

Overview & Scrutiny

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

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

Monday 18 January 2021

7.00 pm

Until further notice, all Council meetings will be held remotely

Contact:

Tracey Anderson

☎ 0208 356 3312

✉ tracey.anderson@hackney.gov.uk

Tim Shields

Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney

**Members: Cllr Sharon Patrick (Chair), Cllr Sade Etti (Vice-Chair),
Cllr Anthony McMahon, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Ian Rathbone,
Cllr Penny Wrout and Cllr Anna Lynch**

Agenda

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Agenda Papers | (Pages 5 - 260) |
| 2 | Minutes of the Meeting | (Pages 261 - 284) |

Access and Information

Getting to the Town Hall

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

Accessibility

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

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

Further Information about the Commission

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

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



Public Involvement and Recording

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

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.

This page is intentionally left blank

Overview & Scrutiny

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

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

Monday, 18 January 2021

7.00 pm

Until further notice, all Council meetings will be held remotely. To access the meeting please click in the link

<https://youtu.be/Qpz1c2EYMho>

Contact:

Tracey Anderson

☎ 0208 356 3312

✉ Tracey.anderson@hackney.gov.uk

Tim Shields

Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney

Members:	Cllr Sharon Patrick (Chair) Cllr M Can Ozsen Cllr Anna Lynch	Cllr Sade Etti(Vice Chair) Cllr Ian Rathbone	Cllr Anthony McMahon Cllr Penny Wrout
-----------------	---	---	---

Agenda

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence | 7.00pm |
| 2 | Urgent Items / Order of Business | 7.03pm |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest | 7.04pm |
| 4 | Green Infrastructure in Hackney and Parks and Green Spaces Strategy | 7.05pm
(1 hr 30 mins) |

Presentation about the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy out for consultation.

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 5 | Minutes of the Previous Meeting | 8.45pm
(5 mins) |
| | To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 14 th December 2020. | |
| 6 | Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission Work Programme | 8.50pm
(15 mins) |
| | To agree or amend the work programme for the remainder of municipal year 2020/2021. | |
| 7 | Any Other Business | 9.05pm
(5 mins) |

To access the meeting please click in the link <https://youtu.be/Qpz1c2EYMho>

Access and Information

Getting to the Town Hall

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

Accessibility

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

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

Further Information about the Commission

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

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



Public Involvement and Recording

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

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.

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 18th January 2020 Item 4 – Green infrastructure in Hackney and Parks and Green Spaces Strategy	Item No 4
--	---------------------

Outline

Green infrastructure Strategy

Green infrastructure strategies are much more than a strategy for the provision of the traditional ‘green space’ of parks and gardens. Strategies need to:

- provide off road and green routes that allow walkers and cyclists to travel to work and local services;
- consider the role of privately owned and inaccessible ‘green spaces’ including gardens that provide havens and interconnecting corridors for wildlife;
- consider how some land can help alleviate flooding at times of flood or heavy rainfall;
- consider where shade and cooler conditions can be provided in anticipation of hotter summers resulting from predicted climate change impacts;
- consider the role of trees and woodlands;
- consider how new development should be designed, and how it can contribute to the wider green infrastructure network;
- consider how the overall allocation of land for biodiversity functions can contribute to wider ambitions for biodiversity conservation
- seek physical and functional connectivity between sites at all levels;
- A well-produced green infrastructure strategy should provide the framework for an exemplar of environmentally sustainable development, where all the green spaces, both public and private, connect with each other

There will be a presentation at the meeting on the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Hackney.

Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

The Council is committed to continuing to deliver improvements to its parks and green spaces.

There is no statutory requirement to produce a parks strategy itself, but the main provisions that allow the Council to regulate parks and open spaces in the borough are contained within the Open Spaces Act 1906 and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967. The last strategy covering the management of Hackney parks was the Hackney Parks Strategy 2008-2013.

As part of the consultation process the views of the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission are being sought as the council develops its Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Reports in the agenda:

1. Summary report on Green Infrastructure and Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.
2. Draft Hackney Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (as referenced in point 3.5 in the summary report for on Green Infrastructure and Parks and Green Spaces Strategy)
3. Open Spaces Assessment Report (as referenced in point 1.3 in the summary report for on Green Infrastructure and Parks and Green Spaces Strategy).

Invited Attendees:

AECOM

- **Senior Landscape Architect**, Sam Griffiths

London Borough of Hackney

- **Mayor of Hackney**, Phil Glanville
- **Director of Public Realm**, Aled Richards
- **Head of Service**, Ian Holland
- **Parks Development Manager**, Sam Parry
- **Strategic Planning Manager**, Karol Jakubczyk
- **Head of Planning and Building Control**, Natalie Broughton
- **Matthew Carrington**, Strategic Delivery Manager.

Action

1. Members are asked to consider the reports, presentations and ask questions.
2. Members are asked to provide feedback and views into the consultation on the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy for Hackney.

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

18 January

Green Infrastructure Strategy and Parks & Green Spaces Strategy

1. Overview

1.1 The Council has long recognised the significant impact that green infrastructure (including quality parks and green spaces) can have on the achievement of its vision and objectives, and has therefore placed a high priority on developing and improving them over the last decade.

1.2 Green infrastructure is integral and essential to the borough's resilience, meeting its future challenges and the delivery of its wider strategies, both at a community and individual level. Green infrastructure has a key role to play in:

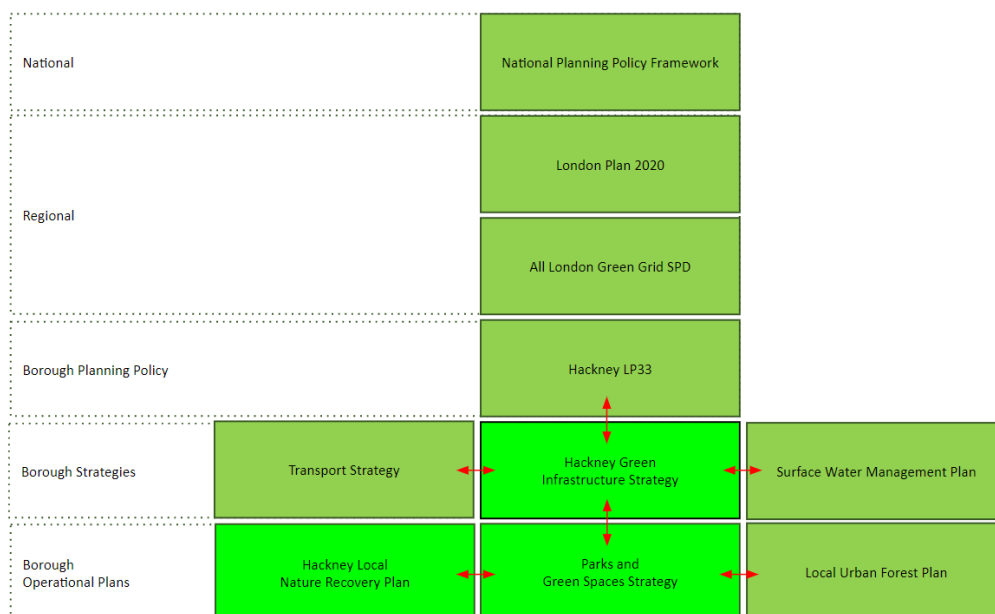
- **A Changing Climate - Cooling the Urban Environment and Improving Air Quality:** Urban green infrastructure, particularly spaces with significant tree cover and/or large water bodies, have always played an important role as places to seek respite from high temperatures and large canopied trees can significantly reduce temperatures at street level by providing shade;
- **Community Food Growing:** There is a growing body of research demonstrating the benefits of gardening and community food growing for physical and mental wellbeing;
- **Encouraging Walking and Cycling:** Walking and cycling more results in better physical health and is the main way Londoners get their physical activity. Green infrastructure in cities can promote alternative transportation methods - pleasant quiet or car free routes can encourage people to walk or cycle instead of driving. Parks and green spaces play an important role in providing through-routes / active travel routes;
- **Enhancing Biodiversity and Ecological Resilience:** There is widespread acceptance of the benefits of enhancing natural processes for the benefit of people and wildlife, conserving the most special landscapes habitats and species;
- **Improving Health and Wellbeing:** There is significant and growing evidence of the public health benefits of green infrastructure, particularly quality parks and green spaces. [The Natural Solutions to Tackling Health Inequalities \(2014\)](#) report indicated that better health is related to access to green space regardless of socio-economic status;
- **Improving Access to Nature:** There is an established and growing body of evidence that 'access to nature' is an important aspect of the widely accepted health benefits of green infrastructure – especially in relation to mental health. In a densely populated borough like Hackney it is incredibly important to provide access to nature for residents;
- **Improving Community Cohesion:** As London's and Hackney's populations grow and experience demographic changes, parks and green spaces will play a more

vital role in promoting community and cultural cohesion. Parks and green spaces have always been places where people and cultures mix and build communities. Cultural festivals, events and public art bring different communities together in shared spaces, building a sense of place, and of shared values;

- **Managing Flood Risk:** Green infrastructure interventions are widely recognised as playing an important role in reducing flood risk by absorbing, storing or dispersing flood water; and
- **Population and Changing Demographics:** London’s and Hackney’s increasing population means that the amount of green space per person is essentially decreasing year on year. It is vital that new areas of green space are identified to meet this growing demand, and that green space is factored into new developments.

1.3 For the evidence base for the Hackney Local Plan 33, the Council commissioned a series of studies, documents and background evidence which provided information to support the production of the Hackney local development framework. This evidence base included an [Open Spaces Assessment](#) - which includes assessments of open space and play space provision in the borough.

1.4 To maximise the benefits that green infrastructure can deliver for the borough, the Council is currently preparing three interlinked documents:



- **Green Infrastructure Strategy** that will provide an overarching framework for protecting, improving, expanding and connecting the borough’s green infrastructure and the mechanisms for delivery;
- **Parks and Green Spaces Strategy** that will guide the management and development of the borough’s parks and green spaces for the next ten years and beyond; and

- **Nature Recovery Plan** that will be the key mechanism for helping prioritise, deliver and monitor nature recovery in the borough.

1.5 This briefing provides background on two of these documents: the **Green Infrastructure Strategy** and the **Parks and Green Spaces Strategy** that will be the focus for the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission meeting on 18 January.

2. Green Infrastructure Strategy

2.1 Policy G1 Green Infrastructure of the London Plan recommends that boroughs should prepare green infrastructure strategies to complement the update of the All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance prepared by the Mayor of London.

2.2 The term green infrastructure describes the network of parks and green spaces, trees and woodlands, rivers and wetlands, and new green features in the urban environment such as green roofs and walls. This network can be planned, designed and managed to provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits that support more sustainable, liveable and resilient neighbourhoods. A Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies:

- what green infrastructure is present;
- the functions it performs;
- the benefits this provides to address local needs, as well as more strategic objectives; and
- how these benefits can be maintained and optimised through a more integrated approach to protecting, enhancing and creating green infrastructure.

2.3 Maintaining and improving green infrastructure is a cross-cutting issue. The green infrastructure network is multi-functional and provides multiple benefits that can contribute to the delivery of the statutory duties and objectives of all parts of the local authority. Therefore, borough services that are responsible for highways, housing, health, planning and resilience, are important stakeholders and delivery partners, in addition to the service and officers responsible for the management of parks, green spaces and trees.

2.4 Previous national and regional policy has required or encouraged local authorities to produce a range of plans and strategies - including open space strategies, playing field strategies, biodiversity action plans, and tree and woodland plans – that focus on one component of the green infrastructure network (e.g. parks) or a particular objective (e.g. biodiversity conservation). Often these plans and strategies are commissioned and prepared by different parts of the local authority; consequently, the inter-relationships, including both the synergies and trade-offs, between respective plans and strategies are not always recognised or acknowledged. This can lead to mismatched objectives and sub-optimal investments.

2.5 In addition, a green infrastructure network almost always spans administrative boundaries; so it is necessary to understand the spatial distribution and function of a borough's strategic green infrastructure assets in relation to the strategic green infrastructure in neighbouring boroughs. Where features such as river corridors need to

be considered at a catchment scale to fully understand flood risk for example, green infrastructure may need to be considered at a sub-regional scale.

2.6 Many green infrastructure assets will not be owned or managed by the borough. Some, such as railway lines-sides, or grounds of schools or hospitals, will be owned and managed by other public bodies, or non-profit, charitable, or non-governmental organisations such as housing associations and environmental organisations. Other assets might be in private ownership including, for example, private gardens, reservoirs, and most green roofs. Although the borough may not have any direct responsibility for these assets their existing and potential value and function in supporting the objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategy should be recognised, as appropriate, in order to influence the plans and decisions of other owners and managers of green infrastructure. In particular, many of these assets might be especially important for establishing better connections that will improve the function of the overall network.

2.7 A presentation will be made at the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission meeting of the draft Hackney Green Infrastructure Strategy providing a short overview of the vision, baseline and needs, vision, objectives, opportunities, projects and initiatives.

3. Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

Background

3.1 Hackney is fortunate to have one of the largest expanses of green space in inner-London. The majority of the green infrastructure sites in the borough are owned by the Council:

- 58 parks and green spaces totalling some 283 hectares, ranging from major parks and green spaces such as Hackney Marshes, London Fields and Clissold Park to small gardens such as Hoxton Square and Church Street Gardens - twenty seven of the sites were recognised with Green Flag Awards (the quality standard for parks) in 2020 (one of the highest totals in London); and
- 237 amenity green space sites totalling approximately 73.5 hectares.

3.2 In these sites the Council provides a range of assets - the table below outlines a selection of these:

Asset Type	Housing Sites	Parks & Green Spaces
Artificial Turf Pitch	1	3
BMX Track	0	1
Multi Use Games Areas	58	8
Outdoor Gyms / Trim Trails	6	8
Play Areas	172	29

Public Toilets	0	8 (Clissold Park x2; Hackney Downs; Haggerston Park; London Fields x2; Millfields; and Springfield Park)
Skate Parks	0	2
Tennis Courts	0	31 (8 sites)

3.3 The Council has invested significantly in Hackney's parks and green spaces in recent years, with over £25m of investment since 2010.

3.4 The Council is committed to continuing to deliver improvements to its parks and green spaces and is currently working on the following:

- **Abney Park Cemetery Restoration:** A Stage 2 National Lottery Heritage Fund application has just been successful to fund the restoration of Abney Park's chapel, improve accessibility and build a new cafe. Planning permission has been secured for the works which will commence on site in 2021.
- **Catering in Parks:** Opportunities for new catering and ice cream concessions will be tendered in 2021/22.
- **Clissold Park Paddling Pool:** Replacing the old paddling pool in the Park that has come to the end of its useful life with a new splash pad facility in 2021.
- **Daubney Fields:** Project to improve accessibility of park entrances and the skatepark in partnership with the Kings Park Moving Together programme, and the [Connecting Green Spaces](#) initiative.
- **Fairchild's Garden Refurbishment:** The £500,000 refurbishment of the green space in Shoreditch will take place in 2021, subject to a Faculty from the Church who own the land.
- **Haggerston Park Play Area:** Refurbishment of the play area in the Park in 2021.
- **Housing Grounds Maintenance Integration with Parks & Green Spaces:** In 2021 the Housing Grounds Maintenance Service will be integrated into the Parks and Green Spaces Service (subject to approval).
- **Millfields Play Area:** Working with Clapton Park TMO and the Housing Service to deliver a new play area that is accessible to both estate residents and park users on the site of a disused play area on the Millfields estate.
- **Refurbish Play Areas in Parks and Green Spaces:** A number of play areas will be refurbished or introduced as part of other projects. However, there is also a commitment to refurbish other play areas (4 will be undertaken in 2021 - Butterfield Green, Clapton Pond, Clapton Square and Stoke Newington Common).

- **Refurbish Public Toilets in Parks and Green Spaces:** The refurbishment of the public toilets in parks and green spaces has been identified as a priority - the toilets in Hackney Downs and Millfields have recently been refurbished and the ones in Clissold Park, Haggerston Park, London Fields (Martello Street) and Springfield Park will be completed this year.
- **Shoreditch Park Improvement Project:** A project has commenced to deliver a £2m project to improve Shoreditch Park in 2021/22 in partnership with the local community. It will also include a new cafe and public toilet provision as part of the new Leisure Centre development.
- **Springfield Park Restoration:** The National Heritage Lottery Fund funded restoration of the Park commenced in September 2019 and will be completed in early 2021.
- **Tree Planting:** Plant 1,000 new trees in parks and green spaces by 2022.
- **Tree Planting at Hackney Marshes:** Plant 20-30,000 new trees at the Marshes by 2022.
- **Water Fountains:** Deliver 16 new water fountains in parks, libraries and leisure centres by 2022.
- **West Reservoir:** Work is underway to assess the feasibility of opening the site up to wider public access, enhance its ecology and introduce new leisure activities.

3.5 However, within this context the Council has not had a published Parks and Green Spaces Strategy since 2013. This briefing has been prepared to introduce the new [draft Parks and Green Spaces Strategy](#) that will guide the Council in its management and development of the borough's parks and green spaces (including housing amenity green space) for the next ten years and beyond.

The Process

3.6 In early 2020 the Council gathered together a steering group of key stakeholders to identify the key challenges that the parks and green spaces in Hackney are facing, the key people that it should be talking to to develop the Strategy, and the key areas that a new Parks and Green Spaces Strategy should focus on.

3.7 Following this initial meeting the Council held 23 further meetings and sessions with people working in environment, conservation sustainability, planning, housing, sports, NHS and community organisations. We held 7 meetings and sessions to gather insight from public health, residents, older people and young people. We had 3 team meetings with parks staff, park managers and heads of service and 8 focus groups with young people, people with SEND, and staff working in the Parks, Culture and Heritage, Events and Sports and Fitness teams. We also undertook 12 weeks of research using planning and insight from consultations with Hackney residents and communities and other strategies relating to green spaces and play areas.

3.8 The draft Strategy is now being publicly [consulted on](#) until 18 January 2021 and Hackney people and stakeholders are being asked to give feedback on our commitments and identify gaps in the Strategy.

The Issues

3.9 Hackney has changed significantly since the last strategy was published in 2008:

- The recent pandemic has highlighted the significant importance of open spaces for people to socialise and exercise;
- Austerity has led to significant budget challenges for local authorities, and a need to explore how services can be delivered in a more financially sustainable way;
- New technology has seen parks used in different ways - be it for electric scooters or flying drones;
- There is much higher awareness of environmental issues, and the need for services to adapt accordingly. In parks, this means responding to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, reviewing the use of pesticides, reducing the use of plastics and recognising the role of parks in helping to mitigate poor air quality;
- There is an increasing demand for parks to be managed in a more 'natural' way, to move away from unsustainable annual bedding and towards the creation of more wildlife habitats;
- Communication technology has made it much easier for people to contact the service on a regular basis, and people often expect quicker action as a result;
- People want to use our parks in different ways. There is much higher demand for calisthenics gym equipment, for example, and an increase in the number of professional dog walkers in parks;
- Not everyone feels involved, prioritised or catered for in our parks and green spaces. Hackney's house prices have increased rapidly, new people have moved into the borough and the demographics have changed at a rapid rate. Diversity is what makes Hackney an incredible place to live, but it also produces a huge range of views on how parks and green spaces should be managed and used;
- The Parks and Green Spaces Service will take on responsibility for the maintenance of Housing Estates Green Space in 2021, and needs a strategy that will include these expanded responsibilities and direct how a joint service will go forward; and
- Hackney's parks are notably safer than they were ten years ago, but in turn this has helped increase their popularity, leading to increased wear and tear, litter and compaction. The intense use of parks early in the morning and late at night can be disturbing for those who live next door to them.

The Draft Strategy

- 3.10 The priorities for stakeholders engaged in the production of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy were analysed, and found to be linked to three main overall themes:
- The need for the Parks and Green Spaces Service to engage more with local communities;
 - The desire for our parks to be better activated; and
 - The urgent need for us to respond to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis.
- 3.11 The draft Strategy is deliberately short and readable. It has been designed to appeal to members of the public (including young people) and parks staff, as well as managers and policy makers. The key role of any strategy should be to effect change, and the focus on this Strategy is therefore to focus on the commitments we will make as a Council over the next ten years.
- 3.12 Under “**Work with Communities**”, the Council commits to engaging more with people on how our service is run, making a special effort to engage with young people. We will explore the concept of a ‘Hackney Parks Foundation’ to develop the feasibility of a partnership funding model for the Service, and commit to expanding and developing our volunteering programme. We also commit to developing Hackney Parks Forum, investing in our staff and developing a new apprenticeship programme.
- 3.13 Under “**Activate our Parks and Green Spaces**” the Council commits to working in partnership with community organisations to prescribe activities across parks and green spaces to improve people’s health and wellbeing, make it easier for people to run their own community events and use the knowledge of our Parks and Green Spaces Service staff to share skills and knowledge in the community. We also commit to expanding the provision of food and drink in parks, food growing opportunities on estates, and physically improving them, so that they have the right balance of natural, social and active space for the communities that live around them and the wildlife that lives within them.
- 3.14 Under “**Respond to the Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crisis**” the Council commits to working towards being a zero carbon service by 2031 and increasing the amount of sustainable drainage in our parks. We commit to eliminating all annual bedding and delivering an extensive training programme for our staff around biodiversity and sustainability.

Delivery

- 3.15 Following the public consultation the draft Strategy will be updated to reflect the results and feedback and address any gaps identified, before going to Cabinet for final approval in 2021.
- 3.16 Alongside the main document, a poster will be produced summarising the commitments. This will be displayed in park notice boards and in the park depots.

3.17 Once the Strategy is adopted the Parks and Green Spaces Service will produce annual action plans outlining how the commitments will be delivered, and annual reports that will provide updates on each commitment.

Conclusion

3.18 The new Parks and Green Spaces Strategy will be an important document to guide the management and development of the borough's parks and green spaces for the next ten years and beyond.

3.19 The views of Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission are therefore being sought as part of the wider public consultation.

This page is intentionally left blank

Hackney Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

2021 - 2031

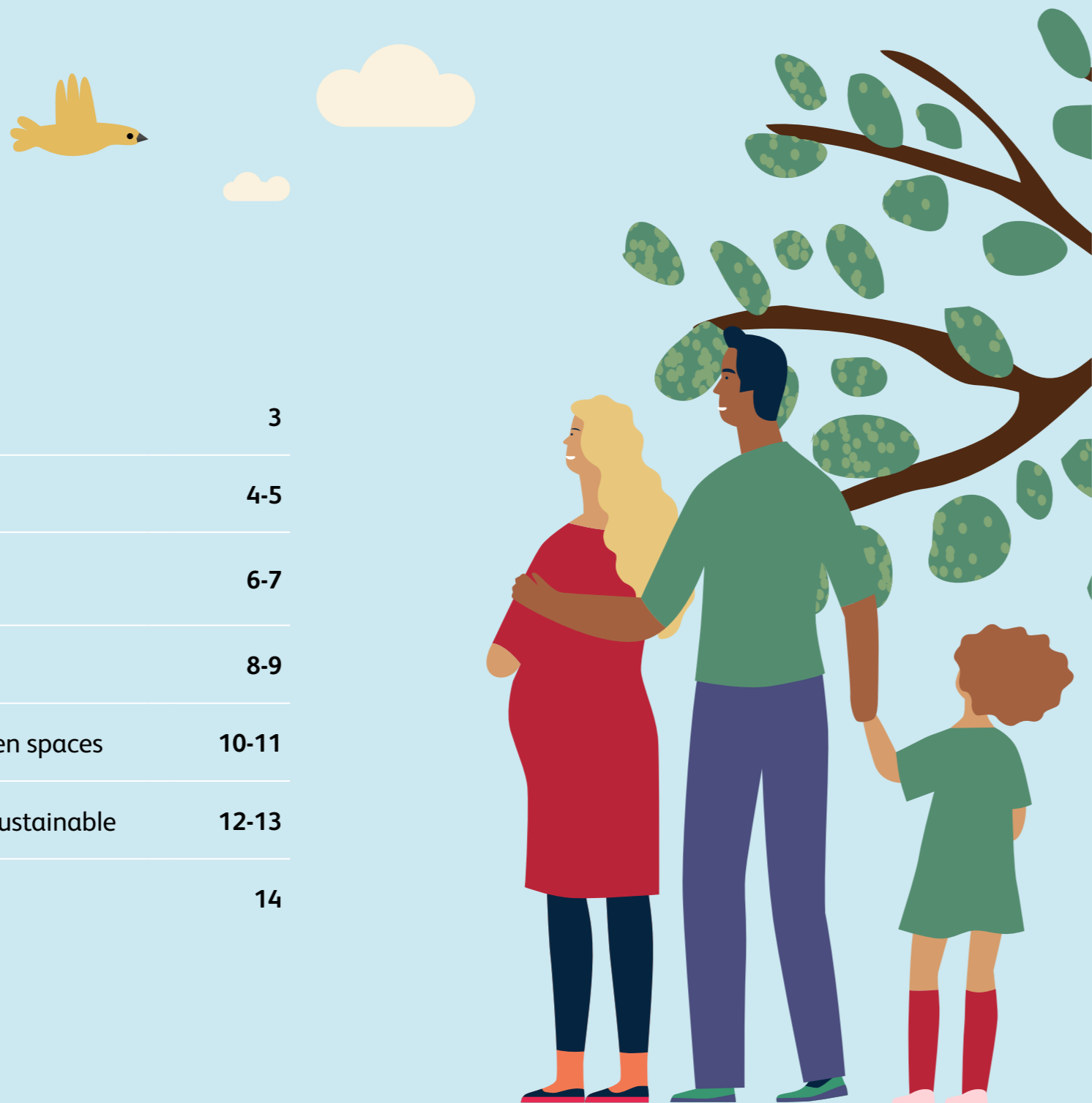
Page 21



Contents

Introduction	3
How we developed the strategy	4-5
How we will deliver your vision for parks and green spaces	6-7
- We will work with communities	8-9
- We will activate our parks and green spaces	10-11
- We will be more environmentally sustainable	12-13
- The next ten years...	14

Page 22



Introduction

People love our parks and green spaces. They provide much needed space to breathe, exercise, socialise and play. We are proud that our parks and green spaces are well used, that local people feel passionately about protecting them, and that they are seen by many as the jewel in Hackney’s crown.

Our parks and green spaces also face challenges. The growing deficit between the cost of maintaining our parks and green spaces and the declining resources that are available to develop and manage them, the problems that affect our network of parks and green spaces as a whole and the local issues that differ from neighbourhood to neighbourhood, and the climate emergency, are all challenges we need to rise to.

In addition, from 2021 Hackney’s 295 parks, green spaces and housing green spaces will all be managed by the same team, so we will need to work hard to ensure that all our parks and green spaces look great, and are the inclusive, accessible, safe and welcoming places our communities need and deserve.

It’s difficult to predict the impact of these issues in the future, but what we do know is our parks and green spaces can’t and won’t thrive in isolation. In writing this strategy and speaking to young people, experts, user groups, staff, partners and stakeholders about these challenges, we have identified three key areas of focus to help guide our work and a set of commitments we will introduce to improve our parks and green spaces.



The three key areas of focus are:

- 1/ Getting better at working with partners and local people to maintain and improve our parks and green spaces
- 2/ Activating our spaces to bring them to life for a wider range of communities
- 3/ Responding to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis

Thank you to everyone who contributed ideas, ambitions and solutions to this strategy. We look forward to working with you over the next ten years to ensure our parks and green spaces flourish at the heart of communities and continue to define the type of borough that we are.



Cllr Jon Burke,
Cabinet Member
for Energy, Waste,
Transport & Public Realm



**Mayor Philip
Glanville**



Hackney Youth Parliament

How we developed the strategy

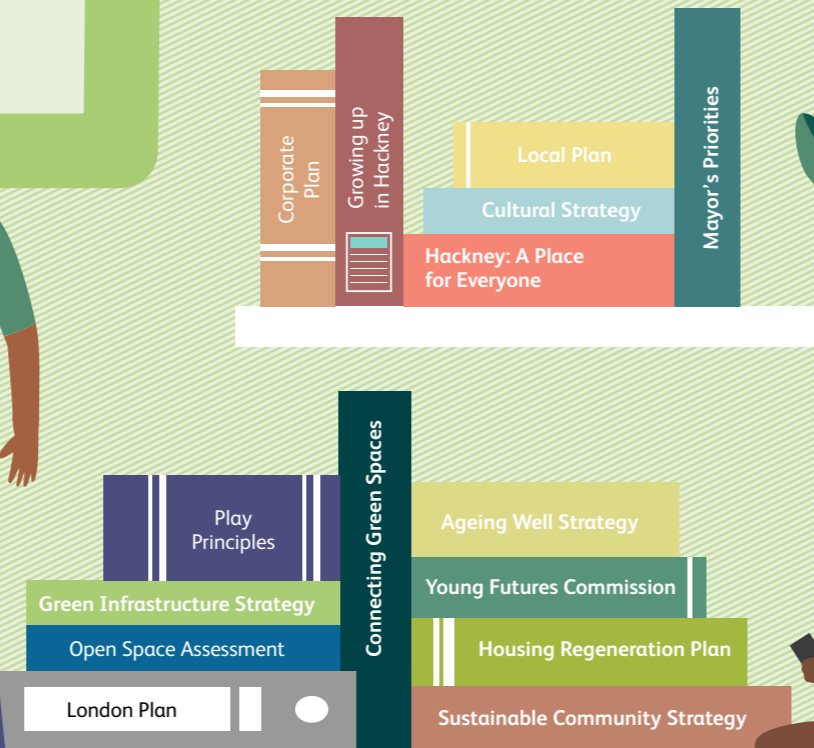
A group of experts, staff and young people helped us to kick start the process. They told us who we should be speaking to, how and where we should be hearing from them, and the themes and issues we should be asking them about.

Rethinking Parks and Green Spaces Focus Group



We read everything that was shared with us, organised meetings and focus group sessions with the people we needed to hear from, and started to build a database of insight, feedback and ideas about Hackney's parks and green spaces.

Research



We are grateful to everyone who shared with us the ideas, ambitions and solutions that have shaped the strategy.

Engagement

23 meetings and sessions with people working in environment, conservation sustainability, planning, housing, sports, NHS, community organisations

7 meetings and sessions to gather insight from public health and recent commissions and consultations with residents, older people and young people

3 team meetings with parks staff, park managers and heads of service

8 focus groups with young people, people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and staff working in the Parks, Culture and Heritage, Events and Sports and Fitness teams

12 weeks of research using planning and insight from consultations with Hackney residents and communities and other strategies relating to green space, play development and environmental sustainability.



Writing the Draft Strategy

We used all the comments, feedback and ideas to create a vision and set of commitments to guide the work of the service over the next 10 years.


What Do You Think?

This strategy is only a draft. We now want to hear what you think about it. Do we have the right priorities? Is anything missing? We want to hear from you!

Visit www.hackney.gov.uk/parks to have your say



Your Vision for Parks and Green Spaces in Hackney

 In the Rethinking Parks and Green Spaces Focus Group and in meetings with young people, partners, stakeholders, Hackney Parks Forum, staff and other experts, a number of key themes emerged.

You told us you wanted:

- More green spaces
- A diverse range of parks and green spaces
- Safe and welcoming green spaces
- Parks and green spaces with communities at the heart
- Financially sustainable parks and green spaces
- Parks and green spaces run in partnership with others
- A response to the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis

These priorities fall broadly under three key themes.

To deliver your vision for Hackney's parks and green spaces by 2030 we will...



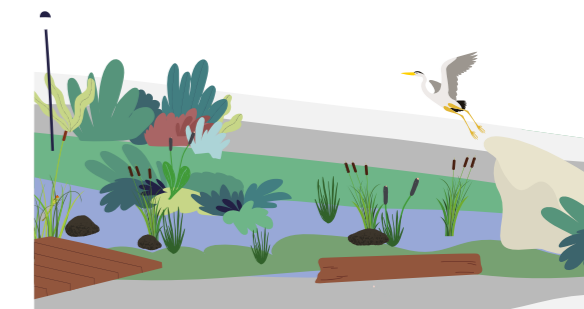
Work with communities

We will include young people and a more representative range of communities not just in decision making, but also in looking after our parks and green spaces. A comprehensive volunteering programme will improve our green spaces as well as improving people's physical and mental health.



Activate our parks and green spaces

The best way of making our spaces safer and more attractive is to activate them with positive use. We will work with partners to deliver activities that will improve people's health, as well as physically improve parks and green spaces to make them more attractive to use.



Be more environmentally sustainable

We will manage our parks and green spaces as a network, identifying opportunities to link green spaces to the wider public realm, as well as each other. This is about developing environmentally sustainable solutions that are bold and ambitious, increase climate resilience, the biodiversity of sites and the quality of life for our residents.

Communities would like more of a say in the big decisions affecting our parks and green spaces

We will work with communities

Hackney is a borough defined by its rich mix of cultures and communities. Over the next ten years we will engage with local people, partners and volunteers to develop and improve our parks and green spaces and to establish a more comprehensive volunteering programme, ensuring that our volunteers are reflective of our community.

What you told us

A wide network of Park User Groups, local partners, voluntary organisations, and local residents commit time and play an invaluable role in the improvement of Hackney's parks and green spaces and helping to shape and deliver the events and activities within them.

We couldn't do it without you, but many of you would like to see us including a broader range of communities and age groups in this work, for us to provide more volunteering opportunities for people to help look after their local green space, and to make it easier for local people to organise their own events.

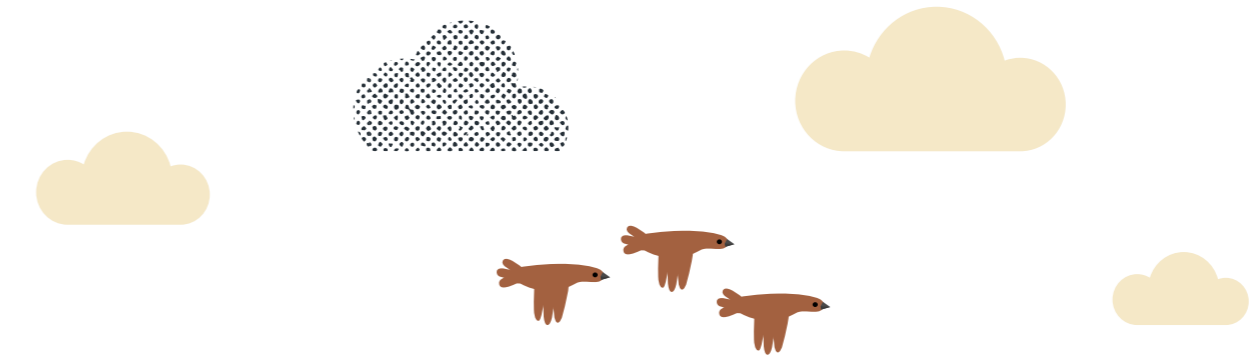


You told us a wide range of communities already use Hackney parks and green spaces, but that there are still a number of barriers we need to work with local people to understand and remove.

The biggest issues you told us about were dogs, barbecues, antisocial behaviour and safety, and many of you want us to spend more time listening to local communities and trying to find solutions that mean more people can enjoy our parks and green spaces and feel comfortable and welcome in them.

You also told us that we could do more to get children and young people involved in environmental activities in parks and green spaces and in doing so we would ensure they are more likely to care for our green spaces when they are older.

We face significant financial pressures over the next ten years, and will start exploring whether a non-profit 'Hackney Parks and Green Spaces Foundation' could help raise funds to support Hackney's parks and green spaces.



To work more closely with communities we will...

Engage with people

- 1/ Involve young people in designing our response to the climate emergency, children's play spaces, sports provision and informal socialising spaces
- 2/ Consult people on whether Hackney's Dog Control Orders / PSPOs / byelaws need updating
- 3/ Collate crime data from the community safety partnership to identify and tackle specific areas of vandalism, anti-social behaviour and crime
- 4/ Engage local communities, residents and tenants in improvements that affect their local parks and housing green spaces, with continued engagement from outset to delivery, with a special effort made to reach and hear from underrepresented groups
- 5/ Explore the potential for a non-profit "Hackney Parks Foundation" to help raise funds to support Hackney's parks and green spaces

Invest in our staff and develop Volunteering

- 6/ Develop a skills/employment pathway, creating opportunities for structured career progression, and an extensive training programme for our staff
- 7/ Appoint a dedicated Volunteering Officer to oversee a comprehensive and intergenerational volunteering programme in Hackney's parks and green spaces
- 8/ Undertake a review of Hackney Parks Forum to ensure that it is fit for purpose, representative of our diverse local communities, and a useful network for Park User Groups to share learning and ideas around parks and green spaces
- 9/ Continue to support the Tree Musketeers, and work in partnership with them to plan future tree planting
- 10/ Develop a work experience and apprenticeship programme and explore supported opportunities for people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities



We will activate our parks and green spaces

One of the best ways of making parks and green spaces feel safer and more welcoming is by ensuring that they are well used by local people.

We have limited resources to put on lots of activities and events ourselves, but over the next ten years we will work with communities and partners to assist them in hosting appropriate community activities and events in our parks and green spaces. We will activate our green spaces with more opportunities to buy food and drink.

We will also physically improve them so that they have the right balance of natural, social and active space for the communities that live around them and the wildlife that lives within them.

What you told us

You told us that these parks and green spaces were a sanctuary and respite for children and young people with additional needs and their families and carers.

You speak fondly of the opportunities you have had to help develop play, social and sports spaces, and art, play trails, murals, signage and other creative features and cultural events within our parks and housing green spaces. You told us that these parks and green spaces thrive at the heart of communities and have shaped the identity of local neighbourhoods.



You told us that protecting the character of individual parks and green spaces and having a diverse range of parks and green spaces was important, but that we also need to be more adventurous when exploring the potential of every green space (even our small estate green spaces) and think about spreading informal sports and physical activity provision and wild and natural space more evenly across the borough.

You would like play spaces to be more natural, with an element of risk, and for us to be more creative about mixing nature, play and discovery.

We could make better use of the creative and artistic talent we have in the borough and the rich history, culture and heritage of our parks and green spaces.

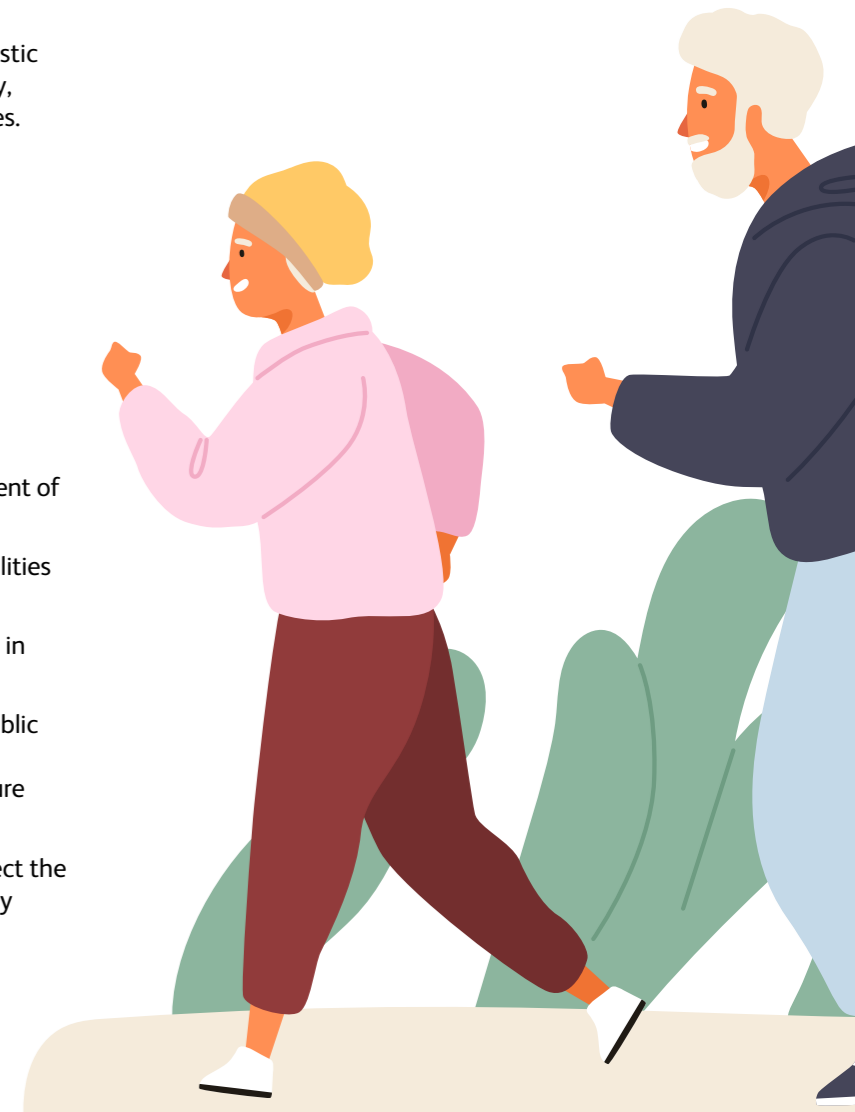
To activate our parks and green spaces we will work with partners to...

Host events and activities

- 11/ Introduce a series of skills sharing opportunities, gardening talks, lessons and workshops for communities
- 12/ Expand provision and increase activities for young people in our parks, facilities and green spaces
- 13/ Make it easier for residents to plan and host appropriate community and cultural events in parks and green spaces
- 14/ Identify food growing opportunities on housing estates
- 15/ Prescribe activities across parks and green space to improve people's health and wellbeing

Physically improve our green spaces

- 16/ Create a design guide to inform the development of parks and green spaces, including play areas
- 17/ Create criteria for investing in parks, sports facilities and play improvements
- 18/ Expand the provision of cafes and food outlets in parks and green spaces
- 19/ Develop a Hackney Parks and Green Spaces Public Art and Culture Strategy and Policy to secure investment to deliver more public art and culture
- 20/ Involve older people in designing and improving our parks and green spaces to reflect the recommendations of the Ageing Well Strategy



We will be more environmentally sustainable

Over the next ten years, we will treat our parks and green spaces as one interconnected green network as part of our 'Connecting Green Spaces' programme. We are proud of the proactive steps we are already taking to reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change across our green spaces.

This section is about going further, making our parks and green spaces more connected, more environmentally friendly, reducing our carbon footprint, engaging people with nature, increasing natural areas and supporting a healthy ecosystem.

What you told us

Hackney's Youth Parliament, the children in our schools, and a wide variety of interest groups, voluntary and charity organisations already contribute a great deal to improving the environmental sustainability of our parks and green spaces across the borough and would like to work with us to make these spaces even wilder, more resilient, and more biodiverse.

You told us you wanted more green space and shared some really exciting ideas about spilling parks and green spaces out into neighbourhoods, creating more informal and natural play, making roads and paths and park entrances and boundaries greener, connecting up parks and green spaces better, improving housing estate green space, and planting more trees to improve air quality.

Many of you told us that access to nature was also really important to your physical and mental health and you'd like to see a more inclusive and accessible range of environmental activities and green and social prescribing initiatives in parks and green spaces.

Many of you would like to see us providing more opportunities for community food growing, gardening, and tree planting and more support for people to get involved in looking after these spaces as volunteers.

To be more environmentally sustainable we will...

Respond to the Climate emergency...

- 21/ Work towards becoming a Zero Carbon service by 2031
- 22/ Aim to re-use more green waste within parks and green spaces
- 23/ Eliminate single use plastic from all of our park cafes and kiosks
- 24/ Replace all single use bins with dual use recycling bins by 2031
- 25/ Introduce new sustainable drainage solutions in parks and green spaces

And the Biodiversity crisis

- 26/ Increase biodiversity across Hackney in line with the emerging Local Nature Recovery Plan, creating more wild areas across all parks and green spaces
- 27/ Eliminate all annual planting and replace it with more sustainable and drought tolerant planting schemes
- 28/ Significantly reduce the use of Glyphosate, and continue to explore alternatives
- 29/ Follow the recommendations of the emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy where they relate to parks and green spaces, including identifying opportunities to connect parks and green spaces together
- 30/ Develop and deliver an extensive training programme for staff around biodiversity and sustainability





This page is intentionally left blank



Hackney Open Space Assessment

Prepared by LUC

March 2018



Project Title: Hackney Open space Assessment

Client: London Borough of Hackney

Version	Date	Version details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1	20 March 2018	Final report	Inez William Katie Stenson Matthew Parkhill	Matthew Parkhill	Philip Smith

Contents

1	Introduction and local context	1
	Study objectives	1
	National, regional and local framework	2
	Relevant local strategies	4
	Hackney context	4
	Management and ownership	16
2	Methodology	20
	Steps 1 and 2: Understanding the context and consultation	20
	Step 3: Audit	21
	Step 4: Analysis of findings	22
	Step 5: Development and application of standards	23
	Step 6: Conclusions and recommendations	23
3	Existing open space provision in Hackney	24
	Current provision	24
	Characteristics of open space provision in Hackney	28
	Summary of findings from the open space audit	36
	Summary of feedback from public consultation	38
4	Development and application of standards	42
	Development of standards	42
	Application of proposed standards	47
5	Conclusions and recommendations	76
	Key findings	76
	Recommendations for open space planning	81
	Bibliography	83
	Appendix 1:	84
	Planning policy context review	84
	Appendix 2:	93
	Quantity standards adopted by surrounding local authorities	93
	Appendix 3:	95
	Open space audit form	95
	Appendix 4:	96
	Site lists with quality and value ratings*	96
	Appendix 5:	105
	Quality and value ratings for sites containing play*	105
	Appendix 6:	109
	Open space below relevant quality and value standards and located within Wards below proposed quantity standards	109
	Appendix 7:	112
	Play space in areas falling below the quantity standard	112
	Appendix 8:	115

Online consultation questionnaire and responses	115
---	-----

Appendix 9:	117
Detailed site proformas: see separate document	117

Tables

Table 1.1: Parks and open spaces owned and/or managed by London Borough of Hackney	17
Table 2.1: Green Flag Award Criteria	21
Table 2.2: Open space typology	22
Table 3.1: Open space by hierarchy in Hackney	24
Table 3.2: Accessibility of open spaces in Hackney	25
Table 3.3: Equipped play provision by primary typology	34
Table 3.4: Play provision within Hackney by age group and primary typology	35
Table 3.5: Type of play provided within each type of open space	35
Table 3.6: Other play provision by primary typology	35
Table 4.1: Quantity standards to guide future provision of open space in Hackney	43
Table 4.2: Accessibility standards for open space provision in Hackney	44
Table 4.3: Accessibility standards for open spaces with areas for play	44
Table 4.4: Accessibility standards for site with provision for teenagers	44
Table 4.5: Quality standards for open space in Hackney	46
Table 4.6: Value standards for open space in Hackney	46
Table 4.7: Quality and value standards for sites containing play in Hackney	47
Table 4.8: Quality and value matrix	47
Table 4.9: Application of open space quantity standard for 2016 and 2041	48
Table 4.10: Application of open space quantity standard by ward for 2016	48
Table 5.1: Open space quantity standards for Hackney	77
Table 5.2: Comparison of quantity of open space by Ward	78
Table 5.3: Accessibility standards for Hackney	79

Figures

Figure 1-1: Planning designations	6
Figure 1-2: Nature conservation designations	7
Figure 1-3: Estimated population growth 2001-2041	8
Figure 1-4: Population density	10
Figure 1-5: Index of multiple deprivations	12
Figure 1-6: Living environment deprivation	14
Figure 1-7: Health deprivation and disability	15
Figure 1-8: Percentage of dwellings in Hackney by type	16
Figure 2-1: Study method	20

Figure 3-1: Division of publicly accessible open space by overall area	25
Figure 3-2: Open spaces in Hackney	27
Figure 3-3: Satisfaction with quantity and quality of open space	38
Figure 3-4: Preferred typology of new open space provision	39
Figure 3-5: Current allotment use and level of interest in allotments	39
Figure 3-6: Frequency of use of equipped play provision	40
Figure 3-7: Mode of travel to equipped play facilities	40
Figure 3-8: Level of satisfaction with quantity and quality of equipped play facilities	41
Figure 3-9: Level of satisfaction with quantity and quality of other facilities for young people	41
Figure 4-1: Accessibility of metropolitan parks and gardens in Hackney	52
Figure 4-2: Accessibility of district parks and gardens in Hackney	53
Figure 4-3: Accessibility of local parks and gardens in Hackney	54
Figure 4-4: Accessibility of small local Parks and gardens in Hackney	55
Figure 4-5: Accessibility of local natural and semi-natural urban green spaces in Hackney	56
Figure 4-6: Accessibility of small local natural and semi-natural urban green spaces in Hackney	57
Figure 4-7: Accessibility of amenity green spaces in Hackney	58
Figure 4-8: Accessibility of local open spaces in Hackney: parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space, amenity green space	59
Figure 4-9: Accessibility of small local open spaces in Hackney: parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space, amenity green space	60
Figure 4-10: Combined deficiency in access to publicly accessible open space	61
Figure 4-11: Quality and value of linear open space/ green corridors	62
Figure 4-12: Accessibility of allotments, community gardens and city farms in Hackney	63
Figure 4-13: Quality and value of cemeteries and churchyards	64
Figure 4-14: Quality and value of civic spaces/ pedestrianised areas	65
Figure 4-15: Accessibility of sites containing LAPs	66
Figure 4-16: Accessibility of sites containing LEAPs	67
Figure 4-17: Accessibility of sites containing NEAPs	68
Figure 4-18: Accessibility of sites containing teen play	69
Figure 4-19: Accessibility catchment for all open space containing play	70
Figure 4-20: Open space containing multi-use games areas (MUGA)	71
Figure 4-21: Open spaces containing water play	72
Figure 4-22: Open spaces containing skate parks	73
Figure 4-23: Open spaces containing BMX	74
Figure 4-24: Open spaces containing other teen play	75

1 Introduction and local context

- 1.1 LUC was commissioned by the London Borough of Hackney (Hackney Council) to assess the borough's open space provision. The report will form part of the evidence base to inform the Local Plan Review.
- 1.2 The study assesses the quantity, accessibility, quality and value of open spaces within the borough and makes recommendations on levels of future provision during the plan period up to 2033 based on projected population growth.
- 1.3 The Hackney Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted in 2010. Since then the Government has published its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Mayor of London has published a new London Plan and subsequent alterations. As required by the NPPF, the borough's new Local Plan, covering the period 2018-2033 (known as the LP33), will be based on up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area (including open space, sport and the recreation facilities).
- 1.4 The Development Management Local Plan (DMLP) sets out detailed, generally criteria-based, planning policies which is used together with the London Plan, the Core Strategy and other supplementary planning documents, to assess planning applications. The Council formally adopted the DMLP, including the policies map in July 2015. The new Hackney Local Plan is currently at the pre-production evidence gathering stage and the plan is expected to be adopted in December 2018.
- 1.5 The study has been carried out in line with national guidance on planning for open space and health infrastructure, provided in the National Planning Practice Guidance, and the Mayor of London's guidance on preparing open space studies in London. More detail on the policy context for this study is provided below.

Study objectives

- 1.6 The objectives are to:
 - Evaluate the quantity, quality, value and accessibility of open space for all areas of the borough;
 - Identify any specific needs or deficiencies in the borough now and in the future;
 - Determine the impact of population growth on provision of open space;
 - Identify how new development should address existing open space deficiencies in the borough;
 - Assess the level of need in all areas of the borough based upon a number of objective demographic and socio-economic indicators;
 - Identify mechanisms to meet future needs including recommendations for appropriate, locally-derived standards of provision by new development;
 - Provide a robust and comprehensive evidence base to underpin the development and implementation of detailed planning policies, and facilitate the future management of open space;
 - Provide information to justify the collection of developer contributions and to help inform the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy;
 - Provide an updated set of maps to support the study and aid the interpretation of the findings.
- 1.7 This report sets out the findings of the open space assessment and provides recommendations for how open space deficiencies could be addressed and areas in greatest need of investment.

National, regional and local framework

- 1.8 The key national and regional policies that have influenced the approach to this study are set out below. These should be considered when interpreting the study's findings for the purpose of the Hackney Local Plan. A summary of the relevant policy context is provided in **Appendix 1**.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.9 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) includes a specific requirement for planning policy *'to be based on a robust and up to date assessment of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision'* (para. 73). This study provides that evidence base for the purpose of the Hackney Local Plan.
- 1.10 The NPPF (para. 74) sets out the only circumstances in which an open space can be developed for different uses. It clarifies that existing open space should not be built on unless:
- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements; or
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
- 1.11 In the Hackney context, open spaces can only be lost if an equal or better open space can be provided elsewhere within the local catchment area (London Plan, policy 7.18), although this definition of the term 'local catchment area' is left for individual boroughs to determine.

London Plan

- 1.12 The London Plan states that areas of open space deficiency should be identified, and new open space provided in places that are likely to experience substantial development.
- 1.13 The provision of open spaces should conform to green infrastructure strategies and deliver multiple benefits (Policy 7.18). The London Plan also supports development proposals that strengthen links between public spaces and parks (Policy 7.5). In the case of Hackney, reference should be made to the borough's strategic contribution to the northern, eastern and central area sub-regional planning initiatives. Particularly relevant are the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Legacy. Other strategic planning initiatives include the transport proposals including the East London Line (London Overground) and Crossrail together with the strategic Thames Gateway and the London Stansted Cambridge growth corridors.

Hackney Core Strategy (2010) and Development Management Local Plan (2015)

- 1.14 Core Strategy Policy 26 seeks to protect, enhance and provide new open space.
- 1.15 The Development Management Local Plan was formally adopted in 2015 and sets out detailed planning policies to guide assessments of planning applications within the borough. It sits alongside the Core Strategy (2010) and supports the 'Growth Area' strategy of the Core Strategy for sustainable development in the areas of:
- Dalston
 - Hackney Central
 - Shoreditch
 - The City Fringe
 - 'Kingsland Corridor'
 - Manor House
- 1.16 The Plan aims to balance sustainable development in these areas through ensuring proposals are appropriate in terms of design and the impact on neighbouring occupiers. Development proposals should also be supported by adequate physical and social infrastructure.
- 1.17 The Plan includes several policies which relate to open space. These include:

- Policy DM3 - Promoting health and well-being in Hackney;
- Policy DM4 – Community Infrastructure Levy and planning contributions;
- Policy DM5 – Protection and delivery of social and community facilities and places of worship;
- Policy DM31 – Open space and living roofs;
- Policy DM32 – Protection and enhancement of existing open space and the Lee Valley Regional Park;
- Policy DM33 – Allotments and food growing;
- Policy DM34 – Sites of Nature Conservation and/or Geodiversity Value, Walthamstow Reservoirs Special Protection Area and Walthamstow Marshes Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- Policy DM35 – Landscape and tree management.

1.18 Policy DM31 states:

“Development proposals proposing 10 or more residential units and / or more than 1,000m² of commercial floor space, will be expected to provide the following levels of communal amenity open space:

- *10m² per person from residential development schemes;*
- *4m² per employee from commercial development schemes”.*

Local Plan 2033

- 1.19 Local Plan 2033 will combine and replace the Core Strategy, DMLP and Site Allocation Local Plan (SALP) to provide the spatial strategy for the borough up to 2033. The Plan will set out policies for parkland, playgrounds, playing fields, public squares, amenity green spaces and extensive water areas, and habitats/natural areas.
- 1.20 The London Plan sets a housing target of 1,599 dwellings for Hackney covering the period 2015 - 2025, which is subject to adjustment against any future revised London housing targets. Hackney aims to ensure that 50% of housing on major schemes should be ‘affordable’ in accordance with its Core Strategy Policy 20. This level of housing delivery will increase pressure on the borough’s open space resource.

Delivering multifunctional open space

- 1.21 The management of Hackney’s open space resource could increase the borough’s contribution to the London-wide target of increasing green surface area by 5% by 2030 and a further 5% by 2050 (Policy 5.1). The importance of multifunctional open space is recognised by the recommendations of the All London Green Grid and ‘Natural Capital’ the recent report of the GLA’s London Green Infrastructure Task Force.
- 1.22 The Hackney’s network of open spaces should be regarded as integral infrastructure which will contribute to the ‘London-wide Green Grid’ (London’s Foundations: Protecting the Geodiversity of the Capital SPG, March 2012).

Protecting, maintaining and enhancing open space

- 1.23 The NPPF provides a mechanism by which local authorities can protect some open spaces under a ‘Local Green Space’ designation (paras.76-77), and provides high level criteria for such a designation. In addition, the London Plan states that Local Plan preparation should support the creation, protection and enhancement of open spaces, optimising environmental and social qualities (Policy 2.18).
- 1.24 To be in line with the London Plan, any new housing developments in Hackney should incorporate:
- Open spaces that meet the needs of local people, including the elderly and children (Policy 3.5);
 - Areas for children’s formal and informal play which should reflect the predicted child population of the scheme and future needs (Policy 3.6).

Play

- 1.25 The London Borough of Hackney Local Plan Core Strategy (2010) recognises that parts of Hackney are deficient in access to open space, such as Dalston, and outlines the role of planning contributions from development to address this. When allocating investment in play space within the borough, reference should be made to the findings of this study which outlines where there is scope for investment, or deficiency exists.

Relevant local strategies

- 1.26 As well as relevant national and regional policy documents, the following key London Borough of Hackney documents have informed the preparation of this report:

A Profile of Hackney its People and Place (2016)

- 1.27 'A Profile of Hackney its People and Place' was produced in 2016 by Hackney Council's Policy team. The document provides a profile of the London Borough of Hackney and the people living and working within the borough. It contains a summary of the key facts and figures to the borough profile.

A Strategy for Parks in Hackney (2008)

- 1.28 The strategy for parks in Hackney outlined the strategic role and use of Hackney's parks, and underlined their importance in the everyday life of local people. It aimed to enable the long-term strategic and structured planning and management of the borough's parks. Consideration was given to the use of the parks for organised and informal leisure activities by individuals and groups, as well as environmental and heritage considerations.
- 1.29 The Parks Strategy formed a pillar of the overarching open spaces strategy and was focused on those parks and open spaces managed by the Council's Libraries, Leisure and Green Spaces Service. The remaining open spaces in Hackney were covered by the Open Spaces Strategy (2005) led by the Neighbourhoods and Regeneration Directorate.

Social Spaces: A Park Strategy for Hackney, Indicative Action Plan (2008 to 2013)










- 1.30 The Social Spaces: A Park Strategy for Hackney provided an indicative action plan which set out strategic themes, actions, aims and objectives for the enhancement of parks and open spaces. This document continues to inform the identification and delivery of individual projects and improvements.
- 1.31 In April 2004 Hackney Council completed an assessment of open space and sports facilities within the borough. The study provided a qualitative and quantitative audit and analysis of the supply of, and demand for, open space, indoor and outdoor sports provision in the borough to inform subsequent Open Space Strategy (2005).

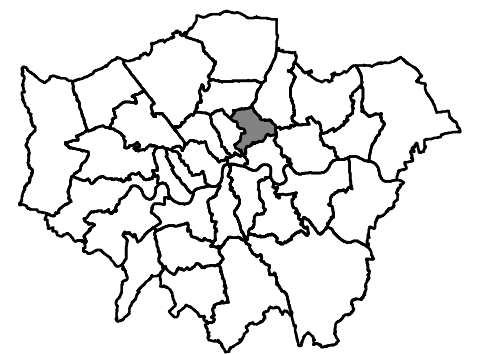
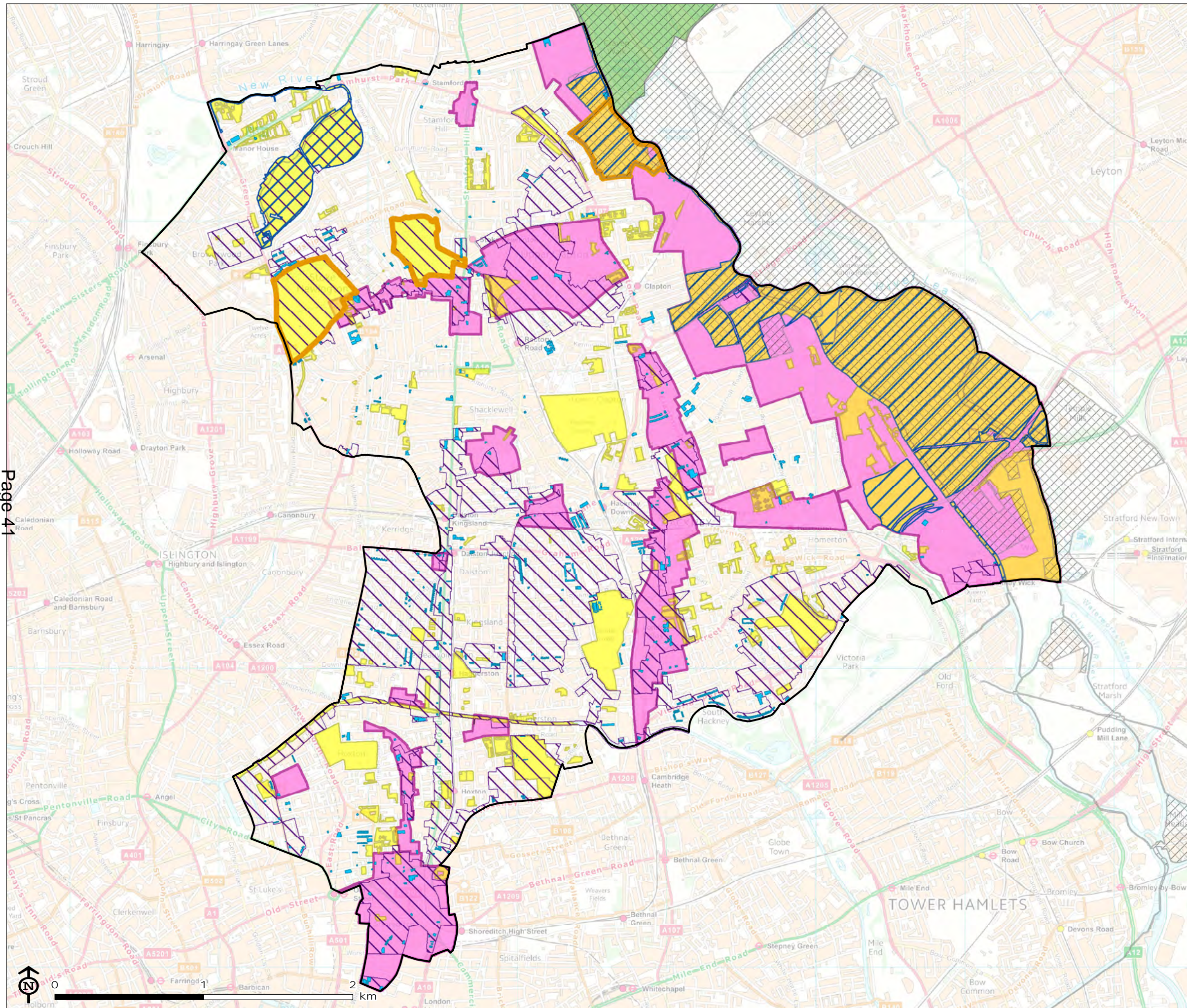
Hackney context

- 1.32 Hackney is on the fringe of one of the world's most important financial districts (the City of London) and close to Canary Wharf and Docklands. The 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games provided unrivalled prospects for sport, culture, employment and business growth for the borough's residents and businesses.
- 1.33 Previous park policy has been led by the *A Strategy for Parks in Hackney* (2008), which acknowledges the very the valuable contribution made by parks and park user groups. The strategy aimed to deliver a detailed indicative action plan which contributed to the delivery of *Hackney's Community Strategy*, *Mind the Gap* and *Local Area Agreement Outcomes*. This strategy recognises that parks have no cultural boundaries and positively encourage social interaction and a sense of inclusion. They also go a long way to improve the environmental quality of the borough by making Positive contribution to air and water quality.

- 1.34 *A Strategy for Parks in Hackney* (2008) defined seven key priority areas, which were shaped by previous consultations and research:
- Children and young people
 - Planning for the future
 - Conservation and biodiversity
 - Tree preservation and management
 - Activities and events
 - Feeling safe
 - Green corridor
- 1.35 Hackney is densely populated but is also one of the greenest inner London boroughs. It contains a network of over 201 open spaces ranging from the expanse of Hackney Marshes and Hackney Downs, the celebrated parks of Clissold and Haggerston, and the historic London Squares of Hoxton and De Beauvoir. In 2016 21 open spaces secured the Green Flag Award and two open spaces won (and still hold in 2017) the Green Flag Community Awards (St Mary's Secret Garden and the Hackney Community Tree Nursery and Edible Forest Garden).
- 1.36 Within Hackney there are three open spaces included on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Interest and two areas designated as Metropolitan Open Land incorporating 25 open spaces. **Figure 1-1** shows the relevant planning designations that affect open space. **Figure 1-2** shows the relevant nature conservation designations.

Figure 1.1: Planning Designations







-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Open space
-  Metropolitan open land
-  Lee Valley Regional Park
-  Green belt
-  Listed buildings
-  Registered parks and gardens
-  Areas of archaeological priority
-  Conservation areas

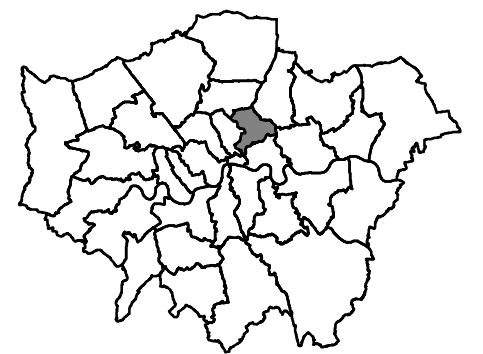
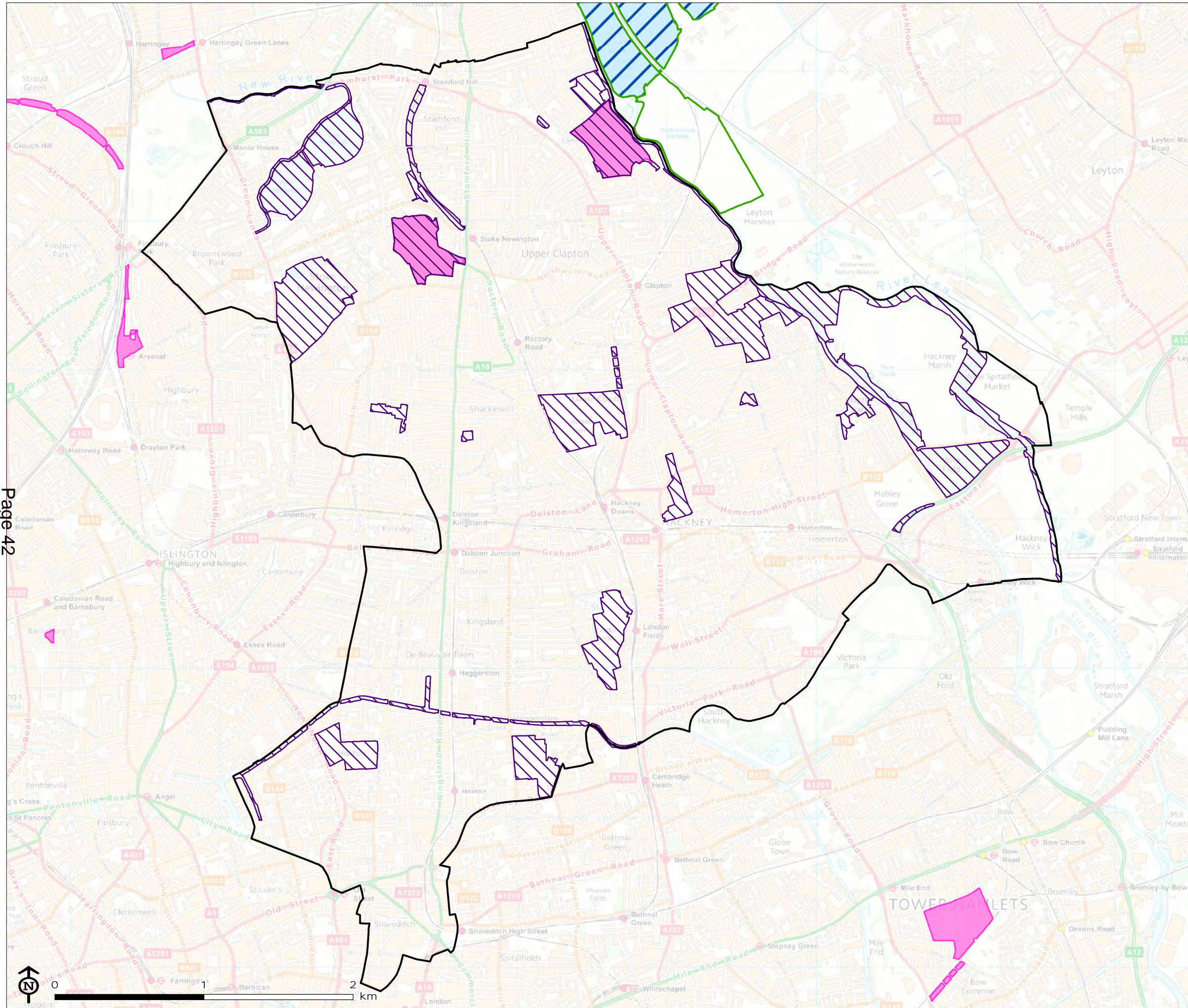


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 1.2: Nature Conservation Designations

-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
-  Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
-  Special Protection Area (SPA)
-  Ramsar



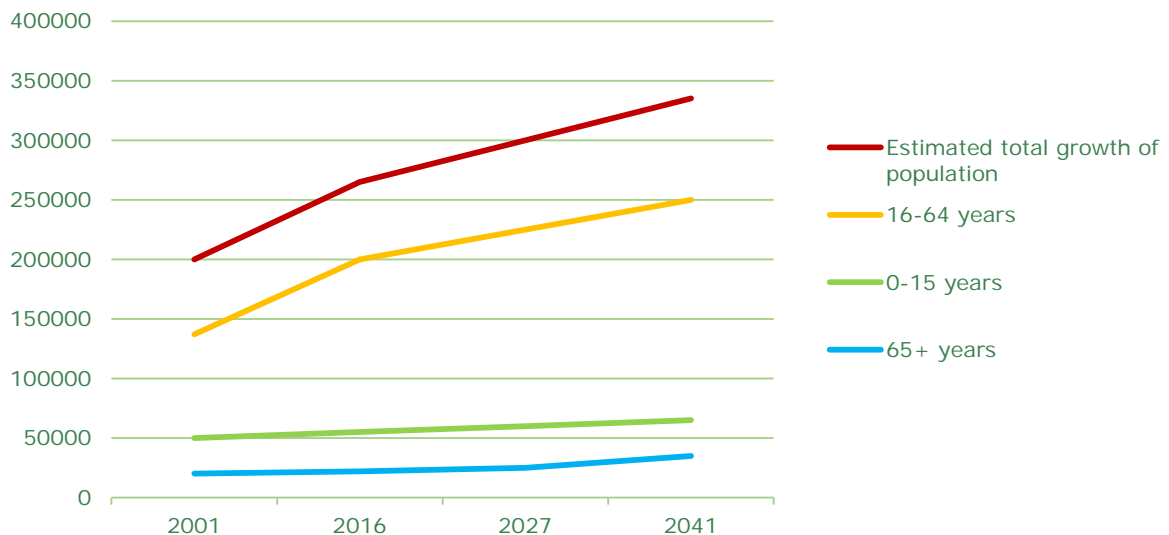
Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Hackney's population

- 1.37 Hackney's current population is estimated at 263,150 people, as of January 2016, an increase of 43,500 (21%) since the 2011 Census. Hackney's population is likely to exceed 300,000 people by 2027 and is expected to exceed 335,000 people by 2041.
- 1.38 Hackney is a relatively young borough with a quarter of its population under 20. The proportion of residents between 20-29 years has grown in the last ten years and now stands at 21%. People aged over 55 make up only 18% of the population. The majority of the forecast growth is expected to take place in the working age (16-64) age band, particularly within the 40-64 age group. More modest growth is expected in the numbers of children, with the majority of this due to take place before 2025.
- 1.39 Nearly 16,000 new homes are expected to be built in the borough in the next ten years with development most heavily concentrated around the Wards of Woodberry Down and Dalston in the West, Hoxton and Shoreditch in the South, and Hackney Central and Hackney Wick in the East.
- 1.40 **Figure 1-3** indicates the anticipated population growth in Hackney between the years 2001 – 2041. These projections are based on the Census 2011 and the results of A Profile of Hackney, its People and Place (2016).

