

Overview & Scrutiny

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

All Members of the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission are requested to attend the meeting of the Commission to be held as follows

Thursday 20 April 2023

7.00 pm

Council Chamber, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA

This meeting can be viewed (or replayed) via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/1F9XDBLe5ek>

A back up link is provided in the event of any technical difficulties:

<https://youtu.be/bEX6GmAmx6o>

Should you wish to attend the meeting please give notice to the contact below and note the guidance included in the frontsheet.

Contact:

Craig Player

☎ 020 8356 4316

✉ craig.player@hackney.gov.uk

Mark Carroll

Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney

Members: Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Penny Wrout, Cllr Soraya Adejare (Chair), Cllr Clare Joseph (Vice-Chair), Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Sarah Young and Cllr Zoe Garbett

Supplementary Agenda

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

4 Resident Engagement for Estate Regeneration Schemes (Pages 7 - 10)

The following late submission is included:

- Item 4b. Report of Members' Focus Group with Residents Affected by Estate Regeneration Schemes

Access and Information

Public Involvement and Recording

Public Attendance at the Town Hall for Meetings

Scrutiny meetings are held in public, rather than being public meetings. This means that whilst residents and press are welcome to attend, they can only ask questions at the discretion of the Chair. For further information relating to public access to information, please see Part 4 of the council's constitution, available at <https://hackney.gov.uk/council-business> or by contacting Governance Services (020 8356 3503)

Following the lifting of all Covid-19 restrictions by the Government and the Council updating its assessment of access to its buildings, the Town Hall is now open to the public and members of the public may attend meetings of the Council.

We recognise, however, that you may find it more convenient to observe the meeting via the live-stream facility, the link for which appears on the agenda front sheet.

We would ask that if you have either tested positive for Covid-19 or have any symptoms that you do not attend the meeting, but rather use the livestream facility. If this applies and you are attending the meeting to ask a question, make a deputation or present a petition then you may contact the Officer named at the beginning of the agenda and they will be able to make arrangements for the Chair of the meeting to ask the question, make the deputation or present the petition on your behalf.

The Council will continue to ensure that access to our meetings is in line with any Covid-19 restrictions that may be in force from time to time and also in line with public health advice. The latest general advice can be found here - <https://hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-support>

Rights of Press and Public to Report on Meetings

Where a meeting of the Council and its committees are open to the public, the press and public are welcome to report on meetings of the Council and its committees, through any audio, visual or written methods and may use digital and social media providing they do not disturb the conduct of the meeting and providing that the person reporting or providing the commentary is present at the meeting.

Those wishing to film, photograph or audio record a meeting are asked to notify the Council's Monitoring Officer by noon on the day of the meeting, if possible, or any time prior to the start of the meeting or notify the Chair at the start of the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer, or the Chair of the meeting, may designate a set area from which all recording must take place at a meeting.

The Council will endeavour to provide reasonable space and seating to view, hear and record the meeting. If those intending to record a meeting require any other reasonable facilities, notice should be given to the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting and will only be provided if practicable to do so.

The Chair shall have discretion to regulate the behaviour of all those present recording a meeting in the interests of the efficient conduct of the meeting. Anyone acting in a disruptive manner may be required by the Chair to cease recording or may be excluded from the meeting.

Disruptive behaviour may include moving from any designated recording area; causing excessive noise; intrusive lighting; interrupting the meeting; or filming members of the public who have asked not to be filmed.

All those visually recording a meeting are requested to only focus on recording Councillors, officers and the public who are directly involved in the conduct of the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will ask any members of the public present if they have objections to being visually recorded. Those visually recording a meeting are asked to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed or photographed. Failure by someone recording a meeting to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed and photographed may result in the Chair instructing them to cease recording or in their exclusion from the meeting.

If a meeting passes a motion to exclude the press and public then in order to consider confidential or exempt information, all recording must cease, and all recording equipment must be removed from the meeting. The press and public are not permitted to use any means which might enable them to see or hear the proceedings whilst they are excluded from a meeting and confidential or exempt information is under consideration.

