



# COUNCIL

All Members of the Council are  
**HEREBY SUMMONED**  
to attend a meeting of the Council to  
be held on

Wednesday, 22nd January, 2020

at 7.00 pm

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

**Tim Shields**  
Chief Executive

Contact: Tess Merrett  
Governance Services  
Tel: 020 8356 3432  
[governance@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:governance@hackney.gov.uk)

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting

## MEETING INFORMATION

### Future Meetings

26 February 2020  
20 May 2020 (AGM)

### Contact for Information

Tess Merrett, Governance Services  
Tel: 020 8356 3432  
[governance@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:governance@hackney.gov.uk)

### Location

Hackney Town Hall is on Mare Street, bordered by Wilton Way and Reading Lane. For directions please go to <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/contact-us>

### Facilities

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, rooms 101, 102 & 103 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.

<b>AGENDA ITEM NUMBER</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>INDICATIVE TIMINGS (Up to, not exceeding)</b>
1 – 4	Preliminaries	5 minutes
5	Question from Member of the Public	30 minutes
6	Questions from Members of the Council	30 minutes
7	Elected Mayor's Statement	20 minutes
8	Demonstration/Practise Voting System	10 minutes
9	Report from Cabinet: Calculation of 2020/21 Council Tax Base and Local Business Rate	20 minutes
10	Report from Cabinet: Council Tax Reduction Scheme	10 minutes
11	Motion: Calling on Hackney Council to Adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims Definition of Islamophobia	20 minutes
12	Appointments to Committees	5 minutes
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2 hrs 30 mins</b>

# Council Agenda

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

## **2 Speaker's Announcements**

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

This is the time for Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary or other non-pecuniary interests they may have in any matter being considered at this meeting having regard to the guidance attached to the agenda.

## **4 Minutes of the previous meeting**

## **5 Questions from Members of the Public**

(Pages 1 -  
40)

### Question from Ms Zoe Garbett to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy

What are the Council's plans for Hackney Walk, a £1.5m development (using the London Mayor's riot regeneration fund) which has failed to bring people to Hackney or be of benefit to Hackney residents? How can residents have confidence that future regeneration projects will not be a waste of taxpayer money?

### Question from Ms Feodora Rayner to the Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm

There were nearly 1000 road casualties in Hackney in 2018 (TfL), \*160 fatal or serious. The Council hopes to reduce this to zero over the next 21 years. What enforcement action is the council taking now to reduce speeding and dangerous driving in the borough?

\*TfL Casualties in Great London 2018 factsheet

### Question from Mr Christopher Sills to the Mayor

Would you agree with me that Homeless families, who want to work, should be rehoused in Hackney Council Properties, without losing their rights as a homeless family? Would the Mayor also confirm that a similar arrangement has been used in the past and agree that something similar is required today?

## **6 Questions from Members of the Council**

### Cllr Anna Lynch to Deputy Mayor Bramble

In light of the Council's recent Ofsted report, can the Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care outline what the Council will do to improve its Ofsted rating and achieve an 'Outstanding' rating?

Cllr Michelle Gregory to the Mayor

I am pleased to hear that there will be a review about what happened to Musa Sevimli, who sadly died whilst living at a bus stop in Stoke Newington Road last year. Can you advise the timeline of this, how residents and members can contribute to the review and who is chairing the review?

Cllr Sade Etti to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Policy and Voluntary Sector

On the 22nd December last year, residents from across the borough and all walks of life gathered in the Town Hall Square to celebrate Hanukkah – to learn its message and share traditions across communities. In contrast, we were deeply saddened by the anti-semitic attacks that occurred in New York this December as well as the incidents of anti-Semitic graffiti in Camden an assault on a Rabbi visiting our own borough. Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety outline what the Council is doing to stand in solidarity with the boroughs' Jewish community, and how we are working with partners to tackle and prevent hate-crime in Hackney?

Cllr Sophie Conway to the Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources

Last year the Council positively reported that there was no gender pay-gap amongst its staff, but revealed an ethnicity pay-gap in the organisation. Can the Cabinet Member for Equality outline what the Council is doing to tackle the ethnicity pay-gap and the progress that has been made?

Cllr Steve Race to the Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years and Play

Can the Cabinet Member for Families, Early Years and Play give an update on the SEND report co-designed with parents, teachers, and medical professionals?

Cllr Woodley to Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs advise how many rough sleepers were identified in Hackney during this year's annual count, which took place in November, how this compares to last year's count and what the council is doing to address this issue?

Cllr Sharon Patrick to the Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste and Public Realm

I welcome all the new trees that are going to be planted in my ward on Hackney Marshes. Can the cabinet member inform me about how residents and community groups can get involved in the planting and is there opportunity for residents to decide where they are planted?

From Cllr Ian Rathbone to Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy

What is happening about the future of Ridley Road Street market,

and how are our other markets progressing?

**7 Elected Mayor's Statement**

**8 Demonstration of Voting System**

**9 Report from Cabinet: Calculation of 2020/21 Council Tax Base and Local Business Rate**

(Pages 41 - 68)

**10 Report from Cabinet: Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

(Pages 69 - 122)

**11 Motion: Calling on Hackney Council to Adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims Definition of Islamophobia**

**Motion Calling on Hackney Council to Adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims definition of Islamophobia.**

Hackney has a long history of being a welcoming borough. It is a diverse place, where people from all backgrounds-different nationalities, religions and sexualities live side-by-side and where over 14 percent of the population is Muslim.

The council notes: Hackney is committed to tackling all forms of hate and discrimination, and has a history of doing so.

- In November 2016, Hackney Council voted in support of a motion condemning hate crime, and committed to develop a hate crime strategy.
- We appointed a Hackney No Place for Hate Crime Champion in 2017 and began highlighting the work of tackling hate crime. A Hackney Faith Network was also established involving Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders.
- In January 2018, the Cabinet approved Council's strategy for tackling hate crime 2018-2020
- This council expressed alarm at the rise of antisemitism and as Hackney has the second highest Jewish population in London, Hackney Council passed a motion adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism in February 2018
- In March 2018, the council consulted on its draft strategy for tackling hate crime and published *Hackney: No Place for Hate – Hackney Council's Strategy for Tackling Hate Crime 2018-22*
- In March 2019, Hackney Mayor, Speaker and Councillors took a stance against the recent terrorist attacks in New Zealand on Mosques in Christchurch, attending an interfaith solidarity event organised jointly by Hackney's Muslim community, North London Muslim Community Centre, Clapton Mosque (Madina Mosque Trust) and the Cazenove Road Mosque (Masjid-e-Quba), attended by Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders along with others.

**Following an extensive consultation, the All-Party**

**Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Muslims formulated a working definition of Islamophobia.**

**“Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness”**

Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools the workplace , and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist fascist ideology, or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism and claims of a demographic ‘threat’ posed by Muslims or of a ‘Muslim takeover’.
- Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.
- Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.
- Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the ‘Ummah’ (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying Muslim populations the right to self-determination.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded by any other groups in society (e.g. loyalty tests).
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia (e.g. Muhammed being a paedophile, claims of Muslims spreading Islam by the sword or subjecting minority groups under their rule) to characterize Muslims as being ‘sex groomers’, inherently violent or incapable of living harmoniously in plural societies.
- Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.

- This list is not exhaustive but forms guidelines to recognise markers of Islamophobia in today's context.

**“Islamophobia is rooted in racism, and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness”.**

This Council resolves to:

- Speak out against Islamophobia and its rise in recent years across the UK and around the world.
- Condemn all bigotry and any discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion, denomination or any characteristic protected by the Equality Act.
- Endorse and adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia.

Proposer: Cllr Humaira Garasia

Seconded: Cllr Caroline Woodley

## **12 Appointments to Committees and Commissions**

(Pages 123 -  
126)



## 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 room. 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

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:

- The Director of Legal;
- 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.

## **1. Do you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda or which is being considered at the meeting?**

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

- 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;
- 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
- 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.

## **2. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item on the agenda you must:**

- 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).
- You must leave the room when the item in which you have an interest is being discussed. You cannot stay in the meeting room or public gallery 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.
- If you have, however, obtained dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee you may remain in the room 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.

## **3. 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:

- 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.

#### **4. 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 room, 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 room unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee. You cannot stay in the room or public gallery 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 room. Once you have finished making your representation, you must leave the room 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 room. 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 Suki Binjal, Director of Legal, on 020 8356 6234 or email [suki.binjal@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:suki.binjal@hackney.gov.uk)



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London Borough of Hackney  
Council  
Municipal Year 2019/20  
Date of Meeting Wednesday, 30th October, 2019

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

**Councillors in  
Attendance:**

Mayor Philip Glanville, Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Soraya Adejare, Cllr Brian Bell, Cllr Polly Billington, Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Jon Burke, Cllr Sophie Cameron, Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Ajay Chauhan, Cllr Feryal Clark, Cllr Mete Coban, Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Humaira Garasia, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr Michelle Gregory, Cllr Katie Hanson, Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Klein, Cllr Michael Levy, Cllr Richard Lufkin, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Yvonne Maxwell, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cllr Anthony McMahon, Cllr Guy Nicholson, Cllr Harvey Odze, Cllr Deniz Oguzkanli, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Benzion Papier, Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr James Peters, Cllr Clare Potter, Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Tom Rahilly, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Rebecca Rennison, Cllr Anna-Joy Rickard, Cllr Caroline Selman, Cllr Nick Sharman, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Peter Snell, Cllr Patrick Spence, Cllr Simche Steinberger, Cllr Vincent Stops, Cllr Jessica Webb, Cllr Carole Williams, Cllr Caroline Woodley and Cllr Penny Wrouth

**Apologies:**

Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Ned Hercock and Cllr Emma Plouviez

**Officer Contact:**

Tess Merrett, Governance Services

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**Councillor Kam Adams [Speaker] in the Chair**

**1 Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Conway, Hercock, Plouviez and Moema.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Deputy Mayor Clark and Councillor Pallis.

**2 Speaker's Announcements**

- 2.1 The Speaker outlined some of his recent highlights which included the Speaker's quiz night, presiding over 12 citizenship ceremonies, being the first Speaker to host a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month reception and also being the first Speaker to host a Diwali reception. The Speaker was looking forward to taking part in Remembrance Sunday and lighting the Hackney Town Hall Christmas tree, lighting the Hanukah Menorah and taking part in the London New Year's Day Parade. The Speaker was also looking forward to hosting future citizenship ceremonies.
- 2.2 The Speaker announced with great sadness that former Councillor Geoff Taylor had passed away. The Speaker wished to pass on his condolences to Geoff's family and friends.

### Mayor Glanville

- 2.3 The Mayor welcomed Geoff's widow, Elizabeth and family and friends to the meeting. The Mayor said that he and his fellow Councillors had had an opportunity to pay tribute to Geoff at his funeral a couple of weeks ago where they had learnt a lot about his incredible life. Elizabeth had recounted to the Mayor a story from her and Geoff's courting days when they had sat on a bench on Well Street Common and Geoff said to her that he could live in Hackney all his life. Despite his declining health Geoff had continued with his Council work for as long as he could but it was at St Joseph's Hospice that he had sadly passed away.

Geoff had welcomed the new intake of Councillors in 2006 and he had guided them through their first steps, whether it was sitting on the Scrutiny Commissions or working as frontline Councillors. Geoff was always available to talk. He was a father figure to so many and he had an unwavering commitment to public service representing the Victoria ward for 16 years, from 2002 to 2018. Former Hackney Mayor Jules Pipe had spoken of how Geoff could always be counted on and the huge contribution he had made in turning Hackney around and it was that record that should be celebrated. Geoff had a deep sense of Hackney's past. He was a passionate historian believing in tradition, the Hackney Town Hall and the churches in the borough.

Geoff also lived in the present with a firm belief in looking to the future. Geoff made sure the focus was on the next generation in Hackney and during his time as Speaker, he had chosen charities that worked with young people in Hackney. When Geoff had been a Governor of Orchard School he had drawn on his former role as a teacher to focus on young people. Geoff led various Scrutiny reviews on education, championing youth work and making sure that education continued to improve in the borough. Geoff was gentle and quiet, but he was a great orator and debater in the Council Chamber, whether talking fondly about Hackney, the evils of austerity or welfare reform, he did so with passion. Geoff had been the Cabinet Member for Finance, chaired on the Scrutiny Committee, as well as chairing various Planning Committees, the Pensions Committee, Audit Committee, Corporate Procurement Committee (CPC) and the London Development Committee (CDC). Geoff had left behind an incredible legacy. Geoff had no ego and he would be surprised that the Council were paying tribute to him in this way. Geoff was diligent with his case work and he embodied the virtues and values which underpin everything that Hackney holds dear. He was a social democrat and a European with a belief in

debate and compromise and the power of politics to do good. Geoff was a dedicated and honest public servant, who gave his all to the causes in the borough that he loved.

Councillor Katie Hanson

- 2.4 Councillor Hanson said Geoff had been a true polymath and although she had known him for many years, it was only recently she discovered his amazing array of talents. As a former teacher, Geoff was a passionate advocate for young people in Hackney. He wanted them to have the best education. Councillor Hanson and Geoff had campaigned to get a new school in the Victoria ward and they had felt so proud standing at the entrance when the school had opened five years ago, as the children came up the steps in their brand new school uniforms. Today Geoff's godson attends the very same school and wore his school uniform when he spoke at Geoff's funeral. This was a great tribute to the work that Geoff had done.

Councillor Penny Wrout

- 2.5 Councillor Wrout remembered when she first met Geoff as part of a group of parents who were concerned about the future of the land on Victoria Park Road where a hospital had stood and which was about to be sold off. The parents were anxious that there would be no secondary school for children in the area, so they went and saw Geoff. He was very sympathetic and along with Councillor Hanson, he had helped the parents group, on how best to lobby politicians. The result was the Victoria Road Osborne Academy now very much part of the Victoria Ward and the parents had Geoff to thank for that. When Councillor Wrout joined the Labour Party a few years later Geoff enthusiastically welcomed her and they had many interesting discussions despite not always agreeing. A couple of years later when there was a by election in the Victoria Ward Geoff had encouraged Councillor Wrout to go for it. She said it would be difficult to find anybody with a bad word to say about Geoff. He was a kind, thoughtful, intelligent and pragmatic politician with a lovely smile who was a true public servant who would be sorely missed. Councillors would try to follow in his footsteps and despite his passing he was still doing the Council a service by being a fabulous role model.

Councillor Simche Steinberger

- 2.6 Councillor Steinberger spoke about how he was greatly saddened by Geoff's passing and he echoed everything that Mayor Glanville and Geoff's colleagues in Victoria Ward had said. Councillor Steinberger said that Geoff had been an unbelievable Councillor and he used to refer to him as Mr Hackney. Geoff was a man who always cared whatever he did and he was a loved man. They had worked together on Scrutiny and although Geoff spoke quietly he always added value to the meetings and had much to say. After working on Scrutiny Geoff had been promoted to probably the most difficult job as Cabinet Member for Finance. Councillor Steinberger believed that this was one of the best decisions the Mayor had made. Councillor Steinberger said that when he and Geoff spoke outside meetings there was always something he could learn from Geoff and when Councillor Steinberger looked across now at the Labour benches, there was no comparison as there was no one like Geoff and it would be hard

to replace him. Councillor Steinberger said that had he known when the funeral was he would have done everything he could to have attended. Councillor Steinberger said how people would remember Geoff for everything he had done in Hackney for years to come. The Council had lost a great man and a huge asset. Councillor Steinberger wanted on behalf of his fellow Conservative Councillors to give their condolences and they wished Elizabeth only happiness.

Former councillor and Freeman of the Borough Saleem Siddiqui

2.7 Mr Saleem Siddiqui, Freeman of the Borough, spoke of his decade and half long friendship with Geoff. Mr Siddiqui recalled how Geoff, following his election in 2002, had been an active councillor, always looking after his constituents. As a historian, Geoff had written a book on the borough of Hackney which would stand as a testament to the area in which he lived. During a time of change in the Council when there had been huge pressure on resources, Geoff ensured that the Council could retain their advisor on Religious Education. Mr Siddiqui remembered how Geoff always spoke to time in meetings yet managed to say all that needed to be said within the allocated time. Geoff always had a broad smile and you always knew when he was in the room. Mr Siddiqui concluded by saying that Geoff would be sadly missed as an asset to the Hackney people.

2.8 The Speaker announced with sadness that former Councillor Lois Radice had passed away. The Speaker gave his condolences to her family and friends.

2.9 Mayor Glanville echoed the Speaker's comments about Lois. He said that Lois had passed at her home surrounded by her family and on behalf of the Council, he wanted to extend his condolences to Lois's family and friends. Lois was elected in a by election in the Clissold Ward in 1988 and would later serve in the Brownswood Ward until the mid-1990s. Lois served on the Education Committee between 1989 and 1993, Vice-Chair from 1989 to 1990 and then Chair from 1990 to 1991. Lois was a committed education union activist involved in the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. Mayor Glanville spoke of how Lois was a vocal member of the Hackney North and Stoke Newington Constituency Labour Party, she had offered loyal support to Diane Abbott MP and strongly encouraged women to put themselves forward for various roles in the party. Lois was known by her close friends as a principled and pragmatic socialist. She had most recently held positions as the Hackney North and Stoke Newington Older People's Co-ordinator and as Chair of the Local Campaign Forum. Lois was hugely respected and had never stopped standing up for the community, the Labour Party and older people.

Councillor Sharon Patrick

2.10 Councillor Patrick spoke about how she and Councillor Desmond served with Lois. Lois had been a dedicated Councillor and had become involved with the Council's Education Committee at the time Hackney became an Education Authority. Councillor Patrick remembered, during the late eighties, both young and naive, she and Lois had been swept up in those times. Councillor Patrick spoke about how education was Lois's passion, it was what she believed in and Lois had a belief that the children of Hackney should have a decent future and



equal opportunities. She would have been happy if Hackney's children received schooling up to the educational standards of Eton. Lois would be remembered as a dedicated Councillor and for promoting the role of women in the Council and the Labour Party. She would be missed as a Councillor, a member of the Labour Party and as a comrade.

*The council chamber stood for a minute's silence.*

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 Councillor Race declared an interest at agenda item 10.
- 3.2 Councillor Billington declared an interest at agenda item 10.
- 3.3 Councillor Lynch declared an interest at agenda item 7.
- 3.4 Councillor Hayhurst declared an interest at agenda item 10.
- 3.5 Councillor Hanson declared an interest at agenda item 10.
- 3.6 Councillor Snell declared an interest at agenda item 10.
- 3.7 Deputy Mayor Clark declared an interest at agenda item 10.
- 3.8 Councillor Lufkin declared an interest at agenda item 10.
- 3.9 Councillor Gordon declared an interest at agenda items 6, 10 and 11.
- 3.10 Councillor Webb declared an interest at agenda item 10.

### **4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- 4.1 The Speaker put the minutes of the previous Council meeting, held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019, to Council for approval. Councillor Steinberger raised a point of order in relation to the minutes. The Speaker reminded Councillor Steinberger that the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting had been recorded and that the minutes of that meeting had been sent to him and he had not commented on them. Councillor Steinberger replied that the Speaker had perhaps not read the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting minutes because of what he had found in them. Councillor Steinberger commented that the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting minutes were not worthwhile submitting. Councillor Steinberger cited page 17 of the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting minutes as an example. The Speaker in response asked Councillor Steinberger to clarify if his comment was on the accuracy of the minutes. Councillor Steinberger replied that it was on the accuracy. The Speaker re-iterated that the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting minutes had been sent to Councillor Steinberger and that the meeting had been recorded. The Speaker recommended to Councillor Steinberger that he contact Governance Services with his comments on the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting minutes. Councillor Steinberger replied by asking for clarification on when he was sent the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting minutes, as he did not remember receiving them. The Speaker responded by recommending to Councillor Steinberger that he discuss the matter outside of the Council Chamber. Councillor Steinberger

replied that he wanted to speak about accuracy as he felt that the minutes of the June Council meeting did not make sense. The Speaker asked Councillor Steinberger to briefly highlight those areas in the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting minutes.

- 4.2 Councillor Steinberger highlighted, on page 17 of the 26<sup>th</sup> June council meeting minutes, in the second paragraph, the following:

“He [*Councillor Steinberger*] said residents and shopkeepers had been ruined”.

Councillor Steinberger asked for clarification on what was meant by this sentence as he had not said this and that he did not know where these minutes had come from. Councillor Steinberger added that if he was to look at Council meeting minutes then he wanted accurate ones.

- 4.3 The Speaker replied by reminding Councillor Steinberger that the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting had been recorded. Councillor Steinberger replied that the Council may have to look at getting a new recording machine if Council meeting minutes were to be recorded like that.
- 4.4 The Speaker thanked Councillor Steinberger for the points that he had raised on the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting minutes.
- 4.5 Councillor Billington highlighted an omission on page 20, the sixth line, of the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting minutes and said the word "low" should be inserted before the word carbon in the minutes.
- 4.6 Councillor Steinberger raised a point of order, querying why the Speaker had not said to Councillor Billington what he had said to him earlier on about the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council meeting minutes. The Speaker replied that the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 Council meeting had been recorded. The Speaker thanked Councillor Billington for her amendment to the minutes.
- 4.7 The minutes of the previous Council meeting, subject to one amendment, were put to Council and were APPROVED. Councillor Odze raised a point of order, he did not agree to the 26<sup>th</sup> June Council minutes and asked for his objection to be recorded in the Council minutes. Councillor Steinberger added that he too did not agree to the Council meeting minutes. The Speaker thanked Councillor Odze and Councillor Steinberger and he confirmed that their comments, as requested, would be recorded in the Council meeting minutes.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26<sup>TH</sup> June 2019 be APPROVED as a correct record, subject to one amendment above listed above.

## 5 Deputation

- 5.1 Councillor Steinberger introduced the deputation from West Bank Residents which was about their concerns over the cycle lane there. Local residents, bikers and shopkeepers were asking the Mayor and the Council to remove the cycle lane in West Bank immediately because it was detrimental to the residents in the community and the shops on Dunsmure Road. They considered the impact was severe on the established Jewish Community who

needed to access the shops. Moreover, it was dangerous and confusing to the thousands of school children in the surrounding area of Stamford Hill who crossed West Bank on their way to school daily.

5.2 Ms Linda Kelly, a spokesperson for her fellow local residents, began by reminding Council of Councillor Etti's question to the Mayor at the 26 June Council meeting about promotion of the values of tolerance and inclusion. Councillor Selman had said at the time that Hackney was a welcoming and diverse place to live and that its diversity was valued. Ms Kelly said the exception to this was in respect of the Haredi community in Stamford Hill and the collateral damage of this exception was the West Bank and the surrounding areas. If the Council wished to promote diversity and cultural awareness for all its constituents, then the officers who had put forward the programme for the Cycling Safety and Integration (CSI) route, under delegated powers, should have undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), despite their claim an EIA was not necessary because officers understood the needs of the community in that area. Because an EIA had not been undertaken and the lack of consultation, people visiting family and friends in the West Bank area could not find parking spaces. Neighbours were vying for car park spaces and putting dustbins out to reserve spaces which had led to ill feeling. Ms Kelly said that delivery vans with groceries for people who were housebound and/or elderly were getting parking tickets because of the cycle lane. The cycle lane also affected mothers with babies who wanted to park in the area as they were having to park half way down the road and then carry their shopping back along with their children and prams. Ms Kelly said that she and her fellow residents had asked Mayor Glanville to come down to the area and engage with his constituents. They had also asked the Chief Executive Officer to engage but he had been on leave. Ms Kelly stated that the cycle route would never have been implemented if the the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) mentioned in the report had been pushed through. Such a CPZ would have broken the community. Ms Kelly was of the view that when the introduction of a CPZ failed the Cabinet Lead Member had resurrected the cycle route. Ms Kelly said that if as, Hackney Council claimed, it was a Council thoughtful of its people, from all backgrounds and all cultures, then it would have known that the local Haredi community had to have access to specialist shops. Ms Kelly acknowledged the reasons for why people needed to cycle, everyone agreed it was healthy and that it was a way of reducing carbon emissions but there were issues with the location of the cycle route, in a residential street that had been converted from a two way street into a one way street. Ms Kelly explained that local residents should have had time to come forward and raise their concerns.

5.3 Mr Abraham Getter, a shop owner in the area, said he and his fellow shop owners considered the cycle route was causing loss of trade.

The Speaker opened the floor for questions to the deputation.

5.4 Mayor Glanville thanked Ms Kelly and Mr Getter for coming to the Council meeting and submitting their deputation. The Mayor asked if anyone present wished to comment on the disgraceful behaviour that had occurred to disrupt the cycle route which was endangering the lives of pedestrians and cyclists. He also asked what the local business community had been doing to promote road safety and to reduce car use in the community. The Council wanted

reductions in air pollution across the borough but the Stamford Hill area did not appear to conform to this aspiration?

- 5.5 Ms Kelly replied that she did not know who was responsible for the behaviour the Mayor was referring to but it had been happening ever since the cycle route had been in place. Ms Kelly stated that no one from the local Stamford Hill Haredi community would behave in such a way as they were law abiding citizens. Ms Kelly said that in terms of plans to reduce air pollution, it was about educating people to not use their car and to walk instead. She saw walking as the healthiest thing to do. Ms Kelly added that if someone wanted to go on a bicycle, then they should go on a bicycle but the cycle route was on a residential street and people needed to use their cars.
- 5.6 Councillor Stops asked whether it was a good use of Police time to issue parking tickets and if not the Police, who instead should be managing parking in the Stamford Hill area?
- 5.7 Ms Kelly said that she and her fellow residents wanted to live side by side with cyclists and to let them enjoy the roads. Ms Kelly suggested that a solution would be to put up a sign which indicated no parking between 06:30 and 10:00 hours nor between 16:00 and 18:00 hours so that cyclists could use the route at these designated times. If such a sign were installed the Police would not need to manage the parking as cameras could be installed. Councillor Stops replied that the deputation's suggestion appeared to be in support of the introduction of parking controls. Ms Kelly said that it was about two types of people living side by side with one another.
- 5.8 Councillor Odze thanked Ms Kelly for speaking and bringing the deputation to Council. Referring to the solution that Ms Kelly had suggested, Councillor Odze asked Ms Kelly to elaborate on whether the proposal, of turning the street into a one way road rather than a two way road was appropriate given Council officers had opposed one way streets in every other situation where they had been put forward. Ms Kelly replied that the street in question was a street used by families and by delivery people. She said it had always been a two way street and she asked who would benefit from turning it into a one way street? Ms Kelly stated that cyclists did not even use the cycle route, adding that some were seen going down the middle of the road. Ms Kelly said that when cyclists were challenged by the residents on this behaviour the residents would be screamed at.
- 5.9 Councillor Papier said that during the consultation period he had tried to get the various parties together to find a way forward but he felt he had been ignored. Councillor Papier asked Ms Kelly whether she felt the consultation process had been fair. Ms Kelly replied that in 2018 Hackney Council officers had acted under delegated powers relying on the 661 responses received even though there were streets full of people in the area. Ms Kelly said that they had been told by certain Councillors that consultation would take place with streets on the far East and West Bank areas but this had not happened. Ms Kelly added that the responses received by the Council showed a majority of 61% saying no to the proposal.
- 5.10 The Speaker asked Ms Kelly whether she thought the process had been fair. Ms Kelly replied that the process had absolutely not been fair.

- 5.11 The Speaker invited the Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm to reply. Ms Kelly said that she and her fellow residents would not stay to listen to the Cabinet Member of Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm's response and would leave the Council Chamber.
- 5.12 On hearing that Ms Kelly and the residents were leaving the Council Chamber, Deputy Mayor Clark asked them why they had made the deputation if they were not prepared to hear the answer?

Ms Kelly and her fellow residents left the Council Chamber.

