

## Philip Glanville Labour Mayor of Hackney

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Dear Member,

Welcome to my February- March Mayor's Report.

This month started with the passing of the Council's 2017-18 Budget, you will have by now received next year's Council Tax Bill and my cover letter, more information about the Budget will be in the next issue of Hackney Today and was also covered in last month's report. I was pleased we won concessions in the UK Budget on Business Rates, but it remains to be seen how the system of reliefs will work in practice and also what Hackney's allocation of 'new' social funding will be.

Across the Cabinet we have been campaigning and lobbying the Government. Many of us took part in #OurNHS March and we have also written to the Government about [police numbers and funding](#), the [Dubs Amendment](#) and [education funding](#). I was privileged this month to meet one of the Syrian families the Council has helped to settle in the borough and we continue to work hard to reach the target of seven families.

I was pleased to join Cllr Williams in launching the Council's new apprenticeship programme which is a significant step forward in meeting the commitments I made in last year's by-election to increase the number of local opportunities for work experience, employment and training.

At the end of April alongside a team of councillors and staff I am running the Hackney Half Marathon for Speaker of Hackney's charities North London Action for Homeless & Hackney Migrant Centre, please consider sponsoring us: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/hackneyspeaker/>

Best wishes,

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## Mayor's Diary Highlights

### March 23

Meeting with the Mayor of Newham and visit to Newham Council's Workplace Programme

Hackney North and Stoke Newington General Meeting

Hackney South and Shoreditch General Meeting

### March 22

Hackney Council new staff Corporate Induction

Hackney South and Shoreditch Labour Party Screening of I, Daniel Blake and discussion

### March 21

London Councils Labour Group

London Councils Congress with Mayor Khan

London Councils Leaders Meeting

Shoreditch Trust Board Meeting

Hackney Labour Group



## Apprenticeships Launch

Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources, and I were pleased to launch the Council's new apprenticeship programme this month, which will see 100 apprentices working across a host of Council services by 2018/19.

I want Hackney to be more ambitious about what we can do to support local people to succeed. We are committed to creating more employment and training opportunities for local people in the borough, helping to ensure that they have the skills, experience and qualifications to flourish not only here in Hackney, but across London, the UK or wherever their ambition, determination and career takes them.

With the launch of our new programme, we are leading the way with our drive to employ 100 apprentices who will be working as part the Council. We want businesses, big and small, to follow our example and give a young person a career kick-start, help them to gain qualifications while they earn a fair wage. The Council will work with businesses if they need support to take on an apprentice and we will provide advice and guidance to other organisations wanting to support our young people with employment and training.

Over the coming months, the Council will be offering apprenticeships at Levels 2, 3 and 4, in areas including: Business and Administration, Youth Work, Customer Services, ICT, Housing and Environmental Services. More services will be added during the course of the programme.

Hackney: Apprentices is open to 16-24 year olds who live in the borough, have been educated in Hackney and care leavers. All Council apprentices aged over 18 will be paid around £19,000 per year, which is above London Living Wage, and well above the average apprenticeship salary which is around £13,000 per year.

Council apprentices will be given; accredited training from a high-quality provider, a package of support including mentoring and social activities, and support to progress into a permanent job or a higher apprenticeship qualification.

## Education Update and the National Funding Formula

At CYP Scrutiny this month the Deputy Mayor expressed withdrawal of the white

### March 20

UK Housing Awards Pitch

Cross cutting meeting on the impact of the Housing Act and new Housing White Paper in Hackney

Institution and Induction of Rev Sue Makin at St Mary at Eton with the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Cllr Webb

Visit from Conference of Black Mayors and Nigerian Royal Delegation with the Speaker and Cllr Etti

### March 19

Spoke at Kurdish Newroz (New Year) Celebration in Finsbury Park

### March 17

Meeting with LLDC and Places for People about the East Wisk and Sweetwater development in Hackney Wick with Cllr Nicholson

Meeting with Leader of Islington Council Cllr Richard Watts

Interview with the New York Times

### March 16

Meeting on Housing Asset Management Strategy with Cllr McKenzie and Cllr Burke

Meeting on refugees with Cllr Rennison and Deputy Mayor Bramble

### March 12-15

*Ill, so on leave*

paper, 'Educational, Excellence, Everywhere' was the opportunity for the government to reflect on their agenda to increase grammar schools and forced academisation. New articles and the announcement in the recent budget confirm the direction they have chosen to take.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/06/theresa-may-paves-way-for-new-generation-of-grammar-schools>

