

November 2017

The Hackney Community Strategy Summary 2018–2028



Foreword



Hackney has changed enormously since our last Community Strategy in 2008, reaping the benefits of the London 2012 Olympics as well as thousands of new jobs, new homes, the best schools in the country and a revolution in transport infrastructure.

We know from our year-long consultation, *Hackney: A Place for Everyone*, that the people who live and work here recognise this change and the challenges and opportunities it presents for their lives. The vast majority of residents say they feel overwhelmingly satisfied with their borough as a place to call home and a place where a diverse range of different communities get along well with each other.

Hackney has so much to be proud of. But what should our borough be like in ten years' time? At a time of unprecedented cuts to local government funding, how can we empower local communities and target diminishing resources at our most vulnerable residents? How can we make sure that economic growth benefits everyone?

And crucially, how can we ensure that people from different backgrounds can continue to afford to live and work here and be able to take advantage of the opportunities that London's status as the world's greatest city brings?

These are some of the questions Hackney's Community Strategy seeks to answer, shaping the decisions of the years to come. We want to protect the unique, welcoming spirit of this corner of east London throughout the coming years of national and local change and local growth; protecting and enhancing the very best of Hackney.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Glanville". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phillip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney

Why do we need a community strategy?

While we can't predict the future, we can set out a shared vision for the kind of place we want Hackney to be – based on the opinions of thousands of residents submitted to the Council through our landmark consultation, Hackney: A Place for Everyone.

It will guide the decisions of our borough in the coming decade and demonstrate how the Council, other public sector bodies, local businesses and voluntary organisations can work together to achieve residents' ambitions for the future.

At a time of national uncertainty and continued cuts to local public services, this strategy will also show how we can build on the strong partnerships that already exist to create new, innovative ways to deliver high-quality services to the most vulnerable in our communities.

Hackney: 2028

A welcoming, growing borough where nobody feels left behind, with outstanding schools at the heart of the community, genuinely affordable housing and high-quality jobs accessible for residents in different industries across the capital.

A place where you can get business done – whether you're a small business owner, a start-up entrepreneur or a global company in Hackney for its world-leading tech sector.

A home to strong communities that work together to share their time, knowledge and skills for the good of society and to help those less fortunate than themselves – especially at a time of stretched public finances and resources.

A cultural heart of London, bringing together people of different backgrounds, experiences, skills and perspectives to look out at the world rather than retreating inwards.

A socially, economically and environmentally sustainable neighbourhood, with healthy, safe streets and green spaces where walking and cycling come first, leading healthier, happier and more independent lives.

The context

Hackney Council is ambitious for the borough's future, but there are some things we can't control.



273,500 people live in Hackney. The population is projected to reach 300,000 by 2027.



The proportion of households who rent from a private landlord has more than doubled in the past 10 years. Nearly a third of all households are now private renters.



From 2010/11 to 2020/21 the government's annual grant to Hackney will have fallen by £139m – a cut of 45%.



New transport projects like Crossrail 2 could radically change Hackney's connections, but the Council isn't the decision-maker.



To tackle affordability issues, Hackney delivered over 1,600 units of new housing in 2015, of which over 30% was affordable housing.



Nearly 16,000 additional new homes are expected to be built in the borough in the next 10 years



Secondary school projections indicate that 12 additional Forms of Entry will be required by 2020.



Between 2010 and 2015, more than 9,800 square meters of additional employment floor space was created in Hackney.

Our vision for Hackney

1. A borough where there is a good quality of life and the whole community can benefit from growth

Hackney is changing. The population has increased by a third in the last 15 years, house prices have doubled and improvements to schools, open spaces and transport links mean our borough is a much more desirable place to live.

Housing affordability is a key concern for everyone – existing residents, those who want to live here, and for the voluntary and community sector, public sector and business leaders who all worry that workers won't move to the capital or will be forced to leave and that in future we won't be able to recruit or retain a diverse workforce with the right mix of skills.

Residents also feel some traditional businesses are being kicked out of Hackney – perhaps by rising business rates and rents, a changing population and a switch to online shopping.

Despite economic uncertainty, Hackney is expected to continue to grow. Together, we need to shape this growth and maximise its benefits for everyone – whether through affordable new homes, better infrastructure or safer, cleaner public spaces.

