

## Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission

All Members of the Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission are requested to attend the meeting of the Commission to be held as follows:

**Tuesday 22 February 2022**

**7.00 pm**

**Room 102, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8 1EA**

The press and public are welcome to join this meeting remotely via this link:  
<https://youtu.be/av5WSFO1yOI>

If you wish to attend please give notice and note the guidance below.

**Mark Carroll**

**Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney**

Contact:

Tracey Anderson

☎ 020 8356 3312

✉ [tracey.anderson@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.anderson@hackney.gov.uk)

**Members:** Cllr Polly Billington (Chair), Cllr Clare Potter (Vice-Chair),  
Cllr Richard Lufkin, Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Steve Race, Cllr Gilbert Smyth,  
Cllr Nick Sharman, Cllr Patrick Spence and Cllr Vincent Stops

## Agenda

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Urgent Items / Order of Business**
- 3 **Declarations of Interest**
- 4 **Decarbonising Hackney's Economy - Supporting SME's to Decarbonise** (Pages 5 - 52)
- 5 **Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission 2021/22 Work Programme** (Pages 53 - 60)
- 6 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 61 - 70)
- 7 **Any Other Business**

To access the meeting please click on the link <https://youtu.be/av5WSFO1yOI>

If the top link fails please click on the back up link <https://youtu.be/58iyvMKkuDY>

## 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-governance-and-resources.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)

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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.

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<b>Skills Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission</b>  22 February 2022  <b>Item 4 - Decarbonising Hackney's Economy - Supporting SME's to Decarbonise</b>	Item No  <b>4</b>
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## **Outline**

This item is to review how the council can help support local SMEs to decarbonise their business model and operations. To help them align with the council's aims and ambitions to achieve net zero carbon by 2040.

Presentations to cover

- How much do small businesses understand what is required to shift to net zero?
- What is within their control? What do they need support with?
- How much of a challenge is it for small businesses to shift to net zero?
- What work has been done to assess the challenges facing them?
- What research has been done on how small businesses approach this challenge?
- What role do they think local authorities need to play to support SMEs to shift to practices, business models and procurement that are aligned to net Zero?
- Who else holds responsibility to support this shift - the government? trade bodies? support networks? What form should that support take?
- What support is being provided to small businesses? By whom? in what form?

From this session the scrutiny commission aims to make recommendations about how to support local SMEs to decarbonise their business model and operations; to help them align with the council's aims and ambitions to achieve net zero carbon by 2040.

## **Report in the agenda:**

To support this discussion the following presentations and papers are included for background information.

- Presentation from GLA
- Presentation from London Borough of Hackney
- Background paper on Decarbonising the economy.

## **Guests in Attendance**

### **GLA**

- Philip Graham, Executive Director Good Growth
- Pete Daw, Head of Climate Change

### **London Borough of Hackney**

- Suzanne Johnson, Head of Area Regeneration
- Jasmine Ceccarelli Drewry, Regeneration Officer

**Action**

The commission is asked to note the presentations and ask questions.



MAYOR OF LONDON

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# Skills, Economy and Growth Meeting - Hackney

Scrutiny Committee

February 2022

# NET-ZERO BY 2030

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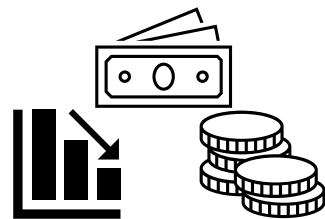
## Trajectory

- In January of 2022 the Mayor published his Pathways to Net-Zero by 2030 report, and set out his preferred pathway for London- accelerated green.
- This analysis has confirmed what we have known for some time: it makes economic sense to act now.
- Managed well, the transition to a green and sustainable economy will create jobs for Londoners, it will save on fuel costs and it will provide us with a cleaner and healthier city.
- The Mayor has set out the **Accelerated Green Pathway** as his preferred approach for London. This pathway recognises the need to protect the most vulnerable, whilst moving at the urgent pace needed.

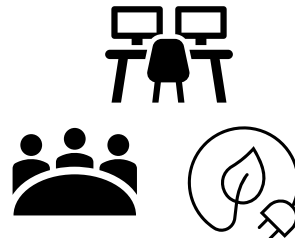
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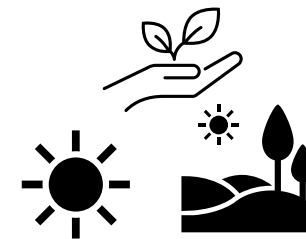
Create Jobs



Save fuel costs



Grow the Green  
Economy



Address the climate  
emergency



# THE GREEN NEW DEAL

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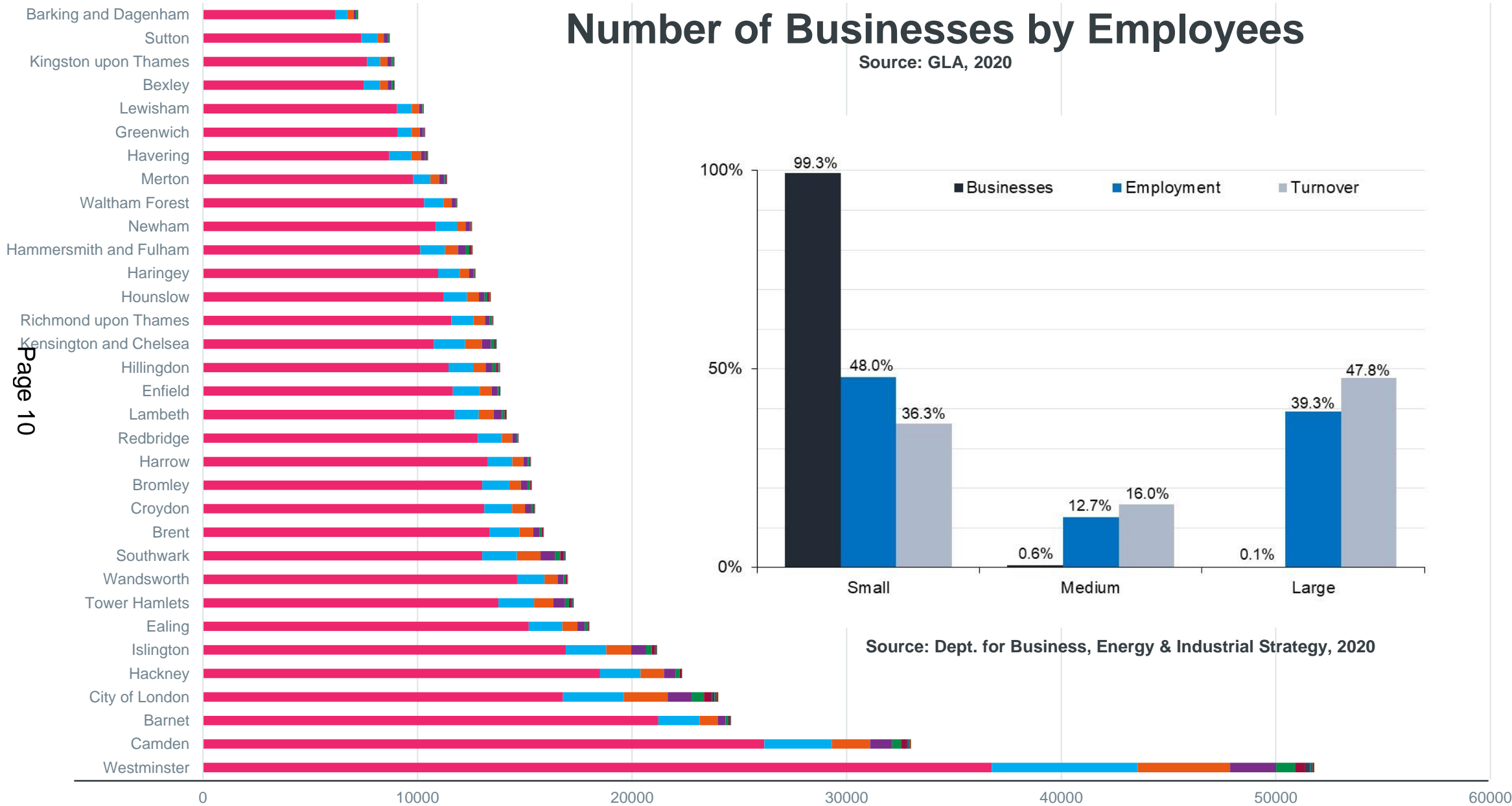
The Mayor's Green New Deal aims to double the size of London's Green economy by 2030, through retrofitting buildings, installing renewable energy and electric vehicle charging infrastructure and creating high quality green spaces.

- The Green New Deal is the framework which guides our transition to a net-zero economy. This must be a just transition. **London's 1.083 million self employed, micro and small businesses must be heard.**
- We know the cost of no action will be high to business
- We must ensure that we are bringing our entire economy with us- and that all benefit from the growth in the green economy and new jobs
- The pandemic has badly affected this crucial segment of London's economy – but smaller businesses can recover with the right support and that support must have a net-zero focus.

