

## Philip Glanville Labour Mayor of Hackney

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Dear Member,

Welcome to my October to November Mayor's Report.

This month has been dominated by the build up to the Autumn Budget and continuing our work on the Hackney Labour 2018 Manifesto, both of which I cover in my report below.

As we approached the Budget myself and my Cabinet colleagues continued our work to lobby, campaign and highlight the impact of austerity on Hackney. As you can read below we have had some successes in areas such as housing, business rates and universal credit, but while the Government my claim that they are listening the Chancellor's actions and interventions are much more limited than his rhetoric and the devil will be in the detail that comes forward in the days and months ahead.

We continue our work on tackling inequality and supporting Hackney residents to access new jobs and training, earlier in the month we marked London Living Wage Week and our broader work in this area was recognised in London Council's report: [Promoting Successful Integration in London](#) it looked at our leadership on community cohesion. Hackney a Place for Everyone and the Young Black Men's Project (YBM). Only last week colleagues including Deputy Mayor Bramble took part in a conference to highlight YBM, more details can be found here: <https://hackney.gov.uk/young-black-men> and in the [Hackney Gazette](#).

We also for the first time marked Trans Awareness Week which ran from 13-19 November continuing our support for our Trans employees, residents and the wider LGBTQI+ community.

Best wishes,



PS I hope to see you at one of the upcoming #HackneyatHome or #HackneyonTour campaign sessions, further manifesto events or Hackney Labour Christmas celebrations over the coming weeks.

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## Mayor's Diary Highlights

### November 23

Speech at Homes 2017 Conference

LGA training

### November 22

Corporate Induction of new staff

Responding to the Budget

### November 21

Hackney Labour Group and Manifesto Workshops

### November 19

Springfield Campaigning

### November 18

London Councils Summit

### November 17

Visit to Northwold Community Centre with Diane Abbott MP

Meeting with Meg Hillier MP  
London Councils Labour Group

### November 16

Centre for London Annual Conference

Launch of HIV Testing Week and THT Pop Up shop in Hackney

Hackney LCF

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## My response on behalf of the Council to the Budget

Unfortunately we have yet another Budget which pays little attention to the ongoing funding cuts faced by councils and the impact this is having on our communities.

Since 2010, Hackney Council has had to find £152 million to balance its budget due to cuts to the grants we receive from central Government and rising costs. More cuts in future years mean that from 2010/11 to 2020/21, the Government's annual grant to Hackney will have fallen by 45%.

Government rhetoric of "increasing efficiency" and "doing more with less" as a panacea to ongoing funding cuts is increasingly being exposed as empty. The growing impact its cuts are having across a range of vital frontline services on which millions of people across the country rely are being felt more and more each day.

Of particular concern today was the lack of anything to help address the ever growing pressures and spiralling costs of adult and children's social care. The system is at breaking point, and the negative impacts on the people who rely on it, their friends and family, and the wider health service increase year-on-year. Also missing was anything about sustainable funding for our police and our schools, both in general terms and for children with special education needs. These are both areas I know are of growing concern for Hackney residents.

This Budget wasn't just about asking the Government for more money. It was as much about it giving us the freedoms we need to properly address the housing crisis; committing to transport projects to support important growth in homes and jobs; listening to widespread concerns over the ill thought-out elements of Universal Credit; and supporting the many hundreds of Hackney businesses which are having to manage huge increases in Business Rates.

The Chancellor delivered on some of our requests in these areas, and below is a more detailed response on each. Much was announced on housing, and we will be examining the finer details and implications of that over the next few days. For more detail on some of the areas of policy we have been campaigning on most in recent months please visit: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/mayor-of-hackney-responds-to-budget/> or look at the note below.

### November 15

Haggerston Community Safety Ward Panel with Cllrs Selman and Munn

### November 14

Visit to Aikin Court and topping out ceremony

Interview with ITV London News at Kings Crescent about the Budget and social housing

THT Fundraising Dinner with Cllrs McShane and Demirci

### November 13

Save Northwold Estate Public Meeting with residents and Cazenove Candidates

### November 12

[Hackney Remembrance Day Service at St John at Hackney](#)

The Globe Morning Lane Remembrance Day Event

### November 10

City Hall London Remembrance Day Service with Hackney Speaker

Interview with French TV on Brexit and Hackney Loves You campaign

### November 9

Social Housing Conference speech on our response to Grenfell

RSA Inequality Event

### November 8

Fire Safety Meeting with Cllr McKenzie and senior officers

## Hackney raises the flag for London Living Wage Week

Hackney marked London Living Wage week on Monday 6 November by raising the London Living Wage flag over Hackney Town Hall for the first time.

The flag was hoisted by Mayor of Hackney Philip Glanville following a celebration event for London Living Wage employers in Hackney and will remain above the Town Hall until the end of London Living Wage week on Sunday 12 November.

More than 30 local businesses attended the event held at Hackney Town Hall including employers who current pay the London Living Wage and those aspiring to pay this rate in the future. Dr Andrea Werner, from the Middlesex Business School, spoke at the event about how small and medium sized enterprises can make the London Living Wage work for them, and Citizens UK and the Living Wage Foundation were on hand to provide advice and guidance to those who want to find out more.

Hackney Council was formally accredited as a London Living Wage employer last year by the Living Wage Foundation, cementing a long-standing commitment to pay the London Living Wage. That commitment means that everyone working for the Council, regardless of whether they are permanent employees, temporary staff, part-time or agency staff or apprentices over the age of 18, is guaranteed to receive at least the London Living Wage.

The Council also ensures that contractors are awarded the London Living Wage, so over 800 more people are now seeing this rate of pay.

Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources said:

“Not only does paying the London Living Wage help improve the quality of life and wellbeing of employees, but it is also positive for businesses – it helps them to become an employer of choice. It helps them to attract and employ good quality staff, and importantly, to retain them. We encourage Hackney businesses to become London Living Wage employers and see for themselves the difference it can make to both their business and their employees lives.”

I said: “I’m proud to represent an organisation that has been formally accredited by as a London Living Wage employer. It is very important to me that we lead by example and to ensure that everyone working for us, including our new apprentices, receives a fair salary to help meet the spiraling cost of living in our borough and across the whole of London.”

A new rate for the London Living Wage of £10.20 per hour was announced this week. This is higher than the National Minimum Wage of £5.60 which rises to £7.50 per hour depending on age.

Crime and Community Safety meeting with Leader and Chief Executive of Islington including Cllr Selman and Deputy Mayor Bramble

Visit to Hackney Archives

### November 7

HereEast Quarterly Liaison Meeting

Labour Group Executive

### November 6

Launch of new rate of the London Living Wage with Cllr Williams and Mayor Khan

Hackney London Living Wage Business Event

Raising the London Living Wage Flag at Hackney Town Hall for Living Wage Week

Picturehouse London Living Wage Protest

Wilberforce Road / Brownswood Ward Forum with Cllrs Selman, Potter and Bell

### November 4

Campaigning in Putney Council By-election #HackneyonTour

Hackney Fireworks

The Living Wage rates are calculated annually by the Resolution Foundation and overseen by the Living Wage Commission, based on the best available evidence about living standards in London and the UK. Employers choose to pay the Living Wage on a voluntary basis.

For more information about the Living Wage Foundation, please visit the website: [www.livingwage.org.uk](http://www.livingwage.org.uk)

## London Fields Lido update

London Fields Lido remains closed as the repairs and refurbishments continue to over-run. I've been working closely with Cllr Jon Burke and senior officers to get this project completed. Cllr Burke and I have been meeting frequently in the last couple of weeks to review the project and he has made several visits to the site. Finally we both believe progress is being made, but it has been very frustrating for us and of course all those who want to get back to using the Lido.

The contractor has been working through a series of defects. There are two main areas of work which need to be addressed before we can safely open the Lido:

- Firstly, problems with the mechanical and electrical works. The ducting and air handling unit installation did not meet the required specification so the contractor has stripped it out and is in the process of fitting a new installation.
- Secondly, general non-compliant items such as drainage, finishes, flooring and tiling which were not finished to an acceptable standard initially and are still being rectified. Progress has been made in both areas but our regular inspections indicate that a reopening date is still several weeks away.

It is understandable that people who use the Lido are losing their patience more than two months after the planned reopening. We are equally frustrated and due to the contractor's track record of missing deadlines we are not able to confirm an actual opening date at this stage.

We will continue to review the situation on a daily basis and keep the Lido's User Group up to date. We are pursuing all options to get the Lido open as quickly as possible, including following the required contractual process to deal with the non-compliant work and missed deadlines. At the moment that means continuing to work with the contractor.

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### November 2

Meeting with Islington and Haringey Council Leaders with Cllr Selman on cross border issues and the Finsbury Park Accord

Woodberry Down Roundtable

[Hackney Music Gala and Mayor's Music Awards](#)

### November 1

Hackney Social Enterprise in the City Conference, hosted at Hackney House

### October 30

Britannia Board

### October 29

Celebration of 60s of Ghanaian Independence at the Arcola Theatre with Meg Hillier MP and Hackney Speaker

### October 28

Cazenove Ward Campaign Launch and Campaigning

### October 27

Mayor's Casework Surgery

Hosted a tea in the Mayor's Office for Wenlock over 55s Group with Cllrs McKenzie and Maxwell

Meeting with Diane Abbott MP

## The return of the Hackney Winter warmer

With temperatures predicted to dip as winter sets in this month, residents will get advice on keeping warm and staying healthy in the colder months with the annual Winter Warmer showcase.

The popular free event, which this year will be held on Thursday 30 November, from 11am-3pm, at Hackney Town Hall on Mare Street, is organised for the borough's over-55s and who are Council tenants and leaseholders.

On the day, attendees will be able to:

- Get advice on saving energy and keeping warm
- Speak to many of Hackney's community groups, including gardening and health clubs
- Eat delicious food and grab some refreshments
- Have a free head, neck and shoulder massage
- Find out what's on at Hackney's Libraries
- Learn more about recycling
- Find out details on courses at Hackney College
- Pick up some free fruit and vegetables available to take home

The Winter Warmer is a great chance for people to come together, learn some useful information on keeping warm and staying healthy, and see the wide array of activities on offer in Hackney for older people. I would encourage all of our older residents to come along, this year there will be activities as well as stalls, with something for everyone, so make sure you don't miss out.

Cllr Claydon McKenzie, Cabinet Member for Housing Services

For more information, residents over-55 should contact the Hackney Council Resident Participation Team on: 020 8356 7845; email: [get.involved@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:get.involved@hackney.gov.uk); or go online: [www.hackney.gov.uk/housing-get-involved](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/housing-get-involved).

## Hackney's homeless figures are no surprise – it's now time for the government to take notice

Earlier this month the housing charity Shelter launched its new Christmas appeal with a report identifying Hackney as having the 10th highest level of homelessness in the country. This week the Council will be conducting its annual rough sleeper count, but the figures, showed that one in every 44 people in Hackney is classed as homeless, show the all too real human tragedy of the housing crisis. But, equally sadly, they provide no surprise.

