

Philip Glanville Labour Mayor of Hackney

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

www.hackney-labour.org.uk / philip.glanville@hackney.gov.uk

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

Dear Member,

Welcome to my September to October Mayor's Report.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the Hackney Ideas Factory earlier in the month, an update will be going out to wards shortly, but we had double the attendance of 2013 and are now looking at over 500 ideas from across the party.

This month we have continued to put pressure on the Government about the devastating impact of Universal Credit, which is still due to go fully live in Hackney in June next year, I have written to the Secretary of State outlining my concerns and while we welcome some of the climb downs on supported and temporary housing we still have significant concerns.

Alongside colleagues we are continuing to campaign on police cuts, the freeze in SEND funding, the failure of the Government to fully commit to ending the threat of cuts in wider Education Funding, as well as the lifting of the Public Sector Pay cap.

Below in my full report I outline the progress we are making around increasing the opportunities available in Hackney for people to access jobs, employment advice, skills and training.

Closer to home I have alongside councillors, trade unionists and Labour members continued to support the Picturehouse LLW campaign and recent campaign sessions at Well Street and Hoxton East, this weekend alongside Diane Abbott MP I will be helping to launch the Cazenove Campaign.

Best wishes,



PS and don't forget to get your tickets for Hackney Fireworks:

<http://news.hackney.gov.uk/fireworks-set-to-wow-hackney/>



Mayor's Diary Highlights

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

October 25

Meeting with Hackney Apprentices with Cllr Williams

Meeting with David Montague, CEO of L&Q and Chair of the G15.

Hackney Council

October 24

Central London Forward Board Meeting

London Legacy Delivery Corporation Away Day

London Labour Housing Group 2018 Manifesto Meeting and Speech

Hackney Police Cuts Campaign

I have mentioned before in my reports about the impact that police cuts are having in Hackney and our representations to both Central Government and the Mayor of London on this issue. Following the passing of a Labour motion on this issue last night at Full Council Cllr Selman and I are stepping up our campaign.

As you may know due to underfunding by central Government (a combination of actual and real terms cuts), the Metropolitan Police has had to make £600m of savings since 2010/11. It is now faced with having to find a further £400m of savings by 2020/21.

As a result of these cuts, in the past four years the MPS has had to lose more than 100 police stations and 2,800 police staff and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). In Hackney we have lost 1 in 4 of our police officers.

In 2015, we issued a clear public warning that reductions in officer numbers was putting Hackney's long-term downward trend in crime at risk. Government has failed to listen to our (and others') warnings and as a result police numbers have continued to fall, and crime rates to increase - a trend that is also being played out London-wide (offences up by 4.56% FY 16/17) and nationally (20,000 police officers lost, police recorded crime up by 13% in the last 12 months). In March, we wrote to the Home Secretary reiterating this warning:

<http://news.hackney.gov.uk/hackney-calls-for-fairer-police-funding/>

Last night Hackney Council passed a motion: resolving to run a high profile public campaign, calling on Government to #FoottheBill and:

- Commit now to no further cuts to the Met
- Increase the Government's Police Grant, which makes up two-thirds of police funding nationwide, so that our streets can be kept safe
- Increase the funding that the Met receives for policing a capital city, so that London gets a fair deal.

Residents who also wish to write to Government to raise their concerns directly can find further information on the Council's website: www.hackney.gov.uk/foot-the-bill

October 23

Inside Housing Debate on Community, Regeneration and Placemaking

Capital Board

Britannia Board

Hackney Cabinet

October 22

[FIFA Event Hackney Marshes](#)

Stoke Newington Music Festival

October 21

#HackneyatHome Campaigning in Hoxton East and Shoreditch

Emerald MacMillan North London Fundraiser in Tottenham Irish Centre with the Speaker

October 19-20

LGA Training

Hackney Showroom: Frau Welt

October 19

Visit to Kings Crescent and handing over the keys to one of the right to return residents returning to a new Council Home.

Meeting with Islington and Camden Councils to talk about how we can work better together on Housing.

