

For Freedom, Connection and Progress in Amstelveen

Election Program 2026–2030

The logo for D66 Amstelveen is a green square containing the text 'D66' in large white letters and 'amstelveen' in smaller white lowercase letters below it.

D66
amstelveen

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Foreword

Amstelveen is a city to be proud of: green, well connected and with high-quality public amenities. It is a place where people can live, work, learn and enjoy life. A city that offers a pleasant balance between vibrancy and tranquility.

At the same time, our city faces important choices. How do we ensure that housing remains both sustainable and affordable? How do we keep our neighborhoods livable, connected and green? And how do we safeguard freedom, so that everyone can make their own choices and participate fully in society?

Now more than ever, this is the time for vision, courage and cooperation.

At D66, we believe in an Amstelveen where people strive to move forward, trust one another and take shared responsibility. A city where government provides support when necessary, while also creating space for individual ideas and initiatives. We look to the future with optimism. Tomorrow can be better than today. That is why we never settle for “that’s just the way it is” or “it can’t be done”. We always look for ways it *can* be done — and how it can be done better.

Amstelveen is full of resilience, energy and good ideas. Together, we can make these visible and turn them into results that benefit everyone. Because together we make our city stronger.

This is the essence of our values and the foundation of this program: **freedom, connection and progress.**

- **Freedom** to be who you are, to make your own choices and to live safely.
- **Connection** between people, neighborhoods and generations, so that everyone can participate and feel at home.
- **Progress** by investing in affordable housing, good education, mobility and a sustainable, healthy living environment.

Everyone in Amstelveen deserves the freedom to make their own choices. As a mother of three children, I see how important that freedom is. As the partner of an entrepreneur, I experience how space for initiative helps people move forward. And as a daughter, I know that one day my parents may rely on me, just as I have always been able to rely on them.

That sense of reciprocity — caring for one another and being able to rely on each other — is, for me, at the heart of a caring society. In Amstelveen we already see many inspiring examples of this, but it is not yet something we can take for granted.

D66 wants to make that a reality: a city where solidarity and personal responsibility go hand in hand. A city where people can rely on one another, while also having the freedom to make their own choices and develop their own initiatives. A city where young and old meet and no one stands alone.

That is why we continue to invest in facilities and initiatives that bring people together — ensuring that everyone can participate and feel at home.

We are proud of this election program and of the way it has come about. It is built on ideas from our D66 members in Amstelveen, who shared their knowledge and commitment with us in many ways. Special thanks go to Saloua Chaara and Maarten de Haan for compiling and integrating all of this input.

Together we have worked on an ambitious, realistic and hopeful plan for Amstelveen — a plan that shows what D66 stands for and where we want to go together.





Chapter 1

Housing, Space and Mobility

Amstelveen is growing. Many people want to live, work and raise their children here. That is understandable, because Amstelveen is an attractive city. This growth requires smart choices, for example when it comes to building additional homes. Amstelveen currently ranks sixth among the ten municipalities with the most overheated housing markets in the Netherlands.

D66 wants Amstelveen to remain a city where people can live at every stage of life: students, first-time buyers, single residents, families and older people. We build mixed and future-oriented neighbourhoods for all income groups. In rental housing we prioritise people with social or medical urgency, and in owner-occupied housing we prioritise people who leave behind a social rental home and thereby support housing mobility, as well as people with economic or social ties to Amstelveen and those working in vital professions such as healthcare or education.

The waiting list for social housing in Amstelveen remains long. We support the new housing allocation system in which people who actively search for housing or who are in urgent housing situations receive additional points. Starters and young people will particularly benefit from this system.

Over the coming years we aim to add 10,000 homes. We will do so within the city through ongoing spatial development projects such as De Scheg, the Bovenkerkerweg zone, the Stadshart, Nieuw Legmeer and Kronenburg, as well as through potential new developments such as the Groenelaan healthcare cluster, the Burgemeester Broersweg area in Bankras, and the Old Village. We build within the existing urban area and not in the Middelpolder or Bovenkerkerpolder, in order to protect the Amstelscheg landscape and preserve space for nature, recreation and water storage. In doing so, we focus on quality, sustainability and liveability. Growth only adds value when public amenities grow along with it: schools, healthcare facilities, green spaces, shops and public transport. That is why we invest in complete neighborhoods where people meet one another and feel at home. Enabling housing is, for us, a matter of freedom and progress: it *can* be done.

We make housing possible through deliberate choices and by using instruments such as active land policy and building upwards. Depending on the location and the specific challenge, we are prepared to take measures such as adjusting parking standards, simplifying requirements and expanding permit possibilities for housing subdivision, rooftop extensions, shared housing and lodger arrangements. We will do so where it contributes to our ambitions, always with careful attention to the quality of the living environment.

D66 also works towards sustainable mobility. We prioritize walking, cycling and clean transport. The air must be cleaner, the roads safer and the city more accessible. In this way Amstelveen remains a green and liveable city where connection is central and where freedom and progress come together in the way we move around.

At the same time we face major spatial challenges. Nitrogen emissions and electricity grid congestion are putting pressure on the feasibility of development plans. D66 wants the municipality of Amstelveen to take leadership, cooperate with partners and continue searching for innovative solutions.

- **Urban development for an accessible Amstelveen**

D66 wants to tackle the housing shortage decisively by smart densification while preserving green space, thereby ensuring a healthy and climate-resilient living environment. In Legmeer, we will develop a new urban district where housing, employment and sustainable mobility come together. New homes will be built in locations with strong public transport connections. Around public transport hubs we will opt for architecturally high-quality high-rise buildings that strengthen the identity of neighborhoods. Building higher and denser is possible, but never an objective in itself. Growth beyond 110,000 residents is possible only if it contributes to affordable housing, sustainability and the liveability of our city.

- **High-quality spatial development and new opportunities**

Population growth must go hand in hand with investments in green spaces, social facilities and employment locations. Where possible, the costs of these investments will be recovered from developers. New housing must contribute to a city where people can live, work and meet comfortably. Important opportunities for spatial development lie in: the Stadshart, the area around Amstelland Hospital, the KLM site, the Beneluxbaan North corridor. In these locations additional housing can be combined with educational and healthcare facilities that strengthen the city. Our polders will remain green.
- **Promoting owner-occupation and preventing speculation**

D66 wants homes in Amstelveen to remain available for people who wish to live in them themselves. We will therefore continue applying the local owner-occupancy requirement for owner-occupied housing. This measure prevents investors from buying homes purely for rental purposes and gives starters and households wishing to move on a better chance of buying a home. We want the obligation to apply for five years, ensuring that homes remain available for owner-occupation for longer. Renting out will still be permitted when tenants are immediate family members or when owners temporarily live abroad. A fair hardship clause remains essential.
- **Space for a sustainable economy and employment**

A strong and vibrant local economy requires space. D66 sees opportunities in the further development of the Stadshart, including expansion of retail and office space. By adding student housing and short-stay accommodation, Kronenburg offers opportunities for new employment through future-proof office buildings and facilities. Nieuw Legmeer will be developed as an integrated district where living, working and sustainable mobility come together. This area can grow into a dynamic hub for innovation, circular economy and entrepreneurship. The Bovenkerk business park remains valuable to Amstelveen, with DIY stores, furniture retailers, sports facilities and a supermarket. At the same time we will examine whether space exists for additional functions such as housing, without losing sight of the economic function. The Noorder-Legmeerpolder may offer opportunities alongside greenhouse horticulture for food logistics, recreation and renewable energy generation. Amstelveen-South business park will also play an important role in the future development of our city and the region. D66 wants these areas to be future-proof, with attention to employment, sustainability and spatial quality.
- **A vibrant Nes aan de Amstel**

To keep Nes aan de Amstel liveable and vibrant, new housing is necessary. Additional homes ensure the village remains attractive for both young and older residents. The focus will be on the central area around the primary school, the village community centre and St Urbanus Church. Priority will be given to starter homes for young people who wish to remain in Nes. At the same time we want older residents to be able to remain in their village through appropriate housing that enables housing mobility. We will work to accelerate the construction of the new De Zwaluw primary school, which will also allow additional housing to be developed in the centre of the village.
- **Smarter ways to add housing**

We will allow rooftop extensions, building additions and the conversion of ground floors where technically feasible and within clear rules. We prefer an area-based approach with sufficient flexibility. The revenue from additional housing can help homeowners' associations (VvEs) finance sustainability improvements. We will also make it easier to split homes in suitable neighborhoods, provided livability is maintained. Lodger arrangements and shared housing will also become easier. In this way existing buildings can provide more housing while also becoming more future-proof.
- **More homes, fairly distributed**

D66 wants everyone in Amstelveen to be able to find suitable housing: from starters and young families to older residents and people on lower incomes. We will create mixed neighborhoods and build wherever possible. Special attention will be given to groups that

currently have particular difficulty finding housing. Permits for shared housing and housing subdivision will be simplified so that existing homes can more easily be shared. For new developments we aim for a balanced distribution of housing types: one third social rental housing, one third mid-market rental or affordable owner-occupied housing, a maximum of one third higher-priced housing, preferably owner-occupied. We will strongly prioritize additional housing for young people and older residents, helping to build an inclusive city where everyone can find a place to live.