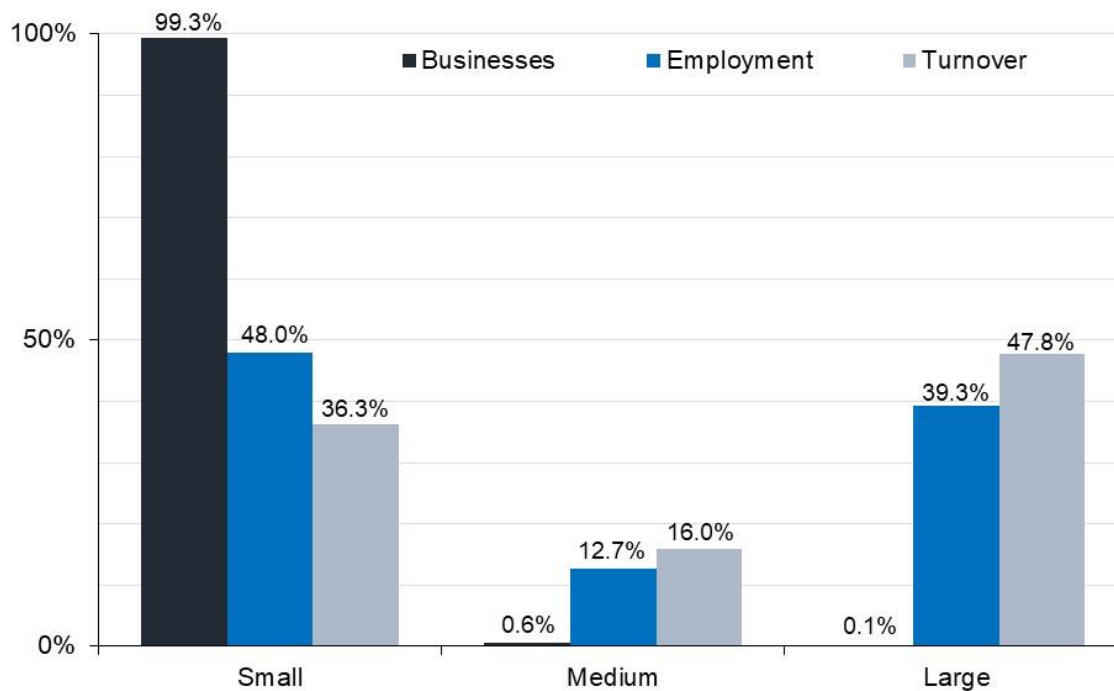
■ 0 < Micro ≤ 4  
 ■ 5 < Micro ≤ 9  
 ■ 10 < Small ≤ 19  
 ■ 20 < Small ≤ 49  
 ■ 50 < Medium ≤ 99  
 ■ 100 < Medium ≤ 249  
 ■ 250 < Large ≤ 499  
 ■ 500 < Large ≤ 999  
 ■ 1000 < Large

# Number of Businesses by Employees

Source: GLA, 2020



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Source: Dept. for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2020

# HOW BIG IS THE CHALLENGE

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## Every business journey is different

London is home to a hugely diverse ecosystem of SMEs, who will all have different needs, priorities, building typologies, tenancy arrangements and sources of emissions.

Some businesses will find it easier to measure their baseline and work towards net-zero than others

The **Science Based Targets Initiative** has introduced a specific SME route to setting verified Science Based Targets for a businesses. This route recognises that SME's often lack the resources and capabilities needed to set scope 3 targets and monitor progress against them.

**Scope 1** emissions are direct emissions from operations due to owned or controlled site and vehicle fuel consumption. **Scope 2** emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity and steam.

**Scope 3** includes all other indirect sources of emissions that are within a company's value chain. Scope 3 emissions often represent the greatest proportion of a company's carbon footprint, and sometimes up to 90% of total emissions.

# THE SHIFT TO NET-ZERO

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## What it means for small business

### Understanding Net-Zero

Fundamental knowledge around “net-zero”- what it means and what businesses need to do is relatively low across the majority of sectors. Sentiment from SMEs that they need to act is higher than it has ever been – aligning with a shift in public perception regarding climate action.

The Mayor of London is running multiple, innovative programmes to offer bespoke support to businesses transition to net-zero:

- Better Futures (and Better Futures +)
- The Mayor’s Business Climate Challenge
- The SME Climate Hub.

In the run up to COP26 several campaigns brought net-zero to the forefront, including the UN Race to Zero, the SME Climate Hub, the Amazon Climate Pact and the UK Government ‘Together for our Planet’ Campaign.

# HOW DO WE ASSESS THE CHALLENGE?

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- Several studies have been undertaken to explore this challenge and design policies and programmes which support a just transition to a net-zero economy.
- **London Councils 2021 Business 1000 Survey** has key data from London Businesses, finding
  - London businesses are increasingly aware of the UK government's target to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 – nine in 10 are now aware of this target (89%)
  - Firms would welcome advice and support from their local boroughs, including information on how their company can be more sustainable (27%), technical advice on retrofitting for energy efficiency (17%), or business opportunities/networking (17%)
  - Consistent with 2020, over two-thirds of businesses are doing at least one activity to reduce their environmental impact (69%)
- British Business Bank has partnered with Ipsos MORI to publish the 'Smaller Businesses and the Transition to net-zero' report in October 2021.

# WHAT DO SMES MOST NEED SUPPORT WITH?

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SMEs need support understanding the steps to take to achieve net-zero. While there is a proliferation of guidance around net-zero and climate action businesses can take, London is home to a hugely diverse ecosystem of SMEs, who will all have different needs, priorities, building typologies, tenancy arrangements, emissions.

**Cost** and **feasibility** are the most common barriers to action on net-zero for smaller businesses.

## **Areas to prioritise for support include:**

1. Support businesses to set their carbon baseline and then put in place robust sustainability strategies to get to net-zero- prioritise measures that are feasible for specific business types.
2. Reducing building/ workplace emissions, for example:
  - Overcoming the owner/ occupier split incentives
  - Provide support to understand energy usage and energy data
  - Guidance on energy saving actions, their payback periods and how to invest in them
  - Support and finance for extensive retrofit



# LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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## Local authorities will have a huge role to play in the shift to net-zero

This includes setting clear targets for businesses which provide direction and empower businesses to take action. Targets set the direction - but must be paired with support to meet them.

The responsibilities of local authorities across housing, planning, transport, procurement and as convenors of local partners and residents means that councils can lead by example and advance decarbonisation through their own practices. Local net-zero targets are key to this.

SMEs have identified the following as levers to encourage more action:

- Information
- Tax
- External Finance (including grants)
- Clearer standards and regulations

# LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES

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## Some key responsibilities include

- Providing trusted information and support to SMEs as they transition to net-zero
- Working with London-wide partners to map support and create clear pathways for businesses- **no wrong door.**
- Work to overcome owner-occupier split incentives and facilitate retrofit.
- Testing innovative approaches and working with regional partners to pilot these and roll them out
- Use funding available, such as offset funds, to support businesses to:
  - Set their carbon baseline
  - Put in place net-zero plans
  - Address the energy efficiency of their premises through retrofit

# SUPPORT

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The Mayor of London is running several innovative programmes to support businesses:

- **The 2022-23 Mayor's Business Climate Challenge**
- **Better Futures and Better Futures + programmes**
- **The London Business Hub (LBH)** has brought together a range of resources to support businesses to act on climate change. All information is on the LBH website dedicated page called the [Climate Hub - London Business Hub](#). As part of the [Business Ready Podcast - London Business Hub](#) new series which went live in January 2022, one of the three episodes is dedicated to Net Zero.

There is a high volume of support across London- but we know it is challenging for SMEs to navigate existing support and understand the various asks of Businesses.

**The SME Climate Hub and Climate Commitment**

**The Federation of Small Business: Small Business Sustainability Hub**

**The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Climate Hub**

# MAYOR OF LONDON

# Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission

## *Decarbonising Hackney's economy/Supporting SMEs to decarbonise*

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22nd February 2022

# Context

- The Council is committed to responding to the climate emergency, and **reaching net zero by 2040**

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- **7 x thematic Climate Action Plans** are currently being developed by working groups across the Council to set out the Council's approach to delivering net zero.

