

This document outlines the decisions taken by Cabinet on Monday, 26 June 2023.

Decisions listed below that are Key Decisions will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 clear working days unless called-in by at least 5 non-executive members in writing and submitted to the Monitoring Officer.

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Items considered in public

8	FCR S198 Capital Update and Property Disposals And Acquisitions Report	RESOLVED:
		That the scheme for Adults, Health and Integration Directorate as set out in section 11 be given approval as follows:
		Oswald Street Day Centre Ventilation Project: Resource and spend approval of £324k in 2023/24 is requested to install new mechanical ventilation fans to supply fresh air to the activity rooms and improve the energy efficiency of the building and to apply acoustic treatment to the existing kitchen fan.
		That the scheme for Finance and Corporate Resources Directorate as set out in section 11 be given approval as follows:
		Data Analytics Platform: Spend approval of £405k (£127k in 2023/24, £208k in 2024/25 and £70k in 2025/26) is requested to enable Council officers to continue further development of the Council's cloud-based data analytics platform.

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		Building Access Management System: Resource and spend approval of £450k in 2023/24 is requested to enable Council Officers to proceed with the replacement of the borough's Building Access Management System with a fit for purpose solution that satisfies the Council's IT and Accommodation strategies.
		3. To approve the updated Small Assets Fast Track Policy as set out in section 12 and in Appendix 1.
		4. That the schemes outlined in section 13 to be noted.
		REASONS FOR DECISION
		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.
		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.
		To facilitate financial management and control of the Council's finances.
9	FCR S197 2023/24 Overall Financial Position Report - March 2023	RESOLVED:
		 To agree to accept the indicative grant allocation of £2,782,430 from the Greater London Authority for universal free school meals for the academic year 2023-24 and to enter into a grant agreement with the Greater London Authority in respect of such funding.

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		2. To note the overall financial position of the Council as at March 2023 as set out in this report.
		REASONS FOR DECISION
		To facilitate financial management and control of the Council's finances and to facilitate the process of accepting the GLA grant funding for schools within Hackney and enter into a grant agreement with the GLA to accept the grant terms and conditions.
10	CHE S164 Adoption of Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Plan	RESOLVED:
		1. Approve the final Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS) attached as Appendix 1;
		2. Approve the final Local Nature Recovery Plan (LNRP) attached as Appendix 2; and
		3. Delegate authority to the Group Director for Climate, Homes and Economy to make any amendments to the Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS) and Local Nature Recovery Plan (LNRP) as necessary.
		REASONS FOR DECISION
		More than 40% of the borough's land is classified as green cover, made up of parks, open spaces, gardens and other green areas. The Council has long recognised the significant impact that green infrastructure (including quality parks and green spaces) can have on the achievement of its vision and objectives, and has therefore placed a high priority on developing and improving them over the last decade or so. The development of a Green Infrastructure Strategy also reflects an earlier manifesto commitment to develop a Public Realm Infrastructure Plan and was identified as a recommended action arising from the Local Plan

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		evidence base open space assessment work. The development of a Local Nature Recovery Plan meets the commitment to update the Council's earlier Biodiversity Action Plan, as well as new requirements under the Environment Act 2021 for the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
		Climate change is accelerating 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.
		Green infrastructure is therefore integral and essential to the Borough's resilience, meeting its future challenges and the delivery of its wider strategies, both at a community and individual level. Green infrastructure has a key role to play in:
		 Cooling the Urban Environment and Improving Air Quality: Urban green infrastructure, particularly spaces with significant tree cover and/or large water bodies, have always played an important role as places to seek respite from high temperatures and large canopied trees can significantly reduce temperatures at street level by providing shade; Encouraging Walking and Cycling: Walking and cycling more results in better physical health and is the main way Londoners get their physical activity. Green infrastructure in cities can promote alternative transportation methods - pleasant quiet or car free routes can encourage people to walk or cycle instead of driving. Parks and green spaces play an important role in providing through-routes / active travel routes;
		green spaces play an important role in providing through-routes / active travel routes; • Enhancing Biodiversity and Ecological Resilience: There are benefits in enhancing

