

Philip Glanville Labour Mayor of Hackney

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Dear Member,

Welcome to my December to January Mayor's Report.

This week we passed the 100 days to go marker before the local elections in Hackney on 3rd May, while we are all now gearing up for the campaign and I have been proud to support our campaign teams across Hackney and in Wandsworth, that doesn't mean that we at the Council still don't have a lot to do in the final few months of this administration.

Separately I have circulated an update on the manifesto, but the past two months have seen us delivering on significant pledges from my 2016 manifesto, including the first graduates of the Mayor's Childminder Bursary, the setting up of a new wholly owned Hackney Housing Company to deliver Hackney Living Rent, the creation of two new Hackney Young Speakers and making good on a 2014 commitment with the first Housing Supply Programme homes getting planning permission in King's Park. They are part of a wider programme that will see over 400 new Council homes built across the borough.

There remains difficult decisions to be made such as on the CTRS and SEND funding, which I cover later in my report, but at every stage we continue to respond and campaign against Tory cuts and will continue to do so. We have also set out ambitious plans to create a new framework for Hackney's Family of Schools.

Best wishes,



PS I hope to see you at one of the upcoming #HackneyatHome or #HackneyonTour campaign sessions.

PPS Don't forget to join me in signing up for the Hackney Half Marathon in May:
<http://news.hackney.gov.uk/hackney-half-marathon-discount-for-local-residents/>



Mayor's Diary Highlights

January 25

#GrillPhil Twitter Question Time

Hackney North and Stoke
Newington GM

Hackney South and Shoreditch GM

January 24

HereEast Meeting with Cllrs
Williams and Nicholson

Meeting with Borough Police
Commander

Gangs and Crime Performance
Strategy Meeting with the
Borough Commander and Cllr
Selman

Hackney Full Council

January 23

Visit to FAST with Deputy Mayor
Bramble

Meeting with Deputy Leader of
Greenwich Cllr Danny Thorpe

Labour Together Meeting

Campaigning in Hoxton West

A new home for a living rent – Mayor’s £10,000 savings offer to renters

Private renters struggling with record rents and house prices are set to benefit from modern new homes at a genuinely affordable living rent under new Hackney Council plans.

The new homes, initially being built as part of the Council’s regeneration programme, could see eligible renters save nearly £10,000 a year on the average two-bedroom flat – helping them to build up a deposit to buy their first home.

Under plans approved by the Council’s Cabinet last night, living rents would be set at a third of average local incomes – which could be around £1,000 per month for a two-bedroom property. The average equivalent market rent in Hackney is around £1,800 per month.

The Council will let and manage the homes through a separate, wholly-owned company – meaning that as well as a discounted rent, tenants can be sure they won’t face unwarranted fees and charges or excessive rent increases.

Building homes for living rent is part of the Council’s #BetterRenting campaign to improve standards and affordability for private renters in Hackney. Successes so far include pressuring the Government into banning letting fees and introducing Hackney’s own voluntary ban, as well as consultation on extending property licensing to tackle rogue landlords.

More than 34,000 homes are privately rented in Hackney – around a third of all households – with rents rocketing 36% since 2011 and letting agents charging an average of £400 in fees per tenancy.

Too many people in Hackney, especially young renters, work hard and save hard but are struggling to make ends meet because of rocketing rents in the private sector.

These homes for living rent will help those struggling to stay in Hackney or save for their first home – putting an extra £800 on average in their pocket every month to save towards a deposit.

We’re building thousands of new Council homes who those most in need, and I’m proud that our living rent will expand our offer to help those who aren’t eligible for social housing but still need a hand to find a genuinely affordable place to live.

To apply, residents must be renting or working in Hackney, have a household income of less than £60,000 and be unable to buy a home in their local area. The homes will not be available to buy.

January 22

National Park City Visit with Cllr Demirci

Capital Board

Britannia Board

Hackney Cabinet

January 17

Meeting with TfL on Commercial Property with Cllr Nicholson

Hackney Audit Committee

January 16

Visit to Urswick School

London Stansted Cambridge Corridor Meeting

Fire Safety Meeting with Cllr McKenzie

Hackney Labour Group

January 15

Meeting with Cllr Damian Egan, Lewisham Labour Candidate for Mayor

Young Fabian Local Govt Debate

January 12

Meeting with Diane Abbott MP

Meeting with Wick Award on Hackney Wick Youth Survey and Cllr Sharman

January 11

Visit to Stoke Newington School

London Local Government Dinner with the Speaker

January 10

Visit to Haggerston School with Deputy Mayor Bramble

Due to government restrictions which don't allow the Council to directly own homes for living rent, it will set up a not-for-profit company to do so. Any surplus income generated will be reinvested in housebuilding, and the company will have no third-party involvement, be fully accountable to the Mayor and the Council's Cabinet, and be run by a board made up of council staff.

This company will not build homes itself, but will acquire homes being built through the Council's regeneration programme that would otherwise have been for outright sale or shared ownership. Discounted living rents will be subsidised by letting some homes at market rents, with all homes let on longer tenancies than the average home in the private sector to provide stability to tenants.

The Council is building nearly 4,000 homes across the borough, with more than half for social rent and shared ownership, paid for by some homes for outright sale in the absence of any government funding. The plans for living rent will not mean any reduction in homes for social rent as part of the Council's programmes.

The first homes are expected to be available next year. Further details on how to register interest will be published in the coming months, but here is some background information from the Council on Living Rent:

<http://news.hackney.gov.uk/living-rent---what-you-need-to-know/>

First new Council homes to transform underused land given go ahead

The first of hundreds of new Council homes were given the go ahead yesterday as Council plans to transform underused land and tackle Hackney's housing crisis reached a key milestone.

Plans for 11 high-quality new Council homes at Mandeville Street in Clapton – five for social rent and six for shared ownership – gained unanimous approval from the Council's Planning Sub-Committee. The homes will replace a row of unused garages long recognised as an eyesore by neighbours, with a new mews street being created.

Proposals to convert a former Council office at Whiston Road in Haggerston into two new Council homes, both for social rent, were also approved at last night's meeting.

These small developments lead the way in a much bigger new programme of Council housebuilding on underused land, including garages, car parks and depots across Hackney. Over 400 homes will be built at 14 locations, with around

January 9

Meeting with Camden and Islington on housing collaboration

January 8

Public Meeting with Save Britannia

January 7

Wandsworth Campaigning

Cazenove Campaigning

January 6

Woodberry Down Campaigning

Goodbye to the Geffrye Museum

January 5

Meeting with Vincent Walsh from Urban R+D

January 4

Brownswood Ward Meeting

December 20

Zacchaeus 2000 Trust Meeting

Hackney Special Education Crisis/SEND Meeting with Deputy Mayor Bramble

December 19

Hackney Labour Group

December 18

Capital Investment Board

Britannia Board

Hackney Cabinet

Reception for Liam Charles

December 17

Campaigning in Stamford Hill West

Carols by Candlelight at St John's Hoxton

70% for social rent and shared ownership, paid for through outright sale of the remaining homes in the absence of any government funding for social rented housing.

The new Council homes will be prioritised for local people, with the social rent properties allocated to families from the Council's 13,000-strong housing waiting list. The shared ownership homes will offer a more affordable route into home ownership for people living and working in Hackney, including the thousands of private renters struggling to afford a deposit for a first home.

Although only small developments themselves, these homes prove that Hackney is building and will spearhead our latest Council housing drive as we look to provide hundreds of genuinely affordable new council homes on underused land across Hackney.

The proposals were the result of close collaboration with local residents and councillors to create high-quality designs that benefit the neighbourhood and put local people first, and will be life changing for local families in desperate need of a place to live.

Mandeville Street

The approved plans for Mandeville Street include 11 new homes, including five for social rent, six for shared ownership and none for outright sale. These are a mix of family homes and flats to help meet local housing need. The homes will replace dilapidated empty garages and informal parking spaces, with a safe and attractive new link between Mandeville Street and Oswald Street for pedestrians and cyclists provided. The homes have been designed by local architects Al-Jawad Pike.

Whiston Road

The approved plans for Whiston Road include the conversion of a former housing office to provide two three-bedroom social rent Council homes.

Housing Supply Programme

Both Mandeville Street and Whiston Road are part of the Housing Supply Programme, a Council-led not for profit programme to build new homes on underused Council-owned sites. The programme currently includes over 400 homes across 14 sites, of which around 70% will be for social rent and shared ownership, paid for through outright sale of the remaining homes.