### October 26

Bridge House Regeneration visit to the start on site of new Council Homes

Twitter #GrillPhil

Hackney Grants Programme Meeting

Gangs and Crime Performance Meeting with the Police and Cllr Selman

HCVS Voluntary Sector Awards

Hackney North and South GMs

With around 3,000 of the 13,000 households on our housing waiting list homeless families living in temporary accommodation, we're all too aware of the housing issues facing Hackney, and we strongly welcome Shelter shining a light on the full extent of these problems nationwide.

In fact, with Hackney experiencing the biggest average increase in house prices in the country in the last 20 years, including an 82% rise in just the last 5 years, we might be even higher in the list if we weren't already doing all we can to tackle the problem.

This means bringing hundreds of empty homes back into use for the families that need them most. It means delivering one of the biggest programmes of Council house building in the country. And – with evictions from the private rented homes now the number one reason residents approach the Council for help with homelessness – it means taking action to get Hackney's 32,000 private renters the rights and support they deserve through our #BetterRenting campaign.

As the temperature begins to drop, it's those sleeping rough who will suffer most. We've always focussed our resources on finding vulnerable rough sleepers and working with charities to get them the housing, health and employment help they need to get back on their feet.

We've now expanded our support and advice services, working with the homelessness charity Thames Reach to open the Greenhouse – London's first multi-purpose resource and advice centre for homeless people. And our innovative [No First Night Out](#) initiative, run in partnership with Tower Hamlets and the City of London, has already helped 79 people who would have otherwise gone on to rough sleep find suitable housing.

But national problems need national solutions, and Shelter's report makes clear how the government can begin to tackle the situation right away by addressing the shortage of genuinely affordable homes, putting housing benefit back in line with actual rent levels, and providing longer, more secure tenancies in the private sector.

Whether it's [campaigning to stop the arbitrary borrowing cap](#) that stops new Council homes getting built, [pushing for an end to unfair letting fees](#) charged to private renters, or asking for change to a system in which [just 3% of private rented homes are affordable to those on housing benefit](#), we're already campaigning on these very issues. As the Chancellor unveils the Autumn Budget on 22 November, we hope he remembers those families facing a Christmas without a home this winter.

To find out more about [homelessness in Hackney](#) and how to help someone sleeping rough through the [No First Night Out](#) scheme.

## Drop plans for another Business Rates hike, Chancellor urged

Hackney Council is calling on the Government to drop a planned 3.9% rise to Business Rates, and offer more support to those already struggling to manage the huge hikes it rolled out this year.

In [a letter to Chancellor Philip Hammond](#), it warns this extra burden could be too much for some businesses in a borough already hit hard by the Government's recent revaluations. This concern is mirrored nationally by the British Chambers of Commerce, who warn it could present a 'tipping point' for many businesses.

As a result of the Government's revaluations, which went live in April, Hackney's businesses experienced an average rateable value increase of 46%, the largest in London and five times the England average. This had a dramatic impact on hundreds of businesses in the borough who this year have to pay rates thousands of pounds more than in 2016/17. Many face even greater rises each year until 2021/22, and could end up paying more than twice what they paid previously.

On top of these rises, the annual inflationary rise to Business Rates next April is expected to be 3.9%, considerably higher than recent years.

An extra 3.9% rise on top of what is already a very challenging time for our local businesses, compounded by the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, would be extremely detrimental to one of London's most thriving and innovative boroughs. A negative impact on local businesses also hits the communities they serve in terms of lost services, jobs and opportunities.

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

"Hackney is home to Tech City and hosts clusters of creative and tech enterprises. It has a complex and successful business environment which spans sectors from community services such as garages, barbers, pubs and restaurants, to a wide range of makers and manufactures, to innovative start-ups and expanding firms at the forefront of the fourth industrial revolution.

"We urge the Chancellor to rethink the hike of 3.9% and consider more the medium and long-term sustainability and growth of local businesses and economies. As the Prime Minister said last year, small and medium businesses are the backbone of our country, yet it is precisely these businesses which are bearing the brunt of these ongoing rises to Business Rates. Sadly, I know first-hand that many are already struggling to see a future for themselves."

Cllr Nicholson also asked the Chancellor to consider increasing the current £300m Discretionary Rate Relief Fund for regions experiencing significant rises, such as London and the South East. This provides councils with extra funding to support the hardest hit businesses, but tails off rapidly after the first year. Likewise, the relief scheme for pubs only runs for 2017/18.

Cllr Nicholson added: "These support schemes are welcome, and have benefited businesses in Hackney. However, they are only short-term measures when set against the ongoing year-on-year rises many of our businesses face as they transition to their new valuations.

"For many businesses which have seen huge and disproportionate hikes to their hypothetical rental values, these years will be the most punishing as their annual rises increase and compound on 2017/18."

The annual inflationary increase to Business Rates is usually based on September's Retail Price Index, which this year is 3.9%. This is the highest value since 2011, and 1.9 percentage points higher than last year.

Hackney Council has received £7.1m to support businesses through the Discretionary Rate Relief Fund. £4.15m has been allocated for 2017/18, £2m for 2018/19, £893,000 for 2019/20, and £188,000 for 2020/21.

In March this year, Hackney Mayor Philip Glanville, along with Meg Hillier MP and local business owners, [handed in a 10,562-strong petition to Downing Street](#) calling on Government to provide more support for businesses facing huge rate hikes.

## Hackney women are Blooming Strong

Hackney Council is supporting Standing Together's Blooming Strong campaign by presenting a variety of women across the borough with a single flower, and signposting residents to Hackney's domestic abuse support services.