Figure 1-3: Estimated population growth 2001-2041¹



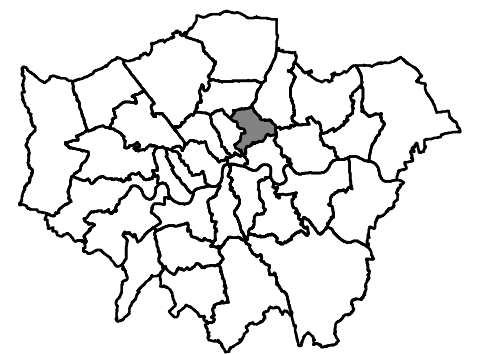
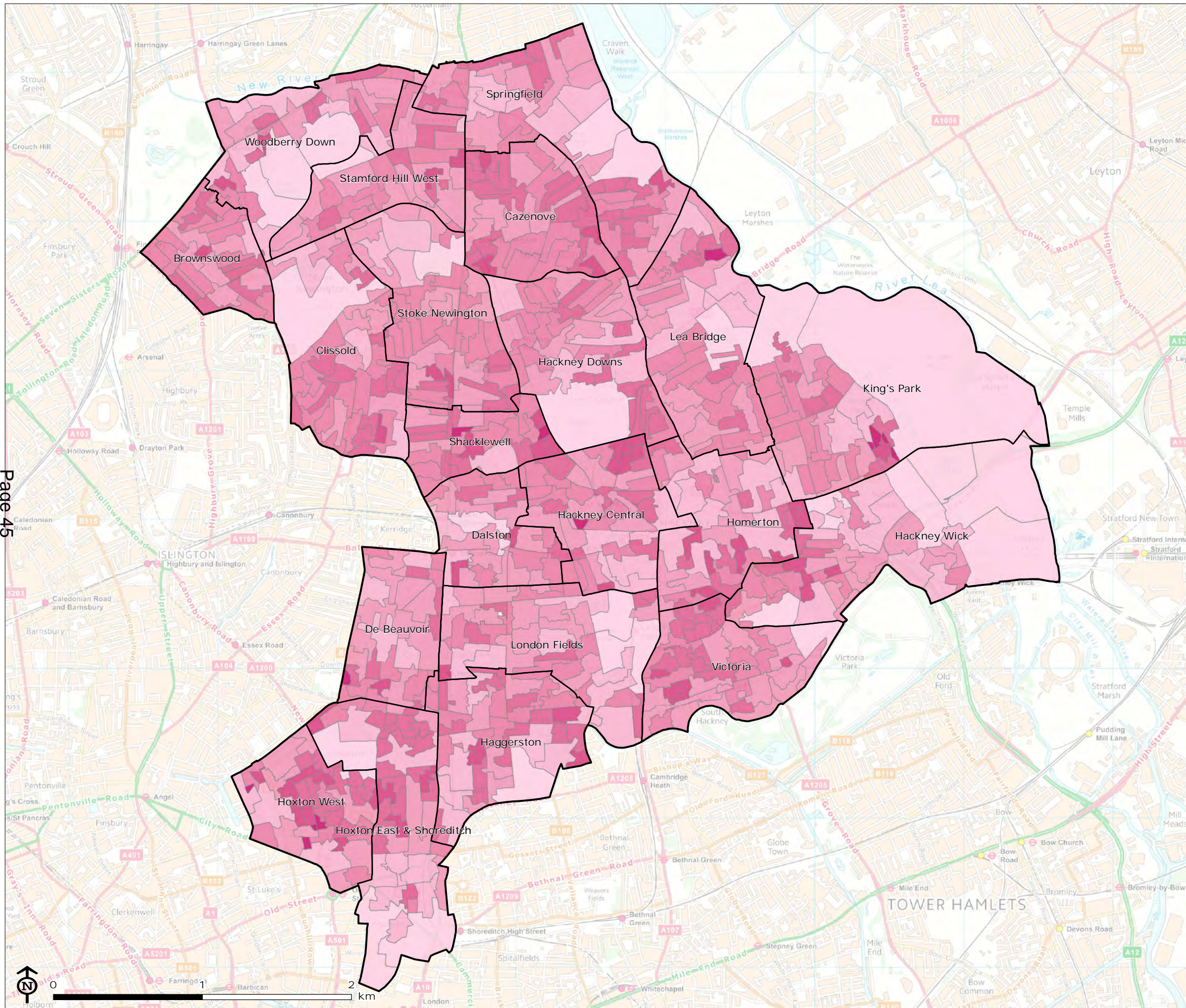
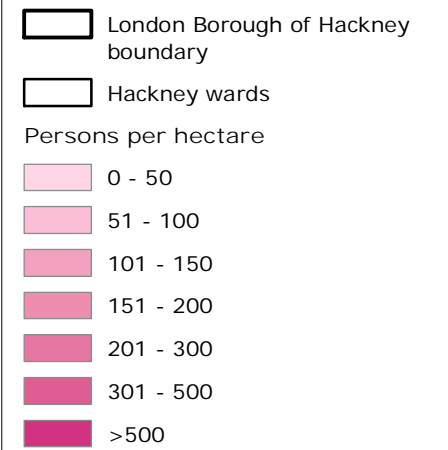
- 1.41 The north of the borough will receive a significant increase in population, particularly in the Wards of Woodberry Down and Brownswood through continuing regeneration of the Woodberry Down Estate. Other areas of planned growth include Haggerston, Hoxton West, Hoxton East and Shoreditch, all of which are in the south of the borough. Locations such as Hackney Central, Dalston and Hackney Wick are also expected to experience housing development as part of the on-going Olympic legacy.
- 1.42 Hackney is a culturally diverse borough with residents describing themselves as White British, other White ethnic groups, Black or Black British, Asian or Asian British. There are also strong Turkish communities. People from Australia, US and Western European countries like Spain, France and Italy make up the largest groups who have recently come to live in Hackney.
- 1.43 Just over a third of Hackney's residents are Christian. This is a lower percentage than the London and England averages. Hackney has significantly higher population of the Jewish and Muslim faiths together with a higher proportion of people with no religion or those who did not state a

¹ Based on the 2011 Census and results of A Profile of Hackney, its People and Place (2016).

religion than the averages for London and England. The Charedi Jewish community is concentrated in the North East of the borough and is growing.

- 1.44 Future provision and management of the open space network in Hackney will need to reflect the needs and desires of the borough's changing population balancing the need for active recreation and informal play with opportunities quiet contemplation and access to nature.

Figure 1.4: Population Density (2011 census data)



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



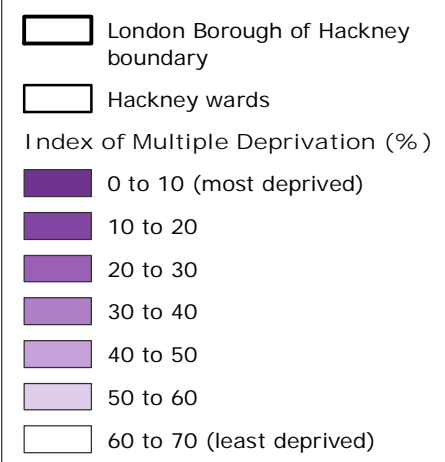
Index of Multiple Deprivation

- 1.45 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a UK government qualitative study of deprived areas in English local councils. The study takes into account income, employment and health deprivation together with disability, education skills and training, barriers to housing and services, crime, and living environment. The IMD ranks every small area in England (Super Output Area) from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area).
- 1.46 **Figure 1-5** shows the IMD for Hackney. Hackney is becoming less deprived relative to other local authorities in England. The latest IMD data reveals that Hackney is the eleventh most deprived local authority in England. In 2010 Hackney was ranked second. 17% of the borough's Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are within the top 10% most deprived areas. This equates to 24 of Hackney's 144 LSOAs. In 2010, 42% of the LSOAs were in the top 10% most deprived areas.
- 1.47 Since 2010, Hackney has also reduced the level of deprivation in relation to income, employment, housing and services and living environment together with deprivation affecting children. However there has been an increase in deprivation in relation to crime. Unemployment levels, although reducing, are still higher in Hackney than the London average.
- 1.48 There are a few notable pockets of deprivation in Hackney including the following Wards:
- Homerton
 - Woodberry Down
 - King's Park
 - Hackney Wick
- 1.49 However, Woodberry Down, King's Park and Hackney Wick also have large areas of open space (such as Hackney Marshes, East Reservoir and Wick Woodland) and consequently low population density. These factors make the deprivation in the Wards appear to cover larger areas than is likely in reality.
- 1.50 The borders of Victoria and Homerton Wards also fall into the most 10% deprived areas in England.
- 1.51 The borough largely falls within the bottom 20% most deprived areas in England based on IMD scores, these are generally more towards the east of the borough. The north-west of the borough shows slight improvement on the average IMD score falling within the most 30-50% most deprived areas in England
- 1.52 Hackney has high rates of relative child poverty. This is despite a reduction in the percentage of children living in poverty and Hackney experiencing one of the greatest reductions in children poverty compared to its statistical neighbours, dropping from 48.6 % in 2007 (the fourth highest rate of child poverty in London and above the London rate of 22% and the England rate of 18%) to 36.8% in 2011.
- 1.53 There are large differences in rates of child poverty between Wards with Hackney Wick and Haggerston showing child poverty rates of around 44% (significantly higher than the borough average of 36.8 %). Clissold Ward experiences a significantly lower rate of 24%.

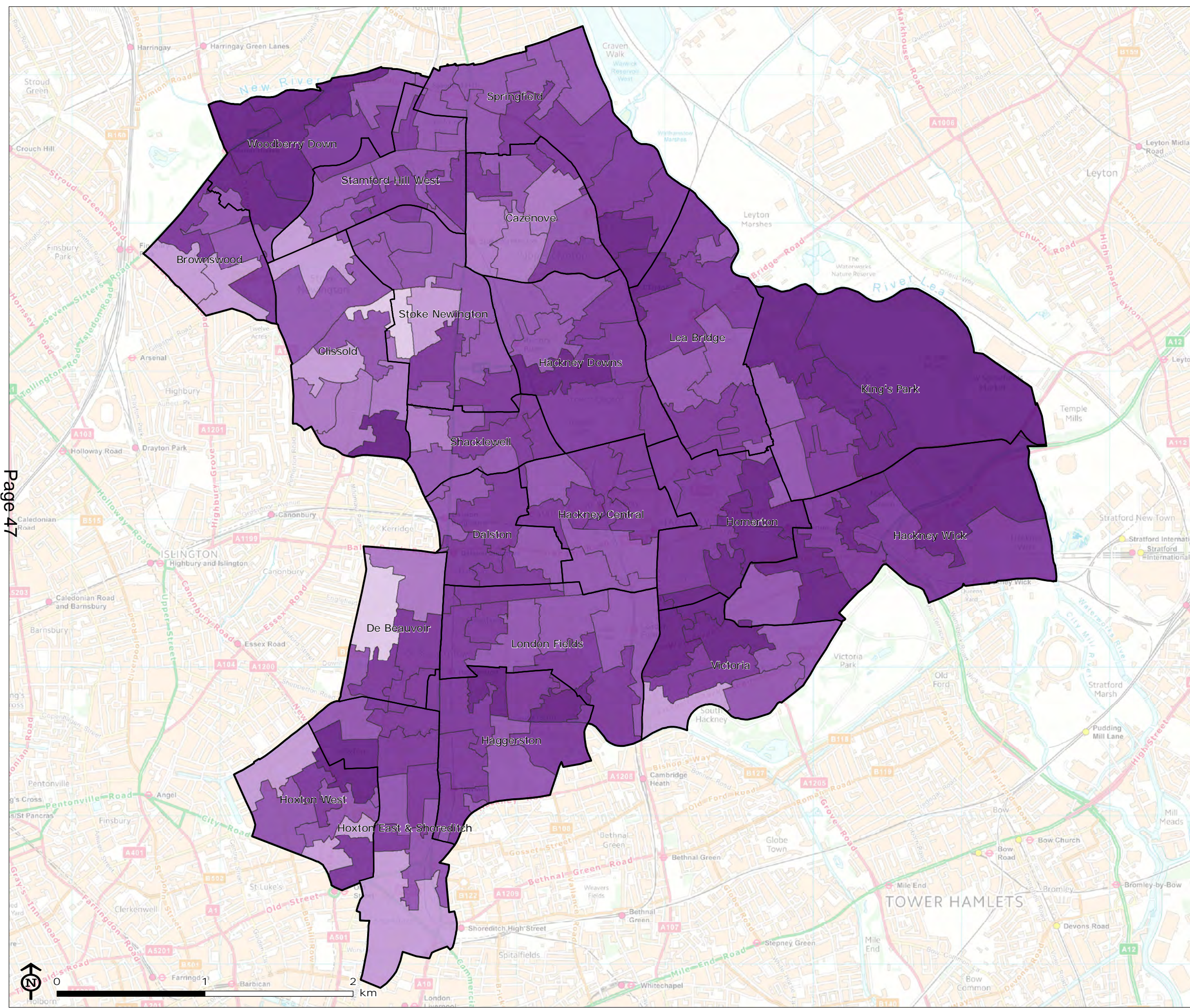
Living environment

- 1.54 In the living environment domain Hackney ranks as the sixth most deprived local authority in England, and 39% of Hackney LSOAs are in the top 10% most deprived nationally.
- 1.55 **Figure 1-6** illustrates the levels of living environment deprivation across the Hackney.

Figure 1.5: Index of Multiple Deprivation (2015)



Page 47



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000









Health deprivation

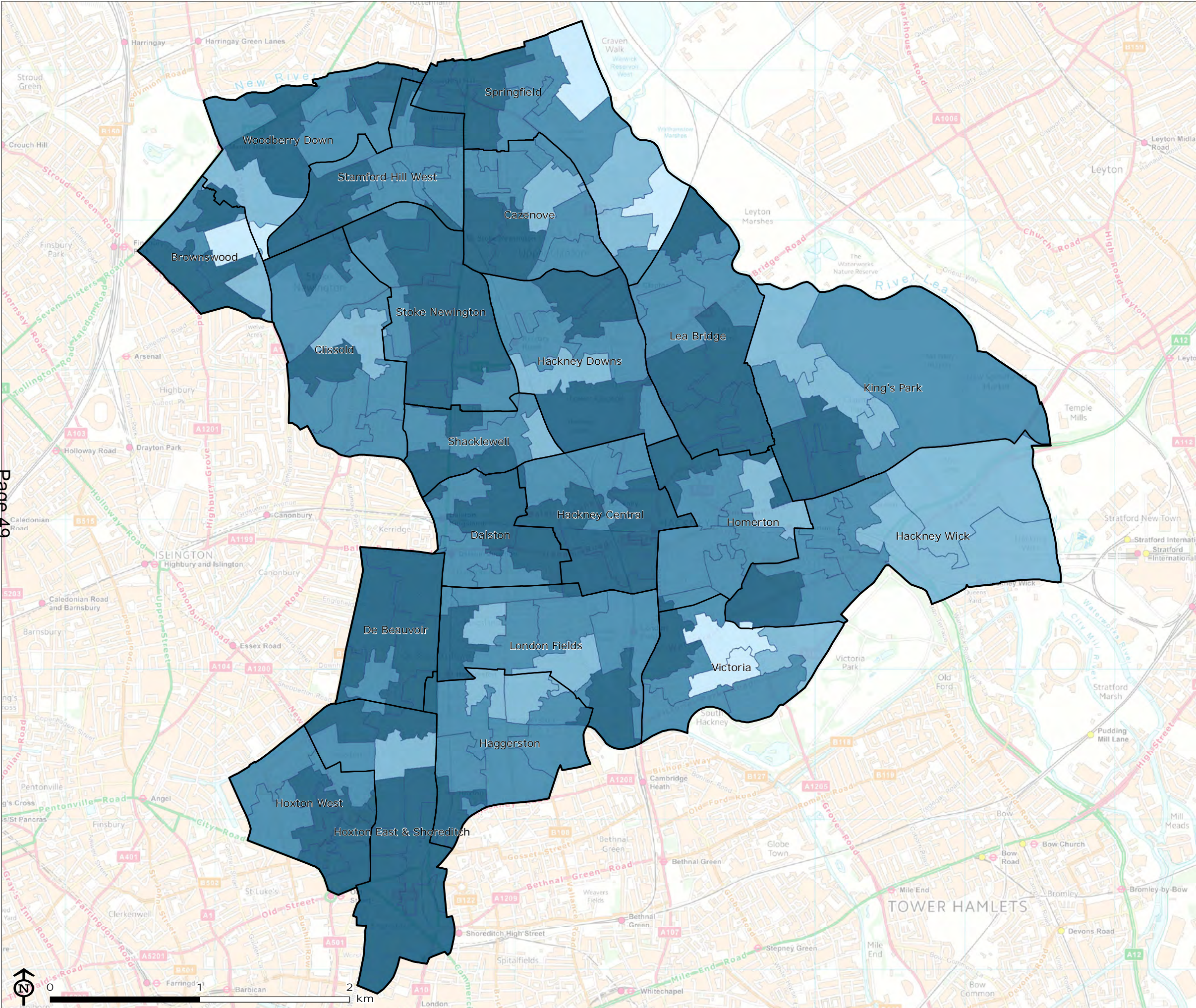
- 1.56 Hackney health deprivation percentage ranks as the 61st most deprived local authority in England, in addition 8% of Hackney's LSOAs rank in the top 10% most deprived nationally. There are particular concentrations of health deprivation in the south of the borough and in the north around Woodberry Down.
- 1.57 **Figure 1-7** illustrates the level of health deprivation and disability across the borough.

Health data

- 1.58 The health and wellbeing profile 2011/12 indicates the health of people in the borough is generally poor. Residents experience higher rates of infant mortality, coronary heart disease, cancer and diabetes than the national average.
- 1.59 The life expectancy for the population of Hackney is 78.5 years for men and 83.3 years for women. Cardiovascular disease forms the second highest number of premature deaths in the borough, with heart disease and stroke forming the largest groups in this category.
- 1.60 Hackney's resident population has one of the highest rates of smoking in the country. 20.8% of Hackney's population smoke, although this has fallen from 29% in 2011. Hackney's adults are less likely to be obese than average; however, the population has one of the highest proportions of people living with long-term health conditions in London. In 2011, 14.5% of Hackney residents said they were disabled or had a long-term limiting illness.
- 1.61 In 2014/15 it was estimated that around 30% of Hackney residents were affected by a common mental health condition. When looking specifically at anxiety and depression, around 16% of the population were affected by these disorders. A further 3.7% of the population was affected by a severe mental illness (a term covering bipolar disorders, schizophrenia and other psychosis). General Practitioners' estimate that only approximately 50% of people experiencing mental illnesses are known to health services.
- 1.62 Hackney has one of the highest percentage rates of childhood obesity. In the 2014/ 2015 school year, 26% of reception class children in both the City and Hackney's state schools were obese or overweight. This is the fourth highest rate of overweight and obese children in London, with the London average being 24.1%. In addition, 41% of Year 6 pupils in the City and Hackney state schools were obese or overweight in the 2014/2015, the seventh highest rate of overweight and obese children in London, with the London average being 37.2%.

Figure 1.6: Living Environment Deprivation (2015)

 London Borough of Hackney boundary
 Hackney wards
 Living environment deprivation (%)
 0 to 10 (most deprived)
 10 to 20
 20 to 30
 30 to 40 (least deprived)



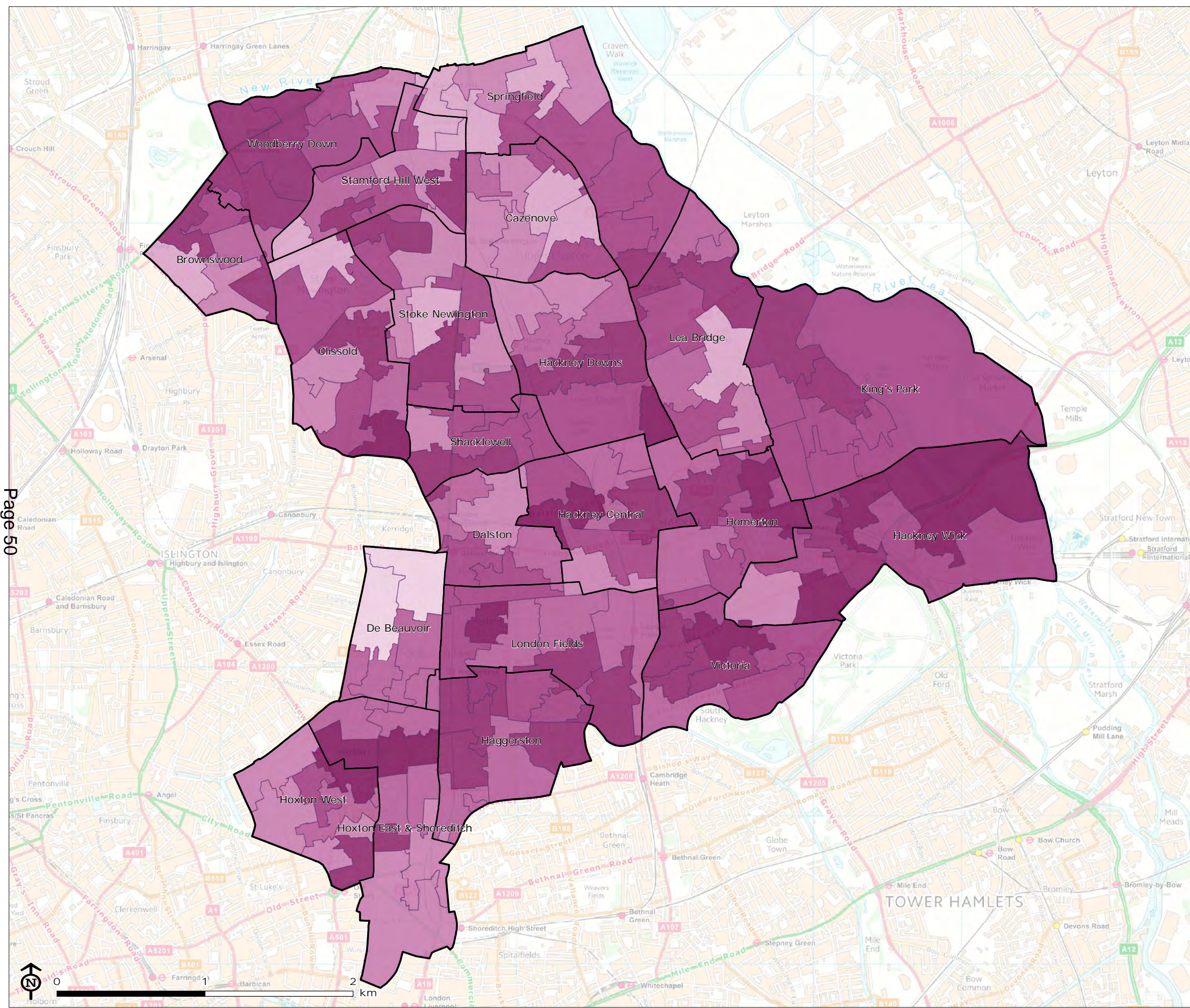
Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 1.7: Health Deprivation and Disability (2015)

London Borough of Hackney boundary
 Hackney wards
Health deprivation and disability (%)
 0 to 10 (most deprived)
 10 to 20
 20 to 30
 30 to 40
 40 to 50
 50 to 60
 60 to 70
 80 to 90 (least deprived)

Page 50



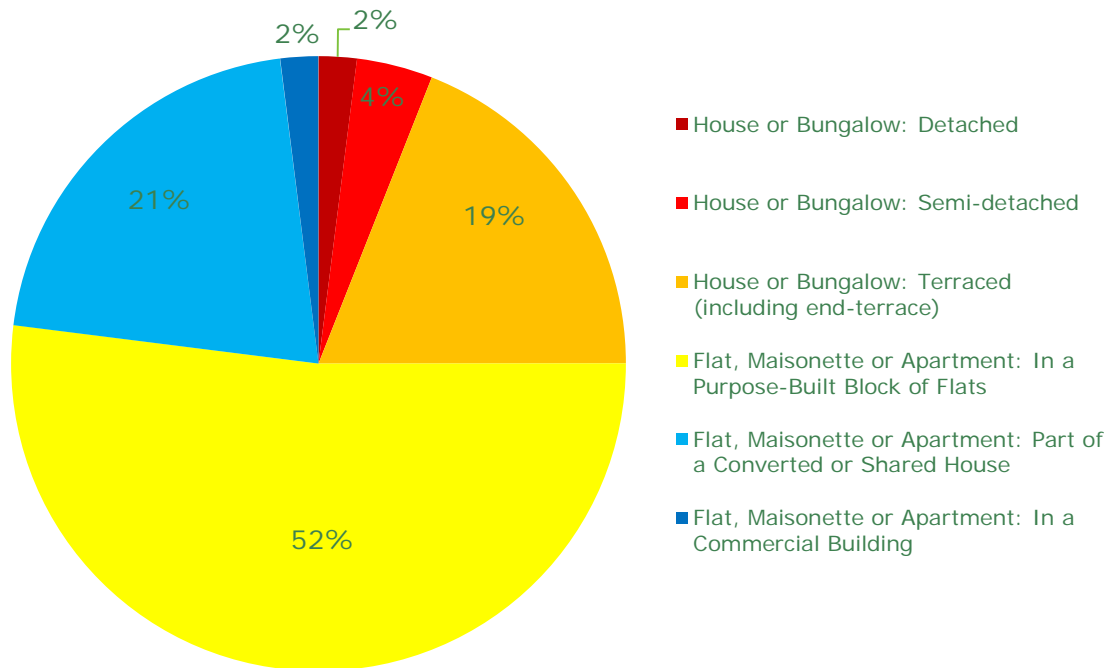
Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Access to private gardens

- 1.63 Census data from 2011 makes it possible to use housing type as a proxy for the proportion of households which are likely to have access to a private garden. **Figure 1-8** illustrates the percentage of dwellings in Hackney by type.
- 1.64 For the purpose of this assessment we have worked on the assumption that most whole houses and bungalows will have access to a private garden, with other housing types deemed not to have access to a private garden. It can be seen from **Figure 1-8** that only around a quarter of Hackney dwellings fall into these categories, leaving three quarters without access to a private garden.

Figure 1-8: Percentage of dwellings in Hackney by type



- 1.65 Nearly 45% of all households in Hackney rent from a social landlord. These households tend to have higher unemployment and lower average incomes than people living in other tenures.

Management and ownership

- 1.66 This open space assessment covers all parks and open spaces which are publicly accessible. The key organisations responsible for the management of the public open spaces are discussed below.

London Borough of Hackney

- 1.67 The London Borough of Hackney is responsible for managing the majority of open spaces in the borough. This is carried out under the Housing and Neighbourhoods Directorate, by the Libraries, Leisure and Green Spaces Service who manage the maintenance teams. The London Borough of Hackney is also responsible for the maintenance of the amenity green space within their social housing areas.

All publicly accessible open spaces are named in this report. Where open spaces with duplicate names are referenced in this report, the unique site ID has been added in brackets.

- 1.68 Table 1.1 lists the parks and open spaces managed by the London Borough of Hackney's Libraries, Leisure and Green Spaces Service.

Table 1.1: Parks and open spaces owned and/or managed by London Borough of Hackney

Name	Ward	Area (ha)
Albion Parade	Clissold	0.04
Albion Square	London Fields	0.16
Allens Gardens	Stamford Hill West	1.08
Aske Gardens	Hoxton West	0.30
Broadway Market Green	London Fields	0.23
Butterfield Green	Clissold	1.57
Cassland Road Gardens	Hackney Wick	0.16
Charles Square	Hoxton West	0.15
Church Street Garden	Clissold	0.04
Clapton Common	Springfield	2.77
Clapton Pond	Lea Bridge	0.33
Clapton Square	Homerton	0.72
Clissold Park	Clissold	23.08
Daubeney Fields	King's Park	4.36
De Beauvoir Square	De Beauvoir	0.70
East Marsh	King's Park	16.17
Fasset Square	Dalston	0.06
Goldsmith Square Recreation Ground	Haggerston	0.29
Hackney Downs	Hackney Downs	16.67
Hackney Marshes	King's Park	72.13
Fairchilds Garden	Haggerston	0.18
Haggerston Park	Haggerston	7.19
Homerton Grove	Homerton	0.43
Hoxton Square	Hoxton East & Shoreditch	0.24
Kynaston Gardens	Stoke Newington	0.05
Levy Memorial Garden	Stoke Newington	0.02
London Fields	London Fields	12.73
Mabley Green	Hackney Wick	13.27
Mark Street Garden	Hoxton East & Shoreditch	0.19
Millfields	Lea Bridge	22.97
Quaker Burial Ground	Stoke Newington	0.01
Robin Hood Community Garden	Springfield	0.14
Rowley Gardens	Woodberry Down	1.74
Shacklewell Green	Shacklewell	0.10
Shepherdess Walk	Hoxton West	0.88
Shore Gardens	Homerton	0.15
Shoreditch Park	Hoxton East & Shoreditch	7.52
Spring Hill Recreation Ground	Springfield	3.97
Springfield Park	Springfield	14.90
St John of Jerusalem Churchyard	Victoria	0.49
St John's at Hackney Churchyard	Homerton	2.81
St John's Hoxton Churchyard	Hoxton West	0.80
St Leonard C of E Churchyard	Hoxton East & Shoreditch	0.58
St Mary's Old Church	Clissold	0.31
St Thomas Long Burial Ground	Victoria	0.35
St Thomas Recreation Ground	Victoria	0.27

Name	Ward	Area (ha)
St Thomas Square Gardens	Victoria	0.36
Stoke Newington Common	Hackney Downs	3.04
Stonebridge Gardens (including Stonebridge Common)	London Fields	1.44
Town Hall Square	Hackney Central	0.15
Ufton Gardens	De Beauvoir	0.13
Well Street Common	Hackney Wick	8.62
West Hackney Recreation Road	Stoke Newington	0.91
Wick Woodland	Hackney Wick	11.45
Windsor Terrace Open Space	Hoxton West	0.08
Woodberry Downs Park	Woodberry Down	4.09

Lee Valley Regional Park

- 1.69 The Lee Valley Regional Park covers an area of 4,460 ha, stretching for 26 miles from Ware in Hertfordshire to the River Thames. The park was created by an Act of Parliament to provide a “green lung” for London, Essex and Hertfordshire. The Hackney section of the Lee Valley Park includes the Hackney Marshes and Springfield Park which form a green corridor with the Queen Elizabeth Park, Leyton Marshes and Warwick Reservoirs.
- 1.70 The park is managed by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority which is a statutory body responsible for conserving the linear park. In April 2015 the Lee Valley Leisure Trust came into operation as part of the Authority’s commitment to further establish Lee Valley Regional Park as world class destination. The Trust runs the Authority’s three London 2012 legacy venues and other major sports and visitor sites to ensure they continue to deliver economic, sporting and social benefits for the residents of London, Essex and Hertfordshire.
- 1.71 The Park aims to enhance and protect the natural biodiversity of the area, provide specialist leisure and recreation facilities and become an accessible and permeable, integrated visitor attraction.

Canal and River Trust

- 1.72 The Canal and River Trust is a charitable organisation entrusted with the care of over 2,000 miles of waterways across the UK, including the care and maintenance of the River Lee North, Lee Navigation and the Regents Canal which fall partly within Hackney. The Canal and River Trust promotes access to the waterways under their management, providing guides and advertising events.
- 1.73 The Trust manages all aspects of the care and maintenance of the waterways including litter picking, low level vegetation management on near-side, weeding, as well as the maintenance of the hard landscape features and site furniture.

The Allotment Society

- 1.74 The Hackney Allotment Society, founded in 1979, is a registered charity managed by a voluntary committee. The aim of the Society is to promote horticulture in the London Borough of Hackney. The society manages nine sites across the borough with a total of 128 full plots. The sites are:
- Leaside Road (17 plots)
 - Overbury Street (11 plots)
 - Spring Hill (38 plots)
 - Spring Lane (17 plots)
 - Aden Terrace (26 plots)
 - Church Walk (8 plots)
 - Springdale Road (4 plots)

- Queens Bridge Road (2 plots)
- St. Kilda's Road (4 plots)

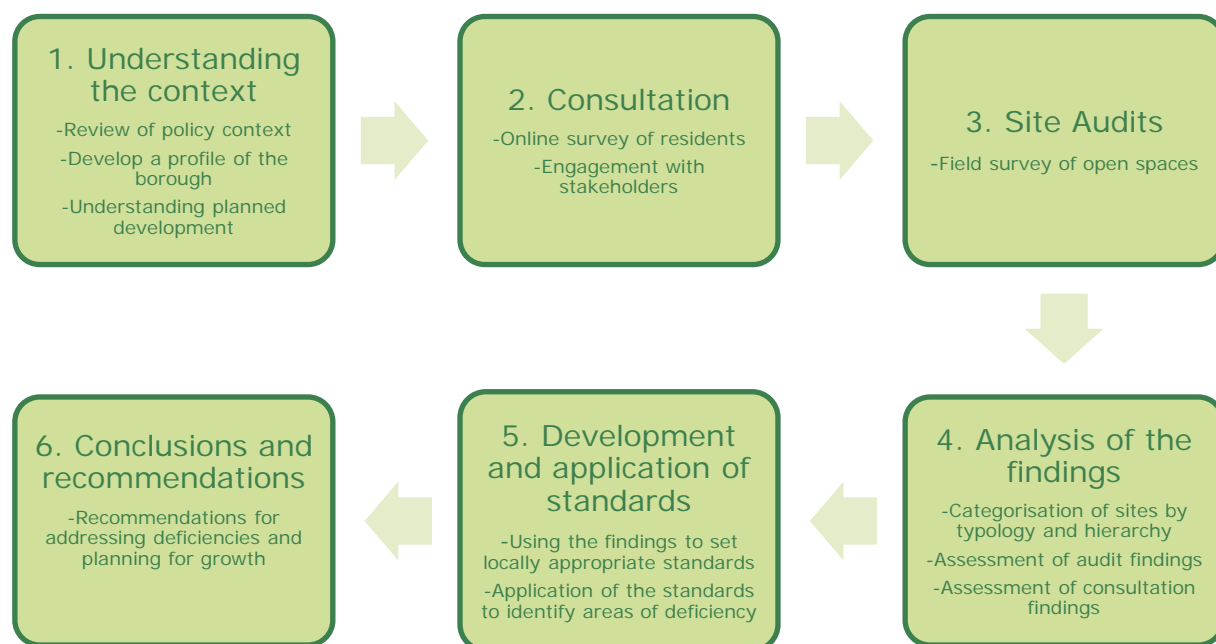
Other land managers

- 1.75 There are also a number of other organisations managing open spaces in Hackney for the benefit of the public, these include:
- Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
 - Geffrye Museum of the Home
 - London Wildlife Trust
 - The London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) (Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park)
- 1.76 Many sites offering opportunities for children and teenagers (e.g. adventure play areas) are in the care of charitable organisations.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The method for this assessment reflects the requirements of the NPPF and draws on the quality evaluation guidelines developed through the Green Flag Award scheme. The method is further informed by the Mayor of London's guidance on the preparation of open space strategies² and is aligned to the six step process as shown in **Figure 2-1**.

Figure 2-1: Study method



Steps 1 and 2: Understanding the context and consultation

- 2.2 The 'need' for open space was assessed by reviewing current population patterns, the socio-economic deprivation and other demographic indicators together with future development and population forecasts. Baseline information on open space in the borough was obtained from Hackney Council in GIS. This data was based on the previous open space strategy undertaken in 2005 with some revisions having been made by borough in the intervening period.
- 2.3 A review of national, regional and local policy and guidance was also completed, and this has been interpreted in terms of the relevance to the study (See Chapter 1).
- 2.4 The Mayor of London's guidance on the preparation of open space strategies recommends taking an inclusive approach to understanding demand and need. Community consultation is a useful way to inform the evidence base on need and demand including:
- Local people's attitudes to existing provision;
 - Local expectations and needs which are currently 'invisible' because there is no current provision;
 - A qualitative 'vision' for the type of open space communities would like to see in Hackney.

² CABE Space/Mayor of London (2009) Open Space Strategies – Best Practice Guidance

- 2.5 An online public survey was carried out to gather residents views (See Chapter 3). This covered topics such as parks used most frequently, users' satisfaction with current provision, and modes of travel to parks and open spaces and distances travelled.
- 2.6 A number of internal and external stakeholders who are involved in the maintenance and management of elements of Hackney's open spaces were consulted (See Chapter 3). Information on the open space standards of neighbouring boroughs was gathered to understand the extent of provision in those boroughs.

Step 3: Audit

- 2.7 An audit of current provision was undertaken gathering detailed information on open spaces in Hackney with the exception of sport facilities. The audit was undertaken using GIS-enabled tablets for data collection. An audit form was agreed, based around the Green Flag Award criteria, which enabled detailed data to be gathered on each site and the scoring of the site for quality and value. The Green Flag Award Criteria is shown in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2.1: Green Flag Award Criteria

Green Flag Award criteria	
1. A Welcoming Place	Welcoming, good & safe access, signage, equal access for all
2. Healthy, Safe and Secure	Safe equipment & facilities, personal security, dog fouling, appropriate provision of facilities, quality of facilities
3. Clean and Well Maintained	Litter & waste management, grounds maintenance & horticulture, building & infrastructure maintenance, equipment maintenance
4. Sustainability	Environmental sustainability, pesticides, peat use, waste minimisation, arboriculture & woodland management
5. Conservation and Heritage	Conservation of nature features, wild flora & fauna, conservation of landscape features, conservation of buildings & structures
6. Community Involvement	Community involvement in management & development including outreach work, appropriate provision for the community
7. Marketing	Marketing & promotion, provision of appropriate information, provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information
8. Management	Implementation of management plan

- 2.8 The form provided an effective way of gathering information about sites, enabling benchmarks to be established, and finally measuring the success of sites against those benchmarks. The key themes are similar to the themes used for the Park Strategy (2008). A GIS-linked database (a geodatabase) was created to capture and collate survey data.
- 2.9 **Appendix 6** contains the audit forms for the open spaces.

Step 4: Analysis of findings

- 2.10 An assessment of the existing quantity of publicly accessible open space in Hackney has been provided for the whole of the borough. This has been calculated based on the quantity of open space per 1,000 head of current population. Open spaces which are not accessible to the public were excluded from this calculation. The quantity of publicly accessible open spaces in Hackney has then been compared to provision in surrounding boroughs and reviewed against the results of the public consultation.
- 2.11 Analysis has also been undertaken of how provision levels will change if Hackney receives the anticipated growth in population as set out in “A Profile of Hackney, its People and Place” (2016).

Categorisation of open spaces by typology

- 2.12 Whilst many open spaces serve a variety of functions, it is helpful to categorise open spaces by their primary ‘typology’. Categorising open spaces by typology enables the assessment and analysis of sites of comparative type.
- 2.13 **Table 2.2** set out the open space categories used for this assessment. These reflect the Mayor of London’s guidance on open space strategies³. Within these typologies, there is potential for secondary typologies to exist, for example, many parks and gardens will contain play areas.

Table 2.2: Open space typology

Type of open space	Primary purpose
A. Parks and gardens	Open spaces providing opportunities for recreation and community events. More multi-functional than other open space, they may offer space for quiet relaxation as well as a range of amenities and facilities for visitors. Parks and gardens often include features for play.
B. Natural and semi-natural urban green space	Informal open spaces supporting a range of wildlife habitats and contributing to the biodiversity and environmental education awareness.
C. Linear open spaces/ green corridor	Linear open spaces providing walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
D. Amenity green space	Incidental open spaces providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work. Amenity green spaces provide a less formal green space experience than parks and gardens, and generally provide fewer habitats
E. Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	Open spaces providing opportunities for local community to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
F. Cemeteries and churchyards	Spaces which contribute to the open space network through providing opportunities for quiet contemplation often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation.
G. Civic space	Providing a setting for civic buildings and community events.
H. Provision for children/ young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

Categorisation of open spaces by hierarchy

- 2.14 The size of an open space can greatly affect how it is used and the range of people who are likely to visit it. The Mayor of London recommends that open space provision with parks and gardens, and natural/ semi-natural green space typologies are assessed in terms of the following hierarchy:
- Regional (size 400ha+)
 - Metropolitan (size guideline: 60ha)

³ Mayor of London (2009) Open space Strategies – Best Practice Guidance

- District (size guideline: 20ha)
 - Local (size guideline: 2ha)
 - Small (size guideline: under 2 ha)
 - Pocket (size guideline: under 0.4ha)
- 2.15 Due to the similarities of the functionality and use of open spaces which fall within small sites and pocket parks categories, these two levels of the hierarchy have been combined into a 'small local' level. There are no sites within Hackney that are large enough to fall into the regional level of the hierarchy.
- 2.16 Open spaces within the parks and gardens, and natural/ semi-natural green spaces typologies were organised into the following levels of the hierarchy:
- Metropolitan sites (60-400ha)
 - District sites (20-59ha)
 - Local sites (2-19ha)
 - Small local sites (<2ha)
- 2.17 Sites outside of the parks and gardens and natural/ semi- natural urban green space typologies have not been divided into size bands.

Step 5: Development and application of standards

- 2.18 This step draws together the information from the site audits and the consultation to develop locally appropriate standards for the quantity, quality, value and accessibility of open space in Hackney (See Chapter 4).

Quantity of open spaces in Hackney

- 2.19 Quantity standards have been set based on current provision levels and informed by consultation with residents and assessment of provision in surrounding authorities. These standards provide a baseline of provision in Hackney and will guide future open space provision.

Access to open spaces in Hackney

- 2.20 In order to understand the distribution and accessibility of open spaces within Hackney, accessibility catchment areas have been applied to each type of open space. Differing catchment areas have also been applied by hierarchies for parks and gardens, and natural/ semi-natural green spaces.

Quality and value of open spaces in Hackney

- 2.21 The quality and values scores for each open space by typology and hierarchy have been reviewed to set benchmarks for future provision. Using known 'good quality' and 'well valued' sites within the borough, a 'quality benchmark score' and a 'value benchmark score' have been calculated.
- 2.22 The ranges of scores have been mapped to identify any areas of the borough that have pockets of relatively low scoring sites. The results have been overlain with catchment areas to gain an understanding of the quality of provision that is enjoyed by residents and visitors.

Step 6: Conclusions and recommendations

- 2.23 This final stage of the assessment involved the translation of the findings of the previous stages into a set of clear priorities and principles to guide future policy within the emerging the Local Plan (See Chapter 5). Recommendations are based on a robust understanding of open space provision in Hackney and will seek to guide both the delivery of new open spaces as well as prioritisation for the enhancement of existing sites.

3 Existing open space provision in Hackney

- 3.1 This Chapter sets out the existing open space provision in Hackney. It begins by setting out the types of open space in Hackney before describing their key characteristics and accessibility.

Current provision

- 3.2 **Table 3.1** sets out the quantity of open space in Hackney by typology and hierarchy, paragraph 2.16 outlines how the hierarchy of parks and gardens and natural or semi-natural urban green spaces were categorised.

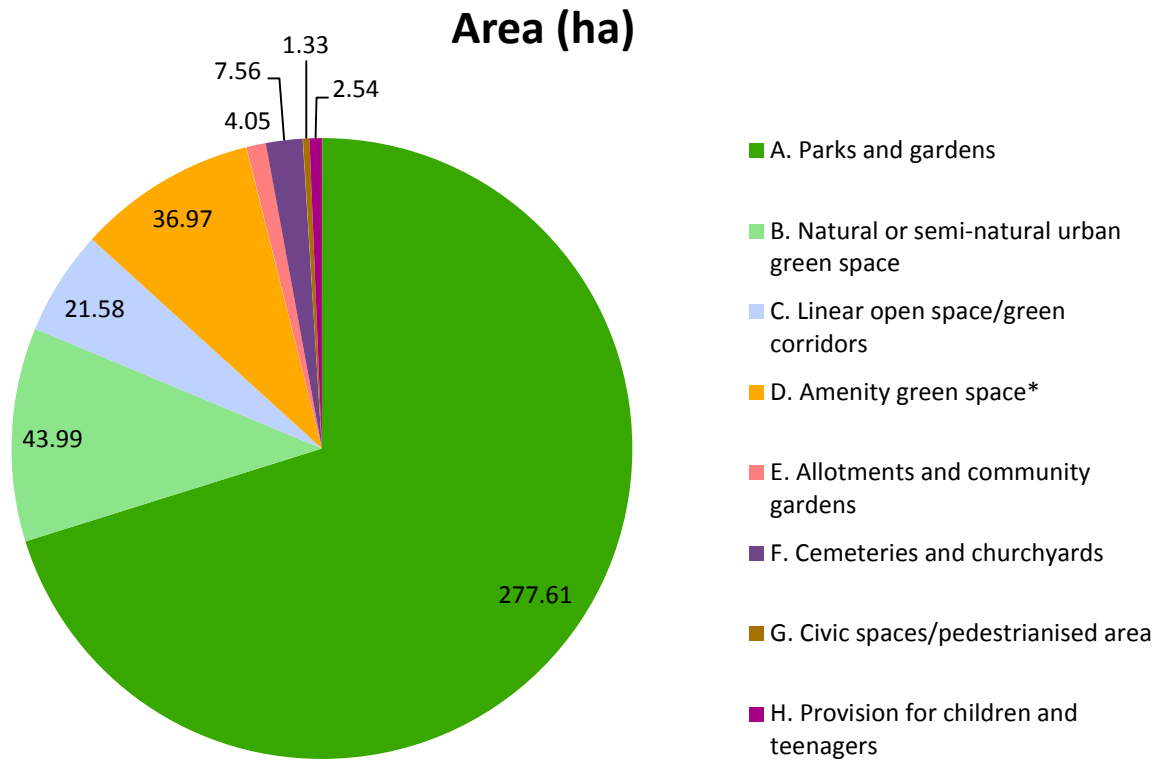
Table 3.1: Open space by hierarchy in Hackney

Typology	Hierarchy	Number of open spaces	Area (Ha)	Area (Ha) per 1,000 head of population (2016)
A. Parks and gardens	Metropolitan	2	93.61	0.36
	District	2	46.05	0.18
	Local	14	127.45	0.48
	Small local	24	10.50	0.04
B. Natural or semi-natural urban green space	Local	4	42.93	0.16
	Small local	2	1.06	0.00
C. Linear open space/green corridors		4	21.58	0.08
D. Amenity green space*		96	36.97	0.14
E. Allotments and community gardens		12	4.05	0.02
F. Cemeteries and churchyards		16	7.56	0.03
G. Civic spaces/pedestrianised area		6	1.33	0.01
H. Provision for children and teenagers		16	2.54	0.01
Total		198	395.62	1.50

*including greenspaces within grounds of institutions

- 3.3 **Figure 3-1** shows the breakdown of open space by overall area (ha). The vast majority of open space in terms of area falls within the parks and gardens typology covering 277.61 ha. Amenity green space accounts for the largest number (96) of open spaces covering an area of 36.97 ha. **Figure 3-2** shows the spatial distribution of open spaces by typology.
- 3.4 There are relatively few open spaces which fall within the primary typology of natural or semi-natural urban green space (6 open spaces) covering an area of 43.99 ha. However, sites within other typologies also contain features of nature conservation importance including the linear open space/ green corridors which cover an area of 21.58 ha and cemeteries and churchyards which cover an area of 7.56 ha.
- 3.5 Sixteen open spaces are recorded within the provision for children and teenagers typology. However, many open spaces in other typologies also contain elements to support informal play. There are also likely to be standalone play provision within housing estates which have not been fully captured within this assessment.
- 3.6 There are just six civic spaces/ pedestrianised areas recorded in this assessment. These sites cover just over 1 ha.

Figure 3-1: Division of publicly accessible open space by overall area



3.7 Not all of the open spaces in Hackney are accessible to the public. For the purposes of this assessment, sites categorised as publicly accessible are those that are freely accessible or those that are accessible with opening hours restrictions. Sites are considered to be 'not publicly accessible' if they are completely closed to the public. An example of such a site is Lauriston Road Jewish Cemetery. Some sites are restricted to members only and are not considered to be freely publicly accessible.

3.8 **Table 3.2** shows the accessibility of open space within each typology.

Table 3.2: Accessibility of open spaces in Hackney

Typology	Freely accessible to public	No public access	Restricted public access			
			Opening hours	Limited to particular areas	Members / tenants only	Other
Parks and gardens	216.09	0.06	48.67		12.79	
Natural or semi-natural urban green space	12.50		31.48			
Linear open space/green corridors	18.46					3.12
Amenity green space*	17.18		3.42	1.96	12.08	2.32
Allotments, community gardens and city farms			2.45	0.80	0.58	0.22
Cemeteries and churchyards	4.26	0.39	1.37	1.25	0.25	0.04

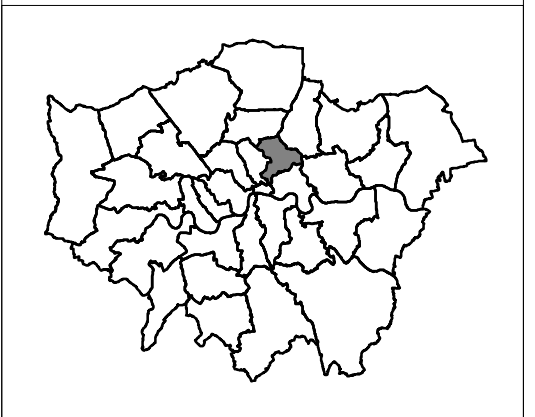
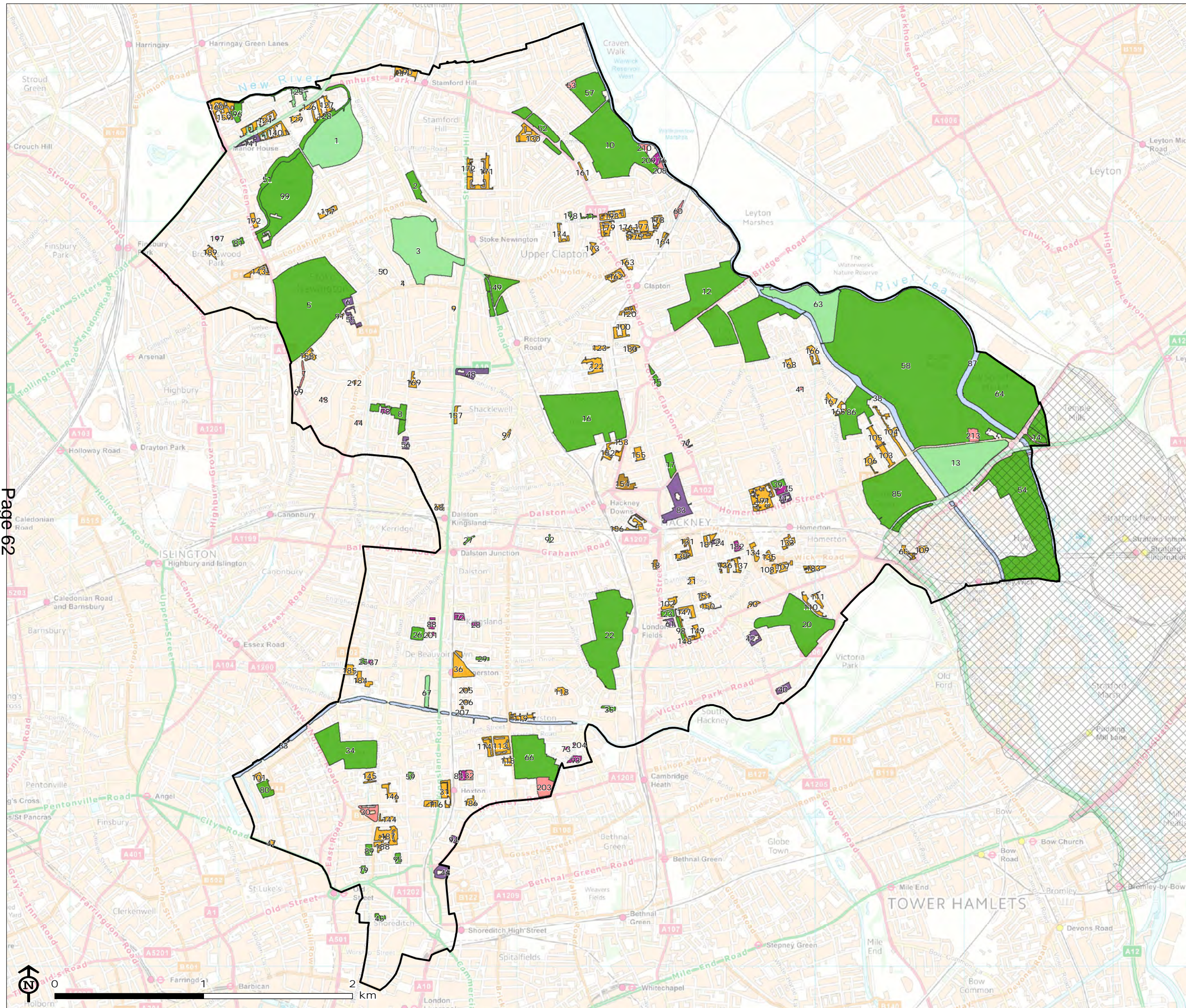
Civic spaces/pedestrianised area	1.25				0.09	
Provision for children and teenagers	1.05		1.48			
Total	270.79	0.45	88.87	4.02	25.79	5.71

*including greenspaces within grounds of institutions

- 3.9 **All further analysis of open space includes only open space considered publicly accessible, this includes open space 'freely accessible to public' and open space with 'restricted public access' under the 'opening hours' category. The total amount of open space considered publicly accessible is 359.66 ha.**

Figure 3.2: Open Space Typologies

-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  London Legacy Development Corporation
-  Parks and gardens
-  Natural or semi-natural urban green space
-  Linear open space/green corridors
-  Amenity green space
-  Allotments, community gardens and city farms
-  Cemeteries and churchyards
-  Civic spaces/pedestrianised area
-  Provision for children and teenagers



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Characteristics of open space provision in Hackney

3.10 The following text describes the open space provision in Hackney by typology and hierarchy.

A: Parks and gardens

3.11 Parks and gardens in Hackney provide a wide range of amenities and features for public use and enjoyment. There are 42 parks and gardens in Hackney covering an area of 277.61 ha. This equates to approximately 70% of all publicly accessible open space in Hackney. 45.9% of the total amount of parks and gardens (127.45 ha) falls within the local level of the hierarchy (see paragraph 2.15 for details on hierarchy).

3.12 The quality and value scores for parks and gardens across all levels of the hierarchy vary greatly. The following paragraphs summarise the standards of provision across the borough.



Metropolitan park: Hackney Marshes



District park: Clissold Park



Local park: Mabley Green



Small local park: Homerton Grove

Metropolitan parks and gardens in Hackney

3.13 Hackney Marshes and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park are the only metropolitan parks in Hackney and account for the 33.71% of the total area of parks and gardens in the borough. Hackney Marshes is a popular open space with extensive provision for football, rugby and cricket, attracting visitors from across the borough and wider region. Despite its heavy use for sport, the park is considered to be of good quality and offers good access for all.

3.14 However, aside from sport provision, the park offers few facilities and does not contain formal play space. Hackney Marshes achieved the Green Flag Award in 2016.

3.15 The Hackney section of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, known as Hopkins Fields, covers 21.38ha and is managed by the LLDC (see **Figure 3-2**). The whole of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park covers 136.17ha and has therefore has been considered as a metropolitan size site. The Hackney section of the park contains a play area, adult climbing wall and artificial pitches.

District parks and gardens in Hackney

- 3.16 Clissold Park and Millfields are the only two district parks in Hackney, together covering an area of 46.05 ha. Clissold Park is located in the north west of the borough and supports a broad range of uses and activities. It also provides access for all with clear signage and of a good quality. Clissold Park was awarded a Green Flag in 2016.
- 3.17 Millfields is located in the east of the borough and contains a play area, nature conservation area and cricket pitch. It also has tennis courts and basketball courts, football pitches and trim trail. The site received its first Green Flag Award in 2016.

Local parks and gardens in Hackney

- 3.18 Local parks form a third of all open space in Hackney spread across the following 14 sites:
- **Springfield Park**
 - Clapton Common
 - **London Fields**
 - **Hackney Downs**
 - Mabley Green
 - **Haggerston Park**
 - **Shoreditch Park**
 - Daubeney Fields
 - **Well Street Common**
 - East Marsh
 - Spring Hill Recreation Ground
 - Stoke Newington Common
 - West Reservoir (restricted public access)
 - **Woodberry Downs Park**
- 3.19 The importance of these open spaces to the residents of Hackney is acknowledged through seven of the open spaces being awarded Green Flag Awards (shown in bold above).
- 3.20 Spring Hill Recreation Ground received lower scores during the site audit. This site does not contain play equipment, extensive community facilities or was scored lower for lack of variety in vegetation/habitat types.
- 3.21 Woodberry Down Park (also known as the New River Path) provides an even and shared use route between the east and west reservoirs to the south and the extensive redevelopment within Woodberry Downs to the north. It contains high quality planting and seating together with good signage. It also contains play equipment.

Small local parks and gardens in Hackney

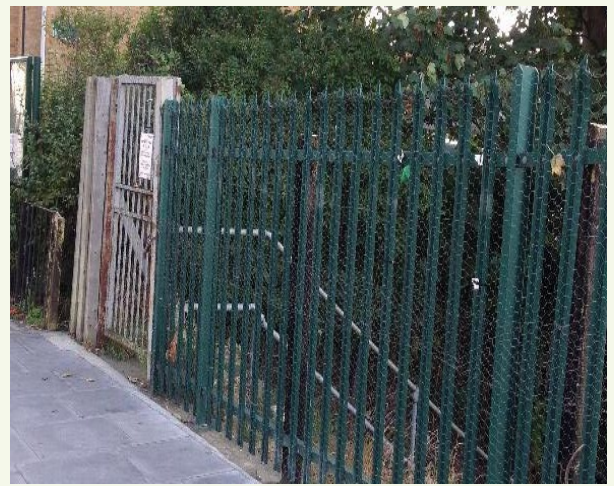
- 3.22 Twenty four open spaces have been recorded within the small local parks level of the hierarchy covering a total area of 10.50 ha. The majority of these open spaces offer a broad range of facilities including play areas and site furniture. Albion Square, Aske Gardens, Clapton Square, Clapton Pond, De Beauvoir Square, Hoxton Square and Mark Street Garden all achieved a Green Flag Award in 2016.

B: Natural or semi-natural urban green space

- 3.23 Six open spaces fall within the natural or semi-natural urban green spaces typology, together covering an area of 43.99 ha. These sites are divided into two levels of the hierarchy - local and small local.



East Reservoir



East Cross Route

Local natural or semi-natural urban green spaces in Hackney

3.24 The following four open spaces fall within the local level of the hierarchy:

- East Reservoir (Woodbury Wetlands)
- Middlesex Filter Beds Nature Reserve
- Wick Woodland
- Abney Park Cemetery

3.25 East Reservoir was constructed in the 1830s and in recent years Lottery funding has allowed the site to be enhanced for wildlife and the public. Silt dredging, reed planting and bird habitat creation on the reservoir and waterways have improved the site for wildlife; whilst investment in site access, a café, community orchard and cycle parking allowed the site to be opened to the public in 2016. The site is managed by the London Wildlife Trust and is freely accessible to the public. East Reservoir received the highest audit score for value (42) and quality (80) within the typology.

3.26 All four sites are designated as SINC and Middlesex Filter Beds Nature Reserve supports community groups.

3.27 Abney Park Cemetery is registered as an LNR, a SINC and Registered Grade II on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.

Small local natural or semi-natural urban green spaces in Hackney

3.28 The following two natural or semi-natural green spaces fall within the small local level of the hierarchy:

- Sherwood House – Pickering House, Woodberry Estate
- Kingsland Basin

3.29 Sherwood House received the highest scores within this level of the hierarchy. This is partly due to the site providing some form of community/education facility which adds value.

C: Linear open spaces/ green corridors in Hackney

3.30 There are four linear open spaces/ green corridors in Hackney covering a total area of approximately 25.58 ha. In Hackney these spaces are associated with one of the waterways which transect the borough. The River Lee flows north to south along the borough's eastern boundary and the Regent's Canal stretches west to east through Haggerston and to the north of Hoxton before heading south to the Thames through Tower Hamlets.



River Lee North



Regents Canal

- 3.31 Regent's Canal is situated within a Conservation Area.
- 3.32 Lee Navigation is located in the east of the borough adjoining Hackney Marshes. This open space provides a range of facilities for communities and offers features of educational interest.
- 3.33 The Regent's Canal received comparatively low scores for quality and value; this is generally due to issues with landscape maintenance and the limited range of features and facilities on offer to the local community.
- 3.34 The River Lee Space and the Lee Navigation all contain some form of graffiti or vandalism. In addition, dog fouling was identified on the River Lee North linear open space; however the site scored highly for the provision of litter and dog bins. Regent's Canal was the only site to receive a lower score on water edge treatment quality.
- 3.35 The River Lee North is the only site with restricted access whereby some parts of river side access is restricted to marina officials, boat owners and water authority for reservoir access.

D: Amenity green spaces in Hackney

- 3.36 There are 96 amenity green spaces (see amenity green space definition in **Table 2.2**) in Hackney. Together these sites contribute approximately 36.97 ha to the open space network (almost 10% of total open space provision in Hackney). Approximately 46% of these sites are freely accessible to the public and 54% of sites have restricted access for the use of members and tenants only.
- 3.37 Amenity green spaces contribute significantly to local communities which are not within walking distance of a park and garden, or natural or semi-natural urban green space. These spaces often play an important role in contributing to the setting of an area as well climate adaptation and biodiversity.



Pembury Road West (site ID 152)



Fellows Court South

- 3.38 Many of the amenity green spaces are located within areas of dense social housing and are managed by Hackney Council. However there are also spaces located within institutions including the green space at the Geffrye Museum. The open space audit revealed that this amenity green space is of high quality.
- 3.39 The open space audit revealed that the majority of amenity green spaces in Hackney offer good access and are considered as being safe with open approaches. Sites are also free of litter although issues with cleanliness were noted at Church Street Garden, Ravens Wood Norwood Children & Family Centre, De Beauvoir Estate, St John's Court and Pembury Road East. In addition, evidence of dog fouling was identified at seven sites and four sites show signs of graffiti and vandalism. Fellows Court South received the lowest score for value whilst Woodberry Down Estate received the lowest score for quality.
- 3.40 There are 33 amenity green spaces which contain play equipment, 32 of those cater for the 0-5 age group, 14 cater for the 5-11 age group and 14 cater for the 11+ age group. Play provision is generally considered of a fair to good quality, with the exception of Stamford Hill Estate, the Wyke Estate, Pembury Road West and Wenlock Road where the quality of provision is considered low.
- 3.41 There are 20 amenity green spaces which provide MUGA facilities; these are generally considered to be of a high quality with the exception of five which include Warwick Grove, St John's Court, Hartlake Road, Northwold Road and Melford Court.
- 3.42 Out of all of the amenity green spaces audited as part of the open space assessment, 10 are noted as containing food growing facilities.

E: Allotments, community gardens and city farms in Hackney

- 3.43 Twelve open spaces have been recorded within the allotment, community gardens and city farm typology. In addition to traditional allotment sites, this includes Hackney City Farm and Hackney Community Tree Nursery and Edible Forest Garden. All the allotment sites in Hackney are restricted to members only. St Mary's Secret Garden, Hackney City Farm and Hackney Community Tree Nursery are accessible during opening times.
- 3.44 St Mary's Secret Garden covers an area of approximately 0.3 ha and offers horticultural therapy and training for people with mental health issues, learning disabilities and other health problems. It also provides a gardening access course for the local community and provides planting workshops. It contains a sensory area, vegetable areas, a small orchard, forest-growing area and glasshouse. The Garden received a Green Flag Community Award in 2016.
- 3.45 The Hackney Community Tree Nursery & Edible Forest Garden is located adjacent to Hackney Marshes and provides opportunities to grow trees from seed and cuttings, for local communities to plant in Hackney's parks, open spaces and estates. It also supports a forest garden and a small apiary.
- 3.46 Hackney City Farm is located within the southern section of Haggerston Park. It provides the local community with an opportunity to experience farming in the heart of the city. The farm contains farm animals and grows vegetables.
- 3.47 The allotment sites in Hackney are managed through the allotment association. These provide basic facilities for community food growing. The Allotment Association has temporarily closed the waiting list for allotment plots due to increased demand.
- 3.48 Food growing was recorded on sites with different typologies. For example, there are growing spaces at Clissold Park and Allens Gardens managed by a community led organisation called Growing Communities.

F: Cemeteries and churchyards in Hackney

- 3.49 Cemeteries and churchyards offer opportunities for quiet contemplation and are often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. These sites account for 7.56 ha of open space in Hackney (2% of total area). Cemeteries and churchyards often contribute to the setting of a local area, helping to define a sense of place. Such spaces are of importance to communities which may not be within walking distance of an alternative space or for users who want avoid more active sites.