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	Topic	natural processes for the benefit of people and wildlife, conserving the most special landscapes habitats and species; Improving Health and Wellbeing: There are significant public health benefits of green infrastructure, particularly quality parks and green spaces. The Natural Solutions to Tackling Health Inequalities (2014) report indicated that better health is related to access to green space regardless of socio-economic status; Improving Access to Nature: Access to Nature is an important aspect of the health benefits of green infrastructure – especially in relation to mental health. In a densely populated borough like Hackney it is incredibly important to provide access to nature for residents; Improving Community Cohesion: As London's and Hackney's populations grow and experience demographic changes, parks and green spaces will play a more vital role in promoting community and cultural cohesion. Parks and green spaces have always been places where people and cultures mix and build communities. Cultural festivals, events and public art bring different communities together in shared spaces, building a
		 sense of place and of shared values; Managing Flood Risk: Green infrastructure interventions play an important role in reducing flood risk by absorbing, storing or dispersing flood water; and Population and Changing Demographics: Hackney's increasing population means that the amount of green space per person is essentially reducing over time. It is vital that new areas of green space are identified to meet this growing demand, and that green space is factored into new developments.
		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. The GIS and LNRP are some of the key tools to addressing the need to adapt to a changing climate, as well as protecting and enhancing nature.
		Alongside the GIS and LNRP is the Hackney Climate Action Plan (CAP), the first holistic

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		borough-wide plan to address the climate and ecological crisis, bringing together the various strands into one overall document. Three of the five themes are particularly relevant to the beneficial role of green infrastructure and nature. • Adaptation - ensuring that we are prepared for and resilient to the impacts of the climate emergency, protecting our most vulnerable residents; • Transport - reducing emissions from the transport network, improving air quality and helping residents live active and healthy lifestyles; and • Environmental Quality - maximising the potential for biodiversity in our green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive.
		Green Infrastructure Strategy This is a time of significant change in the Borough. The forecast population growth over the next 20 years and the Council's targets set as part of the declaration of a climate emergency, will require the Borough's green infrastructure to provide an increased range of functions and benefits in the coming years. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of Hackney's green infrastructure; in particular the need for open spaces that allow people to socialise and exercise outdoors.
		The term green infrastructure describes the network of parks and green spaces, trees and woodlands, rivers and wetlands, and new green features in the urban environment such as green roofs and walls. This network can be planned, designed and managed to provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits that support more sustainable, liveable and resilient neighbourhoods. The GIS identifies: • what green infrastructure is present; • the functions it performs;
		 the benefits this provides to address local needs, as well as more strategic objectives; and how these benefits can be maintained and optimised through a more integrated approach to protecting, enhancing and creating green infrastructure.

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		Maintaining and improving green infrastructure is a cross-cutting issue. The green infrastructure network is multi-functional and provides multiple benefits that can contribute to the delivery of the statutory duties and objectives of all parts of the local authority. Therefore, Borough services that are responsible for highways, housing, health, planning and resilience, are important stakeholders and delivery partners, in addition to the service and officers responsible for the management of parks, green spaces and trees.
		In addition, a green infrastructure network almost always spans administrative boundaries; so it is necessary to understand the spatial distribution and function of a borough's strategic green infrastructure assets in relation to the strategic green infrastructure in neighbouring boroughs. Where features, such as river corridors, need to be considered at a catchment scale to fully understand flood risk for example, green infrastructure may need to be considered at a subregional scale.
		Many green infrastructure assets will not be owned or managed by the Council. Some, such as railway lines-sides, or grounds of schools or hospitals, will be owned and managed by other public bodies, or non-profit, charitable, or non-governmental organisations such as housing associations and environmental organisations. Other assets might be in private ownership including, for example, private gardens, reservoirs, and most green roofs. Although the Council may not have any direct responsibility for these assets, their existing and potential value and function in supporting the objectives of the GIS should be recognised, as appropriate, in order to influence the plans and decisions of other owners and managers of green infrastructure. In particular, many of these assets might be especially important for establishing better connections that will improve the function of the overall network.
		The vision for the GIS is: 'By 2030 Hackney will be a series of liveable neighbourhoods that are resilient to the effects of climate change, provide a biodiverse network for wildlife to thrive and support the physical

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		health and mental wellbeing of residents' The GIS identities a number of key objectives: To improve residents' health and well-being; To be more resilient to the impacts of climate change; To reduce deficiency in green open space; and To enhance biodiversity and increase ecological connectivity. It also identifies a number of strategic opportunities: Modifying existing parks and amenity green spaces: Parks have to provide a wide-variety of functions and services. Traditionally these have focused on sport, recreation and conservation of landscape heritage. But the need to address public health, climate and the ecological crisis suggests that the design and management of parks needs to shift to respond to these more contemporary demands. Further, there are over 200 housing estates within Hackney, many of which include areas of amenity green space with limited function. Maximising the range of benefits this green space provides has the potential to improve the function and overall resilience of the Borough's green infrastructure. This could include, subject to consultation with estate residents, structural planting to provide a barrier to air and noise pollution, provision of areas for community food growing, rain-gardens to store and release stormwater run-off, and wildlife gardens to improve contact with nature amongst others. Transforming streets and public realm: Streets and civic spaces comprise a considerable part of the existing public realm. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and School Streets that reduce the dominance of traffic provide an opportunity to create greener areas of the public realm. Examples include - green links and corridors, pocket parks, street trees and SuDS amongst others.
		Promoting urban greening: Regeneration and development provides an opportunity for more

