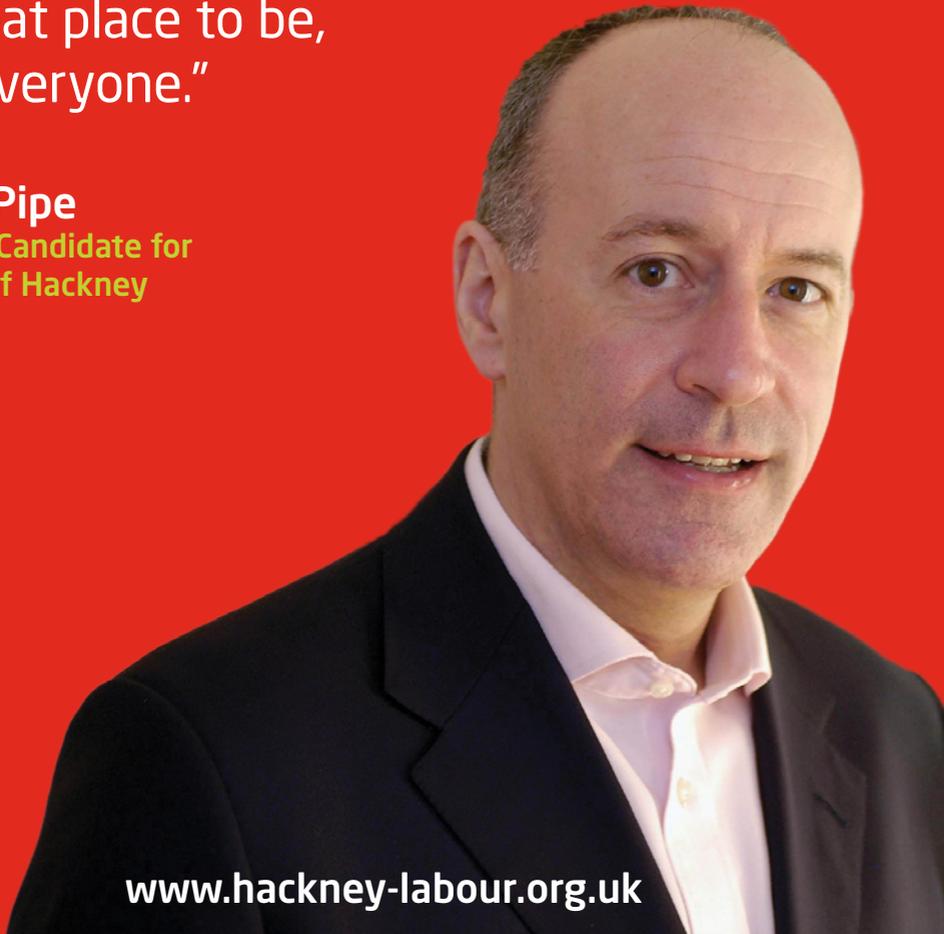


MANIFESTO 2014
FOR THE MAYORAL AND
LOCAL ELECTIONS,
THURSDAY 22ND MAY

Hackney
 **Labour**

“This booklet is about three things:
the values that guide us, our record of
achievement, and it is about the future;
the aspirations shared by many residents
for making Hackney
a great place to be,
for everyone.”

Jules Pipe
Labour Candidate for
Mayor of Hackney



www.hackney-labour.org.uk

Foreword

By Jules Pipe,
Labour Candidate for Mayor of Hackney



Photo: Sean Pollock

Over the next few weeks, you will help decide who oversees and sets the direction for local services in Hackney - the borough's executive mayor and your ward councillors, all of them directly elected by you.

I want you to know exactly what Labour wants to do for Hackney over the next four years, that's why we are sending you this detailed borough manifesto.

This booklet is about three things: the values that guide us; our record of achievement while leading the

Council, which should give you confidence in our promises; and it is about the future - the aspirations that we believe are shared by many residents for making Hackney a great place to be, for everyone.

Our Labour values drive us to seek greater opportunity and social mobility for those that are disadvantaged, to ensure everyone is able to benefit from the rising prosperity we see happening across our borough, and to secure the best outcome for all our residents. We want a borough that is fair, a place where people's voices are heard, and celebrates Hackney's diversity and rich cultural heritage.