St Thomas Recreation Ground



St Olave's Church

- 3.50 Ten sites are freely accessible to the public. These include Church in Morningside Estate St Luke's, St Leonard C of E Churchyard, Quaker Burial Ground, St Thomas Recreation Ground, St John's at Hackney Churchyard, Fairchilds Garden and St Barnabus Church. Lauriston Road Jewish Cemetery is the only site that does not provide public access. The remaining sites have restricted access.
- 3.51 One site contained a Tree Protection Order (TPO) (St Luke's Church) and nine sites are within a Conservation Area.
- 3.52 Overall cemeteries and churchyards are considered to be clean and well maintained. St Olave Parish Church was the only site to score lower on overall cleanliness whilst dog fouling was identified in St John's at Hackney and graffiti was found in St John's Jerusalem.
- 3.53 Entrances and access through the cemeteries and churchyards were variable often with movement restricted due to uneven surfaces or insufficient footpaths. Road noise, lack of landscape management, pollution and fly tipping (St John's Jerusalem) were all considered key potential threats to the sites.

G: Civic spaces/pedestrianised areas in Hackney

- 3.54 The audit identified six open spaces within the civic space and pedestrianised area typology. Combined, these open spaces cover 1.33 ha and all are accessible to the public. Hackney Town Hall and Gillet Square are within a Conservation Area and make a significant contribution to defining the sense of place within the locality.



Hackney Town Hall



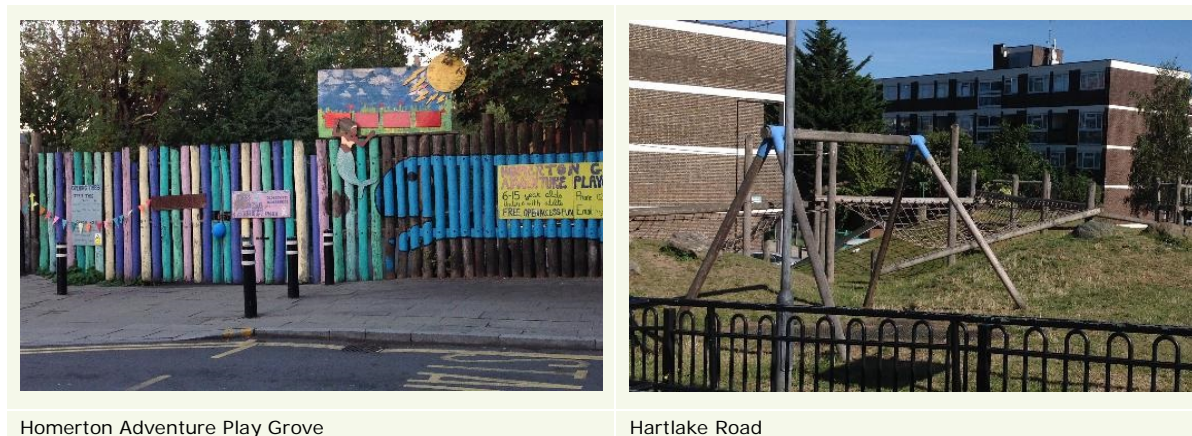
Stonebridge Estate

- 3.55 Open spaces within this typology vary in terms of quality and value, with Hackney Town Hall civic space being of good quality and value, and Stonebridge Estate receiving the lowest scores for quality and value.
- 3.56 The quality of entrances and access through the open spaces were variable, with these open spaces providing very little signage.

- 3.57 Sites are generally clean and well maintained; Gillet Square is the only site with evidence of vandalism. However planting quality is generally lower throughout the typology, except for Stonebridge Estate (site ID 207) which is highlighted as having high quality planting.
- 3.58 Pembury Road East (site ID 154) is the only open space within this typology to contain play facilities, with provision for the 0-11 age bracket. This open space is considered to be of a high quality.

H: Provision for children and teenagers in Hackney

- 3.59 16 sites have a primary typology of provision for children and teenagers, 13 contained equipped play, 3 contain other play provision including multi-use games areas (MUGA) and sports pitches.
- 3.60 Of the sites captured by the open space audit, 77 open spaces included play equipment. These sites range from equipped play areas and natural play spaces for younger children to adventure play areas, MUGA, bmx tracks and skate parks.



Homerton Adventure Play Grove

Hartlake Road

- 3.61 **Table 3.3** sets out the number of sites with play equipment by primary typology, not including sites with other play provision such as MUGA, BMX, skate parks and water play.

Table 3.3: Equipped play provision by primary typology

Typology	Number of sites with play equipment
Parks and gardens	23
Linear open space/ green corridors	1
Amenity green space	35
Allotments, community gardens and city farms	1
Cemeteries and churchyards	3
Civic spaces/ pedestrianised area	1
Provision for children and teenagers	13
Total number of sites	77

- 3.62 The majority of play provision in Hackney is aimed at children within the under 5's and 5-11 years age groups. There is less provision for children aged 11+ years.
- 3.63 **Table 3.4** sets out the provision by age group within each type of open space.

Table 3.4: Play provision within Hackney by age group and primary typology

Typology	Count of sites with play by age range		
	under 5yrs	5-11yrs	over 11yrs
Parks and gardens	20	11	11
Linear open space/ green corridors	1	1	1
Amenity green space	32	14	14
Allotments, community gardens and city farms	1	1	1
Cemeteries and churchyards	2	1	1
Civic spaces/ pedestrianised area	1	0	0
Provision for children and teenagers	11	6	6
Total number of sites	68	34	34

3.64 **Table 3.5** sets out the type of play provided within each type of open space. Play sites within Hackney provide a broad range of play experience with climbing, sliding, swinging, rocking, viewing and balancing the most frequent types of play experiences available.

Table 3.5: Type of play provided within each type of open space

Typology	Types of Play										
	Balancing	Rocking	Climbing	Sliding	Social play	Swinging	Rotating	Jumping	Viewing	Counting	Touching
Parks and gardens	22	16	21	20	16	20	10	14	18	5	11
Linear open space/ green corridors	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Amenity green space	20	20	31	30	23	25	9	12	25	9	14
Allotments, community gardens and city farms	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Cemeteries and churchyards	1	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
Civic spaces/pedestrianised area	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Provision for children and teenagers	9	9	11	12	7	9	4	6	7	4	4
Total number of sites	54	47	67	66	50	57	24	33	54	18	30

3.65 **Table 3.6** outlines the quantity of other types of play provision within Hackney. MUGAs form the majority of the other play provision in Hackney with the vast majority of these located within amenity green spaces. Other types of play for +11 age group recorded in Hackney include table tennis, green gyms and trim trails.

Table 3.6: Other play provision by primary typology

Typology	Number of sites				
	MUGA	Waterplay	Skate Park	BMX	Other
Parks and gardens	7	3	3	2	12
Natural or semi-natural urban green space	0	0	0	0	2
Linear open space/ green corridors	0	0	0	0	1
Amenity green space	21	0	0	0	3

Typology	Number of sites				
Cemeteries and churchyards	0	0	0	0	2
Civic spaces/pedestrianised area	0	0	0	0	1
Provision for children and teenagers	5	0	0	0	1
Total number of sites	33	3	3	2	22

- 3.66 The play equipment recorded in Hackney is considered to be in a fair or good condition. Sites generally scored poorly on the quality of signage provided with the exception of Evergreen Square Gardens, Homerton Adventure Play, Evergreen Adventure Play and Broad Way Market Green & Alden House where signage was good.
- 3.67 Sites were generally considered safe; all but four sites offered good levels of natural surveillance (e.g. good visibility from surrounding area). These included Springfield Park, Homerton Grove Adventure Play, Evergreen Adventure Play Grove and Apples and Pears Play Association. However only three sites had lighting within the site boundaries. These included Myddleton Avenue, Mornington Estate and Dove Row.
- 3.68 The cleanliness of sites ranged greatly across the borough. Homerton Adventure Play Grove, Mornington Estate and Evergreen Square Gardens both showed signs of graffiti and vandalism. Dove Row and Lockney Estate both scored poor for the quality of planted areas.

Summary of findings from the open space audit

- 3.69 The key strengths and issues identified during the open space audits are summarised below:
- 3.70 The quality and value of publicly accessible open space across Hackney is relatively good, which is acknowledged by endorsement of 21 Green Flag Award sites. However, there are sites across all typologies which experience issues with condition and functionality.
- 3.71 Hackney contains a greater quantity of open space than surrounding local authorities (Tower Hamlets 260.58 ha (2017) and Islington 86 ha (2009)).
- 3.72 Approximately 70% of open spaces audited in the assessment fall within the parks and gardens typology, covering an area of 277.61 ha.
- 3.73 Amenity green space is the second largest typology of open spaces in terms of site area; however this is spread across 96 sites in Hackney. These sites form approximately 10% of the total quantity of open space covering an area of 36.97 ha. The quality and value of amenity green spaces vary greatly across the borough.
- 3.74 The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (metropolitan park) received the highest scores for quality and value, whilst Woodberry Down Estate (amenity green space) scored the least for quality and value.
- 3.75 There are very few large open spaces within the borough, with Hackney Marshes and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park the only metropolitan sized open spaces, and Clissold Park and Millfields the only two district sized open spaces. Furthermore, large sections of Hackney Marshes are managed for organised sport with the open space supporting as many as 82 football, rugby and cricket pitches. This limits provision for other user groups.
- 3.76 The limited provision of larger open spaces in Hackney highlights the significance of the network of smaller sites to residents. These smaller open spaces should therefore support a range of facilities and should be able to withstand challenges from increased use and changing climate.
- 3.77 Although there are only a few large open spaces in Hackney there are significant large open spaces within surrounding boroughs. The Hackney section of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is part of a much larger open space, the rest of which is in the London Borough of Newham. Victoria Park, a metropolitan park and Finsbury Park, a district park, are also located in close proximity to Hackney (in the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Haringey, respectively).

- 3.78 Just six open spaces fall within the natural or semi-natural urban green space typology. However open spaces within other typologies such including parks and gardens, linear open spaces/ green corridors and churchyards and cemeteries contribute significantly to the borough's biodiversity.
- 3.79 Linear open spaces/ green corridors are a key component of the open space network in Hackney. These sites are predominantly linked to the waterways which have shaped the gradual evolution of the borough. As well as contributing to local character, these sites provide opportunities for recreation, sustainable travel for people, and nature conservation.
- 3.80 Fewer sites offer opportunities for teenagers than provision for those within the 0-5 and 5-11 age groups.
- 3.81 There is an extensive network of community groups within Hackney who are responsible for the management, and support the delivery of open space provision in the borough. Examples of this include:
- Sustainable Hackney
 - St Mary's Secret Garden
 - Dalston Eastern Curve Garden
 - Evergreen Play Association
 - Hackney City Farm
 - Abney Park Trust
 - Friends groups
 - Vandalism was recorded in 13 of the sites audited:
 - Lee Navigation
 - Fairchilds Garden
 - St Thomas Recreation Ground
 - Ravens Wood Norwood Children and Family Centre
 - Mornington Estate
 - Spring Hill Recreation Ground
 - St John's Churchyard
 - Mark Street Garden
 - Hartlake Road
 - Regents Canal
 - Evergreen Square Gardens
 - River Lee North

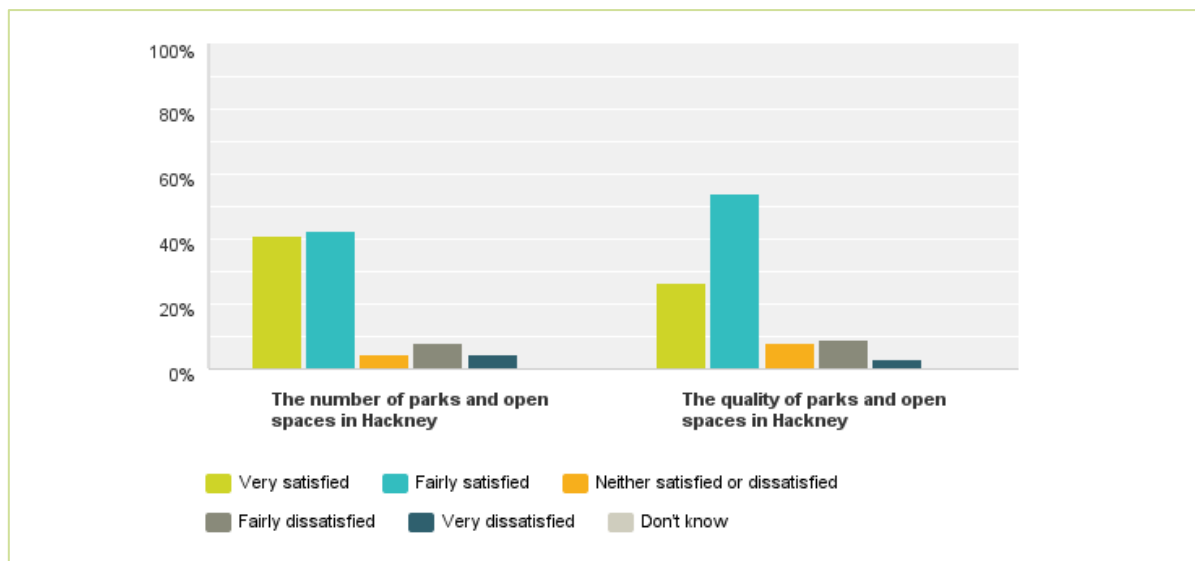
Summary of feedback from public consultation

- 3.82 Public consultation was undertaken through online consultation via a web service called 'SurveyMonkey'. The scope of this questionnaire covered the frequency of use, perceived value and satisfaction with the quality and quantity of open spaces in the Borough. Questions on specialist open space provision such as allotments and play were also included. In addition, a confidential section on the profile of the respondent was included, to enable us to ensure that the survey captured responses from a reasonable sample of the Hackney population.
- 3.83 The survey elicited responses from 162 people, 34% of whom were male and 66% were female.

Headline findings

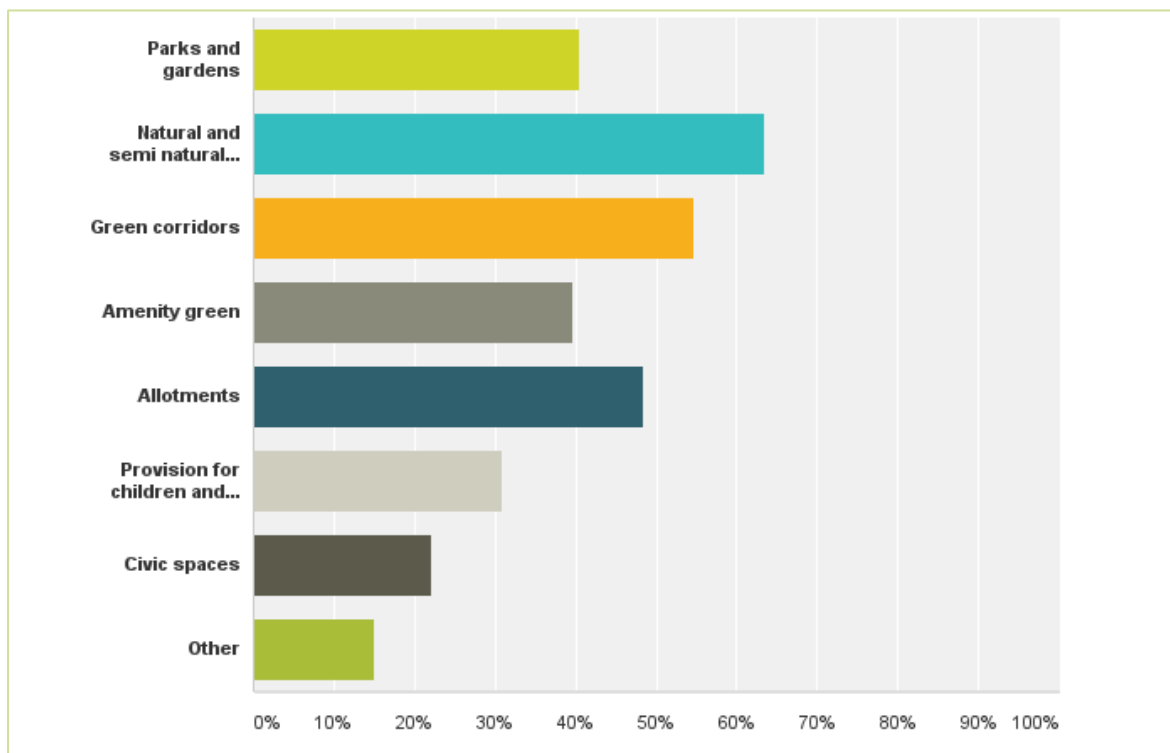
- 3.84 The majority of users travel to their local park or open space on foot, with most respondents taking less than 5 minutes to travel to their local park or open space. Almost 90% of respondents can get to their local park or open space in less than 15 minutes.
- 3.85 The vast majority of respondents felt that there is a park or open space within easy walking distance of their home.
- 3.86 The majority of respondents use their local park or open space to relax/contemplate, with large numbers using them for exercise and to observe the wildlife.
- 3.87 As shown in **Figure 3-3**, generally people are satisfied with the quantity and quality of open spaces in the borough.

Figure 3-3: Satisfaction with quantity and quality of open space



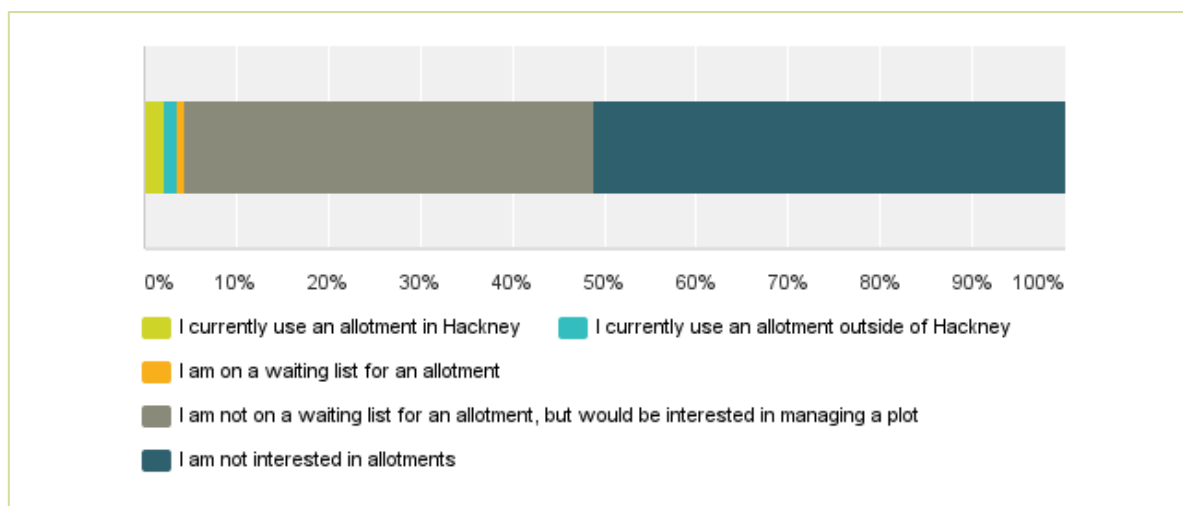
- 3.88 If additional open space were provided in Hackney, respondents would like to see provision of more natural and semi natural urban green space, green corridors and allotments in particular; this is indicated in **Figure 3-4**.

Figure 3-4: Preferred typology of new open space provision



- 3.89 The parks and open spaces that respondents visited most often included: London Fields, Millfields, Clissold Park, Hackney Downs and Hackney Marshes.
- 3.90 Very few respondents are currently using or on a waiting list for an allotment, however 44% showed interest in managing a plot, as shown in **Figure 3-5**.

Figure 3-5: Current allotment use and level of interest in allotments



- 3.91 **Figure 3-6** and **Figure 3-7** show 39% of respondents use equipped play in Hackney; 30% using equipped play 2-3 times a week. The majority of respondents access local play facilities on foot.

Figure 3-6: Frequency of use of equipped play provision

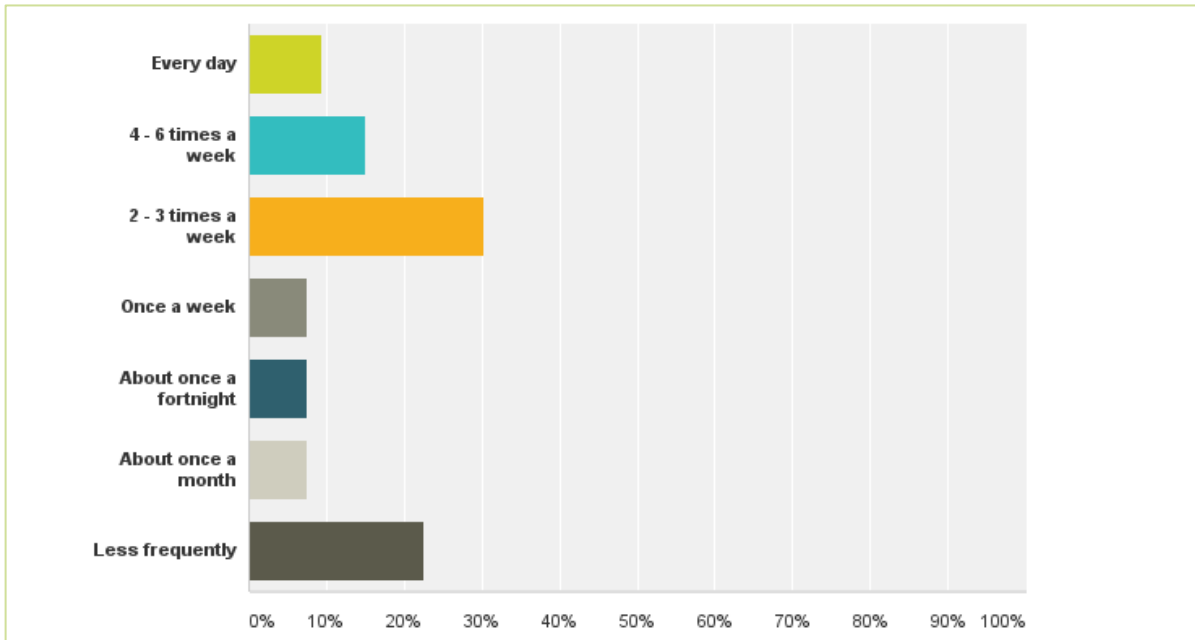
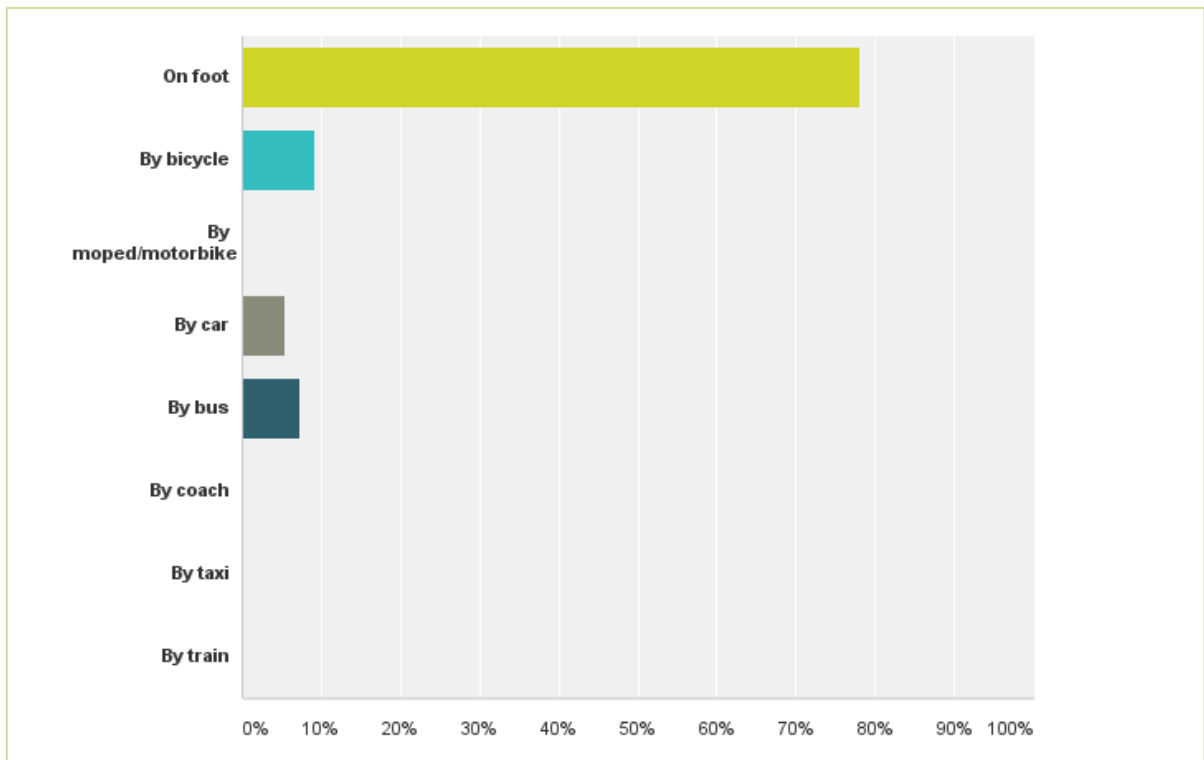


Figure 3-7: Mode of travel to equipped play facilities



3.92 Responses to the survey indicate high levels of satisfaction with the amount and quality of play overall, however responses for play for 11+ years indicates an area for improvement. Details about satisfaction of respondents with play equipment is shown in **Figure 3-8** and **Figure 3-9**.

Figure 3-8: Level of satisfaction with quantity and quality of equipped play facilities

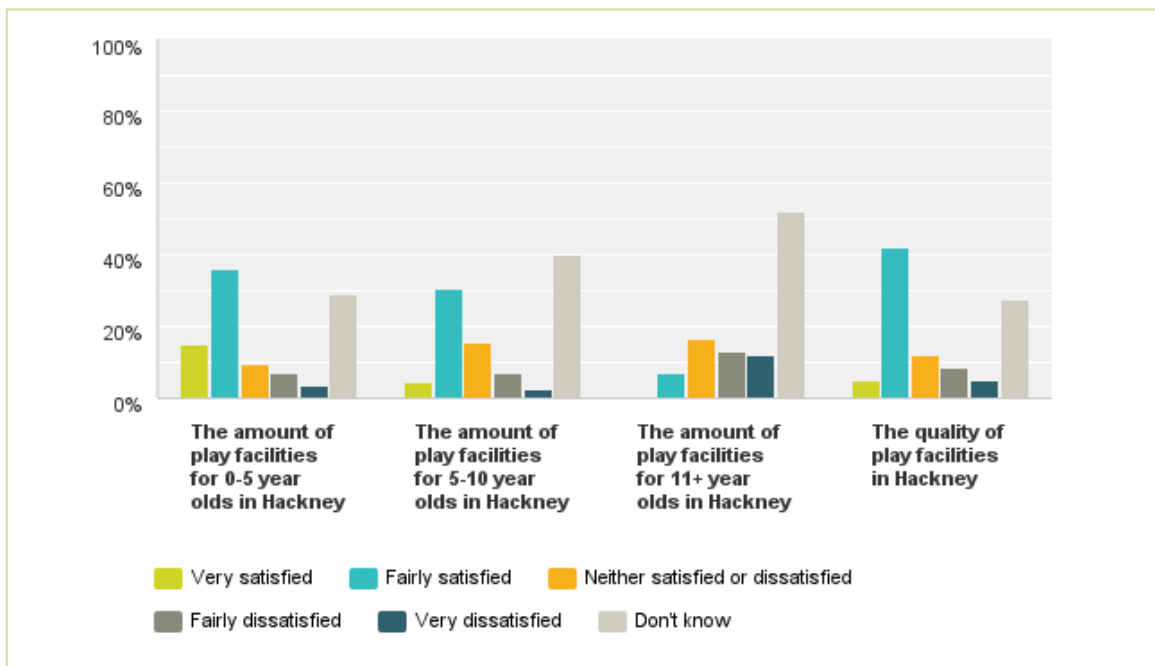
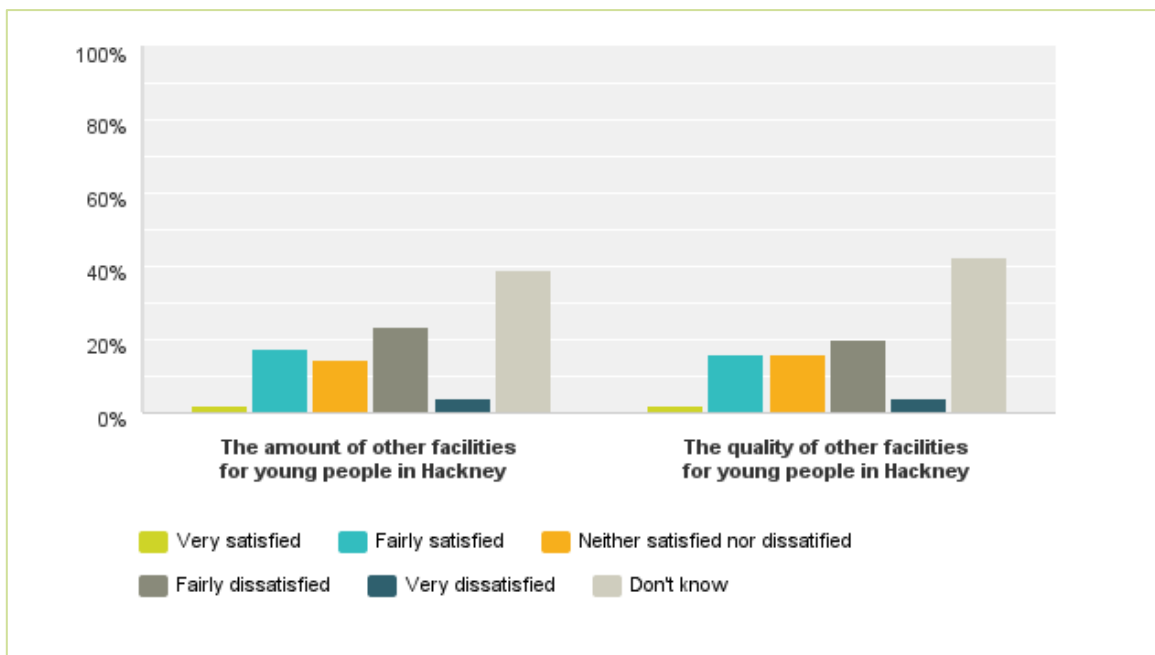


Figure 3-9: Level of satisfaction with quantity and quality of other facilities for young people



4 Development and application of standards

Development of standards

4.1 This Chapter recommends open space standards which will help guide the management and enhancement of the open space network in Hackney. These have been defined through a review of the open space network in the borough, alongside consideration of nationally recognised provision standards, and those adopted by neighbouring boroughs.

4.2 Four types of open space standards have been developed:

Quantity: The amount (measured in m² or hectares) of each open space typology which should be provided as a minimum per 1,000 head of population;

Accessibility: The maximum distance residents should be required to travel to use an open space of a specific typology and size;

Quality: The condition of the open space provided in each typology and, where applicable, hierarchy; and

Value: The functionality of the open space provided in each typology.

4.3 Benchmarking was undertaken as part of the analysis to ensure the proposed open space standards for Hackney are feasible, and promote a similar approach to that applied elsewhere.

Quantity standards

4.4 The quantitative standards define the amount of open space that should be available to the communities of Hackney. The standards offer a measure against which existing provision can be assessed and guidance for additional provision in new development. Published guidance provides a useful reference for setting the quantity standard, but, in order to ensure the standards are relevant to Hackney, they reflect the findings of the audits in terms of existing levels of provision and take into account consultation findings to gauge whether the community considers the level of existing provision to be sufficient or not.

4.5 The quantity standards have been developed by assessing the existing quantity of each open space typology. As consultation feedback has indicated that three quarters of residents feel that the current quantity of open space is sufficient, the basis for the quantity standards was the average quantity of combined publicly accessible open space provision in the borough. This was then reviewed against both national guidelines on open space provision, for example Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards and the Greater London Authority's open space provision standards.

4.6 Benchmarking was undertaken as part of the analysis, to ensure that the proposed open space standards for Hackney are feasible, and promote a similar approach to that applied elsewhere (see **Appendix 2**).

4.7 Rather than develop a quantity standard for each typology, the following complementary typologies have been grouped together. These typologies have been grouped to form the quantity standard they are considered as public open space which provide for a broad of range of formal and informal recreation as well as biodiversity.

- Parks and gardens
- Natural and semi-natural urban green space
- Amenity green space

4.8 This enables the delivery of meaningful open space rather than a series of smaller open spaces of differing types.

- 4.9 The Mayor of London’s Supplementary Planning Guidance *Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation*, recommends that there should a minimum provision of 10m² of play space per child. Future play space should provide a broad range of play features and experience for children and young people of all age groups.
- 4.10 No quantity standards have been proposed for allotment provision. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggest a national standard of 0.125 ha per 1,000 head of population based on an average plot size of 250 square metres. The current provision of allotments in Hackney is much lower than this standard with just 0.015 ha per 1,000 head of population. Due to demand, the Hackney Allotment Society has closed the waiting list for allotment plots and 44% of respondents to the public survey indicated that they would be interested in managing a plot. The estimated increase in population means the quantity of allotments per 1,000 head population is likely to decrease. However there is little scope for additional provision of allotments within Hackney and the priority will be to promote community gardens and to offer growing spaces within other open space.
- 4.11 No quantity standards have been proposed for cemeteries and churchyards, civic spaces or linear open spaces/ green corridors.
- 4.12 **Table 4.1** sets out the proposed quantity standards for open space provision in Hackney

Table 4.1: Quantity standards to guide future provision of open space in Hackney

Typology	Proposed standard	Justification
Parks and gardens Natural and semi-natural urban green space Amenity green space	1.36 ha/1,000 head of population	This is the current provision of publicly accessible open space in Hackney based on 2016 population data. Open spaces which are not accessible to the public have not been included within this calculation. Setting the standard at this level of provision will ensure that provision should not fall below the existing quantity per 1,000 head of population as the population grows.
Play space	A minimum of 10 square metres of dedicated play space per child.	Guided by the Mayor of London’s Supplementary Planning Guidance <i>Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation</i>

- 4.13 The proposed standard for Hackney for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural urban greenspace and amenity green space fits in the range of proposed standards set in neighbouring boroughs. Haringey has the highest with 1.64 ha per 1,000 (this includes linear open space/ green corridors), Islington has the lowest with 0.5 ha per 1,000, Tower Hamlets has 0.98 ha per 1,000. Details of standards in neighbouring boroughs are in **Appendix 2**.
- 4.14 The creation of large open spaces is likely to be limited due to the characteristics of the densely populated borough. The quantity standards identified above should therefore be used as a guide for future open space planning. Innovative methods for creating new open space will need to be considered to respond to the anticipated increase in population.

Accessibility standards

- 4.15 The accessibility standard defines the maximum distance that users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of open space. This can be presented spatially by use of an ‘accessibility catchment’ which is effectively a mapped buffer around facilities and spaces.
- 4.16 The accessibility standards for open space provision in London are set out in the Mayor of London’s guidance on open space strategies. Accessibility standards have not been proposed for linear open spaces/ green corridors, cemeteries and churchyards and civic spaces. This reflects the fact that proximity is not considered to be a requirement of this open space type.
- 4.17 There is no current national standard for the accessibility distances for allotment provision. A standard of 1.2 km has been set for provision in Hackney, which is equivalent to a 5 minute drive/ 15 minute walk and is a similar standard to surrounding boroughs.

4.18 **Table 4.2** sets out the accessibility standards for open space provision in Hackney.

Table 4.2: Accessibility standards for open space provision in Hackney

Typology/ hierarchy	Proposed standard
Parks and gardens	
Metropolitan	3.2km
District	1.2km
Local	400m
Small local	280m
Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces	
Local	400m
Small local	280m
Linear open space/ green corridor	N/A
Amenity green space	280m
Allotments, community gardens and city farms	1.2km
Cemeteries and churchyards	N/A
Civic space	N/A

4.19 **Table 4.3** sets out the criteria for open spaces containing play and the accessibility standards. Open spaces containing play equipment were categorised as a local areas of play (LAP), local equipped areas for play (LEAP) or neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAP) dependent on the age of children provided for by the site.

Table 4.3: Accessibility standards for open spaces with areas for play

Play type	Criteria	Proposed standard
Local areas for play (LAP)	Only provides play for children under 5 years old	100 m
Local equipped areas for play (LEAP)	Provides play for children up to 11 years old	400 m
Neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAP)	Provides play for children over 11 years old	1 km

4.20 **Table 4.4** sets out the proposed accessibility standard for sites that have provision for teenagers e.g. MUGA, skate park etc.

Table 4.4: Accessibility standards for site with provision for teenagers

Site criteria	Proposed standard
Open space containing MUGA, skate park, BMX or other provision for teenagers	1 km

Quality and value standards

4.21 In order to assess the performance of open spaces in terms of quality and value, the following factors have informed the standards:

- Key characteristics expected of spaces within the different typologies and levels of the hierarchy;
- Highest quality and/or highest value sites within Hackney which provide a 'benchmark' against which to assess sites; and

- Ensuring standards are set at a level to be aspirational, yet achievable based on existing quality and value.

Quality standard for Hackney

- 4.22 As part of the site audit, each open space was assessed for quality against the Green Flag Award themes, and the condition of the various components of a site rated as very good, good, fair, poor or very poor. This assessment was then transposed through the scoring system into a quality score.
- 4.23 In order to develop a quality standard which is appropriate for the type and function of open spaces in Hackney, the existing quality of provision was reviewed by typology and the associated hierarchy level. Through reviewing the range of quality scores it was possible to establish a quality threshold score, i.e. a minimum level of quality which should be achieved at any open space. A threshold score has been defined for each level of hierarchy reflecting the ideal score scenario for a good quality site.

Value standard for Hackney

- 4.24 Value is fundamentally different from quality; a space can be valued for a range of reasons even if it is of lower quality. Value mainly relates to the following:

Context: for example an easily accessible space is higher value than one that is inaccessible to potential users, equally the value of a space may diminish if it is immediately adjacent to several others which provides the same function.

Level and type of use: the primary purpose and associated use of a space can increase its value – well used spaces are of highest value to people, similarly spaces with diverse habitats can be well used by wildlife and can be interpreted as having a highest value.

Wider benefits: the benefits a space generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment including the following – landscape, ecology, education, social inclusion and health benefits, cultural and heritage, amenity benefits, ‘sense of place’ and economic benefits.

- 4.25 The open space audit included information to be evaluated as part of the value assessment such as the value of play spaces, the presence of community facilities and the biodiversity value of habitats. The relevant audit information was reviewed to develop a value threshold score specific to the different types of open space in Hackney.

Setting benchmark standards for quality and value

- 4.26 In order to assess the sites consistently the audit forms were scored. The scores for each site were separated into factors that relate to quality and value (see **Appendix 3**). Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated. For example, an open space may be of highest quality but if it is not accessible it is of little value, while if an open space is poor quality but has a wide range of facilities it is potentially of highest value.
- 4.27 When assessing scored sites, it should be noted that the scoring varies according to the complexity of the open space as well as the condition of the open space which limits the extent to which one should directly compare scores across different types (typologies) of space.
- 4.28 The value and quality scoring can be reviewed by total score or by the audit themes (linked to the Green Flag Award Criteria). Each site was audited using a standard form with scores allocated to relevant criteria. A list of key characteristics was developed which could be expected of sites of a particular typology and at a particular level of the hierarchy. This list was then compared to sites with the results from the site audit to identify exemplar sites which could form the basis for a benchmark standard. The approach to scoring the quality and value of open spaces is shown in **Appendix 3**.
- 4.29 **Table 4.5** sets out the quality standards for open space in Hackney. Standards are based upon the total quality score achieved by sites in all audit themes.

Table 4.5: Quality standards for open space in Hackney

Typology/ hierarchy	Proposed standard	Example of a good quality open space
Parks and gardens		
• Metropolitan	95	Hackney Marshes
• District	75	Millfields
• Local	67	Shoreditch Park
• Small local	42	Cassland Road Gardens
Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces		
• Local	48	Middlesex Filterbeds Nature Reserve
• Small local	39	Sherwood House - Pickering House, Woodberry Estate
Linear open space/ green corridor	54	River Lee Space
Amenity green space	35	Pembury Road East (site ID 155)
Allotments, community gardens and city farms	28	Church Walk Allotments
Cemeteries and churchyards	36	St Leonard's Garden
Civic space	37	Pembury Road East (site ID 154)

4.30 **Table 4.6** sets out the value standards for Hackney. Standards are based upon the total value score achieved by sites in all audit themes.

Table 4.6: Value standards for open space in Hackney

Typology/ hierarchy	Proposed standard	Example of a good value open space
Parks and gardens		
Metropolitan	55	Hackney Marshes*
District	69	Millfields
Local	63	London Fields
Small local	34	De Beauvoir Square
Natural and semi-natural green space		
Local	39	Middlesex Filterbeds Nature Reserve
Small local	12	Kingsland Basin
Linear open space/ green corridor	38	River Lee Space
Amenity green space	33	Clapton Way Estate (site IDs 122 and 123)
Allotments, community gardens and city farms	17	Overbury Street Allotments
Cemeteries and churchyards	26	St Leonard's Garden
Civic space	26	Gillet Square

* Although Hackney Marshes only received a score of 55 for value, it is an important open space for formal sport provision serving the residents of Hackney along with residents within the surrounding boroughs and beyond. Hackney Marshes should therefore be considered to be of highest value, which is reflected in it achieving a Green Flag Award.

4.31 **Table 4.7** sets out the quality and value standards for open spaces containing play. Standards are based upon the scores achieved by sites on questions relating to play.

Table 4.7: Quality and value standards for sites containing play in Hackney

Play type	Proposed quality standard	Proposed value standard
LAP	5	16
LEAP	5	21
NEAP	5	26

4.32 Each open space has been rated with a combined quality and value band using the format of +/- symbols to annotate each band (i.e. highest quality/ highest value is shown as ++, highest quality/lower value is shown as +-). A full list of the quality and value scores for open spaces audited through this study is contained within **Appendix 4** and **Appendix 5**.

4.33 **Table 4.8** below suggests the future management approach to open spaces within each band.

Table 4.8: Quality and value matrix

Highest Quality/Highest Value	Highest Quality/ Lower Value
++	+-
<p>These sites are considered to be the best open spaces within the borough offering the greatest value and quality for the surrounding communities.</p> <p>Future management should seek to maintain the standard for these spaces and ensure they continue to meet the requirement of the communities they serve.</p> <p>Ideally all spaces should fit into this category.</p>	<p>These sites have been scored as being of high quality but low value.</p> <p>Wherever possible the preferred management approach to a space in this category should aim to enhance its value in terms of its present primary typology or purpose.</p> <p>If this is not possible, the best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to another typology.</p>
Lower Quality/ Highest Value	Lower Quality/ Lower Value
-+	--
<p>These spaces meet or exceed the required value standard but fall below the required quality standard.</p> <p>Future management should therefore seek to enhance their quality to ensure that the open spaces are welcoming and safe for use by the local community.</p>	<p>These spaces are falling below the applicable value and quality standards and therefore their future enhancement should be considered to be a priority.</p>

Application of proposed standards

Quantity

4.34 **Table 4.9** sets out the quantity of provision based on the current population and how provision will change with the projected increase in population. Based upon the proposed provision standards and predicted population growth, Hackney will require an additional 0.29 ha of open space (parks and gardens, natural or semi-natural urban green space, amenity green space) per 1,000 of population (97.88 ha in total) by 2041 to meet the standards.

Table 4.9: Application of open space quantity standard for 2016 and 2041

Publicly accessible open space (ha)	Population 2016	Population 2041	Provision ha per 1,000 people 2016	Provision ha per 1,000 people 2041	Additional quantity of open space required to maintain open space standard in 2041
359.66	263,150	335,000	1.36	1.07	0.29 ha per 1,000 head of population

4.35 **Table 4.10** sets out the provision of open space (parks and gardens, natural or semi-natural urban green space, amenity green space) per 1,000 head of population by Ward⁴. Whilst the provision standard is intended for the borough as a whole, **Table 4.10** can be used to pin point wards which may require focus for improvements to/addition of open space. Six Hackney wards exceed the provision standard, including King's Park with 8.21 ha per 1,000 population, whilst 15 wards do not meet the provision standard.

Table 4.10: Application of open space quantity standard by ward for 2016

Ward	Provision (parks and gardens, natural or semi-natural urban green space, amenity green space) ha per 1,000 people in 2016	Quantity of open space provision by Ward compared to quantity standard of 1.36ha per 1,000 head of population
Brownswood	0.11	-1.25ha
Cazenove	0.18	-1.18ha
Clissold	1.84	+0.48ha
Dalston	0.01	-1.35ha
De Beauvoir	0.20	-1.16ha
Hackney Central	0.12	-1.24ha
Hackney Downs	1.59	+0.23ha
Hackney Wick	4.02	+2.66ha
Haggerston	0.81	-0.55ha
Homerton	0.45	-0.91ha
Hoxton East and Shoreditch	0.81	-0.55ha
Hoxton West	0.14	-1.22ha
King's Park	8.21	+6.85ha
Lea Bridge	1.33	-0.03ha
London Fields	1.10	-0.26ha
Shacklewell	0.04	-1.32ha
Springfield	1.48	+0.12ha
Stamford Hill West	0.20	-1.16ha
Stoke Newington	0.94	-0.42ha
Victoria	0.46	-0.9ha
Woodberry Down	2.76	+1.4ha

⁴ The population projection data is sourced from the GLA and is based on Hackney's pre-2014 Ward boundaries which differ to the current Wards. Due to the most recent Census being carried out in 2011, before the Wards were changed, population projection data from the GLA, which is considered to be more accurate at a local level as it accounts for housing growth, is only available based on the pre-2014 ward boundaries. Therefore population projections in this document are based upon the pre-2014 Ward boundaries to make use of the most accurate data available.







Quality, value and accessibility

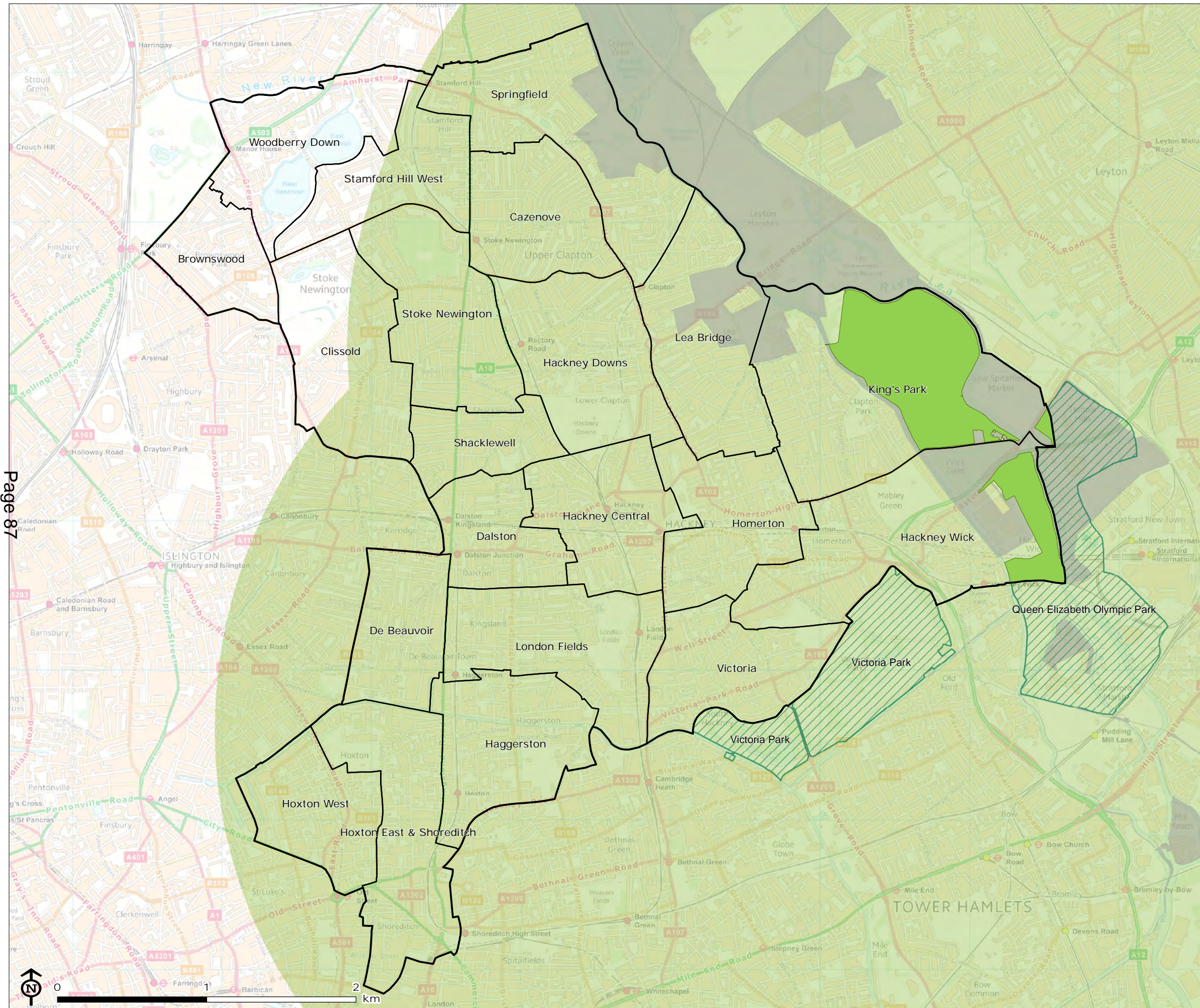
- 4.36 **Figures 4.1-4.24** show access to open space and play provision in the borough as well as the quality and value ratings for the sites. Site benchmarking highlights the presence of lower quality and lower value sites across the borough that could benefit from investment.
- 4.37 **Figure 4-1** shows that at the metropolitan level of the hierarchy, Woodberry Down, Brownswood, and the western half of Clissold and Stamford Hill West Wards fall outside of the accessibility catchment of 3.2 km of Hackney's metropolitan open spaces. However, for those areas that have access to sites at this level of the hierarchy, the quality and value of these sites is high.
- 4.38 Accessibility to district level sites is shown in **Figure 4-2**. At the district level of the hierarchy, whilst many Wards have good access to highest quality and highest value open spaces (notably including those Wards mentioned above that do not have access to sites at the metropolitan level of the hierarchy), the following Wards are not within the 1.2 km catchment of district level sites:
- Northern part of Springfield, Cazenove
 - Southern part of Shacklewell
 - Western part of Hackney Central, London Fields, Haggerston
 - De Beauvoir
 - Hoxton East and Shoreditch
 - Hoxton West
 - Dalston
- 4.39 This assessment has included catchments for similar sites in other boroughs that residents of Hackney may be visiting (Finsbury and Victoria Parks).
- 4.40 All Wards have some areas not within the 400 m catchment of a local open space. Homerton, Dalston, De Beauvoir, Hoxton East and Shoreditch, and Shacklewell have the lowest coverage. At the local level there seven sites with lower quality and value and one site with highest quality but lower value. All publicly accessible natural and semi-natural urban green spaces are highest quality and value, in which there is opportunity to increase access from the east and west sides of the Borough. Local level sites are shown in **Figure 4-3** (parks and gardens), **Figure 4-5** (natural and semi-natural urban green space) and **Figure 4-8** (parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural urban green space).
- 4.41 Some parts of Cazenove do not fall within the 400m catchment of local open space for parks and gardens or natural and semi-natural urban green space. Furthermore areas that do are within the catchment for sites with lower quality and value. Large areas of Stoke Newington are only within the catchment of a lower quality and lower value site (Stoke Newington Common). Parts of Woodberry Down and Stamford Hill West are within the 400m catchment for West Reservoir, the site has restricted access. However the neighbouring East Reservoir provides a highest quality and highest value site with full public access.
- 4.42 Access to small local open space is good in the east of Hackney. In the west of Hackney there are areas either outside the access catchment or only within catchment of sites with restricted access. Parts of the following Wards fall outside the 280m access catchment for small local open space (parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural urban green space, amenity green space):
- Springfield
 - Stamford Hill West
 - Lea Bridge
 - Clissold
 - Hackney Central
 - Shacklewell
 - Dalston
 - London Fields

- De Beavoir
 - Hoxton East and Shoreditch
- 4.43 Small local sites are shown in **Figure 4-4** (parks and gardens and amenity spaces), **Figure 4-6** (natural and semi-natural urban greenspace) and **Figure 4-7** (amenity green space). **Figure 4-9** shows all small local sites (parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural urban greenspace, amenity green space) with accessibility. Amenity green spaces have been shown in relation to parks and gardens as these sites offer the greatest opportunity to respond to gaps in more formal open space provision. **Figure 4-10** shows areas which are deficient in publicly accessible open space, broken down in to levels of the hierarchy (see paragraph 2.16 for descriptions of hierarchy). For example, areas deficient in access to two levels of the hierarchy would be lacking in access to 2 of the following hierarchies of open space:
- Small local
 - Local
 - District
 - Metropolitan
- 4.44 Notably the Wards of Dalston, Hackney Central, De Beauvoir, the western part of Stamford Hill West and an area to the south of Lea Bridge, which experience high living environment deprivation, are either outside of the catchments areas for small local open spaces or are only within the catchment for open spaces with restricted access.
- 4.45 Hackney Wick, Woodberry Down, Brownswood and Haggerston are Wards likely to have a significant increase in population due to development and regeneration, these areas have good provision of open spaces however the quality and value of these spaces vary. All amenity green space in Woodberry Down is of lower quality and lower value plans, however the regeneration of the area will help improve poor sites. Hackney Wick contains four parks, two of which are of highest quality and value, however Wick Woodland is of lower quality and value. Well Street Common is considered to be of highest quality but lowest value. Haggerston contains one high quality and high value park and a number of amenity green spaces with varied quality and value.
- 4.46 In addition, King's Park, Victoria, Homerton and Brownswood are also Wards with good provision of open spaces, the quality and value of which vary.
- 4.47 Hoxton West, Hoxton East and Shoreditch, Hackney Central and Dalston are Wards likely to have a significant increase in population due to development and regeneration. These Wards have areas with poor open space provision. Markedly, Hoxton East and Shoreditch, and Hoxton West, which experience highest levels of living environment deprivation, also have limited access to small local sites and no access to district scale sites.
- 4.48 The quality and value scores for linear open space/ green corridors are shown in **Figure 4-11**. There are four linear open spaces/ green corridors. Three of which are fully accessible to the public whilst one has restricted access (River Lee North). Two linear open spaces/ green corridors are of highest quality and value. Lee Navigation, a lower quality but highest value site, crosses Hackney Wick, King's Park and a small part of Lea Bridge. Regents Canal, spanning Hoxton West, De Beauvoir, Haggerston and Hoxton East and Shoreditch Wards is lower quality and lower value.
- 4.49 Provision of allotments, community gardens and city farms in Hackney (shown in **Figure 4-12**) is lowest, with just 12 sites providing 0.015 ha per 1,000 people. Seven of the 12 sites are of high quality and highest value. The remaining sites have lower quality and/or lower value. Large areas of the borough fall outside the accessibility catchment of allotments, community gardens and city farms. Increased demand for allotments was highlighted through the Hackney Allotment Society. 44% of respondents to the public consultation who answered questions about allotments expressed an interest in managing an allotment plot; indicating a significant area for improvement in provision allotments and food growing opportunities.
- 4.50 Quality and value scores for cemeteries and churchyards are shown in **Figure 4-13**. Of the 16 sites categorised as cemeteries or churchyards, only 5 are highest quality and highest value including two Green Flag sites: St John's at Hackney Churchyard and West Hackney Recreation Road.

- 4.51 There are six sites in Hackney categorised as civic spaces/ pedestrianised areas. Two sites have highest quality and value. However three sites are considered to be of lowest quality and value; all of which are part of the Stonebridge Estate (site IDs 205-207) in Haggerston. The quality and value ratings of civic spaces/ pedestrianised areas are shown in **Figure 4-14**.
- 4.52 Play provision in Hackney is predominately located within large open spaces such as parks and gardens or amenity green spaces. Sites containing play are shown in **Figure 4-15** (LAP), **Figure 4-16** (LEAP), **Figure 4-17** (NEAP) and teen sites **Figure 4-18**. Accessibility for all open space containing play is shown in **Figure 4-19** Access to LAPs is poor throughout the borough, however not all play sites within housing estates were not considered in this study. Access to LEAPs is variable throughout the borough with deficiency in the majority of Hoxton East and Shoreditch, good provision in Woodberry Down, and partial deficiency in all other Wards. A small area of Hoxton East and Shoreditch Ward is the only part of Hackney deficient in access to NEAPs and teen play. Despite good borough wide access to NEAPs, sites in Haggerston, London Fields, Victoria, Homerton, Hackney Wick and Hackney Central are of lower quality and/or value.
- 4.53 **Figures 4-20 – 4-24** locates the open spaces containing teen provision in the borough by type.

Figure 4.1: Parks and Gardens: Metropolitan Site Access

-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
- Quality/Value Rating
 -  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Metropolitan parks in other boroughs*
 -  Lee Valley Regional Park
- 3.2 km accessibility catchment
 -  Freely accessible to public



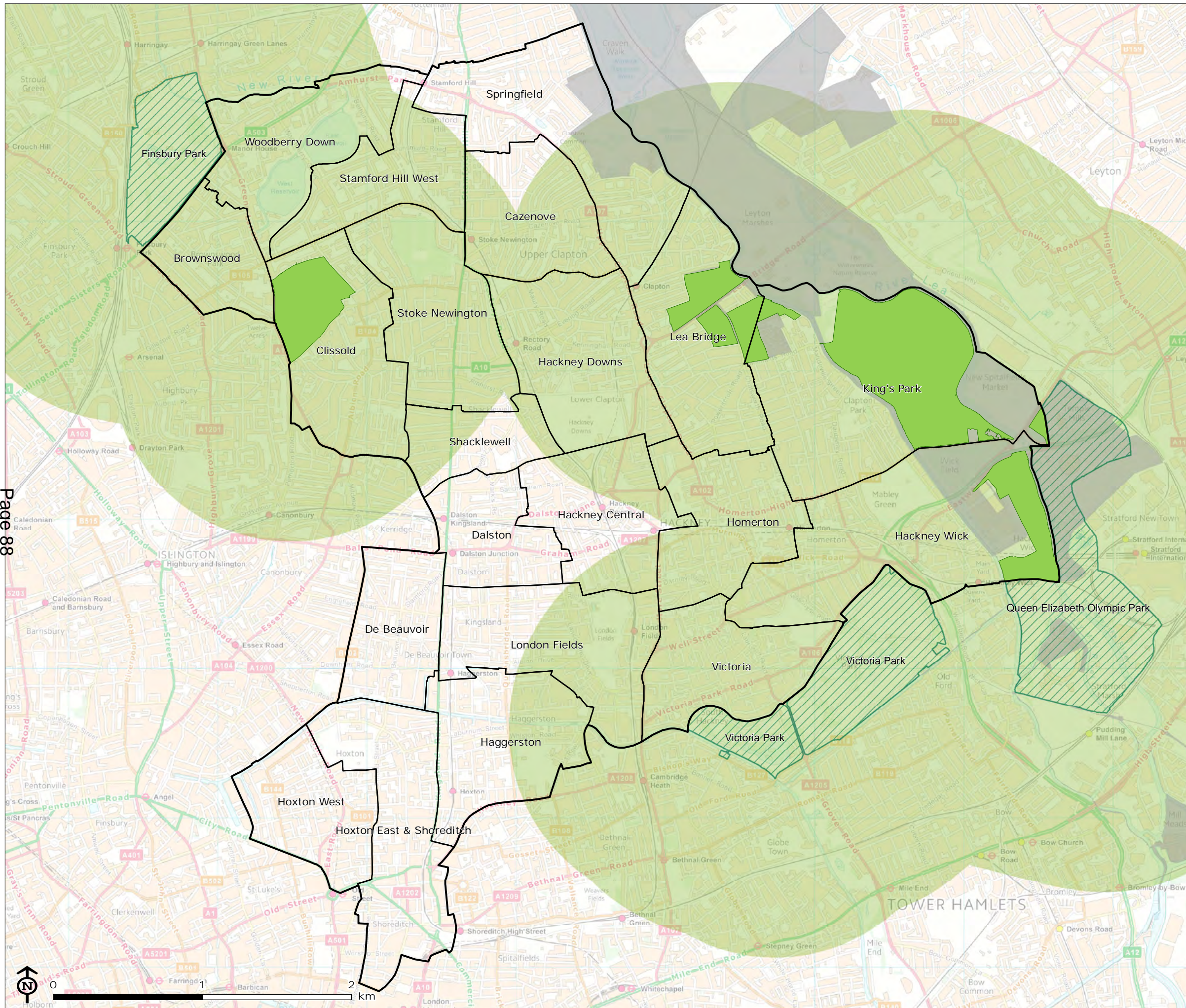
*Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is partly located in the London Borough of Newham and Victoria Park is in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.2: Parks and Gardens: District Site Access



- London Borough of Hackney boundary
- Hackney wards
- Quality/Value Rating**
- Higher Quality/Higher Value
- District parks in other boroughs*
- Lee Valley Regional Park
- 1.2 km accessibility catchment**
- Freely accessible to public

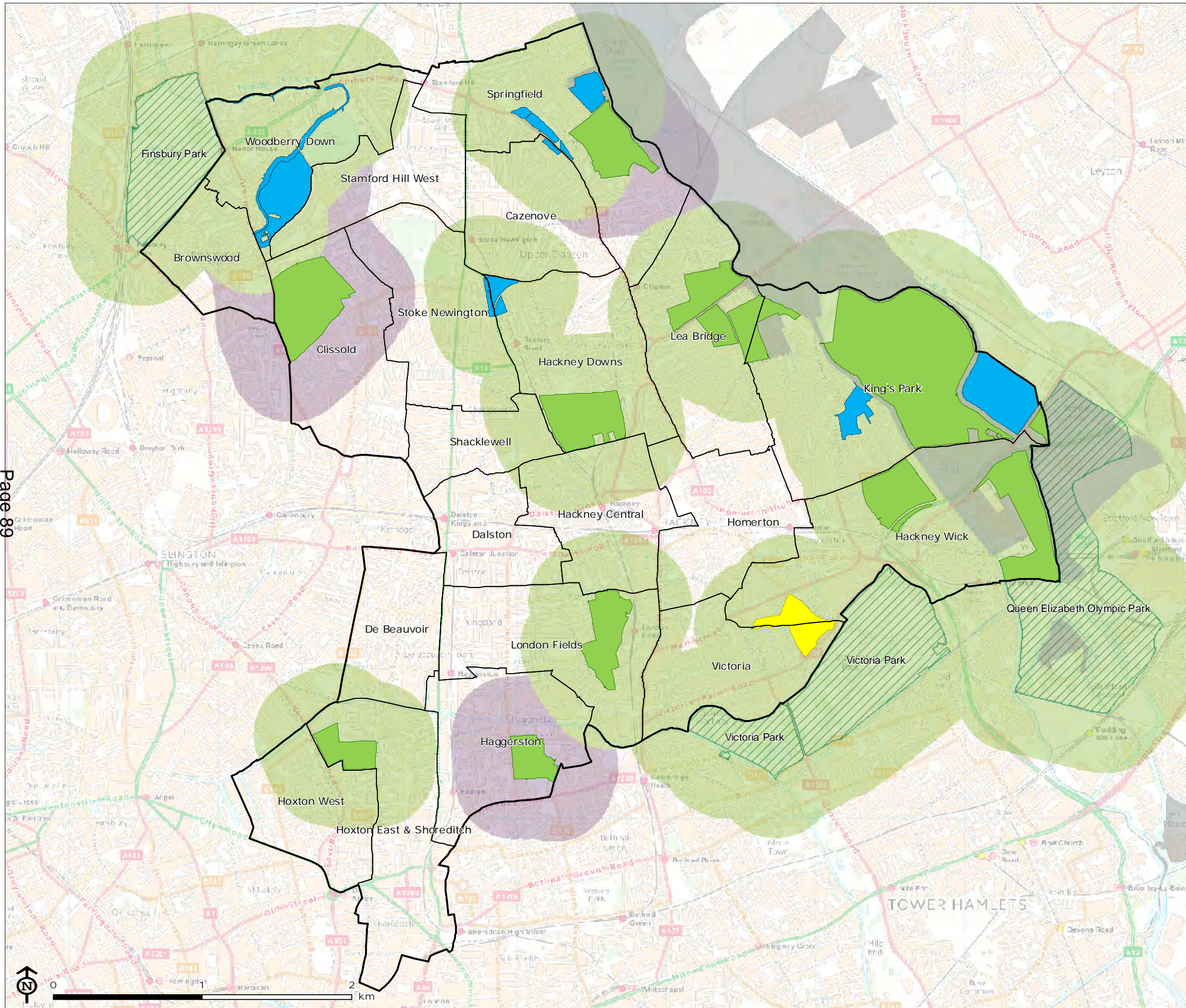
*Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is partly located in the London Borough of Newham, Victoria Park is in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Finsbury Park is in the London Borough of Haringey



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000

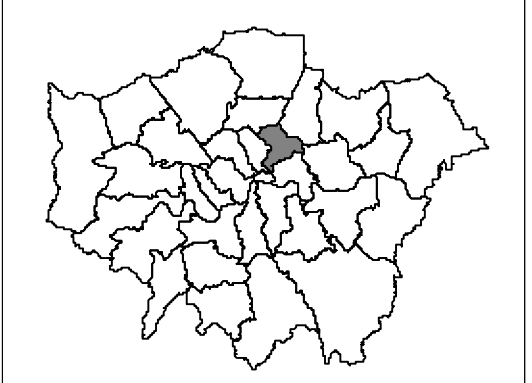


Figure 4.3: Parks and Gardens: Local Site Access



- London Borough of Hackney boundary
- Hackney wards
- Quality/Value Rating
 - Higher Quality/Higher Value
 - Higher Quality/Lower Value
 - Lower Quality/Lower Value
 - Parks in other boroughs*
 - Lee Valley Regional Park
- 400 m accessibility catchment
 - Freely accessible to public
 - Restricted public access












*Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is partly located in the London Borough of Newham, Victoria Park is in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Finsbury Park is in the London Borough of Haringey



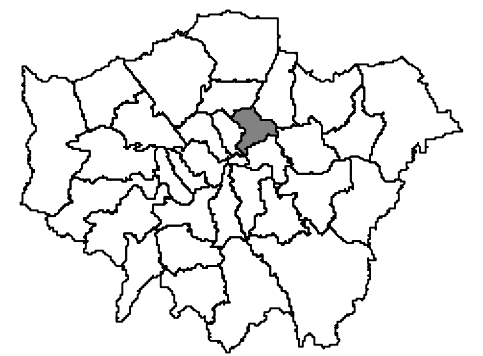
Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.4: Parks and Gardens, and Amenity Green Space: Small Local Site Access

-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
- Parks and Gardens quality/value rating
 -  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Higher Quality/Lower Value
 -  Lower Quality/Lower Value
 -  Parks in other boroughs*
 -  Lee Valley Regional Park
 -  Amenity spaces
- 280 m accessibility catchment
 -  Freely accessible to public
 -  Restricted public access
 -  No public access









*Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is partly located in the London Borough of Newham, Victoria Park is in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Finsbury Park is in the London Borough of Haringey

