

## Philip Glanville Labour Mayor of Hackney

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Dear Member,

Welcome to my January - February Mayor's Report.

This month has been dominated by the finalising the Council's Budget, campaigning and agreeing our manifesto.

This week I am pleased to say that the Cabinet and Council agreed Labour's Budget, the last of this administration. It has not been an easy process, but we have listened and engaged with residents. I am proud that we are continuing fund our priorities despite ongoing cuts in central Government funding, below I explain more about the detail including the proposed Council Tax of 3%.

I'd like to thank everyone that has already been out campaigning in the local elections both in Hackney and beyond, we have had some incredible launch events in Hoxton East and Shoreditch as well as across the Project North wards. I have been out campaigning in Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, London Fields, Springfield, Leabridge, De Beauvoir, Cazenove as well as taking part in Lewisham's manifesto process with Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell.

On Tuesday evening Labour Group agreed the 2018 manifesto, there is still a lot to do in terms of design and writing, but I am excited to be standing for Mayor with 57 Labour Candidates on such a bold, radical and socialist platform for building a fairer and more sustainable Hackney. Thanks to everyone that held and inputted into this work.

Finally, Labour Group agreed on Tuesday night to continue with the Britannia project, I set out why below. We have consistently listened to the arguments, but given there is now even greater clarity about the type and quality of facilities that will be in the new leisure centre; a clear commitment to genuine council housing to rent and buy onsite; developing plans to invest in the park and wider public realm; and further investment in early years provision at the nearby primary school going ahead is the right thing to do.

Best wishes,



## Mayor's Diary Highlights

### February 21

Visit to the Garden School

Hackney Social Enterprise Manifesto

Full Council (Budget)

### February 20

LLDC Awayday

Hackney Labour Group

### February 19

Cabinet (Budget)

#HackneyatHome London Fields

### February 18

Cazenove Mosque Open Day

#HackneyatHome Springfield

### February 17

#HackneyOnTour Westminster

Mayor of Enfield Fundraiser

### February 16

Meeting with Night Czar Amy Lame and Cllr Nicholson

Boroughs United

### February 15

## SEND funding arrangements consultation: Update

Responding to the concerns of parents, carers, activists and indeed party members we agreed this week to review the changes we proposed to SEND funding. The following statement was agreed by Deputy Mayor Bramble and myself.

Hackney Council is set to work with parents, teachers and other stakeholders on proposals to ensure it can continue to deliver high quality provision for children and young people with special educational needs.

The announcement follows a consultation on proposals to introduce a new funding model. We have listened to feedback during the consultation, and in useful meetings with parents and teachers, and as a result I will recommend to Cabinet next month that we do not to go forward with the proposed changes. Instead we will work together to find a way to ensure pupils with SEND continue to receive the support they need, but in a way that is sustainable in the long term. The consultation was beginning of this dialogue with parents/carers.

Across the country, SEND services have been chronically underfunded by central government for many years. Local councils have been having to subsidise their SEND services from reserves or other budget areas, but such arrangements are becoming increasingly untenable in the face of continued Government cuts. Last year, across London, there was a shortfall of £100m.

In Hackney, the 2017/18 shortfall in SEND funding is around £6.1m. This is because of increased demand on the service, a rise in SEND pupil numbers because of changes to legislation, and rising costs against a government funding freeze since 2011/12.

The Mayor and I have campaigned hard to highlight the Council's concerns over what we are calling a 'hidden education funding crisis'. We urged Ministers to look at adequate and sustainable ways of funding SEND students so they can receive the services they need and deserve.

In October I wrote to the Secretary of State for Education urging the DfE to review SEND funding, specifically looking at how this vital funding is calculated and distributed, so it takes into account the growth in demand alongside actual spend. The response, from a junior minister, made it clear that the Government has no interest in providing adequate support for society's most vulnerable children.

We have sought to protect the SEND budgets by using the Hackney Learning Trust reserves and making savings elsewhere in the education budget. But this

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Housing Development Board

Meeting with Hackney CCG and Cllr McShane

Hackney Speaker Fundraiser

Rough Sleepers Summit with Cllrs Rennison and Selman

Lent Talk on Homelessness

### February 14

Housing Development Board

### February 13

Phone call on BCU with Deputy Mayor Linden and Cllr Selman

### February 12

Capital Investment Board

Hackney Quest Running

### February 11

Project North Launch and Campaigning in Stamford Hill West

### February 10

#HackneyatHome New Members Training and Leabridge Campaigning

### February 9

Playstreets Awards and Brunch with Deputy Mayor and Cllr Demirci

### February 8

Meeting on Child Friendly Borough

[Launch of the Wick Award Report](#)

[Launch of Making Her Mark Exhibition at Hackney Museum with Cllr Williams](#)

approach is not a sustainable and we need to find a way forward. The consultation on the funding arrangements presented options to help resolve some of these pressures.

The Council's aspiration has always been to balance the need to sustain SEND funding, work collaboratively with parents, teachers and other stakeholders and continue delivering higher quality provision. Following feedback, we have agreed to halt the decision in order to establish a SEND funding Task and Finish group with relevant stakeholders to look at how to develop SEND funding arrangements for the future.