Hackney's Scrutiny Commission releases report into unregistered 'schools'

December 16

Campaigning in Springfield

Meeting with Hackney Showroom

Trelawney Estate Visit

December 15

Sadiq Khan visiting NSNO Hub at St Mungo's in Hackney with Cllr Rennison

December 14

Hackney Picturehouse LLW Protest

Hackney Quest Christmas Party

Hackney North Christmas Party

December 13

Sir Thomas Abney Primary School Nativity Play

Lunch with Shoreditch Trust CEO

Madina Mosque Trust Visit

GLA Labour Group Christmas Party

December 12

Arts and Culture Roundtable

Woodberry Down Winterfest

Tin Drum at Shoreditch Town Hall

December 11

Meeting with Deputy Mayor Pipe and Cllr Nicholson

Meeting with Hackney Council Trade Unions

Scrutiny Panel Question Time

Hackney Council’s Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Commission has released a report into unregistered educational settings, calling on the Government to strengthen legislation to ensure children in unregistered ‘schools’ are safe.

It follows a year-long investigation by the Commission, which heard that across the country, up to 6,000 children attend as many as 290 unregistered educational settings. In Hackney, around 29 unregistered yeshivas offer religious teaching to approximately 1,000-1,500 boys within the Charedi Orthodox Jewish community.

The wide-ranging investigation received evidence from organisations including the Department for Education, Ofsted, the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board, Interlink, the London Fire Brigade, Hackney Council’s children’s social care and education departments, the Union of Hebrew Congregations and the Partnership for Jewish Schools. It also conducted a survey, inviting members of the Charedi community to share their experiences anonymously.

Key concerns detailed in the report are around an apparent lack of safeguarding procedures, the narrow educational focus of yeshivas, and a lack of interaction with education and safeguarding professionals.

The investigation found serious failings in Government policy, which allows illegal ‘schools’ to operate without appropriate safeguarding, health and safety or curriculum standards. The report calls on the Council to continue its lobbying of Government for an effective legislative framework.

In the report, the Commission makes a series of recommendations. It calls on the Council to formalise the work it has been doing around the issues of unregistered settings by publishing its strategy. It also calls on the Charedi community to work with the local Safeguarding Children Board to establish a safeguarding process.

Cllr Chris Kennedy, Chair of the Children and Young People Commission:

“Hackney’s Charedi community is a valued and important part of our diverse borough, and throughout this process we’ve worked hard to ensure their voice is heard, and this report is the result of the most intensive piece of work the Commission has ever carried out.

“The issue of unregistered educational settings is an issue that the Council has been working on behind the scenes for a long time. Following a series of incidents including the near-tragedy that happened when a group of Charedi boys had to be rescued on the Kent coast, we feel that now is the time to shine a light on the serious concerns shared by the Commission, the Council and many others who work with children in Hackney and beyond.

“Our research brought to the fore the fundamental clash between parents’ wishes to educate their children at these settings and the rights of children to a broad education, where their safety is paramount. We’ve made a number of recommendations and have been clear that the Council needs to continue to do all it can to work with the Charedi community to ensure the safety of all our children.

“However, the Government holds the key to enable local and national agencies to bring unregistered settings into compliance, and I would echo the Council’s repeated calls for them to do something about this situation.”

Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney:

“I welcome this report, and thank the Commission for their hard work on this challenging subject. Council officers and political leaders in Hackney have worked tirelessly behind the scenes for a number of years to try to make progress on this issue, but in the end, our efforts have been hampered by the fact that legislation on unregistered schools is completely inadequate, and until the Government makes some changes in the law, it is very difficult for councils to ensure that children are safe in those settings.

"I recognise that the issue of unregistered schools is a particularly sensitive one for many residents from our Charedi Orthodox Jewish communities, who want to educate their children within the traditions of their community, and I welcome the input that Charedi leaders have had into this debate and review. However, as a local authority, we have a safeguarding duty to every child in this borough, and it would be a dereliction of that duty to overlook our ability to safeguard any child or group of children.

"As a Council, we champion and reflect Hackney's diversity and want the Charedi community to continue to flourish and prosper in Hackney, but there does need to be a frank discussion about how a more fully rounded approach to education could make the community more economically sustainable in the long term. Both the Council and the community must reflect on the content of this report, but primarily, the Government must act on the issue of unregistered settings, as a matter of urgency."

The report will be discussed at the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission on 15 January. The full report is available here: <http://mginternet.hackney.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=4001&x=1&>

Commitment to make Hackney a dementia friendly borough

Cllr Jonathan McShane, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Devolution:

"Across Hackney there are many organisations offering support and doing lots of work in the drive to make the Borough more dementia friendly. There is more the Council can do across all of its services by leading and supporting the work to create a truly Dementia Friendly community in Hackney, particularly through the changes as health and social care services work more closely together. It is also important that people can get information about getting involved in activities or groups to improve their mental health and wellbeing."

Councillors have voted to work towards making Hackney a dementia friendly borough at a Council on Wednesday 24 January.

The motion proposed the continued commitment and leadership from the Council to work with the Hackney Dementia Action Alliance group (HDAA). By working with the Alzheimer's Society and local organisations in a cross-sector partnership, the HDAA* will provide oversight of the work taking place to make the borough more dementia friendly.

Around 1,300 people in Hackney are living with dementia, and with an increasing and ageing population in the borough, the rate of dementia will increase along with demand for local dementia-friendly services.

Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, Councillor for Hoxton West ward and Dementia Champion, said: "I am pleased that, by continuing the work to become a dementia-friendly Council and borough, we can further work towards raising awareness and understanding of dementia. It is equally important that people with dementia feel included and involved in their community.

"Hackney Council, in partnership with voluntary organisations and local businesses is looking at how it can support people affected by dementia and how it can work more closely with them, so Council policies work for them. We are also working with health partners to improve the rate of dementia diagnosis so that people affected by the condition can receive support much earlier."

Creating a Hackney Dementia Friendly Community will support local people with dementia to live a fulfilling and independent life, as far as possible and for as long as possible. Everyone can play a part from all areas of the council, to local communities, businesses and services; it doesn't just depend on health and social care services, families and carers.

Sandra Cater, Dementia Friendly Community Coordinator in Hackney, said:

“Many residents and workers in Hackney are already Dementia Friends and are keen to make the borough a great place for people living with dementia, and their carers and families to live, work and socialise. Since 2015, we have been working hard to raise awareness, improve the lives of affected people and carers and get organisations involved to become dementia friendly. We would love for more local businesses, post offices and banks to get involved and become dementia-friendly.”

Linda O’Sullivan, Head of London Region at Alzheimer’s Society, said:

“Dementia is the biggest health and social care crisis facing society today. Someone develops the condition every three minutes and too many are facing it alone.

Many people with dementia tell us they feel isolated and let down by their communities. So it’s fantastic to see Hackney council working hard to address this issue and work towards becoming dementia-friendly.

“Dementia affects people, their carers and families in different ways but one thing seems universal: people don’t always get the support or understanding they deserve. With over 72,000 people living with dementia across London, we need every person, organisation and council to unite with us if we’re going to tackle the cruel stigma associated with dementia. We need everyone to become a Dementia Friend.”

A Dementia Festival is being held across the borough from 21 to 27 May, including dementia friendly film screenings to help people to reconnect with their memories and other people.

More information on support for people affected by dementia and other mental health conditions can be found on the Council website. Supporting people with dementia is part of the council's wider work to promote good mental wellbeing, and to ensure Hackney is a welcoming place for all. This means offering training in mental health first aid, ensuring people can access support, and tackling stigma about people living with mental health conditions.

*Members and supporters of the HDAA group includes GP practices, GLL leisure services, Hackney libraries, the Alzheimer’s Society, Tesco, Homerton University Hospital NHS Trust, London Ambulance Service, Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, local cinemas and art venues.

To get involved in the work to make Hackney a Dementia Friendly community and the upcoming Dementia Festival contact Sandra Cater, Dementia Friendly Community Coordinator, on 020 8533 0091 / sandra.cater@alzheimers.org.uk

New Young Speakers of Hackney announced

December 10

Carols at St John’s at Hackney

December 9

Hackney South New Members Event

Young Members Ideas Factory

Gascoyne Residents Association

December 8

Meeting with Rodney Vitalis, Borough Fire Commander

Mayor’s Casework Surgery

December 7

Confidence in Policing Meeting with Cllr Selman

Shoreditch Trust Board

Stamford Hill West and Woodberry Down Ward Meetings

December 6

Visit to Mossbourne Victoria Park

Meeting with CLG

Hackney Youth Awards with Cllr Williams

Hackney Pantomime Fundraiser

December 5

Labour Business Breakfast

London Councils

Hackney Labour Group Exec

December 4

Meeting with JobCentre Plus

Yesterday's full Council meeting saw the announcement of two new roles, the Young Speakers of Hackney, which aim to better represent young people across the borough.