- 5.13 Councillor Burke thanked Ms Kelly and Mr Getter for bringing the deputation to Council.
- 5.14 Councillor Burke reminded Council of the point made earlier in the deputation about the use of parking controls and the use of enforcement cameras. It was put to the Conservative councillors that they would surely be aware that the Council was not allowed to enforce parking controls by the use of cameras as that power had been taken away from local authorities by the then Local Government Secretary of State Eric Pickles. The Council had supported the idea that barriers be removed for cyclists, because they created a dangerous situation. Councillor Burke said that when the Council had put out parking cones a few months ago they had been thrown into the neighbouring nature reserve and more dangerously on to railway tracks. Councillor Burke said the aggression of drivers along that particular route did not surprise him as parking violations and dangerous driving in the Stamford Hill area were widespread placing pedestrians, including children, at the greatest risk. The increase in dangerous driving and parking violations in the area were not as a result of the introduction of the cycle lane and Councillor Burke referred to a message on Twitter, from the Local Stamford Hill Police, from the 8th January 2018, which stated that:

"Believe it or not Stamford Hill Parking spaces will not be missed by local residents as the majority of vehicles parked there are either abandoned, storage areas for local garages or non-residents parking there and getting on the tube to elsewhere"

Councillor Burke said that there were two causes of parking stress in the Stamford Hill area. Firstly, the unjustifiably large number of high polluting car journeys that took place in the area and secondly, the Seven Sisters ward in the neighbouring borough of Haringey had recently agreed on the introduction of a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). This had exacerbated the parking problem as large numbers of people commuting into central London were now parking in the Stamford Hill area which had no CPZ zone in order to use public transport. The Haringey CPZ had also displaced a lot of business vehicles which were now being parked in the Stamford Hill area. Councillor Burke said he was being contacted by residents in Stamford Hill on a daily basis asking him to do something about the situation. Councillor Burke considered the solution simple namely the introduction of a CPZ. If residents wanted to be able to park, they should fully support the introduction of a CPZ. Councillor Burke said that no one cared more about the health and safety of cyclists and pedestrians, many

of whom were children in the area, than Hackney Council. Councillor Burke said the Council would also be seeking to introduce a ban on loading and looking at expediting the introduction of two new school streets in the area; one at Homely Primary School and one at St Thomas Attlee.

Councillor Burke concluded that at the request of local residents, he would be looking at, the parking strategy for the area, ahead of what was hoped would be the introduction of very much needed parking controls.

- 5.15 Councillor Odze and Councillor Klein voiced their displeasure at the proposals put forward by Councillor Burke. The Speaker thanked Councillor Klein for his comments and thanked the deputation for attending as well as thanking those who had also spoken.
- 5.16 Councillor Odze commented that the local residents had left the Council Chamber because they did not want listen to Corbynite anti-Semitism.
- 5.17 Councillor Rathbone responded in the strongest terms by condemning Councillor Odze's last statement.
- 5.18 Councillor Hanson asked the Speaker, to ask Councillor Odze to repeat what he had said. She added that she would like to ask Councillor Odze to withdraw his last statement.
- 5.19 Councillor Odze replied that he would not withdraw his last statement.
- 5.20 The Speaker asked Councillor Hanson to tell him what had been said as he had not heard it. Councillor Hanson agreed although she was reluctant to repeat the remark. Councillor Hanson said Councillor Odze had said that the deputation had left because they did not wish to listen to anti-Semitism.
- 5.21 The Speaker asked Councillor Odze to withdraw his last statement. Councillor Odze replied that he would not and that he stood by his last statement. The Speaker thanked Councillor Odze and recommended that the meeting continue.
- 5.22 Deputy Mayor Clark stated that the deputation was about road safety and a cycle lane and that it was disgraceful that Members of the opposition had turned this into an issue about racism. Deputy Mayor Clark called on Councillor Odze to withdraw his last statement.
- 5.23 The Speaker, replying to Deputy Mayor Clark, understood her point and noted it, however, he could not force Councillor Odze to withdraw his last statement and recommended that the meeting continue.
- 5.24 Councillor Burke said that if Councillor Odze did not withdraw his last statement which was slanderous then he was placing himself at risk of a letter from Councillor Burke's solicitors
- 5.25 Councillor Odze was not discouraged by this.
- 5.26 The Speaker thanked Councillor Burke for his comments.

- 5.27 Councillor Rathbone raised a point of order asking if a member of the Council performed in a way that was against the constitutional rules should they not be excluded from the chamber? The Speaker replied that they must have committed a disturbance in order for them to be removed. The Speaker thanked Councillor Rathbone for his comments.
- 5.28 Councillor Gregory proposed that the matter be referred to Hackney Council's Standards Committee and Councillor Rathbone seconded the proposal. The Speaker replied that that was not the correct process for referring a matter to the Standards Committee and he recommended that the Council meeting should continue.
- 5.29 Councillor Etti reminded Council members that there was no place for this kind of language. In Hackney, diversity was celebrated and Councillor Etti was sincerely disappointed about what had been said. The Council had to continue in its work as a good role model and it was recommended that an apology should be given for comments made earlier during the deputation after the Council meeting.

## 6 Questions from Members of the Public

### 6.1 Question from Auréliane Fröhlich to the Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm:

Given that Tower Hamlets has committed to net zero carbon by 2025 target and Islington to net zero by 2030, will Hackney be revisiting its existing 2040 net zero target?

#### **Response:**

Councillor Burke replied that the Council sought to base its targets on the latest science, as reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and would adjust its targets as indicated by further scientific advice from the IPCC. The summary for policy makers of the IPCC 2018 Special Report (Global Warming of 1.5C) indicated that to adhere to a model pathway, with no or limited overshoots of global warming of 1.5 degrees, would require a 45% reduction in emissions from 2010 levels by 2030 and the achievement of net zero within the 2045-55 range. The IPCC had acknowledged that sub-global goals may need to vary to support goals around sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and reducing inequalities and this had been acknowledged by Hackney Council. Councillor Burke added that Hackney Council had set a more ambitious target than that set out in the IPCC model pathway. Hackney Council's existing established policy positions and a local population were generally supportive of climate action. The Council was mindful of the limitations that result from both national legislation and policy and from the scope of its powers and resources and the Council was focused on targets that were achievable in the current context, whilst also setting itself a significant challenge. The Council would stretch its targets as context changes enable it.

There was no supplementary question.

Councillor Odze raised a point of order under section 10.5.3 of the Council procedural rules, stating that the Monitoring Officer may reject a question from the member of the public if it was substantially the same as question, motion or

deputation which had been put to a meeting of Full Council in the past six months. Councillor Odze highlighted that the next two questions were not only substantially the same as the question just asked but were also substantially the same as motions put to Full Council in the last six months. The Speaker thanked Councillor Odze for raising that point of order and he recommended that it was raised with Governance Services and the Monitoring Officer after the meeting. The Speaker asked for the meeting to continue and for the next question.

6.2 Question from Mali Smith to Chair of the Pensions Committee:

After the Labour Conference, where the Green New Deal motion was passed committing Labour to decarbonise by 2030, what are Hackney Labour Councillors doing to implement a Green New Deal in Hackney, in relation to financial commitments, carbon emissions and investments?

**Response:**

Councillor Chapman replied that Hackney's Labour Council takes climate change extremely seriously, it was probably the greatest risk facing all of us and requires urgent action. The Council's declaration of a climate emergency helps demonstrate the strength of their commitment.

The role of the Pensions Committee in the Council was a highly specific one - its legal and fiduciary duty was to ensure that the Pension Fund's liabilities - the pensions that it owes its members - were paid when they fall due. Whilst the Pensions Committee was able to take other factors into account in making investment decisions, its first priority had always been to the financial health of the Fund.

Councillor Chapman explained that this meant that the Pensions Committee must think about climate change in terms of the financial risk it poses to the Fund. Action could be taken to address the risk of climate change but decisions could not be based on moral or political grounds alone. Whatever was done it had to ensure there was strong returns produced for current and future pensioners, the Council budget and other stakeholders.

The Council had therefore set a carbon reduction target, which would help reduce the financial risks to the Fund posed by fossil fuels, including stranded assets. The council's target was to reduce the Fund's exposure to fossil fuel reserves by 50% over 6 years (2023), which aimed to align it with the level implied by the two degrees scenario set out in the international Paris Agreement on climate change. This represented the Council's first steps towards a fossil fuel-free fund and the Council would continue to review this as the world transitions to a low carbon economy.

Councillor Chapman said that he knew of no other council pension fund in London that has taken as bold a stance on addressing fossil fuels risk. The Pensions Committee had set out the current target to be realistic and clearly measurable, and the actions taken to help achieve it were comparable to those taken by funds who have made complete fossil fuel divestment pledges.

These actions had included investing £150m in the MSCI World Low Carbon Target equity index and a further £190m in the London CIV's global sustainable



equity strategy, managed by RBC. The strategy aimed to invest in companies with long term, sustainable revenues, with a strong focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors. The Pensions Committee had also made further reductions in the Fund's exposure to fossil fuel assets through reducing its exposure to the FTSE AllShare UK equity index, which represents its most significant exposure to carbon risk.

The Council was also exploring investments which could help make a positive contribution by providing alternatives to fossil fuels. The Pensions Committee had already allocated £25m to a low carbon property fund which works to develop office buildings and re-let these as energy efficient workplaces, and it was hoped to identify further opportunities in the future, such as renewable infrastructure.

The Council had just begun a formal review of its climate change risk policy and targets as part of a wider triennial investment strategy review. The first stage of this work was an interim review of the Fund's carbon footprint now that the Pensions Committee had reached the halfway point of its six year target. The Committee would hold a special meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> November. Also, over the next few months the Pensions Committee would consider what changes it should make and how it could incorporate these into the wider strategy.

**Supplementary Question:**

The Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituencies had made a commitment to fully divest from carbon, how can Council continue to operate its current policy when its own local parties had made a commitment to divest as soon as possible?

**Response:**

Councillor Chapman replied by referring to some of his answer to the previous question asked. The role of the Pensions Committee was a highly specific one and its legal and fiduciary duties ensured that the Hackney Pension Fund's liabilities would be met and pensions paid to scheme members when due. While other factors could be taken into account when making investment decisions, the Committee's first priority had always been the financial health of the Fund. The Council was under no illusion that the climate emergency was a serious issue and was taken very seriously and its risk to the pensions fund.

6.3 Question from Bénédicte Couvreur to Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm:

What measures are Hackney Council taking to support the demands of the Youth Strikers: namely implementing a Green New Deal, reforming the education system to teach about the climate crisis; communicating the severity of the ecological crisis and the necessity to act now to the general public?

**Response:**

Councillor Burke replied by acknowledging the brave actions of the young climate strikers across and the borough and the UK. Their action

was hugely inspiring which had contributed in a small way to a political atmosphere in which politicians were having children fill the void where their conscience had previously existed. It was hoped that this would be embraced by the Conservative members of Hackney Council who it was hoped would take considerably more seriously. Councillor Burke spoke of having some reservations and concerns about the potentially expansionary nature of the Green New Deal. The concept itself was fully supported by Hackney Council, which requires de-carbonisation, Council had a unique role in creating a microcosm of a low carbon society with good sustainable low carbon jobs and low carbon and low traffic streets. However, Councillor Burke explained that regarding funding and the education system, the Council's powers in this area were fairly limited. Notwithstanding this Councillor Burke explained that the Waste Service, which the Councillor was responsible for, had put £60k a year directly into interventions into schools on a wide variety of environmental issues. The Councillor was currently in the process of ensuring that programme was fit for the climate emergency motion expected this year. The Council had had a long standing commitment to communicating the seriousness of climate change to the public. Councillor Burke explained that he worked very closely with Mayor Glanville and those Council Officers leading on this work to create a Green Charter which would soon be on advertising hoarding across the borough to convey in the strongest terms possible the message that the Council was trying to inform the public of. The Green Charter stated that the UK was facing a climate emergency, the Charter would tell the truth and lead the fight against man made climate change and would set out a number of priorities including 1) hosting an annual citizens assembly to update the public on the Council's progress in halving carbon emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2040; 2) delivery of a budget and strategy building on the publicly owned energy company and other energy efficiency programmes; 3) creation of a green infrastructure; 4) delivery of programmes that promote walking, cycling, use of public transport and discourage non-essential car use and ownership 5) reduce the testing of carbon of Hackney's built in environment and promote the use of low carbon materials; and 6) creation of a refuse system that discourages resource depletion and waste and promotes recycling and sharing in a circular economy; 7) investment in high quality sustainable public services with gold standard libraries, schools, parks and leisure centres and contribute to high living standards that prevent the need for high levels of unsustainable consumption; 8) campaign and lobby government to tackle the climate emergency; 9) use the Council's purchasing power to use de-carbonisation plans to help create a local economy founded on skilled secure and sustainable employment; and 10) serve, educate and lead Hackney's children and young people about the climate emergency. These priorities demonstrated the level of commitment and seriousness in which Hackney Council took the issue of climate change.

Supplementary question:

Given that the youth strikers demand the phasing out of fossil fuels, how can the council square the circle when the council is still investing them?

**Response:**

Councillor Burke replied that this was very important and serious question and he echoed the comments from the Pensions Committee Chair made earlier on. For the Council this would be a long journey, one that was longer path than they would have liked, nevertheless the path to de-carbonise the Hackney Council Pension fund would only be limited by the powers available to the Council. The Council would continue to pursue a risk based de-carbonisation strategy that sought to bring the pensions fund in compliance with the IPCC 1.5 degree report. There was confidence that the current swell of enthusiasm would put these measures eventually into place.

**7 Questions from Members of the Council**

Question from Councillor Clare Potter to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Policy, and the Voluntary Sector

Earlier this month on the 8th October, 170 households across housing tenures, were directly impacted by severe flooding in Brownswood, with over half affected to a devastating extent; their homes uninhabitable, placed in emergency accommodation, and the work to put their homes right, predicted to take months with all the disruption to lives that this incurs. As the aftermath continues to unfold can the Cabinet Member responsible for emergency planning as part of her brief, update the council on the cause of the flood, overall impact to local residents, work the council is carrying out to safeguard the most vulnerable residents, and her assessment of whether Thames water have responded fairly and effectively to residents who have been directly impacted?

**Response:**

Councillor Selman replied by detailing the cause of the flood and the overall impact to local residents. The initial incident had occurred on 8th October when a Thames Water main (915 mm high pressure pipe) in Queens Drive near Parkwood Primary School, burst at about 0800 hrs. There had been 170 properties affected, 60% of which were severely damaged and may take up to 6 months to bring them back to a habitable state. There were 750 metres of road that had been flooded and cellars and ground floor properties were affected by water. Four electricity substations were affected and 1150 homes had no water for a while. Councillor Selman pointed out that anecdotally it had a much wider impact. There had been 188 claims received by Thames Water from properties and businesses so far. Councillor Selman cited one business, Fink's Salt and Sweet, which had to close due to the flooding. Businesses rates relief has been granted by the Council and Thames Water rehoused 76 people into alternative accommodation e.g. hotels on the day of flood. There were 39 Council properties affected with the residents of 14 of them placed in Temporary Accommodation. Some lifts at Kings Crescent were out of action because of the flooding, engineers were on site and some residents with special needs/disabilities had been identified and the appropriate action had been taken.

Thames Water had rehoused all households that were displaced unless residents had made their own arrangements. The number of private rented residents that had been rehoused by Thames Water on the day of the flood was 43. Hackney Council was in the process of confirming with Thames Water a definitive list of all private rented sector households affected. A needs assessment was in the process of being carried out by Council officers to ascertain any specific help households require including Council tax relief. The Council's additional surveying resource had also been brought in to support Thames Water and this resource would be recharged back to Thames Water.

The Council had initiated various measures in support of the emergency services and Thames Water in response to floods in the Queens Drive area. This included the setting up a rest centre for anyone affected by the floods, providing food, water, housing advice and somewhere to sleep, which remained open through the night on 8 October. The Council had also supported Thames Water in arranging alternative accommodation for local residents. The Council had mobilised children's and adult social care staff to check in some of the most vulnerable residents and Council housing service staff had evacuated Council blocks and supported Council tenants and leaseholders. Council waste teams had been sent to the area to support Thames Water with the clean-up operation. The Council had maintained an ongoing presence in the area in the days following the flood to answer concerns from residents and Council staff were supporting Thames Water to set up its mobile information office on site in the days after the flood. The Council was providing support to businesses affected by the floods and action was also being taken on Council Tax; as properties were identified stop codes were being added to accounts to prevent any recovery action. The Council would be assessing cases with a view to giving consideration to applying Section 13A relief to properties left unoccupied as a result of the flood. Consideration would also be given to the impact on or Council Tax due from in relation to which people were decanted to. The Council would also be taking action on Non Domestic Rates; properties which were identified and which have had to cease trading / operating would be considered for an initial 3 month empty rate free period. Contact was to be made with the Valuation Office Agency to establish if a claim would be accepted for a temporary reduction in rateable value for a period.

On the issue of whether Thames Water had responded fairly and effectively to residents directly affected, following this incident Mayor Glanville and Councillor Selman had written on three occasions to Thames Water to express their concerns about their initial response, the location of alternative accommodation, the support available to private renters, the compensation and practical support available to affected residents and also to secure assurances that lessons had been learned. Councillor Selman added that she was content to provide Councillors with copies of these letters.

Councillor Selman and the Mayor had met with senior representatives from Thames Water alongside Islington Council and Jeremy Corbyn MP and Diane Abbott MP, the local MPs, to raise these concerns at the very highest levels. Councillor Selman had also met with Thames Water last week, alongside officers, to discuss Thames Water's Hackney-wide assets, the risks they may pose and coordination of any future emergency response. While discussions had been constructive, the Council remains extremely concerned that to date Thames Water had yet to agree to provide the names and addresses of the affected residents, as well as their forwarding addresses in order to enable the Council to provide further assistance. Both Councillor Selman and the Mayor would continue to raise this matter with Thames Water.

There was no supplementary question.

Question from Councillor James Peters to the Mayor

Can the Mayor explain how the sudden increase of 1% in interest on loans from the Government's Public Works Loan Board will affect this Council's ambitious plans for building new council homes to deal with the terrible housing crisis that Hackney is facing.

**Response:**

The Mayor said that, alongside the Spending Review, the government had introduced an immediate 1% rate raise for Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) borrowing rates. This was an unexpected announcement, representing a massive blow to the future of social housing building schemes. Many of these schemes had to rely on PWLB loans to fund the building of new homes, and projects already on the edge of viability could be affected by rate changes, which could then have negative impacts on tenure mix. Refinancing would now cost local councils millions, and the cost the country hundreds of new social houses. The rate rise would add about £70m to financing costs for all new loans to English councils.

The current government's mismanagement had resulted in councils being unable to respond to the housing crisis with the one solution that would solve it – Councils building more genuinely affordable homes for social rent. The Mayor saw this as another example of why a Labour government was needed. A Labour government would recognise that social housing was a social justice issue where everyone deserved an affordable and decent home. Labour would fund 100,000 new social homes a year directly delivered by local councils.

The Mayor said that part of the strength of the Council's innovative cross-subsidy model meant relying less on government borrowing. The Council had also made sure that it prudently managed the finances of its housing schemes. The Council had forecast increased interest rates in excess of the 1% rise recently announced, meaning in a worst case scenario building could continue.

All of the Council's current borrowing from the PWLB was at fixed rates, and interest costs accounted for less than 5% of the cost of Council programmes, meaning Council schemes at their current tenure mixes were secure. The Council would still build hundreds of council homes for social rent, as well as maximise other genuinely affordable options such as living rent and shared ownership. The bigger risk to the future of house building in Hackney was not the cost of loans, but the potential cost of Brexit. Current construction markets were at risk, particularly from a no deal Brexit – tender contract prices would be significantly impacted by the price of materials, as well as the availability of labour. The Mayor saw this as another reason why the Council must make sure a no deal Brexit was not an option and that Labour in the coming General Election must seek to deliver a people's vote on the final deal.

There was no supplementary question.

Question from Councillor Sade Etti to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs update us on the work of the domestic abuse intervention service and in particular the launch of the safe & together model in Hackney?

**Response:**

Councillor Rennison replied that the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) worked with anyone aged 16 or over living in Hackney who was experiencing domestic abuse. The purpose of the DAIS was to reduce and manage risk of domestic abuse through partnership; working with relevant agencies, engaging with victims and (as needed) perpetrators. The types of support on offer to victims of domestic abuse ranged from, but were not exclusive to, information and support on legal and housing rights, support to go to court, help to obtain legal protection, support in separating from an abusive partner and help fleeing from an abusive home, support to remain safely at home through installation of a panic alarm or safety adaptations made to the property under the Sanctuary Scheme. There was also advocacy around finance including liaison with agencies such as the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), linking up with appropriate services such as counselling, mental health services, or alcohol and drug services. Hackney had also maintained its commitment to increase the accountability of perpetrators of domestic abuse through ensuring they were brought to justice through agencies providing an effective criminal justice response. The mechanisms used included the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which provided help, in changing through programmes, including the behaviour change programme delivered through DAIS.

Domestic and sexual violence, and all other types of violence against women and girls, have had severe long-lasting and wide-ranging social, health and economic impacts. The costs were high to individuals, families, to the Hackney community and to services. Demand for support from DAIS had risen significantly over the past few years. In 2018/19 DAIS received 1,322 referrals, an increase of 13.5% from the 1,165 referrals received in 2017/18. There had been a year on year increase of referrals the service receives with a 61% increase between 2015/16 and 2018/19. Earlier this year, Hackney Council had launched its Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2019 - 2022 to tackle violence against women and girls through a public health approach, with centres around primary prevention and early intervention through multi-agency systemic approaches. The four key priorities and objectives of the Strategy were; 1) Recognition, Prevention and Early Intervention; 2) Protection, Support and Addressing the Impact; 3) Whole Systems Partnership Approach; and 4) Perpetrator Accountability and Enabling Change

Councillor Rennison explained that this strategy recognised that children living in homes where there was violence and abuse, were exposed to ongoing trauma which can impact their overall emotional wellbeing, development and life chances. They were at greater risk of developing mental health difficulties, drug and alcohol abuse and are at a higher risk of offending behaviour. Children exposed to violence and abuse are also at risk of developing an unhealthy view of relationships and misogynistic beliefs and behaviour. As part of the implementation of the VAWG Strategy, Hackney's Children and Families Services have entered into a partnership with Waltham Forest Council to adopt the Safe and Together model of intervention with families where domestic abuse was impacting on the safety and welfare of children. This was an approach to working with families affected by domestic abuse, which had amassed a strong evidence-base in improving outcomes for children in the United States, Australia and Scotland. The approach was focused on keeping children 'safe and together' with their non-abusive parent; ensuring that, wherever possible, children were kept with the adult domestic abuse survivor to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children, and that abusive partners were held responsible for their behaviours as parents. The model aimed to help professionals working with families to

form alliances with survivors, recognise the protective behaviours they have taken for their children and build on their strengths, rather than holding them responsible for keeping their children safe in situations where they may have limited power to do so. It also aimed to assist practitioners to engage more proactively with perpetrators to hold them to account for the harm that they cause to their children and enable them to change their behaviours.

Hackney Council's partnership launched at a conference on 30th September, where senior leaders from both Local Authorities were joined by guest speakers including Nicole Jacobs, the first Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, founder of the Safe and Together Institute, David Mandel, and children and family members of domestic abuse victims. The conference was attended by 200 delegates from across the Children and Families Services at both Councils alongside representatives from NHS England, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Women's Aid, partnership agencies, including police and health colleagues. The two year project involved the roll out of a comprehensive package of training for children and families staff in the Safe and Together principles and practice. Also 30 social workers and practitioners in the Children and Families Service had received core training in the model so far and plans were in place to train more practitioners over the coming months. An embedded worker from the charity Respect, a leading UK organisation working with domestic violence perpetrators, would support practitioners to put their learning into practice. The expected outcomes for children following implementation of the approach were a reduction in children subject to Child Protection Plans because of domestic abuse and a reduction in the number of children being repeatedly exposed to domestic abuse. There would also be better engagement with perpetrators of domestic abuse to change behaviour and improve parenting and children's voices and experience of domestic abuse featuring strongly in case planning and consideration of recovery interventions. There would also be increased domestic abuse competency across the workforce.

Question from Councillor Katie Hanson to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs

Could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs inform us of what the Council is doing to promote rough-sleeping services and help residents who are rough-sleeping in the borough as we approach the winter months?

**Response:**

Councillor Rennison stated categorically that nobody in Hackney needed to sleep rough. There was a wealth of services provided by the Council and its partners, for example, the members of the Hackney Homelessness Partnership, who supported those facing homelessness. There was also the No Second Night Out resource, based in Hackney Central. This provision focused on helping those who found themselves rough sleeping on the streets of London for the first time. Staff ensured there was a rapid response to new rough sleepers, and would provide an offer that meant they did not have to sleep out for a second night.

The Greenhouse was a one-stop shop for single homeless people, providing free healthcare, including dentistry and eyecare, housing and welfare support, advice for homeless people in Hackney or those who are simply struggling to keep a roof over their head. They would also provide information and assistance in finding their own

accommodation, action to prevent homelessness and access to employment, training and debt advice and links into drug and alcohol support.

Hackney Council's Rough Sleeping (RS) pathway, provided one of the most extensive supported housing and accommodation pathways for rough sleepers in London. This Single Homeless and Rough Sleeper Pathway was accessible to rough sleepers with medium-high support needs who had a local connection to Hackney and recourse to public funds. Service users stayed in the Pathway for up to two years, giving them the time to stabilise and develop the skills and confidence needed to maintain independent living.

These world class services and support were actively promoted by the Council's outreach workers, to ensure that anyone they saw sleeping rough knows where to find the help that they need. However, despite their tireless work the Council knows that a small number of people continue to sleep rough in Hackney. The reasons for this were incredibly complex, ranging from physical and mental health issues, trauma, addiction and many more factors. The Council and its partners successfully bid for the Government's RS Initiative funding 2019/20 which had enabled the creation of a Hackney specific RS Team. The Council had just finalised the recruitment of the new, RS outreach team, to provide specialist support to help address these factors.

Councillor Rennison explained that the Council's brand new outreach team consisted of a Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator (appointed in April 2019), an approved on Street Mental Health Practitioner (appointed in Sept 2019), and a Rough Sleeping Outreach Team Manager (appointed in June 2019). There were also two Rough Sleeping Outreach staff (appointed in September 2019) and three Rough Sleeping Navigators.

This new team would have significantly increased capacity to find rough sleepers and encourage them into provision. Rough Sleepers would be found more rapidly – with all referrals responded to within 24 hours, and there would be increased capacity to work with those entrenched rough sleepers who were difficult to engage.

The new Mental Health Practitioner would ensure that rough sleepers receive quicker assessment and diagnosis of mental health problems while on the streets, and were more rapidly connected into appropriate mental health treatment and support.

For those rough sleepers who were having difficulty building trust with outreach officers and struggled to maintain accommodation, often rapidly returning to the streets, the Council's Navigators would be a single point of contact. Having the ability and time to form long term trusting relationships with the most entrenched rough sleepers, they would provide a personalised 1-2-1 service. Over time supporting the person to engage, or re-engage with services from which they would otherwise be excluded, including encouraging them to return to accommodation which they had abandoned.

The service would be overseen by the Council's Rough Sleeping Coordinator, who would be the strategic and operational lead for rough sleeping services in Hackney. This role would help join up and coordinate services across the statutory and voluntary sector, improving partnership working. It would also ensure that all different paths to



tackle rough sleeping were working together as efficiently as possible to drive a reduction in the problem, and ensure the best outcomes for clients.

Councillor Rennison explained that Rough Sleeper counts were now conducted on a bi-monthly basis. These counts formed part of a more detailed statistical record of rough sleeping in the borough that measured incidents, locations, interventions and outcomes so that the Council were more able to identify and plan outreach activity and ensure it was most effective in delivering sustainable outcomes for residents.