We are committed to supporting all the SEND children and their families in our borough. It is our hope that a co-production process, which engages with all stakeholders, can deliver policy proposals that reflect the current SEND situation in the borough and continue the high level of service we provide, whilst ensuring we can fulfil our financial obligations to all our residents.

We will continue to work alongside all our partners to keep the pressure on Government to properly support our SEND children and their parents, and urge residents to make their own voices heard in Whitehall too, whether that be writing a letter to the Education Secretary or organising a campaign.

Deputy Mayor Bramble met with SEND campaigners last night at Full Council, building on meetings we held earlier in January and December. I am currently visiting all of our specialist schools and will feed my findings into the review.

A copy of the full consultation report is available here:

<https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/communications-and-consultation/send-funding-arrangement/>

## I Love Hackney Mayor's Civic Awards launched for 2018

Do you know an unsung hero whose remarkable achievements are helping make Hackney a better place to live, work or study? Then we want to hear about them.

Make a nomination to the third I Love Hackney Mayor's Civic Awards, and help recognise, celebrate and reward the special people of our borough.

Perhaps you know someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in the community? Somebody who has overcome an extraordinary difficulty; a fabulous teacher or carer; a person who has shown immense courage; a tireless fundraiser or volunteer; or an individual who has gone that extra mile to better their neighbourhood. We want to hear their stories.

Nominees for the civic awards can be of any age and from any background. However, if you are nominating who is under 18, please make sure you have a

### February 7

Visit to Shoreditch Park Academy

Roundtable with Shadow Housing Minister John Healey on Labour's Social Housing Review

### February 6

London Councils

Labour Group Exec

[Hackney Sports Awards](#)

### February 5

Meeting with Interlink about Jewish Education

Meeting with new Young Speakers, Deputy Mayor and Hackney Speaker

Running with Hackney Quest

### February 4

#HackneyatHome De Beauvoir Campaigning

### February 3

Labour Local Government Conference

Hoxton East Campaign launch

### February 2

Labour Local Govt Conference

### February 1

Visit to The Bridge Academy

Meeting with East End Trades Guild with Cllr Nicholson

parent's or guardian's permission to do so. The winners from last year's awards were Felicia Ogunleye a local befriender, Bobby Kasanga from Hackney Wick FC and Jenette Collins, co-founder of the Crib, who was nominated for her work with young people.

Please submit your nominations by downloading an application online here and emailing it to [tara.hudson@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:tara.hudson@hackney.gov.uk). Or you can pick up the forms at Hackney Town Hall and libraries across the borough and post it to: Tara Hudson, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street. E8 1EA.

## From old boiler house to new Council homes – Clapton plans approved

Nearly 30 genuinely affordable new Council homes to replace a disused boiler house were given the green light yesterday as Council plans to transform eyesores across Hackney with hundreds of new Council homes gather momentum.

The 26 high quality new Council homes – half for social rent and half for shared ownership – will be built on Pedro Street in Clapton after gaining unanimous approval from the Council's Planning Sub-Committee. The plans include a mix of family and smaller homes to meet the local need in the area, as well as an improved public space linking the homes to Gilpin Square.

This is the latest milestone in the Council's Housing Supply Programme, which is transforming underused land across the borough, after new Council homes to replace vacant garages in Clapton and former Council offices in Haggerston were also approved last month. Overall more than 400 new Council homes will be built at 14 locations on land such as empty car parks and unused depots, with 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 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.

This empty boiler house has long been an eyesore in Clapton, so getting the go ahead to replace it with 100% genuinely affordable new Council homes that prioritise local people and make a big difference to the neighbourhood is win-win for the community. We've worked closely with local residents and councillors to get the design right – an approach we take across the borough as we make the most of our underused land to build the new Council homes we desperately need.

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LGBT History Month Launch at Hackney Museum

Leabridge Ward Meeting

### January 31

Woodberry Down Roundtable

Topping out of 70 new Council Homes at Colville

Meeting with our first cohort of 16-24 year olds in our pre-employment programme

London Digital Meeting

Gender equality: will it take another 100 years? Event at City Hall

### January 30

LGA Equalities Peer Review

Meeting on planning for Purim

#HackneyatHome in Cazenove Ward

### January 29

[Hackney Holocaust Memorial Day](#)

Meeting with Deputy Mayor and Hackney School Governors' Association

### January 28

Lewisham Manifesto Day

Hatzola Fundraiser

### January 27

#HackneyOnTour to Kensington and Chelsea

## Council homes for Council tenants – Colville regeneration reaches new high

Dozens of new Council homes in Shoreditch moved a step closer this month after building work on a landmark Hackney Council regeneration project reached a key milestone.

Construction at the latest phase in the redevelopment of the Colville Estate – which will bring more than 100 new homes – reached its highest point and was marked at a ceremony led by local residents, Mayor of Hackney Philip Glanville, and Higgins Construction.

Seventy of the new homes will be for social rent, offering a high-quality, Council home to existing residents whose decades-old properties were in disrepair.

The development also includes six homes for shared ownership and 40 properties for outright sale – to help pay for the new social housing in the absence of any government funding.