- **Fair housing for people with urgent housing needs**

This applies to people who urgently require housing due to divorce, loss of housing, employment or other circumstances, as well as recognized refugees (status holders) who have no alternative while the national asylum system remains under pressure. Although this concerns only a small share of housing allocations, it prevents people from remaining unnecessarily in emergency accommodation. We choose humanity and clarity: temporary solutions such as host families (for example through Takecarebnb) where needed, and structurally more affordable housing for everyone.

- **Housing for key professions**

Amstelveen depends on people who make a difference every day for a free, opportunity-rich and sustainable city. Teachers, healthcare workers and police officers should have a better chance of finding housing in Amstelveen. We will maintain the existing priority scheme in the social rental sector. In addition, we will work with developers to ensure that mid-market rental and owner-occupied homes also provide opportunities for these professions.

- **Lifetime-proof and accessible housing**

D66 wants Amstelveen to be a city where people can live comfortably at every stage of life. We encourage housing models in which generations live together. Public spaces will be made accessible, safe and welcoming for everyone. Newly built homes must comply with accessibility standards in the national building regulations, but D66 wants to go further. We encourage developers to build accessible homes close to public transport, healthcare facilities and shops, with features such as wider doorways, step-free access and flexible layouts. This is how we make Amstelveen truly inclusive.

- **Housing mobility and homes for older residents**

Amstelveen's population is ageing. This requires housing models that match the needs of older residents. The development of the modern Olmenhof nursing home, and the redevelopment of Huis aan de Poel and Nieuw Vredeveld, are important steps. D66 also sees opportunities for new housing models with care, such as service flats, assisted living apartments and courtyard housing, for example near the hospital. These housing types also improve mobility within the housing market, freeing up family homes for new residents.

- **Building connected neighborhoods**

In a city like Amstelveen, where people feel at home, residents do not easily move away. In new developments we will therefore deliberately reserve part of the housing for **current residents of Amstelveen, preferably from the same neighborhood**. This strengthens community ties, social networks and livable neighborhoods. A house becomes a **home** through connection and encounters within the neighborhood.

- **Fair participation: housing seekers deserve a voice**

In new development projects we often hear from nearby residents, but too rarely from people searching for housing. D66 wants to change that. People urgently looking for housing deserve a voice in decisions that affect them most. We will therefore actively involve starters, young families and people without housing in participation processes. Participation should not only be about objections, but also about hope: *"Yes, I am looking for a home."*

- **Tackling vacancy**

D66 wants vacant buildings to regain a meaningful role in the city as quickly as possible. We will actively monitor vacancy and enforce the rules strictly. Owners who fail to report vacancy or leave buildings empty for more than 12 months risk fines and sanctions. At the same time we stimulate temporary rental, creative repurposing and flexible housing solutions, allowing vacant buildings to be used for urgent housing seekers, starters or social initiatives.
- **Smart parking for an accessible and affordable city**

D66 supports smart parking solutions. Paid parking will only be expanded where parking pressure is demonstrably too high and always based on measurement. Parking tariffs will not be increased for the time being. Revenue from parking will be invested in a mobility fund for sustainable accessibility. In well-served areas such as the Stadshart, we encourage housing development with low or even zero parking standards, allowing more affordable housing and rooftop extensions without adding pressure to the streets. At the same time we will ensure sufficient space for shared cars and electric bicycles and cargo bikes.
- **Charging infrastructure for cars and bicycles**

D66 will expand charging facilities for electric vehicles and electric bicycles. Home charging will be made easier through solutions such as cable ducts, enabling residents to safely charge vehicles from their homes. In the future, bidirectional charging may allow vehicles to supply energy back to homes or neighborhoods. This requires clear guidelines, safety standards and a simple permit process. We will also expand public charging points and fast chargers to strengthen confidence in electric mobility.
- **Mobility hubs for a livable city**

D66 supports neighborhood mobility hubs: central locations where cars and other transport modes can be parked efficiently. Concentrating vehicles in hubs reduces cars in residential streets, creating more space for green areas, play, meeting places and physical activity. We also want Park-and-Ride facilities at the edges of the city, combined with paid parking in the center to reduce traffic pressure.
- **Road safety**

D66 wants Amstelveen to remain safe and livable. 30 km/h will be the standard speed in residential areas, 15 km/h around schools and in shared streets, 50 km/h on main roads. Where possible we will give priority to cyclists, strengthening Amstelveen as a true cycling city.
- **Nitrogen reduction in construction**

D66 wants construction to continue within environmental limits. We support cleaner construction machinery, circular design and nature-inclusive development to reduce nitrogen emissions.
- **Fewer flights, better health and quality of life**

Schiphol is closely connected to Amstelveen, but residents deserve quiet nights, clean air and a healthy living environment. D66 places public health above the growth of aviation. We support: fewer flights, strict enforcement of noise standards and flight routes, investments in quieter and cleaner aviation. As long as Schiphol cannot demonstrate that the nuisance has actually decreased through quieter and cleaner aircraft, we will continue advocating significant reduction in flight numbers. At the same time Schiphol remains an important economic driver. D66 seeks a sustainable balance between economic value and the health and liveability of residents.
- **Public transport that connects**

D66 wants better public transport, making trams and buses an attractive alternative to the car. We support: renewal of the bus station, improved transfer connections, upgrading Sacharovlaan stop, exploring extension of tram line 5 to the bus station. We also want

improvements in reliability and capacity of tram line 25, and we support a potential additional stop near Amstelveen-South Business Park combined with a P+R facility and shared mobility.

- **Amstelveen's voice in the regional transport authority**

D66 believes Amstelveen must have a strong voice in the Amsterdam Transport Region. We therefore support the appointment of an Amstelveen alderman to the executive board of the regional transport authority, ensuring that the city has influence on major decisions about mobility and infrastructure.

- **Space for bicycles in the city centre**

D66 wants the Stadshart to remain easily accessible for sustainable mobility. We therefore support a large underground guarded bicycle parking facility near the renewed bus station, improving connections between bicycle, bus and tram and strengthening the city center.



Chapter 2

Education and Youth

A promising future begins with the freedom to develop one's talents. Equal opportunities are essential for this. Not everyone grows up with the same knowledge, networks or support. We want to remove barriers so that all residents of Amstelveen can fully use their freedom. That is why education is our highest priority. Good education forms the foundation of freedom. It gives children the opportunity to discover their talents and to build their future with confidence. D66 Amstelveen wants every child to have that opportunity. On a welcoming school with inspiring teachers and attention for development, enjoyment and wellbeing. We are building a city where learning never stops. Where schools are vibrant places of growth and encounter. Where children grow up safely, teachers have the space to do what they do best, and parents are partners in the learning and development of their children. We invest in modern, sustainable school buildings and education that offers fair opportunities. In reading, mathematics and digital skills, but also in creativity, citizenship and mental health. Our schools are the heart of the neighborhood: during the day a place to learn, and after school a place to play sports, meet and take part in activities.

- **The best school buildings**

Good education requires good school buildings. Thanks in part to D66, significant progress has been made in recent years. Our schools are modern, sustainable and provide sufficient space for inclusive education. They are located in safe, green environments where children can travel independently. We want school buildings in Amstelveen to remain open outside school hours for neighborhood activities, such as courses, meetings and sports. In this way we invest not only in buildings but also in people and community. Accessibility is a key condition: all school buildings must be accessible to everyone, including pupils and parents with disabilities. We will work to accelerate the sustainability renovation of primary school Het Palet, where the indoor climate still requires improvement due to the building's monumental status. We also want to accelerate construction of the new De Zwaluw primary school in Nes aan de Amstel, which will also enable the development of additional housing and provide the village with a new multifunctional school building.

- **Green schoolyards**

Every school needs a green playground with sufficient shade. This helps prevent heat stress and flooding during heavy rainfall. Green playgrounds create more pleasant spaces for children to play and contribute to relaxation and protection from sun or rain. In recent years D66 has already helped green many schoolyards. We will continue and accelerate these efforts, ensuring that all schools quickly gain access to green, healthy and stimulating outdoor spaces.

