



C A B I N E T

Monday, 22 May 2023, at 6.00 pm
Council Chamber, Hackney Town Hall
Mare Street, E8 1EA

The live stream can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/ECjVA0kdqJQ>
back up link: <https://youtu.be/EmuR7BmTN3s>

Members of the Committee:

- Mayor Philip Glanville, Mayor (Chair)
Councillor Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education,
Young People and Children's Social Care (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Robert Chapman, Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer
Service
Councillor Mete Coban MBE, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and
Transport
Councillor Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and
Regulatory Services
Councillor Christopher Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care,
Voluntary Sector and Culture
Councillor Clayeon McKenzie, Cabinet Member for Housing Services
Councillor Guy Nicholson, Deputy Mayor for housing supply, planning, culture and
inclusive economy
Councillor Carole Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and
Equalities
Councillor Caroline Woodley, Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure

Deputy Cabinet Members:

- Councillor Sem Moema
Councillor Sade Etti

Ian Williams
Acting Chief Executive
Published on: Friday, 12 May 2023
www.hackney.gov.uk

Contact: Mark Agnew
Governance Officer
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Cabinet

Monday, 22 May 2023

Order of Business

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Urgent Business

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of Urgent Business. (Late items of Urgent Business will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items of Urgent Business will be dealt with under Item 8 below. New items of exempt business will be dealt with at Item 16 below).

3 Declarations of Interest - Members to declare as appropriate

Members are invited to consider the guidance which accompanies this agenda and make declarations of interest as appropriate.

4 Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private, Any Representations Received and the Response to Such Representations

On occasions part of the Cabinet meeting will be held in private and will not be open to the public if an item is being considered that is likely to lead to the disclosure of exempt or confidential information. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (the "Regulations"), members of the public can make representations about why that part of the meeting should be open to the public.

This agenda contains exempt items as set out at **Item 14 : Exclusion of the Press and Public**. No representations with regard to these have been received.

This is the formal 5 clear day notice under the Regulations to confirm that this Cabinet meeting will be partly held in private for the reasons set out in this Agenda.

5 Questions/Deputations

6 Unrestricted Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Cabinet (Pages 9 - 18)

To agree the minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet held on 24 April, 2023

7 Unrestricted Minutes of Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee (Pages 19 - 24)

To receive the minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee (CPIC) held on 17 April, 2023 - for noting only.

8 New items of Unrestricted Urgent Business

To consider any items admitted at Item 2 above.

9 FCR S196 Capital Update and Property Disposals And Acquisitions Report

To follow, pending final due diligence checks.

10 CE S190 Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy - falling rolls (Pages 25 - 244)

11 CHE S162 Adoption of Climate Action Plan (Pages 245 - 496)

12 Officer Key Decision CHE S194 Wick Road - Road Safety and Public Realm Scheme (Pages 497 - 498)

For noting

13 Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies

To follow.

14 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Note from the Governance Team Leader:

Item(s) 14 -16 allows for the consideration of exempt information.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THAT the press and public be excluded from the proceedings of the Cabinet during consideration of Exempt items 15 - 16 on the agenda on the grounds that it is likely, in the view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that were members of the public to be present, there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

15 CE S190 Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy - falling rolls - Exempt Appendices (Pages 499 - 564)

16 New items of Exempt Urgent Business

To consider any EXEMPT items admitted at Item 2 above.

Public Attendance

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

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 give the public the right to film, record audio, take photographs, and use social media and the internet at meetings to report on any meetings that are open to the public.

By attending a public meeting of the Council, Executive, any committee or sub-committee, any Panel or Commission, or any Board you are agreeing to these guidelines as a whole and in particular the stipulations listed below:

- Anyone planning to record meetings of the Council and its public meetings through any audio, visual or written methods they find appropriate can do so providing they do not disturb the conduct of the meeting;
- You are welcome to attend a public meeting to report proceedings, either in 'real time' or after conclusion of the meeting, on a blog, social networking site, news forum or other online media;
- You may use a laptop, tablet device, smartphone or portable camera to record a written or audio transcript of proceedings during the meeting;
- Facilities within the Town Hall and Council Chamber are limited and recording equipment must be of a reasonable size and nature to be easily accommodated.
- You are asked to contact the Officer whose name appears at the beginning of this Agenda if you have any large or complex recording equipment to see whether this can be accommodated within the existing facilities;
- You must not interrupt proceedings and digital equipment must be set to 'silent' mode;
- You should focus any recording equipment on 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 to respect the wishes of those who do not want to be filmed and photographed may result in the Chair instructing you to cease reporting or recording and you may potentially be excluded from the meeting if you fail to comply;

- Any person whose behaviour threatens to disrupt orderly conduct will be asked to leave;
- Be aware that libellous comments against the council, individual Councillors or officers could result in legal action being taken against you;
- The recorded images must not be edited in a way in which there is a clear aim to distort the truth or misrepresent those taking part in the proceedings;
- Personal attacks of any kind or offensive comments that target or disparage any ethnic, racial, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability status could also result in legal action being taken against you.

Failure to comply with the above requirements may result in the support and assistance of the Council in the recording of proceedings being withdrawn. The Council regards violation of any of the points above as a risk to the orderly conduct of a meeting. The Council therefore reserves the right to exclude any person from the current meeting and refuse entry to any further council meetings, where a breach of these requirements occurs. The Chair of the meeting will ensure that the meeting runs in an effective manner and has the power to ensure that the meeting is not disturbed through the use of flash photography, intrusive camera equipment or the person recording the meeting moving around the room.

Advice to Members on Declaring Interests

If you require advice on declarations of interests, this can be obtained from:

- The Monitoring Officer;
- The Deputy Monitoring Officer; or
- The legal adviser to the meeting.

It is recommended that any advice be sought in advance of, rather than at, the meeting.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You will have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (*DPI) if it:

- Relates to your employment, sponsorship, contracts as well as wider financial interests and assets including land, property, licenses and corporate tenancies.
- Relates to an interest which you have registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to DPIs as being an interest of you, your spouse or civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse or civil partner.
- Relates to an interest which should be registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to DPIs, but you have not yet done so.

If you are present at any meeting of the Council and you have a DPI relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you **must**:

- Not seek to improperly influence decision-making on that matter;
- Make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of the DPI at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent; and
- Leave the room whilst the matter is under consideration

You **must not**:

- Participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business; or
- Participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

If you have obtained a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer or Standards Committee prior to the matter being considered, then you should make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of the DPI and that you have obtained a dispensation. The dispensation granted will explain the extent to which you are able to participate.

Other Registrable Interests

You will have an 'Other Registrable Interest' (ORI) in a matter if it

- Relates to appointments made by the authority to any outside bodies, membership of: charities, trade unions,, lobbying or campaign groups, voluntary organisations in the borough or governorships at any educational institution within the borough.
- Relates to an interest which you have registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to ORIs as being an interest of you, your spouse or civil partner, or anyone living with you as if they were your spouse or civil partner; or
- Relates to an interest which should be registered in that part of the Register of Interests form relating to ORIs, but you have not yet done so.

Where a matter arises at any meeting of the Council which affects a body or organisation you have named in that part of the Register of Interests Form relating to ORIs, **you must** make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of the DPI at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. **You may** speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Disclosure of Other Interests

Where a matter arises at any meeting of the Council which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you **must** disclose the interest. **You may** speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at any meeting of the Council which **affects** your financial interest or well-being, or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or wellbeing of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest, you **must** declare the interest. You **may** only speak on the matter if members of the public are able to speak. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or voting on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

In all cases, where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that the interest in question is a **sensitive interest**, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest itself.

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET

MONDAY 24 APRIL 2023

Link to livestream:https://youtu.be/hUkp_Xcasgg

- Councillors Present:** Mayor Philip Glanville in the Chair
- Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Guy Nicholson and Cllr Carole Williams
- Apologies:** Councillor Anntoinette Bramble, Councillor Mete Coban MBE, Councillor Clayeon McKenzie, Councillor Caroline Woodley and Councillor Sem Moema
- In attendance virtually:** Cllr Etti and Cllr McKenzie
- Officers in Attendance:** Dawn Carter-McDonald, Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services
Ian Williams, Group Director Finance and Corporate Resources
Rickardo Hyatt, Group Director Climate Homes
Rabiya Khatun, Governance Officer
Tessa Mitchell, Governance Services Team Leader
Natalie Williams, Senior Governance Officer
Helen Woodland, Group Director Adults, Health and Integration
Keung Tsang, Senior Policy Officer
Robert Offord, Area Regeneration Manager
- Also in Attendance:** A member of the public

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were noted from Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cllr Coban, Cllr McKenzie, Cllr Moema and Cllr Woodley.
- 1.2 Cllrs Etti and McKenzie joined the meeting virtually.

2 Urgent Business

- 2.1 There were no items of urgent business to consider.

3 Declarations of Interest - Members to declare as appropriate

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4 Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private, Any Representations Received and the Response to Such Representations

4.4 No representations were received.

5 Questions/Deputations

5.1 No questions were received.

6 Unrestricted Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Cabinet

6.1 The Mayor reported that the decision relating to CHE S179 Motorcycles Parking Permit Review had been called in and this decision was now being considered by the Scrutiny Panel meeting on 24 April 2023.

6.2 The following amendments were requested:

- The inclusion of Cllr Williams in the list of Councillors present.
- Paragraph 5.4, third line - the word 'small' to be amended to 'smaller'.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet held on 27 March 2023 be agreed subject to the above amendments.

7 Unrestricted Minutes of Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Procurement Insourcing Committee held on 13 March 2023 were noted.

8 New items of Unrestricted Urgent Business

8.1 There were no new items of unrestricted urgent business to consider.

9 FCR S102 Capital Update and Property Disposals And Acquisitions Report

9.1 The Mayor introduced the report providing an update on the current position of the Capital Programme and seeking approval to proceed with the delivery of the schemes as outlined within the report.

9.2 The Mayor highlighted Hackney Council's investment into its parks and green spaces, programme to make public toilets free to use in Hackney, play area consultation, the acquisition of a single residential garage and the use of the site to deliver 20 new homes forming part of the delivery of 1000 council homes by 2026.

9.3 Cllr Kennedy referred to paragraph 3.1 within the recommendation of the report and requested that the words 'reliability of' be replaced by 'reliance on'.

RESOLVED:

1. That the scheme for Adult, Health and Integration as set out in section 11 be given approval as follows:

Hackney Mortuary (St John's Churchyard): Resource and spend approval of £814k in 2023/24 is requested to increase the existing budget for the refurbishment and remodelling works to modernise and upgrade the existing facilities to current standards and provide additional capacity to reduce the reliance on 'off-site' facilities.

2. That the scheme for Climate, Homes and Economy as set out in section 11 be given approval as follows:

Fairchilds Garden, Dalston Public Realm and Hoxton Public Realm:

Resource and spend approval is requested to fund the improvements in these three sites: £290k in 2023/24 for Fairchilds Garden, £429k in 2024/25 for Dalston Public Realm and £200k for 2024/25 for Hoxton Public Realm.

Haggerston Park Changing Places Toilet: Resource and spend approval of £47k in 2023/24 is required to reflect the grant award to meet part of the cost of the Changing Places Toilet Facility that has been installed in Haggerston Park.

Clissold House Park Toilets: Resource and spend approval of £250k in 2023/24 is requested towards the cost of refurbishing the Clissold House park toilets.

Clissold Park Old Paddling Pool: Resource and spend approval of £150k in 2023/24 is requested to deliver an alternative use for the old paddling pool site at Clissold Park.

Former Side-By-Side Site: Resource and spend approval of £300k (£150k in 2023/24 and £150k in 2024/25) is requested to fund the return of the former side by side nursery site into park use within Springfield Park.

Haggerston Park ATP Surface Replacement: Resource and spend approval of £600k (£30k in 2023/24 and £570k in 2024/25) is requested to replace the existing 3G pitch surface in Haggerston Park which is in a poor condition.

Parks and Green Spaces Green Building Fund: Resource and spend approval of £500k (£50k in 2023/24, £150k in 2024/25 and £300k in 2025/26) is requested to fund the work to replace carbon intensive boilers in the Council's Parks and Green Spaces Service's buildings (primarily its depots, toilets and other ancillary buildings) with sources of heat that produce less carbon.

Parks and Green Spaces Pathway Repair Programme: Resource and spend approval of £1,000k (£250k in 2023/24, £350k in 2024/25 and £400k in 2025/26) is requested to repair and resurface a significant number of the pathways that traverse the 58 parks and green spaces in the borough.

Parks and Green Spaces Depot Refurbishment - Phase 2: Resource and spend approval of £2,500k (£150k in 2023/24, £1,050k in 2024/25 and £1,300k in 2025/26) is requested to fund the Council's Park Depot Refurbishments Phase 2.

Play Area Phase 2 and Phase 3 Refurbishment: Resource and spend approval of £2,500k (£580k in 2023/24, £920k in 2024/25 and £1,000k in 2025/26) is requested to fund the Phase 2 of the Park Play refurbishments in Hackney Downs, Clapton Common, Stonebridge Gardens and Well Street Common and Phase 3 refurbishment of park play areas in the borough's parks.

3. To authorise the freehold acquisition of the residential garage at 26 Blackwell Close E5 shown for identification purposes edged red on the plan at Appendix 1 and 2.

4. To delegate authority to the Group Director Finance and Corporate Resources to agree all commercial terms relating to this acquisition.

5. To delegate authority to the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services to agree, settle and sign legal documentation to effect proposals contained in this report and to enter into any other ancillary legal documentation as required.

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. The decisions required are necessary in order that the schemes within the Council's approved Capital programme can be delivered and to approve the property proposals as set out in this report.

2. In most cases, resources have already been allocated to the schemes as part of the budget setting exercise but spending approval is required in order for the scheme to proceed. Where, however, resources have not previously been allocated, resource approval is requested in this report.

3. To facilitate financial management and control of the Council's finances.

4. Proposed Acquisition of 26 Blackwell Close Garage: Approval is requested to acquire the freehold ownership of a single residential garage at 26 Blackwell Close, Clapton Park. Acquisition of the garage will consolidate the Council's ownership of a new housing regeneration site and secure the associated benefits.

5. This capital acquisition shall be funded from the £10m pre-development budget approved by Cabinet in December 2022 (of which £2.49m is allocated to Financial Years 2023-24) for the new Council house building programme.

6. To form the new programme, a comprehensive 'Asset Review' of all the Council's housing land was undertaken, identifying fifteen 'anchor' locations with the potential for new Council homes. The parameters of the review – to focus on Council owned land not requiring the demolition of existing dwellings, and with no net loss of green space - generally means that land acquisition is not expected to be required.

7. That said, of the fifteen locations identified, a modest piece of land assembly is proposed at the Blackwell Close garages location in Clapton Park Estate, Kings Park. The site comprises a plot of thirty three residential garages, all but one of which is owned by the Council. The remaining garage is owned by London & Quadrant Housing Trust (L&Q), forming part of their freehold title of the adjacent residential property at 26 Blackwell Close.

8. The garage extends out from the northern boundary of the site into the proposed development location. Whereas the remainder of the garages plot may hypothetically be able to be developed without the L&Q garage, it is highly desirable to acquire the garage. Acquisition will enable the site extents to be rationalised and the development capacity to be optimised in an economical new building form, along with surrounding public realm improvements creating an improved setting for existing and new residents.

9. This approach responds to the need to optimise Council housing development proposals, in the context of increasingly scarce developable Council-owned land and the increasing cost and complexity of residential construction.

10. It will also have the benefit of clarifying the public realm extent to enable high quality, accessible and safe improvements to the areas around the anticipated development. Particularly, proposals with a clear and rationalised site boundary will avoid the risk of space around the remaining garage becoming magnets for anti-social behaviour such as fly tipping, and prevent ongoing access to the garage compromising the proposed development layout.

11. This proposal supports the Council's priorities for social housing delivery, the creation of liveable and safe neighbourhoods, and making best use of Council resources.

12 L&Q have been engaged and a price has been negotiated subject to governance by both parties. The price is £30,000 plus costs estimated in the region of £5,000. This is in the context of a housing development with clear and tested potential to provide around 20 new homes and surrounding improvements, at an estimated total development cost in the region of £9.8m.

10 FCR S103 2022/23 Overall Financial Position Report - February 2023

10.1 Cllr Chapman introduced the report for 2022/23, which showed that as at February 2023 the Council had forecasted to have an overspend of £7.844m on the General Fund which was a decrease of £72k from the January forecast, and the acceptance of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the overall financial position of the Council as at February 2023 as set out in this report.

2. To agree to accept the £1,804,824 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant and to enter into a grant agreement with the Greater London Authority regarding the governance of the expenditure.

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. To facilitate financial management and control of the Council's finances and to agree to the offer of UKSPF grant funding and enter into a grant agreement with the GLA to govern the expenditure.

11 CHE S183 Confirmation of Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights for change of use from Use Class E to residential in Hackney's CAZ, City Fringe, and Major Town Centres

11.1 Deputy Mayor Nicholson introduced the report which focused on the main economic centres in the borough which were Hackney's section of the Central Activities Zone, the City Fringe and Hackney's designated major town centres.

11.2 It was highlighted that the Article 4 Direction would allow the Council to retain its commercial spaces and to prevent uses within Class E to change to Class C3 dwellinghouse without the need for Planning permission.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the confirmation of an Article 4 Direction (A4D) (Appendix 1) to withdraw the permitted development ("PD") rights granted by Schedule 2, Part 3, Class MA of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) ("the GDPO") for changes of use from Class E to a dwellinghouse (Class C3) in Hackney's CAZ, City Fringe, and Major Town Centres area (as shown in Appendix 2).

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. The Council considers that the PD right allowing change of use from Use Class E (commercial, business and services) to C3 (dwellinghouse) without planning permission may constitute a threat to the economy, jobs and amenities of the Borough and would be prejudicial to the proper planning of the Borough, in particular the Council's ability to prevent the loss of uses which contribute to the wider strategic aims for the area.

2. These A4Ds are considered necessary because the Council's employment and retail planning policies are based on robust evidence which establishes a need to protect employment and commercial uses to ensure the vitality and viability of Hackney's economy. The permitted development rights would undermine the operation of these policies and may impact negatively on the provision of employment spaces, commercial spaces and jobs in the Borough.

12 CHE S184 Confirmation of Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights for change of use from Use Class E to residential in the District Centres and Local Shopping Centres

12.1 Deputy Mayor Nicholson introduced the report seeking approval to confirm the non-immediate A4D to withdraw the PDRs for change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from a use falling within Class E specifically within Hackney's District Centres and Local Shopping Centres.

RESOLVED:

To approve the confirmation of an Article 4 Direction (A4D) (Appendix 1) to withdraw the permitted development ("PD") rights granted by Schedule 2, Part 3, Class MA of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) ("the GDPO") for changes of use from Class

E to a dwellinghouse (Class C3) in Hackney's District Town Centres and Local Shopping Centres (as shown in Appendix 2).

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. The Council considers that the PD right allowing change of use from Use Class E (commercial, business and services) to C3 (dwellinghouse) without planning permission may constitute a threat to the amenities, economy and jobs of the Borough and would be prejudicial to the proper planning of the Borough, in particular the Council's ability to prevent the loss of uses which contribute to the wider strategic aims for the area.

2. These A4Ds are considered necessary because the Council's town centre, retail and employment planning policies are based on robust evidence which establishes a need to protect commercial and employment uses to ensure the vitality and viability of Hackney's town centres and economy. The permitted development rights would undermine the operation of these policies and may impact negatively on the provision of commercial spaces, employment spaces and jobs in the Borough.

13 Hackney Central Town Centre Strategy Adoption & Acceptance of Levelling Up Fund from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

13.1 The Mayor referred to the supplementary pack and introduced the report seeking adoption of Hackney Central Town Centre Strategy and approval for the Council to enter into a contract with the Government to draw down the £19m Levelling Up Fund investment for Hackney Central. He emphasised on the extensive engagement work undertaken with residents and businesses on this strategy

13.2 Deputy Mayor Nicholson added that this new strategy and investment, followed on from the work that was ongoing in Hackney Central, which had so far delivered more new homes and employment opportunities, upgraded infrastructure, new businesses and new workspaces. There remained more work to be done in the town centre.

13.3 The Mayor thanked all those in the Council, particularly Deputy Mayor Nicholson's leadership, key partners and stakeholders including Dame Meg Hillier MP for their work and support for this bid, and also paid tribute to Robert Offord for his role in leading on this work.

RESOLVED:

1. Adopt the Hackney Central Town Centre Strategy (as set out in Appendix 1) as the Council's regeneration framework for Hackney Central town centre.

2. Agrees to accept £19.04m of capital funding via the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for Hackney Central in order to kickstart the delivery of the Town Centre Strategy and address the communities' ambitions for Hackney Central, and, to enter into a grant agreement with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for such funding on such terms as shall be agreed by the Group Director for Climate, Homes and Economy, the Group Director for

Finance and Corporate Resources, and the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services.

REASON(S) FOR DECISION

1. All town centres have experienced significant stresses recently, with the impact of covid, Brexit, the growth of online shopping, and inflation taking their toll. Hackney Central is both a Major Town Centre and a designated Area for Regeneration in the London Plan. It is a space that thousands of residents use daily as they seek to address their needs, the Council wants to take a proactive approach to respond to the issues that the community have identified in the town centre (such as poor air quality, road safety concerns, need for more affordable housing), to plan proactively and work collaboratively to deal with the challenges the area faces, and to ensure its future success.

2. Failure to positively and proactively plan for the future of Hackney Central will see the existing challenges continue to the detriment of the town centre and borough as a whole. By setting out a clear and shared vision for the future of Hackney Central, the strategy enables the Council to work together with communities, businesses, partners, landowners and other stakeholders to address these challenges.

3. The Town Centre Strategy (TCS) gives the Council what it needs to lead and shape the strategic direction of Hackney Central in the future in line with the objectives set out in;

3.1. the Council's Strategic Plan

3.2. the Local Plan (LP33), especially Place Policy 3 – Hackney Central and Surrounds, and

3.3. Hackney Council's Inclusive Economy Strategy (2019) – support local neighbourhoods and town centres to thrive and to be inclusive and resilient places.

4. The TCS sets out a clear evidence, and community engagement led approach to regeneration in Hackney Central, underpinned by significant quantitative and qualitative research concerning local challenges and opportunities. It is a cross-Council strategy which guides projects and priorities of wider Council services in the town centre. As such, the strategy is a critical structure for coordinating Council projects under a shared vision, and coordinating the efficient use of Council resources, ensuring that investment in the town centre is strategic and maximises local benefit.

5. The TCS provides a vision for the future of Hackney Central, and a plan for how to achieve this vision. This approach ensures the Council are leading future change in Hackney Central, ensuring high quality placemaking, attracting appropriate investment and influencing investors and landowners to bring forward sites and development in a way that most benefits the town centre and Hackney Central's communities.

6. The TCS will help the Council deliver the objectives of Local Plan 2033 (LP33), and will be a material consideration in planning decisions.

7. Having a clear regeneration plan in place for an area enables the Council to be able to make the best possible case to secure funding in what is an increasingly competitive financial environment. The strategy will also form critical evidence for consideration when applying for external funding, be that Central Government,

Regional Government (GLA) or other independent funding organisations. This has been evidenced by the success of the Council's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid.

8. By deciding to accept the LUF funding the Council will be in a position to move forward many of the key projects identified in the TCS, and start to bring about significant improvements to the town centre.

9. The positive benefits brought about by accepting the LUF funding are detailed in paragraphs 6.17-6.21 of this report.

14 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the items below contain exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 of Part 1, schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

15 Exempt Minutes of Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Procurement Insourcing Committee held on 13 March 2023 were noted

16 New items of exempt urgent business

16.1 There were no items of restricted urgent business to consider.

Duration of the meeting: 6.00 - 6.35pm

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DRAFT UNRESTRICTED MINUTES OF THE CABINET PROCUREMENT AND INSOURCING COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 17 APRIL 2023 (5PM)

THE MEETING WAS LIVE STREAMED AND CAN BE VIEWED HERE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIUSRxc4WiQ>

| | |
|--|---|
| Chair: | Cllr Robert Chapman (Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Services) |
| Councillors Present: | Cllr Chris Kennedy (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture) Cllr Caroline Woodley (Cabinet Member for Families, Parks and Leisure) |
| Apologies: | Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Deputy Mayor (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care) (Joined virtually) |
| Officers Present: | Rotimi Ajilore (Head of Procurement), Tessa Mitchell (Governance Team Leader) |
| Officers in Virtual Attendance: | Jenny Murphy (Assistant Director Strategic Commission for Adult Social Care & Public Health) James Whitehouse (Senior Insurance Officer) Lola Olawole (Public Health Commissioning Manager) Carolyn Sharpe (Consultant in Public Health) Divine Ihekwoaba (Category Lead - Construction and Environment) Merle Ferguson (Procurement Strategy and Systems Lead) Leila Gillespie (Procurement Category Lead Commissioning Manager) Patrick Rodger (Senior Lawyer) Timothy Lee (Public Health Commissioning Manager) |

1. Apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence received from Deputy Mayor Bramble who joined the meeting virtually.

2. Urgent Business

- 2.1 There were no items of urgent business.

3. Declarations of Interest - Members to declare as appropriate

- 3.1 There were no declarations of Interest.

4. Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private, any Representations Received and the Response to Any Such Representations

- 4.1 There were no representations received.

5. To Consider any Deputations, Questions or Petitions Referred to the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee by the Council's Monitoring Officer

- 5.1 Questions have been received from Cllr Binnie-Lubbock with regard to agenda item 7 - Adult Social Care Transformation.

6. Unrestricted Minutes of the Meeting Held on 13 March 2023

RESOLVED:

That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 13 March 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7. AHI S150 Adult Social Care Transformation - Business Case

- 7.1 The Assistant Director Strategic Commission for Adult Social Care & Public Health introduced the report, highlighting the following:

- Recommendation for approval to go out to tender for a delivery partner to support the design and implementation phases of the adult social care transformation programme. The project will be for up to three years and the value will be kept at the price submitted by the winning bidder and released as savings as achieved.
- In 2022, during the first phase of the project, officers appointed a strategic partner to support the transformation project and carry out diagnostic exercises to identify opportunities for improved outcomes for adult social care residents. The diagnostic identified a number of areas that would benefit from a redesign and showed improved outcomes for up to 4000 residents whilst at the same time giving benefits to the Council of up to £35 million over the next five to six years.
- The project is now in a position to move into a design and implementation phase in partnership with a service provider who would be asked to demonstrate their sound experience and track record for delivering this work.

- 7.2 Cllr Kennedy thanked Assistant Director Strategic Commission for Adult Social Care and Public, and Procurement teams for their work. Cllr Kennedy acknowledged the work that went into the business case presented and would expect to see the contract proposal in July.
- 7.3 With reference to 5.21, Cllr Woodley indicated her support for the proposals and highlighted the volume of work to be undertaken. Deputy Mayor Bramble reiterated Cllr Woodley comments and welcomed the number of residents that would benefit from the programme.
- 7.4 Questions from Cllr Binnie-Lubbock:
- (i) *This proposed transformation of Adult Social Care depends upon 'demand management and cost avoidance' (5.10). Can Cllr Kennedy outline where community input or patient voice sits in this plan for redesigning how care is delivered in the borough to make sure reduction in quality of care is not at risk because of cost avoidance?*
 - (ii) *Para 5.8 states that "The diagnostic work has also shown that it is easier to undertake critical challenges and be visionary if not so close to the embedded practice as Council officers are." Is there an inverse risk that an external transformation team, working on a no-win no fee type basis will have less skin in the game as it were, and be less motivated and informed by long-term, real world experience in service delivery?*
 - (iii) *Can Cllr Kennedy explain what is meant by 'some poor practice' in the current culture of adult social care (in 5.11) which it is felt external agencies will be better placed to address?*
- 7.5 Cllr Kennedy highlighted the Council's commitment in co-production whilst seeking to improve the packages of care, and working with people who are already known to the Council. Cllr Kennedy went on to say that the provider is expected to have 'skin in the game' as they will be investing their own resources upfront. The provider will have to produce results in order to gain profit.
- 7.7 The Assistant Director Strategic Commission for Adult Social Care & Public Health stated that whilst savings through costs avoidance are expected, work is primarily about improving outcomes and providing care in a different way.
- 7.9 The Chair indicated that the committee will take a closer look at sustainability issues in July when the tendering process has been completed.

ACTION:

- (1) Assistant Director Strategic Commission for Adult Social Care & Public to present proposed contract award to the Committee in July 2023 once the tender process has been completed.

- (2) Officers to ensure that the contract award is listed for key decision on the Council's Executive Meetings Key Decision Notice as appropriate.
- (3) The Assistant Director Strategic Commission for Adult Social Care & Public Health to provide a written response to Cllr Binnie-Lubbock.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed to go out to tender for a delivery partner to support the design and implementation phases of the transformation programme using the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) Management Consultancy Framework 3, Lot 3 (Complex and Transformation). The contract will be for up to three years and the contract value will be capped at the price submitted by the winning bidder and released as savings are achieved.

8. General Exception AH1 S192 City and Hackney Enhanced Health Visiting Service - Contract Award

8.1 The Public Health Commissioning Manager introduced the report, highlighting the following:

- Recommendation to seek approval to award a contract to Provider A for an enhanced health visiting service for a 5 year period from 1 September 2023. Total value of the contract will be a max of £34.8 million.
- The service is for children and families from pregnancy up to 5 years and is designed to deliver at scale and intensity in proportion to the needs of the community.
- It aims to provide a needs-led model and evidence-based interventions at five different levels, with flexibility that allows families to progress between the different services in accordance with their needs.
- The model will also include a home visit service that will also cover vulnerable families with complex needs including parents who have had children removed.
- It will comprise of three additional targeted visits which is in addition to the five mandated visits and will include speech and language visits.

8.2 The Chair queried the need for the General Exception requirement when it probably could have been foreseen that there was a need for the review of the service. In response, Consultant in Public Health apologised and stated that delays to the timeline was as a result of negotiations on the bid. This was in addition to not having foreseen that there was initially not going to be a Cabinet Procurement Insourcing Committee meeting in May.

8.3 Cllr Woodley sought reassurance about specialist support for young parents and queried whether this resource will be available year on year as this is not set out in the report. In response, Consultant in Public Health agreed to have discussions with the provider on the mobilisation period around training, and will include a standing item at quarterly performance meetings to ensure that there is a regular focus on the number of young parents being supported and their outcomes. Additionally, highlighted in the specification is that there is a high impact role around vulnerable cohorts so therefore able to draw on some of the information through that stream of work.

- 8.4. The Chair stated that there could have been more detail on the sustainability issues and asked that further details are shared with the Committee.

ACTION:

- (1) Consultant in Public Health to follow up with the provider on support for young parents and capturing the outcomes.
- (2) To prepare a briefing note in consultation with the Procurement team addressing the sustainability issues.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed to award the Enhanced Health Visiting Service contract to Provider A for a period of a maximum of five years (2+1+1+1) from the 1st of September 2023. The total value of the contract will be a maximum of £34,850,000 (An average of £6,970,000 per year).

9 FCR S180 Procurement of Core Insurance Provision Contract Award (Officer Key Decision) - For Noting

9.1 Senior Insurance Officer introduced the report and highlighted:

- The report is for noting by the Committee following the decision to approve Lots 2 - 6 in February 2023.
- The decision with respect to Lot 1 property insurance was deferred and delegated to the Group Director for Finance and Corporate Resources. The insurance policy was incepted as of 1 April 2023.

9.2 The Chair acknowledged the challenges presently faced in the insurance market however highlighted that more could have been said in the report about the Council's green ambitions, the KPIs that are being developed and innovation.

ACTION:

- (1) Senior Insurance Officer to provide a briefing note to the Committee that provides further detail on the Council's green ambitions, the KPIs referenced in the report and innovation.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

10. Any Other Unrestricted Business the Chair Considers to be Urgent

10.1 There was no other business that the Chair considered urgent.

End of meeting.

5.00-5.40pm

Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 3.00pm on 2 May 2023.



| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| Title of Report | Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy - falling rolls |
| Key Decision No | CE S190 |
| For Consideration By | Cabinet |
| Meeting Date | 22 May 2023 |
| Cabinet Member | Councillor Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children’s Social Care |
| Classification | Open Report and Appendices A-N with Exempt Appendix O and P |
| Ward(s) Affected | All |
| Key Decision & Reason | Yes Significant effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards |
| Implementation Date if Not Called In | 29 May 2022 |
| Group Director | Jacque Burke, Group Director Children & Education |

1. CABINET MEMBER’S INTRODUCTION

1.1. As an Administration, and as Deputy Mayor, we are pleased with the improvement of Hackney’s education system. Just 20 years ago the Borough’s schools were some of the worst performing in the country; now they are among the very best, not just in terms of school performance, but also in the outcomes for our children and young people. This transformation of education in Hackney is one of the greatest success stories in the country. We are proud of our children and young people who are among the top in the country for Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 1. Their results are particularly impressive considering they were achieved after the difficulties of the pandemic. This is a credit to our children, families, and schools, and we will continue to work in partnership with all our schools.

In recent years, as widely reported, Hackney, like other inner and greater London local authority (LA) areas, has been experiencing a significant decrease in pupil numbers, which has caused some schools to face serious and irreversible financial and sustainability pressures. The critical London wide factors are; lower birth rates; the cap on rent benefits; families leaving the capital as a result of the housing crisis; Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. Our local context includes competition from free schools and academies (agreed and championed by the DfE) which has added four additional schools without reference or having any regard to the Council's pupil place planning arrangements, or the local authority's evidenced based needs. All of these factors have resulted in a reduction in demand for primary school places in the borough. This is no fault of the Council or our schools, and we remain committed to delivering over a thousand new council homes and more family housing across the borough.

School leaders and the Council in recent years have been doing everything possible to manage the risk of falling rolls. Hackney officers have been working with schools locally to progress a number of approaches, with a focus on preventing the escalation of risk to those in scope for potential closure or amalgamation. The approaches used so far include measures such as restructuring school staffing levels, reducing the amount of available support staff, limiting extra curricular activity such as school trips, 'vertical grouping' by combining different year groups in some schools, formally reducing and capping reception places, and for some schools the need to agree deficit recovery plans with Hackney Education. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Hackney's educational system for their often challenging work, as we have worked through these existing decisions and started to explore the even more difficult decisions outlined in this paper.

Most, if not all, of these 'graduated approaches' have been deployed by local schools to address the issue of falling rolls. However, this has not sufficiently solved the problem and the level of risk for some in terms of sustainability and enabling the schools to continue to provide their children with the very best possible teaching and learning experience on a daily basis that all schools would wish to provide. This high quality educational environment is what the people of Hackney expect, and individual school communities deeply value, and we see this whenever the Mayor, Cllr Woodley, and I visit schools.

We have been lobbying the national Government to look at how funding is allocated, as part of our wider commitments to working towards a stronger and fairer school system more generally. We have also repeatedly asked the Government for greater powers to manage places in free schools and academies, which are independent of the Council, in order to pool place-planning resources. The Mayor and I recently wrote to the Education Secretary of State (letter attached at Appendix N of this paper) to formally express our concerns with regards to the issue of falling rolls for the Borough and other LA areas, expressing concern that government policy in areas such

as free schools, have compounded the problem, by bringing more school places into the system, in areas where there may already have been surplus places and therefore putting at risk locally maintained schools due to unnecessary competition at a time of system pressure for the aforementioned reasons.

We know schools are more than just places for children to receive education, and that they play an important part in their local community. This is why having to now consider potentially closing or merging schools is very difficult, and not something we would propose if we had any other choice. We do not underestimate the impact that such changes would have on the community, parents, staff and pupils. However, the impact of falling rolls is being felt widely across many schools, and over time it is becoming increasingly more difficult for them to continue doing all the fantastic things that families, children, staff and the community love them for.

I know some concerns have also been raised that the Council might sell off vacant school sites for private housing development, but please be assured that this is not the case. The Mayor and I have been clear. We know how important that assurance is, given the unique location of our schools, their wider role, and close ties to our wider local communities. Throughout our time leading the Council and through now many years of austerity, while others across the country may have sold assets, we have taken other routes, stopping to think about what Hackney needed at the time and what it might need in the future - and this approach is front and centre of our thinking when it comes to education land and the future needs of the borough for schools and specialist provision. We still take this approach in every situation and we are committed to doing that right now.

This means we need to work through the potential for each site in their local context and we will do our best to steer these sites into locally relevant and valuable uses. We also know from our visits to these schools, and our knowledge of Dalston, De Beauvoir, Haggerston and Hackney Downs the depth of feeling in these places about their respective schools, how they sit in that wider community context and the need to work with communities to defend what makes these communities and places special including Ridley Road. That's why the Council has invested so much in protecting and enhancing Dalston and has plans in De Beauvoir, Haggerston and Hackney Downs to build more Council housing and invest in community infrastructure.

We know that during this process there will be concerns raised about the potential risk to our children with protected characteristics, such as those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). As referenced in a range of recent communications to the local schools, that may be in scope for evaluation as part of the work of the school estates strategy, and we will work with them and provide targeted support where appropriate. The associated equality impact assessment, at Appendix L, provides further commentary on this. My colleague, Cllr Woodley, the Cabinet Member for SEND, has been

working closely with me and the officers progressing this programme and in association with schools where necessary, and will continue to do so for the duration of this programme in seeking to be an advocate for children with SEND, to ensure these children are supported as much as possible, along with their families. That work sits within the wider context of delivering at least 300 new SEND places in the borough in new settings and existing schools.

We know this process will also be unsettling for the whole school community, including Governing Bodies, school leadership teams, teachers, support staff and others who work in our schools. We are committed to having a proactive approach with all those involved, including the trade unions, to ensure that all staff are involved in these discussions and supported if or when changes are made to retain, upskill, or find new employment. We also recognise that where we might merge schools we will have to work with those schools to ensure they have the right facilities and investment on the new sites to meet the aspirations of their respective schools and communities. During the engagement with the school communities, we also met with local members of parliament, ward Councillors, and invited all elected members to briefing sessions to discuss the consequences of falling rolls and the impact on schools.

No one goes into public life, or a leadership position, to close or merge schools, but it is our responsibility, as a local authority, to create life-improving opportunities for those in the borough who most need them - this starts with access to first-class education. And we must continue to ensure that every single child has access to an excellent education that allows them to fulfil their potential and achieve their ambitions. This is why we must now begin to consider the difficult options outlined in this report.

2. GROUP DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.** This report addresses the second priority of the Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy (adopted by Hackney Council in February 2022); to seek viable sustainable solutions and work with existing Primary schools with falling rolls. Falling rolls lead to a reduction in funding to deliver education across the borough, as the number of pupils on roll directly affects the amount of money received from central government. Surplus places impact disproportionately on schools across the borough; schools with unfilled places receive less income, while attempting to maintain the same physical space, staffing and education offer.

In 2014, there were fewer than 1% unfilled reception places in Hackney. The January 2023 school census shows 616 surplus reception places (21%), the equivalent of over 20 empty reception classes. Without taking action, surplus reception places are forecast to rise above 25% by 2029, bringing sustained and increasing financial strain on affected schools.

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient high quality school places for our children, and that places are planned effectively. This school year alone, Hackney schools are seeing £30m less funding compared to what they would be entitled to if their classrooms were full. This financial pressure has a significant impact on our schools, and threatens the stability and quality of our education system.

3. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Cabinet approve that informal consultations are carried out on the:

- 1. Proposed closure of De Beauvoir Primary School from September 2024.**
- 2. Proposed closure of Randal Cremer Primary School from September 2024.**
- 3. Proposed merger/amalgamation of Colvestone Primary School and Princess May Primary School, onto the Princess May site from September 2024.**
- 4. Proposed merger/amalgamation of Baden Powell Primary School and Nightingale Primary School, onto the Nightingale site from September 2024.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

3.1. Summary

Following years of growth, the number of primary aged children joining Hackney primary schools has been in steady decline since 2014/15, a trend observed across London, and most prevalent in inner-London boroughs. Pupil numbers are forecast to continue falling until at least 2028.

School funding is primarily determined by the number of children on roll, and falling rolls equates to reduced funding to deliver education across the borough. While primary schools' rolls are falling but the number of schools remains unchanged, there is effectively less financial resource per school/child.

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient number of school places for pupils and that places are planned effectively. Published Admission Numbers (PANs) reflect the maximum number of pupils schools can accommodate in each year group: this is derived from dividing the whole school PAN by the number of years within the school. Reductions to PANs have been implemented across several schools in recent years, however, they have not kept pace with falling numbers, leaving the surplus well above viable levels.

The Council monitors surplus reception places, a key measure of demand, and aims to maintain a 5-10% surplus across all Hackney primary schools. In

2023, the reception vacancy rate in Hackney was 21%. Without taking action, surplus reception places are forecast to rise above 25% by 2029.

Allowing surplus places to remain above 20% through inaction would directly and negatively impact the financial viability of many Hackney schools, which will have an impact on education. This is because schools with less income have less money for staff salaries, for extra curricular activities, for equipment, to pay bills and carry out maintenance work. The quality of education and classroom support offered for children in these schools would deteriorate in time, as the affected schools would have to deplete surplus funds or go into deficit to maintain their current education offer.

The proposals outlined in this report begin to address the issue of falling rolls. The Hackney Education team will continue to work together with our schools to review and adjust future plans in line with the priorities outlined in the Education Sufficiency and Estates Strategy to bring surplus places to within a sustainable range.

3.2. Demand for reception places

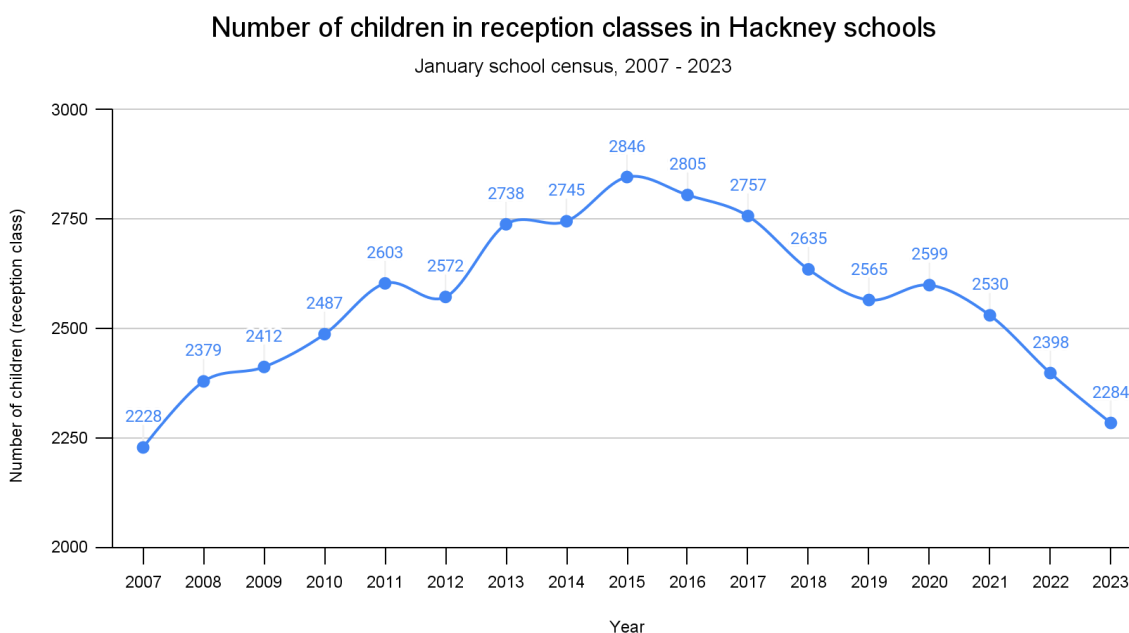
3.2.1. Historical and current demand

In 2007 a surge in demand for reception places began to occur in Hackney, a trend replicated across other London boroughs. In response to this, LAs created additional places, at speed, either through new provision or by implementing bulge classes in existing schools.

In addition, outside of Hackney Council's control, the Department for Education (DfE) approved the opening of four new free schools/academies, creating a further 290 unplanned reception places: The Olive School (Sep 2013), Hackney New Primary School (2015), Halley House School (Sep 2015), and Mossbourne Riverside Academy (2015). The current number and type of Hackney schools can be viewed in appendix A.

After the surge in demand for reception places between 2007/08 and 2014/15, demand has decreased, with the most recent years seeing drops of over 100 children each year. (Figure 1)

Figure 1.



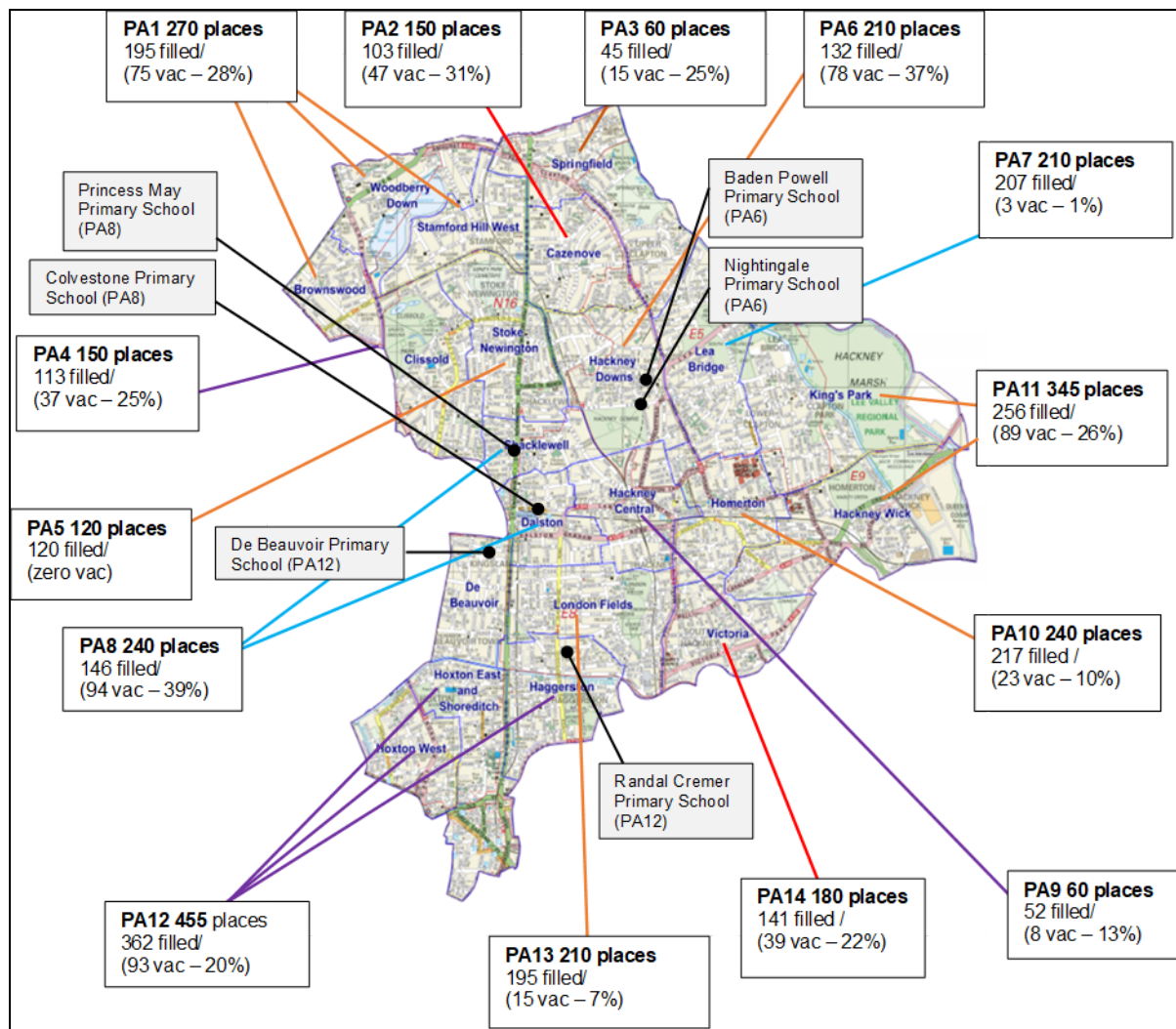
This London-wide decrease in the demand for reception places has resulted in LAs (including Hackney) having to take action to reduce the high levels of surplus reception places to more manageable levels.

Historically, LAs have sought to maintain a level of 5% - 10% surplus reception places against the total number of places available to accommodate in-year arrivals. However, as rolls have reduced, surplus reception rates have far exceeded the target level.

Figure 2 below shows the high level of surplus reception places throughout the borough at the latest school place census (January 2023), ranging from no vacancies to 39% vacant reception places in the individual planning areas (PAs).

Nine out of the fourteen planning areas (PAs) had a reception place surplus of 20% or more. Four of the fourteen planning areas had a surplus of 10% or below, covering the areas of Stoke Newington, Lower Clapton, Hackney Central and London Fields.

Figure 2. Surplus reception places by planning area (PA) - January 2023 census



Note: The location of the six primary schools proposed for amalgamation and/or closure are represented by the grey boxes.

3.2.2. Projected demand for reception places

Hackney commissions the Greater London Authority¹ to provide an annual school rolls projection output based on January school census data in the year that the projections are produced.²

¹ The Greater London Authority's (GLA) school roll projections service is commissioned by Hackney and the majority of London LAs. The GLA's model is extensive and utilises a range of data sets such as population, births, migration, fertility rates, GP registrations, school rolls and housing data to generate annual school roll projections.

² Every school in England has a statutory duty to complete the DfE School Census every term

For the 2024/25 academic year, the projected number of surplus places is predicted to fall to 18% as a result of the PAN reductions scheduled to come into effect from September 2023.

However, the projections go on to show a year on year rise in surplus places until 2027 due to fewer projected children and no further school organisation changes being proposed. Between 2027 and the end of the projection period (2031), the surplus is projected to stagnate at 25-26%.

Table 1. GLA projected number of reception children compared to the number of places available

| Academic Year | Reception projections based on January 2022 census | Number of places available based on PANs | Projected surplus places based on PANs | % surplus places based on PANs |
|---------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 2024/25 | 2274 | 2780 | 506 | 18% |
| 2025/26 | 2202 | 2780 | 578 | 21% |
| 2026/27 | 2130 | 2780 | 650 | 23% |
| 2027/28 | 2097 | 2780 | 683 | 25% |
| 2028/29 | 2072 | 2780 | 708 | 25% |
| 2029/30 | 2059 | 2780 | 721 | 26% |
| 2030/31 | 2060 | 2780 | 720 | 26% |
| 2031/32 | 2060 | 2780 | 720 | 26% |

Projections become less robust the further forward the data projects. This risk is mitigated by ensuring that the number of reception applications are routinely monitored against current projections data. It is clear that further action must be taken to reduce surplus places. The next set of projections based on January 2023 census data is expected by the end of May 2023 and is likely to reflect a further decline in demand for reception places.

3.2.3. Factors driving the reduction in reception demand

Demand for reception places depends upon a range of factors including parental perceptions of schools in a given area, parental choice, birth rates, migration and the ability to afford to live in an area.

The reasons for Hackney's declining numbers are multifaceted, but include a combination of falling birth rates, changes to welfare benefits, the housing crisis, increases in the cost of living, the withdrawal of the right of entry and freedom of movement from EU nationals (Brexit) and as a result of families leaving London during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many of these factors remain outside the Council's control and are no fault of the schools or their current leadership.

A report on [Managing Surplus School Places in London \(2023\)](#) published by London Councils in January 2023 provides some wider context and independent analysis of the issue.

3.3. Reducing the surplus through managing published admissions numbers (PANs)

For the reception intakes in 2019, 2022 and 2023 a total of 375 reception places were removed through reducing PANs, with the result that the projected surplus is likely to reduce to 18% in the 2024/25 academic year.

Hackney Council has the authority to reduce school [PANs](#) at all community schools (ie. 38 out of 58 primary schools), and to recommend PAN reductions at the remaining 20 academies, free or faith schools. The final decision to reduce PAN at these schools rests with their governing body or academy trust.

Reducing a school's PAN (e.g. from 60 to 30) allows governors and school leaders to plan for and employ fewer staff knowing they will only need one teacher for each year group.

However, while PAN reductions directly reduce the number of surplus places, they are not a long term solution because the size of the school building remains unchanged. The unused space (eg. empty classrooms) that PAN reductions create in schools must still be maintained, heated etc, and this draws on resources that could be more directly used to educate and support children.

The Council continues to consider reducing PANs wherever possible at schools significantly affected by falling rolls. Further details of PAN reductions are available in appendix B.

Diocese

Of the 58 primary schools in Hackney, 11 are faith based Roman Catholic or Church of England primaries (19%). The 2021 Census data found that 30.7% of Hackney residents identify as Christian. It is important that we retain an appropriate mix of faith-based schools to reflect the needs and beliefs of our communities.

While the Council is not the decision maker regarding PAN reductions at faith schools, it should be noted that the relevant dioceses have taken steps to reduce their combined published admission numbers to reflect changes in Hackney's population.

Each Roman Catholic primary school has moved to one form of entry, thereby reducing their total PAN by 60, from 180 to 120. For September 2023 starters, there were 157 applications for 120 places.

In spite of most Church schools being one form of entry, the Church of England primary schools have reduced their overall PAN by 15, with a further 30 places removed temporarily via an informal cap. This reduces places from 285 to 240. For September 2023 starters, there were 284 applications for 240 places.

The Council will continue to work within a collaborative process and take a graduated approach in partnership with both dioceses.

3.4. The impact of falling rolls and surplus places

The impact of fewer children starting reception in individual schools creates challenges for school leaders and needs to be managed both individually and collectively.

This impacts disproportionately with oversubscribed schools being unaffected while others are now facing serious financial pressure after year-on-year declines to their roll. This impacts on the efficient running of schools, financial stability and education outcomes as outlined below.

3.4.1. School income and deficit

School funding is primarily determined by the number of children on roll and falling rolls equates to reduced funding to deliver education across the borough. While primary schools' rolls are falling but the number of schools in Hackney remains unchanged, there are effectively less financial resources per school/child.

Figure 3

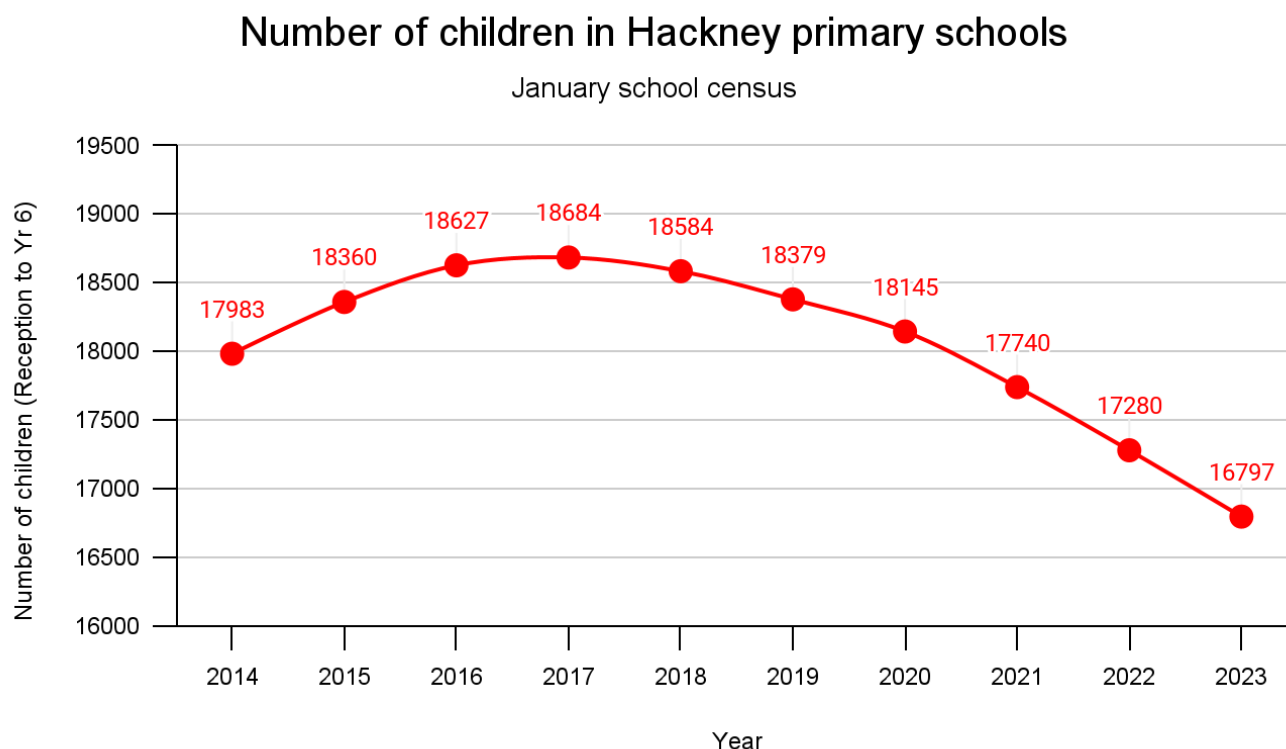


Figure 3 shows the falling number of children in Hackney primary schools, down by 1,776 between 2018 and 2023. This reduced borough-wide roll means that in 2022/23, Hackney receives circa £11.5m less Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)³ Schools Block funding based on 2022/23 per pupil funding rates, compared with 2018/19.

In accordance with DfE funding regulations, the majority of school funding must be allocated on the basis of pupil numbers. The impact of surplus places can be significant to a school's overall budget and financial viability.

In the 2022/23 academic year, for every surplus place that a maintained primary school carries, it loses on average £6,484 per pupil, meaning that a 33% surplus equates to approximately £64,840 in lost potential income per class while there is no change to the number of year groups or class teachers.

High levels of surplus places results directly in a reduction in income, which can lead to deficit budgets. Falling rolls is a major theme that runs through the

³ The dedicated schools grant (DSG) is payable to local authorities under section 14 of the Education Act 2002. Local authorities are responsible for determining the split of the grant between central expenditure and the individual schools budget (ISB) in conjunction with local schools forums. Local authorities are responsible for allocating the ISB to individual schools in accordance with the local schools' funding formula.

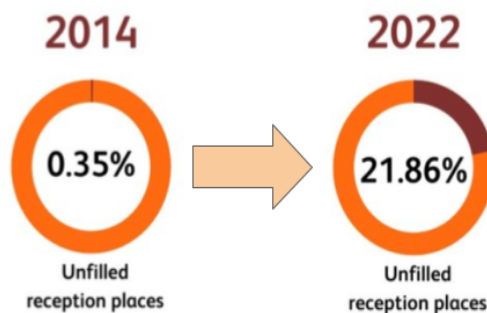
budget planning considerations of many schools in financial difficulty. A number of schools are currently managing small year group sizes that prove to be uneconomical and require adopting a more flexible approach to resourcing i.e. vertical grouping (children from different years groups taught together) and capping of PAN.

To manage and balance budgets, many Hackney school leaders have had to make efficiencies and innovations, which include reducing costs and exploring opportunities to increase income, for example, by hiring out facilities. However, in many cases these options have already been taken and budgets are still under pressure before they must deal with the financial impact of surplus school places.

What is the impact for Hackney schools?

School funding is based on the number of children on roll. Every empty space means less money comes into school budgets.

Unfilled **reception** places in Hackney schools



634 unfilled reception places in 2022/23

£4.11 million less funding for schools

Working for every child

Hackney

Whilst federations can provide some financial support through economies of scale, our current data in relation to budget deficits suggests that it does not protect schools sufficiently. Deficit budgets of course directly contribute to a school's lack of viability.

It is key that schools experiencing falling rolls produce realistic 3-year budget plans (in accordance with DfE requirements for all schools) and deficit recovery plans (if necessary), and consider their options regarding future financial viability. These options could include staffing restructures, reducing costs, amalgamating with (an)other school(s) and potentially closure.



What is the impact for Hackney schools?

4,685 unfilled places in Hackney schools
(all year groups, all schools, October 2022)



more than **£30 million less funding** for schools in Hackney
every year !

Working for every child

 Hackney

3.4.2. School performance and outcomes

While school performance and Ofsted grading often helps to strengthen demand and protects a school from falling rolls, this isn't the case for Hackney, as 94.7% of primary schools in the borough are rated good or outstanding.

Managing school performance in the context of falling rolls requires governors and school leaders to make difficult decisions affecting changes to provision for existing pupils. eg. around restructuring the staffing complement or the removal of important enrichment provision or wrap-around provision such as after school clubs to balance reducing budgets.

What has been done already?

Further detail provided within the report. In summary, the Council and school leaders have:

- reduced the admission number at schools that don't fill up.
- combined different year groups to keep schools financially viable.
- reduced their staffing resources to balance budgets.

The Council has no control over the factors causing a reduction in school aged children.

The Council must now start looking at schools that have been hardest-hit by falling pupil numbers and budget pressures and consider school closures or mergers.

3.4.3. Schools with excess physical space and large sites

Reduced budgets impact on schools' ability to set aside sufficient budget to deal with day to day repair and maintenance issues as resources must be prioritised to deal with staffing and delivery of education.

This can have a significant impact on larger school buildings and sites with fewer pupils which will have higher premises costs. Underinvestment in the premises will create longer term issues and increased need for capital funding to deal with a lack of maintenance.

Many schools who have had their PANs reduced or capped still have larger buildings and sites to maintain, while having a significantly smaller budget.

3.4.4. Roll instability

Surplus places make it easier for families to move their children from school to school, as so many have vacancies. These unplanned transfers between schools present significant challenges for schools, as high levels of mobility can be unsettling for schools, and may require significant additional resources to properly induct and support new starters.

School admissions regulations protect parental preference, meaning that regardless of whether the new school is in a position financially to meet the joining child's needs, they are obliged to admit.

3.4.5. Quality of education offer

Schools with reduced budgets have less income for support staff such as teaching assistants and learning mentors, who provide important support for pupils through academic and pastoral interventions. Specialist teachers with expertise in physical education, languages or art become too expensive, meaning primary class teachers who may not be skilled or trained in these areas have to teach these subjects themselves. It is also common in small schools to see leaders double up on roles, such as headteachers taking on the SENCO responsibility.

As budget pressure becomes greater, and class sizes drop below 50%, schools must also consider the option of vertically grouped classes to avoid going into deficit. This involves a sufficiently experienced and able teacher being employed to teach children from across two year groups in the same classroom. Vertical grouping brings increased complexity in day to day management and organisation and increased workload for the teacher. The challenges of recruiting and retaining skilled and experienced teachers in London can make schools under grave financial pressure less attractive.

In addition, limited budgets mean that occasional but important work to maintain the quality of experience at school is not taken forward in a timely manner e.g. the computers used by staff and children become increasingly

obsolete and need replacement, sometimes across the whole school at once due to their original purchase being made in bulk.

3.5. Impact of new housing and regeneration

There are proposed areas for regeneration and new housing across the borough and in some of the areas close to the schools covered in this report. However, despite the extensive council and family housing planned, the expected initial child yield is low and thus would not impact on school place demand in the short to medium term, and there would remain enough school places to accommodate need. Projections obtained annually from the Greater London Authority take into account proposed new developments that have attained planning permission.

Adopted in July 2020, the Hackney Local Plan 2033 (LP33), requires that all new development in the borough have regard to existing social infrastructure, which includes the provision of education facilities. Within LP33, policy LP8 states that *'where proposed development is expected to place pressure on existing social infrastructure by increasing demand, these developments will be expected to contribute towards the provision of additional social infrastructure to meet needs, either through on-site provision or through contributions towards providing additional capacity off-site.'*

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which informed the policies within LP33, notes that while the borough's population is expected to increase to 321,000 by 2033 (42,000 higher than in 2018), that the age mix of the borough is anticipated to shift towards the older community with the growth in over 65s being four times greater than the growth in the school age population, ages 0-15.

Since 2011, the Council's in-house building programme has delivered more than 1,000 new homes, prioritising homes for Council social rent. Between 2018 and 2022, we started, completed or received planning permission for 1,984 homes – more than half being genuinely affordable. Over the next few years, we'll also complete 1,146 homes, including 255 social rent homes and 136 shared ownership homes, on the existing programmes of council homes.

This means that between 2022 to 2026, we'll start building, and support partners to build, 1,000 new homes for social rent through a mix of methods. In this context, the Mayor and Cabinet agreed, in December 2022, a direct programme of 400 additional new homes on sites we've identified via our HRA asset base; 75% of which are proposed for Council social rent.

While there are variances across the different housing tenures, across the Councils programme as a whole, just over 70% of the homes delivered have been 1 and 2 bed homes; with just under 30% comprising a mix of 3 and 4 bed family sized homes. This is broadly consistent with policy LP14 as outlined in LP33, which, depending on the tenure of housing, requires all new developments to comprise a mix of family sized homes, ranging from 15 to 36%. Despite Hackney building new homes the numbers will be insufficient to

have any significant impact on the proposals in this report for schools in scope for closure or amalgamation.

Options for reducing surplus places

A review of schools with falling rolls has been undertaken to identify how excess places can be removed from Hackney's school estate from September 2024. A range of options, outlined below can be implemented to achieve this in addition to the PAN reductions already outlined in this report.

3.5.1. Merger / Amalgamation

An amalgamation can only be achieved by closing one or more schools and providing spaces for displaced children in another 'host' school. This option would involve the host school retaining its original DfE school number as it is not technically considered a new school. However, following the amalgamation process, governors have the option to rename the school to create a new identity for the merged schools.

Historically, an amalgamation would have involved the closure of multiple schools and the creation of one new school. However, under current legislation, this option would fall under the 'free school presumption' meaning that the Local Authority is unable to open a new school, but instead are placed under a duty to seek proposers for a free school/academy.

3.5.2. Closure

The DfE advises that school closure decisions should be taken when there is no demand for the school in the medium to long term and there are sufficient places elsewhere to accommodate displaced children.

A school closure would see a school cease to exist as a statutory entity with all displaced children taking places in other local schools. School closures can take the form of a full and immediate closure, whereby all children on roll are supported to find places in other local schools, or the closure can be 'staggered'. Full and immediate closures are recommended in this report.

A staggered closure option would cease the admission of children into reception each year until all remaining children have worked their way through to year 6, at which time the school would close. While this may be a less disruptive option for some families, it significantly increases the financial burden and further damages the quality of education at the school as pupils do not benefit from the mixing of year groups they would usually experience.

3.6. Options review process to identify schools at risk

Following approval of the School Estates Strategy by Cabinet in February 2022, the Council developed the framework outlined below to include objective measures impacting on a school's viability, using available key data to identify the schools most at risk from falling rolls.

Criterion A - was the starting point for review:

Schools were reviewed based on meeting one of the following three criteria:

- 25% or greater surplus reception places;
- 25% or greater surplus physical capacity;
- budget deficit in the top 10 schools raising most financial concern.

Criterion B - The list created from the above criteria A was then refined to include:

- schools meeting more than one of the initial three criteria, or
- schools with greater than 45% surplus reception places.
- Additional schools falling outside these criteria were also considered where they are located geographically near a shortlisted school and identified as a potential partner for amalgamation.

Criterion C - The list created from the above B criteria was further refined:

- The list of schools derived from the above quantitative data driven criteria were then reviewed for further data and qualitative considerations.
- The community schools were reviewed based on: locality and geographic partnership options [walking distances], suitability of site to host an amalgamation and finally overall school effectiveness and quality of education, as indicated by current Ofsted grading, trajectory of pupil outcome data and local reporting.

Finally, a feasibility review of the options created from the above criteria was completed, this included:

- Number check on projected school pupil numbers and check if all pupils would fit in the proposed amalgamated school for September 2024.
- If closures were proposed, a review of nearby schools with surplus places was completed to ensure alternative options were available nearby.
- Community impact and children centre locations.
- The impact of local area plans, such as whether new neighbourhoods and new-build estates will create significantly more need for school places in that area in the future.

The proposals that have been included in this report are a direct result of the application of that options review process.

| Proposals | Number of Places removed [per year] |
|--|--|
| 1. De Beauvoir - closure | 30 |
| 2. Colvestone & Princess May - amalgamate on Princess May site | 30 |
| 3. Baden Powell & Nightingale - amalgamate on Nightingale site | 30 |
| 4. Randal Cremer - closure | 45 |
| Total | 135 |

3.7. Individual school data for the 6 school proposed for closure/merger

3.7.1. De Beauvoir Primary school - Closure proposal

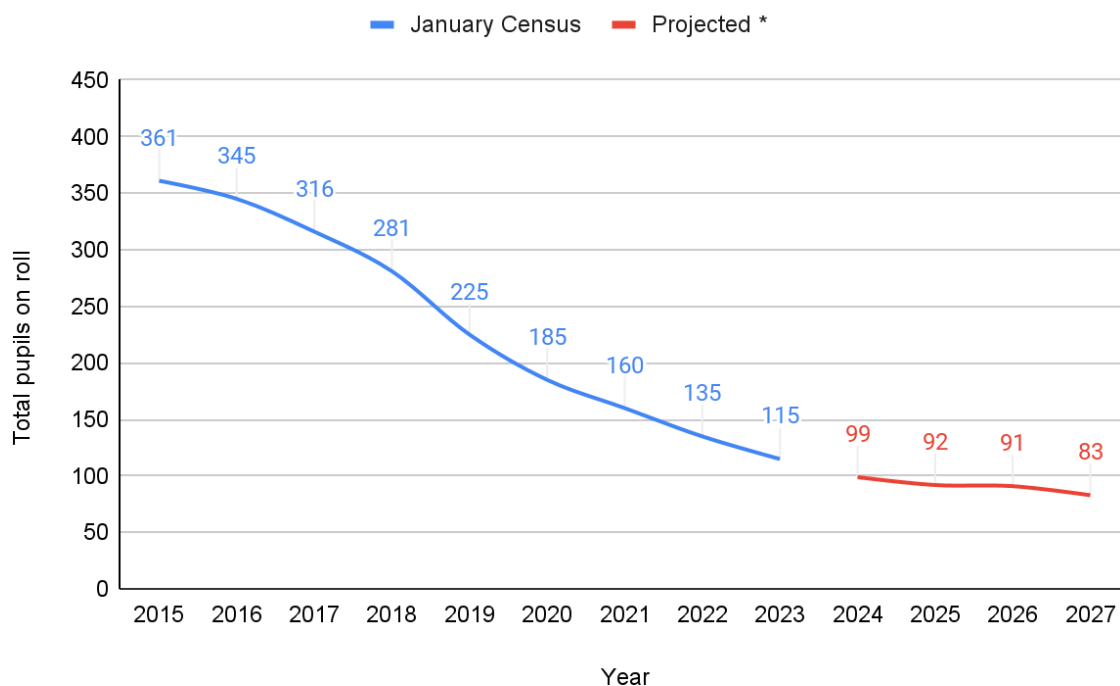
3.7.1.1. Background

De Beauvoir Primary School is a 1 form entry school in the south-west of Hackney. The school was graded good when inspected in January 2022. The school sees positive outcomes in primary assessments 2022.

Prior to 2018, the school had a PAN of 60. This was reduced to 30 from September 2019. From September 2021, the school has been operating a capped PAN of 15, which is unprecedented for Hackney.

The January 2023 census recorded 13 reception children on roll for a capped PAN of 15 places (official PAN is 30). There were a total of 10 offers made on national offer day for children to join the school in September 2023.

De Beauvoir - Pupils on roll



* assumes 10 children join reception each year and that no children leave or join the school in other year groups. Based on reception to year 6 primary phase only.

3.7.1.2. Financial position

| Financial Year | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Brought Forward Balance | -73,473.57 | -212,875.50 | -125,557 | 82,566 * | 140,418 |

*De Beauvoir school received the sum of £154,132, in support of the directed PAN reduction in the financial year 2021-22.

3.7.1.3. Reason for proposed closure

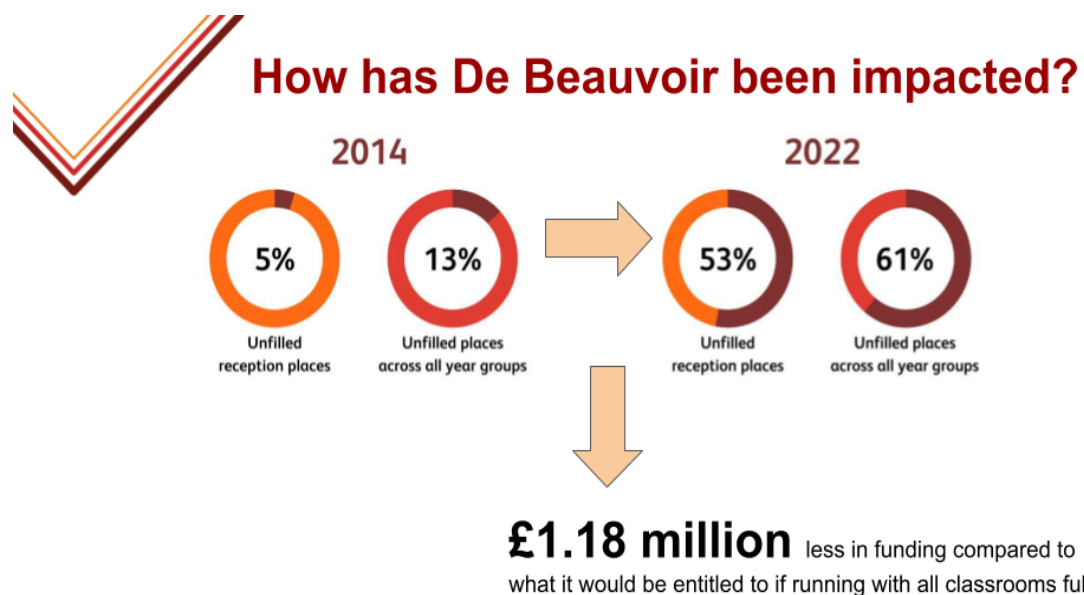
Due to sustained falling rolls over several years, the school will not be financially viable in the future. Despite a capped PAN of 15, the school has been unable to fill all the places. A total of 10 children were offered places to join reception in September 2023 on national offer day.

At the January 2023 census, De Beauvoir recorded 13 children in Reception (a surplus of 17 places, or 57%) and 115 children across all year groups (a surplus of 185 places, or 62%).

Based on the number of children on roll, 73% of the intended capacity of the school building is unused.

The school remains financially viable through vertically grouping of all year groups. This is not a model of school organisation that is encouraged or sustainable as it brings increased complexity in day to day management and organisation and brings increased workload for teachers and leaders who often need to pick up multiple roles.

Should De Beauvoir close, there are several nearby schools (all of which have been graded 'Good' or Outstanding' by Ofsted) that also have low rolls that children can transfer to. These schools include Holy Trinity, Princess May and St Matthias - all 16 minutes or less walk away and 0.52 miles and under. If a decision is made to progress with a closure, further information and support for families affected will be provided from the admissions team throughout the process.



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3.7.1.4. Impact and equalities

If the proposal is agreed, by September 2024, De Beauvoir Primary School is projected to have approximately 95 pupils who will need to find an alternative school. There is a high incidence of need at the school with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) numbers at De Beauvoir of 10 [which is 9%], and pupils on [free school meals](#) (FSM) [67%], both above the Hackney average [Spring 2023 Census, reception to year 6]. The school has 20 staff members [including classroom teachers, head teacher, other support staff, teaching assistants]. Additional support to enable a smooth transition will be offered to affected pupils who have EHCPs.

3.7.2. Colvestone Primary School & Princess May Primary School - Amalgamation proposal

3.7.2.1. Background

Princess May School is currently graded good by Ofsted (October 2017) and has strong Year 2 and 6 outcomes. The school is continuously improving.

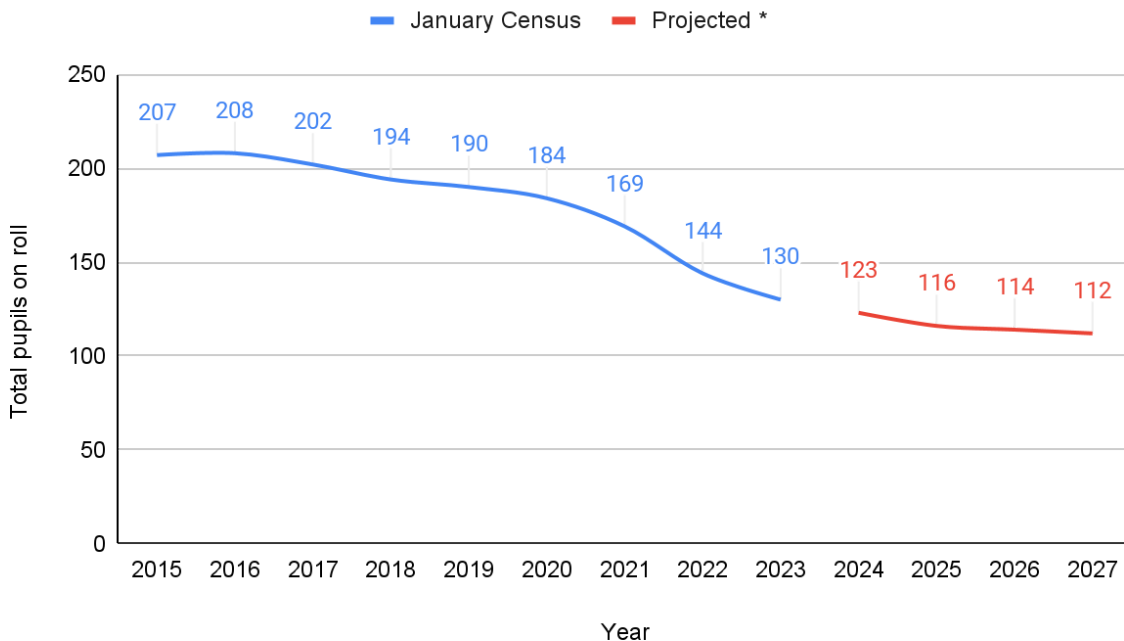
Colvestone School is also graded good (March 2018) and has strong Year 2 and 6 outcomes. The school was part of the Soaring Skies Federation with Thomas Fairchild school. This was dissolved by its governors in 2021 because, as reported by Ofsted after a monitoring inspection in May 2021, ‘...Thomas Fairchild has not improved quickly enough following the previous inspection in 2020’.

Both the executive headteacher and head of school left in August 2022.

Subsequently, the school is in a soft partnership with the Blossom Federation until July 2024 to receive leadership and business support. Colvestone is also receiving intensive level support which brings additional school improvement adviser time and funding for curriculum development from Hackney Education as part of its [Good to Great Policy](#) due to the changes in leadership.

At Colvestone, the January 2023 census recorded 18 reception children on roll for a PAN of 30 places. There were a total of 12 offers made on national offer day for children to join the school in September 2023.

Colvestone - Pupils on roll

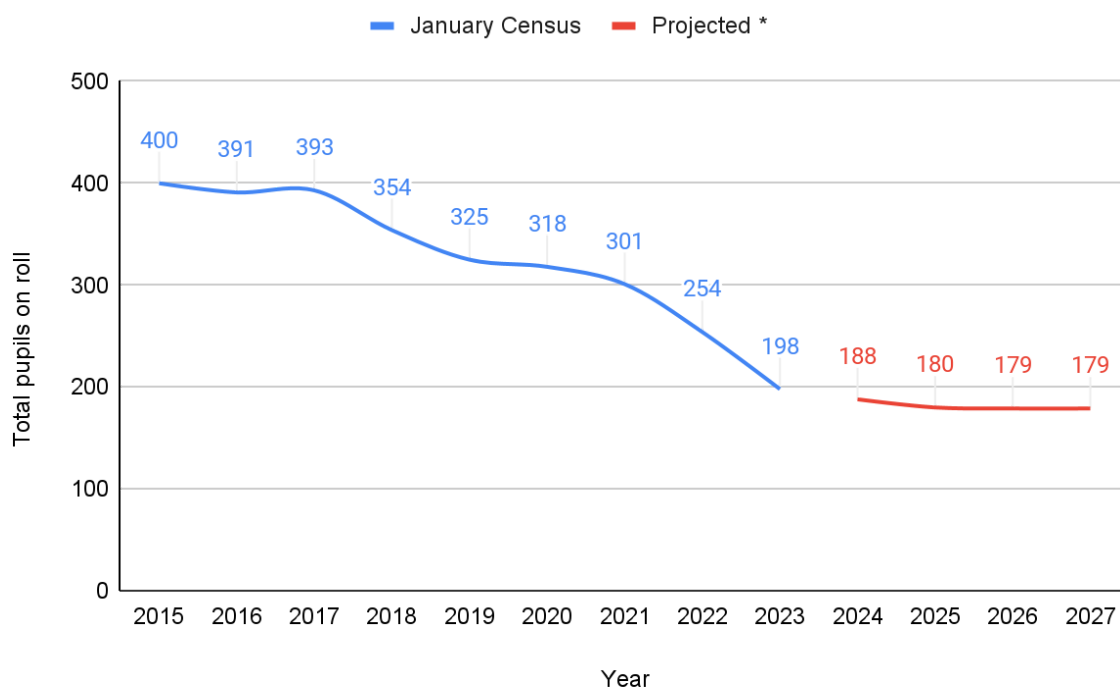


* assumes 12 children join reception each year and that no children leave or join the school in other year groups.

Based on reception to year 6 primary phase only.

At Princess May, the January 2023 census recorded 19 reception children on roll for a PAN of 60 places. There were a total of 29 offers made on national offer day for children to join the school in September 2023.

Princess May - Pupils on roll



* assumes 29 children join reception each year and that no children leave or join the school in other year groups. Based on reception to year 6 primary phase only.

3.7.2.2. Financial position

Colvestone

| Financial Year | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Brought Forward Balance | -300,669.36 | -475,486.70 | -664,807 | -589,966 | -561,646* |

*Colvestone was granted £50k from contingency in the financial year 2022-23 to aid the stabilisation of the school post de-federation.

Princess May

| Financial Year | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Brought Forward Balance | 361,302.83 | 88,584.70 | 48,454 | 24,947 | 29,630 |

3.7.2.3. Reason for proposed amalgamation

At Colvestone, in 2014 Reception was full with no unfilled places and there were 3% unfilled places across all year groups (6 places out of 210). By January 2023 there were 40% unfilled Reception places (12 places out of 30) and 38% unfilled places (80 places out of 210, or nearly 3 classes) across all year groups.

At Princess May, in 2014 there were 2% unfilled Reception places (1 place out of 60) and 6% unfilled places across all year groups (24 places out of 420). By 2022 this had increased to 68% unfilled Reception places (41 places out of 60) and 53% unfilled places (222 places out of 420, or more than 7 classes) across all year groups. This downward trend is forecast to continue. There is a temporary PAN of 30 in operation for Reception, Yr 1, Yr 3, Yr 4 and Yr 5.

Other schools within the Blossom Federation were not considered for amalgamation with Colvestone due to the distance between them.

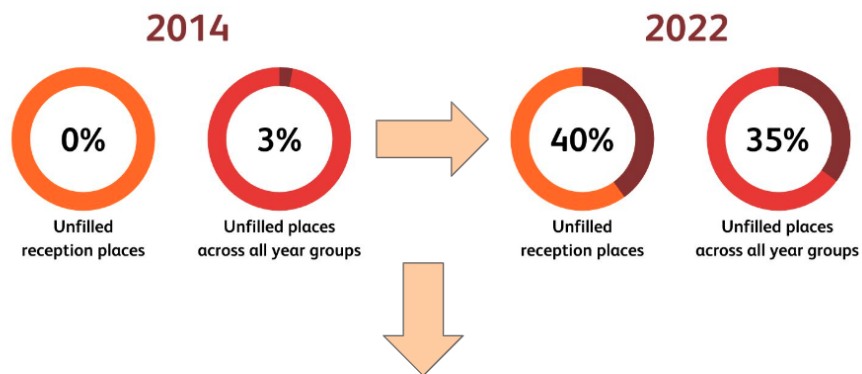
Princess May and Colvestone both featured on the list of schools derived from applying the criteria and are both facing the issue of falling rolls. The proposal to amalgamate with Princess May is due to the close proximity of the schools, minimising disruption, but also due to both schools having a high surplus as well as high unused capacity in their buildings. Princess May is 0.3 miles away from Colvestone, which is a 6-minute walk between the two schools. The process of amalgamating the two schools would create a stronger educational establishment.

The decision to propose an amalgamation on the Princess May site takes into account the capacity to host the merger. Princess May school is a 2 form entry building with a current net capacity of 420. Based on the number of children on roll, 53% of the intended capacity of the Princess May school building is unused.

Colvestone is a 1 form entry school, the capacity of the school is 243 at the latest net capacity assessment (the number of pupils that could be accommodated at the school). Based on the number of children on roll, 47% of the intended capacity of the Colvestone school building is unused. The existing buildings at Colvestone do not have the physical capacity to accommodate pupils from Princess May.



How has Colvestone been impacted?



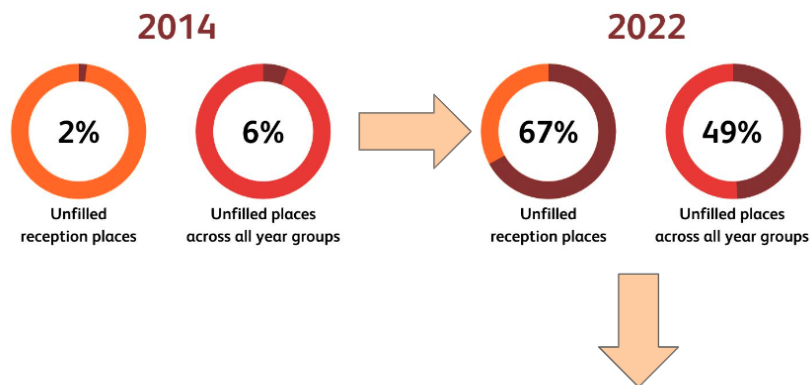
£470,000 less in funding compared to what it would be entitled to if running with all classrooms full

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How has Princess May been impacted?



£1.3 million less in funding compared to what it would be entitled to if running with all classrooms full

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3.7.2.4. Impact and equalities

If the proposal is agreed, by September 2024, Colvestone is projected to have approximately 120 pupils who would move to the Princess May site. There is a high incidence of need with EHCP numbers at Colvestone of 10 [which is 8%] and Princess May of 10 [5%], and pupils on FSM at Colvestone of 35% and of 46% at Princess May [Spring 2023 census, reception to year 6]. Additional support to enable a smooth transition will be offered to affected pupils who have EHCPs.

Colvestone has 18 staff members and there are 29 staff members at Princess May [including classroom teachers, head teacher, other support staff, teaching assistants].

Postcode analysis on average time parents travel to school shows that Colvestone parents travel on average 10 minutes by walking, and travelling to Princess May would make the average travel time 13 minutes to get to school. By comparison, current Princess May families on average travel 14 minutes walking to get to school.

3.7.2.5. Travel to school routes for merger proposals - Impact assessment

An analysis of key journeys based on clusters of Colvestone pupil postcodes was completed and mapped on Google Maps to highlight key desire lines for travel to Princess May. These key routes have been used to identify potential impacts on active travel to Princess May Primary School. They include:

- A proportion of pupils will need to cross the A10 to get to Princess May, with most Colvestone pupils living east of the A10. Approximately half of current Princess May pupils live east of the A10 and already make a similar journey.
- A10 is a much less child friendly walking route to school than surrounding quiet residential roads that pupils may have previously used.
- Dunn Street may become more heavily used for active travel to school, to avoid walking along the A10, this road has narrow and inconsistent pavements.
- Downs Park Road between Amhurst Road and St Mark's Rise may become more heavily used for active travel to school.

The following measures are proposed to mitigate the above impacts:

- An assessment of safe crossing points with which we engage Transport for London, as the strategic transport authority with responsibility for the A10. TfL are planning a new crossing across the A10 at Sandringham Road as part of the Cycleway 23 route, along with restrictions to vehicle movements from Sandringham Road onto the A10 that will make it easier to cross Sandringham Road as well.
- Completion of the Cycleway 23 route connecting Lea Bridge to Dalston
- The Council has committed to implement a low traffic neighbourhood east of the A10, which will reduce traffic, and improve walking and cycling routes in the area.
- Monitor footfall on Dunn Street and conduct a footway inspection to consider pavement improvements if needed.
- Monitor recent traffic scheme at the junction of Downs Park Road and St Mark's Rise, which improved the westbound cycle lane.

- Additional public realm improvements on Princess May Road and Barrett's Grove considering the higher number of children using them following the amalgamation.

In addition to the mitigations outlined above, pupils of Princess May Primary school already benefit from a School Streets scheme, which was permanently implemented in 2022 to reduce traffic congestion around the school estate at the beginning and end of the school day, thereby improving road safety. Additionally, as a matter of course, the Council will continue to undertake a rolling programme of traffic monitoring in the area, to ensure that any existing and new measures remain appropriate.

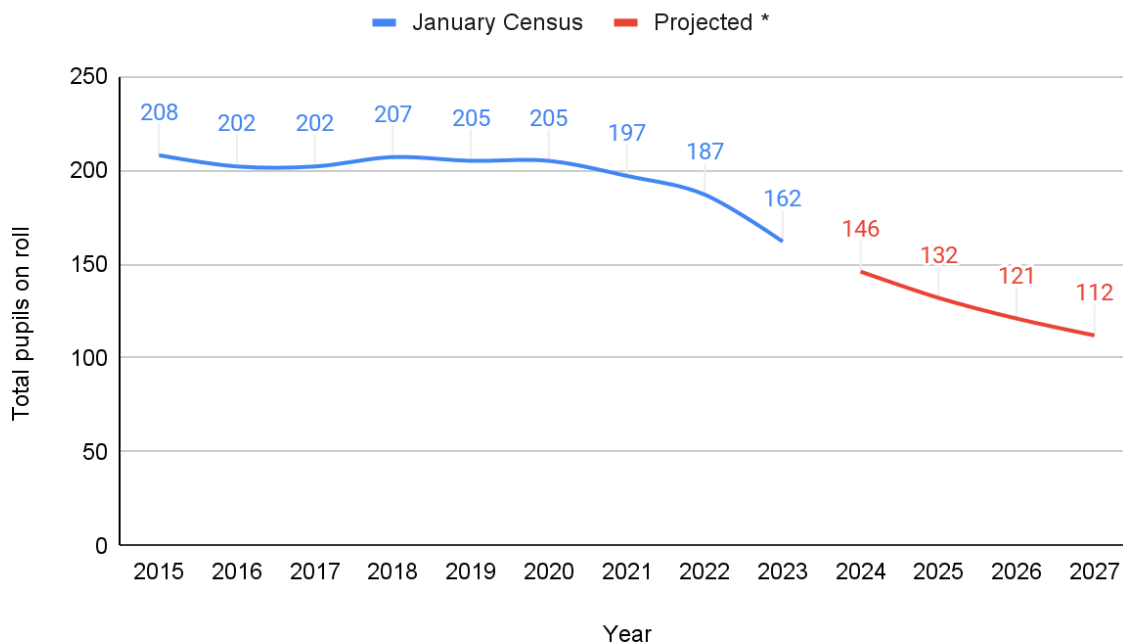
3.7.3. Baden Powell Primary School & Nightingale Primary School - Amalgamation proposal

3.7.3.1. Background

Nightingale Primary School is currently graded Good by Ofsted (November 2017). It has strong 2022 Year 6 outcomes and has a good curriculum model in place. The school is on an upward trajectory. The January 2023 census recorded 30 reception children on roll for a PAN of 30 places. There were a total of 30 offers made on national offer day for children to join the school in September 2023. The school is not currently impacted by falling rolls consistently, maintaining less than 10% surplus places in recent years.

Baden Powell is graded good by Ofsted (October 2018). Its Year 6 outcomes are higher than the national average and it is performing well. The January 2023 census recorded 15 reception children on roll for a PAN of 30 places. There were a total of 13 offers made on national offer day for children to join the school in September 2023.

Baden Powell - Pupils on roll



* assumes 13 children join reception each year and that no children leave or join the school in other year groups. Based on reception to year 6 primary phase only.

3.7.3.2. Financial Position (Baden Powell)

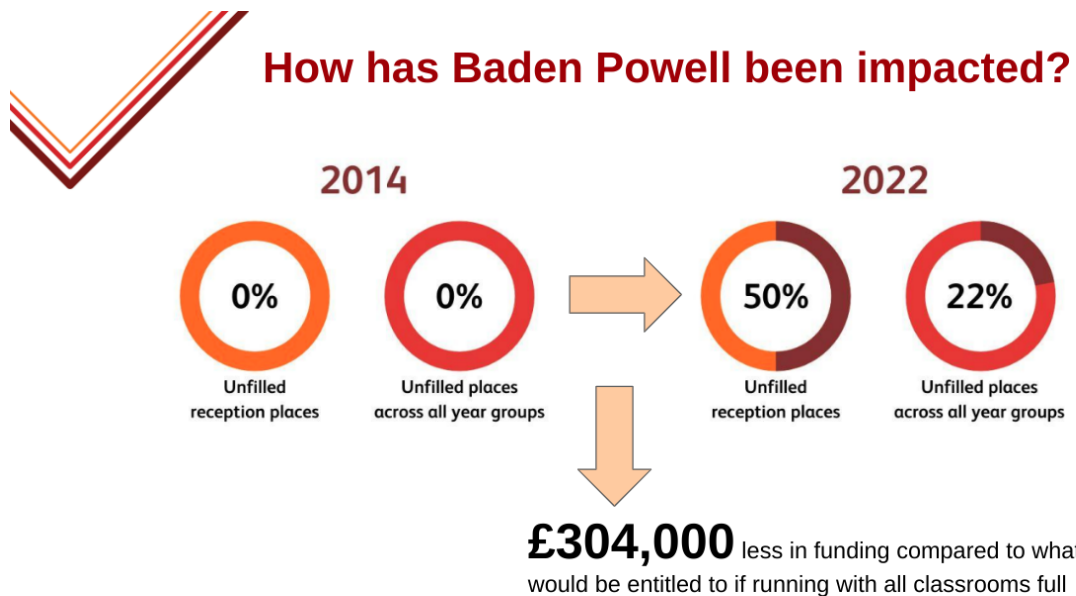
| Financial Year | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Brought Forward Balance | 313,664 | 257,386 | 274,666 | 111,747 | 31,768 |

3.7.3.3. Reason for proposed amalgamation

Baden Powell Primary School has been affected by falling rolls. In 2014 the school was full to capacity in every year group. By January 2023 there were 50% unfilled Reception places (15 places out of 30) and 23% unfilled places (48 places out of 210, or more than one class) across all year groups. This downward trend is forecast to continue. Baden Powell school was selected for a proposed amalgamation after applying the selection criteria, as one of the schools most affected by the falling rolls.

Nightingale has a net capacity of 420 which is the actual physical capacity of the building. With 198 pupils on roll there currently is 53% unused capacity in the building. There is sufficient capacity on the Nightingale site to accommodate the children from Baden Powell. Nightingale school was

selected to host an amalgamation because this school is in a new building which was built for 2FE, and currently operating at 1FE due to the low pupil numbers in the area.



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3.7.3.4. Impact and equalities

If the proposal is agreed, by September 2024, an estimate of 140 children would move from Baden Powell to Nightingale. There is a high incidence of need at the schools, with the pupils with an EHCP at Baden Powell at 8, [this is 5%], and at Nightingale 22, [this is 11%]. The percentage of pupils on FSM is 51% at Baden Powell and 44% at Nightingale [Spring 2023 census, reception to year 6]. Additional support to enable a smooth transition will be offered to affected pupils who have EHCPs. Staff numbers at Baden Powell are 34 and at Nightingale are 33 [including classroom teachers, head teacher, other support staff, teaching assistants].

Postcode analysis on average travel time to school shows that Baden Powell parents travel on average 8 minutes by walking, and travelling to Nightingale would keep the same average walking travel time. By comparison, current Nightingale families on average travel 9 minutes walking to get to school.

3.7.3.5. Travel to school routes for merger proposals - Impact assessment

An analysis of key journeys based on clusters of Baden Powell pupil postcodes was completed and mapped on Google Maps to highlight key desire lines for travel to Nightingale. These key routes have been used to identify potential impacts on active travel to Nightingale Primary School. They include:

- In terms of travel, overall, there appears to be very limited impact, as Nightingale is very close to Baden Powell. It is a 2 minute walk between schools.
- For those living south of Hackney Downs the journey will be shorter, and pupils can continue to travel through Hackney Downs to lower exposure to traffic on their journey to school.
- The cut-throughs from Charnock Road and Heyworth Road will become increasingly important and utilised (connect Baden Powell to Nightingale).

Mitigation measures:

- Potentially child focused improvements to the cut-throughs from Charnock Road and Heyworth Road.
- There would be more children using Tiger Way in case of an amalgamation, so additional public realm improvements may be beneficial, including school focused planters, or planters to indicate School Street.

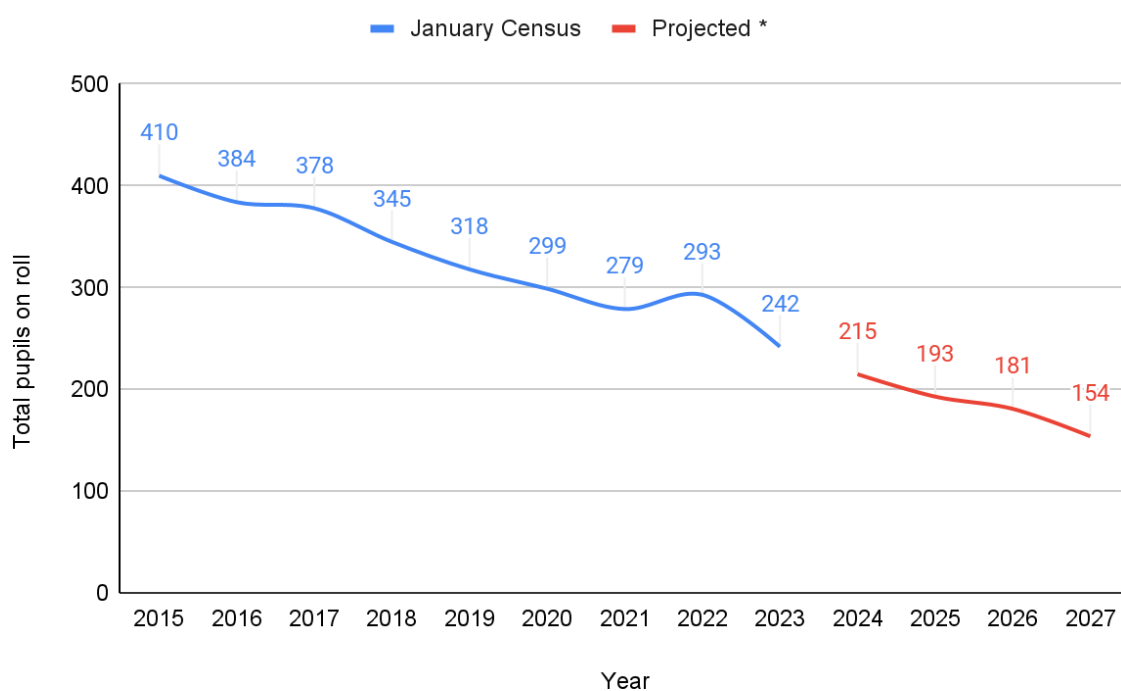
3.7.4. Randal Cremer - Closure proposal

3.7.4.1. Background

Randal Cremer is currently graded good by Ofsted (March 2020). The school has managed well despite the impact falling rolls has had on leadership capacity. Assessment data in 2022 was low. The school is currently receiving focussed support from Hackney Education as part of the Good to Great policy.

The January 2023 census recorded 29 reception children on roll for a PAN of 45 places. There were a total of 16 offers made on national offer day for children to join the school in September 2023.

Randal Cremer - Pupils on roll



* assumes 16 children join reception each year and that no children leave or join the school in other year groups. Based on reception to year 6 primary phase only.

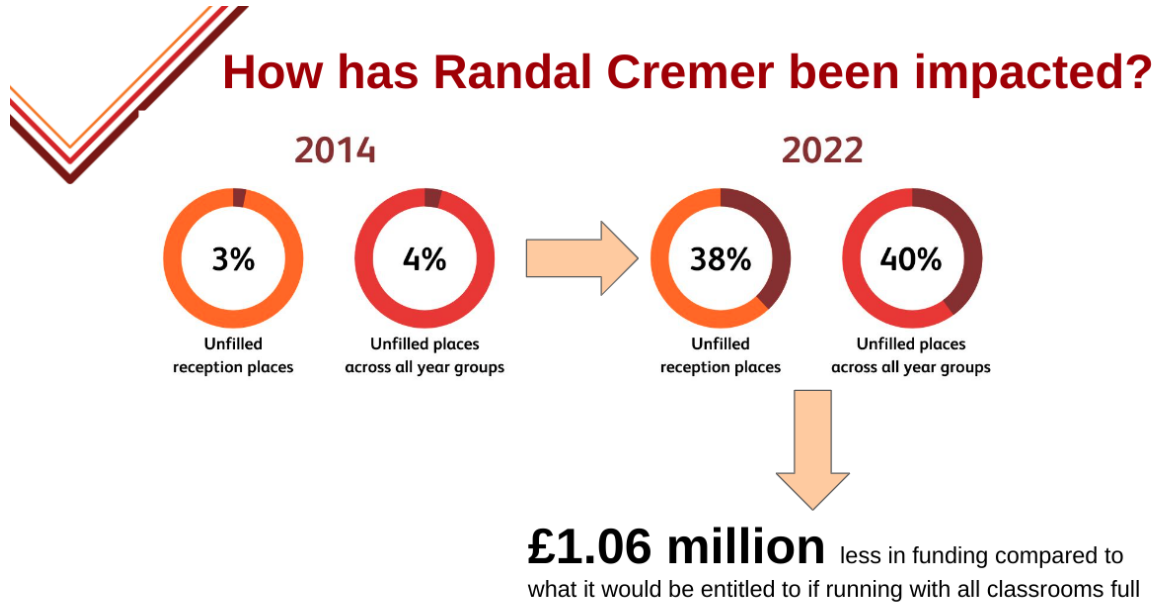
3.7.4.2. Financial Position (Randal Cremer)

| Financial Year | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Brought Forward Balance | 37,601 | 42,574 | 179,035 | 273,791 | 310,032 |

3.7.4.3. Reason for closure proposal

Randal Cremer Primary School has been severely affected by falling rolls. In 2014 there were 3% unfilled Reception places (2 places out of 60) and 4%

unfilled places (15 places out of 420) across all year groups. By January 2023 the surplus had increased to 36% unfilled Reception places (16 places out of 45) and 40% unfilled places (163 places out of 405, or more than 5 classes) across all year groups. Based on the number of children on roll, 41% of the intended capacity of the Randal Cremer school building is unused.



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3.7.4.4. Consideration of an amalgamation with other nearby schools

Options were considered for amalgamation, but there was no local school located close enough [walking distance] with the required surplus to take all of the pupils. However, there are sufficient schools nearby with surplus places that could accommodate the pupils from Randal Cremer. Hoxton Garden, Sebright, St Monica's and St John the Baptist are likely destination schools - they are all under 0.45 miles away from Randal Cremer as the crow flies [all under 13 minutes walking] and all Ofsted rated Good or Outstanding.

If a decision is made to progress with a closure, further information and support for families affected will be provided from the admissions team throughout the process

3.7.4.5. Impact and equalities

If the proposal is agreed, by September 2024, Randal Cremer Primary School is projected to have around 200 pupils who will need to find an alternative school. The school has 56 staff members [including classroom teachers, head teachers, other support staff, teaching assistants]. There is a high incidence of need at the school with EHCP numbers at Randal Cremer of 14 [6%], and the percentage of pupils on FSM at 51% [Spring 2023 Census, reception to year 6]. Additional support to enable a smooth transition will be offered to affected pupils who have EHCPs.

4.7.5 Air Quality review

Air quality as measured by average Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) at the six school sites in Hackney was reviewed. For 2021 all of the diffusion tubes located near these schools were well below the Hackney air quality objective of 40 (µg/m³), as seen in table below.

| Site name | 2021 NO ₂ annual concentration (µg/m ³) | Pollutants monitored |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Randal Cremer Primary School | 20 | NO ₂ |
| Nightingale Primary School | 19 | NO ₂ |
| Baden-Powell Primary School | 18 | NO ₂ |
| De Beavior primary school | 20 | NO ₂ |
| Colvestone Primary School | 23 | NO ₂ |
| Princess May 1 | 23 | NO ₂ |
| Princess May 2 | 32 | NO ₂ |

[Source: Hackney Air Quality Annual Status report/](#)

<https://hackney.gov.uk/air-quality>

4. DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4.1. Option 1 - No action

If the Council takes no action to remove places from the system in 2024, and the fall in pupil numbers continues as projected, the increasing impact of empty reception places will escalate from a projected 18% (506 reception places) in 2024, rising steadily each year to a surplus reception rate of 25% (708 places) by 2028. This projection takes into account the reduction in reception published admission number (PAN) of 120 places from September 2023.

