

# Overview & Scrutiny

## Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

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

**Thursday 16 February 2023**

**7.00 pm**

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

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

<https://youtu.be/bYUIhkFszAs>

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

<https://youtu.be/EVKgPEGDvWE>

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

Contact:

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**Mark Carroll**

**Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney**

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

## Agenda

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Urgent Items / Order of Business
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the Arts & Culture Sector (Pages 9 - 32)

- 5 Minutes of the Meeting (Pages 33 - 52)
- 6 Living in Hackney Work Programme 2022/23 (Pages 53 - 66)
- 7 Any Other Business

## Access and Information

### Public Involvement and Recording

#### Public Attendance at the Town Hall for Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

#### Rights of Press and Public to Report on Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Providing oral commentary during a meeting is not permitted.

## Advice to Members on Declaring Interests

### Advice to Members on Declaring Interests

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Further Information**

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

## Getting to the Town Hall

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

## Accessibility

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

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

## Further Information about the Commission

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

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



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<b>Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>16th February 2023</b> <b>Item 4 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the Arts &amp; Culture Sector</b>	Item No <b>4</b>
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## **Outline**

The Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission is keen to hear about the barriers faced by under-represented groups in accessing arts and culture opportunities in Hackney, and the work of the Council and its partners to improve access and increase participation.

Inequality of access to arts and cultural services appears consistently as a challenge for the sector, and the Commission sees the discussion as timely given the inequalities and barriers that have been brought into the spotlight as a result of the pandemic and rising cost of living.

## **Discussion**

To review Hackney Council and its partners' progress in advancing equality, diversity and inclusion in the arts and cultural sector.

Particular focus to be given to:

- The barriers faced by under-represented groups in accessing arts and culture opportunities in Hackney
- How the Council and its partners work to ensure there is equal access to arts and culture opportunities in Hackney

## **Report(s)**

To support this discussion the following written submission was included for background information:

- Item 4a. Report from Cultural Development Manager

### **Invited Attendees**

- Councillor Chris Kennedy - Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture
- Lucy McMenemy - Cultural Development Manager

### **Invited Third Sector Organisations**

- Play Space
- Hackney Shed
- Autograph
- Jun Mo Generation

### **Action**

Members are asked to consider the written submission and ask questions of those in attendance.

# **Scrutiny Commission paper on Hackney Council's progress in advancing equality, diversity and inclusion in the arts and cultural sector.**

From: Lucy McMenemy, Cultural Development Manager

Date: 8 February 2023

## **1. Introduction**

This paper summarises the work of the Cultural Development Team in advancing equality, diversity and inclusion in the arts and cultural sector.

As directed by the Scrutiny panel members, particular focus is given to the following two questions:

- How under-represented communities are supported to take advantage of opportunities to participate in arts and cultural activities
- What barriers remain in engaging under-represented groups to take advantage of arts and culture opportunities

The paper is structured as follows:

- Background: Hackney's Cultural Development Team and the Arts and Cultural Strategy
- Local context - key statistics about Hackney's population
- Reported under-representation in arts and culture
- What are the barriers and how can they be overcome?
- Example project summaries
- What barriers remain?

## **2. Background**

### **2.1 Cultural Development Team**

Hackney's Cultural Development Team currently comprises three Cultural Development Managers, one Events and Marketing officer and an apprentice. The team is part of Culture, Libraries and Heritage, led by Petra Roberts, Strategic Service Head.

A new Culture and Heritage Manager is due to start on 27 February 2023.

### **2.2 Hackney Arts and Cultural Strategy**

The team is tasked with delivering the Council's Arts and Cultural Strategy. The strategy is due a rewrite for 2022-26. The strategy has five key themes as follows:

- Community cohesion
- Employment in the cultural industries
- Health & wellbeing
- Education

- Cultural economy

### **3. Local context; Hackney's population**

For context, here is a brief summary of Census 2011 and Census 2021 data that tells us about Hackney's population:

- The 2011 Census estimates that around 40% of the population come from black and minority ethnic groups with the largest group (approximately 20%) being black or black British. 36% the population are white British and 16% are 'other white'.
- Hackney has one the largest group of Charedi Jewish people in Europe who predominantly live in the north east of the borough and represent 7% of the borough's overall population. 6% of Hackney's residents were born in Turkey and live throughout the borough. An estimated 100 languages are spoken in the borough.
- As of 2021, Hackney is the third most densely populated of London's 33 local authority areas.
- In Hackney, there has been an increase of 17.8% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 6.3% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a decrease of 3.3% in children aged under 15 years.
- However, the average age of Hackney's residents remains considerably younger than England and Wales overall. The largest number of usual residents in Hackney (nearly 50% of the population) are aged from 22 - 45.
- Nearly a third of Hackney's households are single-person. The number has declined since the last Census but it is still above the London and England average.
- Hackney continues to have higher than average proportions of individuals in same sex marriages and civil partnerships than the national average.
- A third of households face at least one form of deprivation. This has remained relatively unchanged since 2011, although the proportion of residents facing deprivation on more than one dimension has declined.
- Hackney remains an attractive destination for younger, working-age migrants, with the most common ages of arrival in the borough being 20-44.

### **4. Reported under-representation in arts and culture**

Two reports are briefly reflected upon here to identify current issues relating to under-representation in arts and cultural activities and opportunities in Hackney.

The first focuses on Hackney Carnival. Undertaken by Social Life, Hatch Regeneris and Kaizen Partnership in 2019, the report explored the social and economic impact of the Hackney Carnival.

The second report, commissioned by Create London, is entitled [PANIC](#), Social Class, Taste and Inequalities in the Creative Industries, and focuses on the lack of diversity representation in the cultural workforce. Although access to the workforce is not the main focus of the Scrutiny panel, it is worth mentioning as part of the bigger picture about equalities in the sector.

#### **4.1 Report 1: Hackney Carnival 2019**

Hackney Carnival is regarded as the borough's biggest and most inclusive cultural event. In years when a live carnival event is being delivered, the majority of the Culture team's annual budget is invested in the event.

Whilst the event has its roots in the traditional forms of 'carnival' which came out of the Caribbean, most notably from Trinidad and Tobago, today Hackney Carnival celebrates a broad mix of cultures and traditions from around the world, reflecting the borough's diversity. The event regularly includes artists representing the cultures of Bolivia, Brazil, the Caribbean, China and Vietnam, Ghana, Senegal and The Gambia.

The methodology for the Social and Economic Impact report included: a face-to-face and online survey of 551 attendees, 16 in-depth discussions with stakeholders including venue partners, carnival performers, and participating organisations, a literature review, secondary data audit and exploration of Hackney Carnival's image through social and print media representations.

The report compared the demographic information from survey data with existing secondary data about Hackney's population to explore whether residents attending Hackney Carnival reflect the demographics of the borough. This analysis suggested that while Hackney Carnival attracts people of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, sexualities and backgrounds, there are lower participation rates among certain communities. The report found the following:

- there was a broadly representative proportion of people by sexual orientation and disability
- adult participants include a higher proportion of people aged between 25 and 54 years old. It should be noted that under 16s were not approached to be surveyed
- slightly more women, than the borough profile, attended the Carnival
- a higher proportion of people who identify as White British/Irish and people from mixed ethnic backgrounds attend Carnival than the borough profile
- the proportion of Black British attendees is similar to the borough profile
- a higher proportion of people with Caribbean heritage participated in the Carnival
- fewer Asian and Asian British people go to the Carnival than are living in the borough
- a lower proportion of people who identify as 'Muslim' or 'Charedi' and a higher proportion of people who practise no religion attend the Carnival

The report also investigated levels of accessibility for attendees and carnival artists.

95% of attendees surveyed said Hackney Carnival is accessible to them, their family and friends. Many attendees indicated that it was important that the carnival stay “free”. Affordability is a cornerstone of Hackney Carnival and contributes to the community feel, accessibility and inclusivity of the day overall.

Organisations and community groups representing children, older people, people living with disabilities, BAME, LBGQTQI+ and other equalities groups also said, for the most part, that Hackney Carnival was inclusive and the council had accommodated their needs appropriately in preparation for and during the event.

One organisation said that while essential access considerations had been made, there could be more in place to allow people of all abilities to participate. These could include: hiring an “access” manager and stewards, offering ear defenders, providing wheelchair access areas, and more signage and wayfinding to improve the legibility of the event.

#### Conclusion: Under-represented groups at Hackney Carnival

In summary, although the report acknowledged great community cohesion within the audiences and participants of the carnival, it also identified that more could be done to ensure that the following groups are supported to access the event:

- Charedi Jewish communities
- Muslim / Turkish and Kurdish communities
- Asian and Asian British communities
- Disabled people

This feedback has informed plans for the carnival since 2019 and an overview of the work carried out to address these areas is in xxx below.

## **4.2 Report 2: Representation in the workforce**

The ‘PANIC! Social class, taste and inequalities in the creative industries’ report is based on data from the Panic! Survey which took place in 2015, and which received 2,487 unique responses about representation in the creative workforce.

The report shows that the cultural and creative sector workforce is marked by significant exclusions of those from working class social origins. It also aims to demonstrate how it intersects with other characteristics, primarily gender and ethnicity. The report concludes that women, and those from global majority communities, face barriers in addition to those associated with social class origin.

Overall, the findings present a challenge to the sector. It concludes with important questions as follows:

- To what extent are cultural and creative occupations accessible and 'meritocratic' if the demographics of its workers, their social origins, and their networks are relatively homogeneous?
- To what extent is the cultural and creative sector delivering on representing individuals, communities, and the nation if research suggests its tastes, values and attitudes are also relatively coherent?
- How will a sector with such different cultural engagement speak for the rest of a society for whom non-engagement is the norm?
- Looking at our cultural and creative industries as a whole, who is missing from the picture?