- **Enough good teachers in the classroom**

Good education begins with excellent teachers. Amstelveen must be the best place to work as a teacher. There is currently a major teacher shortage in the Netherlands, and around a quarter of new teachers leave the profession within five years. That is a loss for our education system. To address this challenge we will support schools and childcare organisations in ensuring sufficient staff. For example by exploring: a mentoring and support pool for teachers, an Amstelveen teacher traineeship programme, initiatives to attract and retain career-switchers. We encourage educational innovation and ensure that Amstelveen remains an attractive place for teachers to live and work. Teachers will receive support in finding affordable housing (see also the housing chapter), and where possible we will maintain priority in housing allocation. In new housing developments teachers will be informed early about pre-sale opportunities, increasing their chances of securing a home in Amstelveen. We will also ensure good accessibility to schools and free parking for teachers.

- **Inclusive education and links between education and youth care**

Every child deserves good education close to home, preferably in mainstream schools. We will continue strengthening inclusive education and strengthening cooperation between education and youth care. Care teams in schools will be expanded more quickly and youth care professionals will be deployed according to the needs of each school. Special attention will be given to language schools, where many children learn after having fled war or

persecution with their families. D66 believes that bridge coordinators in primary education should be retained or expanded where schools need them. These professionals help identify problems early and provide support. We will also support childcare organizations in addressing care needs that arise before school age. We want to further develop De Bloeiwijzer into an expertise center that supports schools at the intersection of education and youth care. For pupils who require additional support — such as gifted pupils or pupils with autism — specialized provisions such as Elementa and Digibende will remain available.

- **School transport under local management**

For some pupils, school transport is essential. D66 wants this transport to be reliable, safe and of high quality. However, this is not always the case. Children sometimes miss school hours because transport arrives late or travel times are excessively long. We will therefore continue to strictly monitor quality and investigate whether organizing school transport directly under municipal management could lead to better outcomes, as seen in other municipalities.

- **Every child in education**

Every child deserves education. Yet some children remain at home because they are considered “unsuitable for school”. For D66 this is unacceptable. The right to education should be enforced before problems escalate, not afterwards. We want attendance officers to play a stronger role in preventing school dropout. If a child cannot attend school five days a week, alternative forms of learning should be available, such as flexible hybrid arrangements between home and school. For every child at risk of being without education, a suitable solution must be found within two weeks.

- **Internationalisation**

Amstelveen is an **international city**, which is visible in childcare centers and classrooms. Children from many different backgrounds learn and play together. This enriches education but also brings challenges. We will strengthen language schools and ensure sufficient capacity. These schools will also offer activities in arts, culture and sport. Schools will be supported in delivering Dutch as a second language (NT2) education, including by attracting qualified teachers and deploying language support specialists. We will promote language activities within schools and ensure that school libraries remain available everywhere. Outside school hours we will also provide language activities for parents and children, and encourage schools to offer language lessons for parents.

- **Schools as centres for broad development**

Schools should support the broad development of children. We will continue investing in enriched school days, allowing all children to participate in arts, culture, music and sports — especially those for whom this is not automatically accessible. Where schools promote healthy nutrition, we will fully support them. Some schools aim to become family schools, where education, parenting support, care and community services come together in cooperation with neighborhood organizations. We strongly support and facilitate this development. D66 has already taken steps in this direction by connecting debt counselling services with schools. The Opportunities Fund established by D66 also supports children’s development and will be continued.

- **Education for the future**

We encourage education that prepares children for the world of tomorrow, with attention to: sustainability, artificial intelligence, active citizenship. Schools will receive support for programs that strengthen mental health, resilience and social skills. Children should learn to work with digital technology not only technically but also critically and safely. Media literacy should become a permanent part of the curriculum.

- **Fair investment for fair opportunities**

With the principle of fair investment for fair opportunities, D66 will focus resources on schools where the impact on children and young people is greatest. We will also ensure

that unused spaces within school buildings are used meaningfully — for education, after-school activities or community initiatives.

- **Schools as key partners**

Schools play a central role in the lives of our children. They contribute to equal opportunities, health, wellbeing and a strong community. D66 therefore sees schools as full partners in policies concerning education and youth care. Schools will have greater influence on municipal plans, ensuring that policy better reflects the reality of the classroom. To simplify communication, every school will have one dedicated municipal contact person who coordinates internally and ensures schools can focus on education.

- **Every child deserves a strong start**

D66 wants every child in Amstelveen — from infancy to preschool age — to have the opportunity to develop optimally. We advocate locally and nationally for four days per week of free childcare for every child. We will ensure sufficient capacity for early childhood education programs (VVE) and strengthen cooperation between schools and childcare providers. Initiatives such as VE-plus groups, where toddlers receive additional individual support, will also be encouraged.

- **Transition to secondary education**

Children develop at different speeds. Early selection for secondary education can undermine equal opportunities. D66 wants pupils who need more time to receive that opportunity. We will therefore support smooth transitions between primary and secondary education, including: broad bridging classes, improved educational guidance, initiatives such as 0-18 schools. We welcome the intention to establish a teenage school in Amstelveen and will support school boards in making this a reality.

- **Strong vocational education**

Technicians, healthcare workers and skilled professionals are essential for our city. D66 will continue investing in vocational education, strengthening technical education at Futuris and improving cooperation with businesses. We will encourage transitions from primary education to technical secondary education and from secondary education to MBO vocational education. We also support expanding healthcare training programs at MBO College in cooperation with local healthcare organizations.

- **Safety and respect at school**

Every child must feel safe at school. D66 supports schools where freedom, respect and tolerance are the norm and where diversity is recognized as a strength. Students should feel free to be themselves regardless of religion, background, gender or sexual orientation. Together with schools and parents we will promote respect, openness and safety in school culture.

- **Enough study spaces**

Students should have enough quiet places to study. We will invest in additional study spaces open in evenings and weekends, including permanent evening opening hours in the library and expanded use of public buildings such as schools, community centres and the town hall.

- **Opportunities and spaces for young people**

Young people deserve places where they can meet, develop ideas and be themselves. D66 wants more youth activities, including music, dance, debate, sport and culture. We will work with hospitality businesses, schools and community organizations to create a vibrant youth program, possibly supported by the Amstelveen City Fund. We also want accessible spaces where young people can simply walk in, meet others, relax or organize activities. Therefore we will explore youth rooms in neighborhoods and investigate the development of a dedicated youth center, ensuring that costs and benefits remain balanced and aligned with what young people actually need.

Chapter 3

Green Spaces, Climate and Energy

Amstelveen faces major choices. Climate change, urbanisation and pressure on the living environment require vision and decisive action. We are building a city prepared for heat, drought and extreme rainfall: streets with shade, cool parks, clean water, and resilient nature. At the same time, we embrace the opportunities of the energy transition and circular economy. A green and healthy city benefits not only today but is essential for future generations. Together with residents, entrepreneurs and societal partners, we will make Amstelveen greener, cleaner and future-proof. D66 supports the proposed circular crafts centre at the new waste collection station (materials station). We want to use this centre to create a repair and upcycling hub, where residents can repair broken items and give materials a second life. This encourages reuse, reduces waste and moves us towards a truly circular economy, as has already been successful in other municipalities. We also focus on reducing household waste, improving waste separation and ensuring efficient processing – because these measures make a real impact. These goals can be achieved through a combination of communication, incentives, resident support and agreements with the sector.

- **Energy Transition: Clean and Fair**

D66 accelerates the shift to sustainable energy. We will insulate homes, install solar panels and prepare the electricity grid for the future in cooperation with grid operators and partners. We aim to establish a public energy company with the region, investing in sustainable heat for facilities such as the new swimming pool, schools and Nieuw Legmeer district. This ensures municipal control and fair distribution of benefits. The energy transition must be accessible to everyone, including residents with limited financial means or older neighborhoods. We provide guidance, knowledge and, where needed, financial support. From energy cooperatives to local heating initiatives, the transition happens collectively. Our ambition: by 2040, 80% of homes in Amstelveen will be sustainably heated. We pursue this without coercion, guided by a clear roadmap with milestones for 2030 and 2035, so everyone knows the steps ahead.

- **Sustainable Rental Housing**

We focus on truly energy-efficient rental homes in Amstelveen, in partnership with housing corporations and private landlords. We aim to reduce housing costs by improving insulation, using sustainable heating sources, and supporting residents with energy savings.

