

October & November 2016 Mayor's Report

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Mayor's Diary Highlights

November 23

St Paul's Cathedral viewing & reception of AIDS Memorial Quilt with Positive East

Axe the Housing Act Autumn Statement Protest with Cllrs Potter and Gordon

Hackney Labour Campaign Forum

Hackney Speaker's Klezmer Night

November 22

East End Community Foundation Meeting with Cllr Nicholson

London Legacy Development Corporation Board

November 21

Crossrail 2 Meeting with Cllr Nicholson

November 20

Hackney Labour Group Awayday

November 18

London Councils Labour Group

Dear Member,

Welcome to my October and November Mayor's Report.

It's been a busy month with some excellent results only this week in response to our campaigning on the Housing and Planning Act and for better rights for private renters. The Government backtracking on Pay to Stay and their pledge to end letting agent fees is a great result for Hackney and our hard work. It turned my attendance at the Axe the Housing Act Protest at Parliament on Wednesday into more of a celebration, but we must continue to keep up the fight against the forced sales of Council Homes and attacks on social tenancies.

This month myself and the Cabinet have also been campaigning against the large rises in business rates, which could impact on local businesses and the threat that changes to school funding might have on the borough – more on both can be found below. On Monday we launch a new engagement with residents about the future of our education, it will ask them what type of schools they want to see, whether they support selection and what role they think the Council should have in education.

In terms of new initiatives we will be agreeing a new [Rough Sleepers Strategy](#) on Monday, with plans for a new No Second Night Out hub in the borough. We are continuing to take forward our housing development plans at Nightingale Estate, Tower Court, [Gooch House \(new low cost homes to buy\)](#) and St Leonard's Court. We have also launched the new Economic and Development Board that will be taking forward our ambitious agenda on investment, jobs, training and skills.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil".

Scrapping of Pay to Stay ‘a victory for working families’

I welcomed the Government’s decision to abandon its plans to force working families in Council housing to pay extra rent.

Minister for Housing and Planning Gavin Barwell MP announced this week that he would not force councils to implement the rent hikes proposed for families with a household income of more than £40,000 – such as two newly qualified nurses or primary school teachers.

It followed months of campaigning and work by local residents, the Council and its partners to demonstrate to the Government that the plans would put extra pressure on families’ budgets and be incredibly complex and costly for local authorities to put into place. I believe this is a victory for the low-paid working families who would have been penalised by this unworkable policy, so I'm pleased the Government has finally listened to Hackney, campaigning local residents and others, and scrapped it.

We've been working hard behind the scenes to demonstrate to ministerial officials the damage this tenant tax would have on families in Hackney and the bureaucratic nightmare it would place on tenants and local authorities – the reasons I marched, campaigned and gave evidence in Parliament against this legislation.

Ministers must now apply the same sense to other counterproductive measures in the Housing and Planning Act – such as the forced sale of council homes to fund a needless extension of Right to Buy – and end their assault on social housing. [The Council warned earlier this month](#) that rushing through the policy, due to start next year, risked causing extra hardship for many working families who are already struggling financially.

Council officers had also repeatedly set out the administrative challenges of implementing the measures – which could have cost nearly £500,000 in the first year alone – to government officials through letters and regular meetings.

The Housing and Planning Act became law in May. As well as the new Pay to Stay rules, it includes the extension of Right to Buy to housing association tenants, funded by the sale of Council homes – which could force Hackney Council to sell up to 700 Council homes over the next five years.

November 17

Met with Guinness Housing Association to discuss Northwold concerns

Woodberry Down Partnership Roundtable

Britannia Development Board

Capital Investment Board

November 16

Hosted Deputy Mayor James Murray at Greenhouse Single Homelessness Hub and St Mungo’s, Mare Street Hostel with Cllrs Selman and Rennison

Centre for London Annual Conference

November 15

Spoke at a New London Architecture debate on the role of Local Councils in Housing Delivery

Closing speech at Hackney: Child Friendly City event/summit

Hackney Labour Group

November 14

Social Integration Summit at City Hall with Deputy Mayor Bramble

First Meeting of the Economic and Community Development Board

November 13

[Remembrance Sunday at St John Hackney](#)

November 12

Interviewed by Hoxton Radio

November 11

Met with Hackney Council Unison

For more information on the Council's lobbying against the changes, visit the [Housing and Planning Act page](#).