[Hackney ESOL Graduation Ceremony and Awards at the Hackney Empire with the Speaker.](#)

Hackney Council Long Service Awards

October 17

Meeting with Bobby Kasanga and Hackney Wick FC

Hackney Labour Group

Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) funding

The funding of SEND is a hidden crisis in our education system and is threatening the quality of education and support we can offer to our most vulnerable young people. The National Funding Formula rightly sparked a national debate, but this funding freeze means councils are running out of choices, as a freeze in government funding for pupils with special educational needs means councils in London are being forced to plug a funding gap of £100m.

High needs funding, which allows local authorities to support young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), has effectively been frozen since 2011-12. This is despite a major increase in the pupil population and reforms in 2014, which significantly increased the number of children who are eligible to receive support, leading to a 34% increase in the number of young people Hackney supports.

In Hackney there is a funding forecast shortfall of over £6m, but the impact is being felt across the capital. Research carried out by London Councils found that, in 2016/17, 26 out of 31 London boroughs reported a combined funding shortfall of £100m.

As a council, our primary job is to look after our most vulnerable residents, so turning off the tap is not an option. To meet this shortfall, councils are using money from other education funding pots, and are drawing on reserves – which is not sustainable in the long term. Next year funding is expected to rise by 0.5% - but this is nowhere near enough to fill the shortfall.

Of course, this all comes at a time when local authorities are having to make continued, unprecedented cuts. In Hackney we've had to save over £152 million since 2010 – and will need to find a further £30 million by 2021-22. We just don't have the luxury of shifting money around anymore. So where do we go from here?

In Hackney, we will be forced to reduce the amount of high-needs top-up funding we give to schools by 5 per cent. Reducing funding is absolutely the last thing we want to do, and it's a hard decision to make. We've given schools plenty of advance notice of the proposals, but we know that for some it's going to have an impact and will mean they have to plan things differently.

During the public debate around the national funding formula, the government heard clearly how important adequate and sustained funding for schools is to parents and teachers. It's now vital that we have the same debate about SEND funding, and Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor, has written to the education secretary, urging her to reform how this vital funding is calculated and distributed, taking into account the growth in demand alongside actual spend. This work has been picked up in the TES and also Evening Standard:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/education/london-councils-warn-of-100m-black-hole-threat-to-school-funding-of-special-needs-pupils-a3661716.html>

October 15

Hackney Ideas Factory Day Two

Hackney Labour Picture House Living Wage Protest

October 14

Hackney Ideas Factory Day One

Hackney Singers Concert

October 13

Visit to Second Home and meeting with Rohan Sliva

October 12

[Local Democracy Week debate with Hackney Youth Parliament and students from Petchey Academy](#)

Debate on the importance of local press at Goldsmiths University

October 11

Meeting with Liam from Great British Bake Off

Briefing with Hoxton West Councillors on Housing Supply Programme

Meeting on the new plans for the Marian Court Regeneration

Visit to the North London Muslim Centre and Debate

October 10

London Councils Labour Group

London Councils Leaders Meeting

London Councils Congress with the Mayor of London

London Chamber of Commerce Dinner and debate

The gradual erosion of funding for this most vital of services threatens to have a huge impact on the children, parents and carers who need it most. It isn't simply a matter of finance – inadequate funding will affect young people for the rest of their lives.

It is absolutely crucial that the Government changes the way that this vital funding is calculated and distributed, and take into account the growing demand.

Deputy Mayor Bramble, councillors, candidates and Labour activists joined Fair Funding campaigners from Hackney at the National Protest of Parliament yesterday where they met with Meg Hillier MP and Diane Abbot MP raising these issues and the wider challenge of Education funding.

Work on Rough Sleeping

The No First Night Out (NFNO) website is now live at <http://nfno.org.uk> NFNO is a project run by Hackney, Tower Hamlets and City of London, working to try and identify where we can intervene to prevent rough sleeping and act to ensure individuals remain housed. Prevention is a critical part of our Rough Sleeper strategy and this project helps deliver on that.

NFNO aims to prevent rough sleeping from happening, however if you see anyone sleeping on the streets please report it through the Streetlink website - <http://streetlink.org.uk/> - which goes straight through outreach workers.

