

**APPROVED  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
14 SEPTEMBER 2022**

This page is intentionally left blank

London Borough of Hackney  
Council

Municipal Year 2022/23

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, 14 September 2022

Minutes of the proceedings of  
Council held at Hackney Town  
Hall, Mare Street,  
London E8 1EA

**Councillors in  
Attendance:**

Mayor Philip Glanville - Mayor of London Borough of Hackney  
Cllr Humaira Garasia - Speaker of London Borough of  
Hackney

Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Grace Adebayo, Cllr Polly Billington,  
Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock,  
Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Robert Chapman,  
Cllr Mete Coban, Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Michael Desmond,  
Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Zoe Garbett,  
Cllr Eluzer Goldberg, Cllr Christopher Kennedy,  
Cllr Lee Laudat-Scott, Cllr Michael Levy, Cllr Hershy Lisser,  
Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Yvonne Maxwell,  
Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cllr Sem Moema (part),  
Cllr Jon Narcross, Deputy Mayor Guy Nicholson,  
Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr Deniz Oguzkanli,  
Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Benzion Papier, Cllr Sharon Patrick,  
Cllr Fliss Premru, Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Midnight Ross,  
Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Ifraax Samatar, Cllr Caroline Selman,  
Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Simche Steinberger,  
Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, Cllr Lynne Troughton,  
Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof, Cllr Jessica Webb,  
Cllr Carole Williams (part), Cllr Caroline Woodley and  
Cllr Sarah Young

**Absent:**

Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Frank Baffour, Cllr Margaret Gordon,  
Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr Richard Lufkin,  
Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Clare Potter, Cllr Ian Rathbone, and  
Cllr Penny Wrout

**Officer Contact:**

Natalie Williams, Governance Officer

**Livestream link:**

<https://youtu.be/qkDopqdhkmc>

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday, 8 September 2022 and the beginning of a period of national mourning, substantive changes were made to the agenda for this meeting. The agenda was revised to allow for the transaction of essential business only and in accordance with the Council's protocol for meetings following the death of the Monarch. Notification of this was given in the days before the meeting. Members of the public and Councillors who submitted questions for consideration at this meeting, have received a written response or opted to withdraw their question. Written responses can be found at Appendices A and B. Deputations and petitions that were submitted were deferred to a future meeting of Council

**Councillor Humaira Garasia [Speaker] in the Chair**

The Speaker welcomed Mr Stephen Howlett, CBE DL - Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Hackney, Members and those watching on the live stream. The Speaker paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and stated that the loss would be deeply felt throughout the country and by countless people around the world. She described Queen Elizabeth II as the rock on which modern Britain was built, and had since both grown and flourished. She had established a remarkable legacy that would endure the test of time.

On the invitation of the Speaker, a minute's silence was observed in the chamber in memory of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

**1 Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adejare, Baffour, Gordon, Hayhurst, Joseph, Lufkin, Pallis, Potter, Rathbone and Wrout.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Premru

**2 Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock declared an 'Other Registrable Interest' in relation to agenda item 5 - The Elected Mayor's Statement - by virtue of being a member of the campaign group Republic, who sought the abolition of the monarchy and its replacement with an elected Head of State..
- 2.2 Deputy Mayor Bramble declared an 'Other Registrable Interest' by virtue of being the Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Association. It was noted that the Council's Death of the Monarch Protocol being followed at this meeting had been developed in line with Local Government Association guidelines. Deputy Mayor Bramble advised that she had not been involved in the development of the protocol.

**3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Page 20 (within the printed agenda) - Cllr Papier queried why it had been noted that the Conservative Members did not return to the meeting after the adjournment as he believed other Members had also left and did not return to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Subject to any amendment required in connection with Cllr Papier's query, the minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on 20 July 2022 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

*NOTE:* In preparation of these minutes, Cllr Papier's query was checked and no other Members present at that meeting were seen to leave at the adjournment. No amendment of the minutes is therefore required.

#### 4 Standards Committee Annual Report 2021/22

- 4.1 **RESOLVED:** to note the Standards Committee Annual Report at Appendix 1 of the report.

Cllr Adams proposed a motion to suspend Council Procedure Rules relating to debates (within rule 17) and the Mayor's Statement (rule 8) to enable all those Members who wished to pay tribute to the late Queen the opportunity to do so.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Sizer and **AGREED** by all present.

**RESOLVED:** To suspend Council Procedure Rules relating to debates (within rule 17) and the Mayor's Statement (rule 8) to enable all those Members who wished to pay tribute to the late Queen the opportunity to do so.

#### 5 Elected Mayor's Statement

- 5.1 The Mayor firstly thanked the Speaker and the Deputy Lieutenant for the impeccable way in which the proclamation on Sunday, 11 September 2022 was handled, noting that it was a solemn, powerful and poignant event. He relayed his thanks to Council staff and colleagues who since the announcement of Her Majesty's death had mobilised to enable the Council's timely response. The Mayor extended a welcome to Mr Stephen Howlett, CBE DL - Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Hackney, council colleagues, officers and residents watching online.
- 5.2 Acknowledging the diversity of Hackney, Mayor Glanville recognised that each individual, community and identity represented in the chamber and in the borough would view the Queen's death, her reign and the new King differently.
- 5.3 The Mayor stated that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's passing was felt across not only the UK and Commonwealth but throughout the world. He spoke of his deep personal respect for the late Queen and the role of the constitutional monarchy. He commended her dignity, influence, style and unstinting public duty which included appointing the new Prime Minister two days before her death.
- 5.4 The Mayor reflected on his recent visit to City Hall to attend an event to commemorate the Queen. Looking back, he recalled attending Windsor for a royal occasion as a child and meeting the Queen Mother as a student as well as in more recent times attending the Golden and Platinum Jubilee celebrations at Buckingham Palace.
- 5.5 Although he had never met Queen Elizabeth II, Mayor Glanville recounted occasions when he had welcomed other members of the Royal family to Hackney. During these visits, he had showcased: new Council housing, the record of investment in young people and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Hackney's role as a creative hub for East London's Economy.
- 5.6 Mayor Glanville described Queen Elizabeth II, the longest serving monarch as a constant and a moderniser, from her coronation in 1953 which was the first to be

televised, to working with James Bond for the 2012 London Olympics and Paddington Bear for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the summer. He believed that Queen Elizabeth II opened up the royal family to the world, providing a link between multiple generations. She defined modern Britain and cemented the second Elizabethan age; remaining constant but also evolving as Britain changed.