The Annual Rough Sleeper count would take place in November. Councillor Rennison explained that as well as outreach the Council knew that many of its residents desperately want to help people they see sleeping rough, so the Council was launching a campaign to give them advice on how they can make a positive difference. With cold nights just around the corner, Talk, Tap, Time, Tell suggested four simple ways in which help could be provided:

Talk: A smile or 'hello' can make a big difference, to help someone feel less invisible and part of the community

Tap: Help financially by donating £3 to Tap London's contactless donation points - money goes to the Mayor of London's rough sleeping fund, which supports local charities. There were donation points at Hackney Town Hall reception and by E8 Cafe in the Hackney Service Centre (HSC).

Time: Find out about local volunteering opportunities at [hackney.gov.uk/rough-sleeping](http://hackney.gov.uk/rough-sleeping)

Tell: If someone is seen bedding down outside, let the council's outreach workers know via the Streetlink app ([streetlink.org.uk](http://streetlink.org.uk)) or direct them to the Greenhouse in Tudor Road, E9, the Council's one stop shop for advice and services for people facing homelessness.

The campaign, in conjunction with Hackney Homelessness Partnership, was launched on 10 October, World Homelessness Day. Members of Council staff, along with members of the Partnership had handed out leaflets and had spoken to commuters at overground stations across the borough and hosted an information stand in the Town Hall Square.

Over the coming weeks and months the Council would be rolling out the campaign, to share this important information across the borough, all the while continuing to lobby Government for the additional funding so desperately needed across the public sector, to support people at the point they needed it, rather than at this late stage.

Question from Councillor Polly Billington to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care, Leisure and Parks

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care give an update on progress on rare and less common cancers, in the light of the motion passed by this Council last

year, what changes are planned in the delivery of health services for patients living with rare and less common cancers, and what impact they will have?

**Response:**

Deputy Mayor Clark replied that there were no health service changes planned as a result of the motion. Cancer services in Hackney were good. The standard of primary care was also good. Where this motion would make the most difference was to make sure rare and less common cancers were on the differential diagnosis for clinicians (which was always really difficult to diagnose with a range of non-specific symptoms). It was also meant to inform carers and health professionals about the range of non-specific ongoing symptoms that were part of living with some of these cancers, e.g. Carcinoid syndrome, etc. There were ongoing conversations with the patient group about some of their everyday health challenges and how health professions tend to put any new symptoms they have down to a rare cancer, particularly if the person's cancer diagnosis was of Neuroendocrine tumours (NET). For others, their GPs simply had not been aware of the range of complications from some of these cancers. The work to date has focused on awareness raising for health professionals, carers and families, to support patients with rare and less common cancers across the entire cancer pathway from diagnosis to living with cancer. It was hoped that raising awareness of rare cancers would impact on all parts of the diagnostic pathway, including earlier diagnosis and better management of ongoing symptoms, as part of cancer survivorship. The impact for patients would be raising awareness of voluntary sector groups that support people with rare cancers and acknowledgement that Hackney Council supports their patient journey. A group had been formed to scope the work, reporting to the City and Hackney Cancer Collaborative, meeting about quarterly. Group members include Councillor Williams, patient representatives, officers, University College London (UCL) Partners, NET Patient Foundation and the UCL Cancer Institute. The work plan consisted of GP/health professional training; producing a short information video; and a patient engagement event. The group had been specifically asked not to promote early diagnosis to patients, but to focus on awareness raising amongst professional groups.

Deputy Mayor Clark highlighted some of the outputs, to date, these included a rare cancer infographic. This infographic had been produced to document rare cancers and to be used with professional groups to gain a better understanding of rare cancers. There was a seminar for GPs on rare cancers in March of this year. This event took place in one of the GP-funded education sessions which ensured a good turnout of GPs. There was excellent feedback from the GPs and health professionals who attended the event. A short video (8-10 minutes long), highlighting the experiences of patients living with a rare or less common cancer was about to be produced. There would be two half days of filming at the end of October. The aims of the video were to;

- 1) Provide C&H patients currently living with a rare or less common cancer with support and useful information;
- 2) Increase awareness among the general public in City and Hackney (C&H) about rare and less common cancers, and the realities of living with a rare or less common cancer;
- 3) Provide a resource for friends and families of those with a rare or less common cancer to increase understanding and support;
- and 4) on a patient engagement event, there was no planned date for this event yet, but the content was being developed. The aims of this event were to;

- 1) Encourage and support sustained action on rare/less common cancers across the local health and care system;
- 2) Provide Hackney patients with support and connections to increase engagement;
- 3) Launch and promote the patient video; and
- 4) Produce a helpful resource for health professionals to use in future.

Deputy Mayor Clark explained that an evaluation of individual components of the work programme was planned, which would contribute to an overall impact evaluation next year.

Question from Councillor Sharon Patrick to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs

In the light of the growing housing crisis in the borough, can the Cabinet Member for Housing Needs explain how many properties the Council has available to let this year and what impact the availability - or otherwise - of properties to let by the Council has on those awaiting decent homes on our waiting lists?

**Response:**

Councillor Rennison replied that the number of Social Tenancies available in any one year was affected by a number of variables, including the number of tenancies relinquished by existing tenants, new build properties becoming available, numbers of decants required for the regeneration programme. The housing crisis itself had forced social tenants to remain in social housing when they would otherwise have moved into home ownership or other forms of tenancy. It was therefore difficult to predict the supply.

The number of Social Housing Lets in 2018/19 was 640, a reduction from 1132 in 2017/18. It was not anticipated that there would be any increase in this number and if there was a similar reduction in 2019/20 lets could reduce it to below 400.

Councillor Rennison explained that the natural consequence of reduced supply would mean that most residents on the housing register would face longer waiting times and some are unlikely to receive an offer of social housing at all.

Due to be completed in 2020, the Benefits and Housing Needs Service was conducting a review of the Lettings Policy and Choice Based Lettings Scheme which aimed to ensure access to social housing is focussed on meeting the needs of those in greatest need.

The Benefits and Housing Needs Service would continue to encourage applicants to find settled accommodation in the private rented sector which still provided the quickest route into settled accommodation. The Council had secured funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to increase the supply of affordable Private Rented Sector (PRS) accommodation for residents who must remain in borough and would also support eligible applicants with financial assistance to meet rent in advance and deposits.

Question from Councillor Fajana Thomas to the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care, Leisure and Parks

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, explain how the sustainable transformation partnership (STP) plan, to merge all local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) into a single CCG at North East London level, will affect our plans to deliver good health outcomes for our residents.

**Response:**

Deputy Mayor Clark replied that local health care systems in Hackney are excellent. The City and Hackney CCG had been rated Outstanding by the quality and outcomes framework.

Deputy Mayor Clark said good quality, local NHS services had achieved this, but it was down to the close working relationship between the Council, the CCGs and our local neighbourhoods. The Council believed that it knew its communities best, which was why commissioning services at both borough and neighbourhood levels had worked to give Hackney residents the very best quality of service that met a diverse range of needs.

Deputy Mayor Clark explained that this was why the Council had been constantly arguing to keep the local framework in place. After all, why fix something that was not broken?

Deputy Mayor Clarke thought Conservatives were against repetitive restructures that waste valuable public resources? She explained that the Council had written several times to the East London Health and Care Partnership, the NHS, the Department of Health and the Secretary of State making this case. It was Hackney Council's lobbying that had forced the ELHCP to hold a series of consultation events with local council leadership.

Deputy Mayor Clarke announced, that following this lobbying, she was pleased to say that the local partnership had recognised the outcomes that the City & Hackney 'model' has achieved for our residents.

Deputy Mayor Clark understood that City & Hackney would retain its own CCG, but the Council would continue to keep an eye on the STP and Long Term Plan to make sure it had not changed. However, what was still not clear was which services would be commissioned at what level. From specific care for rough-sleepers, for example, to wider social care services, CCGs at different levels could be given responsibility to commission at an 'inner-North-East-London' or a North-East-London level.

Hackney Council had been working with the Mayor of London on the STP changes, who had developed six tests to scrutinise any changes to local commissioning services. These were:

TEST 1: Health inequalities and prevention of ill health

TEST 2: Hospital beds

TEST 3: Financial investment and savings

TEST 4: Social care impact

TEST 5: Clinical support

TEST 6: Patient and public engagement

Once Hackney Council knew the details of the plans for North East London, they would be examining the proposals against these tests. Deputy Mayor Clarke explained that the Council would argue for as many commissioned services local, embedded in local neighbourhoods as possible or at least the clinical evidence base from ELHCP otherwise. Deputy Mayor Clark added that it had to have been made very clear that this could not be a money-saving exercise. Any changes must be about patient service first.

If local plans were found not to meet these tests, Hackney Council would be fully against any changes to local commissioning.

Question from Councillor Peter Snell to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services

Can the Cabinet Member for housing management provide an update on meeting the demands of the Grenfell report so that Hackney residents can be sure they are safe in their homes?

**Response:**

As there was no time left for this response, a written response would be provided.

Written Response

**Meeting the demands of the Grenfell report**

As you are aware, the first stage of the report from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry was released on 30th October. The Council will of course be fully evaluating the outcomes of that report and assessing what actions will need to be taken, but even before this report Hackney Council has been working hard to make sure every resident is safe in their homes. We have been working closely with the London Fire Brigade, as well as implement the recommendations that have already come out of the Hackitt Review.

A report to this effect is due to go to Cabinet on 18th November outlining actions we have taken to date and this will be the fourth Cabinet report since the Grenfell disaster.

However below is a brief overview of what has been implemented since the Grenfell disaster to give reassurance to our residents and to ensure that residents are not only safe in their homes but also feel safe:

- In April 2018 a new Resident Safety service was implemented to provide a dedicated health and safety and fire safety service to residents.
- A fire risk assessment was carried out in the communal areas of all our housing stock which resulted in a large number of recommendations which needed action.
- All the actions from the initial fire risk assessments have now either been completed or are part of an ongoing programme of works such as the fire door replacement programme.
- All the fire risk assessments for 2017/18 and 2018/19 have been published on our internet page so residents are able to view the assessment for their individual blocks
- A dedicated internet page has been developed to provide regular updates on fire safety to residents.
- A new fire risk assessment schedule has been implemented where all our properties will be subject to a regular fire risk assessment based on risk.
- Implemented a new fire safety online database so fire risk assessments can be monitored and updated on a regular basis, this online database will be made available to the public soon.
- Employed four fully qualified fire risk assessors to ensure we have a consistent approach to our assessments. We used to use external contractors to do this,

however, insourcing in this instance meets our requirements better and is consistent with the Council's commitment to providing more services in-house.

- All our high and medium risk properties are now subject to a type 3\* fire risk assessment which involves us carrying out a non-invasive assessment within 10% of resident homes.
- A number of our properties have also been subject to a type 4\* fire risk assessment which has involved carrying out an invasive survey within 10% of resident homes.
- We have carried out a survey of all our cladding and insulation which has resulted in a number of blocks having the insulation removed and replaced. Fortunately we did not have any ACM on any of our blocks.
- Sprinklers have been fitted to one of our blocks on the advice of the LFB and we are currently carrying out works to fit sprinklers in another block as part of the asset management programme. The advice to fit sprinklers was based on the fact that the block was occupied by a large number of elderly and vulnerable residents who would need additional support in the event of a fire.
- Undertaken extensive fire stopping in our properties to ensure there are no breaches in the fire compartmentalisation\*.
- Carried out an extensive programme of installing fire action signs and notices and advising residents on the evacuation process for their building.
- Installed dry risers in all our blocks where identified in the fire risk assessments.
- We are in the process of replacing all of our front flat entrance doors with fire doors which have been tested to the current standards where required. Phase one is currently in progress and will include all our properties which are 10 storey's or higher.
- The Council has introduced a Fire Safety Programme Board to oversee all fire safety related programmes and to give assurance to senior managers that fire safety is given the highest priority.
- We provide regular newsletters and updates to residents in regard to fire safety and work very closely with our communications departments to ensure that we keep residents informed of any changes in legislation or ongoing programme of work.

The Council has spent £5.7m in 18/19 in implementing the actions from the fire risk assessments and have a budget of £14.2m for 19/20. In total it is anticipated that the overall cost of all the remedial works resulting from the fire risk assessments and additional requirements of the Hackitt Review will result in a total spend of £20m. However this is being kept under close review as we anticipate additional financial burdens on council's following the release of the Grenfell Tower report.

As well as the above actions we are continuing to work closely with the LFB to implement any recommendations in our properties and where significant works are required we are ensuring that we implement interim control measures to reduce risks such as fitting of door closers. We also have a number of projects currently in progress to further improve fire safety and health and safety in our properties such as identifying our vulnerable residents to provide additional support, fitting of fire safety

signage and fire action notices, implementation of a hoarding working party to identify hoarders, updating all our premises information boxes and developing up to date plans for all our blocks to assist the LFB in the event of an emergency.

We are also working to implement the recommendations of the Hackitt Review ahead of any new legislation coming into force such as the role of building safety manager and ensuring that we have all documentation in place in relation to fire safety and health and safety such as gas certification etc.

The Council will continue to monitor and implement any recommendations that are required and will scrutinise the Grenfell Fire Report to ensure that any new recommendations are considered and implemented as necessary.

## 8 Elected Mayor's Statement

8.1 The Mayor referred to the pre-election spending round announced in the Chancellor's Spending Review. Local Government had faced a cut of 60p for every £1 and Hackney had faced a £140m cut to its central government grant, which worked out at about £529 per resident. The Council had to find a further £25m of savings over the next three years but the Prime Minister was announcing the end of austerity. Labour run Councils were of the view that this was far from the truth. The '£3.5bn increase' announced for local government was not new money and it assumed Council Tax and Business Rates would rise which was a tax on local residents. One third of the proposed £1.5bn funding boost for social care was funded by Council Tax rises, which did not cover the £2.5bn gap in social care funding as a result of austerity.

The £800m one-off funding for SEND was half the amount councils needed. The Mayor took the view that teachers should not have to go cap in hand to parents to fund supplies, or cover the shortfall from their own pay packets.

The Mayor said that yet again the government had failed to show how it would tackle the housing crisis. No new money had been announced to help councils build the social housing that local residents desperately need.

The Mayor also highlighted that, other than school funding, all of the funding promises that had been announced were only for one year.

The Mayor spoke about the budget, and how tough decisions would still have to be made. There was uncertainty about how much funding Hackney Council would receive and there was also uncertainty around what Brexit would bring and its impact on Hackney Council's budget.

The Mayor reassured Councillors that under his administration, Hackney Council would always protect the most vulnerable from the impacts of austerity. They would always prioritise frontline services and those programmes that made a difference to the lives of Hackney residents. Any savings that the Council had to make would be done in partnership with local residents. Despite the cuts, Hackney Council would continue to build a fairer, safer and more sustainable Hackney.

The Mayor highlighted some recent events in Hackney including breaking ground for the new Leisure Centre and School on the Britannia site. In the past

month the Council had been celebrating Black History Month which had been reflecting on school curricula, national museums and key institutions some of which were seen as unrepresentative of the diversity of the borough. It was important that the Council led on reflecting the stories of the black diaspora in Hackney. It was as important to use the time to work on making the future a better place for young people who continued to face inequality, unconscious and conscious bias, barriers to employment as well as out and out racism and discrimination. The Mayor praised Councillor Williams for her efforts in making sure that this was exactly what the Council had done in October. The Hackney Museum had held an exhibition all month on African and Caribbean hair and style, along with 55 other events across the borough throughout October. Twenty four of these events had been held in the borough's four Youth Hubs, and had ranged from talks, quizzes, and workshops across a wide range of topics including mental health, fashion, history, sport and the intersectionalities of being black and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) and disabled.

The Mayor said recently Hackney had celebrated Diwali, the festival of light and he wished Shana Tovah to all those who had celebrated Rosh Hashana in September.

The Mayor echoed Councillor Rennison's earlier comments about the Council's new campaign, launched on World Homelessness Day to raise awareness about the issues of rough-sleeping and how everyone could help, particularly in the run-up to the winter months. Hackney Council was at the frontline of tackling rough-sleeping, with its innovative walk-in centre – the Greenhouse – and the Council worked closely with No Second Night Out services which had been expanded in Hackney over the past year, and with Street Link, which provided outreach support to people sleeping rough through the night. The Mayor said this had not solved the scourge of rough-sleeping, which under the current government had increased by 165%. In July this year, the Council had been deeply saddened to hear the news about the death of Musa Sevimli, a homeless man living on Hackney's streets.

The Council knew that lots of its residents wanted to help, but were unsure of what they could do. The Council's Talk, Tap, Time, Tell initiative, as outlined by Councillor Rennison earlier, guided people through what they could do. One of the Mayor of London's Tap stations was just outside the Council chamber. The Mayor encouraged his fellow Councillors to use the Tap station after the meeting.

The Mayor turned to the climate emergency and the steps Hackney Council was taking. As mentioned by Councillor Burke earlier, the Council had launched a consultation on its plans to reduce residual waste and increase recycling in the borough. This was a bold step to increase recycling, and just one of the ways that the Council would encourage a sustainable and circular economy. Over the summer Hackney Council had been trialling a glyphosate free zone in Homerton to promote biodiversity, increase green infrastructure, and to see if abandoning the use of the herbicide meant it could continue its high standards of street maintenance. Hackney Council had also held a car free day in Stoke Newington Church Street in September. People had been invited to join the celebrations, which included street entertainment, store pop-ups and Yoga classes, as the entire street, from Albion Road to Stoke Newington High Street



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was closed for the day. There had also been a chance for local people to have their say on the Council's successful bid to the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund to reduce polluting traffic on the street. In addition to the car-free day in Church Street, the Council had also worked with Hackney Play Association to set up the borough's biggest ever simultaneous Play Street event. There had been 16 Play Streets run on the day, with residents from across the borough invited to join in. Broadway Market and Rowland Gardens had been welcomed to the list of Green Flags in Hackney bringing the total number of Green Flags to 27.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that the Council would introduce the biggest council-run tree planting programme in a generation. This would maximise the canopy cover on Hackney's streets which not only would lock in carbon from the atmosphere but also improve Hackney's resilience against climate change and ever increasing temperatures. More details would be announced in the coming months, particularly during National Tree Week from 25th November. This demonstrated the Council's determination do everything it could to tackle the climate emergency.

The Mayor saw Labour-run councils at the forefront of fighting for a carbon-neutral Britain. Hackney Council pledged to be open and transparent with its plans to become a net-carbon-neutral Council and it would work with its residents on the changes that would have to be made to prevent a climate emergency. Hackney Council would be holding its first Citizens' Assembly on 16th November and all of these plans would be scrutinised by the people of Hackney.

The Mayor spoke of his shock in seeing the images of the burst main water pipe on Queen's Drive, Finsbury Park a few weeks ago. As highlighted by Councillor Selman earlier, Hackney Council's emergency planning officers were on the scene to help residents throughout the incident. They had set up rest centres and supported residents with advice and guidance. The London Fire Brigade, Police and Salvation Army had also done a fantastic job in responding, helping local people including some of Hackney's most vulnerable residents to safety. The Mayor was sure the reason behind the burst main water pipe would become clear over the coming weeks. The Council had also written a number of times to Thames Water about their inadequate response to help local people impacted by the flooding and the lack of water supply and a number of meetings had been held since the incident.

The Mayor acknowledged that while Thames Water frontline staff had done a fantastic job with the resources that they had, he had written to the Interim Executive Chair about systemic failings and its vague and untimely information on social media, with many posts being deleted after a few minutes of being posted. There had not been nearly enough bottled water to distribute to the thousands of residents left without running water, and water had not been provided to Council rest centres in a timely manner. Mayor Glanville had also written to the local Parkwood Primary School to offer any Council resources that were necessary. The Mayor added that having well-resourced, in-house services run by the Council, that were able to respond effectively and work together as one organisation, had meant the Council had better served affected residents.

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The Mayor spoke on how his administration had built on its record as a campaigning Council with its public opposition to the Silvertown Tunnel and the expansion of London City Airport.

Hackney was clear that it was facing a climate emergency. The Council could not face this emergency while continuing to facilitate and even encourage unsustainable and damaging transport systems.

The Mayor and Councillor Williams had recently written to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel MP, urging her to scrap the current 'hostile environment' policies, and to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation scheme. They had also stressed the need for legal aid to be provided to those affected and to launch a formal independent inquiry. Hackney was proud to have a long-cherished history of being a destination for new arrivals in the United Kingdom, making it the special place it was today. The Council was appalled that some of its residents had been treated as second class citizens under the current government's hostile environment policies that had caused significant harm to Hackney residents, as well as deep personal anguish. Hackney was the first Council to pass a comprehensive motion around the Windrush scandal. Hackney Council would keep fighting for the justice that its residents deserved.

The Mayor highlighted Hackney Council's efforts calling on the government to raise awareness of, and support training and research into, rare and uncommon cancers.

On World Mental Health Day, Hackney Council had announced a Concordat on Hate Crime and Modern Day Slavery and exploitation. Hackney had been the first London borough to do this.

Last month Hackney Council had stood-up for its residents from other European Union (EU) member states, to act where the government had shown total inaction. The government had spent £100 million on now pointless 'get ready for Brexit' advertising, while spending only £5m to help advertise and support EU citizens applying for settled status. Hackney Council had written to thousands of its citizens from other EU member states, unreservedly stating that #HackneyLovesYou and encouraging them to apply for settled status. The Council had also invited them to an event where it brought organisations together to offer advice and support a few weeks ago. The Law Centre, Hackney Citizens Advice, Migrant Help, Praxis, London Growth Hub, Council's registrars and the Hackney Museum all gathered in the Assembly Hall. The Mayor was also proud to have taken part in the recent marches to stand up for Hackney and stop a No Deal Brexit.

The Mayor thanked Council officers for all their hard work citing the work of the Chief Executive who had recently held a series of roadshows. The Mayor explained that while Councillors set the political direction for Council, they would not be able to deliver its programmes without help from Council officers. The Mayor commended the work of two members of staff, both of whom had recently left the Council; Kim Wright, former Group Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing and Ian Rae, former Head of Planning.

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The Mayor said that today, he had joined Councillor Williams and the Chief Executive Officer in welcoming Apprentices, Graduates and Supported Internships to Hackney Council.

The Mayor also thanked those council officers who had been the first responders during the burst water mains and the fire in Clapton.

The Mayor said Council officers were winning national awards for their hard work. The Council's Markets Service team had recently been recognised for being the most innovative markets management team at the recent NABMA - the governing body for Markets and Street Trading - awards and this national award was considered one of the most prestigious in the industry. The Markets Service had been commended for its innovative approach to the management of markets, specifically the Council's Trading Places programme, which supported local people in unemployment, as they started to work for themselves, as well as providing development courses for existing traders. The Council had helped many to expand their enterprises across the borough, growing their income and making a positive contribution to the local economy and employment. The team had worked tirelessly 7 days a week to deliver vibrant, thriving markets and street trading sites that traders, communities and visitors to the borough can enjoy each and every day and the Council had some exciting places to continue to grow and develop over the next 5 years. The Mayor encouraged his fellow councillors to shop local in the run up to Christmas.

Hackney Council had also won two awards for its apprenticeship programme, winning both the Recruitment Excellence Award 2019 and the Large Employer of the Year 2019 at the London Apprenticeship Awards. This was seen as a tremendous achievement and the Mayor congratulated all the staff in the Employment and Skills team as well as the talented apprentices who had made the scheme such a success. This achievement had followed a record of success for the apprenticeship programme with the Council winning the School Leavers Award 2019 for the second year running in May and one of the apprentices, Tony McKenzie, had been awarded 'Best Contribution by a New Apprentice' at London Apprenticeship Awards earlier this month. Establishing the Hackney Apprenticeship Scheme had been a key manifesto commitment in both 2016 and 2018 and it had gone from strength to strength. The Council had established the Hackney apprenticeship scheme because it had wanted more Hackney residents to have the skills, experience and qualifications to flourish in their roles at the Council, and to succeed and excel in their chosen careers. The Council wanted to create more opportunities for local residents and to encourage young people to be ambitious about their futures. Hackney Council's award-winning apprenticeship programme was designed to give people a chance to start their career within different Council services, and included part-time vacancies to allow residents who may otherwise not be able to work to apply. The Mayor said the programme had been a great success with current and former apprentices and over 75 per cent of them had chosen to stay with the Council either through permanent employment or a higher apprenticeship.

The Mayor said he wanted a General Election. He highlighted how the recent Brexit advertisements were another example of the Prime Minister putting his own interests above the country's and using public funds for his own gains. The

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Mayor reminded Councillors that £100 million had been spent on the Get Ready for Brexit campaign.

The Mayor also reminded Councillors of the Prime Minister's history of using public funds for vanity projects. As Mayor of London he had, for example, wasted £53m on the Garden Bridge proposal.

The Mayor said that the current London Mayor was now trying to rectify up his predecessor's mistakes and he was fighting for genuine change. Sadiq Khan was delivering record levels of social housing, more affordable public transport and a message of openness to the world. The Mayor said he would be proud to campaign for him in the London Mayoral election next year.

The Mayor said that while Mayor Khan had been delivering, the previous London Mayor's record had got worse. Parliament had been illegally prorogued, a Queen's Speech had been used as a party political broadcast and without housing even being mentioned, sexual harassment allegations, the London Assembly potentially recalling him over corruption claims, and an almost 100% loss record in Parliament. Hackney Council had learnt today that the Tories had invited a lobbyist for fracking and apparent tax dodging to write their election manifesto. The Mayor said the Conservatives, locally and nationally, were united in failure to rise to the most critical challenge of this time; the climate emergency and the need to tackle pollution. The Prime Minister had just shown how low the Conservatives were. They were banking on the politics of fear and smear to win the upcoming General Election.

The Mayor said only Labour had a message of hope, a promise of a public vote on the final Brexit deal, and the answers to the most pressing challenges that Hackney's residents were facing. Labour were seeking to build 100,000 new Council Homes a year, to create a National Education Service, to save the NHS, to end the hostile environment and to end austerity.

The Mayor concluded by saying the stakes had never been higher, but he knew that Labour were up to the fight, and would be proud to re-elect its two fantastic Hackney Labour MPs, and fight all around the country to win the election for the many and ensure Labour got into government.

The Speaker invited Councillor Levy as Leader of the Opposition to respond.

Councillor Levy began by admitting that with the deputation earlier he had been ambivalent about the maladministration and the lack of support towards the Stamford Hill Haredi community. In September 2019 when Councillor Klein had expressed his disgust at the alleged report of hate crime in Stamford Hill he recalled the swift and sympathetic intervention when writing to the Managing Director of a Real Estate Company, after an overzealous and unfeeling employee thoughtlessly demanded residents to remove the Mezuzot, a religious symbol, from the doors of Cedarwood Court and Councillor Levy thanked him for that. Set against this was local residents' complaints against the loss of 70 plus parking spaces alongside one side of West Bank with a cycle route that could have easily utilised an already sign posted route in the very next road without disadvantaging so many local people. The Council had heard about the damage that had been done as a result of this, for example, the impact on the shopping centre on Dunsmore Road a crucial service to the

local Haredi community, that could not be replicated by local supermarkets. The way that it had been pushed through by the Council had shown that they had not understood the make-up of this disadvantaged community and it was seen as an unfortunately aggressive step in the delivery of harmonious community relations. Therefore, there was some irony in the Mayor's letter written earlier which stated that; "we need to understand the residents and the wider community that is served". Councillor Levy said that these sentiments had not been served and not been put into practice when it had mattered. Councillor Levy understood that local residents were so incensed by the artificially created CPZs that heartlessly divided a community, that they were now seeking to redress this in the Courts. This was creating hardship and inconvenience to the families across either side of these zones. They had been drawn up without any understanding of the make-up and character of the community.