Funding changes could cost Hackney schools £20m

Hackney schools could lose millions under Government plans to overhaul the way it funds education.

Myself and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, have warned that the borough's schools could be nearly £20m worse off over the next three years, which would have a major impact on staffing and schools' ability to deliver a full curriculum.

I joined [24 other elected mayors and council leaders in writing a letter](#), calling on the Prime Minister to scrap the new funding formula, set to begin in 2018/19. I will continue to raise this issues, alongside our opposition to grammar schools and look forward to speaking with Angela Rayner, Shadow Secretary of State for Education in Parliament at the Progress Campaign Rally.

Currently, the government provides local authorities with a dedicated schools grant (DSG). Some of this money is retained for central educational spending and the rest is distributed to schools according to a locally calculated formula. Traditionally, schools in inner city areas have received greater funding per pupil, to help them address the challenges of teaching in a more deprived area.

The new funding formula aims to create more equal funding levels by removing existing funding from areas like Hackney and redistributing it. In a letter to the Prime Minister, the councils call for the new funding formula to be dropped and for extra resources to be made available to the areas currently underfunded.

Hackney schools were once some of the worst performing in the country, regularly at the bottom of league tables and not meeting the needs of the children in the borough. In the 1990s only 14% of the borough's students achieved five or more GCSE grades A to C and in primary schools 42% of lessons observed were deemed unsatisfactory.

Today, schools in Hackney are currently among the very best in the country. The borough is ranked first in England for Key Stage 1 results; that's 5-7 year olds reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, and the borough's 7-11 years olds are in the top five for performance at Key Stage 2. At GSCE level, the borough has ranked joint first in the country, based on Progress 8 - a new measure which looks at the progress children have made from the end of primary school to age 16 .

Attended the launch of Find a Balance (a mental health social enterprise) at Bootstrap

November 10

Spoke at the Hackney Landlord Forum

[Visit of HRH Earl of Wessex to the Forrest Road Youth Hub as part of Duke of Edinburgh Awards Tour](#)

November 9

[Spoke at a Zero Emissions Network event in Shoreditch](#)

The Stage end of Dig Event

November 8

Met with HCVS Senior Leadership Team

Met with Cllr Nicholson and London Stansted and Cambridge Consortium

One Million Mentors / Uprising Event in Parliament

November 7

Hackney Leadership Team Scenario Planning with the Cabinet

Met with Colville Leaseholders and Freeholders working group

November 5

[Attended Hackney Fireworks at Clissold Park](#)

November 4

Met with Mill Co

Met with Hackney Walk

Council calls on businesses to make Hackney a London Living Wage borough



Last month the Council became an officially accredited London Living Wage borough and used the opportunity to use LLW Week to call on businesses to help make Hackney a London Living Wage borough: where no workers are paid less than they can reasonably live on. Given the industrial dispute at the Picturehouse I also took the step of moving Council events that I was due to speak at and wrote to them urging them to pay LLW.

The Council's efforts to ensure all of its staff and contractors are paid a fair wage were recognised recently, when it was given national Living Wage accreditation.

All direct employees – as well as temporary, agency staff and apprentices over 18 – have long received the London Living Wage.

As Council contracts have come up for renewal, including most recently adult homecare services, over 800 more people are now receiving the wage – currently £9.40 per hour.