## **5. What are the barriers to participation and how can they be overcome?**

### **5.1 Financial**

As observed in the Carnival case study above, entrance fees to events and activities create a barrier to access and participation for people with lower incomes. To date, the Council's Culture team has used the following approaches to address this barrier:

- Holding free, inclusive events / activities in public spaces and cultural venues (all council-led events are free)
- Providing grants for organisations delivering free events / activities of interest to targeted communities, who may not otherwise be able to take part e.g. schools, young people, older people and other communities with protected characteristics
- Providing grants to fund discounted ticket price deals for Hackney residents
- Promoting universal and targeted discounted activities
- Supporting groups to fundraise for their own programmes of free / subsidised activity
- Providing 1:1 surgeries for Culture grant applicants
- Brokering access to free creative workspace / rehearsal space for community groups

### **5.2 Physical**

A wide variety of physical barriers are experienced by disabled people and others with limited mobility, such as older people. To date, the Culture team has used the following strategies to address such barriers:

- Commissioned cultural providers that work with disabled people
- Commissioned cultural activities and workshops in care homes and sheltered housing, to enable house-bound residents to take part
- Provided transport to events for older residents
- Taken basic steps to accommodate the needs of disabled performers and audiences at events

### **5.3 Digital**

Digitally excluded residents are greatly impacted by not accessing listings and booking information online, plus online content itself. The Cultural Development Team has aimed to address this barrier in the following ways:

- Producing printed marketing materials
- Sending accessible postal listings to a mailing list of digitally excluded older people
- Making group bookings and payments on behalf of digitally excluded older residents
- Promoting resources, training in IT and the Digital Buddies scheme to older residents

#### **5.4 Perceptual**

If residents cannot find people from their own community represented in a cultural activity / artform / venue / management team they may perceive that cultural activity as not being for them. In addition, what we regard as 'universal' activities may be inaccessible to certain groups due to cultural differences. A lack of arts provision in schools will further exacerbate the issue, as early opportunities to form lifelong habits will be lost.

Understanding this type of barrier takes time and the barriers are unique in every case; this is an ongoing piece of work. To date, the council has taken the following approaches to ensure cultural provision is regarded as relevant and accessible to residents:

- Co-producing events and activities with specific communities
- Commissioning outreach activities and events in familiar, community settings to engage new participants and audiences
- Providing grants to cultural organisations to implement audience development strategies
- Promoting campaigns to support access for specific groups e.g. Dementia Friendly venues
- Raising awareness of local venues and cultural offers for young people and older residents
- Exploring the possibility of creating a cultural referral pathway, to ensure that the borough's cultural offer is well-utilised by people with care plans / personalised budgets
- Inviting people to key cultural events as part of a group, overcoming the barrier of going out on one's own
- Supporting representation within Hackney's Heritage service collections e.g. developing a carnival collection and LGBTQIA+ collection in Hackney Archives
- Addressing inequities in representation in the public realm
- Promoting employment pathways for Hackney's young people

#### **5.5 Lack of brokerage with schools**

We know that many cultural organisations would like to work in schools and that schools are inundated with requests to deliver activities by cultural groups. A brokering role is needed, as set out in the Arts and Cultural Strategy, to support this work. To date, the following actions have been delivered by the Culture team:

- Occasional engagement with schools for key projects such as Windrush and carnival



It should be noted that Hackney Music Service and Hackney Museum are embedded in local education and have years of successful partnership working with all of Hackney's schools.

## 6. Council initiatives supporting under-represented communities

A selection of projects are presented below to illustrate the work of the Culture team in reaching out to Hackney's diverse communities and breaking the above barriers to participation.

<b>6.1</b>	<b>Hackney Carnival 2022</b>
Aim	Increase inclusion in the carnival, particularly from groups not already represented
Measure of success	<p>16 carnival groups take part and engage at least 20 members of their respective communities</p> <p>10 new Hackney-based performers / groups apply for and are programmed for the parade / static stages</p> <p>1 x Turkish group is engaged and presents work at Carnival 2022</p> <p>Faggamuffin continue to have a platform at carnival, representing LGBTQIA+ carnival artists and DJs</p> <p>500 people are engaged in carnival outreach activities, including 5 schools and two older peoples' groups</p> <p>10 members of Hackney Council staff are mentored to take part in the carnival parade</p> <p>Create opportunities post-carnival to showcase the youth stage performers / artwork produced in a key community engagement project</p>
Outputs	<p>16 diverse carnival groups received grants to engage their respective communities in Hackney Carnival. Each group planned to engage between 20–50 community participants.</p> <p>As always, the Council put out a call for new participants to Hackney residents and as a result four new groups were invited to take part in the parade and 45 diverse Hackney acts were contracted to perform on stage or deliver activities, including the following Hackney-based organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hackney Playbus</li> <li>● Hackney Showroom</li> <li>● One Drum Foundation</li> <li>● Alex Dayo Drumming School and Zantogola Band</li> <li>● Ministry of Stories</li> </ul>

- Core Clapton
- Hackney Herbal
- Flow Space Hackney
- Hackney Youth Voices
- Hackney Chinese Community Services
- Hasret Community Arts
- Connecting all Communities
- Hackney Eastern Asian Arts
- Creative Engagements
- The Majorettes
- Samba Sisters Collective
- Go Africa Community Hub
- Yaram Arts
- Blema Arts
- Gahu Arts
- Hackney Reggae Choir
- Cordwainers Grow
- Reggae Roast
- Dejavu FM
- Adrenaline Dance
- Get a Helping Hand
- Culture Riddim
- Sistah Space
- Caribbean Sessions
- Fraternity Cultural Bolivia UK

Young people were invited to programme a new youth stage and this was developed in partnership with the following organisations:

- Hoxton Hall
- The Crib
- Rising Tide

At least 20 members of Hasret Community Arts (Turkish group) planned to take part as parade participants (prior to the carnival being cancelled).

Due to a reduced footprint for sound systems in 2022, which precluded the involvement of a static sound system by LGBTQ+ led Faggamuffin Bloc Party, the group was invited to develop a presence as part of the parade, with up to 50 costumed performers.

**Pre-cancellation activity**

Before the carnival was cancelled, 91 council-commissioned engagement workshops took place to promote inclusion, involving 766 people from the following groups:

Young Generation Carnival Camp

63 children and young people attended 54 sessions at an eight day drop-in carnival summer camp held at Colvestone Primary School to take part in costume design, dance, steel pan and DJing workshops.

#### Carnival Earth Dragon

Sponsored by East Bank, an ambitious community engagement activity involved over 500 people in creating an artwork celebrating the borough's waterways and greenspaces, delivered in schools and community groups all over the borough. The following groups were involved:

- 15 members of Hasret community arts
- 25 Vietnamese members of Hackney Chinese Community Association
- 20 residents of Amhurst Court Community Centre
- 390 pupils from Millfields, Springfield, Betty Layward, Gainsborough and Mossbourne Primary Schools
- 113 library users at Hackney Central, CLR James Dalston and Stamford Hill Libraries
- 35 older residents from St Joseph's Hospice and Lime Tree Court Sheltered Housing

#### Other school workshops

In addition, 90 more children were engaged in a series of workshops held in Colvestone and St Matthias Schools.

#### Council staff group

15 members of staff from Hackney Council were mentored by Tropical Isles to take part in the carnival as a performing, costumed group.

#### Mentoring new groups

Mentoring sessions were held with Faggamuffin Bloc Party, Caribbean Session, Culture Riddim and Sistah Space.

#### Carnival group-led activities

The carnival groups used their grants to deliver their own community engagement activities involving a further **205** members of schools and the general public at **76** sessions. This included:

- 90 pupils benefitted from a residency by Taru at Morningside Primary School
- 90 children took part in a two week summer camp with Tropical Isles
- Pantonic's weekly steel pan sessions for beginners and experienced players (number of participants not known)
- 18 older participants took part in Paracarnival's residency at Uprising Caribbean Elders and St Catherine's Day Centre for Learning Disabled people,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 people took part in Unity’s programme of costume and dance at Hackney Caribbean Elders Association.</li> <li>• Pan Vibration’s carnival sessions at Springfield and St.John of Jerusalem Schools (number of participants not known)</li> </ul> <p><b>Post-cancellation showcases, October 2022</b></p> <p>Upon the cancellation of the live carnival in September, the carnival engagement programme was extended into both Black History Season and Lunar New Year, to enable three showcases to take place.</p> <p><u>Hoxton Hall Sound Out Carnival Special</u>  Delivered in partnership with Hoxton Hall, a three day half term activity ensured that the young people who would have performed at the carnival still had a chance to showcase their talents. A series of workshops culminated in a widely promoted ‘Sound Out Carnival Special’ event held at Hoxton Hall.  Photos of these workshop sessions can be found <a href="#">here</a>.  A film of the final ‘Sound Out Carnival Special’ event can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><u>Shoreditch Town Hall Carnival Showcase</u>  Sixteen of the carnival groups from the parade took part in showcasing their work at Shoreditch Town Hall on 30 October. There was a live audience of 350 people and over 1,000 online. In addition, 20 elders from Compassionate Neighbours and Hackney Caribbean Elders Organisation attended, with free transport provided by the Council. A film of the showcase can be found <a href="#">here</a> and photos can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><u>Lunar New Year Celebration</u>  The community-made Carnival Earth Dragon was finally showcased as a live parade at Hackney Bridge, as part of Lunar New Year 2023. 250 people attended the event, including children from the five participating schools. Photos can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>Outcomes</p>	<p><u>Stronger relationships between the council and community groups</u>  Stronger relationships with Hoxton Hall, Hasret Community Arts, Chinese Community Services, Compassionate Neighbours, Hackney Caribbean Elders Organisation, schools and many other community groups are now established and will be developed for future carnival events.</p> <p><u>Educational benefits and a sense of belonging</u>  Parents of children at the Young Generations Carnival Camp told us: <i>“It was fantastic. We wish it was all year round. Our child got in touch with her cultural roots - it’s important for a child’s heritage.”</i>  Hoxton Hall staff felt that the event and workshops encouraged young people to see Carnival as a creative vehicle and something they can be a part of.</p>