Some headlines from the budget:

- Funding for a further 110 new free schools was announced, on top of the current commitment to 500, at a cost of £320m (*it is expected some new schools will become grammars*)
- Free school transport to be extended to all pupils on free school meals at selective schools
- An extra £216m will be invested in improving school buildings over the next three years

Investment in education is a political choice. The decision to spend £320m on free schools, with the view that the schools may become grammars, demonstrates improvement for a few and not for all. This funding could be better placed to level up the NFF and ensure true fairness in school funding that doesn't see reduced investment in deprived areas. The Deputy Mayor and I have written to the Secretary of State for Education and Chancellor to express our concerns and also the Council has responded to the NFF consultation which closed this week. The proposals, which could see funding for Hackney schools cut by £25 million by 2019, the equivalent of over £900 per pupil, come only six months after Hackney's GCSE results were recognised as first in the country for improvement.

In the letter we said that we have serious concerns that the investment we have put into schools is now being put at risk and that the proposed changes to the National Funding Formula will see reductions in funding that will have a serious impact on what our schools can offer and deliver, and the potential outcomes for our children.

Deputy Mayor Bramble has also helped to continue to coordinate responses from across Hackney and speak about these issues at campaign meetings.

## Threat to supported housing

We continue to campaign against attacks on the benefits system and the impact it has on Hackney. Last week Cllr Rebecca Rennison, Mayoral Adviser for Advice Services and Preventing Homelessness, gave evidence to a joint inquiry organised by the Communities and Local Government and Work and Pensions Committees in parliament.

### March 11

Marked Purim in Stamford Hill

### March 10 (Dalston Day)

Visit to potential new Live Music and Cultural Venue in Dalston

Meeting with AgeUK

Visit to the Dalston Eastern Curve Garden

Visit to the social enterprise Dusty Knuckle Bakery

Visit to V22 studios

Hackney South BAME Forum

London Night Czar Surgery with Meg Hillier in Dalston and Shoreditch including visits to venues and Fire Station

### March 8

Meeting with Woodberry Down Community Organisation

Meeting with Hackney Almshouses and Cllr Gordon

Re-founding The East London Citizens Organisation (TELCO) and 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the Speaker

### March 7

Ground breaking at the site for the new Nightingale Primary School at Tiger Way with Deputy Mayor Bramble, Nightingale School and Hackney Downs Councillors

Meeting with opposition councillors

Meeting with UBS and Cllr Nicholson

The inquiry is looking at the impact of proposed government changes to how supported housing is funded. Supported housing includes housing with additional support for older people, adults with disabilities, people at risk of or moving out of homelessness and refuges for those fleeing domestic abuse. In order to bring benefit payments for those in supported housing in line with the centralised Universal Credit benefit, the Government wants to set the benefit payment at the level of Local Housing Allowance (housing benefit for those renting in the private sector) and then provide local authorities with a top-up fund to meet any difference in funding. Our evidence centred on the fact that this is not what Local Housing Allowance is designed for, that this new approach is untested and uncosted and that there needs to be a full pilot in several local authorities to determine how best to move forward.

## Beware of phone thieves on mopeds and bikes

There is a significant issue with snatch thefts in Hackney and other inner London boroughs. We are working with neighbouring boroughs and the police to coordinate a response that puts in place a long term plan to tackle the issue. It is one of the reasons I met with the leader of Islington this month and this high level cross borough will continue. We have also in our responses to the Mayor of London's Crime Plan and in the setting of local police priorities made the tackling of this type of a crime a priority.

In the meantime we have launched an awareness campaign and are urging resident and visitors to be more aware of phone thieves on mopeds and bicycles.

Figures show nearly 50 phones a day are being snatched from pedestrians in the borough as the crime continues to rise across the capital. Criminals, typically working in pairs on stolen mopeds, are cruising the borough to target people using their mobile phones in public places. They will often mount pavements to make their snatch, putting both the victim and passers-by in significant danger.

Figures show Hoxton and Shoreditch are particular hotspots for the crime. However, people are being urged to be vigilant across the borough at all times, particularly at bus stops, near train stations, outside pubs and clubs, and when wearing headphones.