This builds on our Rough Sleeping Strategy which aims to end rough sleeping in Hackney by 2020 and the joint work we are doing with the Mayor of London to open the No Second Night Hub on Mare Street.

Hackney Council top dog in animal welfare

Hackney truly are golden retrievers of lost dogs, after picking up a 'Gold Stray Dog Footprint Award' from the RSPCA last month.

The award recognises and promotes good practice in animal welfare by local authorities. Hackney Council received the 'gold standard' for providing excellent animal welfare, and demonstrating the importance of education through the promotion of services and schemes such as free microchipping.

Members of the dog warden team will be attending an award ceremony with the RSPCA in November to celebrate their achievements alongside the other winners.

October 9

Evening Standard Debate at HereEast

Hackney Half Marathon Debrief with Virgin Sport and Cllr McShane

New Council Candidates Induction

October 8

Adidas Shoreditch 10km

Centre for Turkey Studies Event

October 7

Hackney Picture House Living Wage Protest

October 6

Meeting on Hackney Museum and Town Hall

Meeting with Dolphin Living

Soca Massive Carnival Awards

October 5

Meeting with integrated Hackney Social work team as part of the #HackneyLoveYou Campaign

Meeting with Nobu, Shoreditch and We Works

[Black History Month Launch at Hackney Museum with Deputy Mayor Bramble and Cllr Williams](#)

Rediscovered Banksy Unveiling

October 4

Hackney Society at 50 Book Launch

Black History Month flag competition

School children in Hackney are being encouraged to send in their designs for a Hackney Black history flag as part of the Council's celebrations for Black History Season 2017. This followed discussions with the Deputy Mayor on how we could widen Black History Month into a season and increase its visibility.

Deputy Mayor, Anntoinette Bramble, launched the competition at a Black History workshop at Hackney Museum this month with Year 4 students from Princess May Primary School.

We are encouraging all of our young residents to take part in this competition and channel their creativity into making a recognisable symbol and celebration for Hackney of the contribution that African and Caribbean communities have made both locally and across the globe.

The winning design will be picked by a panel of judges and will be made into a real flag with the help of a local artist. The flag will then flown on top of Hackney town Hall in time for Black History season in October 2018.

Winners will be announced in early 2018. The deadline for entries is Thursday 21 December 2017.

The flag must:

- Honour the past while celebrating the present and the future
- Be exciting and colourful
- Have a simple design
- Use two or three basic colours clearly
- Be easily recognisable and distinctive
- Be designed to be flown so it can be seen when moving in the wind

All entries to be sent to: Tara Hudson, Communications, Culture and Engagement, Room 50 Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street E8 1EA, or via email: tara.hudson@hackney.gov.uk

For more information on the competition guidelines, and for a full list of the Council's free Black History Season events please visit www.hackney.gov.uk/black-history-month.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week

I put out the following joint statement with Cllr Caroline Selman, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement, and Cllr Sade Etti, Hackney No Place for Hate Champion, in support of National Hate Crime Awareness Week this month:

October 3

Pre-meet for Hackney Social Enterprise Conference with HCD

Twitter #GrillPhil

Hackney Elderly Caribbean Lunch Club Visit

Visit to Camden Council to discuss future of education services

Labour Group Executive

October 2

[First Annual Mayor's Public Question Time \(#GrillPhil\)](#)

October 1

Hackney Showroom's Rainbow Rave

September 30

Hackney South campaigning on Well Street

September 29

Mayor's Casework Surgery

Hackney Housing Depot MacMillan Coffee Morning

Green Flag Ceremony at Stonebridge Park

[Hackney Carnival Awards](#)

September 28

Presentation to Sport England

[Hackney Care Awards and signing the UNISON Ethical Care Charter](#)

Hackney South and Shoreditch GM

"This week is National Hate Crime Awareness Week and, as representatives of this fantastic borough, helping to promote the right of our residents to live without fear of being targeted by hate is one of the most important things we can do.

"Hackney is a brilliant, diverse place, where people from all backgrounds share our common values of tolerance and respect.

