including extra bicycle parking, green platforms, flower boxes, play equipment, meeting places, and terraces for shops and catering.

Parking rates will also be made fairer. Large cars take up more space and will therefore pay more for a permit or a parking spot, following the example of Paris. Volt wants a study to be conducted before the 2028 budget on the introduction of this system. The results will be shared with the city council so a well-considered decision can be made.

Additionally, Volt wants to give The Hague more room to experiment with the temporary conversion of parking spaces. Together with residents and entrepreneurs, parking spots can be set up for a few months with bicycle storage platforms, green platforms, terrace platforms, and play platforms. This makes it visible what is possible, allows for quick and flexible responses to the environment, and increases support. If a trial is successful, a temporary use can be converted into a permanent improvement of the street.

Encouraging Cycling and Public Transport Volt The Hague wants you to be able to move quickly, safely, and sustainably through the city and region using the means of transport that best fits your journey. To achieve this, we must invest more in bicycles and public transport. Regional fast cycle routes will be established to Westland, Wassenaar, Rijswijk, and Leidschendam-Voorburg, with separate cycle paths and priority at traffic lights. Within the city, we will ensure a broad network of cycle routes that connects all neighborhoods. One-way streets will be designed as bicycle streets where cars are guests.

Expansion of the Public Transport Network The municipality must invest in better public transport to make the city more accessible and livable. Bus lanes will be added to busy routes, and buses will be moved out of narrow shopping streets to create more room for pedestrians and cyclists. At all public transport hubs, there will be high-quality bicycle storage and shared bicycles, making transfers quick and easy. Additionally, Volt wants to expand the tram network. New connections to investigate include Station Laan van NOI to Scheveningen for better access to the seaside resort, extending tram 11 to Zuiderstrand, and a tangential connection from Kijkduin via Southwest to Rijswijk. For the long term, Volt is investigating the possibility of a Hague metro network together with the MRDH—underground and connected to surrounding municipalities—to make the city future-proof and sustainably accessible.

Expanding Shared Mobility Volt The Hague wants to organize shared mobility safely and clearly. Shared bicycles, shared scooters, and shared cars from regulated providers will be given fixed spots on the street via the Rotterdam The Hague Metropolitan Area (MRDH), for example on shared mobility platforms. The municipality will stimulate neighborhood-based car-sharing initiatives and ensure the swift reintroduction of shared cargo bikes.

Climate and Emission-Free Mobility Volt wants the city to become cleaner and healthier by enforcing zero-emission zones. By 2030, all delivery vans and trucks must be emission-free, and from 2035, all new registered vehicles must be emission-free. To stimulate this transition, Volt is focusing on parcel points instead of door-to-door delivery, emission-free public transport from 2030, and a scrapping scheme for old polluting vehicles. This makes the city air cleaner, keeps people mobile, and makes the switch to sustainable vehicles more attractive.

Evaluation of Car Infrastructure As far as Volt is concerned, the focus of infrastructure investments must be on promoting mobility in the broadest sense. All investments for the benefit of accessibility for motorists will be directly evaluated for their effect. Costly tunnel projects will be critically weighed: more car infrastructure generates more car traffic and leads to more cars in the city. This money can be spent more effectively on better cycling infrastructure and better public transport for the same accessibility goals.

Integrated Mobility Financing Bicycle infrastructure, public transport, and car infrastructure will no longer have different budgets but will be financed from the same mobility post. Accessibility issues can thus be solved with the most effective means: public transport, bicycle, or car. Revenue from parking rates will be invested in public transport, cycling, walking, and shared mobility. The municipality will stop covering deficits for commercial parking garages and will subsidize bicycle parking spots at shops, businesses, and attractions.

3.3 INTEGRATION OF NEWCOMERS

The Hague is an international city, shaped in part by generations of migrants. Status holders, labor migrants, asylum seekers, EU citizens, expats, and refugees all contribute to the economy, community life, and the cultural richness of the city. Yet, many newcomers still face unnecessary barriers. Integration happens too slowly due to bureaucracy, lack of housing, or inaccessible facilities. Volt The Hague wants to approach migration and integration from a position of trust and equality. We want a The Hague where newcomers can participate from day one, utilize their talents, and build a strong community together with other residents. In this regard, we see social organizations as indispensable partners in both policy and implementation.

Volt wants to invest in rapid participation, local encounters in neighborhoods, and protection for those who need it. People who come to The Hague want nothing more than to become part of the city and make a valuable contribution to their new home. The Hague can certainly use that new energy.

Volt wants to prevent that energy from turning into frustration because people are sidelined for too long, restricted by rules, or seen only as a problem. That does an injustice to their motivation and reinforces negative perceptions. Instead of pointing fingers, Volt tackles the causes the municipality can actually influence: removing obstacles, creating opportunities, and showing appreciation.

Volt's Plans:

- **Housing for status holders** should take place as much as possible in existing neighborhoods, where they immediately become part of society, rather than being isolated in separate reception locations. This allows integration to begin immediately.
- **Language education as a structural right:** accessible to all residents, regardless of residence status.
- **Combination of learning and working**, so that newcomers contribute immediately and integrate faster.
- **Volunteering and social interaction** as pillars of integration, featuring mentor projects and key community figures.
- **Child-friendly policy** with good education, safe small-scale reception, and trauma processing for children and youth.
- **Humane reception and basic facilities**, also for the undocumented, via measures such as a city ID and safe reporting structures.
- **Low-threshold neighborhood desks** and clear information provision, including intake in one's own language.
- **Protection against discrimination and exploitation**, with active enforcement and complaint structures.
- **Fair balance in policy and resources:** expats, labor migrants, and refugees receive equal attention.

- **Structural cooperation with social organizations**, not just beforehand but also in implementation and monitoring.

Our plans in detail:

Civic Integration & Language Current civic integration is too rigid and academic. Volt chooses a flexible, human-centered system where language acquisition and integration go hand in hand. Learning a language works better when combined with work, volunteering, and sports. We want the municipality to focus on smaller class sizes, practice-oriented learning, experience-based learning methods—such as sports, cooking, and music—and by pairing newcomers with a language buddy or mentor. It is important that there is room for trauma processing. Seniors and undocumented individuals must also have access to language offerings aimed at self-reliance. We support initiatives like *Taal aan Zee*, which have already proven to work effectively. We take inspiration from cities like Amsterdam, where language lessons are accessible to everyone.

Labor Participation & Diploma Recognition Many migrants want to work and have experience or training in sectors with major shortages, such as healthcare, education, and technology. Yet they often collide with language requirements, bureaucratic procedures, and slow diploma recognition. Volt wants the municipality to actively mediate between employers and migrants, allowing work and learning to be combined. To this end, we work with agencies like Nuffic and SBB to make diploma recognition faster and simpler by, for example, actively referring newcomers to these organizations, offering support with applications, or advancing/reimbursing costs for diploma evaluation.