A school with falling rolls will have significantly less funding and this directly affects staffing numbers (both teaching and support staff), resources, equipment, expenditure, maintenance work and extracurricular activities for children. While Hackney schools have achieved excellent results for their students, those experiencing falling rolls will find it increasingly challenging to operate in the long run.

In time, a school affected by income loss will almost inevitably see performance and standards fall. It is the duty of the Council to ensure that the

quality of education for children, and stability for teaching and support staff, take priority.

The operational challenges affecting schools with falling rolls will continue to increase with a negative impact on pupils and no systemic solution. Taking no action to the issues affecting schools with falling rolls is not an acceptable option available to the Council.

4.2. Option 2 - adopt the proposals to begin informal consultation as recommended:

Proposed closure of De Beauvoir Primary School from September 2024.
Proposed closure of Randal Cremer Primary School from September 2024.
Proposed merger/amalgamation of Colvestone Primary School and Princess May Primary School, onto the Princess May site from September 2024.
Proposed merger/amalgamation of Baden Powell Primary School and Nightingale Primary School, onto the Nightingale site from September 2024

4.3. Option 3 - To make an alternative combination of closure / merges

Alternative options were considered and rejected as detailed against each proposal.

5. Policy Context - Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy

5.1. Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy

The Education Sufficiency and Estates Strategy [appendix C], approved at Cabinet on 28 February 2022, has been formulated with a view to consider how to resolve four priority issues affecting Hackney:

- 1) the significant increase in demand for SEND education provision
- 2) falling primary mainstream school rolls
- 3) the projected fall in secondary mainstream school rolls due to a declining primary roll
- 4) a long term sustainable use plan for all education sites in the borough.

The proposals in this report relate to priority 2: to address falling primary school rolls by working with schools with budget pressures and falling pupil rolls to seek viable long-term solutions.

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is a sufficient number of school places for pupils and that places are planned effectively, taking action where appropriate to mitigate the risks of too many or too few places.

SEND places and School Place Planning strategies are aligned to Hackney Education's strategic aims.

Hackney's aims are to create a fairer, more inclusive borough, which supports children and young people to thrive. We want to optimise schools' roles as an

anchor system in the borough and ensure that developments and changes are sustainable. Hackney Education’s mission is to improve the life chances of every child, young person and learner in Hackney.

5.2. Communication and Engagement

The Local Authority began an engagement process with stakeholders in February 2023. The table below outlines the engagement timetable during February to April 2023. The feedback from these events has been reviewed by officers and included in the appendices to this report.

A ‘Save Colvestone Primary School’ detailed report submitted to Hackney Council via email to the Director of Education, includes information that for GDPR reasons cannot be attached as a public document. This has been added as an exempt appendix, therefore it is not public, but it is available for Hackney Cabinet members for review.

8.4 Table 2 : Engagement timetable

| | |
|--|---|
| From February 2023 | The Director of Education, Head of High Needs and school places, along with the Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Education, engaged with the Head Teacher, Chair of Governors and Executive head [if applicable] of the six proposed schools. In some instances the leadership chose to discuss this with the governing board. All school leadership teams went on to have three meetings with the Director and his team as part of the process prior to the parent and carer engagement sessions in April. |
| From 23 March 2023 | The Local Authority provided school leadership teams with information packs to share with their communities and staff. School leaders informed staff and families of the children on roll about the potential proposals. |
| Between 18th April and 27th April 2023 | Informal engagement sessions have taken place with the six schools' parent/carers communities, hosted by the schools and attended by Hackney Education representatives and lead Members. |

In order to ensure that decision makers are aware of community thoughts and concerns, those potentially affected by the proposals were offered multiple options to submit their comments and questions (during engagement meetings, by filling out a form, or by email). The information and feedback

received have been anonymised for data protection purposes and included in the present report.

However, it is important to note that this stage is not a consultation yet. If the decision is made to move to informal consultation there will be a structured process to gather feedback from the community on proposals. Further advice on this will be given at that time.

The feedback has been themed and key concerns raised by school communities can be seen in appendix D. The raw initial feedback and detailed questions submitted from informal engagement can be seen in appendix E.

The key themes have been summarised in table 3 below.

Table 3 : Common themes across all schools

| | |
|--|--|
| Overwhelming sense of sadness, anxiety and frustration | Parents and carers spoke passionately about their schools, many viewing them as their family. Parents and carers love their schools, headteacher, teachers and support staff. Emotions were strong throughout. Sometimes generations of families have attended the schools and now work there too. Concern over the stress this causes for children, particularly those most vulnerable, was also shared frequently. |
| Pupils with SEND | Concerns were heard frequently. Pupils with EHCPs, those waiting for EHCPs and those with SEND but no EHCP. Concerns around new staff not knowing their child, needs not being met, struggling in a larger school, travelling further for a school and not being welcomed to a new school. |
| Parent choice of school | Not having affordable childcare close by, parent choice of school (values, approaches, faith/ non faith etc.). |
| Moving to a larger school | Concern around how pupils would manage in a larger school, would staff know them as well and would parents/ carers have the same close relationships with staff? |
| Enormity of challenges families are already facing | Pupils who have already moved schools, families with a range of needs, housing, travel, cost of living, post pandemic, etc. Support needed for new costs of uniforms. Families with more than one child at the school(s). |
| Sense of not belonging anymore | Schools are viewed as family. There was a strong sense of belonging and fear of losing this. |
| Timing | Reception places offered, parents and carers aware of potential mergers/ closures so rolls falling faster/ frustration |

| | |
|--|---|
| | from those who have just recently been offered a place. Timeline too long, leading to lots of uncertainty. |
| Future | Risk of this happening to their child again with further closures or mergers. |
| Current Y4 pupils | Will have one year in a new school and then transition again to Secondary causing a lot of change in a short period of time. |
| Frustration around free schools and faith schools | Parents and carers frustrated about lack of powers around free schools opening and faith schools not part of current, potential consultation. |
| Concern around future use of the sites and implications on families costs. | Parents and carers expressed concerns about the school sites affected by closures / mergers being transformed into new unaffordable housing. Feelings of being pushed out of Hackney. Questions as to whether plans for street scene improvements would go ahead, and who they would serve. Concerns raised around additional costs i.e. uniforms, travel expenses. |
| Frustration around engagement | Parents and carers feel a lack of trust at the moment. They have been consulted with before on other issues and feel they aren't listened to. Attendees could see that data points to closures/ amalgamations being the only solution, so felt the consultation was pointless and a decision had already been made. Some frustration around timelines, timings, notice, etc. Lack of detail at this stage (e.g. What will happen to staff? How will everyone be supported? Will classes merge/ children be separated?). Parents were unsure if they should just move their children now to ensure a place at the next choice or wait (lack of guidance on what they should do). Concerns there won't be enough places in all local schools in response to need. |
| Concerns around not getting a place at next school of choice | Travel to schools further afield, the cost implication and disruption for pupils, especially those with SEND. Parents and carers of different faith, class, race, etc. not feeling welcomed in some schools/ communities. Worries about costs of new uniforms. Worries about waiting lists and not getting a school place. |
| Impact on school staff | Further clarity around the impact of what would happen to the staff at the schools was asked for. The gratitude of families towards staff they know and trust was shown. |
| Building / site use | Community concerns around what the empty school site will |

| | |
|--|--|
| | be used for should the building be closed. |
|--|--|

Answers to questions submitted have been provided at engagement events, where time permitted. The current information and FAQ available on the Council webpage already answers some of the questions raised: <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/primary-schools-potential-changes>.

This report provides further information to address others. An updated FAQ for all stakeholders will be provided on the Hackney Education site, if the proposals progress to informal consultation.

NB: with regards to children with SEND, consideration should be given to the challenges for pupils with EHCPs, pupils waiting for an EHCP and pupils who have SEND but no EHCP.

NB: Parent/carer voice is stronger in some schools than others, but this does not necessarily directly reflect the strength of feeling. Consideration and support will be given to all schools involved in the process, including for those that might find it harder to engage parents and carers, and the barriers that some parents and carers might face in being able to actively engage (especially given the notice schools, parents and carers had in advance of the events).

There were common themes of concerns submitted by the community at each school as outlined above, some of the additional and school specific concerns are listed in table 4.

Table 4: Summary of key themes from engagement and feedback by school

| Proposal | Themes from feedback |
|-----------------------|--|
| De Beauvoir - closure | <p>The community noted and questioned: the rationale for selecting the school; the impact on the children; the additional costs of moving school; the stress this would cause to children; impact on children with SEND; no correlation between free places in schools and lack of nursery places; the lack of promotion of De Beauvoir as a good school for new children; frustration around affordable housing; the review not including faith schools; concerns about moving from a small school; concerns about admission arrangements and priority listing; impact on pupils who will be in Year 6; lengths of waiting lists; unfair competition from Hackney New Primary School; and worries about where the children will go if De Beauvoir closes.</p> <p>De Beauvoir in person engagement event: 15 staff and 40 parents/carers in attendance Questions and answers captured from the event detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 21/25 April - De Beauvoir [appendix F] |

| Proposal | Themes from feedback |
|---|--|
| Colvestone & Princess May - amalgamate on Princess May site | <p>The community noted the timelines and asked questions about: the class sizes and performance of the school; the impact on staffing; and future use of the building.</p> <p>Princess May engagement event: 15 in attendance Questions and answers captured from the event detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 27 April - Princess May [appendix G] <p>The community noted and questioned: the differences in Princess May school fabric and pollution levels; the difference in atmosphere at Princess May (a larger school); the rationale for including Colvestone in the review; the previous investment in Colvestone; the positive impact of Blossom Federation support; the change in size of schools; the timeline; the impact on the 21st Century street plan; the need for pupil support and SEND provisions; Colvestone site usage; the impact on staff; the community petition.</p> <p>*A 'Save Colvestone Primary School' detailed report submitted to Hackney Council via email to the Director of Education includes information that for GDPR reasons cannot be attached as a public document. This has been added as an exempt Appendix O, therefore it is not public, but it is available for Hackney Cabinet members for review.</p> <p>Colvestone in person engagement event: 110 in attendance Questions and answers captured from the event detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 24 April - Colvestone [appendix H]. |
| Baden Powell & Nightingale - amalgamate on Nightingale site | <p>The community noted and questioned: costs of the move; ethos of different schools; large playground in current school; uniform changes and costs; parents are keen to raise money and help; the impact this could have on new teachers; the impact on children with SEND; parents/ carers have mentioned the small sizing of the school and intimate environment has helped with their child's learning; what would happen to the building; and the importance of parental choice.</p> <p>Baden Powell in person engagement event: 30 in attendance Questions and answers captured from the event detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 19 April - Baden Powell [appendix I] <p>The community noted and questioned; ethos of the school; school organisation post-merger; the impact on staff and children (particularly children with SEND); and the use of the Baden Powell site.</p> <p>Nightingale in person engagement event: 30 in attendance Questions and answers captured from the event detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 18 April - Nightingale [appendix J] |

| Proposal | Themes from feedback |
|-------------------------|--|
| Randal Cremer - closure | <p>The community noted and questioned; the rationale for including Randal Cremer in the review; where would the children move if the school were to close; concerns if children move to a school which could close in the future; how the announcement of a potential closure impacts current roll; the impact on children (particularly those with SEND); what would happen to the school site</p> <p>*A report titled 'Why should we keep Randal Cremer Primary School open?' submitted to Hackney Council via email to the Director of Education includes information that for GDPR reasons cannot be attached as a public document. This has been added as an exempt Appendix P, therefore it is not public, but it is available for Hackney Cabinet members for review.</p> <p>Randal Cremer in person engagement event: 60 in attendance Questions and answers captured from the event detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 20 April- Randal Cremer [appendix K] |

The next step, if the Cabinet agrees to begin a statutory process, will be to move to informal consultation; an updated communications plan will be prepared, to ensure stakeholders are engaged and informed throughout the process. If the decision is made to move to informal consultation, there will be a structured process to gather feedback from the community on proposals. Further advice on this will be given at that time. If agreed, an informal consultation will begin in June, extending to a wider range of stakeholders, to include:

- Pupils
- Parents /carers
- All residents
- Governors
- School leadership
- School staff
- Education staff
- All members
- Member governors
- Ward Councillors
- Unions
- MPs
- Other LAs
- Diocesan bodies
- Interlink

5.3. FINANCE CONSIDERATIONS

The quantification of the financial impact of costs related to closure/amalgamation of a school/schools are complex to model and will be influenced by the timing of the closure, HR/redundancy costs and the future plans for any sites vacated (including site security and reuse options). In addition, the financial treatment of any deficit balances will also have an impact along with other incidental costs or potential liabilities.

5.3.1. Pre-closure costs which would fall on the Council

5.3.1.1. Redundancy

High-level modelling has been carried out in relation to redundancy costs for the six schools proposed in this report as of February 2023. The modelling is based on a number of assumptions and is indicative of potential redundancy and severance costs only. As a guide the estimated cost of redundancy and severance for the six schools outlined for amalgamation/closure is circa £1.6m.

It is to be noted that this is a broad estimate. The modelling assumes all staff in a school to be closed in August 2024 would receive redundancy and severance payments. For those schools where an amalgamation is proposed it is assumed half of the staff in each of the two schools would be retained. For amalgamations the modelling also assumes an even spread of more expensive and less expensive redundancies. In reality this process and the resulting cost will be subject to HR change management procedures and could be higher or lower than the estimate. The estimate is a snapshot based on the current staffing establishment only.

We will work closely with Hackney Human Resources, to implement a package of support for all the affected school based staff. Where possible, redeployment will be offered as well as the opportunity to upskill through working with agencies such as Hackney Works. As a last resort, redundancy or early retirement will be offered.

5.3.1.2. Write-off of school balances

When a maintained school closes, any outstanding deficit falls to the Council to be written off. As of 31st March 2023 Colvestone has a deficit balance of £562k. The other schools have a surplus balance, however this could change up to the point of closure. The revenue balances brought forward into financial year 2021/22 and the closing 2022/23 year end position are listed for each of the schools in the table below:

Table 5

| School | 2021/22 Closing revenue balance brought forward surplus/(deficit) (£) | 2022/23 Closing revenue balance carried forward surplus/(deficit) (£) |
|---------------|--|--|
| Baden Powell | 111,747 | 31,768 |
| De Beauvoir | 82,566 | 140,418 |
| Colvestone | (589,966) Deficit | (561,646) Deficit |
| Princess May | 24,947 | 29,630 |
| Nightingale | 257,507 | 138,116 |
| Randal Cremer | 179,035 | 310,032 |

The trend suggests that, by the date of a potential closure/amalgamation, Baden Powell and Nightingale could also reach a deficit position. There is a significant risk that school deficit balances could increase at a greater rate once proposals are known as some parents may elect to move their children sooner than the school closure, this could have an impact on school funding and cause greater pressure on in-year budgets up to the point of closure/merger. We will support schools during this period.

Post closure costs / risks

5.3.1.3. Site Security and maintenance

There may be a need to secure and maintain the school sites on an interim basis following closure pending future use. These costs are estimated and will be refined if the proposals in this report are implemented. We want to avoid this situation if at all possible as we work through options for the sites.

5.3.1.4. Cost of contracts or other liabilities

Contracts entered into by the governing bodies for each of the schools could represent a significant cost if they are not concluded by the school before closure. It is advised that full contract registers and liabilities relating to termination of contracts are settled by working with the schools concerned. Any liabilities that remain post closure would fall to the Council, working with the school would mitigate this risk and limit future potential costs.

5.3.1.5. Other incidental costs and programme management costs

There may be additional incidental costs which materialise and may need to be contributed to by the Council as a result of closure, an example of this could be uniform costs for pupils transferring to another school. The full costs

of closure will need to be refined, including incidental costs which may materialise during the course of the closure/amalgamation programme.

Additional staff resources required from both, within the Council and externally, will also need to be factored into current estimates, costs are estimated at circa £300k including on-costs for the length of the programme, however this value needs to be refined.

5.3.2. Summary of financial implications

Table 6 - A summary of the costs including those which need to be confirmed/refined are contained in the table below:

| Description | Potential cost (£'000) | One-off / recurring |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Redundancy | 1,600 | One-off |
| Potential write-off costs | 562 | One-off |
| Contracts / transferred liabilities | TBC | One-off |
| Incidental costs | TBC | One-off |
| Programme management | Approx 300 | One-off |
| Site Security and maintenance | Approx 1,000 | Recurring per annum if sites remain vacant |
| Total | 3,462 | |

These are only potential costs, which carry significant risks of being higher than the current calculations, particularly for redundancy (where early retirement decisions can prove very costly) and also for the write-off of school balances, which will be subject to further movement between now and a potential future closure date.

5.4. PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS

While rolls are falling, schools have to continue to pay for the maintenance of their buildings and sites. Reduced revenue budgets impact on a school's ability to set aside sufficient budget to deal with day to day repair and maintenance issues as budgets are prioritised to deal with staffing and essential resources.

Underinvestment in the maintenance of school buildings will create longer term issues with the building as repair and maintenance needs that could be maintained through appropriate annual investment are ignored and become a longer term burden. This will inevitably lead to more significant building repairs and an increased need for capital funding to deal with the growing lack of maintenance. Capital allocations from DfE are provided on the basis of pupil numbers, so a reducing pupil number will lead to reduced capital allocations and an increased burden on the Council to maintain the assets.

Should the amalgamation and closure options in this report be taken forward, school sites that become vacant will be considered for alternative uses to support the Council's wider priorities. A dedicated working group will be established to work with a set of agreed principles about future use of the sites; any permanent decisions have to be ratified by the Secretary of State for Education.

As noted above, since austerity arrived in 2010/11 Hackney has been consistently determined to avoid ill-conceived disposals of assets to hurriedly raise money. Hackney has been able to do this because of its disciplined financial management over the years, which allows it some space to stop, analyse and plan before acting. While others sold assets (which in some parts of the country has been unavoidable for a range of reasons), Hackney looked hard at its ownership, re-purposing where possible, to suit the local requirements at the time and in anticipation of the future. That has produced lasting social and economic local benefits over the years and in each of those cases it has been demonstrably financially viable and rewarding for the Borough. In the case of school sites, Hackney officers' philosophy will be no different. Working with elected members, we will focus on the local context of each school site, as well as the Boroughwide strategic needs, and continue working hard to ensure our recommendations are as thoroughly informed as possible.

5.5. TIMELINE & GOVERNANCE (decision making process)

The proposed outline of the school organisation timeline can be seen below leading up to a September 2024 effective date:

Table 7 - Overview of the timeline and key cabinet decision dates

| Date | Event |
|--|---|
| January-March 2023 | The Council talks to school leaders and governors to discuss plans and decide on next steps. |
| April 2023 | Public meetings are held with the school communities. |
| May 2023 <i>Cabinet Decision 1</i> | The Council's Cabinet will make a decision on whether to informally consult on the amalgamation and closure options proposed in this paper. |
| June 2023 | Informal consultation (subject to Cabinet decision) begins with parents, staff and governors, and those living and working in the area. |
| September-October 2023 <i>Cabinet Decision 2</i> | Results of the informal consultation are considered by the Cabinet who will decide whether to progress to formal consultation. Formal consultation involves the Council publishing a statutory notice of their intention to amalgamate /close the schools. There will be a 28-day 'objection period' for those who object to the proposal to send their objections to the Council. |
| December 2023 <i>Cabinet Decision 3</i> | The outcome of the statutory notice period and any objections are considered by the Cabinet, who makes the final decision to proceed or not with amalgamation and/or closures. |
| January-August 2024 | School amalgamation and closure arrangements are made (subject to Cabinet's decision in December 2023). school officially closes. Community engagement begins to explore future use of the schools. |
| September 2024 | New amalgamated school opens / Children begin at the new school. |

Approximate dates subject to change depending on the progress.

5.6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Decisions about any school organisation changes should promote equality of opportunity to access a good or better local school.

In terms of the protected characteristics, all proposals arising from the Education Estates & Sufficiency Strategy will be subject to equality impact assessments, specifically, age, disability, race, belief and religion. The Council has undertaken an equality impact assessment in relation to decisions proposed in this report. The aim of this exercise is to ensure that any decisions made impact in a fair way, are based on evidence and that decision-making is transparent. See appendix L for Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) in detail.

5.7. SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The proposals in this report will lead to a more efficient use of school buildings. Running a higher number of school sites with fewer pupils is inefficient in terms of energy usage, as the buildings still need to be heated and lit. Reducing the number of buildings with surplus places will mean that the retained buildings will start working to their designed capacity in terms of number of occupants, both pupils and staff, leading to more efficient energy use instead of running a higher number of schools with fewer pupils.

5.8. CONSULTATIONS

For the Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy paper, stakeholder engagement has been instrumental in shaping the ESE Strategy and assisting officers with developing the overarching aims of the strategy paper.

Pre-engagement meetings have been held with headteachers, chairs of governors, and relevant stakeholders to seek initial thoughts on proposals. Further in-depth engagement meetings were later held with school communities to provide detailed background information and a chance for Q&A.

In addition, Hackney Education's Senior Leadership Team and wider Council officers have been engaged throughout the development of the proposals to ensure broad agreement and understanding of the proposals. Engagement with members including the Mayor has taken place throughout development, with a key working group chaired by Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education. Individual ward Councillors were briefed and all Councillors invited to briefing sessions.

This report asks to progress to the informal consultation stage, where views will be formally sought on the proposals. Following this, and if it is agreed by

Cabinet, then there would be a move to statutory consultation. The law requires a statutory consultation where school organisation changes fall into what is known as a prescribed alteration. The consultation process allows stakeholders, residents and the general public to comment on the Council's proposals, both during the initial consultation and notice period. Responses received during these periods will be carefully reviewed and where appropriate, proposals may be further reviewed following comments.

5.9. RISK ASSESSMENT

Risks associated with the surplus of mainstream school places are reflected in the HE's strategic risk register and project specific register. The implementation of this strategy is key in mitigation of these risks as outlined below.

Key risks and mitigations at this stage:

- NO action taken risk highlighted in options section.
- Decision making timeliness - delays on decision making and programme would further leave a downwards trend impacting schools and push any proposed changes to Sept 2025.
- It is noted that once families find out about the proposed amalgamation /closures they may wish to move their child to a different school, i.e. one closer to their home, sooner than a decision is made.
- Ratio of SEN versus mainstream becoming further imbalanced . As rolls continue to fall but EHCP increases, there will be a further imbalance in small schools. New SEND provision as part of the ESES priority 1 is being created, [further information can be found on the Local Offer.](#)
- Parent/ carer voice is stronger in some schools than in others, but this doesn't necessarily directly reflect the strength of feeling. Consideration should be given to schools that find it harder to engage parents and carers and barriers that some parents and carers might face in being able to actively engage.
- Risk that in the future pupil numbers increase and more Hackney places are needed - this is mitigated by the size of the rest of the school estate and the physical capacity in schools, to allow for possible additional places by increasing PAN, should they be required in future years appendix M.

6. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES

- 6.1.** This report seeks agreement to commence informal consultation on the closure or amalgamation impacting six community primary schools in the borough. As outlined in section 6 of this report the potential

closure/amalgamations will incur costs such as redundancies, site security and maintenance as well as other incidental costs which will need to be quantified. There is also the write off of any schools deficit balances which will need to be considered. It is estimated that the overall costs of closure will be in the region of £3.5m, of which the significant proportion will be redundancy costs. These have been calculated on the age and length of service of different staff groups and based on a number of assumptions, and there are risks that the final costs could be higher than estimated.

- 6.2.** The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block, which is awarded to fund education provision, is primarily calculated using pupil numbers and pupil characteristics. Schools are funded on a formula basis and the number of pupils attending the school drives the level of funding received by a school. As such, schools with unfilled places are under increased financial challenge and struggle with financial sustainability. Reducing the number of school places in a planned way would support schools to manage within their funding allocations. At a borough level, there is expected to be a minimal impact on the amount of the grant received as a direct result of the closures or amalgamation of the schools within this report. With a similar amount of income spread over a smaller number of schools, there may be a positive impact on the financial position of individual primary schools.
- 6.3.** The potential future costs, should a decision be made to advance the proposals in this report, are currently estimated to be circa £2.5m of one-off costs and £1m of estimated ongoing costs linked to site security and maintenance, until alternative use options are developed. These costs would fall on the Council's General Fund and would represent additional financial pressures for the Council, and would need to be factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) should a decision be made to proceed with the closures/amalgamation options contained in this report.

7. VAT IMPLICATIONS ON LAND AND PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

No land or property transactions are being recommended at this stage. VAT implications will be considered if changes to the site uses in the future are proposed.

8. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, DEMOCRATIC & ELECTORAL SERVICES

- 8.1** This report recommends that Cabinet agrees to proceed with informal consultation regarding the amalgamation of some of the borough's maintained schools and the closure of two others.
- 8.2** The Council has various planning duties to ensure sufficiency of school places, notably, under section 14 Education Act 1996 (EA 1996) to ensure the

provision of “sufficient schools” for the provision of primary and secondary education in their area and. Section 27 Children and Families Act 2014 (CFA 2014), to keep under review educational provision, training provision and social care provision made both in and outside of their area for children and young people with SEN or a disability and for whom they are responsible.

8.3 Making changes to our school estate involves other legal duties:

8.3.1 Section 1(1) Local Government Act 1999 imposes a duty on the Council to “make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness”. The Council has fiduciary duties towards residents.

8.3.2 Section 149(1) Equality Act 2010 (EqA 2010) imposes the Public Sector Equality Duty on the Council. This duty should be considered at all levels of decision making. The PSED requires public authorities to have "due regard" to:

- The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the EqA 2010.
- The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. This involves having due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; and encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low. Compliance with the PSED may involve treating some people more favourably than others, but this does not mean that conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under the EqA 2010 is permitted.
- The need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This includes having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and to promote understanding.

8.4 Additionally, in taking decisions the Council must act lawfully, including acting within its powers, following its own procedures as well as those required by law. Decisions relating to the closure of schools (including amalgamations) are an executive function and in accordance with the Elected Mayor’s Scheme of Delegation, the power to make such decisions is reserved to the Elected Mayor and Cabinet.

- 8.5** The Council must ensure that all required consultations are properly undertaken in accordance with relevant law and guidance. Guidance referred to in the previous paragraph includes details of consultation required when making changes to maintained schools and proposing to close them. The guidance relates to regulations governing these procedures, The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013.
- 8.6** The Council must make rational, evidence based decisions, for a proper purpose, that are proportionate decisions which are properly reasoned and take into account all relevant considerations. Decisions must be compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights.
- 8.7** The Council must seek detailed legal advice where required, for example in meeting the requirements of the PSED, in school reorganisation, when commissioning and on employment, procurement and contract issues.

APPENDICES

Appendix A - Primary and secondary schools by type
Appendix B - Published Admission Number (PAN) reductions
Appendix C - Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy
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EXEMPT APPENDICES

By Virtue of Paragraph 3 as listed Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 insert Appendix O and P in this report are exempt because they contain information which is likely to reveal the identity of individual(s). It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Documents for Cabinet review and consideration which have been submitted via email but contain individual names:

Exempt Appendix O - Save Colvestone Primary School
Exempt Appendix P - Why should we keep Randal Cremer Primary School open?

BACKGROUND PAPERS

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) England Regulations 2012 publication of Background Papers used in the preparation of are as follows:

[London Councils - Managing Surplus School places in London \(2023\)](https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/children-and-young-people/education-and-school-places/managing-surplus-school-places)

<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/children-and-young-people/education-and-school-places/managing-surplus-school-places>

[Public Version - Census 2021 Briefing 5: Ethnic Group, National Identity, Language and Religion](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wzarOaz1ac1qGtNxTpx82C2dceEQuzxJAUF0NV--o/edit#)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wzarOaz1ac1qGtNxTpx82C2dceEQuzxJAUF0NV--o/edit#>

[Hackney Air Quality Annual Status report](https://hackney.gov.uk/air-quality-reports#report)

<https://hackney.gov.uk/air-quality-reports#report>

| | |
|--|---|
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| Comments for the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services | Lucinda Bell - Education Lawyer Tel : 0208 356 4527 lucinda.bell@hackney.gov.uk |

Appendix A - **Primary and secondary schools by type**

| School type | Primary | Secondary |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| Community schools (<i>schools which are controlled and run by the local authority</i>) | 38 | 2 |
| Voluntary Aided schools (<i>a state funded school in which a foundation or trust (usually a religious organisation), contributes to building costs and has a substantial influence in the running of the school. In most cases the foundation or trust owns the buildings.</i>) | 12 | 4 |
| Academies (<i>state funded schools outside of LA control. Many of these schools converted from maintained to academy.</i>) | 5 | 8 |
| Free schools (<i>a type of academy set up and run by an organisation outside of LA control. These are newly set up schools.</i>) | 3 | 2 |

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Appendix B - Published Admission Number (PAN) reductions

In response to falling reception rolls and the resulting increase in surplus places Hackney reduced school PANs in 2019, removing 120 places across 4 schools, and in 2022 removing a further 135 places across 6 schools. This can be seen below.

Table 1. PAN reductions implemented from September 2019

| School | Planning Area | Previous PAN | Current PAN | No. of places removed |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| De Beauvoir | (12) De Beauvoir/ Haggerston/Hoxton East & Shoreditch/Hoxton West | 60 | 30 | 30 |
| Gainsborough | (11) King's Park/Wick | 90 | 60 | 30 |
| Halley House | (8) Dalston/Shacklewell | 60 | 30 | 30 |
| Harrington Hill | (3) Springfield | 90 | 60 | 30 |
| Total number of places removed | | | | 120 |

*= The decision to reduce the PAN at Halley House was taken by Bellevue Academy Trust.

Table 2. PAN reductions implemented from September 2022

| School | Planning Area | Previous PAN | Current PAN | No. of places removed |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Harrington Hill | (3) Springfield | 60 | 30 | 30 |
| Gayhurst | (13) London Fields | 75 | 60 | 15 |
| Mandeville | (11) King's Park/Wick | 60 | 45 | 15 |
| Randal Cremer | (12) De Beauvoir Haggerston/Hoxton East & Shoreditch/Hoxton West | 60 | 45 | 15 |
| St Dominic's | (11) King's Park/Wick | 60 | 30 | 30 |
| Thomas Fairchild | (12) De Beauvoir/ Haggerston/Hoxton East & Shoreditch/Hoxton West | 60 | 30 | 30 |
| Total number of places removed | | | | 135 |

Despite the PAN reductions outlined above, rolls have continued to fall each year in Hackney and across local authorities in London. Data from the January 2023 census shows that the number of surplus reception places stood at 616 (21%).

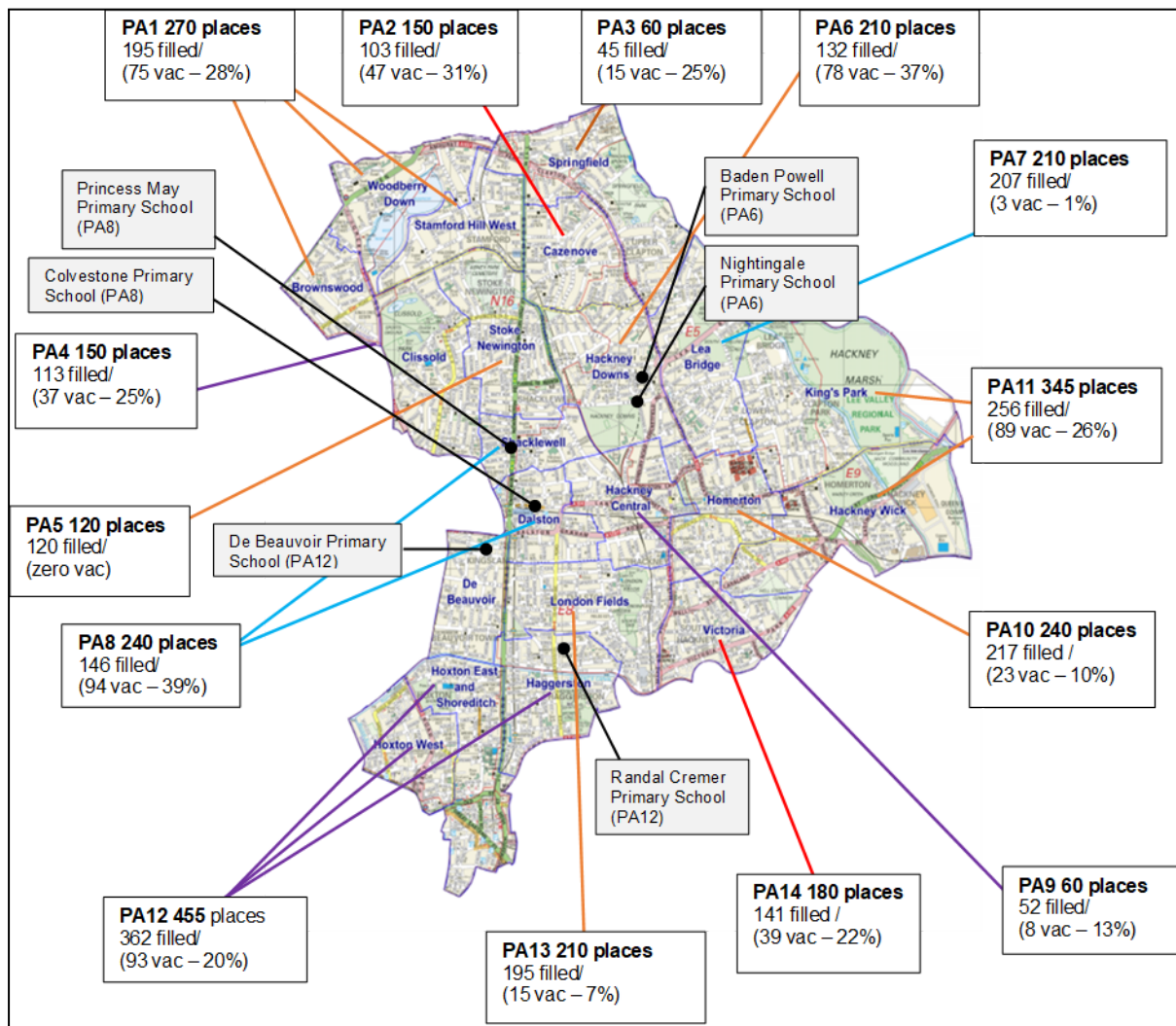
This trend looks set to continue, as data from the PAN London admissions coordination scheme shows that Hackney received 6% fewer on-time reception applications for September 2023 entry, when compared to 2022.

Table 3. Number of surplus reception places compared to number of available places (2015 - 2023)

| Academic year (January census) | 2015/ 16 | 2016/ 17 | 2017/ 18 | 2018/ 19 | 2019/ 20 | 2020/ 21 | 2021/ 22 | 2022/ 23 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| No. of children on roll | 2805 | 2757 | 2635 | 2565 | 2599 | 2530 | 2398 | 2284 |
| No. of reception places available (PAN) | 3080 | 3170 | 3155 | 3155 | 3035 | 3035 | 3035 | 2900 |
| No. of surplus reception places | 275 | 413 | 520 | 590 | 436 | 505 | 637 | 616 |
| % surplus reception places | 9% | 13% | 17% | 19% | 14% | 17% | 21% | 21% |

A graphic representation of the current number of surplus places across Hackney at the most recent census (January 2023) is shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Surplus reception places by planning area (PA) - January 2023 census



Note: The location of the six primary schools proposed for amalgamation and/or closure are represented by the grey boxes.

Figure 1 shows the high level of surplus reception places throughout the borough at the latest census (January 2023), ranging from no vacancies to 39% vacant reception places in the individual planning areas (PAs). Nine out of the fourteen planning areas (PAs) had a reception place surplus of 20% or more. Four of the fourteen planning areas had a surplus of 10% or below, covering the areas of Stoke Newington, Lower Clapton, Hackney Central and London Fields.

Future measures to reduce the number of reception places

From September 2023, 120 permanent PAN reductions will be implemented across four primary schools as shown in the table below.


Table 4. Agreed PAN reductions to come into effect from September 2023

| School | Planning Area | Current PAN | Proposed PAN | Proposed No. of places to be removed |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Gainsborough | (11) King's Park/Wick | 60 | 30 | 30 |
| Daubeney | (11) King's Park/Wick | 90 | 60 | 30 |
| Mossbourne Parkside* | (9) Hackney Central | 60 | 30 | 30 |
| Sir Thomas Abney | (1) Brownswood/ Woodberry Down/ Stamford Hill West | 60 | 30 | 30 |
| Total number of places removed | | | | 120 |

* = The decision to reduce the PAN at Mossbourne Parkside was taken by the Mossbourne Federation.

Note: PAN reductions as shown in Tables 1,2 and 4 do not reflect changes to the physical capacity of schools. Should future demand for reception places suddenly increase, there is existing capacity within schools to absorb additional children. This data can be viewed in Appendix 5.

The planned PAN reductions shown above will reduce the number of reception places to 2780. However, even with this reduction, the projected demand for reception places is forecast to be considerably less, resulting in a continued high number of surplus places.



Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy

2021 - 2031

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Vision

Hackney has a diverse and vibrant community of educational establishments. The school community has worked together over a number of years to grow and develop in light of changes in population and government agenda. The last year has been an outstanding example of partnership working in the most difficult context during the pandemic.

Hackney has a vision to provide an excellent equitable local educational experience for all Hackney children and young people. For the majority this will be within a mainstream early years setting and school or college environment. But for many who are not as easily able to access mainstream education for various reasons, we want to have a varied and child centred alternative offer through specialist settings and alternative provision. With significant growth in the numbers of children and young people who cannot access mainstream education we need to address this change in the same way that the Hackney community has approached change in the past: together, and with outcomes for children and young people as the cornerstone of our strategic approach.

We want all our children to be able to travel easily to a great inclusive local school which engages with all their neighbourhood parent/carer communities. We want all our children to be in schools which fairly reflect the diversity of the Hackney community.

Paper Summary

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is a sufficient number of school places for pupils and that places are planned effectively.

It also has a statutory duty to keep under review educational provision, training provision and social care provision made both in and outside of its area for children and young people with SEN or a disability and for whom it is responsible.

The paper firstly provides a clear review of our current sufficiency and how our educational estate can support this; the review will assess the efficient running and financial stability of schools.

The paper will then present the gap analysis of provision that we will require over the next five to ten years.

Conclusions will be drawn to form the description of a high level strategy to address the vision proposed to provide sufficient Hackney school places for all children and young people living in our Borough.

Context and perspective - National, London and Hackney

| Hackney demographics | |
|---|---|
| <p>Age: 25% are under 20 years. Proportion of residents between 20-29 years has grown in the last ten years to just under 25%. Life expectancy is below the London average, especially for men</p> <p>Cultural Diversity: Over 1/3 of residents were born outside the UK. Population groups include: 'Other White', Black, Turkish/Kurdish. A large Charedi Jewish community is located in the North of the borough.</p> | <p>Deprivation: Community is becoming less deprived than other LAs in relation to income, employment, housing: in 2010 ranked 2nd most deprived LA, in 2015 moved to 11th rank in London.</p> <p>Financial poverty and employment: In 2016-17, 36% of residents were living in financial poverty – with incomes of less than 60% of the national median after housing costs.</p> <p>Housing: Home ownership is highest amongst the Asian and White populations. Black residents are most likely to live in social housing.</p> |

<https://hackneyjsna.org.uk/>

The population of Hackney after showing a rise between 2008-2016 is now falling.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure there is a sufficient number of school places for pupils and that places are planned effectively. In Hackney, this is managed by Hackney Education (HE), the Council’s education service.

Between 2007 and 2014 Hackney experienced significant and unprecedented growth in demand for primary school reception places with very high rolls between 2012 and 2016. This trend was replicated in London and across the country. In response, local authorities created additional school places to cater for the increased demand. Furthermore, new school places were created through the government’s Academy and Free School programmes.

Since 2015 however, demand for reception places across London has decreased year on year. The reason why rolls are falling is unclear, but it is thought to be a combination of changes to welfare benefits, rising rents and the possible effects of Brexit and the pandemic. Falling reception rolls have led to a significant number of surplus reception places, which has impacted on the efficient running and financial stability of some schools.

There has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people with EHC Plans - 49% over the last 5 years, an average annual year on year growth of 10.3%. This year has seen a 17% increase in requests for assessment. The demand for high quality provision and specialist places in local settings is high, outstripping supply. This is in line with national trends.

There are 15,000 Charedi Jewish Children and Young People aged under 16 in Stamford Hill alone. These children will attend Charedi Schools by parental preference. There are two Othodox Jewish state funded girls secondary schools, one is local authority maintained and voluntary aided; the other is part of a multi-academy trust.

There are over 20 Charedi Schools in Hackney which are independent schools and engagement with Orthodox Jewish schools is both direct and supported by third sector charities. Of the 460 pupils with EHCP at Independent and Non Maintained Special Schools in Hackney, over 250 (57%) of these pupils attend Charedi schools.

The number of children in the Charedi Jewish community is increasing and there is pressure on space, and at times on the quality of educational accommodation, in the independent school sector. By comparison, other independent schools within Hackney with a religious ethos include three Muslim schools and one Christian school.

Between 2009 and 2021 there has been a clear trend in terms of an increasing number of Statements or EHCPs being issued and maintained by Hackney with an approximate 80:20 split between non SEND C&YP to 20% including EHC Plans and SEN support. This split may change as the total school population is expected to decrease over the next 3 -5 years.

The impact of this is significant, as while the need for specialist places and support services has increased, the CYP population is projected to fall. This means that the percentage of each year's pupil cohort requiring SEND support and provision will increase.

The decreasing rolls and increasing requirements for SEND will impact on the use of the education estate which will see changes in the coming 5-10 year period. We therefore need to review the Hackney strategy for sufficiency and meeting the needs of education through the asset.

The impact of falling rolls on individual schools creates challenges for school leaders and needs to be managed individually and collectively. Having an excess number of surplus places in the system can lead to more moves between schools than is helpful for young people. The strategy considers guidance for schools who are experiencing falling rolls.

1. Aims of the paper:

To describe the strategy over the coming ten years (2021-2031) for education, education property and estates in Hackney, ensuring that:

- There is a sufficiency of early years, statutory age and post 16 mainstream and special school and college places in our Borough
- The overall spread of schools (mainstream and special) and early years settings meets the **strategic aims of Hackney Council**
- All pupils can travel easily to a local school
- There is equitable access to schools for all families, with attention given to ensuring decisions taken provide and promote diverse intakes.
- Schools fairly reflect the diversity of the Hackney community.
- The range of types of school is continued, including faith schools.
- The changing needs of the population are met: both in terms of education spaces and community spaces

- Our partners in education, headteachers and governors, diocesan boards and academy trusts, are aligned and committed to this strategy
- Communities and colleagues can see a rationale and process of support for any change
- School leaders, including governors, are well informed and supported in understanding possible developments ahead
- Key stakeholders are engaged and supported
- There is broad commitment to any changes proposed, note that proposed changes are the subject of consultation with the community and carried out in line with statutory requirements including school reorganisation and equalities legislation.
- Changes to site use are well considered and sustainable
- The education estate in use supports a good quality of education
- Education sites are well maintained and suitable for use, and will be well maintained for the future/environmentally sustainable.
- Public money is well spent - including ensuring schools and settings are run efficiently; guidance is given on sustainability given pupil numbers
- There are clear guidelines and protocol for responses to external requests for use of sites.
- Attention is paid to contributing to growth of the inclusive economy
- The strategy supports and promotes the health and well being of the borough

This paper sets out the likely need for change to use of sites over a 5-10 year planning period and possible capital investment routes to support the need. This paper does not list individual sites or address individual concerns. Decisions about individual sites will be made in line with the agreed strategy via the implementation plan which will be produced at a later date.

2. Audience:

Officers and councillors, headteachers, governors, diocesan boards and the public

3. Timeline:

Throughout - working group meetings of key officers and senior officers meet weekly

- March 2021: To get initial approval at HMT and 3-1 for scope of document and general steer - Group Director and Cllr Bramble approved 8-3-21; FM group approved 15/3/21; SLT to see paper 18/3/21
- 31 May/30 June 2021: Draft Strategy paper approved by all HE senior officers
- June - November 2021: Ensure discussion with neighbouring boroughs, diocesan boards and other partners: headteachers and governors regarding school place planning and specialist provision; Social care and health leadership teams.
- November - December 2021: Senior Council and member review of the strategy

- February 2022: This strategy paper will go to Cabinet for final approval
- February 2022 - December 2022: The development of implementation plans will take place with stakeholders to formulate proposed solutions. One implementation plan for Priority 1 and SEND proposals. Further implementation plans to address the priorities 2,3 and 4.
- July - December 2022: Council meetings as required to get final approval for the resulting implementation plans.

4. Key input documents:

This paper is supported by multiple key input documents (2020 data), listed below which provide a detailed analysis of each area and the changing need:

A. **School organisation plan (September 2020):**

<https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/school-place-planning#:~:text=Hackney%20Education's%20School%20Organisation%20Plan,the%20School%20Place%20Planning%20Group.>

B. **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (March 2020)**

<https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/system/files/extranet/Hackney%20Childcare%20Sufficiency%20Assessment%202019%20to%202020%20%282%29.pdf>

C. **Map of Schools and Children Centres**

https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/sites/default/files/document/A0%20Hackney%20Schools%20Map_July_2019.1.pdf

D. **Hackney's Local Plan 2033 (LP33) - adopted in July 2020**

■ **appendix-1-LP33-adoption-july-2020.pdf**

The new borough wide Local Plan 2033, known as LP33, is the key strategic planning document used to direct and guide development in the borough up to 2033.

The Council are also developing 2 new area action plans for Shoreditch and Stamford Hill together with supplementary planning documents including Growing up in Hackney - Child Friendly Places Supplementary Planning document.

5. Key officers:

Officers: Fran Cox, Ginevra Davis, Samantha George, Andrew Laidler, Ophelia Carter, Donna Thomas, Stephen Hall, Jane Ball, Hilary Smith, Anton Francic, Meghan Nice

Senior officers: Annie Gammon, Chris Pritchard

HMT champions: Jacquie Burke, Ian Williams

6. Strategic aims for education in Hackney

Hackney's aims are to create a fairer, more inclusive borough, which supports children and young people to thrive. We want to optimise schools' roles as an anchor system in the

borough and we want to ensure developments and changes are sustainable in the widest meaning of the word.

Hackney Education's mission is to **improve the life chances of every child, young person and learner in Hackney**

... making Hackney the most forward looking education system in the UK, where schools, settings and partners provide an exciting environment which ensures inclusion and success for everyone. We see our borough as being one of the best places in the country for young people to grow, learn, develop and achieve – and one of the best places for colleagues to work and thrive in our education system.

The Hackney Schools for Everyone document of Jan 2018 summarises a survey of residents. When asked about the role the Council should take in Hackney's schools, 92% respondents thought the local authority should ensure there are enough school places locally, 88% said the council should support the wellbeing of vulnerable children, 85% identified access to special educational needs provision, 83% said the Council should ensure schools work together to provide high quality education. 83% of respondents believed that it was the Borough's role to oversee the schools admission process and ensure that it's fair. Respondents were also asked to rate on a scale of very important to not important at all the priorities for schools in Hackney. Providing sufficient primary and secondary school places was considered very important for 90% of respondents, with equal opportunities, maintaining high standards and investing in high quality facilities receiving over 80% of responses as 'very important', followed by schools working together at 74%.

Respondents suggested that Hackney schools are diverse with comparatively low segregation between pupils from different backgrounds and this was something to be safeguarded by the local authority. From this emerged a narrative about respondents' fears that children could be left behind, fuelled in part by concerns over demographic changes to the borough.

The document emphasises a strong preference for schools being open to everyone i.e. not selective. In our borough we have maintained schools which have a religious ethos and are open to everyone (Church of England and Roman Catholic schools and Jewish schools; there is also an Islamic faith based academy). The Borough wants to ensure these faith based schools can continue to thrive.

In Hackney we have a number of academies and free schools. Whilst the borough has a particular responsibility to local authority maintained schools, we also see the academies and free schools as part of the wider Hackney family of schools.

There needs to be particular attention to the needs and future of small schools. One form entry schools are particularly vulnerable to the impact of any reductions in rolls.

We want to support schools in any future change of use of parts of their sites.

There is a renewed focus on ensuring all our schools in Hackney both mainstream and specialist are inclusive in their ethos. In the changes proposed in this strategy we want to ensure that we provide the correct training and development to mainstream schools to increase their local offer in relation to pupils with SEND that will be included within their school community. With more and more children with SEND included in mainstream settings there will be a requirement for more specialist training for local mainstream school staff and strategic curriculum development in order to differentiate to meet all needs. Hackney Education is committed to supporting mainstream schools in this.

All sufficiency and estate reviews will be made in consideration of Hackney Education's School Organisation Principles.

7. School Organisation (Sufficiency & Demand)

Needs arise where there is insufficient capacity or provision to meet what is required or the existing provision is not suitable for the current or future need.

Early Years

In total, there are 365 childcare providers in Hackney. These include 176 Childminders, 51 nursery classes in schools, 2 maintained nursery schools and 118 Private and Voluntary nurseries registered with Ofsted as Childcare on non-Domestic Premises. In addition there are 18 independent schools which provide education and care for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. The number of providers has remained broadly stable over the previous two years.

The most recent Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (March 2020) concluded that there is a sufficient supply of childcare provision to meet the needs of children requiring funded childcare places. Participation by providers offering 2, 3 and 4 year old funded places has increased over the previous two years thereby improving access to these entitlements for children and families.

The Parenting and Family Information Service monthly collection of vacancy information indicates that there has been an increase in the number of settings reporting vacancies. In May 2021, from a total of 146 schools and settings that completed the survey, 71 reported vacancies. This has increased from 49 in November 2020.

Mainstream Schools:

There are 58 maintained Primary Schools consisting of 38 Community schools, 14 Voluntary Aided (VA), 3 Free schools and 3 Academies. There are 16 secondary schools, of which 8 are Academies, 5 VA, 2 Community and 1 Free school. The complete list can be viewed on page2.

<https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/school-place-planning#:~:text=Hackney%20Education's%20School%20Organisation%20Plan,the%20School%20Place%20Planning%20Group.>

Primary projections

Primary school rolls are falling in Hackney and across London. This significant shift in demand offers the potential to examine how our school buildings are being used. However caution is needed when considering sites that could be deemed surplus to requirements for the future if rolls increase again (both primary and secondary). Sufficient capacity should be retained within the estate - including for a new secondary school - if there is a future increase in demand for secondary school places.

In January 2021, there were 495 vacant reception class places. Secondary schools were mainly full with 39 vacancies. The Greater London Authority's position is that the mainstream roll forecasts are difficult to predict at this stage given the changing patterns as a result of Covid 19, but rolls are falling. Reductions in the Planned Admission Number (PANs) have been undertaken; 120 reception places were removed in 2019, a further 135 will be removed in September 2022 and the Authority is currently consulting on reducing PANs by a further 120 places in September 2023.

Secondary Projections

Secondary projections are devised by using primary rolls as a baseline, to which various factors are included and others discounted, for example, a projection of the number of non-Hackney resident pupils that are likely to obtain a secondary place in Hackney and the number of Hackney resident children in primary schools outside Hackney that will require a place in a Hackney school at secondary transfer. Consideration is also given to pupils in independent primary provision and those that may transfer to an independent secondary school and an over allocation of Yr 7 places at secondary transfer by some schools.

Based on projections using the January 2021 census, surplus Year 7 places will range from 52 places in September 2022 to 142 in September 2027 with a peak of 247 places in September 2025. Work is underway to determine the impact of falling primary rolls on the secondary phase.

Post 16

Hackney has 12 school sixth forms providing applied general and A Level courses for 3000 students. Over the past 10 years the numbers in Hackney school sixth forms have more than tripled, with 6 sixth forms having opened since 2010. Two schools are 11-16 only. At present, City of London Academy, Shoreditch Park is consulting on opening sixth form provision. There is a sufficiency of post-16 places with half of our sixth forms having an entry of under 100, which, using DfE criteria, would be deemed to be at risk.

Schools are maintaining their numbers by increasing the breadth of their course offer beyond A Level and schools value their sixth form as it sustains the entry of their cohort at year 7. The recent DfE White Paper, Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth, January 2021, has an emphasis on the new T Level courses which would run more easily at a college and this could lower the number of students choosing to stay on in school at 16.

Sufficiency in courses is less well developed. The schools do not offer provision at Entry Level to Level 2. For this type of learning experience and accreditation, Hackney young people can go to the two colleges in Hackney: BSix and the Hackney Campus of New City College, which also has sites at Epping, Havering, Redbridge, and Tower Hamlets, and a number of other colleges in surrounding boroughs. There is some SEND provision at both BSix and Hackney Campus of NCC. The colleges also offer level 3 provision and blended pathways.

Only Stormont House and Ickburgh School offer sixth provision for SEND pupils and this is the area of greatest need. The Garden School is expanding to become an all through school with post-16 provision.

Currently there is a large net outflow of sixth form students from Hackney. This is a potential group of students who could remain in borough if suitable offers were available.

Independent Schools

There are 29 Independent Schools and 3 Independent Special Schools within Hackney, 84% of these are faith based schools - 23 Jewish Schools, 3 Muslim Schools and 1 Christian School. There is only 1 mainstream Independent school.

A strong presence of independent settings in a local authority is always an impacting factor when pupil place planning as it is very difficult to predict when parents may choose to leave the public school system and move their child to an independent setting.

The great majority of independent school places taken up in Hackney are in the Jewish community.

Anecdotally we are seeing slightly more families choosing to access independent education for their children through the pandemic which has been a contributing factor to falling rolls in some schools.

We are keen to work with our independent school settings as a key part of our Hackney Schools community to ensure a consistent offer is in place for children and young people with SEND. Good strategic relationships will also lead to better understanding of pupil flow which will support intelligent pupil place planning in years to come.

Special Education Needs and Disabilities:

There is a need for additional SEND places in-borough. We currently send **460** pupils out of the borough to independent provision and non maintained special schools. This is expensive and involves travel. It is also not in the best interest of the child in comparison to a local provision in their communities.

Further to this the significant increase in the number of children and young people with EHCP requiring specialist provision forecasts that by 2023 we will require an additional **336** places in special provision by 2023 and a further **168** annually after that through to 2026.

The numbers and type of places needed have been reviewed through the SEND Needs Analysis Paper (SNAP) and in June 2021 we began to invite expressions of interest from schools and settings within the borough to be involved in the delivery of new provision.

The numbers and pattern of organisation will be reviewed and informed by the SNAP and the expressions of interest received.

The SEND Needs Analysis Paper (SNAP) has made the following recommendations in relation to future educational need:

1. The delivery of **150** additional all age Special School places for children and young people with ASC and complex needs. This could be through the expansion of the existing Special Schools, or in the creation of a new provision.
2. The delivery of two ASC Additional Resource Provisions (ARP); one **24** place secondary and one **24** place primary setting.
3. The delivery of one **24** place MLD Secondary ARP
4. The delivery of one **24** place Primary SLCN ARP
5. The commissioning of **20** ASC places catering for the orthodox jewish community
6. The commissioning of **24** primary SEMH places
7. The commissioning of **24** secondary SEMH places
8. The commissioning of a **50** place Post 16 provision which supports children and young people with complex needs including ASC and SEMH.
9. The development of more formalised pathways for earlier assessment and **20** assessment places within Early Years settings.

Given the timescales associated with the growth figures there is a need to move quickly in relation to an identified solution.

Hackney Education will ensure that with any new provision support and training for people working in these ARP and special schools will be developed.

Hackney Education's School Organisation Plan in July 2020 identified the following;

Well maintained, accessible, sustainable assets

The strategy will support the aim to ensure that school premises are well maintained, fit for purpose and meet all relevant national standards for space and health and safety.

The education property portfolio has had significant investment over the last 15-20 years through the regeneration of the secondary school estate under the BSF programme and more recently through regeneration of sites through mixed use opportunities, cross

subsidising the building of schools through the development and sale of private residential properties on the same site.

Although there has been considerable investment since 2006, there are still significant ongoing maintenance needs across the estate and with environmental sustainability and quality of life at the heart of the Council’s vision for urban design, these two issues will be important drivers in the decisions made around future investment and location of places. The strategy will also consider the promotion of health and well being for Hackney’s children, to ensure access to good play and sport and leisure facilities.

Asset Management Planning information on the education estate assesses condition, suitability and sufficiency of the school sites and will provide supporting baseline information for the prioritisation of school development. For example there is an asbestos issue in some schools of a particular age that will need to be taken into consideration when looking at viable options. Options appraisals will be considered for existing sites to help decision making on whether to refurbish existing buildings or to construct new buildings if more cost effective.

8. Education Property Surpluses: mainstream, special and early years

The pattern of school organisation over recent years together with new school and mixed use developments has released sites that are currently empty or have a temporary use. This combined with falling rolls and increasing SEN need provides an opportunity for the existing education estate strategy to coordinate providing the future places required with the sites and spare capacity available. The future delivery of school places will need to reflect the policies within the Local Plan 2033 (LP33) adopted in 2020.

Housing Mix Context

Delivering good quality genuinely affordable homes to meet the needs of Hackney’s existing and future households is a key challenge for Local Plan 2033. The priority is for conventional housing, and in particular genuinely affordable housing, where the Council seeks affordable contributions from large and small schemes involving housing. Regarding size mix the main planning policy is LP14 ‘ Dwelling Size Mix’, where the following mix is set out:

| Bedrooms / Dwelling size | 1 Bed | 2 Beds | 3+ Beds |
|--|--------|--------|---------|
| Preferred dwelling mix – social/London affordable rent | 30-34% | 30-34% | 33-36% |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Preferred dwelling mix – intermediate | Lower % than 2 bed | Higher % than 1 bed | 15-25% |
| Preferred dwelling mix - market | Lower % than 2 bed | Higher % than 1 bed | 33% |

There is recognition that in the Stamford Hill area the Council will be seeking a higher proportion of 4 bed plus units. In addition the Council will consider variations to the dwelling mix depending on site location and characteristics, site constraints, and scheme viability etc. In some cases and circumstances the proportion of family housing sought in a scheme may be higher, and in others it may be necessary to provide a lower proportion of family units (3 bed plus) units.

The mix advocated in policy LP14 is based upon local housing assessments and the Council housing waiting list, which identifies the quantum of each type of housing required to meet housing needs in the Borough.

Opportunities

Potential Children Centre sites

Hackney has 21 children's centre premises, and one One 'O' Clock Club centre in Clissold Park. Of the 21 Children's centres and One 'O' Clock' Club premises, 18 occupy either a purpose built building or school premises, owned by the Local Authority. Two are owned by charities, one is owned by a management committee, and one is owned by the NHS (see attached Appendix D table, Hackney Children's Centre & Associated Sites).

Potential for spare provision in those primary schools with reducing PANs.

There are a number of schools with falling rolls in the borough; some of which have had temporary PAN reductions introduced. The opportunity to review and consolidate this provides an opportunity to consider new SEN provision on school sites with spare capacity, the possibility of permanently reducing PANS should be considered in coordination with the SEN strategic need for places.

It is important to note that whilst reducing PAN is often linked to schools with falling rolls, this is not always the reason for a PAN reduction. Some schools approach us so that they can change their PAN to plan ahead before they experience a significant impact of falling rolls or to find viable long-term solutions for them when managing their staff and budget. Other schools who are not experiencing falling rolls but are in planning areas which have large surplus are working with us to adjust their PAN in the wider efforts for equity; in hope that this will positively affect school roll numbers at schools around them.

Vacant school sites

There are school sites in the borough that are no longer used as schools but have a temporary use pending future decisions on their strategic use. Their suitability for future

education use and potential for mixed use development to help fund future school places will be assessed in order to determine viable options. Feasibility studies undertaken in recent years provide a positive outlook for future education use colocated with housing developments similar to recent projects completed in the borough and this model will be explored as the needs are further defined. The Local Plan 2033 supports the principle of providing mixed used development, co-located with other social infrastructure.

Subject to the developing school estates strategy and ongoing falling rolls at mainstream schools, some sites already out of use could be used to generate income to provide additional income for school places (such as SEND places) or provide opportunities for alternative community infrastructure.

Schoolkeeper Properties

With less reliance on residential schoolkeepers, there are a number of schoolkeeper houses tied to schools within the borough that are vacant or will become vacant in the short to medium term. Options will be considered for the future use of these properties particularly in relation to the SEND needs in the borough, although many are unlikely to be suitable for SEND need because of their layouts, dimensions and accessibility.

Alternative uses will be considered and will include other internal service requirements such as Benefits & Housing Needs (temporary accommodation) and Adult Social Care (housing with care).

Other Sites within Hackney Estate

HMT is supporting the strengthening of the central strategic asset management function as well as the continued development of a Corporate Landlord operating model. The establishment of the Strategic Asset Management Framework (SAMF) which encompasses the newly established Asset Review Process and the revised Governance proposals would capture the wider corporate estate. The intent is that the pan-corporate thinking which it encourages will complement an increasingly collaborative working culture across services and their operations. As such, non education sites could be considered as an option for education use and development.

Within the SAMF there will be an overarching Corporate Asset Management Strategy (CAMS) and the Education Estate Strategy (service plan) would feed into the CAMS. This process is currently under development.

Legal and Land Title

The strategy will consider land ownership and potential restrictions or impact on future opportunities and any additional land requirements and approvals or consents needed. We will work with our partners, for example the Diocesan Boards, on any sites identified for development not owned or managed by London Borough of Hackney.

9. School Organisation Legislation

Statutory guidance from the DfE outlines the legal process that must be followed when making organisational changes to existing mainstream schools. Organisational change can include opening or closing schools, a change of category, size or location and specific duties around establishing, altering and removing SEND provision. The guidance, which is set out in a number of key DfE documents and underpinned by several legal instruments, aid Local Authorities, Governing Bodies and decision makers in bringing forward statutory proposals. The guidance advises that where possible, additional new places should only be provided at schools that have an overall Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding' as well as the conditions under which the removal of places should be considered and entered into.

[The School Organisation \(Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools\) \(England\) Regulations 2013](#)

[The School Organisation \(Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools\) Regulations 2013](#)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/851585/Opening_and_closing_maintained_schools1012.pdf

Opening New Schools

Free School Presumption

The Free School presumption is the main route by which local authorities can establish a new school in its area. Once the need for a new school has been identified, the LA must seek proposals to establish the new provision via this route.

All new schools established through the presumption process are classified as free schools. This reflects the fact that 'free school' is the department's term for any new provision academy. 'Academy' is the legal term for state-funded schools that are independent of local authority control and receive their funding directly from the government. Schools established through the presumption process are not required to use the term 'free school' in their name: this follows practice within the department's free school programme.

When following this route, LAs are required to draw up a specification and carry out a consultation on each proposal and invite proposers to submit applications. Once applications are received, these are reviewed by the Local Authority and the DfE. However, the final decision on the appointed sponsor rests with the Secretary of State. A funding agreement is then entered into between the successful sponsor and the DfE. The LA is responsible for providing the site for the new school and for delivering the capital programme for the build. All types of schools can be considered under this process. The free school presumption is outlined in the document (link) below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/844346/Free_school_presumption_051119.pdf

Whilst this isn't necessarily an issue from an education perspective, The Free School Presumption does have key implications for the educational property assets as the building and site would be handed over to the Academy Trust or Free School under a lease

agreement. As a consequence of this; the strategy will look first at ways of expanding the existing school community before considering the delivery of a free school.

Merging schools

The amalgamation of two schools involves the closure of one of the schools and a pooling of resources. The Garden School, for example, was created by the amalgamation of Horizon School and Downsvie School. The merging of schools serving the same locality offers the retention of a local school with viable pupil numbers where individual pupil rolls are not sufficient for a single school to be financially sustainable.

Federation

Federating schools has underpinned many successful school transformations in Hackney. Federation can offer much to maintained schools, allowing them to build greater capacity in senior leadership, immediate school to school support, shared teaching expertise, governance, and potential economies of scale offered by joint up administrative functions and pooling of resources. Partner schools in a federation benefit from a broader base of expertise and support. Federations are typically overseen by one executive headteacher/principal with heads of school on each school site. There are two school federation structures, a 'soft federation' where each school retains its own Governance structure and a 'hard federation' where one governing body oversees the federation, typically with subcommittee structures overseeing each school.

Expanding Schools

Expansion of an existing school onto a separate site may be the preferred option for increasing SEND places. If this route is pursued, the new provision must be a genuine change to an existing school and not in reality the establishment of a new school. The type of factors to consider when deciding which route to take are set out in [The School Organisation \(Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools\) \(England\) Regulations 2013](#), which is referenced above.

Closing Schools

Under Section 15 of the EIA 2006, a LA can propose the closure of ALL categories of maintained schools following a statutory process. Reasons for closing a maintained school include surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium to long term; The governing body of a voluntary, foundation or foundation special school may also publish proposals to close its own school following the statutory process. Alternatively, it may give at least two years' notice of its intention to close the school to the Secretary of State and LA.

Support

Hackney Education will ensure that it provides support and guidance to all schools through any change.

10. Finances

Any decision around investment should be considered as part of the business plan for considering the revenue costs of providing SEN Places in borough and the balance to be discussed regarding any savings to the High Needs budget.

Capital Funding Strategy

Options available for capital funding streams will be reviewed and alternative options will also be considered for capital investment to support provision.

Capital Allocations for supporting places for pupils with SEND

The government announced the High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) in April 2021. This grant is paid to local authorities (LAs) to support the provision of places for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those pupils requiring alternative provision (AP). This funding will form the basis for the capital investment in SEND need and will form part of the wider strategy combined with other capital investment such as basic need.

Basic Need Grant

Basic Need grant funding is a capital funding route allocated by central government to meet local priority needs for school places. The Basic Need allocations are based principally on data collected from LAs in the School Capacity Survey (SCAP) annual returns. The DfE have confirmed that whilst Basic Need funding must be used for capital purposes, it is otherwise un-ringfenced to allow local authorities greater flexibility to make decisions that are best for their local area although the condition for grant application excludes using it for free schools in any capacity. While the funding is calculated based on need for mainstream places across reception to year 11, local authorities are free to use this funding to best meet their local priorities; including creating new provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities to ensure every pupil has an appropriate school place.

Revenue Funding Strategy

School Places - revenue funding for additional SEN places

1. The average revenue cost for an ARP place in a Hackney mainstream setting is £21,080 per annum (place funding and top-up)
2. The average revenue cost for a place in a Hackney special school is £30,167 per annum (place funding and top-up)
3. The average revenue cost for a pupil to attend a independent special school or non-maintained special school is £43,672 per annum

The above revenue costs are based on March 2021 costs, and do not include transportation cost of average £7,800 per annum which is more likely to be incurred by pupils attending out of borough independent special schools or non-maintained special schools.

There is a potential savings ranging from £13,505 to £22,592 should a pupil be placed in a Hackney ARP or special school.

The cost of operating a school is dependent on the number of pupils attending as the funding provided is based on individual pupils and their circumstances.

Operational and Maintenance costs of vacant sites

This is an important consideration as the revenue implications for keeping empty sites available and safe can be considerable. By way of an example, costs to mothball a primary school site can cost in the region of £250,000-300,000 per annum.

Running considerations of current schools

There are a number of schools which find the economic pressures of running more challenging. Factors are:

- Not filling places to capacity
- One form entry schools - particularly where the above applies
- Small sixth forms
- Expensive maintenance costs
- Popularity in terms of trends of parental choices
- Quality of education

Schools nationally and locally continue to struggle with managing limited resources and increasing numbers of schools have moved into a cumulative deficit position. Ten schools closed the 2020-21 financial year with a deficit balance. Schools continue to be innovative in terms of merging year groups, sharing support functions and managing contract costs but around 80% of expenditure directly relates to staffing. Regular restructuring is taking place in many schools however it is becoming more difficult to achieve long term financial stability where local declines in pupil numbers are predicted.

Further Considerations

Mixed Use Development

This is a model with many examples in Hackney and across London. It provides the opportunity to cross subsidise the development of school places through the building and sale of residential properties on the same site.

This model has delivered a number of new schools in Hackney including Holy Trinity Primary School in Dalston, New Regents College at Nile Street and Nightingale Primary School at Tiger Way. There is an opportunity on existing vacant sites to deliver a project that could support the costs of constructing a new SEND school on the lower floors of a development

along similar lines either as an expansion of an existing SEND school or a new SEND school.

Sites surplus to education use

The consideration of disposing of site(s) that are or become surplus to education use could be considered as a way to raise capital to support the strategy. This option would need Secretary of State approval. There are risks regarding the free school presumption when identifying a site as surplus to requirements that would need to be carefully considered. Early discussion with the DfE around the strategy is recommended.

DfE Free School SEND Competition

The most recent round LBH bid for SEMH provision for the Family School on the old Harrington Hill Primary site, was not successful. It is unknown when another round may be available but this could be a future option if the DfE hold another round. Timescales associated with this route may make this option invalid.

Section 106 Opportunity / CIL

The opportunity provided by housing and other major developments in the borough for investment using S106 or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in the borough will be closely aligned to the strategy.

Cross Borough Project

Potential to provide the site and fund SEN provision through cross borough investment with another neighbouring borough is a possibility that needs to be explored. Liaison with our closest LAs has begun to ascertain their own commissioning strategy which will inform the viability of this option.

11. Comments of the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

The following legal duties of the Council apply to the provision of education for children and young people in its area, and to the various proposals put forward in this report:

- S 14 Education Act 1996 (EA 1996) to ensure the provision of “sufficient schools” for the provision of primary and secondary education in their area.
- S 13(1) EA 1996, as far as powers permit, to “contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary education, secondary education and further education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area”.
- S 19 EA 1996 to make arrangements for the education of children who may not receive education at school for whatever reason.
- S 13 EA 1996 to promote high standards and the fulfilment of potential and fair access to educational opportunities for children of compulsory school age at school or otherwise or if under age at maintained schools.

- Ss 507A and 507B EA 1996 to secure that facilities for primary, secondary and further education include adequate facilities for recreation, social and physical training.
- S 22 Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA 1998) to be responsible for the maintenance of schools (Governors also have responsibilities).
- S 45 to give a financial budget to all maintained schools.
- S35 Education Act 2002 (EA 2002) to employ all staff in community, voluntary controlled or community special schools and maintained nursery schools.
- S 176 EA 2002, as amended, to consult with pupils, including pupils at any maintained nursery schools in any matter which may affect them in line with guidance issued.
- S 27 Children and Families Act 2014 (CFA 2014) to keep under review educational provision, training provision and social care provision made both in and outside of their area for children and young people with SEN or a disability and for whom they are responsible.
- S 508A to promote sustainable modes of travel to meet the school travel needs of their area including persons of sixth form age.
- S 508B to make arrangements to transport eligible children to and from qualifying schools at the beginning and end of the school day.

The Authority also has the following relevant powers:

- Ss 508B and 508C to provide transport to and from school.
- S 15A to secure facilities for Further Education.
- S 7 Education and Inspections Act 2006 to invite proposals for new schools from persons other than the Local Authority.
- S 65 CFA to access at any reasonable time all educational institutions including academies which have a child or young person with an EHC plan for the purpose of monitoring the education or training given.
- s 1(1) Local Government Act 1999 imposes a duty to “make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness”. The Council has fiduciary duties towards residents.
- S149(1) Equality Act 2010 imposes the Public Sector Equality Duty on the Council.

The PSED requires the Council to have "due regard" to:

- The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the EqA 2010 (section 149(1)(a)).
- The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it (section 149(1)(b)). This involves having due regard to the needs to:
 - remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it (section 149(4)); and

- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Section 149(6) makes it clear that compliance with the PSED in section 149(1) may involve treating some people more favourably than others, but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under the EqA 2010 (this includes breach of an equality clause or rule or breach of a non-discrimination rule (section 149(8)).

(Section 149(3), EqA 2010.)

- The need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149(1)(c)). This includes having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and to promote understanding (section 149(5), EqA 2010).

In taking decisions the Council must act lawfully, including acting within its powers, following its own procedures as well as those required by law, such as those relating to the opening and closures of schools and guidance.

The Council must ensure that all required consultations are properly undertaken in accordance with relevant law and guidance, and the Cabinet Office Guidance on Consultation, 2012.

It must make rational, evidence based decisions, take into account all relevant considerations and for a proper purpose, be compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights and make proportionate decisions that are properly reasoned.

It must seek detailed legal advice where required, for example in meeting the requirements of the PSED, school reorganisation, commissioning and on employment and procurement questions.

12. Proposed strategy

In order to meet the vision as set out the following 4 strategic priorities have been identified:

1. Creation of sufficient additional in borough special school places
2. Partnership working with mainstream Primary schools whose rolls are falling to seek viable solutions.
3. Partnership working over the coming five academic years with mainstream Secondary schools whose numbers are likely to be below PANS over the period 2022-2027
4. A long term sustainable use plan for all education sites in the borough

12.1 Priority 1: Creation of sufficient additional in borough special school places by 2024

Recommendations:

- We will seek expressions of interest from Primary and Secondary schools in relation to the running of 4 Additional Resource Provisions
- We find three potential special school expansion sites and work with our existing special schools to extend provision.
- Should the above 2 recommendations not provide adequate places to meet the growth identified above, we will consider the provision of a new special school.
- We will formulate a commissioning strategy to provide special school places for the Orthodox Jewish community in borough
- We will develop a commissioning strategy for the commissioning of specialist SEMH places for both primary and secondary pupils in borough.

In finding sites we will review the empty sites and those schools under financial pressure or who may benefit from moving site. Consideration of other council endorsed use needs to be a factor.

Options appraisals and subsequent statutory consultations will be initiated for:

- a) providing additional SEND places via the following routes:
 - i) Additional Resource provision in mainstream schools
 - ii) Extending existing special schools by size and or designation
 - iii) A new special school
 - iv) the re-organisation of mainstream primary places where feasible due to falling rolls (see priority 2)

12.2 Priority 2: Partnership working over the coming two academic years with mainstream Primary schools whose rolls are falling to seek viable solutions.

Recommendations:

- We will work with schools under particular pressure in terms of medium term (5 yr) stability and sustainability of pupil numbers and discuss with them plans to manage numbers and budgets: these include amalgamation options, federation options or to support differently to ensure they continue most effectively.
- We have a significant number of surplus reception places (17%) and are seeking to reduce this to levels around 5%. Further reductions will be made in September 2022/23 with additional proposed reductions for 2023/24. Sufficient capacity must be retained in the system to cope with a future surge in demand for places.

12.3 Priority 3: Partnership working over the coming five academic years with mainstream Secondary schools whose numbers are likely to be below PANS over the period 2022-2027

Recommendations:

- We will work with schools under particular pressure in terms of medium term (7 yr) sustainability at current size and discuss with them either plans to reduce 11-16 PANS or to support differently to ensure they continue most effectively. This is in the context

of the need for additional specialist places and the possibility of sixth form expansion at level 2, level 1 or entry level. Sufficient capacity must be retained in the system to cope with a future surge in demand for places.

- We will work with schools and Post 16 providers to aim to map a coherent and attractive Post 16 local offer that provides a range of courses accessible to all.

12.4 Priority 4: A long term sustainable use plan for all education sites in the borough for a ten year period

Recommendations: We will work with our partners and schools to achieve a long term sustainable plan for the education sites within the borough.

- One of the key aims of the strategy is to ensure that all use of council owned education estate is being optimised. Whilst this may mean a change of use within the education range of uses; the priority is to maintain educational use. If any parts of sites or sites are deemed surplus to education use and we are confident that there is sufficient capacity within the estate to provide for future education expansion, then sites could be opened up to wider council or alternative use to support the overall strategy. This will be considered in line with the emerging Asset Review Process and Corporate Asset Management Strategy.
- All education sites will be assessed to understand how each site performs using asset management principles.
- We will work with our partners to assess the investment requirements of education sites through condition surveys.
- All sites will be assessed for space utilisation using net capacity assessments and space (square metre) per pupil measurements to help understand the efficiency of use and improve space utilisation across the estate.
- We will work with our partners, schools and the Council's energy team to gain a better understanding of environmental sustainability within the estate including calculations of energy consumption and future improvements to help support the Council's target of net zero emissions across Council functions by 2040.
- The information collected through these measures will help inform the capital investment decisions and use of the school estate over the next 10 years.

13. Next steps

The above four priorities, feedback from consultation and expressions of interest will be used to form a number of implementation plans - these implementation plans will happen in stages and will include targeted solutions for our sufficiency and estate needs.

Development work within Hackney Education, the Council and with key stakeholders will formulate these detailed plans.

In 2022 we aim to have developed at least the implementation plan for Priority 1 (in separate phases) and then later the next Implementation plans for priority 2, 3 and 4.

The implementation plans will be developed in accordance with the timeline set out in Section 3 of the strategy and in order to align with both the council's internal governance and approval schedules as well as the Department for Education school organisation timescales.

Appendix A - Hackney Education's School Organisation Principles

Hackney Education's School Organisation Principles

Hackney Education's school organisation principles are set out in Appendix 3 of the School Organisation plan for 2020-2025 available [here](#). The principles, which include the following, are considered when bringing forward proposals for school organisational change:

- School popularity
- Number of surplus places
- Ofsted rating
- Suitability and condition of the building
- The school's budget/balance
- The school's resilience to withstand significant change
- Valuing the diversity offered by voluntary, independent and academy sectors in providing school places
- Valuing diversity in schools' intakes
- Believing that generally primary education should be provided in a mixed diverse environment
- Looking at the implications for early years when bringing forward proposals
- To positively support arrangements for schools with admission numbers in multiples of 30
- To generally support arrangements for all through 4-11 primary schools than separate infant and junior schools
- To aim to provide places within a 2 mile walking distance for children aged 5 and 7 and 3 miles for children who are 8 years and above, in line with DFE guidance
- Aim to avoid large geographical gaps in provision
- To ensure that school premises are well maintained, fit for purpose and meet all relevant national standards for space and health and safety.

Appendix B - Map of schools and children centres:

https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/sites/default/files/document/A0%20Hackney%20Schools%20Map_July_2019.1.pdf

Appendix C - Equality Impact Assessment:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Kw5YbRkcybjNRQqFHBTUDLOoD4EUa9KnwvJ-wGfgfZ0/edit?ts=60c3795a>

Appendix D - Hackney Children's Centre & Associated Sites

| Planning Area A - North | Nursery | Management | Property |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Woodberry Down Children's Centre (Strategic Multi-Agency) Spring Park Drive off Green Lanes, N4 2NP | LBH subsidised childcare places (37) | Hackney Education | LBH |
| Hillside Children's Centre 1 Leatherhead Close, Holmleigh Road, N16 5QR | LBH subsidised childcare places (41) | Hackney Education | LBH |
| Clissold Park One O' Clock Club Stoke Newington Church St, Stoke Newington, London N16 9HJ | No | Hackney Education % Woodberry Down CC | LBH |
| Planning Area B - North | Nursery | Management | Property |
| Fernbank Children's Centre 1A Fountayne Road, N16 7EA 020 8806 6622 | LBH subsidised childcare places (60) | Jubilee School | Homerton NHS |
| Children's Centre at Tyssen (Strategic Multi-Agency) Oldhill Street, N16 6LR 020 8806 4130 | LBH subsidised childcare places (52) | Tyssen School | School site |
| Lubavitch Chen's Centre 1 Northfield Road N16 5RL | LBH subsidised childcare places (37) | Lubavitch Foundation -Charity | Lubavitch Foundation |
| Ihsan Children's Centre 66-68 Cazenove Road, N16 6AA | Community nursery | North London Muslim Community Centre (NLMCC) - Charity | NLMCC |
| Planning Area C - Central | Nursery | Management | Property |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Comberton Children's Centre 10 Comberton Road, E5 9PU | LBH subsidised childcare places (49) | Hackney Education | LBH |
| Linden Children's Centre (Strategic Multi-Agency) 86-92 Rectory Road, N16 7SH 020 7254 9939 | LBH subsidised childcare places (58) | Hackney Education | LBH |
| Brook Children's Centre 1A Atkins Square, E8 1FA | Private nursery | Hackney Education (Linden CC leased to Roof Top private nursery) | LBH Adjacent to Mossbourne Parkside Academy |
| Planning Area D - East | Nursery | Management | Property |
| Clapton Park Children's Centre & Forest School 161 Daubeney Road, E5 0EP 020 8986 7437 | LBH subsidised childcare places (56) | Hackney Education | LBH |
| Daubeney Children's Centre (Strategic Multi-Agency) Daubeney Road, E5 0EG 020 8525 7040 | Co-located nursery class | Federation of Daubeney, Sebright & Lauriston Primary Schools | Co-located with School nursery class |
| Millfields Children's Centre Elmcroft Street, E5 0SQ 020 8525 6410 | Nursery ceased 2020 | Millfields Primary School | Adjacent to School |
| Children's Centre at Gainsborough Berkshire Road, E9 5ND | Community nursery | Gainsborough Primary School | Adjacent to School |
| Wentworth Nursery School & Children's Centre Granard House, Bradstock Road, E9 5BN | Nursery School | Wentworth Nursery School | LBH Housing Estate |
| Planning Area E - South | Nursery | Management | Property |
| Minik Kardes Community Nursery & Children's Centre 53-55 Balls Pond Road, N1 4BW | Community Nursery | Management Committee | Management committee lease |
| Sebright Children's Centre in Haggerston Park (Strategic Multi-Agency) Haggerston Park Queensbridge Road, E2 8NP | LBH subsidised childcare places (45) | Federation of Daubeney, Sebright & Lauriston Primary Schools | LBH |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Comet at Thomas Fairchild Children's Centre Forston Street, NI 7HX | No | Comet Nursery School | LBH/ Thomas Fairchild School site |
| Comet Nursery School & Children's Centre 20 Halcomb Street, NI 5RF | Nursery School | Comet Nursery School | School site |
| Planning Area F -South East | Nursery | Management | Property |
| Ann Tayler Children's Centre (Strategic Multi-Agency) I-13 Triangle Road, E8 3RP | LBH subsidised childcare places (70) | Hackney Education | LBH |
| Mapledene & Queensbridge Children's Centre 54 Mapledene Road, E8 3LE | LBH subsidised childcare places (60) | Queensbridge Primary School | LBH |
| Morningside Children's Centre Chatham Place, E9 6LL | Community nursery | Morningside Primary School | Adjacent to School |

Appendix E - [Send Needs Analysis Paper](#)

School Estates Community Queries [March-May 2023] - by theme

This document includes comments, questions and feedback submitted from

- 1) Governor's / School Leadership
- 2) Questions from specific Engagement event at each school - Nightingale, Baden Powell, Randal Cremer, De Beauvoir, Colvestone, Princess May
- 3) Questions, comments and feedback from the google form and emails submitted by Parent/carers, staff members, governors,

Answers have been provided to questions submitted at the engagement events [time permitting]. An updated FAQ will be provided to ensure consideration of these if the proposals progress to informal consultation.

It is important to note that this stage is not a consultation yet. If the decision is made to move to informal consultation then there will be a structured process to gather feedback from the community on proposals. Further advice on this will be given at that time.

Themes by school:

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- [Baden Powell](#)
- [Randel Cremer](#)
- [De Beauvoir](#)
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Colvestone Primary School

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| Colvestone |
| Known or likely question |
| Theme: PM school fabric and pollution |
| Princess May has a very poor reputation in the local area |
| It is ugly and noisy and polluted |
| I am at a loss to understand how Hackney can seriously consider moving children from Colvestone to Princess May, whose playground is right next to the A10. The Council's own air quality monitoring system shows Princess May had 40 percent higher levels of Nitrogen Oxide (NO2) in 2021 than Colvestone. Adding more students to a school closer to the A10 with higher pollution levels is a backwards step in the effort to reduce children's exposure to air pollution. |
| Colvestone Crescent is currently a 'school street' which is in effect a no-through street with limited traffic on all sides, protected by the Ridley Road market/landscaping, and was the logical choice to become the first 21st Century Play Street in the borough (Hackney / 21st Century Streets / Colvestone Crescent masterplan). The borough's first 'permanent play / school street' and already extant greening of Colvestone Crescent naturally has the school at the heart of this community-led project (the result of |

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| neighbourhood parklets / local resistance to road traffic) that has been so thoughtfully expanded in Hackney Council's signature environmental proposals for the site. Already the playground that adjoins the meeting of the two roads on the school boundary shows on the Council pollution 'heat maps' as one of the least polluted regions in the whole local area, rather fitting for an outdoor classroom designated as an 'Asset of Community Value' (August 2021) |
| As a parent I strongly object on many grounds, not least because Colvestone and Princess May are two completely opposing schools in style. Princess May didn't even feature anywhere on our list when making choices. It is on a main road, with much higher levels of pollution.. It has a completely different feel to it, in style and size. It does not have the community feel that is so present at Colvestone. We would need to cross a main road. I could go on. Needless to say if you go ahead with this merger I will be seeking to send my child to a different school. We have absolutely zero interest in her attending Princess May now, in the same way as we had zero interest in it when we were first making choices. |
| The school you propose merging Colvestone with - Princess May, next to the A10 - has almost 50% higher air pollution than Colvestone (according to Hackney Council's own figures), a more dangerous environment for children. |
| Why has health not been factored in? We would like it added to the list for consideration. |
| Theme: Vibe |
| No Colvestone parent will accept a place on the Princess May school site. Colvestone parents will look to other schools further afield, home school or leave the borough altogether |
| Did we consider the vibe of schools we are trying to merge? |
| Parents want their children to attend a small, intimate school with a big heart. |
| If we wanted a three-form entry we wouldn't have chosen Colvestone |
| The beautiful listed building is an inspiring place to learn. |
| Colveston is a 'community treasure' |
| Colvestone Primary School is a friendly, close-knit, one-form entry community school with a strong academic record and close ties to Ridley Road Market and the surrounding community. |
| Have you thought about proposed closure and the numbers and impact on schools that will have to take the additional children? |
| Do you now understand that it is not numbers versus emotion? |
| Is the consultation a done deal? |
| What happens if parents are overwhelmingly against the plans, does their voice count? |
| This time last year parents of years 3 and 4 sat with the Director of Education at the time with real concerns about this. *** told us in no uncertain terms that the school was not at risk of closure. What has changed the process? |

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| When it refers to 'forming a new school', does this mean a brand new name, staff team etc or an expanded Princess May? |
| We chose Colvestone for our children due to its small size and caring family atmosphere. Also for its strong connections with the local community as a well-established non-denominational school which had been educating local children for over 150 years. Back in 2008, we had to fight to get our oldest child a place in the Reception Class as the school was so popular and oversubscribed. |
| Theme: Pupil support and SEND provision |
| SEND pupils: what will be the impact on them moving to other schools? |
| Colvestone has 10.7% of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan (national average is 4%) plus another 12% of pupils who need additional support. So 1 in 5 of the pupils have additional challenges of some kind. This proposal will adversely affect these vulnerable children as they will find it particularly difficult to cope with a transition to a new school. |
| What is going to be done for children with SEN for transition as adaptation issues and for those one that doesn't like a crowded environment? Are the teachers and TAs going to be enough for children with SEND? |
| My older daughter with ADHD and ODD went to 5 schools in Hackney, including outstanding schools. She was facing being out of mainstream education and Colveston showed her love, acceptance and support which totally changed things around and she is now at a mainstream secondary. The fact that Colveston accommodates for so many children with additional needs and keeps them in mainstream schools saves Hackney a lot of money. My younger daughter, like so many other children, is on a 2-3 year wait list for a diagnosis with CAMHS and therefore is not part of the SEN stats we were discussing at the meeting today which were already higher than other schools in the area. I believe the education department are cherry picking the figures to suit their agenda and are not looking at the bigger picture or the cost of cleaning up the mess that will be left by traumatising the SEN children who will have their fragile world torn apart, including providing for many children who will be left outside of the school system. |
| Our children have been through so much from being scared that they will die due to a terrifying virus, mask wearing whereby they can't read people's facial expressions and emotions accurately, being locked down in their homes without socialising with their peers or teacher's, too returning to school and loosing their TA's and headteachers and now just as things were beginning to become "normal" again the council are taking away their normality. This is horrendous for children's social and emotional well-being. |
| There is no other school in the area that can ensure that our SEN children get the access to education they have a right to. - The Cull de sac nature of Colvestone facilitates a safe access to school. SEN children get overwhelmed when they are walking through busy streets and can often run into traffic.-Being a one form entry Colvestone is naturally a calmer and less overwhelming environment.-I implore you to consider Colvestone as the perfect school to create an autism friendly environment. |
| with great effort, determination and tedious work we thankfully managed for *** to be happy going out and then managed to bridge her back to school, with the School Senco we worked very hard collaboratively to get *** back and *** did for the end of year one. Now, we have complete faith in the school SEN support which as you may have heard from other families is not a given, |
| *** Sometimes struggles with social situations and 'joining in' with organised clubs and activities and the small size of the classes, closeness of the teachers and supportive community around the school have been a massive benefit to her development. I feel that in a larger school with larger classes and larger demands on teaching staff she may not have received the attention needed to encourage her |

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| development. This is why I feel Colvestone is such a unique and vital option for parents looking for a school in the Borough of Hackney. |
| What are the SEND numbers in both the proposed amalgamated school, the nearest school to Colvestone and in other schools that have been proposed to close or amalgamate? |
| Theme: Rationale |
| Why is Hackney focused on community schools rather than faith schools? |
| Why can't we use Colvestone as the host site and expand capacity? |
| Did we consider merging it with De Beauvoir or another school? |
| Colvestone is the only non-denominational school in Dalston, and with the proposed closure of nearby De Beauvoir school, current and future parents in this area have few nearby options that are not either religious schools, academies or free schools. |
| Can we give Colvestone a chance to turn it round? |
| ONS data shows very strongly that in just a few years 4 or 500 more spaces will be needed in reception again in Hackney. |
| What about the Colvestone Crescent 21st Century street plan? |
| What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to close? |
| Proposing to spend millions to make Colvestone Crescent into a 21st century Show road while closing the school is a ludicrous proposal that shows how inverse the council's priorities are in this. |
| This year our daughter's class (year 3) was merged with year 4 due to low numbers. When this decision was being made, Annie Gammon (Director of education at the time) sat in the school and 100% reassured us that Colvestone was under no threat of closure. How do you explain this reverse in ideology less than a year later? |
| How are FREE schools allowed to continue to run but state maintained are not? |
| A partnership with Princess May was proposed in the past and rejected. |
| The current ratio of available places in Hackney are 70.5% community, 9.5% academy/free, 20% faith – suggesting both the damage caused by opening academy schools, the problematic and disproportionate allocation of pupils to them in the reception intake process when no places are offered to any preference on a parent's list, and the necessity to reduce the number of faith school places to better reflect Hackney's population. It is noted that neither faith schools nor academies are considered in this consultation. In 2022 places were allocated (when no preference places were available for a pupil) 40% academy/faith v. 60% community across all places and in 2021: 46% academy/faith v. 54% community. The proposed changes will, of course, further skew this bias away from community schools. |
| I'd like figures on numbers of Colvestone parents who had Princess May in the top three of their application list. |
| Distance to other schools |
| The council's policies that have reduced affordable housing for families has had a direct result on these dwindling numbers. |

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| What will happen to Colvestone's debt if Colvestone is amalgamated with Princess May / closed? |
| The timeline does not give enough time. |
| There is a problem, in terms of the merger of Colvestone and Princess May as they are both very different, very few parents want their children to go there. What are you going to do? |
| Personally, I think the public meetings would be better held directly after the Easter holidays. I imagine we won't be able to set March dates until near the end of term, and having the holidays to mull things over and not have any of us to talk to will provide some anxieties for staff and parents. |
| Why doesn't Princess May come to Colveston instead? |
| Why not change the process? |
| Is the school on-board to amalgamate with Colvestone? |
| Questions around Princess May (PM) Does it have a deficit or a projected one? This would also be challenging for proposals of amalgamation. |
| How many children have PM as their first choice? What is the projected reception intake for Princess May? None of the Colvestone families have moved to PM this year even though there are spaces. |
| Can your team provide an update on the questions posed at the last meeting e.g. admission numbers/trends and provision/incentives to keep staff in post should a decision to 'close' be decided. |
| RW questioned if the schools have ever been asked to cap their reception numbers previously. Schools that previously expanded during boom years, have they gone back to their substantive PAN or have they remained? |
| RC questioned in relation to the first and second preferences, what is the likelihood of numbers increasing in reception with second/third places? DC commented it is unknown and more in depth analysis could be done. |
| SB questioned data presented regarding first preference v how many actually ended up at the school and if we could get a sense of how many first preferences end up at the school |
| Theme: School falling roll and numbers |
| What are the first numbers for schools in the area like? |
| Do you accept that there are numbers you haven't considered? Our children are not just numbers. There are factors buried under the factors. The numbers mean nothing if they don't work for us. When you say you hear the passion you're not hearing a parent talking about their child. |
| Theme: Financial cost |
| Can the school's own financial projections in terms of deficit be submitted to the Cabinet for the next four to five years to come? |
| Will detailed costings be produced if this proposal is put to the wider community? |
| The school is financially viable on current student numbers. |

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| <p>This is about a sea of lost revenue rather than viability figures. We have seen what might be perceived as losses but not about whether the school is viable. There is an inference that they are both the same in terms of loss of income and not being viable, which is not the case. I would like to see the financial viability report, rather than an obsession with lost revenue</p> |
| <p>If Colvestone merges does that make PM complete and if not why would that be more financially viable than Colvestone?</p> |
| <p>Theme: Increase in hackney population</p> |
| <p>I have seen birth rates that have increased with 400-500 nursery places needed. It is confusing why a year ago we were told the opposite of what we are told today. What happens if there are 70 families told that the children have to go to Princess May and we don't want to go.</p> |
| <p>We don't understand the timeline, e.g. Brexit and pandemic - numbers show that in 2019 massively decreased, pandemic had a huge effect, lots of parents moved out, what will change because numbers will change, there are big decisions that could go catastrophically wrong. Pupil numbers will increase with residents coming to live in building projects. It seems really short sighted.</p> |
| <p>Aside that the school is financially viable on current student numbers, the Hackney Local Plan (LP33) / the 'Dalston Plan' (adopted 22nd July 2020) commits to the building of hundreds of new homes in the immediate vicinity of Colvestone Primary School – a substantial proportion of which will be mandatorily designated as family homes, this being the proportion of the population identified as finding it most difficult to stay in the borough (Council conditions, as per the new Hackney Council developments around the Britannia Leisure Centre, for example). In addition the Hackney Plan predicts a continuing rise in Hackney's population, and projects a need for more primary and secondary places within the scope of the plan. A strong community school, in addition to being a strong draw for prospective residents, will also be required for the family occupants of the new residential developments in central Hackney (the development sites are extremely close / clustered around Colvestone Primary School, as identified in the plan).</p> |
| <p>The Dalston Area Plan shows that more residential properties are planned for the area which will lead to an increase in demand for more school places in a few years time. Local residents deserve to have a school they can easily walk to, one that has a strong academic record, that offers the closeness and individual attention of a one-form entry environment, and that is not tied to any particular religion.</p> |
| <p>As a Dalston resident, I am also aware of the proposals in the Dalston Development Plan to build c600 new homes on the site of the current Sainsbury's car park. Colvestone would be the closest school for any children living in this development.</p> |
| <p>Theme: Previous investment in Colvestone</p> |
| <p>New school playground and other investments</p> |
| <p>What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to close?</p> |
| <p>Theme: Timing</p> |
| <p>I made a complaint about the fact that we have only been given till Friday to get our points into the report and were not given time to receive answers to our many questions or requests.</p> <p>The complaints team said there is no such deadline.</p> <p>Please can you clarify urgently as this has a significant impact on what we do.</p> |

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| Theme: Blossom Federation support |
| <p>Why did we allow Blossom in?</p> <p>Colvestone has been in partnership with Blossom Federation (who manage three other schools in the borough) since September 2022. They were selected by Hackney Education and the governing body in June last year to give the best support to Colvestone - Princess May was rejected as a partnership option at that time.</p> <p>During that process, the then Director of Education at Hackney reassured parents that there were no plans to close the school. The school leadership is extremely disappointed that the new partnership with Blossom Federation has not been given an opportunity to show its impact.</p> |
| <p>Colvestone has benefitted from significant capital investment by Hackney Council over the last 12-18 months with significant external repairs to the stonework and leadwork on the roof and careful restoration of the Grade 2 listed railings in front of the school. Without the scaffolding, the school building looks very attractive. Blossom Federation has attracted further Council funding to upgrade facilities and redecorate inside the school as well.</p> |
| <p>I am aware as a parent that the school has been in consultation with the Council over its structure in recent years and the new leadership team and partnership with the Blossom Foundation, agreed as I understand with the Council, has injected real impetus to the school – an impetus that has been supported by the improvements and repairs to facilities supported by the Council and finished in recent months. It is my understanding that these arrangements have also made the school more financially secure, running a budget surplus, and assured for the forthcoming academic year.</p> |
| <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering local children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> |
| <p>Is Thomas Fairchild in consideration of closing/amalgamating? If not, why not? Their situation is comparable to Colvestone and they have had more financial support than Colvestone.</p> |
| <p>it was wonderful to see how the new management team and Blossom Federation have pulled up the school in just two terms.</p> |
| Theme: Colvestone site usage |
| <p>What are we going to do with the Colvestone site?</p> |
| <p>Leaving the Colvestone building (grade 2 listed) empty and letting it become derelict would be a travesty.</p> |
| <p>The closure of Colvestone would have a negative impact on this community and leave an empty building in the heart of the local area.</p> |

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| Colvestone has been part of the Dalston community for more than 170 years. It is a beautiful Grade 2 listed building, and the only surviving example of the original Birkbeck schools, part of a mid-19th century radical education movement. |
| We will not allow you the opportunity to shaft our children and families in order for to make money from the sale of the school site to the highest developer bid to create more multi-million pound 'luxury apartments' that nobody in the community can afford. |
| The land behind Colvestone school is disputed, community won against developer due to the school being there. What will happen to the land? |
| What would happen to the Colvestone building if the school is closed? |
| Is the new road going here? |
| DCAAC is concerned that if the school site were to be sold on, it may be considered untenable to retain an educational or communal use, so a change of use may be sought for the listed building, requiring physical changes which may detract from its special historic and architectural interest. Furthermore, development pressures may result in ambitious plans to redevelop the site, which at best may harm the setting of the listed building and at worst obliterate it. Such changes may also harm the character and appearance of the conservation area. DCAAC asserts that the character and appearance of the St Mark's Conservation Area will be severely affected by the loss of its only primary school, which is one of a small number of buildings in the neighbourhood with a community use. The school closure will have an unwelcome homogenizing effect on the conservation area as well reducing the quality of life of its residents. |
| Why have plans for the future use of the school site not been included in the preparatory work? I understand that Colveston is a Grade II listed building. |
| Theme: Staff |
| What will happen to the staff? |
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| Change.org petition |
| Link |
| Theme: Lack of non-faith schools |
| he closure of Colvestone and De Beauvoir would mean that there would be no non-faith, one-form local authority schools within a mile of the Colverstone building, leaving the area dominated by religious schools, free schools and academies. (For reference, the current ratio of available places in Hackney are 70.5% community, 9.5% academy/free, 20% faith – suggesting both the damage caused by opening academy schools, the problematic and disproportionate allocation of pupils to them in the reception intake process when no places are offered to any preference on a parent's list, and the necessity to reduce the number of faith school places to better reflect Hackney's population. It is noted that neither faith schools nor academies are considered in this consultation. In 2022 places were allocated (when no preference places were available for a pupil) 40% academy/faith v. 60% community across all places and in 2021: 46% academy/faith v. 54% community. The proposed changes will, of course, further skew this bias away from community schools). |

as one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority. I believe merging the children from Colvestone Primary into a larger, arguably less suitable school, would be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area.

Why does LA allocate non faith children to religious schools?

Baden Powell Primary School

Baden Powell

Known or likely question

Theme: Costs of the move

My child would be in year ** if you were to merge. Would we have to buy a whole new set of uniforms just for one year ?

Uniform is an issue. Will there be something put in place for parents regarding the costs of new uniforms?

Will there be any support to purchase the uniform if changed

The government has cut funding so there was already a lack of funding before all the other issues described in the powerpoint took place?

Question asked on if there is a way to address the funding, perhaps raising money/ charity donations- has this been discussed/raising a fund?

Would it be legal to raise funds for the school?

Theme: Rationale / Is the decision finalised?

Regarding the stats from around 10 years ago, if birth rates were going down, then why was Nightingale school built?

Are Nightingale in the same position as us? Why does our school have to merge with them on their site?!

Is the decline in numbers similar for Nightingale?

At the last meeting, there were many issues that came up. It is being made to seem as if parents are just anxious.

It has been mentioned that a final decision has not been made, but from powerpoint it seems as if a definitive decision has been made?

Is there anything that could be done to stop this from happening?

This decision is being made based on Nightingale having the capacity. But this change would destabilise families- Will there be any help to lessen destabilisation that is going to be experienced ?