The Blooming Strong campaign celebrates the strength of women who have survived gender-based violence and aims to encourage others that they also have the strength to survive, leave, move forward and recover from domestic abuse.

The campaign coincides with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on Saturday 25 November and the following 16 days of activism calling for an end to the violence and abuse that affects an estimated one in four women in her lifetime.

Tackling domestic abuse and eliminating violence against women is one of the Council's top priorities. There will be a number of events in Hackney aiming to raise public awareness throughout the 16 days of activism which ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day.

It is a shocking fact that in England and Wales seven women a month are killed by a current or former partner. Violence against women in London also paints a bleak picture. In 2015 the Metropolitan Police Service recorded that 25% of all violent crime in the capital was domestic abuse. 29% of recorded rapes were perpetrated as part of domestic abuse.

Women are much more likely than men to be victims of domestic abuse; male violence against women accounts for 85% of domestic abuse cases reported to the police.

The Council works across directorates and in many different ways to tackle gender-based violence in the borough. The Domestic Abuse Intervention Service works closely with Council colleagues, the police, health services and 3rd sector partner agencies to protect victims of abuse and bring perpetrators to justice as well as raising awareness across professional networks about how to recognise and respond to abuse.

Cllr Rebecca Rennison, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Domestic Abuse said:

"Hackney Council has a zero tolerance approach to gender-based violence and is clear that there is no space for violence against women and girls in Hackney.

"We take a holistic approach to tackling domestic abuse, working closely with victims of abuse, partner organisations and women's charities to help end the cycle of abuse.

"It can be very difficult for people to tell others that they are suffering. By presenting a variety of women with a single flower, we want to encourage victims of domestic violence to know that they have the strength and resilience to survive, and that when they're ready, we're here for them."

The Council, Homerton Hospital and third sector partner agencies, will be hosting a series of events to coincide with the 16 days of action – details of which are below and published on the Hackney Council website.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse you can contact Hackney Council's Domestic Abuse Intervention Service directly, or ask someone such as your health visitor, doctor, housing worker or social worker to refer you. If you are not ready to provide your details, the service is still happy to speak to you about your experiences, explain any limits on confidentiality and offer information and advice. You can also contact the service if you are using violence and abuse and want to get help to stop your behaviour. You can contact the team on 020 8356 4458; [dais@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:dais@hackney.gov.uk) or visit [www.hackney.gov.uk/domestic-violence](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/domestic-violence). Anyone needing help or support can also contact the 24-hour free national helpline on 0808 2000 247. In an emergency always call 999.

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visit [www.hackney.gov.uk/domestic-violence](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/domestic-violence). Anyone needing help or support can also contact the 24-hour free national helpline on 0808 2000 247. In an emergency always call 999.

### Information stalls

Find out more about domestic abuse and local services:

- Friday 24 November, 10am-4pm, Hackney Service Centre, main entrance – with staff from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service

### Public Events

- **Heart for peace: come paint with us**

Tuesday 28 November, drop-in 10am-5pm, Hackney Women's Forum

Contact: 07950 220214 or [hackneywomenforum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hackneywomenforum@yahoo.co.uk)

- **Change makers: portrait exhibition and talk**

Friday 1 December, 6-7pm, Latin American Women's Aid

Contact: 07462 191700 or [jael@lawadv.org.uk](mailto:jael@lawadv.org.uk)

- **Sistah Space: The African heritage perspective on domestic and sexual abuse**

Thursday 7 December, 5-7.30pm, Hackney Museum

[Book via Eventbrite](#)

- **Free film screening and discussion: The Colour Purple**

Friday 8 December, 6-9pm, Hackney Picturehouse

[Book via Eventbrite](#)

- **Rise community action: end domestic violence**

Saturday 9 December, 2-5pm, Hackney CVS

Contact: 07528 793863

### Events for Young People

- **Turn violence around: art and rap laboratory for girls and young women aged 7-16**

Saturday 25 November, 12-3pm, Latin American Women's Aid

Contact Jael Garcia to book your space at [jael@lawadv.org.uk](mailto:jael@lawadv.org.uk) or call 07462191700.

- **Young Hackney young women's group and young men's group**

Tuesday 28 November, 6-8.30pm, The Edge Youth Hub

No booking required, contact: 020 8356 1063.

- **Young Hackney young women's group and young men's group**

Tuesday 5 December, 6-8.30pm, Forest Road Youth Hub

No booking required, contact: 020 8356 2200.

## New Council homes on the way in latest Hackney housing scheme

Work to build 28 new social rent homes in Homerton is now underway as Hackney Council's ambitious plans for thousands of new Council homes reached a new milestone as the Council's construction partner Mulalley kicked off the 75-home development at Bridge House on Homerton High Street, which also includes 39 homes for shared ownership and eight homes for outright sale to help pay for the scheme.

The 28 social rent properties will provide a brand new replacement Council home - meeting modern design, space and sustainability standards - for existing residents on the same estate whose ageing homes are uneconomical to repair. The remainder will be available to those on the Council's housing waiting list or in temporary accommodation.

This development shows that Hackney is building and that our regeneration approach works. We're providing both brand new Council homes for those whose current homes aren't up to scratch alongside much needed additional homes for those most in need - all despite the complete absence of Government funding.

Bridge House is part of the Council's 18-site estate regeneration programme which is providing almost 3,000 new homes, more than half of which are for social rent and shared ownership. Construction is due to be completed in late 2019.

## Vote now for your Hackney Schools Star

Do you know a brilliant teacher, a fabulous school cook, a caring caretaker or an inspirational teaching assistant? Hackney Schools Stars is a chance to nominate any member of staff for a special award if they work in schools and early years. You know who makes such a huge difference to our children's lives, so are you a parent, guardian or school governor? Are you a young person who would like to say thank you? Now is your chance.