Volunteering & Social Interaction Volunteering is widely recognized as a key to integration. It provides language, a network, purpose, and safety. Yet many volunteer organizations are still insufficiently accessible to newcomers. Volt wants the municipality to actively build bridges between newcomers and social organizations. We will make neighborhood budgets available to support encounter initiatives and stimulate mentor projects where experienced residents guide newcomers. Role models and key figures from the community play an important role here.

Housing & Autonomy A home is the foundation for participating in society. Volt wants status holders to be able to get a home in existing neighborhoods. This allows their integration to begin immediately and prevents long-term dependence on reception centers. We want to experiment with personal budgets, allowing status holders to arrange their own living space. We also investigate tiered models where autonomy grows step-by-step. Additionally, we utilize temporarily vacant offices or buildings for reception and living space.

Children and Youth Children are often the most vulnerable group within migration. Volt therefore chooses a child-friendly migration policy:

- Small-scale reception, no large-scale emergency facilities.
- Always access to appropriate education and daily activities, including customization for unaccompanied minor aliens (AMVs).
- Structural psychological support and space for trauma processing.

- Avoiding repeated relocations that damage children.
- Protection for rooted children who have lived in the Netherlands for years: the municipality can, like other cities, issue a clear signal that these children are welcome.

Undocumented Individuals Undocumented individuals and people in an uncertain residence process are part of the city. Volt wants to safeguard their basic rights via a locally issued ID card, access to care, and protection against exploitation. We support a “safe-in, safe-out” approach: everyone must be able to report abuses without fear.

Information Provision & Local Infrastructure Many newcomers get lost in rules and service desks. Volt wants low-threshold neighborhood desks where people can go for legal aid, work, volunteering, and integration questions. We combine this with digital access and multilingual information. Intake must always take place in an understandable language and with the help of reliable intermediaries. Because GPs, schools, and employers are often the first points of contact, the municipality must provide clear information and interpretation services to ensure the pressure does not fall solely on their shoulders.

Cooperation & Monitoring Volt sees social organizations as indispensable partners. They know the reality on the ground and the people. Therefore, we want to cooperate structurally in policy development, implementation, and monitoring. We make agreements with clear responsibilities, timelines, and budgets. This prevents a lack of commitment and ensures that policy actually has an effect in practice.

3.4 SAFETY

In The Hague, we often talk about safety as if it is only about harsher penalties, more cameras, and stricter supervision. But safety is more than enforcement. It is also about feeling welcome and protected in your own neighborhood.

Volt wants to invest in a safe and connected city. Communities play a key role in this. Therefore, Volt wants to focus on a preventive approach that not only solves problems but also connects people. We do this together with residents and social organizations. This includes neighborhood-oriented youth approaches, support for prevention initiatives, training for professionals in dealing with vulnerable groups, and an active policy against street intimidation. Knives off the street, camera surveillance where it works, and always within the limits of our freedoms. Because you do not build a safe city with fear, but with trust. This is how we make The Hague safer for everyone.

Volt's Plans:

- **Increase street safety** through smart lighting, information, and training, and by actively involving women in new policy.
- We focus on **prevention and awareness regarding violence and femicide**, so that the pyramid of violence can be broken, including behind one's own front door.
- **Strengthen neighborhood intervention and prevention teams** with resources, support, and rapid follow-up of their signals by the municipality.
- **Invest in more and even better-trained BOAs** who have sufficient time and capacity to quickly pick up reports from residents.
- **Continue to use camera surveillance in nuisance areas** with a clear privacy policy and transparency, combined with modern technology.
- **Prevent youth crime** by protecting and reaching youth early through cooperation between the municipality, schools, police, and youth organizations.
- **Tackle knife violence among youth** with anonymous drop-off points and educational programs that promote safety, awareness, and social resilience.
- **Stimulate the reporting of street violence** through a campaign and public information.
- **Ensure safety at demonstrations** by deploying specially trained communication teams that build trust and reduce tensions.

Our plans in detail:

Street Safety Volt stands for everyone. More and more people feel unsafe on the streets of our city. Volt wants to do something about this. The feeling of insecurity is particularly high among (young) women. Volt sees and applauds what the municipality of The Hague has already done. Nevertheless, it remains an important and current theme where work still needs to be done. Therefore, we propose the following:

- **Improve the physical design of public space.** This could include more and smarter street lighting. The use of smart technology such as camera surveillance can also help create a greater sense of safety on the street.
- **Focus on school programs and youth information.** The municipality can contribute to education on topics such as transgressive behavior.
- **Training for BOAs and police** in recognizing and taking signals of intimidation seriously. Of particular importance is how to handle victims.
- **Focus on inclusive policy-making.** It is essential to involve a vulnerable target group—here primarily (young) women—in co-creating safety policies. Improving street safety is complex because it goes beyond actual safety. Much of it has to do with a *feeling* of insecurity, which is much harder to take away. Volt therefore considers it vital to remain in dialogue and develop new policies together.

Approach to Femicide Volt The Hague is committed to all residents of this city. Not just on the street, but especially regarding everything that happens behind one's own front door. According to the "pyramid of violence," femicide is often predictable. Volt therefore wants to join forces with specialized agencies. Prevention is key, because only together can we break the pyramid. This is why education is so important. Volt wants to focus on the specific development of femicide education for Hague educational institutions (both secondary and higher education), making no distinction between men and women.

Neighborhood Intervention and Prevention Teams Throughout The Hague, committed residents work daily for the safety of their neighborhood. More than 20 neighborhood intervention and prevention teams are active in the city. They identify unsafe situations, engage with people, and ensure that problems do not escalate. Volt believes in the power of these local initiatives. Therefore, we want to give these teams the resources they need, from proper equipment to support from the municipality. We also ensure that signals from the neighborhood are taken seriously and lead to swift action. Tackling problems from the bottom up works. Because real safety is built together—on the street, in the neighborhood, with each other.

Enforcement Many residents of The Hague feel safe when enforcement officers are visibly present and easily approachable. Volt wants to invest in this by ensuring more and better-trained BOAs. We invest in their professional development through training and support, and increase teams where necessary so there is sufficient capacity. This way, BOAs have the time and space to quickly address reports from residents.

Camera Surveillance The municipality must continue to use camera surveillance in nuisance areas to prevent unsafe situations and assist the police in investigating criminal offenses. In doing so, we ensure the municipality has an appropriate privacy policy and continues to adhere to it. Volt believes it must be clear to everyone where public cameras are located and who is responsible for processing the footage. We advocate for the modern use of technology in Hague safety policy. **Smart cameras** can help with the early recognition of situations such as street intimidation or knife violence. Volt therefore wants to collaborate with local educational institutions and startups to develop algorithms that better recognize suspicious situations and

reduce false alarms. Privacy remains paramount, and technology must not operate in a discriminatory manner. European subsidies can help with financing.