In a statement, Cllr Caroline Sellman, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement has said:

“This crime is on the rise across London generally, and in Hackney, we’re seeing up to 48 thefts a day – or two an hour – by criminals on both mopeds and bicycles. Victims can be left shaken by the experience on top of suffering the inconvenience of losing a valuable possession.

“I’m urging everyone to be alert when using their phone on the street to help protect yourself against those who want to take what doesn’t belong to them.

I also have a clear message for the perpetrators: beware, we – the Council and police - are on to you and when caught, you will face the full force of the law. Robbery can lead to life imprisonment.”

The Council's 24-hour CCTV team works with the police to deter theft committed by people on bikes and mopeds, resulting in a number of arrests. Council wardens are also offering safety advice to people when out and about.

## Business Rates Campaign and the Budget

In my last report, I provided an update on our business rates campaign. Ahead of the budget on 8 March, I delivered a 10,500 strong petition to Downing Street calling upon the Government to rethink their plans for business rates revaluation, with a delegation that included Meg Hillier, MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, and East End business owners Paul Gardner (Gardners' Bags), Len Maloney (JC Motors) and Sarah Haque (Urban Species). Our petition called for extra rates relief for small businesses and a commitment to devolving the Business Rates system in London. The Chancellor moved on both of these points in his budget and this should hopefully result in extra support for at least 500 business in Hackney.

The Chancellor announced three measures to help mitigate the impact on businesses:

- Support for small businesses losing Small Business Rate Relief to limit increases in their bills to the greater of £600 or the real terms transitional relief cap for small businesses each year
- Providing English local authorities with funding to support £300 million of discretionary relief, to allow them to provide support to individual hard cases in their local area.
- The government to introduce a £1,000 business rate discount for pubs (no definition of this yet) with a rateable value of up to £100,000, subject to state aid limits for businesses with multiple properties, for one year from 1 April 2017.

I would like to thank all those who signed our joint petition, gave evidence about the impact on local businesses and took part in the campaign. I have no doubt that these arguments have made a difference.

It's disappointing the Chancellor didn't raise the threshold for rates relief in London. This could have made thousands of businesses which have been severely and disproportionately affected by the looming hikes feel more secure about their future.

It's not yet clear how meaningful the measures will be for the thousands of businesses which are facing huge rates hikes over the next five years, simply by virtue of their postcode and with no regard to their history, what they sell, who they serve and the impact on local communities. The detail and process of these polices need to be made clear immediately, so councils and local business can begin to properly plan.

### March 6

[Business Rate Petition hand in at Downing Street with Meg Hillier, East London Trades Guild and Mayor John Biggs](#)

Meeting with Network Rail on rents with Cllr Nicholson and Meg Hillier

Attended the Speaker's Fair Trade Fortnight Event

Hackney Labour Group Exec

### March 5

Interview with BBC London

[Apprenticeships week and launch of Hackney's 100 Apprenticeship Programme with Cllr Williams](#)

Meeting with Parent's Voices and the Crib to plan anti-knife crime march with Deputy Mayor Bramble and Cllr Selman

### March 4

#OurNHS March

### March 3

Interview with the Observer

Mayor's Advice Surgery

### March 2

Visit to City Academy in Homerton

Meeting with UnLtd and Cllr Nicholson

Urswick School LGBTQI+ History Month Event

Clissold and Stoke Newington Branch Labour Parties

### March 1

Hackney Full Council

The extra money allocated to councils for discretionary support will far from cover the spiraling bills in areas disproportionately affected like Hackney. We need clarity on how and when this funding will be available, and reassurances that it will be distributed fairly based on need.

The commitment to long-term reform of the system and exploring devolution to London is welcome. The current system is outdated and not fit to deal with the complexities of the Capital.



## Nominations to the Mayor's 'I love Hackney' Civic Awards close next week!

Nominees for the civic awards can be of any age and from any background. All nominations will be considered by a panel of judges. More information can be found here: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/nominate-unsung-heroes-for-hackney-civic-awards-2017/>

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 libraries across the borough and post it to: Tara Hudson, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street. E8 1EA.

Nominations close on Monday, 3 April. The three winners will be announced at the Council's AGM in May, where they will receive trophies and certificates.