About the launch Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor of Hackney said:

"Every year Hackney Council and Hackney Learning Trust celebrate our amazing staff with the Hackney Stars awards, but from this year we want to open this out to our schools staff. Our parents, guardians and children know who those shining stars are in our schools, as they interact with them every single day. So we need your help! Please take the time to nominate your unsung heroes who tirelessly work to achieve great results or deliver special care to you or your children – whatever or however that may be. We want to hear your stories. I am delighted each year that our children and young people are getting life-changing results in their GCSEs and A-Levels and are primary children are also excelling. We provide some of the best schools in the country and teachers, therapists, admin staff, cooks and cleaners, to name but a few, have made this happen. They really deserve to be thanked for what they do by you."

Every year Hackney Council recognises its hard-working staff through the Hackney Stars awards scheme, and this year Schools Stars winners will join them to receive an award at Hackney Town Hall, presented by the Mayor, Philip Glanville, Deputy Mayor Cllr Anntoinette Bramble and Chief Executive of Hackney Council, Tim Shields.

The categories are:

- Teacher of the Year (for all teaching staff)
- Hackney Schools Star (for all non-teaching schools support workers, those who work in schools who aren't teaching but are delivering a service in a school)
- Lifetime Achievement Award (for teaching and non-teaching staff who have worked their career in Hackney for over 15 years)

### **More about the categories:**

#### Teacher of the Year

Teachers have some of the most challenging but extremely rewarding jobs. We want to make sure that they get the recognition they deserve. We are looking for outstanding teachers who continually strive for their pupils, support them to achieve, who have improved results, who are innovative and forward thinking, and make a real mark on our children and young people. What they do shapes and changes lives: please nominate your amazing teachers.

#### Hackney Schools Star

It's not just teachers who make a good impression on children, parents and guardians; whether they are staff who are cooking meals, cleaning, managing facilities and keeping things running, caring for our early years children, providing brilliant clubs or special educational services - without these dedicated staff - schools would struggle to reach the high standards we expect. Often in the background - our support staff are essential to meet all of our children's needs on a daily basis.

#### Lifetime Achievement

This award is to recognise a teacher or schools staff who has proved their dedication and commitment to Hackney. They will have served over fifteen years in their organisation or in service to children in Hackney. The judges will be looking for someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the borough, and deserves recognition for being an amazing ambassador over their years of service.

Nominating is easy! Please go to [www.hackney.gov.uk/hackney-schools-stars](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/hackney-schools-stars) where you can find an online form, or print off a paper version. Deadline midnight 21 December.

## **Local apprentice helps mark Hackney's latest Council housing milestone**

I visited the latest development in Hackney Council's ambitious plans to build thousands of Council homes is now on its way after building work at a Stoke Newington regeneration scheme reached a new milestone this month. I joined the topping out of the new homes at Aikin Court on Barbauld Road, which includes four new Council homes for social rent, as well as three homes for outright sale to help pay for them in the absence of government funding.

As well as providing much needed new homes for local people, these replace a block that had long suffered from subsidence with high quality homes meeting modern space and sustainability standards and designed to reflect the neighbouring townhouses in the local area.

The ceremony was also attended by Thaddeus Buffong, a local Hackney resident who was given the opportunity to build a career in the construction industry as part of the new development with the help of Hackney Works - the Council's own employment and training service.

## 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](#).

## Budget detail and our response

### Business Rates

We [called on the Chancellor](#) to halt to the planned 3.9% inflationary hike to Business Rates and offer more support to businesses, so today's announcements are welcome. However, for thousands of businesses in areas like Hackney, the next few years will still be extremely tough as they struggle to manage the ongoing rates hikes as a consequence of the Government revaluations which came into force this April.

Hundreds of businesses in Hackney are having to pay thousands of pounds more than in 2016/17, and many face even greater rises each year until 2021/22. Some will end up paying more than twice what they paid previously. Small and medium businesses are the backbone of our country, and Hackney is home to long-established traditional SMEs as well as innovative tech firms at the forefront of the fourth industrial revolution, yet it is precisely these businesses which are bearing the brunt of the Government's ongoing rises to Business Rates.

As such, it's disappointing the Chancellor didn't go further and increase the support available through the Discretionary Relief Fund, or announce some other form of longer term support, for the areas most severely affected by his Government's hikes.

### Crossrail 2

The lack of commitment to Crossrail 2 is frustrating. This much-needed project, both in terms of the Core Route through Dalston and the proposed Eastern Phase through Hackney Central and on to Essex, is essential to alleviate congestion and unlock the huge potential in housing and jobs growth across East London and the South East.

Transport studies clearly show that even with the known interventions planned by 2031, further rail infrastructure will be need in East London to cope with forecast growth. Sections of the Crossrail 1 Elizabeth Line will be at capacity soon after opening with other lines, including the Overground, suffering from similar levels of over-crowding.

Crossrail 2 is essential for the prosperity of London. It has the wide-spread backing of councils, businesses and other organisations across the capital, and will support the growth of hundreds of thousands of new homes and jobs. The Government needs to commit to it so work can begin as soon as possible.

### Housing

It's incredibly disappointing that the Chancellor failed to announce a single penny for the vital fire safety work that will be necessary up and down the country following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower. Councils who have approached the Government so far have all been turned down for any funding and it shouldn't be about individual authorities being forced to beg for additional resources, there needs to be a concerted national response to this tragedy and its long-term implications.