Councillor Levy hoped that when Council next meets the people of the United Kingdom would have elected a new Conservative government with a fresh mandate that would deliver, amongst other things, an orderly Brexit from the EU, which had been the will of over 17 million people expressed in the referendum of 2016. The prevarication and vacillation displayed by the Labour leadership would finally come to an end. The efforts of some MPs, to thwart the mandate given to them by the electorate did them no credit at all. Councillor Levy said that he himself and voted to remain. However, Councillor Levy highlighted that the greatest irony of all, as any student of Modern European History would know, was that the then European Union had launched a diplomatic offensive primarily aimed at the UK to join the strategic project that was then the European Coal and Steel Community that then became known as the Schuman Plan. However, as Historian Anthony Beevor had written "any lingering attachment to empire and a world role within the Atlantic alliance Britain's heart was not in Europe". Ernst Bevin, then of the Labour Government believed that the plan could not work and that any hope of British Leadership on the continent was finished. Councillor Levy commented that if back then the Labour Government that given up the challenge to be one of the founding members of the EU, he felt certain the UK would not have had the conversation and wasted hundreds of hours discussing the pros and cons of leaving the EU now. As a founding member, the UK had had the opportunity to have a decisive role in the direction of travel and there would have been no desire to leave the EU.

Councillor Levy concluded by paying tribute and sending his sincerest condolences to Geoff Taylor's widow and family; it was very sad to hear the news of his passing. Geoff's family it was hoped could find comfort and consolation in the cherished memory of his devotion to not only his own constituency of Victoria but also the people of Hackney and beyond during his many years of selfless and dedicated public service. Councillor Levy had fond memories of Geoff's warm and friendly welcome when he was elected. Geoff was very respectful of and eager to learn about his background and he asked him to arrange a visit to the Synagogue on Edgerton Road. Sadly this visit never came to pass but it was the true measure of the sincerity and thoughtful personality of Geoff that he wanted to learn about the lives of people from different backgrounds. During Geoff's tenure as a Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Levy remembered him, standing across the Council Chamber, giving his well-reasoned speeches for the Mayor's budget proposals, delivered in his own inimitable style. Councillor Levy admitted that while he did not always see

eye to eye with Geoff, he knew what he said was sincerely meant and he respected him all the more for it.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Levy for his kind words on the passing of Geoff Taylor. It was a measure of the kind of man he was that he brought together the different experiences from all parts of the borough.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Levy's comment on the Council's efforts in combating hate and anti-Semitism, because there was hate and anti-Semitism in Stamford Hill directed against our fellow citizens. The Council stood absolutely and resolutely against it both on the ground, when it arises, whether it was from businesses, from campaign groups, from people coming into the borough or from people in the borough preaching hate. That was why the Council was pleased it had had passed two motions against hate; one more broadly and one focussed on a definition around anti-Semitism. Speaking about accusations of anti-Semitism, raised earlier on during the Council meeting, the original discussion had been about transport structure changes, it had nothing to do with anti-Semitism. The Council was only seeking to improve the lives residents across the borough. The Mayor said that he would not accept that climate change, air pollution, traffic pollution and the enforcement of traffic orders were demonstrations of anti-Semitism from Council officers or his administration. The Council would continue to oppose anti-Semitism and hate in Hackney and would continue to oppose those who used it to their political advantage.

The Mayor turned to Councillor Levy's comments on Brexit which had outlined some of the challenges. He was proud of Britain's role in the construction of the EU in relation to such things as the common market and the customs union and highlighted all the work that had been done by the last Labour Government which had helped establish a more social liberalist Europe. The message coming out from Labour was the only way to prevent the continuation of austerity and stop Britain leaving the EU had to be another chance at a say on any Brexit deal. The Labour party was the only party offering that at the next election and the Mayor was proud to say that to the residents of Hackney. The Mayor said he was a remainer and how most of his fellow Councillors were remainers too and they had stood up for the 78.5% of Hackney residents who had voted to remain. It was ironic that climate change activists were gagged and that one of the authors of the Conservative party's election manifesto had worked for the fracking industry. Locally the Conservatives had done nothing on climate change and nationally the government was in the hands of big business. The Mayor urged everybody to continue to support the work of Hackney Council, which would be supercharged by the work of a Labour government.

## **9 Report from Cabinet: Children and Families Service 2018-19 Full Year Report to Members**

- 9.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cabinet member for education, young people and children's social care, introduced the Children and Families Service 2017-18 report.

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It had been a very busy year in social care. There had been more cuts in local government funding from central government which meant a loss of 60 pence in every pound. However, despite the cuts there had been an increase in demand for services that were needed by local residents. Hackney Council was working as hard as it could with its dedicated teams to try to meet the needs of young residents.

In terms of overall performance, the success of long term placements over two years was becoming better. This meant that Hackney's young people were being placed in the right homes. There had been an increase in children in inter-care; these were older children, some of whom were unaccompanied asylum seekers.

Deputy Mayor Bramble highlighted the Priorities for the Children and Families Service in 2019/20 as outlined in the report and reiterated the emphasis on a child centred approach. In February 2019 the Council had been visited by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED) for inspection which resulted in some immediate points for action which were set out in the report. Council staff had been working tirelessly to ensure those actions were implemented. Deputy Mayor Bramble thanked the staff for their dedicated commitment to their work and their professional development. Deputy Mayor Bramble said she had regular update meetings with the Children and Families Service and she found the staff were really proud and positive about the service.

The Deputy Mayor had recently chaired the first LGA Regional Alliance meeting and Hackney was seen as an innovative borough and viewed in a positive light. The recent Hackney Council staff survey revealed the positivity around the service and the fact that staff felt they were making a fundamental difference to the lives of young people. The Council was managing to achieve this despite central government cuts.

Deputy Mayor Bramble highlighted the work that was being done on safeguarding. It was a creative and innovative approach but it was now about embedding that approach and cascading that information widely. Deputy Mayor Bramble concluded by once again thanking the staff and those Councillors who had oversight of the service's work.

Councillor Levy congratulated the officers on their excellent report which comprehensively dealt with looked after children in Hackney and other associated services. Councillor Levy was also pleased that the OFSTED concerns were being robustly addressed. Councillor Levy hoped that future OFSTED visits would not demand other areas of the service to require improvement. Councillor Levy asked for clarification on the term "other" in respect of the placement types. Councillor Levy also sought clarification on how many children were covered by GDO orders and the reasons. Additionally Councillor Levy sought clarification on whether the Post Permanency team had been asked to ensure that parents court-mandated regular contact with their children, under GDO orders were robustly supported.

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Councillor Woodley highlighted the increase in the number of looked after children in 2018/19, which was influenced by the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC); 44 UASC as at 31st March 2019 compared with 27 at the same time last year. This long term commitment was something to celebrate but Councillor Woodley asked what reassurances could be given over steps were being taken to lobby government for more funding.

Councillor Lynch congratulated Deputy Mayor Bramble and the Council Officers involved in this work particularly given the challenging circumstances. Councillor Lynch highlighted the steps she and her fellow Corporate Parenting Board members had taken over the last year to improve the health needs of looked after children including the introduction of an integrated service model in September. This model aimed to improve the assessments given to these children, who often had pre-existing poor health outcomes. It was also encouraging that this service was now being provided by Homerton Hospital.

Deputy Mayor Bramble talked about Special Guardianship. Council staff worked continuously with the children and the birth parents but there were often extenuating circumstances which were difficult to resolve.

At every opportunity the Council would lobby government about devolution. However the Government's view of devolution involved local authorities taking all the responsibility but none of the resources to manage the devoluted powers. Council staff were considering a new term of status in respect of looked after children which would ensure the children received the right level of support. Deputy Mayor Bramble welcomed the comments around children's health and commended Councillor Lynch and her fellow Corporate Parenting Board Members on their work and the improved outcomes for children.

Councillor Levy raised a point of order regarding his earlier question about the undefined category, "other" and asked how many of the children were covered by special guardianship? Deputy Mayor Bramble replied that she would provide a written response.

**RESOLVED**, the Council NOTED the contents of the Children and Families Service 2017-18 report.



- 10.1 Councillor Burke, Cabinet member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm briefly introduced the report. Councillor Burke recommended that the Chair of the Corporate Committee, Councillor Webb introduced the report. However Members were in agreement that an introduction was not necessary.

Councillor Odze, referred to section 4.5, of the report which highlighted that if all the boroughs did not approve the delegation the byelaw would not be enacted. Councillor Odze said he saw nothing in this section of the report about what action would be taken if that happened. It needed to be clearly laid out what the Council planned to do in these circumstances.

Councillor Stops gave some context to the issue of micro mobility, referring to a tweet that he had seen that had said that it might be the future of urban transport. Half a million journeys were made everyday in Hackney and 44% of these end to end trips were by foot which was a huge percentage and made it clear that walking was the most important transport mode. 10% of Hackney's population had some form of immobility impairment, 1000 people were registered blind, both these groups struggled when bicycles were dumped on the pavement. They also struggled when people put A boards on the pavement and all manner of other obstacles. They also struggled when bicycle lanes were put through pavements. Pavements needed to be sacrosanct. Councillor Stops said that he welcomed this attempt to try and manage the latest incursion, the dockless bicycle. He wished the byelaw well and queried how he would report someone who broke this bicycle law. Would responsibility be delegated to Councillors to fine the perpetrators?

Councillor Billington said she was an enthusiastic user of dockless bicycles. She saw them as a useful way to increase mobility and to allow people to find a way to cycle but not necessarily using their own bike. E bikes, or Electric bicycles, in particular were encouraging people who may not normally cycle to cycle. Councillor Billington was supportive of the idea of a by law to put the onus on the people who hired the bicycles. It would be extraordinarily difficult for the people who were delivering this service to police it. It was the responsibility of all able bodied people to think about how they used public space and to think about those people who were not able bodied. Councillor Billington urged her fellow Councillors to make the case for a properly drafted by law for the responsible use of dockless bicycles, particularly electric bicycles because they were heavy and were not easily moved. Councillor Billington looked forward to more responsible use of these bicycles in the future.

Councillor Burke thanked Councillor Stops for his comments and acknowledged the transport issues that both he and Councillor Billington had raised. Councillor Burke said that there was a lot of discussion both in the Chamber and on social media about the benefits of dockless bicycles but little about the clear challenges associated with them. Hackney residents would not pay to support the dockless bicycles market. There was a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Council and two dockless bicycle providers. This had resulted in the providers making available a substantial amount of money to cover repairs and providing appropriate facilities to contain these dockless bicycles. The MOU included the provision that the bikes were not to be placed within the public realm. Part of that exercise would involve Council officers looking at co locating with the providers some form of semi-secure cycle storage, such as Sheffield stands. It was understood that the 20 quality

criteria, on which Hackney Council's procurement process was based on had set the gold standard and it was hoped that the Council would make the case for the adoption of the by law. Councillor Burke replied to Councillor Odze's question and said it was very unlikely that any borough would disagree with the proposal. The MOU in Hackney provided a safeguard however in the event that the by law was not enacted.

**RESOLVED**, that Council delegate the Council's functions relating to making and promoting the pan-London dockless byelaw to London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee.

**RESOLVED**, Council approves the Chief Executive as the authorised person to delegate the Council's functions in recommendation 2.1 of the report.

## 11 Pensions Committee Annual Report

11.1 Councillor Chapman, Chair of the Pensions Committee, introduced the report which set out the role of the Pensions Committee and a summary of the key activities and achievements in 2018/19. The report demonstrated how the Committee had fulfilled its role as the Scheme Manager for the London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund. It had been a difficult year in terms of the challenging environment with continued uncertainty over Brexit and threats to international trade Councillor Chapman was delighted to tell the Council that this was another successful year with £1.6 billion worth of assets. One of the Council's most successful investments had been in low carbon investments. Whilst a priority was for the Fund to pay its pensioners, Councillor Chapman was pleased to announce that due to this success there had been a saving for Hackney residents of £10 million over the current valuation period. This had allowed the Council to support budgets across the Council in areas such as housing and schools for example. The Committee would be working closely with its actuaries over the forthcoming valuation period for the next financial year.

Councillor Chapman thanked his fellow Councillors for helping in that success particularly the Vice Chair of the Pensions Committee, Councillor Desmond, and all the other members of the Pensions Committee and all the Council Staff and advisers who had given excellent service over the years.

Councillor Rennison thanked Councillor Chapman in his role as Chair of the Pensions Committee.

**RESOLVED**, that Council NOTED the contents of the report.

## 12 Standards Committee Annual Report 2018-19

12.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble, Chair of the Standards Committee, introduced the third annual report giving an overview of the work and activities of the Standards Committee over the past year. The report also provided information on the monitoring of the Members' Code of Conduct. Deputy Mayor Bramble was pleased to report that Members were conducting themselves to a high ethical standard but she was mindful that her comments were attributed to the report

as written and anything that had occurred after its publication she would not be able to comment on.

**RESOLVED**, that Council CONSIDERED the Standards Committee's Annual Report for 2018/19, as attached at Appendix 1 and NOTED its contents.

### 13 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-19

13.1 Councillor Gordon, Chair of the Scrutiny Panel, introduced the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-2019. Local government was still going through a period of uncertainty. The impact of austerity on local authorities and their most vulnerable citizens had been felt over the last nine years and it was hoped that this would end soon. Despite these challenging times in Hackney there was pride in this work and its track record of innovation. Last year scrutiny was taken out into the local community and the Council continued to strive to ensure that the voices of as many residents as possible were heard in the processes. Councillor Gordon said also great pride was taken in the policy and depth of the work on scrutiny on holding the executive, officers and partners to account, as and when it was necessary. The Scrutiny Panel did not shy away from difficult and challenging subjects as part of its inquiries, as well as looking at ways to innovate its policies. All four Scrutiny Commissions tackled a number of complicated and difficult policy areas during the last year. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission conducted an in depth review into improving outcomes for children excluded from school, who were among some of the borough's most vulnerable and marginalised young people. The Health in Hackney Commission had examined opportunities in local health care and innovation and continued to hold partners to account in a time of rapid change and uncertainty around local health care provision. The Living in Hackney Commission was closely examining community safety partnerships in response to serious violence which was a matter of growing public concern. Scrutiny had also held Thames Water to account over the recent floods and it would do so again in November. The Skills, Economy and growth Commission had focused on an extensive review of Hackney Council's policy on an inclusive economy for all local businesses trying to thrive and grow. This was another example of scrutiny going out into the community. Councillor Gordon said the Scrutiny Panel would like to thank those people who had helped scrutiny meetings including Council officers and representatives from outside organisations, many of whom were experts in their field and for them coming to Scrutiny Panel meetings and helping to challenge and inform the executive. The Scrutiny Panel had been fortunate to be supported by an energetic, exceptional and talented team of scrutiny officers under the leadership of Tracy Anderson. Additionally one development last year was the creation of an open democracy reporter, who attended meetings and highlighted the work that the commissions do. This was reported in the Hackney Citizen. Hackney was also fortunate to benefit from many active citizens who had given up their own time to inform the Scrutiny Commissions with their own experiences and campaigning expertise.

Councillor Gordon concluded by thanking the diligent and tenacious commission members who worked hard to ensure that the Scrutiny Panel continues to improve services for all Hackney residents.

A motion was put forward by Councillor Peters to extend the meeting by ten minutes. This was seconded by a majority of the Members.

Mayor Glanville echoed those comments from Councillor Gordon and on behalf of the executive thanked Scrutiny Panel members Councillors Gordon, Conway, Coban, Etti, Hayhurst, Maxwell, Patrick, Billington and Lufkin for all their work last year. The Mayor highlighted the level of scrutiny and innovation that had taken place last year and he echoed Councillor Gordon's comments about how Scrutiny Commission and Panel meetings had been brought alive by the reporting of Hackney Citizen. He concluded by reminding Councillors that there could not be a Mayoral system without a strong, sustainable system of investigation into scrutiny matters under the leadership of Scrutiny Panel members.

**RESOLVED**, that Council NOTED the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-19.

#### **14 Appointments to Committees/Commissions**

14.1 Tim Shields introduced the report.

Council **RESOLVED**, to agree the appointment of Justine McDonald, the statutory representative for the Roman Catholic Westminster Diocesan Schools Commission to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission until 1 May 2020:

**Duration of the meeting:** Times Not Specified



<p><b>CALCULATION OF 2020/21 COUNCIL TAXBASE AND LOCAL BUSINESS RATES INCOME</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision No – FCR Q45</b></p>	
<p><b>CABINET</b></p> <p>20 January 2020</p> <p><b>COUNCIL</b></p> <p>22 January 2020</p>	<p><b>CLASSIFICATION:</b></p> <p><b>Open</b></p>
<p><b>WARD(S) AFFECTED</b></p> <p>All Wards</p>	
<p><b>CABINET MEMBER</b></p> <p>Councillor Rebecca Rennison</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs</p>	
<p><b>KEY DECISION</b></p> <p>Yes</p> <p><b>REASON</b></p> <p>Spending or Savings</p>	
<p><b>GROUP DIRECTOR</b></p> <p>Ian Williams Finance and Corporate Resources</p>	

## **1. CABINET MEMBER'S INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report is a key component of setting the Budget and Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year. The monies available for service delivery this year depend on the amount of Council Tax that we believe will be collected and we must be careful to estimate this accurately.
- 1.2 In addition, Members are asked to agree the baseline level of Local Business Rate income the Council will be likely to receive for 2020/21.
- 1.3 The Government has decided it will not provide for the continuation of the 75% London Business Rates Retention and Pooling Pilot scheme. However, the Leaders of each borough have collectively decided to retain a pilot arrangement in 2020/21 but reverting back to the required 2017/18 scheme parameters where the shares of locally retained rates are as follows: - GLA 37%; Central Government 33% and London Boroughs 30%. This will reduce the amount of business rates retained by Hackney from 48% to 30% but the losses in income will be mitigated to some extent by additional Government funding.
- 1.4 The report puts forward a proposal to further vary the empty homes premium so that the premium for properties that have been empty for at least 5 years is increased to 200%, whilst still maintaining the premium at 100% for those properties that have been empty for more than 2 years and up to 5 years.
- 1.5 There has still been little progress in dealing with the appeals to business rates valuations that arose from the 2017 revaluation. This brings an increased risk regarding the forecasting of the amount to be collected and the position is made more unpredictable by the length of time it takes for the Valuation Office to deal with these. Unfortunately, this is entirely outside the control of the Council.

## **2.0 GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires that the authority must agree Hackney's Council Tax Base for 2020/21 as calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012. This decision must be taken and communicated to preceptors by 31 January 2020. This report recommends a Council Tax Base of 74,386 Band D equivalents based on a Council Tax collection rate for 2020/21 of 95.5%.
- 2.2 Section 3 of The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013, requires that for 2020/21, the authority must estimate Hackney's billing authority Non-Domestic Rating income and calculate the major preceptor's share due to the Greater London Authority and the Government share, and any deductions to be made for qualifying relief. The figures contained in this report will become the effective starting point for setting the Council's Budget for 2020/21, subject to the completion of 2020/21 NDR1 (an official return that is submitted to Government).

- 2.3 This report asks the Council to approve the estimate of business rates yield for 2020/21, to be used in the budget and tax setting report before Council on 26 February 2020.
- 2.4 It should also be noted that the Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolished Council Tax Benefit in March 2013 and replaced it with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). We are proposing changes to the 2019/20 scheme for 2020/21, which are set out in another report on this agenda. The impact of the proposed changes is however accounted for within the proposed taxbase

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 3.1 **Recommend to Council that in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Hackney Council as its Council Tax Base for 2020/21 shall be 74,386 Band D equivalent properties adjusted for non-collection. This represents an estimated collection rate of 95.5%.**
- 3.2 **Recommend to Council that in accordance with The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 Hackney's non-domestic rating income for 2020/21 is £149,750,650 subject to completion of the NDR1. This comprises three elements.**
- **£54,074,195 which is payable in agreed instalments to the Greater London Authority**
  - **£44,040,077 which is retained by Hackney Council and included as part of its resources when calculating the 2018/19 Council Tax requirement.**
  - **£51,636,378 which is payable in agreed instalments to Central Government**
- 3.3 **To note that changes are proposed to the current CTRS scheme in 2020/21 and that these are covered by another report on this agenda.**
- 3.4 **Recommend to Council that the Council Tax Empty Property Premium on properties that have been empty for 5 years or more is increased from 100% to 200%**
- 3.5 **To agree the recommendations on the proposed 2020/21 Business Rates Pool as set out in Appendix 2.**

**Council is recommended to agree:**

- 3.6 **That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Hackney Council as its Council Tax Base for 2020/21 shall be 74,386 Band D equivalent properties adjusted for non-collection. This represents an estimated collection rate of 95.5%.**

- 3.7 That in accordance with The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 Hackney's non-domestic rating income for 2020/21 is £149,750,650 subject to completion of the NDR1. This comprises three elements.
- £54,074,195 which is payable in agreed instalments to the Greater London Authority
  - £44,040,077 which is retained by Hackney Council and included as part of its resources when calculating the 2018/19 Council Tax requirement.
  - £51,636,378 which is payable in agreed instalments to Central Government
- 3.8 To note that changes are proposed to the current CTRS scheme in 2020/21 and that these are covered by another report on this agenda.
- 3.9 To agree that the Council Tax Empty Property Premium on properties that have been empty for 5 years or more is increased from 100% to 200%

#### **4. REASONS FOR DECISION**

##### **Council Tax Base**

- 4.1 The rules for calculating the Council Tax Base are set out in the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012. The calculation is based on the valuation list and other information available on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- 4.2 Firstly, the authority must estimate the number of properties in each band after allowing for exempt properties. These figures are also adjusted to allow for discounts (e.g. single person discount and Council Tax Reduction Scheme) and the impact of changes in discounts and exemptions which allow the Council to charge additional Council Tax to the owners of empty homes and second homes. A formula is then used to calculate the total number of Band D equivalent properties. This gives a higher weighting to properties in bands above Band D and a lower weighting to properties in bands below Band D. This can therefore be thought of as the average number of properties liable to pay Council Tax. The calculation is set out at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.3 The Authority then must estimate what percentage of the total Council Tax due for the year it will be able to collect. This is usually referred to as the collection rate. This percentage is then applied to the total number of Band D equivalent properties to give the tax base to be used for setting the Council Tax. Another way of considering the tax base is that it represents the amount of Council Tax income that will be received from setting a Band D Council Tax of £1.



- 4.4 There are a number of factors to be considered when assessing the likely ultimate collection rate for 2020/21. 2013/14 marked the first year of the new Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and significant changes in the level of discounts allowed for second homes and empty properties, which in turn led to increased volatility regarding the eventual collection rate to be achieved, particularly as the Council was often issuing bills for monies it has not had to previously collect. In the event, collection rates have held up very well since this time and it is anticipated, given the recent trend in in-year collection performance, that a budgeted collection rate of 95.5% is achievable in 2020/21 and is sustainable going forwards. This is 0.5% higher than that was applied in 2019/20. In 2013/14 the actual rate was 95.3%, which increased to 95.7% in 2016/17 and then to 95.9% in 2018/19. This will increase our budgeted income by c. £0.46m in 2020/21.
- 4.5 If actual collection in the forthcoming year exceeds the budgeted collection rate this is likely to generate a surplus in the Collection Fund which would provide additional one-off resources available for use in 2021/22 and beyond, either for one-off revenue or the Capital Programme.
- 4.6 A collection rate of 95.5% will result in a tax base of **74,386** Band D equivalents, as shown in the table below.

<b>2020/21 TAX BASE/COLLECTION RATE</b>	
	<b>2020/21</b>
Aggregate of Band D Equivalents Estimate	77,892
of Collection Rate	95.5%
<b>Tax Base (Band D Equivalents)</b>	<b>74,386</b>

- 4.7 This compares to a tax base of 72,552 Band D equivalents used in the 2019/20 budget setting. Most of the increase in the tax base has already occurred during 2019/20.

#### **Business Rates and the Local Business Rates Retention Scheme**

- 4.8 The Local Business Rate retention scheme came into effect from 2013/14 as part of the changes to Local Government funding in the Local Government Finance Act 2012.
- 4.9 In essence the scheme allowed Local Government to keep 50% of any Business Rate growth from its baseline position. For Hackney and all other London Boroughs the remaining 50% share was split on a 60/40 basis with the Greater London Authority (GLA). In 2017/18 these proportions were amended to GLA 37%; Central Government 33% and London Boroughs 30%.

- 4.10 A change to the system was made in 2018/19 with the introduction of the London 100% Business Rates Retention and Pooling Pilot scheme. Under this scheme Hackney retained 64% of the rates raised and the GLA kept 36% with no Government share.
- 4.11 Yet another change was made in 2019/20 with the introduction of a 75% London Business Rates Retention and Pooling Pilot scheme. Under this scheme, Hackney retains 48% of the rates raised, the GLA retains 27% and Central Government 25%.
- 4.12 The Government has decided it will not provide for the continuation of the 75% London Business Rates Retention and Pooling Pilot scheme in 2020/21 and that the 2017/18 shares of business rates income will apply, i.e. GLA 37%; Central Government 33% and London Boroughs 30% . This will reduce the amount of business rates retained by Hackney from 48% to 30% but the losses in income will be mitigated to some extent by additional Government funding.
- 4.13 In October 2019, the London Councils Leaders' Committee agreed to continue the London business rates pool in 2020/21, despite the loss of pilot status. The 2017/18 shares will still apply but London Councils have estimated that the anticipated financial benefit of the Pool is approximately £25 million, all of which will be distributed to boroughs following the Mayor's agreement to forego any financial benefit, and Leaders' agreement not to have a Strategic Investment Pot (SIP) next year. London Council's latest modelling estimates our share at £1.1m. Further details on the arrangement and the required recommendations which require **Cabinet approval only** are attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 4.15 It is anticipated that we will go back to the 2019/20 London Business Rates Retention scheme in 2021/22 with 75% local shares.
- 4.16 To determine its budgetary position Hackney, along with all other Local Authorities has to complete an NDR1 form which includes the number of rateable local businesses (which is not limited to commercial organisations as it includes schools, churches and of course an authority's own civic estate) multiplied by the appropriate business rate multiplier to arrive at a total cash sum which is then adjusted for various allowable reliefs and discounts to give the final baseline position. This form is required to be completed and submitted to CLG by 31 January each year in respect of the following financial year.
- 4.17 Up until 2013/14, the calculation within NDR1 had not required formal approval by Members as it has had no direct impact on the Council's finances. From 2013/14 onwards, under the current Council constitution, this does now require formal agreement by Members and as such is the subject of the formal recommendation at paragraph 3.2 and 3.6.

4.18 **It should be noted that we, at the time of writing this report, we are still in the process of completing the NDR1 form. The figures included within this report and recommendations are therefore based on officers' latest estimates of the figures to be included in NDR1 but it is anticipated that the final version of this will have been completed by the time of Cabinet and Council meetings. Members will be informed if there are any changes required to the estimate as a result of the completion of the form.**

4.19 As part of the 2018 Autumn Budget, the Chancellor announced rate reliefs for all retailers with a rateable value of £51,000 or less that will receive a one third reduction in their business rates bill in 2020/21. In addition, in previous Budgets, the Government announced various other business rates reliefs which will be rolled forward into 2020/21. Also, the change to the inflation rate which was used in the calculations that were made in 2019/20 will also be rolled forward which will reduce the amount of business rates payable in 2020/21. In order that Local Authorities are not disadvantaged by these additional reliefs and the inflation rate change, an equivalent special grant will be payable to them.