## Hackney Council begins next chapter in social work innovation – with £2m Department for Education grant

Hackney Council is set to begin its next chapter in social work innovation, after being awarded nearly £2m to overhaul the way local authorities approach child protection.

The funding, from the Department for Education's Children's Social Care Innovation Fund, will allow the Council – in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire – to develop a radical new approach to safeguarding, which shifts the focus of social work from the family home, to consider much wider influences.

The Council wants to find effective ways to protect children from risks outside the family home, recognising that young people are increasingly being influenced by their peer groups and surroundings, which are outside the control of their families and cannot necessarily be addressed by traditional social work interventions, which focus on individual children and families.

This traditional approach limits the extent to which social workers and multi-agency partners can safeguard young people who experience abuse or exploitation outside of the family environment.

Hackney's new programme will widen that focus, considering how, for example, peer groups, social media, neighbourhoods and schools, impact on young people's vulnerability. Drawing on an approach developed by Dr Carlene Firmin at the University of Bedfordshire, an enhanced safeguarding system will be implemented which is equipped to identify, assess and engage with peer groups and with public and social spaces in which young people are exposed to significant harm, for example, through the implementation of a peer group referrals, interventions and conferences. The programme will also seek to establish new partnerships with organisations like transport providers, local businesses, fast food restaurants and other places where young people gather.

An aim of the project is to reduce the need to move children away from unsafe social environments and instead, create safety in the places and communities in which they spend their time.

The funding will be used to embed systemic change over the two year period, which will be supported through initial research, a specialist delivery team, awareness raising and training, and work with partners and residents across Hackney. The programme will report back to Government at regular intervals, and will share its learning with local authorities across the country.

## Marking International Women's Day

Across the globe women face an uphill struggle for gender equality, whether it's in regard to pay, education, access to healthcare or safety. In Britain today only 29 per cent of parliamentarians are women, and out of all of the FTSE 100 companies only seven are led by women. We should celebrate the fact that, in Hackney, both our MPs, our Assembly Member, and 55% of the Council Cabinet and Mayoral Advisers are women, but there is still much to fight for.

That is why the Council brought together over 65 schoolgirls from across the borough to meet with 27 inspiring and successful women, who all volunteered their time to support this event, to galvanise, empower and inspire the younger women and show them that they could and should be able make it in a man's world.

Cllr Bramble, Deputy Mayor, spoke on a panel at the event, alongside Luke Lucas, Spacecraft Engineer - and the only woman in her department - at the European Space Agency, A&E doctor Ronke Ikharia (Dr Ronx); DJ Anne Frankenstein; and Entrepreneur Nefateri Asantewa. The women got the audience thinking - and laughing - with presentations on their lives and work.

At the event, held at Young Hackney's Forest Road Youth Hub, students from Petchey Academy, Urswick, Our Lady's, Clapton Girls, Skinners Academy and Storemont School were able to speak to all of the women in small discussion groups. The speakers gave valuable insights into their chosen career paths, talking about their real life experiences, successes and failures, which all helped them grow and achieve.

The event aimed to encourage the borough's younger women to broaden their horizons and aspirations, smash glass ceilings, and think outside the career box.

It was great to hear some of the feedback from the students afterwards, including from Gabriella Gretkowska, Year 10 at Petchey Academy, who said: "I think it was very brave for the women to share their stories, and even though some of them have gone through a hard time, they showed resilience and they showed that no matter what you believe you can do it and you can be successful.

"After listening to them it makes me feel like whatever I believe I can do now I can do, no matter how hard things may be or might be in the future, and I can do it and be who I want to be."

## Consultations and campaigns:

### Help to shape the future of Shoreditch

Shoreditch is the creative heart of London and the home of Tech City, the centre of the UK's cultural and digital economy. For nearly two decades, the area has been the home to one of the fastest growing arts, fashion, media and technology hubs in Europe.

It is Hackney's major employment area, providing over 40,000 jobs in over 4,000 businesses and has played a key part in the prosperity of our borough. The area boasts internationally renowned hotels and restaurants, over 150 cultural venues, an expanding hospitality sector and adaptable workspaces that house entrepreneurial start-up businesses to major global brands. It has a rich theatrical heritage; 400 years ago, Shakespeare's Curtain Theatre was built in Shoreditch. It has been rediscovered and is being transformed into a new heritage destination. Today the performing arts can be found in venues across the neighbourhood.