- **Local Electricity Generation: Smart, Circular and Visible**

D66 wants more locally generated sustainable electricity in ways that fit the city and preserve spatial quality. We promote innovative, visible and circular solutions, such as: Energy communities in neighbourhoods, Solar carports over parking spaces, Solar parks along the A9 and at Amstelveen-South Business Park. We aim to use circular solar panels made from recycled materials or easily reusable at end-of-life. We will also invest in digital platforms for resident engagement, allowing citizens to participate, vote and invest in local energy projects, increasing transparency and involvement.

- **Local Heat Generation: Clean and Social**

Amstelveen-North is connected to a high-temperature district heating network supplied by the Vattenfall plant in Diemen. D66 will actively contribute to making this network more sustainable and explore geothermal opportunities. We also want to use residual heat from the WRK pipeline for a low-temperature district heating network to supply new housing, schools and public facilities near the Beneluxbaan. Collaboration with public partners and local stakeholders will ensure fair distribution of benefits.

- **Smart Energy for a Sustainable Amstelveen**

D66 wants Amstelveen to become a front-runner in the next phase of the energy transition, not only producing sustainable energy but managing storage, sharing and use smartly. We promote thermal energy storage (TES) and neighborhood batteries to use locally generated energy efficiently, even when the sun does not shine or the wind does not blow. This keeps the grid accessible, stable and affordable. We will also stimulate Very Low Temperature (VLT) heating networks, which allow homes to be sustainably heated in

winter and cooled in summer, increasing comfort and reducing grid pressure. Geothermal energy will be investigated as a clean, reliable heat source for Amstelveen and the region.

- **Ensuring a Reliable Power Grid**

The energy transition requires a reliable electricity grid. D66 will collaborate with grid operators and the province to resolve bottlenecks, support grid expansion, and ensure that new infrastructure, like transformer stations, is carefully integrated into neighborhoods. We also promote energy efficiency, assisting businesses in meeting obligations and accelerating transitions to LED lighting and insulation.

- **The Municipality as a Sustainable Example**

D66 believes the municipality should lead by example. We will: procure sustainably with attention to reuse, lifecycle and CO₂ reduction, require sustainable and circular construction, using biobased materials such as wood, straw, hemp or flax. Implement energy-efficient ICT solutions, limit e-waste and ensure digitalisation supports climate goals. Make sustainability measurable and transparent, for example through a local climate dashboard showing progress and impact.

- **Circular City: From Waste to Resource**

D66 wants Amstelveen to lead in resource reuse. We will focus on: recycling, reuse and repair of textiles and appliances, supporting repair cafés, thrift shops and sharing initiatives, encouraging businesses to reuse residual streams. Promoting circular construction, including agreements with developers on reusing materials from demolition projects. We aim for a fairer distribution of waste collection costs, following the “polluter pays” principle. While differentiated tariffs (difstar) are a mid-term measure, we will implement carefully to ensure fairness and feasibility.

- **Climate Adaptation: A Resilient City**

Amstelveen increasingly faces extreme rainfall and periods of drought. D66 is committed to making the city more resilient to such weather events. Over the next four years, we will focus on greening paved neighborhoods, creating water buffers, improving stormwater drainage, and introducing cooling elements in public spaces. During maintenance and neighborhood renovations, we will prioritize ecological green management, nature-friendly banks, and biodiversity—from sidewalks to polders. This approach enhances livability while improving water quality and local ecosystems.

- **Green as the Foundation of Livability**

For D66, greenery is essential for health, cooling, biodiversity, and social cohesion. We embrace the 3-30-300 principle: from every home, at least three trees should be visible, every neighborhood should have at least 30% tree canopy coverage, and every resident should live within 300 meters of a park or green space. We will invest extra in densely paved neighborhoods (such as Westwijk) and green schoolyards and playgrounds, ensuring children have access to healthy, green spaces for play and learning.

- **New Park in Amstelveen-South**

In the rapidly growing Amstelveen-South, we are committed to creating a large new park—a space for nature, sports, community interaction, and relaxation. This green heart will enhance health, biodiversity, and climate resilience in the neighborhood.

- **Clean Water, Clean Air, and Healthy Nature**

Clean water is vital for both nature and quality of life. D66 advocates for improved water treatment, reduced use of pesticides, nature-friendly banks, and prevention of litter. We aim to restore De Poel to a clean, vibrant space with swimming-quality water where nature and recreation coexist. Healthy air is crucial for residents, especially in busy neighborhoods and near major roads. We will improve air quality through green buffers, promotion of electric transport, and continuous monitoring of pollution.

- **Local Food: From Farm to Neighborhood**

D66 envisions an integrated food strategy for Amstelveen that connects health, sustainability, and the local economy. We support short supply chains—from farm to table within the region—urban agriculture, and food education. Amstelveen will contribute to the regional goal of producing and distributing 25% of food locally by 2028. In developing a vision for the Noorder-Legmeerpolder, we see opportunities for local food production and logistics.
- **Organic Leasing of Municipal Land**

D66 believes the municipality, as a landowner, should actively promote sustainable, nature-inclusive agriculture. New municipal land leases will standardize organic and nature-inclusive criteria, prioritizing soil preservation, biodiversity, water quality, and avoidance of chemical pesticides. Farmers who meet these standards will receive priority and support.
- **Exploring Rights for the Amstel River**

We support research by the AGV water board into granting legal rights to the Amstel River. This could improve decision-making regarding water management, pollution control, and the development and restoration of riverbanks.
- **Animal Welfare in Balance with People and Nature**

We ensure proper oversight of animal welfare in Amstelveen, support responsible care for pets, and provide sufficient space for wildlife. Specifically, dogs will generally remain leashed in natural areas to protect vulnerable ecosystems, while we expand designated off-leash zones where possible. We aim to reduce the impact of cats on bird populations through targeted awareness campaigns. Cooperation between residents, farmers, and nature managers is key to balancing animal welfare, biodiversity, and livability—for example, through wildlife crossings, animal-friendly fencing, and limiting harmful pesticides.
- **Climate-Conscious Living and Learning**

D66 Amstelveen believes that a sustainable future begins with knowledge and awareness. We invest in climate education at schools through Nature and Environmental Education (NME), support community initiatives, and make sustainability visible in public spaces. Learning and acting together strengthens support and accelerates the transition.
- **Greening Starts in Your Own Street**

D66 plans to expand the successful “Tegelwip” program with the Steenbreek/IVN “Garden Rangers.” Following the implementation of the initiative to green social housing gardens (Straatboer motion), we can help even more residents enhance their living environment. The Garden Rangers provide practical assistance to residents in greening gardens and sidewalks, addressing heat stress, drought, and water overload while increasing biodiversity—especially in paved neighborhoods. Green projects also strengthen community bonds, making every street in Amstelveen greener, healthier, and more inviting.



Chapter 4

Entrepreneurship, Culture and Recreation

A strong local economy starts with the vitality of our city. Entrepreneurs, retailers, hospitality businesses, and cultural venues bring Amstelveen to life every day. D66 advocates for a municipality that supports these engines of activity and employment, providing room to grow, reducing unnecessary regulations, and fostering trust. When businesses thrive, Amstelveen thrives. D66 stands for a government that thinks along with entrepreneurs—facilitating opportunities rather than obstructing them. For local businesses, this means a municipality that acts quickly, communicates clearly, and offers space to innovate. By working together, we can address challenges such as overloaded electricity networks, staff shortages, and regulatory burdens.

D66 wants Amstelveners of all ages to always have something to experience. From vibrant nightlife and high-profile festivals to quality performance venues, inspiring studios, and creative hubs, arts and culture shape our identity, inspire, connect people, and enhance the city's attractiveness.

- **Amstelveen Attractive for All Ages**

We aim for a lively city where everyone feels welcome. This includes more nightlife, engaging events, and inviting venues for young people. D66 also supports the establishment of a regulated coffeeshop in a central, accessible, and safe location. A coffeeshop, selling soft drugs in a controlled environment, functions similarly to a café serving alcohol: it ensures safety, transparency, and public health while reducing illegal trade. Responsible use and youth prevention are central. We also advocate for a new cinema—a hub for film, culture, and community—as well as other leisure options such as a pool café, gaming hall, or arcade.

- **Recreation in Green Spaces: From Middenpolder to De Poel**

Amstelveen is rich in green spaces, from the tranquility of Middenpolder to the expanse of the Amsterdamse Bos, winding Amstel banks, and the open waters of De Poel. D66 wants everyone—young and old, athletes or leisure seekers—to enjoy these landscapes. We will maintain walking and cycling routes, ensure safe connections between recreational areas, and provide space for sports, nature experiences, and community gatherings. Vulnerable ecosystems will be protected through careful management, clear zoning, and agreed-upon usage guidelines. Recreation and conservation can coexist when designed thoughtfully.