**It is estimated that Hackney Council will receive £5.939m in s31 grant in this respect of previous national budgets and other Government policies.**

4.20 In addition to this, the Council retains a cost of collection allowance for the administration of the collection of business rates and for 2020/21, this allowance is **£572k**

4.21 The total resources therefore available to the Council in respect of Non-Domestic Rates and to be included in the budget to be approved by Council in March will therefore be **£49.979m**, as follows:

Net rates yield retained by Hackney	44.160
Share of 2017/18 Surplus c/fwd.	-0.692
S31 grant re Budget reliefs	5.939
Cost of Collection allowance	0.572
<b>Total NDR resources</b>	<b>49.979</b>

#### **4.22 200% Council Tax Empty Property Premium**

Under the current statutory arrangements, the Government has provided us with a means of encouraging empty properties to be brought back into use by allowing us to levy a 100% premium on properties that are empty for more than two years as from 1st April 2019. We currently operate this policy. However, as from April 2020, a further power will be introduced which will allow us to levy a premium of 200% on properties that have been empty for more than 5 years. We propose that we take this power as it should further discourage property owners from using a property as a simple asset, rather than the home it was built for.

#### **4.23 Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)**

It is a statutory requirement that the Council approves the CTRS scheme each year. As stated above, changes are proposed to the current scheme which are covered by a separate report on this agenda.

#### **5.0 DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

5.1 The requirement to calculate the Council Tax base and business rates has been laid down by Statute. As such, there are no alternatives to be considered.

#### **6.0 BACKGROUND**

##### **6.1 Policy Context**

This report sets out the Council Taxbase and estimated NNDR income in 2020/21. Both of these are required by statute. Hackney's tax base for 2020/21 must be notified to the GLA and to the various levying bodies which base their levies on the Council Tax Base. Under regulations this must take place before 31 January 2020. The appropriate bodies will be notified by the due date once the tax base is confirmed

##### **6.2 Equality Impact Assessment**

This is not a service but one element of a statutory obligation for residences to pay council tax. The calculation of this element – Taxbase – is determined by statute and regulations.

##### **6.3 Sustainability**

As above

##### **6.4 Consultations**

Relevant consultations have been carried out involving, the Mayor, the Member for Finance, and Directors of Finance.

##### **6.5 Risk Assessment**

The risks associated with the schemes Council's financial position are detailed in this report.

## **7.0 COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES**

- 7.1 The setting of a realistic and prudent collection rate for Council Tax in 2020/21 is an essential component of the overall budget strategy. If the collection rate set is over-optimistic, this may result in a deficit on the collection fund at the end of 2020/21, the major part of which would need to be met from Hackney's 2021/22 Budget. This would impact adversely on the overall budget strategy.
- 7.2 The proposed tax base of 74,386 Band D equivalents would result in Council Tax income of £84.4m for Hackney's element, assuming no increase in the Council Tax in 2020/21. The overall resources for the 2020/21 budget will be dependent on the outcome of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement due to be announced in early February 2020, although we do now have the provisional settlement figures.
- 7.3 Similarly, the setting of an accurate baseline Local Business Rates is essential to enable the Council to be able to plan effectively. Once agreed the amount of Business Rates attributable to the GLA will need to be paid over at certain dates irrespective of whether or not the income has been received by the Council from local businesses. Thus, an overly optimistic or simply erroneous baseline could have significant cash flow implications as well as adverse impact on the future year's budgets.
- 7.4 **As set out in section 4.18, the NDR1 form that is used to calculate the baseline Business rate yield for the following financial year is still subject to finalisation. The figures included within this report are therefore based upon Officers' best estimate at this stage, which may change as we receive updated technical guidance on the operation of the BRR Pool.**

## **8. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE**

- 8.1 Cabinet is being asked to recommend to Council, and Council is being asked to agree, the calculation of the Council Tax Base as required by s.33 Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1992. S.33 imposes a duty on the Council, as a billing authority, to calculate the basic amount of its council tax by reference to a formula set out in the Act and Regulations made under the Act.
- 8.2 S.67 LGFA originally provided that adopting the council tax base had to be a decision of full Council. This section was amended by s.84 Local Government Act 2003 which abolished that requirement. However, the calculation is not an "executive" function and it cannot be discharged by the Mayor and Cabinet. It could be delegated to an officer, but Hackney has not delegated the decision to an officer so the responsibility rests with full Council.
- 8.3 As the report makes clear, the decision must be taken by 31 January in each year and therefore this report will be considered by Council on 23 January 2020.

- 8.4 An important part of the calculation of the council tax base is the collection rate which is assumed in the calculation. It is important that Members adopt a prudent approach to agreeing this assumption since, as the report makes clear, an unrealistic assumption is likely to lead to a deficit on the account which will have to be met from elsewhere thus undermining the integrity of the Council's budget. Members will therefore wish to satisfy themselves that the proposed collection rate of 95.5% is realistic.
- 8.5 Members are reminded that the calculation of the Council Tax Base is covered by s.106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This provides that if a Member owes two or more months' arrears of Council Tax, they are obliged to disclose this fact to the meeting and not vote on the matter. Failure to comply is a criminal offence punishable by a fine.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1 – Council Tax Base Calculation Schedule**  
**Appendix 2 - London Business Rates Pooling 2020/21 (Cabinet Only)**

<b>Report Author</b>	<i>Michael Honeysett, 0208 356 3332</i>
<b>Comments of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources</b>	<i>Michael Honeysett, 0208 356 3332</i>
<b>Comments of Director of Legal and Governance</b>	<i>Dawn Carter-McDonald , 0208 356 4817</i>

**Council 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

**CALCULATION OF  
2020/21 COUNCIL  
TAXBASE AND LOCAL  
BUSINESS RATES  
INCOME**

**Key Decision No – FCR Q45**

**APPENDICES  
1 AND 2**

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2020-21 COUNCIL TAX TAXBASE

APPENDIX 1

	Band	@	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total
<u>Actual current properties</u>											
1	Dwellings on database 25/11/18	0	7,866	31,741	34,848	23,778	12,170	4,432	1,185	42	116,062
2	Exemptions (minus)	0	1754	1111	607	435	192	104	6	3	4,212
Disabled Reductions of Band:											
3	Add to Lower Bands	3	26	43	63	46	29	2	0	0	212
4	Take from Higher Bands (minus)		3	26	43	63	46	29	2	0	212
5	Line 1-2+3-4 = H	3	6,135	30,647	34,261	23,326	11,961	4,301	1,177	39	111,850
Number in H above Entitled to											
	One 25% Discount SPD	-2	-3,532	-15,383	-11,858	-5,317	-1,826	-504	-149	0	-38,571
	One 25% Discount with disregards	0	-40	-360	-492	-299	-130	-34	-5	0	-1,360
6		-2	-3,572	-15,743	-12,350	-5,616	-1,956	-538	-154	0	-39,931
7	Line 6 x 25%	-0.50	-893.00	-3935.75	-3087.50	-1404.00	-489.00	-134.50	-38.50	0.00	-9982.75
Number in H above Entitled to											
	Two 25% (50%) Discount	0	0	-15	-13	-8	-12	-7	-4	-7	-66
9	Line 8 X 50%	0.00	0.00	-7.50	-6.50	-4.00	-6.00	-3.50	-2.00	-3.50	-33.00
10	No in H above entitled to	0	-1	-8	-12	-6	-11	-3	-4	0	-45
25% discount Uninhabitable / major works											
	25% of above	0.00	-0.25	-2.00	-3.00	-1.50	-2.75	-0.75	-1.00	0.00	-11.25
10a	No in H above entitled to		-70	-137	-195	-122	-89	-25	-14	0	-652
100% reduction for 1 month											
	8.3% of above		-5.81	-11.37	-16.19	-10.13	-7.39	-2.08	-1.16	0.00	-54.12
10b	No in H above charged		37	48	55	50	22	8	2	0	222
Empty homes premium 100%											
	100% of above		37.00	48.00	55.00	50.00	22.00	8.00	2.00	0.00	222.00
10c	No in H above charged		104	81	24	13	8	6	6	1	243
Empty homes premium 200%											
	200% of above		208.00	162.00	48.00	26.00	16.00	12.00	12.00	2.00	486.00
11	No in H above entitled to	0	197	319	287	222	163	46	18	0	1252
0% discount											
	0% of above	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Total Discounts = Q	-0.50	-654.06	-3908.62	-3058.19	-1369.63	-483.14	-132.83	-40.66	-3.50	-9859.12
13	Line 5+ Line 12	0	5,480.94	26,738.38	31,202.82	21,956.37	11,477.86	4,168.18	1,136.34	35.50	101,990.88
<u>Estimated changes likely</u>											
14	* Properties Awaiting Banding	0	0	0	49	0	299	0	0	0	348
15	**New Properties	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	500
16	Line 14 + Line 15	0	0	0	549	0	299	0	0	0	848
17	Properties to be Deleted		0	-1	-2	-4	-1	-3	-1	0	-12
18	Known Errors in Valuation List		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Line 17 + Line 18	0	0	-1	-2	-4	-1	-3	-1	0	-12
20	Line 16 + Line 19	0	0	-1	547	-4	298	-3	-1	0	836
21	Assumed Exemptions		0	0	-237	0	0	0	0	0	-237
27	Line 20+21= J	0	0	-1	310	-4	298	-3	-1	0	599
<u>CTRS Discount</u>											
	Ttl Band reduction based on total monetary award	-0.83	-1480	-7587	-6577	-3079	-1711	-613	-63	0	-21111
Expected in year changes											
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Total CTS Band Equivalent	0	-1480	-7587	-6577	-3079	-1711	-613	-63	0	-21111
Total CTR Discount = Z											
		-0.83	-1480.07	-7586.95	-6577.34	-3079.03	-1710.94	-612.93	-62.68	0.00	-21110.78
29	H - Q + J - Z	1.67	4000.87	19150.43	24935.47	18873.35	10064.93	3552.24	1072.65	35.50	81479.10
30	To calculate band equivalents	0.55	0.67	0.78	0.89	1.00	1.22	1.44	1.67	2.00	
31	Band D Equivalent:Lines 29x30	0.92	2667.25	14894.78	22164.86	18873.35	12301.58	5131.01	1787.76	71.00	77891.58
34	Band D equivalent for Taxbase calculation										77,892
35	Band D Equivalent for Taxbase Calculation									Before allowance for collection rate	77892
36	Band D equivalent for Taxbase calculation after non-collection allowance 4.5% applied										74386

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## LONDON BUSINESS RATES RETENTION POOL 2020/21

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed arrangements for the London Business Rates Retention Pool in 2020/21 and seeks approval for Hackney's participation in the Pool.
- 1.2 This year, in common with all boroughs, we are operating under the 2019/20 London Business Rates Retention Pilot Pooling arrangement.
- 1.3 The 2019-20, the 75% pilot pool under which the boroughs retain 48% of the business rates income received, is forecast to generate £181 million in net financial benefit for the boroughs and the GLA as a result of paying no levy on growth (that would otherwise have been paid) and retaining 75% of growth rather than 67%, which would be the case under the 2017/18 scheme. The distribution will be as follows:
- London Boroughs and the City - £98 million
  - Greater London Authority - £55 million
  - Strategic Investment Pot - £27 million
- 1.4 Hackney's share of the net benefit is estimated to be £3.9m
- 1.5 Following the publication of the 2019 Spending Review, the Government announced that the planned reforms to a national 75% business rate retention scheme will be postponed by a year until April 2021 and has chosen not to continue the London pilot in 2020/21.
- 1.6 This means that in 2020/21, the 2017/18 shares of business rates income will apply, i.e. GLA 37%; Central Government 33% and London Boroughs 30% . This will reduce the amount of business rates retained by Hackney from 48% to 30% but the losses in income will be mitigated to some extent by additional Government funding.
- 1.7 In October 2019, the London Councils Leaders' Committee agreed to continue the London business rates pool in 2020/21, despite the loss of pilot status. The 2017/18 shares will still apply but London Councils have estimated that the anticipated financial benefit of the Pool is approximately £25 million, all of which will be distributed to boroughs following the Mayor of London's agreement to forego any financial benefit, and Leaders' agreement not to have a Strategic Investment Pot (SIP) next year. London Council's latest modelling estimates our share at £1.1m. The advantages from continuing with the pooling arrangements which are further discussed below.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 1. To approve and accept the designation by the Secretary of State as an authority within the London Business Rates Pilot Pool pursuant to 34(7)(1) of Schedule 7B Local Government Finance Act 1988;**
- 2. To participate in the London Business Rates Pilot Pool with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021;**
- 3. To delegate the authority administrative functions as a billing authority pursuant to the Non- Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013, to the City of London Corporation ("COLC") acting as the Lead Authority;**
- 4. To authorise the Lead Authority to sub-contract certain ancillary administrative functions [regarding the financial transactions [payment of tariffs and top-ups] within the Pool to the GLA as it considers expedient];**
- 5. To delegate authority to Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources in consultation with the Mayor to agree the operational details of the pooling arrangements with the participating authorities;**
- 6. To agree to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (attached at Annex 1) with the other participating authorities as may be necessary to implement and/or regulate the pool and to delegate authority to the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance to negotiate, finalise and execute the same on behalf of the authority.**
- 7. To authorise the Mayor to represent the authority in relation to consultations regarding the London Business Rates Pilot Pool as may be undertaken by the Lead Authority pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding;**

**These recommendations are subject to the requirement that actual funding allocations from the Lead Authority are in line with expectations based on previous financial modelling carried out by London Councils.**

### **3.0 Advantages of Pooling in 2020/21**

#### **3.1 Direct Financial Benefits**

The financial benefits of pooling under the 67% scheme are not as great as under the current 75% retention pilot. Firstly, there would be less growth retention (67% versus 75%), and, secondly, there would be a lower saving on levy payments, as the pool would pay a levy on growth (as all tariff areas would normally do). The financial benefit comes from the pool overall paying less in levy than the London tariff authorities would have paid individually.

Based on the latest forecasts from July rolled forward (i.e. no real terms growth assumed next year), suggests a non-pilot pool of all London authorities would produce a net financial benefit of approximately £25.4 million. This comes from the pool only paying a levy of £92.9 million on growth of 9% above baselines level, compared to individual payments totalling £118.3 million across the tariff authorities in the pool.

Following the Mayor of London's agreement to forego any financial benefit, and Leaders' agreement not to have a Strategic Investment Pot (SIP) next year. London Council's has estimated our share at £1.1m.

Another reason why authorities choose to pool is to spread risk collectively – it being less likely that the entire pool will see rates decline than an individual borough.

The original pilot pool was underpinned by the principle - underwritten in 2018-19 by the “no detriment” guarantee from Government - that no participating authority could be worse off than it would otherwise be. In a straightforward, “non-pilot” pool it is not possible to offer such a guarantee. This was technically the case in the current 75% pilot pool this year - although the scale of financial benefit made the possibility of boroughs being worse off very unlikely. It is also true of all the other non-pilot pools across the country. While more likely in a 67% non-pilot pool, there would need to be a significant downturn for the pool not to be able to ensure that any one borough was not worse off than it would otherwise be. Modelling suggests that a reduction across the pool of 4.8% compared with the current forecast would have to occur (a fall in overall rates of around £400 million) for this to be the case. In the context of annual real terms growth of over 2% per annum in the last 6 years since the first year of the scheme, this is unlikely. Given that even in 2009 following the biggest economic downturn in 80 years, business rates grew in London, this also seems unlikely.

### 3.2 Strategic Benefits

There could be strategic benefits in continuing to pool business rates without pilot status. Further retention of business rates in the capital has been a long-held ambition of London Government, with London boroughs and the GLA working closely on business rates retention since the Government announced plans to implement 100% retention in October 2015. The pilot pool was seen as a platform from which to develop further arguments about London Government genuinely retaining 100% of the business rates it collects, while providing an important step towards broader fiscal devolution ambitions, in line with the recommendations of the London Finance Commission in 2013 and 2017.

Maintaining a collaborative arrangement for a further year would likely give London Government a more influential voice with regard to the eventual design of the full 75% scheme, now due to be implemented in 2021-22. It may be that ministers would look even more favourably on a London pool that was genuinely seen to work under the “normal” conditions of risk and reward outside of the conditions of a pilot that Government may maintain, is somewhat artificial.

### 3.3 Administrative Benefits

The current pilot has provided a platform for greater openness and sharing of information about assumptions regarding those elements of the NNDR process that authorities have more judgement over. It has enabled stakeholders to improve their technical understanding of how the system works and has raised the level of awareness amongst both members and officers of the key drivers of business rate growth, the importance of accurate forecasting, and the impact that appeals judgements have on the system.

Treasurers regularly discuss the progress of the pilot and any issues that the pool may foresee in the future, and the Lead Authority has established a technical working group of finance and revenues officers to consider operational issues, which has developed a regular monitoring process to improve the accuracy and reliability of forecasts for the pool throughout the year.

## 4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 As was the case for the original pilot, each council will need to make its own individual decision to participate in the pool, in time for the resulting business rate and funding baselines to be incorporated within the Final Local Government Finance Report in February. The Scheme has been designated by the Secretary of State in the 2020/21 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. Boroughs have 28 days after the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was published to withdraw from the pool. If no authority withdraws then the 2020-21 pool will go ahead as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. The Group Director Finance and Corporate Resources will report at the Cabinet meeting if any borough has withdrawn from the scheme which appears unlikely at the time of writing this report.
- 4.2 The key principles that underpin the London pooling agreement are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the boroughs and the GLA, which is attached at Annex 1 to this Appendix. The MOU sets out the basis on which the Participating Authorities have collectively agreed to continue to operate a Business Rates Pool across London and distribute the financial benefits. It comes into effect for the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 and is presumed to continue to operate for 2020-21 only. The key points are summarised below.
- (a) From 1 April 2020 the Participating Authorities shall retain 67% of their non-domestic rating income, with tariffs and top-ups reverting back to the levels calculated by government within the 2020-21 Local Government Finance Settlement that reflect the underlying 50% retention scheme, with a borough share of 30%. The Participating Authorities shall also continue to receive Section 31 Grant from the Government in respect of changes to the business rates system. Section 31 Grant shall amount to 100% of the value of the lost income so will also be calculated on a 67% retention basis.
  - (b) This MOU comes into effect for the financial year Non-Domestic Rating Income on 1 April 2020 to and terminates on 31 March 2021.
  - (c) Where there is sufficient retained income in the pool to guarantee it, each of the Participating Authorities shall receive at least as much from the Pool as they would have individually under the non-pooled 67% retention scheme;
  - (d) Any Financial Benefit will be distributed through the Redistribution Pots agreed by Participating Authorities in the former Business Rates Pilots. However, London Councils Leaders' Committee and the Mayor of London agreed to remove the Strategic Investment Pot (**SIP**) as a redistribution pot. The Financial Benefit will therefore be proportionally apportioned using the three remaining pots in the agreed proportions set out below

- i) Incentives Pot. 18% of the Financial Benefit to incentivise Growth by allowing the Billing Authorities where Growth occurs to keep a proportion of the additional resources retained as a result of the Pool. The proportion shall reflect, for authorities with Growth, each Billing Authority's share of the total Growth prior to Levy;
  - ii) 41% to reflect each Billing Authority's share of the total the Settlement Funding Assessment (a proxy for needs) for the London Billing Authorities;
  - iii) 41% according to each Billing Authority's per capita formulation as calculated by the most recent available ONS projection for 2020 at the time of distribution;
  
- (e) The GLA will be included in the 2020-21 pool. However, the GLA shall not receive any of the Financial Benefit arising from pooling, (as agreed at the London Councils Leaders' Committee and with the Mayor of London in October 2019.
  
- (f) In the event of the Pool generating a financial deficit (being in a worse position than the aggregate position had Participating Authorities not agreed to pool), any authority who would have qualified for a safety net payment had they not been part of the pool will be guaranteed to retain a level of business rates equal to their safety net level as calculated by government. The remaining net Financial Deficit will be shared among all Participating Authorities in accordance with the approach agreed, with the GLA funding 36% of the Financial Deficit and those remaining boroughs, who would not receive safety net payments had they not been part of the pool (the Remaining Billing Authorities) funding the remaining 64% of the Financial Deficit. The distribution to the Remaining Billing Authorities of their 64% of a Financial Deficit will reflect the following proportions:
  - 1. 50% of the Remaining Billing Authorities' share of a Financial Deficit according to each Remaining Billing Authority's share of the total Settlement Funding Assessment for the Remaining Billing Authorities not receiving safety net payments;(Needs Pot);
  - 2. 50% of the Remaining Billing Authorities' share of a Financial Deficit according to each Remaining Billing Authority's per capita formulation as calculated by the most recent available ONS projection for 2020 at the time of distribution. (Population Pot).
  
- (g) The City of London (COLC) shall continue to act as the accountable body to the Government and administer the Pool. The GLA shall provide transactional support to the COLC, including treasury management issues and making any monetary transfers between billing authorities in respect of the Pool on behalf of the Lead Authority including any sums due to the GLA.



- (h) The City's responsibilities include: - all accounting for the finances of the Pool and the balance of Strategic Investment Pot funds remaining from prior years including payments to and from the Government; management of the Pool; receiving payments from Participating Authorities and making payments to central government on behalf of Participating Authorities on time; administering the schedule of payments between Pool members in respect of the financial transactions that form part of the Pool's resources; all audit requirements in relation to the Pool; and production of an annual report of the Pool's activity following final allocation of funds for the year;
- 4.3 The pooling agreement MOU between the 34 London authorities will be signed by each Leader or elected Mayor of the 32 London boroughs, the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London and the Mayor of London.

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### In relation to Extended London Business Rates Pool 2020/21

#### 1. Background

1.1 This Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) and the appendices which form part of the MOU sets out the basis on which the Participating Authorities have collectively agreed to continue to operate a Business Rates Pool across London and distribute the Financial Benefit. No provision within this MOU is intended to create any legal relations between the Participating Authorities.

1.2 The Participating Authorities agree to act collaboratively and to co-operate with each other in utmost good faith.

1.3 The Government designated a pan-London business rates pool in 2018-19, which piloted 100% retention in that year, and was revised to pilot 75% retention in 2019-20 (the Business Rates Pilots). It confirmed in September 2019 its intention not to renew the London pilot in 2020-21, and for London to revert back to the pre-existing 2017-18 67% retention scheme (which was a partial pilot, reflecting the incremental impact of the rolling in of the Greater London Authority's (**GLA**) Revenue Support Grant (**RSG**) and the Transport for London investment grant).

#### 2 Aim/Rationale of the Pool

2.1 The Pool continues to aim to improve the well-being of the communities served by the Participating Authorities in London. By working together, they can retain a greater proportion of business rates Growth within London, providing additional resources to support local communities and strengthen financial resilience following a decade of significant funding reductions.

#### 3 Principles of the Pool

3.1 The Participating Authorities hereby confirm their agreement to continue to participate in compliance with this MOU and confirm that they have resolved or intend to duly and properly resolve to accept the Designation Order in satisfaction of Schedule 7B, Paragraph 34(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (**LGFA 1988**) and to enter into this MoU.

3.2 From 1 April 2020 the Participating Authorities shall retain 67% of their Non-Domestic Rating Income. The Participating Authorities shall also continue to receive Section 31 Grant from the Government in respect of changes to the business rates system. Section 31 Grant shall amount to 100% of the value of the lost income so will also be calculated on a 67% retention basis.

3.3 In returning to 67% rates retention, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (**MHCLG**) will once again pay RSG to the Participating Authorities in 2020-21 with tariffs and top-ups reverting back to the levels calculated by government within the 2020-21 Local Government Finance Settlement that reflect the underlying 50% retention scheme, with a borough share of 30%. The GLA's tariff will be calculated based on its partial pilot of 37% retention, to reach the total 67% retention scheme.

3.4 The Safety Net level of the pool will be 92.5% of the aggregate Baseline Funding Level of the pool, and the Levy rate (reflecting the relative scale of the pool's aggregate Business Rates Baseline and Baseline Funding Level) is estimated to be 19 pence in the pound (the Final Local Government Finance Settlement will formally confirm the levy rate).

3.5 This Pool shall have no impact on Enterprise Zones or "designated areas" where the designations made by the Secretary of State came into force on or before 1 April 2020, along with other special arrangements, such as the statutory provision to reflect the unique circumstances of the City of London Corporation (**COLC**), as currently contained in Part II of Schedule 7 to the LGFA 1988 and paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 to the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013/452.

4.1 Subject to clause 4.2, this MOU comes into effect for the Non-Domestic Rating Income on 1 April 2020 and terminates on 31 March 2021 (the **Term**), unless otherwise agreed in writing by all the Participating Authorities or unless terminated in accordance with paragraph 9 below ("Dissolution of the Pool") or extended on the same basis for 2021-22.

4.2 Notwithstanding termination or expiry of the MOU Participating Authorities will continue to implement / operate any outstanding Activities agreed for the Term till such time as the Activities are complete, the annual report is issued, and the final Reconciliation Payments are settled by the Lead Authority.

## **5 Distribution of any Financial Benefit or Deficit**

5.1 This MOU shall constitute the agreement for the operation of the Pool in which:

5.1.1 Where there is sufficient retained income in the pool to guarantee it, each of the Participating Authorities shall receive at least as much from the Pool as they would have individually received under the non-pooled 67% retention scheme;

- 5.1.2 Any Financial Benefit will be distributed through the Redistribution Pots agreed by Participating Authorities in the former Business Rates Pilots. However, London Councils Leaders' Committee and the Mayor of London agreed to remove the Strategic Investment Pot (**SIP**) as a redistribution pot. The Financial Benefit will therefore be apportioned using the three remaining Redistribution Pots, in the agreed proportions set out in clause
- 5.1.3 The distribution of Financial Benefit arising from the pooling arrangement will be allocated to Billing Authorities on the basis of the following proportions:
- (a) Incentives Pot: 18% of the Financial Benefit to incentivise Growth by allowing the Billing Authorities where Growth occurs to keep a proportion of the additional funds retained as a result of the Pool. The proportion shall reflect, for authorities with Growth, each Billing Authority's share of the total Growth prior to Levy;
  - (b) Needs Pot: 41% of the Financial Benefit to reflect, as proxy for need, each Billing Authority's share of the total the Settlement Funding Assessment for the London Billing Authorities;
  - (c) Population Pot: 41% of the Financial Benefit according to each Billing Authority's per capita formulation as calculated by the most recent available ONS projection for 2020 at the time of distribution.
- 5.1.4 The GLA will be included in the 2020-21 pool. However, the GLA shall not receive Financial Benefit arising from pooling (as discussed at the London Councils Leaders' Committee and with the Mayor of London in October 2019).

5.1.5 In the event of the Pool generating a Financial Deficit (being in a worse financial position than the aggregate position had Participating Authorities not agreed to pool), any Participating Authority who would have qualified for a Safety Net payment had they not been part of the Pool will be guaranteed to retain a level of business rates equal to their Safety Net level as calculated by government. The remaining net Financial Deficit will be shared among all Participating Authorities in accordance with approach agreed, with the GLA funding 36% of the Financial Deficit and the Billing

Authorities who would not have qualified for a Safety Net payment had they not been part of the Pool (the Remaining Billing Authorities) funding the remaining 64% of the Financial Deficit. The distribution to the Remaining Billing Authorities of their 64% of a Financial Deficit will reflect the following proportions:

- (a) 50% of the Remaining Billing Authorities' share of a Financial Deficit according to each Remaining Billing Authority's share of the total Settlement Funding Assessment for the Remaining Billing Authorities (Needs Pot);
- (b) 50% of the Remaining Billing Authorities' share of a Financial Deficit according to each Remaining Billing Authority's per capita formulation as calculated by the most recent available ONS projection for 2020 at the time of distribution (Population Pot).

## **6 Lead Authority**

6.1 COLC, as the Lead Authority, shall continue to act as the accountable body to govern and administer the Pool. The Participating Authorities hereby acknowledge that the Lead Authority is carrying out valuable services on behalf of the Participating Authorities, and that it is entitled to reimbursement of its reasonable costs and expenses in providing those services. This MOU makes provision for the reimbursement in the calculation of Financial Benefit.

6.2 The GLA shall provide transactional support to the Lead Authority, including administering and operating treasury management and making any monetary transfers between Participating Authorities in respect of the Pool on behalf of the Lead Authority including any sums due to the GLA.