The area is also home to over 7,000 residents and this is set to increase as more mixed-use development comes forward.

The Council wants to protect and sustain Shoreditch's unique character alongside managing the pressures that this extraordinary growth brings. To do this an Area Action Plan – Future Shoreditch - is being developed. It will describe a vision for Shoreditch in 2034 and set out the planning policies that will guide and manage development and investment. Once adopted, Future Shoreditch will be an important policy document used to inform planning decisions in Shoreditch.

To start this process, local residents, businesses and visitors are being urged to respond to a consultation and describe what they feel are the key issues, challenges and opportunities facing the neighbourhood and help shape the future vision for Shoreditch.

Feedback will be help to develop a range of options for Future Shoreditch, which will be consulted on later this year. Look out for more opportunities to get involved throughout the year.

To have your say and to find out more about Future Shoreditch, please visit [www.hackney.gov.uk/future-shoreditch](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/future-shoreditch) before 26 April.

### **Hackney Gazette #HiddenHomeless Campaign**

It would be great if individual members could join me, many councillors and our MPs and show their support by signing the Gazette's pledge which can be found at: [www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/the-hidden-homeless-campaign/pledge-your-support](http://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/the-hidden-homeless-campaign/pledge-your-support)

### **Help shape the future of Dalston**

Hackney Council is gathering views on the principles which could shape the development of a new cultural quarter in the centre of Dalston, aimed at protecting and building on the area's reputation as one of London's most creative and dynamic neighbourhoods.

The 'Dalston Quarter' refers to a group of Council-owned buildings in the area around Ashwin Street and parts of Dalston Lane. Over the last few years, the Council has been working with local residents, businesses and community groups to explore how it can ensure the long-term future of these buildings and their role in providing future cultural spaces and creative industry-led employment spaces, which could include affordable workspace.

If you want to know more or take part please visit: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/help-shape-the-development-of-the-dalston-quarter/>

### **Help to shape the future of Stamford Hill**

Residents can help to shape the future of Stamford Hill by having their say on the latest stage of the local Area Action Plan

Hundreds of residents have so far shared their views and ideas as part of the drafting of Stamford Hill's Area Action Plan. Once adopted, this planning document will provide a detailed planning framework for the next 15 years.

It aims to manage the pressures and demands of future growth in the neighbourhood in a way that benefits the local community.

If you want to know more or take part please visit: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/help-to-shape-the-future-of-stamford-hill/>

## **Previous Motions and policy updates**

### **The 2018 Manifesto**

I know members are interested in when the detailed work on the manifesto for the 2018 elections will be starting, following consultation with the Cabinet, Labour Group and the LCF the following email has been sent to all members outlining that this process will fully involve all members and party units, but won't start until the council candidate selections are complete later this year. A full time table will be circulated in due course.

*Dear member,*

*On 3 May 2018, there will be council elections in Hackney, with every seat, plus the Mayor, up for election. There are 57 councillors in Hackney and the current composition is:*

Labour 50

Conservative 4

Liberal Democrat 3

*Under Party rules, selection of Labour candidates is overseen by the Local Campaigns Forum (the Borough Party, while the manifesto is the responsibility of the Labour Group (the Labour councillors in the borough).*

*The manifesto is a hugely important document. It sets out what we plan to do over the four years of the next administration and can be used by residents and the media to hold us to account. You can read the manifesto for the 2014 elections here: [www.hackney-labour.org.uk/manifesto](http://www.hackney-labour.org.uk/manifesto)*

*The Labour Group is keen to have as many input as possible from members in the borough to the 2018 manifesto and will be organising a programme of events and consultation to gather members' views. We will begin this process as soon as the selections of candidates is completed. The selections are expected to be completed in May 2017.*

*I look forward to meeting many of you during the preparation of the manifesto and, of course, out campaigning in the elections.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Katie Hanson*

**Chair of Labour Group**

**Hackney Labour**

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

I am due to speak at **Hackney Central** in April and **Stamford Hill West and Woodberry Down** in June and **Hoxton West** in July. I am not attending meetings in May as I will be at my home branch, but I can do a second ward meeting in June at 7pm and I'm keen to book August (if you meet), September, 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, and Stoke Newington Branch Labour Party Meetings.