In total, the regeneration of the Colville Estate, which started in 2010, will see 935 new homes and community facilities built to replace ageing buildings uneconomical to repair – with around half for social rent and shared ownership. The first phase of the regeneration saw 41 new Council homes for social rent built at Bridport House, on Bridport Place.

The development is part of the Council's Estate Regeneration Programme, which is building nearly 3,000 homes across the borough during the next ten years, with more than half for social rent and shared ownership.

Under the programme, any affected residents have a guaranteed right to return to a new home at a council social rent.

## National Lottery grant to restore Abney Park one step closer

The borough's most magical park is one step closer to securing around £5million for a major restoration project.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund have announced that Hackney Council and its partners the Abney Park Trust and the Abney Park User Group have been successful in the first round of bidding for money to improve Abney Park Cemetery.

The Council's plans will ensure this well-loved and wild space is conserved in a sustainable way so visitors can enjoy the park for years to come.

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Hackney Cycling Campaign Burns Night

### January 26

Mayor's Advice Surgery

Meeting with LGBTQIA+ community centre group

Mayor of London wider South East Political Summit

Situated in Stamford Hill, Abney Park is one of London's 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries, and contains the oldest surviving non-denominational chapel in Europe. The Chapel has recently been reopened for public access after extensive structural repairs to its roof and stonework last year.

Before applying for funding, the Council asked park users for their thoughts on what improvements they would like to see and developed its plans. The proposals include further restoration work to the Chapel, making entrance gates more accessible, creating space for on-site masonry and a woodworking studio, as well as restoring the park's lodges to create a space for educational projects, a cafe and a forest school.

If successful with a second round application, further restorative work to the Chapel will allow the building to be used for community events such as music concerts and theatre productions. The turret stairs, windows, floors and upstairs seating will be reinstated. These works would see the Chapel removed from the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register.

One of the key elements of the proposal aims to incorporate park maintenance into the visitor experience and allow for even more volunteering opportunities. It is hoped there will be onsite craft studios for stone masons and woodcarvers, who will provide educational workshops, and most important of all assist with the restoration and repair of the park on an ongoing basis.

The two funds, which distribute money raised through the National Lottery require the Council to submit a second-round application to secure the funding the full grant of almost £5million. Just over £314,000 has been awarded up front to help develop the round two bid.

## Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

By the age of 15 Holocaust survivor Manfred Goldberg had been sent to five concentration camps, forced to work as a slave labourer, denied an education and was subject to systematic brutal treatment and starvation.

Against all odds, Manfred survived the Nazi's mission to exterminate the entire Jewish population and other 'undesirables' of Europe. Six million others, including all of his extended family and younger brother did not.

The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was 'The Power of Words' which considers how words can make a difference, both for good and evil. From propaganda and slogans that incite hatred to the testimonies of survivors that inspire systems to change, words have a powerful impact upon those around us.

Born in 1930 Manfred Goldberg now 87, was at first was unable to talk about his traumatic experiences during the war. Now he feels that with the rise of antisemitism it is important for survivors to speak out, so the younger generation can hear first-hand accounts of the Holocaust. During his harrowing personal account he spoke about how the Nazis dehumanised their prisoners. He said: "We even lost our names, all we had was a number for identification. Mine is still deeply ingrained in my mind, 56478. Through it all though, I never lost my determination to survive."

As part of international Holocaust Memorial Day, Hackney came together on Monday 29 January to remember the many victims who suffered during the Nazi's murderous regime and in subsequent genocides around the world.

Alongside Manfred Goldberg's account, pupils from Simon Marks Jewish Primary School and The Olive School Hackney, a Muslim faith school, came together to sing 'Heal the World', and a homage was paid to Hackney based Yiddish singer and scholar, Barry Davis who passed away last year.

There were also a rendition of Prayer (Ernest Bloch) by the SALZ Quartet and moving presentations from local school students including a reading of Primo Levi's 'Shelma' by Darren King, Year 13 at The Urswick School.

After the ceremony the Speaker of Hackney, together with myself and some of the students who had taken part in the ceremony placed flowers at the Holocaust memorial in Hackney Town Hall Square, which contains the apt inscription "Commandment number one of any civilised society is this: let people be different".

## Making Her Mark

In 1918 the first British women gained the right to vote, thanks to the activism of the suffragette movement. But that was just the first step to all women gaining equal rights to vote in 1928. A new exhibition at Hackney Museum reveals the story of women's activism doesn't begin or end there.

From 6 February, visitors can explore 'Making Her Mark: 100 Years of Women's Activism in Hackney' made in collaboration with the East End Women's Museum, and discover the inspiring stories of women who made a difference in the borough and beyond, across issues ranging from education, workers' rights, and healthcare to domestic violence, the peace movement, and police relations.

Sarah Jackson co-founder of the East End Women's Museum said: "Hackney has a very rich history of women's activism across a huge range of issues and we're extremely proud to share these stories of women's courage, creativity, and determination in the borough; from the struggle for the vote to the present day. We hope visitors will leave feeling inspired to challenge injustice and inequality and perhaps with some new ideas to draw on."

The exhibition runs until the 19 May and covers the past century, looking at how local women have brought about change in their community and in wider society through political campaigns, industrial action, peaceful protest, direct action, and the arts.

More details can be found on the Museum website or by calling 020 8356 3500. You can also find out more about the East End Women's Museum and their other projects across East London.