Through our campaigning, leading by example, or direct action, we will continue to press for change on many issues, such as licensing private landlords to raise the standard of rented accommodation, encouraging payment of a living wage by employers and ensuring at least the national minimum is paid, pressing the Government to allow us to limit the number of betting shops and payday lenders on our

high streets, promoting sustainability in buildings and energy use, and remaining a Fairtrade borough.

Our record is one of getting thousands of people into jobs; providing some of London's best libraries, leisure facilities and parks; achieving some of the greatest school improvements in the country - in terms of both exam results and new buildings; keeping our streets among the cleanest in the capital; and building more affordable housing than almost anywhere else in the UK. We have been committed to providing the best possible services of any local authority, and doing it efficiently - and we are pledging again to keep Hackney's Council Tax as low as possible, having already frozen it for nine consecutive years.

Running public services well, managing our assets efficiently and providing good customer services are essential, but building a great future for all residents of the borough takes more. Labour's vision for the borough is for its communities to be stronger and more cohesive. Our ambition is to ensure that no one is left behind; to build capacity in individuals and families to support themselves and take advantage of the opportunities on offer through education, skills training and our job matching service.

We will continue to defend residents against this Tory Government's

cuts, the worst reductions to the public sector in more than 60 years. Supporting people through the Government's welfare changes is vital, but being on the side of residents in difficult times means we must do more - our primary focus must be on improving the social and economic future of the most disadvantaged, not least lifting up the 37% of the borough's children who live in poverty.

You can have confidence in us to deliver based on our record so, if you share our vision and values, I ask for your support at this election, for myself to be your Labour mayor and for your local Labour ward candidates, so we can work together to make Hackney a great place - for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jules Pipe". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Jules Pipe
Labour's Candidate for Mayor of Hackney

Watch our video of Jules Pipe discussing our record and introducing Labour's manifesto for Hackney at:

www.hackney-labour.org.uk

Labour's Record

In 2010 we made 152 election pledges. Despite the swingeing cuts, all but one are being delivered or have been completed*. Here are just a few of the pledges we made.

*A pledge to "develop a Hackney Card to allow easy access to council and other services", was not taken forward because of insufficient benefit for the significant cost involved.

In 2010 we said:

Build new council housing and work with housing providers to build affordable homes.

Install 7,000 kitchens and bathrooms and complete the decent homes programme.

Work with police and residents to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour to deliver a year on year reduction in crime.

Create 100 new apprenticeships for young people.

Plant 1,000 trees

Make our residential roads safer by introducing a borough-wide 20mph zone.

Make our streets the most cycle-friendly in London.

Collect your bins and recycling on the same day, and sweep up within 24hrs.

By 2014 we have delivered:

More than 2,500 homes for affordable rent have been built, including 221 new council houses since 2011, the third highest number of affordable homes built in the country since 2011.

7,240 kitchens and bathrooms installed, but the Tory cuts have delayed the completion of decent homes work to next year.

Crime in Hackney has fallen by 30% in the last 10 years, which means 11,000 fewer victims of crime a year.

More than achieved with 627 apprenticeships delivered by the Council, our Ways into Work team, and partners.

Done, 1,200 additional trees planted.

Done

Hackney won "Best cycling borough" at the London Transport Awards, and recently their "Borough of the year" award.

Done

Work with businesses to make Hackney's shop fronts more attractive.

Protect our green spaces and make Hackney greener.

Invest in our libraries and ensure they are used by all our communities.

Protect services for older people and not change eligibility criteria.

Continue to raise standards in schools with GCSE results higher than the national average and primary schools assessed as good or outstanding.

Meet the demand for secondary school places particularly in the south of the borough

Complete the rebuilding or refurbishment of all our secondary schools.

Open five new youth centres.

Give our children the best start in life.

Keep Council Tax as low as possible.

Ensure our contractors pay the London Living Wage.

Secure a legacy for Hackney from the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Almost £1million has been invested in shop front improvements.

Hackney now has 15 Green Flag awards with new facilities at Hackney Marshes, Hackney Downs, Mabley Green and London Fields, and Clissold House and Park.

The new Library in Dalston opened in January 2012, and use of our libraries has increased to 1.7 million visits each year.

We have maintained our eligibility criteria for older people receiving support such as homecare.

Hackney pupils now achieve above the national average at GCSEs. All but 6 primary schools are now good or outstanding, and their results are 6% above the national average.

A new school, sponsored by Mossbourne Academy, will be opening in South Hackney in 2014.