	<p><u>Increased access for older people to the carnival showcase</u>  <i>An audience member with limited mobility at the Carnival Showcase told us:</i>  <i>“Sitting down I felt like I was a part of the carnival. Well done to the participants.”</i>  <i>Compassionate Neighbours told us:</i>  <i>“I wanted to let you know that everyone had a fantastic time yesterday and to say a HUGE THANK YOU. Every one of our Community members that attended had a thoroughly wonderful time. They could not stop talking about the event on the way home and I am still receiving WhatsApp’s about it today.</i>  <i>The event was a huge success. Thanks again for taking on board the cost of the transport which makes a huge difference.”</i></p> <p><u>New partnerships fostered between community groups</u>  Hoxton Hall feels in a better position to start building more connections with other youth organisations.  All new parade groups consolidated closer links with the groups mentoring them.</p>
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<b>6.2</b>	<b>Windrush Programme 2022</b>
Aim	Expand the narrative of the Windrush Story to provide an authentic and diverse account of the Windrush Generation in Hackney.
Measure of success	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Windrush Generation, their descendants and community representation groups are funded to shape and deliver their own events as part of the Council’s Windrush programme that are age inclusive and also support attendance from those with disabilities or facing social isolation.</li> <li>2) Sharing untold stories of the Windrush Generation and their descendants.</li> <li>3) Delivery of Hackney Windrush Artwork Commission Stakeholder event and National Windrush Day community event to unveil the new Windrush Artwork by Thomas J Price.</li> <li>4) Windrush Compensation Scheme promoted to target audience. (Windrush Generation and their families)</li> <li>5) At least 300 attendees for NWD event and coverage of Thomas J Price sculpture unveiling in local and national press.</li> </ol>
Outputs	15 Windrush events and activities delivered.

	<p>1,050 attendees</p> <p>Four Hackney edition Windrush stories podcasts created.</p> <p>6,000 downloads in first three months of publishing.</p> <p>3 Windrush films commissioned, 2 screened to date to an in-person audience of 350 people.</p> <p>Both events delivered, attended by diverse audiences ranging in age, ethnicity and physical abilities.</p> <p>Windrush Compensation Scheme advisory stall hosted at National Windrush Day community event.</p> <p>100 attendees at HWAC stakeholder event.</p> <p>350 attendees at NWD community event.</p> <p>At least 15 articles in national and local press.</p> <p>2 pieces on national radio.</p> <p>1 piece on prime time news on national television.</p>
<p>Outcomes</p>	<p><b>Education:</b> Attendees reported a greater awareness of the history of the Windrush generation and their contribution to the borough. <i>"initiatives such as this are essential for us to all understand the struggles of migrants to the UK and amazing representation of our community expressing the struggles of first migrants"</i></p> <p><b>Community building:</b> Combating social-isolation in the older generation in the borough on Estates and in Sheltered Housing. <i>"The night was amazing there's nowhere for us to go anymore to spend time with each other I haven't left the house for a few weeks but I am glad I came, I feel so good thank you"</i></p> <p><b>Pride and celebration:</b> Windrush generation and their descendents pride in their history shared with event attendees. <i>"The whole event was inspiring, bringing back many memories of our youth. Black culture needs to be indoctrinated into the new generation coming up to know their historians to understand values "</i></p> <p><b>Inclusion and Increased access to representative art and culture.</b> Engagement included a wide range of ethnicities, ages and mental and physical abilities.</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Listeners provided with a greater awareness of the diverse history of the Windrush generation descendants in the borough and their contribution to shaping the borough to what is today.</p>

	<p>Public reinforcement of the Council's commitments to the Windrush generation.</p> <p>Demonstrated to funders and key arts organisations of the Council's ability to commission impactful and groundbreaking public art and how this has brought communities together, celebrated our local heroes and honoured the contribution of those that have shaped Hackney.</p> <p><b>Increased access to representative art and culture.</b> A permanent piece of public art and community event to celebrate, commemorate and honour the Windrush generation installed for residents and visitors of the borough to enjoy.</p> <p><i>"Great! History being made and witnessed by lots of first, second, third and fourth generations of the people who first came here from the Caribbean"</i></p> <p><i>"It was a truly amazing event, beautifully organised. Please pass on my thanks to all the team. I loved the steel band, poets, choir, speakers, statues and especially the VIP guests of honour sat at the front. I feel very proud of Hackney!"</i></p> <p><b>Increased access and awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme.</b></p>
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<b>6.3</b>	<b>Hackney Circle</b>
Aim	<p>To improve health, quality of life and overcome loneliness in Hackney's older generation by connecting them with Hackney's thriving cultural life, as part of the wider Ageing Well Strategy delivery.</p> <p>To sustain contact with digitally excluded members</p> <p>To support Hackney's cultural organisations (cultural partners) in reaching out to the 55+ population, becoming an integrated part of our service and developing the cultural economy</p>
Measures of success	<p>50 new members join</p> <p>Weekly <a href="#">Hackney Circle</a> listings are emailed to 250 members</p> <p>Monthly postal listings are sent out to 150 digitally excluded members</p> <p>5 new partner organisations join</p> <p>Hold a summer social event and provide transport for isolated older people</p> <p>Raise £30,000 for engagement projects for isolated older people</p> <p>Deliver a project with 20 Anchor Hanover residents</p>

	<p>Explore referral pathways between Hackney Circle, libraries and lunch clubs</p> <p>Develop group booking and payment methods to support digitally excluded members</p>
Outputs	<p>There are 416 members i.e. residents of Hackney aged 55+. 70 new members joined in 2022.</p> <p>Members are contacted by weekly emails, and by monthly letters to those without email, with information about cultural events and activities being delivered in Hackney by the Circle's 'cultural partners' e.g theatres, cinemas, community gardens, music venues etc.</p> <p>40 cultural partners are currently sharing their offers through Hackney Circle, of which some create special offers and events specifically for HC members.</p> <p>The HC information environment includes a <a href="#">website</a> with listings platform and accounts for cultural partners, enabling them to upload their own event information.</p> <p>The website attracted 3,700 page views, and 1,900 unique visitors in 2022. Over 75% of these visits / views were from a desktop and the majority of views were due to the direct email to members (1,757) but also came via Google (572), Bing (57) and Love Hackney (10). One 'Summer Social' event was held at Eastern Curve Garden, to promote the Hackney Circle to existing and new members. Over 100 people attended.</p> <p>Strategic partnerships have been developed with Mortar, Queen Mary University, ACE, Unlimited and Partnerships for People and Place, raising £43,500 of funding for the Hackney Circle in 2022, (applied for by the Hackney Circle's strategic partner Mortar), enabling further engagement activities to be delivered to targeted communities of people at risk of social exclusion.</p> <p>A six week, targeted engagement project (funded with £7,000 from Unlimited) involved 38 isolated older residents of Anchor Hanover Housing Estates, who have limited mobility. 24 creative workshops were delivered in the common rooms of the estates and 4 estate managers were supported.</p> <p>A programme of live puppet performances of <i>Anansi and the Lost Sun</i> delivered by Swallow Wings puppetry at Hackney Lunch Clubs and housing estates. The programme involved live music, storytelling workshops and the production of a radio show.</p>



	<p>A consortium approach to communications and fundraising is being developed with Lunch Clubs (run by HCVS) and Libraries.</p> <p>A pilot project is currently being delivered in Homerton led by Hackney Circle and involving the library, the lunch club and the Castle Cinema, funded by the Council's Partnerships for People and Place programme. Supported group bookings and payments are being made to Castle Cinema on behalf of digitally excluded members.</p>
Outcomes	<p>The targeted engagement work with <a href="#">Anchor Hanover residents</a> delivered by Mortar, led to the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participants grew in confidence over the weeks</li> <li>● A group of participants attended the Hackney Circle Summer Social; for some this was their first trip out of the home for two years</li> <li>● Two art clubs for Anchor Hanover residents have been created as a legacy of the project, enabling participants to stay engaged, creative and sociable</li> </ul> <p>Anecdotally, members have told us that they highly value the Hackney Circle listings service, supporting them to enjoy life in Hackney. Access to this kind of social activity contributes to sustaining independence into old age. An up to date evaluation of the service is required, but previous feedback about the impact of the Hackney Circle has been as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>"feels good that something is being done for my age group"</i></li> <li>● <i>"there is more going on than I realised"</i></li> <li>● <i>"I hardly went out before Hackney Circle"</i></li> <li>● <i>"makes me revisit places"</i></li> <li>● <i>"(it's a) reminder of my connection"</i></li> <li>● <i>"(makes me) feel they would like to see us"</i></li> </ul> <p>Hackney Circle is also involved in a new partnership with researchers from Queen Mary University and together we have applied for funding to carry out research into the efficacy of existing referral pathways to culture for older people. This will identify groups of older people at risk of exclusion from participation and, pending the success of the funding bid, some case studies with up to four Hackney cultural venues will develop best practice in making culture more accessible to older people at risk of exclusion. In addition, a tool kit will be created to support the wider cultural sector in improving the accessibility of their venues and offers.</p>