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| Will any of these questions/information be fed back? |
| If there was an influx of children before september- what would happen? |
| Based on the statistics, it is either we merge or we close |
| The council needs to be straightforward with parents |
| There are other children on a waiting list for Nightingale, For those that are in favour of the merger- will they take up possible places for children coming from Baden Powell? |
| it does not feel like there is a chance for change. Is there any point in saying we do not want the merger to happen? It all feels very finalised. We all understand the reasons why it has to happen, but it is a difficult situation. It feels like parents' voices are not going to be heard. This is a major change, not a tiny shift. The new Nightingale building is big, this is a close community which will see a change of teachers and a new big building, it is a lot to take in |
| HE seems as if they are coming from an academic perspective, coming across as condescending. The council is coming from a numbers perspective. The audience are parents, not academics. This is why HE is receiving hostility from parents. The parents worry comes from their passions/love for the school but the council's priorities are funding and numbers, but they are not discussing the damage that's going to be caused |
| Theme: Children with SEND |
| Will children with learning difficulties have the same support or extra support put in place for them not to be affected? |
| What measures are being put in place for pupils with Special needs to make sure that this change has no effect on their education? |
| What is the plan for children that have SEN? There needs to be a plan |
| From a parent with an autistic child- We all have personal reasons why we do not want the schools being merged. It is about the school, it is not about the space, we love this school. From nursery parents to Year 6 parents, everyone knows each other. It is a close school in which children are learning happily. If this merger happens and everyone has to move, her child will go through change twice and this will affect him hugely in future. He will already make a move from Year 6 to secondary school. We are unable to cope with that much change |
| Theme: Ethos |
| Will the two schools be given a new name? |
| How will the receiving school accept the students and make them feel welcome? |
| How will you ensure that students are not going to be bullied and made to feel like an outsider? |
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| Theme: Building |
| What will happen to the Baden Powell School site? |

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| Theme: Staff |
| Are teachers from this school going to be present in Nightingale schools? |
| Baden Powell is a unique school, it is an established school with a unique teaching style, that has been running for years Nightingale is a new school with a new teaching style, they are still looking for a unique style to teach their kids I don't want Baden Powell Primary School to merge with Nightingale primary school. Baden Powell has a wonderful staff and a very nice big playground for all ages / all classes (nightingale don't have this) and Baden Powell is a small school so it's perfect for children if they feel not well in a big school with a lot of children in a small place. My children feel very well in Baden Powell so they are very sad since they know about this problem. I don't want you to play with my children's future. So please stop this merge and leave Baden Powell as a small wonderful primary School. |
| Why is it not possible for all teachers from Baden Powell to move to Nightingale if all the children can be moved? It will be difficult for the children to move, it will be easier for teachers to move if there is that much space at Nightingale |
| Parent commented that she wanted a small school for her children, not a school in which there are two year groups in one class. With the way Baden Powell is currently, teachers can look after students, it is more intimate |
| The teaching at this school is of excellent quality, it must be matched if we are going to be put through this change. The provisions and measures need to be matched. Parent demands teachers from this school are present in Nightingale if they want parents to go through/support this merger |
| We do not want the lovely little school to be closed, this is a lovely school with lovely staff and teaching system. |
| Theme: Parental choice |
| If parents do not want to send their child to Nightingale school will they be given the option of other primary schools? |
| Why can it not be done as secondary schools do, and leave the children currently there without taking new admissions? |
| What can parents do to stop this from happening? Parents have had the option to comment on changes in the area in the past. E.g. a majority of parents were against boxes being put in the road and they were still put there This does not feel like an open discussion |
| Walks 30 mins from ** house for ** children to attend Baden Powell. There is another school close to ** house, but Baden Powell is a small school, it is very good for ** children and this is why she brings ** children here. Does not want to send ** children to a big school like Nightingale |
| Theme: Mental health (due to transition) |
| This will be happening for a child, this is a big change- the effects will be massive for children- they will not cope. What is the plan to make sure her children will be okay? |

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| Randal Cremer |
| Known or likely question |
| Theme: Rationale |
| Why are De Beauvoir and Randal Cremer only considered as closures? |
| What are you going to do to attract more families to live in the borough, to avoid schools being closed or merged? |
| How will this announcement affect RC enrollment? Are you sealing our fate with the announcement? |
| The school is based in an area surrounded with buildings and homes and majority of those homes with children come to Randal Cremer. |
| Is this a move to acquire prime land for Real Estate purposes? |
| Why doesn't Randal Cremer have the option of merging, as opposed to closing down, especially as it has fantastic facilities and is easily accessible via public transport? (multiple requests) |
| Why can we not merge the other school that may be closing with Randall Cramer? Randall Cramer is situated in a safe place with very low traffic. It also has an adventure park close to it where children attend after school. This helps working parents as children can attend for free helping with child care. |
| Why didn't Hackney Council merge De Beauvoir Primary and Randal Cremer primary school together on the Randal Cremer site as a big school. There should be an option of that rather than closure, Randal Cremer primary school is very good with Autistic kids. When other schools refused my ** they took me in immediately. |
| The timeline for making a decision is too late. December is too long for the children, families and staff to be in limbo. And I don't think it gives much time to find school places to start in Sept 2024 |
| We want our kids to get a good education and carry on with their peers but economical reasons must be considered as well. After enough research and discussions, I am sure our borough will do the best to not waste our funds and future. |
| Why have you proposed to amalgamate Colvestone and Princess May, Baden Powell and Nightingale but not Randal Cremer and De Beauvoir? |
| The position of the school, away from the main road and without almost any traffic outside of school opening and closing hours, means that the school can organise events where they can close off and use Pearson's Street as an extension of celebrations, where they can invite parents to games, events and stage performances for the community. |
| Our school is situated next to Apples and Pears where the children can go for free after school and can be walked across the road by teachers and staff enabling our Parents to continue to work and earn money for their family. |
| Hackney Council can use our school as a Flagship School for them to send children that are struggling with places in Hackney. If the parents wish to have places for example at Hoxton Gardens but they are fully subscribed, they can be referred to and accepted at our school. |

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| It is worth noting that Randal Cremer Primary School is open for breakfast club for children from 7.30 even 7.15 if parents need to drop children off earlier |
| We will need to work closely with Unions, at what point can I speak to them? |
| Parent applied for child to go to secondary school outside of Hackney, but not given a choice. Can they not bring children in from other schools? Is there enough space in other local Hackney schools for the children affected by the closure? Can we be provided with the facts and figures that show us that this has been thought of and there is enough space? |
| At what point can I tell staff and the community? Although I appreciate that Hackney have said they will support with meetings in the first instance I would like to do the meetings and then arrange for Hackney to come in to take follow up questions? |
| How do we keep the focus on school improvement? |
| How do we manage speculation and reports in press? Will there be consistent messaging around the closure that make it clear it is not about the quality of education or safeguarding? |
| Which other schools are affected? I would like to set up a support group for Heads facing the same challenges. |
| The factor that affect the low school capacity is that a lot of family moving out of the borough. There are not enough Social Housing within the borough. What are you going to do to attract more family to live in the borough to avoid the school been closed or merged. |
| At what percentage has the amount of pupils decreased at Randal Cremer Primary School? I find it absurd and that cannot be true, the school is based in an area surrounded with buildings and homes and majority of those homes with children come to Randal Cremer. I won't stand by this nor accept this decision. I will be looking forward to the agreement and decision making from the council. Randal Cremer has been around for years |
| Theme: No assurance of closure prevention in the future |
| Is closing a school going to solve the problem, as you said this is only the start. If we move the children, there's no guarantee that it won't happen again. Same with high school. |
| Has the decision been made/ will the closure happen? |
| There is no guarantee that the upheaval of this planned school closure won't mean that the children will have this repeated at another school, at a later date or cannot return to their Primary School. |
| Theme: Where would the children move |
| Are there enough spaces in other local Hackney schools for the children affected by the closure? Can we be provided with the facts and figures that show us that this has been thought of and there is enough space? |
| Which school are you planning to send all the kids at the school because all our local school have no vacancies? |
| What are your plans for siblings at the school? |
| If the school closes will we be guaranteed a place in our chosen school which is local to our home? |

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| I am based somewhere else in**, however, my child attends Randal Creamer due to my **being the secondary caregiver who picks and drops my child to school. I would need to have my child attend a school situated near my **. Would the catchment area still play a part? |
| How can you ensure that our kids will have a place in their local schools? |
| A child stated when he found out the school was shutting said “But now I don’t belong anywhere!” |
| children will still have to travel a distance to go to another school. That justification isn’t viable |
| How will you accommodate families with more than one child? Will the children go to the same school? |
| If I move my child to another school, will we potentially face another closure in two years? If we could go to other schools across Hackney you cannot assure us that we will not go through a closure process again. |
| Will the larger class size affect education? |
| Why is RC still taking children? We moved to the area in November, we applied here after a really difficult time and my child loves it here. I would rather RC have not taken her rather than risk disrupting her again. |
| Will we compete with all other families applying in September? Will there be a priority list? RC is the only school that accepted my child based on catchment, my mother lives locally and supports childcare. My child's education is going to be uprooted. How will we be supported? |
| What if parents start removing children now rather than wait until July 2024? How will children be managed – will they be allocated schools based on their location or will parents have a choice? Will parents/ caregivers be guided/ supported by Hackney Education through the difficult process of their children moving to another school? |
| Theme: Children with SEND |
| What are your plans for SEN kids? What support and care are you going to give them to settle in another school? |
| A lot of these schools were not SEND ready or able to offer placements for many kids with SEND needs, but all of a sudden they are supposed to be ready for all these SEND children that they could not support in the beginning. |
| Alot of these other schools were not or equipped to take on children with SEND needs but now you want to place then in these schools we're Randal Cremer was doing what the inheritance schools could not do? |
| What will you do for the kids with SEND? Stress impacts on parents and kids. |
| I have a child with SEND, RC was the only school that accepted my child. ** will not understand that the school is closing. Other local schools did not accept my child. |
| Member of staff at RC, parent of former pupil, and a former pupil.****, I know that there are problems with schools that are outstanding but don’t accept challenging children. Please consider challenging children |

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| as they will find it hard |
| What happens to children with SEND – both those with EHC plans and those where we are gathering evidence for an EHC assessment application? |
| Will children with learning difficulties have the same support or extra support put in place for them not to be affected ? |
| Theme: Staff |
| Please can you guarantee that all staff will be offered new placements in a school for work no matter the age |
| Family recently moved and our daughter settled quickly due to the staff. I want staff to hear how grateful I am. If RC closes, Hackney will lose somewhere very special. |
| What are the reasons that RC should be kept open? Right now it sounds like it's closing. There are many reasons why school should stay open. There are positives like the adventure playground. It's free, the staff are amazing and work with the school. |
| RC is not just a school, we are a family. Headteacher has supported lots of families. The school is a family. No good reason to break apart. |
| Disruption to children, parents and staff working with children. It is traumatic for children. Echoing parent question of where will we go? |
| What about staff who are unable to secure a job? Similarly, what happens if staff elect to leave before July 2024 – we could end up having to staff with agency staff as a short term solution? |
| Will there be support for staff in writing application forms and conducting interviews? |
| How are decisions made and why? What's gonna happen to all the students Teachers and staff? All parents are unhappy and worried about their kids' education. |
| Theme: Provisions |
| Our Early Years provision has been noted to be good to outstanding with a new, exciting Early Years playground for the children to play in. The Early Years staff are two of our Middle Leaders team who are fabulous at their jobs and run a very caring and nurturing Nursery and Reception. |
| What about resources, eg. Computers, laptops, IWB, furniture, brand new £37k climbing frame? |
| Theme: Financial arrangements |
| Do I proceed with a restructure for this financial year as with current pupil numbers it is not possible to set a balanced budget under the existing staffing structure? |
| What about SLAs and other contracts – many of which run April to March and have a penalty clause if finished early – eg. SIMS |
| Will the school receive additional HR support and will this need to be taken from our budget? |

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| Has additional money been allocated to ensure i)the support needed to manage the situation, ii) the continued delivery of high quality education and iii)a smooth transition? |
| Theme: Site Usage |
| What will happen to the school site? |
| Following site question and response: It seems like the decision has been made. |
| In front of RC, there is the adventure playground children can go to afterschool if parents need to collect their children late. Has the council looked at playgrounds close to school or looked into closing schools that don't have a playground? |
| Multiple comments raising concerns that flats could be built on the RC site in the future. Will you make a commitment to not build flats on the site? What about the adventure playground? |
| As residents, we have seen reduction of social housing. Why isn't more social housing being built? |
| New buildings are not given to people like us. View that flats would be built. |
| If the school closes, it won't continue as a school so will it be demolished and flats built? |
| If not because of an underhand move to acquire prime land for Real Estate purposes; I don't see why the option of merging, as opposed to closing down; Is not afforded to Randal Cremer School. Especially as it has fantastic facilities and is easily accessible via public transport. |
| Theme: Mental health |
| How will you support the staff and the children, especially older children? I mean in terms of emotion, regardless of whether it will happen. What are you doing now to support children? The school needs support from Council. Worry boxes at the school are full. |
| You say "we're going to" but this should be happening at this stage; if the closure does happen that will be too late to start working with parents on placing children. My child is in year **, ** has anxiety about where ** will be / belong and whether ** friends will come with **. The emotional impact is important. |
| Closure is not a solution. Impact on my child needing to resettle after a year. |
| Theme: Priority list / Admission arrangement |
| What about children due to start Reception in September 2023? What happens if parents change their mind once it is announced? |
| What about children in our Nursery and any on the waiting list? |

De Beauvoir Primary School

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| De Beauvoir |
| Known or likely question |
| Theme: Rationale |
| Why is Hackney focused on community schools rather than faith schools? |
| Why are De Beauvoir and Randal Cremer only considered as closures? |
| I do not think De Beauvoir should be closed. In my humble opinion Hackney Education are neglectful of educational provision on this side of the borough in comparison to that in South and Central Hackney. |
| Given the setting of the building and the existence of four different entries, could part of it be repurposed for other uses (i.e. letting it for companies) until the numbers grow, while the first floor remains for the use of the school? |
| Are the other schools better than Randal Cremer and have enough funds to take good care of my kids? |
| This seems like it has already been finalised, like the school is going to be closed, that whilst this is an informal talk, it will be going to Cabinet. You won't look at keeping school open or amalgamation, you have made your final decision which makes parents feel disgruntled. If you are closing De Beauvoir, are our children going on the waiting list or being prioritised? If your business is closing and you have to move to another school, you are guaranteed a place and likewise we want to know our child is going to be prioritised at the new school of their choice. There are children with SEND who will get further with their EHCPs. Children who have social, emotional needs also need to be taken into consideration - where there is a unit and family circle it is being crushed by this situation [round of applause from other parents]. |
| What about the children without those needs? |
| Why is the school closing when Hackney New School doesn't have adequate play space for play and they use local parks for break time? Why did Hackney agree to them using local parks for this? |
| How is the quality of what is happening captured? There is complexity around children with complex needs and in terms of scrutinising the closures which is about numbers and viability, is it quantifiable and how is this captured? What process is there for parents to engage in around metrics and how will the closure process be captured to enhance the next provision to ensure the minimum is lost, for example experienced staff and teachers? Unfortunately the process is missing impartiality. |
| What will happen for practising muslims as most local schools are Christian schools and why is it that non religious schools are in scope and religious ones are not? There isn't another school within walking distance that isn't religious. |
| What is the position of church schools, is it not the LA's decision to close? |
| Have other options been considered for De Beauvoir? Has an amalgamation with another school been considered? If not, why not |

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| Is it local or central government policy in terms of dispersal policies that house families out of the borough? Can local government impact this? |
| How is this fed back in terms of the impact on schools in Hackney? |
| There is not this huge deficit in other boroughs - Lewisham is a school short. |
| Are there any restructuring plans for De Beauvoir for the year 2023-2024? |
| What consideration was given to the wellbeing of families and staff within a timeline which is a long time to wait for things to happen? |
| Are any other federation schools at risk of closure? |
| As the number of children and income of De Beauvoir was likely to drop once HE's proposals were made public, some dedicated financial or teaching support was needed for the remaining children. |
| Are all the schools identified schools like De Beauvoir with high levels of disadvantage? Are they all schools from communities who are less likely to have a voice? If this is the case what will the council do to ensure those families are listened to and supported? |
| The current estates strategy has an equalities impact assessment which relates to the repurposing of schools for SEND provision. The assessment does not look at school closures. Can we see the equalities impact assessment for the closure of the identified schools? |
| What is the plan to reassure families that their children will be looked after. |
| What are the practicalities once the decision is made public. Staffing? Leadership? Pupil mobility? The sustainability of school where pupils are fleeing to find a place at another school? |
| How will you assure Governors that robust processes are in place to manage this complex situation. So far, we have been invited to a meeting in which very little concrete detail has been provided. We have received no further concrete information and have no date for a follow up meeting or next steps. Apart from a vague date in May when a decision will be made, we have no clear next steps. |
| When will Hackney Education have a permanent senior team? |
| why do you need to close school were my kids have been there from nursery |
| We've got 4 different entries in our building, which give opportunity for others (companies that you can lend hire for sometimes in the future) until we get to have more numbers pupil's in the future, so we can remain on the first floor as we are at the moment...or we've got apex building next to main building, is there any opportunity we can move there until we get to have more children) can you please consider other options |
| Theme: Lack of Information |
| HES needed to provide much better and more detailed information at future meetings, including reports in advance, as it was difficult to have a proper discussion without this. Some governors felt unable to comment properly at this stage without that information. |
| HE needed to provide detailed information on how the closure would be managed if it went ahead, |

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| <p>what support it would provide, and how messaging to parents and the community would be done. Is Hackney doing anything to manage that data? The concern is that in managing the situation for current children, in future it might need to be reversed.</p> |
| <p>More information was needed about HE's criteria for closing schools.</p> |
| <p>The current estates strategy does not include the criteria for school closure. When and how were these developed</p> |
| <p>When will we get further detail, why isn't HES talking directly with Governors about opportunities or options?</p> |
| <p>Theme: Merging</p> |
| <p>Why can we not merge the other school that is closest to De Beauvoir?</p> |
| <p>If another school near our one is closing and going to be out together with Princess May, what if parents don't want the kids to go there? Why can't they come to our school so ours wouldn't close?</p> |
| <p>Why isn't De Beauvoir being put forward for closure and not put forward as potential merge with another school at the De Beauvoir site, as it has the space.</p> |
| <p>Has De Beauvoir been considered for merging (potentially with Princess May)?</p> |
| <p>Why was it rejected to merge with another school?</p> |
| <p>For many families, De Beauvoir is an important part of their community and for many a safe, secure space where they can share issues and problems. How will they be supported to fully integrate into a new school community?</p> |
| <p>Theme: Staff</p> |
| <p>What will happen to the staff?</p> |
| <p>What funding is there to support the process of closure? How will the wellbeing of staff be managed?</p> |
| <p>How are education professionals being engaged in making these decisions?</p> |
| <p>The staff have been excellent, teaching and learning role models and their professionalism and their high regard and care for the children have never faltered. They were exceptional during lockdown and the opportunities they provide in terms of trips and workshops are fantastic. The staff go above and beyond to ensure that their children get the very best and I feel sad to know that others may not get the same high standard of education and care.</p> |
| <p>What about the impact on the school community and individual pupils and staff, as there is movement already in terms of parents making decisions?</p> |
| <p>Theme: Priority list / Admission arrangements</p> |
| <p>If closure is decided, do my children get priority to get into other schools? What if the option my child wants is full, does she have to go to a school she doesn't like?</p> |
| <p>If we have already applied for other schools and are on the waiting list, what should we do?</p> |

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| To contextualise this, are you recommending that parents who are offered a place now wait until that point or accept places offered to them? |
| If De Beauvoir closes, its children should be offered places at other federation schools. |
| How will parents of Rec age pupils due to start in Sept 23 be supported when the decision to close the school is made public in May? |
| Can the admissions policies for voluntary aided schools in the federation be rewritten to give preference to children from De Beauvoir? What about the admissions processes for other schools? |
| De Beauvoir pupils should have fair access to all schools in Hackney, including those that were very popular (and full) |
| Do existing admission arrangements allow priority to be given to children from De Beauvoir? |
| Can admissions arrangements be changed? Can admission policies be changed to give priority to children transferring from De Beauvoir? |
| It felt unfair to allow a reception class to join in September 2023, as HE intended. |
| Will the children who are currently awaiting places in specialist provision be prioritised over children at other schools? |
| Theme: Additional costs |
| Most people in this school are in temporary house, social housing and can not afford to take kids to new schools with buses including myself I have ** kids and need to keep them together |
| How will parents be supported to buy new uniforms? |
| If the school is costing money, could the school not use half of the school and half of the school be used for generating income - e.g. transform part of the school into a special provision? |
| Theme: Children's stress |
| How do you propose to commit to the adequate education required for children in year 6. There will be much anxiety for this year group as they prepare for year 7. The added stress of school closures need to be adequately supported for both the child, the school and parents. |
| My children have moved numerous times within Hackney and have struggled with the transition. I would rather not move them, I would prefer to home school them. What is being done to increase the numbers, to promote and market the school? What is being done to support parents with the process of how to bring their children to the school? |
| When this school is closed, my ** will be in year **. ** does not have an EHCP plan. I want to know what support my ** is going to receive. ** is already crying about leaving ** friends, and ** will go somewhere for one year and then have to go on to secondary school. My mum and husband went to this school. Support received here for SEN is amazing. I want to know why this school is being closed down. I don't know how my **is going to cope with this. What support will my ** receive to cope with losing friends, SATs, going to a new school and the social and mental impact? What about all the children that are leaving ahead of September 2024? In the end there will be no children left in the school if they are all leaving. |

Theme: Special needs provisions

De Beauvoir has been excellent over the years with regard to nurturing my special needs children, ** of whom have either passed through the school or are still there. The headteacher and previous SENCOs have bent over backwards and gone out of their way to make referrals to the relevant services and to chase up any progress.

Have we considered working with Hackney education to prioritise the placement of children with ASD into specialist schools or ARP schools instead of moving them to another mainstream school if the De Beauvoir does close?

Will additional specialist schools be built in Hackney as these facilities are full to capacity while you are considering closing De Beauvoir due to low admissions ?

A parent of a child with an EHCP wants ** child to stay at school and doesn't know what is going to happen, so this school is the most suitable. Other suitable schools are full. They want to stay here until the end. What is going to happen in September?

You said a few times that SEN children would get priority in other schools, but the process currently is very long winded, everywhere is full to capacity, when would parents get concrete guarantees of closure? For working parents, they cannot have children on the waiting list. Do children need to go to another school in the interim? My *** is quite comfortable in this school and won't get this anywhere else. This child has been waiting for specialist provision since nursery. ** has an EHCP and autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis.

For children with severe needs placed in other schools, what happens to those schools if they cannot meet the need of those joining? Won't they feel a strain and pressure having this influx, with more educational health care plans (EHCPs), more support and more outreach teams?

The school has a large number of children eligible for the pupil premium grant and a large number of children with SEN, both of which gave them considerable disadvantages. The closure of the school would create even more disadvantage and this needed to be dealt with very carefully and sensitively by HES.

Currently there are ** children who the school has said during EHCP / annual review processes that it cannot meet needs for those who are still on roll. Will they be expected to transition to another mainstream school and continue to await a specialist place when they are there?

Transition for a high proportion of children with SEN / other social needs will take up a considerable amount of leadership time, which is currently 1.6 of a person. Also, some children will find the emotional element of transition challenging and it may need a higher degree of leadership support to manage this. What support will be provided to add to leadership capacity and enable this?

Theme: No correlation between free places in schools and lack of nursery places

There is already a serious lack of nursery provision and places in Dalston and De Beauvoir especially for special needs children it is even worse. Also the lack of nursery places simply does not correlate with the vast number of spare places in De Beauvoir in various year groups.

My ** is due to start ** at De Beauvoir in September 2023, this was after ** was rejected for multiple other 2-3 years nursery places in Hackney due to ** being a special needs child. The way that the nursery and reception classes are in together in De Beauvoir appealed to me as it meant she would not have the stress of transitioning to a whole new class until year one. Now that looks unlikely to happen and after nursery she will be forced to transition to another setting which is likely to be a greater distance

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| away from home and that may not be as suitable for her special needs |
| What will happen with the nursery at De Beauvoir? |
| What will happen to the nursery? |
| We would need to get all parents in Hackney involved to get free schools closed, then we could take it to the LA who could take it to the government. If it wasn't for this school my child would not want to go to school. It's those schools that are killing the community schools. Free schools do not invite parental communication directly with the head teacher, they cut you out. In order for this to change we need to get together with other schools. I would suggest a meeting for all parents to come to a consensus about free schools. |
| Theme: Lack of promotion of De Beauvoir as a good school for new children |
| Hackney Education has done nothing to promote De Beauvoir to prospective parents in recent years, despite it being rated by OFSTED as good with outstanding features. |
| Theme: Site usage |
| What is planned for the De Beauvoir site? The Estates Strategy says to mothball a primary school site can cost in the region of £250,000-300,000 per annum. What is planned for the De B building to ensure this money is spent in a better way? |
| Theme: Unfair competition from Hackney New Primary School |
| To me it feels like parents of potential students have instead been encouraged to send their children to other neighbouring schools, including Hackney New Primary school which should never have been approved due to its unsafe location on a busy road. Many parents of children there, who I spoke to on social media a while back felt like Hackney promoted Hackney New School as their only option even though they were in the catchment for De Beauvoir too. Some would have preferred to send their children to De Beauvoir. |
| My preference is for my child to attend this school. ** doesn't want to go to another school but ** is being forced to go to another school. Why are you not suggesting that she should wait and see? You don't care about children in Hackney. You close schools and profit out of them. This school has been around for many years. I have lived in Hackney for 40 years. This should be a landmark school. I don't care about the numbers dropping. The numbers could change. You can't tell us that there won't be more children in ten years. You just want us to move out of Hackney. We don't care about your numbers. Our children have friends in Hackney. Noone knows what is going to happen. Where is our reassurance? I don't want my child put back because she can't get into a school in September. What about the education of our children? We are here because of the education of our children |
| My child starts ** next year, so I had to choose my school for ** in January. Why were we not given this information before the deadline for deciding our school applications? I now have to find a place for ** as an additional admission when my second and third choice schools have now filled their places. In addition to which you have created a competition for any remaining places at local schools amongst all parents who chose a closing school. |
| Theme: Where will the children go? |
| Should the school close down, children should be given automatic places in the school of their choice, waiting list or not. |

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| What help will parents of children at closing schools be given in finding a place at another school in time for academic year 2024-5? |
| Theme: Over/under subscription |
| Children want to come to De Beauvoir. Queensbridge has too many children so why can't those children come here? What about free schools? Other schools are oversubscribed. There are so many different ways to do this. |
| How does the red line trajectory incorporate the covid baby boom in terms of future numbers of children? |
| I chose De Beauvoir because I wanted a small school that would meet my children's individual needs. I am so happy to bring my children to this school every single day. I know they are looked after, and the teachers are personable. I don't want to move again. We have been to *** and *** which were overwhelmed and my children's needs were missed. I don't want to worry about putting them in another school like that again. How are we supposed to get into a full school when we have a school here? |
| Schools get a budget on pupil roll and if De Beauvoir continues to lose students up until July 2023, in terms of the impact on staff, will there be really low numbers of children in a class due to those leaving? |
| If all (or most) of the De B displaced by closure go to a single school, how will that school be supported to manage the influx of high levels of need? |

Nightingale Primary School

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| Nightingale |
| Known or likely question |
| Theme: Staff |
| Is there going to be an additional teaching assistant as the number of the students in the class will increase? |
| Will all staff including cleaners and mod day supervisors receive training in SEN especially if the school is to expand? |
| How will this affect the leadership team at Nightingale? Will the newly merged school be run by the current Nightingale head mistress and governors? |
| Will there be a new headteacher or will there be 2? |
| How will the teaching time be allocated? Will there be enough time for teachers to do 1 to 1 to support children? |
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| Theme: Ethos of the school |
| Can the name of the merged school change? |
| Is the merger going to affect uniforms too? |

Will you be turning the Nightingale into an Academy if merge is to be passed.

Finally will the bigger merged school be getting more staff i.e teachers, wellbeing officers to help the children transition into this big change and not impact learning/outcomes for children.

Theme: School organisation post-merger

Nightingale is due to receive funding for an ARP. How will staff impact the space in the school along with a potential 2 form entry? Is there room? Will there be crowding? Is Nightingale built to have 2 forms per year?

How many children will there be per form entry?

Would my daughter's class year remain the same or would she be separated from her peers into the new class with new children and staff?

Nightingale currently has one form per year. What was the decision at the time to not go ahead with two-form year groups when there was space?

I understand that they don't have enough students at the Baden school, that's why they will close/merge with our school.

Will children be separated from their friends in order to have two classes each year?

When were the predictions for falling class sizes first made? Brexit was a while ago; was closure/merger not considered earlier?

I'm a ** mum and chose this school due to one form entry.

Why weren't prospective Nightingale and Baden Powell parents informed when they applied for reception places?

When you apply for schools there is a deadline, we didn't see the enrollment figures when we applied.

Why don't you outgrow the schools/classes over time and start transitioning pupils in reception?

BP stats have been shared but what is the impact [of falling enrollment] on Nightingale?

Parent chose Nightingale because of its size and community. Timeline: What processes and systems will be put in place to support us through to the merger? It feels out of our hands due to the financial reasons you have set out. What additional measures will be in place to manage the long term processes and staff merger?

There will be no more all school play, use of space at Nightingale will change.

Govt funding is a big issue.

What stops it going ahead?

The financial situation seems like the proposal has to go ahead.

Theme: Children with SEND

What percentage of children at Nightingale school have an EHCP and how many are SEN support?

With SEN in mind, how do you predict the merger will impact on those children whose parents initially chose a small 1 form entry for their child in light of the child's needs?

SEND: this school is purpose built for children with SEND. What is the current percentage of children with EHC plan and SEND support at Nightingale? And how might that number rise with merger? How would the transition be managed for children with SEND?
 Is there enough teaching support now at Nightingale, and will there be if the school gets bigger?
 Scared about impact on children who might or currently fall through the net. Concerned about the exclusion of Black children in particular.

Moved child to Nightingale from BP due to lack of structure, child was “lost in the group” and has SEND. What support will be provided to support children’s anxieties? How will my child’s needs be met in class of 30?

Are staff from Baden Powell going to be trained so that we don’t experience previous issues here?

Theme: Use of the Baden Powell site

Is there a plan for the empty school sites? Could alternative provision be looked at to create provision for children who are currently unable to attend school, particularly autistic children with EBSA?

What would happen to the Baden Powell site in the event of a merger. Would it be demolished and used for other purposes and if so what (housing, park etc) or could it still be used as part of the new merged entity?

What will happen with old school sites? Hackney needs more specialist needs?

Theme: Concerns of children's transition to NG

Parents shared their child's experience of moving to Nightingale from Baden Powell. Resistant to merger because of reasons for moving their child to Nightingale. Concerned about how the merger and impact on children would be managed. E.g. behaviour and interaction of children. Concerned merger could be traumatic for children who moved from BP.

What extra help will school be given to support with the transition? What is the impact if the merger does not take place?

Any change, good or bad, can have a negative impact; what are your predictions?

Also raised concern about “ghost children” and EBSA pupils.

My child has been with the children in her class since nursery. Will they stay together?
 For that class to be halved, it would be traumatic.

Princess May Primary School

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| Princess May |
| Known or likely question |
| Theme: Quality of learning |
| I do not feel comfortable with the two schools to be merged as I am afraid the quality of learning offered might be decreased if too many pupils are in one classroom. |

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| Theme: Needing more details |
| How large will the classes be in terms of pupil numbers? |
| Princess May is a very big and good school. Why is it very important to fill the number of the pupils in the school after the school has a very big number of pupils there. Is it better to have 25 pupils in the class than 20? How will the lessons be with more pupils? |
| You mentioned princess may is highly ranked in London, where can I find further information on this ranking, criteria etc? |
| Theme: Merge |
| When will the merge be likely to finish? |
| and will the current princess may staff including head stay or change? |
| When would the merge be happening and how will it affect the children moving forward? |
| Theme: Staff |
| How will this impact current staff at both schools? |
| Theme: Site usage |
| What will happen to Colvestone school building, sold / used for other purposes? |

General queries (multiple / all schools)

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| Multiple schools |
| Known or likely question |
| Theme: Impact on other schools |
| Will secondary schools be affected later on? |
| As pupil numbers in Hackney are going to continue to decrease, what are the chances that schools that get merged now, might have to go through this again in the coming years? |
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| Theme: Use of the sites if schools close |
| If it is decided to close one or more schools, what will Hackney Council do with the building? Will Hackney Council use the property for social housing and not sell the buildings/s to the property developer who bids the most? |
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| Theme: Lack of alternative maintained schools |
| The closure of Colvestone and De Beauvoir would mean that there would be no non-faith, one-form local authority schools within a mile of the Colverstone building, leaving the area dominated by religious schools, free schools and academies. |
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| Multiple schools |
| Known or likely question |
| Theme: Impact on other schools |
| Will secondary schools be affected later on? |
| As pupil numbers in Hackney are going to continue to decrease, what are the chances that schools that get merged now, might have to go through this again in the coming years? |
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| Theme: |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 05/04/2023 16:12:17 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Y do you need to close school we're my kids been there deom nursery |
| 05/04/2023 16:14:01 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | My question is if other school near our one is closing and going to be out together with prenses May what if parents doesn't want the kids to go their why can't they come to our school so ours wouldn't close , most people in this school is in temporary house, social housing and can not afford to take kids to new schools with buses including myself I have 3 kids and need to keep them together |
| 05/04/2023 16:15:51 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | how do you propose to commit to the adequate education required for children in year 6. There will be much anxiety for this year group as they prepare for year 7. The added stress of school closures need to be adequately supported for both the child, the school and parents. |
| 05/04/2023 18:14:18 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | I do not think De Beauvoir should be closed. In my humble opinion Hackney Education are neglectful of educational provision on this side of the borough in comparison to that in South and Central Hackney. There is already a serious lack of nursery provision and places in Dalstion and De Beauvoir especially for special needs children it is even worse. Also the lack of nursery places simply does not correlate with the vast number of spare places in De Beauvoir in various year groups. Hackney education have done nothing to promote De Beauvoir to prospective parents in recent years, despite it being rated by OFSTED as good with outstanding features. To me it feels like parents of potential students have instead been encouraged to send their children to other neighbouring schools, including Hackney New Primary school which should never have been approved due to its unsafe location on a busy road. Many parents of children there, who I spoke to on social media a while back felt like Hackney promoted Hackney New School as their only option even though they were in the catchment for De Beauvoir too. Some would have preferred to send their children to De Beauvoir. De Beauvoir have been excellent over the years with regard to nurturing my special needs children, four of whom have either passed through the school or are still there. The headteacher and previous SENCOs have bent over backwards and gone out of their way to make referrals to the relevant services and to chase up any progress. My *** is due to start *** at De Beauvoir in September 2023, this was after she was rejected for multiple other *** places in Hackney due to her being a special needs child. The way that the nursery and reception classes are in together in De Beauvoir appealed to me as it meant she would not have the stress of transitioning to a whole new class until year one. Now that looks unlikely to happen and after nursery she will be forced to transition to another setting which is likely to be a greater distance away from home and that may not be as suitable for her special needs |
| 07/04/2023 11:18:01 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School, Princess May Primary School | On my behalf | When will they close down the school? |
| 07/04/2023 11:25:04 | Staff member - at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | We've got 4 different entries in our building, which give's opportunity for others (companies that you can lend & hire for sometimes in the future) until we get to have more numbers pupil's in the future, so we can remain on the first floor as we are at the moment...or we've got apex building next to main building, is there any opportunity we can move there until we get to have more children) can you please consider other options if you can but not closure of De Beauvoir Primary school PLEASE ..? Thank you. |
| 08/04/2023 11:06:13 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | We are very sad to hear about the possible closure of De Beauvoir Primary School. My children have had access to the very best education and care. It is such a shame that the school, which provides such an important source of education, care, advice and support for the local community, could close. Staff have been excellent teaching and learning role models and their professionalism and their high regard and care for the children have never faltered. They were exceptional during lockdown and the opportunities they provide in terms of trips and workshops are fantastic. The staff go above and beyond to ensure that their children get the very best and I feel sad to know that others may not get the same high standard of education and care. The school building itself has generous sized classrooms and a good-sized outdoor area. This combined with the excellent leadership and management of the school would be a significant loss to the current and future children of De Beauvoir. |
| 13/04/2023 15:17:50 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | As a parent of a child SECO need | Will you be changing the name of the Nighthingale primary . (2) Will u be turning the Nighthingale into an Academy if merge where to be passed. Finally will bigger merged school be getting more staff i.e teachers, wellbeing officer to help the children transition into this big change and not impact learning/outcomes for children. |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| 14/04/2023 12:01:03 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School | On my behalf | I don't want that Baden Powell primary School merge with nightingale primary school. Baden Powell has a wonderful staff and a very nice big playground for all ages / all classes (nightingale don't have this) and Baden Powell is a small school so it's perfect for children they feel not well in a big school with a lot of children in a small place. My children feel very well in Badenpowell so they are very sad since they know about this problem. I don't want you to play with my children's future. So pls stop this merge and leave Baden Powell as a small wonderful primary School. Education means not new buildings with a lot of children in there, for me it's much much better in small school so everyone knows everyone and the TEACHERS HAVE MORE TIME FOR THE CHILDREN and they know the children's so they can help more like Baden Powell. |
| 14/04/2023 14:20:37 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | The factor that affect the low school capacity is that a lot of family moving out of the borough. There are not enough Social Housing within the borough. What are you going to do to attract more family to live in the borough to avoid the school been closed or merged. |
| 14/04/2023 14:30:47 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Alot of these other schools were not or equipped to take on children with SEND needs but now you want to place then in these schools we're Randal Cremer was doing what the inheritance schools could not do? |
| 14/04/2023 14:56:46 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | How are decision made and why . What's gona happen all students Teachers and staff. All parents unhappy and worried for kids education.. |
| 14/04/2023 19:14:39 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | At what percentage has the amount of pupils decreased at Randal Cremer Primary School? I find it absurd and that cannot be true, the school is based in an area surrounded with buildings and homes and majority of those homes with children come to Randal Cremer. I won't stand by this nor accept this decision. I will be looking forward to the agreement and decision making from the council. Randal Cremer has been around for years, myself, now 24, has always attended Randal Cremer. It should not shut! Me and family do not want my brother who's attending Randal Cremer, to go through such saddening changes. |
| 14/04/2023 20:23:30 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | If not because of an underhand move to acquire prime land for Real Estate purposes; I don't see why the option of merging, as opposed to closing down; is not afforded to Randal Cremer School. Especially as it has fantastic facilities and is easily accessible via public transport. |
| 15/04/2023 08:15:40 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | It was really a sad one at moment especially for the children... my question is can govt still consider Randal cr mer to stay??? |
| 15/04/2023 11:09:27 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School | On my behalf | My child would be in year* if you were to merge , Would we have to buy a whole new set of uniform just for one year ? Will children with learning difficulties have the same support or extra support put in place for them not to be affected ? |
| 15/04/2023 11:45:42 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Is there enough spaces in other local Hackney schools for the children affected by the closure? Can we be provided with the facts and figures that show us that this has been thought of and there is enough space? |
| 15/04/2023 21:07:50 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | 1)Is this going to effect on uniform too? 2)what about staff ? Is there going to be additional teaching assistant as the number if the students in the class will increase? |
| 15/04/2023 21:08:28 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School, Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | What measures are been put in place for pupils with Special needs to make sure that this changes has no effect on their education, what will happen to the staffs at Baden Powell school, will the two schools be given a new name, how will the receiving school accept the students, how will they be made to feel welcome, how will you ensure that they are not going to be bullied and made to feel like an outsider, will the uniform be changed, will there be any support to purchase the uniform if changed, will the pupils size in this merge schools not be too much, what will happen to the Baden Powell School site, |
| 17/04/2023 07:27:30 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Many children will miss their school and impact their education . |
| 17/04/2023 13:14:09 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Why isn't De Beauvoir being put forward for closure and not put forward as potential merge with another school at the De Beauvoir site, as it has the space. |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| 17/04/2023 19:00:05 | Hackney resident | | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | Is there a plan to for the empty school sites? Could alternative provision be looked at to create provision for children who are currently unable to attend school, particularly autistic children with EBSA? What percentage of children at Nightingale school have an EHCP and how many are SEN Support? With SEN in mind, how do you predict the merger will impact on those children whose parents initially chose a small 1 form entry for their child in light of the child's needs? Nightingale is due to receive funding for an ARP. How will staff impact on the space in the school along with a potential 2 form entry? Is there room? Will there be crowding? Is Nightingale built to have 2 forms per year? Will all staff including cleaners and mod day supervisors receive training in SEN especially if the school is to expand? |
| 17/04/2023 19:02:19 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | What are you plan for SEN kids? Which school are you planning to send all the kids at the school because all our local school have no vacancies? What are your plans for siblings at the school? It took my ** good 2 years to settle at the school and still have difficulties sometimes got SEN What support and care are you going to give to settle in a another school? I can't take my ** to a school where I have to travel by bus because it will be to much overwhelming for my ** and car with all the road closure and parking and expenses I can't afford that, I need a walking distance school for my ** not to much walking as they get tired easily and refuses to walk at times how are you going to help me with this situation? To start all over again at a new school it's going to be very hard for them at Randall cremer school they know what to do with them how to handle them how can you reassure me that another school would be able give them the same care? I have ** children at the same school and one more starting in September can you reassure me that I would get place in a school of my choice for all my children? **** |
| 17/04/2023 19:02:59 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School, Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | Hi could you elaborate on what would happen to the Baden Powell site in the event of a merger. Would it be demolished and used for other purposes and if so what (housing, park etc) or could it still be used as part of the new merged entity? |
| 17/04/2023 19:04:02 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School, Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | Hi will the newly merged school be run by the current Nightingale head mistress and governors? |
| 17/04/2023 19:11:55 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | How will this affect the leadership team at Nightingale. Will *** continue as head mistress? How will the senior leadership team be impacted? How many children were there be per form entry? |
| 17/04/2023 20:30:51 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | Unfortunately I can't make the meeting tomorrow(18.4.2023) but I have concerns about the merge. My *** attends Nightingale primary school and he is now in reception. I understand that they don't have enough students at the Baden school, thats why they will close/ merge with our school. Which means to enable to have double class in each year our children will be seperated from there friends they have been together since nursery, how will this effect them? Im concernd this will no doubt effect all children even so the sensative ones and special needs children. This in effect will reflect in their development in their studies and mentally, what support will be provided by school/ Hackney council in such case? Will there be a new headteacher or will there be 2? Will the uniform remain the same? Will the children have limited playtime, food at lunchtime or snacks. Hoe w will the,m teaching time be allocated? will there be enough time for teachers to do 1 to 1 to support children? How safe will the outings be? I look forward to receiving some sort of miutes from the meeting for parents that can't attend. Kind regards ***** |
| 17/04/2023 22:07:10 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Me and my child really shocked, shocked and shocked ya |
| 18/04/2023 09:50:23 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | I have * children one of whom is SEN. If the school closes will we be guaranteed a place in our chosen school which is local to our home. Alternatively why can't our school merge with De Beauvoir that way our SEN children will be settled, as it has taken them a long time to settle in to this school. |
| 18/04/2023 15:57:35 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | Would my daughter class year will remain same or would she will be separated from her peers into the new class with new children and staffs? If yes then could you please explain how this will not affect her emotional and mental health well being. |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| 19/04/2023 11:27:37 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School, Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | <p>1. Do you not feel this is disruptive to children at Baden Powell, Baden Powell is a small school with 1 class per year to move the pupils to such a large school would be extremely unsettling for the students - has this been taken into consideration?</p> <p>2. I sent my child to Baden Powell due to it being a small school my child has additional needs - How are you going to settle these children</p> <p>3. If parents do not want to send their child to Nightingale school will they be given the option of other primary schools? (do you not feel there is a reason parents have not sent their children to Nightingale considering it is so close to Baden Powell)</p> <p>4. Why can it not be considered that children starting from September are put into Nightingale and Baden Powell admission list closed or could consideration not be taken that those children currently in reception and nursery start there 1st curriculum year in Nightingale</p> <p>5. Why can it not be done as secondary schools do, and leave the children currently there without taking new admissions</p> |
| 19/04/2023 14:40:50 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | Parent | <p>How do you accommodate the transition from one school to the next (do we have someone to help with applications)?</p> <p>Do the children from the schools who are closing down, entitled to their first choice of alternative school (a priority list), due to being uprooted from their education?</p> <p>I am based somewhere else in **, however, my child attends Randal Cremer due to my ** being the secondary care giver who picks and drops my child to school. I would need to have my child attend a school situated near my mother. Would catchment area still play a part?</p> |
| 19/04/2023 18:24:05 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | On my behalf | <p>I am unhappy about this closure. The colvestone community has been through a turbulent time due to the actions of Hackney - and yet again the pupils are being uprooted. The school is in one of the best places it has been. Blossom federation has turned things around for the school and I am sure given time numbers will increase.</p> <p>How are FREE schools allowed to continue to run but state maintained are not? Choice of schools will be massively impacted for local parents - the choice will be free schools or religious schools. Hackney has investigated a significant amount of money into colvestone - federating/defederation/restructure/building works and now this</p> <p>Merging with Princess May is not a viable option for many parents that picked a small one from school for their SEND children. It seems completely unfair given the turmoil these children and families have already been faced with. I would like Hackney to reconsider this proposal.</p> |
| 19/04/2023 18:35:23 | Hackney resident | | Baden Powell Primary School, Colvestone Primary School, De Beauvoir Primary School, Nightingale Primary School, Princess May Primary School, Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | <p>I find the statement that pupil numbers are decreasing at the said schools interesting, when in fact, Hackney's population has increased.</p> <p>If it is decided to close one or more schools, what will Hackney Council do with the building? Will Hackney Council use the property for social housing and not sell the buildings/s to property developer who bids the most?</p> |
| 19/04/2023 19:03:28 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School | On my behalf | <p>My question to the authorities is that they only take into account the money spent on school, do they harm our children mentally and physically, so how does it happen? If you were your own child, would you have behaved the same way? As a mother, I am against this. The school is closed</p> |
| 19/04/2023 20:13:43 | Staff member - at one of the 6 schools in scope | Baden Powell Primary School | Baden Powell Primary School, Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | <p>As pupil numbers in Hackney are going to continue to decrease, what are the chances that schools that get merged now, might have to go through this again in the coming years?</p> |
| 19/04/2023 20:56:25 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Nightingale Primary School | Nightingale Primary School | On my behalf | <p>How will you cater towards kids and their education with less staff</p> |
| 19/04/2023 21:03:47 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | On my behalf | <p>What is going to be done for children with SEN for transition as adaptation issues and for those one that doesn't like crowded environment? As it looks like the children numbers will be done is the teacher and TA going to be enough for children with Special Education? What if we have breakdowns tantrums and what if my child doesn't want to go to school because of adaptation issues?</p> |
| 20/04/2023 09:45:13 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | <p>Please we want our school to keep forever</p> |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 20/04/2023 14:40:24 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Have we considered working with Hackney education to prioritise the placement of children with ASD into specialist schools or ARP schools instead of moving them to another mainstream school if the De Beauvoir does close? Will additional specialist schools be built in Hackney as these facilities are full to capacity while you are considering closing De Beauvoir due to low admissions ? |
| 20/04/2023 16:26:45 | Parent / carer - for a child at one of the 6 schools in scope | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | If Randal Cramer is closed, Hackney is going to lose something very special. Are you able, in your heart, to say that you have done/will do everything possible to avoid this awful loss? |
| 20/04/2023 20:46:19 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Should the school close down, children should be given automatic places in the school of their choice, waiting list or not. |
| 20/04/2023 20:50:14 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | My child starts reception next year, so I had to choose my school for them in January. Why were we not given this information before the deadline for deciding our school applications? I now have to find a place for them as an additional admission when my second and third choice schools have now filled their places. In addition to which you have created a competition for any remaining places at local schools amongst all parents who chose a closing school. |
| 20/04/2023 20:52:00 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | What help will parents of children at closing schools be given in finding a place at another school in time for academic year 2024-5? |
| 20/04/2023 21:38:14 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | You should realise that people are not as stupid as you think but is part of British culture, punch me in the face and I'd say "Sorry". Change is good but not this change, in order to make Hackney "Great" you have to push out the poor class and bring in investors to build fancy flats nobody can afford like Camden and Wembley. This why Hackney council is doing absolutely nothing to help crowded families and not you'll scatter their kids like they're mean nothing, because you take your kids to private schools you don't care how others will adapt to change. You can even make decisions without taking a vote. I wonder if you were in France, you'd be running. So, my question is: Are the other schools better than Randal Cremer and have enough funds to take good care of my kids? Or, I may just relocate. Thinking Switzerland or Sweden. |
| 21/04/2023 09:11:41 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Why didn't Hackney council merge De Beauvoir primary and Randal Cremer primary school together on Randal Cremer site as a big school. There should be an option of that than closure, Randal Cremer primary school is very good with Autism kids which I have a kid there, when other schools refuse my kids they took me in immediately. On Randal Cremer primary school site we stay. No locking it down please |
| 21/04/2023 09:25:59 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | I'm a parent of * children all of my kids attended Randal Cremer, currently I have * in Yr * remaining in the school who are working extremely hard with the help of the amazing staff. * my siblings also attended the school in the 1990s both of them graduated from Cambridge University who are lawyers and barristers serving the community today due to the foundation of early lives at Randal Cremer was well established, this is the reason I've I choose Randal Cremer for my kids too. My elder daughter one of my * is at university at the moment studying medicine who suffered from panic attacks while at Randal Cremer yet she was supported and overcame her fears and is doing so well in her university life. So when making a decision on closing this school please take these factors into consideration. Thank you. |
| 21/04/2023 11:36:19 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | How definite is the closure of the school? This is very disruptive to the children's learning. Also breaking social bonds with their peers. Ridiculous and unheard of and shameful. |
| 22/04/2023 01:41:48 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | First off all I would like to say thank you. Next I would like to keep our school. I don't know how but sure. Something will be good . |
| 22/04/2023 20:04:59 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | I do not want the council to close Randal Cremer primary school. |
| 26/04/2023 09:50:30 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary School | De Beauvoir Primary School | On my behalf | Please don't close De Beauvoir primary school! it is the best school. |
| 26/04/2023 15:02:43 | Hackney resident | | Princess May Primary School | On my behalf | I wanted to bring my child to nursery |
| 26/04/2023 16:55:50 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | The timeline for making a decision is too late. December is too long for the children, families and staff to be in limbo. And I don't think it gives much time to find school places to start in Sept 2024 |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 27/04/2023 14:12:03 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | We want to keep school Randal cremer primary school |
| 27/04/2023 14:28:31 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Why have you proposed to amalgamate Colvestone and Princess May, Baden Powell and Nightingale but not Randal Cremer and De Beauvoir? |
| 27/04/2023 14:43:07 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Do not close Randal Creamer Primary School, it is an amazing school and the staff and headteacher are so delicate and professional with the children. My daughter is doing amazing and was looking forward to send my other daughter there in a couple years time. Please do not close it. |
| 27/04/2023 15:07:37 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Please can you guarantee that all staff will be offered new placements in a school for work no matter the age |
| 27/04/2023 15:11:30 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | How can you ensure that our kids will have place on their local schools? Working parents cannot afford kids staying home because of lack of space. |
| 27/04/2023 15:11:35 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Alot of these schools were not SEND ready or able to offer placements for many Kids with SEND needs but all of a sudden they are supposed to be ready for all these SEND children that they could not support in the beginning |
| 27/04/2023 15:49:28 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to the | <p>Date: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 at 20:30 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council. I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering local children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Local resident near Colvestone Primary School</p> |
| 27/04/2023 17:21:11 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | We want our kids to get good education and carry on with their peers but economical reasons must be consider as well. After enough research and discussions, I am sure our borough will do the best to not waste our funds and future. |
| 27/04/2023 20:15:09 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | I would not like the school to close on the 2 of May. |
| 27/04/2023 23:48:48 | Parent / carer - for a child at another Hackney schoc | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Why is the school closing? |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 28/04/2023 11:20:47 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to the | <p>Date: Tue, 25 Apr 2023 at 13:48 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School- THE SEN perspective To: Director of Education</p> <p>I hope you are well.</p> <p>Thank you for attending the meeting at Colvestone on Monday, and thank you for giving me your email address so I could write.</p> <p>I wished to write and further express to you what this school means for my * in particular.</p> <p>* is pure joy and sunshine.</p> <p>* owns any room * walks in.</p> <p>* is creative and unique.</p> <p>The greatest superpower is that despite being autistic, * has and is able to show great empathy and a strong ability to express and discuss * emotions.</p> <p>Despite all the struggles * has had to face due to * neurodiversity, * remains self-confident in all aspects of * life.</p> <p>The biggest challenge * is facing is school and access to education, which is due to the fact * struggles with visual and auditory stimuli processing by * environment and has learning difficulties.</p> <p>Attending a school even like Colvestone that is a one form entry is already a hard mission for *.</p> <p>* first year at reception (Sep 2020) was pretty much a write off, as * needed time to climatise and adapt to the new environment.</p> <p>Despite the fact that * then teachers took things really slow with *, found the demands of school extremely challenging and cried every morning when I was dropping * off.</p> <p>At the end of the reception year we could see that academically * was more than a year behind his peers, so we decided to have him repeat reception. This decision was taken in the August before the school year started and the school supported us fully in our decision to keep * back. There was no argument or discussion, they just listened to what * needed and what * parents advocated for * and gave * that.</p> <p>I have no words for how grateful we are that * needs were respected in such an immediate and supportive way.</p> <p>Reception the second time round (Sep 2021) was hard again, * cried a lot at drop offs, but gradually became more accustomed to the school environment.</p> <p>* writing improved and * started writing * name and being able to copy letters.</p> <p>* recognition of letters was much slower, and by the end of the second year at reception * still had not mastered the letters or numbers, however * seemed more comfortable with the school setting and started to make friends.</p> <p>Forming friendships is one of the things we always worried about, so to see * play with other children, request their company and to be included was a wonderful development.</p> <p>When we started year one in (Sep 2022) * was almost fully adapted to the school environment and would only have the occasional cry in the mornings.</p> |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 28/04/2023 11:39:15 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to the | <p>Date: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 at 20:30 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council. I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering local children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Local resident near Colvestone Primary School</p> |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 28/04/2023 11:51:14 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | Submitted via email to the | <p>Date: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 at 22:17 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child feels safe, happy and secure at Colvestone. We have been part of the school community for over 8 years. My children have attended the school. Moving my child to another school will be extremely traumatic and disruptive.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school that has offered my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>My *** with ADHD and ODD went to 5 schools in Hackney, including outstanding schools. *** was facing being out of mainstream education and Colveston showed *** love, acceptance and support which totally changed things around and *** is now at a mainstream secondary. The fact that Colveston accommodates for so many children with additional needs and keeps them in mainstream schools saves Hackney a lot of money. My younger ***, like so many other children, is on a 2-3 year wait list for a diagnosis with CAMHS and therefore is not part of the SEN stats we were discussing at the meeting today which were already higher than other schools in the area.</p> <p>I believe the education department are cherry picking the figures to suit their agenda and are not looking at the bigger picture or the cost of cleaning up the mess that will be left by traumatising the SEN children who will have their fragile world torn apart, including providing for many children who will be left outside of the school system.</p> <p>Our children have been through so much from being scared that they will die due to a terrifying virus, mask wearing whereby they can't read people's facial expressions and emotions accurately, being locked down in their homes without socialising with their peers or teacher's, too returning to school and loosing their TA's and headteachers and now just as things were beginning to become "normal" again the council are taking away their normality. This is horrendous for children's social and emotional well-being.</p> <p>Putting Colvestone up for closure has sabotaged our chance to bring up numbers, who will send their kids now? The council's policies that have reduced affordable housing for families has had a direct result on these dwindling numbers. Proposing to spend millions to make Colveston Crescent into a 21st century Show road while closing the school is a ludicrous proposal that shows how inverse the council's priorities are in this.</p> <p>Please support us and oppose these short sighted proposals that will have detrimental effects on the most vulnerable young people in our community.</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |
| 28/04/2023 11:54:32 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary School | Randal Cremer Primary School | On my behalf | Why are you closing the school it's one of the best school |

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| 28/04/2023 11:57:19 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 at 12:44 Subject: Opposition to Colvestone Primary school proposal to merge To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I do not accept that Princess May proposal as a suitable alternative and i am concerned about the future of the building as a community asset.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of *** at Colvestone Primary School, I know my children feels safe, happy and secure at Colvestone. We have been part of the school community for over 7 years. Moving my child to another school will be upsetting, difficult and disruptive.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary</p> |
| 28/04/2023 12:01:04 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary Scl | Princess May Primary Scl | On my behalf | Princess may school is the best |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 28/04/2023 12:09:15 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Sun, 23 Apr 2023 at 15:35 Subject: Colvestone Primary School (Dalston Hackney) - Consultation to close the school - Disagreement letter to the proposal To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Mr Senior,</p> <p>We are writing to express our disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Dalston (Hackney) by Hackney Council.</p> <p>We believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>We live on *** and have been part of the Dalston community for a long time, we love our diverse community. We have chosen Colvestone Primary school for our *** who is *** and autistic because it provides a required quick journey access, a safe and happy environment (that a small school offers) and a wonderful SEN support (**has a experienced SEN one to one). These are the 3 fundamental poles for *** to access education. It has taken time and great effort for *** to be happy and settled in *** school (3 years now) and changing school at this stage will have an incredible difficult impact on *** and it will be very hard for *** to access education, and this will also have an enormous impact on *** mental health.</p> <p>We are very disheartened by this proposal and in the worst case scenario that this is going ahead, in total honesty, this will have a tremendous effect on *** education and subsequently on our life. When *** was in year 1, after a week at school (Sept. 22) *** refused to go to school and leave the house, it took us 7 months to bridge *** back to school and as you can imagine, it was a real isolated work for us as *** didn't want to go out anymore but with great effort, determination and tedious work we thankfully managed for *** to be happy going out and then managed to bridge her back to school, with the School Senco we worked very hard collaboratively to get *** back and *** did for the end of year one. Now, we have complete faith in the school SEN support which as you may have heard from other families is not a given, *** has an EHCP and now a level 5 in fundings which goes towards *** SEN and *** needs to be cared by someone all the time.</p> <p>But even thought, we have all in place on paper, the tremendous work we have had to do with the school in order to secure *** support has been a real effort, as well as working hard to make sure that *** is happy attending Colvestone and for the duration of Primary to year 6.</p> <p>To be honest I can't believe we have to write this and the idea of this plan going ahead is very difficult for us and we are trying not to think about it!</p> <p>We know our child feels safe and happy at Colvestone. We have been part of the school wonderful community for 3 years. Moving our child to another school will be strongly difficult and disruptive in our child's education and have consequences on her achieving long term education goals.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my child an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment, which we strongly believe in. We strongly hope that our wonderful Colvestone Primary School can stay open and all is done to support our school and for our *** to keep accessing education.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |
| 28/04/2023 12:16:32 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary School | Princess May Primary School | On my behalf | I do not feel comfortable with the two schools to be merged as I am afraid the quality of learning offered might be decreased if too many pupils are in one classroom. |

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| 28/04/2023 12:25:08 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary Sch | Princess May Primary Sch | On my behalf | Not agree |
| 28/04/2023 12:28:09 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary Sch | Princess May Primary Sch | On my behalf | When would the merge be happening and how will it affect the children moving forward |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 28/04/2023 12:30:03 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Sun, 23 Apr 2023 at 18:30 Subject: Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child feels happy at Colvestone and is thriving academically. We have been part of the school community for over four years. Moving my child to another school will be upsetting and distributive to her especially given that it took us almost three years for her to settle in and stop crying at drop off every single day.</p> <p>Only days before we were given the news of your plans, you tweeted your commitment to SEND provision in the Borough. Here is your chance to prove that commitment to the SEND children at Colvestone who would find this move particularily distressing.</p> <p>Personally, I'm particulary concerned about the move to Princess May and the children being exposed to further harmful pollution. I think it's quite frankly laughable that you love call yourselves a 'greener' Borough with a 'vision of 'low traffic neighbourhoods' and and yet you clearly see no issue with our children being moved right next to the A10 with constant traffic over the fence at break times. In case you've forgotten this 'vision' please, see below link:</p> <p>https://news.hackney.gov.uk/low-traffic-hackney-at-heart-of-vision-for-greener-healthier-borough/</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my child an oppotunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment. It is very narrow minded to think that closure is the only way forward here and we will fight you every step of the way!! We will not allow you the opportunity to shaft our children and families in order for to make money from the sale of the school site to the highest developer bid to create more multi-million pound 'luxury apartments' that nobody in the community can afford.</p> <p>This is absolutely disgusting behaviour from a Labour Council!!!!</p> <p>I look forward to your response on the above arguments.</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 28/04/2023 12:41:51 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Mon, 24 Apr 2023 at 10:28 Subject: Disagreement to recent proposal - Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering the community’s children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Resident of Colvestone Crescent.</p> |
| 28/04/2023 13:28:53 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary Sch | Princess May Primary Sch | Mum | <p>Princessmay is very big and good school. Why it is very importon to full the number of the pupils in the school after the school has very big number of pupils there. Is it more worthy when they are 25 pupils in the class then 20? The lessons will be more less than there more pupils in the class ? Thank you</p> |
| 28/04/2023 13:42:32 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>On Wed, 19 Apr 2023 at 12:46, To: Director of Education</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child feels happy at Colvestone. We have been part of the school community for over just two terms, but already we already feel a real part of the school. Which is a testament to the nurturing culture of the school. As I am sure you understand settling a child into a school is a stressful process both for the child and the family. The school made such an effort with our child, who found the whole transition to school particularly difficult and moving *** to another school will be extremely upsetting.</p> <p>Like every parent we thought very carefully when choosing our school. We chose Colvestone because of its unique close-knit community spirit and also because we felt that it reflected the wonderful diversity of Hackney. This diversity was something that we worried was not reflected in some of the more subscribed schools in the borough. It is very important to us that diverse and inclusive schools such as Colvestone should be protected as a valuable asset for the education of Hackney's children.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Signed</p> <p>Parents at Colvestone Primary School</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 13:45:37 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to the | <p>Date: Thu, 20 Apr 2023 at 14:13 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As neighbour of Colvestone Primary School since 1980, I know children feel happy at the school. The new leadership team has made a positive impact on the school and I have also noticed the improvements to the facilities and the redecoration work carried out.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> |
| 28/04/2023 13:47:11 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Fri, 21 Apr 2023 at 15:58 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Local Resident</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 13:50:20 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Fri, 21 Apr 2023 at 16:11 Subject: Closure of Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council.</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and neighbours in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>With best wishes,</p> |
| 28/04/2023 14:10:58 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Fri, 21 Apr 2023 at 15:27 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents, and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a former parent/carer of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child felt secure at Colvestone as it was close to home and continues to be part of the school community over 20 years later. I know that children to another school will be upsetting and disruptive.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Please do not close this lovely school.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>Former parent at Colvestone Primary School and current resident of Colvestone Crescent.</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:30:51 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Thu, 20 Apr 2023 at 12:53 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Director of Education,</p> <p>I hope this finds you well. I'm writing to express my objection to the recent proposals to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney. Aside from the damage this would do to the children of the school, it would destroy a close-knit community of pupils, parents and carers that have Colvestone Primary School at the heart of their community.</p> <p>As a parent I explicitly chose to send my child to Colvestone because it is a small, academically-strong, single form intake, non-religious, non-academy/free community school run by the local authority in Dalston. To close it would be to remove that parental choice, whilst simultaneously destroying a socially-minded community school that has been in the heart of Dalston for 161 years (the school was one of the original Birkbeck schools and opened in 1862). The 'pre-informal' consultation period has been rather brief and, contrary to statutory best practice (p.29, Statutory Guidance for Opening and Closing Maintained Schools, Jan 2023), imposed over a school holiday rather than during term time, I have attempted to draw together the reasons for my objection to this proposal below. I also note that the message received by parents in the school as well as parents applying to the school have made it sound like the decision is already taken, further aggravating intake for the following year.</p> <p>I appreciate the Council's difficult position regarding falling enrolment, but I also note the Council's assurance that this pre-informal consultation is in good faith and that these arguments (and those of fellow parents, teachers, management, the local community etc.) will be integral and weight-bearing in the decision-making process.</p> <p>I do not believe that history or contemporary research supports the idea of a one-size-fits-all ideal model for education – indeed the Council itself consistently emphasizes parental choice. On a more personal level, as a parent and an educator (university professor) I have seen the positive difference a small, close-knit and diverse community school has on the quality of education for our child and expressly chose that they would go to a single-intake non-faith community school to experience the advantage of being a member of a school and local community rather than to become one of a larger year-group in a larger school. I am aware that the smaller scale of the school and its directly-related capacity to foster such a community across year groups has particular advantage for its SEND pupils, of which (at 17.6%) Colvestone has a particularly high proportion compared to other local schools. Similarly Colvestone's percentage of 7% of students with an EHCP is well above the borough average (7% vs. 4.4%). This is in addition to the positive advantages for the school cohort in general of a small school size. I see this on a daily basis as our child establishes friendship groups across school years and through their development of a particularly strong attachment to the school itself – a sense of pride and investment fostered (rather than disciplinarily-imposed) because he sees himself as an integral part of the wider school community. Closing the school would have a dire impact both on the pupil (and parent) community in general, and specifically on the unusually high proportion of vulnerable children that form an integral part of the Colvestone student body.</p> <p>I am aware as a parent that the school has been in consultation with the Council over its structure in recent years and the new leadership team and partnership with the Blossom Foundation, agreed as I understand with the Council, has injected real impetus to the school – an impetus that has been supported by the improvements and repairs to facilities supported by the Council and finished in recent months. It is my understanding that these arrangements have also made the school more financially secure, running a budget surplus, and assured for the forthcoming academic year. In light of all this hard work recently completed, it seems bizarre that that school finds itself at risk of this consultation- one launched, it might be added, at a particularly damaging time in the reception offer/acceptance schedule (the May Council meeting occurring after the acceptance deadline).</p> <p>The consultation suggests a merger with Princess May School. In addition to being a two-form intake school Princess May sits directly on the A10 main road that runs through Dalston. According to Council pollution data (hackney.gov.uk/air-quality) the Princess May site has concentration levels of NO2 (nitrous oxide) at an astonishing 40% higher level than the Colvestone site. With LTNs this disparity will at least remain the same if not rise. Princess May's position on the A10 was an explicit reason why we did not apply to the school. It is unclear how (indeed why)</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:33:57 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>On Wed, 19 Apr 2023 at 15:02, **** wrote: Director of Education</p> <p>I am attaching my letter (in PDF, also in-line text below) of opposition to the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>Dear Director of Education,</p> <p>I hope this finds you well. I'm writing to express my objection to the recent proposals to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney. Aside from the damage this would do to the children of the school, it would destroy a close-knit community of pupils, parents and carers that have Colvestone Primary School at the heart of their community.</p> <p>As a parent I explicitly chose to send my child to Colvestone because it is a small, academically-strong, single form intake, non-religious, non-academy/free community school run by the local authority in Dalston. To close it would be to remove that parental choice, whilst simultaneously destroying a socially-minded community school that has been in the heart of Dalston for 161 years (the school was one of the original Birkbeck schools and opened in 1862). Though the 'pre-informal' consultation period has been rather brief and, contrary to statutory best practice (p.29, Statutory Guidance for Opening and Closing Maintained Schools, Jan 2023), imposed over a school holiday rather than during term time, I have attempted to draw together the reasons for my objection to this proposal below. I appreciate the Council's difficult position regarding falling enrolment, but I also note the Council's assurance that this pre-informal consultation is in good faith and that these arguments (and those of fellow parents, teachers, management, the local community etc.) will be integral and weight-bearing in the decision-making process.</p> <p>I do not believe that history or contemporary research supports the idea of a one-size-fits-all ideal model for education – indeed the Council itself consistently emphasizes parental choice. On a more personal level, as a parent and an educator (university lecturer) I have seen the positive difference a small, close-knit and diverse community school has on the quality of education for our child and expressly chose that they would go to a single-intake non-faith community school to experience the advantage of being a member of a school and local community rather than to become one of a larger year-group in a larger school. I am aware that the smaller scale of the school and its directly-related capacity to foster such a community across year groups has particular advantage for its SEND pupils, of which (at 17.6%) Colvestone has a particularly high proportion compared to other local schools. Similarly Colvestone's percentage of 7% of students with an EHCP is well above the borough average (7% vs. 4.4%). This is in addition to the positive advantages for the school cohort in general of a small school size. I see this on a daily basis as our child establishes friendship groups across school years and through their development of a particularly strong attachment to the school itself – a sense of pride and investment fostered (rather than disciplinarily-imposed) because he sees himself as an integral part of the wider school community. Closing the school would have a dire impact both on the pupil (and parent) community in general, and specifically on the unusually high proportion of vulnerable children that form an integral part of the Colvestone student body.</p> <p>I am aware as a parent that the school has been in consultation with the Council over its structure in recent years and the new leadership team and partnership with the Blossom Foundation, agreed as I understand with the Council, has injected real impetus to the school – an impetus that has been supported by the improvements and repairs to facilities supported by the Council and finished in recent months. It is my understanding that these arrangements have also made the school more financially secure, running a budget surplus, and assured for the forthcoming academic year. In light of all this hard work recently completed, it seems bizarre that that school finds itself at risk of this consultation- one launched, it might be added, at a particularly damaging time in the reception offer/acceptance schedule (the May Council meeting occurring after the acceptance deadline).</p> <p>The consultation suggests a merger with Princess May School. In addition to being a two-form intake school Princess May sits directly on the A10 main road that runs through Dalston. According to Council pollution data (hackney.gov.uk/air-quality) the Princess May site has concentration levels of NO2 (nitrous oxide) at an astonishing 40% higher level than the Colvestone site. With LTNs this disparity will at least remain the same if not rise. Princess May's position on the A10 was an explicit reason why we did not apply to the school. It is unclear how (indeed why) Hackney Council could encourage students to transfer to this site given the known detrimental conditions the site proposes to their health, or how this would not open them to challenge on the basis of duty of care. Colvestone Crescent is currently a 'school street' which is in effect a no-through street with limited traffic on all sides, protected</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:42:12 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Tue, 18 Apr 2023 at 13:49 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should - I believe - remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school - run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of two children at Colvestone Primary School, I know my children feel safe, very happy, secure and stimulated at Colvestone - it is a wonderful environment for them to grow and learn in. We have been part of the school community since 2020. Being forced to move my children to another school will be upsetting, difficult, disruptive and harmful to them, and us.</p> <p>The school you propose merging Colvestone with - Princess May, next to the A10 - has almost 50% higher air pollution than Colvestone (according to Hackney Council's own figures), a more dangerous environment for children.</p> <p>Additionally, 17% of Colvestone' total pupils receive some form of SEN support, this proposed closure will be particularly harmful and cruel to those children and their parents and carers.</p> <p>Significantly, too, built in 1852, Colvestone is a Grade 2 listed building. It was one of six Birkbeck Schools founded by businessman and educational philosopher and philanthropist William Ellis. The schools were named for George Birkbeck, founder of Birkbeck, University of London, and pioneer in adult education. Colvestone is the last remaining Birkbeck School. Closing it as a school would mean shutting the last surviving example of an important 19th century radical education movement. This would be a significant educational and historical loss - not just to Dalston and Hackney - but the whole country.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made an incredibly positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment, please do not close it.</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:46:33 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Tue, 18 Apr 2023 at 14:16 Subject: PROPOSED MERGER OF COLVESTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PRINCESS MAY To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear All</p> <p>I am writing to strongly urge you to either reconsider your intended proposals re consultation on the merger of the above two schools, or help us rally against them, depending on your role. I have tried to include a variety of important stakeholders in the contact list of this email and I look forward to reading all of your responses.</p> <p>I am writing to you both as a parent of a child currently at Colvestone Primary School (as well as of one we were planning to send there), and as a resident of Colvestone Crescent itself, a strong and vibrant community street.</p> <p>As a parent I strongly object on many grounds, not least because Colvestone and Princess May are two completely opposing schools in style. Princess May didn't even feature anywhere on our list when making choices. It is on a main road, with much higher levels of pollution.. It has a completely different feel to it, in style and size. It does not have the community feel that is so present at Colvestone. We would need to cross a main road. I could go on. Needless to say if you go ahead with this merger I will be seeking to send my child to a different school. We have absolutely zero interest in her attending Princess May now, in the same way as we had zero interest in it when we were first making choices.</p> <p>Colvestone primary school is an integral part of the Colvestone Community. Parents old and new talk to each other. I remember before even sending my child there how we were invited to the fete as residents. Because of the size of the school and because of being very active on the FSA I know most of the children by name. The families all say hi to each other on the way to and from school. The lollipop ladies know everyone. This is so special and so completely different to my own experiences of going to school. Just because numbers are low for a few years, you need to keep the bigger picture in sight and hold on to this gem for the future.</p> <p>Which brings me to the future: ONS data shows very strongly that in just a few years 4 or 500 more spaces will be needed in reception again in Hackney. Why close schools for a few years if we are to need them again in the future? What about the Dalston plan and the new flats planned - won't those families need a primary school?</p> <p>As residents of Colvestone do we want a boarded up school in an area where drug use and antisocial behaviour are once again rife? Absolutely not! and what about the plans for the 21st century street?</p> <p>As a Labour council, why on earth would you want to be associated with this very Conservative led direction for London. Help keep families in Dalston rather than take even more steps to kick them out.</p> <p>A further note of objection: this year our *** year 3 was merged with year 4 due to low numbers. When this decision was being made, Annie Gammon (Director of education at the time) sat in the school and 100% reassured us that Colvestone was under no threat of closure. How do you explain this reverse in ideology less than a year later. Smacks of a change of director of education wanting to put their stamp on things... Also how on earth can you justify the investment that has been put into renovating the school's interior and upgrading its IT system (around £200,000 I believe) if you are to close the school a year later...</p> <p>I could go on but you can probably tell already how passionately we care about keeping the primary school that we cherish, open, and about giving the new partnership leadership team an actual proper go at reversing its fortunes.</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:50:07 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Tue, 18 Apr 2023 at 13:49 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Hackney Council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should - I believe - remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school - run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent *** at Colvestone Primary School, I know my children feel safe, very happy, secure and stimulated at Colvestone - it is a wonderful environment for them to grow and learn in. We have been part of the school community since 2020. Being forced to move my children to another school will be upsetting, difficult, disruptive and harmful to them, and us.</p> <p>The school you propose merging Colvestone with - Princess May, next to the A10 - has almost 50% higher air pollution than Colvestone (according to Hackney Council's own figures), a more dangerous environment for children.</p> <p>Additionally, 17% of Colvestone' total pupils receive some form of SEN support, this proposed closure will be particularly harmful and cruel to those children and their parents and carers.</p> <p>Significantly, too, built in 1852, Colvestone is a Grade 2 listed building. It was one of six Birkbeck Schools founded by businessman and educational philosopher and philanthropist William Ellis. The schools were named for George Birkbeck, founder of Birkbeck, University of London, and pioneer in adult education. Colvestone is the last remaining Birkbeck School. Closing it as a school would mean shutting the last surviving example of an important 19th century radical education movement. This would be a significant educational and historical loss - not just to Dalston and Hackney - but the whole country.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made an incredibly positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment, please do not close it.</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 14:54:45 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Mon, 17 Apr 2023, 21:26 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone Primary School To: Director of Education</p> <p>Dear Mr Senior,</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>*** has been at Colvestone Primary School for 3 years and has benefitted hugely from the small single form entry setup of the school.</p> <p>*** sometimes struggles with social situations and 'joining in' with organised clubs and activities and the small size of the classes, closeness of the teachers and supportive community around the school have been a massive benefit to her development. I feel that in a larger school with larger classes and larger demands on teaching staff she may not have received the attention needed to encourage her development. This is why I feel Colvestone is such a unique and vital option for parents looking for a school in the Borough of Hackney.</p> <p>Also, as one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority. I believe merging the children from Colvestone Primary into a larger, arguably less suitable school, would be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area.</p> <p>As a parent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child feels safe, happy and secure at Colvestone. We have been part of the school community for 3 years and moving my child to another school will be difficult, disruptive and possibly damaging to her development.</p> <p>The school has already suffered the loss of a much-loved Head teacher and although the teaching team at Colvestone Primary proved to be exemplary when dealing with the challenges of home schooling during COVID, this was also a very disruptive time. To now propose the closure of the school will undoubtedly be devastating for both the children and the teachers.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school. I fully believe the Blossom Federation will make Colvestone Primary School a stand-out and much desired School within the Borough.</p> <p>The location of Colvestone Primary School also contributes positively to the character and exuberance of the surrounding area. The school has a positive relationship with Ridley Road Market and I feel that if the closed School ended up being sold to a private developer, the lack of children arriving and leaving school every day would leave a gaping hole in the exciting, bustling community surrounding the market.</p> <p>Finally, Colvestone is a unique primary school offering my child an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Parent at Colvestone Primary School</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 15:00:25 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | submitted via email to Dir | <p>On Mon, 17 Apr 2023, 13:48 S To the addressed: Director of Education</p> <p>I am writing to express my dismay regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area.</p> <p>When I was applying for a reception place for ***, our nearest school was Holy Trinity, but this was never an option I was able to consider owing to the religious focus of the school. Colvestone was our next closest school and I was delighted to have the opportunity to send my son there. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority.</p> <p>As a parent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know my child feels safe, happy and secure at Colvestone. We have been part of the school community for over 5 years, and I am at a loss to understand how Hackney can seriously consider moving children from Colvestone to Princess May, whose playground is right next to the A10.</p> <p>The Council's own air quality monitoring system shows Princess May had 40 percent higher levels of Nitrogen Oxide (NO2) in 2021 than Colvestone. Adding more students to a school closer to the A10 with higher pollution levels is a backwards step in the effort to reduce children's exposure to air pollution, and I'm really upset and disappointed to see it even considered.</p> <p>As a Dalston resident, I am also aware of the proposals in the Dalston Development Plan to build c600 new homes on the site of the current Sainsbury's car park. Colvestone would be the closest school for any children living in this development. Colvestone is a unique primary school offering children like mine an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, and community-focussed environment.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding received from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and renewed energy at the school.</p> <p>I look forward to discussing these points, amongst others, with you at the public meeting on the 24th April 2023.</p> |
| 28/04/2023 15:03:14 | Parent / carer - for a child | Princess May Primary School | Princess May Primary School | On my behalf | <p>My ** is a special needs child with Autism. If Princess May is to merge with another school, I suspect there will be more children in the class along with more children with additional needs. I worry about the pressure being put on teachers which, as a result, can impact my child's education.</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 15:10:03 | Governor - at one of the 6 Colvestone Primary Scho | 6 Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Sun, 23 Apr 2023 at 11:29 Subject: Colvestone community questions To: <school.sufficiency@hackney.gov.uk></p> <p>Hi, These are the questions (attached) that have been amalgamated from the Colvestone community. In addition we have one question added:</p> <p>Are the proposal for consultation and consultation processes intended to inform your decision about whether to close these schools? In other words, have you already decided to close these schools or is there an opportunity for schools to be removed from the list? If schools can be removed from the list, what would you need to hear from parents/staff that would persuade you to do that?</p> <p>The governors (chair) was not copied into the email regarding communication so these have been collated in a PDF. In addition the information about the engagement event in the same email came in the school holidays and the chair was not copied in. During the holidays the engagement session has been shared with the wider community and there may be attendees at the event who are not parents/carers. We have asked the parents that priority be given to the questions of parents/carers.</p> <p>Questions for Hackney Education/Hackney Council from</p> <p>Colvestone Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the deadline for sending Paul Senior's team information for their report to the cabinet about school closures? ● Will the individual votes of cabinet members on 22 May be made public? ● Why are religious schools or free schools not being considered for closure? What conversations is Hackney having with religious schools that have low enrollment? ● How does the council reconcile the closure of two non-denominational schools, leaving only three religious schools and Princess May in the vicinity of the new development with its consultation showing 83 percent of people prefer Hackney schools to be non-denominational? ● How does the council justify sending more children to a school with higher levels of air pollution? ● What plans does the council have for decreasing air pollution at Princess May? ● What impact would closing Colvestone have on the plans for the first 21st Century Street? ● Given the plans for a significant development near Colvestone, what impact will closing the closest school and one of the few non-religious options in the area have on your ability to sell these flats to families? ● What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to amalgamate with Princess May? ● What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to close? ● Why is Colvestone being considered for amalgamation rather than closure? ● What would happen to the Colvestone building if the school is closed? ● What assurances can Hackney council give the community about what will not happen to the building? ● What assurances can you offer parents who go to Princess May that that school will not close within the next five to six years? ● To what extent has Hackney council considered the large proportion of SEN students at Colvestone and the potential impact of closure on them in making a decision about whether to close the school? ● How will staff be deployed - will this be another restructure? Who pays for this? Redunances? ● Colvestone has had a large amount of building work - this has meant a large financial investment? Where is the joined up thinking around the spending of money if the school is to be used for another purpose? ● Does the lease/historic documentation allow for the school to be used for another purpose? ● It is mentioned in LP33 "Protect and enhance the value of Dalston Quarter as a concentrated area of community, creative and cultural activity". How do you explain in that case the closure of its prime primary school that is colvestone. ● In your decision making of closing Colvestone, why no consideration has been given to the school's SEN children in identifying their needs in order to access school and |

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| 28/04/2023 15:48:24 | Governor - at one of the 6 | Nightingale Primary Scho | Nightingale Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Nightingale currently has one form per year. What was the decision at the time to not go ahead with two-form year groups when there was space?</p> <p>When were the predictions for falling class sizes first made? Brexit was a while ago; was closure/merger not considered earlier? I'm a reception mum and chose this school due to one form entry.</p> <p>Why weren't prospective Nightingale and Baden Powell parents informed when they applied for reception places? When you apply for schools there is a deadline, we didn't see the enrollment figures when we applied.</p> <p>Why don't you outgrow the schools/classes over time and start transitioning pupils in reception? Importance of this forum for parents. Would have preferred an online way to join.</p> <p>Parent shared their child's experience of moving to Nightingale from Baden Powell. Resistant to merger because of reasons for moving their child to Nightingale. Concerned about how the merger and impact on children would be managed. E.g. behaviour and interaction of children. Concerned merger could be traumatic for children who moved from BP.</p> <p>Any change, good or bad, can have a negative impact; what are your predictions?</p> <p>What extra help will school be given to support with the transition? What is the impact if the merger does not take place? SEND: this school is purpose built for children with SEND. What is the current percentage of children with EHC plan and SEND support at Nightingale? And how might that number rise with merger? How would the transition be managed for children with SEND? Is there enough teaching support now at Nightingale, and will there be if the school gets bigger? Scared about impact on children who might or currently fall through the net. Concerned about the exclusion of Black children in particular.</p> <p>What will happen with old school sites? Hackney needs more specialist needs?</p> <p>Also raised concern about "ghost children" and EBSA pupils. Parent chose Nightingale because of its size and community. Timeline: What processes and systems will be put in place to support us through to the merger? It feels out of our hands due to the financial reasons you have set out. What additional measures will be in place to manage the long term processes and staff merger? There will be no more all school play, use of space at Nightingale will change.</p> <p>Govt funding is a big issue. My child has been with the children in her class since nursery. Will they stay together? For that class to be halved, it would be traumatic. Moved child to Nightingale from BP due to lack of structure, child was "lost in the group" and has SEND. What support will be provided to support children's anxieties? How will my child's needs be met in class of 30?</p> <p>Are staff from Baden Powell going to be trained so that we don't experience previous issues here? What stops it going ahead?</p> <p>The financial situation seems like the proposal has to go ahead.</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 15:51:38 | Governor - at one of the 6 | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Has the decision been made/will the closure happen? Comment/ response related to combining year groups: this would not be good for the children.</p> <p>What will happen to the school site?</p> <p>Following site question and response: It seems like the decision has been made. Why close this school, it's a good school?</p> <p>Are there enough spaces in other local hackney schools for children affected by closures? Why can't RC merge with the other school proposed for closure? In response: children will still have to travel a distance to go to another school. That justification isn't viable</p> <p>How will you accommodate families with more than one child? Will the children go to the same school? You say "we're going to" but this should be happening at this stage; if the closure does happen that will be too late to start working with parents on placing children. My child is in year 2, he has anxiety about where he will be / belong and whether his friends will come with him. The emotional impact is important.</p> <p>If I move my child to another school, will we potentially face another closure in two years? If we could go to other schools across Hackney you cannot assure us that we will not go through a closure process again.</p> <p>Will the larger class size affect education?</p> <p>In front of RC, there is the adventure playground children can go to afterschool if parents need to collect their children late. Has the council looked at playgrounds close to school or looked into closing schools that don't have a playground?</p> <p>What will you do for the kids with SEND? Stress impact on parents and kids. I have a child with SEND, RC was the only school that accepted my child. He will not understand that the school is closing. Other local schools did not accept my child.</p> <p>Family recently moved and our daughter settled quickly due to the staff. I want staff to hear how grateful I am. If RC closes, Hackney will lose somewhere very special. Why is RC still taking children? We moved to the area in November, we applied here after a really difficult time and my child loves it here. I would rather RC have not taken her rather than risk disrupting her again.</p> <p>What are the reasons that RC should be kept open? Right now it sounds like it's closing. There are many reasons why school should stay open. There are positives like the adventure playground. It's free, the staff are amazing and work with the school.</p> <p>Will we compete with all other families applying in September? Will there be a priority list?</p> <p>RC is the only school that accepted my child based on catchment, my mother lives locally and supports with childcare.</p> <p>My child's education is going to be uprooted. How will we be supported? Multiple comments raising concerns that flats could be built on the RC site in the future.</p> <p>Will you make a commitment to not build flats on the site?</p> <p>What about the adventure playground? New buildings are not given to people like us. View that flats would be built.</p> <p>Parent applied for child to go to secondary school outside of Hackney, but not given a choice. Can they not bring children in from other schools?</p> <p>RC not just a school, we are a family. Headteacher has supported lots of families.</p> <p>Disruption to children, parents and staff working with children. It is traumatic for children. Echoing parent question of where will we go?</p> <p>How will this announcement affect RC enrollment? Are you sealing our fate with the announcement?</p> |

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| 28/04/2023 17:59:40 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal cremer parents | It is worth noting that Randal Cremer Primary School is open for breakfast club for children from 7.30 even 7.15 if parents need to drop children off earlier |
| 28/04/2023 19:46:27 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Why out of the schools' was Randal Cremer the one to be close. A School who love and care for the children and parein the community. The only school that welcome any children in regardless of their needs. |
| 28/04/2023 23:42:58 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On my behalf | Please don't close the school specially parents with * or more kids who lives around it's going to be more stressful. |
| 29/04/2023 00:57:29 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On my behalf | Why De Beauvoir |
| 29/04/2023 01:35:05 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On my behalf | I have previously commented and aired my views at a community engagement meeting however I wanted to make another comment as something is not sitting right with me. Neighbouring schools to De Beauvoir South of Dalston Lane are all almost full according to the latest figures on the gov.uk website, while not at capacity they are still only in the region of 15-20 pupils down across the whole school, if that, and percentage wise under 10% down to 15% down roughly and in the case of Queensbridge school that is with no reduction made in the maximum intake. Meanwhile De Beauvoir has gone from having two large classes in each year group and still being oversubscribed in some year groups and the nursery in 2016 and 2017 when my ** first joined to drastically undersubscribed now forcing sets of two year groups to merge into one, and it is in the same area as those other schools. My older ** had to wait a full term after application before a place was available for them to start at De Beauvoir and a nursery place was only available for my ** 7 weeks from the end of the school year, that is how oversubscribed the school was. I do not believe this has just happened to happen to De Beauvoir so quickly organically while other local schools very close by have got off lightly in comparison. There is more social housing around De Beauvoir than some of the other schools in the immediate vicinity too. I think there should be at least an informal inquiry into why De Beauvoir has been so badly affected as other factors seem to be at play. |
| 30/04/2023 14:25:26 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On my behalf | If the council close De Beauvoir, how will they ensure that all children are placed in a school of their choice within walking distance when many of these schools are already saying they are full? |
| 01/05/2023 11:40:05 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Randal Cremer has excellent links for children to travel across the borough of Hackney to fill up our school with spaces. We are between Hackney Road and Kingsland Road, close to Queensbridge Road as well as very close to Hoxton Overground Station. |
| 01/05/2023 11:44:05 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | Parents | In year **, we have autistic and vulnerable children, that parents have highlighted, who would find it very difficult in a new school as well as be wanted by other schools. We have many autistic and vulnerable children throughout our school, |
| 01/05/2023 20:07:53 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | The school mast remain open. |

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| 01/05/2023 23:14:15 | Staff member at Randal Cremer School and Hackne | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | <p>I am a ** at Randal Cremer School. I have been a resident of Hackney for 35 years and was fortunate enough to attend a fantastic comprehensive secondary school in the Borough.*** I decided to embark on teacher training, because I feel passionately about supporting young people in my local area. When I visited Randal Cremer School, I knew straight away that I had found an exceptional school, who's motto: 'Belonging, believing, becoming' reflected the genuinely inclusive ethos of its staff and pupils.</p> <p>A higher percentage of our pupils have Special Educational Needs than at many neighbouring schools, and this is no accident: Scandalously, some of these vulnerable children have previously been refused admission by one or more local schools, who knew that they would require additional time, energy and resources to support. At Randal Cremer, these children have found a family who celebrate difference and who never give up on them – a place where they feel they belong. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 23.3 obliges signature states to: "ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education... and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development." If our children with disabilities are forced to look elsewhere in Hackney for school places, I am in little doubt that their right to education will be affected. It has been heartbreaking to hear the anguished pleas of parents, who fear starting over to secure a school place, knowing that their child may once again be turned away.</p> <p>Children with Special Educational Needs are by no means the only ones suffering at the news that our school may close. Teachers were unable to teach lessons on the day children were told, as whole classes of students broke down in tears, worried that they would be torn away from friends and trusted adults. Despite the wealth that surrounds them, most of our pupils are socially disadvantaged: Many live in poor housing, sharing rooms with siblings due to overcrowding. Many families rely on the vital lifeline of our school foodbank to prevent their children from going hungry. Working parents also depend on the adjacent adventure playground, where children can play safely after school, supervised and free of charge. If, as proposed, Randal Cremer School is closed down in July 2024, our pupils currently in year 5 will face the further setback of starting a new school in year 6, when they should be focusing on their crucial SAT's. It is already evident that some of our children are traumatised by the impact of this news, and it is highly likely that the upheaval caused by the school's closure would have long-term consequences for them and their families.</p> <p>Staff were equally overwhelmed by emotion when we learned the news; tears were shed privately, as we did our best to teach children with smiles on our faces. Some staff have literally given a lifetime of service, taught two generations of the same family and are visited daily by ex-students who cherish their memories of the school. These loyal and dedicated teachers simply cannot imagine being anywhere else. Some are in a state of shock. Others ***, at the start of teaching careers, have had our futures snatched away. Despite being advised in stark terms that our jobs are at risk, many staff are reluctant to abandon the children who depend on us for so much more than education and a Headteacher who's hard-work, passion and commitment to the children have inspired us all.</p> <p>If Randal Cremer School is closed, our children will be separated from lifelong friends, trusted teachers and support staff. They will lose the vital sense of identity and belonging that the school provides. Their rights to education and to play with their friends will be affected – especially those children who have already experienced discrimination at other schools, with dire consequences for them and their families. Our school is not just a piece of real estate that can be bought and sold – it is a living community, with a heart and a soul. I strongly urge anyone reading this to consider in detail all options, including mergers, special school status, or financial assistance from central government, to enable the school to remain open for a minimum of five years, so that all children currently in year 1 can complete their primary education without being unfairly disadvantaged.</p> |
| 02/05/2023 05:00:50 | Parent / carer - for a child | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | Why are they closing the school? This will have impact on the pupils. Going to another school can be distracting them from their learning and be too stressed for the kids and the parents. |
| 02/05/2023 07:00:03 | Staff member - at one of t | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On my behalf | Why has the council suggested that the school may close earlier than the end of the year? This has created a huge level of stress on staff and parents. |
| 02/05/2023 07:24:48 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On behalf of a parent | Why has the council not considered the fact that there are no other maintained non-denominational schools nearby when considering closing De Beauvoir and Randal Cremer? |
| 02/05/2023 07:27:30 | Staff member - at one of t | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | Baden Powell Primary Sc | On behalf of staff member | Have the council considered the impact it places on teachers who are still in their early stages of their career/how devastating it is for so many of us to know the first school they have ever worked at will be gone? |
| 02/05/2023 07:30:35 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On behalf of a parent | I went to De Beauvoir Primary School myself and now my child is going there. It is devastating that you want to close the school before she is finished. Why would you do that? |

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| 02/05/2023 07:36:45 | Parent / carer - for a child | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | De Beauvoir Primary Sch | On behalf of a parent | <p>Has the council considered the massive impact on children who would be going into Year 6 / Year 5 in September next year? Transition would be very hard for them.</p> <p>Does the council have a plan to enable children to go to their first choice of school after the one they are in?</p> <p>Is the council going to guarantee that the schools that close aren't going to be turned into flats for rich people?</p> <p>Does the council care about working class children and understand the disadvantage that closing their school places on them?</p> <p>Does the council have any plan to support the mental health of vulnerable children and their parents in schools that are closing?</p> |
| 02/05/2023 07:47:49 | Staff member - at one of t | Randal Cremer Primary S | Randal Cremer Primary S | On my behalf | <p>I would like to say that I have worked at Randal Cremer for **. I have loved every class I have taught there. When we broke up in July, I felt that that year group was the best yet and the next year, the new class topped that. Our children are exceptional and deserve to be looked after and loved.</p> |

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| 05/05/2023 10:04:30 | other - Dalston Conservat | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Sun, 30 Apr 2023 at 21:48 Subject: Fwd: Objection to the Closure of Colvestone Primary School from Dalston Conservation Area Advisory Committee To: Director of Education</p> <p>Director of Education (Interim), Hackney Council</p> <p>Objection from Dalston Conservation Area Advisory Committee to the closure of Colvestone Primary School on its historic site in Colvestone Crescent, London E8 2LJ</p> <p>Dalston Conservation Area Advisory Committee (DCAAC) is one of 6 committees in Hackney made up of local residents, businesses and representatives of local amenity societies. DCAAC represents Dalston's conservation areas which include St Mark's Conservation Area located on the east side of Kingsland High Street. DCAAC provides advice to the Council on planning and conservation issues, and meets once a month to comment on planning applications which affect Dalston's conservation areas.</p> <p>DCAAC strongly opposes the Council's planned closure of Colvestone Primary School on its site in Colvestone Crescent, arising from a planned merger in 2024 with Princess May Primary School on its site in Princess May Road.</p> <p>Whilst it is not DCAAC's role to comment on the educational and social implications of the Council's proposals, DCAAC has major concerns about the negative impacts the school's closure will have on the historic school building and surrounding area.</p> <p>The school is housed in one of Hackney's oldest and most intact school buildings, completed in 1862 in a Gothic Revival style to the designs of Thomas Knightly. The building opened as the Kingsland Birkbeck School, one of six schools for boys and girls founded by businessman and educational philosopher William Ellis, and named after George Birkbeck, founder of Birkbeck, University of London. Ellis' progressive educational beliefs were reflected by the incorporation in the design of individual classrooms together with high levels of lighting and ventilation. Later, the school was extended to the rear, in the style of the London Board schools which were built in large numbers from 1870 onwards.</p> <p>The school building and its front boundary railings were statutorily listed grade II in 1975 for their outstanding historic and architectural interest. This means there is a duty under the Planning Acts to preserve their special interest and protect their setting for future generations. The school site is also located adjacent to the western entrance to the St Mark's Conservation Area, which was designated in 2008 by Hackney Council as a well-preserved Victorian residential development centred around St Mark's Parish Church. As such, it is considered desirable to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area.</p> <p>DCAAC asserts that the optimum viable use for a listed building is its original use, which in this case is as a school. If Colvestone Primary School is to close, the building will lose the vital use for which it was originally designed. If in the event the site is sold to a private developer, it may never return to use as a Hackney-run primary school. Although the school is not currently an opportunity site in the Council's draft Dalston Plan, it lies midway between sites D6 (Ridley Road) and D7 (Birkbeck Mews). Undoubtedly it will be attractive to housing developers due to its location next to the sought-after residential streets of the St Mark's Conservation Area. The site is also adjacent to Dalston Town Centre with its excellent transport links, including two Overground stations and numerous bus routes; a Crossrail 2 station entrance is also proposed only metres away from the school.</p> <p>DCAAC is concerned that if the school site were to be sold on, it may be considered untenable to retain an educational or communal use, so a change of use may be sought for the listed building, requiring physical changes which may detract from its special historic and architectural interest. Furthermore, development pressures may</p> |

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| 05/05/2023 12:17:47 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Mon, 1 May 2023 at 12:38 Subject: Fwd: Colvestone Primary School - Threatened Closure To: Director of Education</p> <p>I write to strongly protest against the planned closure of Colvestone Primary School in Dalston and the potential merge with Princess May Primary School in Stoke Newington.</p> <p>Planned Closure of Colvestone Primary School</p> <p>I am a Dalston resident and parent of *** children, now teenagers, who all attended Colvestone Primary School from the Nursery Class to Year 6.</p> <p>We chose Colvestone for our children due to its small size and caring family atmosphere. Also for its strong connections with the local community as a well-established non-denominational school which had been educating local children for over 150 years. Back in 2008, we had to fight to get our oldest child a place in the Reception Class as the school was so popular and oversubscribed.</p> <p>All our children were very happy and excelled both socially and academically at Colvestone. Major influences were the one-class entry and small year groups, which other local schools did not offer. Everybody at Colvestone knows each child's name, and every child feels highly valued. Our *** has ADHD and one of our *** is autistic, so the family feel of the school and high level of teaching support were especially important for their well-being, learning and sense of security. The small-scale and intimate character of the building provided a friendly home-from-home, which is critical for SEN children who are easily overwhelmed and confused by large-scale educational environments.</p> <p>Living at the far end of Colvestone Crescent in Montague Road, we also chose the school because of the safe and less-polluted walk to school along the quiet residential streets on the east side of Kingsland High Street. We never considered sending our children as far away as Princess May School on Stoke Newington Road, and even Shacklewel School involved a more circuitous route involving busier roads. Such schools belong to quite separate communities from the neighbourhood served by Colvestone. Like many others, being a Colvestone family has meant we continue to be deeply rooted in our community even though our children are now almost grown-up.</p> <p>I attended the public meeting on Monday 24 April. I was amazed and reassured to see the high turn-out and huge support for the school, both from current and former parents and other members of the community. People genuinely care about Colvestone: I met one mother of a ***, who now lives in Leyton, who returned specially to support the school.</p> <p>Having watched the school being run down by the previous headteacher as part of the ill-fated Soaring Skies Federation with Thomas Fairchild Primary School, it was wonderful to see how the new management team and Blossom Federation have pulled up the school in just two terms. How uplifting the newly decorated interiors look, together with the introduction of long-awaited IT and AV equipment, and finally a fabulous new website. But above all, to see the pupils thriving because of the dedicated teachers and support staff, many of whom taught our children. It is clear to all they are truly committed to educating children on the Colvestone site.</p> <p>Mention was made at the meeting of families who transferred their children to other schools in the last couple of years under the previous headteacher. A friend of mine did just that. Her *** had done very well at Colvestone in her earlier years, but when she entered Year 5 the school had been so deprived of its teaching resources that she very reluctantly moved her elsewhere. This was because she no longer had a class teacher or head of year and shockingly several teaching assistants had been made redundant. My friend was genuinely concerned that her ***</p> |

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| 05/05/2023 12:49:32 | Hackney resident | | Colvestone Primary Scho | submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Mon, 1 May 2023, 18:36 Subject: Opposition to closing Colvestone school To: Director of Education</p> <p>To Hackney Councillors, Member of Parliament</p> <p>Colvestone school- ***</p> <p>Colvestone School</p> <p>I am writing to express my disagreement and disappointment regarding the recent proposal to include Colvestone Primary School in the consultation to close schools in Hackney.</p> <p>I believe this will be an ill-considered and damaging move for children, parents and carers in this area. As one of the only non-religious, non-academy, non-free schools in Dalston, it should remain open to offer families the choice to be part of a small, close-knit community school – run by the local education authority. It is essential that you retain as wide a choice as possible.</p> <p>As a grandparent of a child at Colvestone Primary School, I know that he feels safe and secure at Colvestone. He and his family have been part of the school community for several years. It is a shame that his final year at the school will be overshadowed by concerns shared by both families and staff about the future.</p> <p>The new leadership team, through the Blossom Federation partnership, has made a positive impact on the school – and with the extra funding from Hackney Council – we have seen great improvements to the facilities, redecoration of internal spaces and a renewed energy at the school. The railings are an improvement to the appearance of the school and I gather a new roof has also been installed.</p> <p>Colvestone is a unique primary school offering children an opportunity to develop and thrive in a single-form entry, community-focussed environment.</p> <p>I attended the meeting for families with local authority representatives on 24th April. Unfortunately the meeting raised more questions and, in my opinion, did not answer the questions raised by the families. Their concerns were expressed coherently and with considerable patience in respect of a very difficult situation.</p> <p>I would like to raise the following questions and make some comments which arise from the meeting.</p> <p>If a possible closure is now being considered</p> <p>Why have plans for the future use of the school site not been included in the preparatory work? I understand that Colveston is a Grade II listed building. The answer was that there were no plans as of now and that the question would only be addressed much further down the process. I would have thought that in an analysis of which school to close, the value of the site and its possible future use would be a significant consideration. It would be easier to change the purpose of some sites or to demolish and rebuild perhaps as housing or a commercial development. I don't know if there is a covenant on the site but shouldn't you enquire as to the possibilities before making a proposal? I suggest the families make enquiries regarding a covenant or any other restrictions before we end up with an empty site with limited possibilities.</p> <p>There seems to be some lack of future planning and expenditure plus a somewhat 'silo' approach. Many of the families present were of the opinion that the decision to close Colveston had already been made and that his was just a public relations exercise. More effort needs to be made to involve and consult with families and staff.</p> <p>Why a reorganisation a year ago?. Why introduce change (and the inevitable disruption) if 12 months later a possible closure is being considered? A promise that the school would not close was ill advised.</p> <p>I've already mentioned the roof and the railings but why was that work done if closure was being examined.</p> <p>We heard about the changes to the road outside the school. Why is this work going ahead if the school may close and the local authority is short of money. Is this an unnecessary use of public funds?</p> <p>Families were rightly concerned about the pollution in the area. It was said that the pollution at Princess May school had improved. That may be so, but the pollution at a school close to a major road will never be as good as or better</p> |

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| 05/05/2023 12:52:16 | Parent / carer - for a child | Colvestone Primary School | Colvestone Primary School | Submitted via email to Dir | <p>Process - decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the deadline for sending Director of Education's team information for their report to the cabinet about school closures? • Will the individual votes of cabinet members on 22 May be made public? • What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to amalgamate with Princess May? • What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to close? • What message is the Council giving to every single children of Colvestone that the future of their school is based on past figures and that they have no chance in having their school open in a year time even though the school has a year to work on attracting more children and thrive to perform. Are we repressing forward thinking. • Are the proposal for consultation and consultation processes intended to inform your decision about whether to close these schools? In other words, have you already decided to close these schools or is there an opportunity for schools to be removed from the list? If schools can be removed from the list, what would you need to hear from parents/staff that would persuade you to do that? <p>Process - options - Amalgamation option with PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Colvestone being considered for amalgamation rather than closure? • What assurances can you offer parents who go to Princess May that that school will not close within the next five to six years? • Why it hasn't been considered to bring all the children from De Beauvoir to Colvestone • Why is the Council considering closing Colvestone and not Benthall, which has similarly falling pupil numbers? • Why are religious schools or free schools not being considered for closure? What conversations is Hackney having with religious schools that have low enrollment? • How does the council reconcile the closure of two non-denominational schools, leaving only three religious schools and Princess May in the vicinity of the new development with its consultation showing 83 percent of people prefer Hackney schools to be non-denominational? <p>Environment // area planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the council justify sending more children to a school with higher levels of air pollution? • What plans does the council have for decreasing air pollution at Princess May? • Why is the Council not considering closing Princess May, given the dangerously polluted location of its playground right alongside the busy High Road, and distributing its pupils to Colvestone and the other schools with spare capacity? • What impact would closing Colvestone have on the plans for the first 21st Century Street? > This scheme is not dependent on the school being there. The concept of 21st Century streets more broadly was not limited to sites outside of schools. it is not necessarily the case that the scheme is dependent on the school being there. The concept of 21st Century streets more broadly was not limited to sites outside of schools. • Given the plans for a significant development near Colvestone, what impact will closing the closest school and one of the few non-religious options in the area have on your ability to sell these flats to families? • In your choice of planning to move our children to Princess May, have you considered that the journey via Kingsland high street to school will provide a great level of noise and high risk • It is mentioned in LP33 "Protect and enhance the value of Dalston Quarter as a concentrated area of community, creative and cultural activity". How do you explain in that case the closure of its prime primary school that is colvestone. <p>Building use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What assurances can Hackney council give the community about what will not happen to the building? • Colvestone has had a large amount of building work - this has meant a large financial investment? Where is the joined up thinking around the spending of money if the school is to be used for another purpose? • Does the lease/historic documentation allow for the school to be used for another purpose? |

| Timestamp | Who are you? | Which school are you associated with? | My question/comment is about | I am asking/commenting ... | My question/comment is |
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| 05/05/2023 10:10 | Hackney resident | Colvestone Primary Scho | Colvestone Primary Scho | Submitted via email to Dir | <p>Date: Mon, 1 May 2023 at 12:38 Subject: Fwd: Colvestone Primary School - Threatened Closure To: Director of Education</p> <p>I write to strongly protest against the planned closure of Colvestone Primary School in Dalston and the potential merge with Princess May Primary School in Stoke Newington.</p> <p>Planned Closure of Colvestone Primary School</p> <p>I am a Dalston resident and parent of three children, now teenagers, who all attended Colvestone Primary School from the Nursery Class to Year 6.</p> <p>We chose Colvestone for our children due to its small size and caring family atmosphere. Also for its strong connections with the local community as a well-established non-denominational school which had been educating local children for over 150 years. Back in 2008, we had to fight to get our oldest child a place in the Reception Class as the school was so popular and oversubscribed.</p> <p>All our children were very happy and excelled both socially and academically at Colvestone. Major influences were the one-class entry and small year groups, which other local schools did not offer. Everybody at Colvestone knows each child's name, and every child feels highly valued. Our *** has ADHD and one of our *** is autistic, so the family feel of the school and high level of teaching support were especially important for their well-being, learning and sense of security. The small-scale and intimate character of the building provided a friendly home-from-home, which is critical for SEN children who are easily overwhelmed and confused by large-scale educational environments.</p> <p>Living at the far end of Colvestone Crescent in Montague Road, we also chose the school because of the safe and less-polluted walk to school along the quiet residential streets on the east side of Kingsland High Street. We never considered sending our children as far away as Princess May School on Stoke Newington Road, and even Shacklewell School involved a more circuitous route involving busier roads. Such schools belong to quite separate communities from the neighbourhood served by Colvestone. Like many others, being a Colvestone family has meant we continue to be deeply rooted in our community even though our children are now almost grown-up.</p> <p>I attended the public meeting on Monday 24 April. I was amazed and reassured to see the high turn-out and huge support for the school, both from current and former parents and other members of the community. People genuinely care about Colvestone: I met one mother of a *** who now lives in Leyton, who returned specially to support the school.</p> <p>Having watched the school being run down by the previous headteacher as part of the ill-fated Soaring Skies Federation with Thomas Fairchild Primary School, it was wonderful to see how the new management team and Blossom Federation have pulled up the school in just two terms. How uplifting the newly decorated interiors look, together with the introduction of long-awaited IT and AV equipment, and finally a fabulous new website. But above all, to see the pupils thriving because of the dedicated teachers and support staff, many of whom taught our children. It is clear to all they are truly committed to educating children on the Colvestone site.</p> <p>Mention was made at the meeting of families who transferred their children to other schools in the last couple of years under the previous headteacher. A friend of mine did just that. Her *** had done very well at Colvestone in her earlier years, but when she entered *** the school had been so deprived of its teaching resources that she very reluctantly moved her elsewhere. This was because she no longer had a class teacher or head of year and shockingly several teaching assistants had been made redundant. My friend was genuinely concerned that her daughter's education had come to a standstill. She has told me that she would willingly re-enrol her *** at Colvestone now that the school is fully resourced again, but for the fact that she is now at secondary school. As we can see, due to Colvestone's small size and excellent teaching team it has the resilience and capability of returning</p> |

Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

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| Session / School | De Beauvoir Primary School - Staff | |
| Date | Friday 21 st April | |
| Est. number of attendees | 15 (including presenters) | |
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| Question asked | Response | Additional comments |
| How does the red line trajectory incorporate the covid baby boom in terms of future numbers of children? | The GLA uses many methods in their monitoring and predictions. Data in 2017 showed reception children inclining gradually, but each year the projection is revised. In fact we expect it to be more pronounced in the next few months. | <i>If applicable. E.g. Question asked by parent or member of staff</i> |
| Is Hackney doing anything to manage that data? The concern is that in managing the situation for current children, in future it might need to be reversed. | There is sufficient provision of nursery placements in Hackney. There is a lag between the time that children are born and enter school so data has been collected around this, but there are too many children's centres also and a similar exercise will have to take place in relation to this. | |
| If the school is costing money, could the school not use half of the school and half of the school be used for generating income - e.g. transform part of the school into a special provision? | The school already rents out the apex. There has not been an opportunity to bid for extra resource provision. The building does not lend itself to this, as independent access is not possible to the top floors. Therefore, children with specific needs being placed at the top of the building ruled out that consideration for this school. This would not have prevented an | |

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| | amalgamation with another school which was considered but rejected. | |
| Is it local or central government policy in terms of dispersal policies that house families out of the borough? Can local government impact this? | Housing for Hackney residents is managed locally. There are 3000 homeless families and about 1000 of them are housed elsewhere due to housing capacity in Hackney. | It is national and local. Nationally the government has capped rent. Prior to this the government paid all the rent. The rent cap now does not cover the price of rent. When Hackney places families outside the borough, this is because the amount the government pays for housing does not meet the challenge. |
| How is this fed back in terms of the impact on schools in Hackney? | Through letter writing and when speaking to ministers, so the government is aware but ministers are not taking a decision about this. **** are fierce advocates for Hackney residents, in terms of expressing concerns about shortcomings in policy. | |
| There is not this huge deficit in other boroughs - Lewisham is a school short. | 30 out of 32 boroughs are affected currently and all will be in terms of the London picture. Only three schools have had an increase in reception numbers. | |
| Why was it rejected to merge with another school? | There are a number of schools with vacancies and it was about finding a geographically close enough partner. Following the merger, the school should become strengthened enough to be self-sufficient. | |
| For children with severe needs placed in other schools, what happens to those schools if they cannot meet the need of those | If the decision is made for a closure of the school, there will be a transition plan for the children, particularly those with SEND, to ensure effective and smooth transition. Each will need an individual transition plan. *** has attended a number of these events as an advocate for SEND. | |

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| <p>joining? Won't they feel a strain and pressure having this influx, with more educational health care plans (EHCPs), more support and more outreach teams?</p> | | |
| <p>What consideration was given to the wellbeing of families and staff within a timeline which is a long time to wait for things to happen?</p> | <p>Early engagement was decided, in terms of information sharing.</p> | |
| <p>What about the impact on the school community and individual pupils and staff, as there is movement already in terms of parents making decisions?</p> | <p>There are variables outside of the control. It is impactful. Hackney Education HR will work with families and staff, and there will be additional education psychology support available. HR will link in with the school to understand general concerns and what would happen if closure was decided in terms of support staff with finding new jobs, and there will be a variety of workshops, feedback from unions and leaders etc</p> | |
| <p>Schools get a budget on pupil roll and if De Beauvoir continues to lose students up until July 2023, in terms of the impact on staff, will there be really low numbers of children in a class due to those leaving?</p> | <p>The situation will be monitored in terms of risk, numbers and the budget implication. If numbers are very low, management of risk will be considered. It is recognised that during this time there will be financial concerns but we will manage these supportively.</p> | |

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| Are there any restructuring plans for De Beauvoir for the year 2023-2024? | No. | |
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Additional event notes / comments:

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| Session / School | De Beauvoir Primary School - Parents |
| Date | Friday 21 st April |
| Est. number of attendees | 40 parents |
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| Question asked | Response |
| What will happen to the nursery? | Nursery is directly attached to school and would close as well. |
| Why is Hackney focused on community schools rather than faith schools? | There is an ongoing dialogue with church schools but the decision to close is by the Diocese. Hackney has direct jurisdiction over community schools. Church schools are going through a process of evaluation but are not as advanced as Hackney. |
| Why can we not merge the other school that is closest to De Beauvoir? | There are a number of schools in De Beauvoir's situation. The geographical location might create big journeys. If two schools merged, the challenge would be how to make a strong school. If De Beauvoir school students were added to, for example, Colvestone, if both schools' children were brought together, it still would not make enough children to make the school viable going forward. This option was considered but is not the best recommendation for the school. There has been postcode mapping and the intention is to keep disruption to a minimum in terms of travel distance. The LA has a statutory obligation to provide school places for all children and this is discharged by trying to provide a place as close to home, for convenience, as possible. |
| This seems like it has already been finalised, like the school is going to be closed, that whilst this is an informal talk, it will be going to Cabinet. You won't look at keeping school open or amalgamation, | You are clearly being an advocate for your child and those children at the school, thank you for sharing this. We have to go through formal due process for decision making. It is not confirmed that the school will close. There is no pre determination, this process is a legal requirement. Rest assured, no decision has yet been made. |

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| <p>you have made your final decision which makes parents feel disgruntled. If you are closing De Beauvoir, are our children going on the waiting list or being prioritised? If your business is closing and you have to move to another school, you are guaranteed a place and likewise we want to know our child is going to be prioritised at the new school of their choice. There are children with SEND who will get further with their EHCPs. Children who have social, emotional needs also need to be taken into consideration - where there is a unit and family circle it is being crushed by this situation [round of applause from other parents].</p> | <p>For vulnerable children and those with SEND, if a decision is made to proceed with the proposal, then transition planning will begin early to ensure potential disruption is minimised, so that the risk is managed. Those children will be prioritised. There are no easy answers, every different child and parent has a different situation and it is a different process for them, but as yet no decision has been made.</p> |
| <p>What about the children without those needs?</p> | <p>In terms of children having priorities to other school places, school admissions have strict rules and regulations. At present any application will be made and treated as such. Things change and after the final decision is made to close a school, the parents who then apply, and will be supported to do this, will be given extra priority to jump to the top of the list which will be done once the final decision is taken, but until then the same rules apply. After we know a school is closing, we will work closely with families to ensure that multiple year group children go to the same schools.</p> |
| <p>To contextualise this, are you recommending that parents who are offered a place now wait until that point or accept places offered to them?</p> | <p>If you are offered, you have to accept within 10 days. If you list a school that has a waiting list, you can wait and see what happens in terms of this process.</p> |
| <p>My preference is for my child to attend this school. She doesn't want to go to another school but she is being forced to go to another school. Why are you not suggesting that she should wait and see? You</p> | <p>Thanks for sharing your feelings about the school. This is not easy. You have made some strong points and the strength of feeling is coming across. I can't give you the answers you want. We are no different from any other London authorities and when numbers get to a certain point there is a process of evaluation, following many, many</p> |

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| <p>don't care about children in Hackney. You close schools and profit out of them. This school has been around for many years. I have lived in Hackney for 40 years. This should be a landmark school. I don't care about the numbers dropping. The numbers could change. You can't tell us that there won't be more children in ten years. You just want us to move out of Hackney. We don't care about your numbers. Our children have friends in Hackney. Noone knows what is going to happen. Where is our reassurance? I don't want my child put back because she can't get into a school in September. What about the education of our children? We are here because of the education of our children.</p> | <p>restructures, if there are insufficient numbers of children in the local area. Fundamentally, you care about the experiences of your children, having the school of their choice, which is understandable. This is not easy. If a decision is made to close the school in September 2024 we will work closely to fully support those affected.</p> |
| <p>My children have moved numerous times within Hackney and have struggled with the transition. I would rather not move them, I would prefer to home school them. What is being done to increase the numbers, to promote and market the school? What is being done to support parents with the process of how to bring their children to the school?</p> | <p>We don't have enough children to utilise all the school places. Free schools is one of those reasons too as Hackney doesn't have autonomy or jurisdiction over them. Free schools are a government initiative and under the jurisdiction of the DfE.</p> |
| <p>I chose De Beauvoir because I wanted a small school that would meet my children's individual needs. I am so happy to bring my children to this school every single day. I know they are looked after, and the teachers are personable. I don't want to move again. We have been to *** and *** which</p> | <p>It is an excellent school with outstanding staff, which is why you want your children to come here. Hackney has not closed schools for a number of years but neighbouring authorities have had to. Hackney has delayed this to try alternative processes. We cannot stop families moving out of the borough or out of London. If there are over 600 empty seats, this is the challenge. 58 primary schools with over 600 empty spaces. As a local authority we have to make some tough decisions looking at the data and</p> |

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| <p>were overwhelmed and my children's needs were missed. I don't want to worry about putting them in another school like that again. How are we supposed to get into a full school when we have a school here?</p> | <p>trajectory. Schools running with this level of empty seats are not sustainable and this cannot be ignored.</p> |
| <p>A parent of a child with an EHCP wants her child to stay at school and doesn't know what is going to happen, so this school is the most suitable. Other suitable schools are full. They want to stay here until the end. What is going to happen in September?</p> | <p>We will work very closely with the parents and school. Children with EHCPs will have dedicated people to support them as they are the most traumatised and vulnerable to the changes to school and the transition. Head teachers will liaise to understand the incoming child's needs. There will also be support for other children with SEN who do not have EHCPs.</p> |
| <p>When this school is closed, my *** will be in year 6. *** does not have an EHCP plan. I want to know what support my *** is going to receive. *** is already crying about leaving her friends, and *** will go somewhere for one year and then have to go on to secondary school. My *** went to this school. Support received here for SEN is amazing. I want to know why this school is being closed down. I don't know how my *** is going to cope with this. What support will my *** receive to cope with losing friends, SATs, going to a new school and the social and mental impact? What about all the children that are leaving ahead of September 2024? In the end there will be no children left in the school if they are all leaving.</p> | <p>It is coming across very clearly how passionate parents and carers are for the school, and the history of the school in the community. There are a lot of risks around this.</p> |

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| <p>Children want to come to De Beauvoir. Queensbridge has too many children so why can't those children come here? What about free schools? Other schools are oversubscribed. There are so many different ways to do this.</p> | <p>It is frustrating, because unfortunately there is no jurisdiction in free schools - anyone can set up a free school. They don't have to tell the LA they are going to have a school or work with the LA. This is very frustrating for us. Any child that has a Hackney child will be fully supported but it is frustrating because it has created even more spaces we don't need and we have no control over it. We can't say to academies or free schools that we think they should close, because ministers in government make this decision as free schools are accountable to the DfE. Frustration is absolutely understandable but we also are up against challenges. We don't want to be here, this is a fantastic school. We don't need a free school in this area.</p> |
| <p>We would need to get all parents in Hackney involved to get free schools closed, then we could take it to the LA who could take it to the government. If it wasn't for this school my child would not want to go to school. It's those schools that are killing the community schools. Free schools do not invite parental communication directly with the head teacher, they cut you out. In order for this to change we need to get together with other schools. I would suggest a meeting for all parents to come to a consensus about free schools.</p> | <p>*** have written to the Secretary of State on the free school issue as the education secretary was proposing another 33 free schools which means Hackney would have got one. We don't have enough children as it is and don't need any more competition from free schools. **** are aware of that and are fierce advocates of education in Hackney.</p> |
| <p>You said a few times that SEN children would get priority in other schools, but the process currently is very long winded, everywhere is full to capacity, when would parents get concrete guarantees of closure? For working parents, they cannot have children on the waiting list. Do children need to go to another school in the interim? My *** is quite</p> | <p>We will accommodate every child and will make a provision for every child. In terms of general responsibility, we won't close a school and not provide a space elsewhere. This case has been raised with us separately to look into a suitable provision and this will be followed up outside this meeting. It has been flagged and it is due for consideration.</p> |

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| <p>comfortable in this school and won't get this anywhere else. This child has been waiting for specialist provision since nursery. *** has an EHCP and autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis.</p> | |
| <p>If closure is decided, do my children get priority to get into other schools? What if the option my child wants is full, does she have to go to a school she doesn't like?</p> | <p>If you apply now and there are no spaces available, we cannot force schools to take children if there are no spaces. There are spaces in other Hackney schools. If your child waits until De Beauvoir closure then we will work closely with families to ensure children get a school place. There are spaces in lots of schools in Hackney.</p> |
| <p>If we have already applied for other schools and are on the waiting list, what should we do?</p> | <p>If you apply for a school and get a space and there are lots of vacancies, you can wait until the school closes but for a school with few places and if you wait until later, the space may not be available. If you apply for a school and there are five children waiting and only one space available we would advise you to accept that space when it is available, if this is conditional due to the waiting list.</p> |
| <p>How is the quality of what is happening captured? There is complexity around children with complex needs and in terms of scrutinising the closures which is about numbers and viability, is it quantifiable and how is this captured? What process is there for parents to engage in around metrics and how will the closure process be captured to enhance the next provision to ensure the minimum is lost, for example experienced staff and teachers? Unfortunately the process is missing impartiality.</p> | <p>One of the offers is to senior leadership teams, to meet in smaller groups to actually hear about that experience and the relationships within the school, with pupils, families and staff members, to ensure continuity and hear the case for the school. You can also discuss with your local councillor in terms of unpacking data.</p> |
| <p>Why is the school closing when Hackney New School doesn't have adequate play space for play</p> | <p>The LA has no jurisdiction for free schools. Whilst children are at free schools they are still Hackney children and every Hackney child's education experience needs to be as good as it can be.</p> |

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| and they use local parks for break time? Why did Hackney agree to them using local parks for this? | |
| What will happen for practising muslims as most local schools are Christian schools and why is it non religious schools are in scope and religious ones are not? There isn't another school within walking distance that isn't religious. | These are Diocese led in terms of being Church of England and Catholic. |
| What is the position of church schools, is it not the LA's decision to close? | The Diocese has to be linked with. |
| How will parents be supported to buy new uniforms? | There will be a number of listening events and parent engagement activities in coming months about what is needed on the ground, so that these kinds of issues can be addressed. |
| Additional event notes / comments: | |
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Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

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| Session / School | Princess May | |
| Date | 27/04/23 | |
| Est. number of attendees | 11 | |
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| Question asked | Response | Additional comments |
| When is the merge likely to finish? | If the proposals go ahead, they will be in effect from September 2024, Colvestone pupils will move on site at this time | |
| How large will the classes be in terms of pupil numbers? | We don't know how large year groups will be after any merger, this will be based on a number of different factors | |
| How will this impact current staff at both schools? | If proposals go ahead, Princess May would remain in existence, Colvestone would close. At this stage we cannot say what would happen to staff at Colvestone. | |
| and will the current Princess May staff including head stay or change? | <p>All staff at Princess May have a contract and would remain in school.</p> <p>From the schools perspective, the leadership/staff team would stay the same. The governing body wants to protect the good work leadership/ staff have done in improving outcomes for children at the school.</p> <p>The merger should be seen as an exciting and positive new phase for Princess May - it will be the chance to mix and interact with different children.</p> | |
| What will happen to the Colvestone school building, sold / used for other purposes? | <p>The council has no plans to sell any of the school sites that are potentially in scope as a decision hasn't been made on the future of the schools.</p> <p>We want to have schools for children to come back to if birth rates increase</p> <p>If schools are left vacant the property team will do an assessment for the best use for the property</p> <p>Cabinet haven't made a decision yet so we cannot say what the sites will be used for</p> | |

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| <p>You mentioned Princess May is highly ranked in London, where can I find further information on this ranking, criteria etc?</p> | <p>Information on attainment can be found on the Princess May website</p> <p>Princess May results are significantly higher than national standards.</p> <p>We aren't proposing closing/merging schools due schools having poor attainment, all schools in Hackney have good attainment. These decisions are being made due to the fact that all schools across London have less pupils</p> | |
| <p>Additional event notes / comments:</p> | | |
| <p>This will not be the only session that you can have with Cllrs and officers - there will be further in person sessions, information will be shared, if you have queries please email directly and please use the form</p> | | |

Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

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| Session / School | Colvestone Primary School - Parents | |
| Date | Monday 24th April | |
| Est. number of attendees | 110 (including presenters) | |
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| Question asked | Response | Additional comments |
| What would happen to Colvestone's historic debt if the school was to close? | The debt falls within the jurisdiction of the LA. Some of the deficit has been successfully addressed. | |
| Why is Hackney focused on community schools rather than faith schools? | Hackney is not focused on community schools alone. There is dialogue with the Diocese of the Church of England and Catholicism, as there is a process of consultation required. There are a number of schools that could be in scope. Announcements will be made in the not too distant future. | |
| What would happen to the Colvestone building if the school is closed? | There will be an asset review process. No decision has been made as yet. A range of evaluations will be made at Cabinet meetings, which are public. The needs of the community will be considered. | |
| Is the new road going here? | This is still ongoing. There is confirmation of funding for the change of infrastructure of the street and there will be discussion with ward members. | In terms of air pollution figures, the baseline is 40% and the local number is 23%, at Princess May one playground is 23% and |

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| | | the other is 32%, numbers have gone down but this process is ongoing. |
| Why has health not been factored in? We would like it added to the list for consideration. | It will be part of the Cabinet deliberation. | |
| What is the deadline for sharing information ahead of Cabinet on 22 May? | If shared by the end of this week it will get in, if it is shared next week we will try. The intention is to include as much information as possible. | |
| What is the criteria? | We are happy to have more meetings around the drivers and timeline of decision making. Although the meeting is today, parents have had information before and had the opportunity to submit questions beforehand. We can take away that parents would prefer to meet and ask questions afterwards. | |
| The timeline does not give enough time. | We want to make sure that the process is as comprehensive as possible. We will share the criteria with all parents. | |
| This time last year parents of years 3 and 4 sat with *** with real concerns about this. *** told us in no uncertain terms that the school was not at risk of closure. What has changed the process? | The census date landed in December and showed projections for the next few years for Hackney schools and we looked at admission numbers for September. It has become a school in scope for a process. | |

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| <p>I have seen birth rates that have increased with 400-500 nursery places needed. It is confusing why a year ago we were told the opposite of what we are told today. What happens if there are 70 families told that the children have to go to Princess May and we don't want to go.</p> | <p>The LA has a responsibility to find an education place for all children which includes children with additional needs. It is incumbent on sufficient use of resources. Unless we go through this process, next year it could be 9-10 schools. Numbers have continued to incline. Our LAs have been through this - namely Camden, Islington and Newham.</p> | |
| <p>There is a problem, in terms of the merger of Colvestone and Princess May as they are both very different, very few parents want their children to go there. What are you going to do?</p> | <p>We have to work with families to find a solution. If the numbers do not make a school viable, we have to do something different.</p> | <p>I wouldn't send my child to a school that was going to close, it is being sabotaged in terms of September's intake.</p> <p>We specifically came to Colvestone to find a small school and this involved travelling from Canning Town to Newham, this school is really friendly and inclusive and my children love it here. Everyone knows each other and says hello to each other.</p> |
| <p>Have you thought about proposed closure and the numbers and impact on schools that will have to take the additional children?</p> | <p>Yes, there have been evaluations and modelling.</p> | <p>In your process of evaluation, please consider that some children won't be able to learn in a big school and primary school is their foundation.</p> <p>This is real life and facts, not just emotion.</p> |

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| <p>Do you now understand that it is not numbers versus emotion?</p> | <p>It is much broader than that, but future viability is about numbers.</p> | |
| <p>Do you accept that there are numbers you haven't considered? Our children are not just numbers. There are factors buried under the factors. The numbers mean nothing if they don't work for us. When you say you hear the passion you're not hearing a parent talking about their child.</p> | <p>Agreed.</p> | |

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| <p>We don't understand the timeline, e.g. Brexit and pandemic - numbers show that in 2019 massively decreased, pandemic had a huge effect, lots of parents moved out, what will change because numbers will change, there are big decisions that could go catastrophically wrong. Pupil numbers will increase with residents coming to live in building projects. It seems really short sighted.</p> | <p>We are restructuring to ensure that every Hackney child has as good an experience as possible, and the school has to still be viable. Other schools will come into scope. You're asking why go into a process? Because it has reached a threshold for strategy and criteria. There are so many compelling arguments. It is not just about numbers, much broader. That is why these sessions are important. Other areas did not go through a process like this - Hackney prides itself on child and parent voices to capture views. At Cabinet in May, it is about permission sought to go to the next stage, which is still informal. This is the beginning of the process. It is due to the census data and efficient use of resources which equals 22% empty seats and this is not efficient use of resources.</p> | |
| <p>This is about a sea of lost revenue rather than viability figures. We have seen what might be perceived as losses but not about whether the school is viable. There is an inference that they are both the same in terms of loss of income and not being viable, which is not the case. I would like to see the financial viability</p> | <p>We can make this information available to the Full Governing Body [action] if they haven't received it already. They have made a surplus but it would not have been achieved without the support by the LA whilst it has made good inroads.</p> | <p>This school is unique, and this is a one off opportunity to save the street. You can't build a beautiful street outside and close the school beside it. We need support. Take us off the list. We need a chance to see what the reception roll is in a two or three years time, first.</p> <p>I have heard stories of children thriving in this small school environment that it is such a wonderful school. Hackney should be fighting for this school.</p> |

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| report, rather than an obsession with lost revenue. | | ***: We cannot close faith, despite free schools or academies. Maintained schools are the only ones we have scope for. We have written to the government and asked for us to be able to consider all schools in scope, and also we requested for pausing of free schools being set up. Any schools that house Hackney children are all our children. We don't need free schools in the borough and it is frustrating. |
| Why does LA allocate non faith children to religious schools? | The procedure is to offer the nearest school to home, but they don't have to accept it. | |
| Why not change the process? | It's about parental choice. | |
| Why doesn't Princess May come to Colveston instead? | There isn't enough capacity in the building. | |
| Can the school's own financial projections in terms of deficit be submitted to the Cabinet for the next four to five years to come? | Yes that can. | This is a great experience for children to come here. *** left here four years ago for secondary school and it was a great place to come to as a primary school. The community is like a big family. Ridley Road market is such a great mix of diversity. There is academic success and records of children when they go on from here to secondary school and university. |

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| | | The teachers are really dedicated, the students are thriving and this includes SEND kids. In Colvestone is it different from other schools? Schools like this need to be supported instead of closing it. |
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Additional event notes / comments:

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Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

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| Session / School | Baden Powell Primary School | |
| Date | Wednesday 20th April 2023 | |
| Est. number of attendees | 30 | |
| | | |
| Question asked | Response | Additional comments |
| <i>E.g. How were the schools selected?</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Capture key elements of the response</i> | <i>If applicable. E.g. Question asked by parent or member of staff</i> |
| The government has cut funding so there was already a lack of funding before all the other issues described in the powerpoint took place? | <p>This question has been asked at another engagement event. Schools have not been given money they need to match with rising inflation. Costs are rising but funding per child is not. It has not risen enough to cover all the things that schools need to do for children</p> <p>The Government has not taken into consideration that the money given is not enough to meet current costs. We ask for more but they say they have already given funding Because schools are not full, funding is being cut also</p> | Parent |
| Regarding the stats from around 10 years ago, if birth rates were going down, then why was Nightingale school built? | <p>When the school was built, it was because school places were needed. The information given to predict the future at the time showed there would be more children and therefore additional schools would be needed</p> <p>GLA predicted these figures. All issues raised in the powerpoint (inflation, brexit, etc) when predictions were made the GLA did not foresee these issues and</p> | |

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| | could not counteract all the issues that we're currently experiencing | |
| Are Nightingale in the same position as us? Why does our school have to merge with them on their site? | There are not enough children coming to this school to keep the school open. Nightingale are in a similar predicament, they just about have enough children to work as a one form entry. Nightingale have enough space to work as a 2 form entry school | |
| This decision is being made based on Nightingale having the capacity. But this change would destabilise families- Will there be any help to lessen destabilisation that is going to be experienced ? | We are at the early stages of the process and these questions will be monitored and considered very closely | |
| Are teachers from this school going to be present in Nightingale schools? | No one school would have all the staff in the merged school. Some staff from both schools would be present- there are some decisions that cannot be discussed in full detail until a final decision has been made. There will be staff from both schools to help with transition. There are opportunities to make the transition exciting and bring the merger alive to make children excited about the merger. Parents and carers are essential in helping with the transition | |
| Is the decline in numbers similar for Nightingale? | There is a similar pattern of decline for most of the schools. Nightingale are only taking 30 children instead of 60 Nightingale classes are filling up to 30 and have a waiting list | |
| At the last meeting, there were many issues that came up. It is being made to seem | No final decisions have been made, the final decision will not happen until May | Parent- in a parent carer forum |

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| <p>as if parents are just anxious.</p> <p>It has been mentioned that a final decision has not been made, but from powerpoint it seems as if a definitive decision has been made?</p> <p>Is there anything that could be done to stop this from happening?</p> | <p>We are talking to schools about how to accommodate the changes that may happen. We are not just saying that parents are anxious, we understand that there is a lot of uncertainty, but no final decisions have been made</p> | |
| <p>Will any of these questions/information be fed back?</p> | <p>There is someone here taking notes of all questions/queries, for it to be looked and fed back to the cabinet report</p> <p>A merger with Nightingale is one of the alternatives if Baden Powell does close. This engagement session is a genuine opportunity to hear from parents should this be the decision made</p> | |
| <p>What can parents do to stop this from happening? Parents have had the option to comment on changes in the area in the past. E.g. a majority of parents were against boxes being put in the road and they were still put there</p> <p>This does not feel like an open discussion</p> | <p>Anything said today is being captured and will be fed into the cabinet report.</p> <p>No final decisions have been made as of yet</p> | |
| <p>Baden Powell is a unique school, it is an established school with a unique teaching style, that has been running for years Nightingale is a new school with a new teaching style, they are still looking for a unique style to teach their kids</p> | <p>*** is not a new headteacher, she is an experienced headteacher. No definite decisions have been made regarding who will be the headteacher of the new school if the closure/ amalgamation goes ahead, it could be *** or *** .</p> <p>Any school would and should have staff from both schools due to the number of children migrating across to a new school.</p> <p>Just because Nightingale</p> | |

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| | <p>may not be as old as Baden Powell, it does not mean that the teachers or the head teacher do not have leadership or experience. A new building/ teaching style does not mean that the staff will be new to teaching</p> | |
| <p>This will be happening for a child, this is a big change- the effects will be massive for children- they will not cope. What is the plan to make sure her children will be okay?</p> | <p>As a teacher, she understands the effect of this. Understand that this is an awful process, but measures will be taken to ensure children will be okay and are transitioned well</p> <p>This decision is not being taken lightly. There will be detailed plans about what will happen for all staff and children, the transition and what that looks like. There will be support in terms of health and well being. Plans will be put in place, no final decisions have been made yet so there are no definitive plans as of yet.</p> <p>If different solutions and different funding come into this process, they will ensure that no changes will happen regarding the closure/amalgamation It will be difficult for staff at Baden Powell to keep high standards due to funding.</p> | <p>Parent- child with Autism</p> |
| <p>What is the plan for children that have SEN? There needs to be a plan</p> | <p>A plan will be put in place. The children are a priority. Parents can come and talk to SS at anytime, will sit down and assure that her children will not be fully impacted</p> | <p>Headteacher</p> |
| <p>If there was an influx of children before september- what would happen?</p> | <p>We do not see this happening, but if we saw an influx then this would be a different conversation, but unfortunately there is a further decline</p> | |

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| <p>Why is it not possible for all teachers from Baden Powell to move to Nightingale if all the children can be moved? It will be difficult for the children to move, it will be easier for teachers to move if there is that much space at Nightingale</p> | <p>There will be a transition plan, which will work out what the best decision will be for the teachers, both schools would work together to see which decisions would be best</p> <p>We need to have the right number of staff at any merged site, that is a legal process</p> <p>If we do move forward with the amalgamation more reassurances can be made closer to the time</p> <p>Hackney Education will be with parents on this journey</p> | |
| <p>Based on the statistics, it is either we merge or we close</p> <p>The council needs to be straightforward with parents</p> | <p>The first decision proposed if we go ahead with the amalgamation will be 22nd May, more information will be provided going forward</p> | |
| <p>Uniform is an issue. Will there be something put in place for parents regarding the costs of new uniforms?</p> | <p>Questions such as these are being fed into the process and will be considered in the report to Cabinet</p> | |
| <p>There are other children on a waiting list for Nightingale, For those that are in favour of the merger- will they take up possible places for children coming from Baden Powell?</p> | <p>With the merging of schools, parents from the merging school usually get the first offers</p> | |
| <p>Question asked on if there is a way to address the funding, perhaps raising money/ charity donations- has this been discussed/raising a fund?</p> | <p>Question has been asked, but there is a shortfall of money from the Government and a shortfall of children</p> <p>Even if there were any generous benefactors, we would need to raise £3 million down payment for the school- this has not been given any further thought</p> <p>Even if funds were changed, it would be hard to predict if this would make any change. If the number of children kept</p> | |

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| <p>Would it be legal to raise funds for the school?</p> | <p>declining more funds would still need to be raised</p> <p>If the money was there, legally, raising funds would be allowed</p> <p>When asking for more money, the Government's response was that money had already been given to Councils</p> | |
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Additional event notes / comments:

From a parent- It does not feel like there is a chance for change. Is there any point in saying we do not want the merger to happen? It all feels very finalised. We all understand the reasons why it has to happen, but it is a difficult situation. It feels like parents' voices are not going to be heard. This is a major change, not a tiny shift. The new Nightingale building is big, this is a close community which will see a change of teachers and a new big building, it is a lot to take in

From a parent- She knows many families that put their children in the nursery with hope of them going to the primary school.

Parent commented that she wanted a small school for her children, not a school in which there are two year groups in one class. With the way Baden Powell is currently, teachers can look after students, it is more intimate

From a parent- The teaching at this school is of excellent quality, it must be matched if we are going to be put through this change. The provisions and measures need to be matched. Parent demands teachers from this school are present in Nightingale if they want parents to go through/support this merger

From a parent with an autistic child- We all have personal reasons why we do not want the schools being merged. It is about the school, it is not about the space, we love this school. From nursery parents to Year 6 parents, everyone knows each other. It is a close school in which children are learning happily.

If this merger happens and everyone has to move, her child will go through change twice and this will affect him hugely in future. *** will already make a move from Year 6 to secondary school. We are unable to cope with that much change

From a parent- We do not want the lovely little school to be closed, this is a lovely school with lovely staff and teaching system.

From a parent- Walks *** mins from her house for her children to attend Baden Powell. There is another school close to her house, but Baden Powell is a small school, it is very good for her children and this is why she brings her children here. Does not want to send her children to a big school like Nightingale

From a parent- HE seems as if they are coming from an academic perspective, coming across as condescending. The council is coming from a numbers perspective. The audience are parents, not academics. This is why HE is receiving hostility from parents. The parents worry comes from their passions/love for the school but the council's priorities are funding and numbers, but they are not discussing the damage that's going to be

caused

*** in attendance and announced that he was the local ward councillor for where the school is located. Commented that Baden Powell is a wonderful school. He would be available to speak to parents and listen to their concerns at the end of the engagement event

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Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

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| Session / School | Nightingale Primary School | |
| Date | Tuesday 18 th April | |
| Est. number of attendees | 30 | |
| | | |
| Question asked | Response | Additional comments |
| <i>E.g. How were the schools selected?</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture key elements of the response | <i>If applicable. E.g. Question asked by parent or member of staff</i> |
| Nightingale currently has one form per year. What was the decision at the time to not go ahead with two-form year groups when there was space? | <p>Nightingale school was built with two classes per year group; it has always been the intention to move from one to two forms.</p> <p>The decision to build the school had been made previously, prior to merger conversation. The school wants to expand to two-forms. Currently there are empty classrooms. Financial reasons for this. Moving to two-form year groups will enable Nightingale to be able to continue with extra curricular programme. Heating and caretaking costs associated with a school with empty classrooms.</p> | |
| <p>When were the predictions for falling class sizes first made? Brexit was a while ago; was closure/merger not considered earlier?</p> <p>I'm a reception mum and chose this school due to one form entry.</p> <p>Why weren't prospective Nightingale and Baden Powell parents informed when they applied for reception places?</p> | <p>Full year lag; downturn. Exacerbated by the pandemic.</p> <p>Dilemma of when you do this.</p> | <i>[Note: struggled to hear response with background noise.]</i> |

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| <p>When you apply for schools there is a deadline, we didn't see the enrollment figures when we applied.</p> <p>Why don't you outgrow the schools/classes over time and start transitioning pupils in reception?</p> | | |
| <p>Importance of this forum for parents. Would have preferred an online way to join.</p> <p>Parent shared their child's experience of moving to Nightingale from ***. Resistant to merger because of reasons for moving their child to Nightingale. Concerned about how the merger and impact on children would be managed. E.g. behaviour and interaction of children. Concerned merger could be traumatic for children who moved from BP.</p> | <p>Valid concern. Mindful that BP children will need to have some systems preserved to ease the transition to a new school but aim would be to become a cohesive school. Managed process with programme of introduction and long-lead in period. Informal merging prior to full merging, staff induction. Familiarity for BP children.</p> <p>Learning from Nightingale's building move can be applied. Rebranding, revision of the curriculum, tools to ease transition. Shared ethos and culture. Create a new funded Nightingale while retaining the school's culture.</p> | |
| <p>Comment on the presentation: BP stats have been shared but what is the impact [of falling enrollment] on Nightingale?</p> <p>Any change, good or bad, can have a negative impact; what are your predictions?</p> <p>What extra help will school be given to support with the transition? What is the impact if the merger does not take place?</p> | <p>A two form entry school will be financially stronger. We are concerned about falling enrollment across all schools; merger is a strengthening step.</p> <p>The long lead in time will allow Hackney Education to work together with both schools SLT. If the proposal goes to informal consultation we will look into detail of the impact.</p> <p>We are learning from other London boroughs that are merging/closing schools. This includes having a long time period and open engagement with parents. There may be unintended consequences but we</p> | |

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| | <p>applying learning with the aim of reducing unintended consequences.</p> <p>Key voices in the community will be consulted with, including children will be included if we go to consultation.</p> <p>We will need to show the financial impact of not using a two-form entry school. Small classes are great in principle, but the challenge is reduced funding as a result. There are also benefits of two-form year groups: shared expertise, cross-teaching.</p> <p>There are risks and benefits. Over the next five years, building costs would impact Nightingale's historical surplus. We hope to expand ARP and SEND, even with two-forms. And expanding reception will mean more parents getting their first choice school.</p> | |
| <p>SEND: this school is purpose built for children with SEND. What is the current percentage of children with EHC plan and SEND support at Nightingale? And how might that number rise with merger? How would the transition be managed for children with SEND? Is there enough teaching support now at Nightingale, and will there be if the school gets bigger? Scared about impact on children who might or currently fall through the net. Concerned about the exclusion of Black children in particular.</p> | <p>Since 2018 no primary school has permanently excluded a child from Hackney school system. The proposed merger is not expected to impact this. Young Hackney would work with school leaders to work with children who might need more support. Any child with a plan will be supported through the transition.</p> <p>For SEND provision, question of how can we reduce the number of children with SEND being sent out of the borough? Identified schools that can have additional resource provision. Increased SEND</p> | |

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| <p>What will happen with old school sites? Hackney needs more specialist needs?</p> <p>Also raised concern about “ghost children” and EBSA pupils.</p> | <p>provision in 2022 and 2023. Building capacity to meet needs. Holistic approach, systems lead, parent carer forums, communication and consultation with parents.</p> <p>No plans for buildings, no plans to sell the school site. The property/building team are aware of the proposals, but no work has been done to assess properties yet. Decision has not been made. We are not closing schools to sell to private developers.</p> | |
| <p>Parent chose Nightingale because of its size and community. Timeline: What processes and systems will be put in place to support us through to the merger? It feels out of our hands due to the financial reasons you have set out. What additional measures will be in place to manage the long term processes and staff merger?</p> <p>There will be no more all school play, use of space at Nightingale will change.</p> <p>Govt funding is a big issue.</p> | <p>Merging of schools can be exciting, co-creation of a new school together. The next step is informal consultation, which would address these questions.</p> | |
| <p>My child has been with the children in her class since nursery. Will they stay together?</p> <p>For that class to be halved, it would be traumatic.</p> | <p>The aim is to avoid “them and us” view among children. Long lead-in time to work with children from both schools. Informal opportunities, sports and activities. It will be pitched to children as gaining friends.</p> <p>We know the friendship groups in our classes well and will work with that. It will not be a sudden change. But I want to avoid talking</p> | |

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| | <p>with children until the merger is certain.</p> <p>The school space is generously designed for two forms; each classroom over 30% of standard size.</p> | |
| <p>Moved child to Nightingale from ** due to lack of structure, child was “lost in the group” and has SEND. What support will be provided to support children’s anxieties? How will my child’s needs be met in class of 30?</p> <p>Are staff from Baden Powell going to be trained so that we don’t experience previous issues here?</p> | <p>Nightingale knows our children really well. Support will be given to children; that process in hand and being planned.</p> | |
| <p>What stops it going ahead?</p> <p>The financial situation seems like the proposal has to go ahead.</p> | <p>This meeting and all responses will feed into the Cabinet decision.</p> | <p>Meeting ended at this point. Further questions addressed 1:1.</p> |
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| Additional event notes / comments: | | |
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Schools Estates Engagement Feedback Template

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| Session / School | Randal Cremer | |
| Date | 20th April | |
| Est. number of attendees | 55-60 | |
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| Question asked | Response | Additional comments |
| Has the decision been made/will the closure happen? | Cabinet decision 22nd May on whether to informally consult. The final cabinet decision would be in December, if we get to that point. | |
| Comment/ response related to combining year groups: this would not be good for the children. | | |
| What will happen to the school site? | <p>If a decision is made to close the school, an asset review process will be undertaken assessing local needs and options. The ideal scenario would be that the building would have a future educational use. We cannot say at this stage; no decision has been made.</p> <p>Addressing the rumour that the site will be used for housing: the school as it stands is the priority. We cannot make a pre-emptive decision. Asset review process will be transparent.</p> | |
| Following site question and response: It seems like the decision has been made. | The decision has not been made. | |
| Why close this school, it's a good school? | Most schools in Hackney are good or better. Any school suggested for closure or merger will be a good school. | |
| Are there enough spaces in other local hackney schools | Yes, there are vacancies across the borough in all | |

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| <p>for children affected by closures?</p> | <p>areas. We would not close a school unless there are enough spaces for students after closure.</p> | |
| <p>Why can't RC merge with the other school proposed for closure?</p> | <p>We did look at this, but felt that all the schools were too far away for a viable merger.</p> <p>For a merger, we looked at whether a school could take all students from another school. No school near this school could have accommodated all the children together.</p> | |
| <p>In response: children will still have to travel a distance to go to another school. That justification isn't viable</p> | <p>We will look at all families affected if a decision is made to assess where best for children to go to school.</p> | |
| <p>How will you accommodate families with more than one child? Will the children go to the same school?</p> | <p>That will be considered. A dedicated officer in the Council will assist and work closely with each family for best outcome.</p> | |
| <p>You say "we're going to" but this should be happening at this stage; if the closure does happen that will be too late to start working with parents on placing children.</p> <p>My child is in year **, he has anxiety about where ** will be / belong and whether ** friends will come with **. The emotional impact is important.</p> <p>If I move my child to another</p> | <p>It's a very difficult situation. It's about the best possible learning experience for children, as articulated. The proposal is that if we get to a December decision, then parents would have 9 months notice. Officers will look at addresses and proximity to schools, working with parents. This won't happen before the cabinet decision as the cabinet may decide it won't go ahead. If a decision is made, it will be a 9 month process. The team is currently doing some modelling. We will be working with families.</p> <p>Working on a family by family basis to minimise the impact.</p> <p>The realistic answer is yes,</p> | |

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| <p>school, will we potentially face another closure in two years?</p> | <p>634 reception places remain open. The proposal now isn't enough to solve the problem long term. We would make efforts to avoid that situation if you move your child to another school.</p> | |
| <p>If we could go to other schools across Hackney you cannot assure us that we will not go through a closure process again.</p> | <p>We understand how disruptive that would be. The council would forward plan to minimise that.</p> <p>There are 58 primary schools in Hackney, without intervention can't keep</p> | |
| <p>Will the larger class size affect education?</p> | <p>In Hackney class size tends not to go above 30.</p> <p>A lot of schools don't have 30 in their classes yet, moving children can strengthen schools overall. It is traumatic and difficult, but there are spaces across schools.</p> | |
| <p>In front of RC, there is the adventure playground children can go to afterschool if parents need to collect their children late. Has the council looked at playgrounds close to school or looked into closing schools that don't have a playground?</p> | <p>The adventure playground is a wonderful asset. We will have to evaluate all the information before the cabinet decision is made. But we can't go further down the line without taking action, lots of empty spaces are projected here, the current situation is not financially viable. Right to look beyond financial decisions, but other local authorities are doing this too. Hackney has deferred this decision and has tried to find another way.</p> | |
| <p>What will you do for the kids with SEND? Stress impact on parents and kids.</p> | <p>First question I (headteacher) asked, promised to personally oversee placement of children with SEND.</p> <p>There will be a process of transition.</p> | |

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| <p>I have a child with SEND, RC was the only school that accepted my child. He will not understand that the school is closing. Other local schools did not accept my child.</p> | <p>Important to hear about the relationship with the Adventure playground. For children with SEND there are champions at this school and in the Council. It is distressing to hear your experience of being turned away from another school. We will work with you, including on how to speak to your child and will work with you to make sure that friendships are retained.</p> <p>Note to liaise with RC re separate meeting for SEND parents.</p> | |
| <p>Family recently moved and our *** settled quickly due to the staff. I want staff to hear how grateful I am. If RC closes, Hackney will lose somewhere very special.</p> | <p>RC is a very good school. We understand why parents are upset.</p> | |
| <p>Why is RC still taking children? We moved to the area in ***, we applied here after a really difficult time and my child loves it here. I would rather RC have not taken ** rather than risk disrupting ** again.</p> <p>What are the reasons that RC should be kept open? Right now it sounds like it's closing. There are many reasons why school should stay open. There are positives like the adventure playground. It's free, the staff are amazing and work with the school.</p> | <p>Difficult period when the school was not allowed to go public with information. Prospective parents are now being informed.</p> <p>Parent opinions shared here will be taken forward to the decision makers. All questions and comments are being captured. Clear strength of feeling is being recorded and will enter the report.</p> | |
| <p>Will we compete with all other families applying in September? Will there be a priority list?</p> | <p>Admissions rules are strict, a school may not have taken you in past because they may have been full. After a decision is made,</p> | |

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| <p>RC is the only school that accepted my child based on catchment, my ** lives locally and supports with childcare.</p> <p>My child's education is going to be uprooted. How will we be supported?</p> | <p>displaced parents will be given priority at that point. We can't apply that priority until a decision has been made.</p> | |
| <p>Multiple comments raising concerns that flats could be built on the RC site in the future.</p> <p>Will you make a commitment to not build flats on the site?</p> <p>What about the adventure playground?</p> | <p>That is outside of our jurisdiction. The priority is suitable alternatives for children. Community assets, alternative use, educational use – there are a range of options but our planning department will look into that in due course.</p> <p>Local schools have a walking bus to the playground. The Adventure playground is so good that RC play centre has a loss of revenue as it is less utilised.</p> | |
| <p>New buildings are not given to people like us. View that flats would be built.</p> <p>Parent applied for child to go to secondary school outside of Hackney, but not given a choice. Can they not bring children in from other schools?</p> <p>RC not just a school, we are a family. Headteacher has supported lots of families.</p> | <p>Clear strength of feeling and unhappiness about housing for lots of families. Want to work with parents to make sure parents voices are heard on important matters.</p> <p>Response to housing comments: cllrs get frustrated when we see property development at times, we don't have the power to limit but are trying to build as much social housing. The Council does not own all of the land, if a private owner owns the land it is their choice. And issue is falling birth rate in London.</p> | |
| <p>Disruption to children, parents and staff working with children. It is traumatic for children. Echoing parent question of where will we</p> | <p>There will be more opportunities for your voices to be heard.</p> | <p>Staff question</p> |

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| <p>go?</p> <p>How will this announcement affect RC enrollment? Are you sealing our fate with the announcement?</p> <p>As residents, we have seen reduction of social housing. Why isn't more social housing being built?</p> <p>The school is a family. No good reason to break apart.</p> | | |
| <p>Member of staff at RC, parent of former pupil, and a former pupil. I work in RC **, I know that there are problems with schools that are outstanding but don't accept challenging children. Please consider challenging children as they will find it hard.</p> | <p>Many key takeaways from this conversation including loyalty and community around this school. Children are at the heart and this listening event is to give opportunity to parents to share their views. Statutory duty to provide school place for every child in Hackney. Will look to minimise disruption. First of a series of conversations.</p> | |
| <p>Is closing a school going to solve the problem, as you said this is only the start. If we move the children, there's no guarantee that it won't happen again. Same with high school.</p> <p>If the school closes, it won't continue as a school so will it be demolished and flats built?</p> <p>Closure is not a solution. Impact on my child needing to resettle after a year.</p> | <p>The local authority has not been quick to consider closure. Neighbouring and other local authorities have made similar decisions. We wanted to explore other options. With 22% vacancies, we have too many schools for the number of students. We can't say what will happen, but there is a reluctance in Hackney to close schools.</p> <p>(Headteacher) The community at RC is because of staff, families and children. My fear, as numbers reduce we won't do it as well, and vulnerable children may lose out. May lose that community that we have now. Impact on teachers with one-form entry and impact on</p> | |

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| | <p>extracurriculars. Whatever the decision, staffing levels have been hard to maintain. Lack of funding.</p> | |
| <p>How will you support the staff and the children, especially older children? I mean in terms of emotion, regardless of whether it will happen. What are you doing now to support children?</p> <p>The school needs support from Council.</p> <p>Worry boxes at the school are full.</p> | <p>The HR department will work closely with the school if the closure takes place. Head of Wellbeing in Hackney, we will be asking for extra staff in school to have those conversations with children.</p> <p>We have discussed immediate support for staff, and the Head of HR is speaking to the team about support now. That support is being put in place now, it is very emotional. We understand the impact on staff, children, and parents. All of those discussions are happening.</p> <p>Additional support and resources available to schools.</p> | |
| <p>Additional event notes / comments:</p> | | |
| | | |

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London Borough of Hackney Equality Impact Assessment Form

The Equality Impact Assessment Form is a public document which the Council uses to ensure that it can show that decisions it makes impact in a fair way, are based on evidence and are transparent. The process helps show that it has complied with the Public Sector Equality Duty (s149 of the Equality Act 2010) when making and implementing decisions which affect the way the Council works.

The form collates and summarises information which has been used to inform the planning and decision-making process.

All the information needed in this form should have already been considered and should be included in the documentation supporting the decision or initiative, e.g. the delegate powers report, saving template, business case etc.

The form must be reviewed and agreed by the relevant Director, who is responsible for ensuring it is made publicly available and is in line with guidance.

Title of this Equality Impact Assessment:

Education Sufficiency and Estates Strategy

Purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment:

To ensure there has been due regard to the Equalities Act 2010 and the duties outlined within when developing the strategy. To further ensure that the strategy seeks to advance equality within its recommendations.

Officer Responsible:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Name: Nick Wilson | Ext: 2427 |
| Directorate: Education | Department/Division: High Needs and School Places |

Name of Director: Paul Senior

Date:

Comment:.

Version control

| | | |
|----|-----|---------------|
| v2 | EIA | Date approved |
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PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

STEP 1: DEFINING THE ISSUE

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1. Summary of the reason/s for having to make a new decision.

Hackney Education has a duty to ensure the sufficiency of school places in its area. In recent years, mainstream primary rolls have fallen in Hackney, whilst the demand for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) provision has seen significant increases - a trend seen both locally and nationally. Hackney's Education Sufficiency and Estate (ESE) strategy is a 10 year plan which seeks to address four strategic priorities:

1. The creation of sufficient additional in borough special school places;
2. Partnership working with mainstream primary schools whose rolls are falling to seek viable solutions;
3. Partnership working over the coming five academic years with mainstream secondary schools whose numbers are likely to be below PANS over the period 2022-2027, and;
4. A long term sustainable use plan for all education sites in the borough

The Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy paper agreed at Cabinet February 2022 proposes a strategic and operational solution to the priorities listed above through an all encompassing review of the education estate. Post Cabinet consideration and approval, plans arising from the strategy and options review will be further developed and refined in 2022 and 2023. These plans will include options and proposals about individual sites. Figures from Autumn 2022 and then Spring 2023 School census have been used for continued and updated review of the community primary schools to check the trend and which schools are included in the falling rolls review.

Strategic Priority 1- SEND Implementation Plan

A significant increase in demand for specialist places for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has been recorded in Hackney and across most London Boroughs. SEND forecasting predicts that by 2023 an additional 336 places in special provision will be needed by 2023 and a further 168 annually thereafter through to 2026. Hackney currently sends 460 pupils out of the borough to independent provision and non-maintained special schools. These placements are expensive and it is not always in the best interests of pupils when compared to attending local provision in their communities.

The SEND implementation plan will occur in phases as outlined in the proposed phasing below:

Phase 1A - the more urgent need for the creation of additional Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD) places are completed within the current SEND capital budget (February 2022 cabinet). Approval to proceed with Phase 1A has been granted, and statutory consultation on the proposals has been completed. Scheduled opening dates for new ARPs from September 2023.

Phase 1B - proposals for additional Alternative Resource Provision (ARP's) to be undertaken following the approval at Cabinet in March 2023

Phase 2 - the expansion of special schools. This will include a review of all 3 special schools, alongside an in-depth understanding of mainstream school capacity in March 2023 onwards.

A cabinet bid report addressing the costs associated with the implementation plan for phase 1b has been submitted to cabinet for March 2023

[The EIA for the strategy paper and priority 1 SEND provision detailed here February 2022.](#)

Strategic Priorities 2 & 3 - falling rolls [detailed further in this EIA]

The demand for mainstream places is falling. The reasons for this are complex and multi-faceted, however a falling birth rate, the effects of Brexit on domestic and international migration and the more recent effects of the pandemic are all considered to be contributing to fewer children requiring mainstream places. At the last school census (January 2023), there were 616 vacant reception places (21%). Falling primary rolls are expected to be reflected in falling Year 7 rolls from 2022/23 onwards with more significant levels arising from 2025. No PAN reductions are currently planned at the secondary level, however discussions are underway with secondary schools.

Strategic Priority 4 - a long term sustainable use plan for all education sites in the borough

The need for a long term plan for all education sites is outlined in the ESE strategy. Consideration will need to be given to a range of factors- often conflicting, to ensure that the strategy considers a range of factors in the management of Education property assets, such as asset management planning, falling rolls, vacant sites, school keeper properties, land ownership and potential restrictions or impact on future opportunities and any additional land requirements and approvals or consents needed.

The Hackney Education Sufficiency & Estate Working Group will continue to analyse the potential effect on equality throughout the development, design, decision making and implementation of each element of the ESE Strategy.

The equality impact in this assessment will be reviewed in each section for the Falling roll review which will explore any other school organisation review or changes such as potential for amalgamation or closure.

2. Who are the main people that will be affected?

The following groups may be affected by the strategy outlined in priorities 2&3:

Children and young people attending the mainstream school affected by the proposals & Children and young people with SEND in Hackney

Within this group the following protected characteristics may be present;

- Disability
- Race
- Religion

- Sex

If the decision is made to either close or amalgamate schools, pupils at the schools affected will be supported to move to a neighbouring school during the Summer Term of 2024. There are enough vacant school places in the areas where the schools are affected to accommodate all children. The Local Authority has chosen sites that are close walking distance to the original schools, to ensure travel times don't exceed the statutory walking distance requirement of 2 miles or under. This will also ensure that pupils stay in areas that they are familiar with. Should parents choose a different school closer to their home, the Local Authority will support them with this.

The Local Authority will ensure that children with disabilities are placed in appropriate settings to minimise disruption.

None of the schools that are being considered during this phase are faith schools, however should parents wish to enrol their child in one of these schools we will work with the Diocesan Board to accommodate this wish.

Teaching staff who work within the schools affected

Within this group the following protected characteristics may be present;

- Age
- Disability
- Race
- Religion
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

The proposals will impact staff at the schools with potential redundancies and/or redeployment. The Local Authority will work closely with staff impacted by the proposals to ensure that any needs of staff are taken into account, especially those with protected characteristics. Should the proposals go ahead, the Local Authority will work with affected staff and their trade unions in the reorganisation staffing process consultation.

Parents and carers of the children and young people attending the schools affected

Within this group the following protected characteristics may be present;

- Disability
- Race
- Religion
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Should the proposals go ahead, parent-carers will have a choice of local provision. The Local Authority will maintain a surplus of between 5-10% in order to meet their statutory duty in providing sufficient school places. Although the Local Authority cannot guarantee all parents will get their first preference, we will be committed to year groups staying together in the case of amalgamation and siblings moving to the same school.

The difference in location may impact parents with longer travel times, we have provided a list of all local schools near affected settings and the walking distance to each which does to exceed 2 miles.

Services and provisions supporting children and young people in Hackney [Staff]

Within this group the following protected characteristics may be present;

- Disability
- Race
- Religion
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Local residents living near the potential sites for amalgamation / closure

Within this group the following protected characteristics may be present;

- Disability
- Race
- Religion
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Residents living near potential sites considered may experience noise disruption in the future depending on what the vacant sites are used for/ whether there is building work to adapt the sites. Depending on what the future site use is, this may benefit local residents.

STEP 2: ANALYSING THE ISSUES

3. What information and consultation have you used to inform your decision making?

Information and Consultation

The Education Sufficiency & Estate Strategy addresses the need and plan for falling primary school rolls and surplus reception places. Hackney seeks to retain 5% surplus reception places however in January 2023 was carrying a 21% surplus that is projected to exceed 25% by 2029.

An evidence based framework was used to identify the six schools proposed for amalgamation and/or closure. Schools were only considered where they are actively seeking change such as amalgamation with support from the Local Authority.

The initial long list included schools meeting one of the following three criterion

- greater than 25% surplus reception places
- greater than 25% surplus physical capacity
- budget deficit in the top 10 schools raising most financial concern

The list was then reduced to schools meeting more than one of the initial three criteria and with greater than 45% surplus reception places. Additional schools falling outside these criteria were also considered where they are located near a shortlisted school and identified as a potential partner for amalgamation. The list of schools derived from the above quantitative data driven criteria were then reviewed for further data and qualitative considerations. The community schools were reviewed based on: locality and geographic partnership options, suitability of site to host an amalgamation and finally overall school effectiveness and quality of education, as indicated by current Ofsted grading, trajectory of pupil outcome data and local reporting. The framework was applied to schools and resulted in options to either amalgamate or close schools. Options for amalgamation pairings and closure options were reviewed and finalised put into a shortlist.

Governance

Each stage of the process for the selection of the amalgamation and/or closure option has been reviewed by the Education Senior Leadership Team, ESES executive board and members oversight group.

Evidence and Data

Table 1 shows the level of surplus reception places in Hackney since January 2016. It shows that the current level of surplus reception places stands at 21% (616 places), the highest level recorded, despite permanent published admission number (PAN) reductions made in 2019 and 2022. Officers have sought to mitigate the effects of falling rolls through the use of temporary and permanent PAN reduction measures.

Rolls have continued to fall each year in Hackney and across local authorities in London. This trend looks set to continue, as data from the pan London admissions coordination scheme shows that Hackney received 6% fewer on-time reception applications for September 2023 entry, when compared to 2022.

Table 1. Number of surplus reception places compared to number of available places (2015 - 2023)

| Academic year (January school census) | 2015/ 16 | 2016/ 17 | 2017/ 18 | 2018/ 19 | 2019/ 20 | 2020/ 21 | 2021/ 22 | 2022/ 23 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| No. of children on roll | 2805 | 2757 | 2635 | 2565 | 2599 | 2530 | 2398 | 2284 |
| No. of reception places available (PAN) | 3080 | 3170 | 3155 | 3155 | 3035 | 3035 | 3035 | 2900 |
| No. of surplus reception places | 275 | 413 | 520 | 590 | 436 | 505 | 637 | 616 |
| % surplus reception places | 9% | 13% | 17% | 19% | 14% | 17% | 21% | 21% |

The impact of falling rolls and surplus place is multifaceted and can effect the following:

Roll instability

Surplus places in a local authority context also provide an opportunity for children to move from school to school - again often in an unorganised way. This 'school hopping' is rarely in the best interest of the children and presents challenges for schools as high levels of mobility are

unsettling and reduce the quality of teaching and learning and require significant additional resources to properly induct and support new starters.

School income and deficit

Significant levels of surplus reception places lead to a reduced income for schools and often bring the added challenge of vertically grouped classes across two year groups increasing the complexity of day to day management and organisation.

High surplus results directly in a reduction in income which can lead to deficit budgets. Falling rolls is a major theme that runs through the budget planning considerations of many schools in financial difficulty. A number of schools are currently managing small year group sizes that prove to be uneconomical and require adopting a more flexible approach to resourcing i.e. vertical grouping and capping of PAN. Whilst federations can provide some financial support through economies of scale, our current data in relation to budget deficits suggests that it does not protect schools sufficiently. Deficit budgets of course directly contribute to a school's lack of viability.

As the majority of school funding, in accordance with DfE funding regulations, has to be allocated on the basis of pupil numbers the impact of surplus places can be significant to a school's overall budget and financial viability.

School performance

School performance and Ofsted grading can often be seen as a protective factor in the context of falling rolls. This might be the case in less severe circumstances, however in the current climate when surpluses across the borough are so high, and schools across the board in Hackney are generally good or better (97% of schools in Hackney are rated 'good' or 'outstanding'), it is not as predictive. What is clear is that the effectiveness and capacity of school leaders to strategically plan for a falling roll is somewhat dependent on school leaders and Governors making difficult decisions over changes to provision for existing pupils, this relates to decisions around restructuring and removal of provision such as after school clubs to balance the budget in light of falling rolls.

Schools with excess physical space and large sites

We have a few examples where the school simply cannot 'afford' to live within their current estate in the short to medium term. Reduced budgets will impact on the schools ability to set aside sufficient budget to deal with day to day repair and maintenance issues as tight budgets will be prioritised to deal with staffing and essential resources. This can have a significant impact on larger school buildings and sites with fewer pupils which will have higher premises costs. Underinvestment in the premises will create longer term issues for the future and increased need for capital funding to deal with a lack of maintenance.

Hackney profile and data review

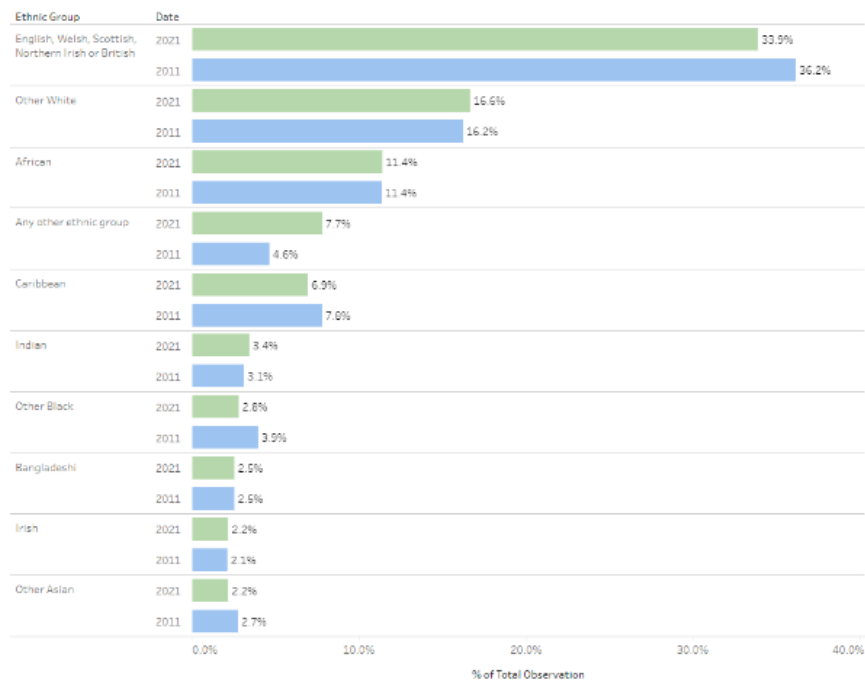
| Protected Characteristic | Hackney profile |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Age | Primary school children, parents and staff ages |
| Disability | Hackney has a high number of EHCPs - "The number of Hackney residents with an EHCP rose from 2,645 in 2021 to 3,062 in 2022, in line with the England trend. At 3.59%, the percentage of resident 0-24 year olds in Hackney with an EHCP was the highest among statistical neighbours and the 12th highest across England. - MIME Feb 2023 |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>The percentage of all Hackney school pupils with an EHCP has continued to increase year on year, reaching 4.9% in 2022. This equates to approximately one in every twenty pupils and places Hackney in the top 15 local authorities in England” - MIME Feb 2023</p> <p>The proportion of both primary and secondary school pupils in state-funded mainstream schools with an EHCP is high in Hackney. This is particularly striking for primary pupils and at 4.4%, the proportion of these pupils with an EHCP is the second highest of any England local authority, and just under twice the England figure of 2.3%” - MIME Feb 2023</p> <p>High levels of EHCP and SEN support will be imperative for any changes.</p> |
| Pregnancy and maternity | The LA will work with the school to establish numbers of staff currently on MAT and will engage and consult appropriately. |
| Race this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality | <p>Hackney all pupil average Ethnicity breakdown: Ethnicity as % of all Primary School Pupils All other heritage - 25.9% Black African - 18% English, Welsh & Scottish - 17.1% Mixed heritage - 13.7% Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot - 7.7% Black Caribbean - 7.8% Bangladeshi - 4.8% Indian - 3.7% Unknown - 1.2 % [January 2023 School Census]</p> <p>According to the Census 2021, over half, 53.1% of Hackney’s residents identify as ‘White’, 21.1% as ‘Black’, 10.4% as ‘Asian’, 6.7% as ‘Mixed’ and 8.7% identify within the ‘Other ethnic group’ category. [2021 Population Census]</p> <p>The multi-dimensional and subjective nature of ethnic identity is reflected in the fact that equivalent responses are also recorded within other high-level categories. For example, Turkish, Jewish, Hispanic/Latin American, Arab, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot are also responses that can also be found within the ‘White’ category in the Census 2021 data. This includes 2.0% who identify as Turkish, and 1.2% as Jewish.</p> <p>The proportion of people of the Jewish faith living in Hackney has increased slightly from 6.3% to 6.7% of usual residents. According to the 2021 Census, the number of people who identify as being of the Jewish faith has risen from 15,477 in 2011 to 17,426 in 2021, an increase of 1,949 persons in the past decade. The vast majority of people of the Jewish faith living in Hackney belong to the Orthodox Jewish community, located in and around Stamford Hill in the North East of the borough.</p> |

However, the Interlink Foundation, an organisation which brings together Orthodox Jewish communities in Hackney estimates Hackney's Orthodox Jewish community at between 27,405 and 29,460 individuals, between 11.7 and 12.5% of Hackney's population.

Ethnic Group (detailed)

Figure 1: Breakdown of ethnic groups in Hackney(2021/2011 comparison)



Source, Office for National Statistics 2021 Census

[Source Census 2021 briefing](#)

Religion or belief – this includes lack of belief

Hackney's communities represent a diversity of religions and beliefs. In terms of religious observance, the largest group of census respondents in Hackney (36.3%) stated they had 'no religion'. Nearly a third of Hackney residents identify as Christian (30.7%), 13.3% identify as Muslims, 6.7% as Jewish faith (This community is largely made up of Orthodox, or Charedi Jewish people who mainly live in the North East of the borough. The Census did not distinguish between Orthodox, and Non-Orthodox Jewish people so all are categorised as 'Jewish' in the Census). In Also 0.7% identify as Sikh and 0.8% as Hindu and 0.9% as people who practise Buddhism:

| | <p>Figure 2: Religious observance for Hackney, London and England</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion</th> <th>Hackney (%)</th> <th>London (%)</th> <th>England (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No religion</td> <td>36.3</td> <td>27.1</td> <td>36.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christian</td> <td>30.7</td> <td>40.7</td> <td>46.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td> <td>0.8</td> <td>1.8</td> <td>5.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jewish</td> <td>6.7</td> <td>1.7</td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>13.3</td> <td>15.0</td> <td>6.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sikh</td> <td>0.7</td> <td>1.6</td> <td>0.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other religion</td> <td>1.9</td> <td>1.0</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not answered</td> <td>8.7</td> <td>7.0</td> <td>6.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Office for National Statistics 2021 Census, Percentage of all usual residents [Office for National Statistics 2021 Census, Percentage of all usual residents] Source- Census 2021 Briefing</p> | Religion | Hackney (%) | London (%) | England (%) | No religion | 36.3 | 27.1 | 36.7 | Christian | 30.7 | 40.7 | 46.3 | Buddhist | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Hindu | 0.8 | 1.8 | 5.1 | Jewish | 6.7 | 1.7 | 0.5 | Muslim | 13.3 | 15.0 | 6.7 | Sikh | 0.7 | 1.6 | 0.9 | Other religion | 1.9 | 1.0 | 0.6 | Not answered | 8.7 | 7.0 | 6.0 |
|----------------------|---|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------|------|------|-----------|------|------|------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|--------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Religion | Hackney (%) | London (%) | England (%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No religion | 36.3 | 27.1 | 36.7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Christian | 30.7 | 40.7 | 46.3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buddhist | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hindu | 0.8 | 1.8 | 5.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jewish | 6.7 | 1.7 | 0.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Muslim | 13.3 | 15.0 | 6.7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sikh | 0.7 | 1.6 | 0.9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other religion | 1.9 | 1.0 | 0.6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not answered | 8.7 | 7.0 | 6.0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sex | gender split at primary schools in Hackney is almost equal [boys 50%, girls 50%, Spring School Census 2023] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sexual orientation | <p>The council holds no school or ward level data on sexual orientation.</p> <p>In the latest Census data from 2021, we know that 7.8% of Hackney residents aged 18+ or over identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other considerations | <p>Free School Meals: “In 2020/21, Hackney’s state-funded special schools had the highest proportion of children that were eligible for free school meals at 59.9%. This equates to almost 2 out of every 3 children (134)” - Health Needs Assessment</p> <p>Deprivation - IDACI 2019 - (Income Deprivation Affecting Children)</p> <p>The Borough of Hackney is one of the most socio-economically deprived areas in England, ranking among the most deprived 30% of areas in 2019 (40). The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measures the proportion of children aged 0-15 living in income deprived families in each of the small local areas (called Lower Layer Super Output Areas or LSOAs). IDACI is a subset of the English Indices of Deprivation that allow categorisation by LSOA into five quintiles of deprivation: with quintile one the most deprived and quintile five the least (41).</p> <p>In Hackney, more than 80% of LSOAs fall within quintiles one and two of IDACI, the most deprived in the country. None of the LSOAs fell within the least deprived quintile, with only 5% in the second-least deprived quintile. The percentage of under 16s living in low-income families in Hackney (24.7%) is higher than both London (18.8%) and England (17.0%) averages (42).</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

demographic data from Census, actual data regarding children on roll at neighbouring schools to determine options for amalgamations such as capacity, data regarding SEND the number of children with an n Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Financial information for the school, school improvement information, information relating to nearby schools including distance, impact assessment on staff numbers, children centres , Free School Meals, place projections from GLA.

An informal and statutory consultation will take place to ensure that all parents, carers, families, staff and others in the community have an opportunity to give feedback on the proposals.

Equality Impacts

4. Identifying the impacts

4 (a) What positive impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?

Key benefits (positive impacts)

| Protected Characteristic | Positive Impact |
|--------------------------|---|
| Age | <p>The proposal will not be disruptive to pupils who are currently in year 6 as they will have progressed to secondary school by the Autumn term 2024.</p> <p>The proposed changes will take place at the start of a new academic year, this will allow for a new start and give pupils time to settle in their new setting without disrupting their academic studies in the middle of a term.</p> <p>Pupils' educational outcomes shouldn't be affected and may be improved. This is because the educational quality of 95% schools and therefore a school they may move to is likely graded either 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.</p> <p>The proposals would affect all children of a primary age and parents/carers irrespective of age.</p> |
| Disability | <p>The outcomes of pupils with EHCPs may be improved; this is because the educational quality of any school they move to is graded either 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.</p> <p>Transport for families will be impacted if schools close or merge therefore walking distances and travel options between any proposals will be reviewed.</p> <p>Priority 1 of the strategy is to increase SEN provision in Hackney and a programme of new ARP delivery is ongoing.</p> |

| | |
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| Pregnancy and maternity | The LA will work with the school to establish numbers of staff currently on MAT and will engage and consult appropriately. |
| Race this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality | Different schools have different ethnicity breakdowns, however the schools which are proposed as appropriate settings to transition to remain local to the setting, therefore, pupils will still remain close to cultural connections and community spaces. Reception and in year admissions are undertaken irrespective of the race or ethnicity of the child or family. After any closure or amalgamation programme the expected demography by race would be expected to be similar to before the changes for the school population. |
| Religion or belief – this includes lack of belief | None of the schools that are being considered during this phase are faith schools. Community schools admission arrangements admit children irrespective of religion or beliefs of the child or family. The Council does not have the same authority over Voluntary Aided schools . |
| Sex | The gender split at primary schools in Hackney is almost equal [boys 50.4%, girls 49.6%, Autumn School Census 2022] therefore no consequences relating to gender are expected . |
| Sexual orientation | Admissions arrangements operate irrespective of sexual orientation of the child or parents. We hold no school or ward level data on sexual orientation. |

Based on projection data evidenced in section 3 the availability of reception and primary school places is scheduled to remain some way above the recommended 10% for the next 5 or 6 years' time, which would imply that there would remain extensive choice for applicants, [irrespective of characteristics] both locally and across the LA. There is room in the locality to accommodate all children affected by the proposals.

4 (b) What negative impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?

| Protected Characteristic | Negative Impact |
|--------------------------|---|
| Age | <p>Changing schools can be seen as disruptive for school age children.</p> <p>Higher impact for those currently in Y4 as will do one year in a new school and then move to secondary. Higher impact for those who have just joined reception and will do one year and then move.</p> <p>The Local Authority will need to work closely with pupils and families to minimise disruption to their education. Should the proposals go ahead, amalgamated sites will have whole year groups moved to a different setting and therefore minimising disruption. In the case of closures, The Local authority should work with families to review that siblings are placed in the same setting.</p> |
| Disability | Changing schools will be disruptive for pupils with SEND and their |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>families. The Local Authority will have to work with the pupils and their families to ensure a seamless transition. Hackney has a high number of EHCPs - there were 3,062 issued in 2022 which is 3.59% of 0-24 year old residents in Hackney, this is the highest among statistical neighbours and the 12th highest across England [Mime Dashboard Dec 22].</p> <p>Transport for families will be impacted if schools close or merge therefore walking distances and travel options between any proposals will be reviewed.</p> |
| Pregnancy and maternity | The LA will work with the school to establish numbers of staff currently on MAT and will engage and consult appropriately. |
| Race this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality | Different schools have different ethnicity breakdown of pupils and staff, changing schools will be disruptive. Support in multiple languages and platforms will be given to minimise disruption. Work on community cohesion when moving to new schools will be considered. |
| Religion or belief – this includes lack of belief | None of the schools that are being considered during this phase are faith schools. Community schools admission arrangements admit children irrespective of religion or beliefs of the child or family. |
| Sex | No impact, all children, families and staff impacted will be supported. |
| Sexual orientation | The council holds no school or ward level data on sexual orientation. All children, staff and families will be supported throughout any change. |

STEP 3: REACHING YOUR DECISION

5. Describe the recommended decision

That Cabinet approve that informal consultations are carried out on the

- Proposed closure of De Beauvoir Primary School from September 2024.
- Proposed closure of Randal Cremer Primary School from September 2024.
- Proposed merger/amalgamation of Colvestone Primary School and Princess May Primary School, onto the Princess May site from September 2024.
- Proposed merger/amalgamation of Baden Powell Primary School and Nightingale Primary School, onto the Nightingale site from September 2024.

STEP 4 DELIVERY – MAXIMISING BENEFITS AND MANAGING RISKS

6. Equality and Cohesion Action Planning

| No: | Objective | Actions Page 231 | Outcomes highlighting how these will be |
|-----|-----------|---------------------|--|
|-----|-----------|---------------------|--|

| | | | monitored |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| 1 | Provide continued support to families and staff affected by the proposed changes | <p>Keep all groups up to date on changes and options available to them</p> <p>Hold a statutory consultation so that their views are reflected in the decisions</p> <p>Provide dedicated support through agreed plan throughout any change</p> | Parent-Carers and staff affected feel supported on the proposed changes |
| 2 | Publication and communication of the plan to schools, parents/carers and young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Publish the plan on Hackney Educations Website · Promote the publication through schools, parent forums, and staff (internal and external communications) | Schools, parents/carers and young people are informed of the Council's plan for falling rolls |
| 3 | Review of the implementation plans | Regular review of the plan to ensure feasibility and appropriateness. | Will ensure the plan remains relevant and is cohesive within a wider provision plan for the borough. |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
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Appendix A - Data on the protected characteristics at the six schools

The school profile for the proposals includes data on protected characteristics for each of the above schools, highlighting key school community information for consideration. The decision makers should consider this fully when making their decisions, thus complying with their ongoing duty under s149 Equality Act 2010:

Disability - EHCP: Number of pupils and as a percentage of pupils at the schools:
Spring 2023 School Census figure only Reception to year 6 pupils included:

- Colvestone 10 pupils 8%.
- Princess May 10 pupils 5%.
- Baden Powell 8 pupils 5%.
- Nightingale 22 pupils, 11% .
- De Beauvoir 10 pupils , 9%
- Randal Cremer 14 pupils, 6%

FSM figures:

- Colvestone: 35%,
- Princess May 46%,
- Nightingale; 44%,
- Baden Powell: 51%
- De Beauvoir 67%
- Randal Cremer 51%

Ethnicity *(School Census Jan 2023) - % of Pupils
Hackney all pupil average- Ethnicity breakdown:

- All other heritage - 25.9%
- Black African - 18%
- English, Welsh & Scottish - 17.1%
- Mixed heritage - 13.7%
- Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot - 7.7%
- Black Caribbean - 7.8%
- Bangladeshi - 4.8%
- Indian - 3.7%
- Unknown - 1.2 %

De Beauvoir

- All other heritage - 20.5%
- Black African - 26.8%
- English, Welsh & Scottish - 13.4%
- Mixed heritage - 16.5%
- Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot - 6.3%
- Black Caribbean - 7.1%
- Bangladeshi - 6.3%
- Indian - 2.4%
- Unknown - 0.8%

Colvestone

- All other heritage - 20.1%
- Black African - 13.4%
- English, Welsh & Scottish - 23.9%
- Mixed heritage - 9.7%
- Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot - 6.7%
- Black Caribbean - 11.2%
- Bangladeshi - 8.2%
- Indian - 0%
- Unknown - 6.7%

Princess May

- All other heritage - 24%
- Black African - 30.8%
- English, Welsh & Scottish - 2.3%
- Mixed heritage - 7.2%
- Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot - 13.1%
- Black Caribbean - 9.5%
- Bangladeshi - 5.9%
- Indian - 5.4%
- Unknown - 0.9%

Baden Powell

- All other heritage - 19.8%
- Black African - 21.5%
- English, Welsh & Scottish - 4.7%
- Mixed heritage - 9.9%
- Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot - 16.9%
- Black Caribbean - 11.6%
- Bangladeshi - 5.8%
- Indian - 9.9%
- Unknown - 0%

Nightingale

- All other heritage - 24.4%
- Black African - 18.6%
- English, Welsh & Scottish - 12.2%
- Mixed heritage - 7.2%
- Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot - 12.2%
- Black Caribbean - 18.1%
- Bangladeshi - 5.9%
- Indian - 1.4%
- Unknown - 0%

Randall Cremer

- All other heritage - 20.5%
- Black African - 28.8%
- English, Welsh & Scottish - 3.8%
- Mixed heritage - 7.2%
- Turkish/Kurdish/Cypriot - 17.8%
- Black Caribbean - 6.8%
- Bangladeshi - 12.1%
- Indian - 3%
- Unknown - 0%

Gender [Spring School Census 2023]

| Schools | % of Female pupils in primary phase schools (R-Y6) | % of Male pupils in primary phase schools (R-Y6) |
|----------------|---|---|
| Baden Powell | 47% | 53% |
| De Beauvoir | 60% | 40% |
| Colvestone | 49% | 51% |
| Nightingale | 47% | 53% |

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| Princess May | 56% | 44% |
| Randal Cremer | 52% | 48% |

Pregnancy and maternity

- Figures of staff numbers which are in this category at the time of any consultation will be reviewed and the LA will engage appropriately

Age

- All primary school pupils - The proposals would affect all children of a primary age and parents/carers irrespective of age.

Sexual orientation

- The council holds no school or ward level data on sexual orientation. All children, staff and families will be supported throughout any change.

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Appendix M - PAN Capacity

The below shows the physical capacity in schools and possible additional places that could be reinstated should they be required in future years

Potential available physical capacity in schools with reduced PANs

| School | Previous PAN | Current PAN | Future PAN Potential | Additional Places |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| De Beauvoir | 60 | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Gainsborough | 60 | 30 | 60-90 | 30-60* |
| Halley House | 60 | 30 | 30 | 30# |
| Harrington Hill | 90 | 30 | 60 | 30 |
| Gayhurst | 75 | 60 | 75 | 15 |
| Mandeville | 60 | 45 | 60 | 15 |
| Randal Cremer | 60 | 45 | 0 | 0 |
| St Dominic's | 60 | 30 | 60 | 30# |
| Thomas Fairchild | 60 | 30 | 60 | 30 |
| Daubeney | 90 | 60 | 60-90 | 0-30* |
| Mossbourne Parkside | 60 | 30 | 60 | 30# |
| Sir Thomas Abney | 60 | 30 | 60-90 | 30-60* |
| Total | | | | 240-330* |

**The higher figure may be possible but some schools have plans for their spare capacity.*

#Subject to discussions and agreement with the Academy or Diocese.

Please note that the table above includes two of the schools that are the subject to this report. their potential capacity would not be available should the proposals be approved.

This table does not include the possibility for additional accommodation to be built on some school sites that have the potential to add more capacity if required in the future.

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Philip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney
Cllr Antoinette Bramble
**Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for
Education, Young People and
Children's Social Care**
Hackney Town Hall
Mare Street
London E8 1EA

Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Secretary of State for Education
20 Great Smith St
London SW1P 3BT

24 March 2023

Dear Secretary of State

Schools' funding and falling rolls

You may be aware that we (along with other London Lead Members for Children) wrote to your predecessor, Nadhim Zahawi, on 24 September 2021, raising a number of concerns in relation to the government's proposals for funding of schools, whereby a new national funding formula risked a substantial cut in funding. We committed to working with the minister to build a stronger and fairer schools' system, in the light of pressure on the existing configuration of schools' provision as a result of the new formula and predicted falling rolls.

In his response, the then Secretary of State said ‘We recognise the pressures that falling rolls can place on school budgets, and my officials will arrange to meet with school leaders and local authority representatives in Hackney to discuss these issues further.’ He went on to note that ‘The 2021 national pupil projections show the primary population now flattening out and being projected to decrease steadily throughout the next period,’ and recognised education authorities’ ‘options for reconfiguration, including via remodelling, amalgamations, mergers or closures where this is the best course of action.’ He concluded by saying; ‘We recognise the removal of surplus places involves some difficult decisions.’ We are sure you will concur with this and, similarly, want to offer your department’s support throughout this process.

The London context

More recently, you will also be aware of the London Councils’ report ‘Managing Surplus Places in London Schools (published in January 2023) which opens:

‘London local authorities and schools are currently dealing with a significant and sustained period of reduction in demand for reception places, which has implications for school budgets and standards. The fall in demand reflects the decline in the birth rate since 2012 and changes in migration patterns in London.’

The report goes on to set out an analysis of borough four-year forecasts of demand, the current challenges facing schools and local authorities in relation to planning school places, and makes a number of recommendations setting out what local government, London Councils and the government can do to support the school system through this challenging period.

Without rehearsing the entirety of the findings of the report here, We would like to draw your attention to its most salient points as they relate to school place planning in Hackney:

‘Funding system

The majority of school revenue funding is allocated on a per pupil basis. Therefore, any decrease in pupil numbers will reduce the funding a school receives. Many primary schools in London are already struggling to balance budgets this academic year, due to a combination of factors including inflationary price increases, a shortage of teaching and support staff leading to increased spend on expensive agency staff, and a significant pay award for support staff. The government has committed through the Autumn Statement to increase core revenue funding for schools, which is welcome for the sector, but it is not yet clear whether the funding for London’s schools will be sufficient to cover increased costs. If a primary school is also struggling with falling rolls this will lead to a smaller government funding allocation which will put further pressure on the budget.

School mergers and closures

In the face of a combination of such increasingly difficult circumstances, primary schools with small rolls and that are forecast to remain low will find that the only option for the school and their local authority is to merge the school with another school or close it altogether to avoid negatively impacting on children’s outcomes.

Many one form entry primaries, including many Church schools, in London are particularly at risk. In some cases, there are liabilities, for example Private Finance Initiative (PFI) payments, that would continue even if the school closed. It is important that school and local authority leaders are supported when needing to consider school closures to make decisions in a timely and effective manner to benefit local children, whilst also being mindful of protecting the school’s estate ahead of a potential population increase in the future.

Academies

Local authorities rely on effective partnership with academies to manage the impact of falling rolls, for example by securing reductions in Published Admission Numbers (PANs) where there is a drop in local demand for places. The lack of statutory levers can make it difficult for local authorities to influence decisions made by academies in

relation to falling rolls, for example when an academy is resistant to changing its Published Admissions Number (PAN) despite a reduction in demand patterns which could destabilise other local schools.

Free schools

The DfE has shifted away from opening new primary free schools in London, in recognition of the lack of demand for new places and the impact that new schools can have on other local schools if there is no demand. Applications for new free schools must demonstrate that there is a clear need for new places in the chosen area before the DfE will support the bid.

However, some primary free school developments that were approved some time ago have been delayed and are still in the pipeline to open, despite demand patterns shifting dramatically in local areas. Opening a new school in an area where there are falling rolls can cause significant and unnecessary turbulence to the system. In some parts of London free schools in the pipeline have been withdrawn by sponsors in response to changing need, but it would be helpful if the DfE took a more proactive role in withdrawing applications in areas where needs have changed.'

The Hackney context

Within this wider analysis, Hackney Council is currently consulting on closing or merging six primary schools, as a direct result of the significant decrease in pupil numbers, and which has caused some schools to face serious and irreversible financial pressure. The key dataset underpinning this decision is as follows:

Snapshot 2022-2023

58: number of primary schools in the borough

2,900: overall number of reception places in Hackney, the equivalent of 97 classes

634: number of **vacant** reception places in 2022/23, the equivalent of 21 classes

589: 'missing' number of reception-aged children compared to 2014 - the equivalent of 20 lost classes

5%: healthy reception vacancy rate

More than 20%: current overall reception vacancy rate

£6,484: the amount each primary school in Hackney loses per pupil vacancy this school year

£4.11m: funding missing this year from school budgets in Hackney as a result of vacant reception places

More than £30m: this school year's overall loss in funding for the 58 primary schools in Hackney across all year groups, compared to what they would receive if running with all classrooms full

While the impact of our 'doing nothing' in these circumstances will be well understood to yourself (and is clearly not an option), it is worth setting out the material financial and educational risks of this:

- State-maintained schools lose money for each empty school place, every single year.
- It means less money for staff; less money for resources and equipment; less money to pay bills and to carry out maintenance work; and less money for extracurricular activities.
- This income loss means it is no longer practical for some schools to function properly, and means that in time the education and offer to their pupils and staff will suffer as a

result. It is our duty, as a Council, to ensure all pupils receive the very best education, and that all schools in Hackney remain strong and stable.

Therefore, the Council is now considering closing two schools and carrying out two further mergers of two schools each to mitigate this loss, and maintain the highest possible standard of primary education for Hackney children. We would, however, like to place on record here, that the changes we are considering are in no way a reflection on the work of the schools' staff and leadership, or on the quality of teaching in those schools. Indeed, more than 90 percent of the borough's schools are Ofsted-rated 'outstanding' or 'good' and are considered some of the best in the country. We are justifiably proud of our children, who are among the first in the country for reading, writing and maths.

We have therefore established an evidence-led process, driven by a number of factors to be considered by the Council when considering possible alternatives and solutions, and which include:

- Schools most financially at-risk
- Number of vacant places
- Physical size of schools and suitability of sites to host a merger
- Geographic partnership options (such as the existence of other schools within walking distance)
- Whether new neighbourhoods and new-build estates will create significantly more need for school places in the future
- Current Ofsted grading and projected outcomes of pupils
- Community impact.

We are also cognisant that merging schools that have seen large decreases in pupil numbers can bring significant benefits (and would seek to maximise these) including:

- Creation of one new, stronger school community, maximising the funding available to it
- Increased specialist expertise from a wider teaching team
- Stronger finances
- Increased resources
- Increased potential for school improvement

These closure and merger plans are a very last resort. However, they are a direct result of the significant decrease in the number of local reception-aged children. Factors that account for this decrease include falling birth rates, families relocating outside London (as a result of the pandemic and other factors including housing costs, the return to Europe of families as a result of Brexit), and competition from free schools. The Greater London Authority (GLA) projects the decline to continue until at least 2028. The key numbers for Hackney are as follows:

- In autumn 2014, there were only 10 unfilled reception places out of the 2,865 available in Hackney (0.35%). By 2022, this number rose to 634 unfilled reception places out of the 2,900 available in Hackney (21.86%).
- The six schools that the Council is currently looking at saw their total number of unfilled reception places go from 6 out of 270 in 2014 (2.22%) to 101 out of 225 (44.88%).
- This year alone, primary schools in Hackney are therefore set to lose more than £30m in funding compared to what they would be entitled to if they were running with all classrooms full.

As you will appreciate, significantly smaller class sizes might sound like good news, but the opposite is true, because this reduces the amount of money the school receives from central government. Therefore, some schools are facing a significant income loss. This means they have less money to:

- Pay salaries
- Provide the good quality of education that we expect for our children
- Provide extracurricular activities

- Access the most modern equipment and resources.

Additionally, small schools on larger sites can no longer afford to continue to pay for maintenance, and meet escalating heating and lighting costs.

A school that is running at a deficit is an unstable learning environment, and will almost inevitably see performance and standards fall over time. If we do not act now, the future quality of education some children receive may start to suffer. We need to ensure all our schools continue to provide excellent education for our children, with the very best resources and facilities. Therefore, to best respond to the challenges that a changing pupil population brings, Hackney Education has put in place an Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy, which sets the 2021-2031 priorities for the Council.

The Council - alongside other London councils - asked the government for help by giving schools additional one-off funding to manage their falling rolls while numbers stabilise. We also asked for greater powers to manage school places in free schools and academies, which are independent of the Council, in order to pool pupil place-planning resource. The government, in response, increased funding per pupil nationally - by around 2 per cent per pupil - but that is simply not enough to sustain schools with large vacancy rates.

We are proud to note that there are numerous good or outstanding Hackney primary schools with vacancies within walking distance in all directions of schools that may close. Should the closures go ahead, the Council will work closely to support families to make a planned transition to a new school for the start of the new academic year in September 2024. Of course, families may also seek to secure a place at an alternative school via the 'in-year' admissions process at any time.

According to the numbers published by The Greater London Authority, the decrease in the number of primary school aged children will continue until at least 2028. When looking at the proposed solutions to respond to this trend, we took into account any planned development work that could impact the number of families with young children in the areas affected.

Should future demand for reception places unexpectedly increase, there is existing physical capacity within schools to absorb additional children, and additional places could always be added if needed. It's also possible for additional accommodation to be built in the future on some school sites that have potential, in order to add more capacity.

It is worth noting that there are no plans to close or merge secondary schools. There is currently a small surplus in secondary schools, which is set to peak in September 2025, before falling again.

No closure or merger would take place before September 2024. This would only follow in-depth discussions as well as formal, statutory consultations with parents/carers, teaching staff and leaders, and governors of the affected schools. We will also seek to speak to the children and young people affected by the potential changes.

Our asks of Government

Given the forecast decrease in demand across London and in Hackney in particular, it is imperative that schools, local government, and central government work together to strengthen the places planning and admissions system to ensure that all children have access to a high-quality school place, in the face of falling demand for school places. We support the London Councils' report's recommendations to government to strengthen the places' planning and admissions system, i.e. to:

- *Ensure school funding levels keep up with inflationary increases, which will help schools to be more resilient in the face of changing demand patterns*
- *Work with local authorities and schools to promote more inclusion in schools, including reviewing funding allocations to ensure that schools receive consistent and appropriate levels of funding to enable more children with SEND to access mainstream*

school places

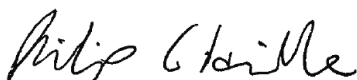
- *Enable local authorities to open their own special provision, where there is no strong MAT willing to sponsor a local special school and there is clear demand for more provision, and make capital funding available to support this*
- *Give local authorities the power to manage an academies' reduction of PAN or closure, where there is clear evidence locally of a significant drop in demand and a need to act to ensure that a school remains financially viable. Local authorities already have stronger powers in this area in relation to maintained schools, working in consultation with headteachers and governing bodies.*
- *Give local authorities the responsibility for in-year admissions, as set out in the Schools White Paper, and powers to direct all schools to accept local children on to their roll, where appropriate. Local authorities already have this responsibility in relation to maintained schools.*
- *Work closely with local authorities where there are still free schools in the pipeline, to ensure that they are still needed and withdraw applications where there is no evidence of need.*

Additionally, we have the following additional requests in relation to the specific scenario in Hackney described in this letter:

1. Pause the establishment of further Free Schools while the current challenge is addressed by the authority
2. Grant local authorities greater powers to manage school places in free schools and academies, which are independent of the Council, in order to pool pupil place-planning
3. Provide additional financial support sufficient to bridge any unplanned additional expenditure incurred by the implementation of the reconfiguration programme

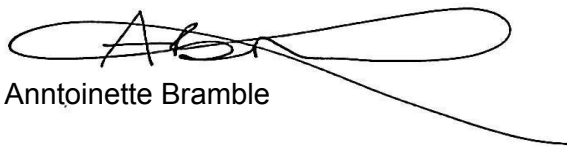
We are sure that you and your department will want to support the authority as it delivers this challenging but necessary reconfiguration, and look forward to receiving your detailed and considered response.

Yours sincerely



Philip Glanville

Mayor of Hackney



Anntoinette Bramble

**Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for
Education, Young People and Children's
Social Care**



| | | | |
|---|--|-----|--|
| | | | |
| Title of Report | Adoption of Climate Action Plan | | |
| Key Decision No | CHE S162 | | |
| For Consideration By | Cabinet | | |
| Meeting Date | 22 May 2023 | | |
| Cabinet Member | Cllr Mete Coban Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport | | |
| Classification | Open | | |
| Ward(s) Affected | All | | |
| Key Decision & Reason | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; vertical-align: top;">Yes</td> <td> <p>Result in the Council incurring expenditure or savings which are significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service / function.</p> <p>Significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.</p> </td> </tr> </table> | Yes | <p>Result in the Council incurring expenditure or savings which are significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service / function.</p> <p>Significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.</p> |
| Yes | <p>Result in the Council incurring expenditure or savings which are significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service / function.</p> <p>Significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.</p> | | |
| Implementation Date if Not Called In | 6 June 2023 | | |
| Group Director | Rickardo Hyatt Group Director Climate, Homes & Economy | | |

1. Cabinet Member's introduction

- 1.1. When it comes to tackling the climate crisis, we see ourselves as one of the most ambitious councils in the country. The increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as flooding and extreme heat pose significant risks to communities, ecosystems and natural resources. However, we remain optimistic that, through drastic reductions in emissions and adaptation to higher rainfall and warmer temperatures, we can mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Our climate emergency declaration in 2019, alongside the ambitious work set out in this Climate Action Plan, demonstrates our commitment to work together with residents, businesses and community organisations towards a greener, healthier Hackney.
- 1.2. The benefits of climate action for our communities are significant. Reducing emissions from transport will help to improve air quality and reduce

respiratory illness. Making Hackney's buildings more energy efficient will help to tackle the cost of living crisis, cut bills in the long-term and the risk of ill health, as well as harnessing the new green skills and jobs that are being created from the need for our society to make this transition.

- 1.3. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) aims to unlock these benefits for Hackney. Under five key themes - adaptation, buildings, transport, consumption and environmental quality - it sets out how residents, businesses and institutions, community groups and organisations, and the Council must work together to tackle the climate and ecological crisis.
- 1.4. In responding to climate change, we must recognise that our poorest residents have less resilience to climate shocks. We will all need to use diverse approaches to engagement that ensures inclusive decision making and that prioritise accessible and affordable solutions to better reflect the needs of low-income, minority, and vulnerable residents.
- 1.5. I welcome the positive response to the public consultation on the draft CAP, with respondents showing significant agreement with the goals and objectives and the majority seeing the beneficial impacts arising from the individual themes, while also recognising some of the challenges and the need for more detail. This is not the end of the conversation; the CAP will continue to evolve.
- 1.6. Alongside the CAP we have developed a draft Council Implementation Plan - setting out our action over the next three years, acknowledging where we have direct control and where we can use our influence to best effect. This will be updated every year to 2030.
- 1.7. The tracking of the CAP's progress now forms part of the more detailed monitoring and reporting framework set out in the CAP, confirming the immediate requirements in respect of Council and borough-wide emissions. As part of the adoption of the pledges by key stakeholders, together we will develop the headline progress indicators and further public reporting mechanisms for borough-wide emissions.
- 1.8. The CAP, Council Implementation Plan, and Council monitoring and reporting requirements considered in tandem will provide the robust platform needed to determine whether the Council remains on the right trajectory to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 goals set out in the CAP.
- 1.9. There are significant financial and regulatory barriers to reducing emissions, and we will need to work together across Hackney to share that load equitably, lobbying together for the changes needed, while also pledging to align with the 2030 goals in the CAP.
- 1.10. Our current modelling of the impact of achieving the 2030 goals in the CAP suggests a 77% reduction in borough-wide territorial gas emissions by 2030 relative to a 2010 baseline. This therefore exceeds the earlier climate emergency declaration of a 45% reduction by 2030 based on the same baseline. The 2030 date is critical, and progress needs to be made at pace.

Goals to 2030 within the CAP help to provide the required framework for everyone in Hackney, though the transition remains inherently uncertain and some sectors will move quicker than others in the early stages of transition.

- 1.11. We are however not complacent and that is why we have rejoined the UK100 network. This is because - although we only contribute to circa 5% of the Borough's territorial emissions - we must continue to lead by example. This has committed the Council to reaching net zero territorial emissions by 2030 across key functions. The initial scope of that commitment will be coming back to Full Council in July 2023, although the intention is to expand its range over time.
- 1.12. Since the earlier Cabinet report in October 2022 we have secured government funding to kick-start retrofit plans for our corporate and social housing properties for delivery over the next two years and will be making further funding bids - subject to eligibility later this year with the aim of building on this success. Nine significant non-domestic buildings will benefit from this funding by installing either air source or ground source heat pumps at London Fields Lido, Clissold Leisure Centre, Queensbridge Leisure Centre, the Trowbridge Centre, Stoke Newington Town Hall and Library, and 3 schools. In addition, over 500 social housing street properties will benefit by improving their energy efficiency.
- 1.13. We have also progressed some of our bigger political commitments such as the roll out of EV charging infrastructure, accelerating its delivery so there will be over 3,000 charging points across the Borough by 2026, helping businesses and residents and institutions where they need to use vehicles, to make transport decisions that will reduce their future carbon impact.
- 1.14. Hackney Light and Power has also made the grant awards in our first round of the Community Energy Fund to thirteen projects which will support community based organisations to build capacity to deliver future community energy projects alone. The second phase of our Green Homes programme for owner occupiers and private renters is now complete and saw 35 applications receive over £200,000 of grant funding; Phase 3 is starting shortly. We have secured £500,000 from the s106 Carbon Offsetting Fund to deliver 1MW of solar installations on selected social housing properties this year.
- 1.15. Despite the Council's lower level of direct control in respect of borough-wide emissions, we have significant influence in a number of specific areas. In January 2023 we got agreement for our Transport Local Implementation Plan for the next three years, and with funding now confirmed by the key funder Transport for London, we will be moving on to deliver the target of 75% of all eligible roads in Hackney to be within a Low Traffic Neighbourhood by 2026, a UK leading initiative.
- 1.16. We know however that we can only tackle the climate and ecological crisis through collective action - sharing knowledge, building expertise and working together. This Climate Action Plan is designed as a guide that

everyone can refer to and that we can work together on. Join us on this vital journey to 2030 and beyond.

2. Group Director's introduction

- 2.1. This report requests approval to adopt the revised Hackney Climate Action Plan (CAP) - Appendix 1, subsequent to assessing the responses received following a public consultation on the draft Climate Action Plan.
- 2.2. The Council's Implementation Plan and the initial scope of the Council's new 2030 'net zero' commitment, will form part of the annual decarbonisation report to Full Council in July 2023.
- 2.3. The CAP, once adopted, will help to underpin a more integrated and holistic climate response that can be championed and delivered by a range of stakeholders, both within the borough and with the help of regional and central government. The Council recognises its key levers through its statutory and regulatory functions, however, this is insufficient to deliver the scale of change required. It also requires civic leadership, bringing diverse stakeholders together to deliver the aspirations of this plan. However, no single organisation can be responsible overall for the scale of change. Establishing robust external governance arrangements will therefore be a key priority for the near term to drive that collective progress.
- 2.4. Analysis of the response from the public consultation undertaken between November 2022 and January 2023 has indicated significant endorsement of the goals and objectives. Whilst the pace of change requires the greatest urgency, practical barriers to scaling future delivery such as finance, policy and skills remain as key issues for the Council, businesses, institutions and residents. Despite the understandable concern stated in recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) this year regarding the global trajectory to reduce emissions, the CAP remains rooted in an ambitious vision where change is possible.
- 2.5. Since the public consultation, the Council have had success in securing external funding to pursue our own retrofitting plans for its social housing and corporate estate, using central government funding, match-funded by the Council. It will be making further submissions in bidding rounds later this year where projects are eligible.
- 2.6. The impact of economic shocks in the UK and beyond continue to persist and again, these are likely to have a bearing on the capacity of the Council to deliver our climate responses in the short and medium term.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended:

- 3.1. **To approve the final Climate Action Plan attached as Appendix 1 for adoption;**

3.2. To delegate authority to the Group Director for Climate, Homes and Economy to make amendments to the Climate Action Plan as necessary.

4. Reason(s) for decision

4.1. The climate and ecological crisis is having a significant negative impact in Hackney and across the world, through increased extreme weather events, such as flooding and extreme heat, that put communities, ecosystems, and natural resources at risk. Without drastic reductions in emissions, and adaptation to higher rainfall and warmer temperatures, the impacts of climate change will continue to worsen – affecting our lives and those of future generations. In response, the Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, supported by an ambitious vision to rebuild a greener Hackney in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

4.2. Hackney has made progress in reducing emissions over the last decade. Nevertheless, without faster action, driven by ambitious policies and targets, we won't be able to protect communities and ecosystems from the effects of climate change.

4.3. Many aspects of the transition are inherently uncertain, hence it is likely that progress may be faster in some sectors than others. Even in the near term there is high uncertainty whether projected emissions savings will advance as anticipated, we therefore need to keep options open while assessing if sufficient groundwork has been put in place to achieve overall borough-wide emissions targets.

Hackney Climate Action Plan

4.4. The Hackney Climate Action Plan (CAP) is the first holistic borough-wide plan to address the climate and ecological crisis, bringing together the various strands into one overall document and as such, is a key marker in consolidating the journey to net zero.

4.5. The CAP sets out an integrated approach for tackling the climate and ecological crisis. It provides a framework for everyone to take action to reduce emissions and adapt to the climate change that is already occurring, driven by an ambitious vision for a fairer and greener Hackney in 2030. This CAP is designed to set us in the right direction, but it will continue to need to be developed to keep pace with shifts across society, technology and wider policy, including the changing needs of communities, groups and organisations in Hackney.

4.6. Throughout the CAP, there are four key principles that guide our approach.

- a) *Change is possible*: Achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement, the international treaty that aims to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, will require collective action at a rapid pace and large scale. There is still a path to avoid the worst impacts of the climate emergency and still an opportunity to effectively prepare

and adapt to cope with rising temperatures although we must act now without further delay if it is to remain in reach.

- b) *Collaboration is key*: We can only address the climate emergency by working together to tackle emissions and adapt our Borough to the changes already occurring. There are many opportunities to work collectively to reduce emissions and make our neighbourhoods more resilient.
- c) *Fairness must be at its heart*: We must ensure that those who are most vulnerable and affected by the climate emergency get the support they need. Although there are many benefits to taking action on the climate emergency, the risks are not distributed equally. To be effective, climate actions must be designed with attention to who might be most negatively affected, and how.
- d) *Climate leadership is essential*: There will be a need for leadership throughout our communities, including from businesses, big institutions such as our hospitals, the voluntary and community sector and residents themselves. Notwithstanding this, the Council can provide the civic leadership for the collective effort needed to tackle the climate emergency in the Borough, helping to bring together different organisations and communities.

4.7. The CAP sets out the themes, goals and objectives to address the climate emergency across the Borough and aims to:

- Outline what a greener Hackney could look like by 2030 based on a fair and just transition to net zero;
- Build a shared understanding of the problem we face as a Borough – and how we can work together to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change;
- Help residents, businesses and other organisations to see their place in a shared response to climate change;
- Identify the key actions the Council proposes for the period of the next three years to maintain momentum with its own climate response - detailed in an implementation plan;
- Identify areas where local partners can collaborate on key strategic challenges such as financing and policy change;
- Confirm proposals for monitoring and Council governance arrangements, as well as steps to support future stakeholder engagement requirements and establish external governance; and
- Use this adopted plan to shape agreements on how to work together to achieve shared goals.

Revising the draft CAP

4.8. Following the decision by Cabinet on 24 October 2022, a public consultation was carried out to gather feedback on the draft CAP. The revised CAP that has now been produced takes account of the comments and feedback received during this process, noting that a broad range of insight has been gained from the public consultation exercise, much of which will help shape and inform the delivery of the CAP over the next three years.

4.9. Key insight pointers from the public consultation:

- SMARTen goals and objectives (see monitoring and reporting section) and provide clarity on the targets/outputs from the Council's 3 year Implementation Plan (IP), noting the latter was not included in the public version of the draft IP;
- Social justice remains central to a fair and just climate response and we must ensure vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are a key focus as their views continue to be under-represented, although they often experience the greatest impacts;
- More engagement, including using diverse approaches and including deliberative methods (where appropriate) in respect of specific topic areas and audiences;
- Ongoing challenge of engaging Hackney's wide-ranging business sector meaningfully, both generally and specifically, in the borough's climate response. Responses to the cross cutting theme of the green economy were also low;
- A desire for urgent action by respondents in respect of the climate emergency, coupled with an anxiety about the current speed of action globally;
- General comments that acknowledged the existing constraints on the Council in the borough-wide journey to net zero, due to the significant role of other players to enable action and accelerate progress, not least central government in respect of funding, policy and regulation; and
- More detail needed on how net zero will be funded and/or financed, and how progress with the journey to net zero will be monitored and tracked.

Highlights of comments on specific themes etc

- There was significant agreement with the goals and objectives of the draft CAP: Adaptation (77%), Buildings (77%), Transport (72%), Consumption (76%) and Environmental Quality (78%). The majority of respondents across all the themes stated that they would have a positive impact. Further insight for individual themes below:

- Adaptation theme: there is a need for greater recognition of adaptation actions alongside net zero, noting for many people this appears an immediate concern. In particular the impacts of extreme weather - flooding, heat waves and fires and the role of better resilience;
- Buildings theme: there are concerns about high financial cost of retrofitting especially for older buildings with significant technical constraints, alongside the demand to adapt existing buildings to extreme weather;
- Transport theme: there is strong support to further encourage walking and cycling, including the need for more cycling infrastructure and pedestrianised areas, better access to public transport and reduction in bus journey times through reduced congestion and support for continued improvements in air quality. There were a number of negative concerns noted that included impacts on businesses and income, costs associated with cars, traffic and journey times;
- Consumption theme: there is support for improvements to recycling facilities, as well as making it easier to recycle and repair, plus a need for more emphasis in the role of behavioural change in reducing consumption emissions; and
- Environmental quality theme: there is support to improve air quality, provide more green space and trees, actions to improve biodiversity, enable better protection of water bodies, as well as the positive role of environmental community groups as a volunteer resource.

4.10. A draft consultation report was produced in early February 2023 and a revised CAP was produced, based on a detailed analysis of the consultation responses that included feedback from the public, businesses, community organisations, focus groups with residents on specific issues and pre-engagement with the environmental community of interest. The analysis and actions encompassed:

- A review of all consultation responses by external consultants and internal officers with key updates incorporated into the revised CAP;
- A review of goals (to make them smarter where possible) and the objectives (rewording to make more specific);
- Inclusion of a new section per theme of Council specific targets/outputs for the next three years generally drawn from the draft Implementation Plan to make the Council's own commitments more explicit in the revised CAP;
- Updating the social justice sections of the revised CAP based on the Equality Impact Assessment (see Appendix 2);

- Updating some of the finance sections with more information about the Council approach to addressing the funding needed to reach net zero amongst others; and
- including a more developed section in the revised CAP on monitoring and reporting commitments.