Providing oral commentary during a meeting is not permitted.

Advice to Members on Declaring Interests

Advice to Members on Declaring Interests

Hackney Council's Code of Conduct applies to all Members of the Council, the Mayor and co-opted Members.

This note is intended to provide general guidance for Members on declaring interests. However, you may need to obtain specific advice on whether you have an interest in a particular matter. If you need advice, you can contact:

- Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services
- the Legal Adviser to the Committee; or
- Governance Services.

If at all possible, you should try to identify any potential interest you may have before the meeting so that you and the person you ask for advice can fully consider all the circumstances before reaching a conclusion on what action you should take.

You will have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter if it:

- i. relates to an interest that you have already registered in Parts A and C of the Register of Pecuniary Interests of you or your spouse/civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse/civil partner;
- ii. relates to an interest that should be registered in Parts A and C of the Register of Pecuniary Interests of your spouse/civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse/civil partner, but you have not yet done so; or
- iii. affects your well-being or financial position or that of your spouse/civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse/civil partner.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item on the agenda you must:

- i. Declare the existence and nature of the interest (in relation to the relevant agenda item) as soon as it becomes apparent to you (subject to the rules regarding sensitive interests).
- ii. You must leave the meeting when the item in which you have an interest is being discussed. You cannot stay in the meeting whilst discussion of the item takes place, and you cannot vote on the matter. In addition, you must not seek to improperly influence the decision.
- iii. If you have, however, obtained dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee you may remain in the meeting and participate in the

meeting. If dispensation has been granted it will stipulate the extent of your involvement, such as whether you can only be present to make representations, provide evidence or whether you are able to fully participate and vote on the matter in which you have a pecuniary interest.

Do you have any other non-pecuniary interest on any matter on the agenda which is being considered at the meeting?

You will have 'other non-pecuniary interest' in a matter if:

- i. It relates to an external body that you have been appointed to as a Member or in another capacity; or
- ii. It relates to an organisation or individual which you have actively engaged in supporting.

If you have other non-pecuniary interest in an item on the agenda you must:

- i. Declare the existence and nature of the interest (in relation to the relevant agenda item) as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- ii. You may remain in the meeting, participate in any discussion or vote provided that contractual, financial, consent, permission or licence matters are not under consideration relating to the item in which you have an interest.
- iii. If you have an interest in a contractual, financial, consent, permission, or licence matter under consideration, you must leave the meeting unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee. You cannot stay in the meeting whilst discussion of the item takes place, and you cannot vote on the matter. In addition, you must not seek to improperly influence the decision. Where members of the public are allowed to make representations, or to give evidence or answer questions about the matter you may, with the permission of the meeting, speak on a matter then leave the meeting. Once you have finished making your representation, you must leave the meeting whilst the matter is being discussed.
- iv. If you have been granted dispensation, in accordance with the Council's dispensation procedure you may remain in the meeting. If dispensation has been granted it will stipulate the extent of your involvement, such as whether you can only be present to make representations, provide evidence or whether you are able to fully participate and vote on the matter in which you have a non-pecuniary interest.

Further Information

Advice can be obtained from Dawn Carter-McDonald, Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services via email dawn.carter-mcdonald@hackney.gov.uk

Getting to the Town Hall

For a map of how to find the Town Hall, please visit the council's website <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/contact-us.htm> or contact the Overview and Scrutiny Officer using the details provided on the front cover of this agenda.

Accessibility

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall.

Induction loop facilities are available in the Assembly Halls and the Council Chamber. Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

Further Information about the Commission

If you would like any more information about the Scrutiny Commission, including the membership details, meeting dates and previous reviews, please visit the website or use this QR Code (accessible via phone or tablet 'app')

<http://www.hackney.gov.uk/individual-scrutiny-commissions-living-in-hackney.htm>



Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

20th April 2023

Report of Members' Focus Group with Residents Affected by Estate Regeneration Schemes

Members held an online focus group with residents affected by estate regeneration schemes in the evening of Thursday 13th April 2023.