Youth Crime Crime among youth must be prevented. By preventing crime at a young age, more serious offenses are avoided. Too often, young people are still used to plant explosives, commit robberies, or sell drugs. It is of great importance to warn and protect all youth in the city before they are approached by criminals. Through good cooperation between the municipality, schools, the police, and youth organizations, we ensure that all young people can be reached.

Knife Violence Young people too often carry a knife when leaving home, and group pressure can arise to carry weapons. This leads to unsafe situations on the street. Inspired by a successful program in **Bristol (UK)**, Volt advocates for drop-off points in Hague neighborhoods where youth can anonymously surrender their knives. The surrendered weapons are destroyed. Valuable materials can be recycled, and the proceeds used for educational programs for youth aged 12 to 16. In these programs, they learn about the dangers of knife possession, how to prevent conflicts, and how to stand stronger in social situations.

Encouraging the Reporting of Street Violence Prevention is central to Volt. We see good results from reporting suspicious situations to the police. While the emphasis currently lies on reporting systematic youth crime, we advocate for a targeted reporting campaign regarding weapon violence and street intimidation. Through an accessible communication campaign via social media, neighborhood meetings, and schools, we want to inform residents about the importance of anonymous reporting.

Safety at Demonstrations A key part of a preventive and human-centered safety approach is deploying specially trained communication teams at large demonstrations. Following the example of the German **Anti-Konflikt-Teams**, Volt proposes using teams of recognizable officials at demonstrations. They engage in dialogue with protesters, emergency services, and residents at an early stage. These teams work independently of the police and aim to build trust, prevent misunderstandings, and reduce tensions. This ensures that peaceful demonstrations remain peaceful.

4. A CITY OF THE FUTURE

Imagine The Hague in 2040. A city that runs entirely on sustainable energy, where buildings are climate-resilient and circular, and where residents benefit daily from clean air, green space, and smart facilities. Volt wants to make this vision of the future a reality by investing today in a climate-neutral The Hague by 2030 and a fully sustainable economy by 2040. Such a city also requires a progressive municipality that creates technology to support its residents, makes processes smarter, and simultaneously safeguards the human touch. This is how we build a city that is ready for the future!

4.1 SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Volt strives for sustainable production and sustainable use of energy by 2030, and a fully sustainable economy by 2040. At the municipal level, we are also committed to a green and sustainable future, because climate change affects us all and can only be tackled collectively. We want municipalities to implement this perspective locally and cooperate with neighboring municipalities. By doing so, both nationally and internationally, we can develop new, workable solutions to combat global warming and guarantee a livable future for everyone.

Volt's Plans:

- We are working toward a **The Hague that is climate-neutral by 2030** and a fully sustainable economy by 2040.
- We are joining **European programs**, such as ELENA and NextGenerationEU, and learning from other cities in Europe.
- Volt wants The Hague to be **prepared for hot summers**. Therefore, we are updating the Hague Heat Plan with measures that protect health, nature, and livability.
- We are **scrapping regulations** that make making homes more sustainable more difficult as much as possible.
- We are committed to a **circular municipality** and are leading by example by making 100% circular tenders.
- We are tackling the **transition of the power grid** ambitiously.
- By 2030, there will be at least **10,000 charging stations** in The Hague for electric and hybrid cars.
- We are tackling **waste issues** by focusing on cooperation, technology, and positive behavioral change.

Our plans in detail:

The Hague as a Sustainable Frontrunner Volt wants The Hague to be energy-neutral by 2030 and to have a fully sustainable economy by 2040. This requires courage, cooperation, and European innovation. Together, we want to move toward a green and climate-adaptive city, where cooling can be sought during heat and water can be sufficiently drained when it rains hard. The Hague will become a pioneer municipality regarding the transition to a circular economy. We will speed up the insulation of homes and stimulate renewable energy. We are addressing rules that hinder sustainability and making it easier to preserve and upgrade monumental buildings. The municipality will take the lead in a "Hague Renovation Wave." By connecting to European programs such as ELENA (European Local ENergy Assistance) and NextGenerationEU, we will secure resources for the sustainability of homes, schools, and public buildings.

Addressing Heat Stress The climate crisis is making The Hague increasingly warmer. Extreme heat is no longer an exception, but a growing risk to our health and livability. The number of tropical days rose from an average of 1 day around 1900 to 6 per year now, and this could rise

to as many as 35 days per year. Especially the elderly, the chronically ill, young children, and people who work outdoors are at risk. An integrated local heat plan can save lives. For this, we look at cities in Spain, such as Murcia and Valencia. There, they have already effectively tackled heat by applying green infrastructure such as green bus shelters, parking spaces with planting, and vertical gardens.

Fewer Rules for Sustainability Volt believes that The Hague, as a city with history, must also keep up with the times. Where possible, we are therefore scrapping local rules that make making houses and buildings sustainable difficult. The municipality will also work to resolve barriers to the installation of solar panels and other sustainable energy solutions. For buildings managed by a VvE (Homeowners Association), the municipality will implement an active encouragement policy to get as many people as possible on board.

A Circular Municipality The circular transition is still lagging behind the energy transition; Volt sees that there is still much to be gained here. The municipality will set a good example with its procurement policy—the starting point should be 100% circular. In this, we challenge the market and focus on innovation and knowledge sharing at the national and European levels. The municipality will report annually on its circular procurement policy and drive innovation together with the market. We challenge developers in urban renewal to build circularly as much as possible, and as a municipality, we will always look for ways to high-quality reuse materials from the public space.

Power Grid Adjustments To prepare The Hague for the future, the power grid must be adapted. This is primarily about space; therefore, we ensure that new building plans always explicitly reserve space for transformer substations and distribution stations. In large projects, such as the Binckhorst, an energy plan will be mandatory to guarantee connection to the power grid. Furthermore, we ensure that local generation and storage are stimulated by the municipality. We will make it easier to place a neighborhood battery (*buurtbatterij*) or create space for thermal energy storage (TES) where possible. We will enter into dialogue with housing corporations to drive these types of initiatives there as well.

Charging Infrastructure Currently, there are 3,000 charging stations for electric and hybrid cars in The Hague. Volt The Hague wants there to be at least 10,000 charging stations in the city by 2030 in spots exclusively reserved for electric or hybrid (shared) cars. To fund this, we will temporarily increase the charging rate.

Waste Issues Waste nuisance harms trust in the government and between neighbors. Volt chooses an approach that works: cooperation, technology, and positive behavioral change. We will expand what is already working well in The Hague, such as container adoption, the MyCleanCity app, smart sensors, and container gardens. We will link reporting applications to reward systems, appreciate residents who commit themselves to their neighborhood, and stimulate "placemaking" around containers with greenery, art, and recognizable designs. We learn from cities like Ljubljana, Stockholm, and Copenhagen, where a combination of technology, trust, and visible involvement truly works. Volt does not believe in more fines, but in

strengthening what residents are already doing themselves. Because a clean city starts with people who feel responsible.