"We in Hackney also know what it is to celebrate our diversity: our annual Hackney One Carnival brings together all of our communities in fun-filled celebration; the all-year Hackney Pride 365 festival champions those of different sexualities; and free events and activities are taking place for Black History Month this October. We also work hard to protect the rights of disabled people by campaigning for their access rights, and Hackney's interfaith forum is a beacon of interfaith work.

"We will also be launching a hate crime strategy later this year, and will be asking local residents to have their say, to ensure that nobody suffers harassment because of their faith, ethnicity, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.

"This week, Hackney Police have been visiting places of worship and community organisations in the borough to reassure our communities that the police and the Council are here to support them.

"The increase in reported hate crime across the UK following the EU referendum last year, however, reminds us all that there is much more to be done. Hate incidents are extremely harmful to their victims, as they target an intrinsic part of who they are. This is why it's more important than ever to celebrate the diversity of our fantastic borough."

Hate crime can be reported to the police by calling 999 in an emergency, and 101 in other situations. People can also contact Stop Hate UK on 0800 138 1625 or visit www.catch-hatecrime.org.uk.

Hackney's winter cycling extravaganza

As the clocks go back and the nights draw in, there are a series of bike maintenance and road safety pit stops and safety events taking place in the borough.

Firstly, two road safety events were organised this month in Hackney Central to promote the visibility of all road users. Cyclists, pedestrians and all road users alike turned up to get advice on being seen as the days get darker. Cyclists and pedestrians were asked to make sure they wear something bright or reflective; motorcyclists were reminded to put their lights on and everyone reminded to watch out for each other.

Hackney Council's popular cycle pit stops are also back this winter to help cyclists prepare for winter and ride through until spring.

Offering a free bike check and a free set of lights, the pit stops began this week at the junction of Pitfield Street and Hoxton Street.

In an exciting relaunch of Hackney's Try a Bike scheme, Hackney residents can now also try a bike for a month as well as lights, panniers, a helmet, lock and bike seat, for just £10.

After four weeks, the bike can simply be returned, and the Try a Bike team will help residents find a discount at a local bike shop, source a reconditioned bike, or help with using dockless or Santander bikes across the borough. More information about Hackney Try a Bike can be found at www.hackneytryabike.com

Top tips for cycling in winter

- **Lights** – white at the front and red at the back. Make sure they can be seen by others!
- **Reflectors** – required by law on all bikes built since 1990.
- **Reflective clothing** – wear something with reflective strips after dark, and bright clothing during the day.
- **Be confident** – Be aware of your road position, stay away from the kerb and ride far enough away from parked cars to avoid opening doors.
- **Cycle considerately** – Remember that pedestrians have priority in shared spaces with cyclists, in particular parks and canal towpaths.
- **Tyres** – Replace your tyres if they look worn and watch out for slippery leaves on the road.

Pit stop times and locations

Each pit stop runs from 4pm until 7pm:

- Monday 30 October, Pitfield Street/Hoxton Street
- Sunday 26 November, Hackney Town Hall
- Thursday 14 December, Martello Street
- Thursday 11 January, Mare Street Narrow Way
- Wednesday 14 February, Butterfield Green
- Thursday 15 March, Powerscroft Road

Ensuring Hackney Works Better

A key part of my election manifesto last year was transforming the way the Council creates and enhances the opportunities available to Hackney residents to access employment, advice and training. I have updated previously on how this work with Cllr Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources is going and this month has continued to see significant progress which I briefly cover below:

- Residents aged between 16-19 can now apply to be part of the Hackney 100 - <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/apply-now-to-be-part-of-the-hackney-100/>

Hackney 100 participants will work with high-calibre local employees whilst earning £7.50 per hour for a minimum of 70 hours. Placements are flexible to ensure both businesses and local young people get the most out of the programme, with the specific days worked arranged between the business and the participant. Hackney Council will be working in partnership with Inspire!, a local organisation that supports the education, training and development of young people, to deliver the programme.

There are roles on offer across a number of business sectors, including tech, design, media and fashion as well as positions in hospitality, catering, engineering and finance. Hackney Council will be employing 25 participants in a variety of roles across the Council and many other local businesses including Berkeley Homes, Optimity and Superimpose Studio have also already signed up to the programme.