4.11. Internal review of the revised CAP identified a need for further assessment of the CAP borough-wide goals and objectives. It also included a review of the Council deliverables for the next three years (generally taken from the draft IP). Key changes are:

- Minor amendments to specific thematic goals;
- Inclusion of new objectives to reflect gaps;
- Making existing objectives more outward facing, so they are more clearly collective and less about the Council, unless it has sole responsibility;
- Better reflecting the fact that the IP should cover the detail of Council activities in the next three years, not the CAP;
- Reducing duplication, ambiguity or any unwarranted overlap of objectives, deleting some in the process;
- Further prioritising based on impact and influence, ensuring three year objectives are the key ones, and taking a more strategic rather than catch all approach that could dilute focus and reduce impact; and
- Ensuring Council 3 yr deliverables contained in the CAP are sufficiently robust and clear.

4.12. There are a number of cross-cutting issues, and in particular, the CAP considers two specific aspects which impact on all the themes. These are the green economy and social justice.

Green economy

4.13. The transition to net zero in Hackney is creating economic opportunities. A growing green economy means opportunities for businesses already delivering green products and services, and opportunities for new green businesses to emerge. This growth and transition will create job roles in London, mainly in skilled craft work and in managerial and professional jobs but also in the evolving circular economy which is well represented in Hackney.

4.14. There is a clear need to specifically support individuals whose livelihoods may be affected by the transition because their economic activity is dependent on businesses and services that contribute to climate change. Retraining programmes and new opportunities for jobs, skills and business

should be widely available to Hackney's residents - the green economy as a whole should be diverse and inclusive.

- 4.15. The Council's regeneration programmes and procurement should be used to provide green economic opportunities for residents and business. Together, the Council, businesses and institutions need to address existing skills gaps in the construction industry and with science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) degrees. By working with partners in London's skills system we can better prepare our residents for the possibilities a growing green economy has to offer, and further, address the lack of diversity among potential entrants into green jobs and the green economy.

Social justice

- 4.16. Climate action in Hackney can reduce inequalities and create benefits such as improved air quality, mental health, and biodiversity enhancement. By ensuring inclusive decision-making, prioritising accessible and affordable solutions, and tackling systemic issues a fairer, more equitable, and inclusive environment will be enabled. Encouraging community engagement, raising awareness, promoting financial viability of sustainable options, and regularly monitoring progress will help ensure climate policies and initiatives remain effective and inclusive for all community members. Key aspects based on responses received during the public consultation are further elaborated on below and apply to all key stakeholders.

- Ensure inclusive decision-making: Involve diverse communities, including vulnerable and underrepresented groups, in the planning and implementation of climate policies and actions;
- Prioritise accessible and affordable solutions: Develop climate initiatives that cater to the needs of low-income, minority, and vulnerable populations, focusing on affordable housing, public transport, and access to green spaces;
- Tackle systemic issues: Address the root causes of climate change and social inequalities, such as poverty, racial and class disparities, and hold polluters accountable;
- Offer targeted support: Provide resources and assistance to vulnerable groups for climate adaptation, resilience, and mental health support to cope with climate-related stress and anxiety;
- Raise awareness and educate: Conduct outreach and educational programmes on climate change, its impacts, and sustainable options for diverse audiences, emphasising the importance of inclusivity;
- Foster community engagement: Encourage active participation from various social, economic, and cultural backgrounds in climate initiatives and sustainable practices;

- Promote financial viability: Ensure that sustainable options and green actions are economically feasible for everyone by offering financial incentives, subsidies, or affordable alternatives; and
- Monitor and evaluate progress: Regularly assess the effectiveness and inclusiveness of climate policies and initiatives, and adjust them as needed to ensure a fair and equitable transition for all community members.

Themes, goals and objectives of the Hackney Climate Action Plan

- 4.17. *Themes:* The Hackney Climate Action Plan sets out the ambitious, science-based changes that we can work towards achieving a reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. All of these changes are organised into five themes: Adaptation, Buildings, Transport, Consumption and Environmental Quality. Within each theme, are a set of ambitious 2030 goals.
- 4.18. The themes define the broad areas of focus within the CAP, reflecting the need to reduce emissions, protect the natural environment and build resilience to climate change, alongside wider benefits to responding to climate change, such as the potential to improve public health.
- 4.19. Climate action is a complex and systems-wide challenge. To be effective, climate actions must be designed collaboratively, and with attention to who might be affected, and how. Proposals related to the green economy and social justice are part of all areas of climate action. Each theme identifies some of the key issues that need to be addressed to help ensure that climate action in Hackney is just and equitable. The five themes are set out below:
- Adaptation - ensuring that we are prepared for and resilient to the impacts of the climate emergency, protecting our most vulnerable residents;
 - Buildings - removing gas boilers, adding solar panels and decreasing energy use in our buildings, reducing fuel poverty;
 - Transport - reducing emissions from the transport network, improving air quality and helping residents live active and healthy lifestyles;
 - Consumption - changing what and how we buy, use and sell, creating a new green economy in Hackney; and
 - Environmental Quality - maximising the potential for biodiversity in our green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive.
- 4.20. *Goals:* Across the five themes in this document, there are 21 goals which set out the ambitious changes that we collectively need to make by 2030. This will require significant changes in all of our behaviour, infrastructure, business models, and co-operation. These goals are ambitious, borough-wide and aligned, where relevant, with the Paris Agreement.

Reaching these goals at a local level doesn't rely on action by a single organisation, they are for everyone: residents, community groups and organisations, businesses and institutions.

- 4.21. The borough-wide modelled pathway in Figure 1, illustrates the territorial emissions savings that could be achieved if the 2030 goals of the CAP are delivered, and then continue to remove fossil fuels beyond that date. In this case, there would be a 94% reduction in the Borough's territorial greenhouse gas emissions in 2040, compared to 2010, and a 77% reduction by 2030. This ambitious pace of change is closely aligned with the pace of decarbonisation that the borough needs to achieve to contribute to limiting global warming by 1.5°C, based on current greenhouse gas emissions and Tyndall Centre modelling.

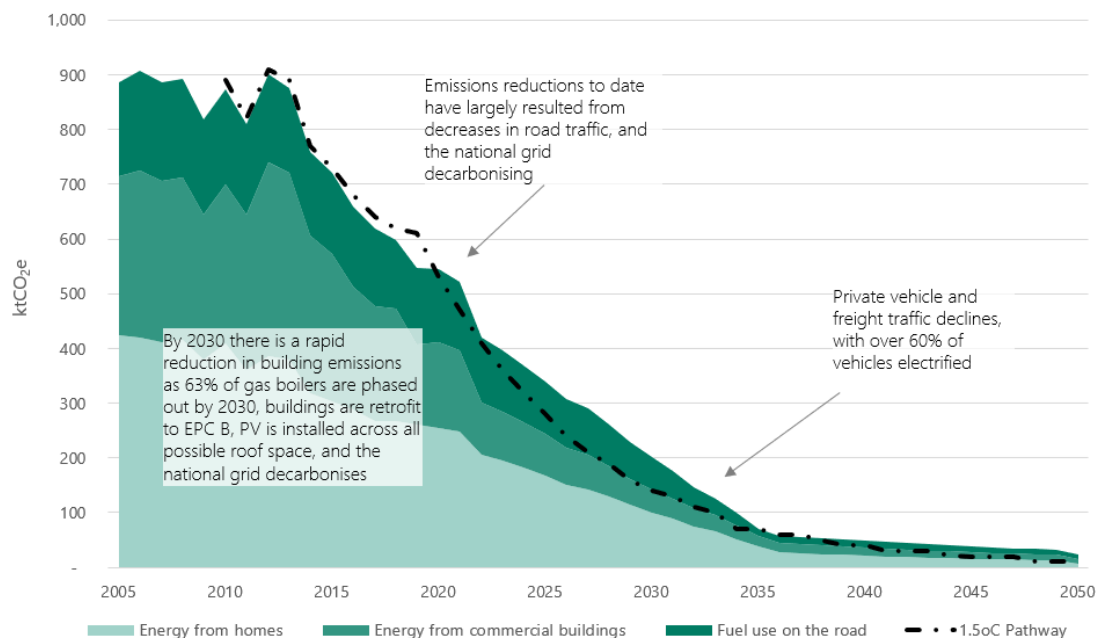


Figure 1: achieving Hackney's 2030 goals would rapidly reduce territorial greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. Source: Buro Happold modelling, for Hackney Council.

- 4.22. **Objectives:** Each goal has a number of key objectives. Objectives are the activities that we will need to work on together to progress towards realising the 2030 goals. They are made up of objectives for all Hackney stakeholders, as well as some specific Council objectives where it would have the lead responsibility. Together, it is intended that the themes, goals and objectives provide a framework that shapes future action planning and decision making for all Hackney stakeholders.

Council Implementation Plan

- 4.23. Sitting alongside the CAP is a Council Implementation Plan (IP), which provides a detailed set of proposed key actions for the Council to undertake

(by theme) initially over the next three years and that contribute to delivering the goals and objectives, considering where the Council has direct control and most influence to maintain momentum with its own climate response.

- 4.24. The Council's own ability to make carbon reductions is based on what it can control or influence. It is directly responsible for about 5% of local area territorial emissions. However, it has many levers that can be used to deliver wider local action to reduce emissions and prepare local areas for a changing climate particularly through leadership and placemaking.
- 4.25. There are a further 25% of territorial emissions that it has strong influence over. For example, from a built environment perspective the Council would be considered to have high influence over new housing and social housing activities. There is also good influence in respect of transport and waste.
- 4.26. Much of the remaining non-territorial emissions associated with consumption are where the Council's leverage may be more variable. Many decisions lie with individuals and require behavioural change; consumption emissions are also from a diverse range of sources. Notwithstanding, the Council has prioritised areas where it has strong levers to effect change such as waste, food, procurement, the circular economy, the Council's pension fund, as well as the embodied carbon within its own future developments amongst others.
- 4.27. An initial period of three years was selected for the implementation plan to:
- provide a sharper focus on the key actions needed now to maintain momentum;
 - help focus on actions that would enable the Council to scale activities for the period post the initial three year plan robustly; and
 - recognise that the technology and costs associated with net zero actions are changing rapidly and hence deliverability may change markedly over time potentially creating shifting focuses for action in the future.
- 4.28. A draft of the implementation plan was included in the appendices for the October 22 Cabinet approval for public consultation. Although this wasn't a formal part of the consultation, a number of detailed comments and suggestions were received, generally from those with a specialist knowledge of the climate and ecological agenda. These have been assessed as part of the consultation responses.
- 4.29. Original plans were that the IP should form part of the additional documents for this Cabinet report. There are however a number of more significant revisions needed to the IP, including a further prioritisation of the detailed actions already included for impact, both from a carbon perspective, but also those with significant co-benefits. As a result the IP will form part of the annual report to Full Council in July 23.

Monitoring and reporting framework

- 4.30. A commitment was made in the October 2022 Cabinet report to develop a monitoring and reporting framework and include it as part of the adoption of the CAP. This has been progressed, assessing both Council and borough-wide monitoring and reporting needs. Where there is certainty regarding future monitoring and reporting, this has been included in the revised CAP.
- 4.31. Monitoring and reporting is an important tool to assess progress towards net zero, informing decisions that may be needed to update the scale or pace of interventions accordingly. It is widely agreed to be key to credible, long term climate action by:
- **Maintaining transparency and accountability:** Monitoring climate action gives councils and other stakeholders the ability to demonstrate progress and quantify the benefits of climate action. This can aid future decision making by indicating where climate action has been most successful, and most challenging and when carbon offsetting has been used for emissions that can't be reduced;
 - **Providing key review points:** testing whether what we are doing collectively is having the desired impact on progress, whilst enabling opportunities to revise actions;
 - **Communicating with stakeholders on progress with targets:** The Council alone cannot deliver the actions needed to reach net zero and therefore must work in partnership with other organisations and individuals and enable stakeholders to make change happen; and
 - **Building a case to improve delivery and/or secure further funding:** Monitoring can help identify where further resources, investment or investigation is needed, and build the evidence base for this – ultimately informing further action planning.
- 4.32. The development of a monitoring framework will therefore support the need to measure the reduction in carbon emissions amongst other climate related actions, and track progress towards the 2030 goals of Hackney's borough-wide CAP, alongside an agreed reporting and review mechanism. For the Council's own obligations, a key principle of the approach is to acknowledge its existing reporting systems for subsidiary plans and strategies, so that the monitoring framework can build upon and complement these, rather than duplicating them.

Monitoring

- 4.33. Monitoring will be completed through a variety of interrelated mechanisms. Further detail can be found in the revised CAP (Appendix 1).

- Council territorial emissions initially aligning with the UK100 membership scope but expanding over time, using the [Local Partnerships GHG accounting tool](#);
- Borough-wide emissions principally initially via [The London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory \(LEGGI\)](#) and [Consumption-Based Emissions Accounting Framework \(CBEA\)](#);
- Monitor an agreed set of key performance indicators to track Council and borough-wide progress; and
- The Council's Implementation Plan for its own actions, to support delivery of goals and objectives which reflect its control and influence, supported by:
 - More granular monitoring through other established Council plans and strategies;
 - Key performance indicators to track Council progress where required.

Reviewing

4.34. The impact on achieving Hackney's borough-wide emissions targets will be recorded by changes in the borough-wide emissions footprint. This will provide an indication of the overall direction of progress across the Borough and by sector. Reviewing progress with meeting borough-wide and Council targets using a suite of key performance indicators will provide a more detailed assessment helping us to take more timely and evidence-based decisions to:

- Understand Hackney's progress towards its net zero target based on current and proposed actions;
- Understand progress towards its 21 goals and assess where greater action or alternative tactics are required;
- Track delivery of actions annually towards Hackney's borough-wide CAP with SMARTer measures;
- Help measure (where possible), the differential impact on different groups in Hackney;
- Better understand the success of climate action in delivering wider environmental, social, and economic co-benefits; and
- Enable shared learning and information sharing across organisations.

Reporting

4.35. The Council has made annual reports on its progress with its decarbonisation commitments (for each 12 month period) for the last three

years to Full Council in July each year. The next one is scheduled for July 2023. Whilst this has covered key progress at a project level and informed the development of the draft Climate Action Plan, a new format more accessible annual report on the Council's progress towards its own territorial emissions reduction targets - supported by key performance indicators, will be put in place for July 2024.

- 4.36. There are however a number of work streams that will have to be undertaken in the 12 months post CAP adoption in May 2023 to inform some of the above requirements and are set out below.

Council

- Confirm headline performance indicators and targets to track progress on territorial emissions within the Council's direct control;
- Incorporate these headline key performance indicators focused on Council controlled carbon emissions reduction as part of the Council's update of its corporate dashboard so as to provide high level corporate progress monitoring, reflecting the priority given to addressing the climate emergency in the Council's recently updated strategic plan;
- Explore ways to reduce the Council's Scope 3 emissions;
- Review and embed earlier Net Zero Energy Strategy monitoring and reporting requirements into CAP monitoring and reporting requirements; and
- Identify next steps as to the role for the Scrutiny Panel and Commissions in governance.

Borough-wide

- Update the current borough-wide baseline assessment using latest data from 2022 to establish an updated baseline and inform targets with which to track progress against, whilst testing the existing modelled pathway for conformity with net zero ambitions;
- Review other data sources for borough-wide emissions including the Office For National Statistics (ONS) on carbon dioxide emissions for local authorities and whether/how to integrate;
- Develop options with key partners to establish the headline key performance indicators for tracking progress on carbon reduction associated with the overall CAP, focusing on the relevant borough-wide goals in the CAP. This will be developed collaboratively with external partners to enable a response that is proportionate and where possible relies on existing accessible data sets, noting key partners may have their own performance monitoring mechanisms for their organisations and the intention is not to duplicate that;

- Review themes and goals with others, where carbon reduction is not the focus to develop headline key performance indicators;
- Consider future options to assess wider social and economic co-benefits of climate actions such as health to inform considerations of social justice and inequalities; and
- Assess options with key partners for public reporting of progress on the borough-wide CAP.

UK100 membership network and net zero target for selected Council territorial emissions

- 4.37. The Council's existing target for its own greenhouse emissions requires a 45% reduction by 2030 based on a 2010 baseline and 'net zero' by 2040. However, it has also been clear that where it can move faster it will endeavour to do so, regardless of the stated 'net zero' targets.
- 4.38. In January 2022, the Mayor and Lead Member made a statement to Full Council outlining their ambition to rejoin the UK100 network. This followed earlier work to review 'net zero' targets set out within the original Climate Emergency declaration and to bring the Council in closer alignment with key stakeholders across London. This has now been progressed such that the Council now has a revised 'net zero target' of 2030 for territorial emissions that fall within the defined scope of UK100 membership requirements. The full detail of the initial territorial emissions scope to be applied in pursuance of the Council's revised 2030 'net zero' target is to be brought to Full Council in July 2023 as part of the annual decarbonisation report.
- 4.39. The Council was previously a member of the UK100 membership network, albeit based on earlier membership requirements which required the Council to sign up to a commitment to 'use 100% clean energy across the full range of functions by 2050'. UK100 have modified their membership criteria and now require the adoption of a net zero target for Council territorial emissions (within the current UK100 emission scope) by 2030 and boroughwide by 2045 (some five years later than the current Council net zero commitment). In respect of the latter, committing to a boroughwide 'net zero' target wider than the Council activities will require further dialogue with stakeholders post adoption.

5. Details of alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. Do nothing was rejected as it goes against the Mayor's strategic priorities, alongside the existing climate emergency declaration and more recent political commitments to rejoin the UK100 membership network.
- 5.2. An earlier option to continue with the delivery of the Council's climate response through Council strategies and plans alone, (which although a significant contributor to emissions we can influence), was discounted due to the need to:

- Bring key Council climate response actions into one place whilst taking a more system based approach;
 - Explicitly acknowledge that the Climate Action Plan represents the collective action needed boroughwide to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, noting the Council only has direct control of some 5% of territorial emissions; and
 - Reflect that boroughwide actions will need a wider variety of key stakeholders to align around key goals and hence a document that reflects the breadth of likely future commitment is required to articulate that.
- 5.3. Alternative recommendations were considered and either modified or rejected through the internal Environmental Sustainability Board - chaired by the Group Director for Finance and Resources, the Corporate Leadership Team, chaired by the Chief Executive, and the Strategic Officer Climate Group consisting of senior managers and officers.
- A Council only focussed CAP - would not robustly make linkages with others to deliver a boroughwide multi partner response;
 - Not including 2030 goals - lack of direction of travel;
 - A longer period for the plan - could potentially dilute key focus on priorities; and
 - Relying on separate policies and plans without an overarching approach - too fragmented and cross cutting benefits likely to be reduced.

6. **Background**

Policy Context

- 6.1. In November 2022, the Council adopted its Strategic Plan, 'Working Together for a Better Hackney' that sets out the ambitions for the Council for the next four years, as well as the challenges it faces, describing how it needs to respond and change, working with residents, businesses and partners. The CAP is aligned with the Mayor's priorities in particular 'For a greener healthier Hackney', synopsis in italics below, but also the priority 'For a fairer, safer Hackney'.

"We will continue to lead the way in the fight against climate change, working towards a net zero Hackney, with cleaner air, less motor traffic, and more liveable neighbourhoods. We will transform adult and children's social care, tackle physical and mental health inequalities and continue to support, value, and give voice to our older and disabled residents."

The CAP also supports the delivery of a number of key Council strategies and plans such as the Local Plan, Hackney Transport Strategy, Reduction & Recycling Plan, Air Quality Action Plan, Parking and Enforcement Plan,

earlier Net Zero Energy Strategy, Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Plan amongst others.

- 6.2. The Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report was released in March 2023 summarising the state of knowledge of climate change, its widespread impacts and risks, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. It recognises the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human societies; the value of diverse forms of knowledge; and the close linkages between climate change adaptation, mitigation, ecosystem health, human well-being and sustainable development, and reflects the increasing diversity of actors involved in climate action. The report underscores the urgency of taking more ambitious action with temperatures now about 1.1C above pre-industrial levels. It states that if greenhouse gas emissions can be made to peak as soon as possible, and are reduced rapidly in the following years, it may still be possible to avoid the worst ravages that would follow a 1.5C rise.

The role of central and regional government

- 6.3. Nationally, central government has set the UK's first net zero target, to be reached by 2050, the first major economy to pass this into law. This ambitious plan will impact how the UK produces goods and services, how people move around the country and how to heat their homes. To guide this transition, central government published a Net Zero Strategy, which sets out UK policies and proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for each sector.
- 6.4. The 'net zero' review chaired by Chris Skidmore MP is a comprehensive assessment of the UK's progress towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The review highlights the urgent need for coordinated action from all sectors of society, including local governments. Local authorities play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by implementing sustainable policies and infrastructure projects that reduce carbon emissions and promote renewable energy sources. The report calls for increased collaboration between national and local governments to deliver effective climate action plans at a local level. It also recommends greater investment in green technology and innovation to support local economies and create green jobs.
- 6.5. Most recently the government has released an extensive suite of documents entitled Powering up Britain, which set out the UK's new energy plan including support for carbon capture projects, nuclear energy, offshore wind farms, electric vehicles, home heat pumps and hydrogen power amongst others. Its ambition is to make the UK more energy independent, reducing the impact of volatile international energy markets, while underpinning a clean energy transition, so the UK becomes a net zero economy by 2050. There are however serious concerns being raised outside of government as to whether the components identified are the right direction of travel (such as the significant focus on nuclear and carbon capture and storage, whilst ignoring onshore wind), the absence of new funding to underpin delivery,

and whether taken as a whole it would achieve the legally binding 2050 UK net zero target.

- 6.6. The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is a non-departmental public body that advises central government on the climate, and publishes progress and advisory reports. Their annual progress report to Parliament in 2022 states that although central government now has a Net Zero Strategy in place, important policy gaps remain. Tangible progress is lagging the policy ambition. With a greenhouse gas emissions path set for the UK and the Net Zero Strategy published, greater emphasis and focus must be placed on delivery.
- 6.7. Both outline the importance and relationship between central government, creating top-down policies and the bottom-up implementation of local stakeholders such as local government. Everyone has a part to play, but critically climate action cannot be achieved by working within the Borough's boundary only.
- 6.8. The following points are status updates from the CCC closely related to the Hackney CAP themes. It outlines the current positive progress made but also the gaps where further action is needed from central government in order to decarbonise the UK. These will need to continue to be included within lobbying efforts, in collaboration with other local authorities amongst others:
 - Surface transport - the CCC suggests clear progress has been made in the sales of electric cars, although electric van sales are lagging behind. However, car travel rebounded much more quickly and completely following the lifting of lockdown restrictions than public transport did, and van and heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic rebounded to above pre-pandemic levels. Development of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles is not making fast enough progress;
 - Buildings - Rates of improvement in energy efficiency continue to be well below the necessary level, as they have been over the last decade. Central government proposes to scale up the market for heat pumps over the 2020s to achieve at least 600,000 installations a year, up from around 54,000 in 2021. Indicators of supply chain build-up will be needed to track whether this is progressing as planned. Additional limitations are the cost of retrofitting, mainly weighted towards the homeowner, and the potential difficulties of retrofitting in older properties, including those listed or in conservation areas; and
 - Electricity supply - Deployment of renewable electricity capacity, especially offshore wind, has been strong. Additional renewables and nuclear power are needed to meet the 2035 national grid decarbonisation goals.
- 6.9. The CCC's most recent report in March 2023 on progress in preparing for climate change, as required under the Climate Change Act, provides an

assessment of progress at the end of two National Adaptation Programmes, the statutory programme required from the Government to help prepare the country for climate change. The second National Adaptation Programme covered the period of 2018 – 2023 and the third (NAP3) is due to be published in summer 2023. Key recommendations/findings from the report were:

- The second National Adaptation Programme has not adequately prepared the UK for climate change. Its assessment found very limited evidence of the implementation of adaptation at the scale needed to fully prepare for climate risks facing the UK across cities, communities, infrastructure, economy and ecosystems.
- The impacts from extreme weather in the UK over the last year highlight the urgency of adapting to climate change. The record-breaking temperatures seen in summer 2022 brought unprecedented numbers of heat-related deaths, wildfire incidents and significant infrastructure disruption.
- The next National Adaptation Programme must make a step change. (NAP3) must be much more ambitious than its predecessors and lead to a long overdue shift in focus towards the delivery of effective adaptation.

6.10. The last few years have seen significant changes in the national policy environment in relation to nature and the environment. The Environment Act commits the government to reverse the decline of nature by 2030. It also places specific requirements on local authorities, including delivery of 'biodiversity net gain' through the planning system to start in November 2023, a strengthened 'biodiversity duty' which will require local authorities to review their operational and decision making process, strengthened Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) duties, and the implementation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies. In respect of the latter obligations, the Council has produced a Local Nature Recovery Plan which has been recommended for adoption.

6.11. The Greater London Authority Act 1999 sets out environmental improvement and sustainable development as core to the London Mayor's role. They also have a duty to publish a 'London Environment Strategy' which covers an assessment of – and policies related to – biodiversity, waste management, climate change mitigation and energy, climate change adaptation, air quality and ambient noise. Some of the most visible powers of the Mayor are in their control of London's transport network which gives them enormous scope to tackle carbon emissions and the capital's dirty air, alongside substantial powers over planning, although the role does not have significant responsibility for land management in the capital.

- 6.12. The Mayor of London has set a target for London to be net zero carbon by 2030 and selected a preferred pathway to net zero - the Accelerated Green pathway. Amongst other things, achieving this will require:
- Nearly 40 per cent reduction in the total heat demand of London's buildings, requiring over 2 million homes and a quarter of a million non-domestic buildings to become properly insulated;
 - 2.2 million heat pumps in operation in London by 2030;
 - 460,000 buildings connected to district heating networks by 2030;
 - A 27 per cent reduction in car vehicle km travelled by 2030;
 - Fossil fuel car and van sales ended by 2030, enforced in line with the government's existing commitments.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.13. After the consultation period a full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed to assess the impact of the draft CAP. Following the analysis of the consultation results, the EIA has been reviewed to take into account the protected characteristics and the impact the proposals will have on those groups. The consultation has provided more detailed information, so as to provide a greater understanding of the impact of the draft CAP, as well as identifying a series of mitigation measures if required.
- 6.14. Hackney Council and its decision-makers must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act (2010), which requires us to have due regard to the need to:
- 1) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
 - 2) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
 - 3) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.15. One of the four key messages of the CAP is to deliver 'A fair transition' and needs to ensure that those who are most vulnerable and affected by the climate emergency get the support they need. The risks of the climate emergency are not distributed equally; some communities, families and individuals are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- 6.16. Social justice and the just transition is rarely considered in central government climate plans and strategies. Support for vulnerable groups and those most affected by climate action and the physical impacts of the emergency is however embedded in the CAP, with each theme in the CAP describing the main social justice issues.

6.17. Hackney is home to an estimated 259,200¹ people and c23,000 businesses, with the population likely to grow to 291,555 people by 2030². It is considered that because the scope of the CAP is borough-wide, all members of the public, residents, workers and visitors to the Borough, as well as business and partner organisations will be potentially affected. The following table shows the relevance of the positive or negative impacts of the CAP on the following equality strands or protected characteristics groups:

| | Age | Disability | Gender reassignment | Pregnancy & Maternity | Marriage & CP | Race | Religion or belief | Gender | Sexual Orientation |
|-----------|------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Relevance | High | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | Medium | Low |

Table 1: Relevance of the CAP impacts on each of the protected groups

6.18. Overall it is anticipated that the CAP should have a positive impact as it is widely recognised that everyone will be affected by climate change, but the effects will not be felt equally, with those who are least responsible often worst affected by the impacts³. There are a number of factors that put people at greater risk of being negatively impacted by climate change. These included age (young and old), pre-existing health conditions, socioeconomic status (poverty), race and ethnicity, particularly as it intersects with the other characteristics⁴.

6.19. The initial assessment of the anticipated impact on high relevance protected characteristics groups (completed prior to the public consultation) is set out below.

- Age: For older people, the impacts of climate change, including increased extreme heat, is likely to increase vulnerability to ill health⁵. Without intervention, some older people may find it harder to adapt to the changes that will be required. Taking action on climate change will be important for safeguarding the current wellbeing and future rights of younger people. Having appropriate skills for the future economy will be particularly important for those who are starting in employment and will continue to work for many years to come. It will be important that individual interventions seek to have positive impacts for older and younger people, and the overriding principle of social justice and fairness within the framework will protect people.

¹[Census Briefing, 2021](#)

²[Greater London Authority, 2020](#)

³[World Health Organisation 2021](#)

⁴[Climate Change Committee, 2020](#)

⁵[The Lancet Covets, S et al, 2015](#)

- Disability: For some disabled people, the impacts of climate change, including increased extreme heat, may increase vulnerability to ill health. Climate anxiety is a recognised health condition and increasingly forming part of long term mental health conditions such as OCD⁶. Some disabled people will find it harder to adapt to the changes that will be required, or may be less able to access the support that exists unless it is designed with their needs in mind. At the same time, giving the support to be part of the transition and to take positive action is likely to be positive to the health of these same people⁷.
- Pregnancy: Climate change is having negative impacts on pregnant women and on birth outcomes due to increased exposure to heat, and linked air quality issues⁸. Actions both within the CAP and in the delivery plans and ongoing actions that will be developed under the framework that it creates are likely to have positive benefits for pregnant women and for their babies by improving factors such as air quality as well as by creating opportunities for people to be involved in acting on climate change.
- Race: People from Black and Global Majority communities are likely to be disproportionately impacted by climate change for a variety of reasons. Pre-existing health inequalities mean that some Black and Global Majority residents have worse health⁹, which is likely to be impacted negatively by the changing climate, particularly respiratory and cardiovascular disease. These factors increase the negative impacts of climate change, in particular excess heat, as the urban heat island effect is felt more acutely where the natural environment is not able to provide a cooling effect, higher deprivation make it more difficult to effectively cool properties through natural ventilation or air cooling, and air pollution has worse impacts on health when combined with heat.

Developing the EIA

- 6.20. Consultation results from the draft CAP have been used to inform the development of the EIA, noting there was a broad agreement from residents that the goals and objectives of all the five themes in the CAP would have a positive impact. Over 65% positive impact in contrast to the 12% negative impact highlighted by some.
- 6.21. Positive impacts stated by residents for each of the themes were:
- **Adaptation:** Improving health and wellbeing of individuals and communities;

⁶ [Hickman et al. 2021](#)

⁷ [Transport for All 2021](#)

⁸ [Royal College of Obstetrics and Child Health 2021](#)

⁹ [The King's Fund 2021](#)

- **Buildings:** Reducing energy use and costs and improving the energy efficiency, insulation, and resilience of their homes;
- **Transport:** Reducing air pollution and traffic congestion results in cleaner air with positive impacts on physical and mental health; Creating a more positive attitude towards sustainable transport; Taking action to take the needs of disabled people and vulnerable residents can help promote a more inclusive and equitable system; Safer and cleaner streets, improve health and wellbeing;
- **Consumption:** Benefiting health and the local environment; Improving the affordability and availability of healthy, sustainable, and locally sourced food; and
- **Environmental Quality:** Improving their health, wellbeing, and quality of life, creating job opportunities; Improving air quality and making it safer to be outside.

6.22. Negative impacts stated by residents for each of the themes were:

- **Adaptation:** Concerns about associated costs such as council tax increases to pay for it and that resources could be better spent;
- **Buildings:** Concerns about associated costs and need for financial support, some responses stated that the goals and objectives would have a limited impact on private and social housing renters. Some residents already feeling invisible and disadvantaged in terms of housing repairs and opportunities and they don't believe the CAP will fix it;
- **Transport:** Critical views about Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and the impacts related to businesses, income, costs associated with cars, traffic, and journey times, promoting active travel and discouraging motor vehicle use could disproportionately affect those with mobility issues;
- **Consumption:** Objections to Council overreach in encouraging residents to adopt a plant-based diet; and
- **Environmental Quality:** None.

6.23. Tables 2 and 3 provide an assessment of the objectives proposed in the draft CAP and whether they would have an overall positive impact or negative impact on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations, whilst noting that many people may identify with more than one protected characteristic. For example, young people may fall under the sexual orientation group, disability group, and the race groups.

6.24. Respondents to the consultation mentioned the need to ensure the positive impacts of the CAP benefit other at-risk groups such as climate migrants and

refugees and people needing information in other languages; it is likely that these groups will already fall in one or more of the protected groups.

Key: Y: Yes; N: No.

A: Age; D: Disability; GR: Gender reassignment; PM: Pregnancy and maternity; MC: Marriage and Civil Partnership; R: Race; Re: Religion or belief; S: Sex; and SO:Sexual orientation.

Table 2: Proposed objectives per theme and the potential positive impact on each protected group

| Theme | A | D | GR | PM | MC | R | Re | S | SO | Comments |
|-----------------------|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| Adaptation | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | These groups, like all other residents, should benefit from ensuring that they are prepared for and resilient to the climate impacts, protecting the most vulnerable residents. |
| Buildings | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | These groups, like all other residents, should benefit from removing gas boilers, adding solar panels and decreasing energy use and reducing fuel poverty. |
| Transport | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | These groups, like all other residents, should benefit from reducing emissions from transport, improving air quality and helping residents live active and healthy lifestyles. |
| Consumption | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | These groups, like all other residents, should benefit from changing what and how we buy, use and sell and from the positive impacts of generating a green economy. |
| Environmental Quality | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | These groups, like all other residents, should benefit from maximising the potential for biodiversity in green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive. |

Table 3: Proposed objectives per theme and the potential negative impact on each protected group

| Theme | A | D | GR | PM | MC | R | Re | S | SO | Comments |
|---------------|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| Adaptation | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | There is no evidence found to show that these actions would have a potential impact on these characteristics. |
| Buildings | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | There is no evidence found to show that these actions would have a potential impact on these characteristics. |
| Transport | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | There is no evidence found to show that these actions would have a potential impact on these characteristics |
| Consumption | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | There is no evidence found to show that these actions would have a potential impact on these characteristics. |
| Environmental | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | There is no evidence found to show that these |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Quality | | | | | | | | | | actions would have a potential impact on these characteristics. |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|

- 6.25. The impact of the CAP is to reduce emissions and adapt to climate events, it is therefore anticipated that all groups would experience a positive impact including those with protected characteristics. All five themes in the CAP aim to protect these groups by ensuring they are prepared for climate extreme events (heatwaves, prolonged cold weather events, drought and flooding), tackle fuel poverty, consider transport needs whilst increasing active travel, increase the consumption of affordable and more sustainable food whilst acknowledging religious dietary requirements, reduce exposure to poor air quality and increase access to green spaces and support community groups.
- 6.26. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves considering the need to:
- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics;
 - Meet the needs of people with protected characteristics; and
 - Encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is low.
- 6.27. The adoption and implementation of the CAP should therefore pay due regard to the equality considerations highlighted in the EIA, to ensure that the Council is compliant with its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
- 6.28. The Council will continue to consider the impact on all protected characteristics during the ongoing development and implementation of the climate actions. Where appropriate it will undertake additional engagement with the community or more detailed equality analysis where negative impacts on specific protected characteristics have been identified.
- 6.29. It should be noted that the consultation was self-selecting and not wholly representative of the demographic of Hackney. The key points were the high percentage of respondents who gave their ethnic background as White, the high percentage that stated having no religious belief and the very low response rate from those aged under 25.
- 6.30. The full Equality Impact Assessment can be found in Appendix 2.

Sustainability & Climate Change

- 6.31. Many of the outcomes associated with transitioning to net zero can accrue as societal benefits, also known as ‘co-benefits’. These co-benefits have wide ranging value through:

- Local economic stimulus;
 - Improved health outcomes reducing the ongoing cost of healthcare services;
 - Improved biodiversity outcomes;
 - Alleviation of fuel poverty;
 - Job creation and the opportunity to upskill redundant roles; and
 - Mitigation of water run-off, avoidance of flood damage etc.
- 6.32. For example, reducing congestion can improve local air quality and in turn reduce respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, absenteeism and health care spending. Tackling congestion might also free up space for parklets and green areas which can help improve surface water management and establish new habitats.
- 6.33. By considering these systemic interactions, it is possible to better understand the overall social, economic and environmental value of proposals and the trade-offs that might be required. We can use this understanding to inform future decision making and build the case for bolder and more ambitious action that will enable co-benefits to be better incorporated alongside net zero.
- 6.34. Future work to develop an assessment of co-benefits as a key outcome of the borough-wide climate response, is included in the monitoring and reporting framework proposals, covered earlier in this report.

Consultation

- 6.35. The consultation survey was open for 10 weeks from 1st November 2022 to 10th January 2023. It involved an online survey hosted on Citizen Space, with paper surveys available upon request with a Free-post return. Participants could complete the draft Climate Action Plan consultation in reference to the summary or full version of the draft Climate Action Plan. The summary document was provided with paper surveys.
- 6.36. Following analysis, and in response to the numbers of respondents to the consultation, a short social media survey was published on Citizen Space which ran from 2nd December 2022 to 10th January 2022. The survey was designed to allow respondents to quickly share their views and was promoted on Facebook and Instagram. The short survey also invited respondents to take part in the full consultation.
- 6.37. The consultation was promoted in Love Hackney, the Council's magazine, Hackney newsletters including Greener Hackney, parks and housing newsletters, and was featured on the Council's Consultation Hub website. The consultation was shared widely with stakeholders and Council networks including but not limited to: NHS partners, Public health and health and wellbeing networks, Housing partners and Council tenant and resident

associations, Schools and education partners, Community Strategy Partnership, Hackney Business Network, Zero Emissions Network, Zero Waste Network, Hackney Faith Forum, Hackney Food Network, Community Safety Partnership, Local environmental and sustainability community groups, Community and voluntary sector partners and organisations representing groups identified as communities who may be more vulnerable to climate change risks.

- 6.38. Target groups were encouraged to take part in the consultation through existing networks and reference groups taking into account the groupings that were identified in the equalities section of the Cabinet report of 24 October 2022, as well as wider contact lists in respect of the environmental community of interest.
- 6.39. Eight drop-ins sessions were held at each of Hackney's libraries across November and December 2022. Drop-ins were advertised through posters at libraries, alongside consultation communications, and on social media.
- 6.40. The consultation was also promoted via Hackney's citizen's panel, Hackney Matters.
- 6.41. Four focus groups were held with groups underrepresented in survey responses, details below:
- Two focus groups with older residents, organised with the Older Citizens Committee;
 - Focus group with Black and Global Majority residents, organised through the Hackney Matters Panel;
 - Focus group with Somali women, organised in partnership with Coffee Afrique.
- 6.42. The results from the consultation have been set out in an attached Consultation Report, Appendix 3. The report also provides a breakdown of the mix of respondents according to factors such as age, religion, ethnicity, and their relationship to the Borough. Response rates are summarised below:
- A total of 219 respondents took part in the consultation survey;
 - A total of 306 respondents took part in the short social media survey;
 - An additional 14 respondents shared their views on the consultation by email. Two email responses were also submitted through the consultation survey;
 - 40 participants took part in focus groups; and
 - 65 participants attended the Climate Action Plan drop-ins at libraries.

6.43. Although covered in more detail in the Consultation Report, some of the key findings from the feedback are:

- Most individuals who submitted a response lived in Hackney (68%) followed by those who either work (19%) or commute through Hackney (9%);
- The bulk of organisations that responded were from the voluntary and community sector with smaller numbers from businesses (15%) or were unstated (29%). The number of responses from organisations was relatively low relative to those from individuals. In particular businesses were underrepresented, despite promoting the consultation on more than one occasion, and demonstrates some of the challenges of engaging with a diverse and extensive local business base on broader cross-cutting issues with less specific asks;
- The majority of respondents, just over 84%, stated that they were concerned about the impact of climate change in Hackney. This includes just over 65% of respondents who were “very concerned” and just under 19% of respondents who were “concerned”. This was followed by smaller numbers who were unconcerned, neither concerned nor unconcerned and don’t know. The cohort of respondents was therefore likely to be from those with the starting point of a strong interest in the climate crisis per s;
- The percentage of respondents was split fairly evenly between males (46.08%) and females (48.04%);
- Most respondents were aged between 25 and 64, with the age group 45-55 representing 26.5% of all respondents. Those aged over 65 made up 23% of the respondents. Despite being a significant proportion of young residents in Hackney, responses from those under 25 were relatively small (1%) and indicates that more work will need to be done to engage this age group going forwards, most likely in respect of specific topic areas;
- 79.39% of respondents described their ethnicity as ‘White’. Only 4.23% identified as ‘Asian’ and 3.7% as ‘Black’ which are lower figures than within the population of the Borough as a whole (10.4% and 21.1% respectively);
- 52.36% of the respondents indicated that they had no religious belief or were atheist. This is a much higher proportion than in the Borough population as a whole (36.3%) and meant that respondents who stated that they hold religious beliefs were under-represented.
- The percentage of respondents who stated they considered they were disabled was 19.7%. This is higher than the figure for the Borough (14.3%), however the latter figure represents those disabled within the terms of the Equality Act.

- The housing tenures stated by respondents were: owned outright (35.05%), being bought on a mortgage (29.9%), rented - Local Authority/Council (10.82%), rented - private (10.31%), rented - Housing Association (7.73%). This suggests that private homeowners were heavily represented in the respondent mix, considering that Hackney has one of the lowest levels of home ownership in the country (24.6%).

6.44. Prior to the consultation, four pre-engagement workshops were delivered on the five themes in the CAP. The pre-engagement workshops aimed to gather environmental 'community of interest' stakeholders' views on the actions that we should work towards over the next three years. Environmental 'community of interest' refers to local individuals and organisations with an interest or technical expertise in the CAP themes. A summary of the findings is included in the Equality Impact Assessment section 2.3.3.

Risk assessment

6.45. The development of a boroughwide response to the climate and ecological crisis through the development of a CAP has been publicly stated in previous annual updates on progress with decarbonisation commitments to Full Council. Failure to adopt the CAP post public consultation would potentially present a reputational risk to the Council.

6.46. There are a number of key risks, both for the Council and more widely, which could impact on the success of the CAP noting that currently, not all the necessary infrastructure, finance and regulation is in place to enable the changes needed, with a burgeoning impact of the cost of living crisis on current and future patterns of expenditure at both a personal and organisational level. The UK will only meet its emissions reduction targets if central government, regional bodies and local authorities, amongst others, work together to resolve some of these key barriers, noting that local authorities only have powers or influence over roughly a third of territorial greenhouse gas emissions in their local areas.

Finance

6.47. Local areas have a huge role to play in reaching net zero and have the ability to start implementation quickly, however they do not have the funding they need. Central government must provide certainty on its long-term funding plans for key areas such as retrofit and energy efficiency. Without this, it is impossible for local areas to play their part in building the skills, capacity and engagement needed to meet the challenge.

6.48. To enable plans for decarbonisation across the Council's own estate, major investment will be needed in the short/medium term to retrofit Council buildings, including social housing stock, to improve insulation and energy systems, even if there may be savings to be derived in the long term from energy efficiency and energy generation activities. Government announcements to date to financially support this work are inadequate.

6.49. It should be noted some of the Council's major funders such as Transport for London (TfL) continue to face uncertainty with their longer term finances. Recent financial settlements for the Council's Transport Local Implementation Plan 2023-2026 have been significantly lower than previous years and it is not possible to state what level of funding will be granted for future years. However, the Council continues to work closely with TfL and is ready to respond as new funding initiatives are announced to ensure it can continue to deliver green initiatives across the Borough.

6.50. Across the Borough there are many businesses, organisations and individuals committed to helping drive change, and willing to invest in the transition to create a better future. Together, we must encourage and support organisations across Hackney to prioritise planned investment in climate mitigation and adaptation.

Organisational change

6.51. The climate and ecological crisis will need the Council to work differently, remain outcome focused, as well as smarter in its approaches where resources are constrained. The borough-wide CAP will assist this by providing the guiding framework.

6.52. The Council's ambitions for decarbonisation require substantial mobilisation and leadership across the organisation and involve transformational work across almost all functions, rethinking how it works and identifying the skills requirements and resources to manage its climate response effectively. This, coupled with a desire to extend this activity by using the role of the Council in leading, shaping and influencing decarbonisation of the Borough will place added requirements that will need to be effectively targeted, managed and resourced.

Policy

6.53. There are estimated policy gaps associated with 57% of the future greenhouse gas emissions reductions required nationally. Embedding and integrating net zero and climate adaptation properly across the policy landscape is vital. Clearer responsibilities are needed between central government departments, regulators, the GLA, and local authorities for the actions and interactions on the path to net zero.

Skills

6.54. Workers will need to develop new skills to fill the needs of new low carbon markets. However, evidence on skills requirements and current employment in key occupations (e.g. home retrofit coordinators) is limited. Availability of skilled workers therefore poses a risk for the net zero transition.

Governance

6.55. As part of the future adoption of the CAP, broader external governance and oversight is needed since this plan is not solely focussed on the Council's

activities, but also a range of borough-wide emissions for which the Council is not responsible and may have lesser influence. Establishing an appropriate and robust external governance will therefore be a key future step. Initial steps are:

- Working collaboratively with others post adoption, to develop and agree a form of community oversight;
- Developing a future Hackney Net Zero Partnership to convene partners and businesses, including major landowners, public institutions, large businesses, and large housing associations who are responsible for significant borough-wide emissions, amongst others, based on an agreed terms of reference; and
- Better aligning existing networks and reviewing established key partnerships with the goals of the CAP.

Stakeholder engagement

- 6.56. The success of the CAP thrives on the collective efforts of Hackney's stakeholders, central and regional governments, and the Council's civic leadership. This collaboration inspires change and addresses the climate emergency by connecting various organisations and communities. The Council is committed to strengthening its future capabilities in this area by enhancing organisational skills to deliver the diverse range of engagement approaches e.g. citizens assemblies, juries and panels, that may be needed.
- 6.57. High quality engagement is a shared responsibility across a broad range of key organisational stakeholders in Hackney. It should seek to complement the Council's own activities by establishing a wider, diverse programme of engagement that uses varied techniques including more deliberative engagement on specific topics, amongst others.
- 6.58. Work to date on the climate emergency has identified a continuing need for a more in depth and longer term response to engagement of residents amongst others. There remain key challenges in accessing the broadest range of residents, in particular those that are most vulnerable and less engaged.
- 6.59. To date there is a better understanding about what needs to be done practically to address the climate crisis based on evidence, and proven solutions already exist. Future engagement emphasis may need to be less on the what and more on the how to best deliver alongside others for the priorities identified and ensuring this is done with fairness at the heart.

7. Comments of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources

- 7.1. This report recommends approval of a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Hackney following consultation and engagement with residents and

businesses. The CAP sets out how the Borough will contribute towards net zero ambitions over the next three years.

- 7.2. The CAP is a plan for the whole borough and it sets out the challenge Hackney is facing to achieve net zero, in particular the funding needed boroughwide. Analysis shows that retrofitting all buildings in Hackney would require investment of approximately £3 billion in the building stock. To achieve this local areas will require significant public funding, particularly for public sector assets and social housing. Further, homeowners and other landlords will need to be able to access affordable financial products, such as loans and green mortgages. This is especially critical given the Cost of Living Crisis and rising energy bills.
- 7.3. There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of the CAP itself, however, the delivery of the Council's ambitious implementation plan and the associated costs are significant. The implementation plan sets out the actions for the Council over the next three years that contribute to delivering the goals and objectives set out in the CAP.
- 7.4. The Council continues to face significant financial challenges over the medium term and the resources required to finance the actions within the implementation plan are significant. Included in the Council's Capital Programme budget for 2023/24 to 2025/26 is an investment commitment of £61m towards achieving our net zero ambitions and delivering the action set out in the CAP. Resources have also been committed as part of the 2023/24 budget to increase programme management and engagement capacity to support the delivery of the CAP implementation plan.
- 7.5. This investment commitment aligns with the funding strategy for the Council's implementation plan that is to embed actions into business as usual, target available budgets where it will have the most impact either by acting as match funding to pull in external grants or by investing in projects that will be self funding over the long term.
- 7.6. We continue to identify sources of funding and capital investment such as grant funding from central government, which is limited but will be particularly important for low income and social housing, local climate bonds, that can raise capital whilst allowing local people to invest in their area and directly benefit from the projects delivered, private sector capital (e.g. from businesses looking to fulfil commitments they have made to investors) and carbon offsets – investment of carbon offsets in local decarbonisation and adaptation schemes.
- 7.7. All of the actions within the implementation plan requiring additional funding are being considered in the light of cost pressures on the Council's budget, both revenue and capital, and the external factors impacting the Council's finances, such as increasing inflation - especially in the construction sector, the Cost of Living Crisis and its impact on income collection and, the rising

cost of borrowing. These actions will be considered as part of the Council's medium term financial planning and budget setting process.

8. VAT implications on land and property transactions

8.1. Not applicable.

9. Comments of the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

9.1. In accordance with Article 5 of the Council's constitution the Mayor and Cabinet, when approving policies for the Council, seek to balance the interests of the community and set priorities that contribute to the life and development of the borough.

9.2. A key decision is a Cabinet decision which is likely to:

i) Result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decisions relates, or

ii) Be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Council.

9.3. Recommendation 3.1 of this report recommends that Cabinet approves the final Climate Action Plan attached as Appendix 1 for adoption.

9.4. Currently the Mayor's Scheme of Delegation reserves to the Mayor and Cabinet approval of: all corporate policies and strategies and all formal service strategies. The Mayor and Cabinet are permitted to approve the recommendation set out in Paragraph 3.1 of this report.

9.5. The recommendation set out in 3.2 of this report recommends that Cabinet Delegates authority to the Group Director for Climate, Homes and Economy to make amendments to the Climate Action Plan as necessary. Paragraph 2.2 (Sub-delegation of Cabinet Functions) i) of the Cabinet Procedure Rules states that "*If the Elected Mayor delegates functions to the Cabinet, unless they direct otherwise, then the Cabinet may delegate further to a Committee of the Cabinet, to an officer, to any joint arrangements, to another authority or to area committees*". Cabinet is therefore permitted to approve and delegate functions as per the recommendation in 3.2 of this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Adoption Climate Action Plan 2023-2030

Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 3 - Consultation report on draft Climate Action Plan

Exempt

N/A

Background documents

[Draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2030](#)

[Draft Hackney Council Implementation Plan 2023-2026](#)

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Climate Action Plan 2023–2030



Climate Action Plan

2023–2030

If you need any information in this document in a different format, please email:
consultation@hackney.gov.uk

We'll consider your request and get back to you in five working days.

Foreword

When it comes to tackling the climate crisis, we see ourselves as one of the most ambitious councils in the country.

Since we declared a climate emergency in 2019, we've planted thousands of new trees, installed new zero-carbon energy on many of our buildings and transformed more than half of Hackney's streets to make them better for walking and cycling.

A cleaner and greener Hackney has emerged from the pandemic, yet the dangers of catastrophic climate change – where increased drought, flooding and higher sea levels cause risk to lives and habitats in the UK and further afield – are only increasing.

To tackle these dangers, everyone in Hackney must work together to: change what and how we buy and consume; make our buildings more energy efficient; change how we get around; adapt our infrastructure and protect the most vulnerable; and make sure Hackney's public spaces are greener, cleaner and more biodiverse.

This will be challenging. We will have to overcome significant financial and other barriers, and we must all work hard to make sure that the transition to net zero has fairness at its heart for residents and businesses. However, the benefits of climate action could be significant.

Reducing emissions from transport will help to improve air quality and reduce respiratory illness. Making Hackney's buildings more energy efficient will help to tackle the cost of living crisis, cut bills in the long-term and the risk of ill health. New green skills and jobs could be created from the need for our society to make this transition.

This Climate Action Plan aims to unlock these benefits for Hackney. Under five key themes – adaptation, buildings, transport, consumption and environmental quality – it sets out how residents, businesses and institutions, community groups and organisations and the Council can work together to tackle the climate and ecological crisis.

The plan is for everyone – and, through our future continued engagement and the ongoing goals and objectives in the plan, we want to make sure that everyone knows how they can influence and benefit from a greener Hackney.

We also want you to know that we'll continue to lead the way, which is why we have now included key actions from the Council's initial implementation plan in the Climate Action Plan – highlighting specifically some of the key actions we will take to tackle climate change over the next three years. The implementation plan will be updated every year, extending to 2030. Progress with delivering the Council Implementation Plan will also be a key part of the report to Full Council in July each year in line with our climate emergency declaration.

We recognise that even though we only contribute to 5% of the borough's territorial emissions, we must continue to lead by example. That's why we have rejoined the [UK100](#) network of councils, committing us to reaching 'net zero' emissions by 2030 for Council office buildings and its vehicle fleet as the first step. Notwithstanding this, it is our intention that the scope of our net zero emissions commitment is to be regularly reviewed as part of annual update on progress with decarbonisation commitments, allowing us to expand this commitment to other key functions over time.

From speaking to many Hackney residents, it's clear that people know that we can only tackle the climate and ecological crisis through collective action – sharing knowledge, building expertise and working together.

This Climate Action Plan is designed as a guide that everyone can refer to and that we can work together on. We welcome your continued comments, your scrutiny and, above all, your participation in tackling the climate and ecological crisis.

Join us in creating a greener, healthier Hackney.

Philip Glanville, Mayor of Hackney
Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

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Summary

Introduction

Despite the significant impact of the climate and ecological crisis on Hackney and the world, the Council continues to respond to this emergency with determination. Increased frequency of extreme weather events such as flooding and extreme heat pose risks to communities, ecosystems, and natural resources. However, it remains optimistic that through drastic reductions in emissions and adaptation to higher rainfall and warmer temperatures, together we can mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Declaring a climate emergency in 2019¹, together with a vision to rebuild a greener Hackney in the wake of the pandemic, and most recently this Climate Action Plan, demonstrates the Council's commitment to a sustainable future for Hackney's existing residents and future generations.

Hackney has made progress in reducing emissions over the last decade. Since 2010, emissions from buildings and road transport in Hackney have fallen by about 27%. Consumption emissions – from the things we all buy and use – have fallen by about 10–15% in the UK overall. Nevertheless, without faster action, driven by ambitious policies and targets, we won't be able to protect communities and ecosystems from the effects of climate change.

Since declaring a climate emergency, the Council has led some of the UK's most innovative work to tackle climate change: ending the dominance of motor vehicle traffic across large parts of Hackney; switching our energy supply to 100% renewable; and generating more renewable energy on its buildings. While the Council's emissions only account for about 5% of the borough's territorial emissions, its climate emergency declaration commits the Council to a 45% reduction in Council emissions by 2030 against 2010 levels and net zero – where it will no longer be a net contributor to climate change – by 2040. Rejoining the [UK100](#) network of councils, requires the initial commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2030 for the Council's own office buildings and vehicle fleet. Notwithstanding, it is the intention that the scope of its net zero emissions be regularly reviewed as part of annual update on progress with decarbonisation commitments, allowing the Council to expand this scope to further key functions over time.

This work is just the beginning. Across the borough, we must now all work together so residents, community groups and organisations, businesses and institutions can tackle climate change together, and support each other to reduce emissions and become more resilient to the effects of climate change. This will be challenging but the long-term benefits, such as better health and more sustainable jobs, will help create a fairer and more inclusive borough.

The science is clear: we must act now so we can harness these benefits locally and prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

¹ [Hackney Council pledges to reach net zero emissions by 2040](#)

What is the Climate Action Plan?

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) sets out an integrated approach for tackling the climate and ecological crisis. It provides a framework for everyone to take action to reduce emissions and adapt to the climate change that is already occurring, driven by an ambitious vision for a greener Hackney in 2030. This CAP is designed to set us in the right direction, but it will continue to be developed to keep pace with shifts across society, technology and wider policy, including the changing needs of communities, groups and organisations in Hackney.

Purpose and aims

The CAP aims to:

- Outline what a greener Hackney could look like by 2030 based on a fair and just transition.
- Build a shared understanding of the problem we face as a borough – and how we can work together to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.
- Help residents, businesses and other organisations to see their place in our shared response to climate change.
- Identify areas where local partners can collaborate on key strategic challenges such as financing and policy change.
- Confirm monitoring and reporting arrangements, as well as steps to support future stakeholder engagement requirements.
- Use the plan to shape agreements on how to work together to achieve shared goals.

Throughout this CAP, there are four key principles that will guide our approach.

Change is possible: Achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement, the international treaty that aims to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, will require collective action at a rapid pace and large scale. The good news is that there is still a path to avoid the worst impacts of the climate emergency and still an opportunity to effectively prepare and adapt to cope with rising temperatures.

Collaboration is key: We can only address the climate emergency by working together to tackle emissions and adapt our borough to the changes already occurring. There are many opportunities to work collectively to reduce emissions and make our neighbourhoods more resilient.

Fairness must be at the heart: We must ensure that those who are most vulnerable and affected by the climate emergency get the support they need. Although there are many benefits to taking action on the climate emergency, the risks are not distributed equally. To be effective, climate actions must be designed with attention to who might be most negatively affected, and how.

Climate leadership: There will be a need for leadership throughout our communities from: businesses; big institutions such as our hospitals; the voluntary and community sector; and residents themselves. Notwithstanding this, the Council can provide the civic leadership for

the collective effort needed to tackle the climate emergency in the borough, helping to bring together different organisations and communities.

What are the main sources of emissions in Hackney?

The chart below shows the main sources of borough-wide emissions in Hackney, and how they are broken down by sector. Nearly three-quarters of emissions are from consumption emissions – the things we buy, use and sell.

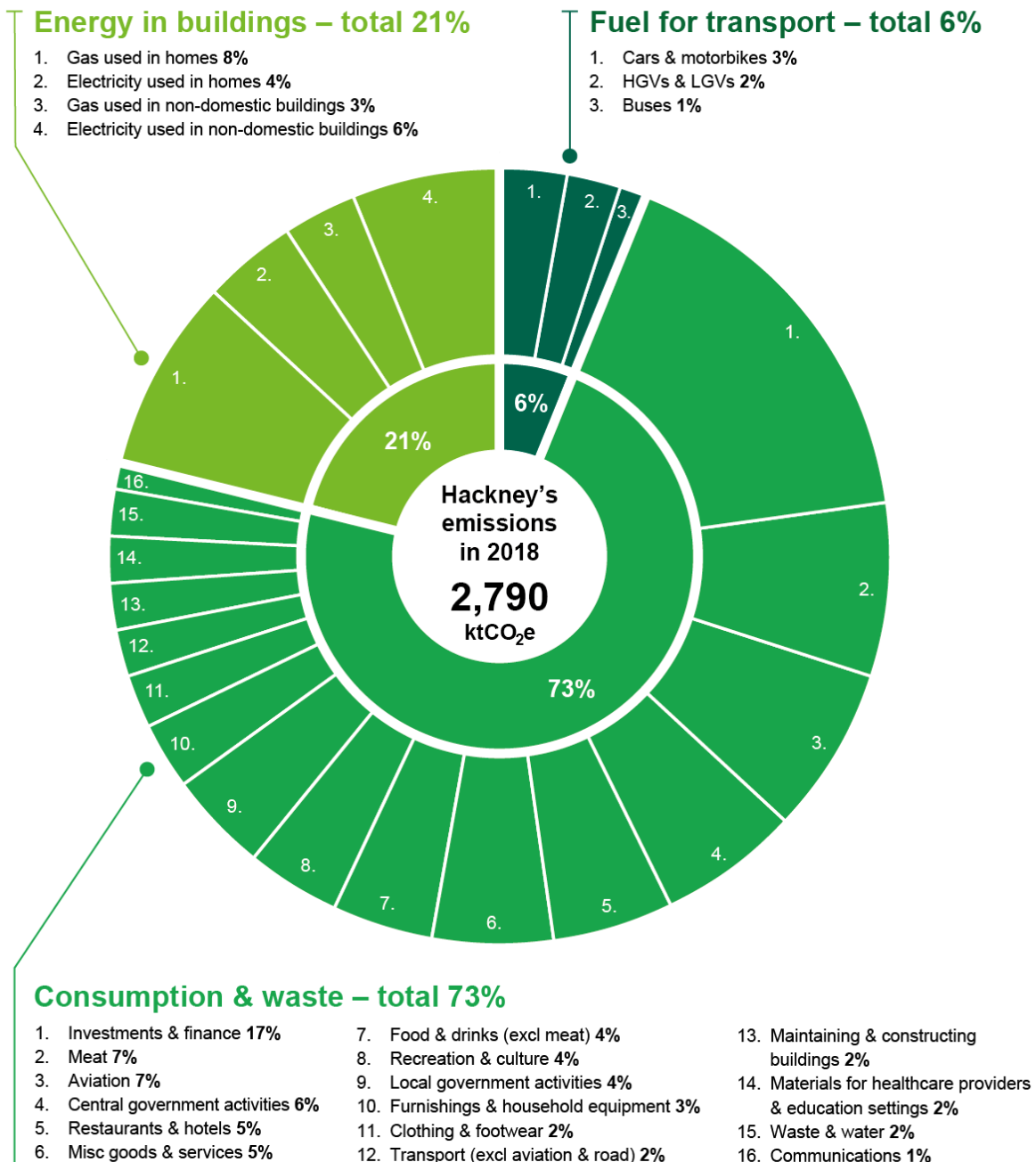


Figure 1: Hackney's main sources of borough-wide greenhouse gas emissions in 2018.

Themes, goals and objectives of the Climate Action Plan

The CAP is broken down into themes, goals and objectives.

Themes

The CAP sets out the ambitious, science-based changes that we can work towards achieving by 2030. All of these changes are organised into five themes. Within each theme, we have identified a set of ambitious 2030 goals, which are described on page 13:

- Adaptation.
- Buildings.
- Transport.
- Consumption.
- Environmental quality.

The themes define the broad areas of focus within the CAP, reflecting the need to reduce emissions, protect the natural environment and build resilience to climate change alongside wider benefits to responding to climate change, such as the potential to improve public health. At every stage, we also consider the impact on developing a local green economy and how we can ensure the response to climate change is fair and socially just.

Goals

Across the five themes in this document, there are 21 goals which set out the ambitious changes that we collectively need to make by 2030. This will require significant changes in all of our behaviour, infrastructure, business models, and co-operation. These goals are ambitious, borough-wide and aligned with the Paris Agreement. Reaching these goals at a local level doesn't rely on action by a single organisation, they are for everyone: residents, community groups and organisations, businesses and institutions.

Currently, not all of the necessary infrastructure, finance and regulation is in place to enable these changes. The UK will only meet its emissions reduction targets if central government, regional bodies and local authorities, amongst others, work together to resolve some of these key barriers.

Objectives

Each goal has a number of key objectives for the next three years. Objectives are the activities that we will need to work on together to progress towards realising the 2030 goals. They are made up of objectives for all Hackney stakeholders, as well as some specific Hackney Council objectives where it would have the lead responsibility. Together, it is intended that the themes, goals and objectives provide a framework that shapes future action planning and decision making for all Hackney stakeholders.

Council Implementation Plan

Alongside this plan is a Hackney Council Implementation Plan. This provides a detailed set of proposed actions for the Council to undertake over the next three years that contribute to delivering the goals and objectives, considering where the Council has direct control and most influence to maintain momentum with its own climate response. The Implementation Plan, whilst for an initial 3-year period, will be updated every year, extending to 2030.

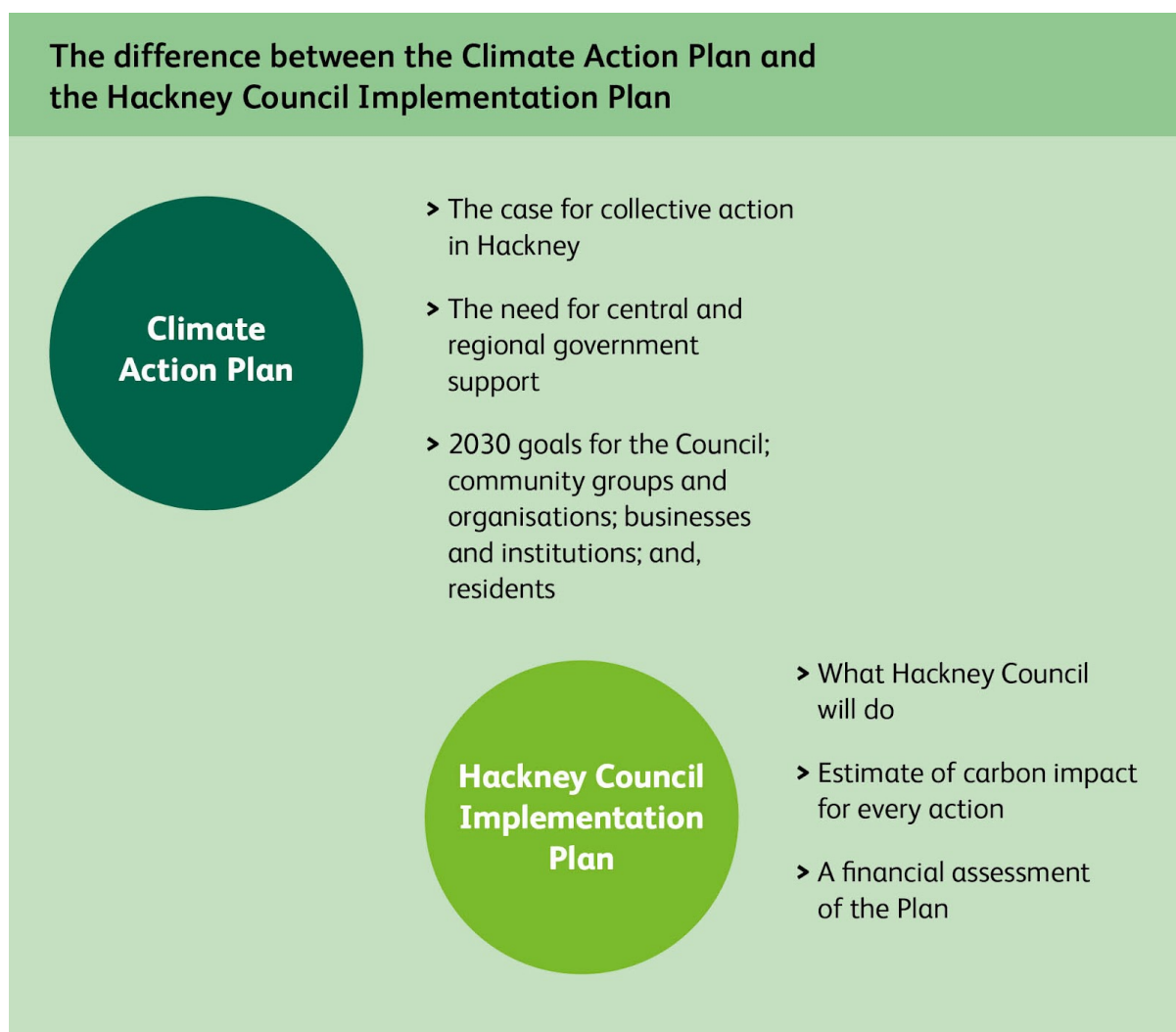


Figure 2: Relationship between the Hackney Council Implementation Plan and this borough-wide Climate Action Plan.

The five themes in the Climate Action Plan

1.

Adaptation

Ensuring that we are prepared for and resilient to the impacts of the climate emergency, protecting our most vulnerable residents.



2.

Buildings

Removing gas boilers, adding solar panels and decreasing energy use in our buildings, reducing fuel poverty.



3.

Transport

Reducing emissions from the transport network, improving air quality and helping residents live active and healthy lifestyles.



4.

Consumption

Changing what and how we buy, use and sell, creating a new green economy in Hackney.



5.

Environmental quality

Maximising the potential for biodiversity in our green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive.



Read the goals and objectives for each theme

You can read the themes and objectives for each theme later on in this document. Please use the links below to navigate to this:

- [Adaptation](#)
- [Buildings](#)
- [Transport](#)
- [Consumption](#)
- [Environmental Quality](#)

What does the Climate Action Plan mean for you?

Achieving our goals will require changes to how we all live, work and travel in Hackney. This will not be possible without collective action. Some suggested next steps are outlined below.

| Who | What can you learn in this document? | What might your next steps be? |
|------------------|--|---|
| Residents | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An overview of where emissions in Hackney come from, and why we need to make changes.• What Hackney will look and feel like to live in by 2030.• Some of the changes you might need to explore to your home, transport routes and the products and services you buy and use to reduce emissions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk to your friends, neighbours, families, and community groups about whether they are aware of what they can do about the climate emergency, and work with them to take action.• Work out who is responsible for removing gas boilers and reducing energy consumption in your home, and discuss how and when you might start doing this.• Ask your employer what their plans are for decarbonising.• Implement small changes into your day to day life.• Read through the 2030 goals: are there any you can commit to? Let the Council know by sharing your pledge and encourage others to do the same! |

| Who | What can you learn in this document? | What might your next steps be? |
|---|---|--|
| Community groups and organisations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of where emissions in Hackney come from, and why we need to make changes. • What Hackney will look and feel like to live and work in by 2030. • Some of the changes to your buildings, vehicles, and activities you might need to explore to reduce emissions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work out where you are using fossil fuels in your activities, and who you need to work with to swap them for alternatives. • Talk to your members about whether they are aware of what they can do about the climate emergency, and work with them to take action. • Create local projects that contribute to the themes in this document, reducing emissions, conserving biodiversity or spreading awareness, for example. • Read through the 2030 goals: are there any you can commit to? Let the Council know by sharing your pledge and encourage others to do the same! |
| Businesses and institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of where emissions in Hackney come from, and why we need to make changes. • What Hackney will look and feel like to operate in by 2030. • Some of the changes to your buildings, vehicles, and services you might need to explore to reduce emissions and contribute to tackling the climate emergency. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work out where you are using fossil fuels in your operations, and how to swap them for green alternatives and develop your own plans to get to net zero. • Better understand your vulnerabilities to extreme weather to become more prepared. • Talk to your employees about whether they are aware of what they can do about the climate emergency, and work with them to take action. • Consider whether you can offer green services, such as installing heat pumps, repairing goods or selling greener devices. • Read through the 2030 goals: are there any you can commit to? Let the Council know by sharing your pledge and encourage others to do the same! |

| Who | What can you learn in this document? | What might your next steps be? |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Council staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An overview of where emissions in Hackney come from, and why we need to make changes. ● How the Council's activities can unlock wider changes in Hackney, and enable other groups in Hackney to decarbonise. ● Learn from those we live and work alongside and capture best practices to inform future decisions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure this plan is used to guide the decisions and actions across Hackney Council. ● Deliver alongside others the Council Implementation Plan. ● Provide the civic leadership for the collective effort needed to tackle the climate emergency in the borough helping to bring together different organisations and communities. ● Run projects and programmes to reduce emissions across the borough ● Decarbonise buildings, vehicles, procurement, investment and activities. ● Lobby the UK government and regulatory bodies for systemic change and reducing barriers to change. |

What could Hackney look like in 2030?

Heating, flooding and other climate risks

- Buildings are protected from overheating
- We work together as a community to keep everyone safe from heat and flooding
- Streets are cool and shaded
- Flood risk is reduced throughout the borough

Clean and green transport

- We all mostly cycle, wheel, walk, and use public transport
- Most vehicles are powered using electricity
- More parking spaces changed to lower carbon uses
- There is less traffic and noise throughout the borough

Warm, low-carbon buildings

- All buildings are comfortable and safe
- Buildings are maintained and repaired regularly, with demolition only used in exceptional situations
- Most buildings are free from fossil fuels and have solar panels
- Construction workers trained to deliver low carbon buildings
- Energy use and fuel poverty are reduced



A green, community-led economy

- Goods are repaired and reused and we only buy what we need
- Healthy, plant-based diets are widespread
- Pensions and investments are fossil-free
- The Hackney green economy doubles in size
- There are more local, sustainable and cooperatively run projects

Wildlife and pollution

- Air is clean and safe to breathe
- We all only use the water we need
- Plants and animals are thriving
- Ponds, rivers and reservoirs are clean and healthy

Introduction

Call to action

The climate emergency is the most serious issue of our time, along with catastrophic biodiversity loss, much of which is a result of climate change. In late 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a stark warning, stating that global warming could reach 1.5°C as soon as 2030 if global greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase at their current rate.²

Global warming of 1.5°C is likely to have devastating impacts on our planet's ecosystems and communities. These include:

- Increased sea levels.
- Species loss and extinction.
- Increased rates of droughts in drier regions, culminating in increased rates and severity of wildfires.
- Higher frequency and intensity of rainfall, causing flash flooding.

To avoid the current climate emergency from worsening, we will all need to make changes to the way we live, operate our businesses and run our institutions. This plan sets the goals and objectives which we can all contribute to begin to make a difference.

Climate action in the UK

In 2018, the government set a target of achieving net zero by 2050.³ To guide this transition, government has published its [Net Zero Strategy](#), which sets out UK policies and proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for each sector.

Local authority leadership will be essential to deliver net zero at the local level. However, central government is key to unlocking certain barriers, and it recognises that local authorities can achieve more through collective and coordinated action. The climate emergency can only be solved by collective action at all levels.

Collaboration is needed to help local communities, businesses and other local stakeholders to take the bold steps needed. By listening to each other's concerns and co-creating solutions together we can create a more supportive environment for meaningful and lasting climate action.

² [Global Warming of 1.5°C | IPCC](#)

³ [UK becomes first major economy to pass net zero emissions law](#)

Change is possible

Achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement⁴, the international treaty that aims to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, will require action at a rapid pace and large scale. The good news is that there is still a path to avoid the catastrophic impacts of the climate emergency and still an opportunity to effectively prepare and adapt to cope with rising temperatures.

By the middle of this century, the world has to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with the small amount of remaining greenhouse gas emissions absorbed through natural carbon sinks like forests, and new technologies like carbon capture. If we can achieve this, global greenhouse gas emissions will be 'net zero'.

This ambition can be supported by what we do in Hackney and go hand in hand with helping eradicate poverty, improving quality of life and reducing inequality. There are many health benefits of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of the climate emergency. We want to ensure that everyone in Hackney can benefit from these actions, and that everyone is empowered to make behaviour changes that can deliver our goals.

A fair transition

Although there are many benefits to taking action on the climate emergency, the risks of the climate emergency are not distributed equally. Some communities, families and individuals are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because the impacts are felt more acutely by those already experiencing poverty and/or poor health. Hackney is one of two London boroughs in the 10 most deprived authorities in England.⁵ Environmental health effects are experienced more strongly by poorer communities, this shows the importance of equitable action directly within the borough.

⁴ [The Paris Agreement | UNFCCC](#)

⁵ [Indices of Deprivation 2019](#)

Purpose of this document

This plan sets out the themes, goals and objectives to address the climate emergency across the borough. It aims to:

- Outline what a greener Hackney could look like by 2030 based on a fair and just transition.
- Build a shared understanding of the problem we face as a borough – and how we can work together to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.
- Help residents, businesses and other organisations to see their place in our shared response to climate change.
- Identify areas where local partners can collaborate on key strategic challenges such as financing and policy change.
- Confirm monitoring and reporting arrangements, as well as steps to support future stakeholder engagement requirements.
- Use the plan to shape agreements on how to work together to achieve shared goals.

This plan is not a strategy document or an implementation plan. It seeks to establish the common vision for the collective action that is required across Hackney.

The Climate Action Plan Themes

The plan sets out five themes.

Adaptation – Irrespective of our actions to reduce our carbon emissions we need to adapt to some of the impacts of climate change that we are already experiencing. Our infrastructure, services, ecosystems, and communities are at risk from higher temperatures, increased rainfall and more unpredictable weather. This theme looks at collectively designing new ways of managing our streets and buildings, supporting our most vulnerable neighbours, minimising health risks, and working to better understand the challenges that the climate emergency may bring to make us better prepared.

Buildings – Energy use in Hackney's buildings is responsible for 21% of the borough's total emissions. This includes the electricity powering lights and appliances and the heat for warming water and spaces. This theme looks at how to reduce these emissions, including improving the thermal performance of buildings to reduce the amount of energy required to heat and cool them, and using and generating renewable energy. The theme also looks at the additional emissions from materials used to create buildings, promoting building retention and retrofit over demolition where appropriate. Taking action on all emissions from buildings will greatly improve the quality of life in Hackney, help to reduce fuel poverty and keep our homes well-maintained and running at a comfortable temperature.

Transport – Transport is responsible for circa 6% of the borough’s greenhouse gas emissions. Even though over half of all trips starting in Hackney are by walking or cycling, 70% of transport-related greenhouse gases are emitted by private cars and motorbikes. 20% of greenhouse gas emissions are from freight and through traffic not caused by Hackney residents or businesses. This theme explores how Hackney can further the ambition to be a model for sustainable urban living in London, with high levels of cycling and walking, accessible and resilient public transport networks and provision of infrastructure for low carbon vehicles.

Consumption – 73% of Hackney’s total greenhouse gas emissions are associated with the goods and services we buy and use. Most of the emissions are created in places outside of Hackney, for example in factories, farms and the transport networks used to bring goods into Hackney. Individuals and organisations in Hackney can still help influence the reduction of these greenhouse gas emissions through changing behaviours. This theme will explore ways to help reduce the environmental impact of the things that we buy and use and help drive a greener economy in Hackney.

Environmental Quality – Climate change accelerates ecological decline and can exacerbate the pollution of our air and water. Changing weather patterns and shifting seasons disrupt ecological cycles, air pollution gets worse during heatwaves and summer storms wash contaminants into our rivers and canals. This theme outlines key activities to protect and improve Hackney’s natural environment, air and waterways, and to support community groups and landowners to improve health and wellbeing.

Case for local climate action

The following section provides detail on how emissions are created in Hackney as well as considering the physical impacts of the climate emergency, how these affect different groups and sectors, and how we can all take a collaborative, just and equitable approach to climate action in Hackney.

Greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonisation in Hackney

Hackney's borough-wide greenhouse gas emissions to date

In 2020, Hackney Council undertook an assessment of where Hackney's greenhouse gas emissions come from. Figure 3 presents borough-wide emissions and has been produced using data from 2018, the most recent available at the time.

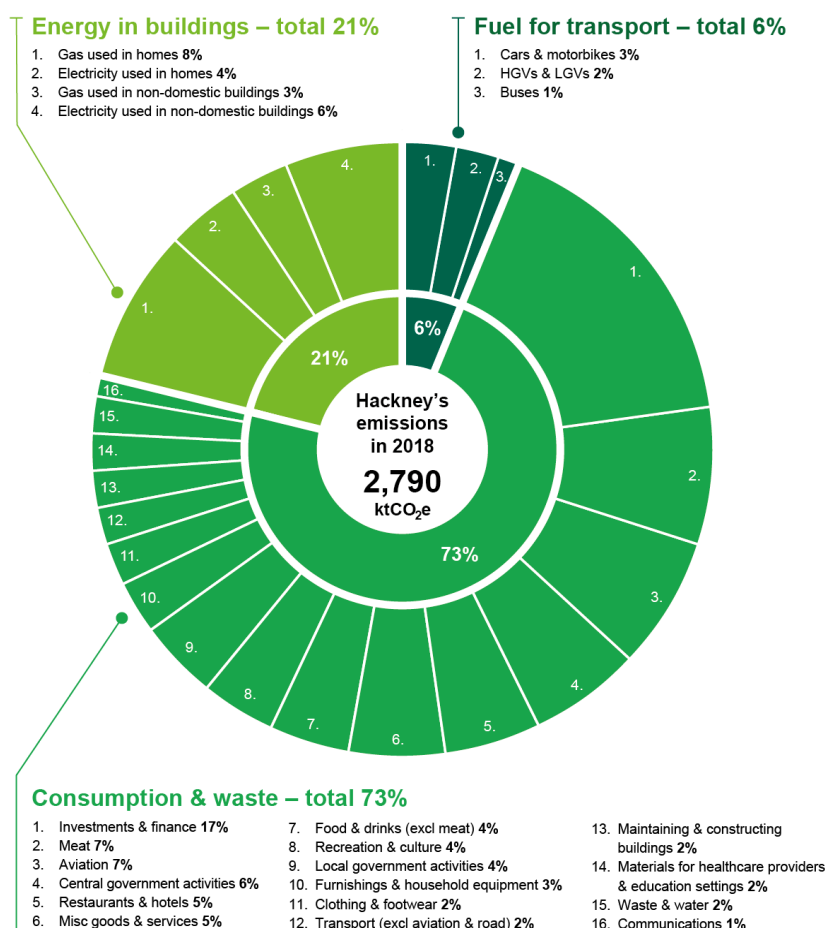


Figure 3: Hackney's (borough-wide) greenhouse gas emissions in 2018.

The green 'territorial emissions' data (Energy from buildings and Fuel for transport) is from BEIS sub-national CO₂ emissions datasets, with adjustments to account for other greenhouse gases. The 'consumption and waste emissions' data is from GLA and University of Leeds datasets.

The type and amount of fuel used in buildings and vehicles are the biggest part of Hackney's 'territorial emissions', ie. those emissions created within Hackney's borders. In 2018, these emissions were around 734 ktCO₂e. Most of these were from the fuel used in buildings, like gas-powered heating and using electricity for lighting and appliances. Cars and motorbikes create about 44% of emissions and LGVs about 37%, whilst buses emit the remainder.

In 2018, the majority of emissions came from 'consumption emissions' (73%, 2,100 ktCO₂e), which come from a diverse range of goods and services. Although it is possible to change how much we all consume, and what we consume, these emissions are also dependent on changes by manufacturers and service providers. For example, there are emissions associated with investments and pensions – where some proportion of the money in these funds might be invested in activities that generate emissions, such as a building or an energy company. Meat consumption is also highly emitting - nearly 60% of emissions from food in Hackney are linked to meat production, including farming machinery and processes to rear and transport animals that occur outside of the borough.

Pathways to net zero

In 2020, Hackney Council modelled the 'pathways' of actions and changes that would reduce emissions from buildings and vehicles, which requires direct changes to the energy systems and roads within Hackney. The exercise showed that in all scenarios everyone: businesses and institutions, community groups and organisations, residents and the Council alike, need to make changes at a large scale and at pace.

Many aspects of the transition are inherently uncertain and hence progress may be faster in some sectors. Even in the near term, there is high uncertainty whether projected emissions savings will advance as anticipated. We therefore need to keep options open while assessing if sufficient groundwork has been put in place to achieve overall emissions targets.

The modelling showed the actions that need to occur in Hackney include:

- Supporting the retrofit of public and private buildings.
- Swapping gas boilers for low-carbon heat sources (like heat pumps or district heating networks).
- Tightening controls on the emissions produced by building and operating new buildings.
- Encouraging active travel and transitioning to electric vehicles.
- Supporting businesses, institutions and communities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the products and services they use.

These actions must be taken rapidly to reduce emissions to safe levels. For example, Figure 4 shows the territorial emissions savings that could be achieved if the 2030 goals of this plan are delivered, and then continue to remove fossil fuels beyond that date. In this case, there would be a 94% reduction in Hackney's territorial greenhouse gas emissions in 2040, compared to 2010, and a 77% reduction by 2030.

This ambitious pace of change is closely aligned with the pace of decarbonisation that Hackney needs to achieve to contribute to limiting global warming by 1.5°C, based on current greenhouse gas emissions and Tyndall Centre modelling.⁶

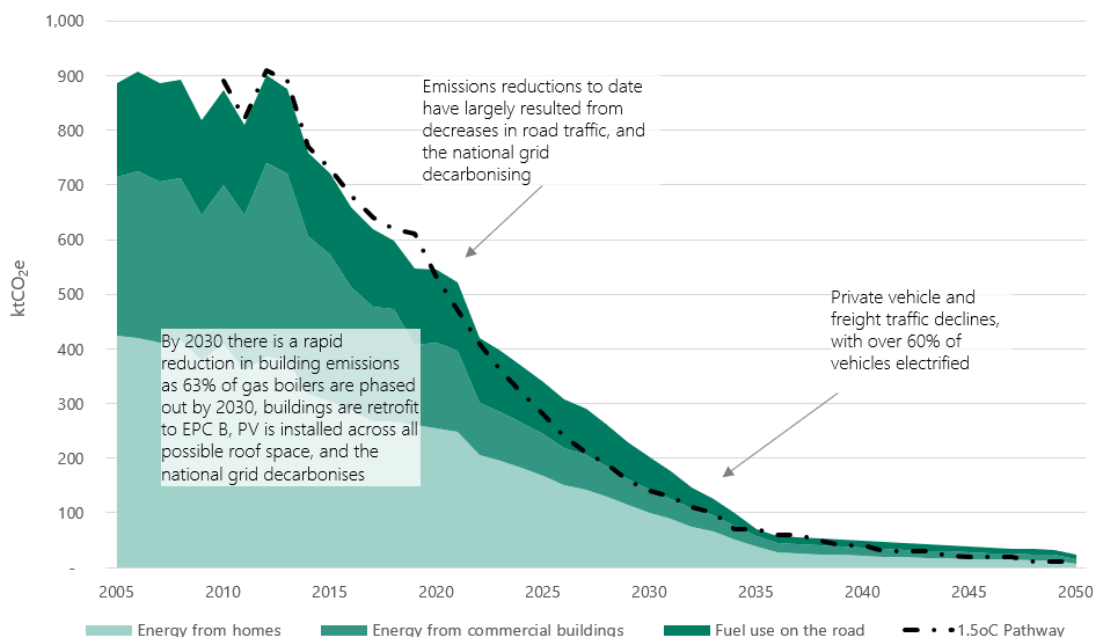


Figure 4: Achieving Hackney's 2030 goals would rapidly reduce territorial greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.

Source: Buro Happold modelling, with 1.5°C Pathway based on rate of decarbonisation specified by Tyndall Centre carbon budget models (grandfathering model).

Role of behavioural change

73% of Hackney's emissions are associated with the goods and services we all use, and are significantly influenced by choices about how we all travel and use our homes or workplaces. Figure 5 illustrates the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) estimates which demonstrate practical solutions alone can only deliver 41% of required national greenhouse gas reductions. 59% of emission reductions however, will rely partially or wholly on behaviour changes.

⁶ [Local and Regional Implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement on Climate Change \(manchester.ac.uk\)](http://manchester.ac.uk)

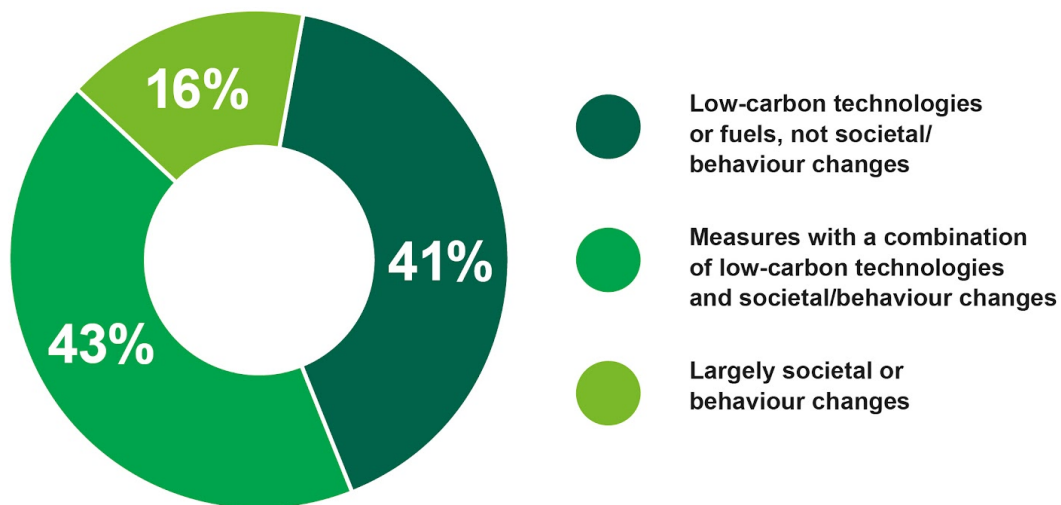


Figure 5: Role of societal and behavioural change in delivering the CCC's Balanced Net Zero Pathway.

Source: CCC Sixth Carbon Budget.

Preparing for climate risks

From extreme heat to flooding events, the impacts of the climate emergency are already being felt in Hackney. The CCC⁷ have found the most immediate and critical risks to the UK include:

- Human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes, other buildings and public spaces.
- The supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and networks.
- People and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system.
- Viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards.
- Soil health from increased flooding and drought.
- Natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards, leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions.
- General disruption in the UK from climate emergency impacts overseas.

London Council's 2021 climate emergency poll⁸ found that 55% of Londoners say their day-to-day life has been impacted by the changing climate. Londoners across the city and in all demographic groups are well aware of the climate emergency (with 94% of Londoners somewhat or very aware) and are motivated to tackle the climate emergency (with 89% of Londoners very or somewhat motivated to help prevent the climate emergency).

⁷ [Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://www.theccc.org.uk/reports-and-consultations/independent-assessment-of-uk-climate-risk/)

⁸ [Londoners' views on climate change in 2021](https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/major/london-council-poll-2021)

People disproportionately affected by climate risks

Hackney is a young and culturally diverse borough, with roughly a quarter of its population under 20⁹ and nearly 40% of residents born internationally.¹⁰ Population growth is projected to continue to increase, with the majority of this increase coming from the working age population (16-65+).¹¹ Hackney will continue to flourish as a lively and multicultural borough that is committed to the climate transition. However, our collective efforts to tackle the climate emergency will need to ensure that people who might be disadvantaged and disproportionately affected by the impacts of the climate emergency are not left behind.

Disadvantaged groups are those that are “less able to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impacts of disasters, such as the elderly and the very young, those suffering from poor health, those with limited mobility, the socially isolated, and the economically deprived”.¹²

Table 1 shows some of the groups of Hackney residents who might have lower incomes or face challenges accessing housing, services, and the living environment, and why they might be more at risk to the impacts of climate change. Many individuals may be part of more than one group, and the groups will have diverse, competing and aligned needs. This means careful design of climate actions with the involvement of a diverse cross-section of stakeholders is essential.

Table 1: Groups in Hackney who are most at risk to the climate emergency. Note that categories can overlap for individuals

| Groups most at risk | Why are they more at risk from the climate emergency? |
|---|--|
| Children living in poverty – Hackney has the fourth highest child poverty rate in the UK. ¹³ | Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, ¹⁴ overheating, and disease given that their immune and cognitive systems are not yet fully developed. Children are also more likely to be dependent on others for being able to adapt to climate risks. |

⁹ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 2](#)

¹⁰ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 5](#)

¹¹ [Hackney-Profile.pdf - Google Drive](#)

¹² [Final-equalities-evidence-base.pdf - Google Drive](#)

¹³ [Child poverty rates by local authority | JRF](#)

¹⁴ [Health impact assessment of current and past air pollution on asthma in London](#)

| Groups most at risk | Why are they more at risk from the climate emergency? |
|--|--|
| <p>Social renters: Hackney has a higher proportion of social renters compared to the London average. Many social renters are structurally disadvantaged because social housing is allocated to those in greatest need.</p> | <p>Social renters are more likely to experience unemployment and lower average incomes than their neighbours. They may be susceptible to issues such as overcrowding in homes which makes the impact of overheating and flooding more dangerous. They will also have less agency to adapt their homes to the impacts of climate change.</p> |
| <p>Residents aged 60+ receiving benefits: Hackney has a higher proportion of residents aged 60+ receiving Pension Credit, out of work benefits, or have an income of less than 60% of the national median compared to the London average.</p> | <p>Elderly, low-income groups are more likely to have underlying health issues that may not be easily managed, putting them at risk from overheating, air pollution, and diseases such as Covid-19 being exacerbated by the impacts of the climate emergency, and more.</p> |
| <p>Socially isolated residents: those more likely to feel isolated in Hackney include people in semi-skilled, manual labour and low-income groups, social tenants, and Muslim and Asian residents.¹⁵</p> | <p>These groups may have a harder time accessing emergency and community services in times of need.</p> |
| <p>Homeless individuals or rough sleepers: One in 44 people in Hackney is classified as homeless. With 3,000 of the 13,000 households on the housing waiting list being homeless families in temporary accommodation.</p> | <p>Homeless individuals are more vulnerable to climate-related events due to their exposure to the elements, limited access to resources, health vulnerabilities, reduced mobility, and social isolation. Additionally, they may lack timely information about climate risks and face disproportionate impacts from policies that do not consider their unique needs.</p> |
| <p>Black and Global Majority residents: Black residents comprise 21.1% of Hackney's population, and Asian or Asian British residents are 10.4% of the population.¹⁶ Across the UK Black and Global Majority people are structurally disadvantaged in relation to health, income and access to natural areas.¹⁷</p> | <p>Black and Global Majority people are disproportionately likely to have underlying health issues and/or lower incomes across London, which puts them more at risk from issues such as air pollution and overheating. They are also more likely to have the lowest incomes in the borough leaving them with fewer resources to adapt to the climate emergency.¹⁸</p> |

¹⁵ [Hackney Community Strategy 2018/2028](#)

¹⁶ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 5](#)

¹⁷ [Confronting injustice: racism and the environmental emergency | Greenpeace UK](#)

¹⁸ [Hackney Community Strategy 2018/2028](#)

| Groups most at risk | Why are they more at risk from the climate emergency? |
|--|--|
| Disabled people and people living with health conditions – while lower than the national average, about 9.6% of Hackney residents (age standardised) have some sort of disability or long-term health condition. ¹⁹ | Emergency responses (e.g. evacuations) may be more difficult for this group, while individuals with existing health conditions may be more vulnerable to further declines in environmental quality, new or more prevalent diseases associated with climate change. |

Addressing inequality with a fair transition

Without drastic reductions in emissions, the impacts of climate change will continue to worsen – affecting our lives and those of future generations. It is important that we set out an optimistic and achievable roadmap, demonstrating that emissions can be reduced while communities – current and future – flourish and prosper. Critical to achieving this are considerations of social justice and the opportunities to create a vibrant green economy which are seen as cross-cutting across the whole of this CAP.

Social justice

Climate action in Hackney can reduce inequalities and create benefits such as improved air quality, better mental health, and biodiversity enhancement. By ensuring inclusive decision-making, prioritising accessible and affordable solutions, and tackling systemic issues, the Council aims to create a fair, equitable, and inclusive environment. Encouraging community engagement, including citizens' assemblies, raising awareness, promoting financial viability of sustainable options, and regularly monitoring progress will help ensure climate policies and initiatives remain effective and inclusive for all community members.

Inclusive climate action in Hackney can also foster an accessible and equitable economy that benefits everyone, especially vulnerable and underrepresented groups. By focusing on affordable housing, public transport, and access to green spaces, climate initiatives can address the diverse needs of residents. Offering impactful support for climate adaptation, resilience, and mental health will empower vulnerable groups to cope with climate-related challenges. Targeted engagement with the community using more deliberative engagement and promoting economically feasible sustainable options will help drive more lasting change to create a fair, resilient, and climate-conscious society.

Climate action can reduce inequalities and create other benefits. For example, Hackney faces significant overheating and flooding risks; using green infrastructure like trees and green walls, to mitigate this where possible, also reduces air pollution, improves mental health and contributes to local biodiversity enhancement. Reducing vehicle usage by enabling walking and other means of public transport can reduce emissions, while improving air quality and public health. In Hackney we must all make changes to our buildings, roads, public spaces and ensure our economy is accessible, equitable and inclusive. Table 2 sets out some of the potential social justice issues by theme.

¹⁹ [ONS 2021](#)

Table 2: Potential social justice issues by theme

| Themes | Potential Social justice issues |
|--------------------------|---|
| <p>Adaptation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Efforts to tackle the impacts of overheating and flooding, including the significant mental health impacts of these events, will prioritise residents who are likely to be worst affected. ● People who are most vulnerable to the impacts of the climate emergency are often already structurally disadvantaged. It will be essential to identify, listen to and involve the most vulnerable people, ensuring their voices are heard and insights incorporated into shaping plans. ● Efforts to adapt to the climate emergency with green infrastructure will improve quality of life across Hackney and should be prioritised in areas suffering the most disadvantage. For example, using green infrastructure like trees and green walls, to mitigate overheating and flooding also reduces air pollution, improves mental health and contributes to local biodiversity enhancement. |
| <p>Buildings</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insulating homes reduces fuel poverty and helps to keep people warm in winter and cool in summer. It also reduces the amount of energy leaking through the walls, roofs and floors, and therefore reduces the overall energy use and associated costs. Actions to accelerate retrofits and solar panel installations in Hackney will help capture these benefits, especially where they are designed to prioritise those who struggle to pay their energy bills. ● Retrofit measures like insulation and low carbon heat sources like heat pumps and solar panels save end users money in the long term, but some come with significant upfront costs. Grants, VAT changes and new financing structures will be needed across this theme to support residents and businesses to cover upfront costs and enable owners to take an holistic approach to improve their buildings thermal and energy efficiency. ● Many residents and business owners do not own the spaces they use, or only own part of a building, so they cannot install solar panels, swap boilers or start retrofits. Private landlords, freeholders, housing associations, the Council, building management groups and tenants can work together to overcome barriers to decarbonising buildings, and roll out retrofits across the whole public and private building stock. |

| Themes | Potential Social justice issues |
|----------------------------|---|
| Buildings continued | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central government policies around building energy use do not always consider social justice impacts. For example, the OFGEM decision to introduce half-hourly energy charging will penalise residents who do not have the flexibility to choose when they use energy. Wider efforts to support vulnerable groups, such as retrofits to reduce energy demand in the first instance, can often help mitigate these changes, but keeping track of national policy changes and technology changes, and raising awareness of their impacts will be essential. |
| Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many people with disabilities, poor health or mobility issues will find it easier to walk, cycle and use wheelchairs if action is taken to make our streets calmer and more accessible. Wider transport networks should maximise accessibility for all. • People on low incomes, who live in areas that are less well connected to public transport and who experience disabilities or mobility issues may be most affected by changes in the transport system if transport networks do not consider their needs. New or modified networks and schemes must involve those affected at the early stages to better understand impacts. • Low carbon transport options like electric vehicles and e-bikes can be expensive and do not come without negative environmental impacts. For those who do need private vehicles, more widespread availability of well-planned EV charging infrastructure, coupled with addressing entry cost barriers could make uptake more equitable. |
| Consumption | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable, climate friendly and healthy diets can be compatible with religious and cultural dietary requirements, and can be more affordable than meat-based diets. However, changing eating habits can be more challenging for people who have less flexibility when it comes to food, particularly those living in food deserts with limited access to fresh and healthy options. New food programmes and initiatives in Hackney must address this issue by including affordable options and providing specific provisions and guidance for common diets, such as halal and kosher. • Green alternatives are not always easily accessible or affordable to all. Existing habits such as borrowing from neighbours, swapping with strangers, hiring rather than buying, reducing food waste and purchasing pre-loved items already make a contribution but could be more prevalent. The cost of common household appliances such as washing machines, fridges and cookers, which have higher energy efficiency and longer lifespans will need to be reduced to address the higher upfront investment which acts as a barrier to the future benefits of lower running costs. |

| Themes | Potential Social justice issues |
|------------------------------|--|
| Environmental Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, elderly people and people with existing heart and lung conditions are all medically vulnerable to the ill health caused by pollutants. Identifying those most affected by pollution, and the people who could be most supported by interventions to reduce it are important guiding principles for action. • Expanding the area of green infrastructure (including green streets for example) as well as increasing the quality of existing green spaces, will improve people's ability to access cool outdoor spaces in the summer and places which are less likely to suffer from poorer air quality. • Community gardening groups and individual gardeners are central to the stewardship of many green spaces in Hackney. Working collaboratively is essential to protecting and enhancing Hackney's ecosystems, improving physical and mental health, and making sure that people living in Hackney can guide, shape and join plans to increase biodiversity. |

Green economy

The transition to net zero in Hackney is creating economic opportunities (Table 3 sets out some of the green economy issues and opportunities by theme). A growing green economy means opportunities for businesses already delivering green products and services, and opportunities for new green businesses to emerge. This growth and transition will also create job opportunities mainly in skilled craft work and in managerial and professional jobs²⁰ but also in the evolving circular economy which is well represented in Hackney.

There is a clear need to specifically support individuals whose livelihoods may be affected by the transition because their economic activity is dependent on businesses and services that contribute to climate change by offering retraining programmes for people so they can find new forms of work. Retraining programmes and new opportunities for jobs, skills and business should be widely available to Hackney's residents - the green economy as a whole should be diverse and inclusive.

By working with partners in London's skills system we can better prepare our residents for the possibilities a growing green economy has to offer. Together, the Council, businesses and institutions need to address existing skills gaps in the construction industry and with STEM degrees.²¹ Addressing the lack of diversity among potential entrants into green jobs and the green economy should be a fundamental part of future partnership work across London.

²⁰ [Green Jobs and Skills in London: cross-London report - WPI Economics](#)

²¹ [Green Jobs Taskforce](#)

Table 3: Potential green economy issues and opportunities by theme

| Themes | Potential Green economy issues and opportunities |
|-------------------|---|
| Adaptation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Across the UK and Hackney, building retrofits will provide significant opportunities for new jobs and businesses. Retrofit jobs and skills must encompass energy reductions and building maintenance, but also overheating and flood resilience too. ● Efforts to adapt to the climate emergency will help Hackney's businesses and community groups to prosper. Neighbourhood networks and local business forums can provide vital input into the design of plans to modify Hackney's streets and green infrastructure. ● Local businesses are greatly affected by shock events, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local partners, such as business forums, can help to shape resilience and emergency response plans so as to better prepare and be more resilient. |
| Buildings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-operative financing mechanisms for community-scale and joint-owned services will help Hackney collectively achieve its goals. For example, community-owned solar panels and retrofit networks have proven powerful models to spread the upfront costs of decarbonising buildings. ● As well as Hackney's businesses decarbonising their buildings and activities, decarbonisation offers opportunities for new green businesses to develop in Hackney too. Green businesses offer services to meet climate action goals like delivering retrofits, solar panel installations and low carbon building designs. Incentives for these businesses and training opportunities to give local residents the skills to work for them in green roles will help them to prosper in Hackney, and contribute to the new green economy. |
| Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Freight accounts for around one fifth of traffic in Hackney. Much of this traffic is through-traffic. Decreasing the through-traffic linked to freight in Hackney means working with partners and neighbouring boroughs to identify new solutions and traffic management options. ● Decarbonising deliveries will help accelerate alternative, clean delivery models, such as cargo bikes, van sharing and last mile delivery service models. The planning of new or improved economic areas must be designed with more sustainable freight and delivery options in mind. ● Hackney will need a workforce capable of managing electric vehicles and charger networks, as well as sustainable transport infrastructure such as cycle hangers and cycle hire schemes. Skills programmes and job opportunities should consider these opportunities as sustainable employment pathways. |

| Themes | Potential Green economy issues and opportunities |
|------------------------------|---|
| Consumption | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A better understanding of what a green economy can and could mean for Hackney is required, identifying opportunities for change and the potential for community wealth building. • A green economy isn't just about removing fossil fuels from existing processes. Local services to maintain, repair and resell items enable reductions in consumption across Hackney. Existing businesses can provide these services, though this will require changes in skills, storage space and business models. Business networks and local economic areas must encourage, pilot and test new approaches. • Decarbonising our businesses and creating new green business models will require new skills and employment pathways. The green economy must be integrated into existing training packages and employment processes, creating new skills pathways and opportunities to employ local people in decarbonisation activities. |
| Environmental Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development and regeneration can provide a catalyst for change to Hackney's streetscapes and public realm. New policies such as the urban greening factor and standards such as tighter water and energy efficiency requirements create new business opportunities for local trades and suppliers. • Local businesses can contribute to reductions in air pollution by streamlining deliveries and shifting to shared and low carbon delivery models, by retrofitting their spaces to reduce energy demand, and swapping their gas boilers for heat pumps. |

Over the next three years the Council will undertake the following actions to support the goals and objectives of this cross-cutting theme:

- Produce an Economic Development Plan in 2023 that includes growth of the green economy as a key theme.
- Deliver green skills courses through the Council's adult learning service, initially focused on construction and infrastructure.
- Promote new low carbon apprenticeships through the Hackney Apprenticeship Network.
- Establish a baseline of Hackney businesses engaged in green economic activity.
- Assess the options for increasing green economic activity in the borough and develop workstreams to achieve this growth.
- Ensure the Sustainable Procurement Strategy maximises the opportunity of the Council's own spending to create green jobs and training opportunities.
- Conduct review into the need for green skills and green roles in the Council's own workforce.

The journey so far to reduce borough-wide emissions

In 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency.²² further supported by an ambitious vision to rebuild a greener Hackney in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Council greenhouse gas emissions

For its own activities, which are 5% of the whole borough's territorial greenhouse gas emissions, the Council committed to a 45% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2040 relative to a 2010 baseline. Subsequently the Council is rejoining the [UK100](#) network of councils, which requires an initial commitment to reaching net zero emissions by 2030 for the Council's non-tenanted buildings and vehicle fleet.