4.2 NATURE AND RECREATION

The Hague is a unique city, situated between the sea, dunes, and parks. That greenery is a luxury, but also a prerequisite for a healthy and livable city. It cools the city on hot days, purifies the air, dampens noise, and captures rainwater. It offers residents of The Hague room to breathe, move, and meet one another.

Volt sees the preservation and strengthening of nature in and around the city as essential. While The Hague grows and housing construction remains necessary, our "green lungs" must not disappear. Investing in urban nature and biodiversity is an investment in well-being, climate resilience, and the future. Greenery must also be accessible. Parks, dunes, and squares are meeting places where residents can exercise, walk, and relax. They also provide space for events, organized with respect for nature and local residents. That space must remain.

Volt's Plans:

- We will **grant nature rights**, becoming one of the first cities in the Netherlands to do so.
- We will design the city in a **nature-inclusive** way and ensure that everyone has a large or small green space within a 15-minute walk.
- Green spaces and water will be connected as much as possible; for this, we are committed to a **Green-Blue Framework**, which is good for recreation and biodiversity.
- There will be a **sustainable, accessible, and lively Hague beach**, with protected dunes, better facilities, and improved accessibility. Space on the beach will also remain for events and (circular) entrepreneurs.
- Volt wants more **clean and accessible public toilets** in The Hague.

Our plans in detail:

Rights for Nature Nature in and around The Hague is under pressure from urban expansion, pollution, and climate change. Volt wants nature in and around The Hague to be given its own voice in decision-making by anchoring nature rights in municipal policy. To this end, we support the establishment of foundations that represent the interests of natural areas. Additionally, Volt will advocate for national legislation for a pilot project in which one or more Hague nature areas receive an independent legal status, proposing to officially recognize areas such as the Westduinpark or Clingendael as legal entities. This means that these areas, just like people or companies, receive their own rights, such as the right to exist, to restore themselves, and to be protected from harm. For each recognized natural area, a guardianship council (*voogdijraad*) of 3 to 5 people will be established, including an ecologist, a lawyer, and local residents—and potentially artists or philosophers. These councils will have the legal right to provide advice on construction plans, file objections, or take legal steps on behalf of the natural area. We also focus on citizen participation and education about nature rights through schools and neighborhood organizations. International examples from New Zealand (Whanganui River), Spain (Mar Menor), and Ecuador show that this works. The Hague can become a pioneer in Europe in this regard.

Nature-Inclusive Urban Design Volt wants a The Hague where nature and the city are fully interwoven. Greenery is not just beautiful, but essential for our health, biodiversity, and for making the city resistant to heat and flooding. Everyone in The Hague must have access to a green spot—a park, square, courtyard, or green playground—within a **15-minute walk**. Furthermore, we build in a nature-inclusive way. This is beneficial for climate adaptation and the health of residents. Green facades and roofs purify the air, lower temperatures in hot summers, and provide rest and relaxation. Volt wants this to become the new standard.

Green Roofs Green roofs play a key role in greening. In many European cities like Paris, Basel, and Amsterdam, unused roof space is already being used for greenery, water collection, and energy. The Hague can learn much from this. Volt wants The Hague to go all-in on greening roofs through incentive schemes, clear guidelines, and obligations for new construction and renovation.

Green-Blue Framework We connect greenery and water throughout the city by creating a Green-Blue Framework. Alongside waterways, we create walking routes with as many green spots as possible. Ecological banks with natural planting and trees increase biodiversity. We connect these as much as possible to create a framework within the urban area, seeking connections with nature reserves inside and outside the municipal borders. We will reopen the Haagse Beek everywhere and border the waterside with parks on both sides. Where possible, we will also reopen other filled-in canals (*gedempte grachten*). Finally, we stimulate "slow traffic" on the water, such as electric boating, canoeing, paddleboarding, and water taxis, and we arrange good charging infrastructure for electric boats.

The Beach Volt wants the Hague beach to remain sustainable, accessible, and lively. The natural dunes must be protected and strengthened as coastal defense and habitats for biodiversity. Cleaning, waste facilities, wheelchair-accessible toilets, showers, and drinking water points must be expanded, while better cycle routes and public transport make the beach accessible to everyone. Sustainable events are welcome, provided they respect nature and residents. Beach pavilions and entrepreneurs are encouraged to work in a circular and waste-free manner. Finally, The Hague must invest in climate adaptation and innovative coastal reinforcement together with the Delfland and Rijnland Water Boards.

Public Toilets Access to a clean and safe toilet is a basic facility that contributes to an inclusive and welcoming city. Volt wants more public toilets in Hague neighborhoods, parks, and busy locations. When placing new toilets, there must be a fair distribution between male and female facilities. Finally, more toilets must be wheelchair accessible, so that people with disabilities can move freely and with dignity through The Hague.

4.3 NEW ECONOMY

A flourishing economy brings prosperity and well-being to the city and its residents. That means that entrepreneurs must be able to do business without too much interference from the municipality. Entrepreneurs also have an important voice in the choices for the city. At the same time, the municipality must ensure a good balance between economic, sustainable, and social values.

The Hague, moreover, has a relatively low productivity growth and limited diversity of economic sectors. By focusing on those sectors with a high growth potential, we attract employment, innovation, and circularity. For Volt, that means investing in Hague entrepreneurship, focusing on tourism, and The Hague as an international city of Peace and Justice. In this way, we create an economy that offers opportunities to all residents of The Hague, now and in the future.

Volt's plans:

- **We profile The Hague as a hub for innovative green companies**, with a future Green Innovation Park and financing via European subsidies.
- **We focus on tourism with a new vision** and strengthen the visibility of The Hague as a travel destination.
- **There will be an extensive events vision for the city** with new and existing sports and cultural events that connect, strengthen entrepreneurs, make the city (internationally) visible, and with which we limit nuisance.
- **The Hague must become an international top location for conferences and companies**. This primarily offers opportunities for the hospitality and security sectors.
- **Cooperation between the municipality, education, and the business community must be strengthened**, so that we reduce shortages in crucial sectors such as healthcare, construction, and technology.
- **Volt wants to better involve and represent entrepreneurs with different backgrounds** in decision-making.
- **With one central entrepreneurs' portal**, all information, regulations, and contact points will be clearly findable. This portal will also include simpler permit and subsidy processes, so that the administrative burden for companies is reduced.
- **Volt wants to promote an inclusive labor market** by stimulating inclusive employer-ship and creating equal opportunities for all job seekers.
- **Business parks and work locations will be made safe, sustainable, and future-proof**, with priority for green companies and municipal direction in new developments.
- **The resilience of the city is strengthened** by being well-prepared for, for example, cyberattacks and the failure of vital services.

Our plans in detail:

Investing in green entrepreneurship Volt wants to offer space to all entrepreneurs who keep our city running. To this end, the municipality must actively help Hague entrepreneurs to participate in municipal tenders and with the implementation of 'social return on investment', as many of them do not know how tenders work or lack the right support. The municipality must choose local, circular, and sustainable as much as possible in all tenders. What we purchase must last longer, be capable of reuse, and waste as few raw materials as possible.

