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## Mayor's Report April to June 2017

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### Philip Glanville Labour Mayor of Hackney

Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, E8 1EA Tel: 020 8356 3220

[www.hackney-labour.org.uk](http://www.hackney-labour.org.uk) / [philip.glanville@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:philip.glanville@hackney.gov.uk)

Twitter: [MayorofHackney](#) or [PhilipGlanville](#) / Facebook: [PhilForHackney](#)

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Dear Member,

Welcome to my April to June Mayor's Report.

The past couple of months have been dominated by a series of tragic events that have had a significant impact on the country, London and Hackney. The four terrorist attacks in Westminster, Manchester, London Bridge and Finsbury Park as well as and the dreadful fire at Grenfell Tower have affected us all and they continue to have an impact on Hackney (more info towards the end of my report). Our thoughts remain with those that lost their lives, the families left behind especially those who knew Hackney resident James McMullen murdered at London Bridge, and the survivors who are slowly rebuilding their lives. I pay tribute to the emergency services and others who have rushed immediately to help and assist those affected. The Council has joined in the national mourning, coordinated our community response, worked with the police to keep Hackney safe and we continue to respond to the challenges raised by these awful events.

We also had a General Election where Labour members from across Hackney made an incredible contribution as individuals, joined me as part of #HackneyonTour and in re-electing our fantastic MPs Diane Abbott and Meg Hillier with such big majorities and winning so many marginal seats across London. As the Queen's Speech yesterday showed the Tories have no mandate, a weak Prime Minister and are out of ideas, we must continue to keep up the pressure on the issues that matter to Hackney and support Jeremy and the shadow front bench as they hold the Tories to account.

To finish on a positive note, last week weekend we saw an incredible turnout across the borough for #MoreinCommon events in memory of Jo Cox. I attended six, including Hackney North's picnic, together they showed Hackney at our very best and I'd like to thank everyone who took part.

Best wishes,



### Mayor's Diary Highlights

#### June 22

Visited Kings Crescent Estate

Hosted a meeting of Hackney BAME Housing Associations

Hackney South and Shoreditch Annual General Meeting

#### June 21

Had my first safe cycling lesson with the Council's cycle training programme

Met with LLDC to discuss Hackney Wick Masterplan with Cllr Nicholson

#### June 20

Met with Britannia Architects: Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

Met with McLaren Corporate Responsibility Team and Cllr Bramble

Hosted Faith and Community Forum Meeting and vigil for victims of Finsbury Park Attack

Hackney Labour Group

## Joint statement on the Finsbury Park attack

Myself and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement, Cllr Caroline Selman responded in a joint statement on the tragic events in Finsbury Park in Islington at the start of this week:

“This morning, we were shocked to hear of the appalling overnight events in Finsbury Park, where Londoners were attacked after leaving evening prayers. Our deepest sympathies and thoughts go out to all those affected by the attack.

“We’re doing all we can to work with the police, community leaders and our partners across the borough to make sure that our residents are free to live as they choose.

“Over the coming days, extra police officers will be patrolling the city, and, this morning, we have re-tasked Council CCTV and enforcement officers to provide additional support to places of worship and cultural centres in the borough.

“London and Hackney are brilliant, diverse places, where people from all backgrounds – different nationalities, religions and sexualities – share streets, schools, parks, halls, workplaces and, crucially, our common values of tolerance and respect.

“Just this weekend, with More in Common and Great Get Together events taking place across the borough, and nationwide, we celebrated Hackney’s diversity. We both attended several of these, including at Hackney Community College, Shoreditch Park and at Woodberry Down, not far from last night’s attack. Each one of these events proved that the spirit of Hackney, where we share and celebrate each other’s diversity, won’t be broken.

“We owe it to those affected by last night’s attack, and other recent events, to ensure that our borough and capital remains the special, welcoming place that it is.”

We followed up this statement with a minutes silence for the victims of the Finsbury Park Attack and Grenfell Tower at Monday’s Cabinet Meeting, attended a Hackney Unites meeting afterwards before heading to the impromptu vigil at Finsbury Park Mosque. We worked with the police and our Community Safety team to ensure that there was a visible presence at our local mosques especially at prayer time.

On Tuesday, we organised a multi-faith vigil at the Town Hall followed by a discussion on what more the Council, community organisations can do to support each other at this difficult time. This work will continue as we develop our new Hate Crime Strategy and Voluntary Sector Strategies in the coming months.

### June 19

Met with leaders of Waltham Forrest and Newham to discuss the future of the LLDC

Hackney Cabinet and minutes silence

Attended Hackney Unites meeting and Finsbury Park Mosque Vigil.

### June 18

More in Common Get Together in King’s Park and Hackney North’s picnic at Clissold Park

### June 17

Hackney Unites More in Common Event at Hackney Community College

Colville Big Lunch in Shoreditch Park

Woodberry Down Funday

### June 16

Hosted a pan London discussion on ICT cooperation

Hackney LGBTQI+ Plus Business Network Launch in Dalston

Dialogue Society Hackney Town Hall Iftar and More in Common Event

### June 15

Meeting with Hackney and Austin Sister Cities group

Hackney Pirates Event

Labour Campaigns Forum

### June 14

Meeting of Labour Housing Leads

Tech Week – Tech Off Event at Cargo

## Hackney marks carers week 2017

Carers Week saw Hackney celebrate the work of thousands of local people caring for their loved ones through a series of events, including a well-being day, carers' rights workshop and lunchtime seminars.

There are around 18,000 people living in Hackney who provide unpaid care for their families or loved ones, providing different levels of unpaid care and support each week to a friend, neighbour or relative because of illness or old age.

3 in 4 carers don't feel like their caring role is understood or valued by their community, Hackney Council and the City and Hackney Carer's Centre (CHCC), are working with the local community to increase awareness of the valuable work carers do for society, while offering support for carers.