- **Local Shops Keep Neighborhoods Vibrant**

Neighborhood shopping centers are the heart of the community. They create convenience, liveliness, and social interaction. D66 will invest in strong local centers and encourage the use of ground-floor spaces for shops, cafés, businesses, or community services. We aim to strengthen cohesion, maintain accessible amenities, and make every neighborhood a pleasant place to live. This includes supporting centers like Westwijk, Groenhof, and Waardhuizen, as well as streets such as Amsterdamseweg and Van der Hooplaan, fostering collaboration and streamlining municipal services like permits.

- **Fewer Rules, More Space for Entrepreneurship**

D66 wants entrepreneurs in Amstelveen to have the freedom to grow, innovate, and contribute to a vibrant city. Rules should enable, not obstruct, business initiatives. We will explore with businesses how local regulations can be simplified or adapted—for example, allowing cafés to expand outdoor seating without complex permits, as long as it is done responsibly and does not disturb neighbors.

- **A Future-Proof Stadshart**

Stadshart Amstelveen is a key economic and social hub. D66 envisions it as a future-proof, vibrant area where shopping, living, working, hospitality, and culture reinforce one another. Investments will continue in the cultural strip, green public spaces, and housing developments around Pieter Lastmanweg and Meander. We aim to attract more local entrepreneurs and create a square that hosts events in sports, culture, fashion, and music.

- **Vibrant Neighborhoods, Strong Local Economy**

D66 supports lively neighborhoods with cafés, lunch spots, and day-time venues that bring

streets to life and foster connections. We see opportunities to revitalize Winkelcentrum Kostverlorenhof into a culinary “food hall” featuring diverse dining and tasting experiences under one roof.

- **Investing in Initiatives and Cohesion**

We support the Stadsfonds Amstelveen as a catalyst for local initiatives that promote a connected, vibrant, and future-proof city. The fund will be periodically evaluated to ensure it continues to enable innovative ideas that benefit Amstelveen.

- **Digitalization Agenda for Businesses**

We help entrepreneurs advance through digitalization. In collaboration with SMEs, we will implement a practical program to support safe data management, artificial intelligence (AI) adoption, and improved digital processes, strengthening businesses in a rapidly digitalizing world.

- **Accessible Amstelveen Supports Entrepreneurs**

Good accessibility is essential for a strong local economy. Businesses depend on the city being accessible for customers, suppliers, and staff. D66 prioritizes smart traffic solutions and improved connectivity, working with entrepreneurs to find creative solutions, such as neighborhood shuttle services, benefiting both businesses and residents.

- **Culture and Arts for Everyone**

D66 wants all Amstelveners to enjoy arts and culture. We will make cultural offerings accessible and local, enabling residents to organize activities through neighborhood budgets, with special attention to Uilenstede student campus. We will revive amateur art exhibitions and organize an annual cultural festival showcasing both amateurs and professionals. Public art projects will involve residents in choosing works for their neighborhoods, and neighborhood centers will increasingly function as cultural hubs for exhibitions and talent development.

- **Culture that Connects**

Cultural institutions play a societal role, combating loneliness, fostering community, and making arts accessible to youth. D66 strengthens this role through subsidies, building use agreements, and by facilitating schools to integrate arts education.

- **Maintaining Strong Cultural Pillars**

D66 values its cultural icons, such as Schouwburg Amstelveen, De Landing, P60, Bostheater, Poppentheater, ANNA, Museum Jan, and Museum Cobra. We will continue investing in arts and culture while ensuring municipal funds are used efficiently. Museum Cobra will be supported to achieve financial stability, increase societal and educational impact, collaborate with schools, and utilize its facilities multifunctionally. Ongoing research into closer cooperation—or even a merger—between Museum Cobra and Museum Jan may strengthen Amstelveen’s national and international profile.

- **Accessible Music Education for All**

Music unites people and teaches children perseverance, collaboration, and self-expression. Unlike in many municipalities, D66 will maintain a strong music school. Platform-C is a vital hub for talent and community. We invest in accessible music education, fair pricing, and collaboration with schools and community centers.

- **Spaces for Debate, Lectures, and Meetings**

We want cultural institutions to provide more debate, lectures, and discussions on societal topics, inspired by examples like De Balie and Pakhuis de Zwijger. The library will be strengthened as a central hub for dialogue. We will also engage churches and religious institutions, using their spaces for debates and lectures to enhance community interaction.



Chapter 5

Health, Care & Sport

Good health is the foundation of freedom and equal opportunities. Physical and mental well-being allows people to participate fully in school, work, and society. Health is more than the absence of illness—it includes clean air, physical activity, healthy nutrition, mental resilience, and a supportive social environment. D66 Amstelveen is committed to fostering the healthiest generation ever. We invest in a society where healthy choices are natural, focusing on prevention and encouraging environments that promote movement and well-being. When care is needed, it should be nearby, accessible, personal, and free of unnecessary bureaucracy.

- **Healthy First 1,000 Days**
Every child deserves a strong start in life. The first 1,000 days determine a child’s health, development, and future opportunities. While parents and caregivers bear primary responsibility, additional support should be quickly accessible, low-threshold, and effective. D66 Amstelveen aims to strengthen youth healthcare and bring it closer to families, removing barriers such as language difficulties or limited opening hours, and giving extra attention to low-income families and those with an international or migration background.
- **Prevention is Better Than Cure**
A healthy society starts with preventing illness. We invest in education, healthy nutrition, more physical activity, timely support, and strengthening social networks. “Positive health,” which emphasizes meaningful life rather than illness, guides our approach. We reach residents where they already gather—neighborhood centers, schools, sports clubs—and work with healthcare providers such as physiotherapists, dietitians, and community coaches to identify issues early and connect people to appropriate help. Projects such as community care circles, where neighbors support each other in times of need, foster resilience and social cohesion.
- **Healthy Living Environment**
A green city is a healthy city. Residents living in green surroundings are more active, have lower cardiovascular risks, and report higher happiness. D66 invests in neighborhoods that encourage movement, social interaction, and relaxation. By 2030, every neighborhood will have sufficient natural shaded areas, making walking comfortable even during heatwaves. Green spaces reduce stress and loneliness, provide cooling, and make physical activity effortless. Climate-resilient schoolyards further contribute to children’s well-being.
- **Smoke- and Vape-Free City**
Every resident deserves clean air. We aim to make public spaces progressively smoke- and vape-free, expand smoke-free zones, and encourage organizations to adopt smoke-free policies. Strict enforcement of vape sales and awareness campaigns about wood smoke ensure residents and children grow up in a healthier environment.
- **Reducing Wood Smoke for Cleaner Air**
Although fireplaces and fire pits are cozy, they are major sources of fine particulate matter in the Netherlands and can cause nuisance. D66 prioritizes public health by raising awareness, promoting cleaner alternatives, and implementing restrictions, such as banning wood burning during air quality alerts. Clean air is fundamental to healthy living.
- **Safe and Responsible Choices**
D66 wants residents to make safe, responsible choices. Free and anonymous drug-testing services will allow people to know what they consume and prevent risks. Free and anonymous STI testing will also be available to anyone, not only high-risk groups.
- **Protection Through Trust**
Vaccination is a matter of solidarity and common sense. High vaccination coverage prevents outbreaks and protects the vulnerable. While the national benchmark is 95%, Amstelveen’s current rate of 83.4% is insufficient. D66 encourages residents with an international background to register with the GGD, ensures data accuracy, and provides low-threshold vaccination points in neighborhoods, schools, and childcare centers.
- **Accessible Primary Care**
A good general practitioner, dentist, physiotherapist, and psychologist should be reachable

in every neighborhood. D66 ensures basic healthcare is accessible, affordable, and reliable, evenly distributed across the city. The municipality facilitates affordable practice space, expands existing facilities, and prevents excessive commercial influence over practices.