The Hague as a green hub If it is up to Volt, The Hague will become the place in the Netherlands for innovative green companies. To this end, we look to the example of Edinburgh, where many innovative green startups are clustered together. The Hague has an excellent starting position to bring together innovative power from the various government, educational, and knowledge institutions in the region. Ultimately, Volt wants to work toward a Green Innovation Park in The Hague, as a hub where start-ups in this sector can sit close to each other. We will search for a suitable location in the city for this. To finance this, we will use European subsidies and the co-financing fund.

Tourist attraction We invest in tourism and create a new tourism vision, focused on different target groups such as business travelers, cultural visitors, and day tourists. The Hague is, moreover, one of the few large cities in Europe with a beach. That too is a unique opportunity to attract more tourists to The Hague. We strengthen city marketing and the visibility of The Hague as an interesting travel destination.

Events vision The Hague Events are a motor for connection, creativity, and economic growth. Sports and cultural events such as the CPC Loop, Kaderock, Vlaggetjesdag, the NK Beach Volleyball, and of course Prinsjesdag (Prince's Day) strengthen the identity of The Hague and bring residents, entrepreneurs, and cultural or sports organizations together.

Leading events have left the city in recent years. That is a shame and unnecessary. Volt wants to draw up an events vision together with the residents of The Hague with which we retain and renew existing events, but also add new initiatives, such as international sports tournaments or a stage of the Tour de France. We also try to breathe new life into typically Hague events that have left the city, such as Parkpop and the Tong Tong Fair.

Events also contribute to the visibility and image of The Hague as a vibrant, inclusive city. They offer opportunities for local entrepreneurs, hospitality, and cultural institutions to grow and work together. At the same time, this requires nature-conscious and smart organization. Events must be well-distributed across the city, for example between Malieveld, the Scheveningen beach, Zuiderpark, and in the neighborhoods, to limit nuisance and involve all residents. We will also incorporate this into the events vision.

International top location The Hague is, with all the ministries and international organizations, the ideal host city for summit conferences. By focusing on this, we increase the demand for good facilities, safe event locations, and international services. Volt sees opportunities in this for

the hospitality and security sector, which provides jobs for MBO-educated residents, who contribute to the resilience and appearance of the city as hosts or hostesses. To make this possible, Volt also advocates for a direct train connection from The Hague to Brussels and Paris.

In addition, we actively focus on attracting new international companies and organizations to the city. We investigate why organizations come or leave and conduct targeted policy to retain international headquarters.

Working together with municipality, education, and business We strengthen the cooperation between municipality, education, and business with joint programs, build on initiatives such as 'Better Alignment of Education, Labor Market and Business', and invest in projects that guide job seekers to work, such as 'STIP' and 'Newcomers to Work'. We tackle shortages in sectors such as healthcare, construction, and technology with apprenticeships and accelerated training, while we increase the employability of job seekers with one-on-one guidance, language, and digital skills.

Representation of entrepreneurs The Hague has a rich entrepreneurial diversity, but not everyone is reached or represented equally well. Entrepreneurs with a migration background, female entrepreneurs, and young entrepreneurs. Volt will therefore actively enter into conversation with networks such as JCI-Haaglanden and the Hague Women's Network to better involve these groups and strengthen their voice in municipal politics.

All information in one central entrepreneurs' portal Volt is committed to simple entrepreneurship. Therefore, we bundle all information, regulations, and contact points in one recognizable and visible entrepreneurs' portal. Here, entrepreneurs can go for all their questions without getting lost in a maze of websites and counters. Where possible, important organizations such as the Tax Authorities, RVO, KVK (Chamber of Commerce), and branch organizations will join this.

The portal also integrates the application process for permits and subsidies. These processes will become faster, clearer, and more transparent, so that entrepreneurs know exactly where they stand. This reduces the administrative burden for companies. In addition, the portal provides active support and better information. This makes it easier to make use of available regulations and prevents valuable subsidies from remaining unused because they are too complex or unknown.

Inclusive Labor Market Discrimination in the labor market is unacceptable. Still, people with a foreign name, women, LGBTIQ+ individuals, and older job seekers have less chance of a job or internship. Volt wants this to stop and calls on the Hague business community to actively work on a truly inclusive labor market. Measures such as anonymous applications, targeted recruitment, and breaking through prejudices help to create equal opportunities. Inclusive employer-ship receives more attention by supporting entrepreneurs in hiring people with a distance to the labor market, with clear regulations, subsidies, and guidance. An inclusive labor market is, in fact, not only just, but also utilizes the full talent that The Hague possesses.

Business parks and work locations Volt wants to invest in current business parks by making them safe, sustainable, and future-proof, also for the energy transition, climate adaptation, and circular economy. The municipality must also take strong direction in the area development of new sites. Specifically, green enterprises and companies that contribute to the profile of The Hague must be given a place.

Resilience Due to geopolitical and technological developments, resilience is becoming increasingly important. Residents, entrepreneurs, and the municipality must be prepared for various threats, from cyberattacks to the failure of vital services. Volt wants to strengthen existing programs regarding resilience and improve preventive strategies so that The Hague remains resilient.

4.4 DIGITAL SERVICES AND ACCESSIBILITY

If it is up to Volt, The Hague will become a smart municipality where digital innovations are central to creating a livable and future-proof environment. Technologies are deployed effectively to solve social challenges and manage the city, for the benefit of residents, visitors, and entrepreneurs. During urban development, there is proactive thought regarding the required future technology, aimed at improving accessibility, safety, sustainability, and the economy. The municipality ensures responsible use of digital tools and offers high-quality digital services to its citizens. All of this contributes to an inclusive and efficient city where everyone can benefit from digital progress.

Volt's plans:

- **Technology is merely a tool for people.** This must not be forgotten when we speak about digitalization.
- **Artificial intelligence is deployed to improve public service delivery** and urban challenges, with clear ethical frameworks, a municipal AI guideline, and cooperation with other governments.
- **Residents and entrepreneurs receive user-friendly, connected, and secure digital services**, whereby they retain control over their own data. Physical contact with the municipality will always remain possible.
- **The Hague promotes digital literacy and awareness of digital safety**, so that everyone can participate and gain trust in digital services.
- **The municipality plays a pioneering role in the introduction of the eWallet**, with which residents maintain control over their digital identity and documents.
- **Non-personal data are made publicly available** and the municipality chooses open-source solutions as much as possible, whereby outdated and insecure software is replaced in a timely manner.
- **Personal data and municipal systems are well-protected**, legislation is complied with, and The Hague guards its digital autonomy by maintaining control over data and preventing dependency on suppliers.