Many carers in the borough are not accessing support that is on offer through the City and Hackney Carer's Centre, which can have a big impact on improving the lives of carers. Support, help and advice is available for carers every day. The support on offer has been a lifeline for some of the borough's unsung caring heroes.

"Cllr Jonathan McShane, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Devolution Hackney is committed to improving services for carers, and to valuing their important role. We work with partners such as the Carers Centre all year round to support Hackney's carers to look after their loved ones, while recognising they are individuals with needs of their own. I strongly urge carers to contact the carers centre to find out more about the support on offer."

The CHCC can help carers learn about their rights, meet other like-minded people and have some time out for rest and relaxation. For any local resident providing care for someone they can also get a carer's assessment to discuss the help they may need by contacting the carers centre by emailing: [CCSAdmin@hackneycarers.org.uk](mailto:CCSAdmin@hackneycarers.org.uk).

For more information about services, local support groups and carers rights visit: [www.hackney.gov.uk/carers](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/carers).

## Hackney Council marks Clean Air Day

Hackney Council marked Clean Air Day by showing off its ever-expanding electric vehicle fleet.

By April 2018, the Council will be using over 40 electric vehicles, ranging from pool vehicles used by street engineers, vans used by maintenance teams, buggies for parks staff and mobile community library vans.

### June 13

Meeting with the NUT and Unison on SENCOs with Cllr Bramble

Reopening of Hackney Town Hall Event

### June 8

General Election Campaigning in Ilford North, Hackney Victory Party and Hackney Count

### June 7

Campaigning in Ealing Central and Acton, Brentford and Isleworth, and Eltham

### June 6

Minutes silence for London Bridge

### June 5

Mossbourne Riverside Academy Opening

Mayor of London Vigil at City Hall

### June 3

Campaigning in Hove

### June 1

Corporate Induction for new Hackney Staff

### May 31

Hackney Senior Management Team and Cabinet Awayday

Campaigning in Hackney Downs

The Council also has a number of pool bikes and cargo bikes that are used by staff to cycle around the borough.

“Cllr Feryal Demirci, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Transport and Parks  
Air pollution is a problem that we’re doing all we can to tackle, and this includes replacing diesel vehicles with electric ones in our fleet.

We’re also increasing the size of electric vehicle charging points across the borough, which means that more residents will have easy access to low emissions charging.”

The expansion of the electric vehicle charging network, which has seen the number of charging points in Hackney increase from 16 at 12 locations to 46 at 23 locations, reaffirms the Council’s commitment to improving London’s air quality. It’s the Council’s ambition that, from 2025, all households in Hackney will be less than 500 metres from a vehicle charging point.

Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets councils have also partnered with the Zero Emissions Network to launch a new ‘parklet’ on Calvert Avenue on the city fringe, which replaces two car parking spaces with seating, cycle parking and greenery.

The parklet was opened today by Cllr Feryal Demirci, Cllr Claudia Webb, Islington Council’s Executive Member for Environment and Transport, and Cllr Rachel Blake, Tower Hamlets’ Cabinet Member for Strategic Development and Waste. It will be maintained by gardeners from the Shoreditch Crypt Trust, who are recovering from addiction and homelessness.

Businesses, delivery riders and local food businesses in Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets are also being encouraged to go electric. They can access grants from the Zero Emissions Network to go towards electric vans and scooters, cargo bikes and even showers!

## New school street: Crondall Street to close to traffic at school pick up and drop off times

The road outside a Hackney primary school will close to traffic in the mornings and afternoons to cut pollution and make it safer and easier for children to walk and cycle to school. Parents and local residents supported the proposals for Crondall Street, by St John the Baptist Primary School, in a recent consultation.

From 26 June Crondall Street will be a pedestrian and cyclist only zone between 8.30am - 9.15am and 3.15pm – 4:00pm during term time. People who live on Crondall Street will be able to enter and exit the street by car if their vehicle is registered. Non-registered vehicles entering the street during the times of operation will be identified by camera and issued a fixed penalty notice. To find our more click here: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/crondall-street/>

### May 30

Campaigning in De Beauvoir

### May 29

Campaigning in Slough

### May 28

Campaigning in Hendon

### May 27

Hosted Jeremy Corbyn and Meg Hillier at Hackney Marshes

Campaigning in Dagenham and Rainham

### May 26

Mayor’s Advice Surgery

Meeting with Hackney Citizens Leadership Team

Fair Funding for Schools Daubeney Fields Campaign Event

### May 25

Shoreditch Trust Board Meeting

Speaker’s Charity Cricket Match

### May 24

Meeting with the GLA and Tower Hamlets on Bishopsgate Development

Hackney Council AGM and Mayor’s Civic Awards

### May 23

Housing Development Board

LLDC Board

## Hackney Pride 365 Festival launches

The rainbow flag will fly for the first time ever over Hackney Town Hall next month as the Council launches the Hackney Pride 365 festival to celebrate the borough's historic, diverse and boundary-breaking LGBTQI+ community.

The festival will run all year round, with community-led events that include everything from gardening clubs to club nights at some of Hackney's most well-loved venues and outdoor spaces.

Expect a summer gala, family picnic, fashion show, film screenings, history walks, business network, with many more grassroots events expected to be announced over the coming year as part of the festival.

Hackney is a creative, radical, and most of all diverse place with a history of tolerance that has fostered community cohesion where people from all walks of life, of different genders, sexualities and backgrounds can come together.

The Hackney Pride 365 festival aims to celebrate that tolerance and diversity every single day of the year, remembering past, often hard-won victories as well as celebrating the range of communities who live in our borough today.

As well as celebrations in the borough, Hackney will also be taking part in the Pride in London parade on Saturday, 8 July, with 150 people – the borough's biggest contingent ever – marching in solidarity to support equality and rights for LGBTQI+ people in Hackney and across the globe.