We have worked hard to ensure that all staff that work for the Council are paid the London Living Wage which is a fair salary to help meet the cost of living in our borough. With our accreditation, we are helping to set an example to other businesses across Hackney to make pay equal and sign-up to become London Living Wage accredited. With a fair salary, not only will residents be able to make the most of the opportunities that exist in our borough, but it will help improve the quality of life and wellbeing for all.

November 3

[Hosted with the Speaker HRH Duke of Kent at King's Crescent](#)

Campaigned in Hoxton West By-election

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

November 2

[Spoke at the Hackney Youth Awards](#)

November 1

Met with Passing Clouds

Housing Development Board

Hosted a Terrence Higgins Trust fundraising event in Hackney

October 31

With Cllr Carole Williams attended the London Living Wage announcement at the British Library

Hackney Cabinet

October 30

Volunteered with Dee-Dee's Help the Homeless at Hackney Town Hall

October 29

Hoxton West By-election Campaigning with Jeremy Corbyn

Visit to the Eastern Curve Garden

Hackney businesses put at risk from huge hike in rates

Hackney Council is calling on the Government to rethink its planned increase to business rates which would see hundreds of local business hit with huge bills next year.

It warns the borough's innovative and thriving business communities risk sliding into stagnation, from the new creative clusters around Tech City to the traditional businesses which have served residents for years.

Under the Government's current proposals, more than 370 businesses in Hackney could face a rise in their rates of between £10,000 and £100,000 from April, with some facing an even greater hike. Further rises may then take place each year until 2021/22.

The situation follows a national revaluation of 'rateable values'; what a business property is considered worth on the open market, and what business rates are based on. Hackney has seen an average increase of 46% in rateable value from previous valuations in 2010 – the highest in the country, and five times the England average.

The maximum annual increase in rates depends on what size a business is classed as, which is based on their premises' rateable value. In the first year, 'small' business could have to pay up to 5% more, 'medium' businesses 12.5%, and 'large' 45%. Over the five years the total maximum increases for the three classes are 64%, 147% and 297%.

Hackney will have about 500 properties in 2017 that fall just above the threshold to be classed as 'medium' businesses rather than 'small', meaning their rates increase will be capped at 12.5% rather than 5%.

The impact is greatest for the borough's 562 properties with a 2017 value of over £100,000, classing them as 'large'. These face rises of up to 45%, which for about 20 of them will result in a bill increase of more than £100,000 next year.

Cllr Guy Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Planning, Business and Investment, has written to the Chancellor Philip Hammond requesting he delay rolling out the new system of charges or, failing that, implement the rises over a longer period allowing businesses to plan ahead.

More details and a copy of the letter can be found here:

<http://news.hackney.gov.uk/hackney-businesses-put-at-risk-from-huge-hike-in-rates/>

October 28

First of the new Mayor's Advice Surgeries

Spoke at Immediate Theatre's 20th Birthday Celebrations at the Arcola

October 27

First Britannia Board Meeting

Hackney North and Stoke Newington GM

Hackney South and Shoreditch GM

New Hackney Rough Sleeper Strategy 2016-18

On Monday Cllr Rennison, Mayoral Adviser for Advice and Preventing Homelessness will be taking a new Rough Sleepers strategy to Cabinet. We believe it is one of the first such strategies at a local authority level in the country and includes the commitment to try an end rough sleeping in Hackney by 2020.

The Council passed its first comprehensive Homelessness Strategy in 2007, focussing on preventative action and support for the most vulnerable in our community. This strategy was updated last year with a new Homelessness Strategy 2015-18 and a separate Temporary Accommodation Strategy 2015-18. These strategies take account of the growing pressures placed on Council homelessness services due to rising housing costs, welfare reform, legislative change and pressure on Local Authority budgets.

The new Rough Sleeper Strategy is the final part of the refresh of the Council's Homelessness Strategy. Rough Sleeping is the most visible sign of homelessness, although in terms of numbers it is the tip of an iceberg, and is often a symptom of individual crisis and complex issues around mental health, drug and alcohol addiction, or those with no or irregular immigration status. As a result only a coordinated and holistic approach to the issue is likely to achieve Hackney's ambition to ensure no one has the need to sleep rough in Hackney by 2020.