**RETROFIT**

**LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT**

**RENEWABLE POWER**

**LOW CARBON TRANSPORT**

**CONSUMPTION EMISSIONS**

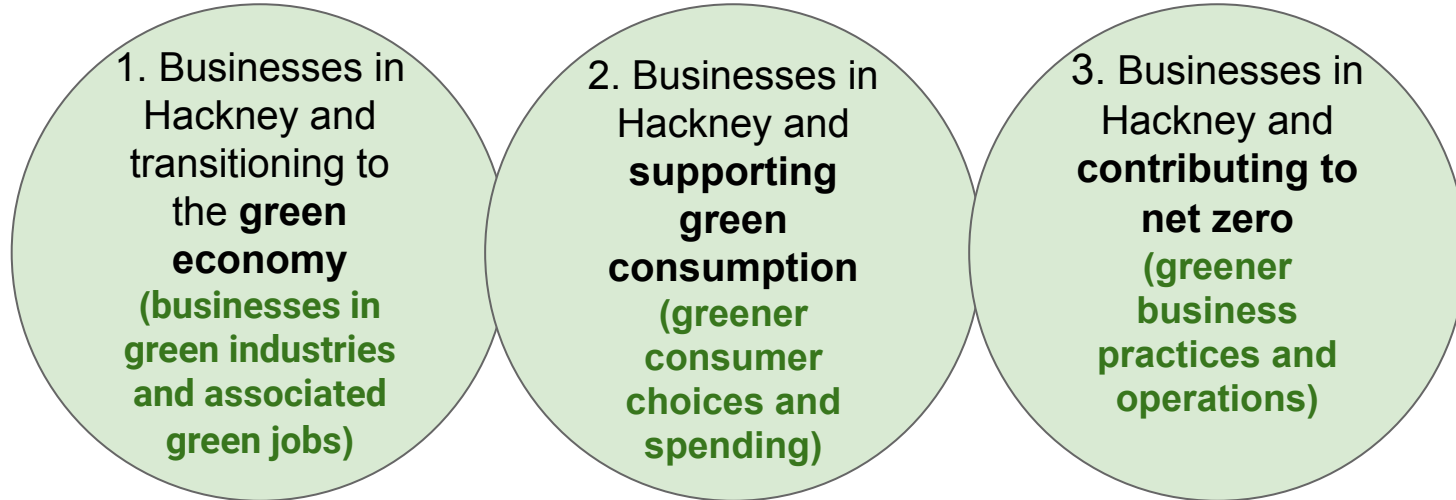
**GREEN ECONOMY & JUST TRANSITION**

**RESILIENT AND GREEN**



# Businesses and net zero in Hackney

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# 1. What is the Green Economy?

London's sub-regional partnerships (Central London Forward, Local London, South London Partnership and West London Alliance) commissioned WPI Economics to develop an **operational definition of green jobs** and use this to research London's existing green economy and make projections for its growth.

The different types of green jobs/green business sectors identified by the WPI Economics research are set out below:

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- **HOMES & BUILDINGS**
- **LOW CARBON TRANSPORT**
- **GREEN FINANCE**
- **POWER**
- **CLIMATE ADAPTION**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
- **CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY, POLICY, MONITORING & PLANNING**
- **INDUSTRIAL DECARBONISATION**
- **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**
- **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **REDUCING LOCALISED POLLUTION**

# Projecting the opportunity

147,000 in 2020 → 335,000 in 2030 → 732,000 in 2050

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... representing a near-5-fold increase of Green Jobs in London.

The WPI Economics report also predicts that in addition to the jobs that will be created by the transition to net zero, there will be many jobs lost in carbon-intensive industries.

# A JUST TRANSITION

The predicted growth in green businesses sectors and jobs in London presents real economic opportunities for Hackney but

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**It is vital that these changes happen in a *just way*.** This means support for people who may not be able to access these opportunities and lose out. New opportunities in Hackney should be available to everyone, rather than being allowed to compound existing inequalities in the economy. The green economy as a whole should be diverse and inclusive.

## 2. What is Green Consumption?

Climate friendly,  
healthy and  
affordable food for  
purchase

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**Reduce food  
waste** and increase  
recycling of  
unavoidable food  
waste

**Single use  
plastics** and  
**circular models**

**Ethical and  
sustainable  
business models**

**Empower residents  
to make greener  
choices when using  
and purchasing  
from local  
businesses**

**Sustainable  
electrical items for  
use and purchase**

**Sustainable  
clothing for  
purchase**

**Low carbon policy**

# 3. Businesses in Hackney and contributing to net zero

**RETROFIT**

**LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT**

**RENEWABLE POWER**

**LOW CARBON TRANSPORT**

**RESILIENT AND GREEN**



**How much do small businesses understand what is required to shift to net zero?**

# What is required to shift to net zero? Some ideas...

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Businesses in Hackney and transition to the **green economy (jobs)**

Transition to the green economy (retrain).

Green entrepreneurship

Offer work experience, apprenticeships, employ local people

Green businesses move to Hackney

Businesses in Hackney and **supporting green consumption (consumption)**

Promote climate friendly, healthy and affordable food

Work with a green supply chain

Support zero waste, reuse & recycle

Businesses in Hackney and **contributing to net-zero (greener business)**

Improve insulation and windows

Recycle more

Reduce waste, including food and textiles

Reduce the impact of transport

Get solar panels/use greener energy

EV transition

Sustainability training

# Understanding of the need to shift to net zero

## Contributing to net zero (London data)

- Awareness of businesses in London of the UK government's target to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 has significantly risen since last year – **(81% in 2020, 89% in 2021)**.
- The rise in awareness of net zero targets has not led to an increase in London businesses doing something to reduce their environmental impact – consistent with 2020, a fifth are not taking any action (23%).
- **Local Hackney business survey needed to understand scale of understanding in Hackney.**

## Consumption emissions

- Some businesses in Hackney recognizing that consumers 'vote with their feet', and choose to support retailers whose values align with their own.

## Transition to the green economy

- Further research needed to understand the space and skills requirements post pandemic and the shift needed for businesses to fully participate in the green economy.

**What is within the control of businesses? What do they need support with?**

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**How much of a challenge is it for small businesses to shift to net zero?**

**What work has been done to assess the challenges facing them?**

## Quick, low cost

- Lighting – use LED bulbs for greater efficiency
- Heating – put your thermostat on a timer and seal your windows for extra insulation
- Office equipment – try to turn off and unplug devices when they're not being used
- Switch to a green energy tariff with your energy supplier. This will reduce your reliance on energy produced by fossil fuels.
- Recycle waste to prevent it being taken to landfill sites where it takes longer to break down and causes more emissions.

## Longer term actions

- Improving insulation and replacing old windows.
- installing renewable sources of energy.
- Green supply chain
- Measure emissions
- Reducing transport emissions

## Changing business practices

- Retraining
- Rebranding
- Developing ESG businesses approaches





# Key barriers to delivery - London trends

Figure 9. Top three barriers for each type of action

Greener technologies	Adapting products/ services	Using sustainable suppliers	Encouraging remote working	Offsetting greenhouse gasses
<i>All not taking this action (n=663)</i>	<i>All not taking this action (n=676)</i>	<i>All not taking this action (n=696)</i>	<i>All not taking this action (n=730)</i>	<i>All not taking this action (n=1,016)</i>
Not appropriate for our business <b>(26%)</b>	Not appropriate for our business <b>(24%)</b>	Not appropriate for our business <b>(20%)</b>	Not appropriate for our business <b>(32%)</b>	Not appropriate for our business <b>(22%)</b>
Initial upfront costs <b>(24%)</b>	Initial upfront costs <b>(17%)</b>	Higher operating costs <b>(19%)</b>	Higher operating costs <b>(11%)</b>	Higher operating costs <b>(17%)</b>
Higher operating costs <b>(20%)</b>	Higher operating costs <b>(16%)</b>	Lack of resources/ time <b>(16%)</b>	Lack of appropriate substitutes <b>(10%)</b>	Initial/ upfront costs <b>(14%)</b>

N.1: Understanding

N.2: Costs

N.3: Time

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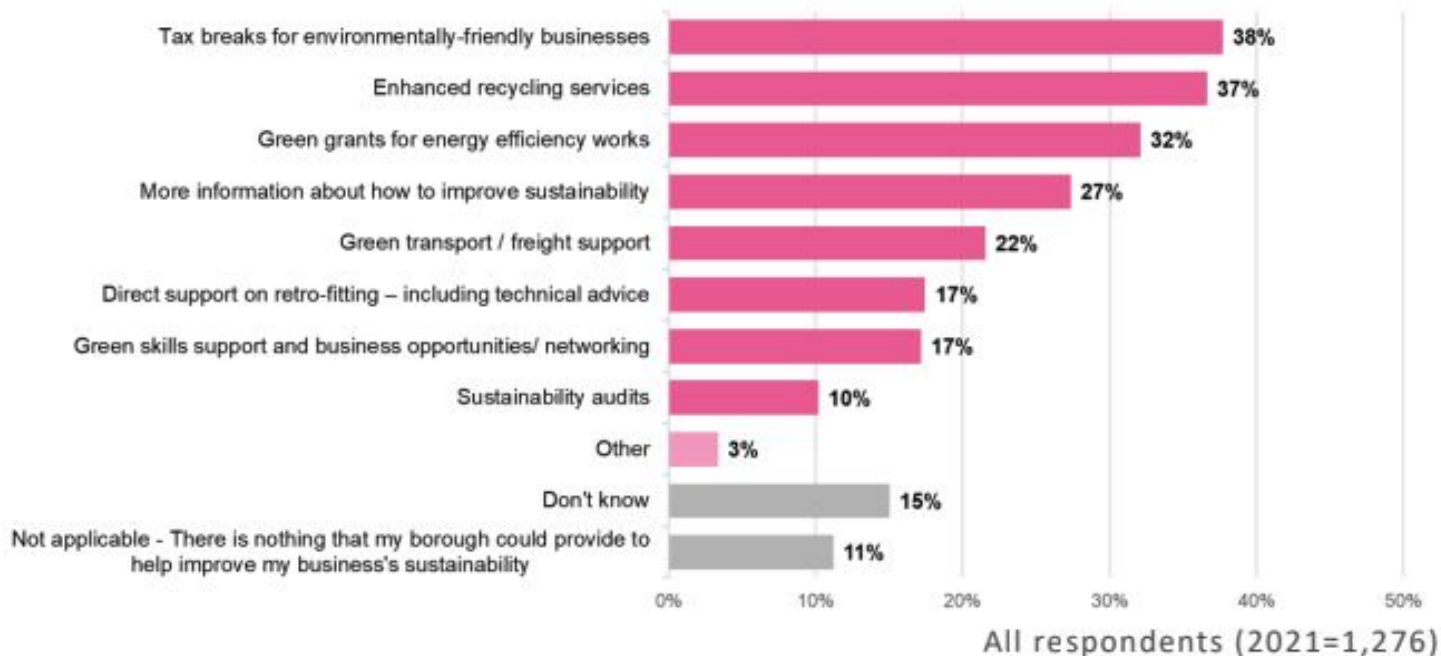
- London businesses have considerable **appetite for local improvements**, such as enhanced recycling services (37%,) and green transport/freight support (22%)
  - London businesses are most favourable about financial incentives, such as **tax breaks for environmentally-friendly businesses** (38%) or green grants (32%).
- Firms would welcome **advice and support**, including information on how their company can be more sustainable (27%), technical advice on retrofitting for energy efficiency (17%), or business opportunities/networking (17%)