6.4	<b>Hello Again Hackney (Cultural venues reopening fund)</b>
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<p><b>Aims</b></p>	<p>The project was created to support cultural businesses in re-engaging with their Hackney-based audiences as Covid restrictions lifted, to support their financial sustainability and also to provide free or low cost tickets to cultural events for Hackney residents, fostering new audiences for arts and culture and supporting mental health.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>	<p>The total fund was £450,000 distributed in two rounds, to a total of 51 cultural organisations, in grants of £5,000 and £10,000 (some were successful in both rounds)</p> <p>29,612 free or low cost tickets / engagement opportunities were taken up by residents, with the fund covering an average cost per head of £15.00. This breaks down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 13,205 free or subsidised tickets to cultural events accessed by local residents</li> <li>● 16,407 other residents engaged in free, targeted outreach projects</li> </ul> <p>975 events / engagement opportunities took place</p> <p>1367 artists were employed</p>
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p>	<p>95% of participating businesses told us that the fund consolidated relationships with existing community members, who benefited from reduced ticket prices.</p> <p><b>Hackney Empire:</b> <i>The Hello Again Hackney enabled us to both encourage more people to book tickets and subsidise the discount we could offer to them, increasing ticket sales without losing any of their vital margin. As well as providing vital box office revenue it allowed us to underline our commitment to the people of Hackney.</i></p> <p><b>Arcola Theatre:</b> <i>We have been blown away by the success of Arcola for Free, made possible by Hello Again, Hackney. The scheme gave free theatre tickets to Hackney residents for Arcola Outside, our new covid-safe outdoor venue, with time dedicated to trying to reach those who are disadvantaged and marginalised in the local community.</i></p> <p>The fund also created many opportunities for developing new partnerships and audiences. Funded organisations told us:</p> <p><b>Headway:</b> <i>Enabled the development of a partnership with Cafe Oto. Supported us to develop a new audience for our music activity for brain injury survivors.</i></p>

	<p><b>Peer:</b> <i>We engaged a diverse group of participants, some of whom had never tried art activities before and had never visited PEER. Through PEER Exchanges, we developed a good relationship with Holly Street Lunch Club, taking time to visit them on site and deliver workshops related to our exhibition programme. This engaged diverse needs including people with Autism and Dementia. We also developed a brilliant relationship with Hackney Circle who we liaised with about our upcoming programme. They then supported us to recruit participants for artist-led exhibition tours, workshops and the Creative Diaries project via their networks.</i></p> <p><b>Activiteens:</b> <i>Before we secured this funding the young people on our waiting list waited in suspense as they knew that without funding we would not be able to deliver this project. One commented "Thanks for giving me a chance to taste the green of the grass on the other side of the fence. Can I already register for next year?"</i></p> <p><b>Rio Cinema:</b> <i>Rebuilding regular audiences who have lapsed during lockdown and bringing new audiences in and attracting young audiences to archive/history projects and entertaining low income pensioners and the homeless, and using local performers and suppliers</i></p>
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<b>6.5</b>	<b>Hackney Pride</b>
<b>Aims</b>	<p>To celebrate the borough's historic, diverse and boundary-breaking LGBTQIA+ community.</p> <p>To relaunch the programme since the hiatus caused by the Pandemic in 2020/21 that is sustainable with less officer resources.</p> <p>LGBT+ History month microgrant programme for 2023; to support community groups and organisations focused on LGBT+ history and sharing of it, combining the value of traditional research with that of lived experiences.</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Queer night Pride and fender bender event (Aug 2021) Numbers</li> <li>● Inquiring Festive (young people/DYH) - (Nov 2021)</li> <li>● Business and professional development for Faggamuffin (Dec 2021 over 12 months)</li> <li>● Flag raising with communications and photography: LGBT+ History month - supports Hackney's inclusive identity</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding LGBT+ and Queer histories at Hackney Archives - show and tell event (Feb 2022)</li> <li>• Rio &amp; Hackney Archives &amp; screening and panel discussion, attendance 250 (Feb 2022)</li> <li>• VDF LGBT+ history programme of film screenings and walks with Lavina Coop intersection of Working Class and LGBT+ history, attendance 23 in-person (Feb 2022)</li> <li>• Three podcasts: a collaboration between Hackney Archives and Staff network (Proud Hackney)</li> <li>• Proud Hackney (Staff network) and members attended the London Pride parade with LGBTQIA+ merchandise distributed (Summer 2022) - 50 wristbands and the rainbow fleet (electric) vehicle (plus allies as wheel stewards)</li> <li>• Faggamuffin - Queerness at carnival events, target support for LGBT+/POC practitioners and audiences. (Summer 2022)</li> </ul>
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<b>6.6</b>	<b>Discover Young Hackney</b>
Aims	<p>To introduce arts and culture to young people, with a view to them considering a career in the sector</p> <p>Young people develop relationships with organisations in arts &amp; culture, and start to form their own network</p> <p>Activities and events nurture talents, train in new skills and boost young people's confidence</p>
Measures of success	<p>300 young people are engaged in the programme</p> <p>10 cultural organisations take part, including 50 % organisations new to DYH</p> <p>Two new art forms are introduced to the programme, diversifying the offer and keeping it relevant to developments in the cultural sector</p> <p>Make all activities accessible to SEND young people</p>
Outputs	<p>330+ young people participated in DYH (a record number of participants)</p> <p>DYH partnered with 11 cultural organisations, seven of whom were new to the programme</p> <p>New / trending activities included DJing for girls, skateboarding, community activism and fashion photography</p>

	Every activity was inclusive, with at least one participant with SEND participating (although not every event was specifically targeted to young people with SEND)
Outcomes	<p>Quotes from two participants demonstrate the impact the programme had on their confidence, sense of belonging and ambition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“I feel I have a support network that I can discover my ever-changing self with. The community we have made encourages me to go after dreams of a creative career I previously thought were unattainable.”</i> <b>Hackney Empire project participant</b></li> <li>• <i>“If you're creative, and performing arts is one of your loves then go for it, because you honestly don't know what you'll get back. And it doesn't have to be in the form of money, but networks that can help you get to the next stage.”</i> <b>Yard Theatre participant</b></li> </ul>

## 6.7 Supporting Orthodox Jewish-led cultural activity

As observed in the Social and Economic Impact Report on the Carnival, Orthodox Jewish communities currently do not benefit from some of the Council's universal cultural offers. The Culture team has provided support to the Charedi community in other ways, as set out below. This work creates the foundations for more regular support and resources in the future from Culture, Libraries and Heritage.

Examples of existing support include:

- Holding a celebration of the Menorah lighting at Hanukkah
- Supporting a Charedi girls' annual show at the Hackney Empire
- Commissioning activities from the Lubavitch Childrens' Centre at the celebration of the reopening of Springfield Park / Queen's Platinum jubilee event
- Providing Hello Again Hackney funds to support a programme of creative activities for girls, as lockdown restrictions lifted
- Funding St.Michael's church to undertake a collaboration with the Jewish community to produce a documentary for Windrush

## 7. What barriers remain in engaging under-represented groups to take advantage of arts and culture opportunities

The existing strategies to overcome barriers outlined in 5 above will be developed and built upon, to incorporate ideas and suggestions from the panel.

Some barriers are systemic and will require major redesigns in ways of working, including the following:

### **7.1 Financial barrier: commissioning models and grant applications**

The Culture team currently invites funding proposals from the community in the form of written applications, which can be submitted on a Google form or by Word doc. In some cases, 1:1 surgeries are held with applicants to provide advice on completing the application form. Community stakeholders are invited to join panels to select the best proposals to take forward.

However, this approach can create a barrier to people who may have other communication preferences. The Culture team will explore alternative commissioning models.

### **7.2 Physical barrier: accessibility of venues and event spaces**

Many venues and events spaces pre-date modern accessibility regulations and may not meet DDA requirements. Others require updating as new technologies support better accessibility.

Access audits of cultural venues and event spaces would help to identify the scale of this issue. An achievable quick win would be to commit to addressing physical accessibility at the next live carnival, for both artists and audiences.

### **7.3 Digital barrier: lack of access to training, devices and wifi**

While the strategies employed by the Culture team to overcome digital barriers to inclusion for older people are effective, they are yet to be rolled out across the whole service, and they are a work-around to the broader issue of digital exclusion.

Working more closely with our libraries and digital inclusion services, a long term approach to overcoming digital exclusion can be developed.

### **7.4 Perceptual barrier: lack of representation in the public realm / calendar / workforce**

As mentioned in 5 above, if residents cannot find people from their own community represented in a cultural activity / artform / venue / management team, they may perceive that cultural activity or venue as not being for them.

The Culture and Heritage teams are proactively working on projects that actively address the imbalance of cultural representation in historic collections and in the public realm:

Hackney's Review Rename Reclaim project was launched in September 2020 in response to BLM and considers changing contested names across Hackney's Street and building/estate names that represent racist history. Kit Crowley Gardens is the first public space to be renamed as part of the programme.

Hackney's Heritage team plans to collaborate with Housing Regeneration to name new blocks and streets, focusing on women's history, LGBTQIA+ , Jewish History and other hidden histories.

The establishment of more moments in the cultural calendar dedicated to communities and traditions that we do not currently celebrate can be explored, to achieve greater community cohesion.