- 5.7 The Mayor reflected on how the borough had changed throughout her reign becoming younger, more vibrant and diverse. The Queen's visits to Hackney over the years included: Homerton Hospital, Stoke Newington, Geffrye Museum, Kingshold Estate, Perseverance Works St Joseph's Hospice and memorable visits during her Silver Jubilee.
- 5.8 The Mayor recognised that the borough of Hackney was comprised of radicals, dissenters, non-conformists, anti-colonialists, anti-racist campaigners and proud republicans, who debated and contested the relationship between the Crown and its imperial past. He believed that these people had just as much right to protest in an open liberal democracy, enshrined by the constitutional monarchy. The Mayor also recognised the hundreds of residents in the borough who had become citizens through their oath of allegiance would have their own personal connection to the Queen.
- 5.9 Mayor Glanville explained that as a London Borough there was a civic duty to take part in the remembrance of a sovereign and the accession of another. The Council's legal authority was given by the Crown via Parliament and the mace, used during Council meetings, was representative of that authority.
- 5.10 The Mayor highlighted the Queen's non-partisan role in politics and drew parallels with the role of the Speaker. He extended on behalf of the Council and the London Borough of Hackney heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and especially the new King, King Charles III, who he wished a long happy and successful reign.
- 5.11 Concluding, the Mayor was hopeful that the new Prince of Wales would lead on activism on the environment, reducing poverty and creating opportunities for young people as he defined his new role. He declared "God save the King"

Cllr Williams left the meeting.

#### Conservative Group Leader Response

- 5.12 Cllr Michael Levy responded to the Mayor's statement and paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He commended her devoted and faithful service to her people both in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth. He described the late Queen as inspirational, the heart of the country's national identity and a constant and reassuring presence at the centre of parliamentary democracy.
- 5.13 Cllr Levy reflected on a speech made in 1947 by the then Princess Elizabeth on her 21st birthday, where she solemnly declared to the people of Great Britain and the Commonwealth that whether her life be long or short it shall be devoted to your service. He was thankful for her long life full of devoted service.

- 5.14 Cllr Levy further reflected on a tribute paid on the passing of Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks by the then Prince of Wales, now King Charles III. He quoted a teaching of Rabbi Sacks that he believed underscored the exemplary attributes of her late Majesty. “To know you made a difference, that in this all too brief span of years you lifted someone’s spirits, relieved someone’s poverty or loneliness, or brought a moment of grace or justice to the world that would not have happened had it not been for you...these acts are as close as we get to the meaningfulness of life, and they are matters of everyday rather than heroic virtue”.
- 5.15 Concluding, Cllr Levy pledged unwavering allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III and hoped that his reign would be long and peaceful with the comforting presence of the Queen Consort at his side.

### Green Group Response

- 5.16 Cllr Garbett recognised the death of the Queen as a sad time for many people in the borough, across the United Kingdom and throughout the world. She relayed a vote of thanks for the work and response from Council staff and partners to mobilise procedures during this period. She expressed appreciation to the Council for striking a balance between those who wished to mourn and those with a variety of deeply held views.
- 5.17 Cllr Garbett spoke of the Queen’s long reign during which she witnessed many historic events, including many countries formerly under British rule becoming independent and transitioning away from the monarchy, the most recent country being Barbados which became a republic in 2021. Cllr Garbett noted the grace and dignity with which the Queen witnessed these changes and her efforts and participation in the normalisation of relations with the Republic of Ireland following past hostilities.
- 5.18 Cllr Garbett remarked on Britain’s difficult legacy in many of its former colonies who were still experiencing the effects and hoped that there would be space in the future to address this in a just and fair way. Looking ahead, Cllr Garbett hoped that the required action would be taken to protect the people and the planet during the reign of King Charles III.
- 5.19 In view of the many people who have spoken of the Queen’s dedication to public service, Cllr Garbett believed that it was of paramount importance not to forget the Council's duty to those worried about not being able to heat their homes or feed their children this winter.
- 5.20 Sympathy and condolences were offered to the Queen’s family and friends and to all those mourning the loss of loved ones in particular the family and friends of Chris Kaba who were seeking answers following his fatal shooting by the police the previous week.

### Other Members’ Response

(These speeches can be viewed in their entirety at <https://youtu.be/gkDopqdhkmc>)

- 5.21 The Speaker called on Members who wished to respond to the Mayor’s statement and pay tribute to her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In summary, comments were as follows:

- Deputy Mayor Bramble - offered a vote of thanks to officers who had worked diligently during this unprecedented time of mourning. It was acknowledged that there were a variety of views represented across the chamber. Paying tribute to Her Majesty, the Deputy Mayor reflected on the concepts of nation, family and faith along with integrity which transcends time and generations.
- Cllr Samatar - described her personal experience of citizenship which was both unifying and equalising. She noted that every community would have a different, special and unique connection with the late Queen.
- Cllr Ogundumeren - referenced his respect for royalty and the lasting legacy left by the Queen. He encouraged fellow Councillors to endeavour to bring people together and develop an attitude of service to the office to which they had been elected.
- Cllr Woodley - spoke of her recent personal experience of loss, the public loss of the Queen, the public loss experienced by the family of Chris Kaba and the loss of staff and colleagues over the past two years. She emphasised the importance and healing of remembering and seeking solace.
- Cllr Desmond - reflected on the modernisation, changes and significant events which took place during the Queen's reign. He commended her ability to evolve and yet remain constant.
- Cllr Penny Wrout (read by Cllr Suso-Runge) - noted the profound impact of a long standing female sovereign which proved women's capabilities of rising to the challenge of any role. Her commitment and dedication to public service as well as her innumerable personal sacrifices were contemplated.
- Cllr Billington - stated that this was an opportunity to assess what was of value and what was not. She felt that the Queen's embodiment of constancy, connection and stability were vital for a flourishing society. Whilst she was not in favour of hereditary privilege, she acknowledged that the existence of a Head of State whose interest was keeping the country stable and safe was something that had not been afforded to all of Britain's allies. Citing the tradition of dissent in Hackney, she believed there was space for this even during this time. She believed dissent to be a fundamental part of democracy which protected against extremism, dictatorship and autocracy.
- Cllr Race - spoke on behalf of the residents in Hoxton East and Shoreditch. He noted Her Majesty's visit to the Prince's Foundation in Shoreditch in 2004 and commended her guidance in times of triumph and difficulty. He recalled the recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations which brought communities together throughout the ward. He commended the Queen's representation of a national community which transcended partisan, cultural, sporting and generational barriers.
- Cllr Rathbone (read by Cllr Etti) - referenced Her Majesty's pledge to public service and defender of the faith which she made in a speech given in 1947 on her 21st birthday. Her example showed that even in later years you could still offer value to those around you.
- Cllr Fajana-Thomas - recalled her experience of meeting the Queen in 2012 and her impactful example of being a woman in leadership. She commended the Queen's dedication to service right up until her death and charged the women in the chamber to emulate the Queen's example of commitment to service with pride and dignity.



- Deputy Mayor Nicholson - commended the Queen's ability to bring people together and bring about a sense of joy. He also commended her commitment, dedication and work ethic, which he was hopeful would be continued by King Charles III whilst delivering on his ambition to tackle climate change and build a better environment.
- Cllr Lisser - recalled childhood memories of his family's arrival in Britain from Vienna in 1956 as a refugee. This was following an announcement from the Queen that anyone in need of urgent medical treatment would be granted immediate entry into the UK. On settling, his mother, a Jewish restaurateur, received a request to cater at a royal event. He described the Queen as an example of kindness and strength. He stated that he became a Councillor in gratitude to her Majesty for allowing his family to live in the UK.
- Cllr Lynch - recounted when she met the Queen in 2010 and had honour of welcoming her when she was Deputy Mayor at LB Tower Hamlets. She spoke of her respect for the Queen, her being a constant in our everyday lives, the privilege to represent her constituents in the Homerton ward and the opportunity to reflect.
- Cllr Moema - highlighted the Queen's love of country, community and people and the opportunity to reflect on this unifying loss. She spoke of the importance of institutions and the opportunity to serve as elected representatives.
- Cllr Steinberger - spoke of the Queen's universal appeal to people of different nations and generations, her constancy and devotion to service and her legacy.

5.22 In his reply, Mayor Glanville stated that the diverse responses given across the chamber was indicative of the Queen's resonance. He believed the speeches delivered had done the Queen, the dissenters and the borough proud. He requested that Mr Stephen Howlett, CBE DL - Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Hackney relay the messages of condolence and best wishes to the King and to the royal family.

5.23 Mr Stephen Howlett, CBE DL addressed the chamber. He stated it was an honour to be present and to witness the heartfelt contributions. He echoed the sense of loss which had been spoken about across the chamber regardless of political persuasions and recounted his first experience of seeing the Queen as a young man. He spoke of the Queen's unwavering devotion and commitment to public service until her death and her constant presence in our lives- on bank notes, coins, stamps and television screens. He spoke of meeting King Charles when he was a Prince and the monarchy's role in society. Citing the Jubilee celebrations that took place throughout the borough during the summer, he stated that it was evident that the communities in Hackney felt love, appreciation and respect for the Queen. He described Her Majesty as a unifying force and referenced Northern Ireland, the Grenfell Tower Fire in West London and her broadcast during Covid as examples of this. In closing, he thanked the Speaker and all involved in organising this meeting and the proclamation on Sunday, 11th September and remarked on the admirable and fitting way the Queen's death and the announcement of the new King had been handled and declared 'God save the King'.

The Speaker acknowledged Swami Moorthy of Sai Baba Temple who was present, thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

**Duration of the meeting:** 7:00-8:12pm

**Attachments**

**Appendix A** - Written responses to questions from the public

**Appendix B** - Written responses to questions from Members

## Appendix A - Written Responses to Questions from the Public

### Question to the Mayor from Everlette Heirs

When will Council staff be returning to work? How are you taking on board the concerns of those residents who are unable to have face to face contact with staff to discuss issues, particularly in areas such as Council Tax?

### Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Services

Dear Everlette

Thank you for your question intended for the September Full Council meeting regarding staff working arrangements following the Covid pandemic. As you're aware, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in line with protocols, substantive changes were made to the Full Council agenda to reflect the fact that we were in a period of national mourning, and all questions and non-essential business were therefore removed from the agenda. As a result, I am sending you this written response.

The question you asked was "When will Council staff be returning to work? How are you taking on board the concerns of those residents who are unable to have face to face contact with staff to discuss issues, particularly in areas such as Council Tax?"

Firstly, I wanted to assure you that the Council's staff have worked hard throughout the pandemic to continue the delivery of our services to residents. As well as having to adapt our services to follow the Government's restrictions, Council staff also delivered a range of new services to respond to the pandemic - including support for people who were shielding, working with our partners in the NHS to set up testing and vaccination centres, and supporting local businesses impacted by the pandemic through grants and business advice.

Since the end of the lockdowns we have returned to our pre-pandemic customer service arrangements and continue to provide face to face services through the Hackney Service Centre in line with pre-pandemic arrangements. Our customer services teams are trained to provide advice on a wide range of services, including Council Tax, and are continuing to work with other Council service areas to develop the best possible service experience for our residents however they contact us.

As part of this we have developed our Covid support service into the award winning link work service. This team is making proactive contact with residents, working to make it easier to access financial support, and supporting families and hosts taking part in the Homes for Ukraine response.