Done

Done

Our 20 children's centres reach over 90% of children under five in Hackney.

Hackney's element of Council Tax has been frozen for the ninth year running.

All directly employed staff are paid at least the living wage and our new contract for care workers will complete the process of securing at least the London Living Wage for all the Council's contracted staff.

A digital and creative hub in the media centre will create 5,300 jobs on site and 2,300 in the local area.

Labour, on your side, is working to make Hackney a great place... to succeed

By building a thriving local economy that creates employment opportunities for local people, with training and support for job seekers; creating affordable work space, apprenticeships and continuing to promote Hackney businesses both locally and to a global audience.

Our vision is for a thriving local economy that continues to attract inward investment and creates jobs for local people. Hackney is becoming famous for its fast growing digital, creative, fashion, retail and hospitality businesses. Our ambition is to improve the quality of life and future prospects for all our residents, particularly school leavers and long-term job seekers through training, support and access to those employment opportunities.

All our residents should have the opportunity to be part of our growing economy, and so we will support residents through the ongoing welfare reforms and into employment. We will expand Ways into Work, our employment, training and skills service for Hackney's jobseekers, bringing together Council services, training providers and employers.



"I'm happy to have finally set up my own business in the area I live. This place has changed so much and its getting better all the time."
Micky Souleiman, Micky's Barbers, Seven Sisters Road

We will promote and secure apprenticeships for young people by working with local businesses, developers, and through our own regeneration projects, to deliver training alongside jobs. We will seek the creation of local employment and apprenticeships through the Council's contracting and its procurement of goods and services.

We will work with the borough's schools to ensure young people have the skills needed to meet the expectations of employers.

We want to see all people working in Hackney receiving a fair wage. All directly employed Council staff are paid at least the London Living Wage.

Our new contract for care workers will complete the process of securing at least a London Living Wage for all of the Council's contracted staff - and we will campaign for all the borough's employers to do the same.

We will continue to work with Government and employers across London to maximise job opportunities for residents and new markets for local businesses.

We will launch a business pledge to encourage and support Hackney businesses to invest and integrate into the local community, employ local people and pay them a fair wage, and deliver their services ethically and sustainably.

We know that parents often need to match working hours with childcare; through our partnership with organisations such as Timewise we will work to become an employer that offers flexible working and supports parents to enter the workforce and progress in their careers.

We expect regeneration in Hackney to be inclusive, seeking to manage change so no one gets left behind or pushed aside, but instead gets to benefit from new opportunities and economic growth.

We will promote local businesses to our residents and more widely as we have done through campaigns such as Shop Local, Make Hackney Sparkle and the Destination Hackney website and continue the Mayor's Business Awards to celebrate the very best of Hackney's businesses. We will promote and showcase Hackney through Hackney House and support our local businesses to develop new markets in the UK and overseas.

Through our Invest in Hackney service, we will help businesses locate and invest in the borough. We will ensure that the Council seeks from developers the affordable workspaces needed for start-up businesses. We will continue shop front improvement schemes and bringing empty shops back into use.

We will ensure that the regeneration of Hackney Central, through the Hackney Fashion Hub, will create new workspaces, local jobs and improve the public space around Morning Lane and the Narrow Way.

Our own council contracts can benefit the local economy and community. We will work to ensure BME, small and local businesses can benefit from Council direct and sub-contracting opportunities, with at least 25% of spend made locally.

We will campaign for investment into better rail services for the borough, including Crossrail2 and improvements to our older Overground stations.

We will press providers to implement high-speed, high-capacity broadband across the borough to benefit small businesses and secure greater digital inclusion.

We will continue to work with iCITY to secure the provision of affordable start up workspace, space for local businesses and training & job opportunities for local residents in the 2012 Press and Broadcast Centres, now renamed Here East.

We will support the work of Loughborough University and Hackney Community College to establish a new shared campus at iCITY/Here East to provide a pathway for local people into the new creative and technology jobs being established on the site.

We will work with the Legacy Development Corporation to plan and deliver the regeneration of the Hackney Wick neighbourhood, supporting residents and the local creative business community. We will work to integrate the new developments in the new Olympic Park neighbourhood of East Wick into our local community and into Hackney's economy. ■



"The many nice parks and green spaces are one of the best things about Hackney. My local park, Butterfield Green, is an important meeting space for the community who work together with the Council to care for it."