This was a Budget that again focussed on propping up a failing housing market, with a focus on home ownership that does little for the 13,000 families waiting for a Council home in Hackney or the 120,000 children who will be spending Christmas in temporary accommodation across the country.

When there's a shortage of housing, it's common sense to get everyone building more. We will urgently continue discussions with ministers about how Hackney could benefit from an increase in its housing borrowing cap to build more homes, but without measures to get all councils building, today's announcement does not go far enough and it must lead to real freedoms not continuing attempts to control and dictate from Whitehall.

It's also vital that we focus on building new homes rather than converting the vital workspaces and commercial buildings that are home to Hackney's thriving small businesses, and I would caution the Chancellor against further liberalising planning rules that could harm the economic lifeblood of our communities.

### Police funding

The Chancellor had the chance today to reverse the Government's short-sighted cuts to police funding, which are now demonstrably leading to increasing crime rates across London and the country. Nationally, police budgets have been cut by more than 25% since 2010. In London, the Metropolitan Police has been forced to make £600m of savings since 2010 – with a further £400m to find by 2020/21.

We've seen the real impacts of these cuts in Hackney, where we've lost one-in-four of our officers, with 200 fewer than in 2010. After years of declining crime and fantastic partnership working, we're now seeing a concerning increase across the board, and particularly in theft and violence.

The Government needs to see past its empty rhetoric of being more efficient and acknowledge the reality that London's police simply don't have the resources they need. I'd urge everyone to tell the Home Secretary about their concerns first-hand through our [Foot the Bill campaign](#), before she makes the final decisions over future funding in December.

### Schools funding

Education funding remains a serious concern for schools, parents and councils. It's disappointing that the Chancellor didn't provide a commitment to fund the world class education all of our children deserve or offer the [clarity we've called for](#) regards long-term funding. We still do not know what will happen to funding in areas like Hackney after

2019/20, leaving open the risk that the Government will revert to its original plan to strip our borough of £914 per pupil – or 692 teachers.

The Government has also ignored our calls to properly fund support for children with special educational needs, the funding for which has effectively been frozen since 2011, leading to a shortfall of £100 million across London and £8 million in Hackney.

### Universal Credit

We're pleased the Government listened to some of the concerns about Universal Credit voiced by councils, academics, charities and residents across the country, both those living with the consequences of the current flawed system and those where it is due to be rolled out. Forcing people to wait six weeks to receive any support has led to significant spikes in rent arrears and increases in the use of food banks in pilot areas, as people were dragged into debt through no fault of their own.

Speeding up and improving the payments system is a sensible first step, and I'd urge the Government to continue to listen to the concerns I have raised with them, particularly around councils' role in supporting residents to claim benefits and to help existing claimants adjust to this significant change in how they manage their personal finances. Government needs to provide councils with the necessary funding to pay for a comprehensive advice and support service for people transitioning to Universal Credit.

## Nominate now for the Hackney Sports Awards

Inspirational sports coaches, outstanding sporting achievement and excellence in sports clubs, going the extra mile for the local community. Nominations for the Hackney Sports Awards 2017 are now open and the Council is looking for worthy recipients of all ages from across the borough.

The awards, now in their 12th year, recognises the achievements of Hackney's sporting talent who have participated at local, county or national levels in any sports events over the past year. There are also awards for inclusion, sports club and team of the year and coach of the year.

You can nominate individuals and groups for awards in seven categories:

- Inclusion Award
- Coach of the Year
- Sports Club the Year
- Team of the Year (18 and under)
- Sports Person of the Year (16 and under)
- Sports Person of the Year (25 and under)

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

"The Hackney Sports Awards recognises success of individuals in their own disciplines as well as celebrating a good sporting attitude both in and outside the arena. I would encourage people to get nominating and help celebrate all the outstanding talent and commitment we have in Hackney."

To nominate, fill in the form on the Council's website, by **Friday 15 December**.

For more information about the awards, including nomination criteria for each category, call: 020 8356 7422; email: [info@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:info@hackney.gov.uk); or visit: [www.hackney.gov.uk/youthsportsawards](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/youthsportsawards)

## Urging the Government to delay roll-out of Universal Credit

Before the Budget, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, David Gauke, urging him to delay the roll-out of Universal Credit.

Universal Credit is due to go live in Hackney in June 2018, but pilots in other London boroughs have proved disastrous, with well document reports of vulnerable residents feeling confused and distressed, a significant spike in rent arrears and an increase in the use of food banks.

About 40% of existing claimants who incurred debt and arrears have never done so before. That is a significant number of people who have previously managed their finances well who are now on a downward spiral of debt and potential homelessness. More generally, the pressure on recipients will undoubtedly have an impact on the mental health of some claimants, as well as the wellbeing of their dependents.”

The Mayor goes on to raise concerns about support for the over 48,400 Hackney residents set to be affected. Traditionally, residents have turned to their local council for support relating to benefits. Universal Credit severs the link between local authorities and the DWP. Where now we are able to provide residents with advice specific to their case, under Universal Credit our staff will no longer be able to access the DWP’s system to find out about our residents’ claims.

Across the country, pilot areas have seen rent collections drop dramatically, impacting on councils’ ability to invest in social housing maintenance. A recent report from The National Audit Office made it clear that the Government’s welfare reform has driven homelessness, which The Smith Institute’s report concluded that the process of Universal Credit has “significant implications for councils and the wellbeing of the individuals themselves...Universal Credit is the single biggest change to welfare and benefits this country has ever seen and I urge you to take this opportunity to pause and reflect.