Council staff, local LGBTQI+ businesses, charities, community and youth groups will walk alongside Hackney's float for this year – a Council bin lorry – complete with rainbow flag touting waste operatives, whose message will be: don't trash love.

As well as events, a key objective of this year's festival will be to ask the community to help address a gap in Hackney Museum's collection of records, artefacts and first person narratives that capture the borough's fascinating and not-to-be forgotten LGBTQI+ history. This project has already begun with 10 residents trained to collect oral histories, and first person narratives already collected.

The festival also aims to be a call to action, bringing together the local community to inspire new collaborations in future years. The events programmed so far, were developed from over 100 suggestions submitted by residents and activists who attended a launch event for LGBT History Month in February this year.

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### May 22

Hackney Cabinet Awayday

### May 21

Campaigning in Shoreditch

Meeting with Italian Expats

### May 20

Campaigning in Harrow West

### May 19

London Councils Labour Group  
Campaigning in Ilford North and  
Enfield North

Alter Ego and Discover Young Hackney  
Talent Show at the Hackney Empire

### May 18

Visit to Principle Place (new Amazon  
HQ) in Shoreditch

Hackney North Fundraiser

### May 17

Meeting with Cllr McShane and St  
Joseph's Hospice

LGBT Labour Fundraiser

### May 16

Hackney Labour Group AGM

### May 15

ECD Board

Texryte House Public Meeting with  
Family Mosaic

### May 14

Aziziye Mosque Open Day

People with ideas about events, or who would like to host something, or start a project as part of Hackney Pride 365, can e-mail: [tara.hudson@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:tara.hudson@hackney.gov.uk); or call: 020 8356 3261.

To help Hackney Museum build its LBGQTQI+ history collection, people can donate personal records and artefacts, or share memories via the museum's Historypin page. For more info, visit: [www.hackney.gov.uk/museum-projects](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/museum-projects)

Keep up-to-date, sign up to events, and find out more about Hackney Pride 365 by following: [www.facebook.com/hackneypride365](https://www.facebook.com/hackneypride365); or visit: [www.hackney.gov.uk/lgbt](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/lgbt).

## Hackney celebrates its heroes with Civic Awards

Hackney thanked its unsung heroes in a ceremony which took place in the Town Hall on 24 May as part of the Council AGM. As Mayor I presented the Mayor's Civic Awards to three well deserving winners; Janette Collins, Bobby Kasanga and Felicia Ogunleye.

Hackney is the great place it is today thanks to the hard work of those who go the extra mile for their community. These awards help celebrate Hackney's civic heroes, and not only give a much deserved recognition for their efforts, but will hopefully inspire more people to get involved and make a lasting difference to the Hackney community.

The awards aims to recognise and celebrate some of the fantastic people within the borough and take pride in the amazing things people in Hackney achieve every day.

You can find more details of who won here: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/hackney-celebrates-its-heroes-with-civic-awards/>

## Construction starts on latest Hackney Council housing

Ambitious plans to build thousands of new Council homes across the borough took another step forward in April as work started on a Hackney Council regeneration scheme in Stoke Newington.

Four new Council homes for social rent, as well as three homes for outright sale to help pay for them, are being built to replace a poor-quality former housing block at Aikin Court, in Barbauld Road, which was suffering from subsidence.

The project is part of the Council's landmark Estate Regeneration Programme, which will see nearly 3,000 homes built at 18 sites across the borough – replacing ageing properties that are economically unviable to repair.

Local residents have long campaigned for this derelict block to be demolished, so I'm delighted that we've started work to turn an eyesore into new Council housing that will help local families most in need of somewhere to live.

In the absence of any government funding for social housing, we're determined to do everything we can to build genuinely affordable homes for Hackney's residents.

Our city only works when the people who make its economy tick can afford to live and work here. This latest step in our ambitious regeneration programme will help make that happen for more families in Hackney.

## Cabinet gives Britannia project the go-ahead

Plans for a brand new leisure centre, a new secondary school and housing - including around 80 affordable homes - were approved by Hackney Council's Cabinet last night.

The redevelopment of the Britannia Leisure Centre site, in Hyde Road, Shoreditch, will provide 900 much-needed secondary school places plus a sixth form, state-of-the-art new leisure facilities – including a café and toilets accessible from Shoreditch Park, as well as around 480 new homes, approximately 80 of which will be affordable, to part fund the community facilities.

This is an exciting project which will enable us to invest in vital local facilities; a new secondary school to ensure there are high quality school places for local children, a brand new leisure centre to replace the outdated existing one, a café and toilets for the park and new housing – including affordable homes.

Given the scale of this project, I'm very pleased that we've been able to include affordable homes in the proposal. The sale of the other housing will directly fund these homes and the new community facilities.

We look forward to continuing to share our ideas with residents and leisure centre users as the plans progress, and will fully involve them in shaping the future of the site.

The existing Britannia Leisure Centre was built in two stages in the 1970s and 1980s and is now coming to the end of its life. Despite small scale refurbishments, the cost of fully refurbishing the centre would be approximately £14m and would require it to close for 18-24 months.

The design of the new leisure centre will be developed in consultation with users, but the Council expects it to include, as a minimum, a 25-metre swimming pool, a new learner pool, a confidence pool (aimed at 0-5 year-olds) with a flume, a children's soft play area, squash courts, a 180-station fitness centre, a spinning studio, two exercise studios, a sports hall, and a multi-use games area.

The existing leisure centre will only close when the new one is ready to open.

Current legislation does not allow councils to open new maintained schools, so the Council is working with the City of London Academy Trust to provide a mixed-sex, comprehensive school and sixth form.

At the same meeting, Cabinet approved plans for another new secondary school on the site of Benthall Primary School, which will move to the site currently occupied by Nightingale Primary, following Nightingale's move to its brand new facility at Tiger Way.