- **Child- and Family-Centered Youth Care**
Not every child requires youth care; children need the freedom to be themselves. Systems and procedures should provide space for the child while investing in a strong foundation. Professional support is provided only when families cannot solve problems themselves, ensuring timely, personal, and effective help. D66 opposes policies that intentionally create waiting lists, such as overall care ceilings.
- **Preventing Youth Homelessness**
D66 focuses on early intervention to prevent youth homelessness, collaborating with schools, youth care, GPs, and partners. Support is provided up to age 23, including debt prevention, budget coaching, and housing with or without guidance. Cooperation with truancy services ensures young people, including those over 18, achieve qualifications and secure their future.
- **Independent and Dignified Aging**
Older adults should live independently in an engaged city. We promote personalized, culturally sensitive care, reduce fall risks, and ensure housing and neighborhood centers combine living, well-being, and social connection. D66 aims to make Amstelveen dementia-friendly, with extended service hours, neighborhood activities, local respite care, and transportation for immobile seniors. Support for young people with dementia and residents with a migration background is also prioritized.
- **Mental Health**
Increasing numbers of residents experience stress, performance pressure, and loneliness, particularly young people. D66 encourages openness, ensures no one feels isolated, and provides education, open-access counseling, and psychologists in secondary schools, vocational schools, and student campuses. Neighborhood centers serve as spaces for social interaction and support. Mental health is embedded in all professional work with children, while support for people with complex or unexplained behavior is improved.
- **Support for Informal Caregivers**
Caregivers are invaluable, enabling people to stay at home longer. D66 supports them with local respite care, clear information, a fixed municipal contact point, and attention to hard-to-reach groups, including young caregivers and those with a migration background. Measures help caregivers balance work and care, providing the recognition, rest, and support they deserve.
- **Inclusive Sports for Everyone**
Sport unites, energizes, and improves health and happiness. Participation should be inclusive for all, regardless of ability, background, gender, or sexual orientation. D66 promotes inclusive sports clubs, accessible coaching, and financial support. For people with disabilities, neighborhood sports coaches help identify suitable clubs, transportation, and memberships, while clubs receive guidance to prevent discrimination, aggression, and sexual harassment.
- **Sports Facilities**
Residents should have access to local facilities for physical activity and social interaction. D66 encourages collaboration among clubs to reduce waiting lists, optimize field usage, and sustainably develop sports facilities. Increasing participation of girls in football and other sports is actively supported with safe, inspiring spaces.
- **Informal Sports in Every Neighborhood**
Outdoor spaces are activated for informal sports, including exercise equipment, playgrounds, and sports fields. Walking and running routes are maintained, and weekday activities for seniors are organized in each neighborhood.

- **Every Child Learns to Swim**

D66 wants all children to learn to swim. We explore reintroducing school-based swimming, with support for schools, piloting lessons in collaboration with De Meerkamp pool, and combining instruction with water safety education. Safe outdoor swimming locations will also be developed or expanded.

- **Clearer Mission for AmstelveenSport**

AmstelveenSport plays a key role in local sports but currently has many tasks. D66 aims to improve effectiveness by focusing on accessibility for people with disabilities, optimizing facilities, and engaging residents for whom sport is not automatic. Proactive, tailored support for clubs ensures efforts are impactful.

- **Recognition for Volunteers**

Volunteers are essential to Amstelveen. D66 reduces unnecessary rules, facilitates volunteer work, and aims to make obtaining background checks free when possible. We advocate nationally to exempt small volunteer reimbursements from taxation, ensuring practical recognition of their contributions.



Chapter 6

Internationalisation and integration

Amstelveen is an international city. Knowledge workers, labor migrants, and asylum seekers live alongside residents whose families have been here for generations. D66 Amstelveen sees this diversity as a strength. We want Amstelveen to remain a city where everyone feels at home, can participate fully, and takes responsibility for one another. D66 promotes balanced internationalization: embracing the city's international character while safeguarding livability, social cohesion, and equal opportunities. We focus on active societal participation, Dutch language learning, and neighborhood connection. We also expect (international) companies to contribute not only economically but also socially to Amstelveen.

- **Asylum Seeker Support**

D66 Amstelveen provides protection to people fleeing war and persecution. We fulfill our legal responsibilities, maintain and strengthen current reception locations distributed across the city, and ensure these are safe and liveable for both residents and neighbors. We oppose scapegoating and the unfair blaming of asylum seekers for societal problems, which require structural solutions rather than assigning fault. Asylum seekers awaiting their procedure in Amstelveen are given opportunities to participate in society while expected to follow rules, learn the language, and contribute actively. Those causing disturbances are not tolerated; incidents are addressed swiftly with the COA through relocation and additional measures to maintain safety and community support.

- **Transition and Housing for Status Holders**

Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers transitioning to adulthood in Amstelveen will move "warmly" into local housing as they turn 18. We also include asylum seekers who have obtained residency status in our local allocation, preventing dropout and ensuring these young people can continue integrating and participating fully in Amstelveen.

- **Participation from Day One**

Integration starts immediately, not only after obtaining a residence permit. In Amstelveen, attention is given from day one to language learning, education, volunteering, and, where possible, employment. This benefits both individuals and the city. We invest in a clear introduction to Dutch values and social norms, including equality, freedom of expression, non-discrimination, and respect for LGBTIQ+ persons and religious diversity. We actively help asylum seekers and status holders find work, strengthening the "Meedoenbalie" and guiding them toward sectors with staff shortages. We explore initiatives like Takecarebnb to further support newcomer integration in Amstelveen.

- **Connecting a Diverse City**

Living together begins with meeting each other. In times of polarization, D66 prioritizes connection. We invest in neighborhood dialogues, community projects, and initiatives that bring people from different backgrounds together. Sports, arts, culture, and volunteering foster understanding and appreciation among residents. Special attention is given to interactions between newcomers and long-term residents. Participe receives a strengthened mandate to coordinate these efforts, and communication is conducted in multiple languages. Platforms like Amstelveen Connect@ demonstrate the power of connection, allowing people to share stories, meet, and build a united city. Neighborhood budgets support initiatives that promote trust, curiosity, and a strong community.

- **Balanced Internationalization**

Everyone legally residing in the Netherlands has the right to choose where to live, as stipulated by law and treaties. D66 wants all Amstelveners to feel at home and remain confident in their place in the city. Internationalization enriches the city as long as newcomers participate and learn the language. Our focus is not on attracting more international companies, but on the value that existing companies contribute to Amstelveen economically, socially, and in terms of livability. We monitor the effects of internationalization on the housing market and public services, and intervene when necessary to maintain balance.



Chapter 7

Work and Joining in

We believe that everyone should be able to participate fully in society. Work that aligns with people’s talents provides structure, independence, and a sense of belonging. Employment is more than an income—it is the most effective way to prevent poverty and debt. D66 trusts that individuals are best placed to make their own life choices, and the government should provide the space to do so. When challenges arise, the government must be ready to offer support. We want all Amstelveners who are able to work to have access to suitable employment. Work should always pay, and rules and regulations should never hinder participation. We invest in guidance toward meaningful work, education, and a strong social safety net, including effective debt counseling, poverty reduction initiatives, and targeted support for low literacy. Our approach starts with trust in what people can achieve.

- **Creating More Opportunities for Work**

Employment should always be rewarding. We ensure that municipal arrangements, exemptions, or offsets do not obstruct the transition to work. Everyone should be able to work in a role that suits them. When this is not achievable independently, the municipality collaborates with employers, training providers, and the social development organization AM Match to provide guidance and skills training—especially in sectors with high demand, such as healthcare, education, technology, and construction. AM Match will play a stronger role as a stepping stone to regular employment. Transitions from benefits or daytime activities to (sheltered) work will be made simpler and safer, enabling people to participate without fear of falling back.

- **Inclusive Access to the Labor Market**

D66 welcomes and supports inclusive employment. People who need extra assistance should also be able to participate. Employers are essential partners in this process. Those who hire individuals with additional support needs deserve a municipality that actively facilitates and supports them. We streamline regulations, accelerate procedures, remove unnecessary bureaucracy, and develop a master plan to improve services for employers, putting their needs at the center.

- **Tackling Poverty and Debt**

We address debt at its source through early detection, effective guidance, and practical assistance. We continuously improve poverty and debt policies in collaboration with residents and partners. Financial counseling services are strengthened and expanded to accessible locations, such as libraries. The proactive “Vroeg-eropaf” approach continues, ensuring people are aware of available support. Too many residents currently miss help simply because they are unaware of what exists. Municipal staff proactively assess which provisions residents can access and assist in arranging them immediately. The successful pilot program *Jongeren Amstelveen Schuldenvrij*, initiated by D66, will become permanent.

- **Supporting Entrepreneurs Facing Financial Difficulties**

Entrepreneurs often delay seeking help for financial problems, trying to resolve them independently or not considering the municipality as a partner. We will invest in debt support services for entrepreneurs and ensure these services are widely known. The “Vroeg-Eropaf” approach will also be applied to entrepreneurs, identifying those with payment arrears early and providing timely assistance.