Tora Olsson, Allen Road, Clissold.

A great place... to enjoy

By maintaining our award-winning parks, libraries and leisure centres; securing ethical social care provided by staff on a living wage; reducing health inequalities across our communities; and continuing the past 11 years reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour.

We are committed to ensuring that people requiring social care, whether young or old, continue to receive the services they need. We will therefore increase the number of carers we support and the range of services offered.

We will increase choice and control for older people and people with social care needs by increasing the available options to support people to remain living in the community.

We will set up a mental health network that helps people to recover, live independently and better manage their mental and physical well-being.

We will support more people with dementia and improve their quality of life.

As well as receiving a London Living Wage, all contracted homecare staff will be paid for travel time and not subjected to exploitative zero hours contracts.

We will support our NHS colleagues in fighting to preserve our NHS in the face of Government attacks.

The New Dalston CLR James Library. Hackney Libraries have increased visitors to 1.7 million per year.



We will use the Council's new role in public health to reduce health inequalities across all our communities by:

- Tackling the harm created by drugs and alcohol misuse.
- Continuing the successful education and support services which have been so effective in reducing teenage pregnancy.
- Increasing the take up of NHS health checks, and make sure everyone gets the advice and support they need to make healthier choices.
- Working with the local NHS to make health and social care more joined up for patients and their families, ensuring that every new parent in Hackney gets the information, advice and support they need.
- Expanding our Health Heroes project in primary schools to reduce childhood obesity.
- Expanding and improving services that help people to stop smoking and create "no smoking" spaces in our major parks, such as children's play areas.
- Creating a grants fund for local community groups to support people to achieve better mental and physical health.

We will maintain our comprehensive library service, with its popular museum, local history and archive service, encouraging diverse cultural activities, and continuing support for Black History Month.

With 15 green flags already, we will maintain our parks and green spaces to a high standard and continue improvements such as those planned at Millfields. We will complete the

Photo: Sean Pollock



Clissold House, in Clissold Park one of 15 parks and green spaces in Hackney with a green flag award.

programme of improvements to sports facilities on Hackney Marshes. We will hold a programme of events in parks that contribute to people's well-being.

We will bring forward investment proposals to ensure that all our leisure centres meet the same high standard. We will encourage sports participation by continuing to offer free swimming to under 18s, over 60s, disabled people and carers, as well as holding an annual Hackney Half Marathon.

We are proud of Hackney's vibrant voluntary sector but know it needs support in difficult times and have helped develop a new charitable fundraising scheme. Whilst other councils have cut support to their local voluntary sector, we have made no cuts to our grants fund and will continue to support the sector.

Communities grow stronger when they feel safer. In partnership with the police, residents and businesses, we will continue to deliver reductions in crime, from preventing youth violence through to tackling all anti-social

behaviour, including noise nuisance and irresponsible dog owners.

We know people feel safer when the police and the Council's own wardens are patrolling the borough. Hackney had 770 officers in 2010 yet now the Mayor of London is allowing the number to fall as low as 600. We will continue to campaign for an increase in the number of police officers in the borough.

We will continue to tackle the small minority involved in gang violence through the borough's ground-breaking Integrated Gangs Unit, and targeted operations with the police. We will continue to support girls and young women at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse by gangs.

We will work to continue the reduction in Serious Youth Violence, gun crime, knife crime by a further 15% over four years.

We will work with young people, the wider community and the police to raise public confidence and trust, and reduce the fear of crime.

Tackling violence against women is vital. We will support victims of domestic violence and, through the Specialist Domestic Violence Court, help bring more perpetrators to justice. We will ensure the continuation of rape crisis services to provide better support for rape victims.

We will deliver an integrated Drug and Alcohol treatment system that continues to see more Hackney residents with substance misuse problems successfully completing treatment. We will target early identification and support for people with alcohol problems to reduce admissions to hospital. We will increase the availability of support for family members and carers affected by someone else's drug or alcohol misuse.

"I grew up in Hackney and want to raise my family here. Thanks to the great schools we now have, my son will have even more opportunities than I did."

Belgin Bolat and Arda, Clapton

We will target street drinking and substance misuse that leads to anti-social behaviour and crime and take enforcement action against begging and persistent street sex work particularly kerb crawling.

We will ensure that there is a joined-up approach to the management of ASB and noise complaints. We will review the Council's Licensing Policy, developing a balanced response to pubs and clubs that tackles anti-social behaviour and crime.