As part of the Council's celebrations to mark the centenary of women's suffrage Hackney residents are being encouraged to nominate inspirational local women. As part of a year-long programme of events, the Council is looking to showcase 100 Hackney women who are driving change and making a difference in their community, and is asking residents to send in nominations. The Council has also produced a special, limited edition badge that celebrates Hackney Women which will be given out throughout the year, this will be given out to those who make nominations and at various Council events.

You can find out more here: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/making-her-mark/>

## Celebrating Hackney women

Hackney residents are being encouraged to nominate inspirational local women as part of the Council's celebrations to mark the centenary of women's suffrage.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act 1918 which extended the vote to some women for the first time in the UK. The Act gave women over the age of 30 the right to vote and paved the way for universal suffrage 10 years later when women won equal voting rights to men.

Throughout the year, Hackney Council will be celebrating the achievements of local women, past and present, and the contribution they make to our communities through various events and exhibitions. As part of the year-long programme of events, the Council is looking to showcase 100 Hackney women who are driving change and making a difference in

their community, and is asking residents to send in nominations. The Council has also produced a special, limited edition badge that celebrates Hackney Women which will be given out throughout the year.

Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Equalities spoke about the launch:

“Our society would be a very different place if women had not fought for their right to vote 100 years ago. We have come so far since then, but still have a long way to go and by remembering their achievements and shining a light on the women making a difference in our communities today, we can continue to push for equality and a fair representation of women across all institutions and in all aspects of our community.”

Across the UK, women still face a struggle for gender equality, whether it’s in regard to pay, education, civic representation or safety. Only 29 per cent of parliamentarians are women, and out of all of the FTSE 100 companies only seven are led by women. Nationally, for every £1 a man earns women earn just 81p, and one in four women will experience domestic violence at some point in their lives.

Cllr Williams continued: “We know there are local women helping to combat inequality who often go under the radar, which is why we want to showcase them throughout this year to inspire, empower and drive further change. We need our residents to nominate their female inspiration – past or present – to help us truly capture the breadth of the great work and achievements of women across the whole borough.”

Nominees should live or work in Hackney and be driving change in their community. For example they could be:

- Women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM)
- Young leaders
- Community volunteers
- Equality campaigners, including LGBTQI+, disability rights, race and discrimination
- Those helping to end violence against women
- Arts and culture, including writers, poets, spoken word artists, directors
- Sportswomen
- Women in public life, including politicians and business leaders
- Women in public services, including the police force, fire brigade and NHS staff

The Council will be collecting nominations until November 2018. All nominations should include a photograph of the nominee with at least 150 words explaining why they should be celebrated as part of the 100 Hackney women.

Nominations can be made online at [www.hackney.gov.uk/hackney-women](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/hackney-women), emailed to [tara.hudson@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:tara.hudson@hackney.gov.uk) or posted to: Tara Hudson, Communications, Culture and Engagement, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, E8 1EA.

All nominations will be considered by a panel of judges and announced in December.

## Youth voice report launched in Hackney Town Hall

Young people and local organisations joined Mayor Philip Glanville and senior councillors at Hackney Town Hall on Thursday 8 February to launch the report ‘Hackney Wick Through Young Eyes’. The report aims to give a platform to the concerns, thoughts and ideas of young people in order to effect positive change in the borough.

Hackney Wick is the most deprived of Hackney’s 21 wards and is within the top 5 percent of the most deprived wards in England. There is a particularly high number of young people living there, over 26 percent of Hackney Wick is aged under 19. The report specifically targeted these young people, asking them what they value, the problems they face and the changes they want to see. The report offers eight recommendations ranging from better employment opportunities locally to more community events that could encourage an intergenerational exchange.



Luke Billingham, 26, from Hackney Quest, and lead on the Hackney Wick Youth Voice project said: "I'm delighted that we have launched our 'Hackney Wick Through Young Eyes' report. The report highlights that there are many things young people love about Hackney Wick, but also that they face major issues in the area, which need to be addressed. Having grown up in Hackney Wick myself, I'm keen to ensure that our recommendations are acted upon. We welcome any comments or feedback anyone may have on the report, or any ideas for addressing the issues it describes - especially from young people!"

Over 65 people attended the report launch, comprising council staff, business leaders and local voluntary groups. The event included speeches from young people from Hackney Wick followed by interactive theme-based discussions covering; mental health and schools, youth crime, housing, youth provision, employment and regeneration.

It is imperative that we give young people a real platform to share their voice and ideas. This report gives a deep insight how life in the borough is perceived and experienced by our young population. This alongside our other work empowering young people through such things like youth parliament, the young speaker programme and youth opportunity fund, gives us the tools and inputs we need as a Council to ensure genuine changes and a positive future for all Hackney residents. Today I pledged that not only will the Council publish a full written response, but it will deliver on the ground in Hackney Wick a meaningful response to these important challenges.

Hackney Wick Through Young Eyes was researched by Hackney Quest and funded by The Wick Award through the National Lottery "Big Local" initiative. Read the report in full online at [bit.do/hackneywickyv](http://bit.do/hackneywickyv). You can also find out more information by contacting Luke via [luke@hackneyquest.org.uk](mailto:luke@hackneyquest.org.uk) or 020 8533 5480.