The Employment theme of the Arts and Cultural Strategy also aims to address this issue. Currently, the Discover Young Hackney programme aims to introduce young people to potential careers in the sector. There is much more work to be done on this strand of work, in collaboration with Hackney Works and related networks such as Hackney 16+ and Hackney's Youth Theatre Alliance. Partnerships with East Bank organisations and the borough's film industry may also create further opportunities.

There is scope for the Culture team to also address this through Hackney Carnival. Currently a community panel is convened when selecting the next Hackney Carnival Artistic Director and the participating carnival groups have the majority vote to ensure that the postholder is their choice. However, through the provision of training programmes, more can be done to ensure that opportunities exist for diverse local people to work on the event.

#### **7.5 Capacity barrier: lack of brokering with schools**

There is much work to be done in this area, to build on the one-off engagement led by the Culture team, and develop that into a longer term, more embedded approach to engagement with schools.

A brokering role is required, between schools and cultural organisations, as set out in the Arts and Cultural Strategy. The new Engagement & Development Team as part of the emerging restructure of the library service may help to deliver this by providing additional officer time to focus on a more strategic, joined up approach to our work with schools.

The Culture team proposes to invest in the Museum's Black History Month Schools programme in 2023-24, to facilitate the continuation of the heritage service's well established partnership with schools.

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<b>Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>16th February 2023</b> <b>Item 5 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	Item No <b>5</b>
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### Outline

Attached are the draft minutes of the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission meetings held on 23rd January 2023.

### Action



Members are asked to review and agree the draft minutes as an accurate record of the meeting, and note any responses to actions arising.

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London Borough of Hackney  
Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission  
Municipal Year 2020/21  
Monday 23 January 2023

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

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<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Councillor Soraya Adejare</b>
<b>Councillors in Attendance:</b>	<b>Cllr Clare Joseph (Vice-Chair), Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren, Cllr Sarah Young and Cllr Zoe Garbett</b>
<b>Councillors in Virtual Attendance:</b>	<b>Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Penny Wrouth</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Sam Pallis and Cllr Ali Sadek</b>
<b>Officers In Attendance:</b>	<b>Andrew Trathen (Public Health Consultant) and Simon Young (Health Systems Coordinator)</b>
<b>Officers in Virtual Attendance:</b>	<b>Chris Lovitt (Deputy Director of Public Health)</b>
<b>Other People in Attendance:</b>	<b>Councillor Susan Fajana Thomas (Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services, Borough Commander James Conway (Central East Borough Command Unit, Metropolitan Police), Chief Inspector Sean Lyons (Central East Borough Command Unit, Metropolitan Police), Detective Superintendent Dan Rutland (Central East Borough Command Unit, Metropolitan Police) and Peter Merrifield (Chief Executive, Support When It Matters)</b>
<b>Other People in Virtual Attendance:</b>	<b>Eoin Bolger (Head of Regional Operations, Turning Point), Piers Adamson (Senior Operations Manager - City &amp; Hackney, Turning Point), Cllr Ben Hayhurst (Chair, Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission), Cllr Sophie Conway (Chair, Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission) and Cllrs Kam Adams and Sharon Patrick (Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission)</b>
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	<b>Craig Player</b>  020 8356 4316  <a href="mailto:craig.player@hackney.gov.uk">craig.player@hackney.gov.uk</a>

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**Councillor Soraya Adejare in the Chair**

## 1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 The Chair updated those in attendance on the meeting etiquette and that the meeting was being recorded and livestreamed.

1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ozsen and Sadek.

1.3 Councillors Rathbone and Wrout were in virtual attendance.

## 2 Urgent Items / Order of Business

2.1 There were no urgent items, and the order of business was as set out in the agenda.

## 3 Declaration of Interest

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 Policing of Drug Use

4.1 The Chair opened the discussion by explaining that the item had been requested as the Commission was keen to hear about the local approach to policing drug use as part of its continued work on trust and confidence and inclusive policing.

4.2 The Commission saw the discussion as timely given that Hackney had been involved in the ADDER Accelerator programme of work which had impacted on the policing of drug use and the pathways that exist between the criminal justice system and community substance use treatment.

4.3 It was also seen as timely given the Government's white paper on tougher consequences for the possession of drugs, which if successful and became law carried the risk of further marginalising vulnerable residents and the over policing of vulnerable communities.

4.4 N.B. Additional presentation slides on nitrous oxide and the night time economy were tabled at the meeting and included within the minutes pack.

### 4.5 Representing London Borough of Hackney

- Cllr Susan Fajana Thomas, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
- Chris Lovitt, Deputy Director of Public Health, City of London & London Borough of Hackney
- Andrew Trathen, Public Health Consultant
- Simon Young, Health Systems Coordinator

### 4.6 Representing Metropolitan Police Central East Borough Command Unit (CE BCU)

- Borough Commander James Conway
- Detective Superintendent Dan Rutland
- Detective Chief Inspector Jason Lyons

### 4.7 Representing Turning Point

- Eoin Bolger, Head of Regional Operations
- Piers Adamson, Senior Operations Manager (City & Hackney)

#### 4.8 Representing Support When It Matters (SWIM)

- Peter Merrifield, Chief Executive

4.9 The Chair invited the Detective Chief Inspector, CE BCU to give a short verbal presentation to supplement the written evidence included within the agenda papers. The main points are highlighted below.

4.10 Project ADDER was a government funded programme which provided additional resources for the police to tackle the supply of drugs, whilst also supporting treatment and recovery plans to cut drug-related crime along with the cycle of misuse and offending.

4.11 The programme was expanded to CE BCU in April 2021. It led to a new approach to tackling drug misuse which combines increased productivity with enhanced treatment and recovery services, bringing together partners including the police, local authorities and health services.

4.12 An ADDER Delivery Group had been established to drive activity across the partnership and ensure shared learning, capacity, intelligence and creativity, and a Police Accelerator Delivery Group also met monthly to drive activity and share ideas and learning with the respective teams across CE BCU covering Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

4.13 An overarching CE BCU Strategy Group chaired by the CE BCU Commander met quarterly to ensure synergy across both local authority areas, and a CE BCU Performance Group met monthly to ensure delivery against the monitoring and evaluation framework set by the Home Office and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Project ADDER Programme Teams.

4.14 Drugs supply was a driver of violence and a growing enabler of enforcement. The programme therefore focused on the middle market space (Organised Crime Networks and gangs) to increase its reach and impact, and on improving processes/capability/coordination to improve outputs from existing operational teams.

4.15 It also focused on developing pathways into treatment, for example by strengthening Drug Testing on Arrest and widening the use of Out of Court Dispersals into treatment, early intervention and education.

4.16 CE BCU and the local authorities had worked together to develop a greater understanding of the relationship between drugs and violence across Hackney and Tower Hamlets, which it hoped would support appropriate action across the partnership.

4.17 Pan London learning was undertaken and shared across the Metropolitan Police Drugs Board, London Drugs Forum and Drugs Focus Desks to drive understanding of best practice and improve outcomes. The ADDER programme had also been expanded into Lambeth, Southwark/Camden and Islington.

4.18 The ADDER programme had been extended in CE BCU until 2025 at least, with significant investment secured across CE BCU and the local authorities. The programme would continue to see a strengthening of partnership work which would now fall under the Combating Drugs Partnership.

4.19 The Chair invited the Public Health Consultant and Health Systems Coordinator, Hackney Council to give a short verbal presentation to supplement the written evidence included within the agenda papers. The main points are highlighted below.

4.20 Drug use was harmful to population health, and impactful to communities as a driver of crime. After a decade of divestment from drug treatment and recovery services, drug related deaths had increased both nationwide and in Hackney.

4.21 In 2021 central government released its ten year drug strategy, which focused on three strategic priorities - breaking drug supply chains, delivering world-class treatment and recovery services and achieving a shift in the demand for recreational drugs.

4.22 Social problems often create the conditions in which drug use is more likely, and drug-related deaths and harm were therefore seen as preventable. The public health approach involved creating healthier environments - from dealing with a crisis to preventing problematic use in the first place.

4.23 There were concerns amongst public health professionals around the government's white paper on tougher consequences for the possession of drugs and the impact that such an approach may have on vulnerable communities and existing health inequalities.

4.24 16,455 individuals in Hackney aged between 16 and 59 years old were estimated to have used some kind of drug in the year ending June 2022, and 5535 of these were aged between 16 and 24 years old.

4.25 4650 individuals aged between 16 and 59 years old were frequent drug users (individuals who use drugs more than once per month), 1399 of which were aged between 16 and 24 years old.

4.26 The Council commissioned a suite of services to help meet the needs of residents using drugs as effectively as possible. The main service commissioned was the Hackney Recovery Service, a multidisciplinary team operated by Turning Point.

4.27 Within this service, residents received psychosocial support in order to help them move away from harmful drug usage, as well as pharmacological intervention where necessary or helpful.

4.28 The Hackney Recovery Centre currently worked with around 25% of the number of individuals who used drugs frequently in the borough, so there was clearly some unmet need. Outreach work had therefore been increased, with Turning Point reaching around 100 additional vulnerable residents per month.

4.29 As part of the ADDER programme the Council had worked closely with the police to develop ways of working to more effectively reduce the risks of drug use, such as by utilising Out of Court Dispersals, Merlin reports of vulnerability and Drug Testing on Arrest/Required Assessments.

4.30 As a result, there had been an increase in individuals presenting to drug treatment and recovery services, an increase in individuals engaging with services throughout their treatment and recovery and a decrease in individuals leaving services

in a negative fashion - all of which indicated individuals were getting the support they needed.