During a consultation, which ran from 5 December-12 February, respondents indicated a preference for greater density of housing if that meant that more affordable homes could be built on the site. As a result, the Council plans to build approximately 400 homes for sale, in order to raise the funds for the leisure centre and school, and around 80 affordable homes.

Nearly 60 per cent of consultation respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with proposals to replace the existing leisure centre - 14 per cent neither agreed nor disagreed. Over 72 per cent said the Council should continue to provide secondary school places in line with increasing parental demand, and 62 per cent said they wanted to see affordable housing on the site.

The full results of the public consultation are available here: <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/leisure-physical-activity/britannia-site/>

## Government's rogue landlord measures 'chaotic' – response from Hackney Council

Plans before the election to allow private renters to claim rent refunds from rogue landlords have been branded as 'chaotic', after the Government's last minute guidance left councils without time to implement the new measure.

Rent Repayment Orders will allow private renters and local councils to make claims for a refund of up to 12 months' rent from landlords who evict tenants unlawfully, use violence to enter a home, fail to meet health and safety regulations or operate an HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) illegally.

The measure was first outlined by the Government almost a year ago in last May's Housing and Planning Act and have come into force from today (6 April 2017), alongside a separate initiative to allow Councils to fine landlords up to £30,000 for a range of housing offences. Despite the 11 month lead in time, Councils only received guidance on how the system will work on the day they came into force, and are now expected to develop their own policies before action can be taken against offenders.

Cllr Sem Moema, Mayoral Advisor for Private Renting and Housing Affordability said:

"We have long called for more support for private renters and for councils to be given the powers they need to take action against unscrupulous landlords. We strongly welcome the new Rent Repayment Orders and landlord fines as steps towards fixing our broken private rented sector, and have been ready and waiting to support private renters in Hackney to reclaim rent where an offence has been committed and tenants' rights violated.

However, the chaotic implementation of the measure and belated guidance given to councils has allowed and will continue to allow rogue landlords to exploit tenants while we now rush to put Rent Repayment Orders into practice, and shows the Government's lack of genuine commitment to helping Britain's nine million private renters.

Instances of mistreatment of tenants by landlords are increasing as competition for properties drives down standards and leads to soaring rents. In Hackney, half of private renters say that repairs are not made when needed and that the poor condition of their home is a problem. With the average rent of a two bedroom flat now over £1,800 a month, a two bedroom household could potentially claim up to £22,000 through a Rent Repayment Order.

In the last five years the number of privately rented homes in Hackney has increased by 20%, meaning that the Government's delay has denied over 30,000 households in the borough the opportunity to take action if mistreated by their landlords.

We will keep fighting on this issue and don't think the Government's plans, however welcome (we have been pushing for this for four years), on banning letting agents fees and the cap on deposits go far enough.

## Planning rules to protect local businesses and launderettes

New planning rules will stop private developers changing businesses, warehouses and launderettes into unaffordable homes.

Called an Article 4 Direction, the borough's start-up light industrial spaces, including small breweries, design studios and its 14 remaining launderettes, will be protected by forcing developers to apply for planning permission first before they can change the use of a business premises.

The new planning rules, approved at Cabinet on Monday (27 March), will help retain new and established businesses, vital for local communities, jobs, the maker economy and the borough's reputation as the centre for entrepreneurs.

The measures also recognise the important role launderettes play for local communities, used by residents on a low income, those living in temporary accommodation, or small bedsits, and students studying in the borough.

Launderettes are disappearing from the high street, from a national peak of 12,500 in the 1980's to just 3,000 today, 450 of which are in London.

Cllr Guy Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Planning, Business and Investment said:

"When the Government introduced Permitted Development Rights, they opened the door for private developers to change the use of buildings in our borough, without seeking Planning permission first, from valuable employment space for businesses into homes for private rent or sale. A short sighted policy imposed on our local community and its economy.

"By introducing Article 4 Directions we have made sure the Council has taken the lead in responding to this short sighted approach by ensuring that you have to get Planning permission if you want to change the use of employment space in the borough. The latest Directions also require developers to seek Planning permission if they want to change the use of buildings that support start-ups, warehousing or light manufacturing and now we are adding launderettes to this list."

The Article 4 Direction will remove Permitted Development Rights that were brought in by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and allow developers to convert from various uses including offices, warehouses or shops into private housing without planning permission.

There will be a consultation open to all residents and businesses before the new plans are put in place. The Article 4 Direction will be effective 12 months after the notice of the decision is formally given and will be reviewed after three years.

## **New hostel to support homelessness system 'at breaking point'**

Nearly 150 more rooms providing vital accommodation for families facing homelessness will be available later this year after Hackney Council agreed to take a lease on a new Finsbury Park hostel.

The building in Seven Sisters Road will mean more homeless residents can be temporarily housed locally – maintaining crucial links to their families, jobs and schools.

The terms of the lease, approved in principle by the Council's Cabinet last night, will help the Council meet record rising demand for housing, with nearly 3,000 homeless households currently living in temporary accommodation. In total, around 13,000 people are waiting for a Council home in Hackney.

Unlike older hostels or bed and breakfasts used for temporary accommodation, the new hostel will have space for training, outreach and employment sessions to help residents access vital support. Construction work will be completed during the summer.

The hostel will be run and maintained by Council staff, with all trained in domestic violence awareness, to liaise with the local community, deal with anti-social behaviour and ensure residents are safe.

Providing temporary accommodation cost the Council more than £35million last year – a figure that has quadrupled in five years. A modern, high-quality hostel will provide better support for residents and be more cost-effective than using bed and breakfasts for temporary housing.

Last year, the Council were able to offer properties to 1,187 people on its housing waiting list. This means it would take more than 10 years to house everybody currently waiting, even if nobody else applied.