Our approach builds on successful and innovative work to prevent hundreds of cases of homelessness a year, such as the Greenhouse Single Homelessness Hub. By identifying those most at risk of sleeping rough we can target intensive support and work closely with partner agencies and charities to intervene before individuals are forced to sleep on our streets, reconnect them with support networks and services and provide clear pathways into housing, medical treatment and employment.

We also recognise that those sleeping rough are more often the victim of crime rather than the cause and will work with our partners, such as the police, to ensure they are safeguarded. Hackney Council will not take enforcement action in relation to rough sleeping. Which addresses fully any concerns that we might return to a PSPO that might include rough sleeping. Further, where there are instances of persistent anti-social behaviour relating to someone who also has housing needs our approach will always be one of enforcement last, when all support options have been exhausted and it is in the interests of both the individual and affected residents to take more robust actions.

With early intervention, holistic support to those who need it most, and clear pathways back to secure housing, we can move towards our goal to end rough sleeping for good.

You can read the full report and background papers here:

<http://mginternet.hackney.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=111&MIId=3558>

New Consultation: Planning for Hackney in 2033

What will Hackney look like in 2033? That's what residents are being asked to consider as the Council prepares to draft the borough's next Local Plan.

The Local Plan 2033 is a planning document which will provide developers, land owners and the Council with a set of priorities and guidelines about what the borough's needs are over the coming years. The Local Plan is one of the tools the Planning Committee uses to judge what can and cannot be granted planning permission.

It is predicted that the borough's population will grow from 263,150 in 2016 to 317,000 by 2033, with the number of jobs in Hackney rising from 127,000 to 158,000. The increase in population will require a further 29,886 homes, as well as placing additional demand on the capacity of the borough's infrastructure; including transport, the public realm, community and leisure spaces, health services and school places.

The Council has identified areas which might be suitable to accommodate some of this growth and as part of the Local Plan consultation, residents are being asked for their opinions of these areas.

This is the first consultation phase of the Local Plan, which identifies eight themes to focus on. Residents and interest groups are being encouraged to respond to any – or all - of these themes:

- Meeting Hackney's housing need
- A strong and competitive economy which benefits all
- Planning for vibrant town centres
- Hackney's people
- Improving accessibility and promoting sustainable transport
- Hackney's green and public places
- Protecting and enhancing heritage and leading the way in good urban design
- Responding to climate change

If you want to know more or feed in your views, please visit: <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/local-plan-review>

End violence against women and girls in Hackney

The Council is asking residents to show their support for the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women' as the Council calls on residents to rally together and show their support for the elimination of violence against women.

The Council will be taking 16 days of action as part of the UN's campaign to help eliminate gender-based violence, starting with an event on the steps of Hackney Town Hall on Friday 25 November. Come at 12 noon, listen to speeches and stand together to help eliminate gender based violence

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.

Tackling domestic abuse and eliminating violence against women is an key priority for the Council; despite continued government cuts, last year the Council increased its spending on domestic abuse services.

The Council works in many different ways to tackle gender-based violence in the borough. Working directly with perpetrators to affect permanent behaviour change and leading the way in the sector through collaborations with third sector partners, the police and health services, to protect victims of abuse and bring perpetrators to justice.

We want residents to pledge their support for ending gender-based violence in Hackney, coming together on 25 November and taking part in the 16 days of action to help eliminate violence against women and girls in Hackney.

Our domestic abuse service is at the forefront of innovative practice, offering an intensive and holistic service and working closely with partner agencies and women’s charities to help break the cycle of abuse. We want anyone who is experiencing abuse to know that, when they are ready, we are here to support them.

Following on from 25 November the Council will be hosting a series of events to coincide with the 16 days of action, including events for young people at Youth Hubs and in schools along with free public film screenings and talks.