We are expecting to continue to use hybrid working for the Council's office based staff, with a mix of office and home based working where people's roles allow (noting that many roles include work that can not be done from home). This will allow us to continue the work we've done through our office accommodation programme to reduce our office estate, releasing our assets for other use. Over recent years this approach has helped the Council to save millions of pounds and allowed us to protect frontline services from some of the cuts that the government has made to our budgets.

I hope that this response reassures you regarding the customer service arrangements that we have in place.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Rob Chapman  
Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing & Customer Services

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture from Anthony Rose**

Hackney Council is considering an ethical advertising policy and has met with youth group Biteback2030 to discuss excluding unhealthy junk food advertising on sites it controls. Will the Council also consider excluding gambling adverts and adverts glamorising guns & knives and those relating to climate damaging flights, fossil fuels & SUVs?

**Response from Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture**

Dear Anthony

Thank you for your question intended for the September Full Council meeting regarding ethical advertising policies. As you're aware, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in line with protocols, substantive changes were made to the Full Council agenda to reflect the fact that we were in a period of national mourning, and all questions and non-essential business were therefore removed from the agenda. As a result, I am sending you this written response.

The question you asked was "Hackney Council is considering an ethical advertising policy and has met with youth group Biteback2030 to discuss excluding unhealthy junk food advertising on sites it controls. Will the Council also consider excluding gambling adverts and adverts glamorising guns & knives and those relating to climate damaging flights, fossil fuels & SUVs?"

The Council has developed a draft advertising policy to form better guidance as part of our partnership work with suppliers from the private sector. The policy has mainly been developed to assist officers when procuring services where advertising and sponsorship opportunities provide a viable option to generate income for the Council.

Point 2 within the draft policy sets out the standards for approval of advertising, which includes gambling and glamorising guns and knives, amongst a number of other constraints. Over the last six months we have been consulting public health colleagues who have fed into the policy based on their research and expertise and also included the Nutrient Profiling Model [NPM] of High in Fat, Salt or Sugar ('HFSS') products, which is based on extensive research by the Department for Health and Social Care.

Public Health officers met with campaign group Biteback to discuss the impact of fast foods and HFSS products on young people. We have agreed that the policy would look to restrict certain types of advertising between afternoon hours (3-5pm), when young people are most at risk of being influenced by advertising. We have also

extended the opportunity for Biteback to use some of the media space to promote their own campaigns, possibly in line with other national public health awareness campaigns.

The subject of high carbon industries and products in relation to advertising is highly complex, and has already been researched and benchmarked by other services areas within the Council. including comparison to other local authorities like Bristol and Haringey. The research makes no mention of specific markets, industries, products or services due to the broad and subjective nature of high carbon industries.

It is our intention to keep the policy as organic in nature as possible, so we can change, add or remove conditions within the policy in future. Where there are additions, It will be necessary to ensure any changes to the policy have been thoroughly researched and academically vetted.

The policy is currently going through its final iterations and consultations and will be owned and signed off at strategic director level. The senior officer responsible for this document is Polly Cziok, Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development ([polly.cziok@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:polly.cziok@hackney.gov.uk)) and I'm sure she'd be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Chris Kennedy  
Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

**Question to the Mayoral Adviser for Housing Needs and Homelessness from Ahmad Bismillah**

What efforts is the council making to increase social housing in order to reduce the number of residents in temporary accommodation?

**Response from the Mayoral Adviser for Housing Needs and Homelessness**

Dear Ahmad

Thank you for your question intended for the September Full Council meeting regarding efforts to increase social housing. As you're aware, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in line with protocols, substantive changes were made to the Full Council agenda to reflect the fact that we were in a period of national mourning, and all questions and non-essential business were therefore removed from the agenda. As a result, I am sending you this written response.

Over the last decade, Hackney Council has led the way in building much-needed, high-quality new Council housing.

Using an innovative cross-subsidy model – now followed by councils across London – we completed or started close to 1,500 homes between May 2018 and May 2022. Over half of these are for genuinely affordable social rent, shared ownership or Hackney Living Rent, despite the continued absence of government funding.

But we're not ready to stop there. Since May we have seen residents moving into brand new Council homes at Mandeville Street in Clapton, work begin on two Council housing projects at Buckland Street and Wimbourne Street in Hoxton, and 189 new homes approved at planning committee on the De Beauvoir Estate with 59 of these being for social rent.

Importantly, we're working on plans to expand this Council housing delivery beyond our current programme. This summer we've begun early conversations with residents at 15 locations across the borough where we think we can make the most of underused land to help deliver on our manifesto commitment to build 1,000 new social rent Council homes.

Every one of these new Council homes will provide a brand new, high-quality place to live to a family in temporary accommodation, or free up existing Council homes vacated by those moving because their current home doesn't meet their needs or are taking advantage of our local lettings policy for new Council homes.

We know we can't build our way out of the housing crisis by ourselves. That's why we're continuing to use income from homes sold under the government's right-to-buy policy to help housing associations deliver even more social housing on their own development projects, and why we're investing more than £4 million in buying back some of the homes we were forced to sell so that they will once again provide a safe, secure and genuinely affordable place to live for local families who need them most.

Despite this, we must also recognise that, given the scale of the housing crisis, most people living in temporary accommodation will not be able to move into social housing. We understand that living in temporary accommodation places significant stress on households, particularly those with children, and that families can otherwise wait decades for a social housing home to become available. All homeless families agree to a Personal Housing Plan which contains steps they can take to resolve their homeless situation such as moving to a privately rented home and how the Council can provide advice, guidance and support to achieve this.

Of course, with a new Prime Minister in place we'll continue to urge government to do more to tackle the underlying issues that force people into temporary accommodation in the first place.

I hope that this response is helpful in outlining the steps the Council is taking to provide more social housing in the borough, but if you have any further questions please do come back to me.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Sade Etti  
Mayoral Adviser for Housing Needs and Homelessness

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport from Reiner Tegtmeier**

As part of the Hackney Council's commitment to dealing with the climate emergency, what is it going to help residents with the installation and maintenance of solar panels? And what action can be taken when planning permission is sought or granted for building works that would overshadow existing solar panels?