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		targeted and coordinated delivery of green infrastructure that goes beyond the incremental 'site by site' greening that will be delivered as development comes forward in the rest of the Borough. This is particularly relevant especially within Opportunity Areas and parts of the Borough covered by Area Action Plans.
		Local Nature Recovery Plan
		Alongside the widely publicised climate emergency there is also an increasingly severe ecological crisis. The State of Nature (England) report published in 2019 indicates that England's biodiversity is continuing to decline.
		Conserving wildlife in urban areas is both a challenge and a necessity. A challenge because there are multiple competing land-uses in urban areas, exacerbated by high population density and intense recreational demand on existing parks and green spaces. A necessity because not only is there a moral responsibility to provide space for wildlife, but also because making space for nature has benefits for people too, not least for improving public health and mitigating the impacts of climate change.
		Hackney has a long-tradition of conserving wildlife, much of it led and delivered by community groups and volunteers. Abney Park Cemetery was declared a statutory Local Nature Reserve in 1993 and the first Hackney Biodiversity Action Plan was published in 2012. Between then and now wildlife conservation has been bolstered by a range of projects and initiatives including: changes in parks management to allow for the establishment of wildflower meadows; the creation of Woodberry Wetlands nature reserve; an extensive tree-planting programme; an increase in biodiverse green roofs and many community-led projects aiming to increase opportunities for wildlife in parks, on housing estates, along the canal, and in private gardens.
		Central Government has indicated that it requires local authorities to prepare Local Nature Recovery Strategies to help reverse biodiversity decline. In London the Greater London

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		Authority recommended that these are Local Nature Recovery Plans (alongside plans for parks and the 'urban forest'), that are delivery plans for a comprehensive and integrated Green Infrastructure Strategy. An LNRP is a component part of a wider GIS and operationalises the nature conservation, biodiversity and ecology objectives of the GIS.
		Hackney's Local Nature Recovery Plan (LNRP) in Appendix 2 has the Borough's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) as the foundation of a local nature recovery network. Their continued protection and appropriate management is a prerequisite for ensuring local nature recovery.
		 The local nature recovery network in Hackney is based on three key principles: to protect what is best; to increase connectivity between the best habitats; and to create new habitat and features for wildlife to augment existing good quality habitat and to strengthen connectivity.
		The Borough is divided into five 'nature recovery areas' which identify opportunities for projects and interventions that can help make ecological connections that protect, augment and connect the SINC network through, for example, enhancements to parks, wildlife-friendly planting in amenity green-spaces, and urban greening in new developments. The plan also identifies a range of plant and animal species that are classified as flagship species, which require particular measures to conserve and protect locally important populations, or which can be indicators of local nature recovery as the plan is implemented and they become more widespread across the Borough.
		The LNRP is not an exhaustive suite of projects and proposals. It provides a framework which will improve ecological connectivity across the Borough based on a core network of protected and well-managed SINCs. With this framework in place everyone with influence on the design and management of land (including the built environment) can make a contribution to making

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		Hackney richer in wildlife. The LNRP provides examples and links to further guidance to aid those wanting to support this ambition.
		Revising the draft GIS
		A public consultation was carried out to gather feedback on the draft GIS. The consultation opened on 10 February 2022 and ran for six weeks until 23 March 2022. The revised GIS (Appendix 1) takes account of the comments and feedback received during this process. There were high levels of support for the vision and objectives and proposals, as well as some caveats. Further, more detailed insight was provided on specific projects and recommendations, which will be used to inform and shape future delivery.
		A draft of the LNRP was appended to the public consultation for the GIS. 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 ecology. These have been reviewed as part of the GIS consultation responses.
		 A public consultation report on the draft GIS was produced in May 2022 and a revised GIS was produced subsequently, based on analysis of the consultation responses. The analysis encompassed a review of all consultation responses by external consultants, with key updates incorporated into the revised GIS. These are summarised below: Revising the vision date to 2030 from 2040 based on responses and emphasising biodiversity more significantly in the vision statement; Strengthening objectives in respect of biodiversity and nature; Minor revisions to objectives, opportunities and suggested project proposals amongst others; Reference to Biodiversity Net Gain as part of the Environment Act, which will be an added planning requirement in November 23 for new major developments and was not included in the draft GIS;