Earlier work to develop a [Net Zero Energy Strategy](#) set out plans to reduce the Council's emissions and identified the areas below for action, amongst others. The key aspects of this have now been integrated within this CAP.

- Arranging a Power Purchase Agreement to cover 100% of electricity purchased.
- Shifting to heat pumps and district heat networks for heating.
- Electrifying the vehicle fleet.
- Retrofitting buildings and swapping to electric heat pumps.
- Reducing the use of raw and carbon-intensive materials for new buildings.
- Generating energy from solar panel installations.

²² [Hackney Council pledges to reach net zero emissions by 2040](#)

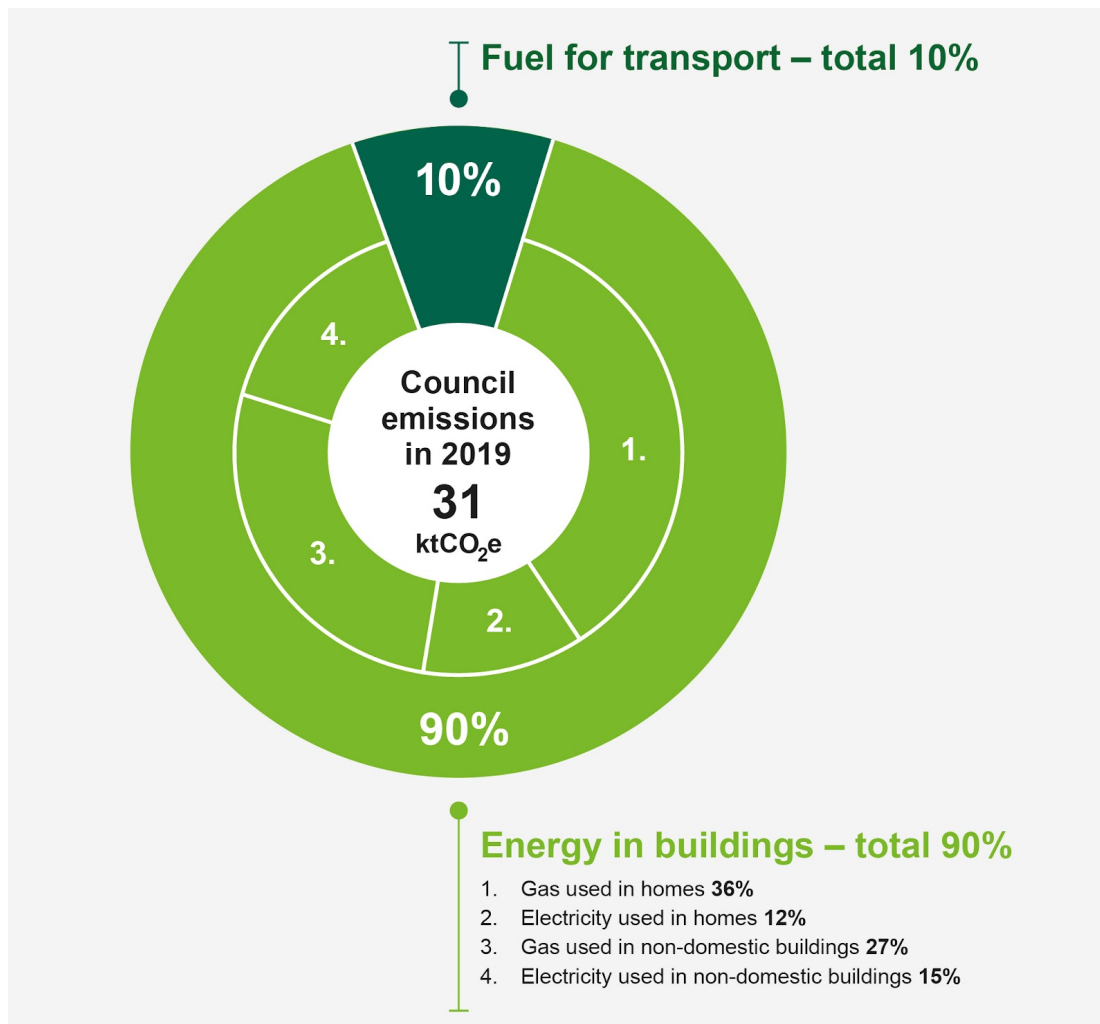


Figure 6: Council 'territorial' greenhouse gas emissions in 2019.

Source: Buro Happold based on the assessment made within the [Net Zero Energy Strategy](#).

Borough-wide greenhouse gas emissions

Hackney as a borough has made progress in reducing territorial emissions over the last decade. Since 2010, emissions from buildings and road transport in Hackney have fallen by about 27%. Consumption emissions - from the things we all buy and use – have fallen by about 10–15% in the UK overall. Nevertheless, without faster action, driven by ambitious policies and targets, we won't be able to protect communities and ecosystems from the effects of climate change.

The Council has led some of the UK's most innovative interventions to improve air quality, reduce motor vehicle traffic and greenhouse gas emissions, whilst encouraging residents to change their behaviour to tackle the climate emergency. Table 4 outlines some of the key actions and outcomes from the last three financial years (2019/20 – 2021/22) split across each of the themes.

For borough-wide emissions, the Council has a number of regulatory levers that are influencing change on an estimated 25% of territorial emissions. It also hopes to create an

environment, through climate leadership, that makes low-carbon choices more widely available.

Table 4: Headlines of borough-wide schemes and outcomes run by the Council to take action on the climate emergency between 2019/20 and 2021/22

| Themes | Key Council climate activities 2019/20 – 2021/22 |
|-------------------|---|
| Adaptation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launched the Adapt Your Business business support programme – supporting 48 businesses with a share of a £570k funding pot. ● 22 SuDS and rain garden schemes have been implemented during a 3 year period between 2020 and 2022 with more than 1,800 m² of highway de-paved. |
| Buildings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continued promotion of the Solar Together scheme. 210 applications have been approved and circa 60 schemes have been completed. Total generation is estimated to be around 800kWh. ● Dedicated £2m to make the homes of residents on low incomes more energy efficient and reduce their energy bills, through our Green Homes programme. ● Adoption of Hackney's Local Plan in July 2020, bringing in strong climate adaptation and mitigation planning policies. ● Adoption of the Planning Obligations SPD in July 2020, setting out the mechanism for carbon offset payments and an increased price for offsetting. |
| Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implemented one of the most ambitious active travel programmes in the country. Introduced 19 new Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs). 70% of the borough's residential side streets are in LTNs. ● Retained 30 trial School Streets, now totalling 42 permanent School Streets. 84% of the borough's primary schools and 15% of secondary schools are covered, meaning Hackney has more School Streets and LTNs combined than any other council nationwide. ● Installed 200 EV charge points, reaching 308 in total. Exceeded the target for 80% of residents within 500m of a charging installation. ● Completed a number of cycle improvement schemes including: Queensbridge Road protected cycle track between Hackney Road, Lea Bridge Road and Albion Drive, Cycle Superhighway one interventions - Balls Pond Road; and 2 km of light segregated cycle lanes on Green Lanes. ● Installed 200 new cycle hangers. ● Installed the first tranche of permanent parking solutions for dockless bikes underway, with 74 locations having dockless corrals. ● Continued to support the Zero Emissions Network (ZEN), which has gained close to 1,500 business members and over 1,000 residential members. |

| Themes | Key Council climate activities 2019/20 – 2021/22 |
|------------------------------|---|
| Consumption | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moved residual waste collections from weekly to fortnightly, whilst recycling and food collections remain weekly; street level recycling rates increased by 5% one year following introduction. ● Opened a new Library of Things in Dalston Library in January 2022. ● Introduced the first of our reuse and repair (zero waste) hubs, delivered with the Forest Recycling Project, Hackney Fixers, TRAIID and Hackney Dr Bike team. ● Supported 90 public reuse clothes banks across the borough, an average of 600 tonnes of clothes are collected via this network every year. ● Progressed the Eco-Schools Programme; 42 schools signed up, with 16 schools achieving their green flag Eco-School status. 400 classroom recycling bins were installed and 25 waste audits delivered. One school supported a 'climate-friendly' and nutritional canteen study to adapt their school menu. ● Published a 'Zero Waste' map to encourage residents to refill their household products without packaging. |
| Environmental Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Over 5,000 new street trees have been planted increasing the overall street canopy from 20% to 30% ● 13,037 trees have been planted in our parks and green spaces to date. ● Completed more than 10 rain gardens diverting highway runoff from the public sewerage system. ● Developed a new Air Quality Action Plan and adopted a commitment to meet the World Health Organisation guidelines for particulate matter by 2030. ● Developed a Local Nature Recovery Plan and Green Infrastructure Strategy. |

Goals and Objectives

Introduction

The plan covers five key themes for climate action across Hackney. The following sections describe the themes in more detail. For each theme, a set of 2030 strategic goals and associated objectives is identified.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Adaptation | Ensuring that we are prepared for and resilient to the impacts of the climate emergency, protecting our most vulnerable residents. |
| Buildings | Removing gas boilers, adding solar panels and decreasing energy use in our buildings, reducing fuel poverty. |
| Transport | Reducing emissions from the transport network, improving air quality and helping residents live active and healthy lifestyles. |
| Consumption | Changing what and how we buy, use and sell, creating a new green economy in Hackney. |
| Environmental Quality | Maximising the potential for biodiversity in all of our green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive. |

Goals

Across the five themes in this document, there are 21 goals which set out the ambitious changes that we collectively need to make by 2030. This will require significant changes in all of our behaviour, infrastructure, business models, and co-operation. These goals are: ambitious; borough-wide; and aligned with the Paris Agreement. Reaching these goals at a local level doesn't rely on action by a single organisation, they are for everyone: residents, community groups and organisations, businesses and institutions.

Currently, not all the necessary infrastructure, finance and regulation is in place to enable these changes. The UK will only meet its emissions reduction targets if central government, regional bodies and local authorities, amongst others, work together to resolve some of these key barriers.

Objectives

Each goal has a number of key objectives for the next three years. Objectives are the activities that we will need to work on together to progress towards realising the 2030 goals. They are made up of objectives for all Hackney stakeholders, as well as some specific Hackney Council objectives where it would have the lead responsibility. Together, it is intended that the themes, goals and objectives provide a framework that shapes future action planning and decision making for all Hackney stakeholders.

How ambitious are the emissions reduction goals?

The goals set out the ambition needed in Hackney to contribute to limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, the Paris Agreement target. It reflects a pace of action that will require significant changes in all of our behaviour, infrastructure, business models, and co-operation. Currently, not all the necessary infrastructure, finance and regulation is in place to enable these changes. Reaching these goals at a local level doesn't rely on action by a single organisation, they are for everyone: residents, community groups and organisations, businesses and institutions.

Council Implementation Plan

Alongside this plan is a Hackney Council Implementation Plan, which provides a detailed set of key actions for the Council to undertake, initially over the next three years that contribute to delivering the goals and objectives. The Implementation Plan, whilst for an initial 3 year period, will be updated every year, extending to 2030.

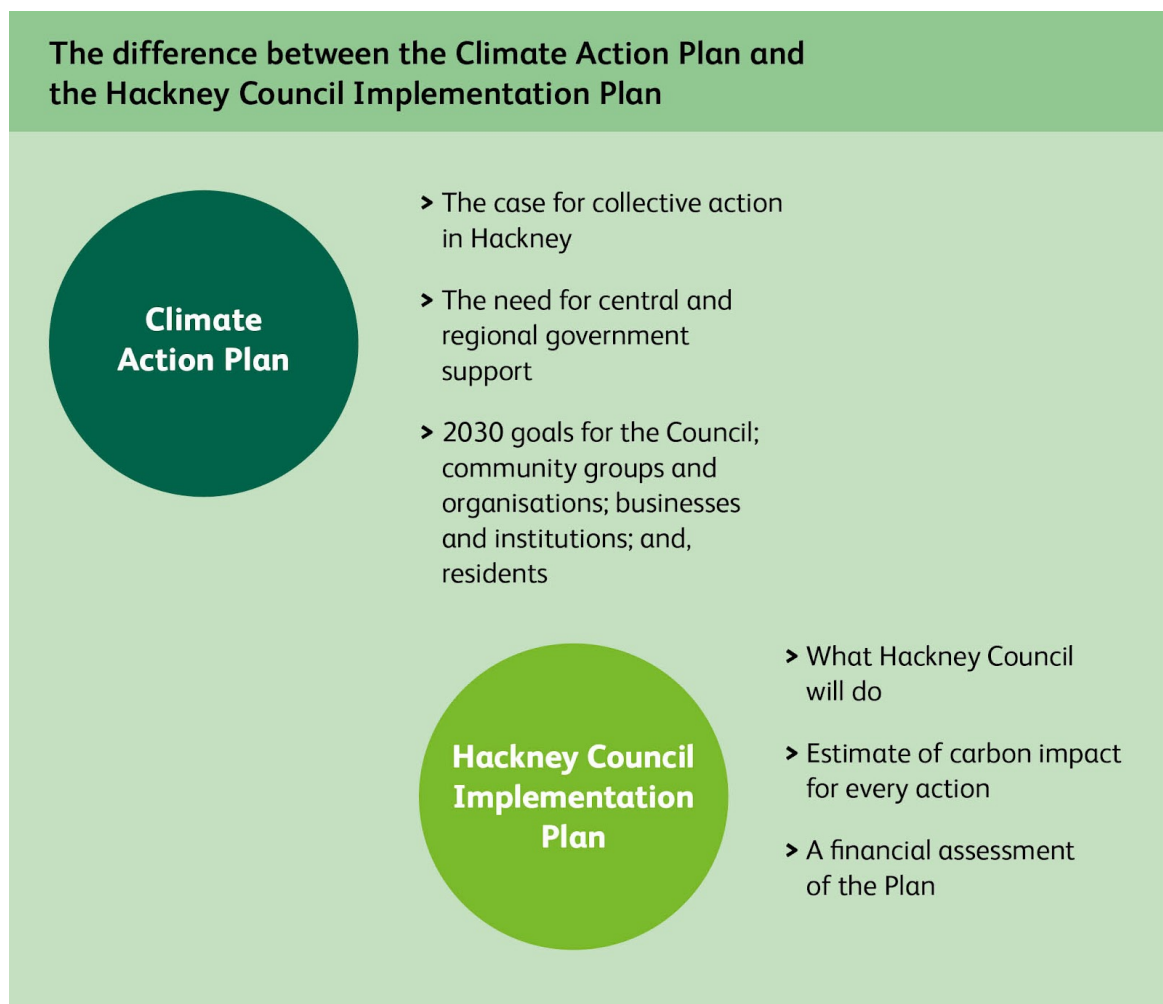


Figure 7: How the Climate Action Plan and Hackney Council Implementation Plan fit together.

Adaptation

Irrespective of our actions to reduce our carbon emissions, we also need to adapt to some of the impacts of climate change that we are already experiencing. Our infrastructure, services, ecosystems, and communities are at risk from higher temperatures, increased rainfall and more unpredictable weather. This theme looks at collectively designing new ways of managing our streets and buildings, supporting our most vulnerable neighbours, minimising health risks, and working to better understand the challenges that the climate emergency may bring to make us better prepared.

Goals and Objectives

Hackney is already experiencing higher summer temperatures and warmer, wetter winters than a few decades ago. Hotter summers combined with less rainfall dramatically increases the frequency and intensity of droughts; more frequent storms increase the likelihood of surface-water flooding. Some of the risks of heat and flooding can be reduced by optimising green infrastructure in the public realm. However, there will also be a need for a more significant response to adapt existing buildings to keep them cool in summer and warm in winter, and ensure new buildings can cope with weather extremes in the longer term; this is because the most vulnerable people, for example those with pre-existing respiratory, cerebrovascular or circulatory diseases, are less able to regulate body temperature during prolonged periods of heat or cold.

Developing a better understanding of how the climate emergency will impact Hackney will help inform how to prepare and respond at a community level. We must communicate the steps we can take collectively to adapt to the climate emergency, so we all know what behaviours might need to change. Community preparedness can also be increased through strengthening networks of community groups, resilience forums and partners across Hackney, improving early warning systems for extreme weather events. Climate change is also having more subtle, but potentially profound effects, in Hackney such as the increased risk of new pests and diseases that can affect both human and ecological health. [N.B. Issues relating to biodiversity and climate are addressed in the Environmental Quality theme].

Table 5: Goals and Objectives for Adaptation

| 2030 collective goals ²³ | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? <small>24</small> | 3-year objectives |
|---|---|---|
| Community Preparedness | | |
| Local capacity built to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change. | N/A | Ensure better advance warning of potential flood and heatwave events and signpost the support available. |
| | | Partner and collaborate with climate resilience groups. |
| | | Ensure borough-wide systems and processes are prepared for extreme events. |
| Overheating | | |
| Communities are protected from overheating, reducing the risk of extreme heat impacts on vulnerable groups and critical services. | N/A | Create a network of 'cool spaces' in existing buildings, streets and public spaces. |
| | | Ensure new and existing buildings are both energy efficient and not prone to overheating during heatwaves. |
| | | Build better understanding and raise awareness of the possible risks and impacts of overheating in Hackney. |
| Flooding | | |
| Flood risk is reduced and the existing drainage system is better managed to respond to extreme weather events. | N/A | Expand the sustainable urban drainage network (SuDS), including increased urban greening. |
| | | Ensure new buildings are flood resilient and don't contribute to increased surface water run-off. |
| | | Ensure Hackney is fully integrated with cross-borough flood management schemes. |
| Conservation & Resilient Planting | | |

²³ These are the goals that we aim to achieve, collectively, in Hackney by 2030. This will require actions by all stakeholders: community groups and organisations; businesses and institutions; residents; the Council and central government.

²⁴ 1.5°C alignment means that meeting this goal is consistent with Hackney contributing to only 1.5°C of global warming, in line with the Paris Agreement.

| 2030 collective goals ²³ | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? <small>24</small> | 3-year objectives |
|---|---|--|
| New planting in Hackney is resilient to a changing climate, and invasive species and new plant diseases are managed. | N/A | Plant climate-resilient species, particularly in streets and civic spaces to support transport related objectives for increased walking and cycling. |
| | | Tackle invasive species and new plant diseases in line with national protocols and guidance. |
| Green Economy | | |
| Double the size of the local green economy, with an ecosystem of net zero businesses and more residents working in good quality, green jobs | N/A | Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the green economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement. |
| | | Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups. |
| | | Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the green economy. |
| | | Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise. |
| | | Attract new green businesses into the borough. |
| | | Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency. |

How will Hackney Council support the three year Objectives?

The Council's Implementation Plan provides a more detailed set of key proposed actions for the Council to undertake over the next three years that contribute to delivering the goals and are aligned with specific objectives. Whilst these actions are the headlines, they are not the sole lever to achieve progress.

There are a range of subsidiary plans which support the delivery of the Council's climate response. In respect of adaptation and resilience these include the [Air Quality Action Plan](#), [Transport Local Implementation Plan](#), [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#), [Local Nature Recovery Plan](#), [Parking and Enforcement Plan](#), [Hackney Transport Strategy](#) and [Local Plan](#) amongst others.

Over the following three years Hackney Council will undertake the following actions to support the Adaptation Goals and Objectives:

- Develop an Adaptation and/or Climate Resilience Plan.
- Develop a Hackney Urban Forest Plan.
- Update the Multi-Agency Flood Response Plan.
- Implement two larger flood risk alleviation schemes within the borough.
- Establish a SuDS approval body and implement new national standards in relation to SuDS.
- Produce a practical guide to demonstrate how all future basement developments can be secure from groundwater and surface-water flooding.
- Implement a new flood reporting system in Hackney to improve data collection and sharing of information with other risk management authorities in the Greater London, Thames Flood Risk Area.
- Review 50% of parks and greenspace management plans to embed climate resilience principles.
- Deliver a communications programme on extreme weather risks, focusing on advice for vulnerable and at-risk groups alongside others.
- Develop further phases of tree planting to increase tree canopy and solar shading - prioritising hottest areas of Urban Heat Island mapping and vulnerable communities.
- Review planning documentation and guidance to ensure overheating is adequately embedded in new area action plans and supplementary planning guidance.



Case study: Tree planting in Hackney

Trees and woodland cover about 25% of Hackney.²⁵ As of 2022, there were around 14,724 trees on highways, 7,262 trees within communal areas of housing estate environments and street properties, and 10,405 individual trees within parks and open spaces in Hackney. There are also lots of trees in private gardens, and areas of woodland - including Wick Woodland and Abney Park Cemetery.

Over 5,000 new street trees have been planted increasing the overall street canopy from 20% to 30%; 13,037 trees have been planted in our parks and green spaces to date as a result of Council programmes.

An [online map](#) of Hackney showing more than 45,000 Council maintained trees was launched in April 2023.

The tree map helps residents find out more information about trees on their streets – listing species, common name and age.

²⁵ [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#)

Buildings

Energy use in Hackney's buildings is responsible for 21% of the borough's total emissions. This includes the electricity powering lights and appliances and the heat warming water and spaces. This theme looks at how to reduce these emissions, including improving the thermal performance of buildings to reduce the amount of energy required to heat and cool them, and using and generating renewable energy. The theme also looks at the additional emissions from materials used to create buildings, promoting building retention and retrofit over demolition where appropriate. Taking action on all emissions from buildings will greatly improve the quality of life in Hackney, help to reduce fuel poverty and keep our homes well-maintained and running at a comfortable temperature.

Goals and Objectives

For existing buildings, energy consumption can be reduced through retrofits, such as adding insulation to roofs and walls, installing double glazing on windows and replacing existing power sources with renewable sources. Where possible, this must be balanced with minimising disruption to residents, through prioritising external retrofit measures for example. Installing electrical heating sources such as heat pumps, connecting to low carbon district heat networks and installing solar panels with battery storage are options to provide new sources of renewable power. These changes can lower energy bills as well as emissions, but must be supported by central government to ensure they remain viable and beneficial for operators and end users.²⁶

Reducing emissions from buildings also means considering the materials and processes they are made from. In addition to delivering buildings that are finished to a high quality we will promote better maintenance and support refurbishment, thereby increasing the lifespan of the existing building stock. This can reduce the need for demolition and new buildings, which emit significant emissions as a result of all the materials they require. Where new buildings are needed, optimising material use, reusing building materials and selecting low carbon and recycled products reduces their impact, as well as making them very efficient.

By taking such action Hackney can lead by example. Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust achieved the Planet Mark in recognition of its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and report its progress. It is the first hospital in the country to achieve this, and has maintained its certification since 2017. The hospital successfully cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 9.2%.²⁷

²⁶ [The people who wish they had an energy price cap - BBC News](#)

²⁷ [Planet Mark - Homerton Hospital](#)

Using local businesses and suppliers where possible (including small businesses) to implement these changes supports a thriving economy for retrofit and low carbon construction professionals in Hackney and more widely. Currently, skill shortages and a lack of available contractors are slowing the rate of retrofit. Addressing this shortage will require training, recruitment and employment services that help people find jobs that reduce emissions in buildings, or jobs connected to the other climate action themes. Working alongside others, the Council will lobby central government to ensure that there are sufficient high quality retrofit providers to meet future demand. The Council has also trained technical staff in housing services as retrofit co-ordinators whilst embedding the additional building skills needed within roles in corporate property as part of recruitment.

Table 6: Goals and Objectives for Buildings

| 2030 collective goals ²⁸ | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? ²⁹ | 3-year objectives |
|--|--|---|
| Retrofit | | |
| Existing buildings (public and private) have been retrofitted to average EPC B to minimise energy consumption and reduce levels of fuel poverty. | Yes | Increase retrofits and energy monitoring in private buildings ³⁰ . |
| | | Increase retrofits in conservation areas and heritage buildings where appropriate. |
| | | Increase retrofits in Council buildings (owned or managed) and other public buildings. |
| Gas Phase-out | | |
| 63% ³¹ of buildings (public and private) use low carbon heat sources such as district heat networks, | Yes | Deliver additional infrastructure that supports low carbon heating & hot water, including District Heat Networks. |

²⁸ These are the goals that we aim to achieve, collectively, in Hackney by 2030. This will require actions by all stakeholders: community groups and organisations; businesses and institutions; residents; the Council and central government.

²⁹ 1.5°C alignment means that meeting this goal is consistent with Hackney contributing to only 1.5°C of global warming, in line with the Paris Agreement.

³⁰ Different housing types (i.e. pre-war vs post war buildings) face different challenges, but the recommendations in the CAP apply to all buildings where technically and economically viable

³¹ Target derived from borough pathway modelling (See Section Greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonisation in Hackney)

| 2030 collective goals ²⁸ | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? <small>29</small> | 3-year objectives |
|--|---|---|
| heat pumps and electric heating. | | Replace gas boilers with heat pumps and other low carbon heat sources in public and private buildings and infrastructure. |
| Embodied & Operational Carbon of New Builds | | |
| All buildings are maintained and refurbished to prolong their lifespans to at least 60 years, where appropriate. Where new buildings are needed, they are ultra-energy efficient and do not use fossil fuels, and they are made from low carbon and reused materials. | Yes | Prioritise maintenance, thermal upgrades and adaptive reuse instead of building demolition. |
| | | Increase the reuse of construction materials and reductions in construction waste. |
| | | Meet ambitious operational and embodied carbon planning requirements, as set out in the London Plan 2021. |
| | | Embed higher operational and embodied carbon standards in future policy and design, considering alignment with UK Net Zero Building Standards, LETI and other relevant industry led best practice for developments. |
| Renewable Power | | |
| 80 MWp of solar panels and battery storage have been installed on the roofs of all possible buildings (public and private). | Yes | Increase the deployment of solar panels across public and private buildings. |
| | | Increase the number of community and cooperative solar panel projects. |
| | | Explore further opportunities for renewable energy. |

| 2030 collective goals ²⁸ | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? <small>29</small> | 3-year objectives |
|--|---|--|
| Green Economy | | |
| Double the size of the local green economy, with an ecosystem of net zero businesses and more residents working in good quality, green jobs. | N/A | Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the green economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement. |
| | | Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups. |
| | | Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the green economy. |
| | | Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise. |
| | | Attract new green businesses into the borough. |
| | | Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency. |

How will Hackney Council support the three year Objectives?

The Council's Implementation Plan provides a more detailed set of key proposed actions for the Council to undertake over the next three years that contribute to delivering the goals and are aligned with specific objectives. Whilst these actions are the headlines, they are not the sole lever to achieve progress.

There are a range of subsidiary plans which support the delivery of the Council's climate response. In respect of Buildings these include: the [Air Quality Action Plan](#), [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#), [Local Nature Recovery Plan](#), [Parking and Enforcement Plan](#), [Hackney Transport Strategy](#) and [Local Plan](#) amongst others.

Over the following three years Hackney Council will undertake the following to support the Buildings Goals and Objectives:

- Deliver approved Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund project to retrofit 600–700 Council housing street properties.
- Submit Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund applications for future bidding rounds once launched – subject to eligibility criteria.
- Develop net zero roadmap for Council’s social housing.
- Deliver approved Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund projects at London Fields Lido, Clissold Leisure Centre and Queensbridge Leisure Centre, amongst others.
- Submit Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund applications for future bidding rounds once launched – subject to eligibility criteria.
- Assess options to further establish Hackney Light and Power as a municipal energy services company.
- Deliver further phases of [Green Homes programme](#) in privately owned or rented homes (based on eligibility criteria), with a target of 100 homes by 2026.
- Survey 50% of Council operated commercial buildings embedding identified energy efficiency improvements in funding bids.
- Develop new guidance on achieving retrofit & refurbishment in conservation areas.
- Undertake a pilot project to trial new methods & technologies to retrofit traditionally constructed [pre 1919] buildings.
- Develop an area-based Local Area Energy Plan.
- Develop a programme of works to improve the efficiency of existing communal heating networks in housing.
- Deliver two new heat networks on Colville Estate & Woodberry Down.
- Ensure that 50% of the Council's total electricity needs are covered by a renewable Power Purchase Agreement.
- Deliver pilots to a minimum of two schools through provision of decarbonised energy sources.
- Develop an action plan to support maintained schools to reach net zero or best achievable outcome by 2030.
- Prepare circular economy guidance applicable to major planning applications & large regeneration projects.
- Develop and approve embodied and operational carbon standards for future Council building development projects.
- Develop 5 MW_{peak} of bid-ready projects for PV installation on Council buildings.
- Install a minimum of 1 MW_{peak} of renewables on Council-owned buildings.
- Deliver annual rounds of Hackney’s Community Energy Fund to multiple community interest groups.
- Develop guidance to reflect ambitious whole life carbon and carbon pricing standards.
- Agree a methodology to assess the relative merits of refurbishment vs new-build in planning assessments.



Case study: Hackney Light and Power

Hackney Light and Power is the delivery arm for the Council's plans to decarbonise energy across the borough. Hackney Light + Power is working to decarbonise its own assets and buildings supporting private households in Hackney with funding through the [Green Homes programme](#) which has enabled energy efficiency measures in over 100 households in Hackney.

A community energy fund with initial funds of £300k was launched in 2022, aiming to support community organisations with their energy efficiency schemes, such as solar panels, heat pumps and insulation. It will work with the community energy movement, schools, faith organisations, cooperatives, activists, nurseries and encourage other community groups to bid for projects that help reduce organisations' impact on the environment and support them with rising energy costs.



*16 Chart Street, Hackney Design Awards Winner 2022
(new build elements in sustainable structural timber)*

Case study: Low Carbon Development Cross-London Programme

Hackney is the lead London borough on the Low Carbon Development action plan, one of seven programmes established by London Councils to address climate change. Hackney has been the lead London borough for this programme since 2021 (CK) and will continue to do so until 2024.

London local authorities face similar opportunities and challenges in moving towards low carbon and zero carbon buildings. The Low Carbon Development action plan provides a valuable opportunity to bring London boroughs together to explore fully how sustainability aims and planning can align. The programme brings boroughs together to share knowledge, best practice, and clarify and action next steps and solutions to reaching low carbon and zero carbon. The programme is looking at both internal and external issues. Key themes that are being explored and addressed include design, heritage, monitoring and upskilling.



Case study: 80Z Eastway, Hackney Wick

Eastway is a multi-use sports facility for young people based behind the Old Baths on Eastway in Hackney Wick which opened in February 2022. It was designed by Atelierone, and operated by Young Hackney, our Early Help service for young people aged between 6 and 19 (or up to 25 for people with special education needs and/or disabilities). The facility demonstrates best practice across energy use (EPC A), construction and materials, public amenity and biodiversity.

Transport

Transport is responsible for 6% of the borough's emissions. Even though over half of all trips starting in Hackney are by walking or cycling, the vast majority (70%) of transport related emissions are from private cars and motorbikes. This theme explores Hackney's aim to be a model for sustainable urban living in London, with high levels of cycling and walking, accessible and resilient public transport networks and provision for low carbon vehicles.

Goals and Objectives

Transport-related emissions will be reduced by increasing rates of walking and cycling, reducing the use of carbon intensive vehicles and encouraging the use of lower carbon energy or fuel sources. A shift away from private vehicle usage will also help reduce the amount of traffic and congestion on the roads supporting the Mayor of London's target to reduce car vehicle km by 27% by 2030 (based on a 2018 baseline), improve local air quality and provide opportunities to free up public space for other greener uses.

Hackney's streets will continue to be enhanced through a combination of physical changes to the environment that prioritise walking, cycling and public transport. These will be supported by complementary measures such as cycle training, route mapping/assessments, road safety measures (also see the [Hackney Local Implementation Plan 2022–2025](#)), education in schools, behaviour change campaigns, inclusive design, security, as well as traffic restraint and transport demand management policies such as car-free development and road user charging.

[LTNs](#) and [School Streets](#) have been proven to reduce overall traffic and air pollution and increase rates of walking and cycling – all without affecting bus speeds and waiting times. Road and parking spaces can also be replaced with pocket parks and sustainable urban drainage networks opening up Hackney's roads for cleaner uses. These measures also help make routes safer for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users, as well as helping to support the overheating and flood resilience goals under the 'Adaptation' theme.

In line with the movement hierarchy set out in the [Hackney Transport Strategy 2015-2025](#), the needs and safety of pedestrians should be prioritised followed by that of cyclists and public transport users. Ensuring the safety of those who choose to walk or cycle will be crucial as will the affordability of public transport. For those people who still need to travel by car, they will be encouraged to adopt less polluting electric vehicles or use car sharing services. The Council aims to have over 3,000 EV charge points by 2026 to encourage this transition. Reducing emissions from all vehicle fleets will also play a role, as well as reducing levels of through traffic associated with freight transport.

Hackney businesses will be able to reduce emissions from their own transport by supporting innovative last mile delivery solutions, cargo bike sharing and freight consolidation.

The goals and objectives in the following table should be read in conjunction with the [Hackney Local Implementation Plan 2022–2025](#).

Table 7: Goals and Objectives for Transport

| 2030 collective goals ³² | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? <small>33</small> | 3-year objectives |
|---|---|--|
| Walking and Cycling | | |
| At least 59% of journeys that start in Hackney are on foot or by bike, compared to 53% in 2020. | Yes | Increase rates of walking and cycling. |
| | | Expand cycling infrastructure and promote opportunities for green infrastructure on cycle corridors. |
| Clean Fuels | | |
| Most petrol and diesel vehicles have been phased out: 64% of cars and 68% of vans on the road are battery-powered. | Yes | Expand the EV charging network, both on street and in commercial and domestic settings. |
| | | Reduce transport greenhouse gas emissions from Council, business and institutional vehicle fleets. |
| Car and Motorbike Traffic | | |
| Only 5% of trips that start in Hackney are by private car or motorbike, compared to 13% in 2020. | Yes | Increase the use of car sharing and other types of shared mobility. |
| | | Improve the accessibility of public transport. |
| | | Research the feasibility and viability of introducing Road User Charging in Hackney. |
| Freight & Delivery Traffic | | |
| Freight traffic is 10% lower than in 2019, with more alternative delivery models on the road – such as cargo bikes. | Yes | Reduce freight traffic. |
| | | Increase the uptake of alternative delivery systems. |

³² These are the goals that we aim to achieve, collectively, in Hackney by 2030. This will require actions by all stakeholders: community groups and organisations; businesses and institutions; residents; the Council and central government.

³³ 1.5°C alignment means that meeting this goal is consistent with Hackney contributing to only 1.5°C of global warming, in line with the Paris Agreement.

| 2030 collective goals ³² | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? <small>33</small> | 3-year objectives |
|---|---|--|
| Green & Resilient Streets | | |
| Road space currently used for parking has been reduced to support the promotion of walking, cycling and climate resilience. | N/A | Convert roadside parking spaces to public realm, SuDS and other uses. |
| | | Expand the network of school and play streets. |
| | | Plan for future changes that can reduce motor traffic. |
| Green Economy | | |
| Double the size of the local green economy, with an ecosystem of net zero businesses and more residents working in good quality, green jobs | N/A | Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the green economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement. |
| | | Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups. |
| | | Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the green economy. |
| | | Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise. |
| | | Attract new green businesses into the borough. |
| | | Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency. |

How will Hackney Council support the three year Objectives?

The Council's Implementation Plan provides a more detailed set of key proposed actions for the Council to undertake over the next three years that contribute to delivering the goals and are aligned with specific objectives. Whilst these actions are the headlines, they are not the sole lever to achieve progress.

There are a range of subsidiary plans which support the delivery of the Council's climate response. In respect of Transport these include: the [Air Quality Action Plan](#), [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#), [Parking and Enforcement Plan](#), [Hackney Transport Strategy](#) and [Local Plan](#) amongst others.

Over the following three years Hackney Council will undertake the following to support the Transport Goals and Objectives:

- Develop and consult on an updated Transport Strategy.
- Develop a Main Roads Strategy to plan new ways of reducing traffic and improving air quality on key routes through the borough.
- Offer cycle training to 6,000 children at the primary and secondary school level.
- Complete the delivery of a School Street or traffic calming measure at 100% of Hackney's state primary and secondary schools, and School Streets at six Independent Schools.
- Deliver a communications campaign to promote walking and cycling.
- Continue installing EV charging points to provide 3,000 accessible charging points by 2026.
- Replace 10% of the Council's diesel fleet with electric vehicles, bikes and e-bikes.
- Expand the [Zero Emissions Network](#) to cover the whole of Hackney.
- Deliver accessibility upgrades at bus stop networks and streetscapes at rail stations.
- Review at least five bus interchange stops per annum in meeting user needs.
- Introduce shared mobility infrastructure at 10 transport nodes within high demand areas and LTNs.
- Deliver 100 additional car club vehicles – 50% of car club cars to be electric.
- Increase proportion of low traffic streets in Hackney, subject to investigation and engagement – target of 75% of all eligible roads in Hackney to be within an LTN.
- Create 12 cargo bike hubs.
- Undertake a feasibility study, options appraisals and impact assessment for Road User Charging.
- Publish a Freight Reduction Action Plan.
- Continue to expand the cycle hanger network with 4,000 new cycle spaces by 2026.
- Convert 2,700 parking spaces into alternative forms of public spaces such as pocket parks, sustainable urban drainage solutions, green links, cycle lanes and cycle hangars.
- Implement a minimum of 15 smaller scale SuDS schemes across Hackney to address local surface water drainage issues.



Case study: [Low Traffic Neighbourhoods](#) and [School Streets](#)

Hackney Council has implemented one of the most ambitious active travel programmes in the country in an effort to create a greener borough and tackle transport emissions. Nineteen LTNs and 48 new School Streets, have already been introduced. Hackney now has more School Streets and LTNs combined than any other local authority in the UK.

The LTN and school streets programmes have resulted in traffic reductions and air quality improvements, as well as increases in our walking and cycling rates and improvements in road safety. Across the four biggest low traffic neighbourhoods, emission reductions of 15,000 tCO₂e per year have been achieved. Bus speeds and waiting times have not been affected by the introduction of LTNs,³⁴ and a quarter of people in Hackney report walking or cycling more following their introduction.³⁵

³⁴ [Overall bus performance in Hackney unaffected by low traffic neighbourhoods](#)

³⁵ [A quarter of Hackney residents say they're walking or cycling more following LTNs](#)



Case study: Bike sharing

Hackney has been at the forefront of new cargo bike and e-bike sharing schemes in the UK.

[Cargo Bike Share](#)

The first publicly-available cargo bike sharing scheme in the country was launched in Hackney in 2021. Eight new electrically assisted cargo bikes were deployed at four docking stations across Hackney, with two in Shoreditch, close to the borders with Islington and Tower Hamlets, one in London Fields and one in Stoke Newington. Each of the e-cargo bikes are capable of carrying up to 80kg – and can be used for shopping, deliveries and moving small items of furniture.

[Dockless cycle hire](#)

A new Lime dockless cycle hire scheme was launched in Hackney in 2022. This aims to support people who don't own a bike to cycle more. To support the new service and keep pavements accessible for people with visual or mobility impairments, 70 new dockless bike bays have been installed in place of car parking spaces. Lime bikes in Hackney must be picked up or dropped off from these bays.



Case study: Rain gardens in Hackney

Since 2018, more than 43 Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) schemes have been implemented across Hackney. These SuDS or rain gardens are areas of ground with trees and low level planting which capture surface water, mimic natural infiltration and prevent overloading of the drainage system. Rain gardens additionally enhance the appearance of the public realm and can support actions to improve air quality. Since 2018, more than 3,700 sqm of hard paving area in Hackney has been replaced by soft landscape, safely accommodating water run off from the surrounding surfaces and diverting it from the main drainage system.

Consumption

73% of Hackney's total greenhouse gas emissions are associated with the goods and services we buy and use. Most are created in places outside of Hackney, for example in factories, farms and the transport networks used to bring goods into the borough. Individuals and organisations can still influence the reduction of these emissions through changing behaviours. We can all reduce consumption: buying less; endeavouring to reuse and repair our goods to extend their lifetime. In addition, changes to how we eat and manage our money, prioritising plant-based food where possible and investing in green businesses also offer opportunities. Actions in this theme will help reduce the environmental impact of the things we buy and use and drive the new green economy in Hackney. This is not limited to emissions but also impacts on global biodiversity and pollution.

Goals and Objectives

Changing how we all supply, buy, use and dispose of the goods and services we need is essential to reduce emissions and move towards a more circular economy. Awareness raising campaigns about the emission impact of consumption habits is critical to tackling the behaviour change needed. Gaining a better understanding of what consumption emissions are, and where they are concentrated in Hackney, is an important first step. The Council, larger businesses and institutions can use their purchasing power to reduce consumption emissions by prioritising emissions reduction requirements within internal procurement and management processes. Services to maintain, repair and reuse goods, including projects like the Library of Things, and clothes, electrical and bike repair workshops, help reduce the need to buy new and replace items so often. Good recycling and composting services ensure that anything that can't be reused does not enter the waste stream.

Awareness campaigns about sustainable and healthy foods help to expose the environmental impact of food supply. Meat production, for example, is responsible for over 7% of emissions in Hackney. Food poverty must also be taken into account to ensure everyone has access to healthy, affordable and more sustainable options. The Council and others are incorporating sustainability into its food poverty programmes, working closely with the Greater London Assembly Food Roots Incubator programme and promoting existing schemes such as healthy start vouchers, which encourage purchasing vegetables and fruit for healthy, low-carbon food choices.

How we all spend and save money also affects emissions, investments by Hackney residents and businesses account for around 17% of borough-wide emissions, since many banks and pension funds still invest in carbon-intensive activities. These can be reduced by raising awareness of how to invest money in more sustainable funds, lowering exposure to fossil fuel reserves owned by energy companies and opening up more avenues for investments in local decarbonisation projects and community wealth funds. The Council will continue to reduce the carbon footprint of its own pension fund, as well as increase investment in assets that help avoid carbon emissions, whilst encouraging others to do the same.

Table 8: Goals and Objectives for Consumption

| 2030 collective goals ³⁶ | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? <small>37</small> | 3-year objectives |
|---|---|--|
| Consumption Emissions | | |
| Residents, businesses and partners make low carbon procurement choices contributing to a 2/3 reduction in average total national consumption emissions, with more products being repaired and reused to extend their useful life. | Yes | Increase repair and reuse of goods (electronics, clothing, furniture and more). |
| | | Embed actions to reduce consumption related emissions into internal procurement and management processes for the Council, businesses and institutions. |
| | | Raise the awareness of residents of the impact and diversity of consumption emissions and how moving towards a more circular economy benefits them. |
| Waste | | |
| Residents and businesses have actively reduced annual residual waste generation and there is increased participation in recycling and composting programmes, with avoidable food waste 50% less than in 2020. | N/A | Reduce household waste arisings and improve recycling rates. |
| | | Reduce business waste arisings and improve recycling rates. |
| | | Maximise rates of food waste composting in households and businesses. |
| Food | | |
| Healthy, plant-based diets are widespread, with reduced rates of food poverty. | N/A | Reduce food poverty and enable equitable access to healthy and more sustainable diets for all. |

³⁶ These are the goals that we aim to achieve, collectively, in Hackney by 2030. This will require actions by all stakeholders: community groups and organisations; businesses and institutions; residents; the Council and central government.

³⁷ 1.5°C alignment means that meeting this goal is consistent with Hackney contributing to only 1.5°C of global warming, in line with the Paris Agreement.

| 2030 collective goals ³⁶ | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? <small>37</small> | 3-year objectives |
|--|---|--|
| Healthy, plant-based diets are widespread, with reduced rates of food poverty. | Yes | Procure sustainable and healthy foods in Council, school, healthcare, leisure and other institutional settings, and influence local businesses to do the same. |
| | | Increase public awareness and understanding of healthy and more sustainable diets. |
| Investments & Finance | | |
| Half of residents', partners' and businesses' pensions and investments in Hackney are fossil-free, and local wealth is distributed to local, sustainable and cooperatively-run projects. | Yes | Raise awareness of the environmental impact of finances. |
| | | Increase opportunities for funding local emissions reduction projects. |
| | | Reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's Pension Fund and encourage others to the same. |
| Green Economy | | |
| Double the size of the local green economy, with an ecosystem of net zero businesses and more residents working in good quality, green jobs. | N/A | Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the green economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement. |
| | | Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups. |
| | | Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the green economy. |
| | | Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise. |
| | | Attract new green businesses into the borough. |
| | | Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency. |

How will Hackney Council support the three year Objectives?

The Council's Implementation Plan provides a more detailed set of key proposed actions for the Council to undertake over the next three years, that contribute to delivering the goals and are aligned with specific objectives. Whilst these actions are the headlines, they are not the sole lever to achieve progress. In respect of consumption, which is a diverse range of sources, the Council has prioritised areas where it has strong levers to effect change such as waste, food, procurement and the circular economy.

There are a range of subsidiary plans which support the delivery of the Council's climate response. In respect of Consumption these include: [Reduction and Recycling Plan](#), [Sustainable Procurement Strategy](#) and [Local Plan](#) amongst others.

Over the following three years Hackney Council will undertake the following to support the Consumption Goals and Objectives:

- Achieve household recycling rates of 28% and a commercial recycling rate of 24% through increased participation in recycling services and reductions in non-recyclable waste arisings.
- Increase schools participation in dry and organic recycling services to 75%.
- Provide access to food waste collection services for all households in Hackney.
- Introduce climate friendly menus in 25 schools.
- Create a minimum of 9 new community food growing areas on housing estates.
- Undertake a review of where consumption emissions are concentrated in Hackney and develop a set of recommendations to reduce these emissions with supporting guidance for households and businesses.
- Increase the user rates of [Library of Things](#) to 1,000 people per year.
- Produce a Circular Economy action plan.
- Develop and implement two circular economy zones for businesses.
- Develop green bond community wealth investment proposals.
- Adopt an updated Sustainable Procurement Strategy.



Case study: Library of Things

In 2021, an object-lending library – the Dalston [Library of Things](#) (DLot) – was established by Hackney Council in partnership with the Library of Things. Residents can hire items from this library that they would otherwise have to purchase. The scheme helps minimise unnecessary waste, reduces the ecological footprint of the borough, frees-up space in people's homes, and avoids the need to purchase items that are used infrequently.

DLoT provides 49 high-quality items for residents to hire and is the largest of the six LoTs across London. Residents can select items among different categories such as cleaning, cooking, DIY tools, gardening, electronics, furniture, medical equipment, music, sports, toys and games, and hobbying. Residents hire items at an average of 7.5% of the retail price. DLoT provides a 25% concession rate discount to students, pensioners, people not working, and households with no/low income. By March 2023, DLoT had recorded 200 borrows, the highest any Library of Things location has recorded in a single month.



Case study: Fashion Swaps

Hackney Clothes Swap Shops are free community exchange events, which offer residents the opportunity to swap unwanted, but good condition, clothes and accessories in exchange for something else they need. The swaps are an effective way of encouraging textile reuse within the local community, preserving valuable resources, and diverting clothes from direct disposal. Clothing repair sessions are also provided and sustainable fashion is promoted (e.g. using second hand clothes shops, upcycling, the importance of organic cotton, rental schemes, etc).

Since 2019, 12 swaps have taken place which collected and exchanged approximately 8,000 pieces of clothing. This has prevented over 11 tonnes of good quality clothing items from going to direct disposal and 101 tonnes of carbon emissions entering the atmosphere. Nearly £112,000 savings have been passed to the community with over 1,500 individuals participating in these swaps.

Environmental Quality

Climate change accelerates ecological decline and can exacerbate the pollution of our air and water. Changing weather patterns and shifting seasons disrupt ecological cycles, air pollution gets worse during heatwaves, and summer storms wash contaminants into our rivers and canals. Protecting, improving and increasing the borough's green infrastructure can tackle some of these problems, while also helping to reduce temperatures and flood risk. Spending time outdoors in green spaces or good quality public realm has proven benefits for both physical and mental health, and can help overcome isolation and increase opportunities to connect with others, but can be curbed by poor air quality, noise or lack of shade or shelter. This theme outlines actions to protect and improve Hackney's natural environment, air and waterways and to support community groups and landowners to improve health and wellbeing.

Goals and Objectives

The [Hackney Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2025](#) states that 7% of all deaths of people over the age of 30 in Hackney can be attributed to air pollution, compared to 5.2% in England. Air pollution has been linked with lung cancer, respiratory conditions (such as asthma) and cardiovascular disease, as well as emerging evidence for associations with low birth weight, Type 2 diabetes and dementia. The estimated costs of air pollution to local healthcare services were over £50m in 2019.

Many of the actions in the Transport and Buildings themes will have the greatest impact on improving air quality through reducing fossil fuel use in buildings (which contribute 15% of Hackney NO_x emissions), and vehicles (which are 64% of Hackney NO_x emissions). But there are also other ways to tackle pollution from construction (which contributes 9% of NO_x emissions in Hackney, and 37% of PM₁₀ emissions)³⁸, and the burning of solid fuel, like wood. These include tightening pollution controls during construction, raising awareness of the dangers of solid fuel burning and providing advice on alternative, low pollution activities.

Hackney as a whole is a relatively green borough with some 359 hectares of publicly accessible open space, but these are unevenly distributed. There are opportunities to increase their ecological value and design, and manage them to mitigate some of the impacts of climate change. Community groups are often at the forefront for change in greening local spaces and driving action. It's essential that we work with these groups, along with other stakeholders, to protect, expand and enhance Hackney's green infrastructure. [Hackney's Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) and the associated [Hackney Local Nature Recovery Plan](#) provides the framework for achieving this.

There are many water bodies in Hackney. Improving water quality requires stakeholders responsible to monitor and manage these assets effectively. Thames Water and the Environment Agency must invest more resources in both monitoring and rectifying the major sources of pollution. The Council can ensure the drainage infrastructure is regularly maintained to avoid any build up of potential pollutants, use its planning powers to protect water bodies from development, and make sure new development does not contribute further to the pollution of water-courses or groundwater.

³⁸ [London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory \(LAEI\) 2016](#)

Thames Water has warned that Londoners need to reduce water consumption from an average of 142 litres/person/day in 2020 to 124 l/p/d in 2045 to accommodate depleting water resources and a growing population.³⁹ By 2030, Hackney residents will need to reduce water consumption to 135 l/person/day to meet the 2045 target. This can be achieved through behaviour change and installing water efficient fittings, but still requires utility companies to fix leaks, which accounts for 27% of water demand in London.⁴⁰

Table 9: Goals and Objectives for Environmental Quality

| 2030 collective goals ⁴¹ | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? ⁴² | 3-year objectives |
|---|--|---|
| Air Quality | | |
| The association between inner-London living and poor air quality has been broken, with Hackney meeting World Health Organisation Air Quality targets. ⁴³ | N/A | Reduce air pollution from development and construction. |
| | | Reduce solid fuel burning and raise awareness of its contribution to air pollution. |
| | | Improve awareness of the impact of air pollution on public health. |
| Biodiversity | | |
| Significant ecological improvements have been achieved in all the areas identified in the Hackney Local Nature Recovery Plan . | N/A | Enhance habitats in managed green spaces to support biodiversity. |
| | | Increase connectivity between green spaces by supporting others to create new habitats and green corridors. |

³⁹ [Water Resources Management Plan 2019](#)

⁴⁰ [Section 3 - Water Resources Management Plan 2019](#)

⁴¹ These are the goals that we aim to achieve, collectively, in Hackney by 2030. This will require actions by all stakeholders: community groups and organisations; businesses and institutions; residents; the Council and central government.

⁴² 1.5°C alignment means that meeting this goal is consistent with Hackney contributing to only 1.5°C of global warming, in line with the Paris Agreement.

⁴³ Goals and objectives related to improving air quality cut across multiple themes, please also refer to actions in Transport and Buildings which will further support improvements in local air quality.

| 2030 collective goals ⁴¹ | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? <small>42</small> | 3-year objectives |
|--|---|--|
| Significant ecological improvements have been achieved in all the areas identified in the Hackney Local Nature Recovery Plan . | N/A | Support community groups and individuals to volunteer to benefit nature, drawing on their knowledge and expertise. |
| | | Review Council operations and decision-making processes to meet the requirements of the 'biodiversity duty' within the Environment Act. |
| Water | | |
| Water bodies in Hackney achieve 'Good' ecological status. Average water demand is reduced to 135 l/person/day, including reducing water lost through leaks by 22% compared to 2020. | N/A | Ensure all new development immediately adjacent to rivers, canals or waterbodies contribute to achieving good ecological status. |
| | | Support Thames Water campaigns to reduce water consumption, whilst also lobbying them to reduce leakage levels and avert pollution discharges into local water bodies. |
| | | Improve water body health through maintenance of surface water drains and promotion of sustainable urban drainage. |
| Green Economy | | |
| Double the size of the local green economy, with an ecosystem of net zero businesses and more residents working in good quality, green jobs. | N/A | Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the green economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement. |
| | | Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups. |
| | | Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the green economy. |
| | | Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise. |

| 2030 collective goals ⁴¹ | Is the goal 1.5°C-aligned? <small>42</small> | 3-year objectives |
|--|---|---|
| Double the size of the local green economy, with an ecosystem of net zero businesses and more residents working in good quality, green jobs. | N/A | Attract new green businesses into the borough. |
| | | Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency. |

How will Hackney Council support the three year Objectives?

The Council's Implementation Plan provides a more detailed set of key proposed actions for the Council to undertake over the next three years that contribute to delivering the goals and are aligned with specific objectives. Whilst these actions are the headlines, they are not the sole lever to achieve progress.

There are a range of subsidiary plans which support the delivery of the Council's climate response. In respect of environmental quality these include: the [Air Quality Action Plan](#), [Transport Local Implementation Plan](#), [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#), [Local Nature Recovery Plan](#), [Parking and Enforcement Plan](#), [Hackney Transport Strategy](#), [Contaminated Land Strategy](#) and [Local Plan](#) amongst others.

Over the following three years Hackney Council will undertake the following to support the Environmental Quality Goals and Objectives:

- Adopt the Green Infrastructure Strategy and implement alongside others.
- Adopt the Local Nature Recovery Plan and implement alongside others.
- Implement new Biodiversity Net Gain planning requirements from November 2023 onwards.
- Install green screens at an additional 28 schools.
- Improve habitats and wildlife spaces via green corridor enhancements where the Council is the landowner or has influence.
- Deliver air quality awareness campaigns for vulnerable residents and visitors.
- Build on existing 'weedkiller free zone' trials to reduce the use of harmful weedkillers.
- Continue to participate in the Lea River Catchment Partnership and through improved joint working with relevant stakeholders increase its impact.
- Clean 11,000 gully points annually to reduce diffuse pollution.
- Develop planning guidance for reducing emissions (particulates and NOx) during construction and demolition.
- Deliver a communications campaign on the health impacts of wood burning and raise awareness of the regulatory requirements for burning and supplying solid fuel.
- Integrate environmental quality theme considerations as part of reviewing parks management plans.
- Develop and consult on an updated Transport Strategy.



Case study: Community gardening and planting groups

Hackney has a long-tradition of conserving wildlife, much of it led and delivered by community groups and volunteers.⁴⁴ Over the last decades, wildlife conservation in Hackney has been bolstered by many community-led projects aiming to increase opportunities for wildlife in parks, on housing estates, along the canal, and in private gardens.

The [Local Nature Recovery Plan](#) highlights some of the examples of community-led projects that are delivering local nature recovery at the neighbourhood level through collaboration between residents, tenants management organisations and private land-owners under the guidance of local environmental groups.

Wenlock Barn Estate

Like many estates in Hackney, the Wenlock Barn Estate has many underused grass areas. The Growing Kitchen community garden is a growing space started by residents. The site has transformed into a space for organic food growing but also a haven for wildlife. The herbs, vegetables and fruits provide forage for pollinators and the once booming slug and snail population are now contained by common toads and smooth newts. Bats feed over the pond at night and it's used for drinking and bathing by house sparrows, blue, great and coal tits, dunnock, robin, wrens, blackbirds and more recently long tailed tits.

⁴⁴[Local Nature Recovery Plan - Section 5](#)

The Role of Central and Regional Government

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is a non-departmental public body that advises central government on the climate, and publishes progress and advisory reports. They stated in their Sixth Carbon Budget (published 9th December 2020), that decarbonisation can only be achieved if central government, regional agencies and local authorities work seamlessly together.⁴⁵

They believe that more than half of the greenhouse gas emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individual level. Many of these decisions depend on having supporting infrastructure and systems in place. Local authorities have powers or influence over roughly a third of greenhouse gas emissions in their local areas, but have significant barriers to deliver the climate response required.

The role of central government

In 2018, central government set the UK's first net zero target, to be reached by 2050, the first major economy to pass this into law.⁴⁶ This ambitious plan will impact how the UK produces goods and services, how people move around the country and how people heat homes. To guide this transition, central government published their [Net Zero Strategy](#), which sets out UK policies and proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for each sector. Most recently the government has released an extensive suite of documents entitled [Powering up Britain](#) which set out the UK's new energy plan including support for carbon capture projects, nuclear energy, offshore windfarms, electric vehicles, home heat pumps and hydrogen power amongst others. Its ambition is to make the UK more energy independent, reducing the impact of volatile international energy markets, while underpinning a clean energy transition, so the UK becomes a net zero economy by 2050.

The UK has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 47% below 1990 levels, 447 MtCO₂e in 2021. These include the UK share of international aviation and shipping greenhouse gas emissions. Along with this good progress, there are further plans to decarbonise the national grid by 2035,⁴⁷ through the use of more wind, solar and nuclear power. This will decarbonise the existing electricity usage as well as clear the way for electrification of heat, moving away from fossil fuels to heat homes. This shows strong leadership as well as reducing the barriers to support the decarbonisation in local areas.

⁴⁵ [Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget - Climate Change Committee](#)

⁴⁶ [UK becomes first major economy to pass net zero emissions law - GOV.UK](#)

⁴⁷ [Plans unveiled to decarbonise UK power system by 2035 - GOV.UK](#)

Although greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation have fallen sharply in recent years, other key sectors such as transport and buildings continue to lag. This is further exacerbated by inadequate government subsidies to encourage heat pump take up, reduced subsidies for electric vehicles, cutting air passenger duty on domestic flights, failing to tax flying effectively to encourage train travel, or using carbon taxes as an instrument to drive change.

Borough-wide, collective action, with support from central government and the Council using its powers to unlock wider change will be needed. The climate emergency can and will be solved by collective action at all levels, with local authorities supporting and facilitating local stakeholders, helped, funded and guided by central UK policy.

Historic UK greenhouse gas emissions

According to the latest CCC reports,⁴⁸ the UK has cut its greenhouse gas emissions in the last decades. The UK greenhouse gas emissions were 447 MtCO₂e in 2021, which were 47% below 1990 levels. There was a decrease of 10% on 2019 greenhouse gas emissions but an increase of 4% on 2020, as greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 had been significantly impacted by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, see Figure 8. Action to address economic recovery and respond to the rising cost of living should be aligned with net zero. There remains an urgent need for equivalent action to reduce demand for fossil fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit energy bills.

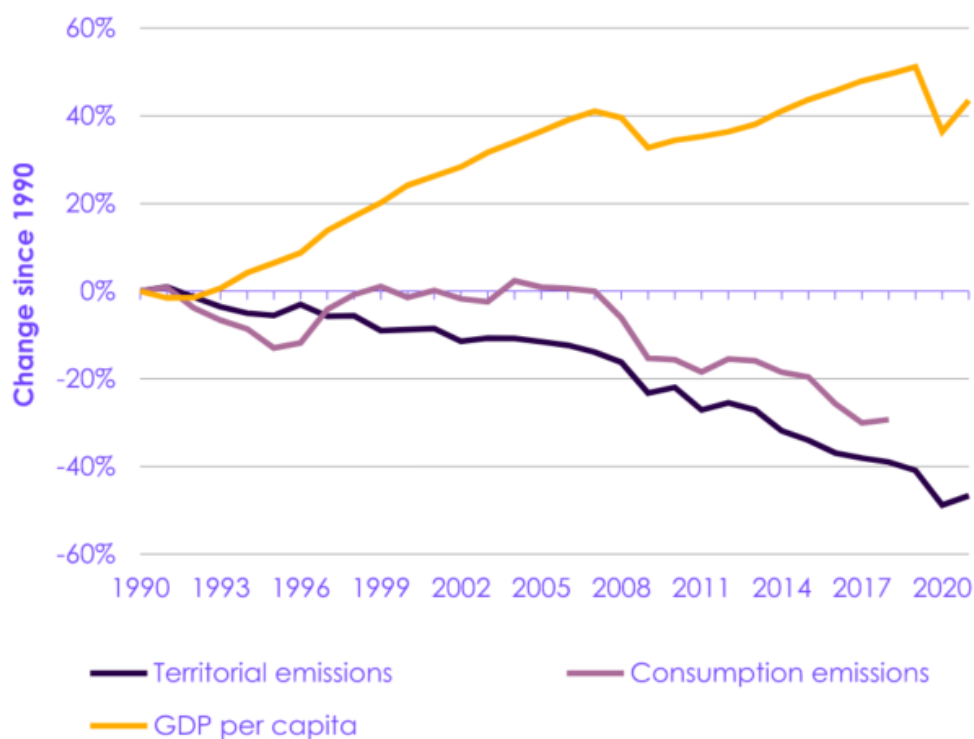


Figure 8: The UK's historical greenhouse gas emissions and GDP.

⁴⁸ [2022 Progress Report to Parliament - Climate Change Committee](#)

UK Sixth Carbon Budget

The CCC also provides a national recommended Carbon Budget (i.e. the limit for UK net greenhouse gas emissions of greenhouse gases over the years 2033-37), which acts as stepped reduction targets to achieve the central government net zero target of 100% reduction by 2050. The latest is the [Sixth Carbon Budget](#), outlining the required greenhouse gas emissions reductions, along with the current policy gap to help the country achieve them.

The Sixth Carbon Budget should be set at 965 MtCO₂e, implying a 78% reduction from 1990 to 2035 as shown in Figure 9. If this budget is met it would reduce the UK's annual per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 to under 3 tCO₂e per person, in line with global pathways consistent with meeting the Paris 1.5°C goal. In 2017.

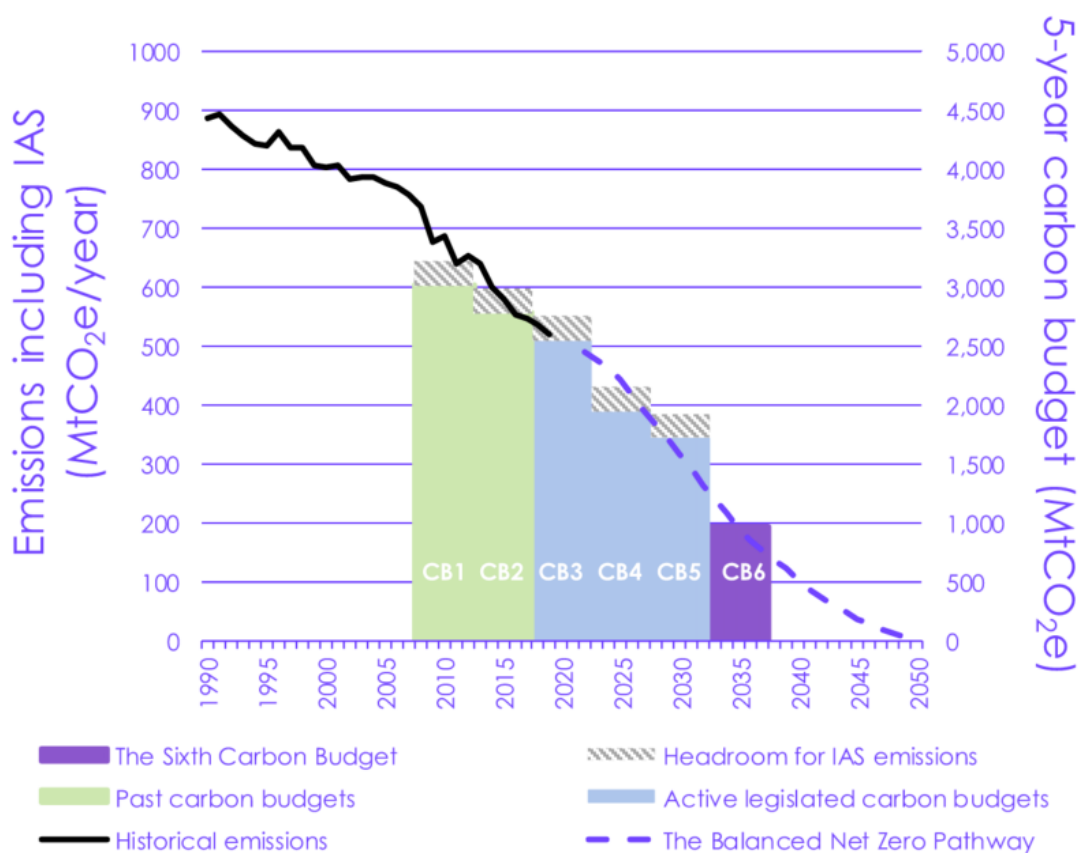


Figure 9: The recommended Sixth Carbon Budget.

UK wide progress on net zero 2050 targets

The CCC also provides annual progress reports; their latest Climate Change 2022 Progress report to Parliament states that, although central government now has a Net Zero Strategy in place, important policy gaps remain. Tangible progress is lagging the policy ambition. With a greenhouse gas emissions path set for the UK and the Net Zero Strategy published, greater emphasis and focus must be placed on delivery.

This outlines the importance and relationship between central government, creating top-down policies and the bottom-up implementation of local stakeholders. Everyone has a part to play, but critically climate action cannot be achieved by working within the borough's boundary only.

The following points are status updates from the CCC closely related to the CAP themes. It outlines the current positive progress made but also the gaps where further action is needed from central government in order to decarbonise the UK. These will need to continue to be included within lobbying efforts, in collaboration with other local authorities amongst others:

- **Surface transport** – the CCC suggests clear progress has been made in the sales of electric cars, although electric van sales are lagging behind. However, car travel rebounded much more quickly and completely following the lifting of lockdown restrictions than public transport did, and van and heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic rebounded to above pre-pandemic levels. Development of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles is not making fast enough progress.
- **Buildings** – Rates of improvement in energy efficiency continue to be well below the necessary level, as they have been over the last decade. Central government proposes to scale up the market for heat pumps over the 2020s to achieve at least 600,000 installations a year, up from around 54,000 in 2021. Indicators of supply chain build-up will be needed to track whether this is progressing as planned. Additional limitations are the cost of retrofitting, mainly weighted towards the homeowner and the potential difficulties of retrofitting in older properties, including those listed or in conservation areas.
- **Electricity supply** – Deployment of renewable electricity capacity, especially offshore wind, has been strong. Additional renewables and nuclear power are needed to meet the 2035 national grid decarbonisation goals.

Major risks

The CCC does however outline several major risks to the UK achieving its targets, the most relevant are as follows:

- **Policy gap** – There are policy gaps associated with 57% of future greenhouse gas emissions reductions.
- **Public engagement** – The central government Net Zero Strategy recognised the need for public engagement, but it is unclear how commitments will be implemented for public-facing advice, supporting businesses, increasing awareness and making green choices affordable and easy.
- **Governance** – Embedding and integrating net zero and climate adaptation properly across the policy landscape is vital to the delivery of central government's Net Zero Strategy. Responsibilities are needed between central government departments, the regulators, devolved administrations, the GLA, and industry for the actions and interactions on the path to net zero.
- **Skills** – Workers will need to develop new skills to fill the needs of new low carbon markets. However, evidence on skills requirements and current employment in key occupations (e.g. home retrofit coordinators) is limited. Availability of skilled workers therefore poses a risk for the net zero transition.

The role of regional government

The Greater London Authority Act 1999 sets out environmental improvement and sustainable development as core to the Mayor's role. They also have a duty to publish a 'London Environment Strategy' which covers an assessment of – and policies related to – biodiversity, waste management, climate change mitigation and energy, climate change adaptation, air quality, and ambient noise. Some of the most visible powers of the Mayor are in their control of London's transport network, which gives them enormous scope to tackle carbon emissions and the capital's dirty air, alongside substantial powers over planning, although the role does not have significant responsibility for land management in the capital.

The Mayor of London has set a target for London to be net zero carbon by 2030 and selected a preferred pathway to net zero – the Accelerated Green pathway. Amongst other things, achieving this will require:

- Nearly 40 per cent reduction in the total heat demand of London's buildings, requiring over 2 million homes and a quarter of a million non-domestic buildings to become properly insulated.
- 2.2 million heat pumps in operation in London by 2030.
- 460,000 buildings connected to district heating networks by 2030.
- A 27 per cent reduction in car vehicle km travelled by 2030.
- Fossil fuel car and van sales ended by 2030 and enforced in line with the government's existing commitments.

Regional and National asks

To support the delivery of the Goals and Objectives of the CAP, there are a series of key asks from regional and central government.

Table 10: Hackney's lobbying priorities to central and regional government

| Theme | We need stakeholders to... | Who |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Adaptation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include climate risks in emergency risk registers and frameworks. ● Fully embed the significant co-benefits for communities from practical responses to adaptation needs into government decision making on adaptation and the assessment of responses to the risks. ● Respond to the social justice impacts of what is already happening now in respect of the impacts of a changing climate needs to be more embedded in the overall approach to adaptation. | Central government (National Risk Register). |
| Buildings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create an easy-to-access national programme of incentives, affordable or zero interest loans, VAT rate reductions and grants to help people cover the upfront costs of retrofitting and installing new heat sources. ● Establish requirements and incentives for private and landlord retrofitting, including green mortgages and a fiscally neutral, variable Stamp Duty Land Tax for more efficient homes. ● Enable flexibility in the business rates system to incentivise decarbonisation measures on business premises. ● Introduce bolder and more ambitious operational and embodied carbon greenhouse gas emissions reporting and reduction requirements in building regulations and the National Planning Policy Framework. ● Provide strategic direction and planning powers linked to prioritising refurbishment over demolition where appropriate and feasible. ● Establish circular economy requirements for major and minor applications, including in relation to reuse and refurbishment in preference to demolition where possible. | Central government (BEIS, HMRC, Treasury, DLUHC). |

| Theme | We need stakeholders to... | Who |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rework national VAT structures and provide grants to prioritise clean fuel technologies, such as e-bikes and EV chargers. ● Remove night-time freight routes in the borough and provide access to detailed public transport data. ● Reduce public transport fares. ● Invest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and digital connectivity to facilitate and encourage more permanent and flexible work practices. ● Introduce comprehensive, effective and fair road user charging that reduces traffic volumes and congestion. | Central government (BEIS, HMRC) Transport for London. |
| Consumption | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduce requirements and standards for Consumption Emissions/Scope 3 assessments and reductions at organisational and local authority level. ● Update food poverty and healthy diet policies and national programmes to include climate-friendly options. ● Restrict the availability of non-essential single-use plastic items and all oxo-degradable products, and implement Extended Producer Responsibility legislation and new enforcement powers to promote recycling without further delay. | Central government, Defra, Environment Agency, Greater London Authority. |
| Environmental Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet existing water body quality targets and introduce stricter management, monitoring and enforcement related to water body health. ● Set more challenging targets for air pollution across London and England based on the WHO Air Quality Guidelines. ● Update the National Planning Policy Framework to empower local authorities to adopt planning policies commensurate with the climate and ecological emergency. | Environment Agency, Defra, Greater London Authority. |

| Theme | We need stakeholders to... | Who |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Cross-cutting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oversee rapid national grid decarbonisation and reinforcement programmes and fossil fuel phase-out legislation. ● Provide funding and coherent cross-department support on local climate action, for example reforming vehicles like the UK Shared Prosperity fund to include opportunities at local government level and simplifying the application process for schools and other public sector organisations. ● Support area-wide planning for regional delivery of energy, transport systems and building retrofit. ● Join up the National Skills Fund, the National Retraining Scheme and the Apprenticeship Levy at local level and align this with place-based employment, decarbonisation and business support systems. ● Social justice and the just transition is rarely considered in central government climate plans and strategies. Support for vulnerable groups and those most affected by climate action and the physical impacts of the emergency must be embedded into all plans and initiatives. | <p>Central government (BEIS, HMRC, Treasury, DLUHC), National Grid and DNOs, Transport for London, Environment Agency, Department for Education and other trade bodies.</p> |

Financing the Transition

The economic and social costs of inaction continue to grow. Local areas have a huge role to play in reaching net zero and have the ability to start implementation quickly, but they do not have the funding they need. Central government must provide certainty on its long-term funding plans for key areas such as retrofit and energy efficiency. Without this, it is impossible for local areas to play their part in building the skills, capacity and engagement needed to meet the challenge. Analysis shows that retrofitting all buildings alone in Hackney would need an investment of approximately £3 billion in the building stock which will require significant public funding, particularly for public sector assets and social housing.

Homeowners, as well as other landlords, will need to be able to access affordable financial products such as loans and green mortgages, and for large organisations to work together to attract private investment. Across the borough there are many businesses, organisations and individuals committed to helping drive change, and willing to invest in the transition to create a better future. Together we must encourage and support organisations across Hackney to prioritise planned investment in climate mitigation and adaptation.

Despite these challenges, funding for green initiatives around CO₂ reduction, energy efficiency, recycling and other sustainability programmes are already part of the Council's budget.

The Funding Strategy for the Council's own CAP commitments is summarised below:

1. **What's already planned for** – those allocations in the Capital Programme that can be adapted to reflect technologies/latest innovations to tackle climate change – e.g. Planned Maintenance budget, Combined Heat and Power in regeneration programmes, Fleet.
2. **Robust Business Cases** – those projects where there are savings to be made that can repay the investment over time or have alternative delivery models, e.g. Electric Vehicle charging network, cycle hangars – investment in energy technologies for the Council's non housing estate.
3. **The aspirational** – those investments that are currently unaffordable at scale – e.g. retrofit of Council properties. The Council is exploring grant funding opportunities and working with other Local Authorities for solutions in this space and lobbying with others for more funding.

National context

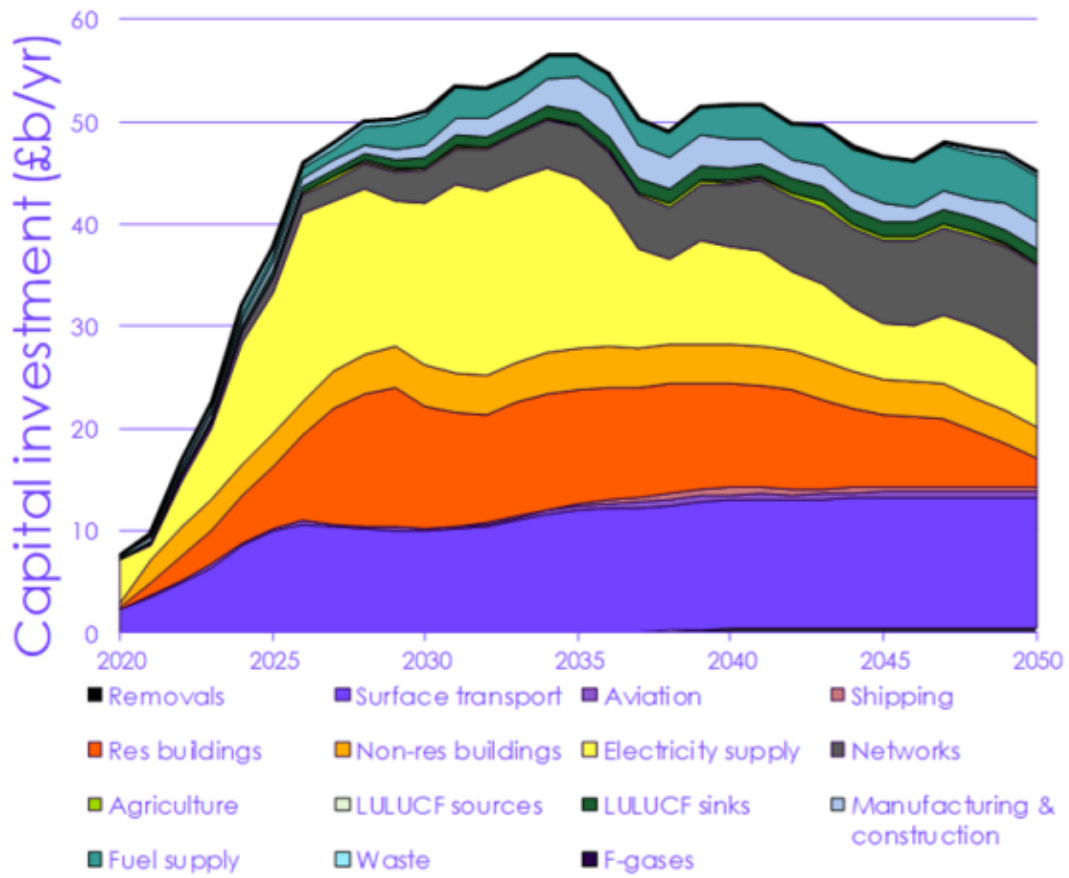
The cost of transitioning to net zero

The CCC, in their [Sixth Carbon Budget](#), estimates that UK low-carbon investment each year will have to increase from around £10 billion in 2020 to around £50 billion by 2030. Such scale-ups are not unprecedented and have been seen in the power, transport and buildings sector in the past. Overall however, the CCC reports that the net costs of the transition will be less than 1% of GDP over the course of the next 30 years.

Clearly, the transition to net zero is capital intensive. In the near term, however, investment could support the UK's economic recovery following the COVID-19 crisis and seek to mitigate the impacts of the ongoing energy crisis. Over the medium and longer term this investment will also generate substantial fuel savings, as cleaner, more-efficient technologies replace their fossil fuelled predecessors, and costs will be recouped over time. The CCC also outlines that investment will unlock wider multiple benefits (e.g. for public health) and that the cost and risk associated with inaction is far greater than the cost of action.⁴⁹

The CCC has forecast capital investment requirements by sector. This is shown in Figure 10. It outlines the immediate financial priorities on a national scale. Prior to 2025, the majority of funding (approximately £3–4 billion per annum) will be needed to be invested in decarbonising surface transport and the electricity supply. As more vehicles become electric, the charging infrastructure and grid supply will need to keep up with demand to ensure this is a low carbon transition. By 2025 and onwards surface transport investment will level off at approximately £10 billion per year but overall investment grows significantly to nearly £50 billion per annum. Most of which is investing in renewables for the electricity supply, as well as in retrofitting residential and nonresidential buildings (approximately £12–15 billion). These four areas dominate the investment requirements in the next 15 years.

⁴⁹ [Sixth Carbon Budget - Climate Change Committee](#)



Source: CCC analysis.

Notes: This figure shows a partial picture of the required investments, without offsetting savings as operational costs. This figure is therefore not indicative of the net costs of decarbonisation. For a full picture of the costs of Net Zero, see Figure 5.4. Electricity supply 2020 data is an average of historical 2018/2019 data and modelled 2020 investment. LULUCF = Land use, land-use change and forestry.

Figure 10: The CCC's Balanced Net Zero Pathway UK Investment programme 2020–2050.

Sources of finance

Financing the net zero transition is a key challenge. Organisations across Hackney will share similar challenges to fund their journey to net zero and adapt to a changing climate. There are a number of options we can all explore together, including:

- Grant funding from Central Government, this is limited but will be particularly important for low income and social housing. For example, successful funding applications have already been made by the Council to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund.
- The Council working alongside others to continue to lobby the Government to increase funding programmes for both public and private properties.
- Income from funding and revenue streams which could be hypothecated for climate action in the borough.
- The use of policy mechanisms to deliver new income streams such as from planning obligations.
- Local climate bonds that can raise significant amounts of capital whilst allowing local people to invest in their area and directly benefit from the projects delivered.
- Organisations within the borough reviewing their planned expenditure and investment to ensure it is consistent with net zero goals.
- Development of financial products that allow homeowners and other landlords to access finance to improve energy efficiency in their buildings.
- Carbon offsets – Investment of carbon offsets in local decarbonisation and adaptation schemes.

Some examples of where such opportunities and other new approaches to financing climate emergency related activities are outlined below:

- Bristol City LEAP will establish a joint venture between the City Council and a strategic partner to deliver more than £1 billion of investment towards Bristol becoming a zero-carbon, smart energy city by 2030.
- Greater Manchester's Environment Fund will support the development, scale and verification for carbon and habitat banking, aiming for a £5m annual turnover to finance new habitats, tree planting and peat restoration.
- West Berkshire Council issued the first Community Municipal Investment through a Bond offer raising over £1m from 600 investors, a fifth from the local area, to finance solar, LED lighting, cycling routes and environmental investments.
- UK 100 and Siemens have identified £100 billion potential investment in local energy that could be realised with a public investment of £5 billion.
- The £8m investment in the BEIS Local Energy Hubs has delivered £61m investment to date and a pipeline of £1.2 billion.

Many other case studies are outlined in the [UKCCIC's City Investment Analysis Report Oct 2021](#).

Pension and insurance funds could have a significant future investment role in financing the transition. The UKCCIC suggests there has been considerable change in the private sector financial services industry over the last few years, led by firms in the UK and Europe, to fully embrace the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) impact of their business models. They and their investment managers realise that sustainable investments may actually perform better in the longer term, providing better long term returns. This change in focus can be utilised by Hackney stakeholders to secure investment from these funds into long term decarbonisation projects but will need to be packaged at scale to attract interest. Due to the long term nature of these funds, investments in lower return, low risk investments, such as heat networks and energy infrastructure, can be highly attractive.

Carbon offsetting funds

The GLA London Plan requires all major developments to achieve net zero carbon. A minimum of a 35% on-site carbon improvement on national Building Regulations must be met and the shortfall to zero carbon is offset by making a cash-in-lieu contribution into the relevant Local Planning Authority's carbon offset fund, although planning applicants are expected to maximise savings on-site before offsetting. Carbon offset payments are set and collected through legal agreements between the Council and the developer when planning permission is granted. Examples of supported projects include the installation of solar panels on the West Reservoir Leisure Centre.

As the Borough grows with new development, this fund can help to support projects that are unable to gain funding from other private or public sector funds.

Recognising the co-benefits of climate action

In addition to cash returns, many of the outcomes associated with transitioning to net zero accrue as societal benefits, also known as 'co-benefits'. These co-benefits have wide ranging value through:

- Local economic stimulus.
- Improved health outcomes reducing the ongoing cost of healthcare services.
- Improved biodiversity outcomes.
- Alleviation of fuel poverty.
- Job creation and the opportunity to upskill redundant roles.
- Reduction of water run-off, avoidance of flood damage etc.

For example, reducing congestion can improve local air quality and in turn reduce respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, absenteeism and health care spending. Tackling congestion might also free up space for greener spaces which can help improve surface water management and establish new habitats. By considering these systemic interactions, it is possible to better understand the overall social, economic and environmental value of proposals and the trade-offs that might be required. We can use this understanding to inform decision making and build the case for bolder and more ambitious action that will enable co-benefits to be better incorporated into investment decisions.

Monitoring and Reporting, Stakeholder Engagement and Governance

Monitoring and reporting

A key part of the role of future external governance of the CAP will be to monitor, review and report the progress of collective action against the goals and objectives of this plan.

Why monitor, review and report climate action?

Monitoring and reporting, including reviewing, is an important tool to assess progress towards net zero, informing decisions that may be needed to update the scale or pace of interventions accordingly. It is widely agreed to be key to credible, long term climate action by:

- **Maintaining transparency and accountability:** Monitoring climate action gives councils and other stakeholders the ability to demonstrate progress and quantify the benefits of climate action. This can aid future decision making by indicating where climate action has been most successful, and most challenging, and when carbon offsetting has been used for emissions that can't be reduced.
- **Providing key review points:** testing whether what we are doing collectively is having the desired impact on progress, whilst enabling opportunities to revise actions.
- **Communicating with stakeholders on progress with targets:** The Council alone cannot deliver the actions needed to reach net zero and therefore must work in partnership with other organisations and individuals and enable stakeholders to make change happen.
- **Building a case to improve delivery or secure further funding:** Monitoring can help identify where further resources, investment or investigation is needed, and build the evidence base for this – ultimately informing further action planning.

A schematic of key stages since the Council's climate emergency was declared is outlined below.



Figure 11: Key stages in the development and delivery of the Climate Action Plan.

The development of a monitoring framework will therefore support the need to measure the reduction in carbon emissions amongst other climate related actions, tracking progress towards the 2030 goals of Hackney's borough-wide CAP alongside an agreed reporting and review mechanism (Task 5 above).

Monitoring, in this context, refers to the ability to understand and track climate actions being taken in the area and their impact with a key focus on the net zero modelled pathway to the key 2030 and 2040 target points which estimate that there would be a 94% reduction in Hackney's territorial greenhouse gas emissions in 2040, compared to 2010, and a 77% reduction by 2030 based on the goals within the the CAP. Reporting is the ability to present and share these outcomes. This can be internally or externally, in line with existing reporting principles or commitments, or aligning with an external reporting mechanism.

Where are the key responsibilities for borough-wide emissions?

The 2018 baseline borough-wide emissions assessment within the CAP consists of:

1. Borough-wide territorial emissions where the Council has direct control circa 5%.
2. Borough-wide territorial emissions where the Council may have some influence (circa 25%), although others have direct control.
3. Other borough-wide emissions where direct control and/or influence mainly lies with others such as residents, businesses and institutions etc.

What are the internal governance arrangements for the Climate Action Plan?



Figure 12: Schematic of Council internal governance structures for the CAP.

The monitoring and reporting framework for its own emissions (borough-wide emissions where the Council emissions has direct control) will be overseen by an established internal governance structure set out in Figure 12, whose function is to provide oversight and scrutiny links to the key Council political and corporate governance structures. Corporate oversight takes place through Climate, Homes & Economy Directorate Leadership Team, Corporate Leadership Team and the Strategic Leadership Group. Member oversight is provided by the Cabinet, various Scrutiny Commissions and Full Council.

Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)

Purpose: To provide executive oversight, leading the strategic activity required to deliver our collective organisational response to the climate crisis. This includes ensuring that climate implications and actions to meet our targets and ambitions are firmly embedded in our policies, processes and procedures, and ensuring the delivery of the Implementation Plan (IP) that identifies the key actions that the Council will take to support the CAP goals and objectives.

The ESB is co-chaired by Group Director for Finance and Corporate Resources and Group Director for Climate, Homes & Economy, ensuring that the key aspects of delivering the CAP and associated work is taken forward within the remits of finance and climate. ESB meets bi-monthly.

Strategic Officer Climate Group (SOCG)

Purpose: This group is the key tool for delivery of the Council's Implementation Plan and is made up of the leads for each thematic area, as well as expertise in communications, engagement, finance, procurement, economic development and employment and skills. SOCG meets bi-monthly.

Additional task and finish groups may be established that sit alongside the SOCG to address specific engagement, funding and resourcing needs amongst others.

Theme leads

Five internal theme leads are responsible for the coordination and oversight of their relevant thematic area, plus an additional lead that covers the cross-cutting green economy aspect. There are also a number of cross-cutting aspects which impact on all the themes and include the green economy, funding and resourcing, communications and engagement and fair and just transition. To meet these needs task and finish groups may be established when required.

Monitoring

Monitoring will be completed through a variety of interrelated mechanisms:

- Council emissions initially aligning with the [UK100](#) membership scope but expanding over time, using the [Local Partnerships GHG accounting tool](#);
- Borough-wide emissions principally initially via [The London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory \(LEGGI\)](#) and [Consumption-Based Emissions Accounting Framework \(CBEA\)](#);
- The Council's Implementation Plan for its own actions, to support delivery of goals and objectives which reflect its control and influence, supported by;
- More granular monitoring through other established Council plans and strategies;
- A set of key performance indicators to track Council and borough-wide progress.

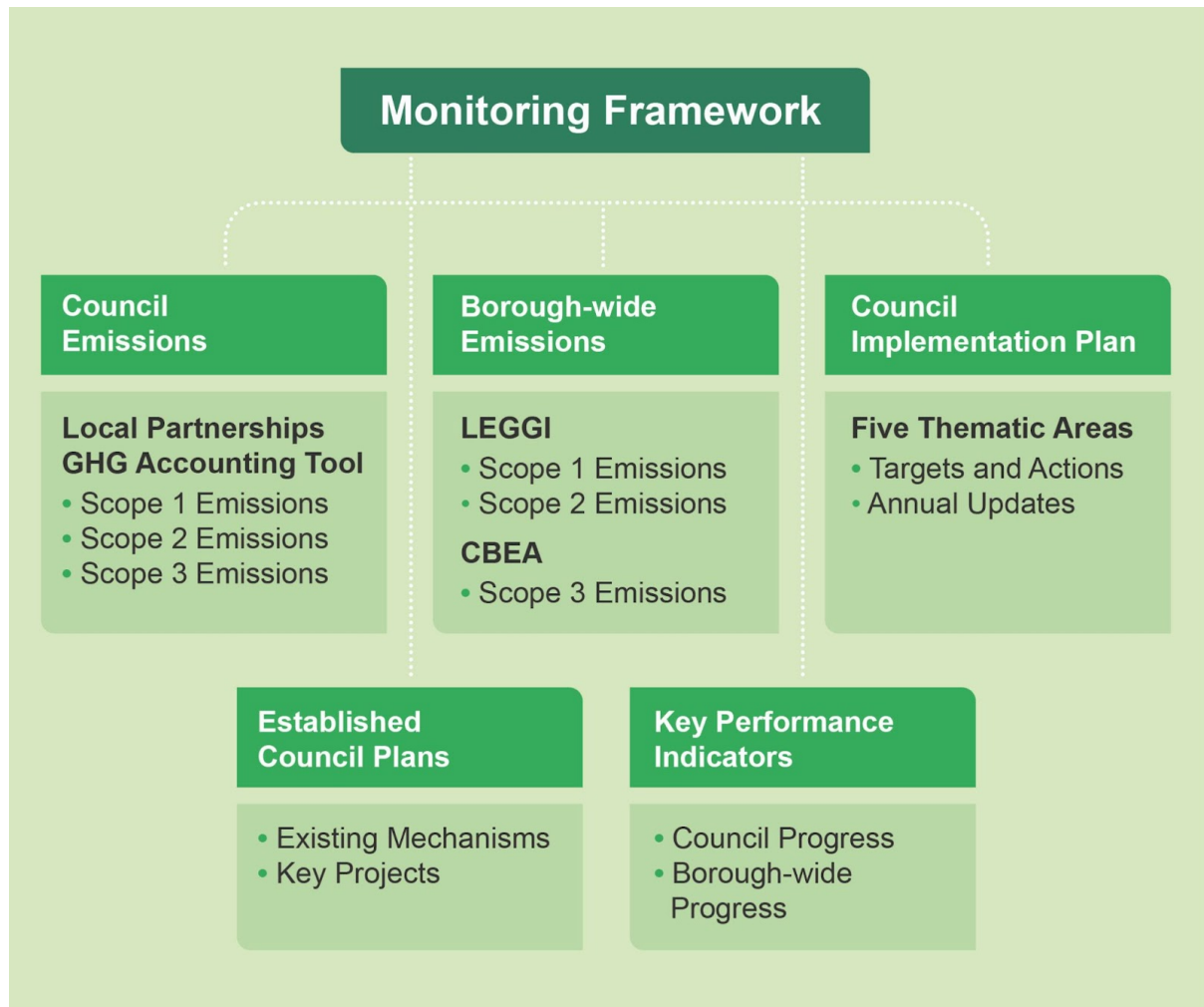


Figure 13: Summary of key elements of the Monitoring Framework.

Further detail on the monitoring approach is set out below relative to the key categories above.

Council emissions

Scopes 1, 2, and 3 refer to different categories of greenhouse gas emissions associated with an organisation's activities, including direct emissions from owned or controlled sources, indirect emissions from purchased electricity, and other indirect emissions from sources outside of the organisation's control:

- **Scope 1:** All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers and fleet vehicles.

- **Scope 2:** Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.

- **Scope 3:** All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. Noting that these are the scopes 1 and 2 for other organisations who may have their own plans for carbon reduction.

Initially, the focus will be on measuring and monitoring Scope 1 emissions from gas and fleet operations, as well as Scope 2 emissions from electricity use. The territorial emissions that are under the direct control of the Council will be tracked using the [Local Partnerships GHG accounting tool](#), as recommended by London Councils and based on the [UK100](#) membership scope. The scope and complexity of monitoring will be gradually increased over time for both scopes 1 and 2 (particularly as additional properties within the corporate portfolio are included and potentially adding data from fugitive emissions such as air conditioning leaks). This will eventually extend to embed selective elements of scope 3 where there is significant carbon impact and the Council has some influence.

Borough-wide emissions

Data on emissions from domestic, industrial, and commercial energy use, as well as from transportation, will be gathered via [LEGGI](#), while consumption emissions will be gathered via the [CBEA](#) created by the University of Leeds, as recommended by London Councils. Data from LEGGI and CBEA continues to develop over time, and hence any relevant new data will be reviewed as to whether it should be added to the framework.

Council Implementation Plan

The Council's Implementation Plan has a range of actions spread across the five thematic areas which reflect its areas of control and significant influence and will be updated annually. Initial targets have been identified to demonstrate progress and are included in each of the thematic sections of the CAP as well as the Green Economy cross-cutting theme. A number of these projects and programmes will have their own independent evaluation requirements and for key ones where a clear carbon impact has been estimated the intention would be to build the outcomes into shaping updates of our actions for the Council and others.

Established Council Plans

Using the principle of prioritising existing reporting systems, the monitoring framework can build upon and complement existing and future plans and strategies to support the overall goal of reducing emissions more effectively and efficiently.

More granular monitoring of the impacts of the CAP will therefore largely be through:

- Existing mechanisms including [Air Quality Action Plan](#), [Reduction and Recycling Plan](#), [Local Nature Recovery Plan](#), [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#), [Transport Local Implementation Plan](#), [Parking and Enforcement Plan](#) and future Economic Development Plan, amongst others.
- Key projects such as, but not limited to, [LTNs](#), [School Streets](#), street tree planting and the [Green Homes programme](#).

Key performance indicators

A smaller number of key performance indicators will be monitored. These will be developed post adoption of the CAP and will be broader than those which focus solely on emissions reduction.

Reviewing

The impact on achieving Hackney's emissions targets will be recorded by changes in the borough-wide emissions footprint. This will provide an indication of the overall direction of progress across the borough and by sector. Reviewing progress with meeting borough-wide and Council targets using a suite of key performance indicators will provide a more detailed assessment helping us to take more timely and evidence-based decisions to:

- Understand Hackney's progress towards its net zero target based on current and proposed actions.
- Understand progress towards its 21 goals and assess where greater action or alternative tactics are required.
- Track delivery of actions annually towards Hackney's borough-wide CAP with SMARTer measures.
- Measure (where possible), the differential impact on different groups in Hackney.
- Measure the success of climate action in delivering wider environmental, social, and economic co-benefits.
- Enable shared learning and information sharing across organisations.

Reporting

The Council has made annual reports on its progress with its decarbonisation commitments (for each 12 month period) since 2020 to Council in July each year. The next one is scheduled for July 2023. Whilst this has covered key progress at a project level and informed the development of the draft CAP, a new more public friendly annual report on the Council's progress towards its own emissions reduction targets, supported by key performance indicators will be put in place for July 2024.

The requirements for borough-wide reporting will be assessed with key partners for public reporting of progress on the borough-wide CAP.

Stakeholder engagement

The success of this plan depends on the involvement of all of Hackney's stakeholders, as well as central and regional government to enable the scale of change needed; the Council also plays a critical role. Furthermore, with only 5% of territorial emissions being in the Council's direct control, key stakeholders are responsible for significant levels of local carbon emissions and are essential to delivering the 2030 goals outlined in the CAP.

Work to develop the CAP recognises that organisations will have to come together collectively to address the climate crisis which no single body can do on its own. Stakeholders will need to exhibit their own leadership, as a start making pledges to the goals of the CAP. The proposed Hackney Net Zero Partnership is the key foundation to take this forward.

To strengthen and better coordinate its own future plans, the Council aims to build organisational skills and capability more broadly in respect of delivering external engagement in this topic area. All organisational stakeholders though have responsibility for establishing a diverse programme of engagement using varied techniques that include more deliberative engagement on specific topics, amongst others.

Engagement should be designed to ensure our diverse communities, including vulnerable and underrepresented groups who may be less engaged with the agenda are involved in the planning and implementation of climate policies and actions. A set of principles to guide all stakeholders to support this is set out below.

Engagement principles for all key stakeholders to deliver the CAP

1. Be clear about the process and aims of engagement

- Be clear about what the aims of the engagement are and the opportunities to engage.
- Be honest about what can and cannot be achieved or influenced from the beginning.
- Provide clarity for participants on what they are taking part in and how their views will be used.

2. Communicate the results of engagement activities

- Ensure that stakeholders are aware of the impact of their input, and they are told when this will be.
- Give participants the opportunity to feed back on the engagement process.

3. Take a more topic based approach to engagement

- Prioritise those topics that are likely to have the most impact on the climate emergency.
- Vary methods of engagement depending on the topic as well as being shaped by the needs.
- Use the existing structures of specific stakeholder groups where required.

4. Take account of the technical nature of many of the topic areas

Engagement principles for all key stakeholders to deliver the CAP

- Make an assessment of the technical expertise required to meaningfully participate in discussions about each topic.
- Make an assessment of the impact of plans on people's daily lives, and prioritise engagement for these topics.
- Build on existing work by scientists, charities, campaign groups and government agencies to make the topics of sustainability and the climate emergency as accessible as possible.

5. Focus engagement on topics that matter to people

- Learn from people's lived experiences.
- Work with people to design environmentally sustainable changes that are impactful but also normal, easy and in alignment with other day-to-day concerns.

6. Strive to be inclusive and to engage widely

- The greater the impact a proposal is likely to have on residents, businesses and partners, the more wide ranging the methods for engagement need to be.
- Ensure that individuals have the opportunity to express their views and know that these views will be listened to and respected. Take into account the particular needs of individuals or groups and aim to overcome any difficulties people may have in engaging.
- Consider ways of increasing involvement with communities who are not in touch with stakeholder organisations, or not already interested in sustainability and the climate emergency.
- Ensure that a diverse range of individuals from all walks of life are represented in engagement.
- Recognise that no one group or person is more important than any other group or person.
- Make accessible the often technical language used to describe environmental topics.
- Ensure meeting participants is at their convenience, not the other way around.

7. Work in partnership with other stakeholders to respond to the climate emergency

- Work together with other stakeholders and organisations to coordinate activity on the climate emergency and become environmentally sustainable.
- Encourage partners to develop their own responses to the climate emergency, recognising they are best placed to do so.
- Aim to learn from partners about their experiences in implementing sustainable policies.

Future external governance structures for the Climate Action Plan

Whilst the Council has established internal governance structures, broader external governance and oversight is needed to reflect this plan is not solely focussed on the Council's activities. This will include a range of borough-wide greenhouse gas emissions for which the Council is not responsible and/or may have lesser or negligible influence. The establishment of appropriate external governance is therefore required and should include, amongst others:

- Working collaboratively with others post adoption, to develop and agree a form of community oversight.
- Establishing a future Hackney Net Zero Partnership to convene key partners including major landowners, public institutions, large businesses, and large housing associations who are responsible for significant borough-wide emissions, amongst others, based on an agreed terms of reference.
- Better aligning existing networks and reviewing established key partnerships with the goals of the CAP.

The establishment of external governance will help steer the delivery of the CAP, ensure progress is tracked transparently, and the wider community is engaged in the efforts to achieve net-zero emissions in the borough.

What's next?

This plan sets out the need for ambitious climate action in Hackney, and some of the areas that we can collectively take action on to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The next steps to achieving the goals set out in this CAP might include:

For residents

- Joining a local or community group to contribute to plans and changes in Hackney in the coming years. This could be a group who lobbies for changes on your estate, a local wildlife group, or a sustainability campaign initiative.
- Working out who is responsible for removing gas boilers and reducing energy consumption in your home, and discussing how and when you might start doing this. This might be the Council, a housing association or a private landlord. It might be a collection of people who run properties within one building. If you own your own property, grants and funding may support you.
- Ask your employer what their plans are for decarbonising. If your employer is based in Hackney, ask them if they have seen this document, and what their plans are for decarbonising. They should be aware of legal requirements to reduce energy consumption.
- Signing up to the Greener Hackney mailing list at hackney.gov.uk/newsletters.
- Reading through the 2030 goals: are there any you can commit to? Let the [Council know](#) by sharing your pledge and encourage others to do the same!

For community groups and organisations

- Working out where you are using fossil fuels in your activities, and who you need to work with to swap them for clean alternatives.
- Talking to your members about whether they are aware of what they can do about the climate emergency, and work with them to take action.
- Creating local projects that contribute to the themes in this document, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing biodiversity or spreading awareness, for example.
- Reading through the 2030 goals: are there any you can commit to? Let the [Council know](#) by sharing your pledge and encourage others to do the same!

For businesses and institutions

- Working out where you are using fossil fuels in your operations, and how to swap them for greener alternatives and develop your own plans to get to net zero. You may need to coordinate with other business owners who share your building, your property owner or landlord.
- Better understanding your vulnerabilities to extreme weather to become more prepared.
- Talking to your employees about whether they are aware of what they can do about the climate emergency, and work with them to take action.
- Considering if your business can offer services to help Hackney reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. For example, could you start installing heat pumps, solar panels or energy demand reduction measures? Could you offer repairs and item hires that mean people don't buy and throw away so many new objects?
- Reading through the 2030 goals: are there any you can commit to? Let the [Council know](#) by sharing your pledge and encourage others to do the same!

For the Council

- Delivering alongside others the Council Implementation Plan, which sets out the proposed actions that the Council will take to contribute to achieving the goals set out in this document.
- Continuing partnership work with stakeholders, including awareness raising and further developing the Hackney Net Zero Partnership and a wider community governance structure.
- Providing the civic leadership for the collective effort needed to tackle the climate emergency in the borough helping to bring together different organisations and communities.
- Updating regulations and requirements to accelerate decarbonisation.
- Running projects and programmes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the borough, including decarbonising our own buildings, vehicles, procurement and other activities.
- Lobbying the UK government and regulatory bodies for systemic change and reducing barriers to change.