- Cllr Williams led the Hackney Council in marking Ada Lovelace Day and a wider project of encouraging more young women to consider studying STEM subjects and think about a career in related industries: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/ada-lovelace-day/> and <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/celebrating-women-in-stem/>
- Young Hackney and Councillor Bramble lead on a careers fair for young men and especially young black men (YBM), building on the work of the wider YBM programme: <http://news.hackney.gov.uk/young-men-inspired-for-future-careers/>

- I joined the Speaker of Hackney, Cllr Soraya Adejare, [at a celebration at the Hackney Empire last week](#) for over 180 local residents who have recently completed an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course.

Hundreds of residents have attended ESOL courses over the past year, which helps people access further education and improve prospects for employment. Learning to speak English means so much more than just understanding the language. It allows everyone to take part in the civic, economic and cultural life of this fantastic, diverse borough. We're incredibly proud to provide ESOL classes in Hackney and support people to access opportunities, whether that's through helping them to find work, helping them to feel a part of the community or just making it easier to go about their daily life.

Hackney Adult Learning Services provides more than 25 ESOL courses for the borough's adult learners, which take place in accessible venues across the borough, including children's centres, primary schools, community organisations, libraries and museums. They are a place where adults who have come to Hackney from across the world can come to improve their English, supporting them to become more independent and involved in the community. The [GLA have recognised](#) that we are one of only two boroughs who commission a full co-ordination service – mapping provision, reducing waiting lists and ensuring more people can access these courses – as well as linking it into wider council services.

- In September 2017 Hackney Ways into Work was re-named '**Hackney Works**'. This is not merely a superficial name change but reflects a significant change in the Council's provision, moving to a broader employment support and job brokerage offer.

Importantly, the eligibility criteria for Hackney Works has been broadened to also include residents who are 'underemployed' – defined as in work but on a low wage – as well as out of work. This is reflective of the economic reality that a high proportion of residents in poverty are in low wage employment.

The Council has also established a specialist 'Supported Employment' team to provide support for residents with mental health conditions, learning disabilities and autism to move into paid employment and improve their vocational skills. This service also helps employers to adjust their recruitment process and workplaces to enable better access for this cohort.

- Overall out of the 100 London Living Wage Apprenticeships I promised last year we now have 84 working at the Council with more to come in the new year, including a new ICT Apprenticeship Programme.

Swift justice for tenants against rogue landlords

Bad landlords will face on-the-spot fines of up to £30,000 and be forced to repay rent to their tenants as part of a new package of prompter penalties introduced by Hackney Council after a Cabinet decision led by Cllr Sem Moema this week.

Landlords or agents who fail to comply with Council instructions to make improvements, let unacceptably overcrowded properties or meet licensing conditions could be slapped with the new fines – with the worst offenders still facing criminal prosecution.

The civil penalties and rent repayment orders will mean the Council can take more immediate action to help tenants facing serious problems – as an alternative to lengthy court proceedings.

The measures are part of the Council's [Better Renting campaign](#) to improve standards for private renters, crack down on the minority of rogue landlords and end extortionate letting fees and charges.

Since the campaign launched in July, the Council has [launched the first voluntary letting fee ban scheme in the country](#), held advice drop-in sessions for renters and [launched a consultation on expanding licensing](#) of the borough's privately rented homes.

Renters who pay an average of nearly £2,000 a month for two-bedroom flat in Hackney deserve homes that are safe, secure and well-maintained by their landlord. While we'll still prosecute the most serious offenders, these new fines will give us the powers we need to quickly punish the minority of rogue landlords out to exploit tenants where it hurts – in their pocket.

Whether it's bolstering our enforcement powers, campaigning for more action from the Government or simply giving advice, we're determined to get renters in Hackney a better deal.

Two in three private renters in Hackney say their repairs aren't done when needed, while rent levels have rocketed 20% over the last five years. 34,000 homes are privately rented in the borough – around a third of all households.

Independent research commissioned as part of the Council's Better Renting campaign revealed that more than one in five Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) contained serious hazards or are in disrepair – over 10% higher than other privately rented properties.