Our plans in detail:

Our principle: human at the center At Volt, the human is central, even in a world that is becoming increasingly digital. Technology is not the goal, but a tool to make life easier. At the same time, we must ensure that our data remains secure. We believe that digitalization in Europe must happen together. Cooperation, open standards, and shared values are important in this regard. No one should be forgotten. Digital innovation must contribute to a fairer, more sustainable, and more inclusive The Hague.

Innovation and artificial intelligence The Hague embraces the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other new technologies to improve public service delivery and provide smart solutions for urban challenges. AI is used to support data-driven decision-making, with

clear guidelines and ethical frameworks that ensure transparency, fairness, and the prevention of discrimination. Examples of how AI will help the residents of The Hague include a 24/7 active The Hague Chatbot to assist residents with complicated procedures, questions, or the active sharing of information interesting to targeted groups. AI could also help improve safety in the city through systems that predict building maintenance, manage traffic better, and identify dangerous spots in the city while suggesting improvements.

Volt wants the municipality to draft an AI guideline so that AI is used in a safe and fair manner. The municipality will train its employees to use AI, such as smart language models, properly and efficiently. This allows processes to be organized better and smarter, and civil servants to work more efficiently. The Hague must also cooperate with other municipalities and national initiatives, such as the Dutch AI Coalition and ChatAmsterdam, to share knowledge, limit risks, and improve the cooperation between systems.

Digital service delivery and reporting Residents and entrepreneurs in The Hague should experience seamless and efficient digital service delivery, characterized by user-friendliness and accessibility for everyone. An example of this is that reports about the environment, such as waste on the street, an unsafe situation, or residential nuisance, can be easily submitted via a single app. Volt wants all government applications to be digitally connected and interoperable with each other, ensuring that cooperation and data exchange run smoothly. Crucial here is that every individual has control over their own data and a say in which data is shared and used by whom.

Digital inclusion and literacy Not everyone can or wants to make use of digital services. Therefore, it will always remain possible in The Hague to visit the municipality physically. At the same time, the municipality encourages digital service delivery so that residents and businesses can handle affairs online safely and with confidence. To ensure that everyone can participate, The Hague promotes digital skills through initiatives such as the Hague Network for Digital Skills. The municipality also continues to support activities such as Hack the Hague and other educational programs to increase awareness regarding digital safety.

European Digital Identity (eIDAS2) The Hague will play a pioneering role in the introduction of the European Digital Identity Wallet (eWallet). Together with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK), the municipality participates in pilots and projects to be the first to apply this technology. With the eWallet, residents can securely store and share their digital identity and important documents, such as a driver's license, diploma, or extract. This gives residents access to all European government services with one button, while they themselves maintain control over which data they share with whom. The Hague invests in good systems and training for employees so that residents are well-supported in using their digital wallet.

Open data strategy Volt wants the municipality to make its non-personal data available openly and for free to everyone. Citizens, companies, and researchers can use this data to make analyses or develop new applications. This ensures more transparency and stimulates innovation. Regarding software that the municipality purchases, The Hague chooses open-source as much as possible. This means the software is accessible to everyone,

cooperation with other municipalities becomes easier, and the municipality is not stuck with one supplier.

Digital safety Digital safety is a top priority for Volt. Personal data and municipal systems must be well-protected. The municipality, therefore, works with a clear and fair policy for data collection and use, so that discrimination and exclusion are prevented. The Hague also ensures that all European rules, such as the new Cybersecurity Act and the Critical Entities Resilience Act, are properly complied with and that enough budget is available for this. The cyber and IT crisis plan is tested several times a year with realistic scenarios.

Digital Autonomy The Hague wants residents to always be able to count on reliable digital service delivery from the municipality. Therefore, the municipality must maintain control over its own data and systems, even when making use of cloud solutions. This means that clear agreements are made with suppliers about where the data is located, who has access, and how the municipality can switch to another provider. This prevents the municipality from becoming dependent on a single supplier (vendor lock-in). Where possible, The Hague chooses European cloud providers that fall under European legislation and comply with privacy rules (GDPR). For all important systems, there will be clear plans to switch safely and without interruption to another solution if necessary. The municipality always remains the owner of its own data and ensures that it is not used for commercial purposes by third parties.

5. CITY WITHOUT BORDERS

For Volt, a border does not mean that cooperation or solutions stop, but that new possibilities arise. Our municipal boundaries are primarily a useful tool for organizing the city, but they must not limit us in finding solutions. Many of the issues facing The Hague, such as sustainability, mobility, housing, and safety, extend beyond the city itself and require cooperation across borders.

5.1 INTERNATIONAL CITY

Den Hague is the city of peace and justice. In this city, people from all over the world work toward cooperation, fairness, and a peaceful future. We want to strengthen and further develop that image and unique position. Therefore, Volt wants Den Hague to fulfill its role as an international and European city even more emphatically. This means building strong ties with the European Union (EU) and its institutions. Den Hague can also contribute to implementing EU plans that make us all greener, more social, stronger, and more efficient at both the local and European levels. In this way, we leverage the power of our international profile and make Den Hague a city that opens up, connects, and looks ahead.

Volt's plans:

- **The Hague benefits from the European Union and vice-versa.**
- Thanks to the EU, we benefit from **subsidies for sustainable energy, education, and innovation** for our city. Volt wants to expand this further so that every resident sees and feels how Europe contributes to a sustainable, safe, and inclusive The Hague.
- Residents and entrepreneurs must have **easy access to information about European subsidies, opportunities, and rights**, such as the Green Deal.
- **Strengthening the international character of The Hague** by clearly putting itself on the map as the city of peace, justice, and safety.
- **Leveraging local opportunities for more investment** in the local and regional defense and security sector based on "Readiness 2030."
- **Facilitating everything needed for a third Hague Peace Conference.**
- By continuing to invest in the **housing of international organizations** and the development of the International Zone, The Hague strengthens its international position, creates employment, and reduces nuisance during major conferences.

Our plans in detail:

European Subsidies The Hague already successfully uses European subsidies to make our city greener, more social, and more innovative. Thanks to the EU, projects ranging from sustainable energy supply in Scheveningen to training programs for job seekers in the Haaglanden region are made possible, while the EU Mission Label received in 2024 opens new doors to funding for climate neutrality and digital innovation. Volt wants The Hague to maximize these opportunities by working more closely with the EU, the region, and local partners, with a sharp focus on European priorities such as the energy transition, digital security, and social inclusion. We will strengthen the lobby in Brussels, increase the visibility of EU projects in the city so residents see how Europe contributes to their daily lives, and focus on impact measurement and transparent reporting.

Information Point for EU Subsidies and Opportunities Residents and entrepreneurs of The Hague should be able to go to the municipality for information about European subsidies, European opportunities, and international rights. For example, regarding resources available

from the **European Green Deal** for greening paved neighborhoods and sustainable renovation of homes by Hague entrepreneurs.

EU Strategy The Hague is one of the few municipalities in the Netherlands with an EU strategy. Volt naturally encourages this. But we are also ambitious: we want the EU strategy of The Hague to be further developed and implemented—for instance, by aligning with a major European plan called "**Readiness 2030.**" Under this plan, €800 billion will be made available in the coming years to strengthen European defense and security within this less stable world order.