Large businesses are the most confident that their staff currently have the skills necessary to reduce carbon emissions (45%), significantly more so than medium (28%) or micro/small (31%) businesses.

**Micro/small businesses are particularly likely to not know how to access the skills they need to respond to net zero objectives (27%), compared to only one in ten large businesses who say the same (10%).**

Hackney Context: Business Numbers and sectors: Total number of businesses: 22,340 *(Source: ONS 2020)*

Size	Employees	Business count
Micro	0 - 9	20,400
Small	10 - 49	1,640
Medium	50 - 249	255
Large	250+	45

**Figure 11. Local borough support desired**

**What research has been done on how small businesses approach this challenge?**

# Case Studies: Zero Emissions Network



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## Acacia Management Facilities - E-Bike Grant

Acacia Facilities has reduced the use of a business vehicle by purchasing two e-bikes with the help of the ZEN Workplace Travel Grant.



## Secret Smokehouse - Electric Van Trial

Secret Smokehouse trialed an electric van to see if it was the right choice for the business.

# Case Studies: Businesses supporting greener consumerism

## 'I went to the new eco-friendly Marks and Spencer Foodhall in London to try and do a plastic-free shop'

M&S has recently opened a revamped Hackney Foodhall with an emphasis on eco-friendly shopping - but is it enough to do a plastic-free shop?

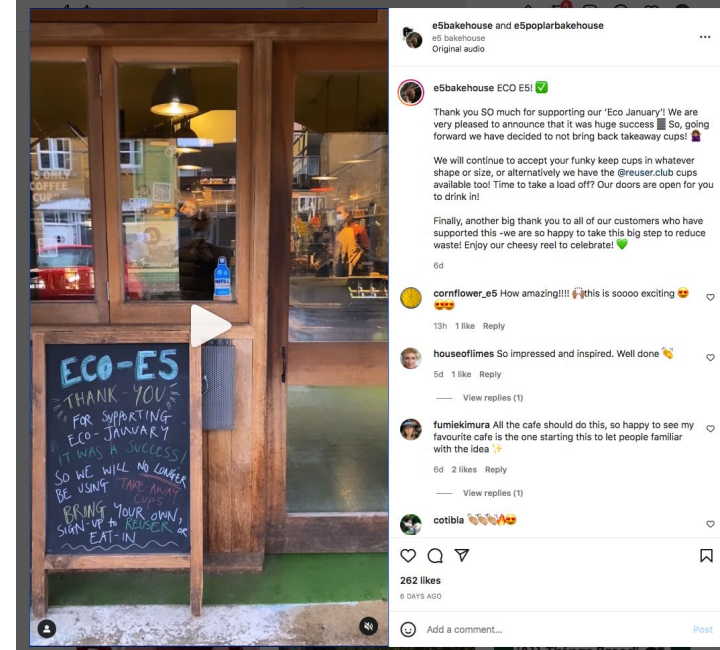
SHARE     COMMENTS

By **Rachael Davis** Features Writer  
18:58, 8 OCT 2021 | UPDATED 09:20, 28 OCT 2021

LIFESTYLE OPINION



Could I do my whole weekly shop plastic-free at Marks and Spencer's new and improved Hackney Foodhall? Not quite, but it was easier than ever to try (my first attempt)





# Case Studies: Innovation and green economy

## ***Olympic Park Innovation District***

The Olympic Park Innovation District is a hub for emerging technologies, including sustainable and clean tech, formed of a partnership between academia (Imperial College London), business (Engie, Intel Labs) and the national and international innovation community (Future Cities Catapult, EIT Climate-KIC).

The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is one of the first examples of Climate KIC-sponsored Smart Sustainable Districts. It is a sustainable urban park, presenting digital innovation and data alongside homes, a cultural quarter hosting performing and visual arts, as well as commercial space and innovation. The London Aquatics Centre and Copper Box Arena will be the initial focus of research to increase the resource efficiency of new domestic buildings to make sure they are future-ready.





**What support is being provided to small businesses? By whom? in what form?**

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**What role do they think local authorities need to play to support SMEs to shift to practises, business models and procurement that are aligned to net zero?**

# External bodies supporting businesses

## Advising on Net Zero

- The UK Green Building Council (GBC) – offers sustainability advice, courses and networking for paid members
- the Centre for Low Emission Construction – provides guidance on reducing emissions
- Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) – provides information on waste issues relevant to the construction industry
- Federation of Small Business
- Broadway Initiative
- Zero Business Network
- Hackney Business Network
- London Growth Hub

## GLA funding for Net Zero

- The following grants, schemes and loan programmes are available in London:
  - ❑ Greater London Fund invests in early stage companies with an average investment of £400,000 to £1M – part of the fund is set aside for companies that reduce waste
  - ❑ Greater London Investment Fund offers loans from £100,000 to £1M to limited company SMEs – repayment term is 3 to 5 years and interest rates vary

# The role of the Council

- Development and delivery of the Climate Action Plan
- To lead and steer inclusive regeneration and economic development that contributes to meeting net zero
- Influencing, steering and supporting external stakeholders, partners, businesses, residents and community groups
- Delivering and coordinating projects and programmes that contribute to net zero e.g retrofit of homes and commercial premises, green infrastructure, zero emissions network, more sustainable transport etc.
- Business engagement, support, and communications
- Planning system and building control powers
- Landlord engagement and Council role as a landlord
- Communication & signposting
- Unlocking funding opportunities
- Identifying and administering funding to deliver on net zero ambitions

# What the Council is already doing

## Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods have been implemented in several areas around Hackney. Explore these below. If you are in these areas or know them well, get in touch, and we'll put you in touch with other residents supportive of the initiatives.

Hackney Downs LTN    Hoxton West LTN    London Fields LTN



CDT HACKNEY WICK & FISH ISLAND    Community Action    About    Blog    Contact

22 Jul - Written by HEB CDT

## Hackney Wick secures initial investment to be a greener, cleaner, healthier place

Hackney Wick and Fish Island Community Development Trust (HWN CDT) is pleased to announce it and its partners have been successful in a bid to the Greater London Authority's High Street for All Challenge.

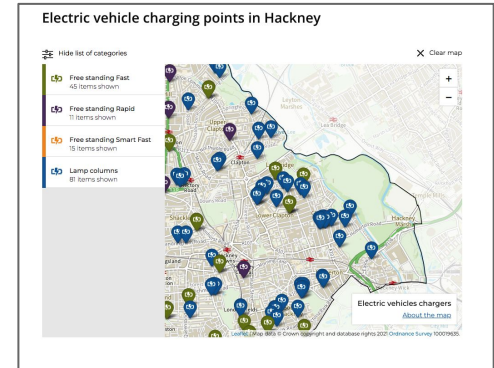
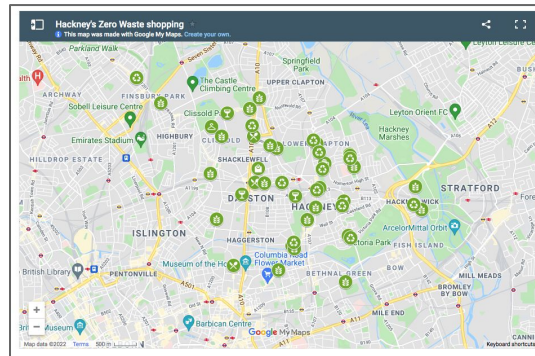
The HWN CDT worked with nearly 20 organisations locally to submit a bid based on a circular theme:

- establishing a circular high street in Hackney Wick by creating wayfinding and signage to improve resident and visitor experience of the place, and spread footfall across the area
- establishing a circular economy – in practice to reuse, recycle and reduce waste and reduce carbon emissions – by bringing together communities, charity and civic organisations, business and institutions to design a strategy to tackle local environmental issues

## FREE OFFERS FOR ZEN MEMBERS

The ZEN offers a range of emission reducing measures to members of the network - all for free! Just click on the offer you're interested in to book now.