Glossary & Abbreviations

Glossary

| Term | Definition |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Adaptation | Adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects in order to reduce harm or take advantage of any potential benefits. |
| Biodiversity | The variety of wild plants and animals in an environment. |
| Biodiversity crisis | An umbrella term to describe the deterioration of ecosystem health worldwide as a result of human activity and the climate emergency. Also known as: biodiversity collapse, ecological emergency. |
| Circular economy | An economic model in which resources are retained in use at their highest value for as long as possible and are then reused or recycled, leaving a minimum of residual waste. |
| Climate emergency | An umbrella term to describe the situation where burning fossil fuels creates greenhouse gas emissions, which are changing the climate of the planet. Also known as: climate change, climate collapse, climate crisis, global warming. |
| Climate resilience | The capacity of interconnected social, economic and ecological systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend or disturbance, responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure. Resilience is a positive attribute when it maintains capacity for adaptation, learning and/or transformation. |
| Community wealth building | Community wealth building is a new people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy. placing more control and benefits into the hands of local people. |
| Consumption emissions | The greenhouse gas emissions generated <u>outside</u> Hackney to create the goods and services used inside Hackney. For example, in manufacturing and delivery. |
| Decarbonisation/ Decarbonise | The process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. |
| District heat network | A distribution system of insulated pipes that takes heat from a central source and delivers it to a number of buildings. |
| Embodied carbon | The greenhouse gas emissions created to produce, transport, install, maintain, replace and dispose of materials or items. This is a type of consumption emission. |

| Term | Definition |
|--|--|
| Fuel poverty | The situation where someone is unable to afford to keep their home adequately heated, without compromising basic necessities. Central government has defined fuel poverty as when a household needs to spend more than 10% of its income to achieve reasonable levels of warmth (22°C in living areas, 18°C in unoccupied rooms). |
| Global warming | The estimated increase in global mean surface temperature, typically expressed relative to pre-industrial levels. |
| Greenhouse gas emissions | Refers to the gases created when fossil fuels are burnt that contribute to the climate and biodiversity breakdown. Also known as: carbon emissions, carbon dioxide emissions, GHGs and emissions. |
| Green New Deal | A term used to describe sets of policies that aim to create a new political system that reduces greenhouse gas emissions while continuing to work towards prosperity and a flourishing society. |
| Grid carbon factor | The greenhouse gas emissions associated with each kWh of electricity generated on the national grid. |
| Gross domestic product | The standard measure of the value added created through the production of goods and services in a country during a certain period. It measures the income earned from that production, or the total amount spent on final goods and services, minus the cost of imported goods. |
| Heat pump | A device used to heat and cool buildings by transferring thermal energy from a cooler space to a warmer space. |
| Low carbon (e.g. item, product) | Something that does not release significant amounts of carbon when produced or operated. Typically they are electric and running on fossil-free renewable power, or capable of running on the national grid, which is rapidly decarbonising. |
| Mitigation | Mitigation is human interventions to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. |
| National grid | The network of power stations, powerlines and electricity infrastructure that allows electricity to be generated, transported and used across the country. Within the network there are many different Distribution Network Operators who send electricity from the grid to end users. |
| Net zero | Net zero refers to a state in which the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are considerably reduced and the residual emissions removed out of the atmosphere elsewhere. In the context of the built environment, buildings should aim to reduce their overall greenhouse gas emissions for embodied carbon and operational energy to near zero or negative, with reliance on offsetting strictly limited to exceptional circumstances. |

| Term | Definition |
|---|--|
| Offsetting | The process of compensating for greenhouse gas emissions, by participating in schemes designed to make equivalent reductions of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Also known as: carbon offsetting. |
| Operational emissions | The greenhouse gas emissions related to the use of buildings during their lifespan, primarily from heating, cooling, water and electricity usage. |
| Paris Agreement | The UK is signatory to the international 'Paris Agreement' treaty, which aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of the climate emergency by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C. |
| Renewable energy | Energy generated using fuels that are naturally restocked in a short time period and do not rely on fossil fuel extraction, such as solar or wind power. |
| Retrofit | The process of upgrading and altering existing buildings or systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This might include upgrading their thermal performance to improve energy efficiency, adding renewable energy sources or removing fossil fuel power sources. This reduces the amount of energy used in a building, reducing fuel poverty and greenhouse gas emissions while improving comfort levels. |
| Social justice | The fair distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society. In the context of the climate emergency and decarbonisation, this is also known as: just transition. |
| Solar panels | A renewable energy technology that uses sunlight as a source of energy to generate electricity. |
| tCO₂e, ktCO₂e, MtCO₂e | The unit for greenhouse gases emissions. It stands for tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, whereby the 'equivalent' means all types of greenhouse gases that contribute to the climate emergency. 'ktCO ₂ e' means thousands of tonnes, and 'MtCO ₂ e' means millions of tonnes. |
| Territorial emissions | The greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption and activities <u>inside</u> Hackney. For example buildings and transport. See also: consumption emissions. |

Groups referenced in this document

This CAP describes the actions that, collectively, we need to take to tackle the climate emergency. To outline how different groups can contribute to these changes, we refer to the following:

| Group | Description |
|---|---|
| Community Groups & Organisations | The term used in this plan to describe networks, clubs, societies and initiatives run by or for Hackney residents. This includes faith organisations, local wildlife groups, campaign groups, neighbourhood representatives and the environmental community of interest, for example. |
| Businesses & Institutions | The term used in this plan to describe companies, organisations and other business groups in Hackney, that supply services to Hackney or work with Hackney in some way. This includes utility providers, public health organisations and other local authorities, for example. |
| Residents | The people who live in Hackney. |
| Central government | The UK national government. |
| The Council | Hackney Council. |
| Hackney stakeholders | The catch-all term for all the groups listed in this table. |

Abbreviations

- **BEIS** – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- **CCC** – Climate Change Committee
- **Defra** – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- **EV** – Electric vehicle
- **GDP** – Gross Domestic Product
- **GLA** – Greater London Authority
- **IPCC** – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- **LETI** – London Energy Transformation Initiative
- **NLWA/NLWS** – North London Waste Authority/Strategy
- **OFGEM** – Office of Gas and Electricity Markets
- **STEM** – Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths
- **SuDS** – Sustainable Drainage systems
- **TfL** – Transport for London

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London Borough of Hackney Equality Impact Assessment Form

The Equality Impact Assessment Form is a public document which the Council uses to demonstrate that it has complied with Equality Duty when making and implementing decisions which affect the way the Council works.

The form collates and summarises information which has been used to inform the planning and decision making process.

All the information needed in this form should have already been considered and should be included in the documentation supporting the decision or initiative, e.g. the delegate powers report, saving template, business case etc.

Equality Impact Assessments are public documents: remember to use at least 12 point Arial font and plain English.

The form must be reviewed and agreed by the relevant Director, who is responsible for ensuring it is made publicly available and is in line with guidance. Guidance on completing this form is available on the intranet.

<http://staffroom.hackney.gov.uk/equalities-based-planning-and-decision-making>

Title of this Equality Impact Assessment:

Climate Action Plan 2030

Purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment:

To assess whether the approval of Hackney's first Climate Action Plan would have an impact on any protected groups in Hackney.

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Name: Ander Zabala | Ext: n/a |
| Directorate: Climate, Homes & Economy | Department/Division: Sustainability and Environment |

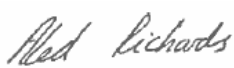
Comment:

I approve this EIA. The consultation on the draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) took place from November 2022 to January 2023. The consultation responses have been analysed, and the EIA has been updated and amended accordingly.

Section 149 of the 2010 Equality Act set out the three equality needs. The equality need that is most relevant to the proposal to deliver the CAP is the need to eliminate discrimination. This proposal does not amount to direct discrimination, as no individual is being treated less favourably by a reason of a protected characteristic.

The Council provides evidence that the proposal is proportionate and is so for the following reasons:

- It achieves a legitimate aim; to improve the lives of all protected groups and every resident in the borough whilst reducing our impact on the planet, currently facing a climate emergency;
- Protected characteristic groups should benefit the most from the goals of the CAP as they are most at risk from the impact of extreme weather, pollution, and poor air quality. Certain groups such as low-income residents, those in flats, older people, children, and people with respiratory and health conditions were identified as more vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

Signed: 

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

In completing this impact assessment you should, where possible, refer to the main documentation related to this decision rather than trying to draft this assessment in isolation. Please also refer to the attached guidance.

STEP 1: DEFINING THE ISSUE

1.1. Summarise why you are having to make a new decision

In response to the Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019 the Council produced a draft Hackney Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP is a demonstration of progress on the Climate Emergency declaration and includes a number of actions.

Hackney has made progress in reducing emissions over the last decade. Since 2010, emissions from buildings and road transport in Hackney have fallen by about 27%. Consumption emissions – from the things we all buy and use – have fallen by about 10–15% in the UK overall. Nevertheless, without faster action, driven by ambitious policies and targets, we won't be able to protect communities and ecosystems from the effects of climate change.

Since we declared a climate emergency, we have led some of the UK's most innovative work to tackle climate change: ending the dominance of motor vehicle traffic across large parts of Hackney; switching our energy supply to 100% renewable; and generating more renewable energy on our buildings. The Council's existing target for its own territorial

greenhouse emissions requires a 45% reduction by 2030 based on a 2010 baseline and 'net zero' by 2040. However, it has also been clear that where it can move faster it will endeavour to do so, regardless of the stated 'net zero' targets. As a result, in January 2022, the Mayor and Lead Member made a statement to Full Council outlining their ambition to rejoin the UK100 network. This followed earlier work to review 'net zero' targets set out within the original Climate Emergency declaration and to bring the Council in closer alignment with key stakeholders across London.

This is the Council's first holistic plan to address the climate and ecological crisis, bringing together the various strands into one overall document and as such is a key marker in consolidating our journey to net zero.

The CAP sets out an approach for tackling the climate emergency over the next three years. It provides a framework for everyone to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the change that is already occurring. It also links to objectives to improve community health and promote local nature recovery.

The CAP aims to:

- Outline what a greener Hackney could look like by 2030 based on a fair and just transition to net zero;
- Build a shared understanding of the problem we face as a borough – and how we can work together to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change;
- Help residents, businesses and other organisations to see their place in our shared response to climate change;
- Identify areas where local partners can collaborate on key strategic challenges;
- Outline initial proposals for monitoring and governance arrangements, as well as steps to support future stakeholder engagement requirements;
- Use the plan to shape agreements on how to work together to achieve shared goals.

The CAP sets out how little direct control the Council has of boroughwide greenhouse gas emissions although we have significant influence in a number of specific areas. Throughout the CAP, the emphasis is therefore on martialling the collective and collaborative response required, as well as stressing the need for a just transition. Everyone will be affected by climate change, but the effects will not be felt equally, with those who are least responsible often worst affected by the impacts. A number of factors that put people at greater risk of being negatively impacted by climate change. These included age (very young and very old); pre-existing health conditions; socioeconomic status (poverty); race and ethnicity, particularly as it intersected with the other characteristics.

Those who are least able to adapt to a changing climate are most likely to be negatively impacted. Access to finance impacts on the ability to adapt. In Hackney 28%¹ of children live in poverty and 9.6%² residents said they were disabled and limited a lot. Deprivation and a disability or illness limit residents' options to adapt homes and recover from climate events.

Climate events such as flooding, are likely to amplify existing inequalities. Climate change risk can intersect with existing inequalities, meaning that women, multi-ethnic groups, older and younger people, and disabled people are also more likely to be vulnerable to the

¹ [Child Poverty, 2023](#)

² [ONS 2021](#)

impacts of climate change and climate policy. These factors are interconnected, and anyone with multiple vulnerabilities are more likely to experience worse health impacts.

One of the four key messages of the CAP is to deliver ‘A fair transition’. We need to ensure that those who are most vulnerable and affected by the climate emergency get the support they need. The risks of the climate emergency are not distributed equally; some communities, families and individuals are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Social justice and the just transition is rarely considered in central government climate plans and strategies. Support for vulnerable groups and those most affected by climate action and the physical impacts of the emergency is embedded in the proposed CAP.

The CAP and the Council must ensure that those who are most vulnerable and affected by the climate emergency get the support they need. Although there are many benefits to taking climate action, the risks of the climate emergency are not distributed equally. To be effective, actions must be designed with attention to those who might be negatively affected, and how.

The impact on the cross cutting aspects of social justice within the Borough have also been considered. Each theme in the CAP describes the main social justice principles.

- **Adaptation:** Protect those who are worst affected, involve everyone, and prioritise green infrastructure;
- **Buildings:** Tackle fuel poverty, overcome initial costs, remove legal barriers and track national changes;
- **Transport:** Consider and involve everyone and recognise cost barriers;
- **Consumption:** Acknowledge all dietary requirements and support accessible and affordable purchasing habits;
- **Environmental Quality:** Reduce exposure to poor air quality, increase access to green spaces and support community groups.

1.2. Who are the main people that will be affected?

Hackney is home to an estimated 259,200 people³ and c23,000 businesses, with the population likely to grow to 291,555 people by 2030⁴. It is considered that because the scope of the CAP is borough-wide, all members of the public, residents, workers and visitors to the Borough as well as business and partner organisations will be potentially affected. The following table shows the relevance of the positive or negative impacts of the CAP on the following equality strands or protected characteristics groups:

| | Age | Disability | Gender reassignment | Pregnancy & Maternity | Marriage & CP | Race | Religion or belief | Sex | Sexual Orientation |
|-----------|------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Relevance | High | High | Low | High | Low | High | Low | Medium | Low |

Table 1: Relevance of the CAP impacts on each of the protected groups

³ The 2021 Census estimates that Hackney has 106,081 households compared with 101,690 in 2011 which is an increase of 4.02%. This estimate is lower than expected as an estimate of Hackney’s households by the ONS in 2020 put the number of households at 114,395 (Ref: [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 2](#)). See also [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 1](#)

⁴ [Greater London Authority, 2020](#)

a) Age (*Relevance: High*)

Age is defined by reference to a person's age group. An age group can mean people of the same age or people of a range of ages. The Council is committed to promoting equality among people of all ages and valuing the contribution made by all citizens.

Hackney's median age is 32⁵. The median age for England was 40 and for London 35. The largest number of usual residents in Hackney (nearly 50% of the population) are aged from 22 - 45. This is younger than the average for England. The proportion of the population aged 30 is 43%. Only 8% of the population are aged 65 and over, compared to a national average of 19%.

For older people, the impacts of climate change, including increased extreme heat, is likely to increase vulnerability to ill health. Without intervention, some older people may find it harder to adapt to the changes that will be required. Taking action on climate change will be important for safeguarding the current wellbeing and future rights of younger people. Having appropriate skills for the future economy will be particularly important for those who are starting in employment and will continue to work for many years to come. It will be important that individual interventions seek to have positive impacts for older and younger people, and the overriding principle of social justice and fairness within the framework will protect people.

b) Disability (*Relevance: High*)

According to the 2021 Census⁶ 9.6% of the population of Hackney reported that they were disabled or limited a lot, noting that this figure is age standardised.

For some disabled people, the impacts of climate change, including increased extreme heat, may increase vulnerability to ill health. Some disabled people will find it harder to adapt to the changes that will be required and may be less able to access the support that exists unless it is designed with their needs in mind. At the same time, giving the support to be part of the transition and to take positive action is likely to be positive to the health of these same people. Climate anxiety is also a recognised health condition and increasingly forming part of long term mental health conditions such as OCD.

c) Gender reassignment (*Relevance: Low*)

Out of the 209,467 usual residents in Hackney aged 16 or over, 187,007 (89.3%)⁷ said their gender was the same as the sex registered at birth, 2,241 (1.1%) said their gender was different to their sex registered at birth. Hackney has the highest number and the highest proportion of usual residents who described a nonbinary+ gender identity out of any of the 32 London boroughs.

⁵[Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 2](#)

⁶ [ONS 2021](#)

⁷ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 7](#)

d) Pregnancy and maternity (Relevance: High)

There were 4,377⁸ live births in City and Hackney births to women in Hackney in 2014. The fertility rate for Hackney is 60.1 live births per 1,000 women of child-bearing age compared to 63.3 in London and 62.2 in England.

Climate change is having negative impacts on pregnant women and on birth outcomes due to increased exposure to heat, and linked air quality issues. Actions both within the plan and in the delivery plans and ongoing actions that will be developed under the framework that it creates are likely to have positive benefits for pregnant women and for their babies by improving factors such as air quality as well as by creating opportunities for people to be involved in acting on climate change.

e) Marriage and Civil Partnership (Relevance: Low)

In 2021, the percentages for various legal partnership statuses were as follows: 60%⁹ single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership), 26% married (opposite sex), 0.5% married (same sex), 0.2% in a registered civil partnership (opposite sex), 0.2% in a registered civil partnership (same sex), 3% separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership), 1.6% divorced or formerly in a civil partnership now legally dissolved, and 3% widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership.

f) Race (refers to ethnicity) (Relevance: High)

Race refers to the equality group of race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

53.1%¹⁰ of Hackney residents identified their ethnicity within the 'White' category. The proportion of the population who identify as 'White' is far below the average for England as a whole (81%). The second most common high-level ethnic group in Hackney is 'Black', with 21.1% of Hackney residents identifying in this category. Hackney has a significantly higher proportion of residents who identify as 'Black' than the average for both London and England where the figures are 13.5% and 4.2% respectively.

The second most common ethnic identity in London and England is 'Asian'. Hackney's Asian population is 10.37% which is significantly less than the average for London (20.7%) but is more in line with the average for England (9.6%).

| Ethnic Group | Hackney | | London | | England | |
|---|---------|-------|--------|-------|---------|------|
| | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 |
| Asian / Asian British | 10.4% | 10.5% | 20.7% | 18.5% | 9.6% | 7.8% |
| Black / Black British / African / Caribbean | 21.1% | 23.1% | 13.5% | 13.3% | 4.2% | 3.5% |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | 6.7% | 6.4% | 5.8% | 5.0% | 3.0% | 2.3% |

⁸ [Hackney Council, 2023](#)

⁹ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 2](#)

¹⁰ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 5](#)

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| White | 53.1% | 54.7% | 53.8% | 59.8% | 81.0% | 85.4% |
| Other Ethnic Group | 8.7% | 5.3% | 6.3% | 3.4% | 2.2% | 1.0% |

Table 2: Ethnic Groups across Hackney, London, England

People from Black and Global Majority communities are likely to be disproportionately impacted by climate change for a variety of reasons. Pre-existing health inequalities mean that some Black and Global Majority residents have worse health, which is likely to be impacted negatively by the changing climate, particularly respiratory and cardiovascular disease. These factors increase the negative impacts of climate change, in particular excess heat, as the urban heat island effect is felt more acutely where the natural environment is not able to provide a cooling effect, higher deprivation make it more difficult to effectively cool properties through natural ventilation or air cooling, and air pollution has worse impacts on health when combined with heat.

g) Religion or belief (*Relevance: Low*)

Hackney has considerably more people of the Jewish faith (6.7%)¹¹, which equates to an estimated 17,426 people, compared with London (1.7%) and England, (0.5%). This community is largely made up of Orthodox, or Charedi Jewish people who mainly live in the North East of the borough. The 2021 Census did not distinguish between Orthodox, and Non-Orthodox Jewish people so all are categorised as 'Jewish' in the Census. Hackney has a considerably higher proportion of Muslims (13.3%) than England as a whole (6.7%) but slightly lower than the London average (15%).

h) Sex (*Relevance: Medium*)

There are proportionally more women living in Hackney than men, 52.2%¹² of the population is female and 47.8% male. The proportion of males under 20 is slightly higher than females, but there are higher proportions of females in all age groups over 55 years than males.

i) Sexual orientation (*Relevance: Low*)

Sexual orientation is defined as whether a person's sexual attraction is towards the opposite sex, their own sex or to both sexes. Out of a total of 209,467 usual residents in Hackney aged 16 or over, 166,695 people (79.6%)¹³ identified as straight or heterosexual and 16,388 people (7.8%) identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or as another orientation (LGB+). 13% chose not to answer the question.

Hackney Census Briefing 7, 2021

STEP 2: ANALYSING THE ISSUES

2. What information and consultation have you used to inform your decision making?

2.1. Strategic Officers Climate Group

Following the refresh of the governance around the Environmental Sustainability Board, the Strategic Officer Coordination Group (SOCG) was established in July 2021. This initial

¹¹ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 5](#)

¹² [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 1](#)

¹³ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 7](#)

meeting provided a broad update of the governance structure, set out SOCG terms of reference and focused on the development of the CAP working groups and other task and finish groups. The SOCG established a range of themes and council officers as lead to each of these: retrofit, low carbon development, renewable power, low carbon transports, consumption emissions, green economy, resilient and green, resourcing and financial and communications and engagement. This group set the direction for the CAP working groups, including key tasks, and setting timeframe for developing contents for the respective CAPs.

The SOCG included officers from Streetscene, Environmental Services, Energy, Planning, Communications, and Policy and Strategic Delivery.

Buro Happold was commissioned to develop Hackney's CAP document and related Implementation Plan (timeline of 3 years) for Hackney's thematic CAPs. They also delivered a public engagement programme on the CAP with communities of interest in October 2022.

2.2. Consultation

Hackney Council consulted on the draft CAP. The consultation asked participants to help ensure the goals and objectives for tackling the climate crises are ambitious and achievable and consider the impact on and needs of Hackney's communities.

The draft CAP was made available for public consultation on the Council's Citizen Space engagement platform for a period of 10 weeks from November 1, 2022, to January 10, 2022. Paper surveys were also available upon request and at drop-ins. Participants had the option to complete the consultation using the summary or full version of the draft plan, with the summary provided alongside paper surveys. Additionally, a short social media survey was conducted on Citizen Space and promoted on Facebook and Instagram between December 2, 2022, and January 10, 2022, which invited respondents to share their views and take part in the full consultation.

In total, there were 644 people who responded to the various forms of feedback and engagement activities:

- 219 people responded to the consultation survey;
- 306 people responded to the short social media survey;
- 14 people gave feedback via email;
- 40 people participated in focus groups;
- 65 attended the Climate Action Plan drop-ins at libraries.

2.2.1. Respondents profile

From those that answered the sections about themselves, the respondent profile is as follows: Over 94% of respondents shared their views as individuals, while over 6% represented organisations. There was an almost even split of female and male respondents, the majority being heterosexual, and 20% considered themselves to be disabled. The highest percentage of respondents, just over 19%, stated they would prefer not to answer their household annual income, of those who answered, the highest percentage, 15%, of respondents earned above £100,001. The postcode with the highest count was E5 0, and the most common ethnic group was White or White British. For this reason the Consultation and Sustainability Teams arranged separate focus groups with

older people, black and global majority and women groups (See 2.3.2). For more detail see below:

- **Individual and Organisation:** Under 94%, shared their views as an individual (Base: 205¹⁴). Over 6% of respondents stated that they were sharing their views on behalf of an organisation (14). The respondents who shared their views as an individual, 68%, stated that they live in Hackney (201). This is followed by “I work here” (54), “I commute through Hackney” (27), “I study here” (8), and “I am a visitor to Hackney” (6).
- **Voluntary and community sector:** 43%, who shared their views on behalf of an organisation were part of a Hackney voluntary and community sector (6). This is followed by “other” (4), national charity, small business (up to 49 employees), medium business (50-249 employees), and healthcare organisations (all 1 respondent).
- **Sex:** Over 48%, stated that they are female (98). This is followed by male (94), prefer not to say (8) and non-binary (8).
- **Sexual orientation:** Over 86% are heterosexual (142). This is followed by gay man (9), bisexual (9) and lesbian or gay woman (5).
- **Age:** Under 27%, were aged 45-55 (53). This is followed by 35-44, 55-64 and 65-74 (all 37 respondents), 25-34 (25), 75-84 (7) and 18-24 and 85+ (2).
- **Disability:** Over 80%, do not consider themselves to be disabled (159). Just under 20% of respondents stated that they are disabled (39).
- **Caring for someone:** 88%, do not regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone (171). Just over 12% of respondents stated that they do provide caring support (24).
- **Ethnicity:** Over 79% were White or White British (150). This is followed by other ethnic group (19), Asian or Asian British (8), Black or Black British (7) and mixed background (5).
- **Religion or belief:** 52.36%, stated that they are atheist/have no religious belief (100). This is followed by Christian (36), prefer not to say (24), other (8), secular beliefs (7), Jewish (5), Muslim (4), Buddhist (3), Charedi (2), Sikh (2).
- **Postcode:** The postcode with the highest count is E5 0 (21). This is followed by N16 5 (17), N4 2 (13), E8 2 (12), E8 3 (12), E5 9 (11), E8 4 (11), E9 7 (10), E9 6 (9), N16 0 (9), N16 7 (9). All other postcodes had a lower count.
- **Housing tenure:** Over 35% owned their home outright (68). This is followed by being bought on a mortgage (58), rented (local authority/Council) (21), rented (private) (20), rented (housing association/trust) (15), shared ownership (9) and don’t know (3).
- **Household income:** Over 19%, stated they would prefer not to answer (38). Of the respondents who answered, the highest percentage of respondents earned above £100,001 (20). This is followed by £40,001 to £50,000 (18), Below £10,000 (16), £30,001 to £40,000 (16), £50,001 to £60,000 (16), £10,001 to £20,000 (15), £20,001 to £30,000 (14), £60, 001 to £70,000 (14), £70,001 to £80,000 (12) and £90,001 to £100,000 (7).

2.2.2. Overall comments

The majority of respondents, over 77%, agree with the draft CAP (160). Some raised concerns and highlighted the need for further engagement with community groups and

¹⁴ Base number: Refers to the total number of respondents, hereafter numbers in brackets

disadvantaged groups (24), questioned how the CAP will be implemented and measured (18), stated that the CAP is not ambitious and/or detailed enough (17), emphasised the need for rapid action (12), or criticised the plan (12).

The level of concern about the impact of climate change in Hackney differs between the more detailed online consultation survey and the shorter version in social media (See Table 3). It can be assumed that those that took the time to complete the longer version are more motivated to complete it due to their interest in environmental views, and therefore their concern is higher. Ultimately, whilst the level of concern varies, both are high.

| | Online Consultation | Social Media Version |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Very Concerned or Concerned | 84% | 67% |
| Neither | 4% | 7% |
| Not concerned or none at all | 11% | 25% |

Table 3: The level of concern about climate change

The majority of respondents agreed with the goals and objectives for each of the five themes (See Table 4).

| | Goal and Objectives | | Impact | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| | Agreement | Disagreement | Positive | Negative |
| Adaptation | 77% (163) | 13% (127) | 64% (136) | 12% (25) |
| Buildings | 77% (164) | 7.5% (16) | 61% (128) | 10.5% (22) |
| Transport | 72% (151) | 19% (20) | 64% (134) | 17.5% (37) |
| Consumption | 76% (162) | 12% (25) | 64% (133) | 10% (21) |
| Environmental Quality | 78% (163) | 8% (17) | 73% (150) | 10% (20) |

Table 4: Respondents views on goals, objectives and their impacts on the five themes of the CAP

A majority of respondents believed that the adoption of these goals and objectives would have a positive impact. This suggests that there is broad support for the CAP and its focus areas among the respondents. The highest percentage of respondents, just under 30%, stated that Buildings is the most important CAP priority (81). This is followed by Transport (68), Environmental Quality (60), Adaptation (32), and Consumption (30). Below the comments received on the goals and objectives and their impacts for each of the themes in the CAP:

Adaptation

- *Comments on the goal and objectives:* Respondents generally support and agree with the Adaptation goals and objectives (35). However, some feel that more detail is needed (15) and emphasise the importance of trees, planting, and maintenance (15). Some respondents also feel that the goals are not ambitious enough and need to go further (11), while others stress the urgency of taking action (10) to address the negative effects of climate change.
- *Comments on their impact:* Highest response stated a positive impact or agreement with the goals (21), some stating an improvement in green spaces and environment (14), and others stating a need for more detail (14). Some respondents had a critical

response to the goals and objectives (12), with concerns about associated costs and negative impact. Other respondents commented on the risk of flooding (11), while it was also noted the need for home and building adaptations for improved living conditions and energy efficiency (1). Some respondents commented on the positive impact on health and wellbeing of individuals and communities (10).

Buildings

- *Comments on the goal and objectives:* The vast majority of the comments were about their agreement with the goals and objectives related to addressing climate change (64), but some questioned how the goals would be achieved (19) and raised concerns about the cost and need for financial support (14). There were also comments about retrofitting and adapting buildings (19) and implementing solar panels (11). While some residents were enthusiastic about expanding solar panels, others questioned how the goals would be funded.
- *Comments on their impact:* They expressed concern about the high cost associated with the goals and objectives (21), but many also stated that the goals and objectives would have a positive impact on their household (19) by reducing energy use and costs (17) and improving the energy efficiency, insulation, and resilience of their homes (15). However, some respondents had a critical response (11) and stated that the goals and objectives would have a limited impact on private and social housing renters (10).

Transport

- *Comments on the goal and objectives:* Walking and cycling had the highest number of comments (41) with respondents commenting about the need for more cycling infrastructure, pedestrianised areas, and safer roads for cyclists and pedestrians. Others want more support for the reduction of vehicle use (31), while others supported the reduction in the number of cars on the road, promoting electric vehicles and car sharing, and reducing the use of SUVs (31). Public transport comments aimed at the need for better access to public transport, particularly buses, and called for more focus on public transport in the CAP (28). There was also general agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives (22). Further responses were critical about LTNs (21), with comments on increases in traffic and disagreed with the implementation of the schemes. Others emphasised the need to take into account the needs of disabled people and vulnerable residents, particularly regarding accessibility (19). Other themes included the safety concerns related to dangerous driving, the safety of bikes, and theft (19), as well as the need to improve air quality by reducing transport emissions.
- *Comments on their impact:* Respondents believed the goals would improve air quality (23), make it easier to walk/cycle (20), have a negative impact on their household (19), have a positive impact (13), result in safer and cleaner streets (11), and improve health and wellbeing (10). Negative impacts related to businesses, income, costs associated with cars, traffic, and journey times, while positive impacts related to better public transport, greener methods of transport, and community benefits. They also commented on the positive effects of cleaner air on physical and mental health.

Consumption

- *Comments on the goal and objectives:* Respondents generally agreed with the Consumption goals and objectives (43) and called for improvements to recycling facilities and initiatives to encourage repairing items (15). Some respondents gave general statements of disagreement (12), including objections to Council overreach in encouraging residents to adopt a plant-based diet. Respondents also stated that more detail was needed for certain aspects of this theme (10), such as reducing food poverty and reducing packaging waste.
- *Comments on their impact:* Some were supportive (15) and called for easier access to recycling and repair facilities, while others felt the impact would be limited (14) because they already take actions to reduce consumption. However, some respondents believed it would have a positive impact (11), benefiting health, the local environment, and reducing waste.

Environmental Quality

- *Comments on the goal and objectives:* Generally expressed agreement (34) and highlighted specific areas of concern. These included air quality (25), the need for more green space, trees, and maintenance (23), improving biodiversity (20), and protecting water bodies such as the River Lea (18). Respondents recommended actions such as reducing air pollution, increasing access to green spaces, fostering biodiversity, and pressuring national bodies to protect water bodies.
- *Comments on their impact:* Respondents expressed that it would improve their health, wellbeing, and quality of life (21). They also stated that the positive impact (17) on the community and create job opportunities. Improving air quality (16) was seen as a significant benefit, making it safer to be outside. Respondents also emphasised the importance of investing in the environment, wildlife, and biodiversity (10), citing benefits such as increased planting, enhanced ecosystems, and the need to reverse biodiversity loss.

Overall, respondents recommended better education, communication and engagement with residents (63) and community groups (44), as well as education and engagement with children and young people (20). Suggestions included using accessible language and incentivising actions. Some respondents were critical of the CAP, calling for its “scrapping” (11) as their rights are being diminished and net zero is impossible. Others urged the Council to engage more with opposing views (10). Respondents also suggested that the Council promote transparency and lead by example (13).

An additional 14 respondents shared their views on the consultation by email sent to consultation@hackney.gov.uk. Two organisations also submitted their comments through the consultation survey and have been included in the survey analysis above. There are several social justice comments that can be inferred from the respondents' comments on the Adaptation goals and objectives. The comments on protection of vulnerable residents, community preparedness, and support for neighbourhood networks and business forums suggest a concern for the well-being and resilience of the most vulnerable members of the community. The comments on community gardens and tree planting suggest a desire for accessible green spaces and the promotion of healthy living. The calls for resilient planning and conservation also suggest a concern for environmental justice, which often intersects

with social justice. Overall, the respondents' comments on the goals and objectives reflect a desire for a more equitable and sustainable community.

2.3. Engagement

2.3.1. Drop in sessions

From November to December 2022, the Sustainability and Environment Team delivered eight drop-in sessions at Hackney Libraries. In total, the team approached 65 residents. 51 conversations were held and 14 residents were given leaflets explaining the CAP and encouraged to complete the survey. Residents and stakeholders engaged with Council staff mostly on five themes: Buildings and retrofitting, waste and recycling, transport, awareness and education and LTNs. Other topics covered included pensions and investment, Haggerston ward photovoltaic panels, biodiversity, food growing and offsetting.

2.3.2. Focus Groups

Four focus groups were delivered with resident groups underrepresented in the consultation survey responses, and a total of 40 participants took part in focus group discussions.

Two older adults groups: They expressed concerns about buildings, particularly with regards to retrofitting properties and converting gas boilers and heaters to reduce emissions. Others were concerned about transport, including the cost of transitioning to electric buses and cars and the impact of road closures on taxis. Some participants emphasised the importance of air quality and reducing air pollution, while others suggested divesting from fossil fuels. All participants expressed concerns about climate change and its impact. Some described themselves as "very concerned." Some participants had a strong interest in taking action to address climate change and one was involved in green community groups. Another participant noted the disproportionate impact of climate change on the poorest countries.

The participants identified older people as a primary group of concern and expressed worries about fuel poverty and accessible transport. The idea of encouraging older people to cycle was discussed, with suggestions that the Hackney Cyclist Group could help with this. Safety was also a concern, particularly related to cyclists, e-scooter drivers, and reckless driving among delivery drivers.

The participants from second older focus groups discussed how Black residents in Hackney are more negatively impacted due to systemic racism and gentrification, with some feeling invisible and disadvantaged in terms of housing repairs and opportunities. Council repairs were identified as a primary issue for residents, including a participant who had experienced drainage issues for 25 years. Older people and children were also identified as groups more likely to be impacted, with discussions around the provision of food vouchers for children and the impact of LTNs on older people's ability to access healthcare.

Black and global majority residents: The group had a lot of debate over which theme to discuss, with some participants most concerned about Consumption and others about Buildings or Transport. Those concerned with Consumption felt that individuals had the biggest responsibility to reduce emissions and discussed actions like recycling, reuse, and food consumption. The group concerned with Buildings discussed heating, insulation, fuel poverty, and the need for adaptable buildings. The Transport group talked about improving

public transport accessibility and bike schemes, with one participant criticising the Council's approach to cars. Two participants were concerned with Adaptation and Environmental Quality, with one noting the borough's lack of preparation for flooding and the other concerned about pollution and implementation of goals.

Participants identified several groups in Hackney that might be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including older people, low-income residents, vulnerable residents, single parents, people with respiratory and health conditions, disabled residents, and children. They discussed the challenges of heating homes in winter, the mental health impact of cost of living and climate anxiety, and the need to address the cost of living crisis.

Somali women: The group expressed interest in discussing Consumption, with concerns about unhealthy food and recycling. Buildings were also a topic of interest, with questions about the transition away from gas boilers and interest in electric heating and solar panels. The impact of LTNs on traffic and noise pollution was also discussed in relation to Transport. In the discussion about whether the CAP goals might negatively impact other groups, participants identified people with health and respiratory conditions, including children with asthma, as well as low-income residents as groups more negatively impacted. The participants, many of whom were low-income themselves, talked about the challenges of high energy prices and rising costs, and called for more support for low-income residents.

The concerns and groups of concern are being repeated throughout the focus groups. Specifically, concerns about buildings, retrofitting properties, reducing emissions, transport, the impact of road closures, reducing air pollution, and divesting from fossil fuels are mentioned multiple times. The groups of concern include older people, Black and Global Majority residents, low-income residents, vulnerable residents, single parents, people with respiratory and health conditions, disabled residents, and children.

2.3.3. Pre-engagement sessions

Prior to the consultation, pre-engagement four workshops were delivered by Buro Happold on the five themes in the CAP. The pre-engagement workshops aimed to gather environmental 'community of interest' stakeholders' views on the actions that we should work towards over the next three years. Environmental 'community of interest' refers to local individuals and organisations with an interest or technical expertise in the CAP themes.

- **Cross-cutting theme:** The vision included better public awareness, education, and community involvement to improve environmental quality and adaptation, as well as embedding climate action into all council processes and seeking synergies across all themes of the CAP. Retrofitting vulnerable households and supporting small businesses to decarbonise their buildings were also priorities, but funding, collaboration, language barriers, and knowledge gaps were identified as significant challenges. The need for more communication and transparency from stakeholders about existing activities and plans was also highlighted.
- **Existing buildings:** The vision included increasing the use of community energy and district heating projects, exploring new financing mechanisms, and increasing the participation of school children in school retrofit processes. However, there are barriers and risks that need to be addressed, such as the impact of building typologies on retrofits and changes, the impact of tenure types on policy-making, and the challenges posed by disruptions and technical changes during retrofits. Solutions

were suggested such as deep retrofitting council houses, identifying the most energy-inefficient buildings, and engaging with social landlords to retrofit their properties.

- **Embodied carbon & planning:** The vision considered the whole-life carbon impact of buildings, including embodied carbon. It was also suggested greater reuse of materials and use of recycled materials in new builds, as well as efforts to tackle unnecessary demolition. Barriers and risks to implementing these ideas were also discussed, including the need for planning reform and a lack of information on low-embodied carbon materials. Suggestions for planning reform included new requirements for renewables and ground source heat pumps, and easier retrofit in conservation areas.
- **Adaptation:** Their visions included implementing nature-based solutions, technical strategies, and increasing community participation to reduce overheating and flooding, as well as promoting diversity in participation. The barriers and risks included information gaps, the need for more engagement with community groups, and the recognition that certain groups, such as those in flats, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis.
- **Biodiversity and environmental quality:** Participants expressed a need for nature-based solutions to reduce overheating and flooding, greater community engagement and access to biodiverse spaces, action on pollution management, and the need for more information and independence. However, there were some barriers and risks identified such as limited space for projects, policy gaps and institutional constraints at Hackney Council, and national planning policies that were perceived as a barrier to better local-level policies.
- **Consumption patterns and the local economy:** Participants wanted to adopt a circular economy model for goods and improve the affordability and availability of healthy, sustainable, and locally sourced food. They suggested the need for more organisations and services to enable the circular economy, such as reusables collection, tools for hire, fixing factories, and a mattress cleaning and reuse machine. The barriers and risks identified included skills shortages, inaccessibility of PAT testing, and space and funding shortages. Suggested solutions were training local people to repair, providing access to PAT testing equipment, and providing space and funding for repairing and reusing activities.
- **Materials, products and packaging:** Their vision included eliminating single-use plastic, increasing the use of recycled and reused materials, and designing products to last longer. Barriers and risks included transport emissions, lack of awareness about environmental impact, and institutional challenges in forming partnerships. Solutions suggested include expanding electric cargo bike networks and awareness campaigns for businesses.
- **Waste, recycling and composting:** Their vision included increasing access to composting, improving recycling and waste collection systems, and addressing barriers to behaviour change and legislative/organisational constraints. Specific proposals include increased compost production and availability, changes to refuse and recycling collections, and investment in local recycling and composting

infrastructure. Barriers to progress include a lack of understanding and interest in behavioural change, as well as legislative and organisational challenges.

- **Modes of transport:** Their vision included making public transportation affordable and accessible for everyone, promoting zero-emission vehicles, increasing car-sharing options, and creating more low-traffic neighbourhoods. However, financial and accessibility barriers, as well as a reluctance to change behaviour, pose challenges to achieving these goals. Participants suggested solutions such as expanding subsidies and rebates, upgrading transportation nodes, and promoting the benefits of alternative modes of transportation to encourage behaviour change.
- **Supporting infrastructure:** Suggestions included making public transportation affordable and accessible for everyone, increasing the number of low-traffic neighbourhoods, and improving sidewalk infrastructure. The section also highlights potential barriers and risks to these ideas, such as financial barriers and safety concerns for pedestrians. Additionally, there are proposals for better enforcement of road rules, cargo bike accessibility, and storage space for micro-mobility options.

2.3.4. Social Justice

Ultimately, social justice issues were mentioned in the consultation and engagement sessions. The respondents expressed concern for the most vulnerable groups and the need to mitigate the effects of climate change on them. Discussions centred around the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, people from ethnic minorities, climate refugees migrants, people with disabilities, and those with low income, poor housing conditions or homeless. Respondents highlighted social justice issues such as poverty and racial and class disparities as significant barriers to progress. Buildings and Transport were the most discussed themes, with twice as many comments than the rest, but respondents emphasised the interconnectedness of different issues and the need for affordable, accessible solutions.

It emphasised the importance of a comprehensive approach that involves the community in decision-making processes and considers various interrelated issues. They also highlighted the need for systemic change to address the root causes of climate change and hold polluters accountable. Respondents were concerned about the mental health impacts of climate change, such as climate anxiety and stress, and suggested that support and resources should be available to build resilience. They recognised the importance of raising awareness and educating the wider community about climate change and its impacts, and engaging people from diverse backgrounds. They also highlighted the need for a more inclusive approach that includes working-class and minority groups, as well as providing access to information, help, and support for adaptation and resilience. Finally, there were calls for education on sustainable options and for making green actions financially viable for everyone.

The pre-engagement sessions suggested solutions to address these barriers, such as providing subsidies and rebates to make public transportation more accessible and affordable. The focus groups discussed concerns about fuel poverty, accessible transport, systemic racism, gentrification, and the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable groups. They also discussed the need to address the cost of living crisis, the mental health impact of cost of living and climate anxiety, as well as improving the affordability and availability of healthy, sustainable, and locally sourced food.

2.4. Other sources of information

The CAP shows the relationship between the CAP and wider plans and strategies that are interdependent:

- Poverty reduction framework;
- Inclusive economy strategy;
- Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2025;
- Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Plan;
- Transport Strategy 2025-2030;
- Reduction & Recycling Plan 2025
- Housing Strategy 2023-2028;
- Rebuilding A Greener Hackney: Emergency Transport Plan, 2020;
- Economic Development Plan;
- Hackney Parks and Green Spaces Strategy 2021-2031
- Sustainable Procurement Strategy;
- Parking and Enforcement Plan (PEP) 2021-2026;
- Previous years Air Quality Annual Status Reports;
- The Council's policies and approach to planning and development control;
- A Profile of Hackney, its People and Place;
- Local Nature Recovery Plan;
- Hackney Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2026;
- Net Zero Energy Strategy;
- Single Equality Scheme for Hackney 2018-2022;
- Hackney's Inclusive Economy Strategy 2019-2025;
- Sustainable Procurement Strategy 2018-2022.

2.5. Equality Impacts - Identifying the impacts

The equality groups that are included in this evidence base are the 'protected characteristics' as set out under the Equality Act:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Gender reassignment;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Marriage and Civil Partnership;
- Race (this evidence base refers to ethnicity);
- Religion or belief;
- Sex;
- Sexual orientation.

2.5.1 What positive impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?

Overall the CAP has positive impacts on all protected characteristics. All five themes aim to protect the groups by ensuring they are prepared for climate extreme events (heatwaves, cold snaps, drought and flooding), tackle fuel poverty, considering their transport needs whilst increasing active travel, increasing the consumption of affordable and sustainable

food and acknowledging religious dietary requirements, reducing exposure to poor air quality and increasing access to green spaces and support community groups.

The CAP recognises the importance of supporting vulnerable people to reduce risks posed by climate change and its impacts. See below the theme objectives from the CAP:

Adaptation

- Ensure better advance warning of potential flood and heatwave events and signpost the support available;
- Partner and collaborate with climate resilience groups;
- Ensure borough-wide systems and processes are prepared for extreme events;
- Create a network of 'cool spaces' in existing buildings, streets and public spaces;
- Ensure new and existing buildings are both energy efficient and not prone to overheating during heatwaves;
- Build better understanding and raise awareness of the possible risks and impacts of overheating in Hackney;
- Expand the sustainable urban drainage network (SuDS), including increased urban greening;
- Ensure new buildings are flood resilient and don't contribute to increased surface water run-off;
- Ensure Hackney is fully integrated with cross-borough flood management schemes;
- Plant climate-resilient species, particularly in streets and civic spaces to support transport related objectives for increased walking and cycling;
- Tackle invasive species and new plant diseases in line with national protocols and guidance;
- Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the green economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement;
- Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups;
- Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the green economy;
- Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise;
- Attract new green businesses into the borough;
- Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency.

Buildings

- Increase retrofits and energy monitoring in private buildings;
- Increase retrofits in conservation areas and heritage buildings where appropriate;
- Increase retrofits in Council buildings (owned or managed) and other public buildings;
- Deliver additional infrastructure that supports low carbon heating & hot water, including District Heat Networks;
- Replace gas boilers with heat pumps and other low carbon heat sources in public and private buildings and infrastructure;
- Prioritise maintenance, thermal upgrades and adaptive reuse instead of building demolition;
- Increase the reuse of construction materials and reductions in construction waste;
- Meet ambitious operational and embodied carbon planning requirements, as set out in the London Plan 2021;

- Embed higher operational and embodied carbon standards in future policy and design, considering alignment with UK Net Zero Building Standards, LETI and other relevant industry led best practice for developments;
- Increase the deployment of solar panels across public and private buildings;
- Increase the number of community and cooperative solar panel projects;
- Explore further opportunities for renewable energy;
- Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the green economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement;
- Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups;
- Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the green economy;
- Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise;
- Attract new green businesses into the borough;
- Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency.

Transport

- Increase rates of walking and cycling;
- Expand cycling infrastructure and promote opportunities for green infrastructure on cycle corridors;
- Expand the EV charging network, both on street and in commercial and domestic settings;
- Reduce transport greenhouse gas emissions from Council, business and institutional vehicle fleets;
- Increase the use of car sharing and other types of shared mobility;
- Improve the accessibility of public transport;
- Research the feasibility and viability of introducing Road User Charging in Hackney;
- Reduce freight traffic;
- Increase the uptake of alternative delivery systems;
- Convert roadside parking spaces to public realm, SuDS and other uses;
- Expand the network of school and play streets;
- Plan for future changes that can reduce motor traffic;
- Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the green economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement;
- Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups;
- Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the green economy;
- Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise;
- Attract new green businesses into the borough;
- Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency.

Consumption

- Increase repair and reuse of goods (electronics, clothing, furniture and more);
- Embed actions to reduce consumption related emissions into internal procurement and management processes for the Council, businesses and institutions;
- Raise the awareness of residents of the impact and diversity of consumption emissions and how moving towards a more circular economy benefits them;
- Reduce household waste arisings and improve recycling rates;
- Reduce business waste arisings and improve recycling rates;
- Maximise rates of food waste composting in households and businesses;

- Reduce food poverty and enable equitable access to healthy and more sustainable diets for all;
- Procure sustainable and healthy foods in Council , school, healthcare and leisure settings, and influence local businesses to do the same;
- Increase public awareness and understanding of healthy and more sustainable diets;
- Raise awareness of the environmental impact of finances;
- Increase opportunities for funding local emissions reduction projects;
- Continue to divest Council investment funds and pensions;
- Increase the number of Hackney businesses and jobs that contribute to the green economy, including through regeneration delivery programmes and procurement;
- Create green apprenticeships and training pathways, with a focus on disadvantaged groups;
- Ensure Hackney residents have the skills for and access to training and job opportunities linked to the green economy;
- Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise;
- Attract new green businesses into the borough;
- Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency.

Environmental Quality

- Reduce air pollution from development and construction;
- Reduce solid fuel burning and raise awareness of its contribution to air pollution;
- Improve awareness of the impact of air pollution on public health;
- Enhance habitats in managed green spaces to support biodiversity;
- Increase connectivity between green spaces by supporting others to create new habitats and green corridors;
- Support community groups and individuals to volunteer to benefit nature, drawing on their knowledge and expertise;
- Review Council operations and decision-making processes to meet the requirements of the 'biodiversity duty' within the Environment Act;
- Ensure all new development immediately adjacent to rivers, canals or waterbodies contribute to achieving good ecological status;
- Support Thames Water campaigns to reduce water consumption, whilst also lobbying them to reduce leakage levels and avert pollution discharges into local water bodies;
- Improve water body health through maintenance of surface water drains and promotion of sustainable urban drainage;
- Support Hackney businesses and partners to decarbonise;
- Attract new green businesses into the borough;
- Reskill, retrain and/or recruit staff to meet the needs of the climate emergency.

There are a number of factors that put people at greater risk of being negatively impacted by climate change. These included age (young and old), pre-existing health conditions, socioeconomic status (poverty), race and ethnicity, particularly as it intersected with the other characteristics. Table 5 states if the actions proposed in the CAP would have an overall positive impact on each protected group.

Key: Y: Yes; N: No.

A: Age; D: Disability; GR: Gender reassignment; PM: Pregnancy and maternity; MC: Marriage and Civil Partnership; R: Race; Re: Religion or belief; S: Sex; and SO:Sexual orientation

| Theme | A | D | GR | PM | MC | R | Re | S | SO | Comments |
|-----------------------|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| Adaptation | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | These groups, like all other residents, should benefit from ensuring that they are prepared for and resilient to the climate impacts, protecting the most vulnerable residents. |
| Buildings | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | These groups, like all other residents, should benefit from removing gas boilers, adding solar panels and decreasing energy use and reducing fuel poverty. |
| Transport | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | These groups, like all other residents, should benefit from reducing emissions from transport, improving air quality and helping residents live active and healthy lifestyles. |
| Consumption | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | These groups, like all other residents, should benefit from changing what and how we buy, use and sell and from the positive impacts of generating a green economy. |
| Environmental Quality | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | These groups, like all other residents, should benefit from maximising the potential for biodiversity in green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive. |

Table 5: Proposed actions per theme and the potential positive impact on each protected group

Many people will identify with more than one protected characteristic. For example, young people may fall under the sexual orientation group, disability group, and the race groups. It is worth noting that respondents to the consultation mentioned the need to ensure the positive impacts of the CAP benefit other at-risk groups such as climate migrants and refugees and people needing information in other languages, however these groups will already fall in one or more of the protected groups.

In order to ensure these groups benefit from the positive impacts of the CAP, the Council needs to make sure that those who are on lower or negligible incomes are considered a high priority and that they are consulted and involved in climate action planning.

As the overall impact of the CAP is to reduce emissions and adapt to climate events, it is anticipated that all groups would experience a positive impact. The consultation exercise has also highlighted there is a broad agreement from residents that the goals and objectives of all the five themes in the CAP would have a positive impact. Over 65% positive impact in contrast to the 12% negative impact highlighted by some.

The following are the positive impacts stated by residents for each of the themes:

- **Adaptation:** Improving health and wellbeing of individuals and communities;
- **Buildings:** Reducing energy use and costs and improving the energy efficiency, insulation, and resilience of their homes;
- **Transport:** Reducing air pollution and traffic congestion results in cleaner air with positive impacts on physical and mental health. Creating a more positive attitude towards sustainable transport. Taking action to take the needs of disabled people and vulnerable residents can help promote a more inclusive and equitable system. Safer and cleaner streets, improve health and wellbeing;
- **Consumption:** Benefiting health and the local environment, improving the affordability and availability of healthy, sustainable, and locally sourced food;

- **Environmental Quality:** Improving their health, wellbeing, and quality of life, creating job opportunities. improving air quality and making it safer to be outside.

However, residents are aware that there are existing barriers to overcome in order to deliver the actions that will translate into these benefits in the CAP are:

- Collaboration;
- Language;
- Financial access;
- Knowledge gaps;
- Systemic racism and gentrification negatively impacting Black residents;
- Food poverty;
- Information gaps and the need for more engagement with community groups;
- Skills shortages and funding shortages;
- Lack of awareness about the environmental impact of transport emissions;
- Institutional challenges in forming partnerships;
- Lack of accessible green spaces;
- The high cost associated with Buildings;
- Transport accessibility for disabled people and vulnerable residents;
- Limited protection of vulnerable residents, community preparedness, and support for neighbourhood networks and business forums;
- Financial and accessibility barriers, as well as a reluctance to change behaviour.

2.5.2 What negative impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?

Table 6 states if the actions proposed in the CAP would have an overall negative impact on each protected group.

Key: Y: Yes; N: No.

A: Age; D: Disability; GR: Gender reassignment; PM: Pregnancy and maternity; MC: Marriage and Civil Partnership; R: Race; Re: Religion or belief; S: Sex; and SO: Sexual orientation

| Theme | A | D | GR | PM | MC | R | Re | S | SO | Comments |
|-----------------------|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| Adaptation | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | There is no evidence found to show that these actions would have a potential impact on these characteristics. |
| Buildings | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | There is no evidence found to show that these actions would have a potential impact on these characteristics. |
| Transport | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | There is no evidence found to show that these actions would have a potential impact on these characteristics. |
| Consumption | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | There is no evidence found to show that these actions would have a potential impact on these characteristics. |
| Environmental Quality | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | There is no evidence found to show that these actions would have a potential impact on these characteristics. |

Table 6: Proposed actions per theme and the potential negative impact on each protected group

The following are the negative impacts stated by residents for each of the themes:

- **Adaptation:** Concerns about associated costs such as council tax increases to pay for it and that resources could be better spent;
- **Buildings:** Concerns about associated costs and need for financial support, some responses stated that the goals and objectives would have a limited impact on private and social housing renter. Some residents already feeling invisible and disadvantaged in terms of housing repairs and opportunities and they don't believe the CAP will fix it;
- **Transport:** Critical views about LTNs and the impacts related to businesses, income, costs associated with cars, traffic, and journey times, promoting active travel and discouraging motor vehicle use could disproportionately affect those with mobility issues;
- **Consumption:** Objections to Council overreach in encouraging residents to adopt a plant-based diet;
- **Environmental Quality:** None.

STEP 3: REACHING YOUR DECISION

3.1. Describe the recommended decision

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves considering the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics;
- Meet the needs of people with protected characteristics; and
- Encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is low.

The adoption and implementation of the CAP should pay due regard to the equality considerations highlighted in this assessment, to ensure that the Council is compliant with its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

The Council will continue to consider the impact on all protected characteristics during the ongoing development and implementation of the climate actions should approval for the CAP be granted by Cabinet in 2023. Where appropriate it will undertake additional engagement with the community or more detailed equality analysis where the negative impacts on specific protected characteristics have been identified.

STEP 4 DELIVERY: MAXIMISING BENEFITS AND MANAGING RISKS

4.1. Equality and Cohesion Action Planning

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

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

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

| No | Objective | Actions | Outcomes highlighting how these will be monitored | Timescales / Milestones | Lead Officer |
|-----------|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Prioritise protected groups to positively benefit from the CAP | Engage these groups in the CAP actions Seeks their views and implementation | Range of deliberative engagement methods | Oct 23 - March 24: Contract specification for delivery March 24 onwards: Deliberative engagement delivery and evaluation | Sustainability and Environment |
| 2 | Monitor and evaluate progress of actions in underrepresented groups | Assess the effectiveness and inclusiveness of climate policies and initiatives within the Council Implementation Plan to ensure a fair and equitable transition for all community members. | Monitoring framework considers impact on social justice | Annually from July 2024 | Sustainability and Environment |

Climate Action Plan Consultation

Report Date: February 2023

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Introduction

Hackney Council consulted on the draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) for 2023-2030.

The CAP sets out an integrated approach for tackling the climate and ecological crisis. It provides a framework for everyone to take action to reduce emissions and adapt to the climate change that is already occurring, driven by an ambitious vision for a greener Hackney in 2030.

The consultation asked participants to help ensure the goals and objectives for tackling the climate crises are ambitious and achievable and consider the impact on and needs of Hackney's communities.

Background

The CAP sets out the ambitious, science-based changes that we can work towards achieving by 2030. All of these changes are organised into five themes: Adaptation, Buildings, Transport, Consumption and Environmental Quality. Within each theme, we have identified a set of ambitious 2030 goals.

Adaptation - ensuring that we are prepared for and resilient to the impacts of the climate emergency, protecting our most vulnerable residents.

Buildings - removing gas boilers, adding solar panels and decreasing energy use in our buildings, reducing fuel poverty.

Transport - reducing emissions from the transport network, improving air quality and helping residents live active and healthy lifestyles.

Consumption - changing what and how we buy, use and sell, creating a new green economy in Hackney.

Environmental Quality - maximising the potential for biodiversity in our green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive.

The Climate Action Plan aims to:

- Outline what a greener Hackney could look like by 2030 based on a fair and just transition to net zero
- Build a shared understanding of the problem we face as a borough and how we can work together to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change
- Help residents, businesses and other organisations to see their place in our shared response to climate change
- Identify areas where local partners can collaborate on key strategic challenges such as financing and policy change
- Outline initial proposals for monitoring and governance arrangements, as well as steps to support future stakeholder engagement requirements
- Use the plan to shape agreements on how to work together to achieve shared goals

Communications and engagement approach

The consultation was promoted in Love Hackney, the Council's magazine, Hackney newsletters including Greener Hackney, Zero Waste Hackney, parks and housing newsletters, and was featured on the Council's Consultation Hub website.

The consultation was shared widely with stakeholders and Council networks including, but not limited to:

- NHS partners
- Public health and health and wellbeing networks
- Housing partners and tenants residents associations
- Schools and education partners
- Community Strategy Partnership
- Hackney Business Network
- Zero Emissions Network
- Zero Waste Network
- Hackney Faith Forum
- Hackney Food Network
- Community Safety Partnership
- Local environmental and sustainability community groups
- Community and voluntary sector partners
- Organisations representing groups identified as communities who may be more vulnerable to climate change risks

The consultation and short social media survey were promoted across social media platforms and advertising including Instagram, Facebook and Nextdoor.

Eight drop-ins sessions were held at each of Hackney's libraries across November and December. Drop-ins were advertised through posters at libraries, alongside consultation communications, and on social media.

The consultation was also promoted via Hackney's citizen's panel, Hackney Matters and at events including the Zero Waste Hub and the Hackney Council's Chief Executive's Roadshow.

Four focus groups were held with groups underrepresented in survey responses. Focus group participants were given £20 Love2shop vouchers for their time.

- Two focus groups with older residents, organised with the Older Citizens Committee
- Focus group with Black and global majority residents, organised through the Hackney Matters Panel
- Focus group with Somali women, organised in partnership with Coffee Afrique

Methodology

The consultation was published on Citizen Space, the Council's engagement platform. The consultation ran for 10 weeks from 1st November 2022 to 10th January 2022. Paper surveys were available on request and at drop-ins.

Participants could complete the draft Climate Action Plan consultation in reference to the summary or full version of the draft Climate Action Plan. The summary document was provided with paper surveys.

A short social media survey was published on Citizen Space and ran from 2nd December 2022 to 10th January 2022. The survey was designed to allow respondents to quickly share their views and was promoted on Facebook and Instagram. The short survey also invited respondents to take part in the full consultation.

Response rate

A total of 219 respondents took part in the consultation survey.

A total of 306 respondents took part in the short social media survey.

An additional 14 respondents shared their views on the consultation by email. Two email responses were also submitted through the consultation survey.

40 participants took part in focus groups.

65 participants attended the Climate Action Plan drop-ins at libraries.

Draft Climate Action Plan Consultation

Executive summary

- **Are you sharing your views as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? (Base: 219)**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 94%, shared their views as an individual (201).
- **If you are sharing your views as an individual, what is your connection to Hackney? (Base: 296)**
 - The majority of respondents who shared their views as an individual, just under 68%, stated that they live in Hackney (198).
- **If you are part of an organisation, what type of organisation are you part of? (Base: 14)**
 - The highest percentage of respondents who shared their views as part of an organisation, just under 43%, are part of a Hackney voluntary and community sector organisation (5).

Your feedback on the draft Climate Action Plan

- **How concerned are you about the impact of climate change in Hackney? (Base: 219)**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 84%, stated that they are concerned about climate change in Hackney (180).

Adaptation

- **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives for Adaptation? (Base: 213)**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 77%, stated that they agree with the goals and objectives for Adaptation (160).
- **Please tell us what impact you think, if any, the adoption of the Adaptation goals and objectives would have on your household or business? (Base: 212)**
 - The majority of respondents, just over 64%, stated that the adoption of the Adaptation goals and objectives will have a positive impact (132).

Buildings

- **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives for Buildings? (Base: 212)**
 - The majority of respondents, just over 77%, stated that they agree with the goals and objectives for Buildings (160).
- **Please tell us what impact you think, if any, the adoption of the Buildings goals and objectives would have on your household or business? (Base: 209)**
 - The majority of respondents, just over 61%, stated that the adoption of the Buildings goals and objectives will have a positive impact (122).

Transport

- **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives for Transport? (Base: 211)**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 72%, stated that they agree with the goals and objectives for Transport (147).

- **Please tell us what impact you think, if any, the adoption of the Transport goals and objectives would have on your household or business? (Base: 211)**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 64%, stated that the adoption of the Transport goals and objectives will have a positive impact (131).

Consumption

- **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives for Consumption? (Base: 212)**
 - The majority of respondents, just over 76%, stated that they agree with the goals and objectives for Consumption (158).
- **Please tell us what impact you think, if any, the adoption of the Consumption goals and objectives would have on your household or business? (Base: 207)**
 - The majority of respondents, just over 64%, stated that the adoption of the Consumption goals and objectives will have a positive impact (130).

Environmental quality

- **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives for Environmental Quality? (Base: 210)**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 78%, agree with the goals and objectives for Environmental Quality (163).
- **Please tell us what impact you think, if any, the adoption of the Environmental Quality goals and objectives would have on your household or business? (Base: 207)**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 73%, stated that the adoption of the Environmental Quality goals and objectives will have a positive impact (150).

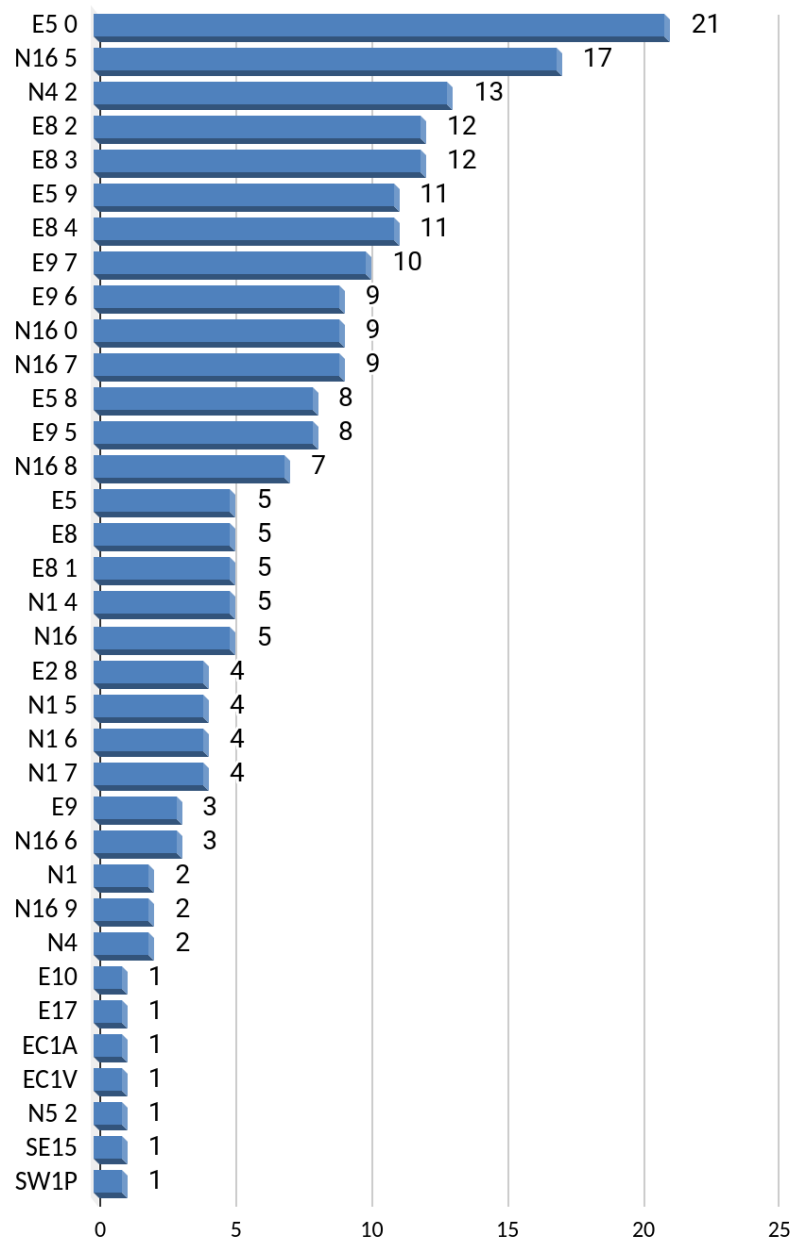
Final comments

- **Thinking about the draft Climate Action Plan as a whole, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the Climate Action Plan? (Base: 212)**
 - The majority of respondents, just over 77%, stated that they agree with the draft climate action plan as a whole (160).

Staying Informed

- **How would you like to be kept informed about the progress of the Climate Action Plan goals? (Base: 424)**
 - The highest percentage of respondents, just over 29%, stated that they want to be kept informed about the progress of the climate action plan by newsletters (125).

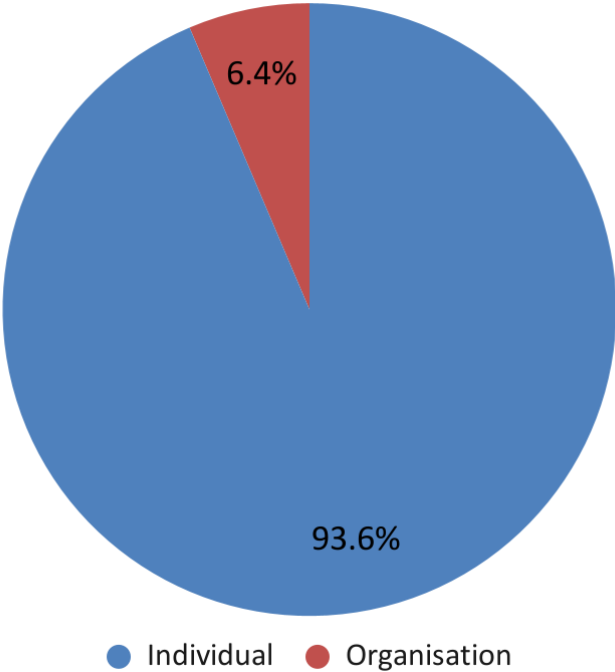
Postcode analysis



218 respondents provided the first three digits of their postcode. The postcode with the highest count is E5 0 (21). This is followed by N16 5 (17), N4 2 (13), E8 2 (12), E8 3 (12), E5 9 (11), E8 4 (11), E9 7 (10), E9 6 (9), N16 0 (9), N16 7 (9). All other postcodes had a lower count.

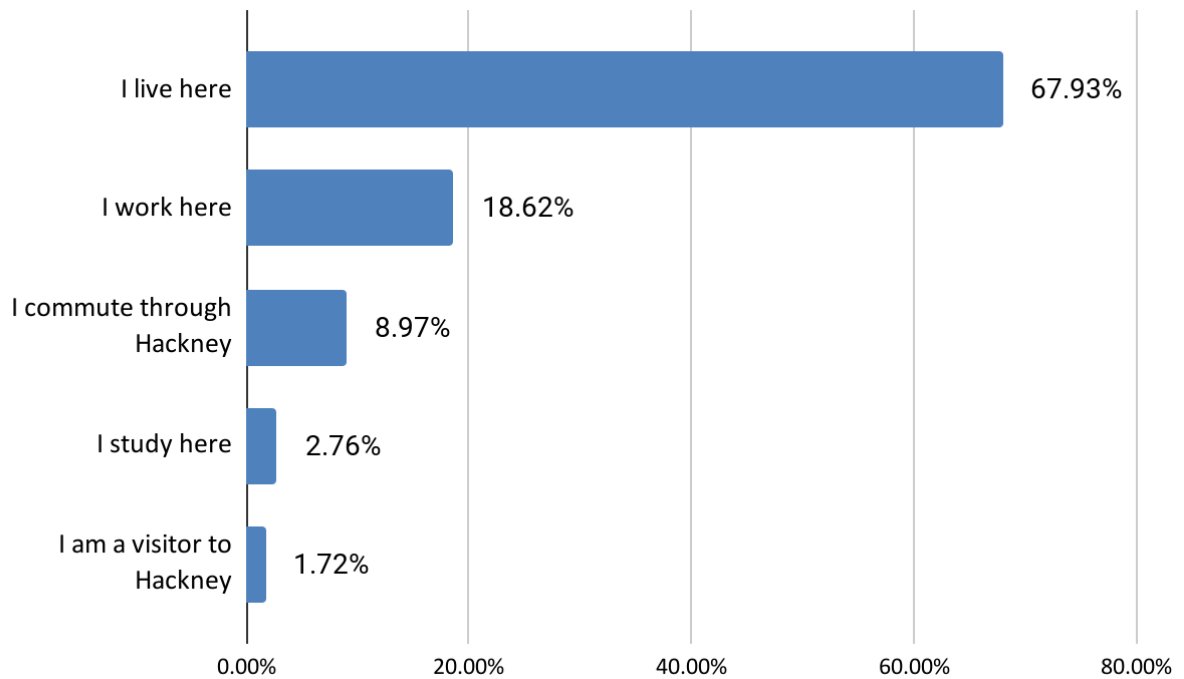
Overview of results

Are you sharing your views as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? (Base: 219)



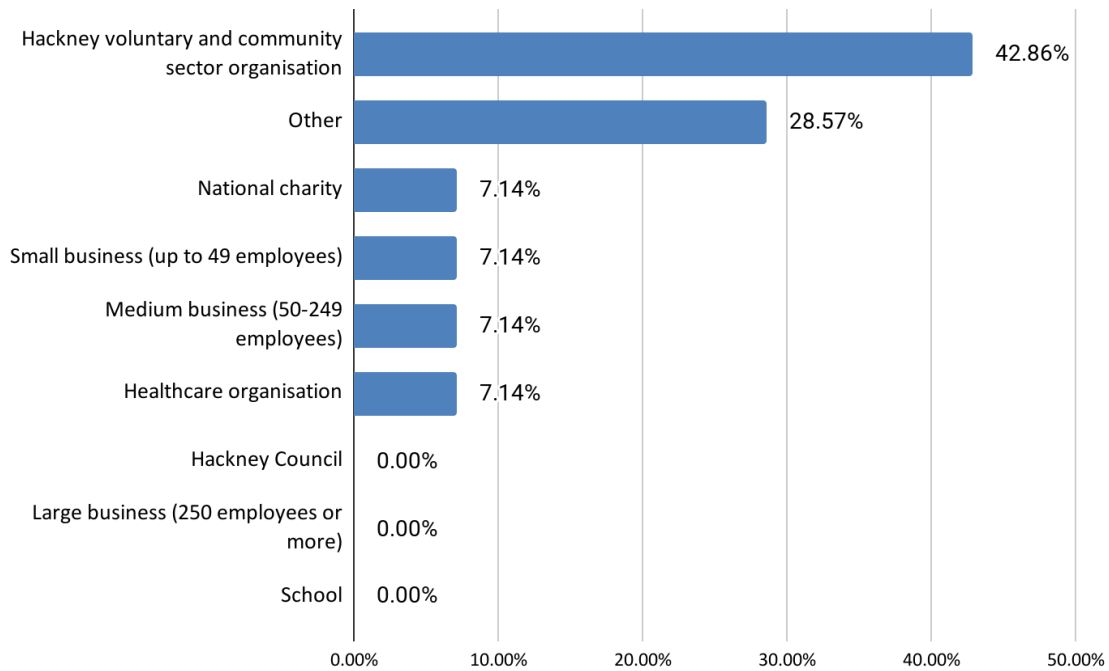
The majority of respondents, just under 94%, shared their views as an individual (205). Just over 6% of respondents stated that they were sharing their views on behalf of an organisation (14).

If you are sharing your views as an individual, what is your connection to Hackney?
(Base: 296)



The majority of respondents who shared their views as an individual, just under 68%, stated that they live in Hackney (201). This is followed by “I work here” (54), “I commute through Hackney” (27), “I study here” (8), and “I am a visitor to Hackney” (6).

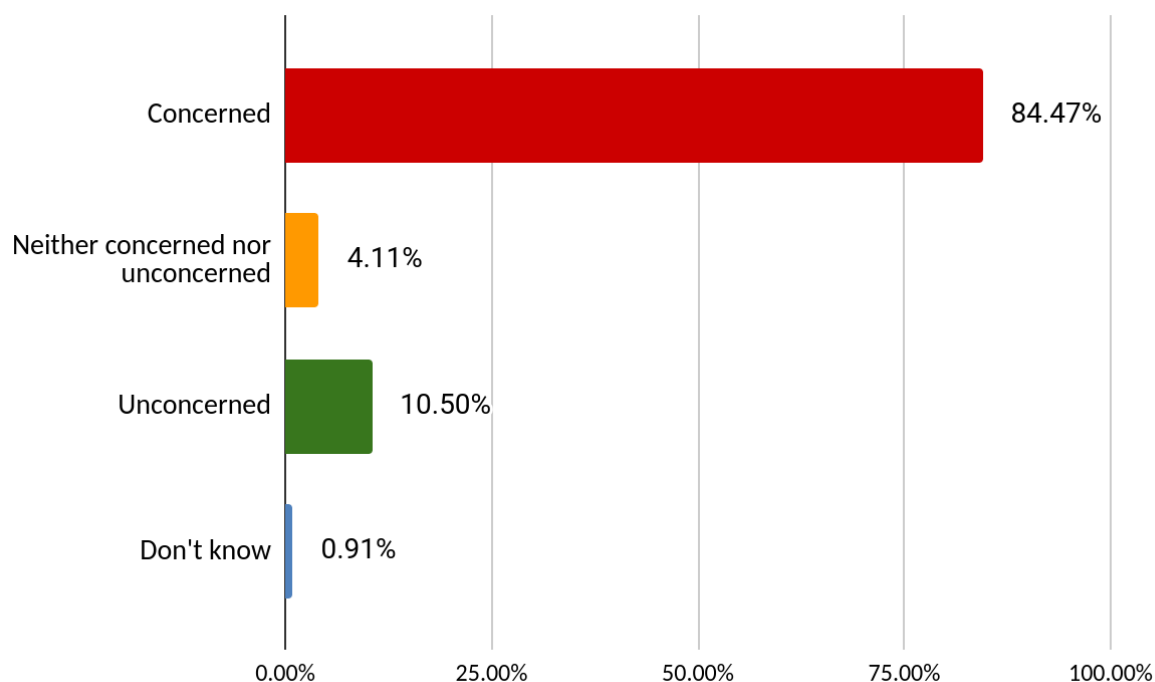
If you are part of an organisation, what type of organisation are you part of? (Base: 14)



The highest percentage of respondents, just under 43%, who shared their views on behalf of an organisation were part of a Hackney voluntary and community sector organisation (6). This is followed by “other” (4), national charity, small business (up to 49 employees), medium business (50-249 employees), and healthcare organisations (all 1 respondent.)

Your feedback on the draft Climate Action Plan

How concerned are you about the impact of climate change in Hackney? (Base: 219)



The majority of respondents, just over 84%, stated that they were concerned about the impact of climate change in Hackney (184). This includes just over 65% of respondents who were “very concerned” (144) and just under 19% of respondents who were “concerned” (41). This is followed by unconcerned (23), neither concerned nor unconcerned (9) and don’t know (2).

Which of the potential social justice issues in the Climate Action Plan are of most concern to you and why? (Base: 139)

Respondent’s comments were grouped into the following key themes. Please note that comments could be grouped into multiple themes.

For all qualitative analysis, examples of comments will be given for key themes with a count of 10 or higher. All themes with a count under 10 account can be made available on request.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|-------|
| Extreme weather: Flooding, heat waves, fires | 36 |
| Concern about the global impact | 33 |
| High level of concern and demand for rapid action | 26 |
| Impact on residents & communities | 20 |
| Pollution & air quality | 16 |
| Unconcerned about the impact of climate change in Hackney | 11 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Environmental impact | 10 |
| Local action is needed | 6 |
| Negative impact of LTNs | 4 |
| Impact on resources | 4 |
| Impact on cost of living | 4 |
| Concern that residents have little understanding of climate change impact and necessary actions | 3 |
| Green economy | 3 |
| Concerns about impact of climate change actions on personal freedoms | 2 |
| Comments on CAP approach | 2 |

Extreme weather: Flooding, heat waves, fires

Respondents shared concerns about the impact of extreme weather as a result of climate change:

"We're seeing flooding, drought, fires, biodiversity collapse - all in Hackney, ALREADY. The climate crisis is happening now and we need to limit warming now."

"Research shows that it's one of the areas in the UK that's most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, especially with regard to heat and flooding."

"Climate change leads to more extreme weather, with more deaths from extreme heat and cold plus damage from drought and flooding. Climate change is also reducing harvests which is increasing food prices in Hackney."

Concern about global impacts

Respondents stated that climate change will have global impacts, not limited to Hackney:

"Not in Hackney itself but the world in general. We desperately need to address climate change to ensure the world is liveable for our children"

"It's the biggest issue we face in the world today, it's an emergency we need to tackle now."

"It is single greatest threat we are facing globally." [sic]

High level of concern and demand for rapid action

Respondents stated that were highly concerned and called for urgent action to reduce the impact of climate change:

"I have been involved in following environmental issues both as part of my work and outside interest. The issue for the world is now critical"

"I feel the urgency in addressing climate change and ecosystems collapse. All citizens need to be part of the plan to transition towards a sustainable model of society."

"Climate change is happening faster than we are responding."

Impact on residents & communities

Respondents expressed concern about the impact of climate change on Hackney's residents and communities, including health and wellbeing, displacement, and the impact on Hackney's most vulnerable communities:

"I am concerned in hearing about the first air pollution deaths in London"

"I can already see the impact - it's showing up in all our lives and the lives of the most vulnerable first."

"Heatwaves, flooding, refugees from other countries effected [sic] by climate change"

Pollution & air quality

Respondents shared concerns about pollution and poor quality air, including comments on the impact of traffic on air quality:

"I believe there is a lot of traffic which impacts peoples health"

"Pollution was a problem the Ltns have helped but I feel sorry for residents outside those zones"

"I'm concerned about climate change globally, not specifically to Hackney, extreme weather being a visible consequence of this which is seriously impacting people's lives. In Hackney my particular concern is environmental pollution from traffic and domestic burning of fossil fuels (which is not even mentioned in the 'major sources of emissions' pie chart). Domestic use of wood and coal for heating may produce a small fraction of the total emissions but the small particulates [sic] produced are some of the most harmful pollutants for human health."

Unconcerned about the impact of climate change in Hackney

Respondents were unconcerned about the impact of climate change in Hackney or did not think climate change was enough of a concern to warrant action:

"It really won't have much impact on London, it has too much money for it to be allowed to be a problem"

"I'd be more concerned if I lived in the Maldives, for example. Can't quite see why you put 'Hackney' in the question."

"Data does not back up statements of 'heating up' made by government and council members."

Environmental impact

Respondents commented on the environmental impact of climate change, particularly on plants, trees and ecosystems:

“The destruction of natural habitats on land and oceans; pollution, endless consumption of things increasing demand for minerals, burning of fossil fuels is causing the climate and ecosystems to collapse all around the world and we are not immune to these catastrophic events. Hackney council must be ready to reduce the impact of extreme climate events for Hackney’s residents.”

“Summer heat, flooding, and effect on people biodiversity nationally and globally”

“Climate change and the destruction of the eco system is worldwide”

Which of the potential social justice issues in the Climate Action Plan are of most concern to you and why? (Base: 194)

Comments were grouped into the following themes. Please note that comments could be grouped into multiple themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|--|--------------|
| Concerns related to Buildings | 61 |
| Impact on disadvantaged groups and those who experience inequalities | 40 |
| Concerns related to Transport | 40 |
| Concerns related to Environmental Quality | 33 |
| Concerns related to Consumption | 18 |
| Concerns related to Adaptation | 17 |
| Impact of energy costs | 16 |
| Concerned about all social justice issues | 15 |
| LTN comments | 7 |
| Critical of CAP | 5 |
| Green economy | 4 |
| Action: provide financial support | 4 |
| Impact on health and wellbeing | 3 |
| Query the term "social justice" | 1 |
| Action: Work directly with communities | 1 |

Concerns related to Buildings

Respondents shared social justice concerns related to the Buildings theme including fuel costs, insulation and heating, lack of control of renters, and the impact on vulnerable and low income renters:

"Buildings - because of the limitations on individual action in many cases (eg renters have little control; preferential VAT treatment of new build over renovations)

"Insulating homes to reduce fuel poverty - I worry the vulnerable will suffer ill-health this winter"

"The need to insulate homes and to support residents with the cost of this."

Impact on disadvantaged groups and those who experience inequalities

Respondents commented on the impact of vulnerable and socially disadvantaged residents, low income residents, disabled residents, older residents, and Black and global majority residents, and residents with health conditions:

"All of them are of concern to me, but especially issues which affect those on lower incomes and those with disabilities"

"All of them. They have an impact on peoples quality of life especially the vulnerable with health issues and the lonely, those who live alone and have limited social interaction"

"Poverty because it is harder for individuals affected to make changes, and this affects children, old people and members of the wider community."

Concerns related to Transport

Respondents commented on accessible public transport, air quality, and the impact of low traffic neighbourhoods:

"Transport -- public transport needs to be affordable and available to provide an efficient and cost-effective way for everyone to be able to get around without a car"

"accessible public transport - I have health/disability issues"

"Transport. Air quality, bus speeds, safe cycling, noise pollution, carbon dioxide emissions."

Concerns related to Environmental Quality

Respondents commented on air quality, access to green spaces and the impact of environmental quality on health:

"Environmental quality is the one that people have least control of all over - and potentially affects health for life"

"It is difficult to pick one of these items as different demographics will require and respond to different elements. Expanding green infrastructure and green spaces is potentially the most far reaching of these mitigations as this will promote active transport, provide climate change adaptation and mitigation, improve air quality, provide social spaces and educational opportunities."

"Pollution of air and water, use of pesticides, herbicides"

Concerns related to Consumption

Respondents commented on Consumption and access to cheap food and products, in addition to the importance of influencing residents to change their consumption habits:

"Consumption. Low income families being unable to afford products - food, goods, electrics, clothes - that will last and provide value for money. Sustainable, long lasting or healthy options are simply too expensive. Environmental quality - low income households being most likely to be exposed to traffic pollution. "

"Consumption - Every individual makes multiple decisions per day regarding purchases and consumption, and decisions regarding how to eat, what to wear, what we need for our homes, etc. have massive cumulative effects on the environment. Without better understanding of our consumption decisions at the individual household level, large-scale change will be more challenging."

"Access to good cheap healthy food"

Concerns related to Adaptation

Respondents commented on Adaptation goals and objectives and the need to support vulnerable communities:

"Adaptation - It will be essential to identify, listen to and involve the most vulnerable people, ensuring their voices are heard and insights incorporated into shaping plans"

"Adaptation. The worry that the costs of green transition and the effects of climate change may disproportionately impact those from lower socio economic background, especially in areas where expenditure is required to adapt (e.g. electric cars, household insulation etc)."

"Adaptation and supporting the most vulnerable in our communities"

Impact of energy costs

Often linked to Buildings, respondents expressed concern about the impact of high energy costs:

"They are all concerning and overlapping issues. I'm particularly concerned about buildings however as so many people live and work in poorly insulated homes and buildings and are powerless to change them due to finances and not owning them. The council should be

insulating its stock and adding solar panels/heat pumps wherever possible. And making RSLs do the same. This issue overlaps with the fuel poverty issue too.”

“cost of energy & difficulty for those who don't own home to improve it”

“fuel poverty”

Concerned about all social justice issues

Respondents stated that they were concerned about the social justice issues associated with all themes:

“To be honest I'm worried about all the social justice issues.”

“all are - because all are inter-related - the ecological crisis is total - we need to change how we live, work and most importantly reduce inequality while doing so”

“In terms of the potential social justice issues in the climate action plan i think all of them are equally important to flight the climate crisis that we currently have.”

Can you identify any other potential social justice issues related to the Climate Action Plan? (Base: 142)

Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|--|--------------|
| Impact on vulnerable and/or disadvantageded groups | 42 |
| Buildings comments | 21 |
| Transport comments | 20 |
| No other social justice issues identified | 19 |
| LTN comments | 10 |
| Consumption comments | 10 |
| Critical of CAP | 7 |
| Education, engagement & communication | 7 |
| Environmental quality comments | 7 |
| Employment and green economy | 6 |
| Pollution | 5 |
| National and global action needed | 3 |
| Health and wellbeing | 3 |
| Adaptation comments | 3 |
| Impact of flooding and extreme weather | 3 |
| Focus on actions of wealthy residents | 3 |
| Edmonton incinerator comments | 2 |

Impact on vulnerable and/or disadvantaged groups

Respondents commented on a number of disadvantaged groups who may be more vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Comments included groups who may be less likely to benefit from CAP actions due to the high cost of goals or housing tenure. Respondents identified groups including disabled residents, residents with health conditions, low income residents, Black and global majority residents, climate refugees, older people, women, children, LGBTQ+ residents, social housing tenants and private renters:

“Access to these changes for the unwell or disabled who often cannot focus on other issues when their health is not good/don’t have support”

“Shelter for homeless people in extreme weather - low and high”

“Another potential of social justice issues relating to the climate action plan is racial issues and class issues as both of these issues have a big impact on people's lives.”

Buildings comments

Respondents commented on the impact of Buildings goals and objectives on residents in social housing and private renters, the need for warm houses, fuel poverty and the impact on health and wellbeing:

“Buildings - at risk groups identified in the plan are not in a position to be able to change their living environment to protect them from higher energy costs with cold winters and hotter summers.”

“Social housing needs to be energy efficient, well built using environmentally friendly materials, good noise insulation, not to contain ant [sic] harmful materials, and not be prone to mould. All these factors can seriously affect health and quality of life. Access to green areas is very important.”

“Add to table 1: Private renters living in sub-standard housing, and those in care homes and hostels may also be at risk as they have less agency over the quality of their housing and are dependent on others to make adaptations to climate risks and more likely to be affected by fuel poverty and overheating.”

Transport comments

Comments relating to transport such as comments on public transport, disabled access, cycling, electric vehicles, and including comments on LTNs:

“Transport - services in my local area are limited impacting the travel for vulnerable people (elderly, children, women), and the only bus coming through the estate is very infrequent with its route changed over the years to disconnect my area from the City and West End. The insufficient, unreliable and disconnected public transport network encourages some people to rely on private cars, which creates congestions [sic], demand for further parking space and contributes to pollution...”

“Encouraging electric vehicles and providing more charging points would help some levels of pollution (EVs still produce particulate pollution from brakes and tyre wear), but the majority of people can't afford an EV and any advantages offered would mainly benefit the wealthy. The best way to bring health benefits across the community is to reduce car use, not switch one type of vehicle for another. Someone may have an old car that they use rarely, to me that's better than an EV that's being driven every day...”

“Yes - it's vital that measures implemented do not disadvantage residents of certain parts of the borough e.g. landing residents of some roads with more traffic that has been diverted from other parts.”

No other social justice issues identified

Respondents stated that they could not identify other potential social justice issues:

“No.”

“Not beyond those you have addressed in the plan.”

“Seems comprehensive”

LTN comments

Respondents were critical of LTNs and commented on the negative impact on residents such as disabled residents and the concern that disadvantaged residents are exposed to worse air quality as a result of LTNs:

“LTNs make it harder for the sick / disabled to move around the borough”

“That many of the quiet street plans push traffic from already quiet areas onto already busy ones making them busier and more polluted environments for those living along those routes”

“Yes - it's vital that measures implemented do not disadvantage residents of certain parts of the borough e.g. landing residents of some roads with more traffic that has been diverted from other parts.”

Consumption comments

Respondents commented on diet, food poverty and security, recycling and waste, and comments both for and against promoting plant-based diets:

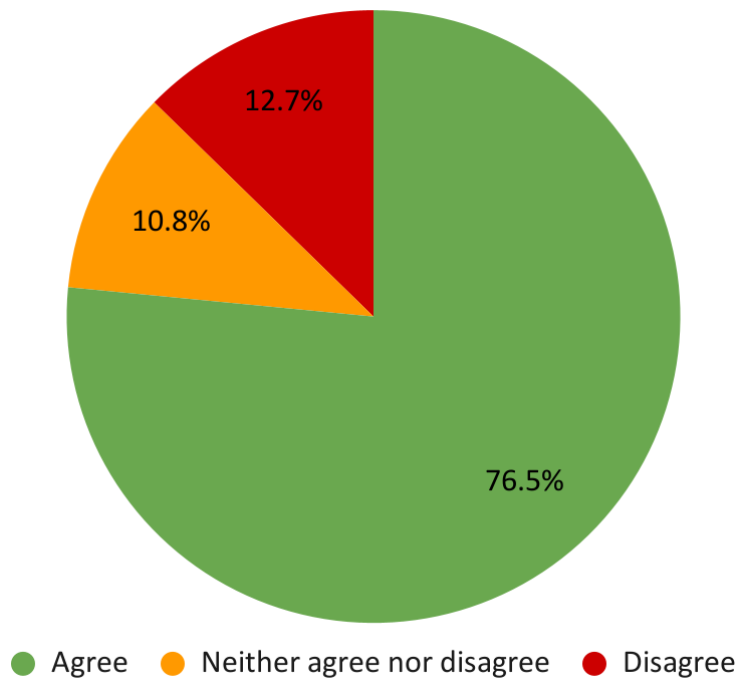
“Food security issues - more access to and the establishment of community food growing spaces all year round.”

“lower food waste; reduce food poverty”

“Diet and what people eat: Eating more (UK sourced) vegetables and less meat, fish and dairy products is a good way to reduce personal carbon footprints and improve health. Health benefits and negative environmental impact of diet needs to be better explained (via schools and public health campaigns) to lower income and vulnerable groups as too many suffer more from eating imported processed [sic] foods (eg pasta, white flour breads, sweets, cakes, sausages etc) More affluent people have greater knowledge of the health and carbon impacts of different foods moving away from processed and meat rich foods.”

Adaptation

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives for Adaptation?
(Base: 213)



The majority of respondents, just under 77%, stated that they agree with the goals and objectives for Adaptation (163). This is followed by respondents who disagree (27) and respondents who neither agree nor disagree (23).

Please explain your response: (Base 138)

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response to the previous question. Comments were grouped into the following key themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|-------|
| General statement of agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives | 35 |

| | |
|--|----|
| More detail required & question of how goals will be achieved | 15 |
| Tree planting and maintenance | 15 |
| Not ambitious enough / need to go further | 11 |
| Action is needed | 10 |
| Need to prevent climate breakdown in the first place | 8 |
| Community focus needed | 6 |
| Transport comments | 6 |
| Prioritise preventing climate breakdown | 6 |
| Green economy | 5 |
| Critical of CAP | 5 |
| Health and wellbeing | 5 |
| Thames Water comments | 4 |
| National government action is needed | 3 |
| General statement of disagreement towards all or specific goals and objectives | 2 |
| Global action is needed | 2 |
| Improve temperature regulation | 2 |
| Encourage behaviour change | 1 |
| Environmental quality | 1 |

General statement of agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives

Respondents gave general statements of agreement and support for the Adaptation goals and objectives:

"These seems [sic] like the most important areas for adaptation. Let's make sure those who are least able to adapt for themselves, and who therefore might be most negatively impacted, are prioritised for support."

"These actions are essential"

"All the measures are good. To add to them I strongly suggest cooling centres are introduced for anyone who needs them in heatwaves. Public preparedness measures need to be widely understood. The public needs to be better prepared for what is coming and know how they can help their communities."

More detail needed

Respondents commented that more detail on the goals and objectives is needed in the Climate Action Plan, including questioning how the goals will be achieved:

"It's all positive stuff, but the devil is in the detail, and fundamentally unsure how rising global climate temperatures can be that much mitigated [sic] by local actions."

"Overall, I agree with the objectives/goals - but need to understand a higher granularity in thinking/strategy to help achieve those goals. - Goals are still quite high level."

"The plan contains welcome intentions and ideas, but is short on details on how it will be delivered. It is after all called an action plan. We would like to see priorities, targets/milestones and timescales given for each part, as we acknowledge some of the plan can be actioned more quickly than others."

Tree planting and maintenance

Respondents commented on the need for trees, planting and maintenance of planted trees:

"All are equally important and I would add that when Hackney plants trees too many still die from lack of care. Resident groups could be encouraged to adopt street trees to keep them watered"

"Very much support measures to reduce potential for overheating. Important to plant trees that are robust and less spindly silver birches seen in some new developments"

"more opportunities for tenants to have garden space on estates, more plants and bushes on estates near roads."

Not ambitious enough / need to go further

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives are not ambitious enough:

"Agree with all the goals but what the council is currently doing hardly scratches the surface of what needs to be done for effective cooling, flooding prevention, etc. We need a genuinely transformative programme to take out tarmac and put in trees and planting on every road."

"I am concerned that the plans about flood warning and prevention won't go far enough. We already see flooding at times of high rainfall and this will increase in the next 7 years. I am concerned that the draft action plan is not ambitious enough to protect our homes"

"Overall good but a bit limited in the way it is written. Eg for flood risk, why only focus on new build private development? What about encouraging permeable surfaces when upgrading properties where planning approval is required? What about ensuring that existing buildings do not overheat (eg by encouraging awnings / shade plants in the exterior)?"

Action is needed

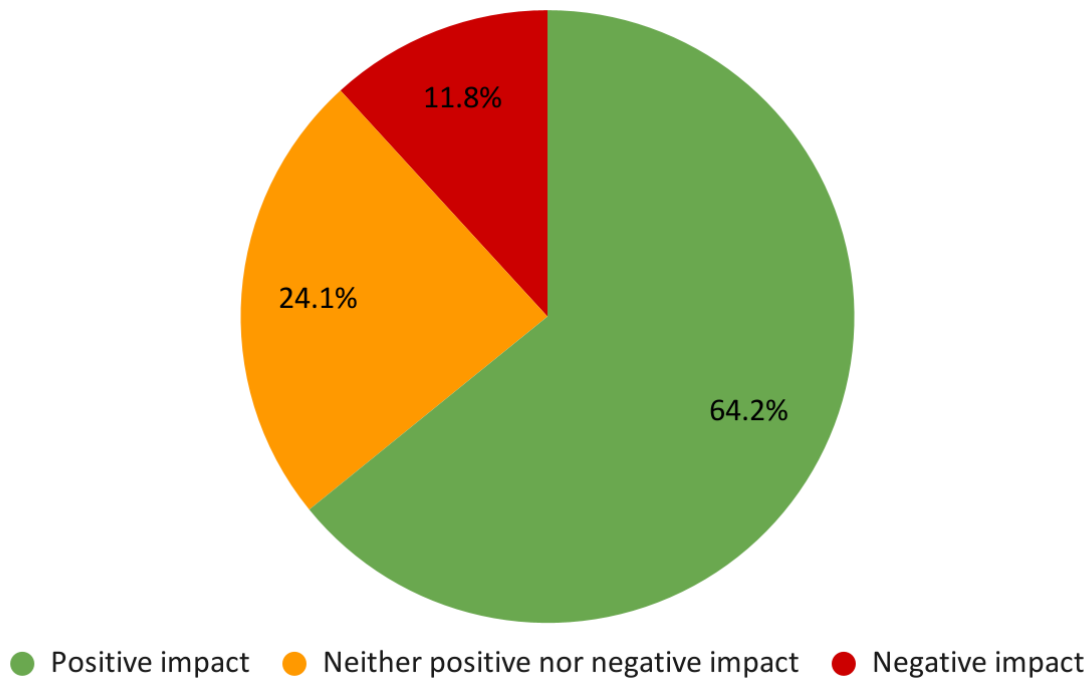
Respondents stated that rapid action is needed:

"We need to get going on all of this stuff as soon as possible. The negative effects of climate change are already starting to be noticeable"

"Needs to all happen faster"

"Climate is changing and we urgently need to take action to ensure that our way of life is not drastically changed by extreme weather"

Please tell us what impact you think, if any, the adoption of the Adaptation goals and objectives would have on your household or business? (Base: 212)



The majority of respondents, just over 64%, stated that the Adaptation goals and objectives will have a positive impact on their household or business (136). This is followed by neither positive nor negative impact (51) and negative impact (25).

Please explain your response: (Base: 125)

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response to the previous question. Comments were grouped into the following key themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|-------|
| Positive impact | 21 |
| Improved green spaces and environment | 14 |
| More detail needed | 14 |
| Critical response to goals and objectives / negative impact | 12 |
| Concern about associated costs | 12 |
| Positive impact on health and wellbeing | 11 |
| Reduced risk of flooding | 11 |
| Improved living conditions & quality of life | 10 |
| Adaptation of homes, including insulation and energy efficiency | 10 |
| Better prepared for effects of climate change | 7 |
| Limited impact | 6 |
| Reduction in energy costs | 6 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| LTN comments | 3 |
| Mitigate impact on vulnerable people | 3 |
| Cleaner air | 3 |
| Green economy | 3 |
| Involvement of communities is needed | 2 |
| Global action needed | 2 |
| Waterways and River Lea comments | 2 |
| Mitigation rather than adaptation | 1 |
| Public safety matter | 1 |

Positive impact / agreement with the goals and objectives

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would have a positive impact or that they generally agreed with the Adaptation goals:

“We believe the sustainable implementation of these adaptation goals will help adapt communities within the borough to climate change, resulting in a positive impact on the work we do.”

“More green space, more water, more nature (birds/ trees etc). This would have a positive impact on mental health and well-being. Knowing the council was taking action would help residents feel less worried and more prepared for climate change. It would be nice to allow residents to take part so that they felt that they were also able to do something active to mitigate against climate change e.g, get involved in planning and planting local green spaces.”

“the health of the community and our environment has a positive impact on everybody”

Improved green spaces and environment

Respondents stated that green spaces and the environment would improve:

“Actions to improve biodiversity and resilience will make my local environment more pleasant”

“Protecting local trees, greenery and parkland supports reduction in temperature in summer where I live”

“Better air. Better environment.”

More detail needed

Respondents stated that more detail is needed in order to assess the impact the Adaptation goals and objectives might have:

"The objectives are currently too loosely defined for me to be able to understand any impact on my household. I need to see some ambitious quantified objectives to be convinced of the positive impact the plan can have."

"The objectives are commendable but nothing in the wording really tells me what specific actions will be taken and so there is no way to tell you what impact they will have on my household."

"I can't respond properly because I don't know how you intend to implement your objectives"

Critical response to goals and objectives and negative impact

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would have a negative impact or generally disagreed with the CAP:

"Negative"

"It will mean wasted money."

"Waste of time, money, resources which could be better spent."

Concern about associated costs

Respondents expressed concern around costs associated with adaptation:

"The impact depends on what changes are proposed for the block where I live. My main worry is the potential cost that this will incur on myself and other residents if our block undergoes major works."

"There will be both a positive and negative impact. The borough will be working to diminish climate damage = positive. As a private owner of a late Victorian mid terrace house with no available loft and situate [sic] in a conservation area the adaptation to improving its cold/heat insulation will be very expensive = negative"

"I expect an increase in (council) tax(es) will surely follow."

Positive impact on health and wellbeing

Respondents commented on the impact on health and wellbeing of individuals and communities:

"Will have a positive impact on physical health of me and my daughter through less extreme temperatures, and on our mental health to see the existential risks being taken seriously and acted upon to protect us all"

"The health of the community and our environment has a positive impact on everybody"

"If the goals are achieved, it can only help the mental and physical health of residents, knowing they matter to the council."

Risk of flooding

Respondents commented on flooding risks and the need for improved guttering and drains:

"The local area is at risk of flood we need to prepare so that we minimise the impact that extreme weather has on this risk"

"It will reduce the likelihood of increase cost due to flooding within the borough."

"Expanding Suds will reduce risk of flooding (my house is in a dip so might be at risk). Not sure if this is appropriate to this section but with heavier downpours our guttering systems may not be able to cope and so flood. We might need help to improve the guttering systems on our homes."

Improved living conditions & quality of life

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would lead to an improved quality of life and living conditions:

"All the suggestions would improve my quality of life"

"Better resilient, green infrastructure that are implemented in our borough would make it a more liveable/pleasurable environment to live in."

"A more liveable London."

Adaptation of homes, including insulation and energy efficiency

Respondents commented on the need for home and building adaptations, including improvements to insulation and energy efficiency. Some respondents commented on the limitations of adaptation due to housing tenure:

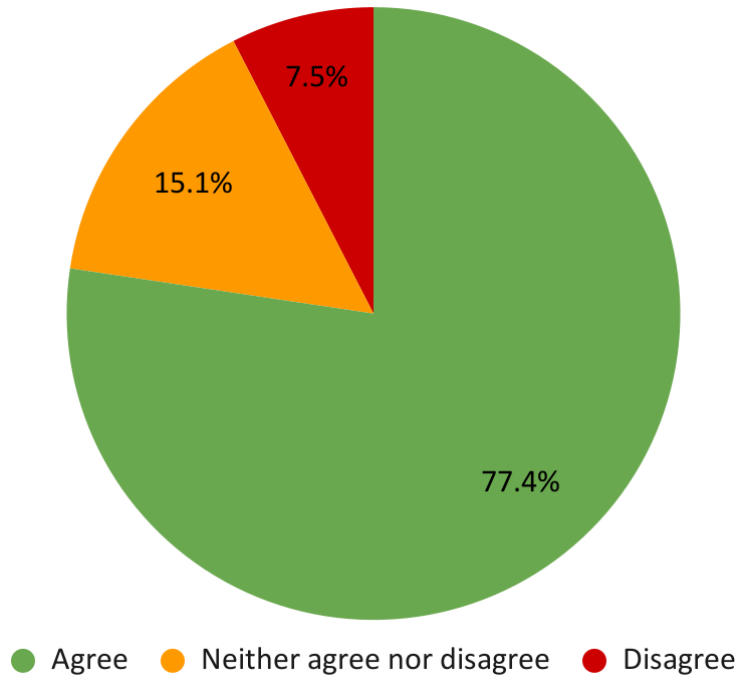
"Certainly insulation of properties will help towards adaption and costings of energy going forward"

"Any moves to make homes more energy efficient, both with heating and cooling, and to reduce use of fossil fuels is vital to reduce green house gases..."

"Raising the awareness of risks and impacts of overheating will stimulate interest in the need to retrofit buildings properly. Understanding the building as a system and taking a long term view of what is needed to build in resilience - for the building and the occupant"

Buildings

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives for Buildings?
(Base: 212)



The majority of respondents, just over 77%, stated that they agree with the goals and objectives for Buildings (164). This is followed by neither agree nor disagree (32) and disagree (16).

Please explain your response: (Base 135)

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response to the previous question. Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|-------|
| General statement of agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives | 64 |
| Question of how goals will be achieved | 19 |
| Adaptation & retrofitting of existing buildings | 19 |
| Cost of goals and need for financial support | 14 |
| Solar panel comments | 11 |
| Action is needed | 8 |
| Detailed feedback & recommendations for amendments to CAP and implementation plan | 8 |
| Criticism of Council building practices | 7 |
| General statement of disagreement towards all or specific goals and | 6 |

| | |
|---|---|
| objectives | |
| Criticism of social housing standards | 6 |
| Buildings will be resilient to adverse weather | 5 |
| Green economy | 5 |
| Heat and insulation | 5 |
| CAP actions are more cost effective in the long run | 4 |
| Not enough information on private housing | 3 |
| Comments on gas boilers | 3 |
| Impact on residents | 3 |
| Other retrofit comments | 3 |
| National government action is needed | 2 |
| Engagement with local employers and businesses | 2 |
| Negative impact of renewable energy sources | 1 |

General statement of agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives

Respondents gave general statements agreeing with the goals and objectives. Some respondents qualified their positive response with the question of how the goals will be achieved (see theme below):

“It’s all a no-brainer. These measures are the very least we can do to avert the worst effects of the climate crisis in the face of the uselessness of national government and the ineffectiveness of COP.”

“Very good idea. These plans will save a lot of energy in the next few years, so although it means investment in green technology and insulation etc it should lead to savings for the council in terms of how much it costs to run public buildings and facilities.”

“This is a relatively easy win which in addition to reducing carbon emissions would provide improved housing for residents”

Question of how goals will be achieved

Residents questions how the goals and objectives would be achieved:

“This is fundamental... but seriously hard to actually do. Even leaving to one side the question of how to improve the thermal performance of all of the buildings in the borough, do we even have the capacity in the borough’s electricity network to decarbonise heating?”

“Again, so vague. What is the time scale for this? Is there a real commitment to renovation of old buildings instead of constant new building? What about the height of new buildings, and where they will go. Is there a commitment not to take up current green space for building?”

“In general terms the goals and objectives are supported. However, reliance on central government and battery installation (currently expensive) may make the goals unobtainable”

Retrofitting and adaptation of buildings comments

Comments on adaptation of buildings and the goal of retrofitting existing buildings:

“Addressing issues to do with existing buildings in particular will make a major difference to green goals and peoples’ lives”

“We need to stop destroying and rebuilding but adapting and improving existing stock.”

“Reduction of consumption of raw materials and energy is vital to the overall success of any climate action plan. There is also potential when retrofitting to set a target for a requirement to incorporate bat, bird including swift, starling and house sparrow boxes which would be extremely low cost if incorporated at the site. Certain buildings would be suitable for Peregrine ledges and boxes.”

Cost of goals and need for financial support

Respondents asked how buildings goals and objectives will be paid for and raised the need for funding for residents, building owners and businesses:

“I agree but where is the funding coming from?”

“There is no mention of how these vastly expensive measures will be paid for and if this cost will be passed onto local residents or provided by Hackney. The required relocation of residents to allow for retrofitting of properties is expensive, environmentally taxing and there is no provision of where residents will be relocated given that there is already a housing crisis in the borough. A number of council properties do not meet existing living standards, on my own estate residents have been campaigning for years over living standards that do not meet the legal requirements. It's unclear how if the council cannot currently provide for these existing residents they will be able to successfully retrofit and rehouse current tenants.”

“Who's going to pay for it all?”

Solar panel comments:

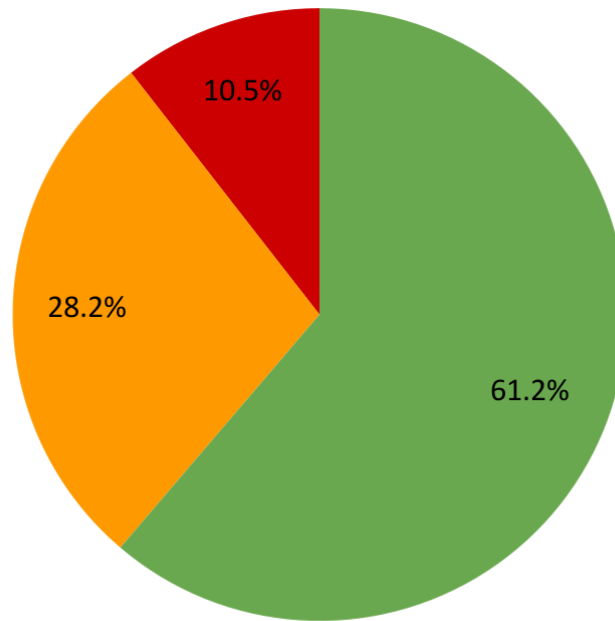
Residents commented on goals and objectives for solar panels:

“It's a no brainer to expand PV installation across the borough”

“I would say there must be enormous potential for using all the flat roofs for PV generation. Even now there are light weight pv system for roofs that aren't strong enough for standard PV panels.”