As well as the new fines, the Council is currently consulting on introducing licensing proposals to help change this, including:

- A borough-wide additional licensing scheme meaning all HMOs – not just the 16% covered under the current mandatory licensing scheme – would need to be licensed
- A selective licensing scheme meaning all privately rented non-HMO homes in the three wards most affected by poor conditions – Brownswood, Cazenove and Stoke Newington – would need to be licensed

To respond to the consultation, which closes in early December, [visit the consultation page](#).

Government's U-turn on 'damaging' supported housing funding welcomed

Hackney Council has welcomed the Prime Minister's decision to abandon a key part of funding reforms that could have seen vital supported housing for hundreds of elderly or disabled people in Hackney put at risk.

Plans to change funding for supported housing – where people get extra help for conditions like dementia, physical disabilities or because they have left an abusive relationship – would have left a shortfall to cover rent and maintenance.

After pressure from Hackney Council, housing associations and charities, the Prime Minister announced this afternoon that plans to cap housing benefit to Local Housing Allowance rates – which would not have covered extra facilities and equipment needed in sheltered accommodation, hostels and refuges – would be dropped.

The Council is continuing its call for the Government to set out a permanent, sustainable model to fund supported housing next week.

In Hackney alone, nearly 700 people in permanent supported housing would have been affected by the change, putting basic disability aids such as stair lifts, assisted bathrooms and emergency alert systems at risk.

CLlr Rebecca Rennison, Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs, gave evidence to the Work and Pensions and Communities and Local Government Select Committee in March to warn that the reforms would create “the next crisis in social care”, while housing associations said they would stop building new facilities unless funding was ring-fenced.

She added:

It’s good news that the Government has finally listened to what councils, housing associations and charities across the country have been telling ministers for months.

“These damaging reforms would have created more barriers to residents in Hackney to live independently, flee an abusive relationship or get the care they need for medical conditions.

“While today’s U-turn is welcome, it’s vital that the Government now puts in place a long-term, sustainable funding model for supported housing that gives reassurance to residents most in need.”

Ministers consulted on plans to reform supported housing funding earlier this year because of the upcoming introduction of Universal Credit to replace different forms of benefits claimants currently receive.

They wanted the money residents receive to pay for rent for their supported housing to be set at Local Housing Allowance levels – a fixed amount set at what the lowest local rents are in the area.

This would not have covered the higher rents most supported housing providers charge, leaving local councils to cover this shortfall – as well as costs for extra facilities needed to provide care such as communal areas, additional staff and maintenance of disability equipment.

Consultations and campaigns:

Hackney EU Citizens Campaign - #hackneylovesyou

Update – I have now written to the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union and his opposite numbers about the importance of EU Citizens to the borough and emailed the 3,000 businesses in the Hackney Business Network asking them about the impact they think Brexit will have.

As we enter a party conference season that it is clear will be dominated by Brexit debates, some no doubt more constructive than others, the 3 million EU nationals living in this country may be feeling that they have become collateral damage in the political fallout from last year’s referendum. Many of them will be worried about what the future holds, and many will feel that they are no longer welcome in the UK

Here in Hackney, where cultural diversity is integral to our way of life, around 15% of our citizens – that’s 41,500 residents - are from other EU countries. The East End has been home to people from across the European mainland for centuries, from the Huguenots who settled in Spitalfields, to the Hassidic communities of Stamford Hill. European citizens in Hackney make an enormous contribution to the civic, economic and cultural life of this borough, and it seems right that at this time of anxiety and change, we should let them know how much we value them, and the contribution that they make.

Hackney had the third highest Remain vote in the UK (after Gibraltar and Lambeth), with 78.5% of people voting to stay in the EU. Part of that is a London thing; this is an international city, and many Londoners hold that very dear. But it’s also about what makes Hackney special. This borough has been described as the ultimate global village; its part of what makes us who we are. We value our European citizens because of the cultural richness that they bring to Hackney. They are our friends, neighbours, and colleagues. But we also need them for the skills, expertise, creativity, energy and economic contribution that they make.