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

Dear Renier

Thank you for your question intended for the September Full Council meeting regarding solar panels. As you're aware, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in line with protocols, substantive changes were made to the Full Council agenda to reflect the fact that we were in a period of national mourning, and all questions and non-essential business were therefore removed from the agenda. As a result, I am sending you this written response.

Hackney participated in the launch of the GLA initiative to develop a community-based bulk-purchasing initiative to help owner occupiers access lower costs for solar panels. For this scheme, Hackney achieved the highest number of accepted applications (209) in London, resulting in an investment of £455,000 in 212kW of panels and 25 battery storage technology yielding 47,337kg CO2 savings, which equates to 8 homes electricity usage per year.

To build on the success from the last round, Hackney is now participating in the 2021/22 Solar Together 4 scheme and we will continue to participate in similar schemes to provide support for the residents of the borough.

The impact of proposals on solar panels is a material planning consideration. As part of the planning application process Hackney considers and assesses the impact of development on the operation of solar panels - noting the benefits solar panels have on mitigating climate change and promoting renewable energy sources. In reaching a decision on an application this consideration is balanced alongside all other material planning considerations.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Mete Coban  
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

**Appendix B - Written responses to Questions from Members**

**Question from Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service**

Are bailiffs used for debt recovery for council tax non-payment for those eligible for full relief and considering the Cost of Living Crisis and the disproportionate impact on residents with lowest incomes, will the administration consider bringing forward its current 2030 target for full council tax reduction for those eligible?

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service**

Dear Cllr Binnie-Lubbock

Thank you for your question intended for the September Full Council meeting regarding the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. As you're aware, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in line with protocols, substantive changes were made to the Full Council agenda to reflect the fact that we were in a period of national mourning, and all questions and non-essential business were therefore removed from the agenda. As a result, I am sending you this written response.

We know that Hackney residents are being impacted by the Cost of Living Crisis and our corporate debt policy is designed to take a supportive approach for residents who might be struggling financially and require short or longer term support to enable them to manage their finances. The Council only uses bailiffs as a last resort, where we are unable to make contact with residents and agree a payment plan.

Our 'Stop The Knock' team assess cases where residents are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and seek to make contact with residents to ensure that they are claiming all the benefits that they are entitled to and seek to make a suitable payment arrangement. If cases are passed to bailiffs they follow a code of conduct and if they establish that a resident is vulnerable this is flagged to the Council so that our team can carry out a further review of the case and where appropriate recall the case to be followed up internally.

Our Council Tax team has been working to clear the backlog of cases caused by the criminal cyberattack of October 2020 and c 20,000 payment arrangements have been made with residents to help them manage their debt to the Council.

Members have carried out an extensive review of Hackney's Council Tax Reduction Scheme and schemes that are in place at other councils. This has identified a number of areas where schemes used by other councils which appear to be attractive at face value could actually reduce the value of this benefit for Hackney residents (for example large families).

We are ambitious to maximise this benefit to our residents but we need to make sure we don't inadvertently reduce the value of the benefit to households who desperately need the support. We also need to identify how to fund the reduction to Council Tax as this is not funded by central government so will require funding to be taken away from other Council services. We will be developing options for changes to our Council Tax Reduction Scheme over the coming year. We remain committed to a fully funded scheme by 2030 and a move to 90% for 2024/25, and will be carrying out public



consultation before any changes are brought back to Cabinet for approval.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Rob Chapman  
Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing & Customer Services

**Question from Cllr Grace Adebayo to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services**

Can the Cabinet member for Community Safety and Business Regulatory Services please give an update on the redevelopment and lease of the private Ridley Road Shopping Village building, and how the Council is protecting the interests of current traders in terms of allocation of space and rent?

**Response from Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services**

Dear Cllr Adebayo

Thank you for your question intended for the September Full Council meeting regarding the Ridley Road shopping village. As you're aware, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in line with protocols, substantive changes were made to the Full Council agenda to reflect the fact that we were in a period of national mourning, and all questions and non-essential business were therefore removed from the agenda. As a result, I am sending you this written response.

As you're aware, the Council has safeguarded the future of the market after Cabinet approved plans to take over the management and sign a 15 year lease on part of Ridley Road Shopping Village earlier this year.

The indoor market, home to a mix of independent businesses and traders, was placed under threat after the building's owners put forward plans to redevelop the building. These proposals were withdrawn after the Council backed a community campaign to save Ridley Road Shopping Village and listed the building as an Asset of Community Value, with the owner instead agreeing plans to refurbish the existing building. The planning application to carry out refurbishment works was approved by the Council in November 2021.

The Council is taking the refurbishment opportunity to enter into an agreement to take over management of parts of the building following the refurbishment. This will give existing traders on the ground floor of the indoor market the chance to remain trading at the Shopping Village but under the Council's management, while Ridley Road street market traders will also have the opportunity to grow their businesses by taking low-cost permanent premises and access to refurbished storage facilities for their stock.

The Council is leasing three areas of the building (1st floor office space, ground floor commercial space and lower ground floor storage space) and an estimated 20-24 weeks refurbishment works programme is now underway.

During the first two weeks of the refurbishment works, the landlord (Rainbow Properties) originally required both the ground and lower ground floor be vacated by 20 August 2022 to enable contractors to reconfigure the ground floor in order for

traders to return to a safe designated trading zone. The Council's Markets Service subsequently negotiated with Rainbow and agreed an alternative solution whereby none of the businesses were required to vacate and the Council committed its own resources into moving the businesses to temporary units during the refurbishment works. In addition officers negotiated a 50% reduction in fees between the businesses and Rainbow for the duration of the works. The Council expects to approve the final specification by the end of this month and the final lease agreement soon after.

The Markets Service is investing both financially and physically through the deployment of additional officers to support and protect the interests of the 14 incumbent businesses. The Markets Service has, at its own cost, already appointed the positions of Indoor Market Manager and Licensing & Finance Officer. At present the Service is absorbing the cost of these posts before generating any income from operating the indoor market. This is to ensure positive relationships are built with the existing businesses - officers are on site daily, accessible and communicate regularly.