4.31 The Council also commissioned St Giles Trust to deliver peer led employment support for individuals who use drugs, and Support When It Matters (SWIM) to deliver bespoke interventions to individuals who identify as Black, offering a specific programme of support aimed at older Black men who use drugs.

4.32 The Chair then invited the Chief Executive, SWIM to give a short verbal presentation to supplement the written evidence included within the agenda papers. The main points are highlighted below.

4.33 SWIM had been commissioned to provide a culturally informed programme for older Black men who use drugs. These were men who were reluctant to engage with services and perceived support as ineffective and culturally uninformed.

4.34 It offered a ten-week programme of culturally informed 1:1 and group interventions for clients to stabilise housing, relationships, finances and health. This gave individuals the confidence to engage with other services, decreased the likelihood of reoffending and anti-social behaviour and moved individuals away from drug and alcohol misuse.

#### Questions, Answers and Discussion

4.35 *A Commission Member expressed concern about the government's white paper on tougher consequences for the possession of drugs, which was felt to be in contrast to the approach being taken locally.*

4.36 It was asked whether the two could coexist, and what the likely impact would be should it become law.

4.37 The Detective Chief Inspector, CE BCU responded by explaining that the white paper was focused more on recreational drug use and the night time economy and, should it become law, would not detract from the work being done under Project ADDER.

4.38 The Borough Commander, CE BCU added that the police decided how law was implemented locally, allowing it to respond to local operational and community needs. He confirmed that the CE BCU was committed to the approach being undertaken through Project ADDER.

4.39 The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services added that one of the strategic priorities of the Community Safety Partnership had been to tackle street based drug markets and substance misuse.

4.40 Its focus had been to reduce the demand and availability of drugs and associated harm, crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as to support drug users into effective treatment and outreach services.

4.41 *The Chair of the Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission asked what commissioned substance misuse services such as Turning Point were focusing their limited resources on and how increased funding may benefit them.*

4.42 The Head of Regional Operations, Turning Point explained that substance misuse services had experienced severe austerity over the last decade, and that there was considerable evidence to suggest that this austerity caused significant challenges elsewhere, such as in criminal justice, public health and adult social care.

4.43 Much of the focus of its resources was on workforce recruitment and retention. It was hoped that increasing workforce capacity and pay would not only benefit employees and thus increase output, but would also make the service user experience better.

4.44 Recruiting and retaining nursing and clinical staff was a particular challenge, as seen across the sector. Job sharing across various organisations was one way in which Turning Point was looking to make roles more attractive to prospective employees.

4.45 It was also looking at securing additional buildings across Hackney and the City so that it was able to expand the services it offered to identifiable, customer facing locations and engage with different cohorts across the areas it covered.

*4.46 The Chair of the Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission asked for further information on the link between drug misuse and mental health issues, and how drug misuse and mental health services worked together in Hackney.*

4.47 The Senior Operations Manager (City & Hackney), Turning Point explained that many individuals that come into contact with substance misuse services also had corresponding mental health issues.

4.48 Turning Point operated the City and Hackney Recovery Service in partnership with the mental health charity Mind. There were 11 posts within the service who were employed by Mind and brought with them specialist mental health knowledge, and the partnership meant that a number of mental health interventions and groups were run for service users.

4.49 The City and Hackney Recovery Service also worked closely with local NHS Foundation Trusts who had specialist mental health teams. They often provided a link between the service and local mental health support, and provided support in cases of more complex mental health needs.

4.50 One area the service had considered should additional funding be secured in the future was creating a dual diagnosis team. This would allow employees to work more closely with mental health partners on more complex cases, improving outcomes for service users.

4.51 The Health Systems Coordinator, Hackney Council added that the Combating Drugs Partnership sought to develop partnership working with relevant agencies to ensure outcomes were linked to focused, local aims around different presentations of drug use.

4.52 It was hoped that the Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership, which had responsibility and oversight for various NHS services, would both be engaged with the work of the Combating Drugs Partnership.



4.53 *The Chair of the Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission asked whether a demographic breakdown of the number of frequent drug users in the borough was available.*

4.54 The Health Systems Coordinator, Hackney Council explained that the Council was unable to break the demographics of frequent drug users in the borough down any further than by ethnicity, gender or age at this stage.

4.55 Officers were largely reliant on national surveys and census data in this respect. It was hoped that through the Combating Drugs Partnership the shortfall in data could be filled by engaging the local community and working more closely with local partners to understand the local context better.

4.56 *The Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission asked for more information on the approach being taken to the policing of children and young people suspected of being in possession of drugs.*

4.57 The Detective Chief Inspector, CE BCU responded by explaining that any child suspected of drugs possession would be treated as a child first and foremost, prioritising their best interests.

4.58 Should a child be found in possession of drugs, they would most likely go through some sort of triage or community resolution through the Youth Offending team. The Youth Offending team were trained to recognise substance misuse needs and make relevant referrals into children's social care services where appropriate.

4.59 The Detective Superintendent, CE BCU added that in cases of possession with intent to supply, a child would be treated as a victim of criminal exploitation first and foremost. This meant that officers would seek to bring those exploiting a child to justice, rather than criminalising the child.

4.60 This approach was largely reliant on the cooperation of the child and the evidence available to officers. If there was insufficient intelligence to suggest that the child was being exploited they may have to be pursued through the criminal justice system.

4.61 However, every child that was arrested for drugs possession or supply in Hackney were provided with wraparound partnership support which sought to provide a trauma informed response and avoid the need for criminalisation.

4.62 The Merlin system was in place to allow the recording and sharing of concerns with relevant partners to safeguard vulnerable individuals. This involved an officer recording their findings in a Merlin report, which would then alert the local authority who would then decide how best to safeguard the individual.

4.63 *A Commission Member asked whether there was a community outreach service for substance misuse in Hackney and, if so, what the service looked like.*

4.64 The Health Systems Coordinator, Hackney Council explained that the substance misuse community outreach function was delivered by a range of commissioned services.

4.65 Outreach work targeted various demographics, for example older Black men who use drugs through SWIM and children and young people through Young Hackney.

4.66 *A Commission Member asked how joined up the partnership response to individuals presenting with substance misuse vulnerabilities was in Hackney, and whether there was any room for improvement.*

4.67 The Health Systems Coordinator, Hackney Council explained that Project ADDER had funded a specific case coordinator role which was based in Hackney and oversaw multi-agency, coordinated responses to referrals.

The Council also hoped to allocate part of the Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant to developing multi-agency, coordinated intervention models, though the determination of funding was still to be communicated.

4.68 The Chief Executive, SWIM added that partnership working between key agencies such as the police, local authorities and substance misuse treatment services was strong. There was a genuine trust between partners and a desire to improve outcomes for vulnerable residents.

4.69 Increased resources was one area by which the partnership could improve outcomes. Substance misuse treatment services such as SWIM often worked beyond their means whilst also developing close relationships with service users which often meant they become reliant on the service.

4.70 Recruitment was also an area of concern for commissioned services, especially when trying to recruit people with significant lived experience and/or knowledge of multi-agency partnership working.

4.71 The Senior Operations Manager (City & Hackney), Turning Point added that the depth and range of partners involved in this area of work was generally strong, though more work could perhaps be done to engage the probation service locally.

4.72 The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services added that the Council delivered a range of other services alongside its partners for those that were frequent drug users and/or come into contact with the criminal justice system for drug related issues.

4.73 For example, it delivered two employment services (Individual Placement and Support Employment Service with Hackney Works and a peer led employment programme with St Giles Trust), and Young Hackney also supported children and young people across the borough with a range of issues including drugs and alcohol and youth justice.

4.74 *A Commission Member asked what evidence a police officer would need to be presented with before making a Merlin referral, and what the process was once a Merlin referral was made.*

4.75 The Borough Commander, CE BCU clarified that once a Merlin referral was made, it was shared with the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH), which included a wide range of agencies including the local authority and those in health and social care. Some cases may also be referred to the Community Multi-Agency Risk

Assessment Conference (CMARAC) to manage risks for the most vulnerable adults coming to notice.

4.76 *A Commission Member asked how CE BCU was reviewing the use of stop and search locally to ensure the power was not used disproportionately, and how it was working with local communities to restore trust and confidence in local policing.*

4.77 The Borough Commander, CE BCU began by acknowledging that the use of stop and search had been an issue for the Metropolitan Police and the communities it served for a number of years.

4.78 It was now widely recognised that long-term use of stop and search as a standalone power did not necessarily reduce crime. However, it was considered an effective tool for mitigating short-term challenges such as an escalation in violent crime in a local area.

4.79 The local approach therefore needed to be centred around maximising the effectiveness of stop and search when used in response to short-term challenges, whilst ensuring it did not create long-term damage and distrust in local communities.

4.80 There had been a significant reduction in the use of stop and search in the borough over the previous two years whilst maintaining the volume of positive outcomes. This suggested that a lower volume of searches in Hackney may be just as effective when its use was targeted and appropriate.

4.81 The reduction in the use of stop and search may be due to a range of factors. One may be the delivery of training with local partners to local officers and shared learning across the local BCU from elsewhere in the force, especially in regard to proportionality.

4.81 Another may be that increased intelligence and understanding of the local drugs market developed through Project ADDER may give local officers the confidence to make more targeted and effective use of stop and search powers.

4.82 CE BCU would continue to draw on the voice of local communities in overseeing its approach to stop and search and proportionality and to increase public trust and confidence in local policing.