## **Hackney first local authority to receive accreditation for in-house PGDIP Systemic training in Children's social care**

Child protection and safeguarding are some of the most important things we do as a local authority, and this course is about enabling our staff to work effectively with our most vulnerable children, young people and their families in our diverse borough. Hackney Council has become the first local authority in the country, to receive accreditation for its postgraduate training in Systemic Theory and Practice within Children's Social Care (Year 1).

The Council's in-house postgraduate course has been accredited by the Association of Family Therapy and Systemic Practice (AFT), in a major milestone for the Council's innovative work in embedding systemic practice across its Children and Families Service.

Systemic social work practice aims to support families and young people to build their capacity to address their own problems more effectively, using collaborative approach. This involves working with key relationships in a child or young person's life and building on these to ensure that they are supportive, helpful and safe.

Systemic approaches are also about seeing and understanding children in the context of their families and in the context of their broader systems, for example schools, peer-groups, wider community, contact with professional agencies and social factors that impact on them, such as poverty, migration, violence and crime. This approach has proven to be effective in improving safeguarding outcomes for children and young people\*. A recent government evaluation of the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme recommended that national policy should support systemic social work.\*\*

The course aims to support staff to develop a high standard of Systemic Social Work practice, with a specific focus on power, inequality and socio-cultural differences in work with families. Trainees are equipped with extensive skills in the application of Systemic Theory into day-to-day practice and learn how to use these when working with some of the most vulnerable children, young people and their families.

Shaba Dachi, is one of the first group of graduates to have received their certificates in a special ceremony at Hackney Town Hall.

He said: "Being able to participate in the training at Hackney Council was an excellent opportunity for development. I have been able to build on my existing knowledge of some concepts, as the course examines the origin, theory and detail of systemic theory and practice. The course tutors also enabled to understand how I can to apply this in my day to day practice. It has really changed the way I think about social work practice in the context of the families I work with.

"As practitioners we are encouraged and challenged to think about the power dynamics of our role in certain situations. Working to a strengths based model changes the way we work through difficulties in each case. I am really pleased to have achieved this."

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor of Hackney and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, who presented the certificates, said:

"Hackney has a proud tradition of leading the way when it comes to innovation in social care, so we're delighted to be the first local authority nationally to receive official accreditation for this important training for children's social workers. I am really pleased to have presented the certificates to our first cohort of graduates."

## Response to Government's announcement on letting agent fees

Responding to the publication of the government's draft bill on letting fees, Cllr Sem Moema, Hackney Council's Mayoral Advisor for Private Renting and Housing Affordability, said:

"We welcome today's step forward in finally implementing a letting fee ban, following years of pressure from councils like Hackney.

"Through our #BetterRenting campaign we launched our own voluntary ban earlier this year, with an overwhelmingly positive response from responsible letting agents, landlords, and the renters who are too often forced to pay extortionate and unwarranted charges.

"While this legislation does address some issues, the proposals still don't go far enough in creating a simple, transparent and fair system for renters - requiring them to go through a convoluted County Court process to reclaim unlawful fees, rather than placing legal obligations on letting agents to repay the fee or face a fine.

"And Hackney's 30,000 private renters will rightly question whether capping deposits at six weeks' rent – upwards of £2,500 for a two bedroom property in the borough – will really create the "housing market that works for everyone" which the Communities Secretary describes. The Government must now take on board views from parliament and ensure the letting fee ban is implemented as quickly as possible without further watering down. Renters have already waited long enough."

The draft Tenant Fees Bill was introduced to Parliament today (1 November 2017), setting out the government's approach to banning letting fees for tenants. Hackney Council has campaigned for the ban as part of the #BetterRenting campaign, including implementing its own voluntary scheme to scrap letting agent fees for tenants.

## Hackney Council Budget

Managing a council budget is no simple task, but setting this year's budget has been the toughest in many years.

Hackney is a fantastic place to live. We have stunning green spaces, a world-famous cultural offer, a strong community spirit, some of the best schools in the country, and we're working hard to make sure that every resident can access the opportunities created by the growth in our local economy.

I'm proud of the excellent services the Council provides, but it's getting harder and harder to fund them.

This Council has a strong financial track record but seven years of Government cuts are taking their toll on public services. More and more people are turning to councils for support, and there's less and less money available to help them.

Our Government grant has shrunk from £310m in 2010 to £180m this year – and by 2019/20 it is expected to be just £170m - a cut of 45%. Per head of population we have seen the biggest funding cut of any London borough at £512.

We've already taken steps to save money without reducing services, like cutting our management bill from £18.4m to £9.7m, and other back office efficiencies which saved £40m. We're now at the stage where we're running out of such options.

As well as slashed budgets, welfare reform and the rising cost of housing is driving up demand for services for some of our more vulnerable residents, so it's no surprise that the areas where pressures are felt most acutely in Hackney are children's services, adult social care and temporary accommodation.

In spite of these funding reductions, increasing demands and cost pressures, this year's budget will continue to sustain and deliver the vital services the Council provides and on which the most vulnerable residents rely.