6.3 These monetary transfers between Participating Authorities will be collected or paid by the GLA on the basis of a schedule of payments which will be determined by the GLA in consultation with the COLC, reflecting the Government's Payment Requirements and scheduled instalment dates, which are prescribed in secondary legislation. (This reflects the fact that the GLA already has the systems in place to manage payment flows to and from Billing Authorities for the existing business rate retention scheme).

6.4 The GLA shall also transfer any sums required to COLC based on the schedule of instalments agreed with MHCLG so that COLC as Lead Authority can pay the net Tariff payment payable by the Pool as approved in the Local Government Finance Settlement.

6.5 COLC shall also transfer any sums COLC receives from MHCLG in Safety Net payments to the GLA so that the GLA can distribute this to Participating Authorities if applicable.

6.6 The Lead Authority's responsibilities shall include:

- 6.6.1 all accounting for the finances of the Pool and the balance of SIP funds remaining from prior years including payments to and from the Government;
- 6.6.2 management and administration of the Pool;
- 6.6.3 receiving payments from Participating Authorities and making payments to Government on behalf of Participating Authorities on time;
- 6.6.4 maintaining a cash account on behalf of the Pool and paying Interest on any credit balances;
- 6.6.5 liaising with and completing any formal Pool returns to central government;
- 6.6.6 administering the schedule of payments between Participating Authorities in respect of the financial transactions that form part of the Pool's resources;
- 6.6.7 providing the information required by Participating Authorities in preparing their annual statement of accounts in relation to the activities and resources of the Pool;
- 6.6.8 leading on reporting to understand the Pool's position during and at the end of the financial year;
- 6.6.9 responsibility for the Pool's net Tariff payment to Government as well as the Tariff and Top up payments to and from the Participating Authorities individually;

- 6.6.10 all audit requirements in relation to the Pool;
- 6.6.11 production of an annual report (**Annual Report**) of the Pool's Activities following final allocation of funds for the year, which along with any final reconciliation payments required, concludes the rights and obligations of the Participating Authorities under this MoU (unless it has been extended for a further financial year);
- 6.6.12 the administration of the dissolution of the Pool;
- 6.6.13 all communications with the MHCLG including year-end reconciliations;
- 6.6.14 convening a Technical Group to advise the Lead Authority and Participating Authorities on the implications of the Pool and other proposed changes to business rates retention;
- 6.6.15 the collation and submission of information required for planning and monitoring purposes.

6.7 The Lead Authority may resign from its role on 3 months' written notice to all the Participating Authorities (or longer if required by the Government or where another Participating Authority is neither ready nor willing to assume the role of Lead Authority).

6.8 Transfers outside the pool relating to retained business rates (e.g. Section 31 Grant Payments, MHCLG's share of individual Billing Authority collection fund surpluses or deficits, MHCLG's share of business rates income and transitional protection payments) will continue to be made between MHCLG and Participating Authorities.

## **7 Governance**

7.1 The Participating Authorities have resolved, if required, to delegate Administrative Functions in respect of their Powers in Relation to Business Rates Retention to COLC as the Lead Authority.

## **8 Participating Authorities' responsibilities**

8.1 Each of the Participating Authorities shall promptly provide the Lead Authority with full and accurate relevant information (the "**Reporting Information**") in order to enable the Lead Authority to make payments to Government and to and from the Participating Authorities.

8.2 The Lead Authority shall request the Reporting Information and each Participating Authority shall provide timely Reporting Information to the Lead Authority.

8.3 Each Participating Authority shall make or receive payments to or from the Lead Authority based on the schedule of payments dates referred to in paragraph 6.2 and as required after the end of the financial year to settle any outstanding balances under this MOU.

## **9 Dissolution of the Pool**

- 9.1 The pool is presumed to continue to operate for 2020-21 only in respect of which the Government Designation Order continues in force. These Designation Orders are made and remain in force until revoked.
- 9.2 Any Participating Authority seeking to leave the Pool should inform MHCLG and all other Participating Authorities as soon as possible. In the event of one or more Participating Authorities leaving the Pool, this Pool would cease to operate at the end of 31<sup>st</sup> March of that year and the Pool would be dissolved in accordance with the provisions of this MOU. Once the Pool has been established, any Participating Authority leaving the Pool must notify the other Participating Authorities by 30<sup>th</sup> September in any year, to allow the remaining Participating Authorities time to seek designation of a new pool for the following year.
- 9.3 The Lead Authority shall make the necessary calculations and submit the required returns associated with the dissolving of the Pool in accordance with paragraph 9.2.
- 9.4 In the event that the Pool is dissolved in accordance with paragraph 9.2, the Lead Authority shall distribute to the Participating Authorities any resources held on behalf of the Pool in accordance with the distribution formula set out at paragraph 5.1.2 above. The final balance of SIP funds shall be allocated in a further round, once the financial year of dissolution is completed and the amount finalised.
- 9.5 Subject to paragraph 6.7, COLC shall continue to act as Lead Authority for as long there are any outstanding responsibilities under this MoU.
- 9.6 The remaining Participating Authorities of the Pool may in their discretion agree to form a new pool and, if they wish, include new members for the following year (subject to a new Designation Order being made by the Secretary of State).

This MOU may be executed in any number of counterparts and this has the same effect as if the signatures on the counterparts were on a single copy of the MOU





<p><b>CHANGING THE COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME</b></p> <p><b>Key Decision No: FCR Q46</b></p>	
<p><b>CABINET</b> 20th January 2020</p> <p><b>COUNCIL</b> 22 January 2020</p>	<p><b>CLASSIFICATION:</b> Open</p> <p><b>If exempt, the reason will be listed in the main body of this report.</b></p>
<p><b>WARD(S) AFFECTED</b></p> <p>All wards</p>	
<p><b>CABINET MEMBER</b></p> <p>Cllr Rebecca Rennison</p>	
<p><b>KEY DECISION</b></p> <p>Yes</p> <p><b>REASON</b> Spending/or saving</p>	
<p><b>GROUP DIRECTOR</b></p> <p>Ian Williams Finance and Corporate Resources</p>	

## 1. CABINET MEMBER'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In April 2013, Hackney Council put in place a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) to provide financial assistance to those Taxpayers on a low income who had difficulty with paying their Council Tax. This scheme replaced Council Tax Benefit which was a national scheme administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- 1.2. Funding for the local scheme was provided by way of a grant by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), with the level of funding based on the previous Council Tax Benefit expenditure but with a considerable 10% cut; this meant the Council was required to tailor its provision accordingly or absorb the cut elsewhere.
- 1.3. This change in funding arrangements represented a fundamental move away from a demand-led benefit (met by 100% subsidy) to a fixed budget scheme. The management of financial risk was effectively shifted to the Council. At the time the estimated shortfall between the funding provided and cost of the scheme was £3.2m and this has continued to rise steeply ever since.
- 1.4. After considerable deliberation and following a full consultation, the Council agreed that the fairest way to deal with the Government's reduction was by spreading it across the claims of Hackney's 27,000 working-age claimants. It should be noted that the council were legally prescribed from adjusting Council Tax Support for pension age applicants within the provision of the new scheme.
- 1.5. When first introduced, the scheme required all Council Tax Benefit claimants of working age to pay at least 15% of their weekly Council Tax charge to offset the initial shortfall in funding from Central Government. However, the continuing attack on local Government finances and the huge reduction in funding Hackney Council was required to manage made it necessary to increase this minimum contribution to 17% of the weekly charge in April 2018, alongside this the Council decided to exempt our Care Leavers from Council Tax until the age of 25.
- 1.6. At the time of this decision, it was agreed to monitor and report two years on from implementation on the impact of the additional costs to households on collection rates, administration of the hardship fund and the work undertaken to promote this to residents.
- 1.7. The subsequent review has identified that the current level of a maximum 83% award has not materially impacted on collection rates and that the calls for assistance from the hardship fund (which we continue to actively promote) remain very small.
- 1.8. However, the review has also taken into account changes in external circumstances; the continued impact of welfare reform on some of our poorest communities means that households with the least financial resources have been hardest hit by government cuts, changes to benefits, and increases in everyday living costs such as food, rent, and utilities. As a result some of our poorest residents are facing financial hardship and will find it difficult to pay contributions towards their Council Tax going forward.

- 1.9. It is therefore proposed that the minimum contribution required from working age households be reduced from 17% back to 15%. The proposal follows on from an analytical assessment and modelling undertaken by an external consultant (Policy in Practice), and represents a balance between continuing to support low income households whilst in a position to fund vital council services.
- 1.10. Whilst the move to a 100% maximum award is the political aim of the administration, given the Council's current and future uncertain financial position this is not something we could contemplate immediately. The administration and the Council has committed to further reduce the maximum contribution to 10% by 2025/26 at the latest and move to a fully funded scheme by 2030 and will be taking forward scoping work on achieving this in the course of 2020.
- 1.11. A consultation exercise with Hackney residents and other stakeholders and partners on this proposed change to the scheme identified that the majority of the respondents were very supportive of the proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (73% in favour).
- 1.12. I recommend this report to Cabinet and Council.

## **2. GROUP DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 required local authorities in England to design and implement their own localised Council Tax Support Schemes from April 2013. These local schemes replaced Council Tax Benefit, a national social security benefit administered for the DWP by local councils.
- 2.2. Local authorities were nominally given the freedom to design their own schemes, however there were a number of conditions placed on councils including the requirement to ensure that the level of Council Tax Support for pension age applicants was not to be reduced as a result of the introduction of the new scheme
- 2.3. When introduced in 2013/14, our scheme required that all current Council Tax Benefit claimants of working age paid at least 15% of their weekly Council Tax charge to offset, at least in part, the shortfall in funding provided by central Government.
- 2.4. However, the continuing reduction in funding to the Council meant it became extremely difficult to protect the CTRS and those receiving assistance without requiring cuts to other services.
- 2.5. Subsequently, the minimum contribution was increased to 17% and the change delivered a saving to the Council of £0.5m at a time when the Council's budget gap was projected to reach £31m by 2021/22. At the time of that decision we committed to reviewing the impact of the change in minimum contribution on residents two years on from implementation and this report sets out the impact on collection rates, administration of the hardship fund and the work undertaken to promote this to residents.

- 2.6. It is important that the review of the CTRS is considered against the backdrop of £140m funding cuts since 2010 and the need to make further savings, plus the financial uncertainties that lie ahead, in particular the introduction of Fair Funding in 2021/22.
- 2.7. The Council has expressed an ambition to move to a fully funded scheme by 2030 to provide additional financial support to our poorest residents, but funding cuts means the options available at this time are limited. It is expected that Government funding will have decreased from £310 million to £140 million by 2022. The Council therefore needs to strike a balance between the need to provide extra support to residents who we think need it, while maintaining a scheme that is financially sustainable for the Council's wider budget and limits the impact on our ability to deliver essential front line services that residents depend on.
- 2.8. The Council is seeking to further reduce the maximum contribution to 10% by 2025/26 and move to a fully funded scheme by 2030 bearing in mind the financial uncertainties that lie ahead. As a first step, we will examine the time period over which we could move to a 100% maximum award scheme in an affordable manner, after we have certainty about the impact of Fair Funding on our financial position in 2021/22 and beyond.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1. That Cabinet and full Council note the contents of the report and the financial implications attached to each of the options outlined within the report and that the report be referred to full Council.
- 3.2. That Cabinet recommend to full Council that Members, recognising the financial constraints placed on the Council, agree to revise the Council's current Council Tax Reduction Scheme by reducing the minimum contribution which all working age CTRS claimants have to pay from 17% to 15% of their Council Tax liability.
- 3.3. That Cabinet and full Council commit to campaigning for the return to a fully funded benefit, paid for by Central government.
- 3.4. That Cabinet and full council note the ambition that we further reduce the maximum contribution to 10% by 2025/26 and move to a fully funded scheme by 2030.

### **4. REASONS FOR DECISION**

- 4.1. When the Council agreed to amend the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in 2017 it also committed officers to undertake a review of the revised scheme in 2019.
- 4.2. The Council has recognised the continued impact of welfare reform on some of our poorest communities. Some households with the least financial resources have been hardest hit by government cuts, changes to benefits, and increases in everyday living costs such as food, rent, and utilities. As a result some of our

poorest residents are facing financial hardship and have found it difficult to pay contributions towards their Council Tax.

- 4.3. Whilst seeking to provide additional financial support to low income households the scope for amending the scheme is constrained by the need to manage ongoing cuts in Central Government funding with the expectation that funding to Hackney Council from the Government will have decreased from £310 million to £140 million by 2022.
- 4.4. The option of decreasing minimum contributions from 17% to 15% balances both the increasing financial pressures that our low income households face, against the ongoing cuts in government funding. The change will affect working age households only as the Council is legally prevented from making any changes to the scheme that will reduce the level of support payable to a pensioner household.

## **5. DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 5.1. As part of the review process, the Benefits & Housing Needs Service commissioned an external consultant, Policy in Practice, to carry out the analytical assessment of the revised scheme and to model the financial impact on the Council and on residents of four options for 2020/21 to 2021/22. These options were:
  - 5.1.1. Rolling forward the current scheme (with the maximum award of 83% of liability) in both years;
  - 5.1.2. Changing the scheme to provide a maximum award of 100% of liability in both years. This is equivalent to the award maximum prior to the Government's introduction of the localised system in 2013/14;
  - 5.1.3. Changing the scheme to provide a maximum award of 85% of liability in both years. This is equivalent to the award maximum in Hackney from 2013/14 to 2017/18;
  - 5.1.4. Changing the scheme to provide a maximum award of 70% of liability in both years;
- 5.2. The initial modelling demonstrated that reducing the maximum award to 70% of the liability was significantly punitive to low income households and no further development of this option was undertaken.
- 5.3. Additional analysis was undertaken with regard to changes to improve the parity between the Council Tax Reduction scheme and Universal Credit and to align the scheme with the default regulations:
  - 5.3.1. Introduce the Employment and Support Allowance for the Work Related Activity Group (claimants who are disabled but capable of work) for all those in receipt of Universal Credit with Limited

Access to Work. There will be a very small number of these claimants (c. 100) in 2020/21 but they will benefit.

- 5.3.2. align non-dependent deductions with the default scheme.
- 5.3.3. use Universal Credit as the maximum award for Universal Credit claims. Universal Credit uses slightly different applicable amounts to existing legacy benefits. The difference is very small, often only a couple of pence a week. Currently Hackney uses legacy applicable amounts to calculate Council Tax Reduction. But as more Council Tax Reduction claimants receive Universal Credit, this mismatch is causing confusion and becoming costly to administer. Mirroring our Council Tax Reduction Scheme to match the applicable amounts used in Universal Credit, makes the scheme more transparent, easier for claimants to understand, and simpler for the Council to administer. Any cost in aligning the applicable amounts in increased entitlement, is more than offset by the administrative saving achieved by aligning the two schemes)

5.4. In carrying out the modelling, a 4% Council Tax increase in both 2020/21 and 2021/22 is assumed together with an estimation of the number of residents who will change from legacy benefits to Universal Credit as part of natural migration as their circumstances change. In addition, the modelling also includes probable changes to welfare reform support rates, minimum wages, tax allowances, Local Housing Allowance rates and known regulatory changes. Full migration to Universal Credit is currently forecast for 2023.

5.5. If we roll forward the current scheme into 2020/21, it will increase the cost of discounts payable to CTRS recipients by £1m which is largely the result of the assumed 4% increase in Council Tax. However, in all Council Tax income modelling undertaken by Finance and Corporate Resources such as that presented in Finance Update reports and the Budget, the Council's cost in terms of discount awards to CTRS claimants of a 4% increase is netted off by the increased Council Tax income totals. It follows that the key comparisons here are the cost of the 100% and 85% maximum awards in 2020/21 compared to the cost of the current scheme rolled forward into 2020/21. The comparisons are shown below:

	£m	Change in Cost £m
Cost of Current Scheme in 2020/21	27.7	n/a
Cost of Model 1: 100% Maximum Award	31.7	4.0
Cost of Model 2: 85% Maximum Award	28.2	0.5

5.6. So, if we introduced a 100% maximum award in 2020/21, it would cost the Council an estimated £4m more than if the current scheme was rolled forward into 2020/21. If instead we introduced an 85% maximum award, the equivalent cost increase would be an estimated £0.5m.

5.7. The comparative costs for 2021/22 as follows:

	£m	Change in Cost £m
Cost of Current Scheme in 2021/22	28.9	n/a
Cost of Model 1: 100% Maximum Award	33.1	4.2
Cost of Model 2: 85% Maximum Award	29.5	0.6

5.8. If we introduced a 100% maximum award it would cost the Council £4.2m more than the current CTRS scheme would cost for 2021/22. If instead we introduced an 85% maximum award, the equivalent cost increase would be £0.6m.

### 5.9. Impact on Average Awards 2020/21

5.10. If awards were based on 100% of Council Tax liability in 2020/21, the average working-age award would increase by £3.50/week compared to the roll forward of the current scheme - an increase of 22%.

5.11. If awards were based on 85% of Council Tax liability in 2020/21, the average working-age award would increase by £0.41/week compared to the roll forward of the current scheme - an increase of 2.6%.

### 5.12. Distributional Impact 2020/21

5.13. If awards were based on 100% of liability in 2020/21, 6,020 households would see support increase by more than £5/week from current levels. If awards were based on 85% of liability 100 households would see support increase by more than £5/week from current levels

5.14. Both the 100% and 85% options have a slightly greater impact on private tenants as these tend to be in higher Council Tax bands than social tenants. Both options see private tenants gain more support than social tenants.

5.15. Couples with children gain the most and lose the most as the maximum award changes. This reflects the greater likelihood of work, and higher Council Tax bands of these households. For households in work, changes in the maximum award are proportionally greater compared to the amount of support received.

5.16. In general, working households have lower awards of CTRS and so a scheme change based on amended maximum award leads to a proportionally greater change. Employed and self-employed households gain more than households in receipt of out of work benefits under both the 100% and 85% schemes.

5.17. Under both the 100% and 85% maximum award options, support increases with the Council Tax Band.

## **6. BACKGROUND**

### **6.1. Policy Context**

- 6.2. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 required local authorities in England to design and implement their own localised Council Tax Support Schemes from April 2013. These local schemes replaced Council Tax Benefit, a national social security benefit administered for the DWP by local councils.
- 6.3. The Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) that was launched largely mirrored the previous national Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme it replaced, except that all claimants of working age were required to pay a minimum payment equal to 15% of their tax liability.
- 6.4. In 2017, the scheme was amended to increase the minimum contribution from 15% to 17%, due to the scheme becoming too costly to administer as a consequence of reduced Central Government funding and increased costs.
- 6.5. The CTRS scheme is a means tested benefit: any award of financial support is calculated by comparing the needs of the household with the actual income received. Where there is a shortfall between the income and the established needs, additional support is provided; a discount is made in respect of the household Council Tax charge. To establish the needs of a household a number of factors related to living costs are identified to establish how much money the household reasonably requires to live on and whether they have the means to pay their Council Tax liability. Within the CTRS scheme, these parameters are normally referred to as applicable amounts.
- 6.6. The applicable amounts used in the calculation initially mirrored those used when calculating Council Tax Benefit, but from 2017, following the introduction and rollout of Universal Credit, the parameters of the scheme were changed to ensure that the applicable amount rates tracked and matched those used in the Universal Credit calculation.
- 6.7. When the government handed responsibility for administering CTRS to local government, it did so with a significant funding shortfall, on top of a huge reduction in overall funding for councils. And since 2013, the effective level of funding the Council has received to support those entitled to support has reduced significantly. The CTRS is not funded on actual expenditure, instead the Council receives a fixed grant as part of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG).
- 6.8. It should be noted that there is indicative evidence that the current level of a maximum 83% award has not materially impacted on collection rates and that the calls for assistance from the hardship fund remain very small. The collection rates for working age claimants has increased consistently since 2013/14. In order to mitigate the impact of restrictions to Council Tax Reduction on our most vulnerable households. Hackney Council put in place a Discretionary Hardship Scheme. This would help those residents who had difficulty paying their Council Tax due to the impact of minimum contributions.
- 6.9. Under Hackney's Council Tax Reduction Discretionary Hardship Scheme each case is considered on its individual merits, with additional awards focused on



households that are vulnerable or under particular financial stress. The payment can cover up to full loss caused by minimum contributions.

- 6.10. Since the minimum which claimants had to pay increased to 17%, the hardship scheme has been extensively promoted, including articles in Hackney Today, information in the annual Council Tax booklets sent to every bill payer, leaflets and other communication materials shared with Hackney residents and through the Council's webpages.
- 6.11. In addition, where residents are eligible our revenues collection staff make sure vulnerable bill payers are aware of and know how to access the hardship scheme before proceeding with summons and recovery.
- 6.12. In 2018/19, the Council made awards totalling £7,800 out of the fund; officers will also always consider Council Tax relief when someone is awarded a discretionary housing payment to assist with their rent. Following the concerted effort to raise awareness the rate of spend has increased and as of October 2019 we have made awards totalling £9884.00. Increasing awareness of the discretionary scheme and improving take up remains a priority in addressing hardship. This is identified as an action in the Equality Impact Assessment

### 6.13. How residents are likely to be impacted

- 6.14. The table below illustrates how working age claimants will be impacted by a decrease to 15% minimum Council Tax Reduction contributions in 2020/21. To enable comparison an indicative annual increase of 4% in Council Tax has been used.

<b><i>Unemployed couple with 1 non dependant working 35 hours per week earning £350.00 per week living in a band E property, includes an assumed increase in non dependant deductions of 2.6%</i></b>			
Estimated weekly household income	Estimated weekly Council Tax Charge 2019/20	How much they pay per week 2019/20 (17% contribution)	How much they pay per week in 20/21 (15% contribution)
£114.85 per week	£34.01 per week	£13.88 per week	£13.62 per week
<b><i>Couple with 2 school age children, one working, living in a Band D property; Includes tax credits, earnings of 246.30 and child benefit</i></b>			
Estimated weekly household income	Estimated weekly Council Tax Charge 2019/20	How much they pay per week 2019/20 (17% contribution)	How much they pay per week in 20/21 (15% contribution)
£439.31 per week	£27.83 per week	£24.91 per week	£24.54 per week

<b>Unemployed Lone parent with 4 children living on Universal Credit, living in a band E property</b>			
Estimated weekly household income	Estimated weekly Council Tax Charge 2019/20	How much they pay per week 2019/20 (17% contribution)	How much they pay per week in 20/21 (15% contribution)
£252.27 per week	£25.51 per week	£4.34 per week	£3.99 per week
<b>Single person over 35, no dependants, working 16 hours a week (minimum wage) in a band B property.</b>			
Estimated weekly household income	Estimated weekly Council Tax Charge 2019/20	How much they pay per week 2019/20 (17% contribution)	How much they pay per week in 20/21 (15% contribution)
£131.36 per week	£16.23 per week	£13.41 per week	£13.19 per week
<b>A disabled Couple with no children, whose partner is the main career, receives ESA(IR),high rate PIP &amp; Carers Allowance in a Band C property.</b>			
Estimated weekly household income	Estimated weekly Council Tax Charge 2019/20	How much they pay per week 2019/20 (17% contribution)	How much they pay per week in 20/21 (15% contribution)
£363.20 per week	£24.73 per week	£4.20 per week	£3.87 per week

6.15. The table below shows how each Council Tax Band payment is affected by the 15% option (assuming a Council Tax Increase of 4%).

Ctax Band	Current Annual Ctax 19/20	Minimum Weekly Contribution 19/20 (17%)	Estimated Annual Ctax 20/21	Minimum Weekly Contribution 20/21 (17%)	Minimum Weekly Contribution 20/21 (15%)
<b>A</b>	£969.90	£3.15	£1008.70	£3.29	£2.90
<b>B</b>	£1131.56	£3.68	£1176.82	£3.84	£3.39
<b>C</b>	£1293.21	£4.20	£1344.94	£4.38	£3.87
<b>D</b>	£1454.86	£4.73	£1513.05	£4.93	£4.34
<b>E</b>	£1778.16	£5.78	£1849.29	£6.03	£5.32
<b>F</b>	£2101.47	£6.83	£2185.53	£7.12	£6.29
<b>G</b>	£2424.76	£7.88	£2521.75	£8.22	£7.25
<b>H</b>	£2909.72	£9.46	£3026.11	£9.87	£8.70

6.16. The table below shows the maximum Council Tax reduction awards for other London boroughs in 2019/20:

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Max CTRS</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Barking and Dagenham	75%	
Barnet	100%	
Bexley	80%	
Brent	80%	100% for vulnerable households
Bromley	75%	
Camden	100%	
City of London	100%	
Croydon	85%	
Ealing	75%	100% for vulnerable households
Enfield	73.50%	100% for those entitled to a disability/carers premium
Greenwich	85%	
<b>Hackney</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>100% for care leavers</b>
Hammersmith and Fulham	100%	
Haringey	80.20%	100% if a child is in the household
Harrow	70%	86% vulnerable
Havering	75%	80% for those entitled to disability/carers premium
Hillingdon	75%	90% for those entitled to a disability premium
Hounslow	100%	
Islington	91.50%	
Kensington and Chelsea	100%	
Kingston upon Thames	100%	
Lambeth	80%	100% for protected (Disabled / Ben cap / War widows / carers)
Lewisham	75%	
Merton	100%	
Newham	80%	
Redbridge	75%	85% where the claimant or partner is getting DLA/PIP/AFIP/AA
Richmond upon Thames	100%	
Southwark	85%	

Sutton	80%	
Tower Hamlets	100%	
Waltham Forest	76%	
Wandsworth	70%	
Westminster	100%	

### **6.17. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.18. In July 2019 there were around 30,600 households in Hackney receiving some level of support through the current CTRS, this fluctuates through the year and we have experienced a reduction in caseload over recent months. Equalities data on CTRS recipients is extremely limited; we are able to derive the age, and, to a certain extent, disability of those getting assistance from the application process, but no record is made of marital/civil partnership status, sexual orientation, religion, gender reassignment or pregnancy. Some data is available on household gender but this is fragmented. There is an option for applicants to record their ethnicity, but so few complete the field, the data recorded is considered unreliable.

6.19. A full EIA has been undertaken and has been attached at appendix 1

### **6.20. Sustainability**

6.21. There is no impact on the physical and social environment as a consequence of this proposal.

### **6.22. Consultations**

6.23. The Council is required by legislation to consult with the GLA (as a precepting authority) on any proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. We contacted the GLA formally in October 2019.

6.24. The GLA response was received 12 November and confirmed “The GLA supports the Council’s proposal to decrease the minimum contribution level from 17% to 15%;”.

6.25. The Council is also required to consult with residents. The public consultation ran from 28 October to 8 December 2019. The consultation featured on the Council’s consultation and engagement platform, for the duration of the consultation period.

6.26. The public consultation received 459 responses in total via the online and paper completion surveys. The majority of responses were received via paper completions, with just a small proportion received via online completions.

6.27. The majority of respondents, 73%, agreed with the Council’s preferred option of updating the current scheme and decreasing the minimum contribution required from working age recipients from 17% to 15%.

6.28. A more comprehensive consultation report has been attached as appendix 2. We have also attached a copy of the consultation form for information as appendix 3.

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES**

- 7.1. Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resource's comments are included throughout the report.