We have introduced dog control orders and will continue to enforce against irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their pets or allow them to be a nuisance to others. Our dog warden service will continue to work with the police dangerous dogs unit. ■



A great place... to grow up

By working with secondary schools to ensure that they secure five good GCSEs, including English and Maths, for at least 70% of pupils by 2018; and that all of our schools are assessed as 'good' or 'outstanding'; and delivering popular, effective youth services and outstanding social care that keeps children safe and supports families.

Raising children is primarily the responsibility of parents, but outstanding schools and children's centres, and excellent services from childcare to activities outside of school are essential. We are committed to working with and supporting families and children across all ages to give young people the best possible start in life.

We will continue to support and challenge all children's centres, nurseries, schools and any institution working with children to drive up standards, plan for new places, and meet the needs of vulnerable children and families in the local area.

We will ensure that there is a comprehensive range of high quality services for children in their early years, working with parents and providers, including flexible childcare to support parents - particularly women returning to or starting work.

The results of Hackney's primary schools are already 6% above the national average. Fifty of Hackney's fifty-six primary schools are now rated good or outstanding by Ofsted, and we will ensure that the remaining six schools achieve this standard.

While delivering a curriculum that develops thought and creativity, primary schools will be expected to achieve standards consistently above the national average in Reading, Writing and Maths.

We will continue to invest in and create new primary school provision, including building a new three-form entry primary school in the new East Wick neighbourhood for 2016.

Our aspiration is that all pupils in Hackney should make progress at a rate which is above the national average. Every young person should leave full-time education with the qualifications and help necessary that they need to take the next step

towards sustainable employment - no one should be left behind.

For a decade the proportion of Hackney's students achieving 5 good GCSEs including English and Maths has been rising every year - from 23% in 2003 to today where Hackney is now above the national average at 61% across the borough, and some of the borough's schools achieve much higher. We will introduce a new, ambitious borough standard, working with schools to ensure that they secure five A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths for at least 70% of pupils by 2018, with every school achieving above the London average.

With 23% of the country's children currently gaining the English Baccalaureate (six GCSEs including Maths, English, 2 sciences, a language and an arts subject) and Hackney students at 33%, we will work with schools to ensure Hackney Schools secure more than 40% of their students achieving this new standard by 2018.

We will continue the Mayor's Music Awards for primary and secondary schools.

We expect teachers and governing bodies to set standards so that good behaviour is the norm both inside the school gate and elsewhere in the borough.

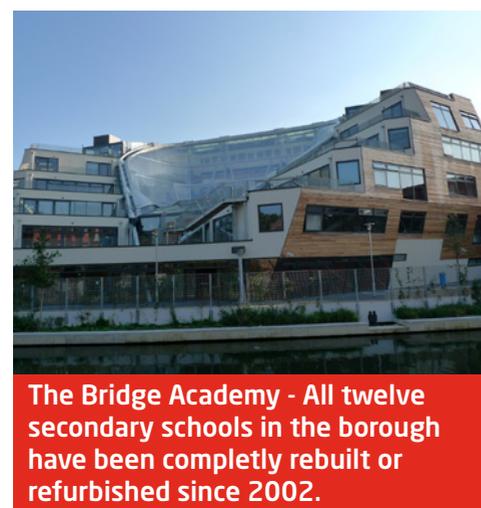
Governors can be a vital part of the success of schools. We will continue to value, support and champion those residents who are dedicated to improving schools in our borough.

We want to support young people to understand the importance of saving and how to manage their money. We will offer a credit union account to all young people starting secondary school and encourage them to save by making a £20 deposit on their behalf.

All 16 and 17 year olds in Hackney will be in education, employment or training and will have a range of quality options that both expands



Tyssen Children's Centre - one of 20 centres across Hackney. We will ensure there is a comprehensive range of high quality services for children in their early years.



The Bridge Academy - All twelve secondary schools in the borough have been completely rebuilt or refurbished since 2002.

their choices and meets the needs and aspirations of young people, including ways into university, further education or apprenticeships. All our secondary schools will offer a potential pathway into the best Higher Education institutions, building on the successful Oxbridge Fairs and the increasing number of places gained at other Russell Group universities.