You can contact Hackney Council’s Domestic Abuse Intervention Service anonymously and get help to stop abusive behaviour on 020 8356 4458; dais@hackney.gov.uk or visit 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.

Public Events

- **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women Event**, Hackney Town Hall Square, 25 November 12 noon
- **Film screening and talk ‘Love you to Death: A year of domestic violence’**, Homerton Library, Thursday 1 December 6-8 pm and Dalston CLR James Library, Thursday 8 December 6-8 pm

Events for Young People

- **Domestic Abuse: Seeing It and Stopping It**, The Edge Youth Hub, 29th November, 6-8:30 pm and Forest Road Youth Hub, 6th December 6-8:30 pm

Minifesto update

The following manifesto/campaign pledges have been delivered since 19th September:

Pledge	Delivered
Make sure my Cabinet is more inclusive, including a minimum of 50% women and a range of full and part time roles	New Cabinet appointed which reflects the borough’s diversity (overall the Cabinet and Advisers are 55% women and 45% BAME). The Cabinet includes a mixture of full time and part time posts.
Start a new Monthly Mayor’s Surgery at the Town Hall	The first Mayoral surgery was held on 28 th October, and future dates have also been set.
Introduce monthly ‘Meet the Mayor’ meetings in the community, ensuring that I get to every part of Hackney	A formal ‘Meet the Mayor’ format will be launched in the new year.

The Council to be accredited as a London Living Wage employer	The Council was officially accredited on 20 th October 2016.
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The following manifesto commitments will also be progressed within the first 100 days:

Pledge	To be delivered by 28 th December
Relaunch the Hackney 100 work placement programme to connect young people in the borough with careers in Hackney's key growth sectors.	The approach will have been agreed within the first 100 days with a launch event with external stakeholders in spring 2017.
Review how the Council supports Councillors [We have an amazing group of councillors, but they need to be supported - so I will launch a review of how we support them]	Two new Member Support Officers have been recruited to form a new Member Support team. The Member Reference Group (MRG) is also being re-established.
Offer better support for homeless families (More help to prevent homelessness and ensure that those in temporary accommodation have more support)	A clear plan will be in place within the first 100 days to deliver access to wifi and laundry facilities for those in temporary accommodation.
Resettle a total of 7 refugee families by Christmas 2016 (including the families already resettled) [London Citizens pledge]	Whilst the Home Office timescales mean that we will be able to resettle 7 families by Christmas, we will have resettled 3 families (11 individuals) by then, with the rest to follow in the New Year. We have also offered 17 spaces for unaccompanied children from the Calais Camp.

Further work will be completed before the end of the year on: the childcare bursary, the programme of inspirational young leaders and mentors in our schools, the delivery of 100 apprenticeships across the Council, the support of Council scrutiny, a new Active Hackney Network, and the 500 London living rent homes and a new housing company to build them.

Response on to concerns about developments on parks and Hoxton West and Haggerston Motion

Hackney's green spaces are central to what makes the borough such a brilliant place to live and work. We are fortunate to have the largest expanse of green spaces in inner London, with 58 parks, gardens and open spaces totalling over 300 hectares and ranging from the largest concentration of football pitches in Europe at Hackney Marshes to small parks and squares across the borough, from Hoxton to Woodberry Down.

Hackney has 21 Green Flag awarded green spaces; the fourth-highest number of Green Flags in the capital. This is recognition that since 2010 the Council has invested around £22 million into its parks, with a further £8 million planned to take place over the next few years.

The Council values its parks and recognises how valued and vital they are to residents and visitors to the borough. The Council is aware of concerns amongst some residents regarding plans to use a former Parks depot site on Audrey

Street as the temporary home for two new schools, and of the potential impact of a Britannia development and Crossrail 2 on Shoreditch Park. This note provides a summary of the proposals.