The two Young Speakers of Hackney will be selected from Hackney Youth Parliament members. As well as being a voice for the Parliament, the Speakers will be working towards improving the lives of young people in the Borough, by championing the youth voice, attending Council meetings and working directly with the Mayor and Speaker.

The first ever Young Speakers have been announced as Rose Ilunga and Kamani Williams, who were voted on to the Hackney Youth Parliament last year by young people across the borough. Both of the Speakers aim to increase youth participation in politics and will be visiting schools and youth hubs to hear the wider views of the community and decide on their priorities for the upcoming year.

Any young person who wants to become a Young Speaker of Hackney will have the chance later this year in October. Those interested can put themselves forward for the 2018 Youth Parliament elections and declare their interest as a manifesto pledge. Once the Hackney Youth Parliament has been elected later this year the group will select one male and one female representative as Speaker.

Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney: Young people are incredibly passionate about Hackney and its future, playing a massive role in making it the vibrant and exciting place that it is. Around a quarter of Hackney's population is under 20, so it's really important that the youth voice is heard, and young people are involved in decision making that will help make the borough an even better and safer place to grow up, live and go to school in.

For more information, including on what the new Young Speakers Plan to do, please visit:

<http://news.hackney.gov.uk/new-young-speakers-of-hackney-announced/>

December 2

SERA AGM

Community African Network
World AIDS Day Event

December 1

3rd Annual Hackney Police
Community Breakfast

World AIDS Day Public HIV Test

Meeting with Homerton
Hospital HIV Team

World AIDS Day Event at
Waltham Forrest Town Hall

Rio Cinema Christmas Lights
Event

November 30

Visit to Morningside Children's
Centre

Mayors Bursary for New
Childminders Launch and
Graduation Ceremony with
Deputy Mayor Bramble

Housing Development Board

National AIDS Trust 30th
Anniversary Event

November 29

Design Review Panel Event

November 28

LLDC Board

Geffrye Museum Christmas
Event

November 27

Hackney supports project to make London a National Park City

Hackney Council has agreed to establish a new programme to improve the connections between green spaces.

The Connecting Green Spaces programme will look at improving park entrances and boundaries, promote better connections between green spaces, and connect green spaces together where they are currently dissected by roads.

To kick off the project, the Council plans to prepare an application to Heritage Lottery Fund to make West Reservoir, in Woodberry Down, more accessible by introducing new entrances and improving its connection to Woodberry Wetlands.

The Council's Cabinet has also agreed to formally endorse the campaign to make London the world's first National Park City. London being a National Park City is a vision which celebrates and recognises what's already being done in the capital, but challenges Londoners to work together to make the capital even greener, healthier, more naturally diverse, resilient, beautiful and enjoyable.

Cllr Feryal Demirci, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Transport and Parks:

"From the beautiful historic Springfield and Clissold Parks to Europe's largest concentration of football pitches at Hackney Marshes – we are already one of the greenest inner London boroughs. However, most homes in Hackney have no garden, and as the number of homes in the borough continues to grow, it is important to identify how access to existing green space can be improved.

"Green space is crucial to public health – thousands of Hackney residents are affected by obesity brought on by a lack of physical activity. We need to provide attractive, green links to enable people to walk, cycle and play outside – connecting green spaces will help achieve this."

Daniel Raven-Ellison, founder of the National Park City campaign:

"Making London the world's first National Park City is a unique opportunity to celebrate the capital's landscape, outdoor culture and everything that has been done to make it so green and wild. The capital can become a National Park City because Londoners have been creating, protecting, improving and enjoying green and public spaces for hundreds of years. As a result there are nearly as many trees as people in London and we share the capital with 14,000 other species.

"It's been estimated that our public parks save the NHS nearly £1 billion a year in health costs, including £370 million as a result of better mental health. Making London a National Park City will help not only to make the city greener, but to increase the number of us benefitting from our public open spaces.

"One of our aims, shared by the Mayor of London, is to make half of the capital physically green and blue. 49.5% of London is already made up of the city's 3.8 million gardens, 3,000 parks, canals, rivers, ponds and nature reserves. If every Londoner made just 1m2 green, we'd collectively make the majority of the city green and blue. This is a great example of the spirit of the National Park City. By individuals, groups, charities, businesses, councils and government working together we can make truly transformative things happen."

Gave evidence at the Public Accounts Committee hearing on Homelessness

Hackney Cabinet

BAME Manifesto Event

November 26

World AIDS Day Red Run in Victoria Park with Cllr McShane

November 25

Hackney Youth Orchestras Concert

LGBT History Month: From Bedroom to Battle Ground

For the first time in over a decade, Hackney Museum will be hosting an LGBT History Month exhibition, celebrating the borough's historic, diverse and boundary-breaking LGBTQI+ community.

From Thursday 1 February until Tuesday 8 May visitors can view the two displays that make up the exhibition: 'From Bedroom to Battleground' by Project Indigo and 'Out and About'.

'From Bedroom to Battleground' has been created by members of Project Indigo, a local LGBTQI+ youth group run by Off Centre, a mental health and wellbeing charity. Facilitated by artist Liv Wynter, this exhibition shares the voices of Project Indigo members, who hope that by opening up about their personal stories, they can help teach people what it's like to be young and LGBTQI+ in Hackney.

The Project Indigo exhibition was made possible thanks to the artist Stik and the fund-raising auction of his iconic 'Hackney Pride' banner at Christie's last year. Stik said: "I am proud to have helped make this project possible and feel inspired by the courage of the young people involved in presenting our community to the world."

The 'Out and About' display is a collaborative wallpaper design project between artist Angela Groundwater and Out and About, an LGBTQI+ group for people aged 50 and over. Hidden within the traditional wallpaper pattern are the stories of five group members, told through objects of personal significance to them. The custom-made wallpaper weaves a narrative out of illustrations, inspired by art workshops to create the piece looking at the unique challenges older people face 51 years on from the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK.

Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney:

"I'm excited we're hosting this exhibition at Hackney Museum; when we relaunched LGBT History month last year we asked residents to get involved and tell us their stories. I'm pleased together we've started to capture and celebrate the experiences of Hackney's LGBTQI+ residents, especially giving voice to older residents who fought so hard for the freedoms we now enjoy.

"This not only helps to inform the younger generation, but celebrates role models and causes they can identify with and build upon, ensuring Hackney's values of inclusivity are shared with future generations. This exhibition is also a fantastic chance to explore the challenges and opportunities of today's LGBTQI+ community and I would recommend all residents come and visit it."

The artworks on display have been developed in tandem with a year-long drive from Hackney Museum to collect material from the borough's LGBTQI+ community, which so far has seen 13 oral histories collected, 10 volunteers trained in collecting historical material, and a number of artefacts donated to the Museum including campaigning materials and performance posters from the BlooLips drag performance art group.

Hackney Museum are still on the lookout for objects to further plug the gap in their LGBTQI+ collection. Visit www.hackney.gov.uk/museum-projects for more information, email hmuseum@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 3500.

Volunteer for Hackney this New Year

From planting bulbs, to befriending and even baking bread - there are hundreds of different ways you can get involved and make a difference in your community through volunteering this New Year.

Hackney Council and Volunteer Centre Hackney are joining forces to run a month-long campaign to promote volunteering across the borough. Volunteer Centre Hackney is the borough's go-to place for residents to find out how they can help out in the community. Last year the service helped over 1,400 people find out about volunteering opportunities.

Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney:

"I am passionate that community action is central to responding to some of the biggest challenges we face in the borough. This isn't about replacing the role of professionals or the public sector, but increasing the collective positive impact we can all make, Hackney's volunteers change lives, and make this borough the thriving and wonderful place it is. I hope that all of our residents can get involved with volunteering in some way and be a positive force for change in their communities."

Even if you have only one hour a week, or can only help out on a one-off basis, volunteering can be very flexible. From helping to design a flyer for a few hours, to meeting someone for a coffee on a Saturday morning for several months there are many ways you can use your time.