“Increasing of solar/renewable - implementing in government-owned buildings”

Please tell us what impact you think, if any, the adoption of the Buildings goals and objectives would have on your household or business? (Base: 126)



● Positive impact ● Neither positive nor negative impact ● Negative impact

The majority of respondents, just over 61%, stated that the adoption of the Buildings goals and objectives will have a positive impact on their household or business (128). This is followed by neither positive nor negative impact (59), and negative impact (22).

Please explain your response: (Base 126)

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response to the previous question. Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|-------|
| High cost of goals and actions | 21 |
| Positive impact | 19 |
| Reduced energy costs | 17 |
| Improvements to homes: energy efficient, insulated & resilient to extreme weather | 15 |
| Critical response to goals and objectives | 11 |
| Lack of control for renters | 10 |
| Goals may not be suitable for all housing stock | 9 |
| Limited personal impact | 8 |
| Question of how it will be achieved / more detail needed | 7 |
| Resident advice on retrofit needed | 4 |
| Improved health and wellbeing & quality of life | 4 |
| Comments on the removal of gas boilers | 3 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Green economy | 3 |
| Negative impact on residents | 2 |
| Reduction of carbon emissions | 2 |
| Confidence in the Council | 1 |
| National government action is needed | 1 |
| Involvement of communities | 1 |

High cost of goals and actions

Respondents expressed concern about the costs associated with the goals and objectives:

"I'm sure the plan can have a positive impact. The point is, how to realise it? Personally, solar is too expensive to install and would not significantly reduce my consumption as we are low users. I certainly can't afford to drill for a heat pump! There would have to be a more economical collective heat pump scheme to participate in than the solar scheme offered by Hackney and Islington a couple of years ago"

"I doubt it will have an impact unless the council is going to pay to retrofit people's houses. If not, I can't afford it, so nothing will change."

"I totally agree this needs to happen, but have a concern. As a leaseholder of a housing association flat I would be concerned about costs to me"

Positive impact

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would have a positive impact on their household:

"Making homes warmer and more self sufficient is a massive plus."

"Buildings are a major source of emissions and the goals and targets if achieved will have a significant impact on emissions from existing buildings, new buildings and construction, and will increase renewable generation capacity, reduce fuel poverty, and make homes in the borough more comfortable and reduce the risk of overheating."

"I will be able to live comfortably in my home."

Reduced energy use and costs

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would result in reduced energy costs for their household:

"Once again will help cut energy expenditure and promote health"

"Less worry about fuel poverty"

"Would reduce the energy use as less need to heat/cool my home."

Improvements to homes: energy efficient, insulated & resilient to extreme weather

Respondents commented on improvements to their homes including insulation and energy efficiency:

"I am a homeowner and want to make my house more efficient so these initiatives are very relevant"

"I would like my place to be insulated as much as is possible."

"Having a secure home ready for the fluctuating and extreme weather we're likely to have"

Critical response to goals and objectives

Respondents stated that they did not think the goals and objectives will be achieved:

"If you provide us with cheap local green energy then the impact will be amazing because it will be cheaper and greener for us. But I doubt this will happen"

"This will not work."

"It might even be negative, not everyone can change their boiler, use solar and definitely problematic with heat pumps in London flats."

Lack of control for renters

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would have a limited impact private and social housing renters:

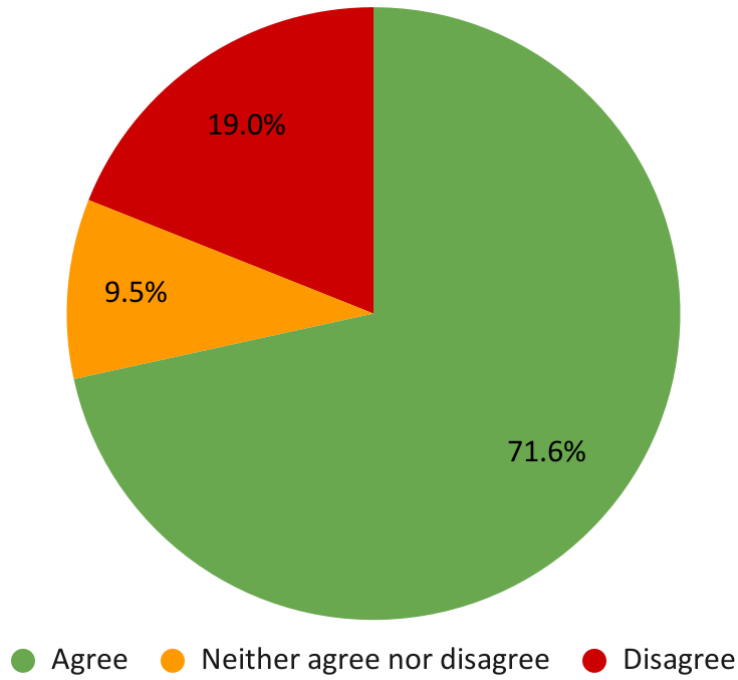
"As a renter, I have no possibility in making improvements, without either having to move or having to expect rent increases. I also have in part no say in energy provider choices."

"I live in Social Housing under Peabody. I don't think Hackney Council will get them or any other housing associations to invest in old properties like mine. We have been fighting to have our rotten sash windows replaced for close to a decade now."

"As a renting tenant in an old, airy building, none of these objectives benefit me. I imagine this will be the case for many residents in the area who cannot afford their own home."

Transport

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives for Transport?
(Base: 211)



The majority of respondents, just over 71%, agreed with the goals and objectives for Transport (151). This is followed by disagree (40) and neither agree nor disagree (20).

Please explain your response: (Base 156)

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response to the previous question. Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|--------------|
| Walking & cycling comments | 41 |
| Support reduction in vehicles use / promotion of electric vehicles and car sharing where needed | 31 |
| Public transport comments | 28 |
| General statement of agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives | 22 |
| Increased traffic and critical LTN comments | 21 |
| Impact on disabled people and vulnerable residents need to be considered | 19 |
| Safety needs to be prioritised | 19 |
| Air quality | 14 |
| More detail needed | 9 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Not ambitious enough | 9 |
| General statement of disagreement towards all or specific goals and objectives | 9 |
| Greening comments | 8 |
| Parking comments | 8 |
| Improved health and wellbeing & quality of life | 8 |
| Support for LTNs | 8 |
| Deliveries, cargo bikes and freight traffic | 7 |
| Negative environmental impact of electric vehicle production | 6 |
| Support for road user charging | 4 |
| Engage with communities | 3 |
| Against dockless bikes | 2 |
| Additional suggestions | 2 |
| CAP detail query | 2 |

Walking & cycling comments

Respondents commented on walking and cycling, including the need for more cycling infrastructure and pedestrianised areas. Some cyclists commented on cycling safety in Hackney:

“Ease of access for pedestrians. More pedestrian walking space. More school streets. Low gas omissions [sic]. Accessible public transport. Safer car parking and walking for disabled travellers.”

“I walk and cycle and I would really like to see Hackney's roads becoming more cycle-friendly and less polluted because they're not at the moment. I would welcome a Road User Charging, based on income and type of vehicle (horsepower, etc).”

“Hackney is a walk and cycle friendly neighbourhood. It should continue demonstrating best practice as a low traffic borough.”

Support reduction in vehicles use / promotion of electric vehicles and car sharing where needed

Respondents supported the reduction of road vehicles and the promotion of electric vehicles and car sharing:

“More has to be done to encourage people out of their cars; and to clear our streets of parked cars. With fewer private cars on the streets, public transport will be smoother/quicker and more appealing...”

“This will succeed if there is expansion of public transport, and ideally public transport which is free for everyone. The use and purchase of SUVs must be countered by higher council tax rates for parking for residents with these cars, a public campaign about the climate impact of

large vehicles, vehicle sharing. Decreasing transit of HGVs through Hackney is important. Ensure discussion with Mayor of London on low impact delivery of goods"

"We need to massively decrease the car-centricity of our urban environment"

Public transport comments

Respondents commented on the need for better access to public transport. Some respondents called for more focus on public transport in the CAP:

"Hackney needs much better transport system including that the bus routes are highly congested in and around Hackney Central, it's faster to walk most days"

"Strategies that promote walking and cycling are much needed. However, we must also address public transport in the area. Why has public transport been left out?"

"I champion bikes all the way! Hackney isn't the best connected borough, the overground has been closed quite a bit recently. Buses can be infrequent and slow. It's the one thing Hackney is really lacking."

General statement of agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives

Respondents gave general statements of agreement:

"I strongly support the suggested goals and feel this is a great and achievable objective for the climate action plan."

"I support the move towards reducing the use of motor vehicles and walking, cycling and using public transport where ever possible. Most people I know are already doing this but don't feel the council or government is doing enough to encourage it yet"

"These all seem like the best measures to take and are thorough"

Increased traffic and critical LTN comments

Respondents commented on increases in traffic and disagreed with the implementation of low traffic neighbourhoods, stating that LTNs have increased traffic and air pollution:

"Much more must be done to reduce car use of all types, especially all the polluting private school minibuses in my area. It's shocking how many people drive when public transport in Hackney is good. LTNs are not the answer as they have forced more traffic onto main roads which are now worse to live on or walk down."

"The measures taken thus far have wholly negatively affected me: I live very near 3 main roads & a big roundabout and several "less near" LTNs- congestion, amount of time there s 'nigh gridlock' = air quality has worsened. And it s much harder for me, disabled (but walk& cycle when able), to get around = my world & social interactions have shrunk."

“too many LTN which cause traffic jams on major roads . cars need 3 times as much to reach their destination and produce too much toxic air.”

Impact on disabled people and vulnerable residents need to be considered

Respondents emphasised that the Transport goals and objectives need to take disabled people into account. Some respondents stated that the Transport goals ignore the experience of disabled residents where others offered positive comments:

“I’m disabled and appreciate the intent to make transport easier and safer .”

“Is there a consideration of accessibility for people with disabilities?”

“improving the transport and making it accessible is great, except if you are in a wheelchair, spaces for wheelchairs are mostly taken up by prams, which parents cant be bothered to fold when they take the children out. Bus drivers wont ask them to move even though it is a wheelchair space. Having less maned stations makes it hard for a wheelchair to get on and off older trains and tubes” [sic]

Safety needs to be prioritised

Respondents commented on safety related to dangerous driving by cyclists and scooters, the safety of bikes and theft, pedestrian safety:

“Does not appear to have a focus on pedestrian safety. Including managing the expansion of cycling and electric bikes in a way that doesn't make walking less comfortable / safe. Also does not include steps to address bus closure.”

“Regulations on cycling on the pavement and use of e-bikes on the pavement need to be enforced”

“I’m a cyclist and am extremely scared of cycling through Hackney as the roads and it’s car traffic are incredibly hostile towards cyclists. Know if multiple people that had accidents. The roads are way too narrow and damaged for so many cars and for accommodating cyclists.” [sic]

Improved Air quality

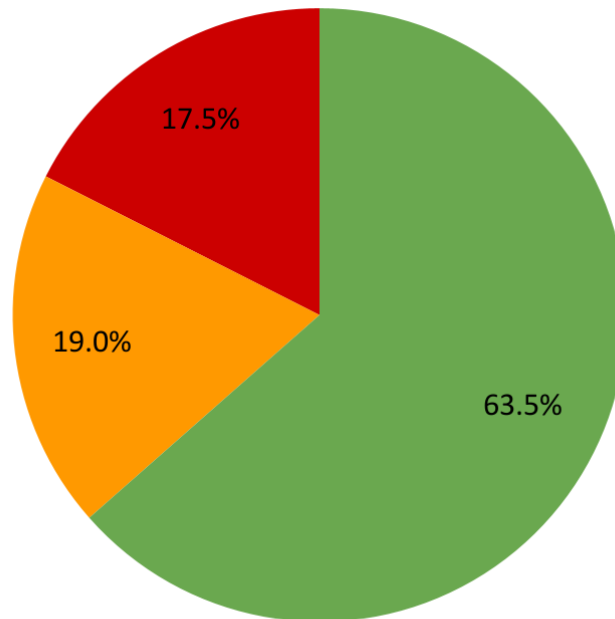
Respondents stated that the goals and objectives reduce air pollution linked to transport emissions and improve air quality:

“air quality is paramount”

“Really keen to see heavy pollution from busy roads reduced in the area. Would like to see more moves to promote cycling, and other low carbon forms of transport. I'm delighted to see for eg electric delivery vans in use - if there were sufficient incentives for companies to use those instead of diesel lorries - so for eg perhaps offer discounted charging facilities - that would really improve air quality in hackney”

“Despite all the cycling walking, the air is filthy. You can smell traffic fumes everywhere and my windowsills need to be cleaned twice a week in summer when the windows are open. I don't even live on a main road. Encouraging use of public transport, electric vehicles and car sharing is vital.”

Please tell us what impact you think, if any, the adoption of the Transport goals and objectives would have on your household or business? (Base: 211)



● Positive impact ● Neither positive nor negative impact ● Negative impact

The majority of respondents, just under 64%, stated that the adoption of the Transport goals and objectives would have a positive impact on their household or business (134). This is followed by neither negative nor positive impact (40) and negative impact (37).

Please explain your response: (Base 123)

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response to the previous question. Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Improved air quality | 23 |
| Easier to walk / cycle | 20 |
| Negative impact | 19 |
| Positive impact | 13 |
| Safer, cleaner streets | 11 |
| Improved health and wellbeing | 10 |
| Reduced traffic | 9 |
| Reduced noise pollution | 7 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Not ambitious enough | 7 |
| Improved public transport options | 7 |
| Critical of LTNs | 6 |
| Limited impact | 6 |
| More detail needed | 5 |
| Impact on disabled residents and the elderly | 5 |
| Electric vehicle comments | 5 |
| Support for LTNs | 4 |
| Action needed to make walking safer | 4 |
| Bike infrastructure needed | 3 |

Improved air quality

Respondents stated that Transport goals would improve air quality and reduce pollution:

“Improved air quality”

“Better cycle routes and improved air quality can't help but benefit my partner and I and our children.”

“Improved and liveable air quality. Reduction in air toxicity.”

Easier to walk / cycle

Respondents that the goals and objectives would make walking and cycling easier:

“More access to walking, cycling and public transport”

“Anything that makes it easier to get around on foot or bike is to be welcomed.”

“Easier to walk and cycle”

Negative impact

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would have a negative impact on their household. This included impacts on businesses and income, costs associated with cars, traffic and journey times:

“Increased travel times damage my ability to earn a living and reduce the income of my household.”

“Create longer journey times, reduce choice, increase road congestion and pollution.”

“It will make more traffic on the streets, higher costs for car owners, more inconvenience to get to destinations, more traffic by rush-hour, if the plans were to give significant grants to buy more carbon efficient cars then that would be a more practical course of action.”

Positive impact

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would be positive or beneficial:

“Better public transport and access to greener methods of transport would have a large positive impact”

“Cleaner air has a positive effect on climate change and mental health as more people wake up to the climate emergency. Taking action will make people feel they are having a positive effect and joining together”

“I think it will have a positive impact on the community and area overall but I don't feel like I would notice this directly myself.”

Safer, cleaner streets

Respondents stated that the goals would result in safer and cleaner streets:

“More green space, healthier and safer travel”

“Fewer people using motor vehicles makes the streets safer for our family to walk and cycle (we don't own a car).”

“Better connectivity, reduction in the modes of transport between private cars and public infrastructure - safer roads for people, less pollution on the street.”

Improved health and wellbeing

Respondents commented on improved health and wellbeing:

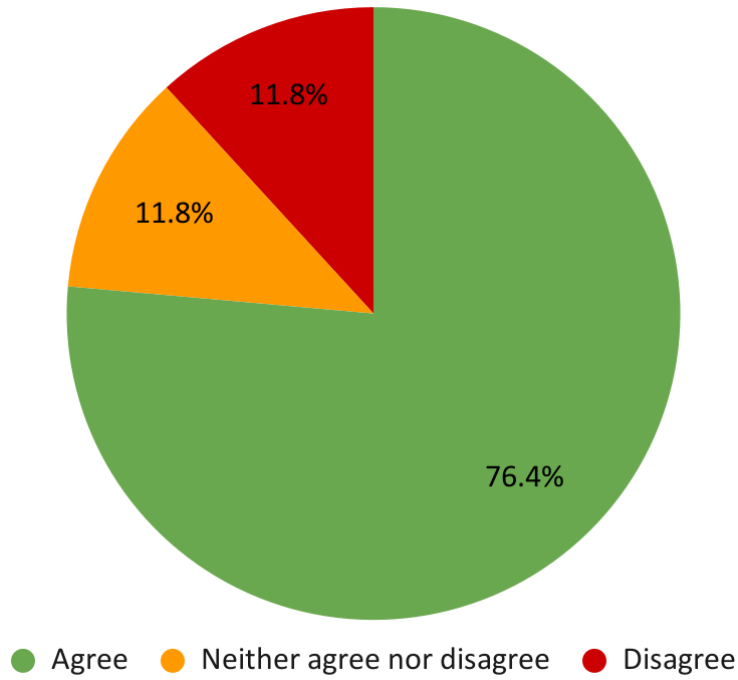
“Cleaner air and therefore better health. Research shows that pollution impacts on every organ of the body, not just the respiratory system.”

“Our physical health will improve from better air quality, and our mental health would improve from seeing existential climate risks being taken seriously with sufficient action to reduce and mitigate.”

“Make the air cleaner & improve my health.”

Consumption

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives for Consumption? (Base: 212)



The majority of respondents, just over 76%, agree with the goals and objectives for Consumption (162). This is followed by neither agree nor disagree and disagree (both 25 respondents.)

Please explain your response: (Base137)

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response to the previous question. Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|--|-------|
| General statement of agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives | 43 |
| Improvements to recycling facilities, making it easier to recycle or repair | 15 |
| General statement of disagreement towards all or specific goals and objectives | 12 |
| More detail needed | 10 |
| Comments on plastic consumption | 9 |
| Behaviour change & messaging | 8 |
| Business licensing and rates / business actions | 8 |
| Promote local food production | 8 |
| Question how it will be achieved | 7 |
| Encourage reduction of animal product consumption | 7 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Not ambitious enough / need to go further | 5 |
| Schools | 4 |
| Cost impact | 4 |
| Green economy | 4 |
| Edmonton incinerator comments | 4 |
| Access to food & food poverty | 2 |
| Global action needed | 2 |
| Deliveries and traffic | 2 |
| Detailed comments / implementation plan comments | 2 |
| Overpopulation comment | 1 |
| Cultural considerations | 1 |

General statement of agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives

Respondents stated that they generally agreed with the Consumption goals and objectives:

“These are very difficult habits to change for us all and the council support would be welcome”

“These changes are vital to our future. We need to encourage a sustainable, circular economy for our own survival. Doing this at a local level is important and sets a great example to other boroughs.”

“I strongly support the goals and objectives. They could be strengthened by the addition of reducing packaging and making all necessary packaging environmentally sustainable. This would need to be focused on engagement with businesses and supply chains in and supporting Hackney.”

Improvements to recycling facilities, making it easier to recycle or repair

Respondents called for improvements to recycling facilities and supported initiatives to encourage repairing items:

“The council needs to make sure that recycling and compost is really recycled. Accept more plastics, provide better information about what can be accepted.”

“There should be a commitment to real recycling rather than just collecting recyclable goods, repair, recycle and re-use should be promoted as much as possible”

“if you do not have enough money to buy good quality, you are stuck in a cycle of buying within your means. repair shops have disappeared so even if you want to repair it is hard or expensive to do. encouraging sites where you can get free items, exchange items and charge reduced prices should be more advertised, so people know this is an option open to them”

General statement of disagreement towards all or specific goals and objectives

Respondents gave general statements of disagreement, including statements that it is Council overreach to encourage residents to adopt a plant based diet:

"I don't agree with the idea that planet based diets should be forced onto residents as it should be a choice whether or not people want to have a planet based diet."

"As I said before, while people should have the opportunity to buy quality food, the council has no business telling people what to eat. Honestly, that is so insulting."

"It is pie in the sky to hope for reduced consumption. In my street many houses have 6 wheelie bins plus several green sacks of rubbish a week."

More detail needed

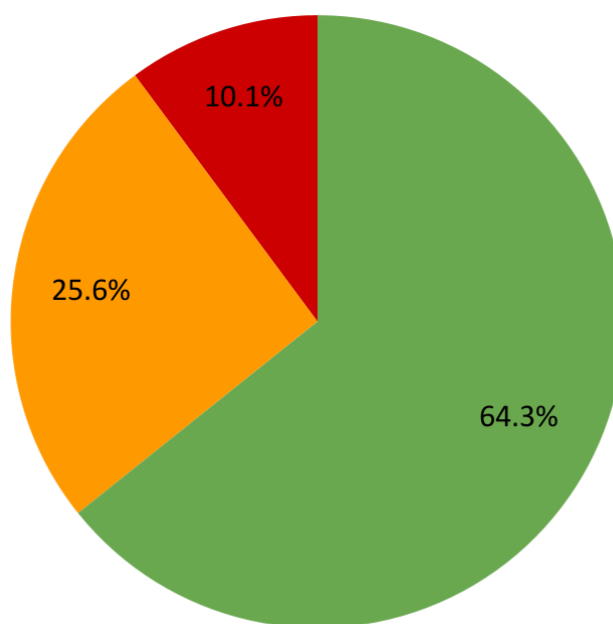
Respondents stated that aspects of the goals and objectives required more detail:

"I think points like 'reduce food poverty' needs more expansion with a clear plan and timeline - but overall the steps are good."

"I agree with a lot of the goals in the Consumption section. Including mention of plant based diets is very important. However, more detail and thought needs to be put into this. How will the council educate residents about the benefits of a plant based diet (environmental and health related benefits)? Will it lead by example by making all their own catering plant based? This is such a simple change that will massively reduce emissions."

"I think there needs to be more emphasis on how hackney will reduce packaging waste. How can supermarkets and small businesses be incentivised to sell reduced packaging with their produce. How can legislation be strengthened at a borough level?"

Please tell us what impact you think, if any, the adoption of the Consumption goals and objectives would have on your household or business? (Base: 207)



● Positive impact ● Neither positive nor negative impact ● Negative impact

The majority of respondents, just over 64%, stated that they think the adoption of the Consumption goals and objectives will have a positive impact on their household or business (133). This is followed by neither positive nor negative impact (53) and negative impact (21).

Please explain your response: (base 98)

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response to the previous question. Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|--|-------|
| Easier to repair, recycle & reduce consumption | 15 |
| Limited impact | 14 |
| Positive impact | 11 |
| Improved health, wellbeing, and quality of life | 8 |
| Educate and engage residents on reducing consumption | 6 |
| Critical of goals and objectives | 5 |
| Lower carbon emissions | 5 |
| Negative impact | 4 |
| Food production & access | 4 |
| Support needed to reduce consumption | 3 |
| Question of how it will be achieved / more detail needed | 3 |
| Improved local environment | 3 |
| Comments on plant-based diets | 3 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Reduced costs | 2 |
| Investments & green economy | 2 |
| Improvements to recycling practices needed | 2 |
| Build community | 1 |

Easier to repair, recycle & reduce consumption

Respondents were supportive of having more access to recycling and repair facilities:

"More ways to reduce, compost etc would decrease anxiety about the waste we produce."

"Make it easier to pass goods on, get them repaired."

"Easier recycling / repair options would be positive. We are starting from a low base. I recently tried to visit three different recycling points in Hackney only to find them all overflowing. Improving things like this would be positive."

Limited impact

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would have a limited impact, often because their household already take actions to reduce consumption:

"Little direct impact on me personally as I already do many of these actions."

"My block already has good access to recycling bins, and I don't run a business so changes to businesses will not affect me. I am a vegetarian who eats dairy and eggs, and I will not be changing my diet."

"No change for me personally."

Positive impact

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would have a positive impact or expressed agreement with the goals and objectives:

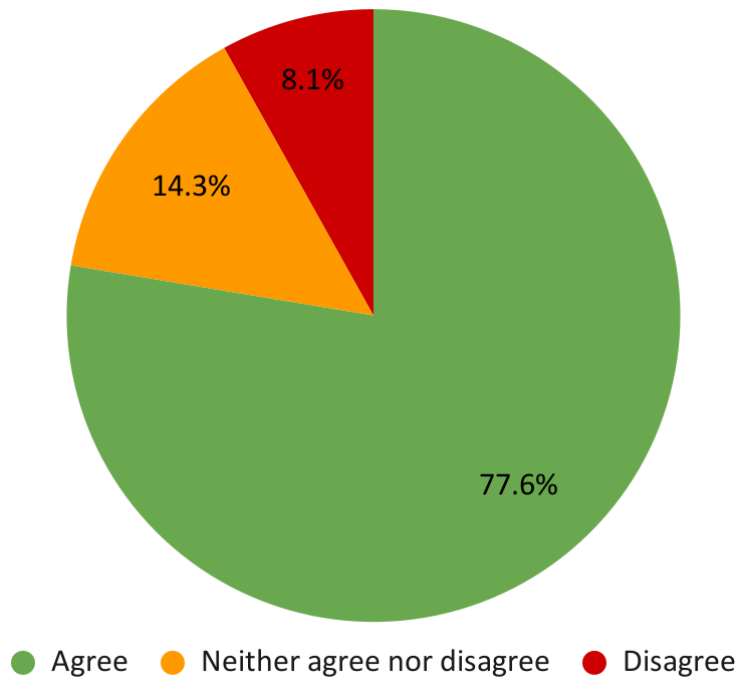
"It's an all-round winner, benefiting health and local environment."

"Less waste is good for us all"

"Surely great. Less clutter. Less nonsense junk. Satisfaction of giving things a new lease of life. Healthier food."

Environmental quality

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the goals and objectives for Environmental Quality? (Base: 210)



The majority of respondents, just under 78%, agree with the goals and objectives for Environmental Quality (163). This is followed by neither agree nor disagree (30) and disagree (17).

Please explain your response: (base 128)

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response to the previous question. Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|-------|
| General statement of agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives | 34 |
| Air quality | 25 |
| More green space, trees and maintenance | 23 |
| Need for improved biodiversity / actions to protect biodiversity | 20 |
| Protection of River Lea and water bodies | 18 |
| Community involvement needed | 9 |
| Reduce car usage | 8 |
| Thames Water comments | 8 |
| More detail needed | 7 |
| Health and wellbeing | 7 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Not ambitious enough / need to go further | 6 |
| General statement of disagreement towards all or specific goals and objectives | 5 |
| Biodiversity officer needed | 5 |
| LTN comments | 5 |
| Education & engagement | 4 |
| Critical of CAP | 3 |
| Fires and burning | 3 |
| Paving comments | 3 |
| Parks comments | 3 |
| Action is needed | 1 |
| Litter | 1 |

General statement of agreement towards all or specific goals and objectives

Respondents stated that they agreed with the Environmental quality goals and objectives:

“Strongly agree with the suggestions made and the impact they will have on residents”

“Looking forward to this becoming reality!”

“Strongly agree, especially on water quality (River Lea really needs to be cleaned up)”

Air quality

Respondents commented on air quality and the need to reduce air pollution. Respondents also commented on the impact of transport on air quality:

“In my view, the air pollution problems of our borough should be an immediate priority.”

“Poor air quality remains a major concern”

“Air quality is not an issue that can be addressed in isolation - a metropolitan response is required. Cycle lanes and LTN need to be independently assessed to establish contribution to traffic congestion, pollution and reduced quality of life and choice.”

More green space, trees and maintenance

Respondents stated that green spaces and trees should be maintained and access to green spaces expanded:

“Nothing should be done to decrease the amount of green space in the borough, and every opportunity should be taken to increase it.”

“I'd love to see an expansion of headline ambition beyond improving biodiversity in existing green spaces (though this is mentioned in greater detail beyond the headline). We need MORE green spaces. We need more urban greening, depaving, conversion of unused,

unloved paved areas to SuDS, public realm etc. Things can be integrated into each other, eg in Copenhagen they've got sunken bike parking outside Norreport train station, which can flood and store water to drain away more slowly - bikes get wet, but so what, better than flooding homes or businesses. This sort of integration delivers best value for money and use of scarce space in the Borough."

"Reduction of vehicle use and the opening up of spaces for wildlife and for planting of trees, food and enjoying would benefit health and wellbeing"

Need for improved biodiversity / actions to protect biodiversity

Respondents commented on the need to increase biodiversity and recommended related actions:

"We need to do more to foster biodiversity in the borough"

"We must allow plants, insects, birds etc to flourish. This means people need to understand the benefits to them, rather than that nature is an enemy. Reducing weedkiller in our streets, results in an increase in plants, which is positive for air quality, biodiversity, flood management etc but some people object to this. There needs to be a big campaign to reverse the nature hating habits."

"This is an easy win, increasing biodiversity, and am already engaged in it."

Protection of River Lea and water bodies

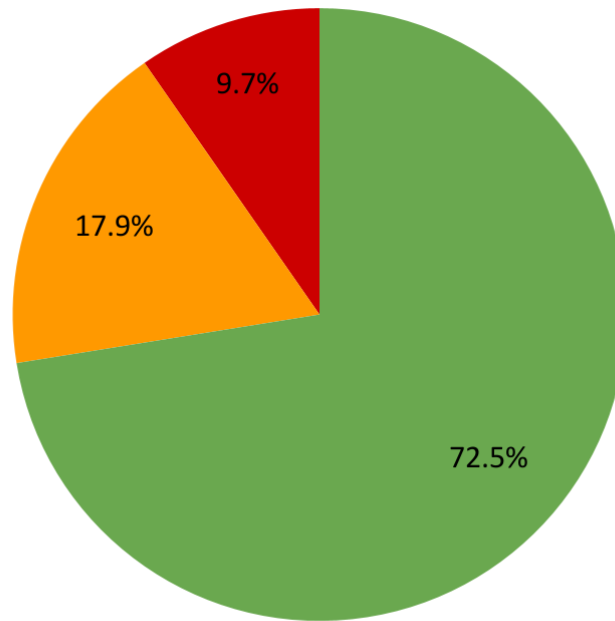
Respondents commented on the importance of protecting water bodies and the River Lea:

"Water body management is of major concern - local rivers, streams, canals etc. need to be protected from waste and pollution and Hackney Council needs to step up where national bodies have failed to act."

"Could do with more specifics on tackling sewage being dumped in rivers (I appreciate this is not just a hackney problem but a nationwide issue). But yes - keen to see all the environmental improvements as described"

"It's vital that the council maintains pressure on the Environment Agency and Thames Water with regard to sewage spills in the River Lea. I'd also like to see the council support East London Waterworks Park secure the site for their wild swimming project with financial backing."

Please tell us what impact you think, if any, the adoption of the Environmental Quality goals and objectives would have on your household or business? (Base: 207)



● Positive impact ● Neither positive nor negative impact ● Negative impact

The majority of respondents, just under 73%, stated that the adoption of the Environmental Quality goals and objectives will have a positive impact on their household or business (150). This is followed by neither positive nor negative impact (37) and negative impact (20).

Please explain your response: (base 93)

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand on their response to the previous question. Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|--|-------|
| Improved health, wellbeing and quality of life | 21 |
| Positive impact | 17 |
| Improved air quality | 16 |
| Improved environment, wildlife & biodiversity | 10 |
| Green spaces | 9 |
| Cost | 3 |
| Critical of LTNs | 3 |
| More detail required | 2 |
| Community involvement important | 2 |
| Limited impact | 2 |
| Wider London action needed | 2 |
| Address domestic burning | 1 |
| Comments on heat pumps | 1 |
| Concern about impact of climate change | 1 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| In favour of more recycling | 1 |
| More funding for parks is needed | 1 |

Improved health, wellbeing and quality of life

Respondents stated that the Environmental Quality goals and objectives would improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life:

“Our physical health would improve from better air quality and our mental health would improve from seeing existential climate risks being taken seriously with sufficient action to reduce and mitigate.”

“Better quality of life by living closer to the natural environment.”

“These changes will make Hackney a nicer, healthier place to live whilst also creating jobs.”

Positive impact

Respondents stated that the goals and objectives would have a positive impact:

“Strongly agree with the suggestions made and the impact they will have on residents”

“It will improve the community rather than me as an individual”

“It would be amazing for every resident”

Improved air quality

Respondents commented on the benefits of improved air quality:

“Cleaner air!”

“I am particularly keen for action on air quality.”

“Improving air quality will make it safer to be outside.”

Improved environment, wildlife & biodiversity

Respondents commented on improvements to environment, wildlife & biodiversity:

“Increased planting and investment in biodiversity within green spaces can only benefit all”

“Environmental Quality is a vital component of climate action. Climate inaction exacerbates poor environmental quality, while improving environmental quality contributes to resilience in the face of climate change. It is also vital to reverse biodiversity loss in tandem with climate action to tackle the linked biodiversity and climate crises.”

“Enhanced ecosystems!”

How can we encourage community ownership of the Climate Action Plan goals?
(Base 178)

Responses to the question were grouped into the following key themes. Responses could be grouped into more than one theme.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|--------------|
| Education, engagement & communication | 63 |
| Engage community groups and support residents to build community ownership | 44 |
| Education & engagement with children and young people | 20 |
| Suggested Council actions | 13 |
| Incentivise action | 12 |
| Critical of CAP | 11 |
| Communication & engagement with opposing views | 10 |
| Work with businesses, partners and community organisations | 8 |
| Implement a citizen's panel | 7 |
| Ensure goals and plans are quantifiable | 5 |
| More access to green spaces | 5 |
| Support disadvantaged residents and those most likely to be affected by CAP | 4 |
| LTN comments | 3 |
| Roads and transport comments | 2 |
| Reassurance on how CAP will be funded | 1 |
| National government action | 1 |

Education, engagement & communication

Respondents recommended ways to engage with and educate residents, including recommendations for better communication with residents and stakeholders to encourage community ownership. Respondents also called for more accessible language to be used in CAP documents:

“Start with telling us about the benefits. It is not a loss to us to increase air quality, reduce temperatures, increase the amount of greenery, reduce flooding etc. It is a big benefit to people's quality of life. We need to be positive about it and what people can do, rather than feeling overwhelmed by it.”

“Constant education across all demographics in Hackney that stress the benefits of adopting the policy 'themes' proposed to tackle Climate Change locally...”

“By using simple language to express not so simple ideas to everyone and engaging on different appropriate levels to cooperate with those with realistic innovative solutions”

Engage community groups and support residents to build community ownership

Respondents suggested the Council support to community groups to take climate actions, including providing resources and funding, in addition to calling for more community involvement in Council action planning:

“Co-production with the community - solving climate and social issues at the same time with well designed and climate friendly policies by understanding real-life challenges.”

“create plans and projects for communities to be more involved in”

“Active involvement of local residents; Leaseholders and Tenants Association in the implementation and delivery of the Plan goals”

Education & engagement with children and young people

Respondents specifically called for engagement with and education of children and young people:

“I expect schools engagement is key to getting families on board. Social events are a way to reach older, isolated community members”

“Children and young people are key as they will be most affected. Educate them about what adults should be doing / not doing eg leaving their engines running, throwing away food, and they will sort out their adults.”

“1. Be seen to respond to community decisions. 2. Have a hopeful and exciting project across all schools in Hackney. Kids would then distribute information to many homes. Kids could suggest ideas, carry out projects (like planting trees, monitoring pollution or producing information packs) and encourage family involvement in surveys, planning decisions, etc. They could analyse LTNs (in science or geography classes) so that people understand the benefits and problems. Schools have after school clubs - there could be a borough-wide environment club with debates, projects and celebrations.”

Suggested Council actions

Respondents suggested actions the Council can take to promote community ownership such as transparency and leading by example:

“Promote plant based eating among residents. Lead by example by making council catering plant based.”

“treat climate goals as the defining part of all social policy in the borough - so it is not seen as a 'separate' issue and therefore not of relevance but show how it affects everything and why it matters so much”

“...Hackney council plays the most important role in being ambitious, setting the best practices (especially within the organisation), to set an example for the rest of the borough.”

Incentivise action

Respondents suggested that residents and stakeholders be incentivised financially and socially to take climate actions:

"I'd like to say that fostering awareness and community activism is the way but I suspect most people will only care when there's a financial implication to not caring."

"Making action plans law, businesses will only change if they have to by law"

"The Borough and especially Hackney Homes has to affirmatively incentivise tenants and resident to engage themselves in the process of greening Hackney. There is no tangible reward system to encourage tenants and residents to do so. e.g. strictly speaking, a tree or climbers have a tangible, financial calculatable value but Hackney Homes will regularly cut them or remove them instead of rewarding such growers for growing them in some way. There is no meritocratic element."

Critical of CAP

Including comments from respondents who disagreed with the draft CAP as a whole:

"By scrapping it."

"It is evident that by 'encourage' you mean force as the decision has been made and is due to be implemented with or without residents consent and/or approval. This is shameful on the local councils. Our rights are being diminished. Common sense shows that Net zero is impossible but this slogan is being pushed regardless. The actual figures for so called climate change are disputably farcical."

"By not adopting them."

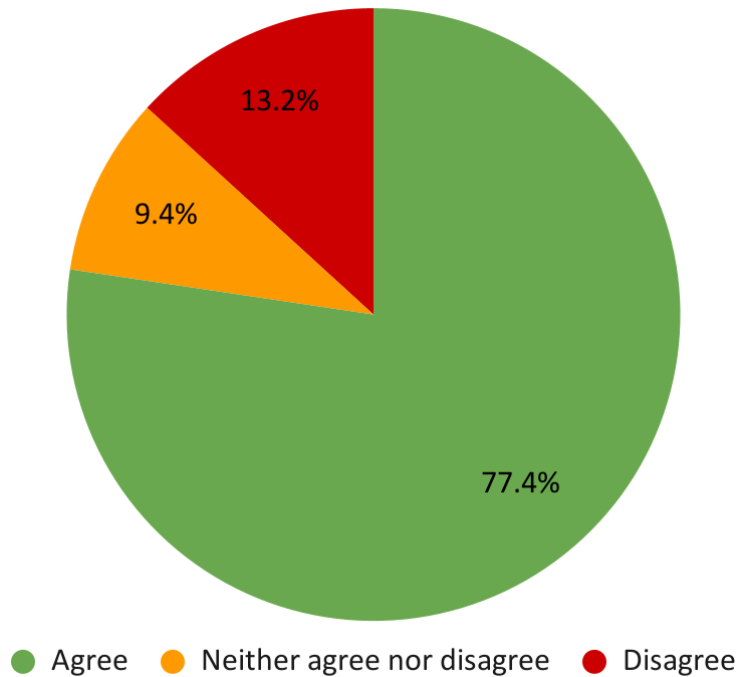
Communication & engagement with opposing views

Respondents criticised the Council for not engaging with opposition views and encouraged the Council to engage more with opposing views:

"Hackney Council currently has a well deserved reputation for being autocratic and not listening to residents. While I can understand that much of the discussion from local residents is often ideological and confrontational, I feel that the council often take an approach that is just as bad..."

"By not ignoring responses you don't like!"

Thinking about the draft Climate Action Plan as a whole, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the Climate Action Plan? (Base: 212)



The majority of respondents, just over 77%, agree with the draft Climate Action Plan as a whole (164). This is followed by neither agree nor disagree (20) and disagree (28).

Do you have any other comments on the Climate Action Plan? (Base 157)

Responses to the question were coded into the following key themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|-------|
| Positive response | 30 |
| Further engagement with community groups and disadvantaged groups is needed | 24 |
| Question of how CAP will be implemented and measured | 18 |
| CAP is not ambitious and/or detailed enough | 17 |
| Rapid action needs to be taken | 12 |
| Critical response | 12 |
| Transport comments | 12 |
| No further comments | 11 |
| Consumption comments | 7 |
| Buildings comments | 6 |
| LTN comments | 5 |
| Environmental quality comments | 4 |
| National action is needed | 4 |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Consultation feedback | 3 |
| Global action is needed | 2 |

Positive response

Respondents gave a positive response to the draft CAP. Some respondents also raised further comments:

“Great to see the council finally doing something positive which would have a long lasting impact for our environment and the residents.”

“I think it’s a big step in the right direction and if followed through by the whole of the community we will succeed in our common goal of zero emissions.”

“I normally look at these sorts of plans and go “ugh, not far enough or fast enough” - not this time. Great, ambitious plan. Makes me proud to live in Hackney. Well done everyone involved in it. Thank you.”

Further engagement with community groups and disadvantaged groups is needed

Respondents stated that further engagement with community groups to take action and implement the CAP:

“Make sure that people from ethnic minority, working class, disable [sic] backgrounds are being heard the most as these issues will affect these people from those backgrounds.”

“In order to achieve the objectives, Hackney council will need to make it easier for residents and businesses to take action, this must be done through effective engagement, education and awareness, information and resource, financial assistance, planning reform and partnering with local groups and organisations.”

“if individuals have rights, they should also have responsibilities. It’s important to bring this home to residents, workers and businesses in the Borough. We are all set to gain from the Climate Action Plan, but the public need to make an effort too. This can be fun, it can reinforce communities, it will require their commitment, but consideration and sacrifice is also necessary to live in a brilliantly climate resilient, climate-friendly borough.”

Question of how CAP will be implemented and measured

Respondents questioned how the draft CAP goals and objectives will be achieved, measured and evaluated:

“It is too general in too many places and lacks sufficient specific measurable targets. It also misses important controls specifically in relation to transport where the Council does have extreme power locally to effect change which is not being used.”

“Could be more SMART (e.g. in particular measurable), ambitions, recognise the sizable carbon debt embodied in the relative wealth of the area, and explicitly address this through progressive cost recovery for damage mitigation measures.

“The plan contains welcome intentions and ideas, but is short on details on how it will be delivered. It is after all called an action plan. We would like to see priorities, targets/milestones and timescales given for each part, as we acknowledge some of the plan can be actioned more quickly than others. Co-ordination and management is essential with dedicated officers with clear responsibilities and decision making powers. What methods of accountability and of measuring outcomes will be put in place?”

CAP is not ambitious and/or detailed enough

Respondents stated that the CAP is not ambitious enough or requires more detail:

“Overall it feels that the Action Plan is not ambitious or radical enough.”

“Generally, it is quite comprehensive and detailed. However, it is not ambitious enough in many areas, and the majority of the 3 years objectives are too loosely defined and need to be quantifiable.”

“It needs far more detailed targets in order for me to believe it is a plan that will be taken seriously.”

Rapid action needs to be taken

Respondents stated that the CAP needs to be implemented and rapid action needs to be taken:

“It needs to be done quickly.”

“The aims and direction are good, but the speed of change & action is nowhere near fast enough. There are very few actual targets in the 3yr plan it's all increase this, reduce that. Those are the right directions but should have far more ambitious and specific targets, this is a climate emergency after all!”

“Do it as quickly as you can! And keep people informed of how they can help, and what the benefits to them can be.”

Critical response

Comments included the view that Council resources are better used elsewhere, particularly in response to the cost of living crisis, the view that the Council does not take residents' views into consideration, and respondents who do not believe there is a climate emergency:

“Whilst I strongly believe we each have an individual responsibility to reduce our environmental footprint and work towards tackling the climate crisis to suggest that expensive methods introduced in isolation by Hackney council will have an overall

environmental impact that is significant enough to cause systemic change and move the UK towards net zero is misguided. The funds and support for this would be better focused on working with national legislature to look at how we as a country are able to reduce our emissions, rather than passing significant costs onto local residents to retrofit properties that have seen decades of neglect due to low local budgets. Providing facilities to residents who are impacted by the cost of living crisis and rising fuel bills, combined with tackling our boroughs overconsumption would successfully reduce our emissions and have a much greater impact day to day on residents."

"Spend money elsewhere, help your residents who are in financial difficulties because of the cost of living crisis. You are clearly clueless as to the issues happening in and around Hackney and just blindly want to incur costs to residents and businesses during times which are already hard for everyone."

"Waste of tax payers money, green washing and virtue signalling."

Transport comments

Respondents made further suggestions for goals and objectives related to transport and commented on transport related issues:

"Prioritise cycling so that even children can be safe cycling. Remove traffic"

"Need more infrastructure to reduce car use"

"If you want to people to use public transport especially, the buses, there must be a campaign to encourage people to desist from Anti-Social Behaviours ie: Loud chatting; loud telephone conversations and using the seats at foot rests."

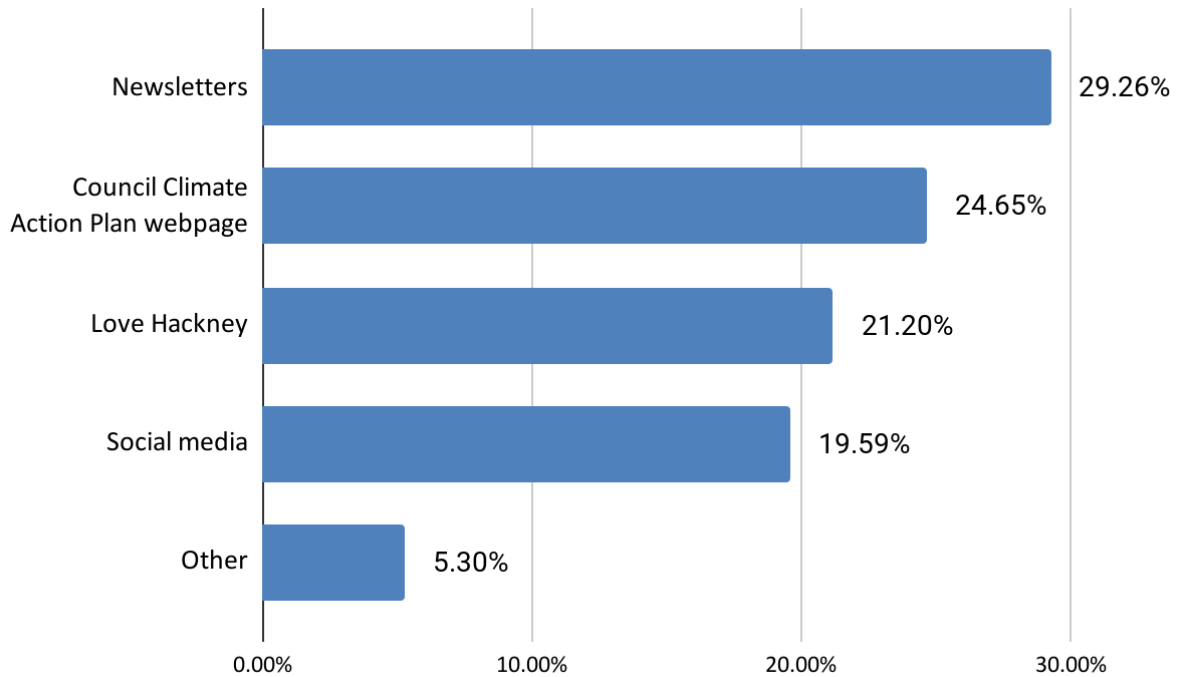
No further comments

Respondents stated that they had no further comments on the draft CAP:

"No."

"None at this point, thank you."

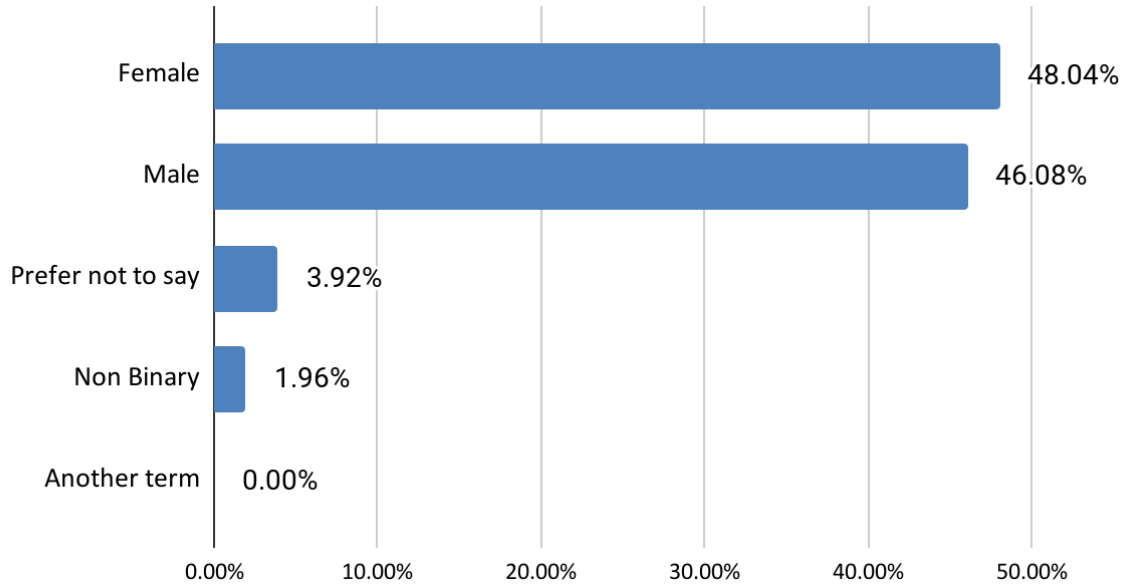
How would you like to be kept informed about the progress of the Climate Action Plan? (Base: 434)



The highest percentage of respondents, just over 29%, stated that they would like to be kept informed about the progress of the Climate Action Plan (127). This is followed by Council Climate Action Plan webpage (107), Love Hackney (92), social media (85) and other (23).

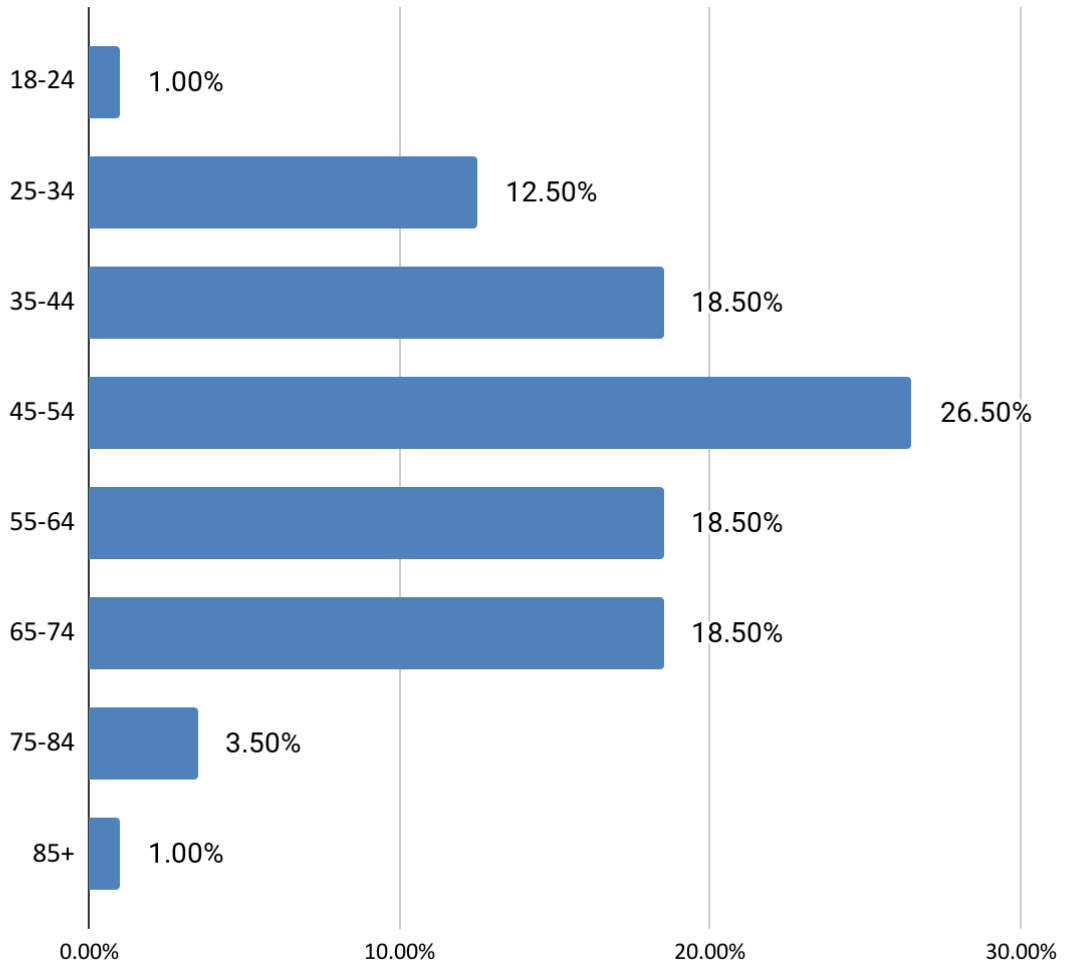
About You

Gender: Are you... (Base:



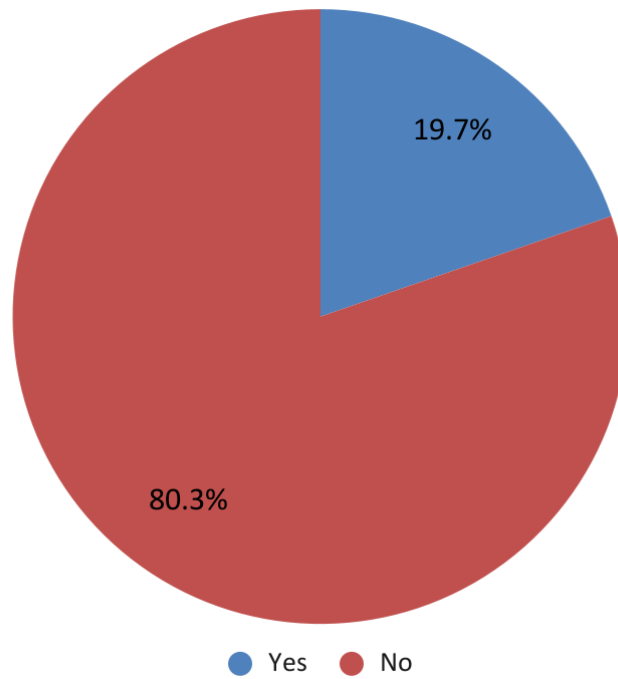
The highest percentage of respondents, just over 48%, stated that they are female (98). This is followed by male (94), prefer not to say (8) and non binary (8).

Age: what is your age group? (Base: 200)



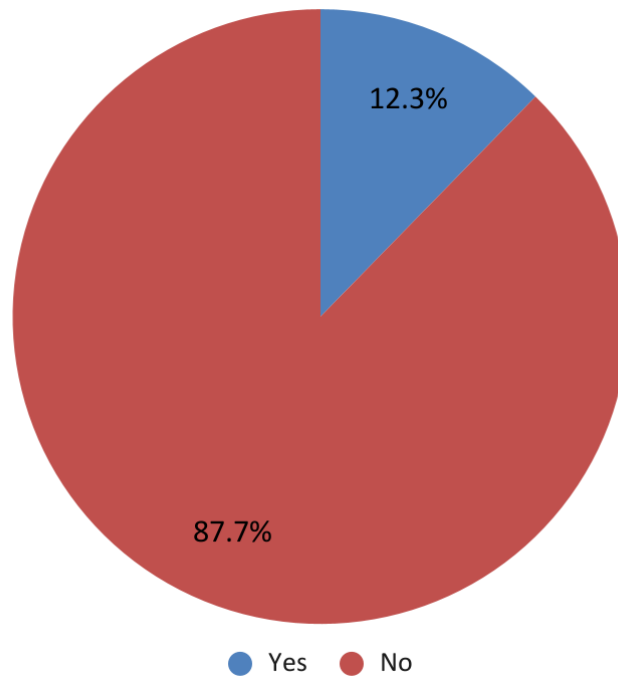
The highest percentage of respondents, just under 27%, were aged 45-55 (53). This is followed by 35-44, 55-64 and 65-74 (all 37 respondents), 25-34 (25), 75-84 (7) and 18-24 and 85+ (2).

Do you consider yourself to be disabled? (Base: 198)



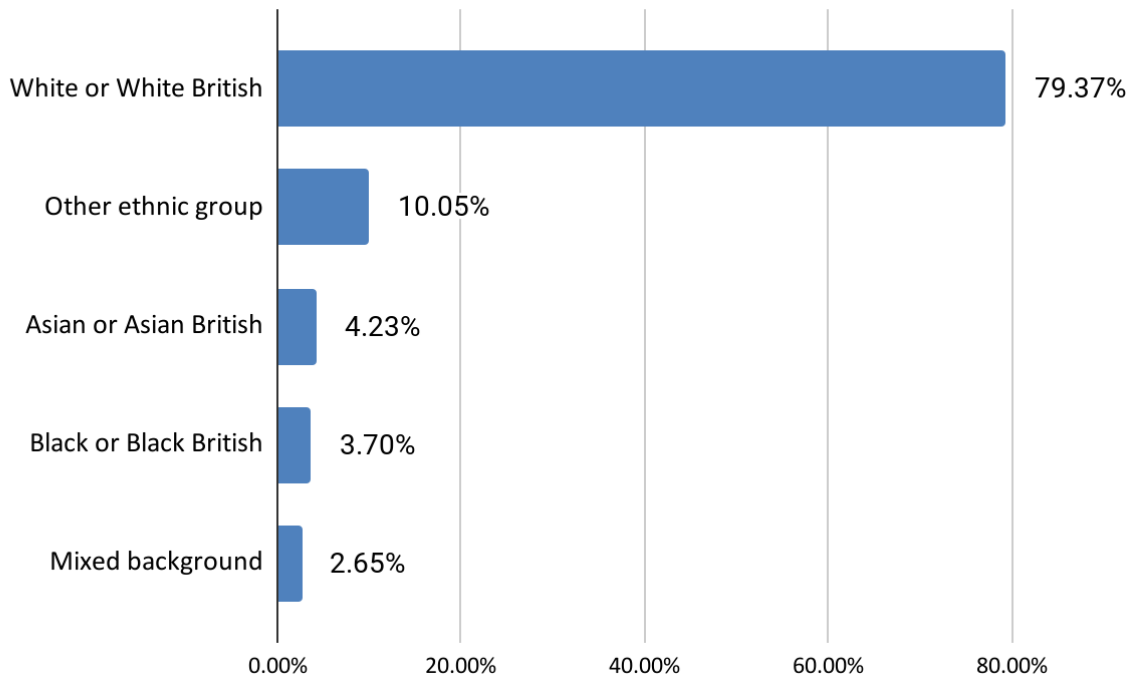
The majority of respondents, just over 80%, do not consider themselves to be disabled (159). Just under 20% of respondents stated that they are disabled (39).

Do you regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone? (Base: 195)



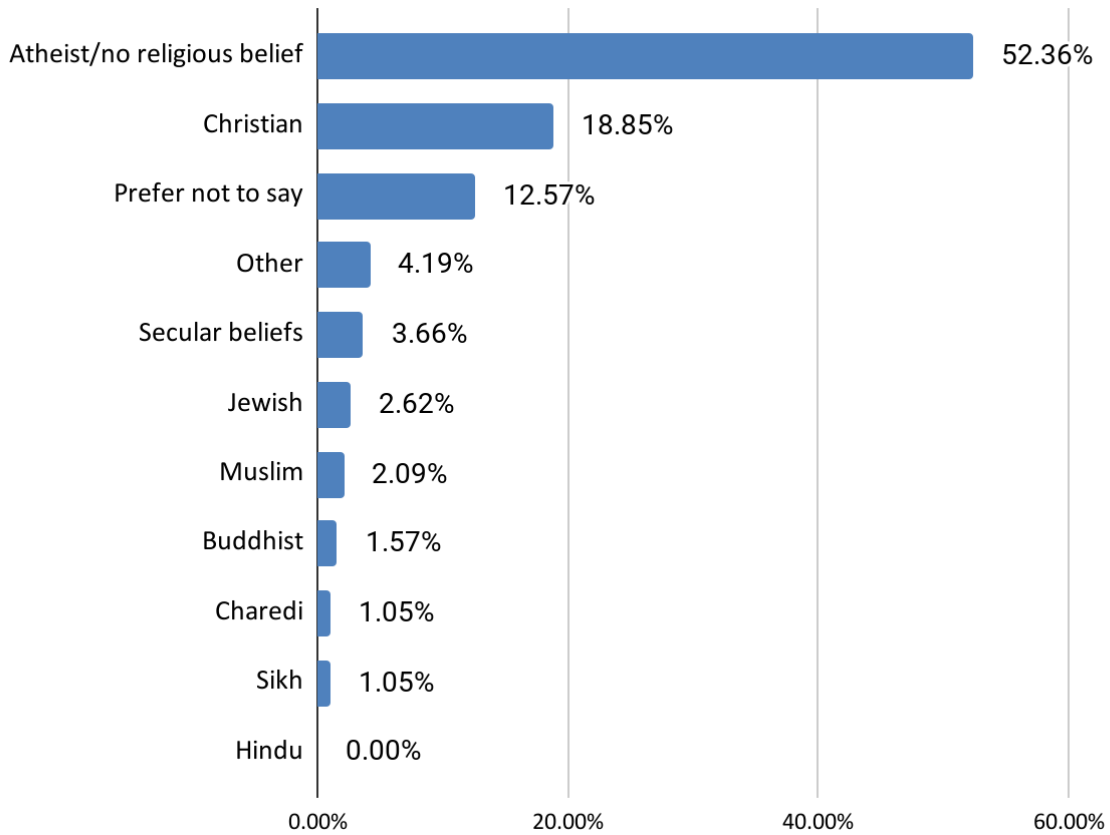
The majority of respondents, just under 88%, do not regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone (171). Just over 12% of respondents stated that they do provide caring support (24).

Ethnicity: Are you... (Base: 189)



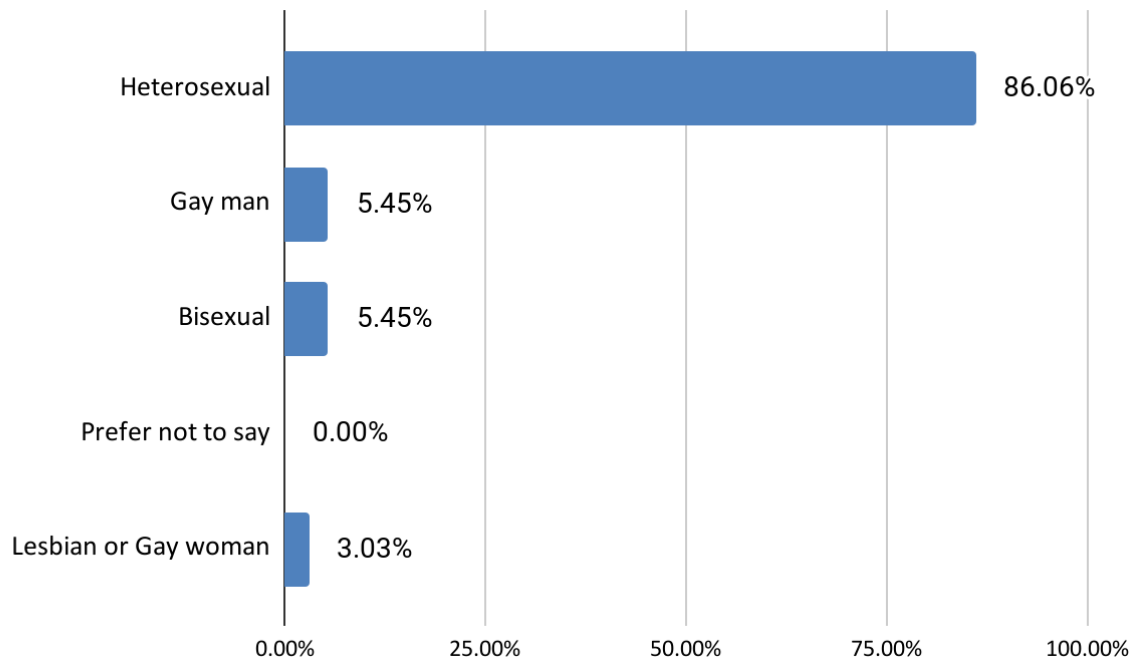
The majority of respondents, just over 79%, were White or White British (150). This is followed by other ethnic group (19), Asian or Asian British (8), Black or Black British (7) and mixed background (5).

Religion or belief: Are you or do you have... (Base: 191)



Just over half of respondents, 52.36%, stated that they are atheist/have no religious belief (100). This is followed by Christian (36), prefer not to say (24), other (8), secular beliefs (7), Jewish (5), Muslim (4), Buddhist (3), Charedi (2), Sikh (2).

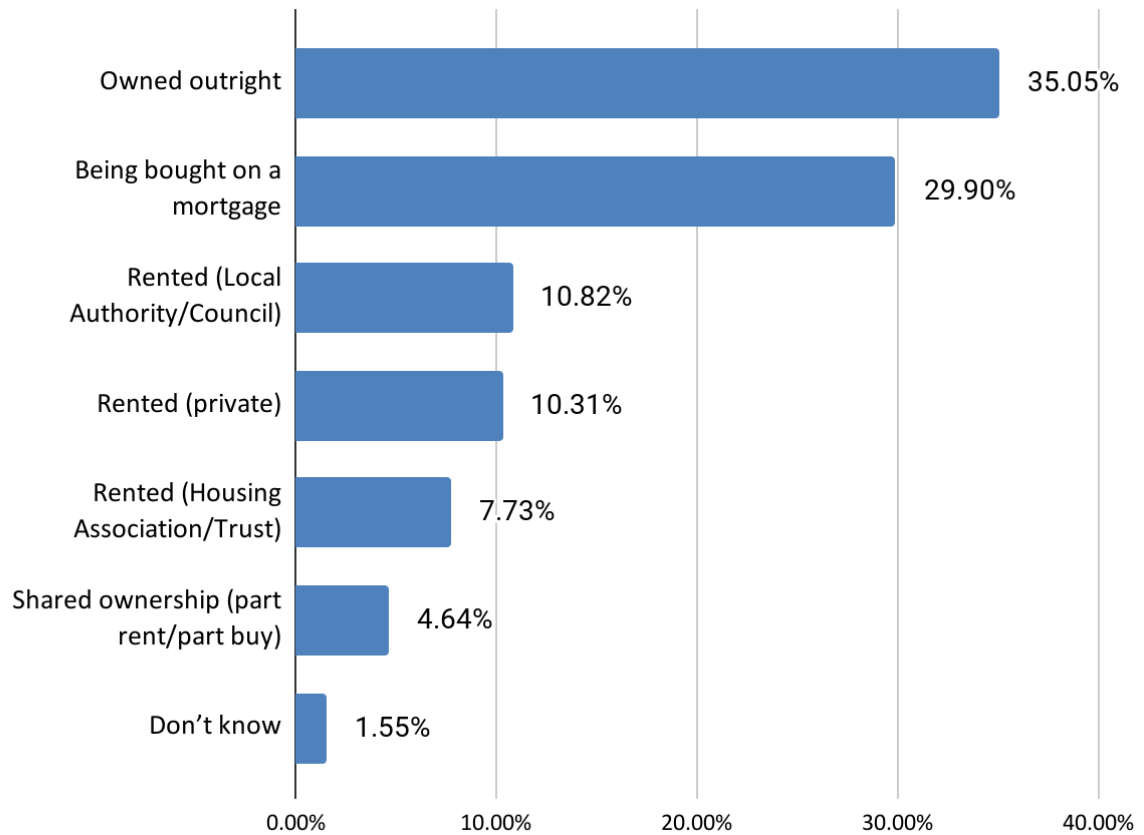
Sexual orientation: Are you... (Base: 165)



The majority of respondents, just over 86%, are heterosexual (142). This is followed by gay man (9), bisexual (9) and lesbian or gay woman (5).

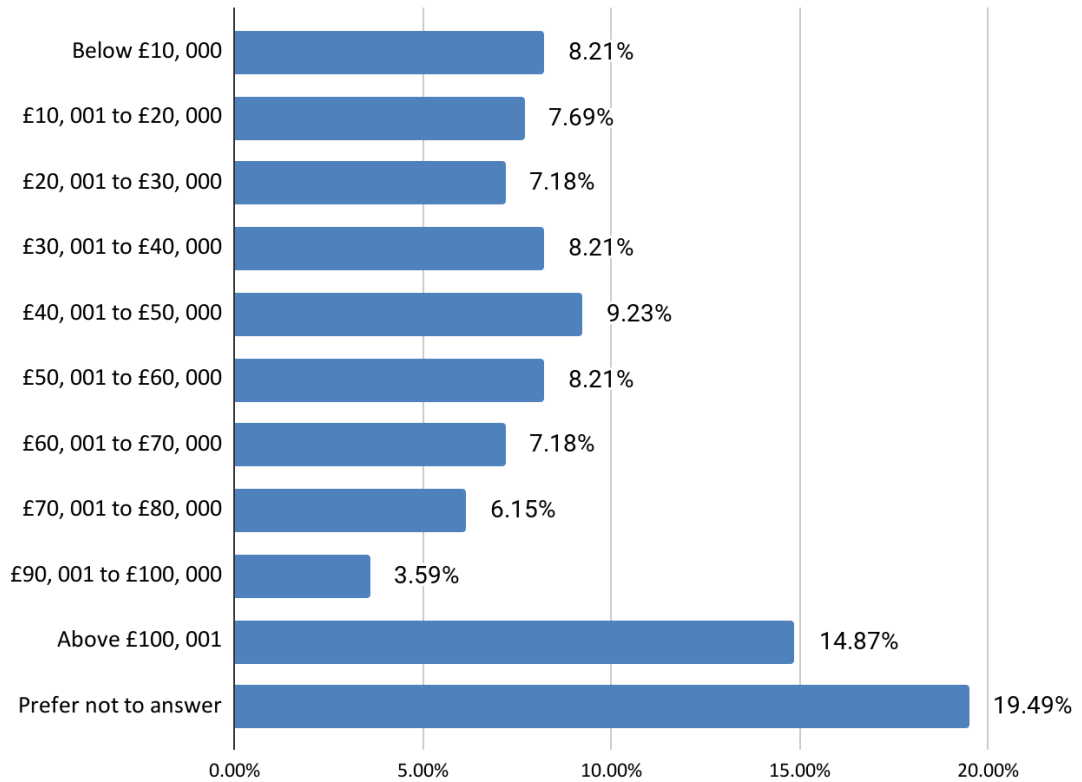
Housing Tenure: Which of the following best describes the ownership of your home?

(Base: 194)



The majority of respondents, just over 35%, owned their home outright (68). This is followed by being bought on a mortgage (58), rented (local authority/Council) (21), rented (private) (20), rented (housing association/trust) (15), shared ownership (9) and don't know (3).

Household income: Please tell us about the total annual income of your household (before tax and deductions, but including any benefits/allowances) (Base: 195)



The highest percentage of respondents, just over 19%, stated they would prefer not to answer (38). Of the respondents who answered, the highest percentage of respondents earned above £100,001 (20). This is followed by £40,001 to £50-000 (18), Below £10,000 (16), £30,001 to £40,000 (16), £50,001 to £60,000 (16), £10,001 to £20,000 (15), £20,001 to £30,000 (14), £60,001 to £70,000 (14), £70,001 to £80,000 (12) and £90,001 to £100,000 (7).

Further consultation responses

An additional 14 respondents shared their views on the consultation by email sent to consultation@hackney.gov.uk. Two organisations also submitted their comments through the consultation survey and have been included in the survey analysis above.

Of the 12 responses received by email only, six responses were submitted by organisations and six by individual residents. The comments have been shared with the project team alongside consultation survey responses for detailed review and consideration. Responses by email gave detailed feedback on the goals and objectives of the five themes in addition to recommendations relating to the Council's implementation plan which was not provided for comment as part of the consultation survey. A summary of the themes is given below.

Adaptation

Respondents from four organisations made detailed comments relating to Adaptation goals and objectives commenting on overheating and extreme heat, community gardens, ventilation, retrofit, flooding, conservation and resilient planning, green economy, community preparedness, protection of vulnerable residents, support for neighbourhood networks and business forums, tree planting and implementation plan recommendations.

Buildings

Five respondents made detailed comments relating to Buildings. Responses commented on retrofitting of estates and existing challenges such as damp, the Council's limited influence on private landlords, fuel poverty, Hackney Green Homes and Hackney Light and Power, solar panels, decarbonisation, heat pumps, and building materials. Respondents recommended applying passivhaus standards to new builds, government lobbying, providing retrofit guidance to homeowners and made implementation plan recommendations.

Transport

Four organisations offered detailed comments on Transport commenting on LTNs and carbon monitoring, accessible transport for disabled residents, access to public transport, cargo bikes, deliveries and freight traffic, safe pavements, cross-benefit with Adaptation goals, electric vehicles, schools engagement and play streets, walking and cycling, road user charging and car sharing. Respondents also raised questions of how the goals will be achieved and requested more detail in the CAP.

Consumption

Five respondents made additional comments on waste and recycling, waste incineration, food waste, local food production and growing communities, recycling reuse and repair, district heating system, single use plastic, business actions, green economy, divestment, water consumption, and fast fashion consumption. Respondents also questioned the prioritisation of consumption in comparison to other themes and made further recommendations for goals and objectives.

Environmental quality

Nine respondents made detailed comments on Environmental Quality. Comments included protection of green space, biodiversity, soil health, tree planting, air quality, water systems

and protection of water bodies, green economy, growing communities and organic food and calls for more detail on goals and objectives.

Green economy

Three respondents' comments included green economy, including circular economy, increase in jobs in Hackney, business incentives, questions about the funding of Hackney's CAP and sustainable investment and implementation plan recommendations.

Additional comments

Five respondents made additional comments on the scope for future community engagement, the need for measurable targets and goals, regular review of CAP targets, green economy, air quality, government lobbying, and detailed comments and suggested amendments to each of the five themes.

Have your say: Climate Action Plan

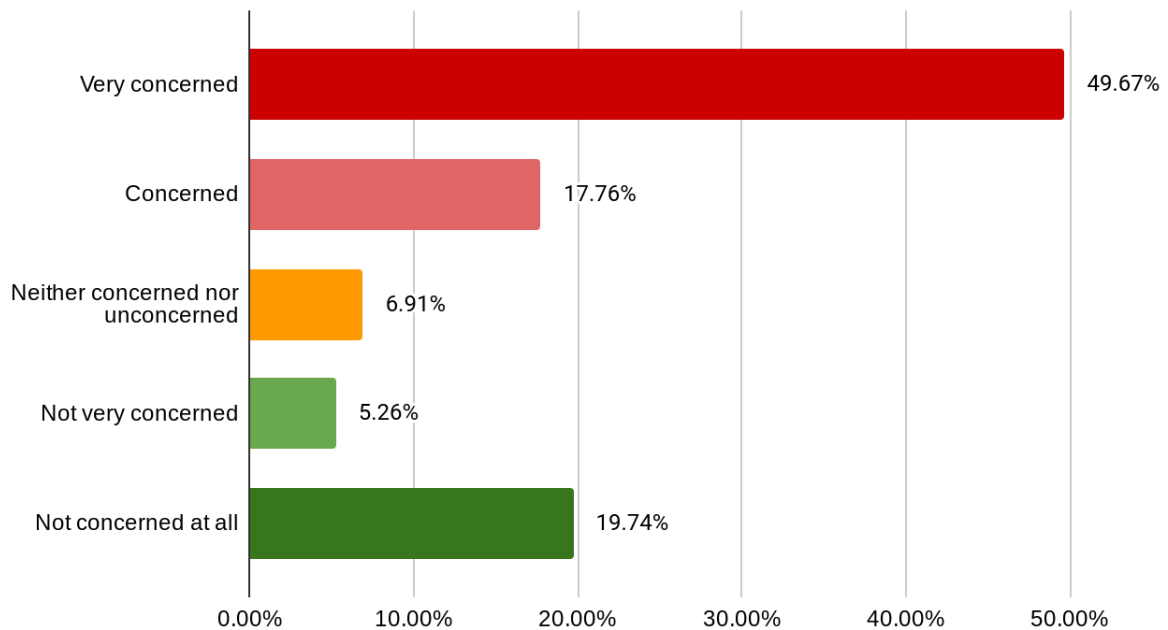
The short social media survey acted as a supplementary survey to the wider consultation and allowed respondents to quickly share their views on the five priorities in the draft CAP.

Executive summary

- **How concerned are you about the impact of climate change in Hackney? (Base: 304)**
 - The highest percentage of respondents, just over 67%, stated that they are concerned about climate change in Hackney (205).
- **Which priority from our Climate Action Plan is most important to you? (Base: 271)**
 - The highest percentage of respondents, just under 30%, stated that Buildings is the most important Climate Action Plan priority (81).

Overview

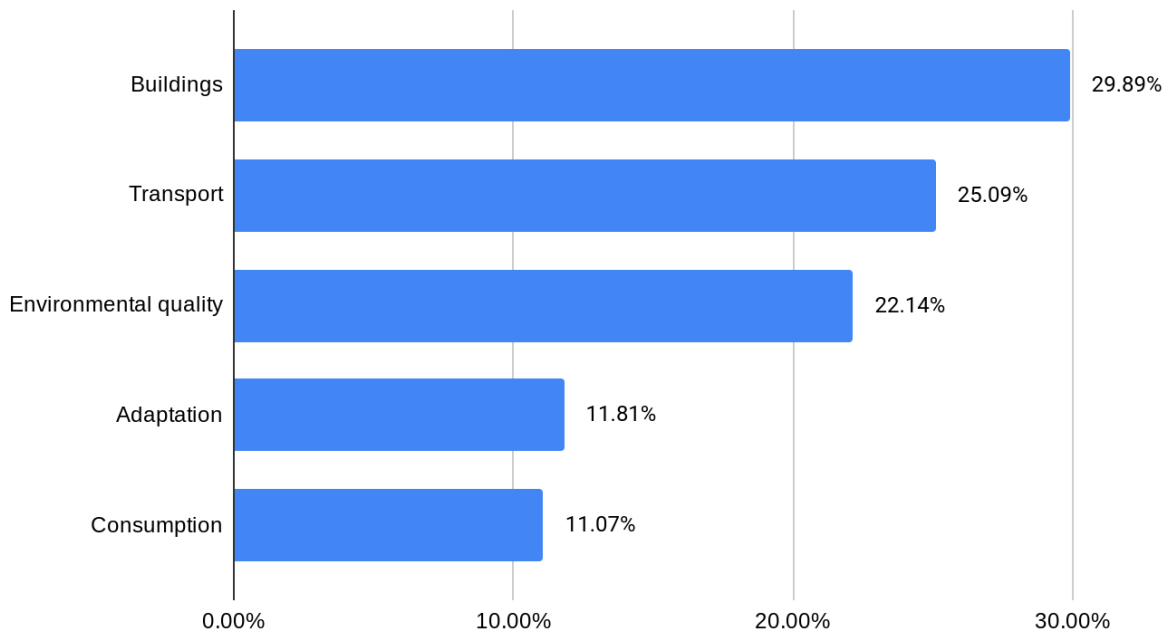
How concerned are you about the impact of climate change in Hackney? (Base: 304)



68% of respondents stated that they are concerned about climate change in Hackney (205). This figure includes respondents who are very concerned and respondents who stated that they are concerned.

The highest percentage of respondents, just under 50%, stated that they are very concerned about the impact of climate change in Hackney (151.) This is followed by concerned (54), not at all concerned (60), neither concerned nor unconcerned (7) and not very concerned (5).

Which priority from our Climate Action Plan is most important to you? (Base: 271)



The highest percentage of respondents, just under 30%, stated that Buildings is the most important Climate Action Plan priority (81). This is followed by Transport (68), Environmental Quality (60), Adaptation (32), and Consumption (30).

Having selected which priority was most important to them, respondents were directed to the impact question for that priority.

What impact do you think the Adaptation goals will have on you or your household? (Base 19)

Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|-------|
| Positive impact | 7 |
| No impact | 3 |
| Health and wellbeing & quality of life | 3 |
| Difficult to answer | 2 |
| Corporate action a priority, rather than individual | 1 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Impact of high temperatures | 1 |
| Solar panels | 1 |
| Green jobs | 1 |
| Air quality | 1 |
| Improved environment | 1 |

Positive impact

Respondents stated that the Adaptation goals would have a positive impact on their household:

“improved air quality and less traffic congestion will help with breathing difficulties”

“We will benefit from all of them if they are adopted and enacted.”

“mostly positive, we a strong supporters of the practical steps needed to take to tackle our climate emergency”

All other themes had a lower count. A full list of responses is available on request.

What impact do you think the Buildings goals will have on you or your household? (Base 66)

Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|--|--------------|
| No impact | 17 |
| Reduce carbon footprint / reduce contribution to climate change | 12 |
| Positive impact | 11 |
| Reduction in energy bills | 11 |
| Heating and insulation | 6 |
| Not sure / It depends | 5 |
| High cost | 5 |
| Question of how goals will apply to different property types and housing tenures | 4 |
| Solar panels / renewable energy | 4 |
| Energy efficiency | 3 |
| Improved living conditions / quality of life | 2 |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Other comments | 2 |
| Incentives | 1 |

No impact

Respondents stated that the goals would have no impact on their household. Comments included criticism of the Council and the view that the goals would not be implemented. Other respondents commented that the goals would have little personal impact due to their housing tenure. Some respondents had already taken action to retrofit their own homes:

"None as I already insulated my house."

"I rent from a private landlord, so probably wouldn't see any change or benefit. But this feels like the most important thing that can both have a huge impact on emissions and help vulnerable people and businesses."

"None as Council will not do what really needs attention."

Reduce carbon footprint / reduce contribution to climate change

Respondents stated that the goals would help to reduce their carbon footprint and/or reduce their contribution to climate change:

"Enable me to keep warm without emitting carbon which will contribute to global warming"

"It would enable me to change my house from running on gas to being carbon neutral, or close to it."

"Less consumption of gas and new building materials will reduce amount of carbon released in new manufacture to benefit of all. Green circular economy and reduced consumption will have similar effect"

Positive impact

Respondents stated that the goals would have a positive impact on their household and the borough:

"Positive impact."

"I am less concerned with my own household but more with all households in the borough. Making buildings more energy efficient and encouraging use of renewables and a green economy should benefit everyone."

"A huge impact -especially if the government and the council will support installing solar panels, batteries, heat pump and better insulation and ventilation overall"

Reduction in energy bills

Respondents commented that the goals would lead to a reduction in energy bills and allow residents to save money:

“Reduce emissions and bills”

“Potential to massively reduce costs and carbon emissions”

“Cheaper fuel bills”

All other themes had a lower count. A full list of responses is available on request.

What impact do you think the Transport goals will have on you or your household? (Base 60)

Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|--------------|
| Improved air quality & air pollution | 18 |
| Encourage walking and/or cycling | 12 |
| Positive impact | 10 |
| Improved quality of life & health and wellbeing | 8 |
| Improved safety | 8 |
| Little impact / no impact | 6 |
| Quieter and less noise pollution | 3 |
| Less traffic | 3 |
| Encourage uptake of electric vehicles | 3 |
| Support for LTNs | 3 |
| Doesn't go far enough | 3 |
| Against LTNs | 3 |
| Negative impact | 3 |
| Improved public transport | 2 |
| Other | 2 |

Improved air quality & air pollution

Respondents stated that the goals would improve air quality and reduce air pollution

“Better air quality - the one thing for me that could make Hackney an even better place to live.”

“Cleaner air”

“It will improve further environment and surrounding therefore better our quality of life.”

Encourage walking and/or cycling

Respondents commented that the goals would encourage walking and cycling:

“I would hope we would cycle more as a family.”

“Will appreciate walking and cycling more”

“I will drive less and walk/cycle more.”

Positive impact

Respondents stated that the goals would have a positive impact on their household:

“A positive impact”

“Positive, I have two young children, I want them to be able to walk and cycle to school, independently in the future.”

“Positive, we should go further with these aims”

All other themes had a lower count. A full list of responses is available on request.

What impact do you think the Consumption goals will have on you or your household? (Base 29)

Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|--------------|
| Adopt a plant based diet or reduce consumption of animal products | 9 |
| No impact | 5 |
| Reduce waste | 4 |
| Repair, reuse and recycle goods | 3 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Need for greater Council action | 3 |
| Reduce plastic use | 3 |
| Lifestyle changes | 3 |
| NA | 2 |
| Investment in the community and local green economy | 2 |
| Greater energy efficiency | 1 |

Adopt a plant based diet or reduce consumption of animal products

“If more people begin eating plant-based/vegan diets it will become cheaper in relation to eating other diets making a plant-based diet more accessible resulting in more people being able to make that choice which will both reduce emissions and the exploitation of non-human animals”

“Its imperative that as a society we reduce consumption of animal products. Aside from the terrible suffering animal agriculture causes its highly inefficient, uses vast swathes of land and has an unsustainable carbon footprint.” [sic]

All other themes had a lower count. A full list of responses is available on request.

What impact do you think the Environmental Quality goals will have on you or your household? (Base 56)

Comments were grouped into the following themes.

| Key theme | Count |
|---|--------------|
| Air quality | 15 |
| Improved quality of life | 9 |
| Green space | 9 |
| Improved health and wellbeing | 6 |
| No impact | 5 |
| Positive impact | 4 |
| Critique of CAP and environmental quality goals | 4 |
| Need for renewable energy | 4 |
| Littering and waste management | 4 |
| Improved environment | 3 |
| Local businesses and employment | 3 |
| Criticism of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods | 3 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Comments on woodburning fires | 3 |
| Negative impact | 3 |
| Reduction in energy costs | 2 |
| Concern about rivers | 2 |
| NA | 2 |
| Improved walking & cycling | 1 |
| Improved transport options | 1 |

Air quality

Respondents stated that improvements to air quality associated with the Environmental Quality goals would positively impact their household and families:

“Will definitely improve the quality of the air”

“I have two young children and hope these goals will help ensure clean air for them as they grow up, and give them and their friends the best chance of thriving.”

“Better air quality around where we live.”

Improved quality of life

Respondents stated that the Environmental Quality goals would improve their quality of life:

“We will have a better quality of life.”

“Happier life”

“Improve air quality and therefore the health of everyone in my household. Improve quality of living generally. Help take the heat out on the hottest days. Offered meaningful jobs to people in the neighbourhood. Provided more ways for people to connect with the natural world.”

Green space

Respondents commented on the positive impact of access to green spaces:

“To have cleaner air, and more green spaces would certainly increase the quality of life.”

“Make the area a better place to be. Even better (you do well already) green and open spaces. More wildlife for sustainable future”

“Better. Less air pollution more green spaces. More promising environment for my children and a healthier environment for them to grow up in.”

Improved health and wellbeing

Respondents commented on improvements to health and wellbeing as a result of the goals:

“Better. Less air pollution more green spaces. More promising environment for my children and a healthier environment for them to grow up in.”

“Day to day improvement in well being”

“Improve air quality and therefore the health of everyone in my household. Improve quality of living generally. Help take the heat out on the hottest days. Offered meaningful jobs to people in the neighbourhood. Provided more ways for people to connect with the natural world.”

All other themes had a lower count. A full list of responses is available on request.

Climate Action Plan focus groups

Four focus groups were delivered with resident groups underrepresented in the consultation survey responses.

Each session used the following format:

- Presentation on the five themes of the plan
- Group discussion
 - How concerned are you about climate change in Hackney?
 - Which of the themes are of most concern to you?
 - As a group, choose one theme to discuss:
 - Do you agree or disagree with the goals of the theme overall?
 - Social justice: Which groups in Hackney might be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change? How might the goals for the themes we have discussed affect those groups?
 - Do you have any other comments on the Climate Action Plan?

A total of 40 participants took part in focus group discussions.

Focus group with older adults (1)

- Four participants, recruited through the Older Citizens Committee
- 30th November 2022, online

How concerned are you about climate change in Hackney?

All four participants expressed concern about climate change in Hackney. Participants were particularly concerned about:

- The impact of climate change on the environment
- Extreme weather conditions
- The impact on future generations
- Concerns about transport and air quality
- Concerns about adequate home insulation

Which of the themes are of most concern to you?

- Three participants were concerned about **Buildings**. Participants' concerns included converting gas boilers and heaters and the impact on electricity bills, insulation, solar panels, and the challenge of retrofitting properties.
- Participants questioned how Buildings goals will be paid for and when building work and retrofitting would be completed.
- Two participants were also concerned about **Transport**. The participants were concerned about the bus network and asked how the transition to electric buses and cars would be paid for. One participant also commented on the impact of LTNs, stating that car journeys are longer resulting in more expensive taxis due to road closures.
- One participant stated that air quality (**Transport** and **Environmental Quality**) is the most important issue and commented that more needs to be done London-wide to reduce air pollution.

- One participant also commented on **Consumption** and stated that the Council should lead the way in divesting from fossil fuels.

Buildings: Do you agree or disagree with the goals overall?

- Participants had a generally positive response to the goals overall but raised concerns about the cost of transitioning to energy-efficient buildings
- **Retrofit:** Participants were primarily concerned about the cost of retrofitting and how actions would be prioritised, stating that retrofitting should be carefully planned and should prioritise insulation before installing heat pumps. Participants talked about their experiences with drafts. One participant had retrofitted their home and stated that more guidance and information should be provided to homeowners. It was also suggested that the Council should deliver retrofitting as its own company to prevent residents having to navigate multiple contractors. Participants also stated that more surveyors are needed to record the actions needed in homes. Participants were also concerned about the length of time retrofitting will take and stated that residents would need support throughout the process.
- **Solar panels:** Participants were interested in solar panels but needed more information. Participants were concerned about the cost of solar panels for residents across housing tenures. Questions included how solar panels would be paid for, whether residents would pay for installation and the impact on their social housing tenants' rent.

Transport: Do You Agree Or Disagree With The Goals Overall?

- **Cycling:** Participants stated that bike theft in Hackney limits residents' ability to cycle and commented that there are not enough safe spaces to store bikes. Participants commented that bikes are often stolen from bike garages and hangars. Additionally, the group explained that many older people don't feel safe cycling and that bikes can be heavy to carry. Other participants suggested introducing schemes to support older people to cycle such as a hire scheme for access to tricycles and electric bikes. Participants also stated that it is important to have bike lanes to ensure that pavements are safe for older people and were concerned about lack of driver awareness among cyclists.
- **Electric vehicles:** One participant stated that battery-powered electric vehicles should be mandatory for freight and delivery.
- **LTNs:** Participants stated that pedestrians and cyclists benefit from low traffic neighbourhoods.
- **Buses:** Participants commented that as bus passes cannot be used before 9am many older people are limited in the transport they can take and recommended removing the cap to promote more bus travel.
- **Accessibility:** Participants stated that accessible transport is important for disabled residents, including the need for disabled parking spaces and routes that are accessible to people with mobility issues.
- **Physical activity:** One participant suggested providing more schemes such as the New Age Games to promote physical activity among older residents.

Social Justice: Which groups in Hackney might be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change?

- Older people were the primary group identified by the participants. Participants were concerned about the impact of fuel poverty and accessible transport.
- Participants were concerned about the idea of older people being encouraged to cycle and suggested that Hackney Cyclist Group could help get older people involved in cycling.
- Participants also talked about safety particularly related to cyclists and e-scooter drivers and were concerned about reckless driving among delivery drivers in particular.

Focus group with older adults (2)

- Seven participants, recruited through the Older Citizens Committee
- 11th January 2023, Dalston C L R James Library

How concerned are you about climate change in Hackney?

All participants were concerned about the impact of climate change in and beyond Hackney.

- Three participants described themselves as very concerned about climate change. Four respondents described themselves as concerned.
- One participant was involved in green community groups. One participant stated that they were willing to take whatever action is needed to address climate change. One participant stated that they were concerned about the global impact of climate change and that the poorest countries are most affected.

Which of the themes are of most concern to you?

- Five participants were concerned about **Consumption**
- Two participants were concerned about **Environmental quality**
- Two participants were concerned about **Transport**
- One participant was concerned about **Adaptation**
- One participant was also concerned about **Buildings** and had experienced issues with repairs and was concerned about the transition away from gas.

Consumption: Do you agree or disagree with the goals overall?

- Participants talked about the **challenges** of changing consumption patterns, stating that plastic and clothing consumption is overwhelming and asked how businesses can be convinced to change their practices? Participants also stated that government support is needed.
- **Recycling, reuse and repair:** Participants had mixed levels of knowledge on what can and cannot be recycled and wanted more opportunities to reuse items. One participant gave the Fixing Factory in Camden as an example of repair shops. Other participants wanted more information on repair shops and initiatives in Hackney.
- **Food:** Participants were concerned about the promotion of unhealthy plant-based foods and wanted more focus on healthy food. However, participants stated that healthy food is more expensive. Participants suggested the Council work more closely with growing communities and provide access to subsidised healthy food. Participants also talked about the need to avoid food with high environmental and social impact like avocados and the need for education on plant-based diets.

- Participants also talked about plastic bans and wanted deposit return schemes.

Social Justice: Which groups in Hackney might be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change?

- Participants stated that Black residents are more negatively impacted. Participants talked about systemic racism, the impact of gentrification and the view that Hackney is more focused on and there are more opportunities for white residents. One participant stated that they feel invisible as a Black resident. Black participants shared their experiences of social housing and inadequate housing repairs as an example of the structural disadvantages affecting Black residents. One participant stated that they had experienced drainage issues in their Council property for 25 years.
- Other participants agreed Council repairs are a primary issue for residents.
- Older people and children were also identified as groups more likely to be impacted. Participants talked about providing food vouchers for children and the importance of nutritional, seasonal food.
- Participants also talked about the impact of LTNs on older people. One participant stated that hospital appointments have been more difficult to manage because taxis will not collect the participant from their home and journeys are longer and more expensive.

Focus group with Black and global majority residents

- 10 participants, recruited from the Hackney Matters Panel
- 17 January 2023, Hackney Town Hall

How concerned are you about climate change in Hackney?

- All participants were concerned about climate change in Hackney and globally.
- Participants commented on air pollution, transport, the resilience of buildings to extreme weather, health impacts, future generations and the role of businesses.

Which of the themes are of most concern to you?

- There was a lot of debate within the group over which theme they should discuss.
- Five participants were most concerned about **Consumption**. Participants commented that individuals have the biggest responsibility to reduce consumption carbon emissions and actions are more easy to implement and can be achieved rapidly. Participants also talked about recycling, reuse and food consumption. One participant asked why fuel consumption was included in Transport and not Consumption goals.
- Five participants were concerned about **Buildings**. Participants talked about heating, insulation, fuel poverty, challenges with mould and the need for buildings that are adaptable to hot and cold weather.
- Three participants were concerned about **Transport**. Participants talked about improving accessibility of public transport, challenges with antisocial behaviour, cost and bike schemes. One participant was critical of the Council's "aggressive" approach to cars and the promotion of electric vehicles.

- Two participants were concerned about **Adaptation**. One participant stated that the borough is not well prepared for flooding.
- One participant was concerned about **Environmental Quality**. The participant was concerned about pollution but also asked how the goals would be paid for and implemented.

Consumption: Do you agree or disagree with the goals overall?

- Participants recommended the Council give clearer instructions on what they want residents to do, for example encouraging more residents to recycle plastic.
- **Incentives:** Participants stated that incentives are the best way to promote behaviour change. Money saving was seen as a primary motivation for adopting sustainable practices.
- **Lobbying:** Participants wanted the Council to lobby supermarkets to use less plastic packaging. Participants stated that supermarkets should be more accountable for food waste and redistribution.
- **Food:** Participants stated that plant-based foods and the products promoted in supermarkets are often unhealthy. Plant-based diets were also seen as expensive, although one participant stated that chickpeas and legumes are cheap. Other participants stated that different communities have different dietary requirements and plant-based diets are not universally easy to adopt.
- **Waste and recycling:** Participants stated that it can be hard to know what can be recycled and that rinsing jars costs more due to the water use. Other participants wanted more places to recycle batteries and more clothes recycling schemes or deposit return schemes. Participants stated that Council recycling collections need improvement.
- **Education:** Participants stated that younger people are more willing to change their behaviour and that education of school children around climate change is essential. Food education was seen as particularly important in primary school. Participants wanted more education for all ages on nutrition and sustainability.
- Participants raised questions about fuel emissions as part of consumption goals and investment emissions

Social Justice: Which groups in Hackney might be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change?

- Older people, low income residents and those who cannot afford the cost of living, vulnerable residents, single parents, people with respiratory and health conditions, disabled residents and children were all identified as groups more negatively impacted.
- Participants talked about the cost of living crisis and challenges heating homes in winter, especially for those who work from home. Participants also talked about the mental health impact of cost of living and climate anxiety.

Do you have any other comments on the Climate Action Plan?

- Participants wanted further breakdown of the objectives and greater focus on investments in the CAP.
- Participants also stated that there should be more emphasis on the interconnection of the five themes and asked about the methodology of emissions calculations.

- The summary document was well received but participants emphasised that language needs to be more accessible.

Focus group with Somali women

- 19 participants
- 17 January 2023, delivered with Coffee Afrique and supported by an interpreter.

How concerned are you about climate change in Hackney?

- The participants were concerned about climate change and talked about the impact of climate change in relation to rising costs, worsening air pollution, solar panels, and health.

Which of the themes are of most concern to you?

- As a group, the participants were most interested in discussing **consumption** and commented on unhealthy food and recycling.
- Participants also expressed interest in **Buildings**, commenting on electric heating and solar panels. Participants asked for more information on the transition away from gas boilers.
- Participants also talked about the impact of LTNs and the view that LTNs have caused more traffic and noise pollution on roads (**Transport**).

Consumption: Do you agree or disagree with the goals overall?

- **Food:** Participants talked at length about the consumption goals related to food. Participants stated that plant-based food is more expensive and a plant-based diet is difficult for low income residents to adopt. Other participants stated that meat plays a central role in Somali food culture and the requirement to eat halal meat. Participants also talked about the challenge of learning new recipes. Participants wanted more education on reducing food waste at home.
- Participants also talked at length about organic food and its cost. Participants were concerned about the quality and health impact of non-organic food. Participants talked about access to organic fruit and vegetables at community markets and wanted more access to cheaper organic produce.
- **Health:** Participants were also concerned about takeaways and the impact on younger people's health. Participants stated that every street has multiple takeaways giving young people too much access to unhealthy, oily and salty foods. Participants also expressed concern about the quality of cooking oil used and reused at some takeaways. Participants wanted more healthy food in takeaways and for the businesses to be lobbied.

Social Justice: Do Climate Action Plan Goals Impact Other Groups Negatively?

- Participants identified people with health and respiratory conditions such as asthma, including children, and low income residents as groups more negatively impacted.
- Many of the participants were low income and talked about the challenges of energy prices, rising costs and stated that more support is needed for low income residents.

Do you have any other comments on the Climate Action Plan?

- Participants were active in the community garden on the estate and were happy with recycling services.
- Participants commented on the impact of the cost of living crisis and financial challenges. Participants also stated that health, access to healthy food were important priorities.
- Participants talked about the worsening impact of climate change and were concerned about the impact of climate change. One participant stated that they feel like everything is getting worse.
- Participants were supportive of actions to reduce air pollution and were supportive of installing solar panels.

Climate Action Plan drop-ins

1. Drop-ins at Hackney libraries

From 12 November to 12 December 2022, Sustainability and Environment Team delivered eight drop-in sessions at Hackney Libraries.

In total, the team approached 65 residents. 51 conversations and 14 residents were given leaflets explaining the CAP and encouraged to complete the survey. At least five paper surveys were handed out at the drop-ins.

Below is the list of sessions, including attendance.

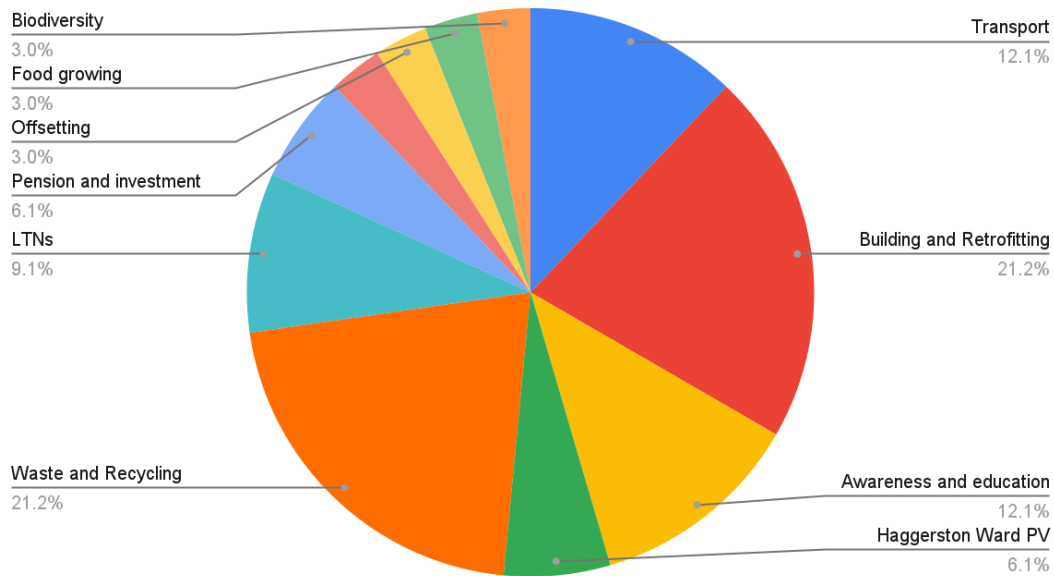
| Location | Date | Time | Attendance |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Dalston CLR James Library | Saturday 12 November | 11 am to 2 pm | 17 |
| Woodberry Down Library | Tuesday 15 November | 2 to 5 pm | 2 |
| Stamford Hill Library | Wednesday 16 November | 4.30 to 7.30 pm | 4 |
| Clapton Library | Friday 25 November | 2 to 5 pm | 4 |
| Hackney Central Library | Monday 28 November | 2 to 5 pm | 11 |
| Shoreditch Library | Saturday, 3 December | 11 am to 2 pm | 15 |
| Homerton Library | Thursday 8 December | 3.30 to 6.30 pm | 4 |
| Stoke Newington Library | Monday 12 December | 4.30 to 7.30 pm | 8 |
| Total | | | 65 |

SET team members had conversations with residents and stakeholders on:

- Building and retrofitting (7)
 - Including comments about dump and mould and phase out of boilers
- Waste and recycling (7)
- Transport (4)
 - Including electric vehicles and bike storage
- Awareness and education (4)
 - Including comments on sharing skills
- Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) (3)
- Pensions and investment (2)
- Haggerston ward photovoltaic panels (2)
- Biodiversity (1)
- Food growing (1)
- Offsetting (1)

The pie chart below shows the breakdown of questions and comments received during the sessions.

Questions and comments



Other feedback on the consultation:

- Criticism of the consultation timing (over Christmas)
- Criticism of the decision-making process and the view that residents do not have decision-making power.
- Request for presentations to be delivered, rather than drop-ins events. Participants stated that older people prefer to listen to presentations.
- Criticism of the length of the CAP and the consultation.

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| Title of Report | Officer Key Decision Wick Road - Safety and Public Realm Scheme for Noting | |
| Key Decision No | CHE S194 | |
| For Consideration By | Cabinet | |
| Meeting Date | 22 May 2023 | |
| Cabinet Member | Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transportation | |
| Classification | Open | |
| Ward(s) Affected | Hackney Wick and Homerton Wards | |
| Key Decision & Reason | Yes | Significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards |
| Implementation Date if Not Called In | 25 April 2023 | |
| Group Director | Rickardo Hyatt, Group Director for Climate Homes and Economy | |
| Lead Officer | Tyler Linton, Acting Head of Streetscene | |

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is for Cabinet to note the Delegated Powers Report (DPR) as published on the Council's website. The DPR provides details of the impact of parking along Wick Road on the ability of buses to safely pick up and drop off passengers, and the associated queuing and delays to service this causes.
- 1.2 It sets out the decision to proceed with statutory consultation and the advertising of the necessary Traffic Management Orders (TMO) to Implement no loading and unloading of vehicles at all times restrictions (double yellow lines with double blips) 15 metres on approach, and 15 metres on exit to six existing bus stops on Wick Road.
- 1.3 Subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation it would proceed with the Introduction of no loading and unloading of vehicles at all times, but

parking would still be permitted within marked bays, and disabled badge holders will be able to park on double yellow lines at least 15 metres away from the bus stops.

1.4 Cabinet is recommended to note this report.

2. **Reason(s) for decision**

2.1 To stop vehicle waiting and loading on approach and exit to bus stops on Wick Road, reducing delays and overtaking in the oncoming lane when buses are aligning to bus stops.

2.2 To make the bus journey safer and comfortable for passengers and other road users.

2.3 To Promote public transport and make buses more reliable.

3 **Delegated Powers Report**

3.1 The relevant Delegated Powers Report was first published on the Council's website on 17 April 2023, and the Monitoring Officer notified.

3.2 The full report can be found on the Council's website under Delegated powers reports as follows:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZmM0c6obe2VxygqiypjNrqxmAhzsPe-0/view>

4. **Date of decision**

4.1 The date of decision was 17 April 2023.

5. **Date of implementation (if not called in)**

5.1 The date of implementation if not called in is 25 April 2023.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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