By 2028, we want to be a place where growth has been properly shaped, with mixed communities where nobody feels left behind. We'll be a borough where:

- **New arrivals are accepted by the community, with well-established networks and public facilities that meet local needs**
- **Small businesses provide the inclusive services local people need, and larger firms are at the forefront of the digital economy across London**
- **Both residents and visitors value the cultural, social and retail offer, with an exciting night-time economy that respects its neighbours**
- **Crime, and the causes of crime, are being tackled in partnership by public services, businesses and local residents**

We will:

- Deliver the housing, transport, health and education infrastructure our growing borough needs, supporting innovative projects like Crossrail 2 and working with the right partners to build new schools through mixed-use developments
- Increase the number of genuinely affordable homes for rent and sale, whether building our own or working with partners, and consider new ways of building homes for younger people, older people and couples
- Secure benefits for local people as Hackney's economy grows, including new affordable workspace, ensuring businesses work as part of the community and making it easier for firms to interact with the Council
- Make better links with business, the voluntary organisations and external partners so that local people benefit from the jobs, apprenticeships and training that comes from growth
- Crime, and the causes of crime, are being tackled in partnership by the public and private sectors

Our vision for Hackney

2. A borough with residents who are ambitious, engaging and want to contribute to community life

Hackney's identity is valued by the people who live here. This borough is known for its arts, exciting nightlife and a blossoming tech sector, while its students have incredible GCSE results.

But not everyone feels this success. Black children have poorer exam results, middle-aged and older people have lower skill levels and black male graduates are twice as likely to be unemployed as their white counterparts.

Government education policy means less local accountability for schools, which risks excluding those from poorer backgrounds or special educational needs. National housing policy prioritises home ownership, rather than the building of social housing or measures to help private renters. Residents are already struggling with rising rents and prices.

The workers of Hackney's future will need the skills to fill the gaps in the economy that Brexit may create, while increasing automation and leaps in technology may mean a changing jobs market.

By 2028, we want to be a place where people can learn the skills they need to compete in a growing economy. We'll be a borough where:

- **Impressive and inclusive schools and colleges are at the heart of the community, equipping residents of all ages to secure high-quality, stable jobs**
- **Local jobs are maximised through new relationships with new and existing businesses**
- **The gap between the highest achievers and those needing more support is closing**
- **Businesses of different types and sizes are supported to remain and grow here, with creativity and entrepreneurialism embraced**

We will:

- Strengthen the role of schools in our communities, exploring how they can support social enterprise and skills development among parents
- Develop the Council's services to long-term unemployed residents, the underemployed and unemployed graduates to help them into sustainable jobs, as well as boosting the number of apprenticeships and work experience opportunities in Hackney
- Work with London's public sector leaders to identify and address the gaps in the workforce that Brexit and automation may bring
- Consider how new affordable workspace on Council land could help successful new businesses launch and embrace new technology

Our vision for Hackney

3. A green and environmentally sustainable borough

For the third most densely populated area of the country, Hackney has a huge amount of green space that residents value. Open spaces contribute to emotional and physical wellbeing, with trees cleaning our air, improving drainage and mitigating the effects of climate change.

But an increasing population could put a stress on the improving cycle paths, pedestrian routes and public transport in our borough. Residents say the community should take greater responsibility for taking care of open spaces, and that road users must be more considerate to others getting about.

The impact of poor air quality is getting more severe, with more than 1 in 20 deaths attributable to exposure to air pollution alone. Low-speed traffic is a major contributor to this, and schools are in areas that exceed safe air quality levels.

Hackney must campaign for real improvements in the quality of London's air, as well as further Tube and rail infrastructure investment, if it is to see a more sustainable future.

By 2028, we want to be a more sustainable place with a reduced impact on climate change, with green, accessible transport for everyone. We'll be a borough where:

- **Parks and other green spaces are well-maintained, while everyone is involved to help make smaller open spaces and streets greener**
- **The Council has reduced its environmental impact – from increasing use of renewable energy and greener fuels to the way we invest in our pension fund**
- **Air quality and sustainability are at the heart of neighbourhood planning, with the effects on recycling, cycling and general wellbeing considered as part of growth and development**
- **Car usage has fallen significantly, with fair, safe and accessible transport on offer for residents, visitors and businesses**

We will:

- Develop a new Sustainability Strategy that focuses on the way we manage our buildings, land, operations and policy, as well as how residents and businesses can help change behaviour
- Cut carbon from Council activities in line with the Paris Agreement and our commitment to the UK100, while putting low-carbon, sustainable urban design at the heart of our housebuilding programme and improving the energy efficiency of existing homes
- Work with residents and grassroots organisations to enhance green spaces with safe pedestrian and cycling routes between them, and support community projects that encourage healthier lifestyles
- Support residents to cut car use, waste and fly-tipping, while increasing recycling, cycling and walking
- Campaigning for the highest standards in urban design, car-free development, emissions-related parking and wider transport policy across London to improve the capital's air quality

Our vision for Hackney

4. An open, cohesive and supportive community

Nine in 10 residents say Hackney is a place where people from different backgrounds get along well with each other, and most people believe the borough's demographic mix has changed for the better.

But social segregation, tolerance and the loss of understanding of Hackney's rich cultural heritage are a concern for citizens as Brexit, economic inequality and other uncertainties are attributed to a rise in hate crime.