Cllr Jon Burke, Cabinet Member for Energy, Sustainability and Community Services:

"Volunteers are key to maintaining social cohesion in Hackney, challenging the inequalities we face and supporting those who need help most. I hope more people are encouraged to volunteer. Even one person can make a big difference."

To find out more about volunteering and how to get involved, you can visit www.vchackney.org and register to search 100s of volunteer roles, or call to make a face to face appointment on 020 7241 4443.

You can also follow Volunteer Centre Hackney on Facebook or on Twitter by following @VCHackney or search #volunteerhackney.

You can also meet charities in person at one of VCH's free quarterly Volunteer Fairs. With a selection of inspiring charities showcasing their opportunities, you will be able to meet and speak with many of Hackney's diverse charities, and discover how to help make a difference locally. Volunteer Fairs will run throughout the year on 26 April, 6 June, 11 October.

Hackney youth celebrated with awards night

Over 250 young people and their families attended the second annual Hackney Youth Awards, which celebrated Young People from across the borough at a ceremony in Hackney Town Hall on Wednesday 6 December.

Over 60 young people were nominated for the awards, with nominations made by youth workers and other professionals working with young people. Mayor Philip Glanville was on hand to open the awards and congratulate young people for all their achievements.

Nominations were reviewed by an independent panel of young people, who also helped organise the whole event. Which included speeches from inspirational volunteers such as Luke Lucas, Spacecraft Engineer and performances from members of Hackney Youth Parliament and E-Kidz, award winning dance group from Concorde Youth Hub in Hackney.

There were 13 winners overall with categories ranging from arts and culture, sports to young adventurer and overcoming adversity.

This year's awards also included a graduation ceremony for apprentices within Hackney Council. Cllr Williams, who is the cabinet member for employment and skills and is the lead on delivering the council's apprenticeship programme presented the graduates with their certificates.

Backing for Council's strategy to 'challenge a broken housing system'

Plans to increase the number of Council homes built in the borough, tackle rogue landlords and help struggling residents get onto the housing ladder have been approved after more than two-thirds of people backed them in consultation.

Hackney Council's Housing Strategy, which sets out how the Council will respond to residents' concerns about increasingly unaffordable rents and house prices in the borough, was agreed at Monday's Cabinet meeting.

Highlights of the strategy include boosting the Council's own housebuilding programmes, supporting responsible housing association projects and setting up a housing company, owned by the Council, to build new homes for a living rent for those not eligible for traditional social housing.

Over 70% of residents who responded to a six-week consultation on the strategy earlier this year strongly supported the proposals – with nine in 10 people saying the Council's plans to improve conditions in the private rented sector were important.

In particular, there was broad support from those who responded for:

- Building as many council and housing association homes as possible, genuinely affordable to those on low and medium incomes
- Using council land to build new homes, where there is support from residents
- Addressing the need for high standards of energy efficiency in new and existing homes
- Supporting people to voluntarily move to smaller, more suitable homes
- Helping ensure that local people are given first priority for the purchase of new homes
- Promoting the development of new homes for private rent (provided this is not at the expense of affordable housing)
- Improving conditions in the private rented sector, including tackling bad landlords
- Making sure housing supports diverse communities, caters for health needs and provides job opportunities

The borough's house prices have risen more than anywhere else in the country during the last 20 years, with the average price of a flat now around £587,000 – more than 17 times the earnings of the average household. Rents in the private sector have risen 36% in five years – with a two-bedroom flat now averaging £1,820 per month.

The strategy also sets out how the Council will continue to campaign for the Government to give local authorities the powers they need to build new homes, and oppose reforms that would put existing social housing at risk.

Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney

"I'm proud that this strategy sets out how we will be a proactive, campaigning Council that stands up for our residents to challenge a broken housing system.

"Too many people in the borough cannot take advantage of the opportunities London offers because of the lack of genuinely affordable, high-quality and stable housing.

“Despite receiving no government funding to build social housing, we will continue to do all we can to build the homes Hackney needs, support our existing diverse communities and help the private renters increasingly being priced out of the market.”

The Council’s existing direct housebuilding programmes will see nearly 4,000 homes built at nearly 30 sites across the borough – with more than half for social rent and shared ownership.

The Housing Strategy was approved at the Full Council meeting in January.

Draft plans to form new Hackney Schools Group

Hackney Council has announced proposals to work with schools to form a new Schools Group - aimed at boosting the continued improvement of the borough’s schools.

The Hackney Schools Group would be an independent body led by schools, but maintained by and accountable to the Council. It would see schools across the borough work together formally to provide the leadership, challenge and support necessary to improve schools. Full details of the role and responsibilities of the Group will be co-produced with schools, who will lead the Group, with oversight and support from the Council.

It is thought that working in this way would provide schools with more financial security, help to promote the values of Hackney’s existing family of schools, and enable schools to work together and with the Council to promote continued improvement for all of our pupils.

The Schools Group would be a legal entity with its own board, however individual schools would retain their own governing bodies and autonomy.

The proposals are being considered in response to feedback from headteachers and governing bodies, concerned about the impact of Government education reform. It follows the Hackney Schools For Everyone consultation, which found that residents were concerned about forced academisation and selection based on academic ability and that they wanted the Council to retain its role in education.

The idea will be discussed at a meeting of the Council’s Cabinet on 18 December. If it gets the go ahead, further discussions will take place with schools and governing bodies to gauge their interest in the idea, before they start working together to develop the proposal. These details will then be shared with residents, who will have the opportunity to find out more and share their thoughts.

The Cabinet report is available on the Council’s website:

<http://mginternet.hackney.gov.uk/documents/s58690/Submission%20Hackney%20Schools%20Group%20Cabinet%20Report%208%20December%202017%20corrected.pdf>

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor of Hackney:

“I’m pleased to be able to share these initial proposals, which we think offer an exciting opportunity for our schools to formalise their working relationship and continue to improve outcomes for every child in the borough.

“We want to find a way to maintain the continued improvement of educational performance and pupil outcomes, and help our schools to remain maintained and accountable to the local authority, so that we can continue to build on our success together.

“If Cabinet approves the proposals, the Council will begin an intensive engagement programme, initially with headteachers and governors, and then with residents. This is a fantastic opportunity, and we want schools, parents and residents to play a role in shaping this important proposal for the future of education in Hackney.”

Role out of English for Employment courses support migrants into work

Hackney Council is working with partners across the borough to deliver eight new English for Employment courses as part of its Integrated Communities programme.

The Integrated Communities programme is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and aims to better support migrant residents in the borough by providing additional help for them to access local services and improve their language and skills.

The new courses are free and open to Hackney residents who would like to move into work or progress into a better job.

As well as sessions in the classroom, students get one-to-one support from a Hackney Works employment advisor and have the chance to get some relevant work experience by volunteering in a local charity.

The next set of courses will start in January 2018 and will run for 12 weeks. There are a range of morning, afternoon and evening classes available at different locations in the borough.

Over £1000 in grants available for Hackney childminders

New childminders in Hackney can now access over £1,000 to help cover the costs of registration, training, toys and equipment. It is hoped the grant will encourage more people to think about becoming a childminder and increase high quality childcare in the borough.

In April 2017 the Council launched the Mayor's childminder bursary, which more than doubled the £500 available from the Government's Childcare Business Grant with an additional £585 from the Mayor's bursary. This is in addition to the support and training childminders can access through Hackney's childminder team.

Since the bursary's launch earlier this year there has been an increase of 21 childminders, with an additional nine awaiting final registration, which is set to bring up the number of childminders in the borough up to 191.

The borough's newly qualified childminders were given certificates and awarded funds from the Mayor's Bursary at a ceremony at the Linden Children's Centre on Thursday 30 November, attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Hackney.

Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney:

"As part of my manifesto I recognised the need for more high quality childminders in the borough, I was pleased to see the bursary start and meet some of the new childminders who have benefited. Childminders provide a home from home environment for our youngest children, where they can thrive through high quality learning experiences. As the number of childminder places across the country has been decreasing we want to support more people to become childminders and provide parents with an increased number of flexible and high quality childcare places."

To find out more about the Mayor's bursary and becoming a childminder in Hackney you can contact the Council on 020 8820 7502, email: childminding@learningtrust.co.uk or visit the Learning Trust website.

Revealed: Hackney residents have their say on the borough's schools

More than 2,500 residents have had their say on education in Hackney – and the results will help to shape the future of the borough's schools.

Following a series of major Government announcements about national education policies, the Hackney Schools For Everyone survey aimed to find out about residents' views on the local education system and what they want it to look like in the future.