Government welfare reform is also making this problem worse, with the further Benefit Cap reduction to £23,000 in London affecting around 1,500 households in Hackney, the majority of whom are in the private sector.

Reforms since 2010 to cap and change how Local Housing Allowance – the form of housing benefit you can claim if you rent from a private landlord – is calculated, mean that it no longer covers the average rent in Hackney. This means families on low incomes, or those struggling to meet household costs because of a job loss or rent increase, are at a much-increased risk of eviction – with very little other affordable housing options available in the borough. Eviction from the private rented sector is now the number one cause of homelessness in Hackney.

## Hackney switched off for Earth Hour

At 8.30pm on Saturday 25 March 2017, Hackney Council switched off its lights for one hour in solidarity with millions people across the planet as part of the World Wide Fund for Nature’s ‘Earth Hour’.

Hackney Town Hall joined other buildings across the world, including the Eiffel Tower and Buckingham Palace, in being plunged into darkness to highlight the urgency of taking action on man-made global warming and its climate change consequences.

The scale of the challenge presented by climate change is unprecedented in human history. The planet is now the warmest it has been for 115,000 years, when sea levels were 20-30 feet higher; the atmosphere has the highest concentration of heat-trapping carbon dioxide for 800,000 years; and we’ve just experienced the hottest year on record for the third year in a row. Meanwhile, warming oceans are threatening the existence of natural marvels, such as the Great Barrier Reef, and 1 in 6 species face extinction from climate change. The World Meteorological Society recently declared that man-made climate change is now taking us into “unchartered territory”.

Now is the time to call for rapid global action on climate change. Earth Hour will bring millions together across the world in a symbolic show of unity to remind people that, if we work together, positive change is possible.

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

Hackney Council is working towards a future when every hour is Earth Hour, and renewable energy and energy efficiency, resource conservation, and management of our natural environment are central to the way people in Hackney live their lives. In the meantime, Earth Hour is a symbolic display of the power of collective action to change the world for the better.

“Hackney is proud to be part of the movement that calls for greater and swifter action on climate change. Everyone can make a difference, and I would encourage all of our residents and businesses to get involved and switch off their lights to show your support for climate change action.”

## Update on fire safety following the Grenfell Tower Fire

A joint statement from myself and Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, following the Grenfell Tower fire and the measures Hackney Council is taking to keep residents and estates safe:

“No one can fail to be moved watching the coverage today of the terrible fire in Kensington. Our thoughts and sympathies are with those affected by the tragedy at Grenfell Tower and we want to highlight the bravery of residents and the emergency services, often at considerable risk to themselves, who rushed to help during the early hours of the morning. We have also seen ordinary Londoners rally to help those families who have lost everything in this awful fire.

“While it's too early to comment on possible causes of the fire, we understand that residents are concerned and we want to reassure residents in Hackney that fire safety is of critical importance to us, the Council meets regularly with the London Fire Brigade to ensure we're doing all we can to keep our estates and residents safe.

“We also work with the independent fire advisory services rigorously test and challenge our existing arrangements.

“All of our buildings have an up-to-date fire risk assessment. Any priority work needed following these assessments has been done and we continue to monitor fire safety through estate inspections and our estates officers.

“We have invested significantly in the last five years to upgrade lighting and fire alarms in communal areas, hard wire smoke alarms in properties and those in communal areas while upgrading all our stock to ensure that it meets fire regulations.

“Despite this we cannot afford to be complacent, and will apply any lessons learned or recommendations arising from this terrible accident.

“The London Fire Brigade's advice currently remains unchanged - for more information visit [www.london-fire.gov.uk/know-the-plan-campaign.asp](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/know-the-plan-campaign.asp). Residents can also play their part by making sure fire exits are kept clear and ensuring that fire doors are kept closed. We also encourage residents to report any faulty fire doors or fire safety equipment immediately to the contact centre on 020 8356 3330 / 4440 so the Council can take action.”

#### **Current FAQ:**

##### **What fire safety precautions are in place on Hackney's estates?**

As a matter of routine, we meet regularly with the London Fire Brigade to discuss fire risk assessments and other matters to ensure we are doing all we can to keep our estates safe. We also work with the independent fire advisory services to rigorously test and challenge our existing arrangements. We continue to monitor fire safety through estate inspections and the vigilance of our estate-based staff.

##### **Are you taking any immediate action to ensure Hackney's blocks are safe?**

We have rigorous procedures in place to ensure Hackney's estates are safe. We meet regularly with the London Fire Brigade to ensure we're doing all we can to keep our estates and residents safe. We also work with the independent fire advisory services rigorously test and challenge our existing arrangements. All of our buildings have an up to date fire risk assessment. Any priority work needed following these assessments has been done and we continue to monitor fire safety through estate inspections and our estates officers. In addition, all buildings have up to date certification for dry riser testing and electronic certificates- these are assessed twice yearly with one test and one visual inspection.

### **How do you check that Hackney's blocks are safe?**

All of our blocks are subject to individual fire risk assessments – all of which are up-to-date – which are agreed with the London Fire Brigade. The assessment schedules vary in accordance with that level of risk.

### **Should residents stay put, or evacuate in the case of a fire in a block of flats?**

At the moment the London Fire Brigade's advice about what to do in the case of a fire in a block of flats remains unchanged. More information is available here: [www.london-fire.gov.uk/know-the-plan-campaign.asp](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/know-the-plan-campaign.asp).

### **Do any Hackney blocks have similar cladding to that at Grenfell Tower?**

At the moment it is too early to say, as we don't know the detail of the cladding used at Grenfell Tower – or if that played a part in this tragedy. We don't believe any of the cladding on Council housing in Hackney is the type used at Grenfell. All of the cladding used on Hackney buildings is subject to rigorous safety checks but, we are of course inspecting them to allow to give greater reassurance to residents.