E-bike Switch	Car Clubs	Dr Bike	Cargo Bike Training	Cargo Bike Maintenance Service	Cargo Bike Trial
Cargo Bike Package	Fix Your Bike Course	Electric Minicabs	Electric Van Trials	Cycle Hire Discounts	Grants
Workplace Grants	Cycle Training	E-Scooter Trials	Cycle Safety Seminar	E-bike Trial	Courier Services



# Council programmes to support businesses to move to net zero

Using Government Covid-19 grant funding, the Council has developed a range of different grant funding schemes to support businesses in adopting greener more sustainable businesses practices (in addition to the Zero Emissions Network which is already in place). These are set out below:

- Adapt Your Business Programme: £405k available for businesses across Hackney to bid for adaptations to make to their business as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and/or to make their business more sustainable.
- Hackney Central Impact and Ideas Fund: £360k available for businesses across Hackney to deliver projects and interventions in Hackney Central that align with the aims of the emerging Hackney Central Strategy, including making businesses greener and more sustainable.
- Hackney High Streets and Town Centres Fund: £500k available for high street and town centre businesses to support the vitality and viability of Hackney's high streets and town centres, including making businesses greener and more sustainable.
- Allia Business Support Programmes: £50k funding available for Hackney businesses to access Allia's business support programmes aimed at supporting small businesses to grow and helping ventures to create greater social and environmental innovation.

## NEXT STEPS

- Continued development of the Hackney Climate Action Plan
- Further research into the existing green economy and green jobs in Hackney and opportunities for the future
- Preparation of the Hackney Economic Development Strategy
- Hackney business survey
- Engagement, support and communications with businesses
- Delivery of grant funding to business

# Skills Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission on *Decarbonising the economy*

Some key questions to explore:

*What can be done by Hackney Council itself to help small businesses with decarbonising their business? What support is the council currently offering and/or planning to offer, such as: communications campaigns, vouchers, changes to local waste and recycling systems, changes to business rates, acting as a catalyst to set up new support networks for local SMEs?*

*Small business owners are under immense pressure at the moment. How can the council ensure that the support they offer increases or at least maintains the financial viability of the businesses, and designs in carbon reductions as much as possible as a cost reduction or business opportunity?*

Summary of findings of some key reports as at Feb 2022

## 1.) 'Accelerating Progress - empowering small businesses in the journey to Net Zero' (FSB; Nov 2021)

<https://www.fsb.org.uk/resource-report/accelerating-progress.html>

FSB is a non-profit making, grassroots and non-party political business organisation that represents 160,000 members. Set up in 1974, it lobbies for the UK's 5.6 million small businesses, micro businesses and the self-employed. They have a comprehensive set of guides and resources at <https://www.fsb.org.uk/skills-hub/knowledge/sustainability.html>

They surveyed their members on knowledge of and attitudes towards climate change and its impact on small businesses. They surveyed energy usage and action taken to reduce waste and increase recycling. **Recommendation are:**

*Supporting businesses to make a plan*

LEPs and Combined Authorities in England should be required to set out net zero **engagement plans** by the end of 2022, and plan a **sector-specific messaging campaign** until 2025.

The UK Government should issue **£5,000 vouchers** for businesses to spend on qualifying environmental products and services under a Help To Green initiative.

In England, the UK Government should expand the scope of the lifetime skills guarantee to **support green skills**.

The Northern Ireland Assembly should ensure Climate Change Legislation is passed within the current electoral mandate to avoid further delay and uncertainty.

In Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs should establish a Climate Change Stakeholder Group.

*Energy*

UK Government and Ofgem should establish a **taskforce** of suppliers, small business landlords and business groups to agree how to cut energy use in rented premises.  
UK Government should review the **law on commercial tenancies** to prevent commercial leases from blocking low-carbon improvements.  
UK Government should utilise its new powers, having left the EU, and alter **(lower) the capital requirements** banks must adhere to when lending to businesses for green improvements.

#### *Waste*

Local authorities (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) should **incorporate small business waste collection services into their domestic collection services** with the costs for these waste collection services included in business rate charges.  
Small businesses should have access to **reuse and recycling centres** operated by councils – building on a permit system that operates for tradespeople in some local authorities.

#### *Transport*

Governments across the UK should ensure that businesses operating in and around Clean Air Zones or Low Emission Zones receive their charges back in form of **grants for the purchase of a zero emission vehicle**.

Governments across the UK must publish a coherent set of target-based infrastructure strategies to deliver the necessary **charging and rapid charging infrastructure** by 2030. **The Plug-in Car Grant** should be extended and funded beyond March 2023, to give small businesses confidence in planning their transition to zero emission vehicles until 2030.  
UK Government should introduce a **scrappage scheme** where diesel commercial vehicles can be recycled in exchange for grants towards cleaner hybrids and zero emission vehicles.

#### *Tax and finance*

The UK Government should establish a commission of industry experts to begin consultation on a **future road charging system**.

The UK Government should **exempt green investments** and improvements in premises, such as installing ventilation or solar panels, from inclusion in a **business rates** assessment.  
The UK Government should encourage investment and R&D by allowing businesses to **write off losses** at a similar rate at which gains are taxed.

## **2.) Zero Carbon Business**

<https://zerocarbonbusiness.uk/about/>

The Zero Carbon Business service is a partnership between business organisations, energy networks and professional bodies to give small businesses the advice they need to reduce their carbon emissions. Initiated by FSB and British Chambers of Commerce. A discovery phase was undertaken to understand the advice needs of small businesses before developing the service. The report of the discovery phase is [here](#). They provide a practical list of guides to action [here](#). In April 2021 they published a report highlighting seven main requirements for SMEs to reach zero. The press release is here: [here](#).



- **Clear information** – Businesses are confused by the language of net zero, unclear about what policy changes will affect their businesses, and necessary information is not reaching them. They require simplified and standardised language targeting SME climate action.
- **Staying in business** – SMEs care and are aware of the need to decarbonise, but they need help to reconcile carbon reduction with staying in business. Financial viability should be at the heart of messages about carbon reduction.
- **Financial and digital literacy support** – Those making faster progress towards net zero have better financial skills and digital literacy. 90% of all jobs will involve digital skills by 2025. Without collaborative, integrated solutions and support, many SMEs will struggle.
- **Trust and transparency** – SMEs trust trade bodies and business groups over institutions and official narratives. Within an information service, trade bodies could enhance trust and transparency through feedback about SMEs' experience of the net zero transition.
- **Peer-to-peer relationships** – SMEs need examples of good carbon reduction strategies. Peer-to-peer support structures, particularly at local levels, will enhance trust, capacity and confidence to act, particularly within as-yet immature low-carbon supply chains.
- **Meeting the challenge of COVID-19** – SMEs are too stressed to think beyond immediate survival. Services must offer uncomplicated guidance for the first steps on SMEs' net zero journey, and show that a green recovery is the way to meet the challenge of COVID-19.
- **A joined-up narrative** – SMEs are more engaged with climate issues, even if they do not use the language of net zero. But pragmatic actions are hampered by confusion over definitions and meanings. SMEs need a joined-up narrative to cut through the confusing jargon.

### 3.) Hammersmith and Fulham Council initiatives

<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/environment>

Hammersmith & Fulham Council has been named the [top council in London and ninth in the UK](#) for climate emergency plans. The independent assessment was done by not-for-profit organisation Climate Emergency UK using their [expert-approved checklist](#). This excerpt from their *H&F Climate and Ecology Strategy* summarises how they will focus on the local economy:

#### **Benefits**

*The driver for this workstream is to decarbonise our local economy, but various additional benefits and opportunities arise from this work including:*

- *Economic recovery and green growth.*
- *Jobs for residents fit for the future.*
- *Future-proofing businesses, and gaining an early adopter advantage in the growing market for low-carbon products.*
- *Opportunities for residents to buy local and green.*
- *Positive spill-over effects of carbon awareness from work into lifestyles*

#### **Objectives of this workstream**

*The workstream will aim to:*

- *Prepare young people and adults for the green economy, ensuring provision exists that enables residents to access green economy jobs.*
- *Support existing low-carbon pioneers, and build H&F as a leader in the green economy*
- *Support a green recovery from Covid-19.*
- *Influence and support our local businesses and partners to reach net zero by 2030.*

#### 4.) 'The Heart of the City' - SMEs taking climate action together

<https://theheartofthecity.com/membership/climate-for-smes-4-steps-to-action/>

This is about a course for SME owners where, in four modules, they'll learn what net zero means, why it's relevant to small businesses, how to build an effective case for doing business sustainably and set a plan for reaching net zero. The aim is for SMEs on a similar journey to meet and network.

#### 5) 'Green Skills Adult Education Provision in London' report by GLA Jan 2022

New research just published by the GLA looks at the future of green jobs & skills in the capital. It argues that the transition to Net Zero will mean an increase in demand for jobs and skills in key areas of our economy from digital skills to project management.