Alongside the five successful new youth hubs, we will work with the voluntary sector to extend the range of activities

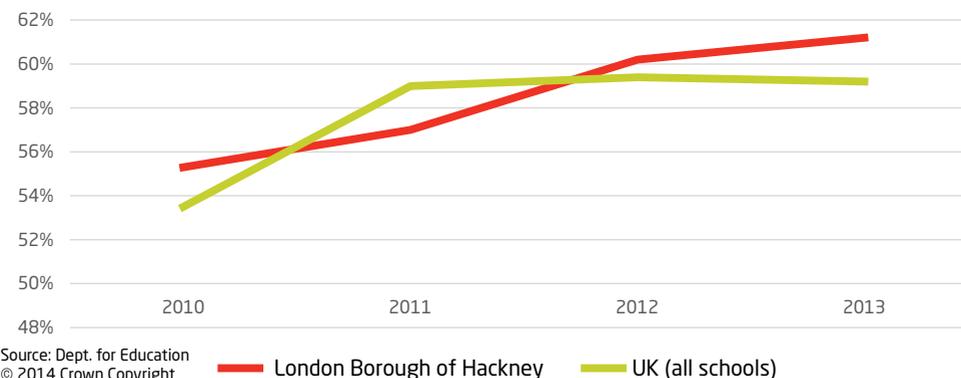
A GREAT PLACE TO GROW UP

available after school, at weekends and in the school holidays, shaped by young people themselves, and encouraging inclusive participation in sports.

Hackney's children's social care is recognised nationally to be outstanding. We will continue Hackney's approach of innovation and early intervention, tackling emerging problems before they take root, supporting families who are struggling. We will continue to hold the council to a high standard in its role as a corporate parent to Hackney's most vulnerable children - helping them thrive and achieve their high ambitions as young people.

Hackney can rightly be proud of the vast majority of young people who are striving to fulfil their potential and are a credit to their families. But we know that there is a small minority that make the wrong decisions. We have been successful in halving the small number who become involved in crime, and our youth services will remain committed to supporting all young people in making positive choices. ■

Percentage of pupils receiving 5+ GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and Maths grade A* to C



A great place... to live

By keeping Hackney clean, with streets that are great for cyclists and pedestrians; taking a sustainable approach to building, planning and the environment; and continuing our campaign against the rash of bookies and payday lenders in our town centres.



"I cycle to school with my boy every day. Hackney have made it a really safe and easy place to cycle as he grows up."

Tedroy Jones, De Beauvoir resident



Photo: Sean Pollock

Cycle lane in London Fields. 15.4% of Hackney residents now cycle to work, that is more than any other borough.

We know that clean streets are important to residents and businesses and will maintain the same high standard of street cleanliness.

The speed that cars travel on our streets matter - we know it makes a real difference to the safety of our children - so all the borough's main roads will join our residential roads in being 20mph.



We have planted 1,200 additional street trees in the borough.

We will continue our approach to the public realm, including our popular tree-planting programme, to make sure all of Hackney remains permeable and attractive for pedestrians, creating new public spaces and pocket parks.

We will ensure that changes to public spaces are child and family friendly, and will enable "play streets" where there is support from residents, including rolling out the scheme on Hackney Homes estates.

We will ensure Hackney remains rated as the best cycling borough in London, continuing to work closely with local cycling groups and making it easier and safer to get around the borough for cyclists and pedestrians. We will increase on-street secure cycle parking on streets and estates, including adapting disused garages.



Hackney has some of the most vibrant and best street markets in London, such as Ridley Road in Dalston.

We know that the bus services and railway are really important to residents. At present they perform well, but we want to ensure they become even better. We will continue to work with TfL to maintain and improve all their bus and rail services.

We will permanently remove motor vehicles from the Narrow Way and deliver public realm improvements to the area. We will work with TfL to remove Stoke Newington Gyration, improve Old Street roundabout and transform Seven Sisters Road at Woodberry Down.

We will continue to encourage people to use greener modes of travel to reduce pollution and work closely with TfL on schemes to improve air quality.

Hackney has some of the best and most vibrant street markets in London. We will continue promoting and supporting our markets, recognising their potential to attract visitors to the area that contribute to the local economy and that they can provide affordable goods.

We will explore innovative ways to encourage residents to increase recycling and reduce residual waste, and continue to encourage shops and shoppers to reduce their use of plastic bags.

With many council vehicles already running on recycled cooking oil, or being electric or hybrid, we will continue to reduce carbon emissions by using alternative fuels whenever possible.