The results show that on the whole, respondents believe education in Hackney has improved; they are opposed to academic selection and forced academisation; they believe that the Council should oversee the school admissions process and ensure it's fair and want our schools to be inclusive.

The Council last surveyed residents about education in 2003, and the response helped to shape the schools it built and the approach Hackney has to education. The 2017 results will help the Council to update our policies and future plans for schools. At this stage the Council has pledged to:

- Work hard to protect the values that have contributed to the success of our schools
- Do all we can to maintain the close links to our whole family of schools to ensure we can support them to access important services like school improvement and admissions
- Respond to future Government policies on behalf of Hackney's schools, parents and residents
- Ensure there are adequate school places for local children in Hackney schools
- Continue to campaign for fair funding for all of our schools, including more funding for special educational needs and disabilities

The questionnaire was sent out with Hackney Today, and a series of focus groups and workshops were held to ensure the responses were as representative of the borough as a whole as possible.

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor of Hackney:

Schools in Hackney have transformed beyond recognition over the last 15 years. Where once we had some of the worst schools, we now have some of the very best, and to enable us to continue to improve, it's important we understand the sorts of schools our residents want.

Grammar schools and forced academisation may be off the table for now, but they are clearly still on the Government's agenda, and the responses to this survey will inform our response to national education policies and proposals over the coming years. I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to share their views."

The full report is available online at www.hackney.gov.uk/education

Hackney chosen to trail-blaze new ways of transforming sport and physical activity in England

Hackney Council has been awarded a share of £100m from Sport England to transform levels of health and exercise in one of the borough's most inactive wards, and work on a bold new approach to build healthier, more active communities across England.

Around £100million of National Lottery funding will be invested in 12 pilot schemes over four years, to create innovative partnerships that make it easier for people in these communities to access sport and physical activity, including better collaboration between a wider range of local organisations, including voluntary groups, social enterprises, local authorities, faith organisations, schools, GPs and parenting groups.

Latest research shows that a quarter of the general population (11.5 million people) are inactive, meaning they do less than 30 minutes of exercise that gets them slightly out of breath each week, with certain groups such as those in lower paid jobs, women and the disabled disproportionately affected.

By focusing intensely in 12 areas, Sport England and the local partners want to identify better ways to address these stubborn inequalities and break down the barriers that stop people getting active, such as poor transport, safety, cost and confidence.

It wants to encourage wider, collaborative partnerships which look at how all parts of a community can better work together to help the most inactive – from the transport links and street lighting to the quality of parks and open spaces, to how sport and activity is promoted by GPs.

Hackney Council will use the money to focus initially on three areas of the Kings Park Ward, and in particular the Clapton Park and Kingsmead estates, before rolling out what it learns into the rest of the borough.

Residents in Kings Park tend to experience poorer health than the rest of the borough, including higher rates of hospital admissions and high rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Hackney supports World AIDS Day

This World's AIDS Day, Friday 1 December, Hackney Council is urging everyone in the borough to unite together in support of the fight against HIV and HIV stigma.

The Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville was himself tested on the day by the Council commissioned Homerton Sexual Health Services to help raise awareness of testing and to encourage other residents to take steps to know their own HIV status. There are numerous pop up testing stations that are taking place across the borough as well as a web service where residents can order home testing kits.

To help tackle HIV stigma, Positive East, who run some of the other pop-up clinics in Hackney, are promoting the message U = U, which stands for Undetectable = Untransmissible.

Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney:

U=U is a powerful message in tackling HIV stigma which is still all too prevalent, affecting the lives of people living with HIV and our work to reduce transmission. The simple fact is that people can't pass on HIV when they are taking modern HIV medication and have an undetectable viral load.

It is a message that we want our residents to know and understand, along with the many other ways they can reduce the risk of HIV transmission including regular testing, using condoms and now PrEP. This is why I'm proud that Hackney Council is leading the way and supporting the pan-London 'Do It London' campaign and why I continue to personally champion HIV awareness and fight stigma this World AIDS Day.

In addition, to help raise awareness on World AIDS Day the Mayor met with Homerton Hospital sexual health clinic and HIV teams, last week took part in the Positive East Red Run with Cllr Jonathan McShane, joined East London Council leaders in Waltham Forest to make a joint World AIDS Day statement on HIV and AIDS, and switched on the Rio Christmas lights with featured a World Aids Day themed tree, as part of Dalston's annual Christmas illuminations.

Consultations and campaigns:

Update on Hackney Police Cuts Campaign asking the Government to #FoottheBill and response to the Home Office's announcement on police funding

Cllr Caroline Selman, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement, responds to the Home Office's announcement on police funding for 2018/19:

Tuesday's Government announcement on police funding does nothing to address the loss of 1 in 4 officers in Hackney since 2010.

Now, after 15 years of declining crime rates, the Government's short-sighted and counter-productive cuts to the police are putting at risk the years of pioneering and progressive partnership between the police and the Council to bring crime down, and offences are starting to go up.

In spite of these stark figures, the Government on Tuesday failed to contribute a single penny more to the Met's police grant, doing nothing to address the loss of police officers across London and the additional £370m in savings the Met must make by 2020/21.

Instead, the majority of the additional funding announced by the Government will come from Council Tax payers, who the Government expects to make up for its ill-considered cuts to the police.

Far from footing the bill, the Government is passing the buck to hard-working families to fund vital public services.

We've been running our Foot the Bill campaign to raise awareness of the Government's short-sighted and counter-productive police cuts. Residents can add their voice and write to the Home Secretary, which will also count as a response to the Home Office's consultation on police funding, at www.hackney.gov.uk/foot-the-bill. The consultation only lasts a month so we're urging residents to make their voices heard by 5pm on 16 January 2018.

Here are some key statistics explaining more about policing and crime in Hackney and London:

- Hackney's lost 1 in 4 police officers since October 2010 - around 200 officers (770 officers down to 584 in October 2017)
- Between 2002/03 and 2014/15, crime fell by 34.7% in Hackney, equating to 13,000 fewer victims of crime, but now the government are putting this at risk and crime is on the up again
- Crime is up by 12% in Hackney for the financial year 2016/17, with robbery and knife crime up by 24% and 22% respectively
- Gun and knife crime in London rose by 42% and 24% respectively in 2016/17
- The majority of the £450m announced by the Government (£270m) has been passed on to local Police and Crime Commissioners to raise through an additional Council Tax precept
- The Met has had to make more than £600 million of savings since 2010, and must find an additional £370m by 2020/21
- This has already led to the loss of 30 per cent of police staff posts, and 65 per cent of police community support officers posts, plus most of the capital's police station front counters and 120 police buildings.
- The latest projections show that if the funding crisis does not end now, and if all savings come from officer numbers, then police officer numbers in the capital could fall below 26,900 by 2021 – a dangerous 19-year low which presents a serious risk to the safety of Londoners
- For every £1 of Counter Terrorism spend in response to an incident, around £2 is spent on necessary additional non-Counter Terrorism activity, which has to come from wider policing budgets.

Hate Crime Strategy

Hate crime is often targeted towards a person's identity and can have a harmful effect on its victims and whole communities. The police and the CPS define hate crime as any criminal offence that has been committed which the victim, or anyone else, thinks was motivated by "hostility or prejudice" based on:

- disability
- race
- religion
- transgender identity
- sexual orientation

The draft strategy sets out our strategy for working with our partners and communities to make sure that Hackney is no place for hate.

We would like to know your views on how the draft strategy could make a difference in your community.

We would also value your feedback on the key objectives and actions identified in the strategy and the role you and/or your community could play in helping to implement the strategy.

<https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/communications-and-consultation/hackney-hate-crime-strategy/>

Have your say on ultra low emission streets in Shoreditch

Hackney and Islington councils are consulting on a scheme which could see all but the cleanest vehicles banned from two zones in Shoreditch.

The scheme would mean that petrol, diesel and older hybrid vehicles would not be allowed to enter nine streets during the peak commuter periods of 7am-10am and 4pm-7pm Monday to Friday. Ultra low emission vehicles like electric cars, e-bikes, the newest hybrids and hydrogen vehicles, as well as pedestrians and cyclists, will be allowed.

The streets around Shoreditch suffer from some of the worst air quality in London – ultra low emission streets will have reduced levels of air and noise pollution, make it easier and safer to walk and cycle and improve the character of the area for all residents and businesses.