We have also written to all Council residents and occupiers explaining the situation (a copy of the text can be found below) and will regularly update this page on the Council's website: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/statement-on--hackney-estates-and-fire-safety> with new information. In addition we have written to all Housing Associations in the borough to urge them to communicate with their residents and make similar checks. This is only the start of a long process of action and reassurance to ensure that Hackney's homes remain safe.

On Sunday councils across London received a call to help with the effort in supporting all of the families affected by the tragedy. Hackney Council was one of the first to respond, with some of our social workers arriving by Sunday afternoon, to be a point of contact for those in need of help. Hackney has sent staff to Kensington from across many departments including Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Housing Needs support. 2 Adult Social Workers and 2 Children's Social Workers were sent, these social workers are offering support to families, and they are acting as a key point of contact between the families and Kensington & Chelsea.

### **Letter to residents:**

#### **Reassurance about fire safety on estates**

Following the terrible tragedy in West London, residents will of course be concerned about the safety of our tower blocks.

While it's too early to comment on possible causes of the fire, I want to reassure you that fire safety is of critical importance in Hackney and outline some of the measures we take to keep our estates and our residents safe.

- We meet regularly with the London Fire Brigade to consider fire risk assessments and safety on our estates.
- We also work with independent fire advisory services to rigorously test and challenge our existing arrangements.
- All of our buildings have an up-to-date fire risk assessment.

- Any priority work needed following these assessments has been done and we continue to monitor fire safety through estate inspections and our estates-based officers.
- All buildings have up-to-date certification for dry riser testing and electronic certificates - these are assessed twice yearly with one test and one visual inspection.

We have also invested significantly in the last five years to upgrade lighting and fire alarms in communal areas, hard wire smoke alarms in properties and those in communal areas while upgrading all our stock to ensure that it meets fire regulations.

Despite this we cannot afford to be complacent, and will apply any lessons learned or recommendations arising from this terrible accident.

With immediate effect the Council is arranging to have all external cladding double checked by an independent expert, looking both at the type of cladding used and its installation.

We are also undertaking an immediate review of fire safety information for residents. At present the London Fire Brigade's advice remains unchanged and they issued the following information:

### **Stay put**

- If there is a fire in your building and you are inside your purpose-built flat or maisonette, and you're not affected by the fire stay put and call 999
- You are usually safer staying in your own flat or maisonette unless heat or smoke is affecting you
- A self-contained, purpose-built flat or maisonette will typically give you between 30 and 60 minutes protection from fire
- If you are in the communal areas of the building, leave and call 999

### **Get out**

- If there is a fire in your purpose-built flat or maisonette, warn all the people you live with and leave, closing the front door behind you
- Follow your escape plan i.e. plan your escape and know how to exit the building if you need to. More details are available from the Fire Brigade.
- If there is a lot of smoke, crawl along the floor where the air will be clearer. Always use the stairs, rather than the lift, and make your way out of the building
- Call 999 from any phone as soon as it is safe to do so
- Further information for people who live in purpose built flats and maisonettes is available at: [www.london-fire.gov.uk/know-the-plan.asp](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/know-the-plan.asp)

### **You can play a part in keeping block safe by:**

- Making sure fire exits are kept clear
- Don't leave bikes, pushchairs, rubbish etc in communal areas

- Ensuring that fire doors are kept closed
- Report any faulty fire doors or fire safety equipment immediately to Housing Services on: 020 8356 3691
- Make sure you have a working fire alarm
- Test your fire alarm regularly
- If you have any questions or concerns about fire safety on your estate, please contact the Neighbourhood Contact Centre on: 0208 356 3330

## Statement on London Bridge Attacks

After leading the borough in remembering those who died in Saturday's terrorist attack, the Mayor of Hackney Philip Glanville has called on residents to come together to protect all that is special about London - and Hackney.

"This morning, I was joined by faith leaders, local people, Council staff, and councillors to observe the minute's silence to remember those affected by the horrific attacks at London Bridge and Borough Market On Saturday night, and last night I represented the borough at the vigil at City Hall.

"As the identities of those who were lost are confirmed - at least one of them a Hackney resident - all of our thoughts are with their families and those whose lives have been torn apart by this senseless act.

"It will be important over the coming days, weeks and months, to take time to remember those who lost their lives and were injured, but we must also celebrate and protect everything that is special about London - and about Hackney. That spirit of resilience has been at the heart of our response to both the Manchester and London attacks.

"Hackney is a brilliant, creative, diverse place and I'm proud to be the Mayor of such a tolerant borough. It's a place where people from all walks of life - different nationalities, religions, backgrounds, sexualities - all live together, and we will not allow these values to be eroded by terrorists.

"We must do everything we can to keep it that way. It's what we have always done in the face of terror, and now more than ever, it's important that we come together to challenge the ideologies that fuel hate.

"No one should have to live in fear as they go about their daily lives and as a Council we will continue to work with the police and our partners across our community to do everything we can to keep our borough and its residents safe. Meanwhile we all owe it to the memory of the victims of recent events to ensure that our borough and our capital remains the special, welcoming place that it is."

## Consultations and campaigns:

### General Election Report Back

During the short General Election campaign I visited **17 seats**, took part in **31 campaign sessions** and **six rounds** on General Election day itself in Ilford North. I help lead teams of #HackneyonTour to:

Ilford North, Westminster North, Croydon Central, Bermondsey and Old Southwark, Tooting, Enfield North, Harrow West, Dagenham and Rainham, Hendon, Slough, Hove, Hampstead and Kilburn, Ealing Central and Acton, Brentford and Isleworth, and Eltham as well as of course both Hackney seats. I also had the privilege of introducing both of our

MPs at their campaign launches, taking part in the Hackney North fundraiser and welcoming Jeremy Corbyn to Hackney Marshes during the campaign.

### **Results of Broadway Market transport study**

Broadway Market's narrow width and demands on the space as a pedestrian shopping street, through road, place for loading and unloading and as a cycle route, can lead to conflict between different road users and high maintenance costs.