It would be very difficult to deliver public services in Hackney, and in particular in the NHS, without EU workers. Visiting the Homerton hospital, and realising just how many of the staff, from nurses, to surgeons, to physiotherapists, are from other EU countries, makes the prospect of running services without them seem very daunting. The social care sector, in London and across the UK is particularly dependent on workers from the EU, and councils and providers fear a recruitment crisis. Many of our thriving local businesses, in tech, fashion, and other industries, have been founded or enriched by EU nationals who chose to make their home here in the most creative and dynamic part of London. We know that their success depends on a global economy, which is why we have worked with them to build international partnerships, and continue to advocate for a Brexit that will work for them, and not just big businesses.

Hackney's economy has grown rapidly over the past 15 years. There are more, and better, jobs here than ever before. We want all local people to benefit from that growth, and if the local economy suffers, so will the opportunities available to Hackney residents. Staff shortages in public services will directly impact on the quality of life for everyone who lives here. And if Hackney starts to lose its EU nationals, it will lose out in many other ways, that are less easy to quantify but equally important.

As a local authority we can't do much about Brexit, apart from collectively lobby Government to lessen the impact on local services. But what we can do is to tell our EU citizens that they will always be welcome here, and that Hackney values all the positive things that they, collectively and individually, bring to the borough; and whilst we recognise that hate crime in Hackney has not increased as greatly as elsewhere, we must be vigilant and stand up for our shared values. With that in mind, we've produced a special, limited edition 'I Love Hackney' badge that celebrates our EU citizens. As a veteran of many political and charity campaigns, I know that you can't change the world with badges. However, there is something powerful about giving people a way to express the way they feel, and I hope that, even in this small way, we can make our citizens feel welcome and valued, at a very uncertain time.

As part of this campaign, we want to hear your stories about the contribution of EU nationals to Hackney life. So whether it's your story you want to tell, or you want to celebrate a friend or neighbour, please write to me at mayor@hackney.gov.uk, or tweet us using the hashtag #hackneylovesyou, and we'll send you a badge.

Have your say on proposed changes to Hackney's Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Update – I am not providing a running commentary on the consultation, but I thought it was useful to cover two rejected options:

The 'Camden' Option of restoring a full scheme.

This proposes re-instating a full benefit to council tax benefit recipients along the lines of the Camden scheme, this would cost an estimated additional £2.8m per annum and these costs will rise over the next two years. Given the fact that the scheme in its current form is not affordable, it is simply not financially viable to implement any cut to the current contribution %, especially one which completely removes it completely. Any such move would result in the depletion or even withdrawal of services elsewhere in the Council to fund the cost which would impact on all residents and in particular vulnerable residents. The reason other boroughs are able to operate such schemes is they have far fewer residents receiving CTRS support.

Using a Council Tax Increase

Raising Council Tax might seem like an easy option but the Council has to balance this against the impact on all Hackney residents and break the existing manifesto commitment to keep Council Tax as low as possible. It should be noted that increasing Council Tax also increases the cost of the CTRS, and in effect we would have to increase the Council Tax charge even more in order to compensate. This would impact on all Hackney households, including pensioners, and in particular those working households whose income is low but do not low enough to qualify for support. It should also be remembered that Councils are restricted in the how much they can increase the Council Tax charge. Therefore raising the charge to pay for the additional costs of the CTRS may mean that the Council could not

raise funding for other areas such as social care. Further, if we did completely remove the contribution in the CTRS as some have suggested, the maximum allowable increase in the council tax above what we have already agreed and would not cover the funding loss that would result.

Using Parking Income

Income generated from CPZs and Parking Fines can only legally be used to implement and regulate such schemes or on transport related expenditure.

Original Briefing:

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) helps residents on low incomes to pay for their Council Tax. The amount of support a household can get through the scheme is determined through a “means test”. At the moment, the CTRS helps around 32,000 Hackney residents and costs around £25.5 million a year to deliver.

The scheme has remained unchanged since it was introduced in April 2013 and is now out of date. It no longer aligns with other means-tested benefits, meaning that the current scheme has become less beneficial for working households in comparison to non-working households. It is not designed to interact with the government’s Universal Credit system – and as this expands it is important that the scheme is adapted to work with it.