Extensive benchmarking of fees and charges and terms and conditions has been undertaken in recent weeks to ensure that fees and charges are highly competitive and below average market rates, and that the licensing process is fair and transparent. The commercial units will initially be offered with 12 month permanent trading licences that will need to be renewed before the 31 March each year. Once the planned fees & charges consultation with traders has been completed in Year 2, businesses will be offered a 3 year trading licence that will then need to be renewed every three years thereafter in line with our legislative commitments. The Service can be flexible and offer traders a three year licence from year one if they wish.

The terms and conditions that will underpin these licences have recently been approved by Legal Services. All existing businesses operating on the ground floor will be offered the opportunity to continue trading in the building under an indoor markets licence if they wish to remain. It is important to note that any business with arrears outstanding and/or claims with the existing landlord, will need to resolve such matters before any licence is issued. The Council will not undertake any debt recovery on behalf of Rainbow Properties and this will not affect any future agreements between the business and the Council for a licence. The Markets Service has also committed to providing spaces on a like for like basis, freezing the commensurate fees at their current rate plus 5%, until consultation with traders is conducted in year 2. It is extremely unlikely that other landlords or organisations are able offer such favourable terms, especially in the current climate.

To further support these businesses, the service has negotiated a reduction in car parking fees at the Kingsland Shopping Centre adjacent to Ridley Road exclusively for traders from both the outdoor and indoor Markets. This will cost traders just £30 per week or £4.29 per day in comparison to £25 per day that applies to all other car park users.

I hope that this response is helpful, but if you have any further questions please do come back to me.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas  
Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

**Question from Cllr Zoë Garbett to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

Given the recognised extent of the climate emergency, can you explain why you are not pushing for a 2030 net-zero target and how you will justify the sustained climate impact of that decision to residents?

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**

Dear Cllr Garbett

Thank you for your question intended for the September Full Council meeting regarding the Council's net zero target. As you're aware, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in line with protocols, substantive changes were made to the Full Council agenda to reflect the fact that we were in a period of national mourning, and all questions and non-essential business were therefore removed from the agenda. As a result, I am sending you this written response.

In January 2022, the Mayor and I made a statement to Full Council outlining our ambition to become a member of the UK100 network, which requires us to adopt a net zero target for Council emissions by 2030. This followed earlier work to review 'net zero' targets set out within the original Climate Emergency declaration. We have also been clear that where we can move faster we will endeavour to do so, regardless of the stated 'net zero' targets.

Next month we will be bringing our draft Climate Action Plan to Cabinet, which will set out our plan to adopt the UK100 2030 target for Council emissions alongside a set of broader boroughwide 2030 goals, as well as a set of objectives and actions for the Council to implement over the next three years. Furthermore, the draft Climate Action Plan is the Council's first holistic boroughwide plan to address the climate and ecological crisis, bringing together the various strands into one overall document, and as such it is a key marker in consolidating our journey to net zero and taking a more integrated response.

The draft Climate Action Plan identifies how little direct control the Council has over boroughwide greenhouse gas emissions (circa 5%), although we have significant influence in a number of specific areas such as planning, waste and housing amongst others. In 2018, the majority of 'consumption emissions', i.e. those outside of our direct control, equate to 74%, and came from the goods and services we buy. Throughout our draft Climate Action Plan, the emphasis is therefore on marshalling the collective and collaborative response required, as well as stressing the need for a just transition.

Our work to date on the climate crisis has identified a continuing need for a more in depth and longer term response to engagement of residents and other key external stakeholders. As mentioned, many of the emissions result from the goods and services that are bought, and as such a large proportion of the action relies partially or wholly on behaviour change, and requires us all to become agents of change, taking every step we can and influencing others to do the same.

We will be consulting on our draft Climate Action Plan, and through this will be holding some pre-consultation engagement with key partners and communities of interest. The insight gained will help build future partnerships and relationships to better shape the

role of the Council as an enabler. Furthermore, the manifesto commitments around localised Citizens Assemblies and Net Zero Partnership will help take forward the ongoing stakeholder engagement that is required to achieve net zero for the whole borough.

Yours sincerely

CLlr Mete Coban  
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

**Question from Cllr Sarah Young for the Mayor**

Could the Mayor set out what is being done to lobby landlords who provide unregulated energy (not subject to price caps) through communal heating to keep prices as low as possible and mitigate the impacts of fuel poverty on these residents?

**Response from the Mayor**

Dear Cllr Young

Thank you for your question intended for the September Full Council meeting regarding unregulated energy. As you're aware, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in line with protocols, substantive changes were made to the Full Council agenda to reflect the fact that we were in a period of national mourning, and all questions and non-essential business were therefore removed from the agenda. As a result, I am sending you this written response, and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Your question was specifically around the steps the Council has taken to lobby landlords who provide unregulated energy (not subject to price caps) through communal heating to keep their prices as low as possible.

It is vitally important that we are doing all we can to support all residents of Hackney from the very real threat of fuel poverty, with energy prices reaching unprecedented levels. As your question highlights, communal and district heating networks are subject to little regulation currently and the Ofgem price-cap does not apply; this leaves residents receiving their energy in this way particularly vulnerable to significant increases in their energy bills.

While we have no formal powers to enforce a price cap upon landlords, we have written to all of the Registered Providers (RPs) operating in the borough to encourage them to do all they can to prevent passing on severe costs to those living in blocks with these communal heating systems, to include imposing price caps to avoid spiralling costs for these residents.

Council officers have also spoken to many of these landlords directly to get an idea of how many of these systems are operating in Hackney. Some of these RPs have no blocks with these systems, some have units in larger blocks where they aren't the freeholder, and some have multiple buildings in the borough where they are the freeholder.

It is reassuring to know that a lot of these RPs managed to fix their prices into late 2023 and 2024, meaning that residents will be protected from these huge hikes in the short term, and safe for the winter months.