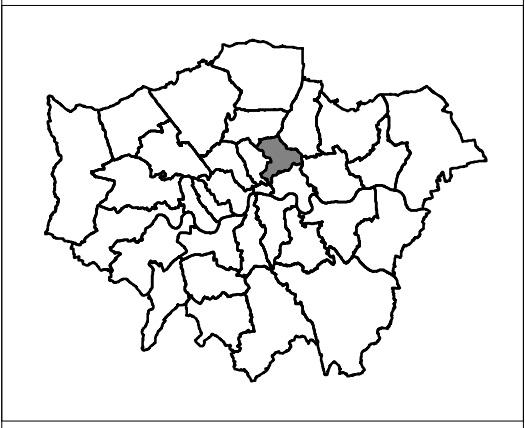
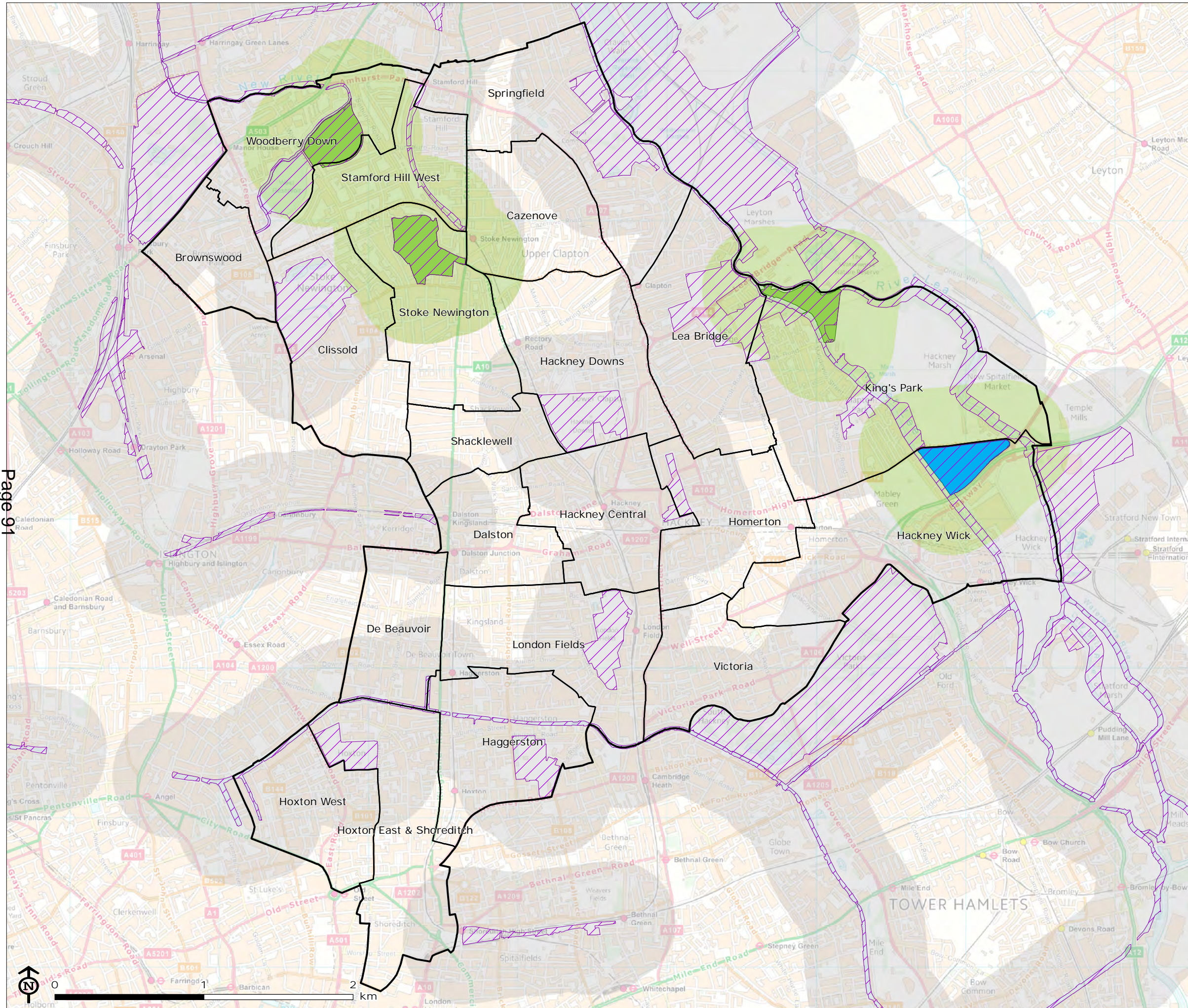


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.5: Natural or Semi-Natural Urban Green Space: Local Site Access










-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
 -  Hackney wards
 -  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Lower Quality/Lower Value
 -  Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within 400 m of the Hackney boundary
- 400 m accessibility catchment
-  Freely accessible to public
 -  Restricted public access
 -  No access data

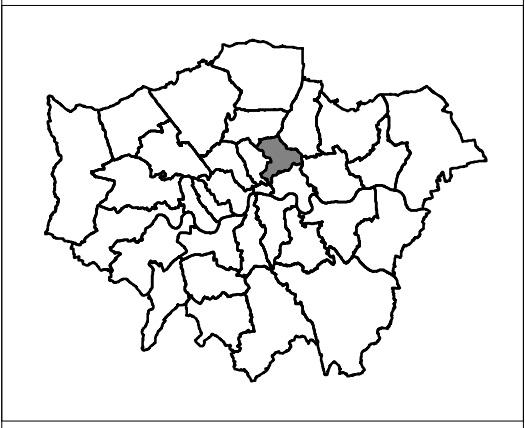
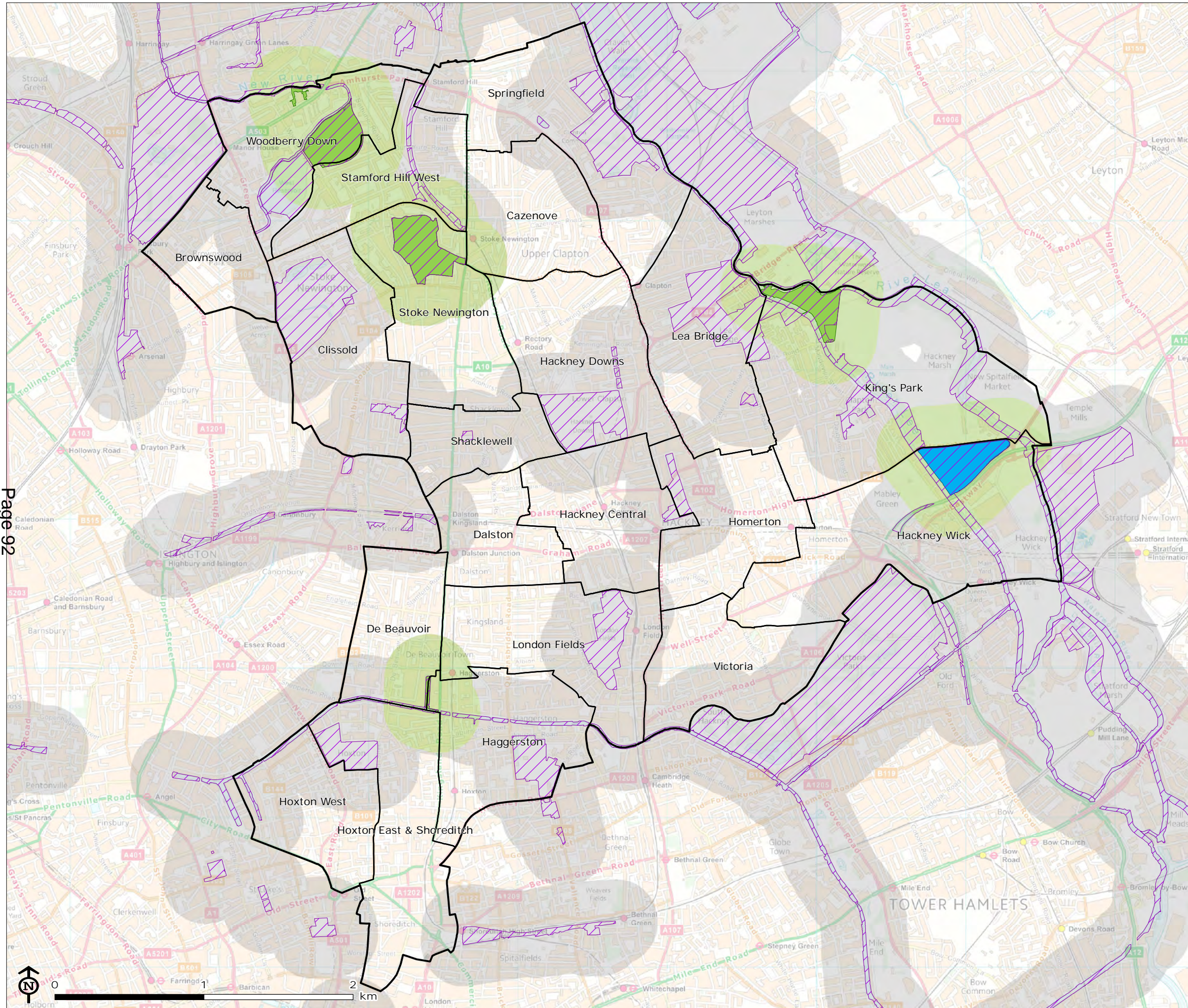


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.6: Natural or Semi-Natural Urban Green Space: Small Local Site Access










-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
- Quality/Value Rating
 -  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Lower Quality/Lower Value
-  Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within 280 m of the Hackney boundary
- 280 m accessibility catchment
 -  Freely accessible to public
 -  Restricted public access
 -  No public access
 -  No access data

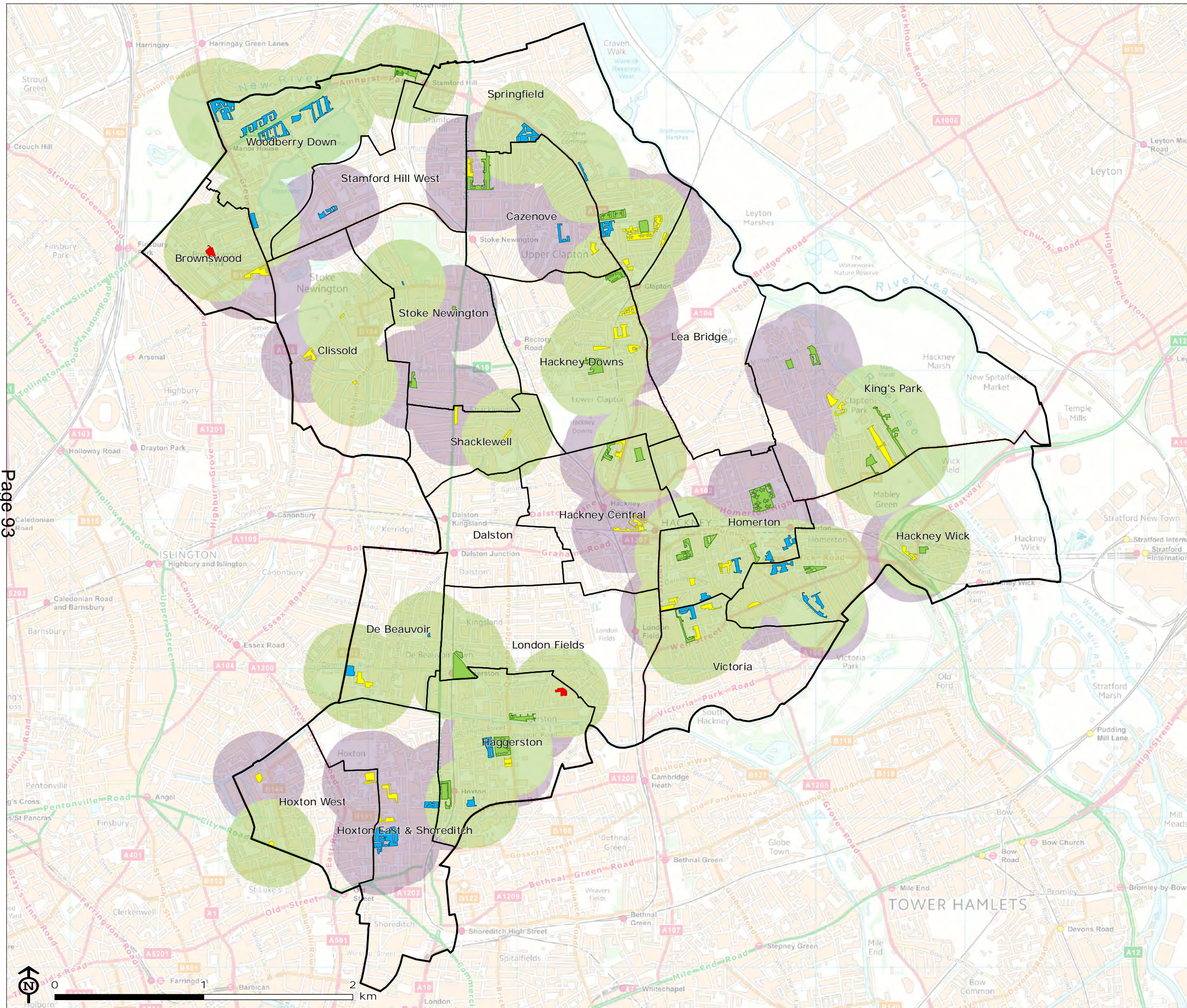


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.7: Amenity Green Space Access

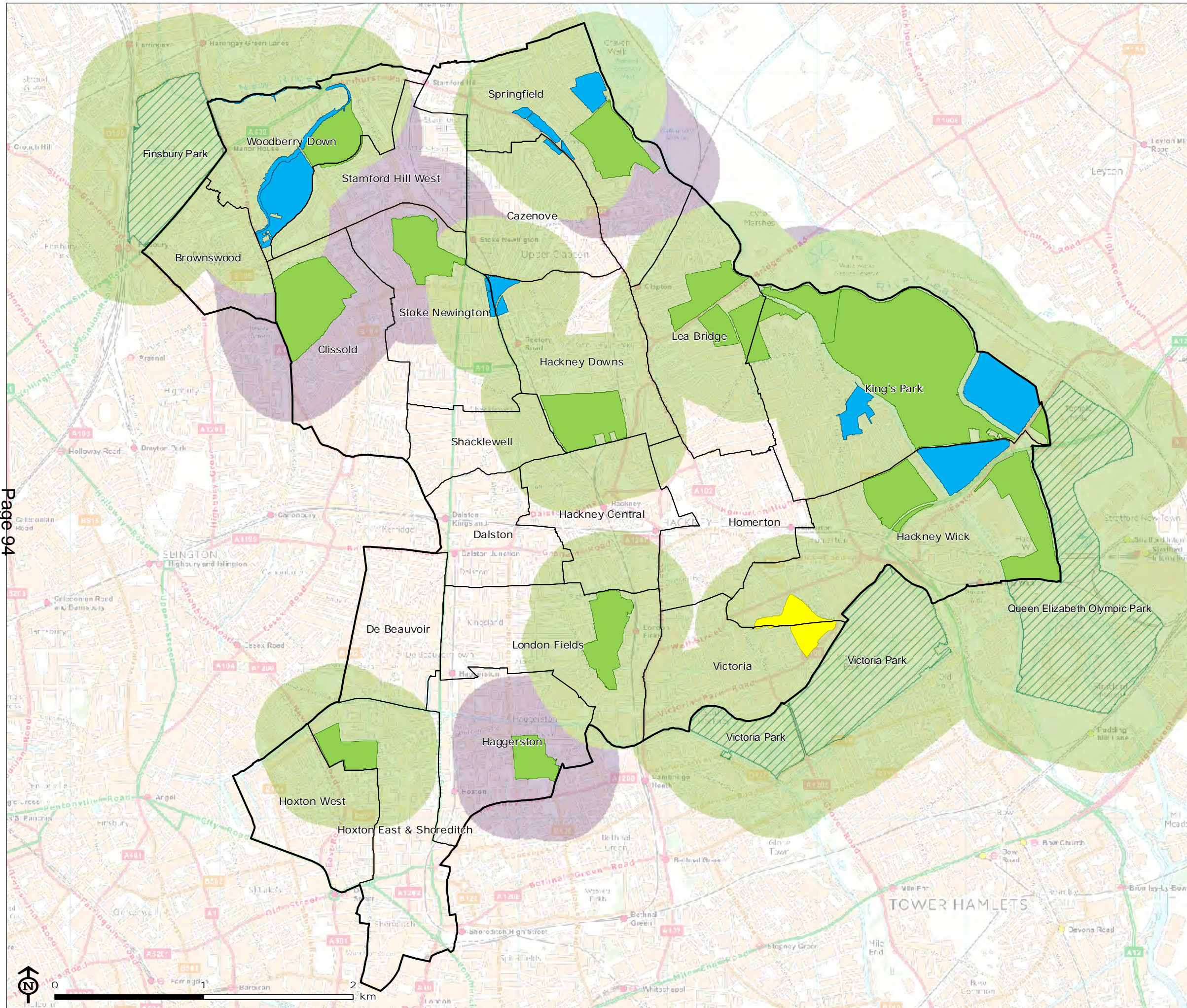
-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
-  Higher Quality/Higher Value
-  Higher Quality/Lower Value
-  Low Quality/Higher Value
-  Lower Quality/Lower Value
-  280 m accessibility catchment
-  Freely accessible to public
-  Restricted public access



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000

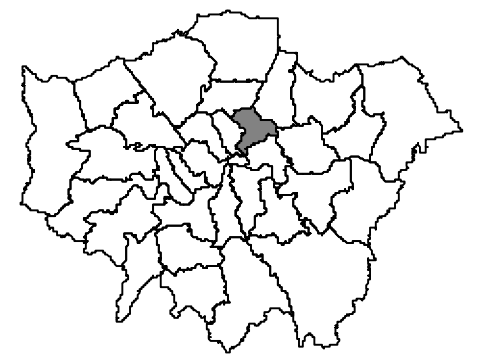


Figure 4.8: Parks and Gardens, Natural and Semi-Natural Urban Greenspace: Local Site Access



- London Borough of Hackney boundary
- Hackney wards
- Quality/Value Rating
 - Higher Quality/Higher Value
 - Higher Quality/Lower Value
 - Lower Quality/Lower Value
 - Parks in other boroughs*
- 400 m accessibility catchment
 - Freely accessible to public
 - Restricted public access

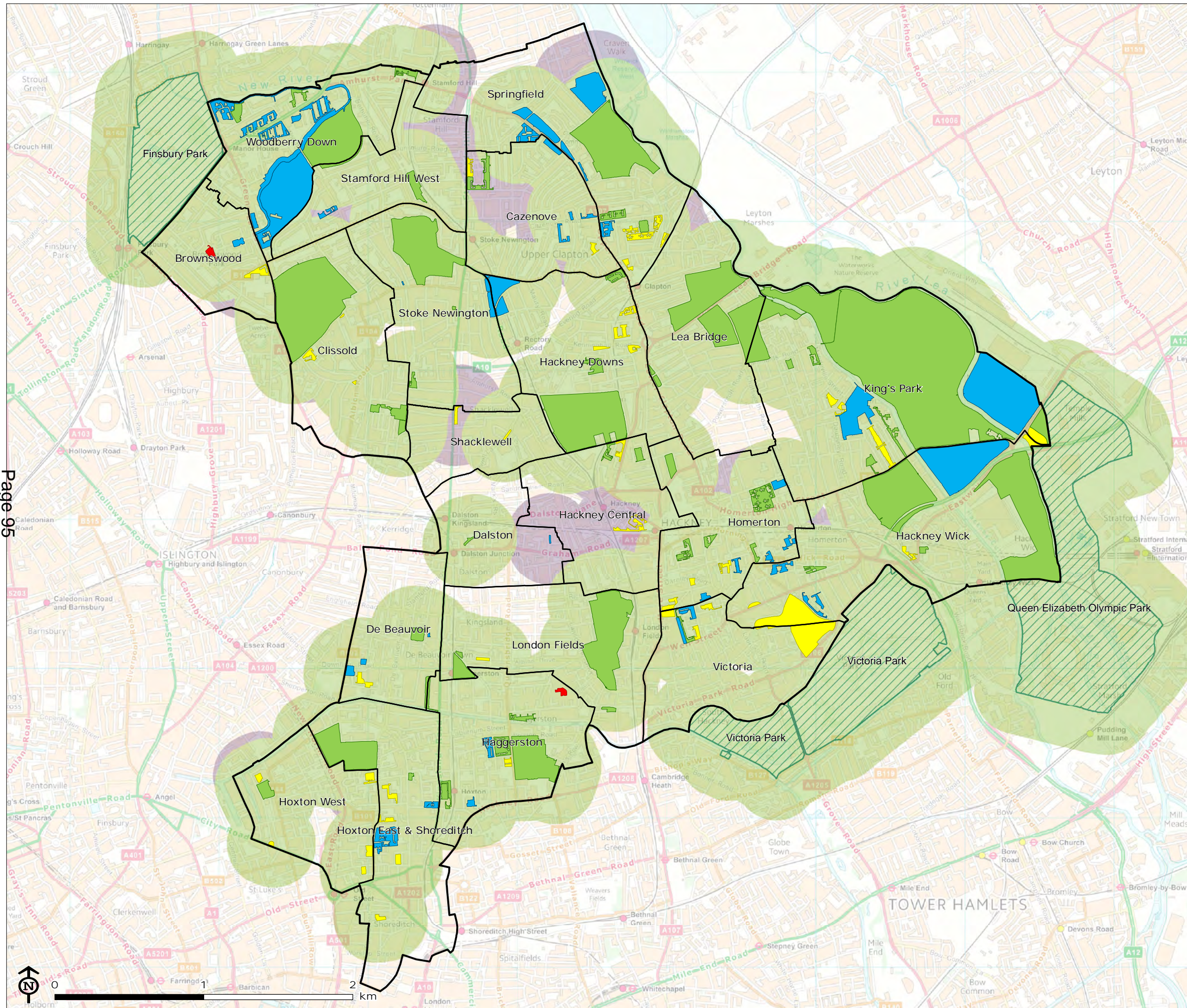
*Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is partly located in the London Borough of Newham, Victoria Park is in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Finsbury Park is in the London Borough of Haringey



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.9: Parks and Gardens, Natural and Semi-Natural Urban Greenspace, Amenity Green Space: Small Local Site Access



- London Borough of Hackney boundary
- Hackney wards
- Quality/Value Rating
 - Higher Quality/Higher Value
 - Higher Quality/Lower Value
 - Lower Quality/Higher Value
 - Lower Quality/Lower Value
 - Parks in other boroughs*
- 280 m accessibility catchment
 - Freely accessible to public
 - Restricted public access








*Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is partly located in the London Borough of Newham, Victoria Park is in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Finsbury Park is in the London Borough of Haringey



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.10: Deficiency in access to publicly accessible open space

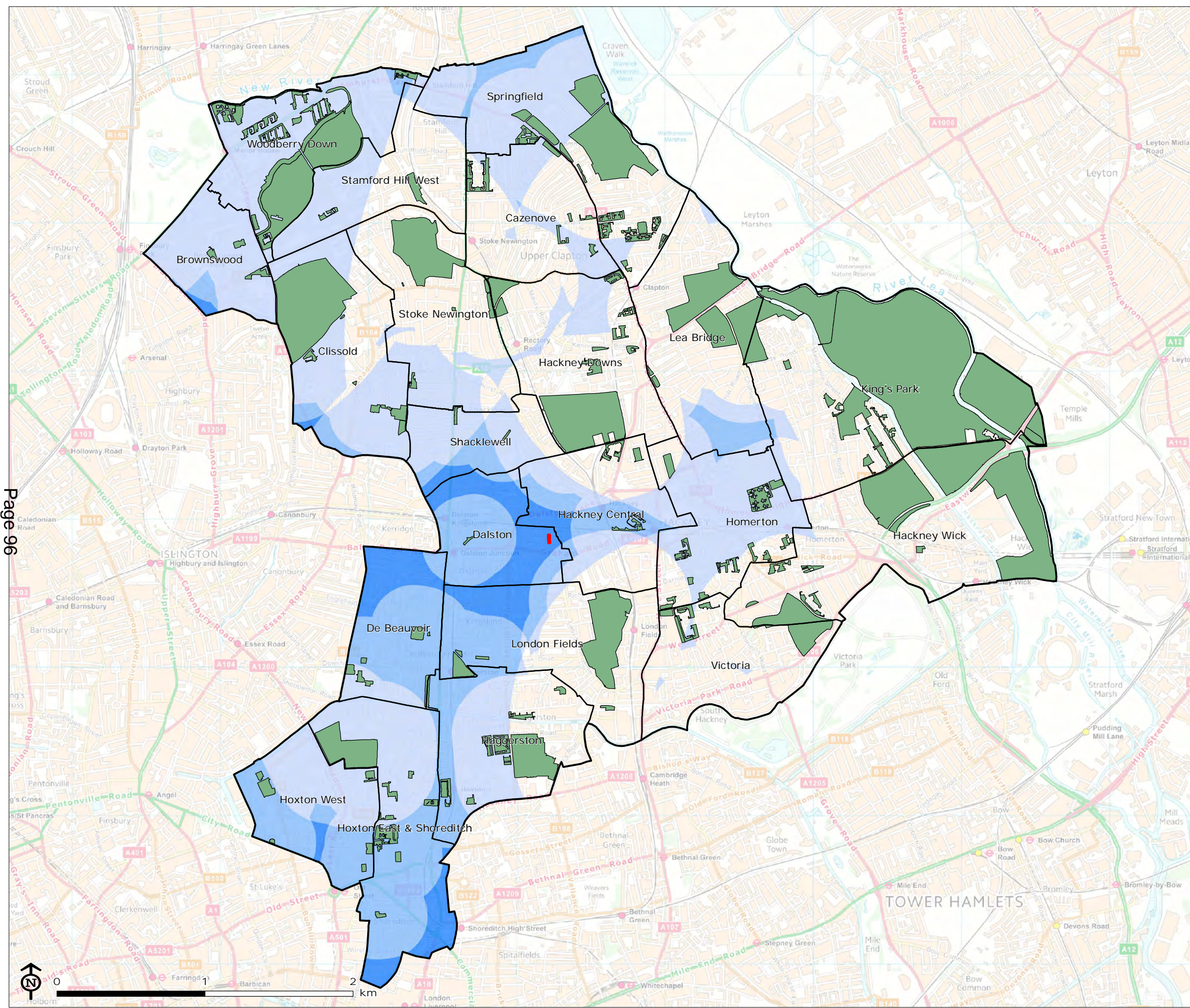
-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
-  Publicly accessible open space*
-  Open space with no public access**
- Deficient in access to:***
-  Three levels of the hierarchy
-  Two levels of the hierarchy
-  One level of the hierarchy

*Includes parks and gardens, natural or semi-natural green space, amenity green space

**Only one open space has no public access: Fasset Square

***No areas in Hackney are deficient in access to four levels of the hierarchy






Page 96

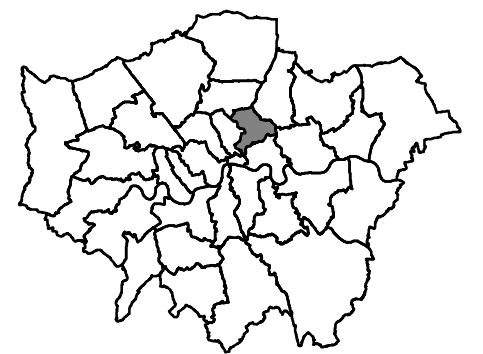
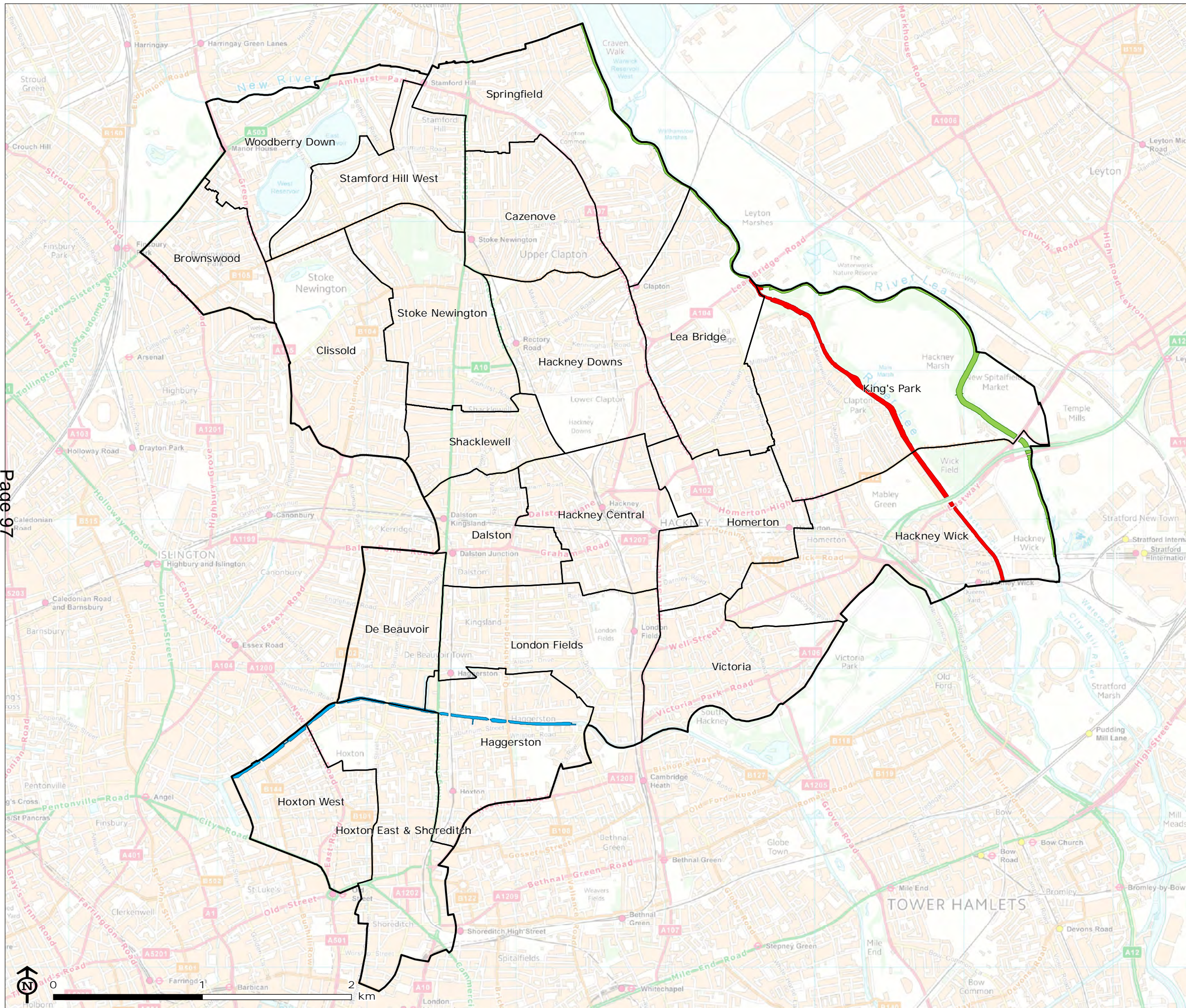


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.11: Linear Open Space/ Green Corridor Quality and Value









-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
- Quality/Value Rating
 -  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Lower Quality/Higher Value
 -  Lower Quality/Lower Value

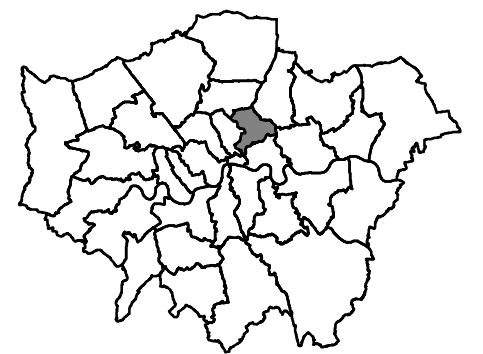
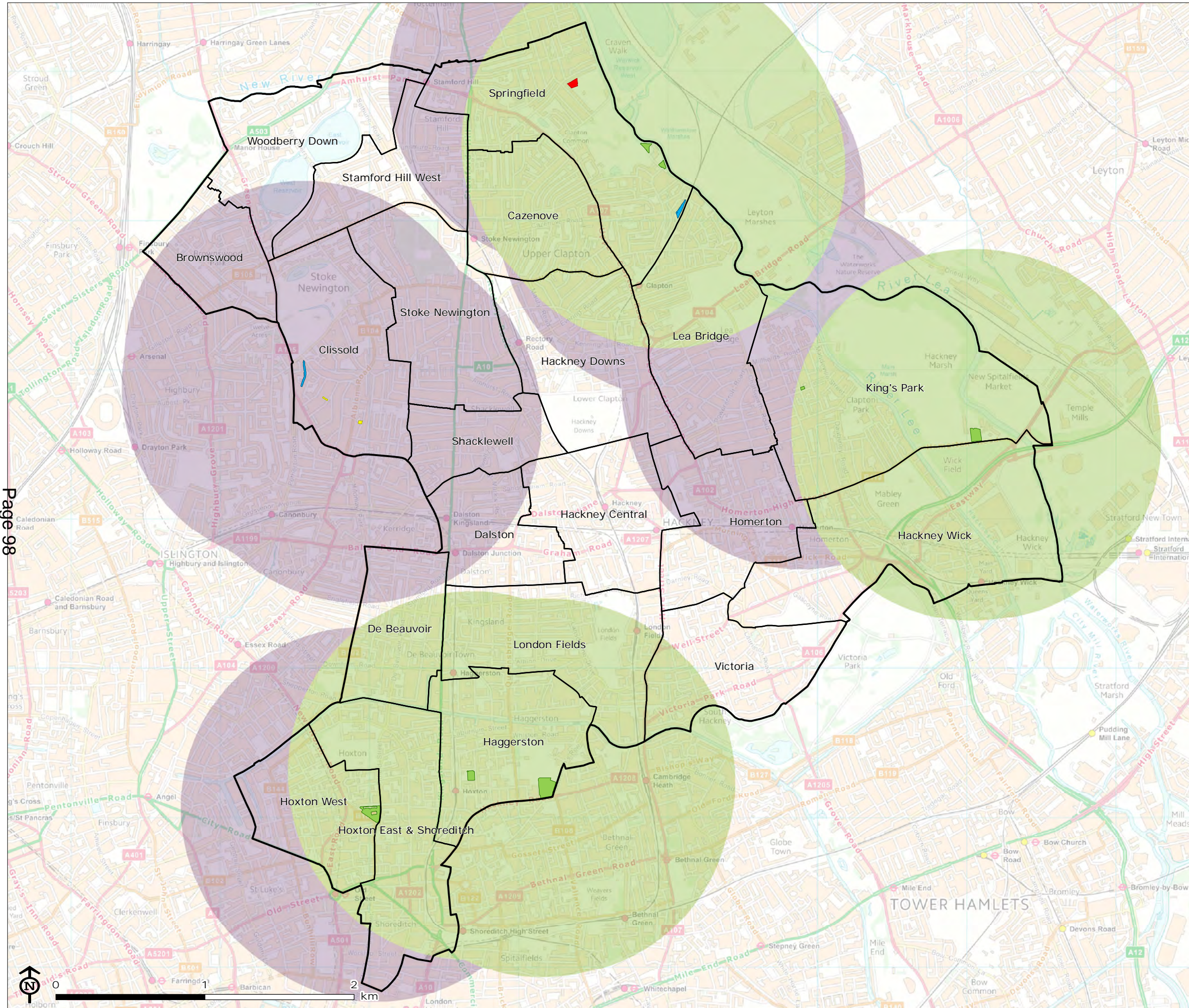


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.12: Allotments, Community Gardens and City Farms Access







-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
- Quality/Value Rating
 -  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Higher Quality/Lower Value
 -  Lower Quality/Higher Value
 -  Lower Quality/Lower Value
- 1.2 km accessibility catchment
 -  Freely accessible to public
 -  Restricted public access

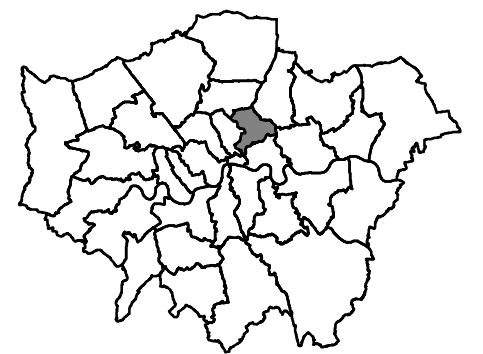
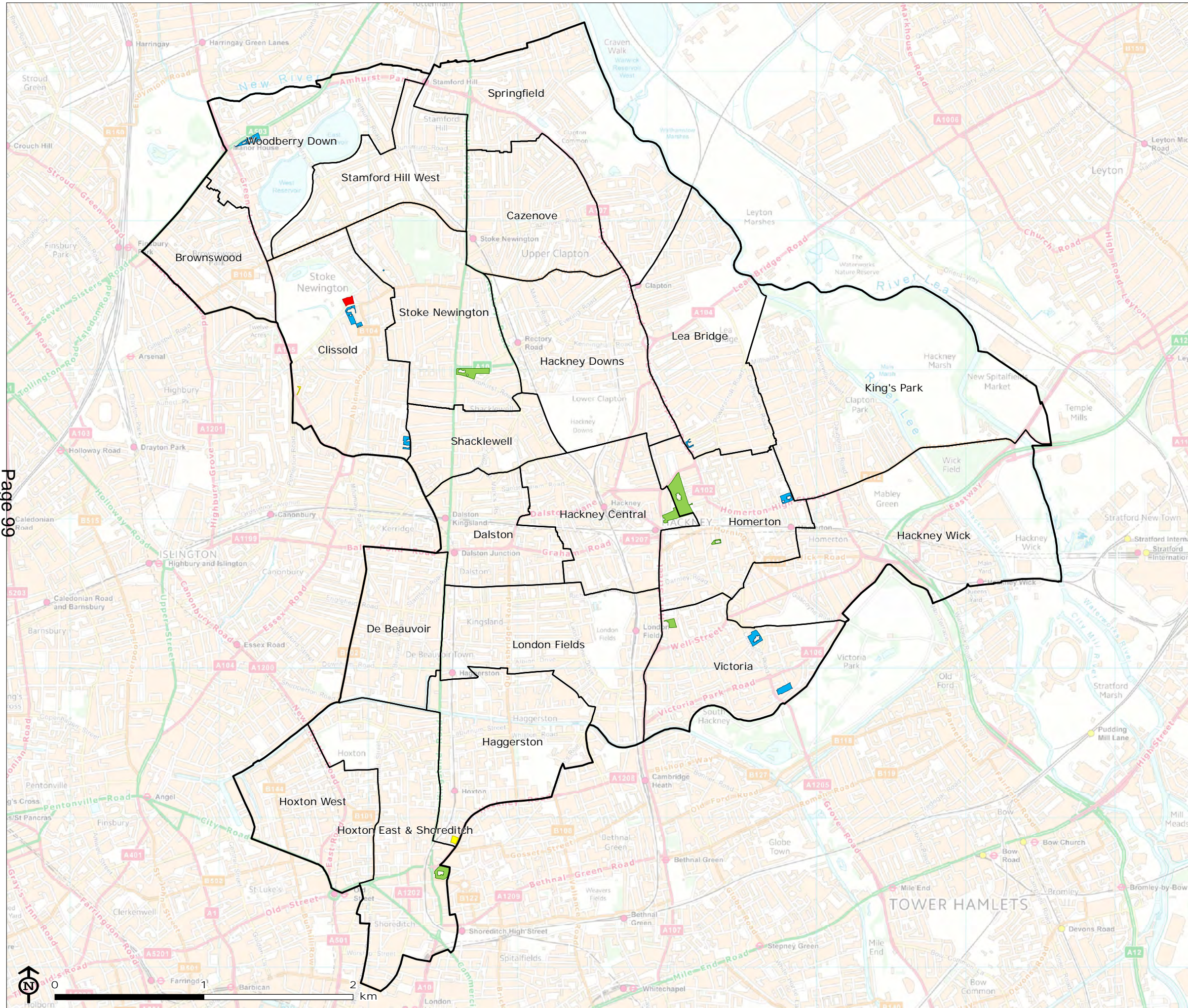


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.13: Cemeteries and Churchyards Quality and Value






-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
- Quality/Value Rating
 -  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Higher Quality/Lower Value
 -  Lower Quality/Higher Value
 -  Lower Quality/Lower Value

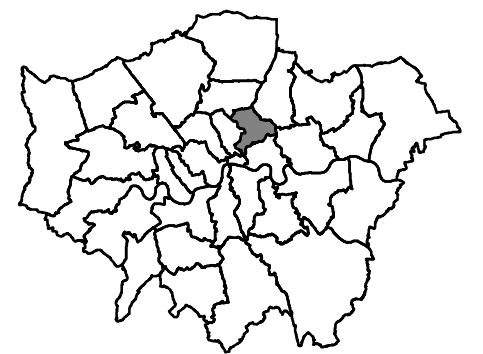
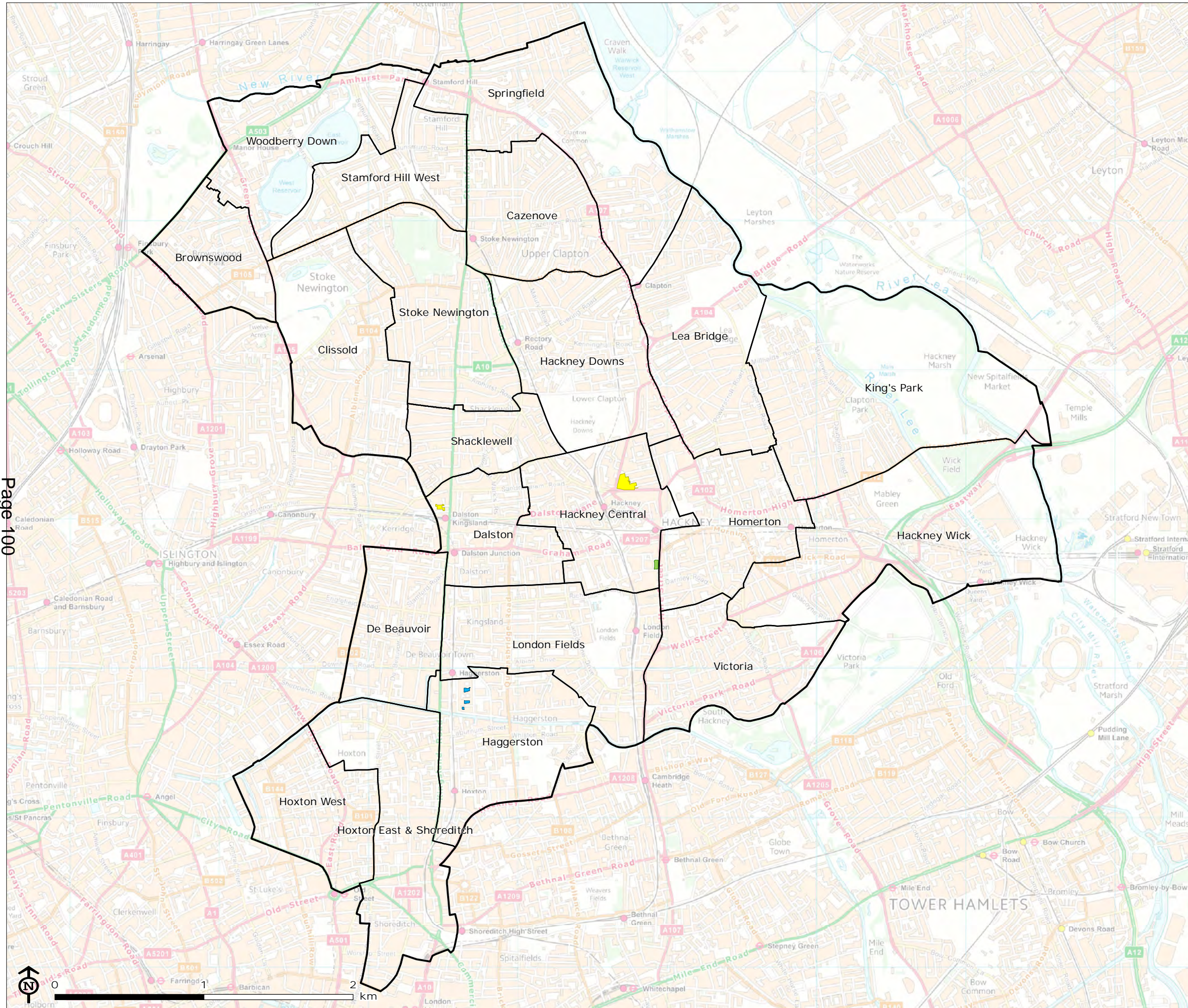


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.14: Civic Spaces/ Pedestrianised Areas Quality and Value



-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
- Quality/Value Rating
 -  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Higher Quality/Lower Value
 -  Lower Quality/Lower Value

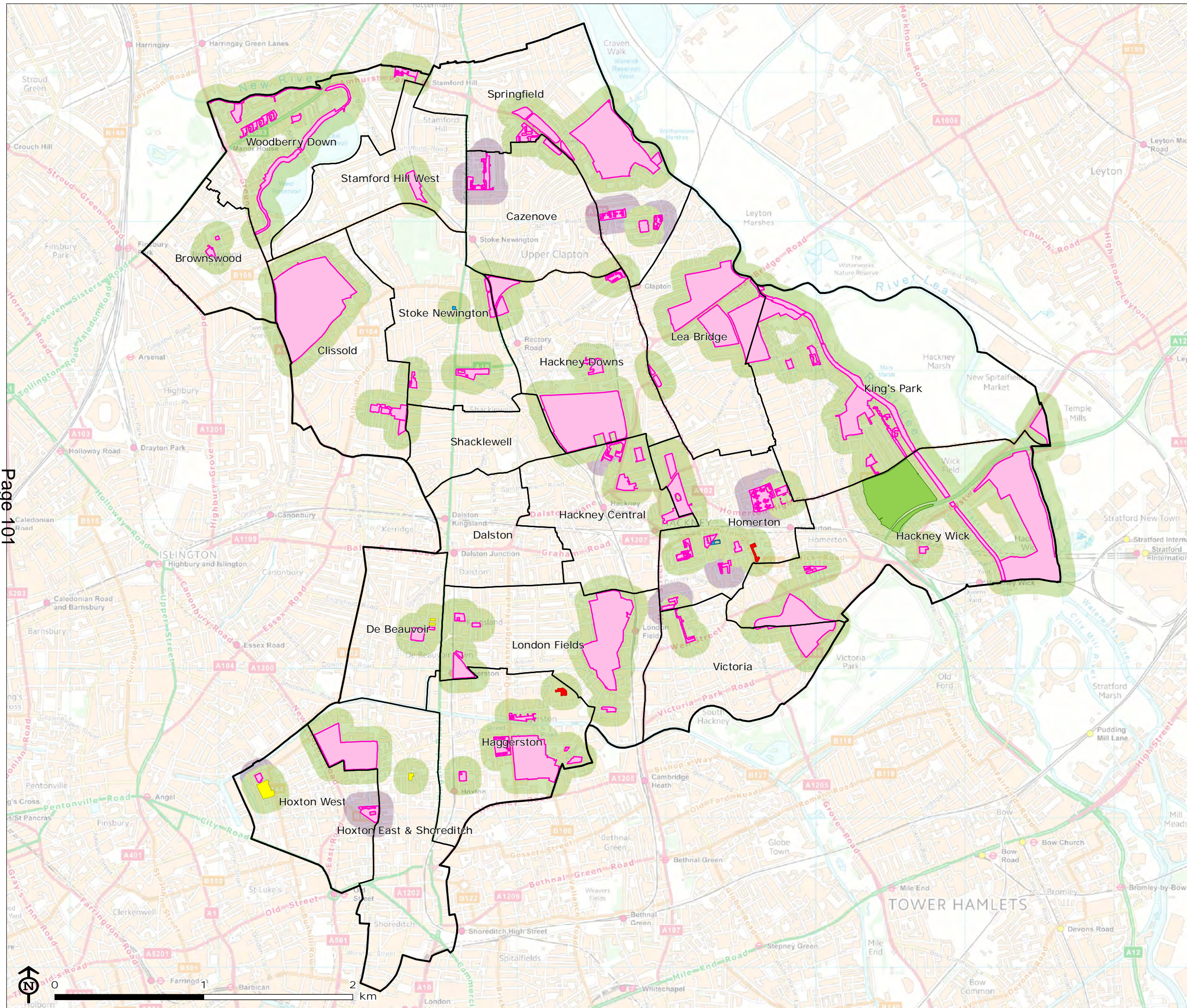


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.15: Local Areas for Play (LAP) Access

-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
 -  Hackney wards
 -  Additional open space sites with play for children 0-5 years old
- LAP: Quality/Value Rating
-  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Higher Quality/Lower Value
 -  Lower Quality/Higher Value
 -  Lower Quality/Lower Value
- 100 m accessibility catchment
-  Freely accessible to public
 -  Restricted public access



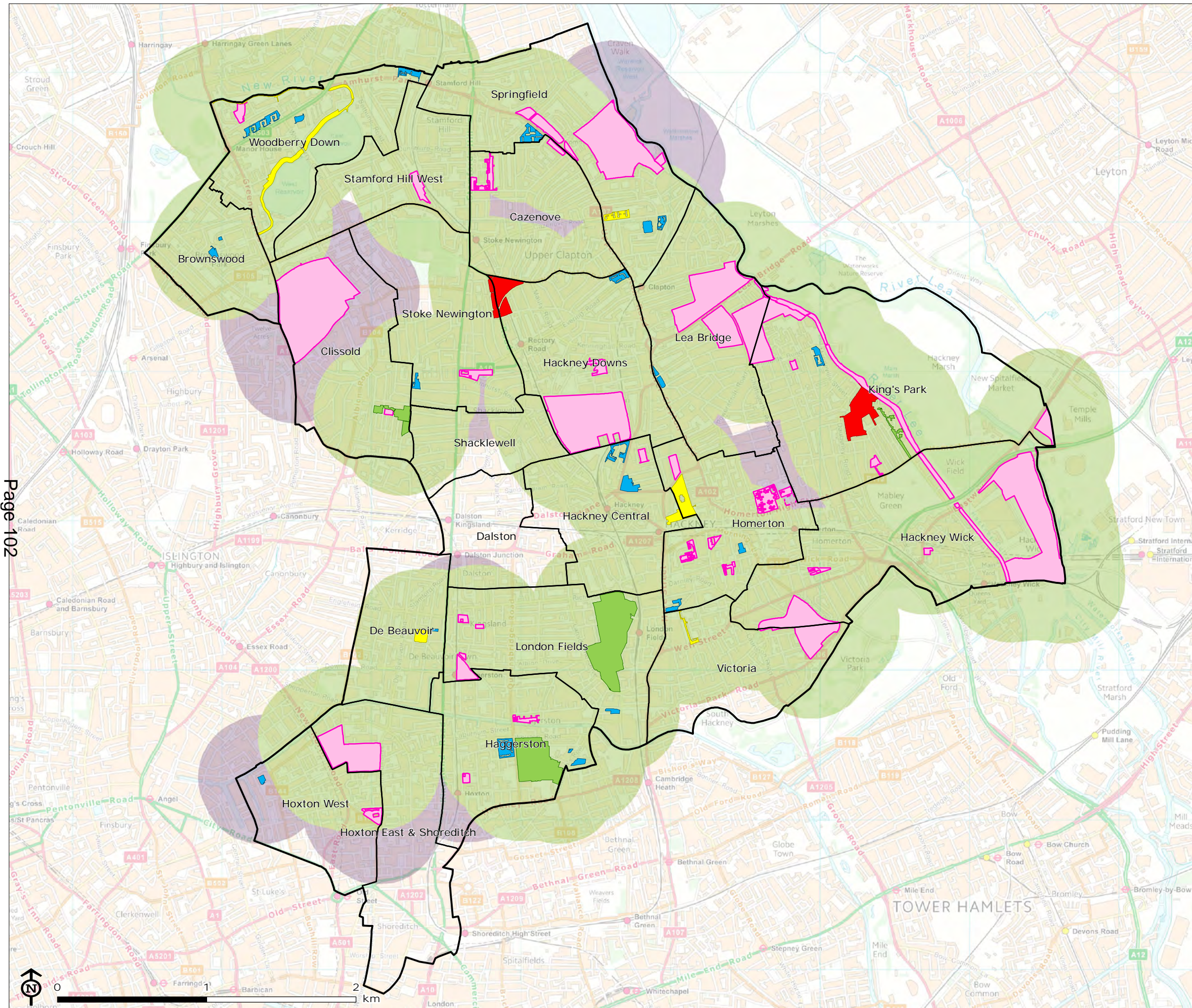
Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.16: Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP) Access

-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
 -  Hackney wards
 -  Additional open space sites with play for children 5-11 years old
- Open space sites with LEAP: Quality/Value Rating
-  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Higher Quality/Lower Value
 -  Lower Quality/Higher Value
 -  Lower Quality/Lower Value
- 400 m accessibility catchment
-  Freely accessible to public
 -  Restricted public access









Page 102

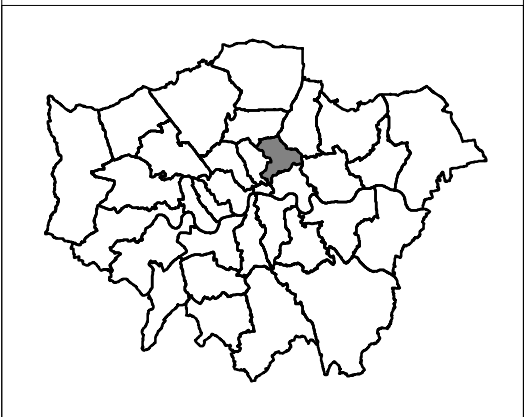
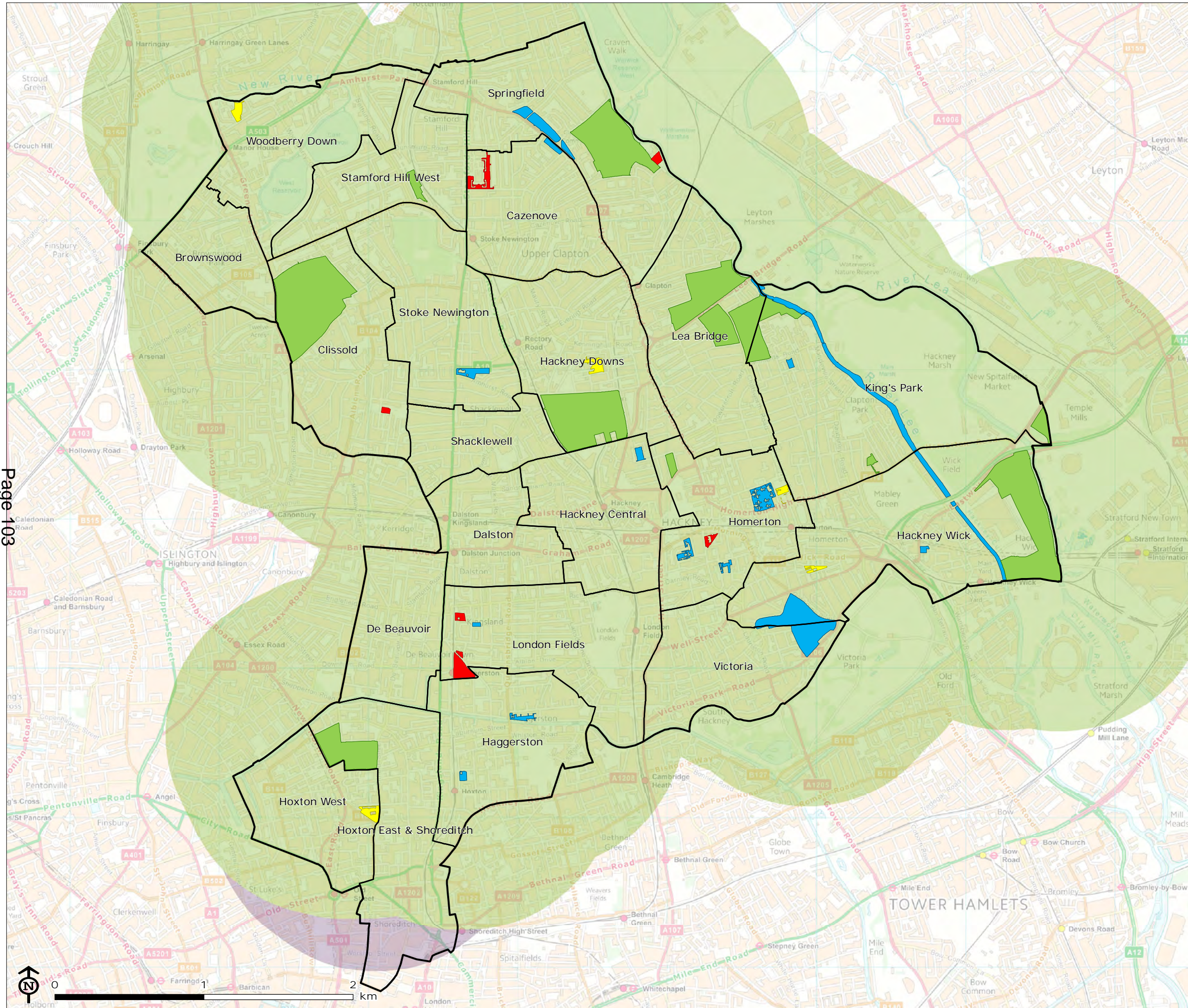


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.17: Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) Access







-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
- Open space sites with NEAP: Quality/Value Rating
 -  Higher Quality/Higher Value
 -  Higher Quality/Lower Value
 -  Lower Quality/Higher Value
 -  Lower Quality/Lower Value
- 1 km accessibility catchment
 -  Freely accessible to public
 -  Restricted public access



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.18: Teen Play Access

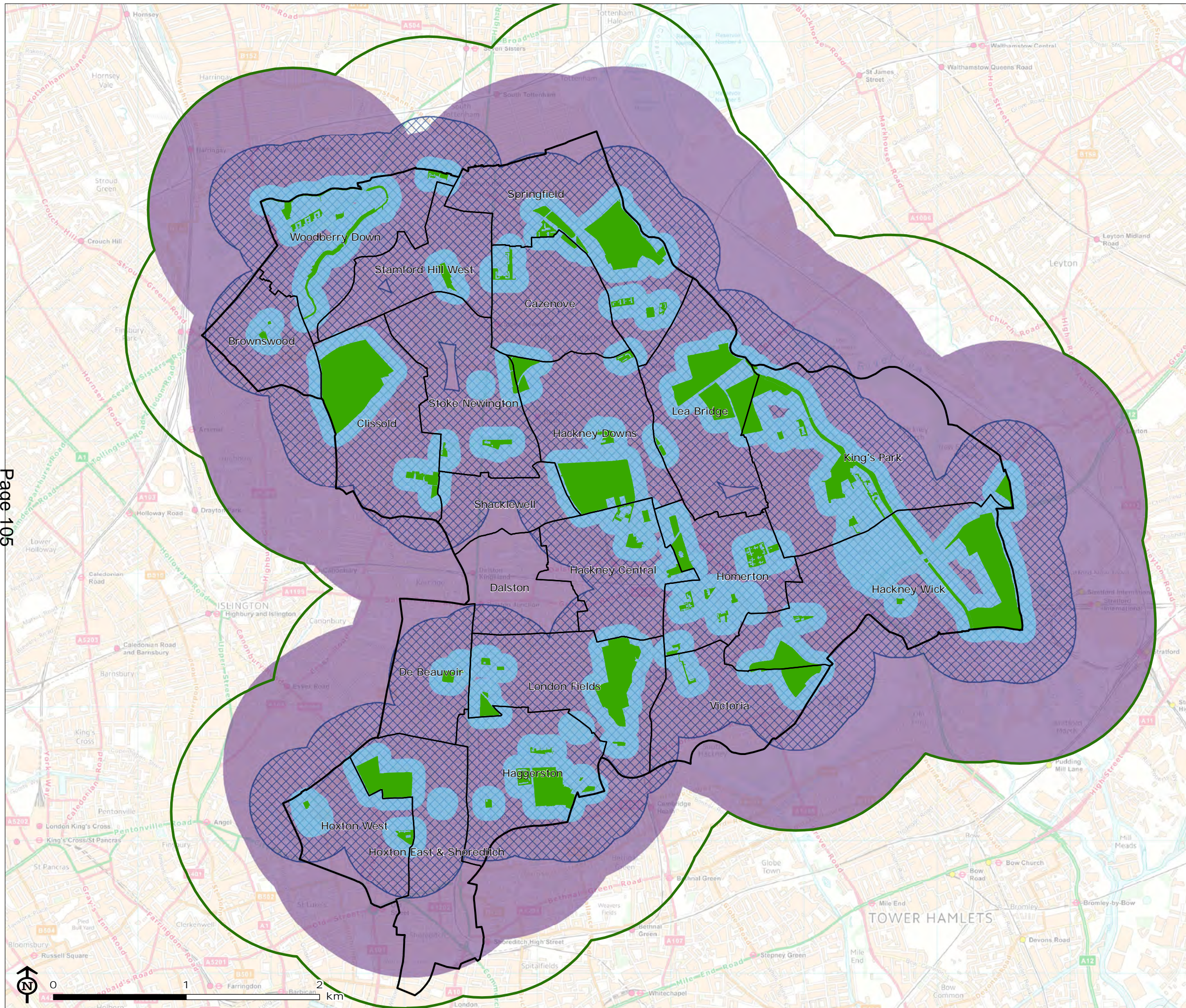
-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
-  Open spaces with teen play
-  1 km accessibility catchment
-  Freely accessible to public
-  Restricted public access

Site ID	Types of play	Site ID	Types of play
2	BMX, Other	96	MUGA
3	Other	100	MUGA
5	MUGA, Water play, Skate park	102	MUGA
8	MUGA, Other	104	MUGA
10	Other	113	MUGA
16	MUGA, Water play, Other	119	MUGA
19	MUGA	120	MUGA
20	Other	132	MUGA
22	MUGA, Skate park	150	MUGA
27	Other	155	MUGA
36	Other	156	MUGA
37	Other	157	Other
48	Other	162	MUGA
54	Water play, Other	169	MUGA, Other
57	Other	172	MUGA
58	Other	177	MUGA
63	Other	178	MUGA
66	BMX	181	MUGA
68	Other	182	MUGA
71	MUGA, Other	183	MUGA
76	Other	189	MUGA
80	Other	190	MUGA
84	MUGA	191	MUGA
85	MUGA, Other	193	MUGA
86	Skate park, Other	197	MUGA
89	MUGA	202	MUGA
94	Other	204	MUGA



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000

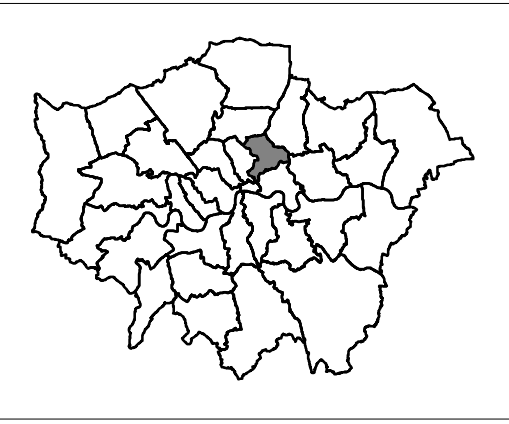




Hackney Open Space Study

Figure 4.19: Accessibility Catchments for all Open Space Containing Play







- London Borough of Hackney boundary
- Hackney wards
- Open space containing play
- 100 m LAP accessibility catchment
- 400 m LEAP accessibility catchment
- 1 km LEAP accessibility catchment
- 1 km teen play accessibility catchment

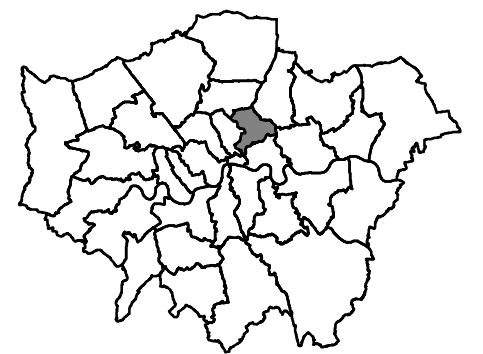
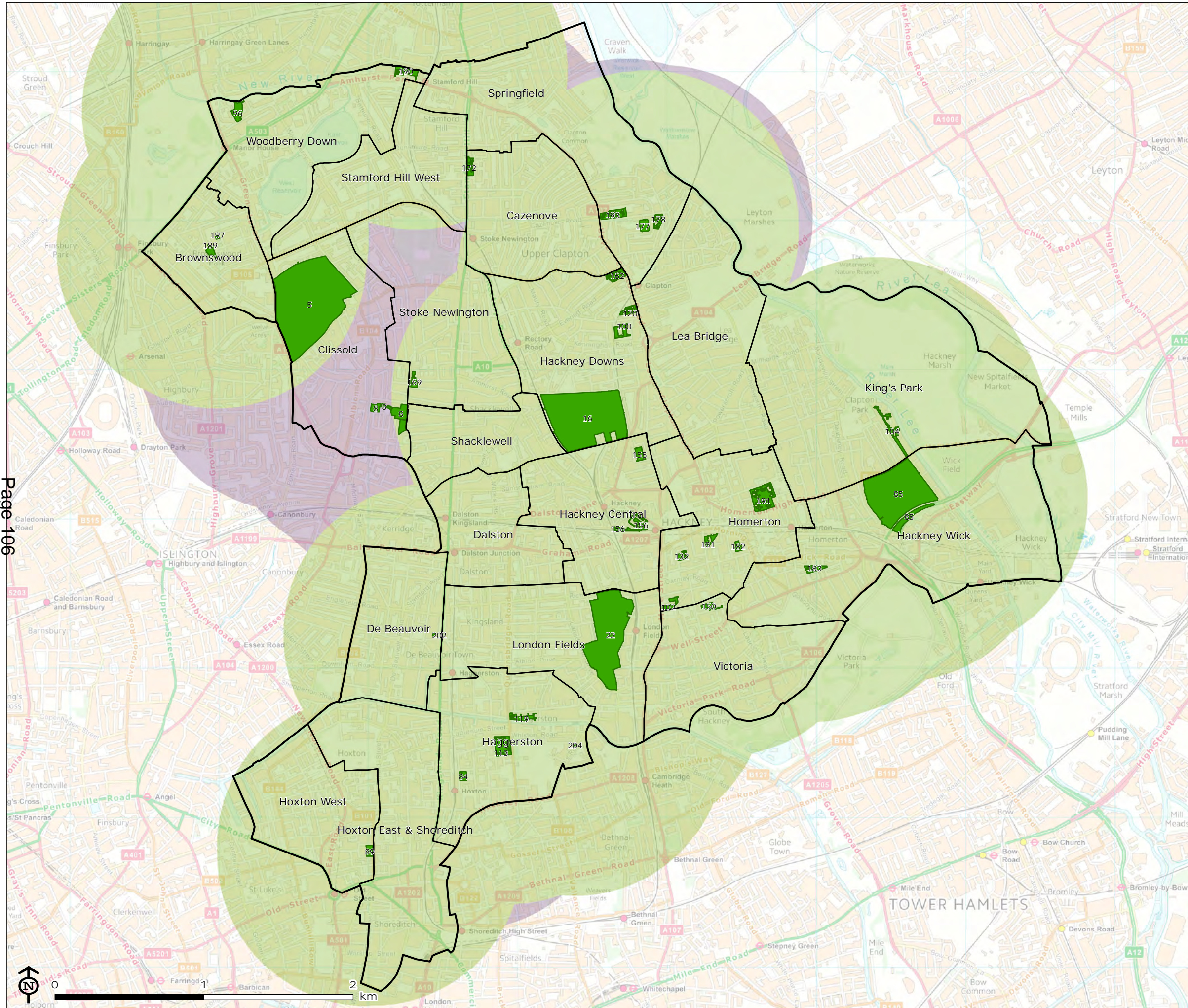


Map Scale @ A3: 1:28,000



Figure 4.20: Open spaces Containing Multi-use Games Area (MUGA)

-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
-  Open space with MUGA
-  1 km accessibility catchment
-  Freely accessible to public
-  Restricted public access