Peace, Justice, and Safety The world is changing rapidly and becoming increasingly vulnerable. The Hague can profile itself more strongly as the city of peace and justice. But that can be even stronger if we add **safety** to the mix. The municipality must strive to involve residents, companies, and institutions that contribute to safety in The Hague, the Netherlands, and Europe. This offers opportunities for employment, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Nearly 80% of Europeans want Europe to cooperate in the fields of security and defense. The Hague can play a pioneering role in this, for example, by bringing together expertise in cybersecurity and digital safety. The region possesses knowledge and innovative power in aerospace, maritime security, drones, and digital technologies. Volt The Hague wants to utilize these strengths by strengthening cooperation between the government, businesses, and knowledge institutions.

The International Character of the City The Hague is known worldwide as the City of Peace and Justice. With the historic Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907, the Peace Palace, and international institutions such as the International Criminal Court, our city plays a unique role in promoting peace and justice. Volt The Hague has the ambition to bring the **Third Peace Conference** to our city, especially at a time when geopolitical tensions are rising. This offers opportunities for international cooperation, diplomacy, and innovation in the field of peace and justice.

International Institutions in The Hague If The Hague continues to commit itself to housing existing international organizations as well as possible and attracting new ones, it ensures brand recognition, employment, and a positive contribution to The Hague's position in the world. The city must therefore continue to invest in its knowledge network and thus increase its role on the international stage. These organizations also bring many international congresses and meetings with them. If we facilitate this structurally, we can set up permanent facilities that prevent nuisance, such as occurred during the recent NATO summit. Volt wants the **International Zone** between the city center and Scheveningen to be further densified and the necessary infrastructure improved. This reduces nuisance for residents and provides The Hague with more opportunities for international conferences.

5.2 COOPERATION WITH THE REGION

The Hague is a city of international allure. At the same time, the city is deeply anchored in its region. We are connected to Delft, Rijswijk, Leidschendam-Voorburg, Westland, Wassenaar, and all those other municipalities that together form the Haaglanden region. Problems such as housing shortages, mobility, climate, safety, or labor migration do not stop at a municipal border. Neither do opportunities—think of employment, innovation, and broad prosperity.

Volt believes that we stand stronger through cooperation: cooperation with neighboring municipalities, the province, and the National Government. Cooperation in networks such as the **Metropolitan Region Rotterdam The Hague (MRDH)**, **Zuid-Holland Bereikbaar**, or the **Spatial Puzzle** (*Ruimtelijke Puzzel*). But also cooperation with the residents themselves: because all too often these associations are complex, administrative, and far removed from the voter. We specifically want cooperation to be shaped democratically, transparently, and in the interest of residents.

Volt's commitment is that we think far ahead and invest in the region we want to become. We organize mobility, housing construction, climate, and safety on a scale that fits the challenge. Nevertheless, we must share the burdens and benefits fairly. It should not be the case that one municipality only profits while the other absorbs the problems. Furthermore, municipalities receive many tasks and sometimes little budget from the National Government. Together with other municipalities, we want to bring about structural change in this regard.

Volt's plans:

- **We must organize mobility and accessibility regionally.** Volt wants joint parking standards, mobility hubs, and better cycling and public transport connections.
- **With fair agreements on migration in the region**, we ensure that surrounding municipalities offer more housing to newcomers. In this way, we relieve housing pressure and traffic.
- **Volt supports regional initiatives** such as the **Regio Deal** and the **RIEC**, and wants more democratic influence from municipal councils on these collaborations.
- **Tackle spatial planning and nitrogen in cohesion with the region.** This is how we ensure sustainable, future-proof growth.
- **We will conduct a strong lobby for fewer tasks and more resources.** We do this via the VNG, G4, G40, MRDH, and other collaborative partnerships.

Our plans in detail:

Regional mobility Construction in the Binckhorst will provide thousands of homes. This is good news for the housing market, but leads to great pressure on accessibility and parking. Already, residents of Leidschendam-Voorburg feel the consequences of Hague choices. Volt wants The Hague to structurally coordinate regionally for new construction projects: joint parking

standards, mobility hubs, better cycling and public transport connections, and P+R facilities at the city's edge.

Additionally, we work within the MRDH on the introduction of Zero-Emission zones for city logistics. Uniform rules and shared hubs give entrepreneurs clarity and make neighborhoods healthier. Via Zuid-Holland Bereikbaar, we ensure that necessary work on roads, bridges, and railways is coordinated with neighboring municipalities and the National Government, so the region remains accessible.

Fairly distributing the burdens and benefits of labor migration The Hague and neighboring municipalities benefit significantly from tens of thousands of labor migrants in the region. The Hague houses the vast majority of them, while their work is often elsewhere. This creates extra pressure on our housing market and daily commuting flows. Volt believes this must be fairer. Labor migrants deserve good, decent housing close to their work. Municipalities such as Westland must take more responsibility in this regard. This creates breathing room in The Hague's housing market, reduces traffic pressure, and distributes costs and benefits more equitably.

Strengthening broad prosperity and safety together The cooperation with Rijswijk in the Regio Deal—in which we are requesting 40 million euros to invest in vulnerable neighborhoods until 2028—shows that problems of poverty, health, and safety do not stop at the city limit. By investing together, we can achieve an effect faster and more broadly. Another example is the Regional Information and Expertise Center (RIEC), which tackles subversion and organized crime together with 27 municipalities. Volt supports these initiatives but believes the influence of municipal councils must be stronger to ensure these collaborations remain democratic.

Cooperation with the province and companies for safety We also want The Hague to cooperate more with the Province of Zuid-Holland and with innovative companies in the region to collectively strengthen our position in the EU. By positioning ourselves better within the European Union, we can also strengthen our safety while simultaneously creating new jobs and broader prosperity for the residents of our city.

Spatial planning and nitrogen The demand for housing is high. At the same time, we must take nitrogen standards, nature, and economic space into account. The Hague cannot make these choices alone. Therefore, we support the regional approach in the Spatial Puzzle The Hague Region. Together with the province, water boards, and surrounding municipalities, we look at how to balance housing construction, nature restoration, mobility, and economic growth. Volt wants The Hague to play a pioneering role in this and consistently choose sustainable, future-proof solutions.

Advocating for more resources for statutory tasks Municipalities are receiving more and more tasks from the EU and the National Government, but often without sufficient funding. This is also a bottleneck in The Hague, where we carry much responsibility: from youth care to the energy transition. Volt therefore wants to lobby firmly for structurally more resources and fewer imposed tasks. We do this not only with the G4 (the four largest cities) but specifically through

broader associations such as the VNG (Association of Netherlands Municipalities), the G40, and regional collaborations, as well as the lobby in Brussels. Together we stand stronger, and together we can ensure that residents truly notice that policy works.