We're having to think outside the box in order to deliver new, much-needed facilities. For example, the Britannia project, which will see an improved leisure centre replace the crumbling existing one, a new secondary school council housing for social rent and shared ownership, will be funded by the sale of new homes also built on the site.

We have looked at how we use our buildings and services, by renting them out and marketing commercial services to make money that can be invested directly into services. For example, last year staff moved out of Keltan House, and the building is now being rented out to a workspace provider, generating over £1.2m a year.

Our approach aims to bring together three areas of economic development – access to employment and opportunities; place based economic development; and improving the Council's relationship with business.

Access to employment and opportunities remains one of my key priorities and ensuring that economic growth creates real, meaningful and high quality employment opportunities is at the heart of everything the Council is doing.

Our overarching aim is to provide residents with a range of different employment pathways including work placements, volunteering, apprenticeships and ring-fenced job opportunities.

We continue to work with health colleagues to improve services around physical and mental and make best use of scarce resources through close working arrangements and progressing our innovative integrated commissioning model.

In 2018/19, Hackney's Council Tax will go up by three per cent. This increase would see Band D payments rise by 60p a week but would raise around £2.2m.

Increasing Council Tax isn't an easy decision; I know the rising cost of living and worsening housing crisis continue to affect us all, but this extra contribution will help fund services like social care, looked after children, day care, streetscene and meeting some of the costs of housing those in need.

We are known as a campaigning Council and will keep doing all we can to make Hackney's voice heard in Westminster. We've worked hard to put our case to the Government and make them understand the pressure we're under. From our

Foot The Bill campaign, calling for the return of 200 police officers, to our campaigns against school funding cuts, we will continue to fight for the whole of our borough.

The Chancellor responded to the extensive campaigning of this Council, and the actions of others, to support our businesses which were facing large increases in rates following the Government's national revaluations, which hit Hackney harder than any London borough.

He introduced various reliefs for smaller properties which were much-needed and welcome. However, the support is only temporary assistance and the ongoing impact of the revaluation could seriously undermine future potential economic growth in Hackney which has been substantial in recent years.

Despite the challenges, Hackney remains a place to be proud of. We're investing £500m in building 3,000 homes, we have libraries, our museum and youth services that are the envy of London, and by working as a community we are able to produce a rich cultural programme to bring residents from all walks of life together.

Overall we have a Capital Programme for 2018-19 that will invest £17.5m in our public realm, £4.8m in our parks and £5.8m in our maintained schools.

This budget is true to our values. It seeks to make the most of our increasingly limited resources while prioritising frontline services and helps us keep exploring innovative ways to raise income.

This budget, like all our budgets since 2010, doesn't just manage decline in an era of austerity, but invests resources in sustaining the services, protecting support for the most vulnerable and being ambitious about the future of Hackney and the residents we serve. It is in that context that we recommend it to Cabinet and Full Council.

We will be running various pieces of communications around the budget, including an anti-austerity campaign around the borough, to read more about the budget please visit:

<http://mginternet.hackney.gov.uk/documents/s59419/201819BudgetReport0902.pdf>

We also published our first Gender Pay Gap report:

<http://mginternet.hackney.gov.uk/documents/s59415/Council%20report%20gender%20pay%20gap.pdf>

## Britannia Update and Labour Group Decision

Last month two motions asking for a moratorium on the Britannia development were passed at Hackney North and South, I said at the meeting in the South I would reflect on the decision. I did that and took a paper back to the Labour Group asking them to consider the motions and their previous decision in March 2017 to agree the project, which was taken forward by the Council's Cabinet in April 2017 both decisions took place after extensive local consultation. I am pleased to say that Group re-endorsed their decision and agreed that the project can continue. I realise there are a diverse range of views on this issue and re-produce the arguments below. Since the CLP meetings we have updated the Council's Britannia pages, improving the level of information available, in the coming weeks more information will be distributed to the local community, key stakeholders and in Hackney Today: <https://www.hackney.gov.uk/britannia-site>

This is a project led by the Council, not a public/private partnership nor developer led, with architectural teams commissioned by us to a brief set out by us. It is owned from start to finish by the Council for the people of Hackney with any additional resources generated by the scheme being recycled into it or into more affordable housing. It is municipal socialism and municipal entrepreneurialism working side by side to deliver new council facilities for one of the most deprived parts of the borough.

While we may be closer to a Labour Government than at any time since 2015, that doesn't mean we can wait to act and not invest in the borough's future. If we had done so since 2010, we wouldn't have started our Council House building programme nor sort to invest in new primary school places, both funded by the cross subsidy delivered by the sale of private homes. Nearly 300 households now live in modern, well designed Council homes because we said we wouldn't wait and instead invested in Council housing, at a time when many said it couldn't be done, the same principle applies at Britannia.

Our experience in building new homes, schools, and investing in Hackney's future gives us the strong foundations to respond to ongoing austerity continuing to deliver hope for our residents in the toughest of times; equally when there is a Labour Government we have the teams, skills, projects and knowledge to harness any new resources and do even more. We not only have the ambition to invest in public housing and services, but the record of delivery something not available to every local council and something a future Labour Government will need.