The report is [here](#) and the 6 Recommendations are:

*Recommendation 1: The GLA to facilitate partnerships between employers, providers and awarding organisations to support the delivery of green skills, including through the Mayor's Academies Programme*

*Recommendation 2: Employers to work with providers and other stakeholders to better define and develop suitable career and training pathways to progress into good quality 'green' jobs*

*Recommendation 3: Awarding Organisations should develop flexible micro qualifications in 'green skills' for trained adults*

*Recommendation 4: Providers should continue to support digital and STEM skills as part of meeting net zero goals*

*Recommendation 5: The sector should develop a coordinated green skills teacher training programme*

*Recommendation 6: Providers and awarding bodies should embed green awareness across the adult curriculum*

*Recommendation 7: The GLA should continue to actively promote the Importance of green skills to help support the ambition of growing London's green economy*

#### 6) Overview of where SMEs can get funding towards New Zero actions and improvements

**Anywhere in the UK** These support schemes and networks are available

anywhere in the UK:

- [Clean Growth Fund](#) invests in early stage UK companies that are seeking investment capital for low carbon innovation
- [Gigabit vouchers](#) give up to £1,500 for homes and £3,500 for businesses to install high speed internet in rural areas`

- [Smarter Choices](#) gives SMEs free energy assessments and carbon reduction verification funding – must have £20,000 in annual energy costs to qualify
- [BEIS Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator](#) partners energy efficient technologies with companies willing to implement them – applications open to all UK industrial sectors until 31 January 2022
- You can also [join your local chamber of commerce](#) from anywhere in the UK.

**England** These support networks are available in England:

- [Local Enterprise Partnership \(LEP\) growth hubs](#) provide advice on funding, growth and sustainability in 38 regions across England
- [Peer Networks](#) is a government-funded programme that connects similar businesses in LEP areas

**London** The following grants, schemes and loan programmes are available in Greater London:

- [Greater London Fund](#) invests in early stage companies with an average investment of £400,000 to £1M – part of the fund is set aside for companies that reduce waste
- [Greater London Investment Fund](#) offers loans from £100,000 to £1M to limited company SMEs – repayment term is 3 to 5 years and interest rates vary

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<p><b>Skills Economy &amp; Growth Scrutiny Commission</b></p> <p>22 February 2022</p> <p><b>Item 5 - Skills Economy &amp; Growth Work Programme 2021/22</b></p>	<p>Item No</p> <p><b>5</b></p>
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## **OUTLINE**

Attached is the work programme for the Skills Economy & Growth commission for 2021-22. Please note that this is a working document and regularly updated.

## **ACTION**

The commission members are asked for any comments, amendments or suggestions for the work programme.

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**Skills Economy and Growth SC - Rolling Work Programme for 2021-22**

Date of Meeting	Item	Contributor Job Title	Contributor Name
<b>21st June 2021</b>	Introduction to Hackney Council's Economic, Skills and Regeneration Work	<p align="center">London Borough of Hackney</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stephen Haynes, Strategic Director Inclusive Economy, Corporate policy &amp; New Homes</li> <li>2. Suzanne Johnson, Head of Area Regeneration</li> <li>3. Andrew Munk, Head of Employment, Skills &amp; Adult Learning, London Borough of Hackney</li> </ol>	
<b>18th July 2021</b>	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled
<b>18th October 2021</b>	Community Involvement in Planning & Area Regeneration	<p align="center">London Borough of Hackney</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Suzanne Johnson, Head of Area Regeneration, London Borough of Hackney</li> <li>2. Natalie Broughton, Head of Planning, London Borough of Hackney</li> <li>3. Katie Glasgow, Deputy Manager, Planning &amp; Regulatory Services, London Borough of Hackney</li> </ol> <p align="center">Hackney Wick Development Trust</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Alex Russell, Executive, Hackney Wick Development Trust</li> </ol>	

**Skills Economy and Growth SC - Rolling Work Programme for 2021-22**

Date of Meeting	Item	Contributor Job Title	Contributor Name
<p align="center"><b>22nd November 2021</b></p>	<p align="center">Skills Enquiry</p>		<p align="center">London Borough of Hackney</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Andrew Munk, Head of Employment, Skills &amp; Adult Learning</li>   <li>2. Simone van Elk, Strategic Delivery Manager,</li> </ol> <p align="center">New City College</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Alison Arnaud, Hackney and Tower Hamlets Colleges, New City College Group</li>   <li>4. Steve Hanshaw, Senior Partnership Manager, Department for Work and Pensions</li> </ol>
<p align="center"><b>15th December 2021</b></p>	<p align="center">Transport for a Cleaner Greener Hackney</p>		<p align="center">London Borough of Hackney</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Andy Cunningham, Head of Streetscene, London Borough of Hackney</li>   <li>2. Aled Richards, Strategic Director of Sustainability &amp; Public Realm,</li>   <li>3. Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport &amp; Public Realm, London Borough of Hackney</li>   <li>4. Tyler Linton, Sustainable Transport and Engagement Manager, Streetscene, London Borough of Hackney</li> </ol>



<b>Skills Economy and Growth SC - Rolling Work Programme for 2021-22</b>			
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor Job Title</b>	<b>Contributor Name</b>
<b>24th January 2022</b>	<p>Cabinet Question Time Outline</p> <p>In the municipal year, the Commission holds question time sessions with the Cabinet and Senior Officers to ask questions about performance and decision- making within the Council related to their portfolio areas.</p> <p>The questions submitted in advance covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment in Hackney's future from large local businesses and associated opportunity creation for residents.</li> <li>• Affordable commercial rents and the impact of Brexit &amp; coronavirus.</li> <li>• Rejuvenation of the night-time economy.</li> </ul> <p>The Commission to hold a Q&amp;A session with Cllrs Nicholson &amp; Williams about the services and decisions within their portfolios.</p>		<p>1. Cllr Guy Nicholson, Deputy Mayor; Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture, and Inclusive Economy, London Borough of Hackney</p>
<b>22nd February 2022</b>	<p>Decarbonising Hackney's Economy - Supporting SME's to Decarbonise</p> <p>This item is to review how the council can help support local SMEs to decarbonise their business model and operations. To help them align with the council's aims and ambitions to achieve net zero carbon by 2040.</p> <p>All guests have been asked to cover the following in their presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much do small businesses understand what is required to shift to net zero?</li> </ul>		<p>GLA</p> <p>1. Philip Graham, Executive Director Good Growth</p> <p>2. Pete Daw, Head of Climate Change</p> <p>London Borough of Hackney</p> <p>1. Suzanne Johnson, Head of Area Regeneration</p> <p>2. Jasmine Ceccarelli Drewry, Regeneration Officer</p>

<b>Skills Economy and Growth SC - Rolling Work Programme for 2021-22</b>			
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Contributor Job Title</b>	<b>Contributor Name</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is within their control? What do they need support with?</li> <li>• How much of a challenge is it for small businesses to shift to net zero?</li> <li>• What work has been done to assess the challenges facing them?</li> <li>• What research has been done on how small businesses approach this challenge?</li> <li>• What role do they think local authorities need to play to support SMEs to shift to practices, business models and procurement that are aligned to net Zero?</li> <li>• Who else holds responsibility to support this shift - the government? trade bodies? support networks? What form should that support take?</li> <li>• What support is being provided to small businesses? By whom? in what form?</li> </ul>		
<b>9th March 2022</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Economic Stocktake</b></p> <p>This item is to review the Council's work to support the development of the local high streets and at this juncture in the pandemic understand what has happened to the local economy since the pandemic. The Commission is keen to identify if the council's decisions and measures put in place have helped to keep the local economy remain stable. In addition to identify which businesses /sector has survived.</p> <p>Information request</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">London Borough of Hackney</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aled Richards, Strategic Director of Sustainability &amp; Public Realm</li> <li>2. Stephen Haynes, Strategic Director Inclusive Economy, Corporate policy &amp; New Homes</li> </ol>

## Skills Economy and Growth SC - Rolling Work Programme for 2021-22

Date of Meeting	Item	Contributor Job Title	Contributor Name
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What data does the council collate and monitor about businesses in the economy pre and post pandemic? <i>Please can you provide a list of the data held and how this is used.</i></li> <li>2. What support has Hackney Council received from Central Government to support local businesses to maintain a stable local economy? In addition, what council specific decisions have been taken in support of local businesses and what measures has the Council taken itself to support the local economy?</li> <li>3. What data does the council collate and monitor about the local high streets?</li> <li>4. What support has been given to businesses in the local high streets and what assessment has been made of the impact of the support we have given?</li> <li>5. What analysis has been undertaken of the night-time economy both pre and post pandemic?</li> <li>6. What data does the council collate and monitor about licensing in relation to the businesses in the night time economy in the borough? In addition, how is this data used to understand the sector and support the stability and growth of local businesses?</li> <li>7. How does the work of the Business Regulatory Service feed into achieving the Council inclusive</li> </ol>		

**Skills Economy and Growth SC - Rolling Work Programme for 2021-22**

Date of Meeting	Item	Contributor Job Title	Contributor Name
	economy objectives and support local economic growth and stability in the nighttime sector?		
	<p align="center">Voluntary Sector</p> <p>The item is to review how COVID has impacted the voluntary sector, how it's affected the sector's ability to meet the needs of the borough, what demand in these services looks like, and what the landscape of voluntary work looks like in the near future.</p>		<p align="center">London Borough of Hackney TBC</p> <p align="center">HCVS TBC</p>



<b>Skills Economy &amp; Growth Scrutiny Commission</b> 22 February 2022 <b>Item 6 – Minutes &amp; Matters Arising</b>	Item No <b>6</b>
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## **OUTLINE**

Attached are the draft minutes of the meeting of the Skills Economy & Growth commission held on 24 January 2022.