Earlier this year Sustrans spoke to visitors, residents and businesses to understand the issues concerning local traffic flow in Broadway Market and the junction with Westgate Street. The data will be used to inform possible interventions to improving the route for the benefit of pedestrians, cyclists and the local community in line with the Council's corporate plan and transport strategy objectives.

Download the report: <https://presspage-production-content.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/722/broadwaymarketengagementreportapril2017.pdf> and you can find out more here: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/results-of-broadway-market-transport-study/>

### **Help make Hackney an Accessible Place for Everyone**

Being disabled can sometimes make getting around difficult, but in Hackney the Council is trying to change that, by working with disabled people to make Hackney accessible for everyone, and they are now searching for more people to get involved.

Having limited mobility, vision, hearing, a learning difficulty or other type of impairment can sometimes mean signage on the road, no ramp access or no specialised facilities can make even a trip to the shops challenging.

Hackney Council is launching a campaign, Hackney an Accessible Place for Everyone, this month to highlight and address the access needs of disabled people.

As part of this campaign the Council is organising five guided visits to Stamford Hill, Abney Park, Hackney Central, Dalston and Shoreditch - areas experiencing rapid change and development. During these visits local residents Councillors and council staff will have the opportunity to explore the areas and make suggestions on how access can be improved.

Over 15 local disabled people, Councillors and Council staff who work in relevant departments like planning, transportation and town centre management have received training over the last few months to lead the visits. The visits run from Wednesday 21 June to 17 July.

The Council is looking for up to 20 Hackney residents who are disabled or have difficulty moving around to participate. Each visit will last around 3 hours.

Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Equalities said:

"Hackney an Accessible Place for everyone is an initiative to highlight and address the needs of people who have difficulty moving around, including disabled people, older people those with young children. This programme will be an opportunity for the Council to hear their views, first-hand experiences and recommendations for future improvement and to help shape the borough to make it an accessible place for everyone."

If you would like to participate please e-mail: [rachel.salmon@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.salmon@hackney.gov.uk), or call 0208 356 7732, text: 07941 687 153, stating which visit you would like to attend. If you need any support to help you participate such as information in large print, or British Sign Language, please let the team know when you make contact.

### **Tour Dates**

- Shoreditch – TBC
- Hackney Central – Wed 28 June, 10.30 – 1.00
- Abney Park – Tue 4 July, 6.00 – 8.00
- Dalston – Wed 12 July, 5.30 – 8.00
- Stamford Hill – Mon 17 July 1.30 – 4.00

### **Update on London Fields traffic management scheme**

In January 2016 the Council consulted on a number of potential traffic management options to reduce the amount of traffic using Middleton Road, which is part of TfL’s Quietway 2 route between Bloomsbury and Walthamstow.

The consultation was discussed at Cabinet in July 2016, where it was agreed that the Council would:

- implement width restrictions in Middleton Road to remove heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) from Middleton Road
- work with local residents and cycling groups to investigate and identify further options to address the traffic and pollution issues raised during the consultation.

Width restrictions were installed on Middleton Road in November 2016.

The Council also appointed independent consultants to review the consultation responses, analyse the concerns, score them in light of the Council’s Transport Strategy and recommend actions in order of priority. Issues raised in the report include traffic volumes and speeds, air quality, safety and local schools. The report also outlines the methodology used, provides an assessment of individual measures requested via the consultation (including benefits and disbenefits) and includes tables of the scoring used.

Download the report: <https://presspage-production-content.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/722/londonfieldsareawidereviewofproposals.pdf>

### **What happens next?**

Council officers will meet with local resident groups and key stakeholders to discuss the way forward in principle, before the Council formally approves it.

We will then provide another update to announce any proposed scheme(s) and the indicative programme for consultation and implementation. This is anticipated to be in July 2017.

### **Previous Motions and policy updates**

**The 2018 Manifesto** – this process will kick off after selections have concluded in the Autumn. More information will be circulated in due course.

### **Update - moving toward a fossil free Hackney Pension Fund**

Following yesterday's Pensions Committee meeting (29 March), Councillor Robert Chapman, Chair of Hackney's Pensions Committee, provides an update about the ongoing work to make the Hackney Pension Fund ultimately fossil free.

There are also questions and answers below about the Hackney Pension Fund and the investment in fossil fuels.

Cllr Robert Chapman, Chair of the Pensions Committee said:

“I want to give a recap, in light of ongoing concern from residents and campaign groups, about how we are working to make our Pension Fund ultimately fossil free.

“As part of our new Investment Strategy, agreed at the March Pensions Committee meeting, we outlined a number of measures that will help make the Fund greener, the most ambitious being our commitment of cutting the Fund’s exposure to future CO2 emissions by 50% over the next six years. This aims to bring us in-line with the level implied by the inter-governmental Paris Agreement’s 2% scenario. I am confident that our decision to set an ambitious target to reduce our exposure to carbon risk puts us absolutely at the forefront of local government pension funds in this area, having set what we consider to be a realistically achievable, whilst stretching target that is clear and measurable. I also believe that our commitment to tackle this issue is as strong as those made by other London boroughs.

“We have already invested £25m into a ‘Low Carbon Workplace’ fund, which transforms office buildings into energy efficient, low emission workplaces, and we’ll be investing further into other greener schemes and projects when they become available. All of these pieces of work, which have been years in the making, balances any financial risks to the Fund to ensure that the returns on investment are not adversely impacted.

“Climate change is, as I’ve said before, one of the biggest threats facing our civilisation. This in turn poses a long-term threat to the Pension Fund’s investments in that fossil fuel assets will lose value and become ‘stranded’ as existing government arrangements come into force.