## **8. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & GOVERNANCE SERVICES**

- 8.1. The requirement to make a Council Tax Reduction Scheme was introduced by Local Government Finance Act 2012 sections 9 to 16 which made amendments to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (LGFA 92).
- 8.2. Each billing authority in England must make a scheme specifying the reductions which are to apply to amounts of council tax payable, in respect of dwellings situated in its area, by;
- 8.2.1. persons whom the authority considers to be in financial need, or
  - 8.2.2. persons in classes consisting of persons whom the authority considers to be, in general, in financial need (LGFA 92 s13A(2)).
- 8.3. The Council made such a scheme with effect from the financial year 2013/2014.
- 8.4. LGFA 92 schedule 1A regulation 5(1) provides that, for each financial year, each billing authority must consider whether to revise its scheme or to replace it with another scheme.
- 8.5. The authority must make any revision to its scheme, or any replacement scheme, no later than 11 March in the financial year preceding that for which the revision or replacement scheme is to have effect (LGFA 92 schedule 1A regulation 5(2) as amended with effect from 12 January 2018).
- 8.6. If any revision to a scheme, or any replacement scheme, has the effect of reducing or removing a reduction to which any class of persons is entitled, the revision or replacement must include such transitional provision relating to that reduction or removal as the authority thinks fit.
- 8.7. LGFA 92 schedule 1A and regulations made thereunder (as subsequently amended) set out particular matters that must be included in a scheme.
- 8.8. When revising a scheme the authority must (in the following order);
- 8.8.1. consult any major precepting authority which has power to issue a precept to it,
  - 8.8.2. publish a draft scheme in such manner as it thinks fit, and
  - 8.8.3. consult such other persons as it considers are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme.
- 8.9. The function of revising the Council Tax Reduction Scheme can only be carried out by full Council (LGFA 92 s67(2)(aa)).

## APPENDICES

**Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment**

**Appendix 2 – Consultation Report**

**Appendix 3 – Consultation Document**

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ian Jones 020 8356 4023</b> <b>ian.jones@hackney.gov.uk</b>
<b>Comments for and on behalf of the Group Director of Finance and Resources</b>	<b>Russell Harvey 020 8356 2739</b> <b>Financial Management</b> <b>Finance and Resources Directorate</b>
<b>Comments for and on behalf of the Interim Director of Legal &amp; Governance</b>	<b>Chima Obichukwu 020 8356 4538</b> <b>Senior Lawyer</b>

**Council 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

**COUNCIL TAX  
REDUCTION SCHEME**

**Key Decision No – FCR Q46**

**APPENDICES**

**1- 3**

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**London Borough of Hackney  
Equality Impact Assessment Form**

**Title of this Equality Impact Assessment:**

The Hackney Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2020

**Purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment:**

To identify and report the potential equality impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as revised from April 2020.

**Officer Responsible: *(to be completed by the report author)***

<b>Name :</b>	<b>Ext:</b>
<b>Directorate: Customer Services</b>	<b>Department/Division: Benefits and Housing Needs</b>

**Director:** Kay Brown

**Date:**

**Comment :**

## **STEP 1: DEFINING THE ISSUE**

### **1. Why are we amending the Council Tax Reduction Scheme?**

- 1.1. The initial Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) was adopted in April 2013 following the passage of The Local Government Finance Act 2012, which required local authorities in England to design and implement their own localised Council Tax Support Schemes. Provision was made to protect Pension Age residents from changes to their entitlement. Council Tax Reduction for this group continues to be assessed in accordance with national regulations which broadly mirror housing Benefit rules and prescribe no minimum payment.
- 1.2. The scheme remained unchanged, except for technical amendments required by changes in law, until April 2018 when the minimum payment was increased from 15% to 18%, and other changes were made to bring CTRS in line with Universal Credit and changes to other welfare benefits and to restore the value of applicable amounts which had been frozen at 2013 levels.
- 1.3. Since 2013, the effective level of funding the Council has received to support claimants has reduced significantly. CTRS is not funded on actual expenditure, instead the Council receives a fixed grant as part of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). Since 2013, the RSG has been cut from £145.8m to £34.7m (2019/20). Over the same period expenditure on the CTRS has also been dropping, but not at the same speed, the predicted cost of CTRS for 2019/20 is £26.7m.
- 1.4. When the CTRS scheme was changed in 2018 the Council made a commitment to review the impact of the changes and in particular the increase in minimum payment. The purpose of the review was to allow the Council opportunity to evaluate the impact of the CTRS changes following the roll out of Universal Credit in the borough and in the context of ongoing austerity and welfare reform.
- 1.5. Collection rates do not seem to have been unduly influenced by the change in minimum contribution from 15% to 17% in 2018. 2017/18 and 2018/19 collection rates for working age Council Tax Reduction recipients were 86.6% and 86.9% respectively. However this falls significantly below the overall collection rate of 95% in each of those financial years.
- 1.6. Collection has been maintained by increased activity by the Revenues Service to identify and assist residents at the earliest opportunity so that payments are maintained. There has been a greater emphasis on making arrangements before court proceedings to avoid unnecessary costs and maintain monthly payment arrangements.
- 1.7. Modelling of the proposed changes indicates an additional cost to the Council of £469k for 2020/21. Whilst this is a direct cost to the Council the financial benefit to residents receiving CTR is significant and will put money into the pockets of the most disadvantaged.

### **2. What changes are being proposed?**

- 2.1. Council officers have regularly undertaken internal reviews of the CTRS using Capita's Council Tax modelling tool and commissioned Policy in Practice to model various scenarios for 2018.
- 2.2. Policy in Practice have been engaged to provide detailed modelling of four options for revising the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 2020. The four

options are no change to the existing scheme (17% minimum contribution), a 15% minimum contribution, a 30% minimum contribution or basing maximum CTRS on 100% of the charge (no minimum contribution).

2.3. The modelling made some basic assumptions:

- An estimated council tax increase of 4% in 2020 and 2021.
- An agreed level of migration of claimants to Universal Credit of 12% for 2021/21 and 24% for 2021/22
- Known changes to welfare support rates, national minimum wage, tax allowances and proposed regulatory change.
- The modelling does not take into account economic or policy changes resulting from a change in government, nor the economic impacts of exiting the European Union.

2.4. The modelling was shaped by the understanding that ongoing reductions in Local Authority Finance require members to consider carefully the wider implication of any options that increase expenditure on the scheme. However members' considerations would be made in the context of ongoing austerity, welfare reform and roll out of Universal Credit in Hackney.

2.5. Based upon this premise, Policy in Practice identified some headline issues.

2.6. Having considered the alternative options the Council proposes that the following change to the scheme be made:

- A decrease in the minimum contribution which all working age CTRS claimants have to pay from 17% to **15%** of their Council Tax liability, regardless of income and circumstance.

### **3. Who are the main people that will be affected?**

3.1. There are currently around 30,600 households in Hackney receiving some level of support through the current CTRS.

3.2. Equalities data on CTRS recipients is extremely limited; we are able to derive the age, and, to a certain extent, disability of those getting assistance from the application process, but no record is made of marital/civil partnership status, sexual orientation, religion, gender reassignment or pregnancy. Some data is available on household gender but this is fragmented. There is an option for applicants to record their ethnicity, but so few complete the field, the data recorded is considered unreliable.

protected characteristics	Equalities data taken from the CTRS caseload (June 2019)			
	<b>Age</b>	No. of Working Age Households <b>2,1964</b>	No. of Pensioner households <b>8,704</b>	% of Working Age Households <b>71.62%</b>
<b>Disability</b> (Working Age Households only)	No. of disabled households <b>9,503</b>	No. of non-disabled households <b>12,461</b>	% of disabled households <b>43.3%</b>	% of non-disabled households <b>56.7%</b>

3.3. For these other groups, a more reliable indicator will be found within the Council's own shared evidence base.

### 3.4. *Ethnicity*

Hackney Ethnicity (2011 Census)	
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	<b>36.2%</b>
White: Irish	<b>2.1%</b>
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	<b>0.2%</b>
White: Other White	<b>16.2%</b>
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean	<b>2.0%</b>
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black African	<b>1.2%</b>
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Asian	<b>1.2%</b>
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed	<b>2.0%</b>
Asian/Asian British: Indian	<b>3.1%</b>
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	<b>0.8%</b>
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	<b>2.5%</b>
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	<b>1.4%</b>
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	<b>2.7%</b>
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	<b>11.4%</b>
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	<b>7.8%</b>
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black	<b>3.9%</b>
Other ethnic group: Arab	<b>0.7%</b>
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	<b>4.6%</b>

### 3.5. Religion

Religion and belief	Hackney	London	England
Christian	38.6%	48.4%	59.4%
Buddhist	1.2%	1.0%	0.5%
Hindu	0.6%	5.0%	1.5%
Jewish	6.3%	1.8%	0.5%
Muslim	14.1%	12.4%	5%
Sikh	0.8%	1.5%	0.8%
Other religion	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%
No religion	28.2%	20.7%	24.7%
Religion not stated	9.6%	8.5%	7.2%

### 3.6. Sexual Orientation

We do not have official Hackney level data for sexual orientation, but the Integrated Household Survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics for the year to October 2015 provided the following results for London and England.

	England	London
Heterosexual / Straight	93.5%	90.4%
Gay / Lesbian	1.2%	1.9%
Bisexual	0.6%	0.7%
Other	0.4%	0.4%
Don't know / Refused to say	4.4%	6.6%

3.7. The July 2016 GP patient survey indicated that, in Hackney there were comparatively high numbers of people who identify as gay or lesbian (5%), bisexual (1%), other (2%), a further 10% preferred not to say. These figures may under-represent the size of this population, given the problems involved in disclosure of sexual orientation.

3.8. **Gender re-assignment** Data on gender re-assignment is not available at a borough level, but a Home Office funded study for the Gender Identity Research and Education Society GIRES, estimated there were 300,000-500,000 transgender people in the UK. The study quotes from a 2007 report which estimates that 20 people per 100,000 of the UK population had sought medical care for gender variance – around 10,000 people, of which 8,000, had undergone transition. This equates to around 60 people in Hackney.

### 3.9. Non Binary

3.10. Non-binary, 'genderqueer', 'transsexual' and 'androgynous' are terms used to describe those who choose not to identify with a particular gender. The Practical Androgyny website estimates that around 0.4% of the UK population, 1 in 250 people in the UK is non-binary.

## STEP 2: ANALYSING THE ISSUES

#### **4. Equality Impacts**

##### **4.1. What positive impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?**

4.2. One of the central drivers for amending the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been to address the impact of welfare reform and austerity on the poorest households in Hackney.

4.3. The CTRS is at its heart a means tested benefit: any award of financial support is calculated by comparing the needs of the household with the actual income received. Where there is a shortfall between the income and the established needs additional support is provided; a contribution is made in respect of the household Council Tax charge.

4.4. The proposed change does not alter the means test element and retains the principle that as income rises the support received from CTRS reduces proportionately. For larger families and those with greatest need the starting point of the means test is higher ensuring these households retain a higher level of income before the reduction in support applies.

(Percentage change in support over current scheme: +2.37% for single households, +2.52% for lone parent household, +2.93% for couple with children)

4.5. The proposed reduction in the Minimum Contribution to 15% applies to all working age households. The monetary benefit to applicants varies according to Council Tax Banding of the property occupied. Occupants of larger, higher banded properties benefiting marginally more than those in smaller, lower banded property. This will be a positive outcome for Hackney's larger families.

(Percentage change in support over current scheme: +2.73% for bands E-H, +2.32% for Band A)

4.6. Sex- As female applicants form a large proportion of the CTRS caseload changes to the scheme will benefit more women than men, particularly lone parents. This is however proportionate to the distribution in the caseload.

4.7. As the starting point for means testing is higher there is a positive impact for working households as they will retain entitlement for longer as their income increases. This change provides increased support as applicants transition from benefits to employment.

4.8. As this is a positive change across the whole scheme there is no indication that equality groups are impacted differently.

##### **4.9. What negative impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?**

4.10. Modelling indicates that less than 1% of working age households currently receiving CTR would lose support entirely under the proposals. This is fewer than would lose support if the existing scheme were retained.

5. Other considerations – Council Tax data for some equality groups is limited, unreliable or not collected, it is therefore difficult to draw detailed conclusions

about the impact of the proposed change. As the proposed change is positive across the caseload as a whole it is likely that equality groups will benefit similarly.

- 5.1. **Age** – The changes to the current CTRS scheme only apply to working age households. Pensioner households are protected by legislation and are assessed under the Council Tax Reduction default scheme.
- 5.2. **Gender identity** – As no data is collected on gender identity for CTRS purposes the council is unable to model how this group might be affected. Proposed changes apply to all applicants irrespective of gender identity.
- 5.3. **Marriage/Civil partnerships** – No data regarding applicant’s marriage/civil partnership data is recorded as it is not relevant to the CTRS assessment. There is no evidence to indicate that this group is disproportionately represented in the CTRS Caseload. The council believes that the proposed changes will not have disproportionate impact based on a person’s marital status or involvement in a civil partnership as this is not considered or part of any assessment process.
- 5.4. **Sexual Orientation** – No data regarding applicant’s sexual orientation data is recorded as it is not relevant to the CTRS assessment. The council is unable to model how this group might be affected. There is no evidence to indicate that this group is disproportionately represented in the CTRS Caseload. The council believes that the proposed changes will not have disproportionate impact based on a person’s sexual orientation as this is not considered or part of any assessment process.
- 5.5. **Race/Ethnicity** – Whilst no data exists for ethnicity distribution within the CTRS caseload ONS data indicates that BME Hackney residents are more likely to be economically inactive than white British residents. However it is considered that there can be no direct correlation of this data to the CTRS caseload as there is no further breakdown of household composition to enable a reliable comparison to be made. The council believes that the proposed changes will not have a disproportionate impact based on a person’s race or ethnicity as this is not considered or part of any assessment process. The Council has other policies which seek to address inequality of financial/economic opportunity for BME residents.
- 5.6. **Religion** – There is no available data within council systems or through the census to indicate particular religions are disproportionately represented in the CTRS caseload. The council believes that the proposed changes will not have any disproportionate impact based on a person’s religion as this is not considered or part of any assessment process.
- 5.7. **Disability and carers** – Disabled households are disproportionately reflected within the CTRS caseload. However, modelling of the proposed changes indicates that recipients of DLA/PIP, ESA or Carers allowance benefit similarly to those on other out of work benefits. (Percentage change in support compared to current scheme between +2.32% and + 2.5%)

### STEP 3: REACHING YOUR DECISION

6. **Describe the recommended decision**
  - 6.1. It is recommended that Cabinet and full Council approve the proposed adjustments to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

## **STEP 4 DELIVERY – MAXIMISING BENEFITS AND MANAGING RISKS**

### **6. Equality and Cohesion Action Planning**

Please list specific actions which set out how you will address equality and cohesion issues identified by this assessment. For example,

- Steps/ actions you will take to enhance positive impacts identified in section 4 (a)
- Steps/ actions you will take to mitigate against the negative impacts identified in section 4 (b)
- Steps/ actions you will take to improve information and evidence about a specific client group, e.g. at a service level and/or at a Council level by informing the policy team (equality.diversity@hackney.gov.uk)

All actions should have been identified already and should be included in any action plan connected to the supporting documentation, such as the delegate powers report, saving template or business case.



No	Objective	Actions	Outcomes highlighting how these will be monitored	Timescales / Milestones	Lead Officer
1	Maximising resident income to support affected claimants	<p>Promote take up of welfare benefits and Additional support such as the Healthy Start programme vouchers and supplements.</p> <p>Money Advisor employed at Hackney Service Centre to work with clients impacted by Welfare Reform</p>	<p>Work is ongoing in this area</p> <p>Ongoing reports of client outcomes</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annual report</p>	<p>Benefits and Housing needs</p> <p>Benefits and Housing needs</p>
2	Promote the move into employment	<p>Encourage the take-up of free childcare.</p> <p>Refer households to the Ways into work team for practical assistance</p> <p>Access to employment and opportunities delivery group</p>	<p>Working in partnership with the Ways into Work Team and the Economic and Community Development Board</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Benefits and Housing needs</p> <p>Council wide initiative</p>
3	Provide additional assistance for those unable to pay	<p>Currently £100k set aside to provide additional assistance to the most vulnerable households and those facing additional hardship</p> <p>Develop an effective promotion campaign through children's centres, libraries, neighbourhood offices and community groups and online forums to raise awareness and increase take-up.</p> <p>Embed CTRS hardship fund and DHP in corporate anti poverty strategy</p>	<p>Expenditure to be monitored</p> <p>CTR Discretionary Awards actively considered for all DHP applications</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Benefits and Housing needs</p>
4	Assist with other welfare reforms	<p>Giving claimants advice and discussing their housing options</p>	<p>Regular updates provided to Benefits and Housing needs</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Benefits and Housing needs</p>

	<p>Help tenants to find alternative, more affordable accommodation</p> <p>Help tenants to apply for Discretionary Housing Payment to cover deposit and removal costs on a new property</p>	<p>management team.</p> <p>Activity related to the Homelessness Reduction Act through the Housing Needs Service. Monitored through HRA reporting to DCLG</p>	
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# Local Council Tax Support Scheme

## Consultation Report

Report Date: January 2020

Report Author:

Florence Obinna  
Consultation and Engagement Manager

### Contact

Hackney Consultation Team  
on 020 8356 3343 or  
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## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of the consultation on proposals to update the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). The CTRS helps people on low incomes to pay their Council Tax.

The consultation sought feedback on the proposed changes to the CTRS, which would come into effect in April 2020.

## BACKGROUND

Under the current scheme, a Hackney resident liable for Council Tax could get up to 100% of the charge paid through the scheme if they are a pensioner, or up to 83% of the charge paid if they are of working age (i.e. the Council Tax Bill Payer is under pension credit age).

When Hackney's Council Tax Reduction Scheme was changed in 2017 we promised to review the revised scheme in 2019.

Hackney Council is proposing to increase the amount of support it provides to those struggling to pay their Council Tax. The changes would mean that those who qualify for the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTRS) will get up to 85% paid if they are of working age - up from 83%. Pensioners and young care leavers living in the borough will continue to get up to 100% of their Council Tax paid. The proposals follow a series of recent Government announcements which suggest they expect councils to now increase Council Tax to the maximum level each year. The Council had committed to regularly review its CTRS, to ensure the borough's poorest residents are not disproportionately affected by Council Tax increases.

At the moment, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme helps around **27,000** Hackney residents on a low income to pay their Council Tax.

### **Proposed change to the CTRS:**

A consultation on the proposed changes, which would come into force April 2020, invited feedback on the proposal to:

- decrease the minimum contribution all working age CTRS claimants pay from 17% to 15% of their total Council Tax liability, regardless of income and circumstance.

## CONSULTATION APPROACH

The public consultation ran from 28 October to 8 December 2019.

The consultation featured on the Council's consultation and engagement platform, <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/> for the duration of the consultation period. This included:

- A summary of the consultation proposals, including a consultation questionnaire
- An online version of the consultation questionnaire.

A letter was sent to all current CTRS recipients informing them about the consultation and giving them the opportunity to request paper copies of the consultation packs. Consultees who had any queries about the consultation could telephone or email the Benefits service.

A press release was also sent to local media and ethnic press and promoted via the Council's social media channels and via the Council's e-newsletters.

## **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

The public consultation received **459** responses in total via the online and paper completion surveys. The majority of responses were received via paper completions, with just a small proportion received via online completions. We also received a key stakeholder responses from the Greater London Authority (GLA)

### **Interpretation of the data**

Percentages in a particular chart will not always add up to 100%. This may be due to rounding, or because each respondent is allowed to give more than one answer to the question. Differences between sub-groups will not always be statistically significant. We need to exercise appropriate caution where a small group of self-selecting respondents has been analysed.

The questionnaire consisted of 12 questions, inclusive of the equalities monitoring questions.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The majority of the respondents to the self-completion questionnaire were very supportive of the proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The majority of respondents, **73% (322), agreed** with the Council's preferred option of updating the current scheme and decreasing the minimum contribution required from working age recipients from 17% to 15%.

The majority of respondents agreed with the proposal, irrespective of whether they are responsible for paying the council tax bill or are current recipients of council tax reduction.

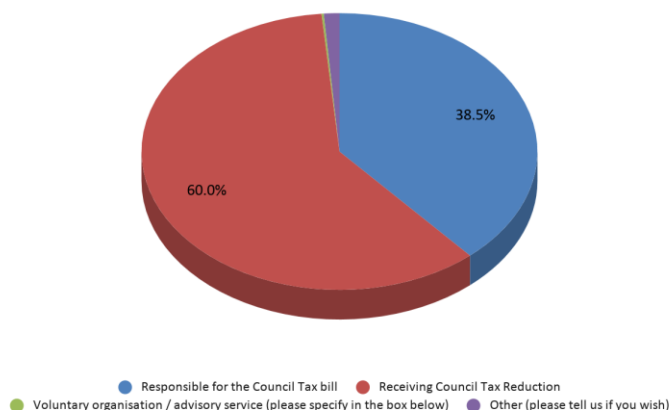
### Profile of respondents

- The majority of respondents **60% (330)** indicated that they received Council Tax Reduction, **38.5% (212)** were responsible for the council tax bill, 0.18% (1) is a representative of a voluntary organisation/ advisory service. 1.27%(7) chose the other option, which included responses such as retired and pensioner
- **22% (130)** were pensioners followed by those that identified as disabled **20%(118)**, and **15%(85)** who identified themselves as a single person.
- **64.5 %(285)** of the respondents were female compared to males 35.5% (157). .
- **28%(123)** were aged 65 – 84, 22%(97) were aged 55 – 64 and 20%(89) were aged 45-54.
- **83%(359)** don't provide support caring for someone, whilst, 17%(71) indicated that they have caring responsibilities.
- **51%(220)** answered 'yes' to having a disability, whilst 49%(210) said they didn't have a disability.
- **49% (213)** of the respondents gave their ethnicity as White British; the second largest group was other Black or Black British 25% (108).
- **48% (188)** said they were Christian, followed by Muslim 18% (74).
- **89% (300)** of the respondents said they were heterosexual, followed by 6% (21) stating that they were a Gay man.

## OVERALL RESULTS ANALYSIS

## Respondent profile

Which best represents you (pick more than one if applicable)?

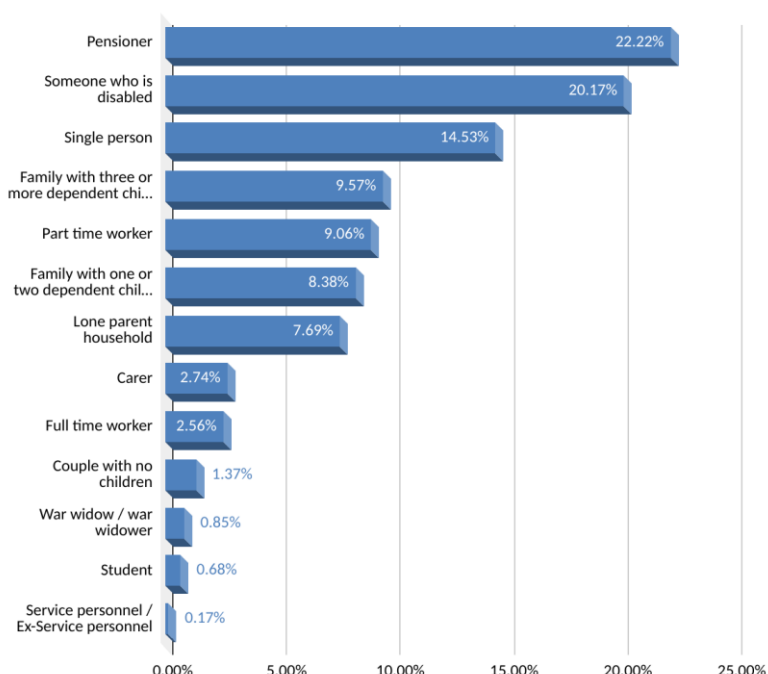


As graph 1 shows, the majority of respondents **60% (330)** indicated that they received Council Tax Reduction, **38.5% (212)** were responsible for the council tax bill, 0.18% (1) is a representative of a voluntary organisation/ advisory service. 1.27%(7) chose the other option, which included responses such as retired and pensioner.

Graph 1: Base (550 responses)

responses)

Are you:



The majority of respondents **22% (130)** were pensioners followed by those that identified as disabled **20%(118)**, and **15%(85)** who identified themselves as a single person.

Some respondents included information in the 'other' box – describing themselves as: (provided verbatim)

- Widow
- Widower
- Self-employed
- On universal credit
- Unemployed
- Part-time worker

Graph 2: Base (585 responses)



# Local Council Tax Support Scheme

## Consultation Report

Report Date: January 2020

Report Author:

Florence Obinna  
Consultation and Engagement Manager

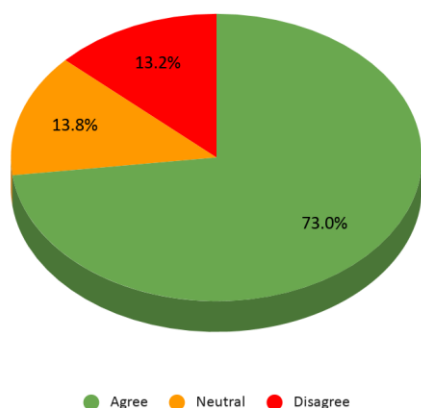
### Contact

Hackney Consultation Team  
on 020 8356 3343 or  
[consultation@Hackney.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@Hackney.gov.uk)



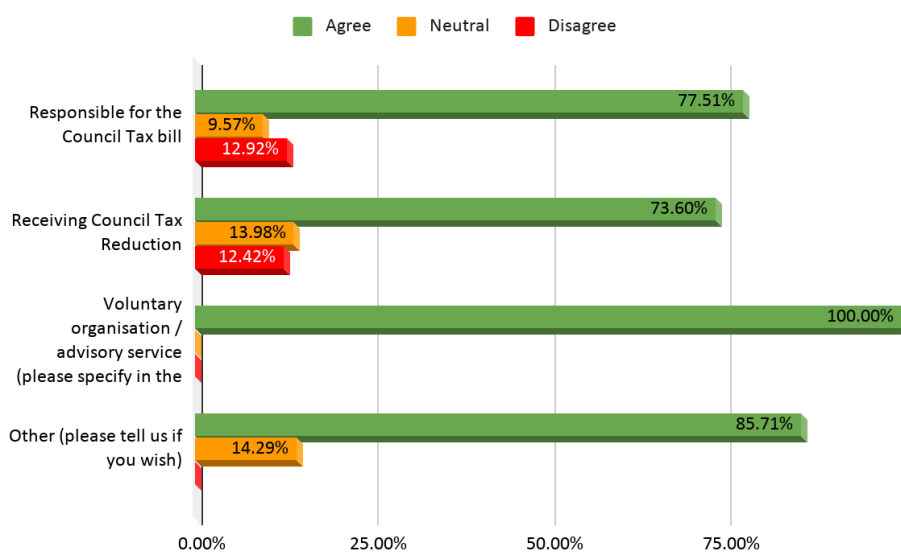
**Q1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Council’s preferred option of updating the current scheme and decreasing the minimum contribution required from working age recipients from 17% to 15%?**

The majority of respondents, **73% (322)**, agreed with the Council’s preferred option of updating the current scheme and decreasing the minimum contribution required from working age recipients from 17% to 15%.



**Graph 3: Base (441)**

Graph 4 shows that the majority of respondents agreed with the proposal, irrespective of whether they are responsible for paying the council tax bill or are current recipients of council tax reduction.



**Graph 4 : Base (539 responses)**

**Table 1: Analysis of question 1, by the question which asks respondents to answer which best represents them.**

	Responsible for the Council Tax bill	Receiving Council Tax Reduction	Voluntary organisation / advisory service	Other
<b>Agree</b>	162	237	1	6
<b>Neutral</b>	20	45	0	1
<b>Disagree</b>	27	40	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

**Q1 (a) Please provide additional comments to support your response?**

Respondents to Q1 were provided with the opportunity to provide additional comments in support of their response. 188 respondents provided additional comments.

The following themes emerged when analysing the comments of those respondents that strongly agreed/ agreed with the Council's preferred option of updating the current scheme and decreasing the minimum contribution required from working age recipients from 17% to 15%.