However, there do remain some buildings where either these RPs have no control over the supplier; or they are at the mercy of the market with no benefit of a pricing cap. In all these cases, the RPs were actively aware and taking formal steps - some landlords have been subsidising the costs themselves thus far; some were hoping for central Government intervention and offering support and advice in the interim, whilst others have been putting renewed focus into making their homes more energy efficient, though it's recognised this offers no short term relief.

With regards to private sector housing, whilst the Council's Private Rented Sector team are unable to intervene where a landlord is providing unregulated energy, they are able to help mitigate the impacts of fuel poverty on residents using their enforcement powers such as the Housing Health and Safety Rating System, to remove or reduce hazards caused by excess cold, which pose a threat to health, and the Minimum Energy Efficiency Scheme, to ensure homes meet the minimum energy efficiency ratings. This helps to tackle homes with the lowest energy ratings and also helps to address fuel poverty.

Whilst it's reassuring that RPs have been undertaking work to protect their residents from the impacts of increasing energy bills and the wider cost of living crisis, ultimately further action is required from the Government to help people with their energy bills, tackle rising inflation, properly fund public services and support a just transition to a net zero energy system.

I [wrote to the former Prime Minister](#) on this issue in September, ahead of the previous government announcing their Energy Bill Guarantee Scheme and Energy Bill Relief Scheme for non-residential consumers (which includes businesses and households in communal heat networks). Unfortunately, the Energy Bill Relief Scheme was only promised until April 2023, unlike the Energy Bill Guarantee Scheme which was to last for two years. The Government also promised a review into both scheme which I had hoped Hackney could feed into. I know this was something that Meg Hillier MP also raised with the Government [in Parliament](#).

However, under Chancellor Jeremy Hunt MP, the Energy Bill Guarantee Scheme has been paired back and will now only cover energy bills until April 2023. There is also no clarity about whether the Government will go ahead with their review into both schemes. As a result, I have subsequently lobbied the Chancellor, calling for clarity of support available from April 2023, as well as uplifting benefits in line with inflation and funding vital public services.

Fundamentally, communal heat networks need reform – they should be regulated by Ofgem and subject to Ofgem's price cap. That is why Hackney will also be lobbying around the Government's [Energy Bill](#) which proposes the former but not the latter.

The Council also continues to provide all the help it can to [support residents with the cost of living](#), including sign posting residents to other sources of support.

Returning to the context of Woodberry Down you will be aware that we keep this situation under consistent review and are working across the partnership to monitor the current position and ensure that future phases and their heating systems are both

transparently managed and as efficient and cost effective for residents and their operators as they can be. As always you, Cllr Selman and Woodberry Down Community Organisation will remain at the heart of this work.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Glanville  
Mayor of Hackney

**Question from Cllr Ben Hayhurst to the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture**

Can the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture, provide an update on what steps are being taken in Hackney to respond to the Monkeypox outbreak?

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture**

Dear Cllr Hayhurst

Thank you for your question, intended for the September Full Council meeting, regarding monkeypox. As you're aware, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in line with protocols, substantive changes were made to the Full Council agenda to reflect the fact that we were in a period of national mourning, and all questions and non-essential business were therefore removed from the agenda. As a result, I am sending you this written response.

Since early May cases of monkeypox (MPx) infections have been reported in countries where the disease is not usually found other than via travel related infections. In the United Kingdom the majority of cases have been in London and amongst gay and bisexual men. As of mid [September](#) there were 115 reported cases of MPx amongst City and Hackney residents representing 5% of the total cases in London.

City and Hackney public health have been actively engaging in the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) London regional MPx incident management team (IMT) meetings as well as the weekly/ twice weekly North East London Integrated Care Partnership Board IMTs. These meetings have sought to coordinate the response to the MPx outbreak informed by the epidemiology of the infection (who is being infected, through what routes of transmission and location), testing, community outreach/ engagement and vaccinations.

In Hackney we have engaged with local community organisations such as Positive East and The Love Tank and undertaken communications using social media and all staff communications, to provide information on the signs, symptoms, testing options and vaccination options. We have also highlighted to UKHSA and the Department of Health the significant pressure that responding to MPx is placing on sexual health services in terms of increased activity, financial pressures, staffing pressures and impacting on services' abilities to maintain core sexual health services.

A very successful community vaccination event was undertaken in partnership with the Homerton Hospital, Barts Hospital, the Love Tank, Positive East, Newham and

Hackney Council at UK Black Pride in the Olympic Park in July.

Due to national (and international) vaccination shortages, the Homerton Sexual Health service had to stop offering MPx vaccinations at the end of July. Funding for 4 additional outreach vaccination events was applied for from the NHS England, to ensure vaccination is available to under-served gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, but vaccination shortage has prevented these events from taking place over the summer.

20,000 new doses of vaccine have arrived nationally, with a further 80,000 expected in October. Since 26 September the Homerton sexual health service has been able to restart vaccination within routine clinics and is also setting up a specific vaccination clinic on a weekend to ensure both 1st and 2nd doses can be administered whilst reducing the impact on core sexual health services.

A change to an intradermal (ID) vaccination method is currently being introduced at the same time as the new stock arrives. This vaccination method is standard practice for a number of other vaccines, such as BCG, and will increase the number of people who can be safely and effectively vaccinated.

A proposal for increased community engagement and outreach is currently under development for consideration for funding from London Boroughs in NE London and NHS England. Subject to confirmation of funding, increased community engagement would be expected to commence during October to March.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Chris Kennedy

Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

**Question from Cllr Caroline Selman to the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure**

In response to the urban heat island effect, Hackney Council has planted an impressive 5,000 street trees and 12,500 trees in our parks and green spaces. Sadly, some of the Council's saplings have been vandalised in recent weeks. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Council's response to these incidents, and how it will safeguard these saplings that help cool and clean our borough?

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure**

Dear Cllr Selman

In response to the urban heat island effect, Hackney Council has planted an impressive 5,000 street trees and 12,500 trees in our parks and green spaces. Sadly, some of the Council's saplings have been vandalised in recent weeks. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Council's response to these incidents, and how it will safeguard these saplings that help cool and clean our borough?