- **Combating Low Literacy**

D66 aims for an Amstelveen where no one is left behind due to language or digital barriers. We will strengthen the Taalhuis, expand language courses, and deploy more language coaches. Schools, libraries, employers, sports clubs, and community organizations will collaborate more closely, providing extra language learning opportunities in classrooms, neighborhood centers, and sports facilities. Residents will also have space to practice digital skills, for example in libraries or community centers, enabling them to navigate apps, forms, and government services independently. The municipality will invest internally by training employees who interact with residents daily to recognize low literacy and provide the appropriate support.



Chapter 8

Freedom and Safety

Amstelveen is a city of freedom, connection, and progress—a city of doers, dreamers, and risk-takers. A city where people collaborate to solve problems and create opportunities. D66 wants every resident of Amstelveen to feel at home in a safe neighborhood. We focus on meaningful work and the freedom to love who you want. We are building both your future and that of Amstelveen—a city where freedom is tangible, progress benefits everyone, and connection forms the foundation of our society.

Freedom means the ability to make your own choices, regardless of age, background, religion, or identity—in education, work, housing, and lifestyle. That is why we invest broadly: in schools that give every child the best opportunities, in neighborhoods where people feel safe, and in a government that can be trusted, supports initiative, and enables residents to act.

Amstelveen is among the safest municipalities in the Netherlands, with 87% of residents feeling secure in their own neighborhoods. Yet almost 40% experience some form of (behavioral) nuisance, and street robberies are on the rise. Safety requires constant attention.

For D66, safety is about freedom, connection, and progress. It means being able to walk the streets without fear, neighborhoods being resilient, residents knowing one another, and trust prevailing. We continuously improve our policies, invest in modern preventive measures, and implement strategies that work, while combating discrimination, crime, and all forms of exclusion and hate. Vulnerable groups receive special attention, ensuring all Amstelveeners can move freely and confidently through our city.

- **No Tolerance for Discrimination and Exclusion**

Everyone in Amstelveen must feel free and safe. Too many still experience hate or exclusion due to their background, faith, or identity, which is entirely unacceptable. D66 takes strong action against discrimination and exclusion, investing in prevention. We foster social cohesion because familiarity breeds understanding. Special attention is given to LGBTIQ+ acceptance among youth, so everyone can be themselves. Discrimination must always be reported and taken seriously. We strengthen the anti-discrimination reporting center and make reporting easier and more accessible.

- **Addressing Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Sexual Violence**

Everyone should feel safe at home. Domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual violence are serious issues that often remain hidden. D66 invests in a comprehensive approach with early detection, accessible local support, and effective aftercare. We provide training and awareness for schools, healthcare professionals, and community officers to recognize warning signs early. Low-threshold support centers, safe shelters, and accessible help outside office hours are priorities. Schools play a crucial role, with clear protocols, designated contact persons, and training to make signals recognizable and discussable. We continue to support the Sexual Violence Center and campaigns such as *Orange the World*.

- **Safe Streets for Everyone**

Everyone must feel secure on the streets, day and night. We support initiatives like "*Claim the Night*" and focus on areas where residents feel least safe, improving lighting, trimming greenery along key walking and cycling routes, and addressing unsafe underpasses. Young people—especially young women—are consulted on unsafe spots to ensure improvements are effective. Street harassment is tackled decisively, with targeted deployment of community officers and youth workers. We also lobby nationally for expanded powers for community enforcement officers.

- **Cautious Use of Surveillance and Preventive Searches**

D66 prioritizes safety while protecting freedom and privacy. Measures such as camera surveillance and preventive searches are used sparingly and never as a default solution. Safety is achieved primarily through visible presence of community officers and police and social measures that address problems at their source. Surveillance and searches are only applied proportionally, in cases of severe and persistent nuisance or crime, when other measures are insufficient. Strict conditions apply: clear necessity, limited duration, transparent evaluation, and safeguards for privacy and legal protection.

- **Accessibility for All**

Freedom also means moving safely and independently through Amstelveen. Accessibility is a fundamental standard. D66 aims for full compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in public spaces and buildings. We work with experts to create accessible and safe streets, buildings, schools, sports clubs, and cultural facilities. Improvements in lighting, bus stops, sidewalks, and signage ensure that people with disabilities can move safely and independently. A city is only truly free when everyone—including those with disabilities—feels safe, independent, and welcome.
- **Opportunities as a Tool Against Crime**

Young people deserve a safe future they can approach with confidence. Crime prevention is not only about rules and enforcement—it’s also about opportunity. Those who learn, work, and participate are less likely to turn to crime. D66 invests in quality education, strong youth work, and active engagement in sports and culture. Young people who make mistakes deserve guidance and second chances. We strengthen cooperation between schools, youth services, and community officers, promote resilience both online and offline, continue personalized approaches, and tackle truancy decisively.
- **Digital Safety and Elder Protection**

Safety extends beyond physical spaces. Increasingly, crime occurs online, from scams to digital intimidation. We strengthen the municipality’s cyber resilience and develop an action plan to make residents, entrepreneurs, and institutions digitally secure. Special attention is given to the elderly, who are often more vulnerable to digital abuse and fraud. We provide clear guidance, digital skills support, and accessible reporting. The library will serve as a central hub for this support, offering training, cyber ambassadors, and awareness campaigns.
- **Preventing Home and Vehicle Burglaries**

Everyone should feel safe in their home and neighborhood. We aim to reduce burglaries using modern methods and smart collaboration. Digital neighborhood watch apps, support for local prevention teams, and approved locks and security advice for residents and homeowners’ associations help detect suspicious activity early. Together with police and enforcement officers, we identify burglary-prone areas and provide targeted patrols. Data, technology, and visible presence make Amstelveen safer at home and in public spaces.
- **Preparedness for Crisis Situations**

D66 ensures that Amstelveen is well-prepared for disasters, cyberattacks, or extreme weather. We invest in clear communication, cooperation with emergency services, and training for staff and volunteers. This strengthens the city’s resilience—physically, digitally, and socially—so Amstelveen remains safe and capable, even in times of crisis.



Chapter 9

Democracy and Participation

Democracy is the foundation of everything we aim to achieve together. Only when our democracy and rule of law are strong can we tackle the major challenges of our time, from housing and education to healthcare, climate, and safety. For D66, local democracy starts with trust in people. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to influence decisions that affect their lives and surroundings.

We are building an Amstelveen where residents think along, participate, and help shape decisions. Participation, for us, means creating space for ideas, listening to experiences, and providing honest feedback on what happens with those ideas. This is especially important when good suggestions cannot be implemented immediately due to competing interests. We take people seriously and explain our decisions. D66 wants to empower residents, schools, associations, and entrepreneurs to develop initiatives and find solutions for the challenges facing Amstelveen.

Political life requires openness, respect, and realism. We advocate for a municipal government in Amstelveen that genuinely listens to residents, respects facts, and is transparent about choices and costs. This ensures trustworthy governance and keeps politics close to the people.

- **Politics in service of people.**
Politics should improve residents' lives, not serve itself. Local government must stand alongside people, listen, explain, and make choices when necessary. D66 advocates for an open and accountable government, with accessible council members and alderpersons who actively engage with residents' concerns and ideas. Integrity is paramount: politicians must avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts to maintain trust in local democracy.
- **Open council meetings.**
We hold public meetings that are accessible to all residents—not only at City Hall but also in neighborhoods and community spaces—to make politics tangible and inclusive.
- **A healthy democracy requires dualism.**
The council and executive have distinct roles, and this separation must be clear. We promote a professional, constructive relationship between the council and civil servants, with clear roles, open communication, and mutual respect. Administrative and technical support, for example for amendments, should be made available to council members as much as possible.
- **Human-centered governance.**
D66 wants residents to feel that the government is on their side. This requires listening, thinking along, and acting when needed. Rules should never outweigh solutions for people. Civil servants are empowered to provide tailored solutions and override rules when they produce unfair outcomes. On D66's initiative, Amstelveen has already increased focus on human-centered governance, a strategy we continue, simplifying regulations and reducing unnecessary bureaucracy to make work more effective and enjoyable.
- **Always a solution.**
Residents should be helped promptly when problems arise. We are exploring a central escalation point at the municipality: one contact point for residents who encounter difficulties, where active solutions are sought—especially when standard procedures have been exhausted.
- **Safe, accessible, and reliable digital services.**
Residents should be able to transparently see what the municipality knows and does digitally. Digital services must be available, secure, and accessible—even for those less digitally skilled. Assistance should be provided when necessary.