### **Britannia Leisure Centre: Key Facts**

The new Britannia Council Leisure Centre will deliver:

- 6 lane, 25m main pool with moveable floor for swimming lessons and other classes
- 20m x 10m training pool with moveable floor
- Leisure water with water features and a flume
- Café (also serving Park users)
- 6 court sports hall including storage
- Crèche
- Sauna & Steam room
- A larger fitness suite, spin studio and exercise studios
- 4 squash courts
- 2 five aside pitches and 2 tennis courts (on the roof)

The council intends to build the new facility on the existing hardcourts on Pitfield Street. Entrance to the new centre will be via the new public square on the corner of Pitfield Street and Grange Street that also functions as an improved entry point to Shoreditch Park. This space has been designed to be safe, welcoming and open to all residents.

The council has committed that the existing facility will only close to the public when the new Britannia facility is up and running (if not phased) so there is no disruption to existing leisure centre users.

GLL/Better will continue to operate the new Britannia and as a public facility it will be open to all members of the community. Despite claims, the centre will not give priority to new residents in the adjacent development nor the new school which will have its own facilities.

The pricing regimes for the new centre will set by the council and be similar to the existing facility and our other facilities in the borough. Currently there is no lane swimming at Britannia with the nearest facilities either outside of the borough at the Lido or Clissold Leisure Centre.

The design of the new leisure centre has been extensively consulted on and preserve the much loved family friendly facilities, updates them as well creating more swimming and wider leisure facilities.

### **Why not refurbish the existing facility?**

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 centre is nearly 40 years old and in a deteriorating condition that will only get worse. The estimated cost of refurbishment is approximately £13.5/£14-£17m for refurbishment, or over £5m to bring the centre to a reasonable state of repair. Neither of these options are truly viable

To refurbish throughout would require the Leisure Centre to close for 18-24 months and would not create a modern, energy efficient facility. The costs of bringing the Leisure Centre back into a 'reasonable' state of repair would only extend the life of the existing building and there would be no significant improvements to the building. This means the type and scale of the facilities would remain exactly the same.

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, we have publicly committed to this position – such as within Hackney Today - providing an additional element of security.

The proposals would replace the existing facilities but to a higher quality and more modern standard and increase the number of the facilities (lane swimming etc) on offer to the local community. This is an investment that will meet the needs and aspirations of current users as well as prospective ones.

### **The need for new Secondary School places in Hackney**

Hackney needs an additional 1650 school places by 2021 to keep pace with demographic demand and parental choice. The new school, The City of London Shoreditch Park Academy, will help meet this demand. We would not take forward ambitious plans to build not one, but possibly 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.

This new secondary school when fully open will provide places for 1100 local pupils, 900 11-16 year old places plus 200 places for sixth form students and will focus on music and performing arts curriculum.

The new school is run by the City of London Academy Trust who is an existing, highly respected and successful provider, with whom Hackney Council has an excellent partnership. The City of London Academy schools have a strong academic record in the borough, with 89% City of London Academy Hackney students achieving 5 or more GCSE A\*-C grades and 82% achieving 5 or more A\*-C grades incl. English & Maths (vs. 67% national average).

Importantly, the school follows Hackney's standard admissions policy, so that priority is given to pupils who live closest to the site and local 'feeder' primary schools. The new secondary school will also have its own sports facilities so it will not need to rely on the new leisure centre for sports classes. It will offer sports clubs all year round, alongside training sessions for the academy's competitive squads before and after school.

The school is since September 2017 now open on a temporary site near Haggerston Park and was oversubscribed last year and is expected to be oversubscribed again.

#### **New homes are needed to finance the scheme**

The new private for sale homes deliver the finance that enables the social infrastructure element of the project (the new council leisure centre and school) and the genuinely affordable council homes. Without it, the Council wouldn't be able to deliver this project.

The new homes include:

- 400 private for sale homes to part finance the project. Most of these will not be built until the new leisure centre is complete, school open and the existing Britannia is demolished.
- 80 genuinely affordable homes to be delivered in the first residential phase of the development. The housing will be owned and managed by the Council and is expected to be a combination of 60% council social rent and 40% council shared ownership.

The new homes will delivered in 16, 25, 19 Storeys residential towers as well as some lower rise blocks and streets. This is substantially lower than the towers in the original scoping documents and feasibility studies. Hackney has committed publically to a 'local first' policy with restrictions on when (and how many) sales can go to international investors, backed up by local sales and marketing strategies.

Frankly, '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 still likely to be many 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.

### **Record of consultation and engagement**

A full consultation was conducted in 2016/17 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, information posters and banners have been posted in the local ward and more than 20 public meetings have been conducted involving residents, centre users, campaigners and civic groups.

Throughout the project development stage, information on the consultation process and progress on the proposals, as well as copies of various collateral, have been uploaded to the project webpage (<https://hackney.gov.uk/britannia-site>) for the public to view.

To date; available information includes:

- Background to the project;
- The Cabinet papers on its decision to proceed with the project (April 2017);
- Key technical documents such as the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping report (November 2017);
- Notices of public events such as consultation events, the community workshops and pre-app committee;
- Feedback reports on community input into the project design;
- Information on the appointed project teams and links to their own work;
- How to contact the project team; and
- The proposed timelines for the project.