The scheme has also become too costly to administer in its current form. The cost of the scheme is predicted to rise by half a million pounds in 2018/19, with further increases in costs expected in 2019/20. This cost increase comes at a time when the Council faces significant financial and budgetary pressures due to cuts in funding from central government.

Under the current scheme, a Hackney resident liable for Council Tax could get up to 100% of the charge paid through the CTRS if they are a pensioner, or up to 85% of the charge paid if they are a working age household.

A consultation on proposed changes, which would come into force on 1 April 2018, invites feedback on the Council’s preferred option, which includes increasing the minimum contribution all working age CTRS claimants pay from 15% to 20% of their total Council Tax liability.

For a single person with no children, receiving Employment Support Allowance, living in a Band B property, this would see the amount they pay per week increased from £2.23 to £4.09. Pensioners will not be affected.

I’ve said: “When the government handed responsibility for administering Council Tax-related benefits to local government, it did so with a massive funding shortfall, on top of a huge reduction in overall funding for councils.

It’s not been an easy decision to increase the minimum contribution we ask working age households to pay. We considered many other options, as detailed in the consultation paper, and we will continue to provide extra support for the most vulnerable people. In addition, local care leavers will now be exempt from paying Council Tax and those fleeing domestic abuse will not have to pay it for a second property.

We think this is the fairest option but we want to know what residents and stakeholders think, so I’d encourage everyone to take part in the consultation to feed back their thoughts so that we can make a decision in the New Year.”

The consultation will run until 6 November. To complete the consultation online visit <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk>. If you would like to speak to someone about the scheme or to request a paper copy, call 020 8356 3399 or email benefits@hackney.gov.uk.

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/>

One Account: Check parking permits and if you’re registered to vote

Residents in Hackney can now go online to check whether they’re registered to vote, in what is thought to be a first nationwide, as part of two new features of the Council’s One Account application.

The changes come as part of an update to One Account, which will also allow residents to check and order parking permits using the system.

One Account is the Council’s one-stop shop for services online, where residents can easily access Council services, such as Council Tax, housing repairs, business rates and Housing Benefit. It can be accessed using any computer, tablet or smartphone.

The Hackney One Account is an easy way for residents to access Council services online. Residents have told us that they’d like to be able to go online to check whether they’re registered to vote ahead of elections, which they can now do on One Account. Residents will also be able to request a postal vote online as part of the changes. The addition of the parking feature means that far more people will be able to access their Council services in one place.

As a Council, we want to get more residents using our services online, because it’s much quicker for them and costs us over eighty times less than face-to-face transactions, so our limited resources can be spent on front-line services.

The new parking feature of One Account will link directly to the eStreet system that residents already use to manage their parking permits, and will display information about their parking permits on the One Account dashboard.

Sign-up to the One Account here: <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/one-account>

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/ pick up a copy from libraries or email 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

Colville

Following discussions at a previous Hackney South and Shoreditch Meeting I wanted to provide a quick update of the progress on the Regeneration of Colville Estate:

- Phase 1: Bridport House 41 Council Rented Homes – completed 2011
- Phase 2 A&B 70 Council Rented Homes, 40 Private Sale and 6 Shared Ownership and Shared Equity - onsite
- Phase 3 198 Private Sale Homes – Onsite
- Phase 2 C 43 Council Rented Homes, 22 Private Sale and 28 Shared Ownership and Shared Equity – in future years
- Colville Phase 4 and onwards 194 Council Rented Homes, 189 Private Sale and 104 Shared Ownership and Shared Equity – in future years

There will also be a new community centre, energy centre, new shops and new public realm.

Manifesto

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

The Hackney Manifesto Time Table is below:

- 2 November: Ward meetings to receive an outline of manifesto ideas for discussion and input
- 21 November: Labour Group with new candidates: discussion on manifesto outline

- 23 November: Constituency General Committee/General Meeting: Labour Group report to provide update
- November/December: content developed/written up, based on discussions to date
- December LCF: Labour Group report to provide update
- January: Ward meetings: update for final feedback
- 16 January: Labour Group with new candidates: discussion of the list of manifesto commitments. Manifesto signed off

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 February and March next year. If you want to invite me please email

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.