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		 Alignment of key projects with the three year Council Implementation Plan which forms part of the CAP; and Updating the sections on governance, monitoring and reporting to better reflect a focus on the LNRP.
		Forward Plan
		As part of the process of developing the draft GIS, an outline forward delivery plan was produced based on the opportunities and projects identified in the GIS. This was not included in the public consultation materials, being at an early stage of development, as well as wanting to enable a more open framed consultation process on the vision, opportunities and objectives so as to shape the content of the final delivery plan. Since then a Climate Action Plan has been developed supported by a Council Implementation Plan.
		 Key themes of the CAP align well with the objectives of the GIS and LNRP. with three particularly relevant to the beneficial role of green infrastructure and nature. Adaptation - ensuring that we are prepared for and resilient to the impacts of the climate emergency, protecting our most vulnerable residents; Transport - reducing emissions from the transport network, improving air quality and helping residents live active and healthy lifestyles; and Environmental Quality - maximising the potential for biodiversity in our green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive.
		The original outline forward plan will therefore be reviewed with internal service colleagues post adoption of the GIS/LNRP, so that key Council projects in the GIS and LNRP are captured in the Council Implementation Plan within the CAP. These will reflect where capital funding has already been committed, such as activities associated with the recent transport settlement from TfL, plus also more aspirational activities such as the potential green links identified with the GIS and further tree planting programmes in areas of need. The Council Implementation Plan

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	CHE S223 Consultation on extending Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Dog Control	will be part of the appendices of the annual report on progress with decarbonisation commitments at Full Council in July 2023, and is initially for a period of three years, but will extend annually to tie in with the CAP period up to 2030. A period of three years is to: Provide a sharper focus on the key actions needed now to maintain momentum; and Recognise that future funding settlements and levels of other external grant funding are likely to be extremely unpredictable and hence longer timeframe commitments would be at high risk. RESOLVED: 1. That Cabinet approves that a consultation exercise in relation to the renewing and varying the existing Public Spaces Protection Order which would place controls on dog foulling, dog exclusion, dogs on leads, dogs on leads where requested and on the maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person is undertaken. A copy of the proposed Order is attached to this report as Appendix 1. REASONS FOR DECISION A PSPO is a tool to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces safe from	
		activities which have a detrimental effect on the quality of their life in that area. The proposed PSPO should ensure that Hackney has an effective response to ASB in the areas covered by the PSPO.	
		PSPOs are intended to be used to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in an area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life by putting in place conditions on the use of that area that apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure people can use and enjoy public spaces safe from activities which have the requisite detrimental impact.	

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		Councils can make a PSPO after consultation with the Police and other relevant bodies and communities. The legislation sets out a two-pronged test of which a Local Authority has to be satisfied on reasonable grounds before a PSPO can be made. These conditions are as follows: (1) That the activities carried out in a public place have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; or that it is likely that they will have such an effect. (2) That the effect or the likely effect of the activities: • Is (or is likely to be) persistent or continuous. • Is (or is likely to be) unreasonable.
		Justifies the restriction imposed by the notice. A PSPO must identify the public place in question and can:
		 (a) prohibit specified things being done in that public place (b) require specified things to be done by persons carrying on specified activities in that place; or (c) do both of those things.
		The only prohibitions or requirements that may be imposed are ones that are reasonable to impose in order to prevent or reduce the risk of the detrimental effect continuing, occurring or recurring.
		Prohibitions may apply to all persons, or only to persons in specified categories, or to all persons except those in specified categories.
		The PSPO may specify the times at which it applies and the circumstances in which it applies or does not apply.

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		Unless extended, the PSPO may not have effect for more than 3 years. Breach of a PSPO without reasonable excuse is a criminal offence. The Police or a person authorised by the Council can issue fixed penalty notices, the amount of which may not be more than £100. A person can also be prosecuted for breach of a PSPO and, on conviction, the Magistrates' Court can impose a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000). In deciding to make a PSPO the Council must have particular regard to Article 10 (Right of Freedom of Expression) and Article 11 (Right of Freedom of Assembly) of the European Convention on Human Rights ('ECHR'). The Council must also carry out the necessary prior consultation, notification and publicity as prescribed by s.72 of the Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the 2014 Act). In preparing this report Officers have had regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Home Office and the Guidance on PSPOs issued by the Local Government Association.	
12	Cabinet response to the joint Children & Young People and Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission Investigation into Housing Support for Care Leavers - For Noting	RESOLVED: ving in mission In Support for That Cabinet is asked to approve the Executive response, found in Appendix 1, the Children and Young People and Living in Hackney joint Scrutiny Commission	

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		 by Hackney Council. RESOLVED: Agree the appointment of the Councillors on behalf of the Council to Outside Bodies on behalf as listed at Appendix 1. Note the appointments made by the Mayor to Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council as listed in Appendix 1. 		
13	Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies - For Noting			
14	Appointment of Local Authority Governors	RESOLVED: 1. Cabinet is recommended to approve the following nominations as set out below:		
		Governing Body	Name	Date Effective
		The Blossom Federation	James Ross	26 June 2023