## **ACTION**

Members are asked to agree the minutes and note the matters arising.

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London Borough of Hackney  
Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission  
Municipal Year 2021/22  
Date of Meeting Monday 24 January 2022

Minutes of the proceedings of  
the Skills, Economy and  
Growth Scrutiny Commission  
held at Hackney Town Hall,  
Mare Street, London E8 1EA

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<b>Chair</b>	<b>Councillor Polly Billington</b>
<b>Councillors in Attendance</b>	<b>Cllr Clare Potter (Vice-Chair), Cllr Richard Lufkin and Cllr Nick Sharman</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Steve Race and Cllr Patrick Spence</b>
<b>Officers In Attendance</b>	
<b>Other People in Attendance</b>	<b>Cllr Guy Nicholson Deputy Mayor for housing supply, planning, culture and inclusive economy</b>
<b>Members of the Public</b>	
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	<b>Timothy Upton</b> ☎ 020 8356 3312 ✉ tracey.anderson@hackney.gov.uk

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## Councillor Polly Billington in the Chair

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
  - 1.1 Note: Cllr Gilbert Smyth & Cllr Vincent Stops attended the meeting virtually.
  - 1.2 Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Patrick Spence & Cllr Steve Race sent apologies.
- 2 Urgent Items / Order of Business**
  - 2.1 There were no urgent items of business.
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
  - 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.
- 4 Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission 2021/22 Work Programme**
  - 4.1 The work programme was noted.
- 5 Cabinet Question Time**

- 5.1 The chair introduced the item noting that as the commission has looked at Cllr Williams & Cllr Coban's portfolio areas recently, that the session would focus primarily of CM Nicholson's portfolio.
- 5.2 The chair cordially welcomed the deputy mayor to the session.
- 5.3 The first question provided asked Cllr Nicholson to outline the investment in Hackney's future from larger borough-based businesses. What real opportunities have been created for residents? What assurances do you have that the opportunities created are primarily for residents rather than commuters?
- 5.4 Cllr Nicholson advised that it's been an interesting two years where the relationship between businesses and the council has changed. Large businesses in the borough are very much connected with the council and its employment and skills services.
- 5.5 Cllr Nicholson advised that the primary relationship is through the employment agenda that those relationships with larger businesses are really concerned about channelling residents, whether they be apprentices, or those in longer term work, into some position in those businesses.
- 5.6 Cllr Nicholson advised that those relationships with larger businesses tend to be the ones the administration active seeks investment in – that is very much about them coming to the borough rather than the borough attracting them here.
- 5.7 Cllr Nicholson advised that its difficult to quantify how many residents are employed by large businesses and the information around that isn't available.
- 5.8 Cllr Nicholson advised that some of that absence of data is tied up with the legalities of data sharing.
- 5.9 It was advised that the new economic development unit is suited to the task for re-establishing that relationship with larger businesses, certainly in their role as employers in the borough.
- 5.10 It was advised that there is a larger strand here with larger employers which has to do with supply chain, and its through the Hackney Business Network, but it was noted that relationships with the community of businesses include many which are smaller businesses.
- 5.11 It was advised that trying to ensure that there are trading pathways that businesses can collaborate and contract have been disrupted over the last two years.
- 5.12 The deputy mayor advised that there is anecdotal evidence that the economy is reopening and is returning.
- 5.13 In addition to the various national restrictions that were placed on some of those businesses, the issues around lockdown, and the behaviour changes and cultural shifts, a lot of that now seems to be subsiding, and customer are returning.
- 5.14 DM Nicholson advised that 'customer' is really important because there are many businesses in the borough involved with hospitality, and cultural industries, and they revolve around attracting customer footfall to ensure their businesses models can be sustained.
- 5.15 Chair asked about employment data.



- 5.16 DM Nicholson advised that this falls outside of his portfolio but added that there is a compartmentalized element to what he's saying. In terms of business engagement, one to one engagement, which doesn't necessarily focus on the employment statistic, but focuses more on the flow of information and data, and through the business network this is made possible.
- 5.17 The chair asked how the effectiveness of what the council does with larger businesses is measured.
- 5.18 DM Nicholson advised that it is beyond something as binary and as basic and business rates. There is no measurement in place, but in autumn the council brought forward some additional resource for the area regeneration team in which sits the economic development unit.
- 5.19 Cllr Nick Sharman asked to speak and stated that he agreed with the chair's initial comments, which were cut from the public broadcast of this meeting as they book place while an adjournment was in place, that it is extraordinary that cabinet was scheduled closely to SEG and caused the deputy mayor's lateness, and generally complained about inappropriate use of time or discourtesy.
- 5.20 Cllr Sharman when asked about the framework of things, i.e., what is all this work that's being described for?
- 5.21 DM Nicholson advised that it is another part of the council and another portfolio that is concerned with metrics around jobs and job creation. It was noted that the inclusive economy objectives that were set out have two major strands. One is local employment opportunities, and that's not just with larger businesses, but businesses of all sizes.
- 5.22 It was advised that some of that may be to do with skills development and apprenticeships, or full-time opportunities. Building relationships where there is a degree of trust between council and company is important.
- 5.23 It was advised that there is another aspect to it which is about businesses support, signposting to advice, finance, growth opportunities, as well as the corporate relationships.
- 5.24 It was advised that asking for a levy from businesses to pay and collecting that on behalf of central government is one factor, but the other aspect is about business support.
- 5.25 Cllr Sharman interjected offering a clarification on the question stating that investing in helping individuals to work isn't the same in investing in local businesses to create jobs; Cllr Sharman said it seems there's no set of objectives around putting money into businesses. He advised that he is struggling to see a relationship between how we measure things and the investment in business.
- 5.26 Cllr Nicholson advised this is why the Economic Development Unit has been created.
- 5.27 Cllr Sharman continued, asking whether there is a clear relationship between a clear view of our objectives and what the benefit is in terms of what we want to measure in terms of resources put in.
- 5.28 DM Nicholson advised that this is down to the Regeneration Lead, not the Economic Development Lead, and again that's why the Economic Development Unit has been created. A distinction was made that under the

current model, the council is investing into town centres rather than individual businesses per se.

- 5.29 Cllr Sharman questioned the measuring of success.
- 5.30 DM Nicholson advised it has been measured in physical outcomes, for example – by affordable workspace or to do with square meterage. By bringing in the Economic Development Unit, there is now the opportunity to recast that important though it is to be able to understand how much how many square meters of affordable workspace have been delivered.
- 5.31 The chair requested that the meeting moves on from this line of questioning.
- 5.32 The next question submitted in advance was “Please update us on the review into affordable rents. How have the financial pressures of coronavirus & Brexit impacted community organisations, voluntary sector organisations, start-ups, microbusiness and social enterprises and their ability to rent commercial space in the borough?”
- 5.33 DM Nicholson advised that such businesses can only function in some form of lower-cost space, but they’re not able to afford market rent. This presents a challenge for the sector which is why the council’s own voluntary and community sector property portfolio is so important in this discussion.
- 5.34 For the voluntary and community sector, we’ve made sure that the council has remained committed to that portfolio and investing into that portfolio as well to ensure that property is fit for purpose. Councillor Kennedy’s bringing forward a comprehensive review and renewal of the relationship between the voluntary and community sector and the council; at the heart of that sits property and access to spaces to work from and operate from.
- 5.35 The chair made an observation that it is important that the qualities of that affordable rent are also factored into contributing, otherwise there’s only a measure of hard quality, inclusive growth.
- 5.36 DM Nicholson responded by saying he concurs and that the voluntary and community sector in the borough are major economic contributors, and not just to individuals in terms of their life changes and opportunities, but also to the wider borough economy.
- 5.37 It was stated that the executive recognises that it’s about making money to keep businesses going, whether it’s a social enterprise, voluntary sector organisation, or whether it’s commercial business, but the different is – what happens to the returns of those businesses in terms of reinvestment.
- 5.38 The chair notes that a possible recommendation of the commission would be to make sure that economic development really does think about that kind of economic value retention with the community, because, in the sense that you are investing in the community by subsidizing those rents – that has an economic value and economic benefit to be incorporated into what constitutes ‘effective measure’.
- 5.39 DM Nicholson agreed and noted that the next 4 years are going to be difficult for the council to manage and balance its books due to reducing income. It was noted that it was announced in cabinet that a decision has been made to release over £2.5m worth of investment into the voluntary and community sector.
- 5.40 The chair asked to move on from this line of questioning.