- **Right to correct errors**
We implement a “right to correct errors” within the municipal organization, allowing residents to amend small administrative mistakes without penalties.
- **No unnecessary legal action against residents.**
The municipality should only appeal in exceptional cases. Issues should be resolved directly with residents whenever possible, rather than in court.
- **Strong, self-reliant government.**
D66 aims to build a government with in-house expertise and less dependence on costly external consultants. Policy starts from societal needs, not the system. The municipality should be visible and engaged in the city, close to residents, schools, and businesses. This allows more space for citizens to propose ideas and solutions, creating policy that works in practice—less paperwork, more action.
- **Technology serving people.**
Digitalization offers opportunities but requires clear boundaries. D66 promotes transparency in the use of algorithms and AI, prevents discrimination, and protects residents’ privacy. We invest in digital skills and ethical frameworks to ensure technology remains fair, safe, and human-centered.
- **Democratic oversight of regional cooperation.**
Amstelveen increasingly collaborates with surrounding municipalities on issues such as healthcare, housing, and mobility. D66 believes these partnerships must always remain democratically accountable. The municipal council retains authority over decisions affecting residents. D66 has already strengthened this approach in specialist youth care procurement and will expand it with clear agreements, transparent decision-making, and a strong council role.
- **Strong local media.**
A robust democracy requires well-informed citizens. D66 invests in independent, high-quality journalism in Amstelveen, supporting the local public broadcaster and media initiatives through the Media Fund. We enhance resources to combat disinformation and promote digital literacy so residents can identify false information.
- **Participation in shaping Amstelveen’s future.**
A strong democracy depends on engaged residents. D66 ensures all residents have opportunities to contribute and influence decisions. We involve citizens early through neighborhood discussions, city forums, online surveys, and, for major issues, citizens’ panels supported with professional guidance.
- **Special attention for youth.**
Young people are essential to Amstelveen’s future but are often insufficiently included in policymaking. D66 strengthens youth participation through initiatives such as the youth think tank and youth budgets. Residents aged 14 to 18 are given more influence, and the municipality actively seeks their input at schools, online, and in neighborhoods. Modern tools like social media surveys and hackathons are used to engage youth on issues that affect them.



Chapter 10

Students

Amstelveen is home to thousands of students. With the Uilenstede campus, and the proximity of the VU, UvA, HvA, and various regional vocational institutions, students form an important part of our community. They enrich Amstelveen. D66 wants Amstelveen to be a city where students feel welcome, can grow, and build their future. That is why we pursue an ambitious student policy, focusing on affordable housing, mental well-being, accessibility, and equal recognition for mbo, hbo, and university students.

- **Accessibility and safety.** Students and schoolchildren must be able to get home easily and safely—even in the evenings and at night. D66 aims to extend tram line 5 on weekends and Thursday evenings and provide extra public transport capacity during major events. The Kazernepad will be widened and better lit. Walking and cycling routes between Uilenstede and Kronenburg will be improved, and concierges will be appointed on Uilenstede to monitor, mediate, and manage nuisance. Additional enforcement resources will also be allocated to Uilenstede.
- **A vibrant student life.** D66 wants Amstelveen to be a city where studying, sports, and cultural experiences go hand in hand. Together with DUWO, we invest in a green and lively environment on Uilenstede, restoring lawns where needed, planting more trees, and encouraging community initiatives like shared vegetable gardens. Outdoor sports will be more accessible, with students able to use facilities free of charge. We will also create more opportunities for music, theater, and small-scale festivals. A dedicated fund for student groups and attractive discounts at sports and cultural institutions will make it easier to organize or participate in Amstelveen’s community life. Cultural activities will be actively organized on Uilenstede and Kronenburg.
- **Mental well-being.** Studying is a unique phase of life, full of opportunities but also pressures. Increasingly, students experience stress, loneliness, or mental health challenges. D66 ensures that no student faces these alone. We will establish a low-threshold walk-in center on Uilenstede, inspired by @Ease—a safe space where students can speak with psychologists or experienced peers.
- **Studying in a supportive environment.** Every student deserves a pleasant place to study. Quiet workspaces are not always guaranteed. We will provide more study spots and extended opening hours in the library and other study locations. Additional study areas will be created on Uilenstede so students can work close to home. Vacant spaces, such as community centers, will be repurposed as extra study areas, and we will explore more affordable “study cafés” where students can learn and socialize.
- **Student voice matters.** D66 wants students to have a permanent role in shaping Amstelveen. We will establish a student council where students can provide input on city life. Fixed points of contact within the municipality will understand student concerns and translate them into action. We will strengthen the connection between students and Amstelveen through introduction weeks, festivals, and cultural events. D66 also sets an example by giving students a voice in local politics, including multiple student candidates on our municipal council list.
- **Housing.** D66 wants students to live in Amstelveen during and after their studies. We are committed to the rapid construction of 438 soundproof affordable student housing units and 3,600 short-stay apartments (maximum six months) in Uilenstede-Kronenburg. While our ambitions are higher, this agreement is a negotiated compromise with the national government due to the area’s location under Schiphol’s flight path. Over the coming years, we aim to convert 2,000 short-stay units into regular student housing. Elsewhere in the city, vacant offices will be repurposed for small-scale temporary housing, and we will

encourage “hospitaverhuur” (room rentals with hosts). Graduates will have access to temporary transition housing so they are not left without options after leaving student housing. Long-term residents of Uilenstede will receive priority in finding their next home in Amstelveen. We also plan to actively tackle illegal subletting and excessive rent prices. (See the chapter on Housing and Mobility for more details.)



Chapter 11

Finance

Amstelveen has its finances in order. This solid foundation provides the freedom to make choices that promote liberty, progress, and connection in our city. D66 wants the municipality to manage its income and expenditures responsibly, without increasing the financial burden on residents and businesses. Responsible budgeting means using public funds wisely and investing with a long-term perspective. By critically reforming processes and deploying resources purposefully, we retain the capacity to invest in services, mobility, sustainability, and equal opportunities—now and in the future.

- **Healthy and fair finances.** A strong city requires sound and transparent finances. D66 wants residents to know where their money goes and ensures that taxes contribute to a sustainable, future-proof city. When difficult choices arise, we prioritize an ethical financial course. We first explore what can be reformed or eliminated within current policies and the municipality itself before considering alternatives. This applies across all domains. Taxes for residents and businesses, such as property tax (OZB), will increase at most in line with annual inflation. Waste collection and cleaning fees remain cost-covering. Tourist taxes will gradually align more closely with Amsterdam's, so that visitors also fairly contribute to the costs of services, infrastructure, and livability. Transparency and timely decisions about the use of funds remain central.
- **Smart procurement: control quality and costs.** D66 wants the municipality to critically evaluate how and from whom it purchases goods and services. If the market lacks sufficient providers or does not operate efficiently, the municipality should consider executing tasks internally. We envision an agile and cost-effective municipal organization that continuously reviews its responsibilities.
- **Sustainable, circular, and local procurement as the standard.** D66 aims for procurement to actively prioritize sustainability, circularity, and local impact. Without clear guidelines, reuse, sustainability, and local involvement do not automatically emerge in procurement processes. Explicit requirements regarding circularity, material reuse, product lifespan, and local benefits will be included in tenders. This ensures public funds contribute to a future-proof economy, support local entrepreneurs, and reduce waste.
- **Targeted investment for equal opportunities.** Subsidies must demonstrably benefit society. D66 wants clear goals set in advance and will critically monitor whether subsidies achieve their intended effect. Subsidies without clear impact will be discontinued, while new or expanded subsidies will be periodically evaluated. Public money should be invested in progress, and we are willing to invest disproportionately where necessary to ensure all Amstelveners have equal opportunities.
- **Reforms and broad prosperity.** D66 wants budgeting to account for broad prosperity. This means considering not just financial costs, but also the societal costs and benefits of policies. We aim to prevent inaction today from becoming more expensive tomorrow. We critically evaluate how policies, programs, and municipal organization can be made smarter, more efficient, and more effective.



Amstelveen, January 2026

The Election Program Committee

Floor Gordon

Saloua Chaara

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Heidy Knol

This election program has been prepared under the responsibility of the board of D66 Amstelveen.

It was developed with input from our members and with contributions from various organizations and institutions in our city. They shared their perspectives, responded to draft versions, and asked critical questions. Their comments and suggestions helped us make choices and shape a strong, coherent program.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed their time and ideas. Thanks to their involvement, this program reflects our commitment to freedom, our ambition for progress, and our dedication to strengthening connection in Amstelveen.