5.3 LOOKING BEYOND BORDERS

Volt practices politics with an open mind. We draw our inspiration from policy that has already proven itself in other cities. Looking beyond borders makes our city stronger, and in the coming years, Volt will continue to search for new solutions to the problems of The Hague and share the best plans from our city with Europe. We will also share the best plans from "behind the dunes" with municipalities elsewhere.

In this program, you will find numerous examples of European cities that we use for inspiration, including:

- **Mechelen:** the "Social House" and the human approach to poverty show how bureaucracy can disappear and people can be helped in concrete ways.
- **Helsinki:** with "Housing First," homelessness is addressed structurally, a principle that we translate to Hague-based shelters and housing trajectories.
- **Vienna:** a municipal housing fund makes buying and renting affordable, something with which we can make living in The Hague fairer and more affordable.
- **Paris:** the "15-minute city," a layout in which facilities are located close to home, inspires our urban planning for livable neighborhoods in The Hague.
- **Brussels:** by lowering the maximum speed to 30 km/h, road safety is demonstrably improved.
- **Edinburgh:** shows how we can facilitate green and innovative start- and scale-ups.
- **Bristol:** with anonymous drop-off points to combat weapon violence among youth, as a possible model for Hague neighborhood prevention.

Volt does not translate all these examples literally but adapts them to the Hague situation. What works elsewhere does not necessarily work one-on-one in The Hague, but it can inspire us. And vice versa: with its unique role as an international city of peace and justice, its cultural diversity, and its innovative power, The Hague also has much to offer to other cities in Europe.

The Hague is also an example for other European cities

At the same time, we believe that The Hague can also be an example for Europe. Our city is, after all, internationally connected, diverse, and innovative. Take, for example, the smart energy initiatives in Scheveningen:

- **Smart Beach Grid:** an autonomous, local electricity grid with solar panels, charging stations, batteries, and energy cooperatives for beach pavilions and events. This design relieves the city network, stimulates local ownership, and is a learning case for broader rollout in other neighborhoods.
- **Wave energy prototype "Slow Mill":** at Scheveningen, a wave energy converter has been successfully tested that also functions as an artificial reef, generates energy, and contributes to coastal protection.

These Hague solutions, together with our foreign examples, form a synergy: we learn from elsewhere and we show what innovative cooperation can achieve.

In this, Volt has a major advantage. We are, in fact, the only truly European party with representatives and members throughout Europe. Through this network, we are in direct contact with people who have gained on-the-ground experience with successful solutions, or who specifically know where the pitfalls lie. That enables us to quickly and efficiently bring proven effective policy to The Hague.

Finally, we always remain open to new, pragmatic ideas from our own city, from the Netherlands, or from other countries. We invite everyone who has examples of policy or an initiative from which The Hague can learn to get in touch. Then Volt warmly invites you to share that with us. Together, we can turn the best ideas into a stronger The Hague.

HOW WE WILL PAY FOR THIS

FINANCES

Volt has ambitious plans for the challenges facing The Hague; to pay for those plans, we make sharp and realistic choices. For one part, we choose to place a heavier burden on the stronger shoulders. Volt chooses to gradually bring the OZB (Property Tax) more in line with the national average. We will have a study conducted to see if we can make larger cars pay more in parking costs. In addition, we choose to focus on a more efficient government through digitalization and AI, so that less overhead and external hiring are required. Finally, we set ourselves a concrete ambition to collect 10 million euros in extra EU subsidies during the coming council period.

Paying for space If it is up to Volt, larger cars will pay more for the space they occupy. When applying for a parking permit or taking up a parking space as a visitor, a system will therefore be introduced where the largest vehicles that take up the most space will pay more. Volt wants a study to be conducted for this before the 2028 budget so that a balanced choice can be made on how to implement this.

Gradual increase of OZB The annual municipal atlas study by the University of Groningen has shown for several years that the OZB for homeowners in The Hague is below the national average. In The Hague in 2025, the rate for homeowners is set at 0.0523%, while the national average lies at 0.0890%. Therefore, we will gradually increase the percentage over the next four years to 0.072%. With this, the municipality will structurally collect approximately 20 million euros extra to make the city better. For the average household with a purchased home, this amounts to approximately 6.75 euros in extra costs per month.

Introducing a vacancy tax Soon it will be possible to levy tax on vacant homes and buildings. Volt considers long-term vacancy a major problem, especially now that the housing shortage is so high. Therefore, from 2028, we will commit ambitiously to this new tax; from this, we will pay for our plans for enforcement on the rental market and the housing fund.

Fees at cost-recovery level Where costs for permits and fees (the costs for specific services such as permits that the municipality charges) are currently not cost-recovering, such as for a felling permit or the housing permit, we will increase them until they are cost-recovering. This way, more money remains available in the municipality for other policies.

Advertising tax The municipality currently levies tax on advertising in public spaces; we will enlarge the area where this is permitted and simultaneously increase the rate. In this way, we collect money by more sharply taxing the use of public space for advertising.

An efficient and digital government The municipality of The Hague currently spends more than 10% of the budget on overhead. These are costs to keep the municipality running, such as facility services, administration, lawyers, and communication staff. In addition, there is a lot of

external hiring. In 2023, this was over €140 million. Volt wants to move toward a smaller municipal organization that makes efficient use of European AI and digitalization.

Investments (x1000)	2027	2028	2029	2030
Stronger democracy	600	1.200	1.200	1.200
Investing in culture and sport	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000
Better support of volunteers	500	500	500	500
Social house (from the Mechelen model)	1.200	2.000	3.000	3.600
Investments in youth care and care in the neighborhood	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600
Fighting homelessness and rooflessness	400	500	500	500
Supporting schools	1.750	3.500	4.000	4.000
Investing in diversity and inclusion	200	300	300	300
Housing fund	1.000	3.000	6.000	6.000
Enforcement of the rental market	300	600	600	600
Street safety	500	500	500	500
Investing in a green and clean	3.200	6.000	6.500	9.300

city				
Obtaining EU subsidies and lobbying Brussels	2.500	3.000	3.000	3.000
Investing in bikes and public transport	3.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Investing in a new green economy	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500
Digitalisation of the municipality	600	1.200	1.500	1.500
Total	22.850	33.400	38.700	42.100

Savings and revenue (x1.000)	2027	2028	2029	2039
Parking permits costs in line with G4	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.200
Differentiating parking rates for large vehicles		2.000	2.000	2.000
Shared mobility tax	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Cost covering fees	900	900	900	900
Uniform increase in property tax	12.000	15.000	18.000	20.000
Task setting overhead	2.500	5.000	7.000	7.000
Less external hiring, more	2.000	2.500	3.000	3.500

people employed				
Obtain more EU subsidies	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500
Increased advertising tax revenue	800	800	800	800
Introduction of vacancy tax		3.250	3.250	3.250
Total	22.900	34.150	39.650	42.150
Positive difference	50	750	950	50