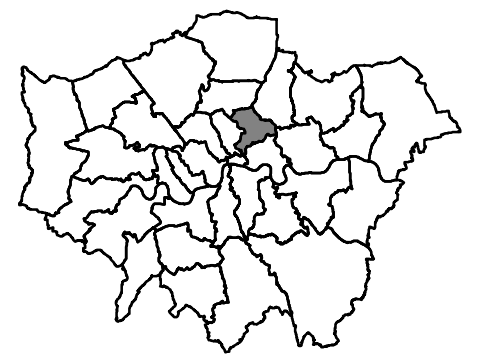
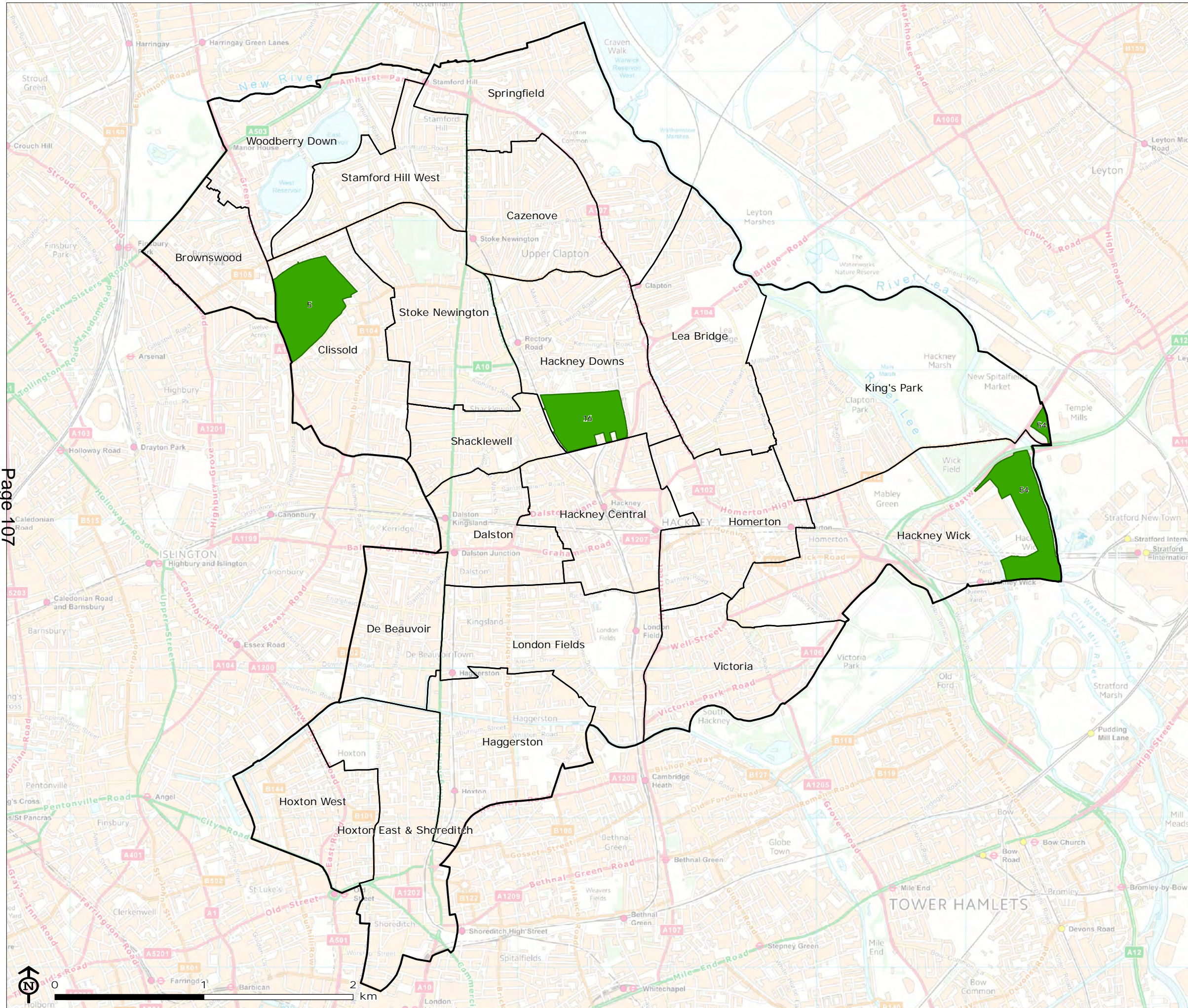


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.21: Open Spaces Containing Water Play







- London Borough of Hackney boundary
- Hackney wards
- Open space with water play

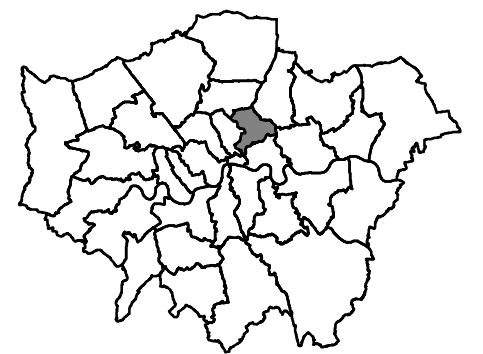
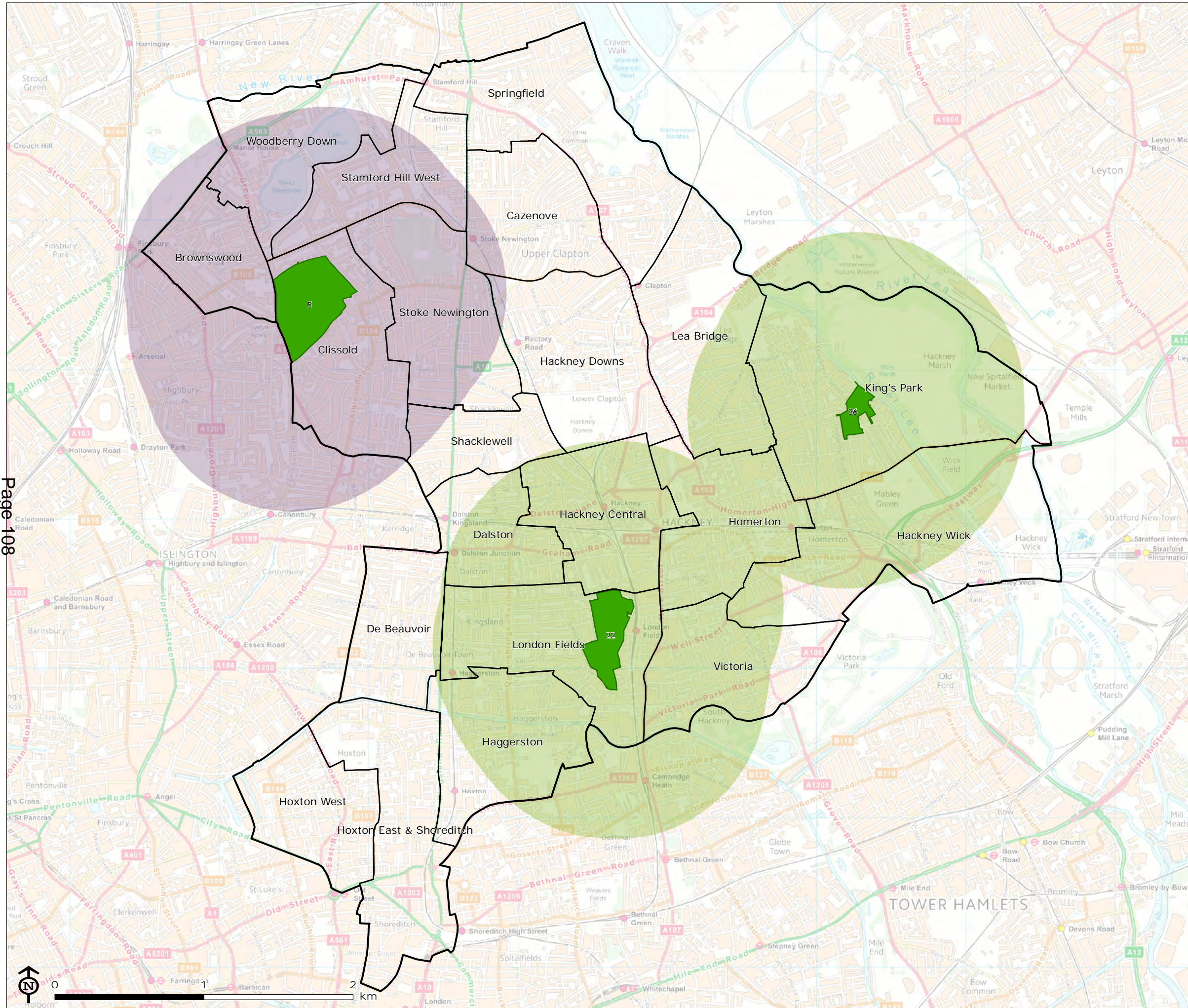


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.22: Open Spaces Containing Skate Parks







-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
-  Open space with skate park
-  1 km accessibility catchment
-  Freely accessible to public
-  Restricted public access

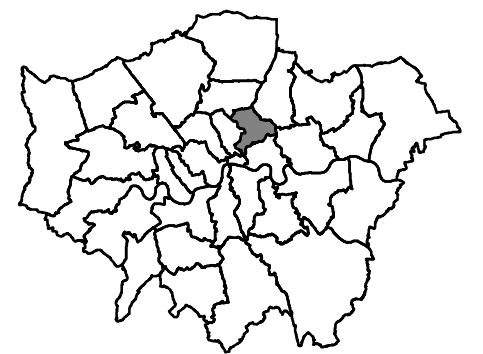
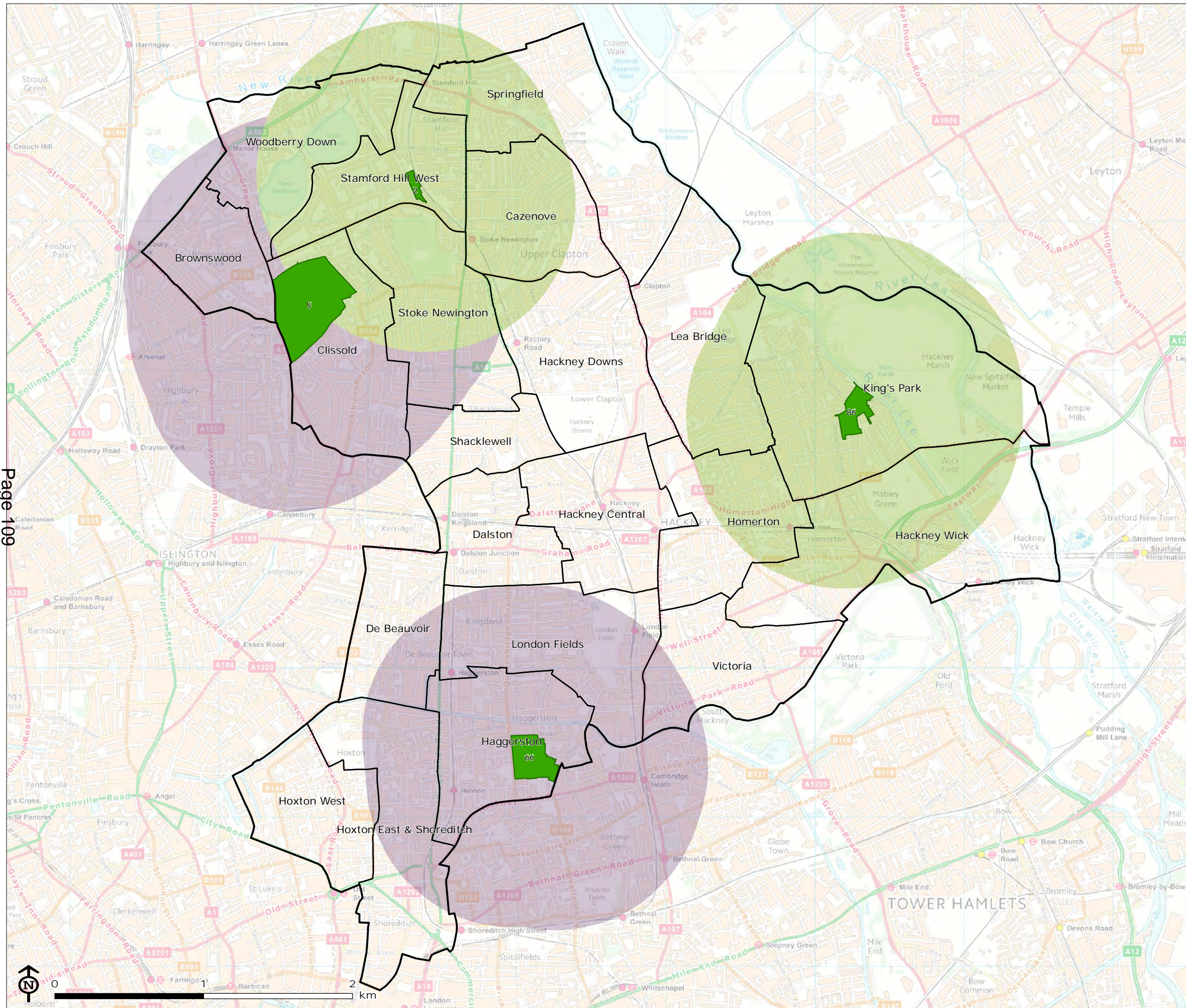


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.23: Open Spaces Containing BMX







-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
-  Open space with BMX
-  1 km accessibility catchment
-  Freely accessible to public
-  Restricted public access

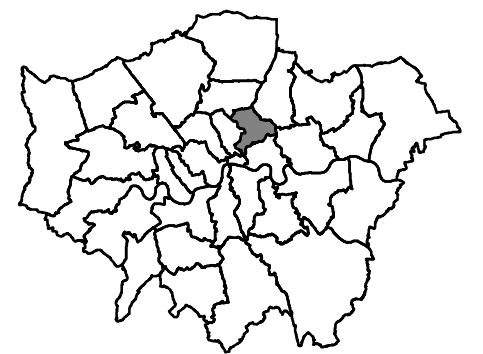
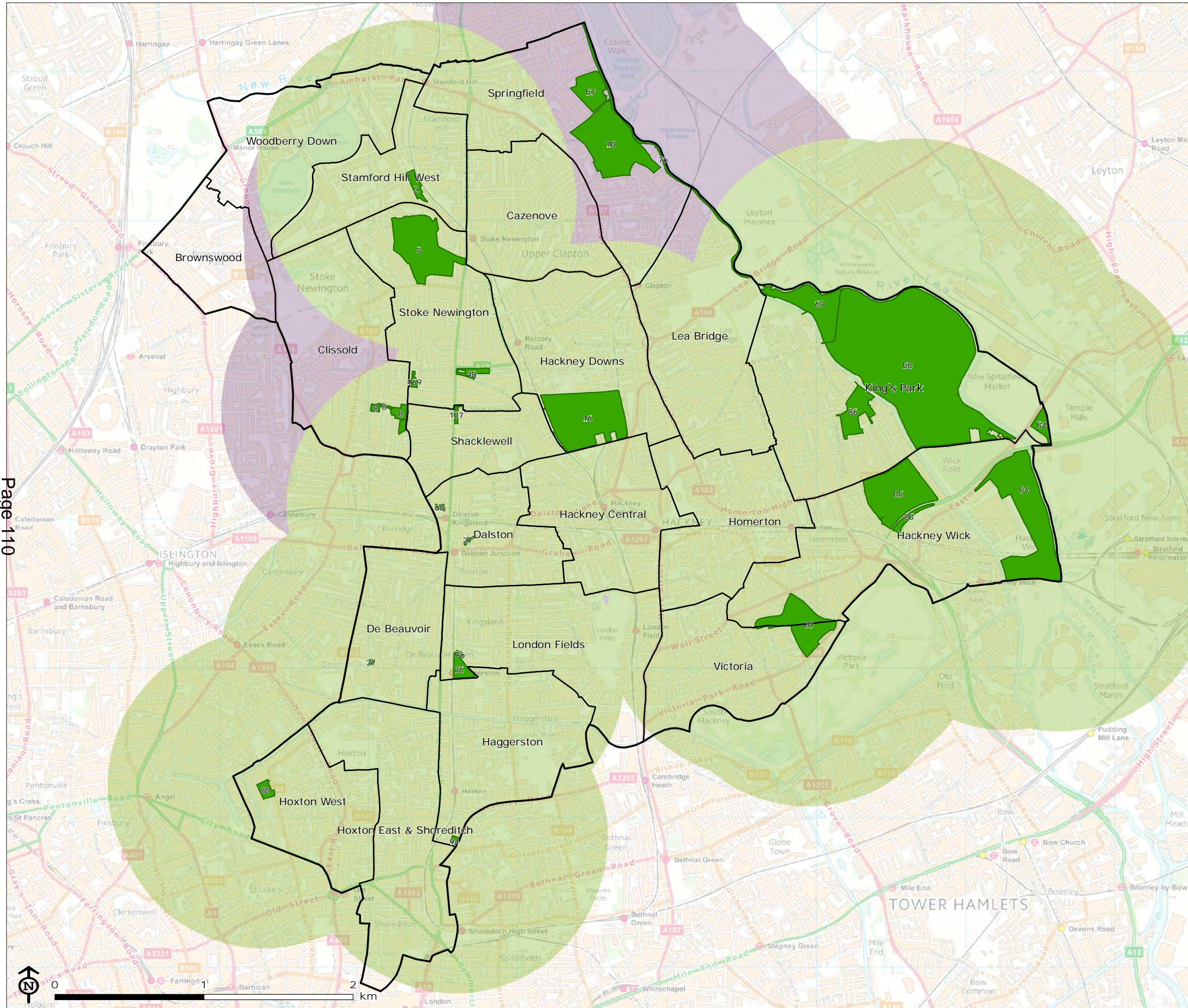


Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



Figure 4.24: Open Spaces Containing Other Teen Play

-  London Borough of Hackney boundary
-  Hackney wards
-  Open space with other teen play
-  1 km accessibility catchment
-  Freely accessible to public
-  Restricted public access



Map Scale @ A3: 1:25,000



5 Conclusions and recommendations

- 5.1 This Chapter summarises the key findings of the open space assessment and provides recommendations on planning for the future.

Key findings

Value of open space

- 5.2 Good quality and value open spaces make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities located within densely populated urban environments. They also contribute to social cohesion, promote cultural heritage and mitigate some of the anticipated impacts of a changing climate e.g. attenuation of surface water runoff, reduction in urban heat island effects and improvements to air quality.

Population growth and its implications for open space

- 5.3 Since the 2011 Census, the population of Hackney has increased by 43,500. The population is likely to increase further over the next two decades with anticipated population expected to exceed 300,000 by 2027 and 335,000 by 2041.
- 5.4 Most of the population increase will be within the Wards of Woodberry Down, Dalston, Hoxton, Shoreditch, Hackney Central and Hackney Wick. Many people in these Wards do not have access to private gardens and new housing proposed for these areas will also offer limited garden space.
- 5.5 Only 25% of the population in Hackney are likely to have access to a private garden and 39% of Hackney LSOAs are in the top 10% most deprived nationally for their living environment deprivation index. As a result a large part of the population of Hackney relies on access to good quality and value open spaces. The following Wards populations are considered to have the least access to private gardens (as set out in Paragraph 1.63 and Figure 1-8):
- Hoxton West
 - Hoxton East and Shoreditch
 - Haggerston
 - Woodberry Down
 - Brownswood
 - Clissold
 - Springfield
- 5.6 Although Hackney is generally becoming more affluent, it still experiences some of the highest levels of deprivation in the country, with communities along the borders of Victoria and Homerton Wards falling within the top 10% most deprived areas in England. Health and wellbeing of the borough's residents is also generally poor with the highest proportions of people with long-term health conditions in London. Hackney also has one of the highest rates of childhood obesity in London, particularly within Hackney Wick and Haggerston Wards.
- 5.7 Hackney is a culturally diverse borough with a broad range of ethnic heritage groups and faiths. Just over a third of Hackney's residents are Christian. This is a lower percentage than the London and England averages. Hackney has significantly higher population of the Jewish and Muslim faiths together with a higher proportion of people with no religion or those who did not state a religion than the averages for London and England. The Charedi Jewish community is concentrated in the North East of the borough and is growing.

- 5.8 This cultural diversity needs to be reflected in the planning and management of open space, recognising that different groups may have different needs and aspirations.

Views expressed through consultation

- 5.9 Responses from the consultation process carried out as part of this study revealed that residents are generally satisfied with the quantity and quality of open spaces in the borough, with 90% of respondents able to access their local park from home in less than 15 minutes.
- 5.10 If more open space were to be provided in Hackney, respondents to the public consultation would like to see more provision of natural and semi-natural urban green space, and green corridors. 44% of respondents indicated an interest in managing an allotment plot.
- 5.11 Responses to the survey also revealed high levels of satisfaction with the overall amount and quality of provision for play. However, the response in relation to play for 11+ years' age group indicates an area for improvement with the majority of respondents stating that they are fairly dissatisfied with the quantity and quality of facilities for young people.
- 5.12 Respondents would like to see a multifunctional network of open spaces with increased opportunities for people to experience nature and to participate in community food growing. This should be a priority in areas which experience issues with health and wellbeing, poor living environment and in areas where there is limited provision of private gardens.

Quantity of open spaces in Hackney

- 5.13 Overall, Hackney has good provision of open space with 1.36 ha of parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space and amenity green space per 1,000 head of population. This is comparable to neighbouring boroughs; 0.9ha greater than Islington but 0.44 ha less than Haringey. However the provision of allotments (0.015 ha per 1,000) in Hackney is significantly less than neighbouring boroughs and the standard of 0.125 ha per 1,000 suggested by NSALG.
- 5.14 The existing network of open spaces faces considerable pressure from an anticipated increase in population and the impacts of a changing climate. It is estimated that an additional 97.9 ha of open space will be required by 2041 to maintain the current quantity standard.
- 5.15 Increasing the quantity of open space in Hackney will be challenging, as a result of the densely populated and urban character of the borough. It is likely most new developments will not include access to private gardens, thereby exacerbating the need for good quality and value publicly accessible open space.
- 5.16 **Table 5-1** sets out the proposed quantity standard for Hackney, which reflects the existing level of provision and the support expressed through consultation. The quantity standard should be used as a guide for future planning, in terms of protecting existing open space and informing the need for open space provision in new developments.

Table 5.1: Open space quantity standards for Hackney

Typology	Proposed standard
Parks and gardens Natural and semi-natural urban green space Amenity green space	1.36 ha/1,000 head of population
Play space	A minimum of 10 square metres of dedicated play space per child.

- 5.17 **Table 5-2** reveals that provision across the borough varies considerably with only six Wards (Clissold, Hackney Downs, Hackney Wick, Kings Park, Springfield and Woodberry Down) meeting the borough's proposed quantity standard.

Table 5.2: Comparison of quantity of open space by Ward

Ward	Provision (parks and gardens, natural or semi-natural urban green space, amenity green space) ha per 1,000 people in 2016	Quantity of open space provision by Ward compared to quantity standard of 1.36ha per 1,000 head of population
Brownswood	0.11	-1.25ha
Cazenove	0.18	-1.18ha
Clissold	1.84	+0.48ha
Dalston	0.01	-1.35ha
De Beauvoir	0.20	-1.16ha
Hackney Central	0.12	-1.24ha
Hackney Downs	1.59	+0.23ha
Hackney Wick	4.02	+2.66ha
Haggerston	0.81	-0.55ha
Homerton	0.45	-0.91ha
Hoxton East and Shoreditch	0.81	-0.55ha
Hoxton West	0.14	-1.22ha
King's Park	8.21	+6.85ha
Lea Bridge	1.33	-0.03ha
London Fields	1.10	-0.26ha
Shacklewell	0.04	-1.32ha
Springfield	1.48	+0.12ha
Stamford Hill West	0.20	-1.16ha
Stoke Newington	0.94	-0.42ha
Victoria	0.46	-0.9ha
Woodberry Down	2.76	+1.4ha

- 5.18 Many of the Wards which experience highest levels of deprivation relating to health and wellbeing contain the smallest quantity of publicly accessible open space.⁵
- 5.19 Furthermore, of the seven Wards which are likely to have least access to private gardens, the following fall below the proposed quantity standard for publicly accessible open space in Hackney:
- Brownswood (1.25ha below the quantity standard)
 - Hoxton West (1.22 ha below the quantity standard)
 - Hoxton East and Shoreditch (0.55 ha below the quantity standard)
 - Haggerston (0.55 ha below the quantity standard)
- 5.20 Haggerston Ward contains some of the highest rates of childhood obesity in the London. Victoria and Homerton Wards are considered to be within the top 10% most deprived areas in England. Both of these Wards also fall below the proposed quantity standard; 0.9ha and 0.91ha below the proposed quantity standard respectively.

Access to different types of open space in Hackney

- 5.21 A range of publicly accessible open spaces are available to Hackney residents. **Table 5-3** sets out the proposed accessibility standards for each type and hierarchy of open space in the borough. These standards are based on national guidance and are underpinned by the analysis of the consultation process. The standards help to identify what type of open space is already provided

⁵ Within the typologies of parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural urban green spaces and amenity green spaces.

in the vicinity of a proposed development, which will help to decide whether onsite provision is required, or whether offsite contribution to provide enhancement of existing open space may be more appropriate.

Table 5.3: Accessibility standards for Hackney

Typology/ hierarchy	Proposed standard
Parks and gardens	
• Metropolitan	3.2km
• District	1.2km
• Local	400m
• Small local	280m
Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces	
• Local	400m
• Small local	280m
Linear open space/ green corridor	N/A
Amenity green space	280m
Allotments, community gardens and city farms	1.2km
Cemeteries and churchyards	N/A
Civic space	N/A
Play provision	
• Local areas for play (LAP)	100 m
• Local equipped areas for play (LEAP)	400 m
• Neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAP)	1 km
• Provision for teenagers	1 km

- 5.22 In general there is good access to parks and gardens in Hackney. Most residents are within the catchment area for metropolitan sites due to the presence the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Hackney Marshes located in the east of the borough. The Wards of Woodberry Down, Stamford Hill West, Brownswood and Clissold, located in the north east of the borough, fall outside the catchment area for these sites but do have access to the district sites of Clissold Park and Finsbury Park (located in the London Borough of Haringey).
- 5.23 Wards within the east and south east of the borough fall outside the catchment area for district sites. Residents within the northern parts of the Wards of Springfield and Cazenove are also located outside the catchment area of district sites. However these residents are in close proximity to the string of open spaces which form the Lee Valley Regional Park.
- 5.24 Dalston, Stoke Newington, London Fields, De Beauvoir, Lea Bridge and Hoxton West, Hoxton East and Shoreditch Wards contain significant areas which are outside the catchment areas for local parks and gardens. The limited provision of local parks and gardens in these Wards adds greater significance to the role of small local open spaces as well as amenity green spaces. It is therefore essential that these open spaces are multi-functional and able to withstand intensive use.
- 5.25 Wards likely to have significant population increase due to development and regeneration are Hackney Wick, Woodberry Down, Brownswood, Haggerston, Hoxton West, Hoxton East and Shoreditch, Hackney Central and Dalston. These Wards are in the accessibility catchment of small local open spaces with varied quality and value. Haggerston and Woodberry Down have good access to small local parks and gardens open space but quality and value is generally lower. These Wards also contain a considerable number of residents unlikely to have access to private gardens.
- 5.26 There are just six open spaces in the borough with the primary typology of natural or semi-natural urban green space. However, many open spaces within other typologies (e.g. parks and

gardens, linear open spaces/ green corridors and cemeteries and churchyards) contain features of nature conservation importance, reflected through being designated SINCs. As a result, a large proportion of the borough's residents are able to visit open spaces containing wildlife features. However, there are still sections of the community outside of the catchment area for a natural or semi-natural green space and future management should seek to incorporate features of biodiversity importance in all open spaces.

- 5.27 Provision of allotments, community gardens and city farms is very low compared to neighbouring authorities. Large areas of the borough fall outside the access catchment of any allotments, community gardens and city gardens, particularly in the centre of the borough and in northern Wards such as Woodberry Down, Brownswood and Clissold, and there is significant demand from residents for additional space for food growing. However, there is little scope for additional provision of allotments within Hackney. Therefore emphasis for provision should be placed on the creation of community gardens and growing spaces within larger open spaces (e.g. park and gardens).
- 5.28 Play provision is predominantly located within the large open spaces such as parks and gardens with the vast majority of residents within the catchment area of NEAPs and teen provision. However access to LAPS is poor throughout the borough and not all residents are currently within the 100m catchment area. It should be noted that not play areas within housing estates have been captured in this study and it is likely many of these sites are of a LAP type.

Quality and value of open spaces in Hackney

- 5.29 The open space assessment has identified sites within a range of quality and value scores. These have been assessed by primary typology and, where appropriate, hierarchy in line with the London Mayor's guidance. However it is important to acknowledge that many sites have multifunctional uses, especially those sites within the parks and gardens typology, and that consideration should be given to this when planning open space enhancement.
- 5.30 The quality and value standards provide a benchmark standard against which the need for enhancement of existing facilities can be measured. **Appendices 4 & 5** set out the quality and value scores for each open space and play space audited as part of this assessment. It also indicates how each site has performed against the relevant benchmark standard.
- 5.31 Parks and gardens at metropolitan and district level all achieved highest quality and value scores. However a number of open spaces within other typologies and hierarchies fell below the benchmark standards. Local and small local hierarchy of sites provide the greatest publicly accessible open space provision across Hackney. These spaces are of particular importance in areas which are lacking access to metropolitan and district sites. It is therefore important these open spaces are of high quality and value to withstand intensive use and support a range of recreation activities. This is particularly important where:
- Areas are deficient in quantity of open spaces
 - Residents are unlikely to have access to private gardens
 - Residents experience greatest levels of health and wellbeing deprivation
 - There is likely to be significant population growth
- 5.32 **Appendices 6 & 7** identify the open spaces and play spaces which are considered to be of a lower quality and lower value and are located within Wards which fall below the proposed quantity standard. Suggestions are provided for how each open space could be enhanced. However these possible interventions are indicative only and further detailed investigations should be carried out prior to the delivery of enhancement projects.
- 5.33 Full details of characteristics of individual open spaces are set out in the site proformas contained within **Appendix 8**.

Recommendations for open space planning

- 5.34 The following paragraphs set out recommendations for the future planning and management of the open space network in Hackney, based on the following four aims:
1. Protect the existing network of open space and seek to increase provision in areas that fall below the required standards for quantity and accessibility
 2. Improve access and functionality of existing open spaces
 3. Ensure residents have access to high quality and high value open spaces
 4. Seek to create a connected network of green infrastructure in Hackney

Protect the existing network of open space in Hackney and seek to increase provision in areas that fall below the required standards for quantity and accessibility.

- 5.35 The existing network of publicly accessible open space in Hackney should be protected to reflect its importance to the health and wellbeing of the borough's residents and its contribution to mitigating the anticipated effects of a changing climate.
- 5.36 The quantity and accessibility standards should be used to guide future provision of open space in the borough. This is particularly important in areas which fall below the required standards or where significant population growth is expected. Consideration should also be given to the revision of Policy DM31 given that an additional 97.88 ha of open space is required by 2041 in order to maintain the existing quantum of open space per person.
- 5.37 Where housing development or regeneration is planned, areas of useable open space should be included in masterplans, particularly in areas where access to private gardens is limited. Larger spaces with a designed function, connected to other open space and located centrally within the development provide better value for residents and the wider population. Smaller developments should be required to contribute funds toward the creation/ enhancement of open space on a head of population size. Wards likely to be subject to development and regeneration are Hackney Wick, Woodberry Down, Brownswood, Haggerston, Hoxton West, Hoxton East and Shoreditch, Hackney Central and Dalston

Improve access and functionality of existing open spaces

- 5.38 It is unlikely that significant new open space will be created in the borough to meet the existing deficiencies. Opportunities should therefore be sought to improve access to open spaces which do not currently form part of the publicly accessible network. For example, it is recommended that Holmleigh Road Cutting (including east and west bank nature reserve) is made accessible to the public. The site covers approximately 2.74 ha and opening the site to the public would increase access to local natural or semi-natural green space in the Wards of Stamford Hill West, Stoke Newington, Cazenove and Springfield (three of which are currently lacking access to this typology).
- 5.39 Consideration should also be made to increase the multi-functionality of open spaces to ensure sites provide a range of features and are able to respond to an increase in intensity of use. Opportunities to create community food growing areas in larger open spaces should be identified to respond to current deficiencies, particularly in the centre of the borough and in the northern Wards such as Woodberry Down, Brownswood and Clissold.
- 5.40 Although this study has captured many open spaces in the borough, there will inevitably be sites which were not captured due to their size. These sites are generally found within areas of social housing and provide a range of uses including amenity green space and play areas. These smaller open spaces are an important element of the open space network and therefore Hackney Council should consider the contribution of these sites when identifying open space enhancements.

Ensure all residents have access to high quality and high value open spaces

- 5.41 All residents should have access to a high quality and high value open space, which positively welcomes people in terms of physical and social access, and supports appropriate facilities required for the borough's diverse communities.

- 5.42 Sites which have been identified in this study as performing below the standards for quality and/or value should be prioritised for improvement. This is particularly important in areas which are deficient in quantity or accessibility to open space.
- 5.43 Metropolitan and district level open spaces all achieved high quality and high value scores. Due to the importance of local and small open spaces in Hackney, management should seek to ensure these sites are of high quality and high value.
- 5.44 It is recommended that the Council seeks to increase quality and value of Stoke Newington Common, a local park with lower quality and value. The Common offers local level access for large areas of Springfield, Cazenove, Hackney Downs and Stoke Newington, which have limited provision of other publicly accessible open spaces. At the time of audit, the open space was suffering from issues with cleanliness. Opportunities for enhancement include improved facilities to support informal recreation, biodiversity, character setting, amenity and educational interest.
- 5.45 Improvement of poor quality and value small local sites is recommended in Haggerston and Woodberry Down in order to compensate a population that is likely to have some of the least garden access in the borough. The regeneration proposals for Woodberry Down will seek to address some of these issues.
- 5.46 In addition, improvement of small local sites is recommended in Hoxton West, Hoxton East and Shoreditch where access to local and district level provision is poor and there is a lack of access to private gardens. Increasing provision in these areas is likely to be restricted due to the typically densely populated and urban character. It is likely most new developments will not include access to private gardens, thereby exacerbating the need for access to good quality open space. Opportunities for urban greening (e.g. street tree planting and incorporation of sustainable drainage systems) should be sought in these areas.
- 5.47 Priority should be given to the improvement of NEAPs in Haggerston, London Fields, Victoria, Homerton, Hackney Wick and Hackney Central, where there are large areas deficient in high quality and high value play spaces. Public consultation revealed that there is a need to increase the quantity and improve the quality of facilities for young people over 11 years old. Further investigations should be carried out into Hackney's play provision within housing estates as not all of these play spaces have been included in this study.

Seek to create a connected network of green infrastructure in Hackney

- 5.48 Due to the constrained nature of the borough, opportunities should be sought to create a connected green network of open space which flows through Hackney. These features should also connect with open spaces in surrounding boroughs including the Lee Valley Regional Park to the east of the borough, Finsbury Park to the north, and Victoria Park to the south.
- 5.49 Enhancing the living environment through urban greening will be particularly important in Woodberry Down, Hoxton East and Shoreditch, Hoxton West and Hackney Central which are expected to see the greatest increase in population. Woodberry Down, Hoxton East and Shoreditch, Hoxton West contain the least percentage of population with access to private gardens as well as being within some of the most deprived Wards on the living environment deprivation index.
- 5.50 Urban greening measures may include small scale interventions such as planting of street trees, creation of rain gardens, attenuation swales and construction of green walls to larger schemes such as the re-connecting fragmented sites (through removal of highways) and creating green routes between spaces. Urban greening measures should be incorporated within master planning for regeneration schemes and should form part of a strategic plan for the borough as a whole. A green infrastructure strategy should therefore be developed to help guide the delivery of such interventions and to ensure a robust and cohesive network of open space is achieved.

Bibliography

- LB Hackney Policy Team. (2016). *A Profile of Hackney, its People and Place*. London: LB Hackney.
- London Borough of Hackney. (2008). *A Strategy for Parks in Hackney*. London: Community Services: London Borough of Hackney.
- London Borough of Hackney. (2010). *Core Strategy*. London: Hackney Council.
- London Borough of Hackney. (2015). *Development Management Local Plan*. London: Hackney Council.
- Mayor of London. (2012). *Shaping Neighbourhoods; Play and Informal Recreation*. London: Mayor of London.
- Mayor of London. (2016). *Ward Profiles*. Retrieved 08 24, 2016, from London Data Store: <http://londondatastore-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/instant-atlas/ward-profiles-html/atlas.html>

Appendix 1: Planning policy context review

Hackney Open Space Assessment – Policy context

Policy document	Page/policy reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Assessment	Relevant element of the Hackney Open Space Assessment
NPPF	<p>Paras 73, 74, 76, 77 and 78</p> <p>Duty to cooperate: Paras 156 and 178-181</p>	<p>Para 73 essentially provides the rationale for the study, what the study should comprise of and how it feeds into the strategic allocations of new open space as well as managing existing open spaces. It states that:</p> <p>“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.”</p> <p>Para 74 sets out the only circumstances in which an open space can be developed for different uses. It clarifies that existing open space should not be built on unless:</p> <p>an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.</p> <p>Para 77 describes the Local Green Space designation requirements, this could inform the audit and perhaps used to help designate new Local Green Spaces.</p> <p>Para 78 states that “Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts”.</p> <p>The ‘duty to cooperate’ is a legal requirement of the plan preparation process and is set out in Chapter 110 of the Localism Act. It is also outlined in the NPPF including para 156 which sets out the strategic issues where co-operation might be appropriate. Paragraphs 178-181 provides further guidance on ‘planning strategically across local boundaries’. The duty to cooperate recognises linkages between neighbouring authorities and that development requirements cannot be wholly met by one single authority, so a joined up approach is required including joint evidence to inform key issues, and aligned</p>	<p>Rationale</p> <p>Open space method</p> <p>Open space</p> <p>Protection/loss of open space</p> <p>Designation Policy</p> <p>Consultation and partnership</p>

Policy document	Page/policy reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Assessment	Relevant element of the Hackney Open Space Assessment
		plans across a series of authorities that include complementary policies that address key issues.	
London Plan	<p>March 2015</p> <p>Policy 2.18 GI: The Multi-Functional Network of Green and Open spaces</p> <p>Policy 3.5: Quality and Design of Housing Developments</p> <p>Policy 3.6: Children and Young People's Play and Informal Recreation Facilities</p> <p>Policy 3.19: Sports Facilities</p> <p>Policy 7.1: Lifetime Neighbourhoods</p> <p>Policy 7.5: Public Realm</p> <p>Policy 7.17: Metropolitan Open Land</p> <p>Policy 7.18 Protecting Open space and Addressing Deficiency</p> <p>Policy 7.19: Biodiversity and Access To Nature</p> <p>Policy 7.21 Trees and</p>	<p>Policy 2.18: The policy outlines that green and open space contributes to GI. It lays out a strategic approach to GI (partnership and addressing deficiencies), how green and open spaces should be incorporated into planning decisions and LDF preparation. LDF Preparation should support the creation, protection and enhancement of open spaces. Open spaces should be optimised for both their environmental and social qualities.</p> <p>Policy 3.5: The policy requires housing developments to display high design standards which should consider the relationship and the provision of open spaces for public and communal access that also addresses the needs of the elderly and children.</p> <p>Policy 3.6: Housing developments should include areas for children's formal and informal play which should reflect the predicted child population of the scheme and future needs. This addresses the policy's strategic objective to ensure that children and young people have access to high quality recreational facilities which includes trees and greenery wherever possible.</p> <p>Policy 3.19 supports development proposals that include the provision of sport facilities. Sports facilities that are to be developed on open spaces must "be considered carefully in light of policies on Green Belt and protecting open space as well as the borough's own assessment of needs and opportunities for both sports facilities and for green multifunctional open space."</p> <p>Policy 7.1 encourages resilient neighbourhoods which include enabling communities to have access to community infrastructure including green spaces. To achieve this, boroughs are encouraged to plan these services and work alongside neighbouring boroughs as well as at a regional level.</p> <p>Policy 7.5 supports development proposals that strengthen links between public spaces and parks.</p> <p>Policy 7.18: Concerns the protection and creation of open spaces. Open spaces can only be lost if an equal or better open space can be provided elsewhere within the local catchment area. Areas of open space deficiency are to be identified and new open space areas are to be provided in places that are likely to experience substantial development – however they must conform to GI strategies and deliver multiple benefits. This ensures that there are satisfactory levels of Open spaces across London.</p> <p>Policy 7.19: The policy aims to promote a proactive approach to the protection, enhancement, creation,</p>	<p>Open space in policy</p> <p>Rationale for urban greening</p> <p>Open space in new development</p> <p>New sports facilities on open spaces</p> <p>Community cohesion</p> <p>Open space in new development</p>

Policy document	Page/policy reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Assessment	Relevant element of the Hackney Open Space Assessment
	Woodlands	promotion and management of biodiversity through ensuring that nature is considered at the beginning of development proposals. The policy reasons this maximises nature gains through the layout, design and use of materials in a scheme. To achieve this, it is highly likely that open spaces will be needed.	Open space protection and creation
All London Green Grid (ALGG)	SPG Implementation Point 1: Protecting the Network of GI Implementation Point 2: Green Grid Area partnership working Implementation Point 3: Governance and Delivery Implementation Point 4: Integrating the ALGG Implementation point 5: Delivery Plan Implementation Point 6: Creation, Improvement and Management Implementation Point 7: Achieving the Benefits of GI	<p>The ALGG seeks to promote a shift from grey to green and blue infrastructure and to make it part of the cities fundamental infrastructure. The SPG document aims to:</p> <p>Protect, conserve and enhance London's strategic network of green and open natural and cultural spaces and to connect them to the everyday life of the city.</p> <p>Encourage greater use of, and engagement with, London's green infrastructure and popularising key destinations within the network.</p> <p>Securing a network of high quality, well designed and multifunctional green and open spaces to establish a crucial component of urban infrastructure.</p> <p>The SPG provides guidance of all the relevant policies in the London Plan and is achieved through seven implementation points:</p> <p>Point 1: States that GI is protected, enhanced and managed to ensure that its social an environmental benefits are recognised in London and elsewhere.</p> <p>Point 2: Identifies 11 Partnership Areas which should Prepare Green Grid Area (GGA) Frameworks that sets out objectives and projects, taking into account cross boundary integration. Hackney is incorporated into the:</p> <p>GGA1 Lee Valley and Finchley Ridge: includes parts of the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Newham, Islington, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.</p> <p>GGA12 Central London: includes parts of the boroughs of Camden, Islington, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth, Westminster, and the City of London. This covers an area which includes the Central Activities Zone as defined by the London Plan</p> <p>Point 3: Outlines that the Mayor will support to the local boroughs and stakeholders by implementing the necessary governance structures.</p> <p>Point 4: Requires all boroughs and relevant bodies to incorporate these implementation points, the strategic opportunities set out in Chapter 5 and appropriate area frameworks into policies, plans, proposals and projects into their plans and policies including into cross boundary working. In addition, it</p>	Open space protection, creation and enhancement

Policy document	Page/policy reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Assessment	Relevant element of the Hackney Open Space Assessment
		<p>requires development and regeneration proposals to have integrated and improved GI to connect open spaces.</p> <p>Point 5: Details that a delivery plan will be prepared that sets out key Green Grid Projects for investment and an associated delivery programme outlining a phased approach to its implementation.</p> <p>Point 6: Alongside GI improvement and enhancement schemes, development and regeneration proposals should include long term funding and management strategy for the GIs maintenance and therefore open spaces.</p> <p>Point 7: Opportunities for GI in London and its wider social and environmental benefits should be developed in partnership between the Mayor, Local Authorities and other stakeholders.</p>	
Natural Capital - report of the London Green Infrastructure Task Force	Borough Level Governance	<p>Page 14: The environmental and social challenges London is currently experiencing and their future challenges should govern the need for protecting and managing open space. The need for open spaces should not be constrained by administrative boundaries, but should apply the notion of a liveable city through the greening of the built environment and public realm.</p> <p>Page 35 notes that privately owned open space is on the rise – especially in the most densely developed parts of London. The increase in the number of open space land owners increases the complexities of open space management.</p> <p>Page 36 notes that open spaces are being utilised to fulfil the concept of place-making and references the LB of Croydon.</p>	Role in place making, interaction with development proposals
Hackney Local Plan	2018-2033 Hackney Local Plan is currently at the Stage 1 and 2 Pre-production evidence gathering and Preparation of a Local Plan to be completed March 2017	<p><i>The new borough-wide local plan, known as LP33, will be the key strategic planning document which will establish a vision and planning policies to direct and guide development in the borough up to 2033. The plan is critical in ensuring that we get the right amount of development built in the right place at the right time so that the future needs of the borough are met.</i></p> <p><i>For Hackney to deliver continued growth and regeneration we must ensure a robust planning framework is in place. The Council presently has 3 key documents (core strategy, development management and site allocations local plans), the oldest of which was adopted in 2010. It is therefore essential to review this framework.</i></p>	Future policy and borough strategies

Policy document	Page/policy reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Assessment	Relevant element of the Hackney Open Space Assessment
		<p><i>LP33 will combine and update these documents into a single, clear document, helping to support growth and regeneration and provide clarity to our residents.</i></p>	
Hackney Core Strategy	<p>Core Strategy was adopted in November 2010.</p> <p><i>Vision</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 5 Supporting Neighbourhoods and Communities</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 8 Cleaner, Greener and Safer Places</i></p>	<p>The Core Strategy contains a Spatial Vision for Hackney which includes six priorities:</p> <p>Reduce poverty by supporting residents into sustainable employment, and promoting employment opportunities.</p> <p>Help residents to become better qualified and raise educational aspirations.</p> <p>Promote health and wellbeing for all, and support independent living.</p> <p>Make the borough safer, and help people to feel safe in Hackney.</p> <p>Promote mixed communities in well-designed neighbourhoods, where people can access high quality, affordable housing.</p> <p>Be a sustainable community, where all citizens take pride in and take care of Hackney</p> <p>Core Strategy Policy 12: Health and Environment Creating new publicly accessible open spaces where there are deficiencies, including Dalston, or investing in improving the quality of existing spaces, especially Hackney Marshes</p> <p>Overarching principles of Policies within Chapter 8: Natural Environment The Council will ensure that there is a diverse and multi-functional network of open spaces to meet the needs and requirements of Hackney's existing and future communities. This includes protecting habitats and species important for biodiversity. Where there are identified deficiencies, the creation of new and / or improvement of spaces will be sought, and regard must be given to connecting up open spaces.</p> <p>Core Strategy Policy 26 Open space Network All open and green spaces should be well-managed and enhanced to improve quality, capacity and public accessibility, to support a diverse and multi-functional network of open spaces. Where appropriate, new open spaces will be created which are publicly accessible and linked to other open spaces to enhance the borough's green infrastructure.</p> <p>Core Strategy Policy 27 Biodiversity The Council will protect, conserve and enhance nature conservation areas, in particular in and around Dalston and Shoreditch for their biodiversity value, and develop a local habitat network contributing to the wider Green Grid.</p>	<p>Green Belt</p> <p>Natural Environment</p> <p>Open space protection, creation and enhancement</p> <p>Protection/loss of open space</p>

Policy document	Page/policy reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Assessment	Relevant element of the Hackney Open Space Assessment
Development Management Local Plan	Adopted 2015	<p>Which includes detailed, generally criteria-based, planning policies which are, together with the London plan, the core strategy and other supplementary planning documents, to assess planning applications.</p> <p>Policy DM3 - Promoting Health and Well-being in Hackney</p> <p>Policy DM4 – Communities Infrastructure Levy and Planning Contributions</p> <p>Policy DM5 – Protection and Delivery of Social and Community Facilities and Places of Worship</p> <p>Policy DM31 – Open space and Living Roofs</p> <p>Policy DM32 – Protection and Enhancement of Existing Open space and the Less Valley Regional Park (Core Strategy policy 26)</p> <p>Policy DM33 – Allotments and Food Growing</p> <p>Policy DM34 – Sites of Nature Conservation and/or Geodiversity Value, Walthamstow Reservoirs Special Protection Area and Walthamstow Marches Sites of Special Scientific Interest</p> <p>Policy DM35 – Landscape and Tree Management</p>	<p>Proposed development</p> <p>Open space protection, creation and enhancement</p> <p>Protection/loss of open space</p>
Area Action Plans		<p>Hackney has adopted Area Action Plans for Manor House, Dalston, and Hackney Central. In those areas, the policies and proposals in the AAPs apply to development proposals. Where the AAP policies are silent the DMLP policies will apply. In assessing and proposing development schemes in the AAP areas, both the DMLP and the relevant AAP must be read together.</p>	
Parks Strategy	Adopted 2008 To be reviewed with the Local Plan Review	<p>Strategy for Parks in Hackney (2008) report recognises and acknowledges the valuable contribution made by parks and park user groups and aimed to deliver a detailed indicative action plan which contributed to the delivery of Hackney's Community Strategy, Mind the Gap and Local Area Agreement Outcomes.</p> <p>A Strategy for Parks in Hackney (2008) was defined by seven key priority areas, which were shaped by previous consultations and research leading up to the publication of the report</p>	<p>Parks and open space agendas</p> <p>Open space protection, creation and enhancement</p>

Policy document	Page/policy reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Assessment	Relevant element of the Hackney Open Space Assessment
		<p>these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people; Planning for the future; Conservation and biodiversity; Tree preservation and management; Activities and events; Feeling safe; Green corridor. 	Protection/loss of open space
Hackney Play Strategy	2007-2012 To be reviewed with the Local Plan Review	<p>The London Borough of Hackney is unique in that the education and play service is run by an independent body the Learning Trust. The Play Strategy was delivered by the Learning Trust in collaboration with statutory and voluntary sector partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>The key themes are priorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve and increase good-quality play opportunities for children, specifically looking at provision for children with disabilities; To work hard with hard to reach groups to access play opportunities; To raise the profile of play and the importance of play or children; To foster multi-agency approaches to developing new and existing play provision; To improve from the play strategy to evidence gaps in provision and to use these to inform future funding and decision making where applicable; To improve children and young people's participation in shaping play services that directly affect them; To support the long-term sustainability of existing play provision. <p>These themes are guided by set principles detailed in the documentation setting the</p>	<p>Parks and open space agendas</p> <p>Open space protection, creation and enhancement</p> <p>Protection/loss of open space</p>

Policy document	Page/policy reference	Content relevant to the Open Space Assessment	Relevant element of the Hackney Open Space Assessment
		standards and quality.	
Hackney Sports and Physical Activity Strategy	To be reviewed with the Local Plan Review	<p>The strategy was informed by previous research and consultation and aimed to focus on five key priority themes:</p> <p>Participation and Achievement [in 2011/12 35.5 % of the adult population participated in sports and physical activity for at least 30 minutes once a week; in 2009/10 43% of pupils participated in 3 hours of high quality P.E and school sport a week];</p> <p>Positive Prevention [3.9% of young people aged between 16-19 and known to the local Connexions service were not in education, employment or training; in 2012 65% of Hackneys working age population was employed; in 2012 25% of children in year 6 were at risk of becoming obese];</p> <p>Engaged and Involved [in 2009 3.6% of adults volunteered to support sport and physical activity, 14% of pupils are actively involved in sports and leadership activities];</p> <p>A Vibrant Quality Environment [Hackney has 56 parks and green spaces, 15 parks have achieved Green Flag quality mark status, in 2009 79% of Hackneys residents were satisfied with the parks and open spaces, in 2009 53% of residents were satisfied with the sports and leisure facilities];</p> <p>Communication [75% of people identified the need for promotion of sport and physical activity, 55% of respondents look for information about sports and physical activity online and 45% via word of mouth].</p> <p>Aiming to feed into complimentary strategies such as Hackney's Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities to improve the overall health and wellbeing of the community.</p>	<p>Parks and open space agendas</p> <p>Open space protection, creation and enhancement</p> <p>Protection/loss of open space</p>

Appendix 2:

Quantity standards adopted by surrounding local authorities

Typology	Hackney (proposed standards)	Haringey	Islington	Tower Hamlets	Newham	
Parks and gardens	1.36 ha per 1,000 head of population*	1.64 ha per 1,000 head of population	0.312 ha per 1,000 head of population	0.98 ha per 1,000 head of population (based on provision in 2010 population)	Public parks: 0.78 ha District parks: 0.28 ha Local parks: 0.44 ha Pocket parks: 0.006 ha	
Natural or semi-natural urban green space			0.019ha per 1,000 head of population		1.00 ha	
Linear open space/ green corridors	No standard		0.022 ha per 1,000 head of population		No standard	
Amenity green space	1.36 ha per 1,000 head of population*		Amenity green space: 0.011 ha per 1,000 head of population Housing amenity green space: 0.158 ha per 1,000 head of population		No standard	
Allotments, community gardens and city farms	No standard		0.16 ha per or 0.64 plots 1,000 head of population		No standard	0.125 ha
Cemeteries and churchyards	No standard		No standard		No standard	No standard
Civic spaces/ pedestrianised area	No standard		No standard		No standard	No standard
Provision for children and teenagers	10m2 per child	10m2 per child	4.771m2 per child	10m2 per child		

*Combined standard for parks and gardens, natural or semi-natural urban green space and amenity green space.

Appendix 3:
Open space audit form

Open space audit 2017

Value scores are highlighted
in yellow

Desk based assessment

Quality scores are highlighted
in green

Site ID: Site Name:

Grid reference:

Ownership (DC, private, other):

Area (ha):

Category of open space:

Designations

A1 National:

- Listed building +3
- Scheduled Monument +3
- SSSI +3
- Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens +3

A2: Regional:

- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation/ Local Wildlife Site +2
- Biodiversity Opportunity Area +2

A2 Access

- National/ Regional Trails +3
- Sustrans Routes +3

A3 Local - Statutory:

- Conservation Area +1
- Local Nature Reserve +1
- SANGs +1

A4 Other:

- Within a Flood Risk Zone +1
- Ancient Woodland +1
- T.P.O +1
- Has the site achieved a Green Flag Award? +3
- Has the site achieved a Green Flag Community Award? +3
- Has the site achieved a Green Heritage Site Accreditation? +3

Site assessment

Site ID:

Site Name:

Category of open space:

Audit date and time:

Time spent surveying:

Name of surveyor:

Survey site access: (e.g. access to whole site/ access to part of site/ no access to site)

1. Welcoming place

Site access:

- Freely accessible to public +5
- De-facto public access +1
- Restricted public access +2
- No public access -1

If restricted access, what kind of restriction?

- Opening hours +2
- Limited to particular areas +2
- Members/ tenants only +1
- Other (please state) 0

To what extent are the entrances well presented? +1 +2 +3

To what extent are the boundaries well defined and maintained? +1 +2 +3

What is the overall quality of access and accesses within and through the open space? +1 +2 +3

What is the overall quality of access and accesses for people travelling to open space? +1 +2 +3

What is the overall provision of signage? +1 +2 +3

2. Health, safety and secure

Play provision:

Is there play equipment on site?

How many separate items for equipment? +1 per item

Is it for under 5 years? +1

5-11 years? +1

Over 11 years? +1

What play activities are provided for:

- Balancing +1
- Sliding +1
- Rocking +1
- Climbing/ agility +1
- Social play +1
- Swinging +1
- Rotating +1
- Jumping +1
- Viewing +1
- Counting +1
- Touching +1

Is there impact absorbing surfacing around the equipment? +1

Are there benches within the enclosure? +1

Are there litterbins within the enclosure? +1

Is there a play area notice at the entrance stating dog free, children only and emergency contacts? +1

Is there space, separate from the equipped area, for informal play/ general runabout? +1

Overall condition of play equipment? +1 +2 +3

Is there other provision for play on site? (Please also note condition)

- MUGA +1 +1 +2 +3
- Waterplay +1 +1 +2 +3
- Skate park +1 +1 +2 +3
- BMX +1 +1 +2 +3
- Other +1 +1 +2 +3

Please state:

Is there evidence the green space is being used for informal recreation?

- Walking/ dog walking +1
- Children's play +1
- Young people hanging out +1
- Sitting/ relaxing +1
- Desire lines +1
- Skateboarding +1
- Cycling +1
- Food growing +1
- Other +1 Please state:

Overall provision for informal recreation? +1 +2 +3

What is the condition of basic amenities?

- Toilets +1 +1 +2 +3
- Cafe +1 +1 +2 +3
- Litter and/ or dog bins +1 +1 +2 +3
- Seating +1 +1 +2 +3
- Nature trail +1 +1 +2 +3
- Lifebelts +1 +1 +2 +3
- Cycle parking +1 +1 +2 +3
- Other +1 +1 +2 +3

Please state:

Community safety/ sense of security:

Is there natural surveillance into the site from surrounding properties?

+1

Do the approaches feel open and secure?

+1

Is there a flow of people through the green space (to achieve self surveillance)?

+1

Is lighting provided?

+1

Is dog fouling evident onsite?

-1

Active recreation/ sport provision: (note number and condition (score 1-3))

- Outdoor athletics track +1 +1 +2 +3
- Grass pitches +1 +1 +2 +3
- Artificial pitches (e.g. astro turf) +1 +1 +2 +3
- Tennis courts +1 +1 +2 +3
- Other +1 +1 +2 +3

Sports/ other organised activities: Scope for enhancement?

3. Clean and well maintained

Is graffiti evident?

-1

Vandalism evident?

-1

Overall cleanliness?

+1 +2 +3

Overall condition/ quality of planted areas

+1 +2 +3

Overall condition/ quality of grass areas

+1 +2 +3

Overall condition/ quality of footpaths

+1 +2 +3

Quality of water and associated edge treatment

+1 +2 +3

Are there any buildings or other built features onsite?

Not scored

Please state:

If so, please note condition

+1 +2 +3

Allotments:

Estimated number of plots in use: 0-25% +1 26%-50% +2 51-75% +3 76-100% +4

Overall condition of allotment site: +1 +2 +3

4. Sustainability

Is there green waste composting area on site?

+1

Is there evidence of sustainable management practices?

+1

Is there evidence of waste minimisation/ recycling?

+1

Does the green space provide a buffer for/ absorb noise or air pollution from:

• Nearby traffic +1

• Nearby industry +1

• Other +1

Is there evidence of tree/ woodland management? +1

5. Conservation and heritage

Is there indication that natural features are being managed for nature conservation? +1

Vegetation cover/ type

Grassland

- Very short grass/ fine ornamental lawn +1
- Short amenity grassland +1
- Wildflower grassland +1
- Low growing herbs +1
- Tall herbs +1
- Bracken +1

Scrub, shrubs and hedgerows

- Scrub +1
- Hedge +1
- Shrub +1

Water and wetlands

- Running water (rivers and streams) +1
- Canal +1
- Pond/ lake +1
- Ditches (water filled) +1
- Bog +1
- Wet marginal vegetation +1

Invasive species

- 1
- Other vegetation type: +1
(please state)

Trees and woodland

- Broadleaved woodland +1
- Coniferous woodland +1
- Woodland edges/ trees and shrubs forming shelterbelt +1
- Tree groups/ scattered trees +1
- Veteran trees or significant individual trees +1
- Orchard +1
- Deadwood +1

Flower beds

- Annual bedding displays +1
- Ornamental planting +1

Brownfield land

- Bare soil and rock +1
- Derelict wasteland +1

Allotments

- Allotments - active +1
- Allotments - abandoned +1

Does the green space contribute to the setting of the immediate local area? +1

Is the green space visible from adjacent main road/ railway/ public transport route? +1

Does the green space feature any recognisable landmark features of local importance? +1

Is the open space visually attractive? +1

What threats/ disturbances/ issues are affecting the attractiveness of the site?

- Road noise -1
- Rail noise -1
- Pollution -1
- Lack of landscape management -1
- Erosion -1
- Intrusive buildings -1
- Motorcycle scrambling -1
- Fly tipping -1
- Flooding -1
- Other -1

Please state:

6. Community involvement

Is there a permanent public noticeboard on site? +1

If so, are up to date notices displayed? +1

Are there any temporary notices on site informing users about current developments? +1

If so, are they up to date? +1

Is there a built facility on site which is being used by the local community for education? +1

Is there evidence that a natural feature on site is being used by the local community for education? +1

Does the site offer educational interest (e.g. nature conservation interest or local historic significance)? +1

Is there a evidence of an active community group? +1

Is there a programme of activities? +1

7. Marketing

Are any of the following social facilities located on or adjacent to green space:

- Community centre +1
- Youth centre +1
- Meeting hall +1
- Indoor sport hall/ leisure centre +1
- Other social facility +1

Is there a dedicated outdoor performance area within the green space? +1

Does the green space contain public art? +1

Is there a school immediately adjacent to the green space? +1

8. Potential themes for enhancement:

Please tick as many boxes as relevant:

	Existing	Potential for enhancement
• Landscape, Heritage and Sense of Place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Water Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Access and Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Health and Well-Being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Local Awareness and Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Comments:

Appendix 4: Site lists with quality and value ratings*

Site ID	Site name	Hierarchy/typology	Quality	Value	QV rating
54	Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park	Metropolitan parks and gardens	121	105	++
58	Hackney Marshes	Metropolitan parks and gardens	95	56	++
5	Clissold Park	District parks and gardens	105	113	++
12	Millfields	District parks and gardens	75	73	++
10	Springfield Park	Local parks and gardens	90	102	++
16	Hackney Downs	Local parks and gardens	91	78	++
20	Well Street Common	Local parks and gardens	70	52	+-
22	London Fields	Local parks and gardens	77	80	++
34	Shoreditch Park	Local parks and gardens	67	65	++
49	Stoke Newington Common	Local parks and gardens	47	61	--
51	Woodberry Downs Park	Local parks and gardens	63	43	--
52	Clapton Common	Local parks and gardens	37	51	--
57	Spring Hill Recreation Ground	Local parks and gardens	39	27	--
64	East Marsh	Local parks and gardens	56	34	--
66	Haggerston Park	Local parks and gardens	81	66	++
85	Mabley Green	Local parks and gardens	91	67	++
86	Daubeney Fields	Local parks and gardens	62	62	--
99	West Reservoir	Local parks and gardens	45	27	--
2	Allens Gardens	Small local parks and gardens	67	68	++
8	Butterfield Green	Small local parks and gardens	67	72	++
11	Cazenove Road North	Small local parks and gardens	39	19	--
14	White Hart Field Green Wedge	Small local parks and gardens	46	23	+-
15	Clapton Pond	Small local parks and gardens	70	43	++
17	Clapton Square	Small local parks and gardens	54	61	++
23	St Thomas Square Gardens	Small local parks and gardens	49	26	+-
25	Ufton Gardens	Small local parks and gardens	36	18	--
26	De Beauvoir Square	Small local parks and gardens	62	47	++
27	Dalston Eastern Curve Garden	Small local parks and gardens	61	35	++
29	Albion Square	Small local parks and gardens	46	21	+-
35	Broadway Market Green	Small local parks and gardens	46	37	++

Site ID	Site name	Hierarchy/typology	Quality	Value	QV rating
39	Homerton Grove	Small local parks and gardens	37	16	--
45	Mark Street Garden	Small local parks and gardens	47	26	+-
59	Hoxton Community Garden	Small local parks and gardens	69	36	++
79	Charles Square	Small local parks and gardens	46	20	+-
80	Shepherdess Walk	Small local parks and gardens	66	39	++
81	Myddleton Avenue	Small local parks and gardens	39	16	--
89	Aske Gardens	Small local parks and gardens	62	32	+-
92	Fasset Square	Small local parks and gardens	32	14	--
95	Hoxton Square	Small local parks and gardens	44	25	+-
96	Rowley Gardens	Small local parks and gardens	54	43	++
98	St Thomas Long Burial Ground	Small local parks and gardens	39	20	--
198	Cazenove Road North	Small local parks and gardens	37	16	--
1	East Reservoir	Local natural or semi-natural urban green space	80	43	++
3	Abney Park Cemetery	Local natural or semi-natural urban green space	62	57	++
13	Wick Woodland	Local natural or semi-natural urban green space	25	28	--
63	Middlesex Filter Beds Nature Reserve	Local natural or semi-natural urban green space	48	40	++
67	Area behind industrial estate, Kingsland Basin	Small local natural or semi-natural urban green space	57	25	++
125	Sherwood House - Pickering House, Woodbery Estate	Small local natural or semi-natural urban green space	39	26	++
33	Regents Canal	Linear open space/green corridors	35	23	--
38	Lee Navigation	Linear open space/green corridors	48	48	++
76	River Lee North	Linear open space/green corridors	61	51	++
87	River Lee Space	Linear open space/green corridors	54	39	++
4	Levy Memorial Garden	Amenity green space	29	20	--

Site ID	Site name	Hierarchy/typology	Quality	Value	QV rating
9	Kynaston Gardens	Amenity green space	52	39	++
21	Shore Gardens	Amenity green space	46	17	+-
31	Geffrye Museum	Amenity green space	68	34	++
36	Stonebridge Gardens	Amenity green space	59	55	++
47	Windsor Terrace Open Space	Amenity green space	42	17	+-
65	St Mary of Eton Church	Amenity green space	64	24	+-
90	Cassland Road Gardens	Amenity green space	44	24	+-
91	Church Street Garden	Amenity green space	36	27	+-
97	Shacklewell Green	Amenity green space	48	23	+-
100	Hunsdon House	Amenity green space	47	20	+-
101	Wenlock Road	Amenity green space	37	29	+-
102	Pitcairn Estate	Amenity green space	47	28	+-
103	Kingsmead Estate, Kingswood Homes	Amenity green space	40	14	+-
104	Kingsmead Estate, Kingswood Homes	Amenity green space	66	48	++
105	Kingsmead Estate, Kingswood Homes	Amenity green space	42	15	+-
106	Kingsmead Estate, Kingswood Homes	Amenity green space	57	57	++
107	Gascoyn Estate	Amenity green space	24	17	--
108	Gascoyn Estate	Amenity green space	19	16	--
109	Hackney Wick Estate	Amenity green space	50	54	++
110	Gascoyne Road	Amenity green space	29	13	--
111	Gascoyne Road	Amenity green space	27	15	--
113	St Mary's Estate	Amenity green space	50	34	++
114	St Mary's Estate	Amenity green space	29	10	--
115	St Mary's Estate	Amenity green space	37	10	+-
116	Geffryre/Arden Estate Harman Estate	Amenity green space	28	11	--
117	Ravens Wood Norwood Children & Family Centre	Amenity green space	26	12	--
118	Regents Estate	Amenity green space	32	40	--

Site ID	Site name	Hierarchy/typology	Quality	Value	QV rating
119	Regents Court	Amenity green space	45	44	++
120	Melford Court	Amenity green space	43	17	+-
122	Clapton Way Estate	Amenity green space	62	47	++
123	Clapton Way Estate	Amenity green space	36	14	+-
124	Woodberry Down Estate (Grovely House & Toxteth House)	Amenity green space	28	31	--
126	Oakend/Farningham Chattenden House, Woodberry Down Estate SE	Amenity green space	16	13	--
127	Oakend/Farningham Chattenden House, Woodberry Down Estate SE	Amenity green space	22	13	--
128	Oakend/Farningham Chattenden House, Woodberry Down Estate SE	Amenity green space	17	14	--
129	Oakend/Farningham Chattenden House, Woodberry Down Estate SE	Amenity green space	24	19	--
130	Summit Estate	Amenity green space	32	31	--
131	Trelauney Estate	Amenity green space	44	38	++
132	Trelauney Estate	Amenity green space	50	38	++
133	The Wyke Estate	Amenity green space	25	17	--
134	The Wyke Estate	Amenity green space	38	40	++
135	The Wyke Estate	Amenity green space	29	17	--
136	Crosset House	Amenity green space	37	18	+-
137	Crosset House	Amenity green space	27	17	--
140	Woodberry Down Estate	Amenity green space	16	12	--
143	Kings Crescent	Amenity green space	35	11	+-
144	Arden Estate/Aske Gardens	Amenity green space	37	14	+-
145	Land Street	Amenity green space	48	15	+-
146	Pitfield Street	Amenity green space	37	10	+-
147	Frampton Park Estate	Amenity green space	30	19	--

Site ID	Site name	Hierarchy/typology	Quality	Value	QV rating
148	Frampton Park Estate	Amenity green space	50	36	++
149	Frampton Park Estate	Amenity green space	35	17	+-
150	Frampton Park Estate	Amenity green space	35	16	+-
151	Frampton Park Estate	Amenity green space	26	15	--
152	Pembury Road West	Amenity green space	48	37	++
153	Pembury Road West	Amenity green space	41	29	+-
155	Pembury Road East	Amenity green space	48	37	++
156	Amhurst Road Estate	Amenity green space	39	16	+-
157	Sommerford Estate	Amenity green space	38	15	+-
158	Clissold Crescent	Amenity green space	41	20	+-
159	Rowley Gardens	Amenity green space	31	14	--
160	Rowley Gardens	Amenity green space	28	16	--
161	Clapton Common Upper	Amenity green space	26	10	--
162	Northwold Road	Amenity green space	49	38	++
163	Northwold Road	Amenity green space	37	17	+-
164	Moreton Close	Amenity green space	46	11	+-
165	Glyn Road Estate	Amenity green space	45	14	+-
166	Glyn Road Estate	Amenity green space	62	48	++
167	Glyn Road Estate	Amenity green space	62	25	+-
168	Glyn Road Estate	Amenity green space	43	37	++
169	Yorkshire Road Estate	Amenity green space	42	35	++
171	Stamford Hill Estate	Amenity green space	43	48	++
172	Stamford Hill Estate	Amenity green space	48	30	+-
173	Cazenove Road South	Amenity green space	35	18	+-
174	Cazenove Road South	Amenity green space	28	14	--
175	Warwick Grove	Amenity green space	35	20	+-
176	Warwick Grove	Amenity green space	39	18	+-
177	Warwick Grove	Amenity green space	63	41	++
178	Warwick Grove	Amenity green space	35	26	+-
179	Warwick Grove	Amenity green space	28	11	--
180	Gooch House	Amenity green space	39	16	+-