To start with we're proposing to ban petrol and diesel vehicles in the morning and evening rush hours to reduce people's exposure to dangerous fumes and make the streets safer when people are walking and cycling to and from work and school. Our ultimate goal is to reclaim the streets from polluting motor vehicles – this ground breaking scheme is the first step towards doing that.

Residents and businesses on the streets affected would still be able to use their cars.

Residents, businesses and people who travel through the area are invited to have their say before 14 February. Find out more about the proposals and have your say: <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/streetscene/city-fringe-ultra-low-emission-streets-1/>

The scheme is part funded through the Office For Low Emission Vehicles' 'Neighbourhoods of the Future' and forms part of the Mayor of London-funded Low Emission Neighbourhood.

Nominate Hackney's landmarks to the local list

From a modernist church, to the Dalston peace mural and even a wooden post-box in Stoke Newington, Hackney's local list is a collection of objects and buildings that contribute to the historical and architectural interest of the borough.

There are currently 470 heritage assets on the local list, which were collected five years ago. The Council is looking to residents to help increase the list and find more places and spaces that should be included.

The local list is a way to identify what is important to the borough and ensure this significance is considered when planning applications are made. This opportunity is being highlighted by Deputy Speaker and the Council's Heritage Champion, Cllr Clare Potter who said: "The local list is a fantastic way to promote local heritage and encourage the preservation of Hackney's distinct character when planning is being considered. I would encourage all of our residents to get involved and nominate the buildings and landmarks you think should be added to the local list."

Buildings included on the list must meet at least one of these criteria:

- historical interest
- architectural interest
- environmental significance
- aesthetic or artistic merit

To nominate to the local list please send in a nomination form to the Conservation, Urban Design and Sustainability team by Friday 26 January 2018.

For more information on what local listing means, further guidance on criteria, to view the current list, or to complete a nomination form, [visit the local list webpage](#), email locallist@hackney.gov.uk or contact 020 8356 4597.

For inspiration, local group The Hackney Society, have created a useful [online tool](#) that lets you view each of the landmarks already on the local list.

Previous Motions and policy updates

- Hackney North Education Motion – a response has been circulated from Deputy Mayor Bramble
- Hackney North Manifesto Process Motion – a response should have come from Chair of Labour Group

Britannia Update and response to the current motions, information about the project can be found on the Council's website here: <https://hackney.gov.uk/britannia-site>

"Lack of consultation"

A full consultation was conducted with local residents and the provision of a new secondary school and leisure centre received overwhelming support. Almost 60% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the Council's plan to replace Britannia, and 59% agreed that a new secondary school should be placed at the old Britannia site. A majority of local residents also agreed that, in lieu of Government funding, the Council should seek to raise part of the money needed through the sale of private homes.

It is also important to note that, as part of the development process, over 100,000 leaflets have been sent to local residents and more than 20 public meetings conducted.

"The loss of a popular, fully functioning, well-used leisure centre and its impact on the jobs of those working there, with no certainty about its replacement."

Britannia Leisure Centre is a well-used facility, but it is suffering the effects of old age - yet again, the wave machine was recently broken, the centre had to be closed due to a problem with the aging boilers, and acro-props continue to support decaying concrete beams.

The design and layout of the existing building also means that Britannia's current facilities do not fully comply with current design guidance from Sport England and National Governing Bodies of sport standards – particularly with regard to the swimming pools (the main swimming pool is what is known in the industry as a 'free form leisure pool' which is not conducive to swimming lessons, health and fitness swimming or swimming galas in a way that a rectangular 'tank' would be).

The current Britannia Leisure Centre does not meet the needs of a borough with an increasing population and increasing expectations of what a leisure centre should deliver. It does not provide basic facilities, such as dedicated lane swimming pool, which are regarded as standard in modern leisure centres; nor does the existing Britannia provide adjustable pool floors for maximum access for disabled visitors and children.

With respect to the impact of the redevelopment on leisure jobs, given that the new Britannia Leisure Centre will provide significantly more extensive facilities than the original, significantly increasing the amount of water facilities, it is fully expected that the new leisure centre to be net jobs generator for the Hackney. Further, as the old Britannia Leisure Centre will not be closed until the new one is opened, and the fact that it will be operated by the same provider who runs all of the borough leisure services, will provide the most seamless transition for staff possible.

On the issue of replacement, by committing to building the new leisure centre before we demolish the old one, we are providing the highest possible commitment an administration could make. Further, as you will see from the attached *Hackney Today* extracts, we have publicly committed to this position, providing an additional element of security.

“The proposed construction of 400 luxury dwellings, (including three tower blocks 24 storeys high) which will not meet the housing needs of local people. Only 80 are designated as affordable which means unaffordable for most people. This will drive up rents locally for homes and businesses and force people out of the area.”

'Luxury apartments' is the language of property developers, and it's unfortunate to see it used by opponents of new public facilities at the Britannia site. The sale value of these units is a consequence of a London housing market over which Hackney has little control, rather than their internal fixtures and fittings. The flats in question are merely homes for private sale, not 'luxury apartments'.

Crucially, without government funding for new richly-deserved leisure centres, new desperately-needed schools, and new council flats and council shared ownership properties, private sales are an essential part of how we fund first class public services in Hackney. Only a Labour Government has any prospect of directly funding these services, a Labour Government that is a minimum of four years off and one that, in opposition, has given no indication that Hackney would be at the forefront of its priorities, given the kind of economy it would inherit from the outgoing Tory administration.

The sales and marketing strategy for these private homes will be focused on a local sales and marketing campaign, adopting restrictions on international marketing and sales. We will therefore do everything within our power to ensure the units are sold to people who intend to use them as their home, rather than as investments. This was the sales

strategy employed on Kings Crescent Estate, which resulted in 97% of private sale properties being sold to owner occupiers and no overseas investment buyers.

Of the 80 affordable homes, 48 will be new council flats, and 32 will be council shared ownership properties. Despite the fact that this scheme is primarily needed to deliver a new secondary school and leisure centre, these affordable housing additions and, in particular, the almost 50 new council flats, represents an important contribution to much-needed affordable housing in the borough. These will also be delivered in the first phases of the project well before the main quantum of private sale homes.

“The negative effects of the proposed development on the public amenity space of Shoreditch Park, and on the homes round it, including the loss of light from a 24 storey wall of glass benefiting only wealthy property owners.”

By building a 21st Century Leisure Centre on the hard-standing area of Shoreditch Park, and a desperately-needed new secondary school at the old Britannia site, we are actively engaged in enhancing amenities and public facilities for local residents.

Appropriate levels of light for residents are not determined by Councillors but by the National Planning Policy Framework. Like all elements of the scheme, the housing will be subject to planning permission, which will take into account whether it is appropriate for the area. This is a quasi-judicial process, which is driven entirely by planning law, not by the ambitions of Councillors to deliver the scheme.

“The use of the claimed need for a City of London Academies Trust secondary school as justification for the demolition; the need for additional secondary school places in South Hackney is contested and not substantiated by available evidence - we therefore call for other options to be explored for the location of the school.”

We would not take forward ambitious plans to build not one, but two, secondary schools in Hackney – a complex and costly process – if they were not needed.

[The assessment of the projected demand and supply of secondary places was detailed in section 6.2 of the Capital Programme report, which was submitted to Hackney Cabinet on 19 April 2017.](#) Despite being present at that meeting, the ‘Save Britannia’ group have consistently and incorrectly claimed that there is insufficient demand for school places.

To be absolutely clear, secondary projections based upon the October 2016 roll showed a need for a new secondary school in 2017 and for additional secondary places going forward. The City of London Academy Shoreditch Park opened in September 2017 and at the time of has 2 vacancies in year 7.

Future demand for additional secondary places will continue to be monitored and will be assessed against new projections in the Autumn term of 2017 and again in the Summer Term 2018.

“The risks attached to a scheme financially dependent on the sale of 400 luxury dwellings at a time when such sales are slowing down London wide.”

There are always risks associated with any development scheme. The Group director of finance provides updates and is subject to scrutiny regarding the financial position of the scheme on a regular basis. The risks associated with the redevelopment of Britannia do not outweigh the benefits of providing a desperately-needed new secondary school, much-deserved, 21st Century leisure facility, 48 council flats, and 32 council shared ownership properties.

As noted previously, despite receiving virtually no government grant for the construction of new council housing and being subject to legal constraints on what we can borrow in order to build, Hackney has one of the most ambitious council house building programmes of any local authority in the country; and we do not merely focus on housing people, [but also believe in creating beautiful and useful housing that our tenants can be proud to live in.](#)

Despite seven years of biting austerity, we are extremely proud of our continued commitment to building housing, state of the art leisure centres and first class schools for the people of Hackney.