“However, there is also a threat to the Pension Fund if we completely ‘divest’ away from fossil fuels immediately; it would stop us from putting money into a range of investments which would adversely impact on our return, undermining our duty to our council tax payers and pension fund members to invest responsibly. The law places a ‘fiduciary duty’ on us to balance these concerns.

“As the world’s reliance on fossil fuels does reduce in light of the Paris Agreement, and as greener investments continue to grow with their economic value, complete divestment would then become a reality and it is our ultimate ambition to do this.

“I understand the concerns about the links of the Fund to global warming and we are committed to taking a very active approach in addressing these concerns, such as by working over the last two years to measure our carbon footprint. Moreover, we will continue to work with the London CIV to look at greener investment opportunities and support other London borough’s with their green ambitions. This is while ensuring that our duty to balance investment risks and returns is met and that the Fund can pay the benefits due to its members.

“We will also continue to work with Divest Hackney, other campaign groups and residents to listen and respond to any concerns that they may have. We welcome and value the engagement from all interested parties as we continue to push towards a greener Hackney Pension Fund.”

## Questions and Answers

### **Is the 50% reduction target in line with the Paris agreement’s 2°C scenario?**

Yes. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggests that scenarios likely to maintain warming at below 2°C are characterised by a 40 - 70% reduction in Green House Gas emissions by 2050, relative to 2010 levels, and emission levels near zero or below in 2100. The International Energy Agency’s (IEA) Transition Pathways suggest that meeting this target will require fossil fuels to halve as a proportion of primary energy demand by 2050 (reducing from 81% to 39%).

The Fund is targeting a 50% reduction over the next six years, this is measured by the Fund’s absolute exposure to future CO2 emissions rather than the carbon footprint of the companies it holds. Exposure to potential future emissions is a better measure of the risk the Fund faces from stranded assets, which makes it a better target for us to use as financial risk has to be our first consideration. The Fund plans to measure its exposure, and assess progress in-line with the Paris agreement’s 2°C scenario, on a three yearly basis to align with valuation cycles.

### **Why don't you divest altogether?**

As at present, we feel it would increase the overall risk to the Fund. The IEA has projected the most rational global demand response for fossil fuels in the case of the transition to a 2°C pathway; demand for coal is projected to fall immediately, while oil demand peaks by 2020 before declining. Gas demand continues to increase, albeit at reduced rates. Although the level of investment required is lower under a 2°C scenario, fossil fuels are projected to remain in use for the next four decades.

As such, clean energy technology is still a relatively small proportion of the energy sector, and offers a smaller range of suitable investment opportunities. Complete divestment in the short term (i.e. five years) would mean a greater concentration of the Fund's assets in other sectors of the economy – some of which currently look overpriced. It would also significantly limit the range of investment products available to the Fund, which is likely to impact on its returns. Over the longer term, as fossil fuels reduce as a proportion of the economy, complete divestment may become a more realistic option.

### **By not fully divesting, is the Fund ignoring climate change?**

No. Climate change driven by human activity poses a significant threat to the planet and the integrity of the Fund, which we take very seriously. The Fund's primary purpose is paying pensions to its members; meeting our fiduciary duty means first and foremost considering the financial health of the Fund. We therefore consider climate change from the perspective of financial risk, and are satisfied that our policy addresses this at present. We will keep the policy under review and update it as required.

Divesting cannot prevent the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> – it simply means that somebody else owns the assets. It can therefore help reduce climate risk for individual investors but is unlikely to impact greenhouse gas emissions.

### **What will help to reduce carbon emissions?**

Low carbon power generation on a larger scale, and more efficient energy usage. These are sectors that the Fund has made a positive commitment to invest in, and we are exploring possible options with the London Pension Collective Investment Vehicle (CIV). At present, clean energy technology is a relatively small proportion of the energy sector but it is growing rapidly, increasing investment opportunities.

### **But other pension funds have divested?**

We have set a clear and measurable target for reducing our fossil fuel exposure and have a realistic implementation plan in place to help achieve it – we are therefore satisfied that we are in-line with, or ahead of other London council pension funds in tackling the issues that climate change presents to us.

We can only consider the risks and benefits of divestment as they apply to the Hackney Fund – funds have different histories, and therefore different funding positions and investment strategies. The Hackney Fund has a significant allocation to equities and uses passive management for a proportion of this allocation to help reduce fees; we therefore think it's important to maintain as wide a choice of strategies as possible. We also need to ensure that we can meet the Government's requirements to pool assets with other London funds, maintaining a degree of flexibility helps us to do this.

### **If you are pooling assets with the rest of London, how can you achieve the target anyway?**

Prior to setting the target, we carefully considered what action we could take within a pooled structure to help reduce the financial risks of climate change. Firstly, the Fund will still make decisions about its investment strategy; therefore, where it is financially appropriate to do so, the Fund can choose to invest in strategies through the pool that may help

to reduce its risk. Secondly, pooling assets could give London funds much greater influence when it comes to engaging with Fund Managers and investee companies. As part of the CIV structure we, and similar minded councils, are working to make sure that an appropriate range of investment vehicles will be available within the pool.

**Will you work together with (and learn from) funds that are divesting?**

Yes. We are already working with Waltham Forest and Southwark to help ensure that suitable strategies are available through the London CIV. We still need to ensure that any strategy we use is financially appropriate for the Hackney Fund, but we believe it's essential for funds to work together on this to maximise our impact and help make new strategies available at a reasonable cost.

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

I am due to speak **Hoxton West** in July. I have had to miss a few wards due to the cancelation of meetings during the election. I'm keen to book August (if you meet), not September because it clashes with some AGMs, October and November meetings. If you want to invite me please email [philip.glanville@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:philip.glanville@hackney.gov.uk)

Since being elected last September I have been to Wick, Victoria, De Beauvoir, Homerton, King's Park, Clissold, Stoke Newington Branch, Hackney Central Labour Party Meetings.