Site ID	Site name	Hierarchy/typology	Quality	Value	QV rating
181	Mornington Estate	Amenity green space	58	56	++
183	Hartlake Road	Amenity green space	36	37	++
184	De Beauvoir Estate	Amenity green space	36	15	+-
185	De Beauvoir Estate	Amenity green space	23	16	--
186	Fellows Court South	Amenity green space	23	10	--
187	Pitsfield Estate	Amenity green space	29	16	--
188	Pitsfield Estate	Amenity green space	24	12	--
189	St John's Court	Amenity green space	30	38	+-
190	Joseph Court	Amenity green space	59	33	++
191	Banister House Estate	Amenity green space	66	47	++
192	Amwell Court	Amenity green space	34	17	--
193	Warwick Grove North	Amenity green space	47	40	++
201	Lockner Estate	Amenity green space	24	10	--
212	Albion Parade	Amenity green space	41	19	+-
7	Aden Terrace Allotment	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	27	16	--
32	St Mary's Secret Garden	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	67	33	++
41	Overbury Street Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	32	18	++
43	Springdale Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	28	8	+-
44	Church Walk Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	28	11	+-
53	Spring Hill Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	22	17	+-
60	Leaside Road Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	27	11	--
203	Hackney City Farm	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	49	28	++
208	Robin Hood Community Garden	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	37	25	++
210	Spring Lane Allotments	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	39	20	++
213	Hackney Community Tree Nursery & Edible Forest Garden	Allotments, community gardens and city farms	62	33	++
6	St Mary's Old Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	29	32	+-
24	Church in Morningside Estate, St Luke's	Cemeteries and churchyards	43	28	++
30	St John's Hoxton Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	57	51	++

Site ID	Site name	Hierarchy/typology	Quality	Value	QV rating
40	Lauriston Road Jewish Cemetery	Cemeteries and churchyards	26	9	--
42	St John of Jerusalem Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	35	25	--
46	St Leonard C of E Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	64	39	++
48	West Hackney Recreation Road	Cemeteries and churchyards	67	61	++
50	Quaker Burial Ground	Cemeteries and churchyards	25	19	--
55	St Mary's Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	33	24	--
56	St Mattias Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	29	14	--
61	St Thomas Recreation Ground	Cemeteries and churchyards	36	27	++
69	Methodist Church & Twinkle Tots Nursery	Cemeteries and churchyards	37	14	+-
74	St Barnabus Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	31	20	--
77	The Round Chapel	Cemeteries and churchyards	32	17	--
83	St John's at Hackney Churchyard	Cemeteries and churchyards	74	56	++
94	Fairchilds Garden	Cemeteries and churchyards	44	18	+-
141	St Olave Parish Church	Cemeteries and churchyards	22	19	--
18	Town Hall Square	Civic spaces/pedestrianised area	52	29	++
68	Gillet Square	Civic spaces/pedestrianised area	37	22	+-
154	Pembury Road East	Civic spaces/pedestrianised area	51	25	+-
205	Stonebridge Estate	Civic spaces/pedestrianised area	33	12	--
206	Stonebridge Estate	Civic spaces/pedestrianised area	32	14	--
207	Stonebridge Estate	Civic spaces/pedestrianised area	29	12	--

* Many sites have duplicate names, however all Site IDs are unique

Appendix 5:
Quality and value ratings for sites containing play*

Site ID	Site name	Play type	Play quality	Play value	QV score
59	Hoxton Community Garden	LAP	5	6	+-
24	Church in Morningside Estate, St Luke's	LAP	4	5	--
9	Kynaston Gardens	LAP	4	11	--
134	The Wyke Estate	LAP	2	17	++
80	Shepherdess Walk	LAP	5	13	+-
85	Mabley Green	LAP	5	23	++
118	Regents Estate	LAP	4	16	++
88	Lockner Estate	LAP	5	9	+-
200	Lockner Estate	LAP	5	15	+-
153	Pembury Road West	LEAP	3	10	--
15	Clapton Pond	LEAP	4	12	--
130	Summit Estate	LEAP	3	15	--
83	St John's at Hackney Churchyard	LEAP	5	17	+-
148	Frampton Park Estate	LEAP	5	13	+-
113	St Mary's Estate	LEAP	3	18	--
86	Daubeney Fields	LEAP	4	25	++
169	Yorkshire Road Estate	LEAP	4	14	--
93	Goldsmith Square Recreation Ground	LEAP	3	10	--
190	Joseph Court	LEAP	4	11	--
189	St John's Court	LEAP	3	17	--
154	Pembury Road East	LEAP	4	8	--
182	Mornington Estate	LEAP	3	11	--
178	Warwick Grove	LEAP	3	8	--
177	Warwick Grove	LEAP	4	17	--
193	Warwick Grove North	LEAP	5	16	+-
152	Pembury Road West	LEAP	4	15	--
101	Wenlock Road	LEAP	2	13	--
73	Dive Roe	LEAP	3	12	--
199	Lockner Estate	LEAP	4	9	--
197	Myddleton Avenue	LEAP	4	16	--
124	Woodberry Down Estate (Grovely House & Toxteth House)	LEAP	3	13	--
162	Northwold Road	LEAP	4	15	--
51	Woodberry Downs Park	LEAP	5	13	+-
49	Stoke Newington Common	LEAP	4	27	++
129	Oakend/Farningham Chattenden House, Woodbery Down Estate SE	LEAP	3	6	--
166	Glyn Road Estate	LEAP	4	19	--
22	London Fields	LEAP	5	36	++

Site ID	Site name	Play type	Play quality	Play value	QV score
102	Pitcairn Estate	LEAP	4	8	--
35	Broadway Market Green	LEAP	3	15	--
104	Kingsmead Estate, Kingswood Homes	LEAP	5	22	++
66	Haggerston Park	LEAP	5	24	++
26	De Beauvoir Square	LEAP	5	19	+-
8	Butterfield Green	LEAP	5	24	++
136	Crosset House	NEAP	3	6	--
132	Trelauney Estate	NEAP	4	15	--
106	Kingsmead Estate, Kingswood Homes	NEAP	5	33	++
131	Trelauney Estate	NEAP	3	20	--
122	Clapton Way Estate	NEAP	5	25	+-
119	Regents Court	NEAP	4	24	--
155	Pembury Road East	NEAP	4	16	--
109	Hackney Wick Estate	NEAP	3	21	--
168	Glyn Road Estate	NEAP	3	18	--
20	Well Street Common	NEAP	4	19	--
75	Homerton Adventure Play Grove	NEAP	5	24	+-
84	Apples and Pears Play Association/28 Pearson Street	NEAP	4	25	--
72	Evergreen Adventure Play Area	NEAP	4	38	++
54	Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park	NEAP	5	48	++
52	Clapton Common	NEAP	4	19	--
48	West Hackney Recreation Road	NEAP	4	14	--
78	Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground	NEAP	3	35	++
38	Lee Navigation	NEAP	4	15	--
36	Stonebridge Gardens	NEAP	4	26	++
34	Shoreditch Park	NEAP	5	31	++
2	Allens Gardens	NEAP	5	28	++
28	Evergreen Square Gardens	NEAP	4	12	--
171	Stamford Hill Estate	NEAP	2	26	++
17	Clapton Square	NEAP	5	27	++
16	Hackney Downs	NEAP	6	27	++
12	Millfields	NEAP	5	30	++
10	Springfield Park	NEAP	5	37	++
209	Springfield Park	NEAP	4	26	++
5	Clissold Park	NEAP	5	43	++
96	Rowley Gardens	NEAP	5	19	+-
191	Banister House Estate	NEAP	4	22	--

Site ID	Site name	Play type	Play quality	Play value	QV score
183	Hartlake Road	NEAP	5	19	+ -
181	Mornington Estate	NEAP	4	29	- +
30	St John's Hoxton Churchyard	NEAP	5	20	+ -

* Many sites have duplicate names, however all Site IDs are unique

Appendix 6:

Open space below relevant quality and value standards and located within Wards below proposed quantity standards

Site ID	Site name	Area least likely to have access to private garden	Area with greatest IMD or health issue	Contains Play? (Type & QV rating)	Areas for enhancement													
					Entrances	Boundaries	Access	Signage	Basic amenities	Cleanliness	Planting	Grass	Footpaths	Informal recreation	Sports/ activities	Biodiversity	Character setting	Amenity
Local parks and gardens																		
49	Stoke Newington Common	No	No	LEAP +-														
52	Clapton Common	No	No	NEAP --														
99	West Reservoir	Yes	No	No														
Small local parks and gardens																		
11	Cazenove Road North	No	No	No														
25	Ufton Gardens	No	No	No														
39	Homerton Grove	No	Yes	No														
81	Myddleton Avenue	No	No	No														
92	Fasset Square	No	No	No														
98	St Thomas Long Burial Ground	No	Yes	No														
198	Cazenove Road North	No	No	No														
Linear open space/ green corridor																		
33	Regents Canal	Yes	Yes	No														
Amenity open space																		
4	Levy Memorial Garden	No	No	No														
114	St Mary's Estate	Yes	Yes	No														
116	Geffryre/ Arden Harman Estate	Yes	No	No														
117	Ravens Wood Norwood Children & Family Centre	No	No	No														
130	Summit Estate	Yes	No	LEAP --														
133	The Wyke Estate	No	Yes	No														
135	The Wyke Estate	No	Yes	No														
137	Crosset House	No	Yes	No														
147	Frampton Park Estate	No	Yes	No														
151	Frampton Park Estate	No	Yes	No														
174	Cazenove	No	No	No														

Appendix 7:

Play space in areas falling below the quantity standard

Site ID	Site name	Primary typology/hierarchy of open space	Play provision type	Ward experience issues with access to private gardens?	Ward experiences issues with IMD or health deprivation levels?	Play provision QV rating	Open space QV rating
9	Kynaston Gardens	Amenity green space	LAP	No	No	--	++
15	Clapton Pond	Small local parks and gardens	LEAP	No	No	--	++
24	Church in Morningside Estate, St Luke's	Cemeteries and churchyards	LAP	No	Yes	--	++
28	Evergreen Square Gardens	Provision for children and teenagers	NEAP	No	No	--	
35	Broadway Market Green	Small local parks and gardens	LEAP	No	No	--	++
48	West Hackney Recreation Road	Cemeteries and churchyards	NEAP	No	No	--	++
73	Dive Roe	Provision for children and teenagers	LEAP	Yes	Yes	--	N/A
84	Apples and Pears Play Association/ 28 Pearson Street	Provision for children and teenagers	NEAP	Yes	Yes	--	N/A
93	Goldsmith Square Recreation Ground	Provision for children and teenagers	LEAP	Yes	Yes	--	N/A
101	Wenlock Road	Amenity green space	LEAP	Yes	No	--	-+
102	Pitcairn Estate	Amenity green space	LEAP	No	Yes	--	-+
113	St Mary's Estate	Amenity green space	LEAP	Yes	Yes	--	++
119	Regents Court	Amenity green space	NEAP	Yes	Yes	--	++
131	Trelauney Estate	Amenity green space	NEAP	No	Yes	--	++
132	Trelauney Estate	Amenity green space	NEAP	No	Yes	--	++
136	Crosset House	Amenity green space	NEAP	No	Yes	--	-+
152	Pembury Road West	Amenity green space	LEAP	No	No	--	++
153	Pembury	Amenity	LEAP	No	No	--	-+

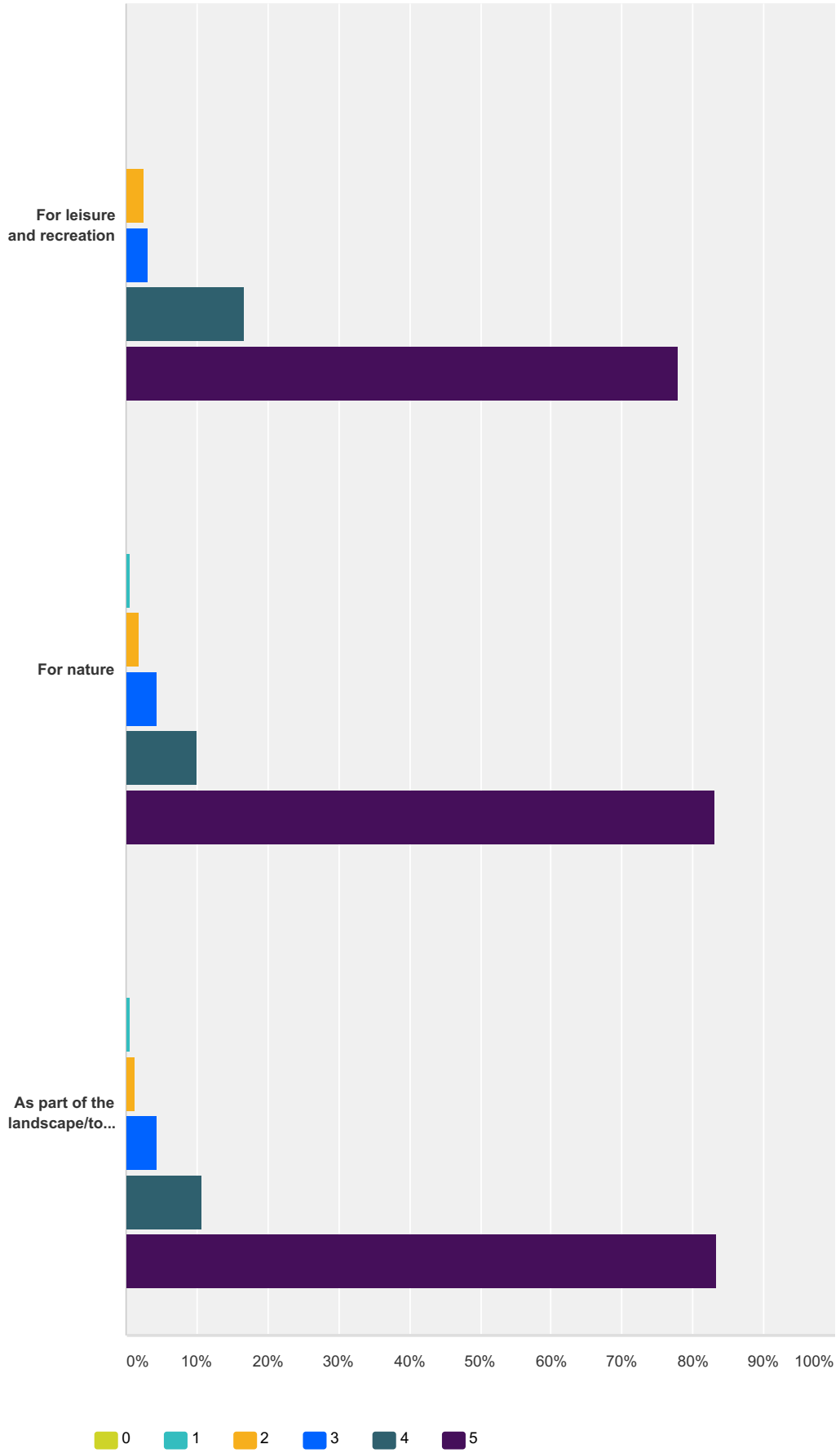
Site ID	Site name	Primary typology/hierarchy of open space	Play provision type	Ward experience issues with access to private gardens?	Ward experiences issues with IMD or health deprivation levels?	Play provision QV rating	Open space QV rating
	Road West	green space					
154	Pembury Road East	Civic spaces/pedestrianised area	LEAP	No	No	--	--
155	Pembury Road East	Amenity green space	NEAP	No	No	--	++
169	Yorkshire Road Estate	Amenity green space	LEAP	No	No	--	++
182	Mornington Estate	Provision for children and teenagers	LEAP	No	Yes	--	
189	St John's Court	Amenity green space	LEAP	No	No	--	+-
191	Banister House Estate	Amenity green space	NEAP	No	Yes	--	++
197	Myddleton Avenue	Provision for children and teenagers	LEAP	No	No	--	
199	Lockner Estate	Provision for children and teenagers	LEAP	No	No	--	

Appendix 8:
Online consultation questionnaire and responses

Q2 Please indicate the value that you place on parks and open spaces (please provide a value score for each of the categories listed: 0 = not at all valued; 1= very low value; 2= low value; 3= neither low or high value; 4= high value; 5= very high valued)

Answered: 162 Skipped: 13

Hackney Open Space Public Survey

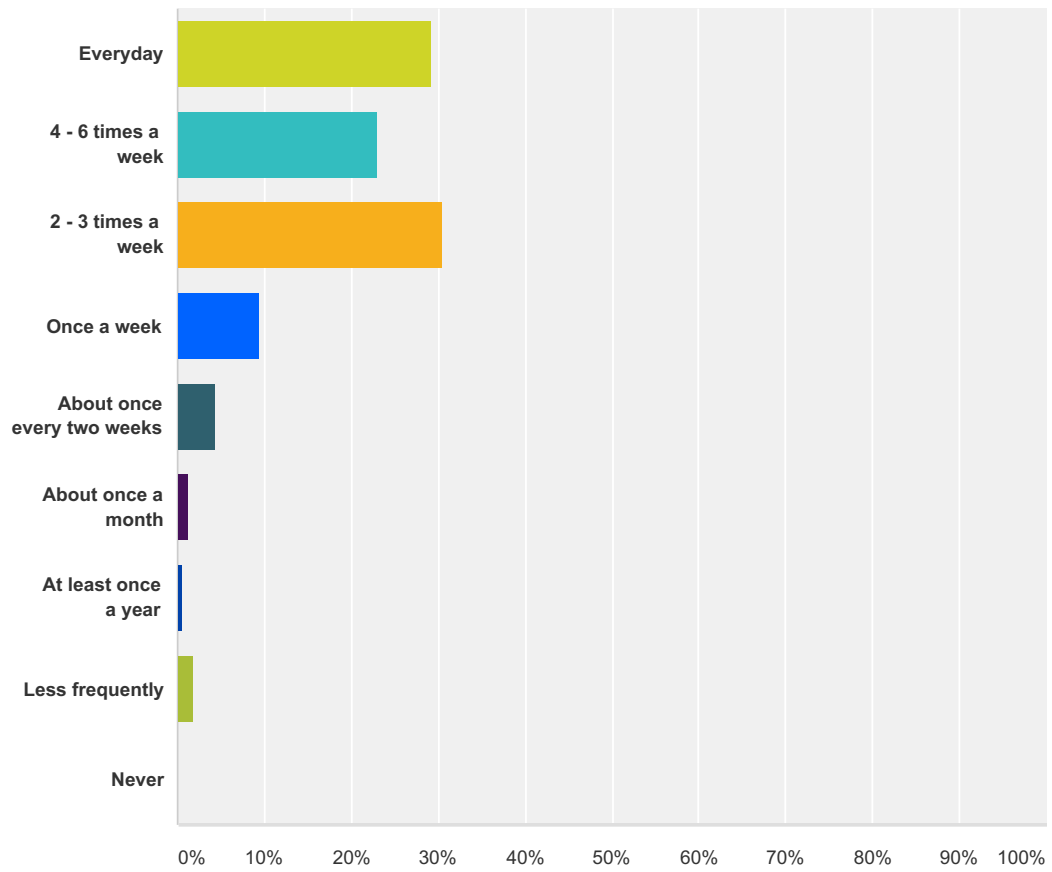


Hackney Open Space Public Survey

	0	1	2	3	4	5	Total
For leisure and recreation	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	2.47% 4	3.09% 5	16.67% 27	77.78% 126	162
For nature	0.00% 0	0.63% 1	1.88% 3	4.38% 7	10.00% 16	83.13% 133	160
As part of the landscape/to look at	0.00% 0	0.62% 1	1.24% 2	4.35% 7	10.56% 17	83.23% 134	161

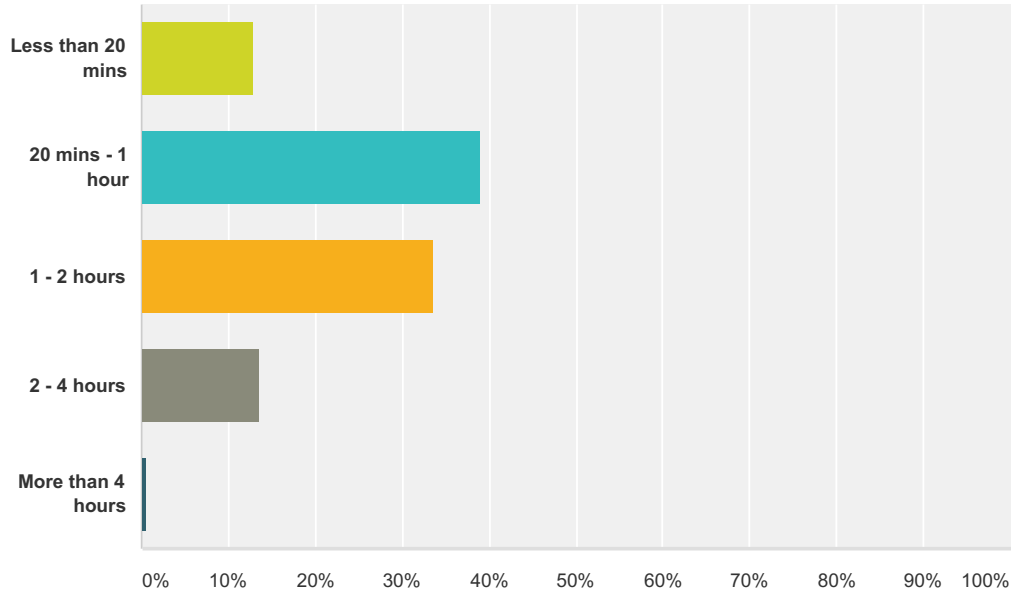
Q3 On average, how often do you use parks and open spaces in Hackney?

Answered: 161 Skipped: 14



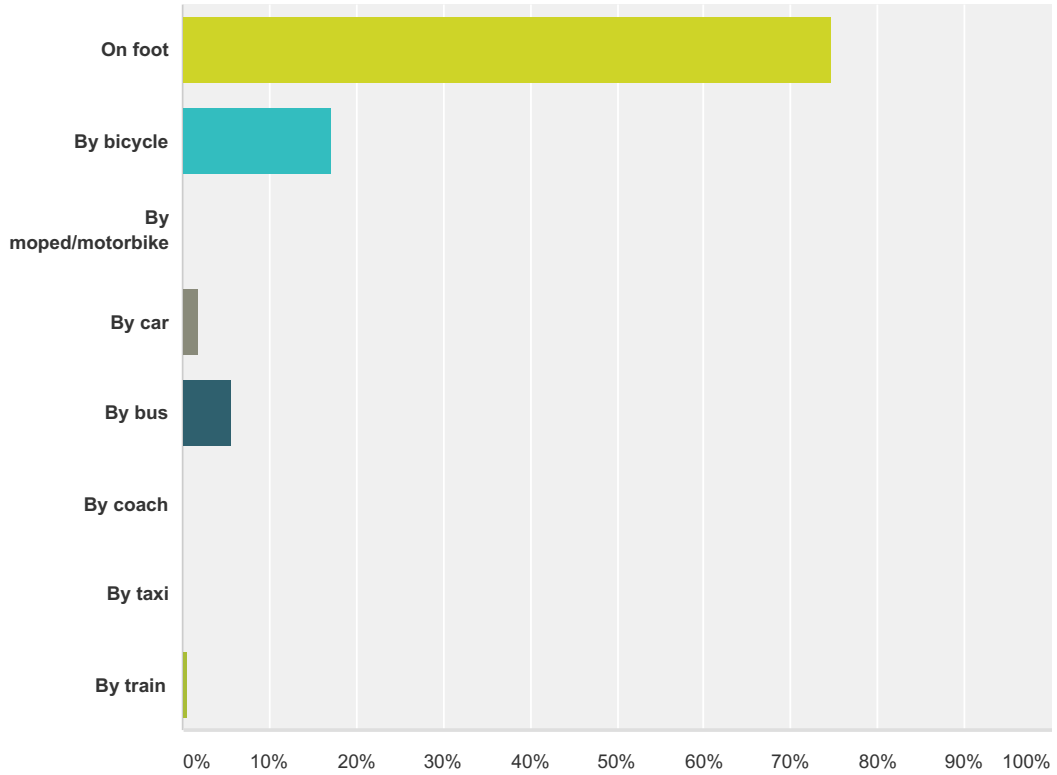
Q4 How much time do you usually spend (per visit) using Hackney's parks and open spaces?

Answered: 161 Skipped: 14



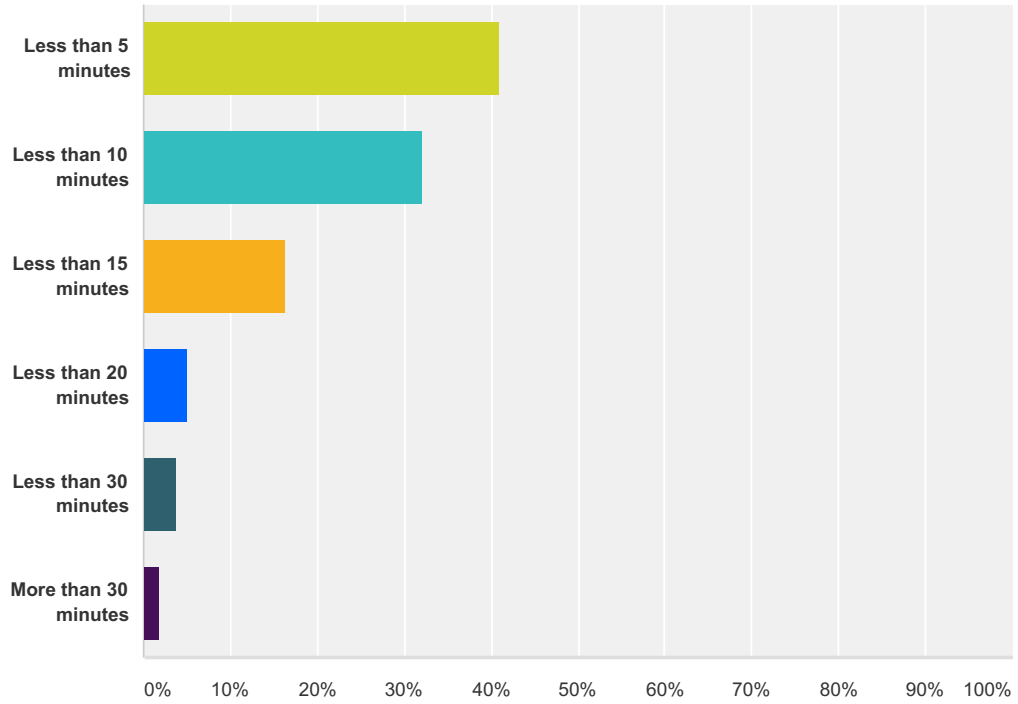
Q5 What mode of transport do you use for the majority of your journey when going to your local park or open space?

Answered: 158 Skipped: 17



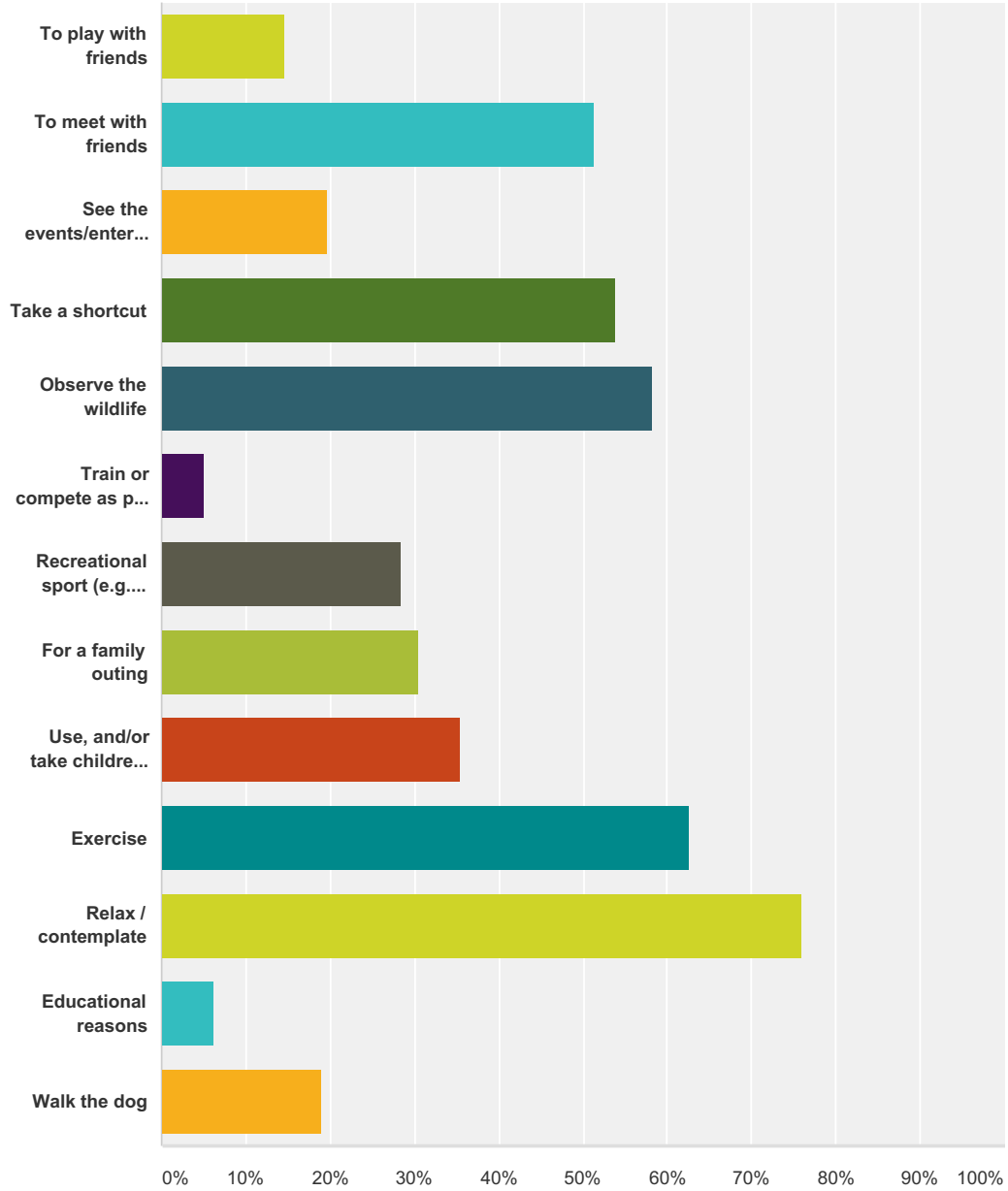
**Q6 How long does it take to travel to the park or open space you visit the most?
Please tick one option**

Answered: 159 Skipped: 16



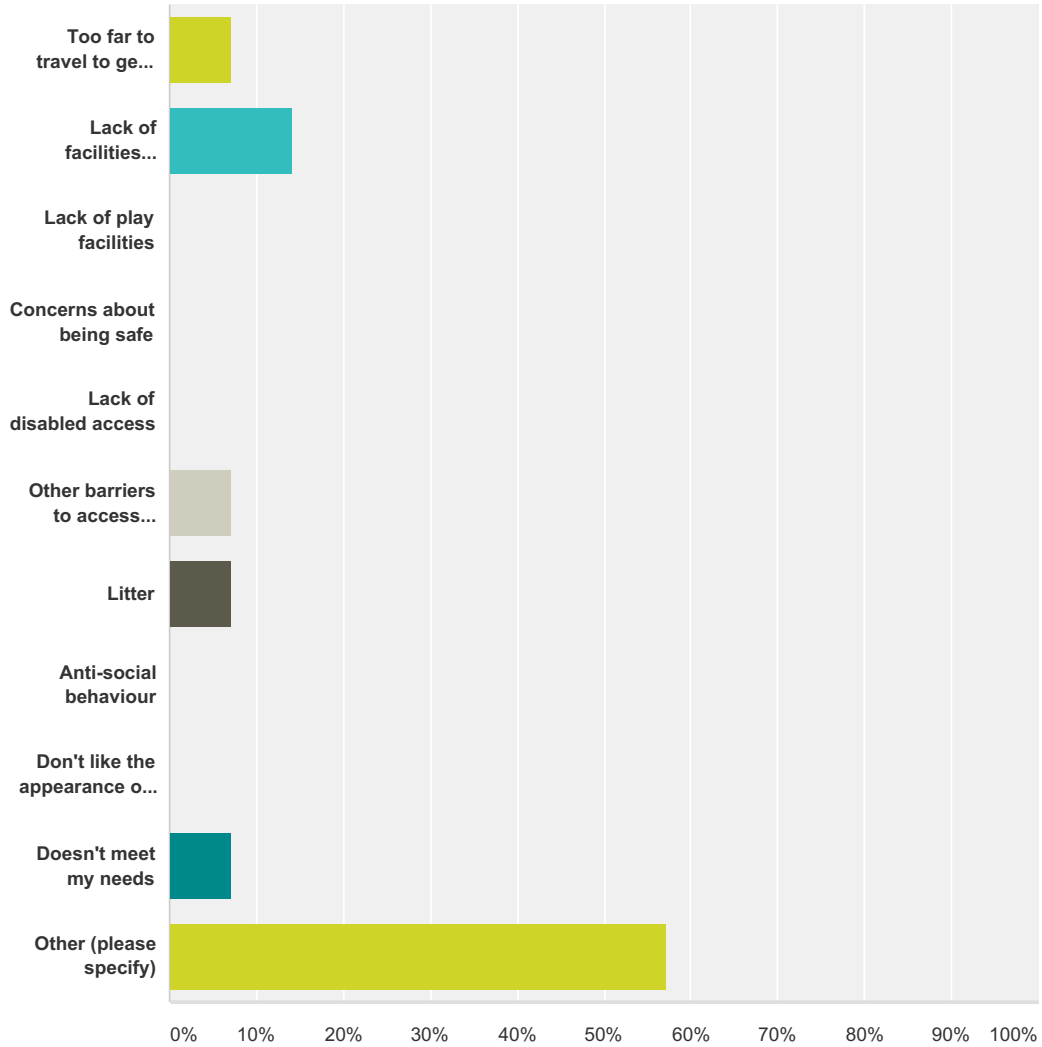
Q7 If you use parks or open spaces, what activities do you take part in when you visit them? (Please tick all that apply)

Answered: 158 Skipped: 17



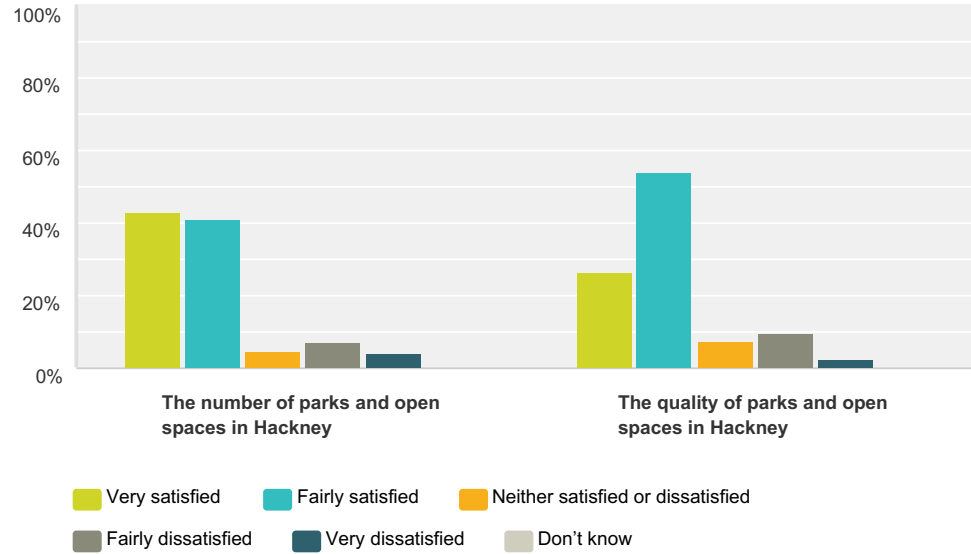
Q8 If you don't use parks and open spaces regularly (i.e. once a month or less) why is this?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 161



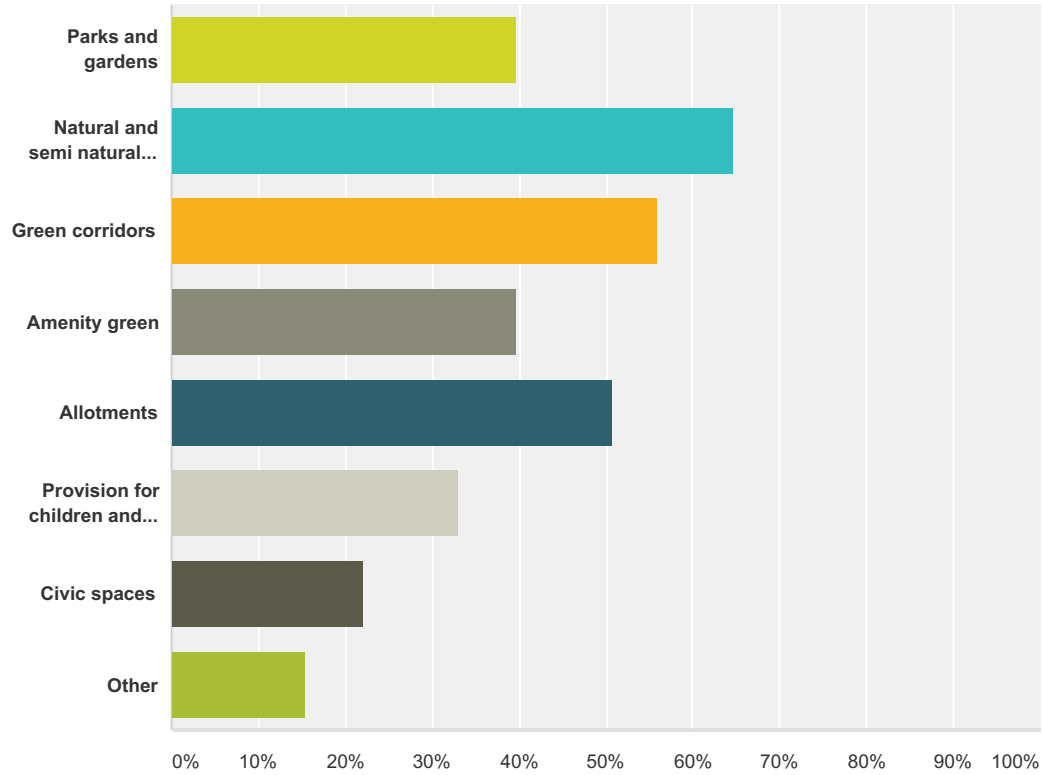
Q9 Overall, how satisfied are you with the number and quality of parks and open spaces in Hackney?

Answered: 154 Skipped: 21



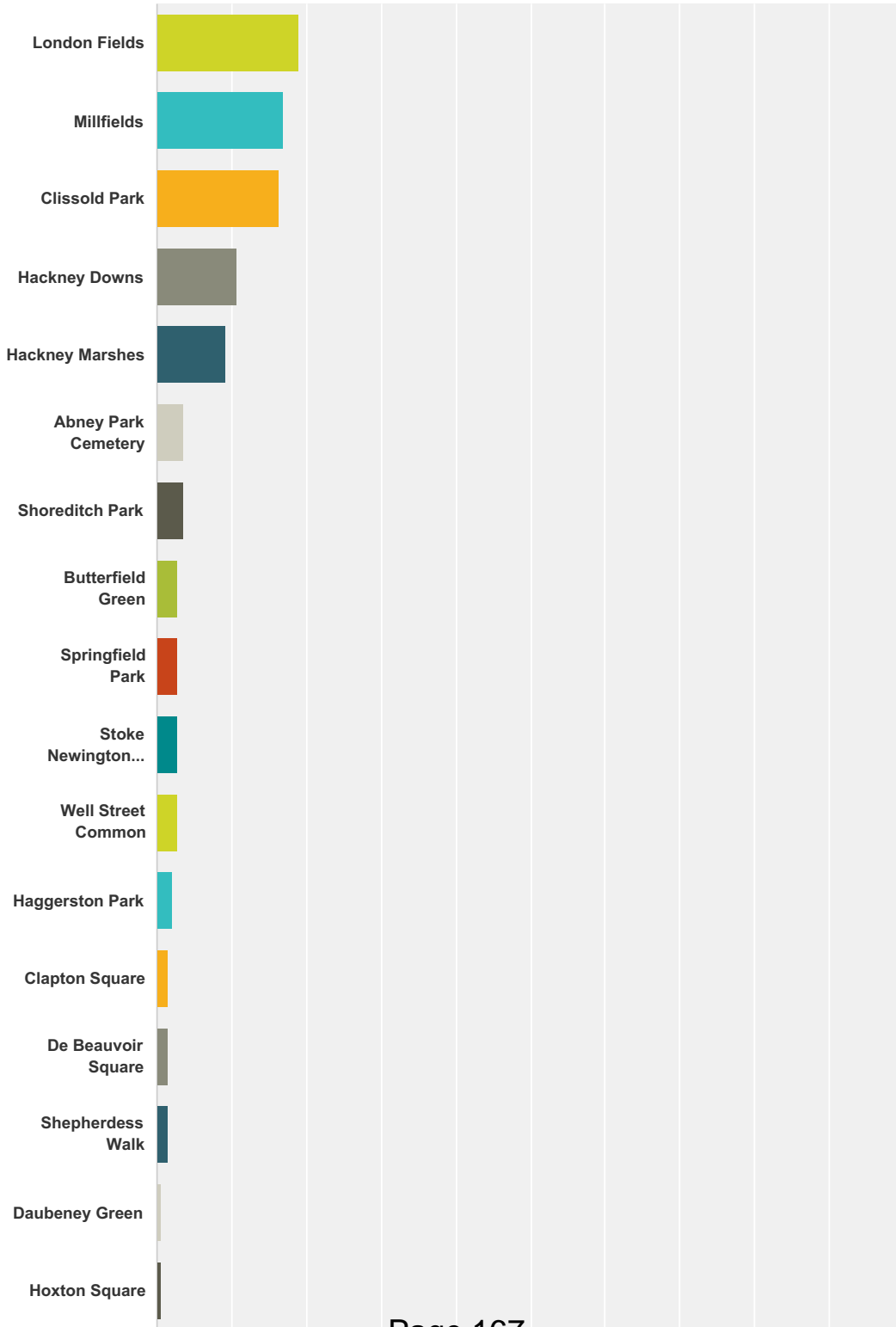
Q10 If you think more open spaces are needed, what type of open space should this be?

Answered: 136 Skipped: 39



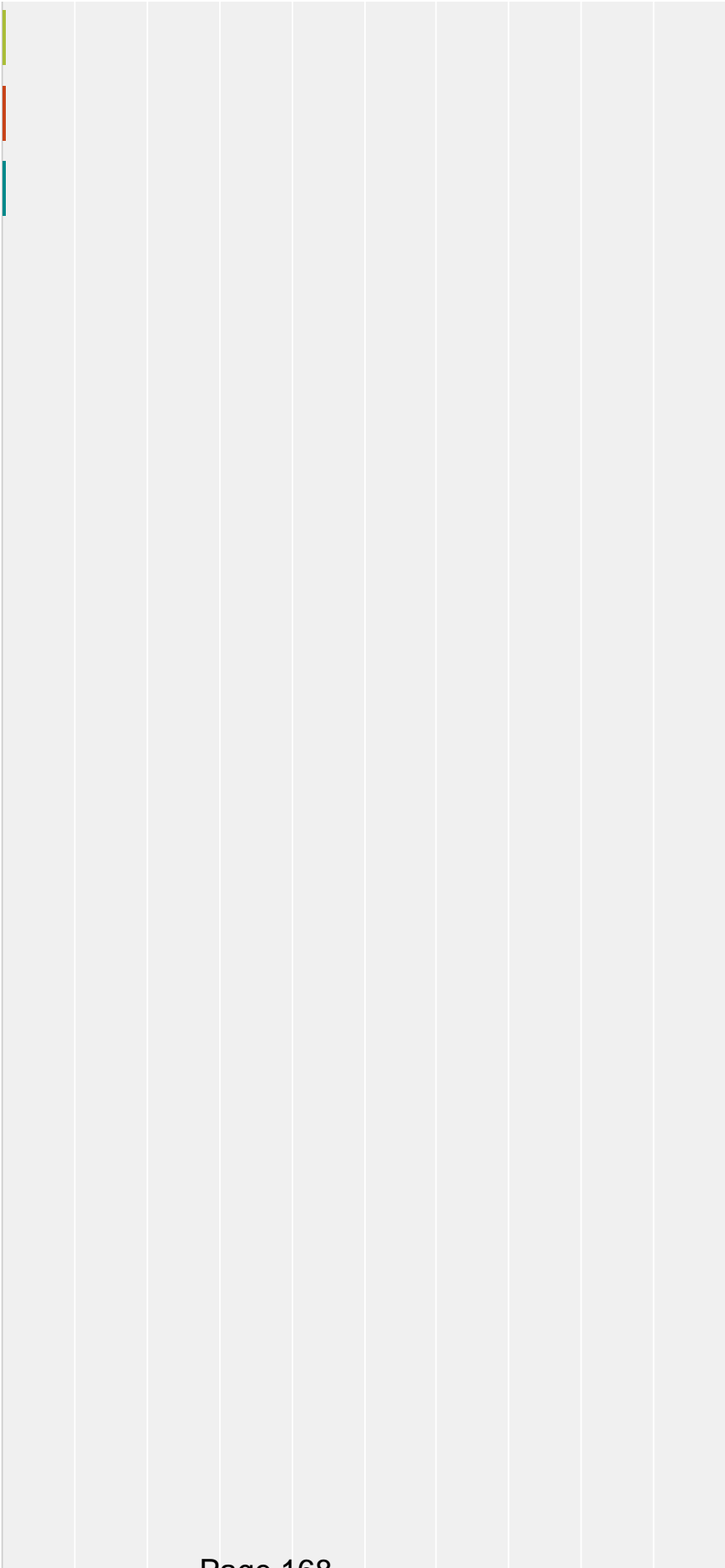
Q11 What is the name of the park or open space you use the most? If you are unsure of the name of the park or open space you use the most, please view the map on the following website: www.hackney.gov.uk

Answered: 142 Skipped: 33



Hackney Open Space Public Survey

- St John's at Hackney...
- St Johns Hoxton
- Stonebridge Gardens
- Albion Parade
- Albion Square
- Allens Gardens
- Aske Gardens
- Broadway Market Green
- Cassland Road Gardens
- Charles Square
- Church Street Garden
- Clapton Common
- Clapton Pond
- East and West Bank Nature...
- Fassett Square
- Goldsmith Square...
- Hackney Marsh East Marsh
- Hackney Road Recreation...
- Homerton Grove
- Kynaston Gardens
- Levy Memorial Garden



Hackney Open Space Public Survey

Mabley Green

Mark Street
Garden

Quaker Burial
Ground

Robin Hood
Community...

Rowley Gardens

Shacklewell
Green

Shore Gardens

Spring Hill
Sports Ground

St John of
Jerusalem...

St Leonard's C
of E Church

St Mary's Old
Church

St Thomas's
Long Burial...

St Thomas's
Recreation...

St Thomas's
Square Garden

Stonebridge
Common

Town Hall
Square

Ufton Gardens

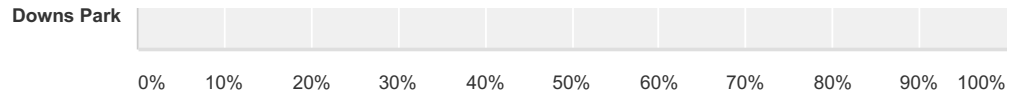
West Hackney
Recreation...

Wick Woodland

Windsor
Terrace Open...

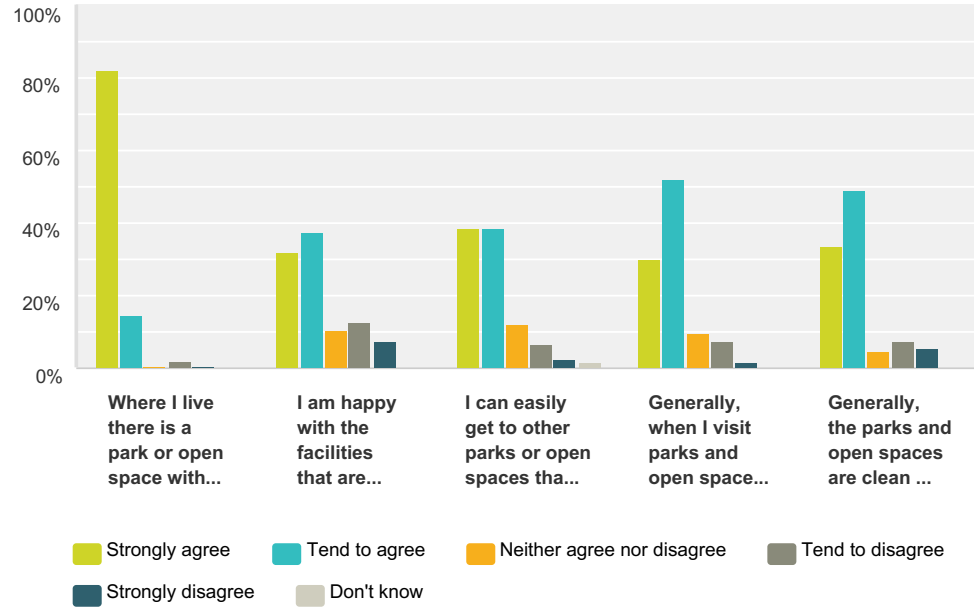
Woodberry

Hackney Open Space Public Survey



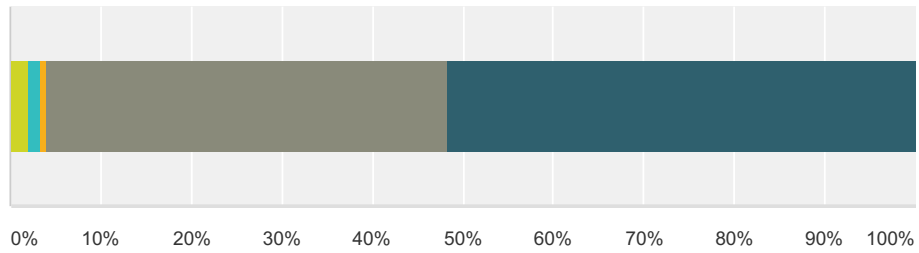
Q12 We would like to know the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Answered: 150 Skipped: 25



Q13 With regards to allotments in Hackney, please select the following:

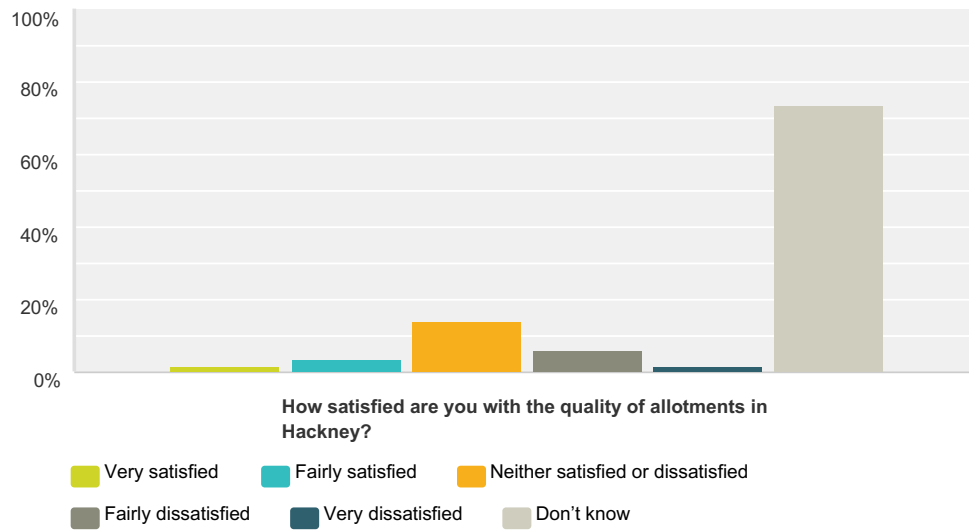
Answered: 147 Skipped: 28



- I currently use an allotment in Hackney
- I currently use an allotment outside of Hackney
- I am on a waiting list for an allotment
- I am not on a waiting list for an allotment, but would be interested in managing a plot
- I am not interested in allotments

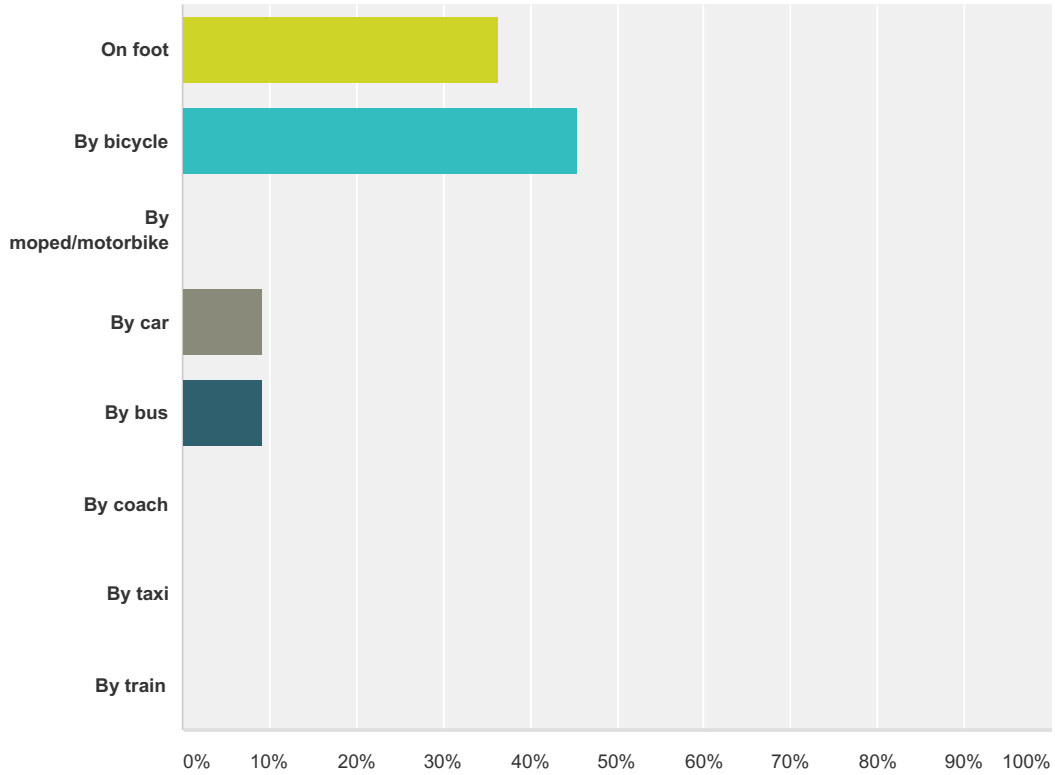
Q14 How satisfied are you with the quality of allotments in Hackney?

Answered: 121 Skipped: 54



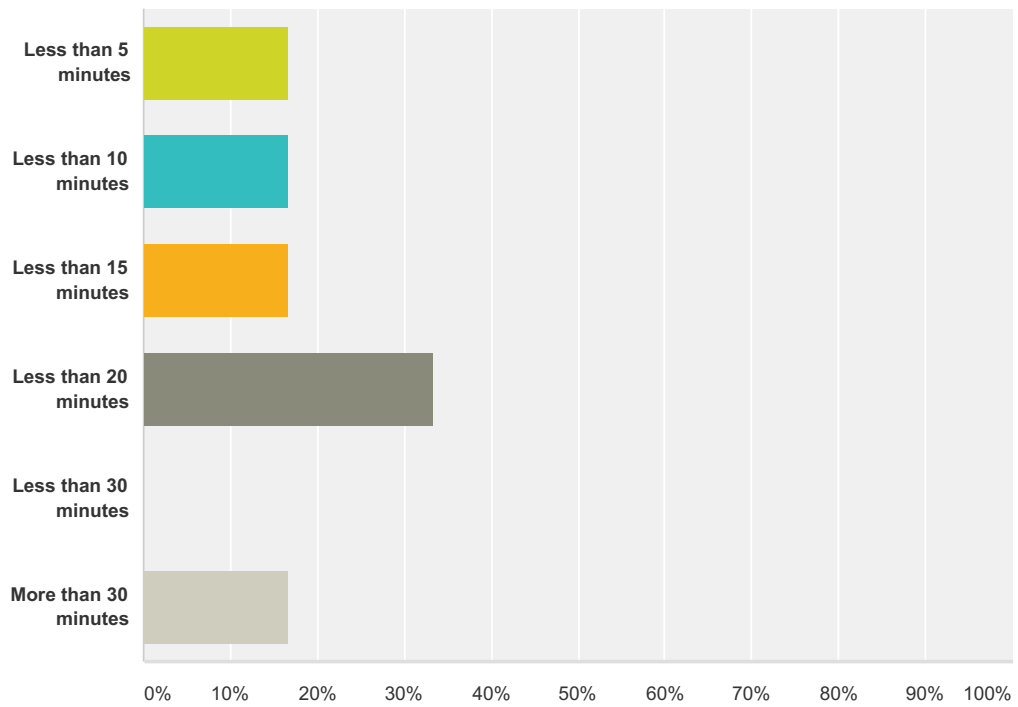
Q15 What mode of transport do you use for the majority of your journey when going to your allotment plot?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 164



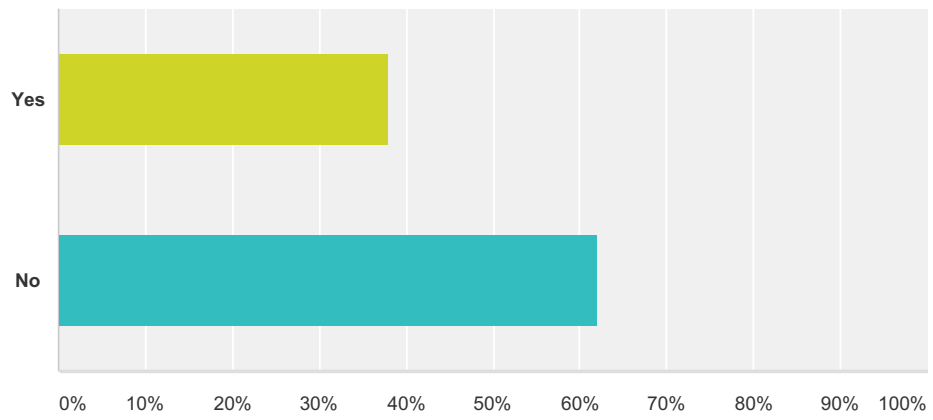
Q16 How long does it take to travel to your allotment plot? Please tick one option

Answered: 6 Skipped: 169



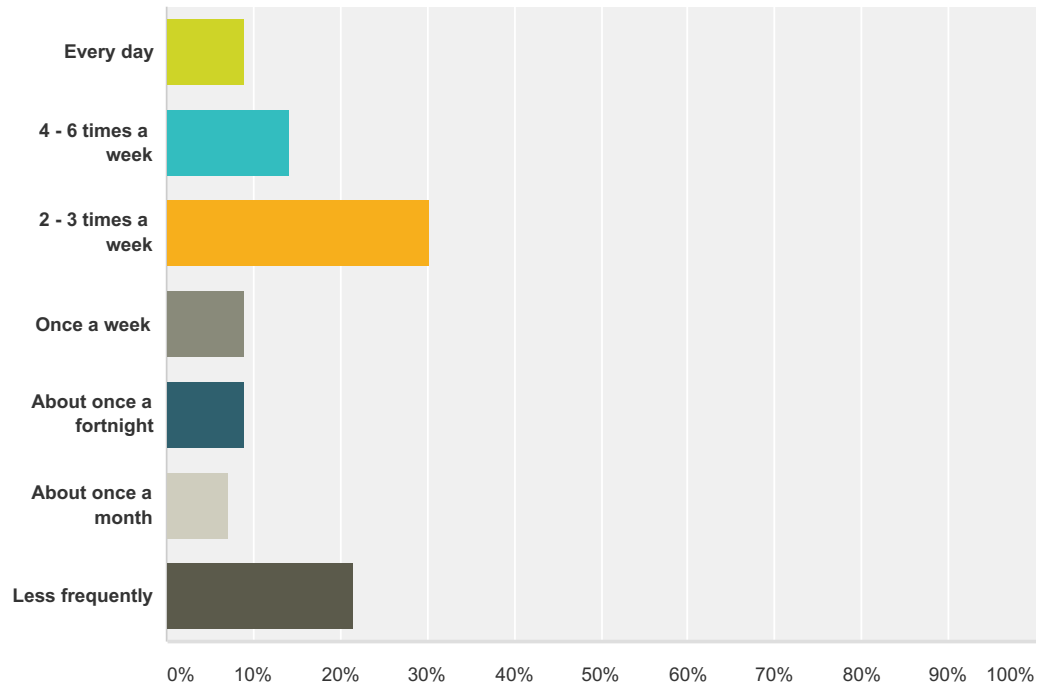
Q17 Do you use equipped play facilities in Hackney?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 30



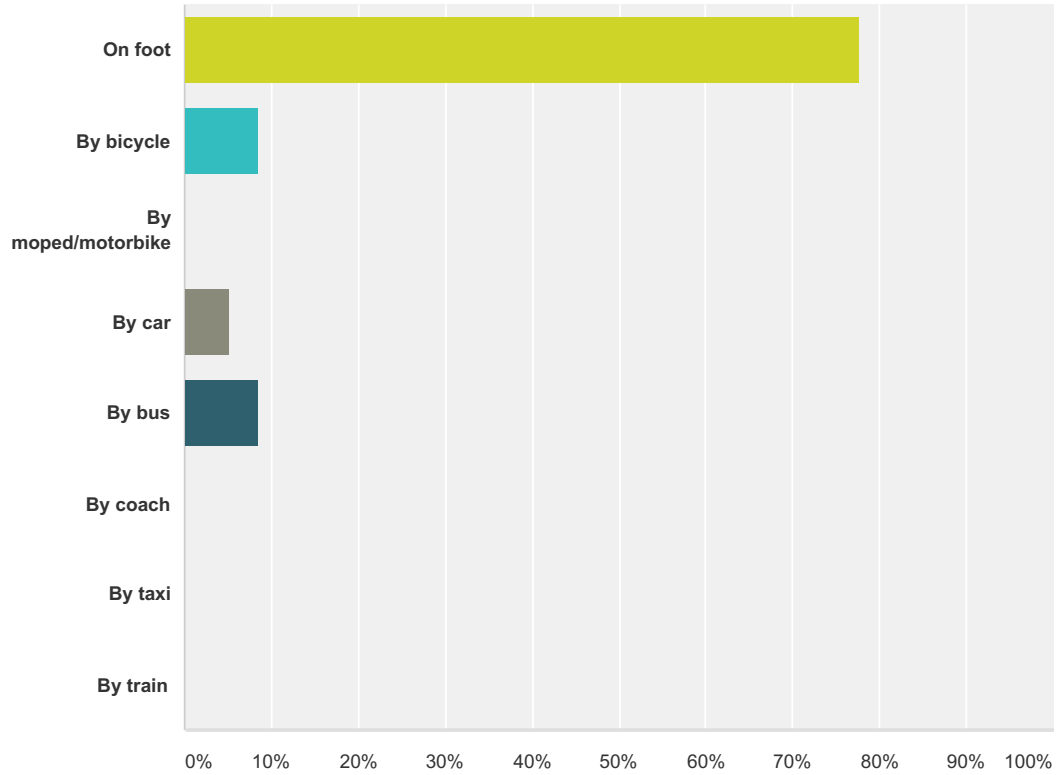
Q18 If yes, how regularly do you use them?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 119



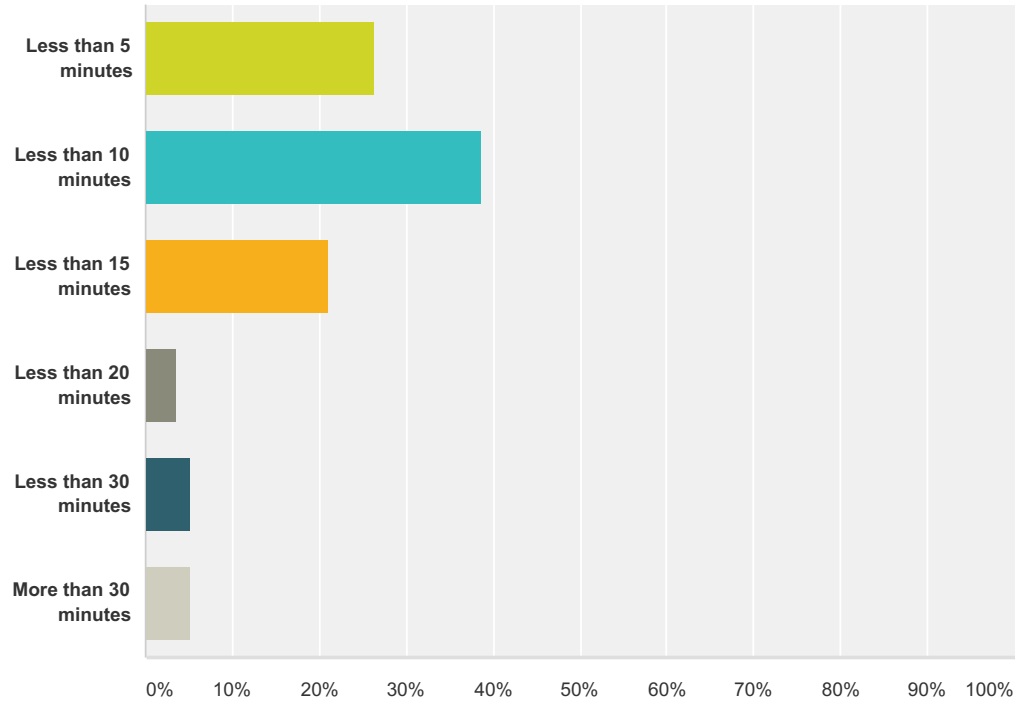
Q19 What mode of transport do you use for the majority of your journey when going to your local play facility?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 117



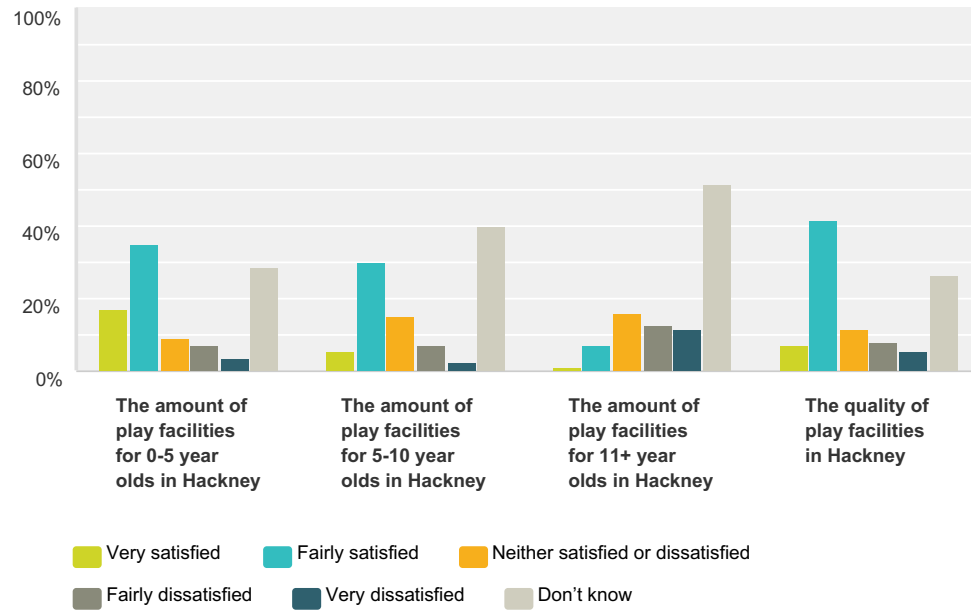
Q20 How long does it take to travel to the play facility you visit the most? Please tick one option

Answered: 57 Skipped: 118



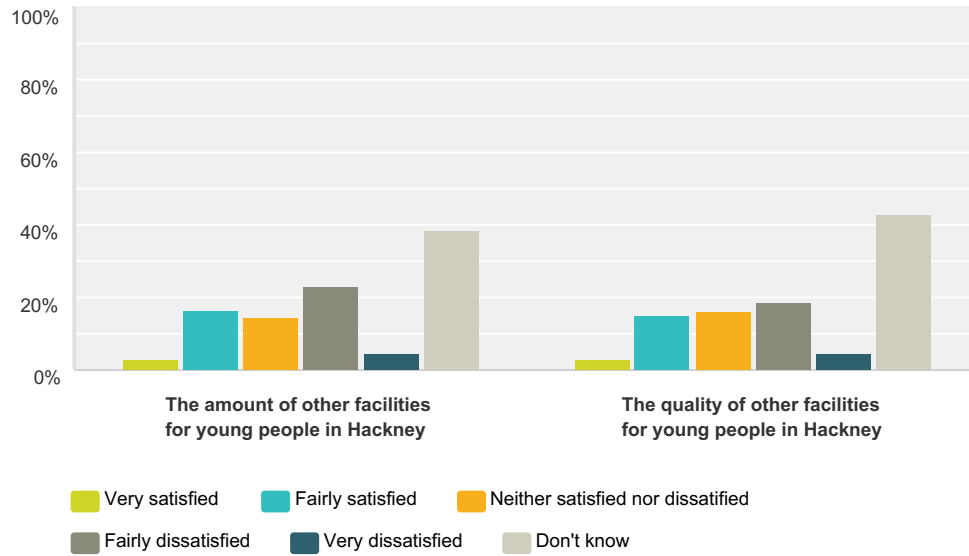
Q21 Overall, how satisfied are you with the amount and quality of equipped play facilities in Hackney?