Residents are keen to find ways to build bridges between communities, with events and networks where people can meet their neighbours, reduce social isolation and volunteer their time for the good of society.

For the borough to work for everyone, volunteering, informal social networks and ensuring the whole community can look out for vulnerable people must be at the heart of Hackney's future.

By 2028, we want to maintain Hackney's welcoming tradition of celebrating diversity and openness with a strong community spirit. We'll be a borough where:

- Residents, businesses and the Council protect our inclusive community, Hackney is at the forefront of movements that celebrate diversity
- Everyone, but particularly disadvantaged residents, has a genuine voice in how services are provided or delivered differently as public finances are stretched
- Mental health is as important as physical health, and communities are tolerant and don't put up with abuse

We will:

- Promote community safety with the voluntary sector to tackle hate crime and protect an open, inclusive society – including better ways for different communities to get involved in the borough's life
- Value culture, heritage and history, ensuring the formal and informal community networks that make Hackney great are strengthened – with better ways for citizens to contribute to local debate
- Focus on improving life chances for black boys and empowering young black men, and apply successful approaches to tackle other inequalities
- Encourage community befriending schemes, digital inclusion and campaigns to reach out to vulnerable or isolated residents and ensure they don't feel left behind
- Campaign for increased devolution, so Hackney's public services work with all levels of government, but are designed locally and meet the needs of our residents

Our vision for Hackney

5. A borough with healthy, active and independent residents

Hackney is a place where smoking, excessive drinking, obesity and mental health issues are more common than elsewhere in London or the UK.

These behaviours are shaped by where you live and grow up – from how healthy local food options are to whether streets are easy to walk and cycle along.

Poor health, anti-social behaviour and violent crime are all linked to these behaviours, which put additional pressure on public services. But councils can also play a role in driving change – through education, housing and public spaces.

Better conditions in family homes, allowing people to manage their health and care needs and good, stable employment could all lead to a healthier, more independent borough.

By 2028, we want Hackney's residents to be healthier, happier, more independent and living longer, with a narrowing gap between rich and poor. We'll be a borough where:

- **Initiatives to help workers stay well mean fewer people are out of work due to long-term health conditions**
- **Streets are calmer, safer, cleaner and greener because more people are choosing to stay healthy by walking and cycling**
- **People are supported to take more responsibility for their wellbeing, but when they do need support services are joined-up and designed and delivered locally**
- **The public and voluntary sector works with local communities to help our most vulnerable residents get support earlier, with community spaces serving as hubs for health, wellbeing and personal development**

We will:

- Integrate local health and social care by working with public sector partners and providers, as well as focussing on helping residents make healthier choices
- Support independent living for older and vulnerable residents, including through new supported housing and closer links between housing and health providers
- Maximise the use of community spaces as health and wellbeing hubs, listen to the public about how services could work better and encourage volunteers to share their experience, time and skills
- Prioritise healthier streets where people of all ages can walk, cycle and interact – including preventing a further proliferation of betting shops or fast food outlets
- Support dementia-friendly communities and remove the barriers that stop families, disabled and older people from getting out and about or finding quality work

What's next?

This strategy will shape the Council's work for the next decade – whether it's our plans for new housing, our vision for the regeneration of our town centres or more.

The Council will set up a new partnership board to agree collective goals to achieve the ambitions of our residents, made up of public sector bodies, businesses and the voluntary and community sector. Meeting every year, the board will review this strategy, monitor progress and consider new challenges and needs.

You can view the full Community Strategy at

 www.hackney.gov.uk/community-strategy

How can I get involved?

We're passionate about local people getting involved in democracy and the decisions that affect them.

You can find out more about the work of the Council and who your elected representatives are by visiting the Council's website or following us on social media.

 **@HackneyCouncil**

 **HackneyCouncil**

Hackney: A Place for Everyone

What residents told us:

88%

of Hackney residents are satisfied with the area as a place to live

“Much improved, especially in street and public space cleanliness and in primary and secondary education.”

When asked ‘what could we all do differently?’ one of the top responses from residents was for everyone to take responsibility and stop littering the streets and fly tipping



“Families that have lived here for generations have left the borough to be replaced by middle income and professional classes.”



90% of people feel it’s important for people from different backgrounds to mix with each other

High house prices and cost of living are overwhelmingly the biggest negative change noticed during the last 10 years or so



“The community spirit is on the up and there’s a lot to do around Hackney.”



People are concerned about growing inequality – almost of half of residents (45%) think that Hackney has become a more unequal borough



The majority of residents (70%) are satisfied with how well Hackney Council runs things overall, and only one in seven (14%) are actively dissatisfied

“I think Hackney is a very diverse and fun place which has attracted a lot of young graduates and creatives in recent years.”