Audrey Street

Like many London boroughs, Hackney needs more school places. Despite investing over £500 million in our schools over the last decade we need to build two new secondary schools by 2021, to provide 1,650 additional secondary school places. We are working with the City of London Academy Trust to develop the schools, which would provide the high quality places we need.

These schools will ultimately be the City of London Academy Shoreditch Park, and the City of London Academy Hackney Downs, both 6 forms of entry (900 pupils aged 11-16) with additional 6th form places. The former will occupy the site from September 2017 to July 2020, while the latter is due to use it from September 2020 to July 2022.

Audrey Street is a former Council Parks depot, consisting of 1840m² of paved area (2.33% of the total park area of 79000m²), fenced off from public access but formally included within the area of the park, and within a section designated at Borough level as a site of nature conservation. The depot itself is formed of an area of hard standing, surrounded by a c. 2m high palisade fence. It is not freely accessible by the public, and the existing use by a community growing club and Hackney BMX will be accommodated elsewhere. The Council has committed to putting funding aside to ensure that the depot becomes park land once the use as a temporary school has ended.

Formal consultation has taken place as part of the planning process, in June. The Council has also engaged with a number of stakeholders to answer their questions and/or address their concerns. The City of London Academy Trust has undertaken a separate consultation regarding the school proposals, which details the use of the Audrey Street site for a temporary period. The Council has been very clear that the depot site will be returned to full park use once it has stopped being used as a temporary school. At no point will the land change ownership or be in anyway privatised.

Britannia development

The Council is looking into whether it would be possible to build a new leisure centre to replace Britannia - which is coming to the end of its life - and to provide a long term home for the City of London Academy Shoreditch Park – to help meet the demand for school places for local children - on the site. This would be funded in part by the sale of housing, which would also be built on the site.

Remodelling the site provides an opportunity to provide toilet facilities and a café at the leisure centre, facing onto the park, which would be open to the public. This is something park users have been asking for, for a long time, so this will be an important consideration when designing the new leisure centre

The only area of Shoreditch Park that is included in the area the Britannia feasibility study will assess is the ball courts / tennis courts adjacent to Pitfield Street which currently form part of Britannia Leisure Centre's facilities. The Council's intention is to re-provide the ball courts on top of the new Britannia leisure centre.

Crossrail 2

The Council has responded to the Crossrail 2 consultation, strongly defending the park and leisure centre site against plans from Crossrail 2, which proposed to use the land for a worksite and permanent vent shaft. We have suggested

the only suitable sites identified by Crossrail 2 are on Eagle Wharf Road. We are having regular meetings with the Crossrail 2 team and we should have an update on this soon.

On school places

On the school places question from HS&S GM, not only is delivering new school places one of my manifesto commitments, but the Hackney Learning Trust produced the demographic analyses that have identified the need for two new secondary schools in the Borough by 2021.

Secondary projections are compiled by assessing the number of Year 7 places compared to the number of children on roll in Year 6. To this, a number of calculations are made, such as the likely movement of pupils into and out of the borough for secondary transfer and the number of pupils likely to enter the maintained sector from Independent primary provision.

Our secondary projections are based on providing places for 83% of the secondary transfer cohort. The number of parents expressing first preferences for Hackney schools remains high at 84.6%. Historically, many Hackney parents chose to move out of Hackney as their children approached secondary age but the success of Hackney schools in recent years, has meant that more are now staying in the borough.

In September 2015, our projections, using the above methodology, showed that by 2019/20 we would need an additional 10 forms of entry (FE) at year 7. This equates to 300 additional places being needed per year group. At that time the secondary projections were due to increase by one further form of entry (30 places) by 2021.

The projections above related to new places in year 7. If the increases are carried across all of the school year groups (i.e. year 7 to year 11 for secondary), they increase to 1650 places.

Our current 2016 projections, using the methodology explained above for secondary places show that we need an additional 12FE (360 places) by 2019/20. The projected increase in places is explained by an increase in the cohort that will transfer and an increase in the current number of out borough pupils obtaining places in Hackney schools.