Answered: 91 Skipped: 84



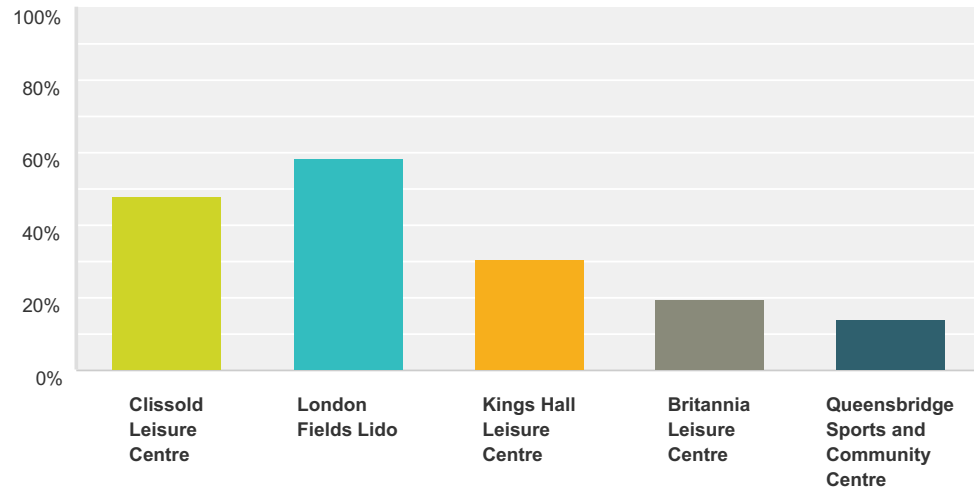
Q22 Overall, how satisfied are you with the amount and quality of other facilities for young people in Hackney? (e.g. skate parks, teen shelters, bmx tracks, climbing walls, green gyms etc.)

Answered: 109 Skipped: 66



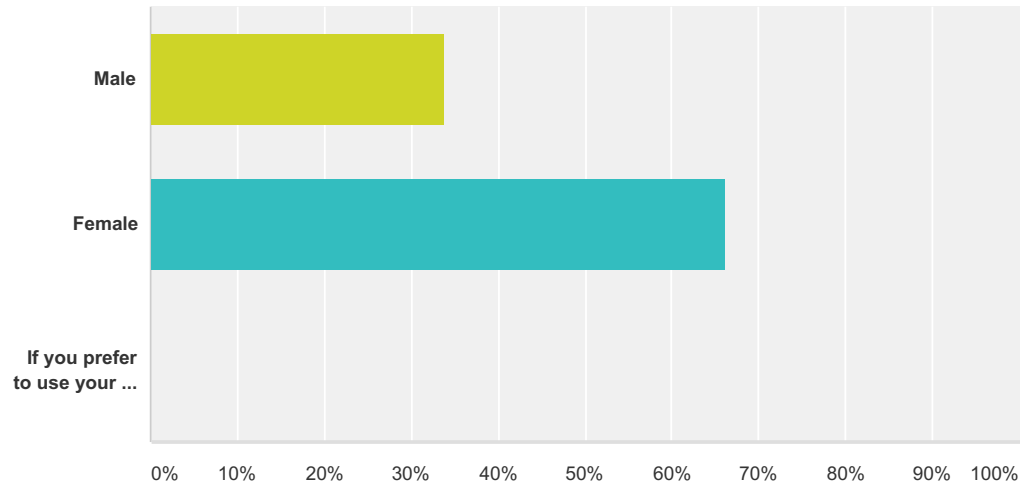
Q23 Do you use any of the following:

Answered: 92 Skipped: 83



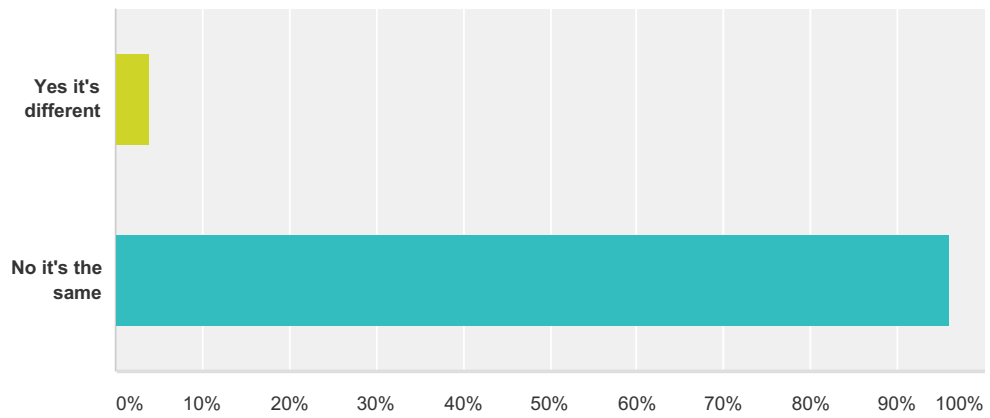
Q26 Gender

Answered: 139 Skipped: 36



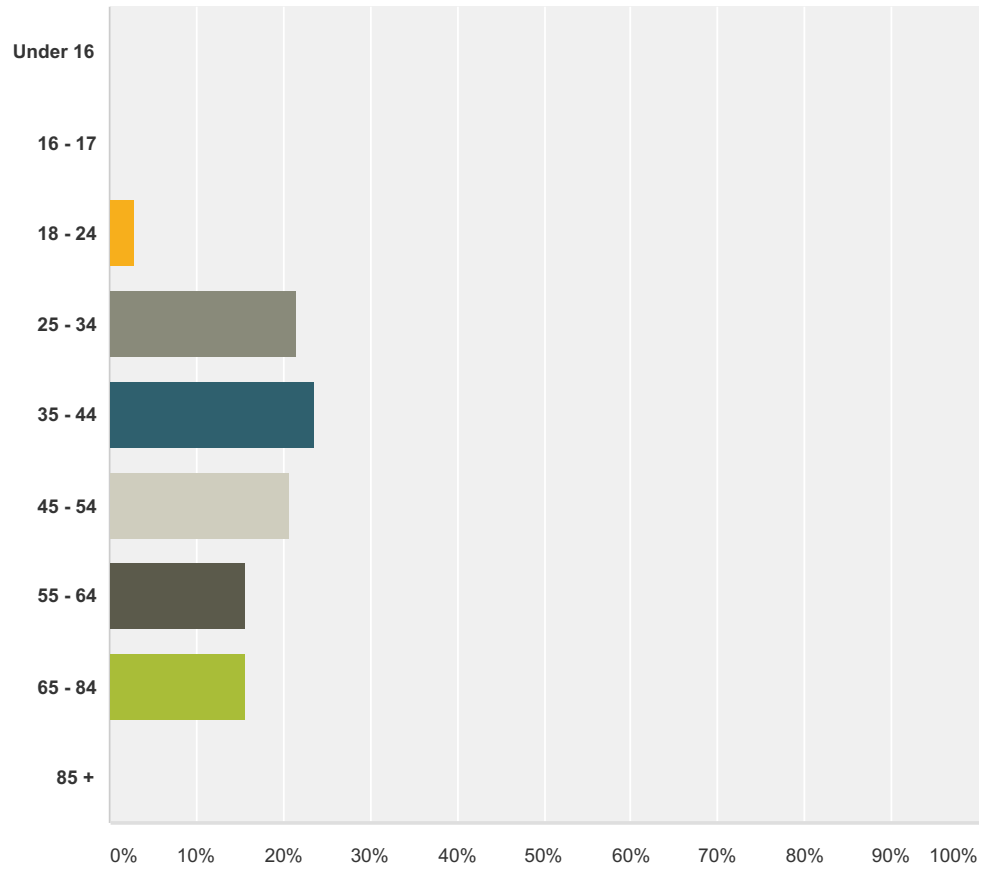
Q27 Is your gender identity different to the sex you were assumed to be at birth?

Answered: 129 Skipped: 46



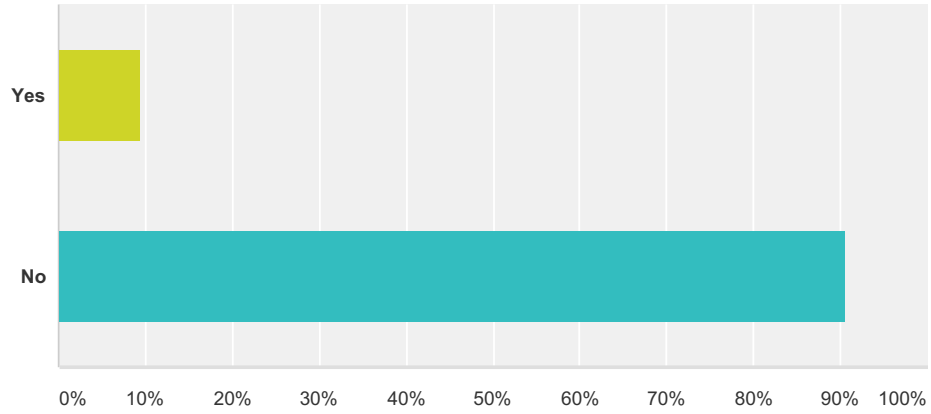
Q28 Age: what is your age group?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 35



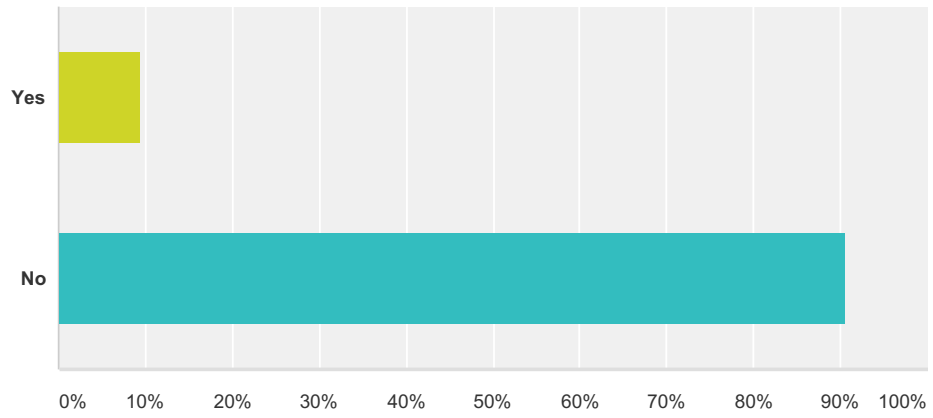
Q29 Disability: Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or expected to last, at least 12 months?

Answered: 138 Skipped: 37



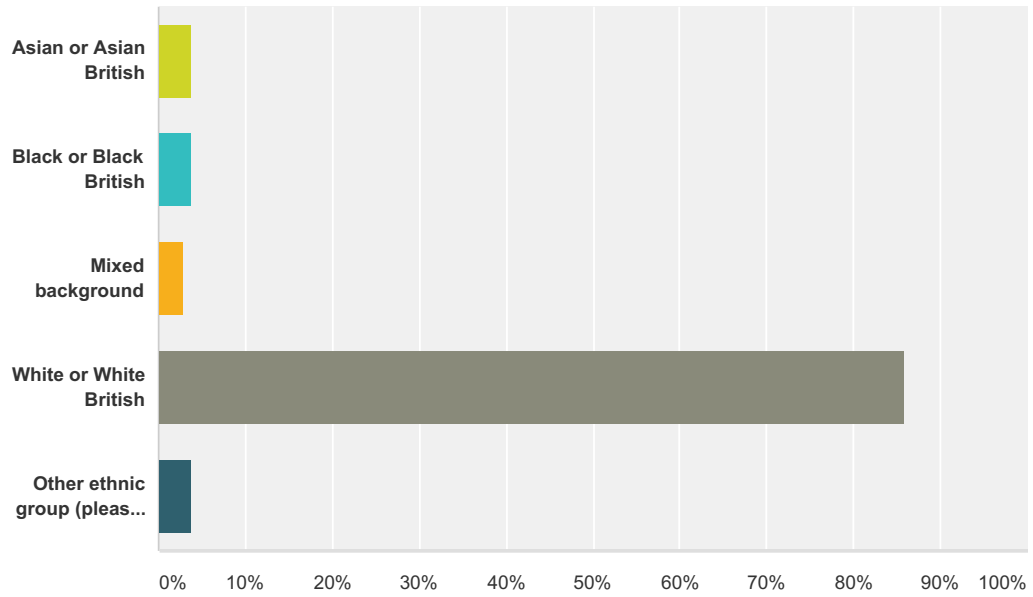
Q30 Do you regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone?

Answered: 137 Skipped: 38



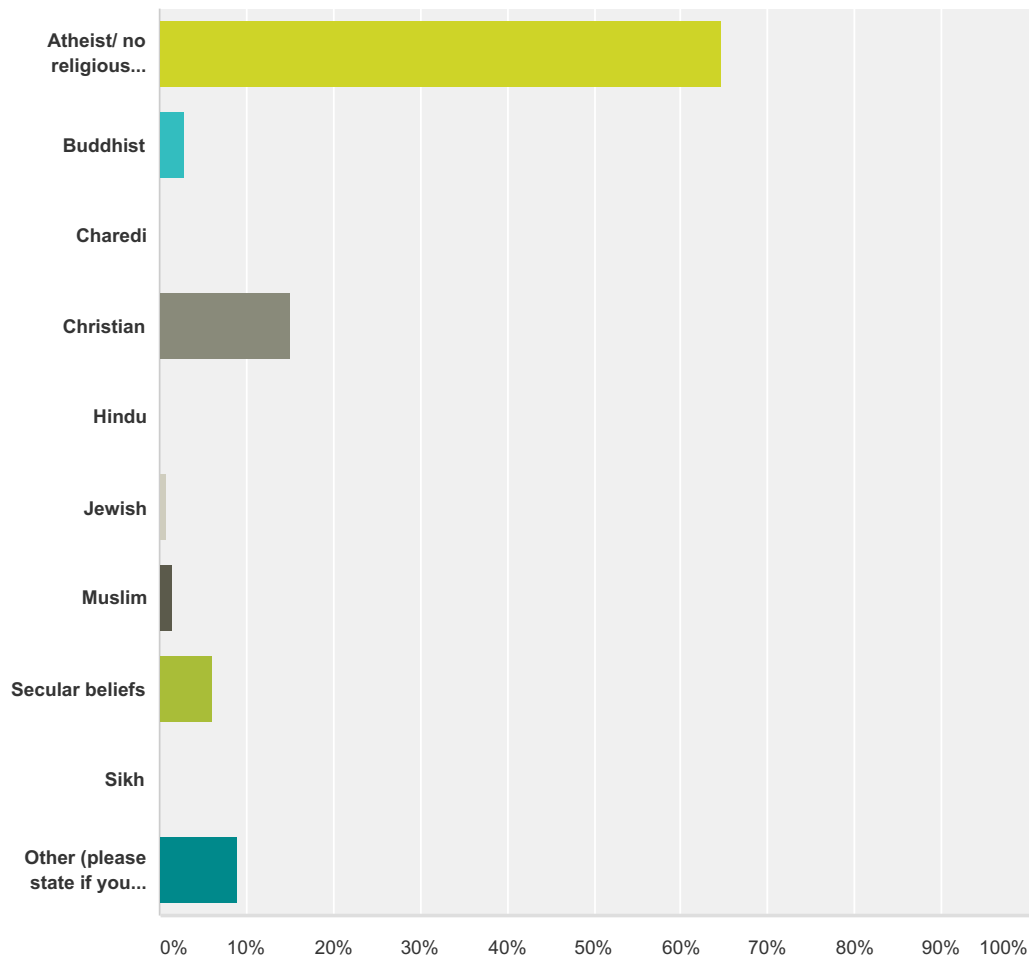
Q31 Ethnicity: Are you...

Answered: 133 Skipped: 42



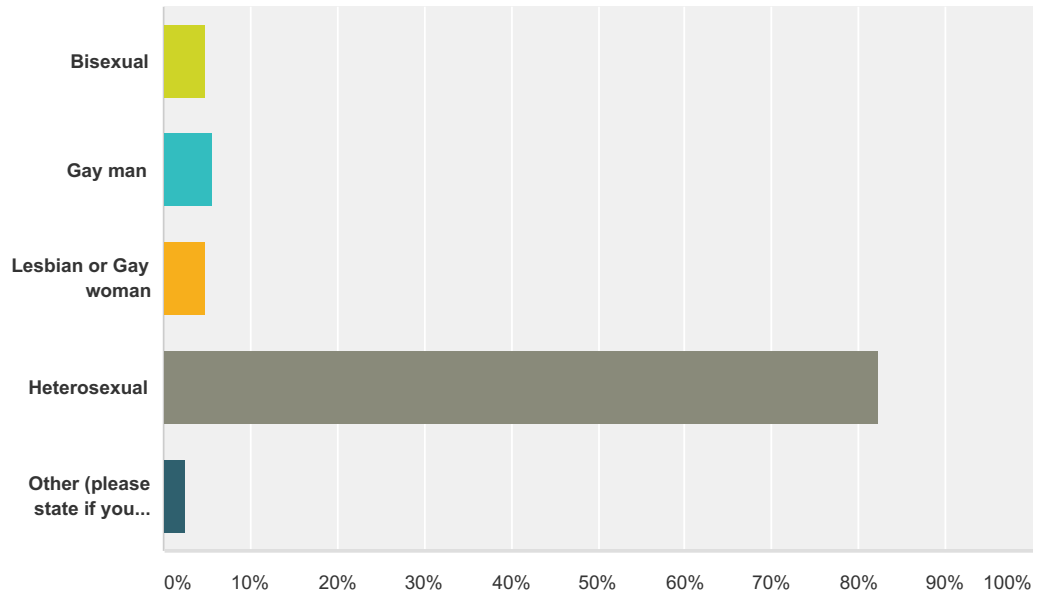
Q32 Religion or belief: Are you or do you have...

Answered: 133 Skipped: 42



Q33 Sexual orientation: Are you...

Answered: 124 Skipped: 51



Appendix 9:

Detailed site proformas: see separate document

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 18th January 2021 Item 5 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting	Item No 5
--	---------------------

Outline

The draft minutes of the meeting of the 14th December 2020 are enclosed.

Action

The Commission are asked to review and agree the minutes, and to note the responses to actions arising from previous meetings.

This page is intentionally left blank

London Borough of Hackney
Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission
Municipal Year 2020/21
Date of meeting Wednesday, 14 December, 2020

Minutes of the proceedings of
the Living in Hackney Scrutiny
Commission held at
Hackney Town Hall, Mare
Street, London, E8 1EA

Chair	Cllr Sharon Patrick
Councillors in Attendance:	Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Anthony McMahon, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Ian Rathbone Cllr Penny Wrout, Cllr Anna Lynch
Apologies:	
Officers in Attendance	Jennifer Wynter (Head of Benefits and Housing Needs), Marcia Facey (Operations Manager), Rebecca Rennison (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply), Sabrina Pathan (Rough Sleeping Manager), Ian Jones (Legislation and Projects Officer),
Other People in Attendance	Kathy Meade (Hackney Doorways)
Members of the Public	None
Officer Contact:	Tracey Anderson ☎ 0208 356 3312 ✉ tracey.anderson@hackney.gov.uk

Councillor Sharon Patrick in the Chair

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 No apologies for absence.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the meeting etiquettes.
- 1.3 Apologies for lateness from Cllr McMahon.
- 1.4 At the start of the meeting the Chair thanked council staff (particularly our ICT support officer) for their hard work in making the meetings possible during a pandemic and maintaining services following the cyber-attack on Hackney Council in addition overcoming the world wide Google outage today to make the meeting possible tonight. Thank You!

2 Urgent Items/ Order of Business

2.1 There was no urgent items and the items of the meeting was as per the agenda.

3 Declaration of Interest

3.1 No declarations of interest.

4 Winter Night Shelter Provision in Hackney

4.1 In attendance at the meeting for this item was Kathy Meade, Trustee from Hackney Doorways. Also in attendance from London Borough of Hackney (LBH) was Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply, Cllr Rebecca Rennison; Head of Benefits and Housing Needs, Jennifer Wynter and Rough Sleeping Manager, Sabrina Pathan.

4.2 The Chair introduced this item by explaining the winter night shelter provisions would normally open in November as the weather starts to become colder. These are usually in church halls and were communal provisions. The global pandemic has impacted on the provision of night shelters.

Government guidance does not endorse the opening of communal night shelter facilities. The Government has advised rotating night shelter models carry a higher risk of infection and should not be used. The Government suggested night shelter projects should consider whether they can provide self-contained accommodation options.

In addition providers need ensure that staff, volunteers, and guests are supported to adhere to the advice, and other legislation and guidance on social distancing, shielding, self-isolation, and working safely during Covid-19.

4.3 The Commission asked for an update on:

- The opening, provision and operations of winter shelters in the borough and the impact of Covid-19.
- Hackney Council's decision making and support in relation to the local winter shelter service provision in the borough.

4.4 The Trustee from Hackney Doorways commenced the presentation and highlighted the following points from the report in the agenda.

4.4.1 Kathy has been a trustee and company secretary since 2019 and is an active volunteer for the organisation's women's shelter provision.

4.4.2 Nigh shelters have been impacted for 2 reasons a) the new night shelter strategy, b) Covid-19.

4.4.3 Hackney Doorways have been operating the night shelter provision in the borough for 25 years. Historically it has been a roving night shelter. Guests would be out all day and carry their personal belongs with them. Returning in the evening.

- 4.4.4 From November – December they would offer 15 bed spaces. From January – March this increased to 25.
- 4.4.5 Previously there was 14 venues operating in the winter months. They had a main shelter and a dormitory because some of the churches were unable to have a capacity of 25.
- 4.4.6 Hackney Doorways were in the process of reviewing their model of operation to consider if it was appropriate for the 21st Century, the impact on the shelter guests and the respect for privacy.
- 4.4.7 The provision only operated for 5 months of the year. It was pointed out homelessness is not confined to those months and the bad weather is not just confined to these months either.
- 4.4.8 The long term plan for the night shelter was to move to a permanent premises and provide an all year round facilities. These plans were impacted by Covid and the Government's guidance that night shelters could not operate in their current form.
- 4.4.9 Through the assistance of the Benefits and Housing Needs Service in Hackney Council Hackney Doorways have secured a premises on a short term lease until February 2021. This is a former council building in Stoke Newington. They have been able to take a maximum of 13 guests.
- 4.4.10 Although this provision is lower than their previous capacity it is anticipated that by operating throughout the year they would end up supporting more people than they would operating over the 5 months.
- 4.4.11 The new building was risk assessed for Covid and is in line with the Government guidelines.
- 4.4.12 Hackney Doorways are not using volunteers in the same they did previously. This is due to the Covid restrictions. To ensure continuity and Covid protection, they have a small team of volunteers to supplement the team of short term temporary staff they have overnight.
- 4.4.13 They are looking for permanent venue to lease long term to shift this provision to a year round facility.
- 4.4.14 A second development in the borough has been the opening of a women's night shelter. With the assistance of Hackney Council they received some start-up funding from the rough sleeper initiative. This has enabled them to set up a 1 year pilot. This is located in Clapton in a building leased from the United Reformed Church. This enables them to accommodate up to 9 women in a shared room for up to 90 days. This gives Hackney Doorways more time to work with them and move individuals into long term accommodation. They have a worker to support the women in all areas from immigration, access to benefits and use different ways of finding them long term accommodation.
- 4.4.15 The women's night shelter was kept open all through the first lockdown. But has been reduced to only 5 women in the premises due to Covid and the

Greater London Authority (GLA) insisting the women having their own room. They also have a reduced team of volunteers.

- 4.4.16 Currently they have 6 women in the shelter and Since November they have housed 3 women and have had 3 more join.
- 4.4.17 In relation to the main night shelter. Since they opened on 1st November they have mainly taken men - 9 single people. Since November they have housed 3 people.
- 4.4.18 In relation to their funding. Funding has mainly been through fundraising efforts and grants for charitable trusts and foundations. To date they have not applied for any funding from Hackney Council. In addition to these funding avenues they have lots of shops and organisation who sponsor something for them.
- 4.4.19 They have not applied for or received a grant from Hackney Council. To date Hackney Doorways have sustained their operations through community and local organisation support.
- 4.4.20 In relation to their current service offer. Due to Covid they have single rooms. There is also a limit on the number of people they can have in the dining rooms at any one time.
- 4.4.21 Volunteers are working in teams and they have procedures in place for all guests and workers. They keep a spare room for people to self-isolate.
- 4.4.22 To date Hackney Doorways have kept all safe and well from Covid.
- 4.4.23 In relation to working with the Council. Most referrals come from the Greenhouse and also from other charities and homeless organisations. They are currently receiving a large number of referrals because a number of night shelters have not been able to open.
- 4.4.24 There has been close working with the Council's housing department and Hackney Doorways reported having an excellent working relationship with Hackney Housing services and the rough sleeping manager. The Council has also helped the organisation to secure Covid funding to help sustain them during the pandemic.
- 4.4.25 The Trustee pointed out next year will be more difficult financially for the organisation.

4.5 Questions Answers and Discussion

- i. **Members commented due to the reduction in the numbers and noting you cannot support as many people as you used to. Members asked how the people Hackney Doorways cannot support are being helped particularly over the winter months. Members also asked if there is extra support to help them to stay safe on the streets.**

The Trustee from Hackney Doorways advised all their referrals come from agencies. At the point of referral the individuals are usually supported by that agency. Therefore they expect the agency will continue to work with the individual to find alternative support to take them off the street.

The maximum capacity in the venue is 13 but this has been reduced to 10.

In response to Members asking what the Council can do in this situation. The Head of Benefits and Housing Needs from LBH advised in regards to rough sleeping the carried out the count approximately 2 weeks ago.

The service usually uses this count as an educational tool by having staff from other service areas participate in the count. But this year they were unable to have a large number of volunteers due to Covid. Participation in the count of rough sleepers helps people to understand the levels of support rough sleepers need. The officer pointed out a home and roof is just one are of support a rough sleeper might need.

Just over 20 people carried out this task and the Council counted 18 people bedded down in the borough that night. This is a slight increase on the last count. The officer pointed out other boroughs are seeing similar increases.

In regards to severe weather provision and the operations of Severe Weather Emergency Protocols (SWEP). The borough has seen one emergency called for one night in the borough. For this they utilised hotel rooms for that one night. In this instance the council did not need to provide an emergency shelter.

The council is in discussions with other service areas and emergency planning to consider the setup of an emergency shelter in a council building. There are a number of challenges and things they need to consider to provide this type of emergency shelter. Therefore the council is risk assessing a number of sites and have a short list of 2 under consideration.

It is not the preferred option to open a self-contained shelter due to the risks of infection. The council would be required to implement a number of things such as staffing, signage for one ways systems, additional cleaning and deep cleaning after residents have left etc. In addition to testing and screening for Covid before letting people into the premises and having security to keep people safe. In essence there are multiple things the council would need to consider to deliver this type of provision.

The Rough Sleeping Manager from LBH added in terms of people the winter night shelter cannot accommodate, if they eligible access public funds the Council will assess under the usual homeless housing revenue account (HRA) criteria and process under interim duty of care.

The challenge the council encounters is when an individual has no recourse to public funds (NRPF) or a multiple use individual (in and out of the system indicating complexity).

Currently the case load is a larger number than usual. The officer pointed out Hackney's numbers are lower than other boroughs although they are rising.

Increasingly outreach case workers on the streets are having to make judgement calls on how fit and well a person is to stay out one more night while they try to find the appropriate support for them. In summary for people they

cannot find shelter they are either case work with them on the street or find hotel rooms for them.

For rough sleepers who are unwell they go through the Covid pathway with Mildmay hospital.

Typically the other provision they have in the borough is the no second night out service provided by St Mungo's. This has been shut since the beginning of Covid due to the provision being similar to communal shelter provisions. Hackney Council has worked with the GLA about this and it reopened 6 weeks ago. This is a non-accommodation service. This means rough sleepers are referred there and they start to case work with the individuals to assist them back into the system but they do not provide accommodation. With this service back in operation they are able to move their rough sleepers off the streets quicker.

- ii. **The Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply asked the winter night shelter to explain where they get referrals from and to confirm if they work beyond the borough boundary?**

In response the Trustee from Hackney Doorways confirmed a significant percentage of their service users come from Hackney. However they do also take referrals from other agencies who are on the boarder of Hackney.

- iii. **Members commended the winter night shelter for all the work they do in the borough. Members commented the key to shelter services was the follow up work they did. This model was very successful. Members asked if it is still in operation following covid.**

In response the Trustee from Hackney Doorways advised they have the same system in place. The shelter has 2 advocacy workers who work with all rough sleepers. A worker visits the women's' shelter and the main advocacy worker is based at the main shelter. Due to covid there is currently always a worker on site.

At least half of the people in winter night shelter are people with NRPF.

- iv. **Members asked if there was any reason why Hackney Doorways have not accessed funding from the Council. In regards to the stoke Newington premises Members asked if it was open and the current capacity.**

In response the Trustee from Hackney Doorways informed the capacity at the new shelter is 13 but they currently have 10.

The building is owned by another organisation and is subject to planning permission for redevelopment. The length of stay in this premises is subject to other decision making processes. However they are assured they have the premises until at least February 2021. They are currently looking for long term premises. The Trustee pointed out they had hoped to have a larger capacity because the premises has a large basement space. But following a fire assessment this spaces was deemed not suitable for anything but storage.

To date Hackney Doorways have managed so far to self-fund because operating for 5 months of the year it was difficult to get funding for short term provision.

- v. **Members referred to the rehousing of 3 men and 3 women. Members asked how they have managed to rehouse these individuals. Members referred to the long term vision and it becoming a year round provision and asked what would be the difference between their provision and a hostel? Members also asked what will be in place of the winter night shelter. This was seen as a last resort safety net for individuals in the winter period.**

In response the Trustee from Hackney Doorways explained 2 women moved to private sector housing out of the borough and one received accommodation with employment.

In relation to the men they have moved 7 men since November 2020. 3 moved to immigration accommodation. 1 has moved into a shared house and 3 have moved into long term private sector accommodation including a hostel.

In terms of dealing with people who became homeless at winter time. They are anticipating that being open all year round they will pick up people earlier than just in the winter period so they are not homeless in the winter. Therefore anticipating there will not be a crisis in the winter months.

- vi. **Members asked if referrals could be made from a walk in or only through a referral organisation. To enable members of the public to support people into accessing the shelter Members asked what the most common routes of access for people who are homeless.**

In response the Trustee from Hackney Doorways confirmed they are not an open access service but a referral service only. This ensures if they do say no or they do not meet their criteria they will still be supported by the referral organisation to find an alternative provision.

The Chair thanked Hackney Doorways for attending the meeting.

5 Homelessness and the Impact of Covid-19

- 5.1 In attendance at the meeting for this item from London Borough of Hackney was Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply, Cllr Rebecca Rennison; Head of Benefits and Housing Needs, Jennifer Wynter and Rough Sleeping Manager, Sabrina Pathan.
- 5.2 The Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply commended Hackney Doorways for reviewing their operating model and constantly challenging themselves to do better. Pointing out this is not common practice in the voluntary sector. The Cabinet Member also commended their finance model of independence and in building up a base of individual donors.
- 5.3 The Cabinet Member thanked all the staff supporting rough sleepers and their work on the Council's homelessness response to the pandemic.

- 5.4 The Head of Benefits and Housing Needs commenced the presentation making the following main points:
- 5.4.1 Hackney's approach to homelessness was one step ahead of the Government.
 - 5.4.2 Prior to covid the Council was monitoring this situation and the Rough Sleeping Manager and her team took the decision to bring people in before the Government made their announcement.
 - 5.4.3 The officer pointed out whilst doing this piece of work the service has been trying to still run a business as usual service for all other service provisions.
 - 5.4.4 Covid has impacted on the operation of hostels requiring the operation of hostels to be different. The Council has continued to provide the households in temporary accommodation (TA) with access to hostel caretakers and hostel managers to provide support and additional cleaning. The TA placement team have also worked closely with adult social care to ensure where they have households in TA that were shielding or vulnerable they are supported too.
 - 5.4.5 The council has received a significant increase in enquires. Throughout covid they have seen less enquires from families with children and more from single people.
 - 5.4.6 The Council's Greenhouse is still operating - the council's single person's service. Albeit a virtual service.
 - 5.4.7 The covid work with rough sleepers was prioritised and given a high profile. Achieving corporate input and support from: strategic property services, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and primary care, public health, adult social care and commissioning, finance, community partnerships, housing strategy etc. The partnership still meet weekly and there is a programme of work categorised into short, medium and longer term work streams. This group reports to Hackney Management Team (HMT) gold monthly. This work now sits under the Health and Care and Community Support work stream. This recognises that rough sleeping is not just about homelessness but supporting people too.
- 5.5 The Rough Sleeping Manager added information about the 'Everybody In' work by the Council.
- 5.5.1 Prior to covid Hackney Council had booked hotel rooms. The Council booked 2 large settings where they could also provide support services too. It was pointed out this cohort not only needs housing but support services too.
 - 5.5.2 This took time to achieve but within a week they found their regular rough sleepers and took them in. The next challenge was staffing. The officer pointed out following a number of years of cuts this had impacted on the service sectors that they would use to work with vulnerable people. As a result finding experienced staff with the knowledge and skills to work with this cohort was extremely difficult. In the end the Council used redeployed staff from within the council to help the service.

- 5.5.3 The emergency support set up was unsustainable so the Council commissioned the Single Homeless Project (SHP) to provide support services.
- 5.5.4 At the start of the pandemic Hackney Council housed 219 people across 11 hotels. This was for rough sleepers and any individuals that approached the council as homeless. This therefore covered a range of needs. Through this work they managed to bring in individuals who had previously refused to engage with the systems.
- 5.5.5 Hackney Council reported the vast majority stayed in for a long time and since coming in staff have commented that at least 4 people look different and are behaving differently. The officer explained these are human beings with human stories and they were pleased with the progress some had made. Highlighting there are people they have managed to engage with support services who had previously refused. This has given people self-respect and the belief they can do more with their lives. The officer commended all staff involved in this work.
- 5.5.6 The officer pointed out the underlying issues that are the drivers for these problems still remain - the current emergency is contained as much as possible – as they cannot change the political and policy landscape that can be unkind to people at times.
- 5.5.7 The Head of Benefits and Housing Needs added the ‘Everyone in’ was combined with the hospital discharge process. They achieved the challenge of housing residents with just a 2 hour turnaround time into hotels. This was achieved with the assistance of staff, volunteers, Age UK and support providers. The officer commended all staff involved in this work.
- 5.5.8 The Council’s investment in the Greenhouse model has been very beneficial in the crisis. There has been a health assessment of each person and this identified that in Hackney they are bucking the trend. Amongst their rough sleepers Hackney has approximately 80% registered with a GPs and linked into primary care services. The common trend is close to 30% across London. The officer pointed out getting rough sleepers into in with health services provides the best foundation for keeping rough sleepers engaged with services and accessing the health system.
- 5.5.9 The Rough Sleeping Manager explained Hackney’s approach is to inform them of their rights and taking a rights based approach. Rough sleepers have a right to healthcare and upon initial contact one of the first tasks they seek to do is to get the individual registered with a GP.
- 5.5.10 The Chair commented Hackney Council does not promote the good work of the Greenhouse model. The Chair urged the council to think about its communication strategy in relation to promoting all the good work they do to other boroughs. The chair wanted to see Hackney council better publicise Hackney’s visionary work. Pointing out other boroughs claim successes that Hackney has been doing for years.
- 5.6 The Head of Benefit and Housing Needs continued the presentation.
- 5.6.1 Rough sleeping is a symptom of poor health and they have been doing more joined up working with health colleagues. The officer provided details of what was achieved in Hackney under the guise of prevention, possible and no

- second wave from a health prospective. *(Full details are on slide 5 of the Homelessness presentation).*
- 5.6.2 They encountered challenges with doing this work such as no clear supply chain for PPE, no access to water for rough sleepers on the streets as parks were shut. Officers were working in an environment where they had to find solutions rapidly. *(Full details of the challenges they encountered is on Slide 6 of the presentation).*
 - 5.6.3 The rough sleeping team did daily tracking and monitoring and trailing new approaches as they worked. But these are only interim solutions not long term. All rough sleepers have various levels of need.
 - 5.6.4 Data sharing was a big challenge that they overcame. They had various health interactions and this was really challenging to manage.
 - 5.6.5 The current phase is now 'in for good'. As things start to return to a new normal and the rental market started to reopen, landlords started to offer properties and virtual viewings. This enable them to move residents with lower level needs into properties private sector.
 - 5.6.6 At the start of this pandemic the council was housing 219 individuals and as of last week this figure dropped to 80 individuals.
 - 5.6.7 The majority of the 80 individuals left have high level support needs. These individuals are likely to need supported accommodation and not general housing.
 - 5.6.8 Approximately 10-15 have very high support needs and currently there is no supported accommodation scheme in the borough that meets the needs of this cohort. This was a gap identified early. In response the Council bid for money from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) and Greater London Authority (GLA) to develop their own scheme to support this cohort. The council has commissioned SHP to be their support provider in the one hotel support unit created. This client group is in for good. Working with this cohort takes a long time and will require long term input.
 - 5.6.9 All the supported housing within the borough is full and there are waiting list for all the single people sleeping pathways for accommodation. The council is working with commissioners and providers to move people on.
 - 5.6.10 Out of the 80 in for good half are NRPF individuals. As this is a corporate service the decision was taken to continue to support these individuals and commission immigration services to provide support in regularising their status.
 - 5.6.11 During covid the numbers of NRPF rose rapidly. Prior to covid the number of NRPF were low in the borough. The council anticipates this rise may be due to the slowdown of the construction and hospitality sector and loss of informal living arrangements. The council is limited in what the law allows them to do for this cohort. The council's approach is a rights based approach. Right to regularised status, nationality etc. The aim of this service is to provide formal credited advice.

- 5.6.12 The Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply added the Council is against NRPF and has written to the Government about this because NRPF is inhuman. In response the Government has chosen to remind the council the hostile environment remains in place.
- 5.6.13 In regards to funding and finding a long term solution the council is extremely frustrated with the inability to plan beyond 1 year. They do not have the ability to draw down large sums of money instead they have to access small pots that have to work together. In addition to the time it takes to develop bids that may not get granted or that they only receive half of the funding they bid for.
- 5.6.14 The council has been receiving funding for the next steps accommodation funding and rough sleeping accommodation funding. The key area of challenge for Hackney is accommodation. The council received funding for one out of the 3 they bided for.
- 5.6.15 There are additional funding streams they are still waiting to hear about. It was noted the out of hospital funding stream was released with a 2 week turnaround. Further details are outlined on slide 10 of the presentation.
- 5.6.16 The officer pointed out bids are made in tandem with other organisations and these are pulled together through the Hackney Homeless Partnership.
- 5.6.17 The council has received funding to help deliver a scheme for £2.2 million. This will put towards leasing and refurbishment two hotels to be converted into enhanced supported accommodation for the next five years.
- 5.6.18 The Council did not receive funding for the women's homeless hostel. Now looking for future funding to help with this and will need to find a new premises.
- 5.6.19 Some properties became available for sale from housing associations. The council did not receive funding to buy back ex council properties. This funding was declined by the GLA. The council is still looking at long term solutions and waiting for additional funding streams to come out from Government.
- 5.6.20 For this financial year the cost of 'everyone in' and 'in for good' for rough sleeping has been in excess of £3.2 million. The council has acquired some funding to cover the costs from funding streams released. Resulting in the net cost to the council being approximately £1million.
- 5.6.21 The Council has participated in a large piece of work with the London School Economics commissioned by London Councils. This report shows that it costs approximately £21k per person to take a person off the street and house them in emergency accommodation and support through to settled accommodation.
- 5.6.22 The main drivers for homelessness pre date covid and will still exist after covid. The legislation that is protecting private renters ends in March 2021. The Council is unable to predict what will happen once rent restrictions are lifted by the Government. Estimates from various national reports puts rent arrears for the private and social housing sector at 60%-80%. No estimates have been provided at a regional or local level.

- 5.6.23 In relation to the picture of homelessness next year they are unable to give an estimate. The Council is aware there has been a large impact on unemployment in the borough and high levels of universal credit claims. Therefore the council is making sure the housing needs service is robust and as resilient as possible. There are call for the higher levels of universal credit payments to remain in place covid. There is also uncertainty about the impact of brexit on homelessness.
- 5.6.24 The Covid Act increased the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates. The Government announced they will not return LHA rates to previous levels but these will be frozen. However the benefit cap was not increased resulting in more people reaching the benefit cap. In Hackney this impacted more on single people and large families.
- 5.6.25 The key asks would include long term funding and to see the provision of rough sleeping included in statutory provision. Homelessness needs long term solutions.
- 5.6.26 Hackney Council has a housing first pilot with health partners. This is the first CCG funded housing first pilot in the whole country. This has 20 units of accommodation and the aim is to expand this. The council will include this ask in future bids. This is a model the council thinks works and they would like to continue.

5.7 Questions, Discussion and Comments

- i. **Member commended the work of staff and their passion and desire to help people on the streets and giving them back their dignity.**
- ii. **In relation to sharing best practice Cllr Lynch informed she had approached the CCG Chair and Hackney Council Finance Director about doing a presentation to NHS England about the wider integrated work in Hackney. Following the publication of the integrated care policy this presents an opportunity to share best practice. The Member suggested the work of the housing Needs service is included in this presentation.**
- iii. **Members commented the integrated care vision includes joint commissioning. Members asked what will the outcomes of the joint working in the future in relation to the joint policy direction produced.**

In response the Head of Benefits and Housing Needs informed the Commission the service has hosted a health and homelessness event in the borough. In attendance at this event was approximately 200 people from homeless and charities, health partners, commissioners, GPs etc. This was the foundation of their joint working. This led to further partnering work for health integrated pathways, funding bids and piloting social workers in the hospital and housing needs services. The officer pointed out from her attendance at regional meetings Hackney is further advanced compared to other boroughs in relation to the joint working with health partners.

- iv. **Members referred to the cost of £21k per person to help house a homeless and commented this was a very small sum for the nation to help abolish homelessness. Members also commented the work**

highlights that it is not just about housing (a roof over their head) but their health and mental health needs too.

- v. **The Member echoed the need for Hackney to better communicate their work and to continue lobbying and calling to account the Government's failure.**

In response the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Members for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply from LBH pointed out sharing what they do is one aspect but there needs to be more conversations that broaden the understanding of the complexity of the outreach work. There are many quotes that just say can you give them a bed. The Cabinet Members always points out that at the height of the pandemic there was still 6 people who would not come into accommodation. This highlights the complexity of the work and that it not just about a bed. It will involve changing the patterns of behaviour which will take a long time to solve.

Members agreed just providing a bed does not solve all the problems. Unsupported care for rough sleeping is not the answer.

- vi. **Members asked what happened in the second lockdown and will London moving into tier 3 make a difference from being in tier 2.**

In response the Head of Benefits and Housing Needs agreed the second lockdown was not as severe as the first.

Throughout the year they have seen an increasing number of new rough sleepers on the street. The outreach team have been finding them quickly and linking them to services. They are starting to see a slight decrease but Hackney is still monitoring and waiting for the outcome in the new year.

The officer pointed out Hackney's service is not just the basic offer and they have staff with higher skill levels delivering a high offer than the standard offer by other councils. Taking a trauma based approach to engaging with rough sleepers.

- vii. **Member asked how people can report a rough sleeper. The Member reported using Streetlink but not getting any report back. Members wanted to know the avenue to report rough sleeping.**

In response the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Members for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply from LBH confirmed Streetlink was the best route to report rough sleeping. The Cabinet Member reassured Members the report comes through to Hackney Council's outreach team.

- viii. **In regards to financing Members commended the service in being cost efficient and seeking out and tapping into various funding streams to reduce the costs to the council.**

In response the Rough Sleeping Manager thanked the staff in her service area (Ian and Ross) who write the bids.

The Head of Benefits and Housing Needs pointed out their colleagues in strategic property services have been really good negotiators and helped to secure good rates for the temporary accommodation during the pandemic. They are hoping to secure further good rates for future deals to make them cost effective.

- ix. **Members suggested the key action following this meeting was to communicate the great partnership work and what Hackney Council has achieved. Members pointed out this work would ordinarily take 2 years to achieve and Hackney Council has completed it in a very short space of time. Commending all the staff within the team for their hard work.**
- x. **Members referred to the work of 'Everyone in' and asked how the Council will take forward the lessons learnt?**
- xi. **Members referred to the Government announcement to remove foreign nationals from services. In reference to no second night out being back in operation. Members asked if they still have a criteria.**
- xii. **Members referred to the commissioning of the Single homeless Project (SHP) and asked why the council did not commission St Mungo's who currently provide the single homeless persons support in the borough.**

In response the Head of Benefits and Housing Needs advised the homelessness capacity within the borough had decreased. The GLA relied on St Mungos and Thames Reach to deliver the London wide capacity. This meant St Mungo's had no capacity to deliver borough level work. So commissioning the Single Homeless Project (SHP) was next best option and this provider does not currently provide support services in the borough and they had capacity and could set up quickly.

In response to the question about the home office announcement. The Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply advised this was similar to a previous policy ruled illegal. Everyone in and this policy contradict each other. To add more complexity the Government has advised this should be the last resort after all other avenues have been exhausted. It was pointed out all avenues for rough sleepers with NRPF have been shut down.

In response the Rough Sleeping Manager advised with no second night out (NSNO) this has been beneficial for the council and they do struggle with the criteria. But they recognise they have to have one. This is no more than 1 night with them. The NSNO will seek out local connections to put people on the right pathway.

In relation to the lessons learnt. This may not be revealed for a year or two. However the officer did notice that there was a connection where people were in with other individuals they usually engaged with on the streets. People felt comfortable.

The Council has also been approached by Cardiff University to take part in research to follow people who were taken into covid hotels to track their journey to settled accommodation. Hackney is one of the boroughs participating in this

work. Reports will be released for 3 months, 6 months and 12 months. This should provide some information to glean some learning from this pandemic.

- xiii. **Members commented rough sleeping is not specific to Hackney and London wide. Members asked what can be done to reduce rough sleeping in partnership with other councils. Members also asked if there is any research that explains why rough sleeping is increasing.**

In response the Head of Benefits and Housing Needs from LBH explained they have a shared health trust with the City of London and their rough sleeping numbers are quite high and they have increased significantly. The officer pointed out compared to their neighbouring boroughs Hackney's increase has been quite small.

Looking at sub regional bids. The recent sub regional bid was for all East London boroughs but central Government asked them to reduce the bid to £200k. This shows the Government is not looking at this holistically, for solutions or at the drivers but salami slicing funding.

The provision for rough sleeping across the boroughs is not equitable and Hackney's service is further advanced. Sub -regional bids are about raising the standards across the board.

The council will continue to attend pan London meetings to discuss initiatives and bench mark weekly on rough sleeping figures and those in hotels.

The council is also doing financial lobbying through their connection with the President of the Society of London Treasurers using their research to show the costs to provide solutions.

Members comments the Government is not taking homelessness seriously and that homelessness could be solved if they make the commitment needed to resolve it.

6 Lettings Policy

- 6.1 In attendance at the meeting for this item from London Borough of Hackney was Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply, Cllr Rebecca Rennison; Head of Benefits and Housing Needs, Jennifer Wynter and Operations Manager, Marcia Facey.
- 6.2 The Chair pointed out the consultation for the lettings policy launched on 14th December 2020. The Commission asked for an update about the new lettings policy and the planned consultation on the new policy.
- 6.3 The Head of Benefits and Housing Needs commenced the presentation making the following main points:
- 6.3.1 Demand for social housing has grown significantly within the borough.
- 6.3.2 The council identified its current lettings policy is no longer fit for purpose.

- 6.3.3 The new policy is in response to the Mayor's manifesto commitment to review how they allocate properties and ensure the system is as fair and effective as possible.
- 6.3.4 The new policy is a radical overall. The officer pointed out that piecemeal changes to the system have not addressed the issues and made the current policy quite difficult to understand and overly complex for residents.
- 6.3.5 The aim is to ensure the new policy is not miss leading or disingenuous. The service has a statutory duty to provide effective and genuine housing advice. Any lettings policy needs to align with this duty and not appear to be disingenuous.
- 6.3.6 The current scheme has encouraged a race to get into the urgent band. This has led residents to think they need to demonstrate they are disadvantaged to get on the council's housing register.
- 6.3.7 There is currently 13,400 households on the register. There has been a steady increase in the percentage of households on the housing register that are considered to be in acute need - from 18% in 2014 up to 34%.
- 6.3.8 The council has found that more households are presenting with multiple and complex housing and support needs. Homelessness levels are also increasing. The number of approaches to the council in 2018-19 went up by 39%.
- 6.3.9 The Council has had its highest level of homeless households in temporary accommodation for a decade. This is currently 3300 households. They also have 183 households seeking wheelchair accessible housing. In the last year only 4 properties meeting this need became available.
- 6.3.10 The Council has 656 households on the London Accessible Housing Register (LAHR). These are households requiring either a ground floor, level access shower or level access throughout. In 2019/20 only 60 properties became available.
- 6.3.11 The current allocations policy is struggling with the current demand.
- 6.3.12 The council reported for every 100 properties they have 11,000 bids. This is a lot of hope and disappointment in these bids. *Slide 5 provides a graphically illustration of the level of demand to properties available.*
- 6.3.13 The council reported the number of social properties to let had diminished significantly. The key drivers for this were outlined in slide 5. Highlighted to be:
- Right to buy
 - Regeneration Decants
 - Rehousing demand (ASB / DA / Gangs / Management transfers etc)
 - Tenants living longer
 - No affordable alternatives
 - Decrease in building new social housing units.

- 6.3.14 Slide 5 also provided a graphical demonstration of the number of properties available to the number of associated applications for those properties. Giving a clear picture of demand verses available properties.
- 6.3.15 The council advised to give residents a clearer understanding of the waiting times they have been working on a tool to demonstrate estimates. The council has a waiting time tool which is available on the council website. This is accessible to residents on the housing register. This tool will tell the resident where they are on the register and how long they will be waiting. This is based on real time information over the past 12 months of the housing register.
- 6.3.16 Slide 7 of the presentation demonstrated the waiting times for each category if the housing register was closed on 24th July 2020.
- 6.3.17 These graphical illustrations showed the larger the property needed the longer the wait time and this also depended on the individual's circumstance. The waiting time increases if their needs are lower than the urgent or higher bands.
- 6.3.18 The council reported the biggest demand currently was for 1 and 2 bed properties but generally they needed a good supply of all property sizes.
- 6.3.19 The principles for new policy is that it is a service which is easily *understood, fair, accessible* and *beneficial* to their residents. *Further details about the principles were outlined on slide 8 of the presentation.* The aim is to ensure the lettings policy and allocations of social housing is seen as one of a range of options within housing options.
- 6.3.20 The consultation period for the new lettings policy is currently live for 12 weeks and will close at the end of March 2021.
- 6.3.21 The new policy will have only the categories with the highest need on the new housing register. This criteria will include those lacking 2 or more bedrooms; having significant medical needs - where the applicant or someone in their household is housebound within it or there is a pronounced impact on the wellbeing of the applicant or someone in their household; having significant social need - where there is a threat to the life/pronounced impact on the wellbeing of the applicant (or someone in their household) and there is no alternative effective remedy other than moving from the accommodation.
- 6.3.22 The council is proposing to have a simpler system of 3 bands (A-C). This is down from the current number of 5 bands.
- 6.3.23 The new policy will remove disingenuous language such as urgent band. Because this does not deliver an urgent solution to an individual's housing needs.
- 6.3.24 Band A will be for people who need emergency housing. This will be a settled housing offer not temporary accommodation. The household will receive a onetime offer.
- 6.3.25 Band B is for significant need either medical or social.

- 6.3.26 Band C is for those who need to on the housing register to access certain types of properties. For example this could be for sheltered or older person's accommodation. These properties are only accessible through the council's housing register.
- 6.3.27 In relation to choice based lettings. The ability to bid for households in bands B and C will remain. The Council is proposing an emergency onetime direct offer for Band A. This should speed up the lettings process and they can pass the property onto the next person on the list quite quickly.
- 6.3.28 Prioritisation will continue to be based on the application date.
- 6.3.29 For applicants that do not qualify to join the new housing register they will receive support and advice to address their needs through alternative options.
- 6.3.30 The Council anticipates the new housing register will have fewer households - approximately 7000. This is roughly half of the current level but will give those applicants left on the register a reasonable chance of being housed.
- 6.3.31 For the applicants that remain on the register the waiting times will still be the same. This is because waiting times are dependent on supply. The supply of properties is not controlled by the lettings policy.
- 6.3.32 The council will continue to minimise fraud and error by more frequent, effective and targeted reviews of the register.
- 6.3.33 The council anticipates the new register will take less resources to manage and administer. Thus providing more assistance and support to people who will not be housed via the housing register.
- 6.3.34 The council outlined housing solutions in slide 12. This offer will be providing:
- Personalised Housing Advice offering wrap-around support
 - Working with other colleagues in the council operating a strengths-based approach with a neighbourhood focus
 - Support to access the private rented sector for households who will not secure social housing.
 - Enhanced Mutual Exchange offering tenancy support. Working with colleagues in housing associations and Hackney Housing to have realistic conversations with residents who may be overcrowded or who have older children and assisting them to access long term accommodation solution
 - Provide a team of dedicated downsizing officers. To support people to find appropriate accommodation for their size who need extra support to go through the process and settle.
- 6.3.35 In relation to the consultation the Council has sent every household on the housing register a letter explaining what is happening and about the consultation process. This will direct them to the online form. Paper forms will be available upon request.
- 6.3.36 For this consultation the Council will be doing face to face and virtual session, online Q&A sessions and has an online consultation form on Citizen Space.

6.3.37 The Council will have a series of engagement events from January – February 2021. In addition to meetings with the Council’s Resident Liaison Group and tenant associations.

6.3.38 There will be general resident engagement sessions and people can sign up to these.

6.4 The Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member Finance, Housing Needs and Supply added the following information.

6.4.1 The Cabinet Member thanked staff for all their work on this policy over the last 2 years and their evidence gathering to support the policy.

6.4.2 Highlighted this policy is not changing who gets a council property but about having a more honest system and realistic conversations.

6.4.3 The Cabinet Member pointed out there are two things to bear in mind.

- 1) Doing nothing is not an option. There are families whose children will grow up and leave home before they reach their point on the list. This is to reduce false expectations
- 2) Secondly this is not about savings but about releasing resources to invest more in providing residents with an enhanced support.

6.5 Questions, Discussions and Comments

- i. **In reference to the point about the number of social lets properties that become available. Members asked for clarification if this figure included council properties and registered social landlords (RSLs) in the borough.**

The Head of Benefits and Housing Needs from LBH confirmed this was making reference to all social housing available in the borough – social lets for council and all the housing associations in the borough.

- ii. **Members commented these changes will come as a shock to many people on the existing housing register. Members asked what support will be given to people currently on the register who will not be on the new housing register. Members pointed out they may be concerned about going into private sector housing due to the costs, low LHA rates and being put in a position that encourages you to remain on benefits to make sure their rent is paid.**

The Head of Benefits and Housing Needs from LBH agreed this is a sentiment they have heard. As a result of covid there has been a complete U-turn in behaviour from landlords. The officer pointed out as a result of covid they have seen a shift in landlords mind set about tenants in receipt of benefits. Landlords are viewing tenants on benefits as more secure.

In relation to the people who are homeless or in temporary accommodation. The numbers in work have increased. There is now approximately 80% of households in TA in work. This is a higher number than the households in social housing and in work for both council and RSL properties.

The officer pointed out there has been a lot of change around economics, rent costs and the effect on people.

The officer informed it is the Council's role to smooth the pathways and make conversations realistic. It was pointed out there are a number of housing schemes open and available to people in social housing. E.g. fresh start, seaside and country home etc. In addition to a number of mutual exchange schemes that can work within the council and that work on a pan London basis and between registered providers and councils - housing moves, home finders. There are schemes where people can access social housing outside the borough too. Hackney has been some success with people taking other options.

The officer advised there are people on the register who have not had conversations about their housing needs, future plans and who are sitting on the register bidding. By implementing the new policy this will enable the council to free up some resources to have those conversations with people.

The Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply added affordability is something that affects people not on the register as well. There is the LHA up lift which has provided more options particular for households in work when it comes to the private sector. Through feedback having had those conversations the service has heard people are happy and settled after looking at the options available and having those conversations.

- iii. **Members asked if the lettings policy being introduced was only applicable to Hackney or would it apply to other boroughs too.**
- iv. **Members asked how the council was addressing and managing language barriers and suggested the consultation could have engagement sessions in different languages to address the language barriers.**
- v. **Members agreed it was not acceptable to have people on a waiting list knowing they will not get a social let property. It was good to have these honest conversations. Members commented there are people who may not want to come off the housing list and wish to remain on the register in the hope of getting a social housing property. Members also raised concern about people not wanting to go into the private sector due to the higher risks of insecurity of housing and having a bad landlord. Members pointed out the legislation in place is not sufficient to help people hold onto their homes in the private sector.**
- vi. **Members pointed out the consultation is likely to receive hostility because people know they will be taken off the housing list. How is the council planning to prepare and respond to this?**

The Head of Benefits and Housing Needs from LBH confirmed the letting policy was only applicable to Hackney borough. Although other boroughs have been revising and reviewing their lettings policy too.

In regards to households over crowded by 1 bed. Although the council sympathises, it is important that they have realistic conversation and help people to understand that sitting on the housing register will not get them social housing and is not a solution to being overcrowded by 1 bedroom. Highlighting

There options do not have to be a move into the private sector but could be a mutual exchange.

There are approximately 45,000 units of social housing in the borough, of which many are overcrowded but equally they have quite a few under occupied properties. There has not been a large amount of activity through joined up mechanisms in the borough to enable transfers and mutual exchanges among registered providers. This an area the housing strategy team, housing needs team and neighbourhoods and housing teams will be working on next year. They propose to hold social housing fairs to encourage swaps and enable people to see what is available. This is an example of a new trail that could be delivered as solutions for people in Hackney.

The Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply added they would not be encouraging people to come out of social housing into the private sector. But it should be noted there are people on the register and not in social housing. Having those conversations and looking at the properties available could be a solution.

In relation to the consultation they are being really honest about what this means. They want a two way conversation. But the reality is they cannot continue with the current system as is not sustainable. If there are other models recommended or other priorities they need to take into consideration they would encourage this to be provided in the feedback.

The Operations Manager for LBH added in regards to downsizing they had a dedicated team and they were successful in downsizing. This was eroded due to various duties. This team achieved 158 moves per year. They worked alongside the RSLs in the borough. They will be setting this up again and will be meeting in January 2021.

- vii. **Members made reference to there being a review. Members asked if the review will be a review of the person's circumstances.**

The Operations Manager from LBH explained they would carry out a review after 2 years. If in band B they would review the current application.

- viii. **Members asked if the council will be stricter on making people accept the RSL option. Pointing out there may be people holding out for a council property because they want to access the right to buy option. Members also asked if the council tracked the people who were in the urgent band but then did a right to buy application.**

The Operations Manager from LBH advised the council does not track the right to buy when a tenant has come through the homeless route to a property.

The Head of Benefits and Housing Needs from LBH advised there is some monitoring within housing services from the fraud unit. The officer is aware there has been more right to buy applications refused this year than previously due to this work.

In relation to accepting a property offer. All homeless applicants when made an offer get sent an offer letter outlining all the statutory requirements and

advises if this is rejected the council can discharge its duty. An officer usually attends the viewing with the applicant. All offers are classified as social housing regardless if the landlord is the council or an RSL.

- ix. **Members asked for the consultation to be issued in different languages.**
- x. **The Chair closed this discussion by making the following points:**
 - **It was a good suggestions to translate the consultation into local community languages**
 - **Members understood the need for the changes following the period of austerity and cuts to house building.**
 - **Members are aware Hackney Council is trying to build more homes but the council has limited access to funds to build homes for social let.**

7 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 7.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th November 2020 were approved.

RESOLVED: Minutes were approved
--

8 Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission- 2020/2021 Work Programme

- 8.1 The work programme for the LiH scrutiny commission was not reviewed or discussed.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00 - 10.00 pm



Update for Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

Page 217

Homelessness and the Impact of Covid-19



The impact of Covid 19 on Homelessness



- As you will be aware, prior to the present crisis, Hackney Council was already responding to considerable pressure on its housing and homelessness services.
- The Council is making every effort to maintain a “business as usual” approach to delivering day-to-day and out-of-hours services. To help, staff from non-essential sections across the Council are being redeployed to help to deal with the unprecedented levels of demand.
- We have seen a significant increase in enquiries, with much of this additional traffic related to income worries and the impact on rent payments and possible consequences.
- Our Greenhouse service has seen a substantial increase in approaches from single homeless clients, many of which have multiple needs and often chaotic lifestyles

The impact of Covid 19 on Homelessness



The corporate response

- LBH has agreed a set of workstreams to support the next phase in response to Covid-19 pandemic, one of which is the Rough Sleeper Resettlement Move On.
- Denise D'Souza, the Strategic Director of ASC, is leading on the Health and Care and Community Support Workstream within which this response sits,
A cross departmental working group has been set up to ensure a coordinated response is in place that encompasses accommodation, support and security. The working group includes Benefits and Housing Needs Service, Strategic Property Services, Adult Social Care and commissioning, Public Health, Community Partnerships and Finance and is chaired by Jen Wynter.
- Updates and outcomes from this group are reported into HMT GOLD

“Everybody In”

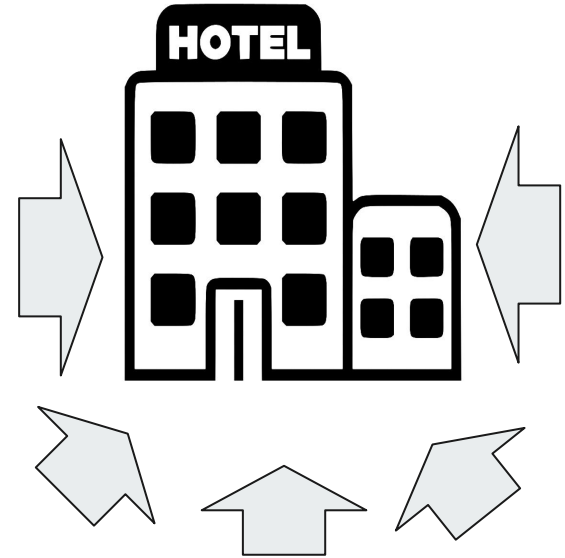


- In March, the Government calls for “everybody in” - to provide emergency accommodation in commercial hotels for rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping.

Page 220

In Hackney, we initially housed 219 people within 11 different hotels

- Not just accommodation but security, hot food, clothing, sundries etc.
- Also included a full health response - GP/nursing staff, mental health and drug and alcohol support provided within the hotels.



March 2020 to September 2020



There's so many lessons we can learn from our response in the first peak, so many new tools, resources and guidelines developed and deployed, and many more service partnerships tested and forged at frontline, Local and London Governance Level. Unprecedented and innovative action was taken across the housing, community, health and care spectrum.

Page 221

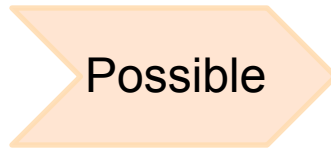


21,092 infections

266 deaths

1164 hospital admissions

388 ICU admissions

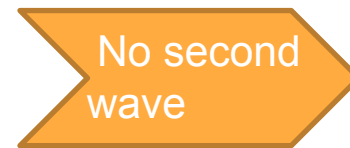


1,754 infections

31 deaths

122 hospital admissions

35 ICU admissions



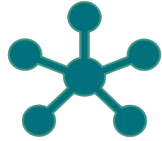
12,151 infections

184 deaths

733 hospital admissions

213 ICU admissions

What was particularly challenging?

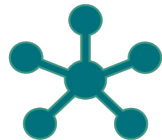


No clear supply chain for equipment: such as access to PPE and lack of infrastructure to keep people safe (no access to water for rough sleepers on the streets, for instance).

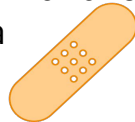
Page 222



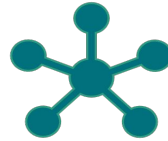
Rushed cohorting, limited support to triage confidently, lack of training and preparedness, communication of the Homeless Sector Plan and daily surveillance tracking.



Limited longer term thinking of how the hotel/ Covid Protect provision will work in the interim and longer term – is this just a



Accessing continuity of care for drug and alcohol treatment and for this to be integrated into the other outreach/ inreach offers.



It was often challenging to agree rapid data sharing, and to procure quickly.



Many services adapted and flexed their offer to integrate with other services (INEL, BBV screening, LTB screening, ASC), where this wasn't able to happen, this created notably barriers – drug and alcohol provision / mental health

Moving to “In for Good”



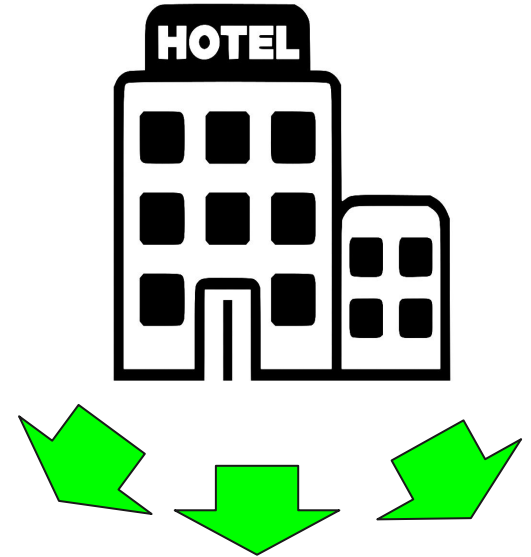
Moving people on

- People with low needs into private rented sector, Assisted by B&HN Officers;
- People with medium/high needs will need accommodation with support embedded as part of the package;

Page 229

Move on options

- two hotels to be converted into enhanced supported accommodation/TA, SHP to be commissioned to continue to provide support for those who need assistance within their new accommodation;



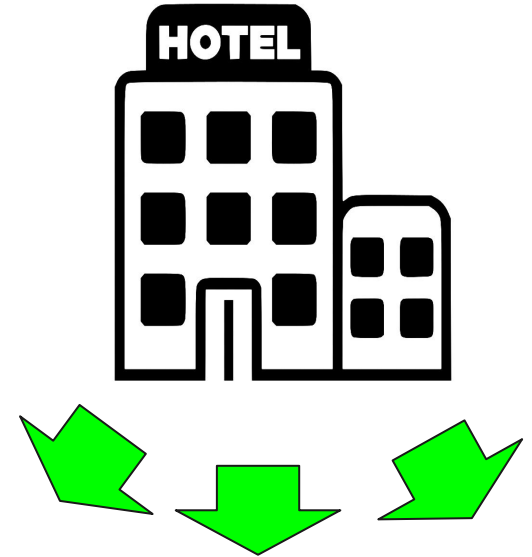
Moving to “In for Good”



Building the wider supported housing pathway

- There are no shortcuts, engagement with this client group will be extended over many months; This requires long term investment and funding, to both secure the accommodation but also the input from our key health partners and social services.
- We need to unclog the pathways - move on those in current provision including those currently within our general needs TA in order to free up this stock.