The full letter is available to download from here:

<http://news.hackney.gov.uk/download/476244/universalcreditletter.pdf>

## Community Library Service has the Wow Factor

Hackney Council’s Community Library Service staff showed they have the Wow factor, by beating over 21,000 other award nominees to pick up one of the 14 national customer service prizes at the WOW! Awards Ceremony 2017 in Central London on Monday 6 November.

The WOW! Awards is an independent body that recognises great customer service from organisations across Britain, other winners on the night included the police, hospital services and a range of public organisations and private companies. All nominations for the Awards are sent in by happy customers and shortlisted with this year’s 64 finalists then invited to give a presentation on their service to a panel of expert judges.

Hackney’s Community Library Service, who won the Community Focussed category at the ceremony, helps those who cannot access their local library due to temporary or permanent illness, frailty or special needs. Books and other library materials are delivered directly to the home via the electric library vans.

The Community Library Service team were nominated by a volunteer at St Joseph’s Hospice, who said: "I visited a lady who told me she receives visits from Hackney Council’s Community Library Service and that they deliver to her house 40 books every 4 weeks. Now she is in the Hospice the team from the mobile library still deliver books to her in her room on the wards. Last week she was asleep when the staff visited and she awoke to find a new stack of books

waiting for her to read. I believe this is an outstanding service not only to the residents of Hackney but also to the patients within St Joseph's Hospice. Thank you.”

Find out more about the Community Library Service and how to join at [www.hackney.gov.uk/community-library-service](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/community-library-service) or by calling 020 8356 5238.

## Consultations and campaigns:

### Update on Hackney Police Cuts Campaign asking the Government to #FoottheBill



Hackney residents are being urged to ask the Government to foot the bill for policing as part of a campaign to raise awareness of the impact cuts to officer numbers is having on their lives.

Hackney has lost one in four police officers since 2010 and after 15 years of declining crime rates, offending in the borough is now increasing.

The Council campaign, called Foot the Bill, calls on the Government to abandon further planned cuts to the Metropolitan Police budget and increase its funding. It also asks residents and businesses to write to the Home Secretary to tell her about their own concerns and experiences of increasing crime and antisocial behaviour to demonstrate the real impact of cuts.

The Metropolitan Police is funded predominantly by government's Police Grant. It has been forced to make £600m of savings since 2010, with a further £400m due by 2020/21, as a result of government cuts. Officer numbers have declined across London and Hackney has seen a cut from 770 officers in October 2010, to 584 now.

The loss of one in four police officers in Hackney comes against a backdrop of an increasing population – up by a third in 15 years – and an ever-growing influx of people each night to popular night-time destinations such as Shoreditch and Dalston. Each officer in the borough is now responsible for 469 people, up from 320 in 2010.

Between 2002/03 and 2014/15, crime fell by 34.7% in Hackney, equating to 13,000 fewer victims of crime. The latest figures show overall crime in the borough was up by 12% in 2016/17, with robbery and knife crime up by 24% and 22% respectively.

Hackney Council is calling on the government to commit to three things to keep London's streets safe:

- No further cuts to the Metropolitan Police
- Increase the Police Grant
- Increase the funding that the Met receives from the Capital Cities Grant. Currently London gets £100m less than it should.

CLlr Caroline Selman, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement said:

“Our police do a fantastic job in Hackney, but years of pioneering and progressive partnership between the police, the Council and other organisations to bring crime down over the past 15 years is being put at risk by short-sighted cuts to the police, and now crime is now going up.

“This trend is mirrored London-wide, where overall offences are up by 4.56%, and nationally, where recorded crime is up by 13%. The police simply do not have the resources they need, and Ministers’ platitudes about being more efficient, do nothing to address the reality on the ground or the rapidly growing concerns among our residents and businesses.”

We’ve written to the Government repeatedly to warn them that they need to act now to stop this trend continuing. However, I’m hearing more and more concerns and stories from residents and businesses and think it’s important the Home Secretary also hears first-hand how government cuts to the police are affecting their lives and making our streets less safe.

The Council has set up an online form to make it easy for people to write to the Home Secretary on its campaign webpage [www.hackney.gov.uk/foot-the-bill](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/foot-the-bill).

### **Have your say on Hackney's draft licensing policy**

Residents and businesses are invited to have their say on a draft licensing policy for Hackney, which aims to support the borough's vibrant nightlife, while also taking into account its impact on residents.

By law, councils must have an up-to-date licensing policy. Hackney first introduced a policy in 2005 and it was renewed in 2015. The review is being led by Cllr Emma Plouviez who is our Licencing Chair alongside Cllr Guy Nicholson and Cllr Caroline Selman.

After two years of evidence gathering and discussions with businesses and residents, a new set of proposals for new applications has been drafted to better meet the needs of both licensees and the local community.

We have had a policy since 2005, and a lot's changed since then. We think that this draft policy is fair; it puts the onus on applicants to prove to us that they will act responsibly and take into account the rights of residents to a good night's sleep. We will consider applications on their own merit and will support licensees to do a good job, but will always take action when they don't meet the high standards we expect.

The last time we carried out a full review in 2015, there were concerns from businesses and visitors. We didn't get it right, and we've learnt a lot since then, by having some really good open and frank discussions with licence holders

and residents across the borough. We think this draft policy will work, and we look forward to hearing what people think of it.

### **Key elements of the policy include:**

#### Changes to the Shoreditch Special Policy Area (SPA)

The Shoreditch SPA boundary would be extended west to City Road, south towards the City and east to the boundary with Tower Hamlets to reflect evidence that the growth of premises is impacting on ASB, crime and noise in these high-density residential areas.

Under the existing policy, new applicants are refused unless there are exceptional circumstances. A revised policy would be simpler, meaning that applicants will have to demonstrate that their premises will not add to issues of cumulative impact such as noise and anti-social behaviour.