- 5.41 The next question submitted in advance was ‘What plans does the council have to rejuvenate the struggling night-time economy in the borough, particularly in areas dominated by NTE businesses like Stoke Newington & Shoreditch?’
- 5.42 DM Nicholson referred to the anecdotal evidence he already mentioned that footfall is returning to these areas and noted that this is important for Dalston and Shoreditch. At the moment, it is not easy to predict recovery – it will be difficult to re-establish cultural businesses in the borough.
- 5.43 Cllr Lufkin asked if there is a plan for if the NTE never fully recovers.
- 5.44 DM Nicholson advised this is also hard to predict but he had requested that the Shoreditch area plan be paused due to the uncertainty. Large scale development, housing need, and the delivery of new homes will impact how the area continues to develop, and the plan will be months ahead to restart it.
- 5.45 Cllr Smyth asked what COVID measures do we have separate to national government measures.
- 5.46 DM Nicholson advised that the council is still processing all of the plans and bringing figures together. It was noted that there’s been quite a lot of support that’s been brought forward to tenants of the council, be they commercial tenants or tenants associated with social enterprise.
- 5.47 It was noted there have been a lot of rent deferrals, and payment plans have been put into effect with some, and the variance of measures that are in place for different tenants makes it a challenging proposition to put a finger on what will happen in the future.
- 5.48 DM Nicholson stressed that the council hasn’t been forcing businesses into any one position, but it’s been a collaborative process, and we’ve made sure that council officers have been talking to tenants about creating bespoke plans for their businesses in terms of their future relationship with the council.
- 5.49 The Primary objective overall was to keep council premises alive with people working from them in whichever sector it was that they happen to be working in. So, whether it’s to do with the voluntary and community sectors, social enterprise sectors, or indeed the commercial company activity, this approach seems to have worked.
- 5.50 Cllr Stops asked a question around enforcement activity, how successful the council’s response has been, and what more can be done.
- 5.51 DM Nicholson advised that the employment and skills team would be able to answer better about Section 106 agreements, but that we should be reassured by the council’s employment team being involved in those conversation that led to those agreements at the outset of pandemic.
- 5.52 Cllr Stops asked about the Church St road closures stating that some businesses are making claims against loss of income. He asked how this closure initiative is being supported.
- 5.53 DM Nicholson advised that Cllr Stops is right, that the area regeneration team has been working closely with those businesses during the implementation of road closures.
- 5.54 DM Nicholson did acknowledge that there has been concern among some businesses. The council has tried to reassure these businesses that the council is there to promote businesses on Church St and bring in additional footfall.

- 5.55 Cllr Stops asked that a proper record be kept of the work that is going on to use as an example in a similar situation, should it arise in the future.
- 5.56 Cllr Lufkin advised that while footfall isn't everything, that it may be useful to try and measure it in different areas.
- 5.57 DM Nicholson agreed this would be useful but isn't in a position to comment on whether its possible.
- 5.58 Cllr Potter asked what changed have been implemented in planning policy to support local businesses to meet their net zero objectives.
- 5.59 DM Nicholson acknowledged the challenging nature of the net-zero objectives for businesses. He advised that smaller businesses may have a larger time of it, potentially due to not holding the knowledge of how to achieve these objectives, but also fundamental barriers that are restricting them from fully embracing net zero.
- 5.60 In terms of business practice, when a business moves into a building that's just been built, it can put in a set of conditions, or an emission portfolio, from the new development. That is one example where planning actively promotes the use of sustainable and net zero carbon building materials as part of the construction process itself.
- 5.61 DM Nicholson acknowledged some of the good work done by Cllr Coban, the relevant cabinet member, but added that the council needs to be more ambitious, adding that the construction sector is really catching up with all of this as well. It's all heading in the right direction, but the delivery of net-zero is challenging. An example was given of retrofitting the council's ~30k properties will be a great injection into the local economy.
- 5.62 Cllr Potter asked about best practice for planning and how planning policy has been informed by the developments so far.
- 5.63 DM Nicholson advised that for in terms of guidance around sustainable business practice and how you change your business practice, to in effect become net zero. That has been explored through one of the most recent initiatives that is just going live as we speak. The council is investing just under 600,000 pounds into a business support contract, which is focused on smaller businesses, which will start to unpack exactly what those issues and challenges barriers are whatever they may be the smaller businesses are confronted with when it comes to moving toward net zero.
- 5.64 DM Nicholson advised that he is not saying it's any less challenging for bigger business, but they have that resource there to do it, and they can bring in the skillset to realise it for them. smaller businesses aren't in that space. They don't have resource to that that sorry, recourse to that level of resource or skill sets and they need that advice.
- 5.65 DM Nicholson advised that the council needs to look at this with colleagues in City Hall and the GLA, as well as the mayor of London to make sure everyone's net zero objectives align and noted that Cllrs unlocked a £600k contract to bring that about, which can be a feature of SEG's upcoming meeting on 'Economic Stocktake'.
- 5.66 Cllr Potter asked what has been gained and learned from post-occupancy evaluations.
- 5.67 DM Nicholson advised that this is monitored by different teams across the council, all with a different focus. He noted that such evaluations are important

because they can play a significant part in shaping policy, and they play an important role in informing negotiations and dialogues with council partners going forward.

- 5.68 Cllr Smyth asked about a rule that would require new developments to generate at least 10% of their energy needs. He's been pushing for that to be raised to 50%. He asked whether Hackney's developments are complying with the 10% and could they be developed to reach 50%?
- 5.69 DM Nicholson advised that we as a council could attempt to impose such a thing, but that a third party could legally intervene. He advised that any such policy must be imbedded into the local plan, but that he foresees a compliance issue with enforcing the suggestion.
- 5.70 Chair observed that we need to be making turn that local plan into something practical by reforming our planning policy locally, including stipulations, perhaps not at the centre of capitalism to suggest but also across a whole range of technologies rather than simply ones that fulfill.
- 5.71 DM Nicholson clarified that he agrees with this position.
- 5.72 Cllr Sharman asked for a commitment to both a clear plan, a resource plan, and a management leadership.
- 5.73 DM Nicholson advised that the housing regeneration unit is very distinct, and within the property portfolio there are distinct teams throughout. We have a close alignment between employment & skills and area generation when you look at in in context. DM Nicholson advised that this may be unsustainable in the long run, and perhaps it isn't efficient, and it starts to dismantle the concept of place-based regeneration and the inclusive economy.
- 5.74 It was advised that place is very important in these discussions. It may be to do with open space, it might be to do with social spaces, cultural spaces, leisure spaces, workspaces, living spaces, goods and services, suddenly, the local place, whether it's an estate, whether it is a wider neighbourhood, whether it is a town centre becomes a priority, it becomes something very relevant.
- 5.75 DM Nicholson added that the council may not be fully delivering on place at the moment, but that is something that Cllrs will need to lead on in the new administration, citing a fragmented set of initiatives that exist currently.
- 5.76 Cllr Sharman alleged that there is no strategy and there is no working relationship between skills & Employment, policy, and the creation of jobs.
- 5.77 DM Nicholson advised that the council is acquiring homes for Hackney at living rent, that there is an emerging commercial waste company being established and said that Cllr Sharman's suggestion was an ambitious one and the new form of municipalism.
- 5.78 DM Nicholson advised that we have something in its infancy in the council at the moment and how is the time to reflect with a view to expanding these policies under the new administration. The backdrop of this is the council restructuring itself, and certainly as an administration, the changes discussed at this meeting need to be brought forward into the new manifesto.
- 5.79 Chair observed that they think the economic case, for much of what we're talking about, needs to be explicit and underpinning everything that we do, if we can demonstrate that we are retaining economic value in our community support people to be economically active, and social, because of these activities. It makes a case for what we're doing. And that's why we do this

because it creates an inclusive economy. Delivery is not engaging with the corporate strategy but taking those strategies into reality isn't being done presently.

- 5.80 Chair added that the council really does need to go back into the thinking about the dividing of the economic development, this restructuring of this Parliament thinking again, about how subjective revenue we've got to measure net zero was talked about again.
- 5.81 Cllr Sharman spoke about the Olympic development, suggesting that you will put businesses of if you rent them out at the commercial rate. He asked whether the council could do more to get a wider benefit from the spaces, and whether this could improve the social dividend.
- 5.82 DM Nicholson advised that a lot of that work is done through political advocacy at the moment, - there's no real leverage in place other than the leverage that's available through the Olympic Legacy Development Corporation.
- 5.83 It was advised local government must lead on this work, and that the commission should reflect and decide on whether or not it wishes to look at this work in more detail. It was noted that the London Legacy Development Corporation is very supportive of what the boroughs have proposed for Olympic Legacy work for the near future.
- 5.84 Cllr Sharman said there's no strategy yet and that we need one.

## **6 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- 6.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on the 15th of December 2021 were approved.

## **7 Any Other Business**

- 7.1 There was no other business.
- 7.2 The Chair brought the meeting to a close.

**Duration of the meeting: 7pm-9pm**