Page 224



Working with NRPF clients



- ❑ What is NRPF? - no recourse to public funds and facing destitution, Covid 19 has particularly impacted these clients;
- ❑ Currently we are providing accommodation for 33 non EU nationals and 7 EU nationals,
As a Council we can do very little - anything we do is discretionary and cannot be funded via the public purse; all we can do is establish eligibility and regularise status to allow access to public funds;
- ❑ Council has adopted a rights-based approach which facilitates case resolution, **BUT** not every case will have the potential for resolution and we will not be able to continue to accommodate indefinitely

Finding a long term solution



- The Government has provided a number of disparate funding streams to which we have made bids - Next Steps Accommodation Funding, Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme, Cold Weather Funding, Shared Outcomes Fund, Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment grant etc...

Our bids have been focused on securing funding that will maintain and build our supported accommodation pathway - with partial success.

- We received £1.2m for the NSAP funding (having bid for £2.5m) for our emergency accommodation and support programme, including advice and support for those with no recourse to public funds;
- We also received £2.2m from the RSAP to help fund the leasing and refurbishment of two hotels to be converted into enhanced supported accommodation for the next five years.

Finding a long term solution



- Unfortunately, we were not successful in securing funding for a homeless womens hostel or for funding to buy back ex council properties to be used to free up temporary accommodation within the current provision.
- We have secured £90k for support during the cold weather which will be used to secure hotel spaces over the winter period and support staff.

Page 227

This will run alongside our Severe Weather protocols where emergency overnight accommodation is provided when the temperature drops below freezing. Unfortunately the closure of No Second Night Out and the covid 19 restrictions means the SWEP provision is much more limited than we would like.

- the MHCLG and the GLA centralised response has been restricted to those with low needs with additional support targeted at this cohort. Those with the highest level of need/most entrenched on the streets are only being supported by local authorities

Finding a long term solution



Estimated costs to the Council to date:

- It is projected that the cost to the Council related to emergency provision alone (including support and security costs) will be in excess of £3.2m.

Page 228
Against this we have been provided £1.78m in funding from the various Government funding streams.

- A recent report undertaken by the London School of Economics and commissioned by London Councils has estimated:
 - A total anticipated cost across London of £95.2 million for the year 2020/21
 - Total expected expenditure by London local government on transitioning Wave 1 clients into settled accommodation will be **£20,600 per individual.**

Finding a long term solution



Managing the post covid 19 situation

- It is important to remember that the main drivers of homelessness pre-date the emergency and will still exist once the emergency is over.
- However, we are expecting a surge of approaches when the freeze on evictions is lifted and the easements in the local housing allowance (LHA) restrictions are withdrawn.
- We can also expect increased homelessness as a consequence of the economic impact of covid on businesses and unemployment becomes more apparent.
- We should also be aware that there is uncertainty as to the impact that Brexit will have, both on the local economy and on EEA nationals.

Finding a long term solution



Managing the post covid 19 situation - Rough Sleepers

- As stated, still currently accommodating 100 people within the emergency provision of which 40 currently have NRPF;
- Flow to the street is ongoing and SORT is working with clients on the street;
- Annual street count identified 18 rough sleepers

Page 230



Finding a long term solution



Key asks going forward

- Increase long term funding for housing with support provision for those rough sleepers we have managed to bring in off the street during the crisis.
- Individuals with NRPF who are unable to access housing benefit and other support, it will be extremely difficult to provide move-on support for them, severely limiting the potential for positive outcomes. Funding will be needed to support these households to reduce these risks and can also serve to reduce future strain on local authorities;
- We will also need to fund the supported housing options, such as **Housing First** that are often a key component in the transition from the street into settled accommodation;

Finding a long term solution



Key asks going forward

- Affordability of the PRS is still a considerable barrier. This is exacerbated by restrictions on LHA rates and the implementation of the overall benefit cap. We will continue to press the Government to keep the LHA rate at the 30th percentile and to remove housing costs from the overall benefit cap calculation;
- The funding provided by MHCLG to support rent guarantee schemes, should also be extended;
- Investigate and fund a scheme to purchase properties currently being offered by sale by Registered Social Landlords but that remain unsold in the current depressed market. These can then be offered as a stock of housing for move-on purposes.



Update for Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

Page 233

Lettings Policy Review



Objectives



- Demand for social housing continues to grow significantly;
- Concerns that the current lettings/allocations policy is no longer fit for purpose;
- Mayor's manifesto commitment - "To manage rising demand for social rented homes in Hackney, we will review how we allocate these homes to ensure the system is as fair and effective as possible, including developing local lettings schemes and ensuring those in the highest need are a priority."

Objectives



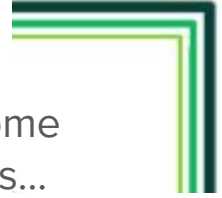
- Those most in need are not getting the housing they require... It is time to radically overhaul the lettings policy;
- Piecemeal tinkering with the scheme will not address the most significant issues;
- We must ensure that the policy reflects the extent of the crisis and that residents are fully informed; we cannot put in place a policy that is disingenuous or misleading.
- We need to move from a scheme that encourages a race to the bottom to a strengths based approach that supports households to resolve their housing needs.

Current Context - Social Housing Crisis



- There are currently over 13,400 households on the Housing Register;
- There has been a steady increase in the percentage of households on the housing register that are considered to be in acute need - from 18% in 2014 up to 34% now;
- More and more of these households are presenting with multiple and complex ongoing housing / support needs;
- Homelessness levels are also increasing: the number of approaches in 2018-19 was up by 39%;
- 3300 homeless households are in Temporary Accommodation;
- We have 183 Households seeking wheelchair accessible property, but in 2019/20 only 4 wheelchair properties became available;
- 656 households on the London Accessible Housing Register (LAHR). These are households requiring either a ground floor, level access shower or level access throughout. In 2019/20 - 60 accessible properties became available.

Level of demand



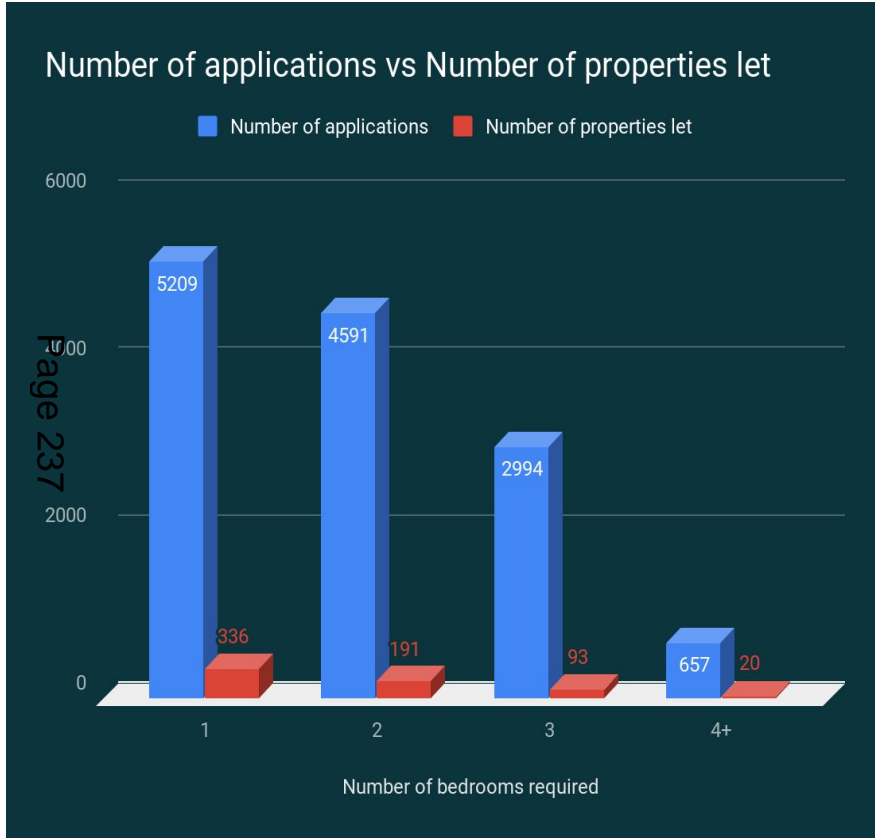
For every 100 properties that become available we will receive 11000 bids...

The no. of Social Lets has diminished significantly over the past 2 years.

1229 lets in 2017/18 to 640 in 2018/19

The drop in social housing supply is a consequence of a number of factors:

- Right to buy
- Regeneration Decants
- Rehousing demand (ASB / DA / Gangs / Management transfers etc)
- Tenants living longer
- No affordable alternatives
- Decrease in building new social housing units



Current Context - Outcomes



If you require an adapted property or if you are over the age of 55 your estimated waiting time may not be accurate.

Your estimated wait time is currently
15 years 7 months

Why is this?



13098

Households are waiting for social housing in Hackney



1479

People with a higher priority waiting for a 3 bedroom property



117

3 bedroom properties became available in the last 12 months



Application

Your position:

1480 out of 2918



Housing

Current Context - Estimated Waiting Times



Waiting times if the Housing Register was closed as of 24th July

Number of Bedrooms required

Page 239

Band	1	2	3	4	5+
Urgent	10 mths	14 mths	17 mths	7 yrs	32 yrs
Homeless/Priority	3 yrs	12yrs	9 yrs	13 yrs	39 yrs
General	6 yrs	19 yrs	26 yrs	26 yrs	53 yrs
Reserve	15 yrs	24yrs	30 yrs	28 yrs	54 yrs

A New Scheme - Objectives



A service which is easily **understood**, **fair**, **accessible** and **beneficial** to our residents.

Page 240
Empathic - prioritising people with the greatest need

Simple - easier to apply and guide people to the right outcome

Robust - generates less confusion and misunderstanding

Fairer - provides predictable outcomes

Clearer - changing the conversation about what's possible

A New Scheme - Proposals



Focus on those in greatest need - change from existing scheme

- Only those residents that have a higher level of need will qualify to join the register.
 - Statutorily overcrowded households - those who lack 2 or more bedrooms
 - Significant medical need - where the applicant or someone in their household is housebound within it or there is a pronounced impact on the wellbeing of the applicant or someone in their household .
 - Significant social need - where there is a threat to the life/pronounced impact on the wellbeing of the applicant (or someone in their household) and there is no alternative effective remedy other than moving from the accommodation.

A New Scheme - Proposals



A simpler system

- A three band scheme
 - Band A - Only households with a housing need that constitutes an **emergency** one direct offer;
 - Band B - households with a **significant** need;
 - Band C - Other households meeting specific conditions restricted in the type of accommodation they can apply for - sheltered or older persons accommodation for example.
 - Choice based letting remains for bands B and C
- Prioritisation based on application date - for the majority of those accepted it will be clear that as time passes they will be more likely to successfully bid for social housing.

A New Scheme - Outcomes



- Applicants who no longer qualify to join the register will receive assistance to address their housing needs through alternative options.
- Fewer households on the Housing Register - approximately 7000 applicants
- For those on the register waiting times will be relatively unchanged
- We will continue to minimise fraud and error by more frequent and effective and targeted reviews
- Administrative management of the housing register will be improved resulting in a better service.
- Better evidence base for housing supply, regeneration and future building programmes.

Housing Solutions



- Personalised Housing Advice - and wrap-around support
- Strengths-based approach with neighbourhood focus
- Support to access Private Rented Sector
- Enhanced Mutual Exchange offering and tenant support
- Dedicated downsizing officers

Next Steps



- We are now consulting on the proposals
 - **Informing residents** - A letter has been sent to those currently on the housing register explaining the details of the consultation and the purpose. The letter will also direct people to the online form and provide details of how to access a paper form if preferred.
 - **Wider communication** - The consultation is being promoted more widely so that anyone who is interested can get involved.
 - **Face to face engagement** - Online Q&A sessions
 - **An online consultation form** - has been will be created on Citizen Space. We will also ensure residents are able to request a hard copy of the form and freepost envelope via phone;

Engagement Events



There will be a series of engagement events through January and February to cover the proposed changes and to allow comment and questions.

Page 246

Date	Time	Event
7/1/21	11:00	RP engagement
12/1/21	19:00	Resident engagement
14/1/21	6:30 - 8:30pm	Resident Liaison Group and Tenant Associations
27/1/21	midday	Resident engagement
09/02/21	18:00	Resident engagement
24/02/21	16:30	Resident engagement

Have your say - Consultation



The consultation is on line -

https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/consultation_finder/

If you would like to discuss the consultation proposals and you are not able to take part in the online sessions, you can speak to someone by calling 020 8356 2929.

This page is intentionally left blank

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 18th January 2021 Item 6 – Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 2020/21 Work Programme	Item No 6
---	---------------------

OUTLINE

The draft work programme for the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 2020/21 is attached. Please note this a working document.

ACTION

The Commission is asked for any comments, amendments or suggestion for the work programme.

This page is intentionally left blank

Overview & Scrutiny

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission: Work Plan July 2020 – April 2021

Each agenda will include an updated version of this Scrutiny Commission work programme

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
<p>23rd June 2020</p> <p>All Council meetings will be held remotely until further notice.</p> <p>Papers deadline: Fri 12th June 2020</p>	Trust and Confidence	Metropolitan Police Service Hackney Borough DCS Marcus Barnett, CE BCU Commander	The Commission's scrutiny review highlighted some indicators suggesting lower than average levels of trust and confidence (meeting held on 31st January 2019). The Commission learned a range of activities were being delivered by the police in this area including the activities being delivered by the newly formed BCU-wide Trust and Confidence Board. This item is an update on that area of work and a look at the impact of Covid - 19.
	Stop and Search	Metropolitan Police Service Hackney Borough DCS Marcus Barnett, CE BCU Commander	At the Commission's meeting in January 2019 the Commission heard about the roll out of body worn cameras, and work with the IAGs, the Safer Neighbourhood Board, and programmes in schools to improve understandings on both sides about stop and search. This item is an update on that area of work and a look at the impact of Covid - 19.
	Community Safety Partnership Plan 2019-2022	London Borough of Hackney Tim Shields (Chief Executive)	An update on the progress of the Community Safety Partnership Plan against the four priority themes of the plan. This update will include an in-depth look at the strategic priority Street Drug Market and Substance Misuse.

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
		Metropolitan Police Service Hackney Borough DCS Marcus Barnett, CE BCU Commander	
<p>15th July 2020 All Council meetings will be held remotely.</p> <p>Papers deadline: Fri 3rd July 2020</p>	Update on Housing Services' Fire Safety works	Housing Services in Directorate of Neighbourhoods and Housing David Padfield Director of Housing	Information about Hackney Council's fire safety works with input from Hackney's Resident Liaison Group.
	Evidence Session for Exploring the work of Housing Associations in Hackney Scrutiny Review	Various Housing Associations and London Borough of Hackney James Goddard, Interim Director, Regeneration	This session will explore: 1) The strengths of formal partnership arrangements 2) Community investment by housing associations, approaches to supporting their residents to succeed, and partnership with the Council to improve social and economic wellbeing. 3) Improving recycling on estates across the borough.
<p>30th September 2020</p>	Update on Thames Water Main Burst in	Thames Water Steve Spencer –	An update from Thames Water on their progress of repair works, a status update on residents returning to their homes (home owners, private tenants, council tenants, registered social landlords and leaseholder) and an outline of

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
<p>All Council meetings will be held remotely.</p> <p>Papers deadline: Fri 18th Sept 2020</p>	the N4 area	<p>Operations Director Tim McMahon – Head of Water Asset Management</p> <p>Ofwat Carl Pheasey - Director Strategy & Policy</p>	<p>your investment plans, timescales and the improvements you expect to achieve from this investment plan.</p> <p>An update from Ofwat on the progress of performance for Thames Water, accessibility of this information locally and investment in improvements by Thames Water.</p>
	Update on the Impact of Covid 19 on Hackney's Housing Service	Interim Director of Housing David Padfield from LBH	Hackney Housing to provide an update on the impact of Covid 19 on Hackney's Housing Service in relation challenges and opportunities; business as usual activities; repairs; financial position; support to residents and customer service.
	Executive Response to LiH Scrutiny Review - Council and partnership response to escalation in serious violence review	Tracey Anderson Overview and Scrutiny Officer	<p>The Cabinet response to the LiH's recommendations following their scrutiny review looking at the <i>Council and partnership response to escalation in serious violence review</i>.</p> <p>The Commission's review of the Executive's response to the recommendations made by LiH.</p>
	Update on Thames Water Donation for Lea Bridge Distribution / Use of	Cllr Rathbone Ward Cllr for Lea Bridge	Update on recommendation for distribution / use of funds fro Ward Councillors and The Commission to approve the allocation of funds (taking into consideration the recommendation by the local ward councillors from Lea Bridge Ward) and to agree the governance process or any restrictions on the donations e.g. for a specific use.

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
	Funds		
	Discussion about work programme for 2020/21	Tracey Anderson, Overview and Scrutiny Team	The Commission to agree the work programme items for 2020/21.
<p>9th November 2020</p> <p>All Council meetings will be held remotely.</p> <p>Papers deadline: Wed 28th October 2020</p>	<p>Stop and Search Inclusive Policing linked to Building Trust and Confidence</p>	<p>Metropolitan Police Service Hackney Borough</p> <p>DCS Marcus Barnett, CE BCU Commander</p> <hr/> <p>Metropolitan Police Service HQ – Professionalism</p> <p>Commander Catherine Roper</p> <p>Head of Profession, Crime</p>	<p>This is a dedicated session to look at more broadly at stop and search and inclusive policing linked to building trust and confidence.</p> <p>The aim of this meeting is to talk with the BCU, MET HQ and MOPAC about the work to build trust and confidence to help us understand how public concern is being addressed by the MPS and MOPAC. We have included the IPOC to further explore how the IOPC works with the MPS in terms of their complaints system.</p> <p>This is a broader discussion to considers how the Police and Councils (not just LBH) can address concerns (linked to the stop and search activity) about community relations and trust & confidence between the Police and local communities.</p> <p>Question in advance have been submitted to the Borough Commander, MET HQ and MOPAC officers covering the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop and Search 2. Trust and confidence 3. Accountability

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
		Prevention, Inclusion & Engagement	<p>4. Handcuffing 5. Fair and inclusive policing. 6. sources of intelligence 7. community engagement work related to building trust and confidence</p> <p>Question in advance have been submitted to IOPC officers covering the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Powers of IOPC in relation to the recommendations they make to the MPS 2. Role of the IOPC in relation to MPS complaints 3. Their success in relation to influencing policy and recommendations implemented. 4. Information about the IOPCs review on the use of stop and search.
		Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Natasha Plummer Head of Engagement	
		Independent Office of Police Conduct Sal Naseem Regional Director London	
14th December 2020 All Council meetings will be held remotely.	Lettings Policy	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply Cllr Rennison	Discussion and update about the lettings policy and the planned consultation on the new proposed policy. .

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
Papers deadline: Wed 2 nd December 2020		Head of Benefits and Housing Needs Jennifer Wynter	
	Homelessness and the Impact of Covid-19	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply Cllr Rennison Head of Benefits and Housing Needs Jennifer Wynter	Homelessness/rough sleeper update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission would like to hear about the Council's work securing a home for those housed during lockdown and also to understand what the Council is doing with the new street homeless. • The Commission wants to explore the impact of Covid-19 on this service and impact on future provisions and costs to service
	Winter Night Shelters Provision in Hackney	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply Cllr Rennison	Local housing and rough sleeping teams within local authorities must consider whether the risk people sleeping rough in their area is so great that it requires a night shelter to open or whether there is a more COVID safe option such as self-contained accommodation. The Commission wants to look at the decisions about local provision for winter night shelters in the borough.

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
		Head of Benefits and Housing Needs Jennifer Wynter	
18th January 2021 All Council meetings will be held remotely. Papers deadline: Wed 6 th January 2021	Green infrastructure in Hackney	Cabinet Members for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm Cllr Jon Burke	As a result of Covid 19 more residents have remained in the borough which put pressure on communal green spaces in the borough. Presentation about the Green Infrastructure Strategy.
	Parks and Green Spaces Strategy	Cabinet Members for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm Cllr Jon Burke	Presentation about the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy out for consultation
11th February 2021 All Council meetings will be held remotely.	Hackney Carnival Update	Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy Cllr Guy	1) Update on virtual carnival and a follow up from LiH challenging to the council about inclusivity. 2) Following the impact of the pandemic and move of the Hackney Carnival to the virtual environment. The Commission wants to explore the following: a) What happened this year - how successful was the virtual carnival and measures of success

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
Papers deadline: Mon 1 st February 2021		Nicholson	b) What was the virtual reach this year? c) Strengths and weaknesses of this year's carnival. In preparation for next year's carnival how do we capitalise and still do a live event.
	Hackney Library Services	Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy Cllr Guy Nicholson Director of Customers Services and ICT Rob Miller	Information about Hackney Library services phased re-opening strategy and digital divide. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> its approach, response and phased re-opening following Covid-19 Online activities and changes to the service provision to make it fit for purpose in the future. As more services and access to services move online what is the council doing to help residents overcome the digital divide? How are council buildings, services and communal spaces being used to support this work?
9th March 2021 All Council meetings will be held remotely.	Lift Maintenance and Repair	Interim Director of Housing David Padfield from LBH	Discussion about the maintenance and repairs to lifts on the Council's housing estates across the borough. The discussion will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance in relation to the maintenance and repairs of lifts on council estates Contract monitoring of lift maintenance and repairs Communication to residents in the event of a repair or breakdown.

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
Papers deadline: Wed 26 th Feb 2021	Update on Thames Water Main Burst in the N4 area	Thames Water Steve Spencer – Operations Director Tim McMahan – Head of Water Asset Management Ofwat Carl Pheasey - Director Strategy & Policy	An update on the progress of repair works, a status update on residents returning to their homes (home owners, private tenants, council tenants, registered social landlords and leaseholder) and the progress of performance for Thames Water. A return by officers from Thames Water and Ofwat.
	Resident engagement	Interim Director of Housing David Padfield from LBH	Update on how the council conducts resident engagement

Item to be rescheduled

Housing Services - Interim Director of Housing David Padfield from LBH

- Leaseholders Services - Leaseholders Services – how are leaseholders consulted and engaged. A look at the different types of leaseholders, support to leaseholders and engagement generally and in relation to Section 20 notices. Include points raised by Commission
- Outcomes of Housing Services' review of Community Halls - Update on the outcome of the review
- Resident engagement - Update on how the council conducts resident engagement

This page is intentionally left blank



London Borough of Hackney
Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission
Municipal Year 2020/21
Date of meeting Wednesday, 11 February 2021

Minutes of the proceedings of
the Living in Hackney Scrutiny
Commission held at
Hackney Town Hall, Mare
Street, London, E8 1EA

Chair	Cllr Sharon Patrick
Councillors in Attendance:	Cllr Anthony McMahon, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Ian Rathbone
Apologies:	Cllr Anna Lynch and Cllr Penny Wrout,
Officers in Attendance	Polly Cziok (Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development), Lucy McMenemy (Cultural Development Manager), Petra Roberts (Cultural Programme Officer)
Other People in Attendance	Cllr Guy Nicholson (Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy), Auro Foxcroft (Village Underground)
Members of the Public	None
Officer Contact:	Tracey Anderson ☎ 0208 356 3312 ✉ tracey.anderson@hackney.gov.uk

Councillor Sharon Patrick in the Chair

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence from Councillors: Anna Lynch and Penny Wrout.
- 1.2 Congratulations to Cllr Sade Etti on her new role as Mayoral Adviser for Homelessness, Housing Needs and Rough Sleeping. This was her last meeting with the scrutiny commission be commencing her role on 1st March 2021. The Members of the commission wished her all the best in her new role.

2 Urgent Items/ Order of Business

- 2.1 Items of the meeting was as per the agenda and there were no urgent items.

3 Declaration of Interest

- 3.1 None.

4 Hackney Library Services

- 4.1 The Chair welcomed to the meeting Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy, Cllr Guy Nicholson and Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development, Polly Cziok from London Borough of Hackney.
- 4.2 Libraries not only offer access to books and other reading material but also provide a valuable service to residents in the form of public computer use for those who do not have access to IT services within their home. Covid-19 has had a huge impact on library services.
- 4.3 The Commission asked for information about the impact of Covid-19 on library services, plans for reopening and their work to mitigate the digital divide in relation to library services.
- 4.4 The Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy commenced the presenting with the following points in his opening statement.
- 4.4.1 The Cabinet Member placed on record his thanks and appreciation to staff for keeping the library service functioning over the last 12 months. Pointing out staff provided an immediate response to the pandemic and lockdowns.
- 4.4.2 The report provides information about some of the activities that have been scheduled as part of the phased reopening of the service. This is currently on hold due to the current lockdown.
- 4.4.3 The service is still focused on a 4 phased reopening strategy. The phases are set out in the report in the agenda.
- 4.4.4 The Cabinet Member drew Members attention to looking beyond the immediate response to the pandemic; to also consider how the service has been able to engage with residents and provide a service. Looking at the future of library services, what it will look like and the kind of services they could offer.
- 4.4.5 The Cabinet Member referred to the extraordinary outcome of the last 10 months and the channel shift of library services; operating effectively within the virtual space. Moving book clubs, reading sessions, accessing to information, learning and knowledge online. Noting various strands of engagement have come to the fore whilst the physical space has been closed and the restrictions in place.
- 4.4.6 The Cabinet Member pointed out this would be a future piece of work. The Cabinet Member suggested the scrutiny commission may wish to think about this as a future work programme item, as the service evolves over the coming 12 months.
- 4.4.7 The changes being discussed are not about restricting a service, closing or reducing the service; but capitalising on the aspects that have been delivered well over the last 10 months to expand the offer. Whilst supporting and enabling the librarians to be able to engage with that agenda and lead it.

- 4.4.8 An important part of the next 12 months will be to ensure the library staff are leading on the investment they need into their professional careers and what they need to deliver a great service over the next 5-10 years.
- 4.4.9 There is more work to do in relation to this area of work. But this meeting is providing the Executive Members with the opportunity to highlight the ambitions and to set in motion a work programme.
- 4.5 The Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development added the library services has had a challenging time over the last 12 months. The service experienced a huge impact in the first lockdown when the service had to close.
- 4.5.1 The service transitioned to moving all provisions online e.g., book groups, storytelling sessions, quizzes etc. During this time, they found the uptake of ebooks and audio services increased massively.
- 4.5.2 The paper outlines the work carried out in the black history season.
- 4.5.3 In the summer, the library service was able to recommence the home visits service which is of key importance to the residents who are housebound.
- 4.5.4 The major impact of the first lockdown for the public was that they could not offer computer use. The Council is aware the world shifted services online during the pandemic and for those people who are digitally excluded or effected by digital poverty that free computer usage was essential.
- 4.5.5 Previously the digital divide assumptions were that people could not use the internet or did not have access to the internet. More recently it has been identified that its now related to people who are on really low incomes, who have run out of data on their phone or who are not able to pay their broadband bill. The library PCs service was a lifeline to people trying to sort out universal credit claims, applying for jobs or ordering repeat prescriptions.
- 4.5.6 The Council received a lot of feedback from residents that this was something that they missed extraordinarily.
- 4.5.7 There has been an impact on the service areas income. They have had no income from fees, fines or meeting room hire.
- 4.5.8 The 4 phased approach to reopening was developed with public health and the corporate health and safety teams.
- 4.5.9 The Strategic Director pointed out the library service has done an amazing job to create a covid secure environment. Citing the Director of Public Health saying they are an exemplar in everything they have done to keep staff and residents safe.
- 4.5.10 The Strategic Director put on record her thanks to the service lead (Libraries and Development Support Manager, Sue Comitti), her staff and the corporate Health and Safety Team who have worked hard to protect the staff and public and to provide a service to the public in a safe way. Opening the service as much as they can whilst adhering to the public health guidance.

- 4.5.11 Current government guidance in this lockdown permitted libraries to open for order & collect and public PC use.
- 4.5.12 There were requests among the staff group and from unions to close libraries completely. However the government guidance permitted libraries to be open for public PC use. The Council felt very strongly that whilst the infection levels were high, they did not want staff to come into work who were anxious about putting themselves at risk. Notwithstanding the council had a duty to provide a skeleton service to vulnerable members of the public that needed access.
- 4.5.13 Due to the high infection rates in Hackney they decided to open the libraries that had the highest levels of usage only for order & collect and for PC use. These were Stamford Hill and Dalston. Each library is open 2 days a week with limited opening hours (11-4pm). The aim of reduced hours being to reduce contact for the public while the infection rates were as high as they were. At the same time, the council was of the view they could not completely deprive the vulnerable public of that access.
- 4.5.14 The Council worked closely with the staff to make sure they had enough staff - who had identified as feeling comfortable with coming into work - to cover the proposed hours.
- 4.5.15 The Council was hoping to reintroduce the click and collect service for Hackney Central library. But this has been challenging due to the building management issues.
- 4.5.16 The Council has been able to redeploy library service staff into other areas of the council e.g., telephone contact tracing, business grants administration, electoral services (helping to get the electoral role ready for May) and data recovery work following the cyber-attack.
- 4.5.17 The redeployment has been good for library staff because they can often feel detached from the rest of the organisation. This provided an opportunity to get them involved in the covid effort. The additional under employed staff are hoping to get involved in the vaccination work. The Strategic Director pointed out staff have had a positive attitude to getting involved in redeployment.
- 4.5.18 Currently their work in relation to the digital divide has focused on keeping the libraries open and making sure people can come in and use the PC services.
- 4.5.19 The council highlighted that some of the people using libraries are vulnerable and often ask staff for one-to-one support with things like filling in their Universal Credit Claims. It was pointed out currently staff cannot give this type of support because of social distancing requirements. However, the Council is doing all it can to help and support people from a distance.
- 4.5.20 In reference to the future of the library service. The Strategic Director highlighted they have huge amounts of learning from the pandemic and it has been a very long period since hackney library services had a strategic review. The council is proposing to do a review of library services in the new financial year.

- 4.5.21 In relation to the review there will be a full-time member of staff working alongside the head of service to do the review. The first phase will involve reviewing all the data they hold on current usage both pre pandemic and during the pandemic, footfall, demographics, library usage etc. This information will provide a clear picture of the usage pattern. The review will move to look at how things have shifted during the pandemic and what is sustainable.
- 4.5.22 The next phase will be intensive staff engagement. The council has approximately 100 staff in libraries and many are very creative people with lots of ideas about how the service can grow and develop. The council is hoping to have some face-to-face contact with staff at this point, but this will be covid dependent.
- 4.5.23 Lastly, they will move into the public engagement phase. The council is anticipating this will be around summertime with various engagement methods (face to face, focus groups, online) but this will be covid dependent. This will aim to understand what people get out of using the library service whilst targeting people who do not use them to find out what they might want from the service in the future.
- 4.5.24 Finally, they will be looking across the council to look at what services can be provided out of libraries. The aim is not to turn them into mini customer service centres but to consider genuine co-location of services that will provide a real synergy with library services. This will involve talking to people across the council and looking at where the synergies could work and perhaps ways, they can make the libraries more financially sustainable long term. Using libraries as a springboard for other service provision and as effective community engagement hubs.
- 4.5.25 Taking into consideration that other offices like neighbourhood offices have closed over the years. Libraries remain the single touch point for local resident engagement. Libraries have a presence in all their neighbourhoods, and this is precious and important, they can do a lot more with their presence.
- 4.5.26 After all this work they will develop a Library Strategy in 2022-26 to cover the next administration. At this point they expect to have a clearer understanding of the timings in relation to the capital programmes being planned for libraries and they will be able to have a solid plan with clear strategic objectives.

4.6 Question Answers and Discussion

- (i) Members referred to the digital divide being mentioned at this scrutiny commission and coming up at various council meetings. Members referred to the explanation given about digital divide being related to poverty and not so much about digital skills and the inability to use digital devices. In reference to libraries Member asked if there was a criteria for residents be able to use the computers and if use was restricted, in timeslots or open for booking.**
- (ii) Members referred to Dalston and Stamford Hill and asked if there were plans to re-open Shoreditch library? Members referred to the libraries currently open and in the planning being at the centre or north of the borough.**

In response the Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development explained the reasons they chose to just keep the 2 libraries mentioned open after Christmas and during this period is because of the high infection rates locally. They wanted to keep providing a service but a minimal service. In addition, several staff were feeling at risk therefore they chose the 2 sites with the highest level of usage for PC use and click & collect. This was also to ensure they were still serving the communities that needed the service the most.

The Strategic Director pointed out the aspiration is to open Hackney Central library and they will reopen the other libraries when the infection rates decline. This is being monitored. The Strategic Director added they want to re-open Shoreditch library because it has had a refurbishment. It was pointed out libraries will reopen taking into consideration public health advice which gives notice that it is a safe and sensible to do so.

The Strategic Director pointed out the council does not want anyone to come into work who is clinically vulnerable, has a long commute or are at risk. Currently they have enough staff who live locally and who can walk to work and feel safe, to staff the current service offer.

The Strategic Director pointed out the infection rates are declining, and all the information indicates things are moving in the right direction as residents get the vaccine. It is anticipated they will return to full opening over the next couple of months in line with Government advice.

The Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development confirmed there is no criteria for PC use and a resident can just book. The Strategic Director explained there was a discussion at a national level (Chief Librarians Association) about essential use, but they decided they would not define what is essential use. Some people find their computer activity good for their mental wellbeing. In addition, Librarian did not want to police this activity.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy emphasized about social distancing in the libraries. One of the key challenges with Hackney Central is the access arrangements for the library and the inability to implement effective social distancing. This is of great concern to everyone working in the service and for the council managing the public health impact of covid on the local community. This supported the rationale for why some libraries were open and some are closed. It is anticipated this will be the position for the next 6 months as they adapt.

The click & collect offer is available for users of the service and eBooks remain unaffected.

The Strategic Director added for Hackney Central the design of the building is inappropriate and access is very dependent on lifts for accessibility. Pointing out it is hard to run lifts in a covid safe way. Their plans are to implement an order & collect service on the ground floor. Although this site will not be open for PC use residents will have access to order and collect. The challenge lies with the building management arrangements and this has been hard to negotiate. The Council hopes to resolve this very soon.

In response to the question in the chat by a Member asking if the home delivery service is open. The Strategic Director confirmed the home delivery service is still open via the community library service. This service is still delivering to a few hundred residents although fewer than normal because many of the residents who use this service are clinically vulnerable and they have declined to use the service to limit contact with people.

(iii) Members commented the feedback noted from residents who are shielding is that delivery of books is appreciated.

In response the Strategic Director confirmed they still operate home delivery for books.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy commended the community library service who have continued to operate throughout the pandemic with a very short interruption to the service at the beginning. The Cabinet Member pointed out they have had to redesign the way they deliver the service and managed to keep that momentum. For those who are using the service it has been of great comfort and support to their quality of life over the last 10 months.

In response Members commented some cancer patients cannot go out and are very comfortable to receive home delivery and this has been great.

(iv) Members referred to Hackney Central Library being filled with people using the computers, particularly students. Members asked as there are only 2 libraries open has the service been able to cater for students or is this not a possibility?

In response the Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development confirmed they are unable to cater for student's computer use. Pointing out Hackney Central will continue to be a challenge due to the design of the building. Pointing out that in the Town Hall building the lifts have been switch off due to covid.

It is anticipated that the refurbishment of Clapton and Shoreditch libraries will provide more workspace for people. Currently the only service they can offer under government guidance is PC use (this is booked for 1 hour at a time) and order & collect. Therefore, even if they opened more libraries, they would not be able to allow people to come in and study there for hours, browse or do any other activity they would normally do in a library. The Strategic Director pointed out as the guidance changes; they will be able to open some more of the provision. This will be in close working with support and advice from their colleagues in public health and the corporate health and safety team.

(v) Members asked if there are any timescale for reopening a service that caters for students. Noting schools will reopen on 8th March 2021.

In response the Strategic Director confirmed there was no definite timings or dates. But assured Members the council will open services as quickly and as safely as soon as possible.

(vi) Members asked if the Council records the usage of library services.

The Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development confirmed they have a detailed record of service usage. The Strategic Director offered to provide this data if required to the Commission in a briefing note.

(vii) The Chair commented that the review sounds interesting and was pleased to hear they will be reviewing the service to make improvements. Commenting several boroughs have cut their library services due to austerity. Members were pleased the Council made a commitment to keep their libraries open. The Commission welcomed being kept informed about the library service review.

(viii) In relation to the service review Members welcomed the aim to speak to all users and asked how the council was going to engage with non-library users to get their views to feed into the review.

In response the Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development advised they will use their current communication and consultation methods. They can also use common place, public events and have stalls in parks etc. Highlighting there are a range of ways they can talk to people generally.

The Strategic Director pointed out for the review they do not just want to talk to very active users who are in the library user groups. They want to talk to everyone in addition to looking at the data they hold on usage. There has been a lot of feedback from the Hackney Young Futures Commission about libraries and how important they are to young people. This data can feed into the review.

In terms of non-users, they want to understand why they are not users of libraries services. For example, there are parents who were avid users of the library when their children were small but then they stop. The council wants to look at how to keep those customers. Also, understand what will attract people into the libraries. Considering the events to hold and the community work they could host. They will talk to voluntary sector partners and everyone.

The Cabinet Member added the success from engaging with the community through consultations like the Dalston conversation gives a good platform to reach out to the wider community including those who may not use the service, to really connect and engage to get their feedback and ideas. This will be a major exercise, but the library service has a great future ahead. The pandemic has provided a platform that demonstrates the flexibility of the service and the ability of the service to be able to respond to quite difficult environments and how to continue a service. The next 12 months should be a great opportunity for the service.

5 Hackney Arts and Culture Services

- 5.1 The Chair welcomed to the meeting the Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy, Cllr Guy Nicholson; Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development, Polly Cziok; Cultural Development Manager, Lucy McMenemy and Cultural Programme Officer, Petra Roberts

from London Borough of Hackney. Also in attendance was venue operator Auro Foxcroft from Village Underground.

- 5.2 At a previous discussion (January 2020) about Hackney Carnival by the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission they provided some challenge about the inclusivity of the event. This discussion is to provide an update on how the Council addressed the concerns raised about inclusivity. The specific questions the Commission asked related to this update are outlined on the cover sheet for item 5 in the agenda.
- 5.3 The 3 lockdowns have had a significant impact on the operation of arts and culture in the borough. The Commission decided to look at the impact of Covid-19 on arts and culture and the recovery plans for this sector in the borough.
- 5.4 This discussion covered:
1. Hackney Carnival
 2. Impact of Covid 19 and Recovery Plan for Culture
 3. Impact of Covid-19 on Cultural Services and the digital divide.
- 5.5 The presentations from LBH Cultural Development Manager outlined the following main points from the report in the agenda.
- 5.5.1 In the context of the pandemic their initial planning for the Hackney Carnival in September 2020 ceased in March 2020 following the cancellation of the live event.
- 5.5.2 Prior to this announcement they had started to act on the recommendations from the LiH Scrutiny Commission. Namely increasing levels of community engagement. The team was reaching out to various groups in Hackney and lined up a number of new organisations and council services to participate in the carnival with a view to raising some funding from the Arts Council. This was to develop a new and exciting community engagement strategy for the event. This work can resume in the future.
- 5.5.3 After reviewing the options of what could be achieved, they decided to produce an online carnival.
- 5.5.4 They worked with Hackney Carnival groups to create videos that reflected the work they do to summarise some of the out puts from the programme. E.g., presentations of cultural traditions and videos about reflections on carnivals and what it means to Hackney's communities. Also covering the impact of the pandemic.
- 5.5.5 There were also videos on how to do carnival crafts at home. These videos were viewed by many people online. In total 21 short films were made, and these were placed on the Hackney Carnival Facebook page.
- 5.5.6 There was a team of co-curators who helped to develop specific projects. In addition to the films by the carnival groups there was a film about the health and wellbeing effects of taking part in the carnival.

- 5.5.7 They also delivered a Hackney Carnival at Home Weekender. This was a celebration on the weekend when they would have had the physical carnival. This was a live stream event in 2 parts. Part 1 was a sound system event on the Saturday and part 2 was the livestream event on the Sunday.
- 5.5.8 They created a mentorship opportunity for a young person. The young person worked with one of the carnival curators and focused on digital content production. This was successful and they would do it again.
- 5.5.9 Two of the curators worked together to create a new archive of Hackney Carnival. This consists of a lot of interviews with carnival artists and volunteers and they reflected on the meaning of carnival to them, the history and heritage. The officer pointed out this has developed into an interesting resource which can be built on. This is on the Love Hackney website.
- 5.5.10 The aim of the programme was to support Hackney's carnival groups in developing new digital skills. The feedback received from the groups was that this was useful in helping them develop their online presence. It was appreciated that the online version had helped to keep the carnival spirit alive.
- 5.5.11 The how-to videos were appreciated by the public and they had positive feedback.
- 5.5.12 They had started to think about their preparations for Hackney Carnival 2021. They had hoped they would be able to do a live event this year and started the round of carnival commissions for carnival groups to apply for. They were giving access to funding earlier than usual to start thinking about what they would do for Hackney Carnival 2021. This was to enable them to consider their themes and to help make their workspaces covid safe.
- 5.5.13 The number of people who accessed the carnival online amounted to almost 39k views of the 21 short films by the carnival groups.
- 5.5.14 There was a smaller number of people who engaged with the sound system day on Real Rebels radio station. They had 372 listeners.
- 5.5.15 On the Sunday for the live stream on the Hackney Carnival Facebook page attracted 22,000 views and a high number of engagements. People enjoyed interacting with the host Pax Nindi. That was successful.
- 5.5.16 The carnival dance challenge project was a piece of work that the young person doing the mentorship worked on. They put a call out to the public to take part and come up with a dance in response to a soca tune developed especially for the project. This had 6000 views. This was a good outcome for a new event.
- 5.5.17 There was good press coverage (the full list is in the report) and they had positive response from various media outlets that reported on the carnival.
- 5.5.18 The live stream had clips from carnivals of previous years and messages from other carnivals, DJ sets and competitions that allowed the host to interact with the audience in various ways.

- 5.5.19 Regarding the Hackney Carnival event, it was announced today that they had taken the decision to not proceed with the outdoor carnival event in September. This was due to the ongoing concerns about the pandemic. The focus would be on building on the successes of the digital event last year. The Council will review the situation because it may be possible to have some pop-up carnival activity in public spaces nearer the time. In the meantime, they will focus on creating a fun, interesting and meaningful online carnival.
- 5.5.20 The aim is to develop a new website for Hackney Carnival. Last year some of the content was on the Facebook page and some was on the Love Hackney website. It was a little scattered. The desire is to create a bespoke website that would enable them to recreate the experience of accessing the event in person. To have a legacy that could be used in the future. It could also be used as a networking tool for the groups in the future.
- 5.5.21 The council wishes to maintain the online presence of the carnival groups. The groups have feedback that although they enjoyed learning about creating a film and sharing their work, they would love to get back to making costumes for the carnival event. It will be key to refocus the carnival groups on their art form; allowing them to do that again and for the council to document and facilitate this rather than expecting them to do this from home with mobile phones.
- 5.5.22 It will be important to do a wide-ranging community engagement plan this year. The council is in a better position this year to think about how this will work. For example, this could be to build on the carnival dance challenge that enabled public participation in a collective endeavour.
- 5.5.23 The council plans to build on the Hackney carnival archive they started on Love Hackney. They wish to find ways to make that more accessible and interactive.
- 5.5.24 The Council would like to involve another young person on the digital content production again in association with Hackney Young Futures.
- 5.5.25 The council wishes to explore partnerships with local businesses to encourage them to support the online program. They are committed to supporting the carnival groups and continuing with the annual commissioning programme to sustain their practices throughout the next year.
- 5.5.26 The Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy thanked the Cultural Development Manager and her team for a successful first attempt at producing a digital carnival. The Cabinet Member pointed out similar to libraries, this had opened up opportunities even though it was sad not to physically participate in a live event.
- 5.5.27 The Cabinet Member pointed out the Mayor of Hackney is keen to see a larger programme delivered this year. Therefore, if they are to go virtual again, they will look at how to expand this further. This expansion will primarily be led by more participation, making and creating things and doing performances and capture more views.
- 5.5.28 Fundamentally it is about building a larger programme and a larger portfolio of activities. Even though it will take a lot of work to do this.

- 5.5.29 The Cabinet Member advised the Council's view is it would not be safe to run a live event on this scale in September. The Cabinet Member pointed out Glastonbury were of the same view and had cancelled their event too.
- 5.5.30 The Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development advised the decision to cancel the live event was driven by the uncertainty around the infection situation. Highlighting it was important to note that even if they were to consider holding a safe event in September this year. The organisations capacity to do the work and deliver the event is not available. For example, the council's current event manager is redeployed on the covid effort working on PPE distribution. In addition, the Police also have to put in a large number of resources to help keep the public safe. Also, health partners are involved in the carnival planning too. So, it is not just about making the plans for the event for September but also about the organisational capacity to sit around the table with partners to plan the event. The Hackney Carnival is a partnership effort to make it a safe event.
- 5.6 Part 2 was a discussion about the impact of covid on cultural services, arts & cultural sector, digital divide and the plans to support the recovery of the arts and culture sector in the borough.
- 5.7 The Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development commenced the update by paying tribute to the support work of the Cultural Development Manager (Lucy) and Cultural Programme Officer (Petra) to the arts and culture sector in the borough. Recognising it has been a challenging year for the sector and still is. The Council is aware how important the arts and culture sector is to the local economy, jobs etc.
- 5.7.1 The Strategic Director highlighted the work of this team would normally centre around organising events. Their usual work has been impacted and the team have shifted their focus onto providing support to their partners in the sector.
- 5.8 The Cultural Development Manager made the following main points from the reports in the agenda.
- 5.8.1 Covid has had a significant impact on the arts and cultural sector and they remain affected.
- 5.8.2 Initially in the first lockdown the culture team did a survey and held several meetings with the sector to understand the impact of the first lockdown.
- 5.8.3 All cultural programmes came to a stand stop.
- 5.8.4 Organisations reported a serious loss of income through the withdrawal of grants, freezing of grants and the loss of all of their earned income streams – tickets, space hire, hospitality etc.
- 5.8.5 Organisations based in council premises were able to discuss rent deferrals but others with private landlords did not all have the support and understanding from their landlords.
- 5.8.6 The Arts Council set up emergency funding in the first instance which helped to keep several arts organisations afloat. But some reported falling outside the

- criteria for the government funding because they did not pay business rates, had a higher rateable value for their premises, being a micro business in a shared workspace or having charity rate relief.
- 5.8.7 The job retention scheme has protected many jobs in the sector however the freelancers have been hugely affected with many losing all their paid work.
- 5.8.8 Several organisations also reported concern about losing contact with their participants and audiences and the effect this would have on their wellbeing. Particularly young people and older people alongside the impact of digital exclusion.
- 5.8.9 The Culture team contributed to the Council's lobbying efforts to the Government. They lobbied through the parliamentary inquiry into the impact of covid on the DCMS sector. This included lobby for a forward-looking sector support fund to develop organisations to enable them to survival the initial impact of the pandemic.
- 5.8.10 Following the lobbying the Government announced the cultural recovery fund of 1.57 billion to invest into the arts and cultural sector. The first round was funding to help businesses stay afloat covering 6 months of funding from October 2020 to March 2021. In LBH they were allocated approximately £12 million. This went to 68 arts and cultural organisations in Hackney.
- 5.8.11 There is a second round of recovery funding – launched in December 2020 – of which the application window has closed. They are currently awaiting the outcome of that funding allocation decision. This will be additional funding covering April - June 2021. This will be to help businesses transition into a more sustainable operating business model with the aim of being able to reopen in July 2021.
- 5.8.12 Regarding the re-opening and reclosing of venues. When organisations tried to reopen in between the lockdowns they reported opening with 30% capacity for cinemas and less in music venues. Some venues tried to mitigate that by holding 2 performance per night and bringing in additional audiences in phases.
- 5.8.13 The 10pm curfew mainly affected bar sales but for places like theatres they started performances earlier to mitigate this.
- 5.8.14 The feedback from organisations that did reopen advised it was easier financially when they were closed because they had no overhead costs. Therefore, many were of the view it was not viable for them to reopen.
- 5.8.15 For those that reopened they found that audiences were keen to return to venues, screenings and performances. They were sold out. However, they did flag concern about the lack of new films and cultural performances being put forward by the relevant industries, citing there was not enough new work available to draw in audiences. When venues reclosed, it was difficult because business had started to pick up again.
- 5.8.16 Organisations were able to keep their spaces open for tenants and for hires e.g., daytime TV and film screenings, rehearsals and recording. This has been an important source of income. Many organisations moved their programmes

- online this enabled them to stay in touch with audiences and to try new things, although it has not necessarily been a lucrative source of income.
- 5.8.17 Online equipment requires substantial investment. This is a long-term investment and remains to be seen if it will be a good source of income.
- 5.8.18 Many organisations have been innovative e.g., music venues have tried out live streaming events, one theatre is developing an outdoor theatre, this will allow them to reopen sooner than they would do for their indoor theatre.
- 5.8.19 There is a radio programme for older residents. There is a project called Hackney Social Radio by Immediate Theatre. Programmes are broadcast weekly on Resonance 104.4FM. If older residents do not have access to digital devices or WiFi they can tune in. The programmes feature music requests, audience phone-ins, stories from the community, features from local artists, interviews and advice from experts, with regular up-to-date information about where to access help and support.
- 5.8.20 In relation to the recovery plan, there have been a few council services that have directly supported organisations to survive the challenges – Regeneration, Property, Environmental Health, Licensing, Employment and Skills and Cultural Development. They have all worked together to share information with organisations through various meetings, regular newsletters and emails, access to funding through supporting the many rounds of government for businesses, organising advice sessions on various grants that are available to organisations, writing letters of support and launching commissioning funds - the Wick together fund for freelancers in Hackney Wick area and the second round of the Shoreditch and Hoxton art fund.
- 5.8.21 The Council's property team has supported venues with rent deferrals and the culture team has supported organisations with private landlords to access support from the GLA's Culture At Risk office. They have also engaged with private landlords directly.
- 5.8.22 The council has supported the reopening process by inviting guest speakers to share best practice. For example, with reopening workspaces and helped organisation to interpret government and local guidelines on the restrictions for licensed venues. In addition to practical advice on how to reopen. They have also promoted venues and shops through the Love Hackney Shop Local campaign.
- 5.8.23 The council has supported the creation of training opportunities by facilitating organisations to apply for the governments kickstart apprenticeship scheme. They have supported the development of online programmes by putting on training sessions by the Arts Council's digital culture network.
- 5.8.24 The Council has been working with the visual arts and heritage organisation to reconnect with Hackney's schools. These organisations felt that this was the key issue for them. They have not been able to deliver their workshops in schools, so they have had online sessions with teacher to explain and explore the best way to keep that engagement with schools.

5.8.25 In terms of future support for the sector, this is evolving all the time. Currently they envisage supporting the sector to access funding through a new Neighbourhood CiL fund. This will be launched in the next few months. This will enable arts and cultural organisations to apply for project funding. There will also be further rounds of government funding.

The Chair clarified if the CiL funding was Hackney Council funding. The officer confirmed it was.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy added this is being explored by the planning authority. They are keen to bring it forward as a culture fund that can be deployed across the sector. They will draw down the Neighbourhood Community infrastructure Levy (CiL) which is a section of planning gain that comes forward specifically to deploy around communities and investing in communities. This is to help mitigate the social impact of new development in the borough.

The Chair clarified if this was Section 106 money.

The Cabinet Member confirmed Section 106 is focused on specific planning gain related to affordable housing and school places from the immediate impact of a development. This funding also has more restrictions. The CiL takes a more general planning gain.

5.8.26 The officer continued the presentation by advising the licensing team will launch Hackney Nights which is a new online portal for licensed venues and will help them to find the information they need.

5.8.27 There will be a specific love Hackney shop local guide for the night-time economy to help promote the cultural offer when venues start to reopen.

5.8.28 The culture team will launch a new arts and health network to help the cultural sector to connect better with health professionals around social prescribing, older residents and the negative effects of isolation and mental in children and young people.

5.8.29 The culture team will be talking to property services and Hackney Business Network (previously known as Invest in Hackney) about the possibilities for the arts and cultural sector to access any space that becomes available.

5.8.30 The culture team will continue to deliver their cultural initiatives which enables them to commission organisations to deliver work e.g., the Hackney carnival, Windrush festival, black history season and discover young hackney and hackney circle.

5.9 The Cultural Programme Officer added in addition to maintaining some of the cultural programme activities they have led on initiatives responding to the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020 linked to the racial inequalities work. Using arts and culture as a powerful tool.

5.9.1 In relation to the Mayor's review of the naming of landmarks, streets and public spaces. The review is called 'review, rename and completely reclaim', established in June to listen to the views of residents about how to tackle

- landmarks, streets, buildings and public spaces named after plantation owners and people who traded in enslaved Africans.
- 5.9.2 They had reached a turning point in history where covid and the Black Lives Matter movement placed racism in the spotlight and this complimented the Council's Black Lives Matter motion and built on the local history of fighting racism in the borough, dating back to the 1980s. This has also been well document through the work of Hackney Museum.
 - 5.9.3 The project gives the council an opportunity to rethink the names of spaces, where communities live, learn, work and play. To ensure that they are appropriately reflecting their diverse communities.
 - 5.9.4 In June 2020, the council set up task groups across culture heritage working with planning, parks and green spaces. Central to the review in Hackney is the community steering group. Made up of local cultural historians, community leaders, young people and residents. All having local expertise, experience, investment and passion for the subject. They have played an advisory role to the council. The community steering group identified the names and symbols of people who profited from slavery and colonialism and those that remain memorialised in the public spaces.
 - 5.9.5 The group met weekly and identified 4 contentious symbols through the review which are linked to Sir John Cass, Cecil John Rhodes and Sir Robert Geffery and Francis Tissen
 - 5.9.6 They have developed a framework for the council which includes a traffic light system and a process on how the council can make decisions about contentious sites.
 - 5.9.7 One of the first actions is to change the name of Cassland Road Gardens which the council has committed to. That was named after Sir John Cass Director of the Royal African Company. This will be complex as they need to consider the impact on residents, legislation and the process of engagement. The council wants to hear resident views and give residents as much information as possible before consultation more widely.
 - 5.9.8 The other aspect of the review is to consider how in the future the borough's public realm could better reflect the people they champion across the board. The Hackney renaming hub was launched in November 2020. This is an online hub to crowd sources new names from residents. They have also launched the web page which gives information about how the two groups are working together on the review.
 - 5.9.9 The equalities work links with the announcement of the 2 new permanent public art works to pay tribute to the Windrush generation. In partnership with Create London the Council will commission 2 sculptors – Thomas J Price and Veronica Ryan – to produce 2 permanent pieces of artwork to honour Hackney's Windrush generation and in recognition of the significant contribution they have made to life in Hackney and the UK. This will also symbolise the ongoing commitment from the borough to provide refuge and welcome to worldwide migrants.

- 5.9.10 The Council is currently fund raising for this work. The artwork will be installed in 2 different locations across the borough – outside Hackney Town Hall and the Narrow Way.
- 5.9.11 The Council's partners London Creates have been awarded a sizeable grant from the freelance foundation to deliver a public digital engagement programme; to include an interactive website, exhibitions and educational resources. This ties in closely with their Windrush engagement programme working with approximately 3000 Windrush elders and their descendants on a whole range of intergenerational activities across arts heritage, sports, health and education. This work will link with the black curriculum work across the council and link to the unveiling of the artwork with the celebrations of the Windrush day and year-round ambitions to promote black history - telling the story and the educational history about the art works.
- 5.10 A local business owner from Village Underground, Auro Foxcroft attended the meeting to give his experience as a venue operator in the arts and culture sector. Outlining the impact of the pandemic on the business.
- 5.10.1 The venue operator from the Village Underground thanked the culture team for all the work they have done. He explained this has genuinely been very good and helped to sign post to funding opportunities which has been excellent.
- 5.10.2 Most important was bringing everyone together. The venue operator explained he takes part in a regular music venue meeting with participants from across the borough. The solidarity and coming together and Hackney Council facilitating this has helped to share ideas, support and help. The venue operator hopes that this will be a long-term change.
- 5.10.3 The venue operator commended Hackney Property Services for their support too. Particularly in their case and having forbearance on their rent. Also, to Hackney Council supporting the cultural sector with deferments. This has managed to keep businesses going. Village Underground highlighted they have benefited from forbearance from a range of organisations, but rent was really key.
- 5.10.4 Hackney's cultural infrastructure is stressed, and some businesses are doing better than others. In his view Hackney is doing fairly well considering the current climate. In his view this is partly to do with the support and partly to with the great cultural infrastructure that Hackney has. Emphasising they are all working together.
- 5.10.5 In terms of what might happen next, he would like to encourage the council to focus on bringing everybody together for reopening. There are a number of great organisations both building based, and non-building based. Taking the opportunity to come back stronger and getting Hackney's cultural infrastructure going well is probably the safest way forward. Not just for the infrastructure but also for the audience to feel safe to comeback out again.
- 5.10.6 They should also look to welcome everyone back to cultural events and try to reduce the natural and understandable apprehension. In his view the council can play a fundamental role in terms of messaging and the communication to residents. Continuing the facilitator role, the council has been undertaking to bring organisations together.

- 5.10.7 In relation to spaces it would be sad if Hackney ended up with empty commercial space. Not only because of the impact on the economy but for the people who previously occupied those spaces. The venue operator pointed out If this does happen it would be good if the Council could devise a process for using the space for cultural purposes, offering it out to cultural organisations and particularly to those that interact the most with residents and society. Offering to arts and culture that have the most social role.
- 5.10.8 The venue operator pointed out space is such a premium in arts and a lot of great projects and ideas could flourish with the use of empty spaces. Pointing out from his experience in the industry when they get a commercial lull this can leave loads of empty space and suddenly you get an explosion of creativity and great new ideas. In terms of property services and what the cultural team can do to get empty space in temporary use, (until it becomes income generating again) this can be put into the hands of artists and arts organisations which would be good for the community at large.
- 5.10.9 The Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy thanked the Village Underground for his contribution and the officers in LBH for leading the support work to the sector. The Cabinet Member pointed out this work has positioned the sector within the council across the different service areas that engage with the Cultural Team. This has reaped dividends for many in the sector in Hackney. This is the first time over the last 10 months that the cultural sector is in higher consideration by Property Services as they are for cultural development, business support and business advice services that the council are delivering. This work has helped the council to understand its relationship with the arts and cultural sector in the borough.
- 5.10.10 Bringing about a far greater level of engagement, as described by the guest in the meeting, has been important because the other set of relationships that are critical is the relationship between the Arts Council and Arts Council England. It will be key going forward for the council to advocate on behalf of local organisations across the sector with creditability and bring that advocacy into Arts Council England and into Central Government and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.
- 5.10.11 Ensuing the council is listened to because it's important to champion all of those great creative practitioners that have made Hackney their home.

5.11 Questions, answers and Discussion (part 1)

- (i) **Members referred to the table in the report highlighting the work started after officer attendance at LiH in January 2020. Members commended the council for taking on board the comments and recommendations made during their meeting and the plans to expand. Members referred to schools and youth clubs not being open except for vulnerable young people. Members asked how they would get schools involved - in addition to youth cubs and tenant associations - recognising it is just after they start their academic year following a long summer holiday.**
- (ii) **Members commented if they are making films these can be made at any time and during the summer term before they break up. Although**

Member recognise schools will have a lot of academic work to catch up on. Members think it's important that young people are given the opportunity to make films and costumes because of cultural heritage being an important part of people's wider education.

In response the Cultural Development Manager confirmed they do want to involve schools and agreed they can ask them before they break up for the summer holidays. This format will give them a lot more flexibility for involving groups that have those kinds of restrictions.

One of the first steps is to meet with their carnival groups and contact the curator team for the carnival to help produce a robust community engagement programme. There will be via consultation and co-production with key carnival stakeholders and artists. The process will involve talking to various partners and working out what will work for them.

They intend to involve youth groups, schools and the other partners they started to contact in February 2020.

- (iii) Members commended the work and activities by the service to involve schools and agreed it would be a great activity. Members also welcomed the creation of an online space for the carnival as this would serve well for the future. Referring to the previous report to the Commission from officers last year about their relationship with other carnivals around the world. This will add as a rich resource for other carnivals.**
- (iv) Members commented events like this do not have much institutional memory. Therefore, the work to create institutional memory through videos as a resource about the carnival was welcomed.**
- (v) Members commended the report on the carnival and asked if the same funding was available during the pandemic and enquired how groups can get help with funding.**

In response the Cultural Development Manager advised the funding application they were scheduled to submit to the Arts Council was still available. There is also project grant pots of funding. The officer pointed out the funding stream is currently oversubscribed because they have removed the requirement for match funding. This funding is available to large organisations, local authorities, individual artists and carnival groups. They do provide support to groups during their application process. They support them with advice on how to make a successful application.

The other fund is 'developing your creative practice', this is also Arts Council funding. This is aimed at individual artists to be able to develop their practice in a new way, to seek advice and mentoring to support what they would like to do. The Council is writing letters of support for carnival artists and others who are applying for that funding.

In summary there is funding available, but it is extremely competitive.

The officer advised the council will not be applying to the Arts Council for funding for the carnival this year because they are submitting a bid for another project. They can only apply for one in at a time.

- (vi) Members asked the officer to describe a tangible benefit from this work that people can do together e.g., NHS claps. The Member suggested doing something that embodied the spirit of carnival bringing the community together. Is this possible?**

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy welcomed the idea and asked Members for suggestions.

The Chair suggested the creation of small neighbourhood groups with activities to celebrate carnival - subject to small groupings being permitted. The Commission agreed to feedback any further ideas.

- (vii) Members asked if the carnival would be shown on YouTube. Members suggested being on YouTube may encourage more people to view it and once they are allowed to mix, they could sit together.**

In response the Cultural Development Manager confirmed last year they used the Hackney Carnival Facebook page because they already had a following on that page with a view of building on that audience. The officer advised on reflection it would be good to put it on YouTube because it may be more accessible.

- (viii) Members pointed out Hackney has very talented young people and older people and asked if the dance challenge would be opened to and linked in with groups like the Windrush generation to encourage all age ranges to get involved.**

- (ix) Members commended the engagement list of groups in the report. Members asked if all these groups would be encouraged to participate in the online event again.**

In response the Cultural Development Manager advised they would get back in touch with the groups to explore the potential of their involvement this year and work out the best way to do that for them. This will be worked out with each group.

This will require coming up with a form of community engagement that everyone can do.

5.12 Questions, answers and Discussion (part 2)

- (i) Members commended the work of the council to support the cultural organisations and tenants of council properties. Members asked if the Council has been lobbying the government to put pressure on all landlords to help the organisations that were not fortunate enough to be commercial tenants with the Council.**

In response the Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy advised as a Council they have been championing the case for commercial

tenants across many sectors when it comes to their relationship with commercial landlords. The Cabinet Member confirmed this has been happening and continues currently.

The Cabinet Member highlighted that both Mayor of Hackney and he, as Cabinet Member, will be attending a meeting with landlords to advocate for a group of commercial tenants. Pointing out this is ongoing work. The Cabinet Member informed there are more calls on the Council to support in whatever way it can. The fundamental issue is the council has no authority to intervene in the relationship between a commercial landlord and its tenant. Notwithstanding the council can help, advocate and bring people together.

In relation to lobbying government to lever out as much support as possible. The Council has contributed to the formal channels such as the Select Committee inquiries and direct representation through to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

- (ii) **Members asked Village Underground to outline his experience of being a venue operator during these times and the plans for reopening. Members also asked if he was aware of any venues that have not survived during the pandemic.**

In response Village Underground explained it has been tough because their business operation revolves around bringing people together and this has evaporated. They have lost approximately 95% of their income.

During the open period they put on a couple of events and found the audience was keen to buy tickets and come out again. The current challenge is whether Hackney's infrastructure will be as successful as it was previously in the first and second culture recovery fund round. If they have the same level of success with funding Hackney should see most of the cultural infrastructure survive. In his view the big issues to watch for the winddown of furlough – this has been a protection for many jobs. This is not just in reference to the cultural sector jobs but jobs of the audience members too.

There is also the end of eviction protections soon so this could be a potential watershed moment for commercial landlords and commercial tenants.

Lastly there is the large debt mountain that is building up from taking out a coronavirus business interruption loan (CBILS) scheme. His business had £1million of CBILS loans to keep them going through the pandemic. In addition to the forbearances given to them by the council and other stakeholders/funders. He pointed out they have a payment plan in place, but this is subject to the business bouncing back reasonably well.

The venue operator was of the view there will be organisations in the borough that are going to struggle with the huge mountain of debt. Pointing out even if they did not take out CBILS loans they would have forbearance that will need to be paid back.

In his view the sector has a lot of optimism that they will get through this period. But there are still hurdles to overcome for the cultural and hospitality sector. He pointed out it comes back to everyone working together and the Council

taking the leading role. Orchestrating a mass opening when it is safe to do so to encourage a lot of activity. They are hoping this will commence in the summer.

- (iii) **Members referred to the night-time economy being closed and that residents may have found it has been quieter and become accustomed to this. Members asked if the Council is expecting residents to provide opposition to venues reopening? Members commented it is great that parts of Hackney have become a destination but queried if the culture offer after the pandemic could be widened.**
- (iv) **Members referred to the great work in relation to Black Lives Matter and the Windrush generation. Members asked if it would be possible to make culture even more encompassing. To enable people who do not currently enjoy those destinations, clubs and venues to enjoy a wider culture, so they could build back better and stronger.**

In response the Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy acknowledged the thoughts and comments from the venue operator from Village Underground. The Cabinet Member added they can consider a portfolio of activities across a wider community to draw people in. Hoping then the residents would not look at the sector with animosity. But perhaps with a new sense of ownership of what the cultural, leisure and hospitality sector can offer in the borough. Point out the arts and culture interface are the perfect platform to do as described by the venue operator. Like the work he has been doing with his two venues demonstrating the capacity and ability of the arts and cultural sector to build those bridges and create that relationship.

- (v) **Members referred to one of the most famous venues in Hackney (theatres) and asked if they have engaged with theatres like the Arcola to find out the impact on them.**

In response the Cultural Development Manager confirmed theatres have been hugely affected just like music venues and cinemas.

Officers advised these are the 3 groups of organisations they meet with monthly to help them navigate this very difficult time.

In relation to the theatres a lot of them were interested in doing outdoor theatre in the first lockdown. But this was something the council was unable to support them with because of the concerns about organising events during the pandemic.

Some like the Village Underground were able to reopen for a short period in the late summer and were able to re-engage with audiences.

There have been some innovate approaches like access all areas. This is not a venue but a theatre organisation that works with people with a learning disability. This group normally takes part in the carnival each year but this year they worked with their members to create an online event. This also had a route through Hackney's streets with QR codes for people to scan as they went along the route to hear about the lockdown experiences of their members.

The Shoreditch Town Hall have progressed with some projects. They have started working with a group of young people to help develop their programme for young people. They have recently put out a call for 6 new artists to work with them to develop new work. They had approximately 160 applications for this. This demonstrates a huge demand for these opportunities in the sector. They have moved all their work online.

The Cultural Programme Officer added the council has worked closely with the Hackney Empire on the Discover Young Hackney Festival. The is an all-year-round programme for young people aged 13-19.

They put on activities to help young people remain part of society and to take care of their wellbeing and mental health. The council commissioned 15 projects. A lot of the projects were held online but focused on the softer elements of wellbeing and mental health and gave young people an opportunity to communicate with each other. This was in addition to developing skills and training opportunities to provide pathways for young people into the arts and culture sector. Theatre organisations have worked hard across the borough to maintain that creative activation.

The Hackney Empire is planning to hold their annual Alter Ego talent contest in the next couple of months. This is likely to be held in March or April 2021. The Hackney Empire is continuing to engage with audiences online as well as through other communication channels.

Members acknowledged it has been a terrible time for many businesses but especially the arts and culture sector. It was pleasing to hear that in the short window of opening that some businesses had reopened. The Commission is hoping the vaccine programme will be successful and enable the sector to take events back offline and put them back into the community.

The Chair and Members of the Commission thanked LBH staff and Village Underground for attending the meeting.

6 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 6.1 The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th January 2021 have been delayed and will be provided at the next LiH meeting on 9th March 2021.

RESOLVED:	Minutes were approved
------------------	-----------------------

ACTION:	
----------------	--

7 Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission- 2020/2021 Work Programme

- 7.1 The Chair referred to the work programme and updated the Commission on the discussion items for the next meeting.
- 7.2 The March meeting is scheduled to focus on housing and the digital divide.

7.3 There will also be an update from Thames Water on the flooding in N4. This is the six-month progress update agreed by the Commission earlier in the municipal year.

7.4 Police to be called back for first meeting of the new municipal year in June. The Overview and Scrutiny officer to send out the invite requests for the June date in the draft calendar.

ACTION:	Overview and Scrutiny officer to send out the invite requests to MPS Borough Command Unit Police, IOPC, MET HQ and MOPAC for the June 2021 meeting.
----------------	---

8 Any Other Business

8.1 None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00 - 9.10 pm