We will continue to review and set ambitious targets to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's buildings and operations, and advise and support residents to reduce the energy they use, particularly those in fuel poverty.

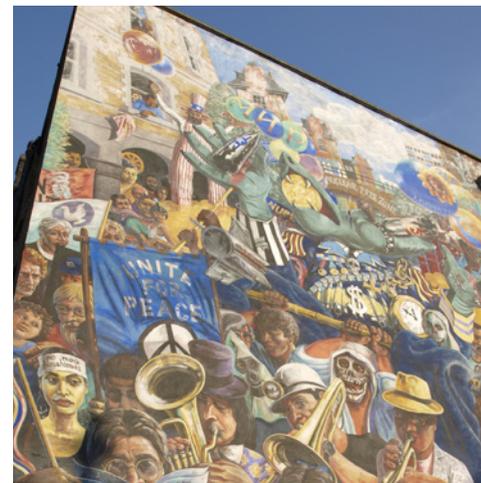
We will support the development of community led projects to increase the production of renewable energy at a local level. We will ensure that regeneration activity within the borough optimises the utilisation of district heating systems and further develops heat networks.

We will continue to ensure the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in the borough and ensure that our own sites are properly managed.

We will continue to campaign and lobby the Government for the legal power to tackle the proliferation and clustering of betting shops and payday lenders on our high streets.

Despite the Government's continued relaxation of Planning rules, we will work to resist the loss of neighbourhood pubs and shops and to prevent neighbourhoods being dominated by an unwelcome clustering of particular types of development.

We will develop an Area Action Plan for Stamford Hill to support the growing community and mitigate the impact of growth so that the quality of life is improved for all living in the area.



The Hackney Peace Carnival Mural, on Dalston Lane, painted by Ray Walker in 1984 which the Council will be restoring and preserving.

Proposals for Neighbourhood Areas will be supported where they are inclusive and meet the needs of the wider community.

We will protect the borough's built heritage - all Conservation Areas will be maintained and periodically reviewed to ensure they are kept up-to-date, such as with Dalston later this year.

The Planning service has worked with the Hackney Society to refresh the borough's register of locally listed buildings. These and the borough's nationally listed buildings are part of what makes Hackney such a great place to live. We will seek to ensure that these buildings are preserved and enhanced through the Planning process.

Hackney has excelled in promoting and achieving great design in new buildings through the Planning system using peer review, its Hackney Design Awards, and thorough design appraisal by the Planning service. We will continue to demand the best quality design from all applicants.

We will continue the improvement of the Council's Planning service, to be efficient and responsive to its users, engaging with residents, and is effective at ensuring the compliance of builders and developers.

We have been successful in securing high levels of social and affordable homes, and more economic opportunities through affordable workspace and training for local people, as part of new development proposals in the borough. Whilst this is becoming more difficult

under Tory housing and Planning policies, we will nevertheless continue to negotiate the highest levels we can.

We will ensure that the Council secures development contributions, from both S106 agreements and the new Community Infrastructure Levy, that manage the impact of new development and funds improvements to Hackney's infrastructure to support our community.

We will expect new developments to minimise energy consumption and continue to promote the use of renewable technologies and sustainable building materials in new developments, such as the many award-winning engineered timber buildings in the borough.

We will always endeavour to get things right the first time you ask, and we will support residents to use the web to easily access more of our services. We

know, however, that sometimes your needs are more complex and that you will need to come and discuss them in more detail, so our service centre will continue to provide that point of contact for residents who need it.

We value working alongside and together with residents to shape and deliver services, learning lessons from individual complaints. For example, we will make obtaining parking permits and vouchers easier for residents, businesses and visitors, and introduce virtual parking permits.

We will continue to reach out and engage with service users and residents to improve services and empower residents and communities. We will continue to support ward forums where residents and their councillors can come together to solve local problems, help improve the borough and strengthen their local community. ■



League football on Hackney Marshes

Photo: Sean Pollock



"I have lived on this estate all my life. Thanks to Labour I now have a new, warm, modern council home to be proud of. My old place was damp and infested - I've never looked back. Its the best flat I've ever moved into, twice as big, cheap to heat. It has everything!"

Michael Jones, Bridport House, Hoxton.

A great place... to call home

By delivering one of the UK's largest affordable housing programmes, including more than 600 Council-built homes for social rent and shared ownership; raising housing standards by completing investment in all Hackney Homes stock, and developing a Council-backed lettings agency and licensing scheme for the private rented sector.