#### Changes to the Dalston Special Policy Area (SPA)

The boundary of the Dalston SPA would remain unchanged. However, the policy would be revised so that, like the Shoreditch SPA, applicants will have to demonstrate that their premises will not add to issues of cumulative impact such as noise and anti-social behaviour.

#### New general principles for applicants

All applicants would be expected to demonstrate that they understand the area they are located in and that this has been taken into consideration, and that their proposals reflect the Council's licensing objectives.

#### An updated core hours policy

The Council will work flexibly and treat each application on its own merits, however a set of core hours is being consulted on. The updated core hours would be Monday-Thursday 8am-11pm, Friday-Saturday 8am-12am, Sunday 10am-10.30pm.

Applicants who wish to operate outside of those hours will need to take measures to mitigate the risk of issues like ASB, crime and noise.

#### A new policy on 'off' sales

A proposed policy on 'off' sales for new applicants aims to reduce the likelihood of incidents of anti-social behaviour, such as that stemming from street drinking or drinking before arriving at licensed premises.

Hours for the supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises will generally be restricted to between 8am-11pm.

#### A new policy on outdoor activities

There is currently no policy on outdoor activities such as beer gardens, street parties and pop-ups. The Council appreciates the contribution they make to the borough but wants to ensure they do not have a negative impact on people living nearby.

Generally outdoor activity will be restricted to between 8am-10pm, unless the application can demonstrate that they have taken measures to mitigate issues like noise and ASB.

To read the Licensing Policy documents and have your say please visit [www.hackney.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/licensing) and fill out the online questionnaire by **Friday 12 January**.

An information event will be held at Hackney House on Wednesday 22 November. Find out more and register to attend at [www.hackney.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/licensing).

## Nominate Hackney's landmarks to the local list

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Older Persons' Housing Strategy

The Council is developing an Older People's Housing Strategy and would like to hear from residents aged 55 and over at a number of group discussions.

The group discussions will take place at a central Hackney location and those who are able to spare some time to take part will be given a £20 shopping voucher as a thank you for attending. Please note, vouchers will only be offered to those selected to attend; and places are limited.

The focus will be on current housing needs, housing needs in the future, and the types of communities residents aged 55 and over would like to live in.

The views expressed at these sessions will be used to guide the development of the Older People's Housing Strategy.

More details can be found here: <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/chief-executives-office/older-persons-housing-strategy/>

## Have your say on Hackney's Local Plan

Residents can help shape the future of the borough by having their say on Hackney's Local Plan – a blue print for development in Hackney up to the year 2033.

With continued growth and affordability of housing and workspace top of the agenda, the Local Plan – known as LP33 – sets out a series of planning policies to guide and manage development and investment in the borough. It will help to ensure that development serves the needs of the borough and will allow the Council and local people to influence development.

The draft plan is available for people to feedback on now. It follows an earlier consultation in November 2016-January 2017, to gather initial thoughts on the priorities for the plan.

Some of the key proposals include:

- Requiring all residential developments to contribute towards delivering affordable homes
- Greater protection for existing industrial land and the designation of new industrial spaces
- More affordable office space in the south of the borough, where rents are highest – with new development providing discounted space at 40% of market rents
- Re-designating Hackney Central as a major town centre, to encourage further retail growth and investment

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

“Hackney’s draft Local Plan is an ambitious and bold document that describes what type of new development could be appropriate for our neighbourhoods. It talks about the facilities and infrastructure that a growing community needs and attempts to ensure that new development will make a positive contribution to the quality of life in the borough.

“Hackney continues to change rapidly and not all of this change is for the better. Leaving the market unchecked to developers can see inappropriate development, it can drive up rents for housing and workspaces, and any investment into infrastructure can be piecemeal and fragmented. So now is the time to review the borough’s Planning and Land Use policies and make sure that development in Hackney is built for our future and not that of the market.

“Please do feedback on the draft LP33, this plan really will make a difference to the Hackney of tomorrow.”

Take part in the consultation by visiting [consultation.hackney.gov.uk/planning-regulatory-services/draft-local-plan-2033/](http://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/planning-regulatory-services/draft-local-plan-2033/) pick up a copy from libraries or email [planmaking@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:planmaking@hackney.gov.uk) for more information.

The consultation is open until Monday 4 December. Consultation on the final version of the plan is programmed for later next year before the Plan is considered by an independent inspector appointed by the Government.

## Previous Motions and policy updates

- Hackney North Education Motion – a response has been circulated from Deputy Mayor Bramble
- Hackney North Manifesto Process Motion – a response will come from Chair of Labour Group and myself
- Hackney South Motion on CTRS will be discussed at December Labour Group
- Hackney South Motion on Parks will be discussed at December Labour Group

## Manifesto Update

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

The Updated Hackney Manifesto Timetable going forward is now:

- 21 November: Labour Group with new candidates: discussion on manifesto outline

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

All policy motions involving the manifesto with the agreement of Hackney Labour Group will automatically be fed into the agreed manifesto process and not be debated. This also allows wards to directly submit ideas into the Manifesto process via the email address [manifesto@hackney-labour.org.uk](mailto:manifesto@hackney-labour.org.uk) until the end of November. **We have had submissions from just under half the wards in Hackney so if you haven't responded please do so.**

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

I'm visiting Woodberry Down and Stamford Hill West Wards in December and Brownswood in January, but I am keen to book new dates for March next year. 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, Hoxton West and Haggerston Party Meetings. That's 11 branches as well as to Hackney Momentum and the Coop party meetings.