The Britannia webpage has been reviewed in the last few weeks and further documentation (such as the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping report) and web links added to ensure all the available information is available in one place, for maximum transparency and in response to requests from residents and myself. I can only apologise that it wasn't seen as a hub for all our detailed public facing documents and it will be going forward.



In addition to this, other channels have been used by the team to communicate various events and progress of the project. This includes articles in Hackney Today, which is distributed 108,000 properties across the borough, Hackney Gazette and twitter.

In addition, there were extensive discussions at the April 2017 Cabinet Meeting when the decision to proceed was taken and I attended the 'Save the Britannia' Campaign Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **Forward Timeline:**

- Further leaflets, articles and drop ins as part of the pre-application process
- Spring 2018 Planning application submitted
- Spring/Summer 2019 main construction works expected to start (there may be some enabling works before this), leisure project is likely to be first on site; the school will follow slightly afterwards

#### **Impact of the development**

By building a 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

All the residential development will be on the north side of the park having no impact on light levels in the park nor will they overshadow it.

#### **Financial Risks**

There are always risks associated with any development scheme. The Group Director of Finance and project team regularly 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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.](#)

At every gateway stage of the project all the financial information and risks underpinning the project will be assessed and decisions taken to proceed. The private sale homes will not start on site until at least 2021, so won't be sold until 2022 at the earliest, so while current market data and assumptions are useful they aren't the only consideration. We are very cautious in our assumptions about sales risk, inflation and construction costs across all Council projects.

#### **Impact of delaying the planning application**

Should the programme be delayed by two to three months, it is unlikely the project would be heard at planning committee until 2019. This would jeopardize the school handover date in July 2021, and significantly compromise the school's ability to open in its new facilities for the new academic year (with an earliest revised programme handover of end September 2021).

The current temporary school in Haggerston is able to accommodate 540 pupils (3 year groups of 180 pupils). The current programme for the permanent school anticipates a handover date of 29 July 2021, and any significant delay to this will require the school to remain in its current temporary accommodation for one additional year until July 2022. If this was the case, additional temporary accommodation would also need to be provided, or pupils would need to be placed in other secondary schools which would likely require increasing class size ('bulge classes').

To date, £5.5m has been spent on the project since feasibility, with most of this since Group and Cabinet took the decision to proceed. The cost impacts of delaying the scheme are difficult to assess; however, abortive/nugatory costs would be likely to be incurred across the various teams.

Despite seven years of biting austerity, I am extremely proud of our continued commitment to building housing, state of the art leisure centres and first class schools for the people of Hackney and that is why this project is so important and continues to feature in the manifesto.

### **Motions (with comment)**

Hackney South and Shoreditch Motion:

Britannia Leisure Centre

This CLP expresses its concern over the proposed demolition of Britannia Leisure Centre and redevelopment of the site. Our concerns include:

- the loss of a popular, fully functioning, well-used leisure centre with no certainty about its replacement; **Not true, we have been clear there will be no break in leisure facilities and about the quality of its replacement. At no point has this been acknowledged by opposing campaigners.**
- the proposed construction of 400 luxury dwellings (including three tower blocks 24 storeys high) which will not meet the housing needs of local people and are likely to be sold as an investment or 'pied a terre', driving up rents locally for homes and businesses and forcing people out of the area; **Not true, early feasibility studies showed a range of heights, but these are clearly now much lower and we have worked hard to ensure that the concerns of residents were incorporated. We are also committed to a local sales and marketing strategy. These points have never been acknowledged by opposing campaigners.**
- 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; **Not true see above.**
- 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; **Not true see above, and the case for the need for school places have been made, all other suitable sites in the Council's ownership were considered.**

- 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. **We closely monitor the risks as set out above.**

We therefore call for a moratorium with full disclosure of all relevant information from the Britannia Development Board, including minutes of their meetings with a view to further public consultation.

### **Hackney North and Stoke Newington Motion**

#### **BRITANNIA LEISURE CENTRE**

This Labour Party ward expresses its concern over the proposed demolition of Britannia Leisure Centre and redevelopment of the site. Our concerns include:

- the loss of a popular, fully functioning, well-used leisure centre with no certainty about its replacement;
- the proposed construction of 400 luxury dwellings (including three tower blocks 24 storeys high) which will not meet the housing needs of local people and are likely to be sold as an investment or 'pied a terre', driving up rents locally for homes and businesses and forcing people out of the area;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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.

We therefore call for a moratorium on the development plans for the Britannia site.

### **Consultations and campaigns:**

#### **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/>

## **Future Shoreditch**

Take a look at the Future Shoreditch Issues & Options document and tell us what you think by completing this questionnaire. The document is available to view at various libraries and council offices and online at [www.hackney.gov.uk/future-shoreditch](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/future-shoreditch). Details of the relevant sections of the document are included with each question.

## **Previous Motions and policy updates**

### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

## Manifesto Update

The manifesto has now been agreed by Labour Group and will now be designed up, thanks to everyone who took part in the process at every stage and we will be sharing it with all members soon. **Look out for an invite to the launch in late November.**

## Visiting, speaking and reporting back to branch Labour Parties

I'm visiting 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](mailto: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, Brownswood and Leabridge Party Meetings. That's 14 branches as well as to Hackney Momentum and the Coop party meetings.