The aim of the focus group was to hear from residents living in council managed estates that have been affected by estate regeneration schemes to understand their experiences of resident engagement and what they may like to see happen additionally or differently in the future.

The focus group was attended by Members of the Commission and eight residents from across Colville, Kings Crescent, Woodberry Down and Regents Court Estates.

Insights from the focus group are summarised below.

Has the Council been open and transparent with you from the beginning about the proposals and clearly explained how they will affect you and your neighbours?

- Some residents felt that the aims of regeneration were not made clear at the beginning of the process, and some expressed a desire for officers to provide a better understanding of the potential benefits and for whom they apply to at an earlier stage.
- There was also a desire for officers to be more realistic and help residents understand what some of the potential negative impacts might be, for example disruption, lengthy regeneration timescales, and the likelihood of significant changes to proposals/deviation from earlier promises.
- Some residents felt that there was a lack of appreciation from officers that regeneration schemes were dealing with people's homes and communities, and as such should be dealt with in a way which treats residents as experts.
- Some residents felt that officers could be more proactive in sharing best practice and bringing residents across regeneration estates together so that they are aware of what is being offered across the borough and what is possible or not possible.
- There was a feeling that a more consistent approach to estate regeneration was needed, and for any deviation to this end to be clearly communicated to residents - for example in relation to split household provision.

Has the Council given you opportunities to have your say on the proposals and design of new homes, and has the Council acted on your feedback and told you what has changed?

- Active members of tenant/resident organisations felt that they were able to make genuine inputs into the planning process, and access to support networks and

professional advice such as Independent Residents' Advisors were particularly useful to this end.

- Some residents felt that consultation was at times tokenistic, that there were no guarantees that their views would be validated or taken forward, and that engaging would not always make a difference.
- There was some feeling that residents tend to only be involved at the end of the policy cycle, when major decisions have already been made, limiting their influence. Others felt that suggestions take a long time to be acted on, and that there was little sense of urgency.
- Some residents felt that the engagement methods used were not suitable for all residents, and that a mixed approach to engagement was needed (for example regular in-person meetings, regular newsletters and regular digital communications e.g. emails, websites, social channels) and that these methods should be applied consistently across all regeneration estates.

Has the Council kept you informed and updated about the progress of the proposals?

- Some residents felt that meetings were held at inconvenient times. It was felt by some that residents need to be engaged at their convenience, need to be allowed to submit views in a way that suits them, and information needed to be made available quickly, simply and in a shareable format.
- For some residents the high turnover in regeneration officers made it difficult to keep an ongoing dialogue open about key issues arising throughout the various stages of regeneration. For some, promises and expectations were set by previous officers but not followed through by those that took their place.
- Some felt that they needed to be proactive in seeking updates for themselves, that there was a lack of ongoing information provided and accessible points of communication for residents to be easily updated or raise issues.
- Some felt that there was a lack of joined up working and communication between various council departments and contractors, which leads to residents not getting timely answers to their questions or concerns and issues not being quickly acted upon.
- Residents appreciated the role of housing officers in advocating for residents, and felt that they were visible and active on estates. However, some felt that they were under-resourced and at times unable to deal with all concerns and issues raised by residents.

Has the Council supported community cohesion and integration on your estate through ongoing engagement activity?

- Most residents had concerns around the changing social dynamics on regeneration estates and community cohesion and integration. Some had experienced tensions between long standing and newer residents, especially in communities where there is a wide inequality gap.
- Some felt there was a lack of appreciation for the time and effort residents put into facilitating community integration themselves, and that a more concerted effort was needed to proactively take steps to socially integrate new residents into the community.

- Equitable access to estate facilities and services was highlighted as an issue for some, especially as regeneration estates have moved towards more mixed provision. In some cases access to facilities and services is perceived to favour one group over another, and as a result resentment can grow.

Officer Contact

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