4.83 For example, Police Encounter Panels were being set up in Hackney to identify where CE BCU could do better in its interactions with residents and help to build stronger relationships with communities.

4.84 The Detective Superintendent, CE BCU added that stop and search remained an effective tool for local policing when used in a targeted and appropriate way. It had a role to play in policing drugs and violent crime, for example.

4.85 *A Commission Member followed up by asking whether CE BCU had an understanding of the reasons for disproportionality in the use of stop and search in the borough, especially in relation to young Black boys and men.*

4.86 The Borough Commander, CE BCU responded by explaining that it was difficult to understand disproportionality in the use of stop and search at this time, and it would be unhelpful to speculate in these circumstances.

4.87 It was reiterated that there had been a reduction in the use of stop and search in the borough whilst maintaining the volume of positive outcomes, but it was recognised that a significant number of people were still being searched without there being a positive outcome.

4.88 Work was ongoing to try to understand why disproportionality in the use of stop and search existed in Hackney. Tower Hamlets, for example, did not see the same levels of disproportionality, and so comparative research was needed to try to understand why these situations differed.

*4.89 A Commission Member queried the statement in the written evidence received which claimed that there had been no drop in stop and search since Child Q, whilst also claiming that there had been no More Through Intimate Parts (MTIP) Searches.*

4.90 The Detective Superintendent, CE BCU clarified that stop and search was a different type of search to an MTIP search. Therefore, the written evidence provided explained that whilst there was no decrease in the use of stop and search following Child Q, there had not been an MTIP search undertaken on a child since.

4.91 In terms of public oversight of the use of these powers in the borough, CE BCU held Scrutiny Panels in several different local areas. For example, Youth Scrutiny Panels with local youth organisations were held regularly to discuss a range of issues including the use of stop and search, MTIPs and Section 60s.

4.92 CE BCU had also been working with the local authority and partners to develop a QR code which would give young people access to under 18 aftercare following a search. At the conclusion of the search they would be offered the ability to scan the QR code which would give access to the Young Hackney website with information on stop and search, drugs, county lines, gangs and family support.

*4.93 A Commission Member highlighted how difficult it could be for children and young people to give information over to the police when they were vulnerable and possible victims of exploitation.*

4.94 It was asked what the police did to mitigate potential difficulties in these situations, for example relocating victims and their families.

4.95 The Borough Commander, CE BCU explained that in extreme cases of exploitation, relocation may be considered to ensure a family is removed from harm. However, this option was often reserved only for these extreme cases due to the lack of housing provision options in the borough and London more widely.

4.96 However, there was strong partnership working between the police and local authority (including housing services) and good practice in joined up working could be found, for example, in cases of domestic abuse.

4.97 The Detective Superintendent, CE BCU accepted that it was often difficult to retrieve information from children and young people who may be vulnerable in a policing context. For example, if a child or young person was searched and found not to be in possession of drugs, there was little that the police could do to get further information out of them unless they were in immediate or significant danger.

4.98 A child or young person may not want to speak even in police custody, and in these cases the multi-agency partnership would be utilised to ensure their safety. For example, their school and social worker would be informed of the encounter through the MESH.

4.99 The Borough Commander, CE BCU added that the work to build trust and confidence in local policing was especially important in this context, and it had been engaging with young people in a variety of ways since Child Q both in and outside of education settings.

*4.100 A Commission Member sought clarification over the statement in the written evidence that 68% of all Section 60s across the Metropolitan Police Service occurred in Hackney.*

4.101 The Detective Superintendent, CE BCU explained that this was likely a misprint and would provide written clarification for Members after the meeting.

4.102 Section 60s could only be granted in a defined area at a specific time when a Superintendent believed there to be a possibility of serious violence, or when weapons may be involved.

4.103 They were seen as an effective police power and when used had the potential to reduce the likelihood of incidents involving serious violent crime taking place. When a Section 60 is in place the police would keep the community informed of its purpose and outcomes.

4.103 The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services added that the Section 60 Review Panel was established in 2021 to review the use of the power in Hackney. Its composition was small but included a community representative as well as local authority representatives.

*4.104 A Commission Member asked for further information on the Scrutiny Panels and the Police Encounter Panels and sought reassurance that these structures would be well resourced and supported locally.*

4.105 The Borough Commander, CE BCU explained that the scrutiny and accountability structures in Hackney and Tower Hamlets were well resourced and CE BCU were committed to their development.

4.106 Further written information on the roles, responsibilities and composition of these structures would be provided to Members after the meeting.

*4.107 A Commission Member asked about the extent to which commissioning bespoke interventions for individuals of particular demographics and vulnerabilities was an effective way to help meet the needs of residents using drugs.*

4.108 The Chief Executive, SWIM explained that in his experience individuals that come into contact with substance treatment and recovery services responded better to a service which not only offered appropriate knowledge and skills, but also shared their lived experience and tailored their support to individual needs.

4.109 The Health Systems Coordinator, Hackney Council added that commissioning drug treatment and misuse services that provided bespoke interventions allowed

individuals to present as their whole selves, which in turn ensured that the response individuals received took into consideration a range of diverse needs and implications.

4.110 The Council was committed to ensuring that their treatment and recovery services were responsive to the diversity of the borough. For example, a Lived Experience Forum was being established to understand the experience of individuals who come into contact with drug treatment and recovery services and ensure that they were reflective of their diverse needs.

*4.111 A Commission Member highlighted that a common complaint amongst minority communities was that middle class residents were often seen taking drugs but were not put under the same searching tactics or criminalised at the same rate as their minority counterparts.*

4.112 It was asked what the police were doing to ensure this was not the case, and whether work to this end was visible and being communicated to the public.

4.113 The Chief Inspector, CE BCU explained there was a lot of work going on amongst community safety partners to tackle the night time economy drug markets and substance misuse. Much of this related to reducing drug related anti-social behaviour and associated harm in night time economy areas and venues and reducing the availability and demand of drugs.

4.114 This included raising awareness and educating people who frequent the night time economy of the harm and risk of illicit drugs and working with licensed premises to improve screening and seizure upon entrance to venues.

4.115 The Borough Commander added that it was also closely linked to the work to tackle street based drug markets and stop the supply of drugs in the first place, which involved disrupting Organised Crime Networks and gangs.

4.116 The impact of previous national communications campaigns to deter middle class drug use and raise awareness of the harms of illicit drug use and legal highs were still not understood but CE BCU would be open to considering a targeted local campaign if the research suggested it would be useful.

4.117 The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services added that the Council worked closely with community safety partners to raise awareness and educate people on the harms of drugs, and was working with licensed premises to raise awareness with staff.

*4.118 A Commission Member sought clarification on the statement within the written evidence that 23.3 MTIP searches over 2022 did not have an appropriate adult present.*

4.119 The Detective Superintendent, CE BCU explained that this was likely because the child gave officers an older, incorrect date of birth when stopped meaning an appropriate adult was therefore not deemed necessary, and would provide written clarification for Members after the meeting.

*4.120 A Commission Member asked for more information on how the police shared data with local partners, whether it was proactive in doing so and whether data was made accessible to the public.*

4.121 The Detective Superintendent, CE BCU explained the local BCU had historically allowed local partners access to many of its information systems, for example through the Integrated Gangs Unit. However, the local BCU had more recently been instructed by Met HQ not to do so due to concerns around data and security breaches.

4.122 The Borough Commander, CE BCU recognised that information sharing remained a force-wide issue. Met HQ was looking at ways in which it could be more transparent in the way it shared information, though this needed to be balanced against the data protection legislation currently in place.

#### Chair's Summary

4.123 In summing up, the Chair explained that the Commission would reflect on the evidence heard and follow up with any additional information requests after the meeting.

4.124 If appropriate, the Commission may also make suggestions or recommendations for improvement for consideration.

### **5 Minutes of the Meeting**

5.1 The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th December 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **6 Living in Hackney Work Programme 2022/23**

6.1 The Chair referred to the Commission's work programme and highlighted the discussion items planned for the remainder of the municipal year.

6.2 Members were reminded that a joint meeting with the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission had been provisionally scheduled for 28th March 2023 to review progress against the outcomes of the Child Q Safeguarding Practice Review.

### **7 Any Other Business**

7.1 There was no other business.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00 - 9.15 pm

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# NOX – Nitrous Oxide and Night Time Economy

# ASB and Violence - NTE



CE Night Economy Policing Plan: of 1 Insp 4 Sgts and 24 Constables each Friday and Saturday night 2000 to 0400. Deployed predominantly to Shoreditch.

Joint Police/Partner patrols with Local Authority Enforcement Officers using ASB warnings, CPW's and CPN's as a tactic to deter and prevent crime and ASB.

Additional resourcing from Central MPS asset such as TSG and RTPC enhance deployments where we anticipate seasonal rises in demand and spikes in offences.

Cross border cooperation and joint operations with Police teams from the City of London and Islington, addresses the challenge of displacement of crime and disorder.

Proactive patrols by Police Licensing team ensuring compliance with Licensing legislation, ensuring business partners align with Policing objectives.

# Nitrous Oxide - a real driver of ASB



OP ATOM – Targeting Nitrous Oxide supply and use, through a programme of enforcement, public health and diversion.

Working Group set up with Local Authority to develop a Public Health campaign.

Consultation on PSPO to include prohibiting the use of Nitrous Oxide.

Threshold testing and test case supported by Drugs Focus Desk to develop a best practice for achieving best evidence for Criminal Justice disposals.

Ongoing review with CPS around best practice, case studies and information sharing

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<b>Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>16th February 2023</b> <b>Item 6 – Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>Work Programme 2022/23</b>	Item No <b>6</b>
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## **Outline**

Attached is the work programme for the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Please note that this is a working document.