Over the summer we saw several cases of tree vandalism that affected Wards in Cazenove, Stamford Hill West, Springfield, Hackney Downs, Dalston, Hackney Central, Homerton and Kings Park.

In one particular case, that raised concern amongst a number of Hackney residents who have been helping us care for newly planted trees on their local streets, a series of approximately 60 trees were damaged, ranging from minor, with lower branches broken, to more severe, with crown canopies snapped in half, leading to a small number of trees having to be removed completely.

In confidence, the reports we received on the extent and scope of this particular case of vandalism suggested specific routes may have been taken by one individual who may have mental health concerns. This is being investigated with colleagues in Anti-Social Behaviour, Community Safety Enforcement, and CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television) teams with the Metropolitan Police Service, and while we are necessarily treating the matter with sensitivity, we can say that we have not seen further incidents arise in this particular case.

There are a small number of other individual cases, also raised for investigation by the police, and we are following up on these, on a case-by-case basis.

Ultimately the damage caused is a criminal offence under the Criminal Damage Act 1971 and therefore enforcement by both our own teams and the police is an important tool in dealing with the problem. We also believe, however, that education about the value and benefits of trees can be even more effective in terms of prevention, and so our tree officers work with a wide range of partners and volunteers to engage our communities in tree-planting, tree-care and in developing educational tree trails across the borough.

Thank you for acknowledging the impressive scale of the Council's recent tree planting programme, with 5,000 new street trees, and more than 12,500 new trees in our parks and green spaces, helping to increase Hackney's green canopy. Our tree officers and contractors delivered this planting programme in very challenging conditions, working around the restrictions of the pandemic and restoring tree data lost through the criminal cyber attack. The weather this year has evidently also been particularly punishing for tree populations across London, with one of the hottest and driest summers on record. The Council has worked with contractors to undertake extensive watering programmes both on our streets and in parks as well encouraging residents to do the same. It is with a huge thank you to all those volunteers that we can say we have kept tree loss to a minimum. We will replace all trees that have died due to vandalism or disease to ensure continuity in provision. We keep a list of trees that require replacing under contract, as well as other replacements.

For the year 21/22, there were 30 street trees that were replaced under contract. These will have replaced trees planted in the previous planting season, 20/21, and subsequently failed. This year, there are 55 replacements due for completion. Together that's less than 2% of the total number of trees planted in this programme.

We will continue to build upon our Tree Champion and Tree Carers networks and plan in future to tag our street trees with QR codes linking to a mapping project showing Hackney's trees with their locations, and names.

We very much appreciate the support of our communities and vigilance in Hackney with our valued tree resource.

Do let me know whether you have any further queries.



Best wishes,

Cllr Caroline Woodley, Cazenove Ward  
Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure  
London Borough of Hackney

**Question from Cllr Fliss Premru to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care**

As Long Covid will get debated at this meeting, can the Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care set out how many schools in the borough follow the NEU, GMB and other Joint Trade Unions' Covid safety advice on ventilation (on which they advocate carbon monitoring keeping this down to 800 parts per million with air exchange and hepa filters) and whether the Council has assessed what it might cost to roll out this important practice in all our schools and public buildings to protect school students, staff and our residents as we go into the next wave of Covid, or a future epidemic or pandemic?

**Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care**

Dear Cllr Premru

Thank you for your question intended for the September Full Council meeting regarding ventilation in schools. As you're aware, following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in line with protocols, substantive changes were made to the Full Council agenda to reflect the fact that we were in a period of national mourning, and all questions and non-essential business were therefore removed from the agenda. As a result, I am sending you this written response.

The question you asked was "As Long Covid will get debated at this meeting, can the Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care set out how many schools in the borough follow the NEU, GMB and other Joint Trade Unions' Covid safety advice on ventilation (on which they advocate carbon monitoring keeping this down to 800 parts per million with air exchange and hepa filters) and whether the Council has assessed what it might cost to roll out this important practice in all our schools and public buildings to protect school students, staff and our residents as we go into the next wave of Covid, or a future epidemic or pandemic?"

It's recognised that good ventilation is important in reducing transmission of COVID-19 and other viruses. This is harder through the winter months, but not impossible e.g. good ventilation can be achieved by regularly opening windows for 10 minutes every hour, rather than keeping them permanently open. Earlier advice from the Department for Education's Education Hub was previously shared with schools and settings regarding the importance of ventilation and how to manage this - links to information on [the importance of ventilation](#) and [ventilating classrooms](#) (including tips on keeping classrooms warm) can be found on the [educationhub.blog.gov.uk](https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk) website.

A DfE air purifier offer and relevant advice was sent to all schools, and school leaders were briefed by public health and health and safety colleagues about best practice with ventilation. Ventilation within schools was also on the agenda, by mutual

agreement, during fortnightly regular Covid focused meetings with unions. There were no specific locations or schools raised by unions as a matter of specific concern nor schools where metrics indicated a concern. Unions were in favour of ventilation improvements generally. No schools have raised any concerns regarding ventilation. We will continue the dialogue with schools and unions on this matter.

Schools were sent CO2 monitors during the pandemic by the DfE and received advice on using these. The Health and Safety team also undertook a survey with schools over the Spring and Summer terms 2022 to review the use of CO2 monitoring. Of the 41 responses received, based on the schools' assessment of the risks, in general, a need for additional mitigation measures has not been identified, with the schools indicating that the risks are adequately managed.

Whilst assessing ventilation is, ultimately, the schools responsibility as duty holder, throughout the Spring and Summer terms 2022, schools have been signposted to additional support available from the DfE and from the Education Property team. At this stage, however, a requirement for the roll out of supplemental carbon monitoring has not been identified by the Council based on responses received.

Air purifiers are available at a range of costs e.g. £400. The number of classrooms across Hackney is in the area of 2000. The approach taken thus far has been to advise potential use of air purifiers in rooms which are difficult to ventilate via windows and other air flows.

I hope that this response reassures you regarding the steps that have been taken to support schools on this issue, but if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to come back to me.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble

Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care