Motion on CTRS schemes are covered by the decision taken this week to introduce a revised scheme, I blogged about it earlier this month:

When the Government handed responsibility for administering council tax benefit to local councils, it did so with a massive reduction in funding. To put this into context, our Council Tax Reduction Scheme helps over 27,000 Hackney working age residents to pay their council tax. The Council currently invests over £25m, but we receive a miserly £8.6m from the Government towards what until 2010 was a fully funded national benefit.

To place this in context this local investment of over £25m is an equivalent amount to half of our entire Children and Families budget, which delivers a huge range of services, including support for some of the borough's most vulnerable children and young people, youth justice, safeguarding and activities for young people. We have recently written to national Government calling on them to return to fully funding the scheme, and stop passing on the costs to some of the poorest boroughs in the country.

Over the last few years we've absorbed these costs by making savings in other areas, but as the Government's brutal cuts continue, stripping Hackney alone of over £140m in funding and affecting public services across the board, this simply is not an option going forward especially as over the next three years we will have £34m in further savings and cuts to find, so we need to update the scheme.

We recently consulted residents on increasing the minimum contribution a working age household would have to pay from 15 to 20%. Before and during the consultation period, we met with charities and organisations to gain their views, and we received around 150 responses to the consultation. These understandably raised concerns about the impact the increase would have on those in receipt of CTRS, while these are concerns we of course share, none of the decisions we have to take around the Council's budget are easy.

Throughout this process we have of course considered other options which would not require us to increase the minimum contribution, but we want to ensure that we can have a scheme that supports the most vulnerable, is sustainable and doesn't lead to cuts to other services - so doing nothing is a not an option. The scheme needs updating so that it fully interacts with other welfare systems such as Universal Credit, and we simply do not have the money to pay for the predicted £500,000 a year increase in the cost of the scheme. Other councils have sought to absorb all these costs themselves and return to a fully funded scheme, to do this in Hackney would cost an additional £2.8 million, funding we don't have, given the numbers of residents we have to support. In addition we have sought to maintain additional safeguards such as backdating payments for those who apply for support already in debt, something other boroughs have been increasingly restricting. We have improved the support for some of the most vulnerable.

However, the Council and I have listened and that is why I have asked Cabinet to change our proposal and agree to a two per cent increase in the minimum contribution working age people will be required pay, meaning we will continue to support those on benefits or a low incomes by reducing their council tax bill by up to 83 per cent.

This two per cent increase would cover the predicted £500,000 increase in providing the scheme. While other boroughs continue to review their schemes, we can also commit to maintaining the scheme at this level for at least two years. In the meantime we will increase the awareness of CTRS hardship fund, actively promoting it to those that still face difficulties and monitor the impact of these changes to help shape the scheme's development in the future. We will also be continuing a thorough review, with key stakeholders, of how the Council approaches those in financial difficulty including our approach to debt, advice and support.

SEND Motions – background (though drafted in response to the motion at Hackney North) from Cllr Bramble

This CLP notes that:

- Under the *Children and Families Act 2014*, Hackney Learning Trust has a duty to provide disabled and special needs children attending its mainstream schools and nurseries with integrated Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)
- At present mainstream schools with special needs and severely disabled pupils are entitled to top-up EHCP funding from Hackney Learning Trust (this is on top of the national core pupil funding (a fixed sum for every child) and the fixed premium for SEND children
- The top-up funding is there to ensure disabled and special needs children can participate in mainstream school, can build and maintain friendships, play safely, and keep up with the curriculum
- **Hackney Learning Trust is proposing to cut the SEND top-up budgets by an average of 19% across the board from 2018**

I do not recognise the 19% across the board figure and would need clarity from you where this figure is drawn from

- These proposed cuts come on top of 5% cut in SEND funding planned from April 2018

There is an intention from April 2018 for a 5% deduction in the value of the current resource levels 1-5 (top-up funding)

- These proposed cuts come on top of other cuts to specialist schools funding, early years inclusion staff, and the loss of 70 other support staff in mainstream schools

Hackney Learning Trust liaise and negotiate with special needs schools on a regular basis to discuss their funding level based on the needs and the numbers of pupils within the school. Unfortunately due to the Tory changes to the National Funding Formula schools are in difficult situations.

This CLP affirms that:

- Hackney Learning Trust's proposals to cut top-up payments for SEND from April 2018 must be dropped.

This CLP calls for the Hackney North Labour Party to:

- **oppose** Hackney Learning Trust's proposed changes to SEND top-up funding and procedures

We want to work in co-production going forward harnessing on the skills, expertise and views of parents/carers, professionals and other key stakeholders. Council officers are still analysing the hundreds of responses that we received to the consultation, and there will, of course, be a formal report. However, it is already clear that there are very high levels of concern about the proposals. It remains the case that SEND is desperately underfunded by central government, and we will continue to push ministers to give us the resources that we need, but unless there is a change of heart at Department of Education, Hackney will need to save money in this area. We have committed to working with parent groups, schools, and specialists, to co-produce a model which will help us to do this, but in a way that has the least possible impact on provision, and in which parents and schools can trust. This process will take place over the coming months.

The consultation was about open the conversation about additional top up after the 6,000 pounds allocated to schools. The suggested proposal was to find a way to get funds into schools quicker. This could mean children, parents/carers and school will not have to wait the 20 weeks assessment period, cutting it to 6 weeks. This would provide quicker funding for those who need it. Under the proposals, pupils needing an ECHP would still have the right to apply for an assessment as designated under the Children's and families Act 2014.

- encourage members to find out more from: HackneySpecialEducationCrisis.co.uk

Over the past few months we have heard about the challenges of the National Funding Formula. These concerns have rightly sparked a public debate – but there's a far greater, hidden crisis in education, which threatens the life chances of some of our most vulnerable young people and that is the lack of funding for SEND.

It's an issue our council has been battling for some time. The high-needs block of the Designated Schools Grant has effectively been frozen since 2011. This is despite a major increase in the pupil population and reforms in 2014, which significantly increased the number of children who are eligible to receive support, leading to a 34 per cent increase in the number of pupils Hackney supports.

In Hackney there is a funding shortfall of about £6 million. This is an issue replicated across London. We have worked directly with the Schools Forum on communicating this issue.

To meet this shortfall, we are using money from other education funding pots and are drawing on reserves – which is not sustainable in the long term. Next year funding is expected to rise by 0.5 per cent – but this is nowhere near enough to fill the shortfall. But not funding children and young people is not an option for the council.

The reality is this - in Hackney we've had to save over £152 million since 2010 – and will need to find a further £30 million by 2021-22. There are no easy solutions especially as we want to preserve many of our non-statutory services.

- **lobby** Hackney Council to urgently re-considers its SEND proposals

Central government needs to have a full debate on this issue and Hackney Labour Party will continue to challenge their cuts. I have written to the education secretary, urging her (when it was Christine Greening) to reform how this vital funding is calculated and distributed, taking into account the growth in demand alongside actual spend. I want to continue to raise awareness of the challenges faced by the council and educational budgets.

Last year I spoke in different arenas to stress the impact on SEND. That included, APPG: Parliamentary Inquiry on Autism and Education, London Councils Education Conference, Labour Regional Conference, London Labour Deputy Mayor, Deputy Leader's Conference, Labour Women Network Christmas event, The Local Government Association (LGA) Children and Young People Board and at local school events. Also LGA Children and Young Children Board took up my suggestion to start a task and finish group on SEND. This year I spoke at the London Women Network about SEND and how the issue of disproportionately effect women in terms of workforce. The Mayor and I with members will continue to lobby government on funding for SEND and we met with one of the key campaign groups before Christmas.

Hackney South Motion on Parks - Response: Protecting Our Parks

We would agree that London's parks and green spaces are amongst its greatest assets and Hackney is extremely lucky to have the largest expanses of green space in inner-London.

With 58 parks and green spaces totalling approximately 282 hectares – that range from major parks and green spaces such as Hackney Marshes, Clissold Park and Haggerston Park to small gardens such as Hoxton Square and Church Street Gardens – the Labour Group has long recognised the impact that these spaces can have on the achievement of its vision and objectives.

We have therefore placed a high priority on maintaining and improving them, and since 2010 there has been over £25m of investment, with further significant investment planned to take place over the next few years. For every £1 spent by Hackney on its parks, we enjoy at least £27 in value. This is the reason we continue to invest in our parks to improve the quality and amount of green space in our Borough.