## **Action**

Members are asked to note the work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year.

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# Overview & Scrutiny

## Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission: Work Programme for June 2022 – April 2023

*Each agenda will include an updated version of this work programme*

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
<p><b>13<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b></p> <p><b>Special Joint Meeting with Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: Wed 1st June 2022</p>	<p><b>Strategic Response of Statutory Partners to Child Q and the Accountability and Monitoring Arrangements</b></p>	<p>City &amp; Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership</p> <p>Metropolitan Police Service - Met HQ &amp; Central East Borough Command Unit</p> <p>Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)</p> <p>London Borough of Hackney</p>	<p>The Scrutiny Commissions have convened this meeting to review the strategic response of statutory partners to the recommendations from the Safeguarding Practice Review by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP).</p> <p>This meeting is to review the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The timeline of events and actions from the date the incident related to Child Q was reported to all agencies up to the publication of the report.</li> <li>• The response and actions taken by the statutory agencies to the report and recommendation of the Child Q Safeguarding Practice Review report.</li> <li>• The accountability structures and monitoring arrangements in place reviewing the progress and implementation of the recommendations made in the report.</li> <li>• Public involvement and accountability in the monitoring process and structures.</li> </ul>

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
<p><b>13<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: Mon 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022</p>	<p><b>Implementation of the Charter for Social Housing Residents – Resident Experiences</b></p>	<p>Selected advocacy groups and resident testimonies</p>	<p>The Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission is looking at how local social housing providers in the borough have responded to and are implementing the 7 commitments outlined in the Charter for Social Housing Residents - Social Housing White Paper November 2020.</p> <p>The scrutiny commission wants to get an understanding of tenants' experiences of social housing since the White Paper. The Commission invited residents to submit information about their experiences and invited two advocacy groups to share information about the key issues tenants face and to outline their work to support tenants.</p> <p>Commitments of the Charter for Social Housing Residents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To be safe in your home.</li> <li>2. To know how your landlord is performing, including on repairs, complaints and safety, and how it spends its money.</li> <li>3. To have your complaints dealt with promptly and fairly, with access to a strong Ombudsman.</li> <li>4. To be treated with respect, backed by a strong consumer regulator and improved consumer standards for tenants.</li> <li>5. To have your voice heard by your landlord.</li> <li>6. To have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live in, with your landlord keeping your home in good repair.</li> <li>7. The government will ensure social housing can support people to take their first step to ownership.</li> </ol>



Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
	<p><b>Implementation of the Charter for Social Housing Residents - Housing Associations</b></p>	<p>Selected Housing Associations</p>	<p>The Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission is looking at how local social housing providers in the borough have responded to and are implementing the 7 commitments outlined in the Charter for Social Housing Residents - Social Housing White Paper November 2020.</p> <p>The scrutiny commission asked local housing associations to provide information on how they have responded to and are implementing each of the seven commitments below. The commission has expressed a particular interest in repairs, complaints, disputes, and transparency in decision-making relating to service charges.</p> <p>Commitments of the Charter for Social Housing Residents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To be safe in your home.</li> <li>2. To know how your landlord is performing, including on repairs, complaints and safety, and how it spends its money.</li> <li>3. To have your complaints dealt with promptly and fairly, with access to a strong Ombudsman.</li> <li>4. To be treated with respect, backed by a strong consumer regulator and improved consumer standards for tenants.</li> <li>5. To have your voice heard by your landlord.</li> <li>6. To have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live in, with your landlord keeping your home in good repair.</li> <li>7. The government will ensure social housing can support people to take their first step to ownership.</li> </ol>

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
	<b>LiH Work Programme Planning 2022-2023</b>	Craig Player, Overview & Scrutiny Officer	Discussion to consider and make suggestions for the LiH work programme for the new municipal year.
<b>12<sup>th</sup> September 2022</b>  Papers deadline: Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2022	N/A		As a result of the Death of the Monarch and subsequent period of designated national mourning, this meeting was cancelled and planned agenda items were deferred to the subsequent meeting.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>  Papers deadline: Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	<b>Changes to the Housing Register and Lettings Policy</b>	Housing Needs  Jennifer Wynter, Head of Benefits and Housing Needs	To look at the impact of Hackney Council's new housing register and Lettings Policy which came into effect in October 2021. Particular focus to be given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advice and guidance in place for residents that no longer qualify for the register, and to those that face a long wait or that are unlikely to get housed</li> <li>● The impact of the policy on prioritising residents in the greatest need and providing more predictable outcomes</li> </ul>

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
	<b>Impact of the Cyber Attack on the Housing Register</b>	Housing Needs  Jennifer Wynter, Head of Benefits and Housing Needs	To look at Hackney Council's efforts to mitigate the impact of the 2020 cyber attack on its housing register.  Particular focus to be given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The impact of the cyber attack on the housing register</li> <li>● What has been put in place to mitigate the risks to residents in need</li> </ul>
	<b>LiH Work Programme 2022-2023</b>	Craig Player, Overview & Scrutiny Officer	To agree the LiH work programme for the new municipal year.
<b>12<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b>  Papers deadline: Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2022	<b>Housing Repairs</b>	Housing Services  Steve Waddington, Strategic Director of Housing	To look at progress against Hackney Council's action plan to tackle the repairs backlog built up during the pandemic.  Particular focus to be given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Progress made in clearing the backlog and returning services to business as usual</li> <li>● How the Council has engaged with residents who may be in need of repairs but unable to report issues</li> <li>● What the Council has learned from what happened, and how this learning will lead to service improvement going forward</li> </ul>

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
<p><b>23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: Wed 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023</p>	<p><b>Policing of Drug Use</b></p>	<p>Metropolitan Police Service - Met HQ &amp; Central East Borough Command Unit</p> <p>Interim Borough Commander Dan Rutland</p> <p>Public Health</p> <p>Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health</p> <p>Selected third sector organisations</p>	<p>To look at the policing of drugs in Hackney as part of the Commission's continued work on building trust and confidence and inclusive policing.</p> <p>Particular focus to be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The approach to policing drug use in Hackney</li> <li>● How effective the approach is and how consistently it is used across communities</li> <li>● The impact of the approach to the policing of drugs on local communities</li> </ul>

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
<p><b>16<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: Mon 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023</p>	<p><b>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the Arts &amp; Cultural Sector</b></p>	<p>Arts &amp; Culture</p> <p>Petra Roberts, Strategic Service Head for Culture, Libraries and Heritage</p> <p>Selected arts and culture organisations</p>	<p>To look at Hackney Council's progress in advancing equality, diversity and inclusion in the arts and cultural sector.</p> <p>Particular focus to be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What barriers remain in engaging under-represented groups to take advantage of arts and culture opportunities</li> <li>• How under-represented communities are supported to take advantage of opportunities to participate in arts and cultural activities</li> </ul>

<p><b>22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: Fri 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023</p>	<p><b>Temporary Accommodation</b></p>	<p>Housing Needs</p> <p>Jennifer Wynter, Head of Benefits and Housing Needs</p> <p>Adult Social Care Commissioning</p> <p>Zainab Jalil, Head of Commissioning, Business Support &amp; Projects</p> <p>Public Health</p> <p>Claire Giraud, Senior Public Health Practitioner</p>	<p>To look at the arrangements in place to provide temporary accommodation to residents in priority need.</p> <p>Particular focus to be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What is driving the rising demand for temporary accommodation locally and what impact this has had</li> <li>● The process for placing households in temporary accommodation</li> <li>● How the Council is responding to increased demand, and how it maintains high standards in temporary accommodation</li> <li>● What support is in place to help vulnerable households with the challenges of temporary accommodation and its associated impacts</li> </ul>
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Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
	<b>Cabinet Question Time - Accountability of Private Rented Sector &amp; Housing Associations</b>	Mayoral Advisor for Private Rented Sector and Housing Affordability	<p>To look at the relationship between Hackney Council, housing associations and the private rented sector and how they work together to ensure effective accountability.</p> <p>Particular focus will be given to how the Council works with housing associations and the private rented sector to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maximise nominations and lettings</li> <li>● Support tenancy sustainment</li> <li>● Safeguard adults and children and young people</li> <li>● Maintain properties in good repair</li> </ul>

Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
<p><b>28<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b></p> <p><b>Special Joint Meeting with Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: Mon 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023</p>	<p><b>Outcomes of Child Q Safeguarding Practice Review</b></p>	<p>City &amp; Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership</p> <p>Metropolitan Police Service - Met HQ &amp; Central East Borough Command Unit</p> <p>Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)</p> <p>London Borough of Hackney</p>	<p>The Scrutiny Commissions have convened this meeting to maintain oversight of the strategic response of statutory partners to the Safeguarding Practice Review by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP).</p>



Dates	Proposed Item	Directorate and lead officer contact	Description, Comment and Purpose of item
<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b></p> <p>Papers deadline: Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023</p>	<p><b>Estate Regeneration</b></p>	<p>Housing Regeneration</p> <p>Stephen Haynes, Strategic Director of Inclusive Economy, Regeneration and New Homes</p> <p>Chris Trowell/James Goddard, Interim Directors of Regeneration &amp; Capital Programme</p>	<p>To look at the impact of Hackney Council's estate regeneration projects:</p> <p>Particular focus to be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of recent regeneration projects on residents and community cohesion, including the approach to the decanting of residents to facilitate redevelopment works</li> <li>• How residents are engaged, how their priorities are listened to and how this engagement is reflected in regeneration projects</li> </ul>

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