Themes	Response count
Makes it easier to balance other expenses/ makes council tax more affordable	61
Still going to struggle/Need more support/ the contribution should be lower than 15%	35
Proposal will have a positive impact on health and wellbeing	7
High Inflation and stagnant wages is causing debt and financial problems	6
People with disabilities should not have to pay at all	4
Proposals are a good idea/ provide support for those that need it	4

#### Quotes: (provided verbatim)

*"I believe a reduction, though this looks quite nominal realistically is better than an increase or staying firm. Both employed and unemployed individuals can benefit from the change in the long term and given that London is an expensive place to live a reduction is positive".*

*"I agree with the changes, although being a single male in receipt of esa the change will have a negligible affect on me".*

*"Decreasing the minimum contribution from 17% to 15% will help me a great deal..because I am finding it hard to pay my council tax bill on a low income"..*

*"I am on Universal Credit and I am struggling to pay my council tax. so I would appreciate any further reductions, as I am really struggling to survive"*

*"We have so many outgoings and expenses, a reduction in council tax will really help, if the council are changing our weekly refuge collection to forthrightly then the savings should reflect in tax we pay".*

The following themes emerged when analysing the comments of those respondents that **disagreed/ strongly disagreed** with the Council's preferred option of updating the current scheme and decreasing the minimum contribution required from working age recipients from 17% to 15%.

Themes	Response count
Support shouldn't be limited to CTRS recipients/ Everyone needs support	13
Protection should be extended to the following groups: people on low incomes, disabled people of working age and working families on low incomes	8
Everyone should pay/ should stay the same	8
Not fair on families that have to pay full amount/ Money should be used for other projects	8
Should be 0%/ Lower than 15%/ amount should be decreased further/ doesn't go far enough	5

### Quotes: Provided verbatim

*"The minimum contribution should be reduced to nothing. They should be one hundred per cent compensated. We are talking about some of the poorest Hackney residents. They should be the first priority in financial considerations. The council is spending millions on speculative property development, whereas this is a much better use of council money. Tower Hamlets and Camden both have hundred per cent compensation schemes. Hackney should as well".*

*"What about disabled people at working age?"*

*"I currently pay a little towards council tax I am on income support and a single mum and find this hard to do has it is".*

*"I agree with Council updating but I disagree with the Council decreasing payment but I am 80 years old and what I have to pay for Council tax I can hardly afford it".*

### Written responses to the consultation

Written responses were received from:

- Greater London Authority (GLA)
- The Hackney Green Party

### Greater London Authority (GLA)

A formal written response was received from the GLA.

The bullet points below summarise some aspects of the GLA's response to the consultation<sup>1</sup>.

### GLA Response to Proposals:

---

<sup>1</sup> The GLA letter has been provided to the service to provide a formal response to the issues raised.

- The GLA response acknowledges the fact that the determination of the CTRS schemes are the responsibilities for each local authority under the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 2012.
- The GLA concurs with the general broad principles set by Government and states that the Council should pay heed to them when implementing the final scheme.
- The GLA supports the Council's proposal to decrease the minimum contribution level from 17% to 15%; the Council states this proposal balances the increasing financial
- The GLA recognises that local authorities face difficult choices on CTS schemes, as overall funding from central government has reduced and funding for CTS is no longer identifiable within the settlement.
- The GLA welcomed the continued commitment by the Council to its discretionary hardship scheme for those who have difficulty paying their council tax and cannot get any assistance through the CTS scheme or when the assistance received still does not fully cover their bill.
- The GLA welcomed the early consultation but asserted that: "*the Council may wish to note that changes to regulations in 2017 mean that billing authorities are now required to set and agree their local council tax reduction schemes by 11 March 1 . This change from 31 January deadline reflects one of the recommendations made by Eric Ollerenshaw in his review of local council tax reduction schemes, for the deadline to be extended by Government to give councils sufficient time to design, consult and implement their schemes taking into account impacts on protected characteristics*".

## **The Hackney Green Party**

A formal written response was received from the the Hackney Green Party

The bullet points below summarise some aspects of the The Green Party's response to the consultation

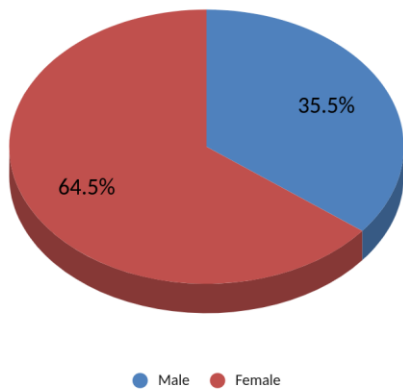
### **The Green Party Response to Proposals:**

- The Green Party response supports the cut in minimum payment from 17% to 15%.
- The Green Party would prefer to see the rate cut to zero because the minimum payment is seeking money from people who are least able to pay
- The Green Party considers that Hackney Council should move forward with a mixture of alternative ways of raising funding, including raising fees and council tax. These measures would represent a 'spend to save' where tax and fees paid today are preventing low-income families and individuals from being pushed into poverty and a greater likelihood of a range of poor outcomes such as homelessness. The response also asserts that the Council should consider a referendum on raising council tax beyond the current cap. The Hackney Green Party also states that they would campaign in favour of a 'Love Hackney referendum' to increase council tax were the extra money to be explicitly used to protect the vulnerable.

## **PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS**

**Are you:**

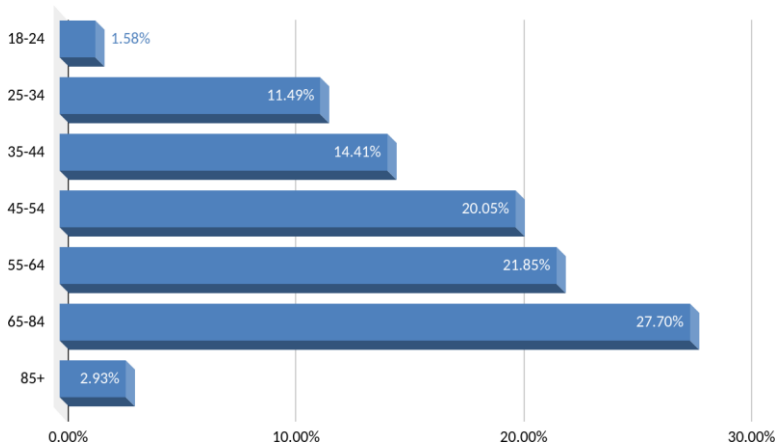
**Gender analysis:**



As shown in the graph, **64.5%(285)** of the respondents were female compared to males 35.5% (157). The proportion of female respondents is slightly higher than that of the borough as a whole<sup>2</sup>, so this female voice may have been overstated by this particular dataset.

**Graph 5: Base (442)**

**Age analysis:**



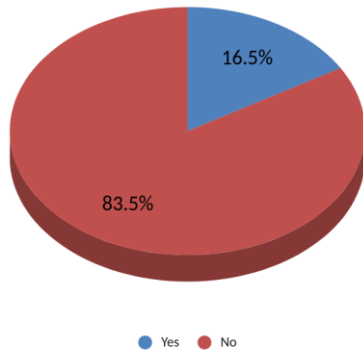
As the graph shows, the majority of respondents **28%(123)** were aged 65 – 84, 22%(97) were aged 55 – 64 and 20%(89) were aged 45-54.

**Graph 6: Base (444)**

**Caring responsibilities:**

<sup>2</sup> Around 50% of Hackney's population is Male and 50% is Female. (Hackney's Population, Borough Profile, Office of National Statistics Mid-year Population Estimates, June 2017). <https://www.hackney.gov.uk/population>

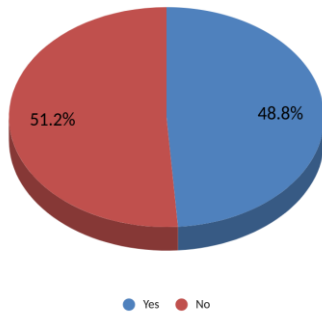
As the graph shows, the majority of respondents **83%(359)** don't provide support caring for someone, whilst, **17%(71)** indicated that they have caring responsibilities.



**Graph 7: Base (430)**

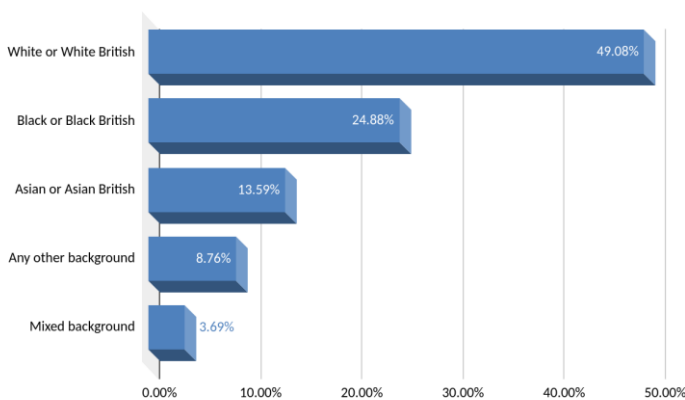
**Disability analysis:**

As the graph shows, the majority of respondents, **51%(220)** answered 'yes' to having a disability, whilst **49%(210)** said they didn't have a disability.



**Graph 8: Base (430)**

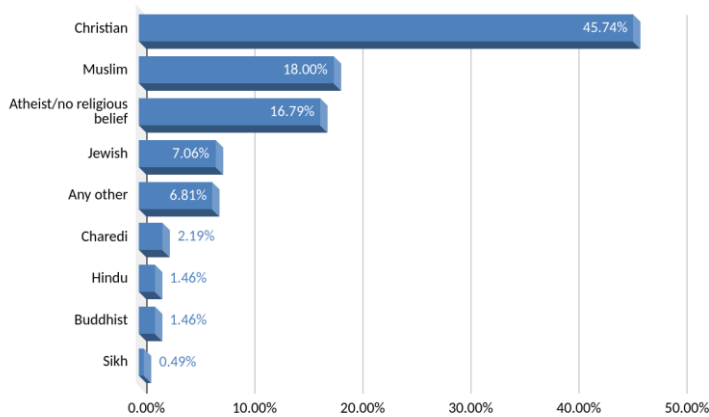
**Ethnicity analysis**



As the graph shows, **49% (213)** of the respondents gave their ethnicity as White British; the second largest group was other Black or Black British **25% (108)**.

**Graph 9: Base (434)**

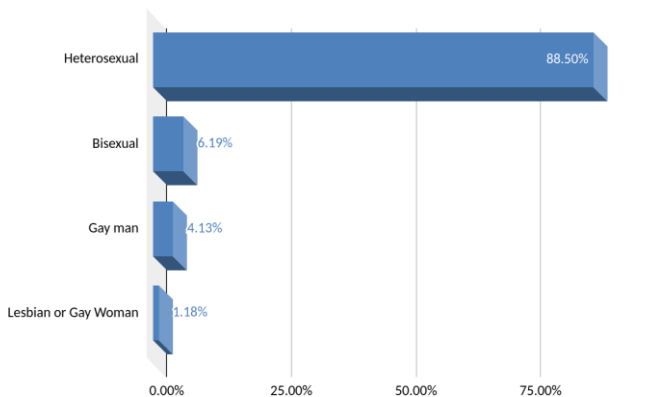
## Religion analysis



As the graph shows, the highest proportion of respondents **48% (188)** said they were Christian, followed by Muslim 18% (74).

## Graph 10: Base (411)

## Sexuality analysis



As the graph shows, **89% (300)** of the respondents said they were heterosexual, followed by 6% (21) stating that they were a Gay man.

## Graph 11: Base (339)

## CONCLUSION

The majority of the respondents to the self-completion questionnaire were very supportive of the proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The majority of respondents, **73% (322), agreed** with the Council's preferred option of updating the current scheme and decreasing the minimum contribution required from working age recipients from 17% to 15%.

The majority of respondents **60% (330)** indicated that they received Council Tax Reduction, **38.5% (212)** were responsible for the council tax bill, 0.18% (1) is a representative of a voluntary organisation/ advisory service. 1.27%(7) chose the other option, which included responses such as retired and pensioner

The majority of respondents agreed with the proposal, irrespective of whether they are responsible for paying the council tax bill or are current recipients of council tax reduction.



Respondents that left comments supporting the proposal alluded to the fact that the increased support would make council tax more affordable and make it easier for them to balance other expenses. There was also a recurring theme that the support doesn't quite go far enough and should be lower than the proposed 15%.

There was a feeling that the Council should be exploring other options to raising the monetary shortfall rather than implementing the CTRS proposals. Some suggestions included increasing Council Tax levels so that more affluent residents can share the financial burden.

There was a feeling amongst those unsupportive of the proposal that the support shouldn't be limited to CTRS recipients, as there are many people also struggling to pay their council tax bills.

The results of the consultation in addition to other information will be considered and the draft Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme will be reviewed in the light of the feedback received. If the draft scheme is approved, the implementation will be in place in April 2020.

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# Council Tax Reduction Scheme consultation

## How to have your say



You can take part in the consultation online at [hackney.gov.uk/CTRS](https://hackney.gov.uk/CTRS)

This will save the Council the cost of return postage.

• Alternatively, you can speak to council officers at a drop-in event on **Tuesday 12 November, 11am to 3pm, Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, E8 1DY**



Please respond by **8 December 2019**

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

Hackney Council is consulting residents on proposals to revise the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). Please read this consultation summary to find out more about the proposed changes, and what this could mean for you.

## What is the Council Tax Reduction Scheme?

The CTRS helps residents on a low income to pay their Council Tax. Under the current scheme, a Hackney resident liable for Council Tax could get up to 100% of the charge paid through the scheme if they are a pensioner, or up to 83% of the charge paid if they are of working age (i.e. the Council Tax Bill Payer is under pension credit age).

The amount of support a household can get through the scheme is determined through a "means test" – this means we look at your total income and any money that you and your partner (if you have one) have as savings. We then compare it against a minimum allowance that you need to live on, depending on your circumstances.

At the moment, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme helps around 27,000 Hackney residents on a low income to pay their Council Tax.

## Why are we reviewing the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme?

When Hackney's Council Tax Reduction Scheme was changed in 2017 we promised to review the revised scheme in 2019.

Hackney Council is proposing to increase the amount of support it provides to those struggling to pay their Council Tax. The changes would mean that those who qualify for the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTRS) will get up to 85% paid if they are of working age - up from 83%. Pensioners and young care leavers living in the borough will continue to get up to 100% of their Council Tax paid. The proposals follow a series of recent Government announcements which suggest they expect councils to now increase Council Tax to the maximum level each year. The Council had committed to regularly review its CTRS, to ensure the borough's poorest residents are not disproportionately affected by Council Tax increases.

Whilst Hackney Council want to provide additional financial support to our poorest residents, due to the cut in money available to the Council, the options available are limited. It is expected that funding to Hackney Council from the Government will have decreased from £310 million to £140 million by 2022. The Council therefore needs to strike a balance between the need to provide extra support to residents who we think need it, while maintaining a scheme that is financially sustainable for the Council's wider budget and limits the impact on our ability to deliver essential front line services that residents depend on. For these reasons the Council wishes to review the current arrangements to develop a scheme that is affordable and fair to both Council Tax Payers and to those who benefit from the support. It is intended that these changes will take effect from **1 April 2020**.

## How do the proposed changes affect me?

If you are of working age and currently receive help through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme you are going to be directly affected. However, even if this is not the case, as a Council Tax payer you have an interest in ensuring the Council is spending the money it receives through both government funding and through Council Tax receipts appropriately. It is important that the Council gets the views of all Hackney residents regardless of whether they receive Council Tax Reduction or not.

The Council is legally required to consult with its residents when it makes changes to some of its services, and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme is one of those services.

## What is the Council's preferred option for amending the Council Tax Reduction Scheme?

**Our preferred option is to:**

- Decrease the minimum contribution which all working age CTRS recipients have to pay from 17% to 15% of their Council Tax liability, regardless of income and circumstance.

## Why is this the Council's preferred option?

While the amount of money the Council gets from the government to fund the Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been reduced year on year since the scheme began, the Council recognises that the impact of welfare reform has been greatest on our poorest residents and the council feel that we can no longer pass so much of this on to our poorest households.

The option of decreasing minimum contributions from 17% to 15% balances both the increasing financial pressures that our low income households face, against the ongoing cuts in government funding.

The Council's long term ambition is to reduce contributions to zero, returning it to a fully paid benefit as it was before Government reforms in 2012. We will be bringing forward proposals in future years that will take us towards this.

Summary of cost implications			
	Estimated expenditure for this year	Estimated expenditure for 2019/20	Estimated expenditure for 2020/21
<b>Current scheme</b>	£26.74 million	£27.74 million	£28.97 million
<b>Proposed new scheme</b>	Not applicable	£28.20 million	£29.46 million

**\*Based on assumed Council Tax increase of 4%**

## Why does the proposed change only affect Working Age households?

All pension age applicants who qualify, will continue to receive the same level of support. You are classed as a pensioner if you have reached the qualifying age for pension credit or if you are a couple and one of you has reached the qualifying age for pension credit.

## Where will you find the money to fund the increased expenditure on the scheme?

The increased cost to the scheme under our preferred option could be funded through the Council's General Fund budget, while still allowing other front line services to manage the increasing demand for our services.

## What alternative changes to the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme were considered?

The Council considered leaving the existing Council Tax Reduction unchanged, but recognised the severe financial pressures which the borough's low income households are currently facing.

## What will I be asked to pay?

We have worked out what impact the proposed change would have based on an assumed increase of 4%, the actual change to Council Tax for 2020/21 may be different to this.

Council Tax Band	Estimated Council Tax Charge for 2020/21	Minimum Weekly Contribution required in 2020/21 (15%)*
A	£1008.70	£2.90
B	£1176.82	£3.39
C	£1344.94	£3.87
D	£1513.05	£4.34
E	£1849.29	£5.32
F	£2185.53	£6.29
G	£2521.75	£7.25
H	£3026.11	£8.70

\*Based on assumed Council Tax increase of 4%

The following scenarios are examples of how residents of working age will be affected by the proposed scheme.

A single person over 35 with no dependants; working 16 hours a week (minimum wage); living in a Band B property			
Estimated weekly household income 2019/20	Estimated weekly Council Tax Charge 2020/21	How much they currently pay per week	What they will pay per week in 2020/21
<b>£131.36</b>	<b>£16.23</b>	<b>£13.41</b>	<b>£13.19</b>

Disabled couple with no children; partner who is the main carer; receives *ESA(IR), *higher rate PIP and Carers Allowance; living in a Band C property			
Estimated weekly household income 2019/20	Estimated weekly Council Tax Charge 2020/21	How much they currently pay per week	What they will pay per week in 2020/21
<b>£363.20</b>	<b>£24.73</b>	<b>£4.20</b>	<b>£3.87</b>

Unemployed couple with 1 non-dependant who works 35 hours per week earning £350 per week, living in a Band C property			
Estimated weekly household income 2019/20	Estimated weekly Council Tax Charge 2020/21	How much they currently pay per week	What they will pay per week in 2020/21
<b>£114.85</b>	<b>£34.01</b>	<b>£13.88</b>	<b>£13.62</b>

Couple with 2 children attending school; one working; living in a Band D property			
Estimated weekly household income 2019/20	Estimated weekly Council Tax Charge 2020/21	How much they currently pay per week	What they will pay per week in 2020/21
<b>£439.31</b>	<b>£27.83</b>	<b>£24.91</b>	<b>£24.54</b>

Lone parent with 4 children attending school; living on Universal Credit; living in a Band E property			
Estimated weekly household income 2019/20	Estimated weekly Council Tax Charge 2020/21	How much they currently pay per week	What they will pay per week in 2020/21
<b>£252.27</b>	<b>£25.51</b>	<b>£4.34</b>	<b>£3.99</b>

\*Employment and Support Allowance(Income Related)

\*Personal Independence Payments

## Other help available to pay your Council Tax

There are other avenues of support to help you pay your Council Tax bill that are separate from the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The Council has in place a discretionary hardship scheme for those who have difficulty paying their Council Tax and cannot get any assistance through the CTRS, or the assistance received still does not fully cover their bill. Additional help can be given to households that are vulnerable and/or under particular stress. Each application is considered on its individual merits and will be based on your Council Tax bill after any discounts, exemptions, reductions for disabilities or support have been deducted.

In addition, the Council provides extra help to Hackney's Care Leavers - young people aged 18 plus who have been looked after by Hackney Council for a certain amount of time.

Care leavers living in Hackney will continue to get 100% of their Council Tax paid, provided:

- They are under the age of 25
- They live in the London Borough of Hackney
- They have claimed all the Council Tax discounts and support to which they are entitled, such as a single person discount, student exemption or assistance from the Council Tax Reduction Scheme



## Taking part in the consultation

The consultation will run from **28 October 2019** to **8 December 2019**. The easiest way to let us have your views is by completing the online survey form at: **hackney.gov.uk/CTRS**

If you would like to speak to someone about the scheme or to request a paper copy, call **020 8356 3399** or email **benefits@hackney.gov.uk**

After the consultation closes, all responses will be analysed and considered by the Council. The Council is required to approve any new scheme by **31 January 2020**. Any changes to the scheme would affect current and future claimants from **1 April 2020**.

## Consultation questionnaire

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Council's preferred option of updating the current scheme and decreasing the minimum contribution required from working age recipients from 17% to 15%?**

- Strongly agree       Agree       Neither agree nor disagree  
 Disagree       Strongly disagree

Please provide additional comments to support your response

## About you

So we can best understand our service users and residents please complete this optional information about you. All information is used under the strict controls of the 1998 Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). This information is optional and will not be used in a way that identifies you.

**Which best represents you** (pick more than one if applicable):

Responsible for the Council Tax bill  Receiving Council Tax Reduction

Voluntary organisation / advisory service (please specify in the box below)

Other (please tell us if you wish)

**Are you a:**

Pensioner  Carer

Family with one or two dependent children  Student

Family with three or more dependent children  Lone parent household

Part time worker  Full time worker

Someone who is disabled  Single person

Service personnel / Ex-Service personnel  War widow / war widower

Couple with no children  Other (please specify)

**Gender - are you ...**

Male  Female

If you prefer to use your own term please provide this here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Is your gender identity different to the sex you were assumed to be at birth?**

Yes it's different  No it's the same

### Age – what is your age group?

Under 16       16-17       18-24       25-34       35-44   
45-54       55-64       65-84       85+

### Disability - Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Yes       No

**Caring responsibilities** - A carer is someone who spends a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support to a family member, partner or friend who is ill, frail disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems.

### Do you regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone?

Yes       No

### Ethnicity - are you ...


Asian or Asian British       Black or Black British   
Mixed background       White or White British   
Any other background (please specify)  \_\_\_\_\_

### Religion or belief

Atheist/no religious belief       Buddhist       Charedi   
Christian       Hindu       Jewish   
Muslim       Secular beliefs       Sikh   
Any other (please specify)  \_\_\_\_\_

### Sexual orientation - are you...

Bisexual       Gay man       Lesbian or Gay woman       Heterosexual   
Any other (please specify)  \_\_\_\_\_

 Please return this completed questionnaire to arrive no later than 8 December 2019 to **CTRS Consultation, Consultation Team, London Borough of Hackney, Mare Street, London E8 1EA.**

Thank you for taking part of this consultation.

If you would like to find out what this document says please tick the appropriate box, put your name, address and phone number at the bottom of this page and return it to the address below.

**Bengali**

এই দলিলে কি লেখা আছে সে সম্পর্কে যদি আপনি জানতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে উপযুক্ত বাক্সে টিক দিন, এই পাতার নীচে আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর লিখুন এবং এটি নীচের ঠিকানায় ফেরত পাঠান।

**Somali**

Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in aad ogaato waxa dokumeentigani sheegayo fadlan calaamadi godka ku haboon, ku qor magacaaga, cinwaanka iyo telefoon lambarkaaga boggan dhankiisa hoose ka dibna ku celi cinwaanka hoose.

**French**

Si vous désirez connaître le contenu de ce document, veuillez cocher la case appropriée et indiquer votre nom, adresse et numéro de téléphone au bas de cette page et la renvoyer à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessous.

**Spanish**

Si desea saber de lo que trata este documento, marque la casilla correspondiente, escriba su nombre, dirección y numero de teléfono al final de esta página y envíela a la siguiente dirección.

**Kurdish**

Ger hun dixwazin bizanibin ku ev dokument çi dibêje, ji kerema xwe qutîka minasib îşaret bikin, nav, navnîşan û hejmara telefona xwe li jêrê rûpel binivîsin û wê ji navnîşana jêrîn re bişînin.

**Turkish**

Bu dökümanda ne anlatıldığını öğrenmek istiyorsanız, lütfen uygun kutuyu işaretleyerek, adınızı, adresinizi ve telefon numaranızı bu sayfanın alt kısmına yazıp, aşağıdaki adrese gönderin.

**Polish**

Jeśli chcesz dowiedzieć się, jaka jest treść tego dokumentu, zaznacz odpowiednie pole, wpisz swoje nazwisko, adres i nr telefonu w dolnej części niniejszej strony i przeslij na poniższy adres.

**Vietnamese**

Nếu bạn muốn biết tài liệu này nói gì hãy đánh dấu vào hộp thích hợp, điền tên, địa chỉ và số điện thoại của bạn vào cuối trang này và gửi lại theo địa chỉ dưới đây.

**Urdu**

اگر آپ یہ جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ دستاویز میں کیا لکھا ہے تو ازراہ کرم مناسب باکس میں صحیح کا نشان لگائیے اور اپنا نام، پتہ اور فون نمبر اس صفحہ کے نیچے لکھیے اور اسے نیچے دیئے گئے پتہ پر واپس بھیج دیجئے۔

**Chinese**

如果你想知道這分文件的詳細內容，請在方框內打鉤，在本頁下面寫下你的名字、地址和電話號碼並寄到下面的地址。

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Name:

Address:

Tel:

**Return to:** CTRS Consultation, Consultation Team,  
London Borough of Hackney, Mare Street, London E8 1EA.







<p><b>APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS</b></p>
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<p><b>COUNCIL MEETING DATE</b> 23 January 2019</p>	<p><b>CLASSIFICATION:</b> Open  If exempt, the reason will be listed in the main body of this report.</p>
<p><b>WARD(S) AFFECTED</b> All Wards</p>	
<p><b>DIRECTOR</b> Tim Shields, Chief Executive</p>	

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report seeks to:

- Appoint Cllr Clare Potter to Corporate Committee to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of former Councillor Ned Hercock.
- Appoint to the two vacant parent governor co-optee positions on the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission as set out in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution and;
- Appoint two independent co-optees to the Standards Committee

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Full Council:

- **Agree the appointment of Cllr Clare Potter to Corporate Committee**
- **Agree the following appointments of voting parent governor co-optees to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission until 1 May 2020.**

Shabnam Hassan  
Luisa Dornela

- **Agree the following two independent co-optees to the Standards Committee for a period of 4 years from 22 January 2020.**

Nicola Hanns  
Aoife Scannell

**Note that the increase in membership from 7 Members to 8 Members does not affect the political proportionality so there will be 7 Majority Group Members and 1 Opposition Group Member. The Opposition Group position is currently vacant.**

## 3. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES

The costs of member and co-optees expenses for Committees and Commissions are likely to be small and are provided for within existing budgets

## 4. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL

The appointment of Cllr Clare Potter is to fill the vacancy on the Corporate Committee left by the resignation of former Cllr Ned Hercock. The appointments of the Co-optees on the Children and Young People Scrutiny



Commission are a statutory requirement under The Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

Under the Localism Act 2011 and as provided for at Article 8 in the Council's Constitution, the Council is able to appoint up to six non-voting co-opted members to the Standards Committee.

Following an application and interview process held in November 2018, the Standards Committee made two Co-opted Member appointments which are required to be confirmed by Full Council.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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