As I hope you will all agree, there is considerable value and benefit from having appropriate development in our parks and green spaces - for example cafes, community hubs and sports facilities - and also from having a diverse and well organised programme of events for the community and visitors to enjoy.

Events are an extremely important part of our vibrant parks and green spaces and have taken place in the borough for many years. In 2016/17 we hosted a total of 87 events in 26 of our parks and green spaces, attracting approximately 130,000 visitors – the majority of these were community and charity events (44).

Events are also an important source of income to help contribute towards the management and maintenance of our parks and green spaces at a time of significant Government cuts. In 2016/17 the events programme raised £226,000 of income that was importantly used for the maintenance of our parks and green spaces and future event programming.

We therefore intend to continue to implement events in line with the Council's current "Parks & Green Spaces Events Policy" that was adopted by Labour Group and then Cabinet in 2013 and work with a variety of event organisers to deliver appropriate events across the borough.

We will however also ensure that residents' opinions are heard as part of the process, in line with the Council's Policy. This means that consultation will involve stakeholders, including Park User Groups, Leisure & Green Spaces staff, Ward Councillors, the Enforcement Service, the Metropolitan Police, Noise Pollution, Licensing and the relevant Cabinet Member. Due to the number of parks, the volume of park events and the timescales in which we process applications, it is simply not practical or realistic as suggested for us to consult with residents on each and every occasion.

We do not intend to put in place a moratorium on appropriate developments or on holding future events in Haggerston Park as the motion suggests. Each application we receive will continue to be reviewed on its own

merits and in consultation with stakeholders to ensure it is appropriate for Haggerston Park. Haggerston received its Green Flag status in 2006 and has retained it ever since. We have a record number of Green Flags in Hackney now totalling 23: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/from-snake-parks-to-secret-gardens--hackney-scores-highest-number-of-green-flags/>.

We will however continue to invest in and value our parks and green spaces for future generations as we have for many years and totally refute that any of our parks including Haggerston have been overdeveloped or privatised in any way.

Motion on Probation Service - background notes:

- As part of the 2013 probation service reforms (see [here](#)), the probation services was split into:
 1. A public sector National Probation Service which supervised high risk offences
 2. 21 privately-run Community Rehabilitation Companies to manage those posing low-and-medium-risk
- The Government's rationale for doing so was to incentivise CRCs with Payment by Results contracts aimed at encouraging and facilitating increased innovation.
- Concerns were raised about the proposals from the outset (including by the National and the then Labour Shadow Justice Secretary, Sadiq Khan).
- Since then, HMI Probation (HMIP) area inspections have suggested that overall CRCs are performing below expectations.
- An HMIP inspection report into North London (didn't include Hackney) issued in December 2016 found that probation services in North London had deteriorated, work was poor and more people were at risk as a result (see press release [here](#)). While the report related to the North London area only, this raised concerns about performance in London as a whole.
- CRC have since put in place, are now implementing (and appear at a local level to be making good progress against) an action plan to address the concerns raised.
- I met with CRC in August to discuss progress as against this plan locally. This month, the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission received a report from both the London CRC and NPS (<http://mginternet.hackney.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=119&Mid=3988>). In addition, we work closely with the CRC at an operational level, and receive updates from them, including in relation to performance, at Community Safety Partnership, Statutory Officer Group meetings.
- The Mayor of London has called for the probation services to be devolved to City Hall.
- Concerns about the privatisation of the probation service for low-and-medium risk offenders were raised from the outset. Since its adoption, serious concerns have been raised by a succession of independent inspection reports from HMI probation, including the HMI Probation report into the North London area which made clear that probation services had deteriorated in London since – letting down Londoners, hard working probation officers and the people they are there to support in leading crime-free lives.
- Cllr Selman met with the CRC following the publication of the HMI Probation North London to discuss their action plan for improving their performance and this month the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission received an update on progress.

Motion on Norwegian Model - background notes:

Hackney Council has previously worked with partners to develop a Standard Operating Procedure setting out how the Council's Community Safety Team, Hackney Police and relevant support agencies approach on-street prostitution.

This sets out that (in line with police best practice), the primary focus of enforcement action should be kerb crawlers. No enforcement action should be taken in relation to prostitution itself. Further, where there are persistent instances of ASB associated with sex work enforcement action may be taken as a last resort – but this is undertaken within a broader context of support coordinated via the SUOM, a multi-agency group made up of representatives from Hackney Council, the Police and support agencies.

Hackney Council recently conducted a consultation into public space ASB, which included a workshop in relation to responding to prostitution. One of the proposed commitments in the draft manifesto includes improving the outreach response in relation to prostitution.

Rebuttal to the Haggerston BLP motion on Eagle Wharf Road criticising Hackney Council's Planning Service and calling for the resignation of the Labour Chair of Planning.

Comrades in Haggerston have tabled a motion questioning the competency and transparency of the Council's Planning Service and of the Chair of Planning. It describes the cost to the community of the results of a Planning appeal brought against the Council's decision to approve a proposed development in Shoreditch at a site on Eagle Wharf Road.

The motion is ill informed and inaccurate, it makes false statements and it slanders a Labour comrade who has served our administration and the community well and with the utmost diligence for some years.

It quotes an unidentified 'planning commentary' describing the circumstances behind this judicial decision as "collusion between a developer and planning officers to conceal (or make difficult to detect) important changes – including the abandonment of the entire 'affordable homes' element" Throughout the entire Judicial Review no collusion was either alleged or demonstrated. As for the lack of affordable housing, this is an employment site in Planning terms and development on this site is prioritised for jobs not houses, the Council demanded from the developer an increase in affordable workspace in the new development and it got it.

It inaccurately states that the Council was found to have acted illegally on the grounds of denying the business tenant 'an adequate opportunity' to present their case and a failure to consult the public and failing to disclose unredacted documents relevant to the application.

The actual judgement was that the Council had acted unfairly not illegally, an important distinction to make. The lack of an opportunity allowed to the business tenant to present their case and the disclosure of documents were not included in or relevant to this judgement.

The motion also resolves to express in the strongest terms its dismay that Hackney Council has failed in its commitment to openness and due process.....

This statement has no basis, the Council fully complied with the consultation requirements as set out in national legislation and in the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. All application

documents were freely available on the Council's website, the decision was taken in public and objectors were able to speak directly to the Committee.

As an administration we have always pursued the most defined set of protocols and codes of behaviour around the Planning Service and we will continue to do so. We strive to ensure that it is an open and transparent process and it reflects our collective ambitions for building neighbourhoods that everyone can be part of; it brings about the delivery of affordable homes and affordable work places, schools and open spaces to name but a few of the outcomes. It stands on a record of delivery and transparency that is recognised well beyond Hackney. This motion cannot be supported.

Manifesto Update

Thanks to all those that have taken part in the process so far, especially those that attended the Ideas Factory, attended a ward meeting discussion or have submitted an individual response. We had an excellent discussion this week at Labour Group which involved Group Observers and new candidates, the process has now been returned to myself and Cabinet to continue refining our ideas. Group also agreed to several new events where underrepresented groups can be involved and a change to the timetable, which will allow more debate and discussion in January.

A draft version of the manifesto has been circulated under separate cover.

The Full Hackney Manifesto Timetable going forward is now (the highlighted part is where we are now):

- 21 November: Labour Group with new candidates: discussion on manifesto outline
- 23 November: Constituency General Committee/General Meeting: Labour Group report to provide update
- 27 November: BAME Manifesto Event in Hackney Central please email for more details
- 9th December Young Members Event at Urswick School
- November/December: content developed/written up by Mayor and Cabinet based on discussions to date.
- January: Ward meetings: update on progress and response to ward suggestions
- 16 January: Labour Group with new candidates: discussion of draft.
- 18 January: LCF Update
- **25 January: Final Update to GMs**
- **February Final Update to Wards**
- 20 February: Labour Group Sign Off

Visiting, speaking and reporting back to branch Labour Parties

I'm visiting Leabridge in January and Dalston and Hackney Downs in March, but I am keen to book new dates for after the elections. If you want to invite me please email philip.glanville@hackney.gov.uk

Since being elected in September 2016 I have been to Wick, Victoria, De Beauvoir, Homerton, King's Park, Clissold, Stoke Newington, Hackney Central, Hoxton West, Haggerston, Woodberry Down, Stamford Hill West and Brownswood Party Meetings. That's 13 branches as well as to Hackney Momentum and the Coop party meetings.