Despite the Tory government and London Mayor doing nothing to make housing more affordable in the capital, as a Labour Council we will do whatever we can to tackle the housing crisis. Already, over the past four years, we have been the third largest affordable house building borough in the country.

Over the next four years, together with our social housing partners, we will build 3,000 new homes, of which half will be for rent and shared ownership. More than 600 of these affordable homes will be developed directly by the Council. We will also develop a further building programme of Council homes for rent and shared ownership, to continue increasing the housing supply for local people.

We will use all legal powers available to address poor standards in the private rented sector, including enforcement measures to improve the sector, such as the introduction of a licensing scheme to

enforce high standards. We will continue to lobby central Government to ensure local authorities are given stronger powers to intervene in the private rented sector.

We will establish a Council-run Lettings Agency to expand and manage a supply of private sector lettings to assist the homeless and those in the greatest housing need. We will improve the level of information and advice we offer private tenants.

We will continue to campaign against the Government's bedroom tax and the Tory London Mayor's demand for almost market rents to be charged in new social housing.

Despite central Government cuts to housing investment, we will complete Hackney's Decent Homes Programme by March 2015. Further, to ensure all council homes are of a high standard, we will begin an improvement scheme for



Mayor Jules Pipe, with Cllrs Karen Alcock and Phil Glanville outside Bridport House, phase one of the Colville Estate Redevelopment.

A GREAT PLACE TO CALL HOME

all properties not included in the original Decent Homes programme, delivering new investment up to 2018 and beyond.

We will manage, maintain and invest in Hackney's homes and estates efficiently and sustainably. We will set new repair standards for fixing problems first time, and we won't say it is complete until we have checked that you are satisfied.

In addressing the housing needs of residents, our homes will be let speedily and with fairness, and we will continue to support the most vulnerable tenants through difficult times. We will protect front-line housing services, improve communication with, and engagement of, all tenants and leaseholders in landlord decisions, and enhance our complaints procedures.

We will ensure that our estates are well-designed, work with residents to improve the public realm, and set the highest standards for cleanliness. We will ensure that there is a noticeboard with up-to-date information, including our service standards and performance, in every block on our estates. We will ensure that up-to-date information about our



4900 Hackney Homes properties have been made decent since 2010



New Social Housing on Woodberry Down Estate.

housing services is available to residents online and that it is tailored to where they live, including investment planned for their home and an estate plan.

We will bring all disused garages back into use, or where there is no demand find an alternative long-term solution. We will ensure the best possible management of community halls for the benefit of residents.

We will continue to improve our response to anti-social behaviour, including noise nuisance; and crack down on fraud and illegal subletting, so that Council homes are only occupied by genuine tenants.

We will boost the green estates scheme, and continue to invest in insulating homes and more efficient, modern heating systems to help tackle fuel poverty.

We will work to promote digital inclusion, improve recycling services, and develop more of the popular local food growing initiatives across our housing stock.

We will consult in 2014 with tenants and leaseholders on future arrangements for managing Hackney Council homes. ■

MANIFESTO 2014
FOR THE MAYORAL AND
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A great place to succeed...

By building a thriving local economy that creates employment opportunities for local people, with training and support for job seekers; creating affordable work space, apprenticeships and continuing to promote Hackney businesses both locally and to a global audience.

A great place to enjoy...

By maintaining our award-winning parks, libraries and leisure centres; securing ethical social care provided by staff on a living wage; reducing health inequalities across our communities; and continuing the past 11 years reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour.

A great place to grow up...

By working with secondary schools to ensure that they secure five good GCSEs, including English and Maths, for at least 70% of pupils by 2018; and that all of our schools are assessed as 'good' or 'outstanding'; and delivering popular, effective youth services and outstanding social care that keeps children safe and supports families.

A great place to live...

By keeping Hackney clean, with streets that are great for cyclists and pedestrians; taking a sustainable approach to building, planning and the environment; and continuing our campaign against the rash of bookies and payday lenders in our town centres.

A great place to call home...

By delivering one of the UK's largest affordable housing programmes, including more than 600 Council-built homes for social rent and shared ownership; raising housing standards by completing investment in all Hackney Homes stock, and developing a Council-backed lettings agency and licensing scheme for the private rented sector.



for everyone