



C A B I N E T

Monday, 26 February 2024 at 6.00 pm
Council Chamber, Hackney Town Hall,
London, E8 1EA

Live stream link: https://youtube.com/live/9e46zvi_y_k

Back up link: <https://youtube.com/live/WYOy6mF98kE>

Members of the Committee:

Mayor Caroline Woodley (Chair)

Councillor Anntoinette Bramble, Statutory 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 OBE, 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

Deputy Cabinet Members:

Councillor Sem Moema

Councillor Sade Etti

Dawn Carter-McDonald

Interim Chief Executive

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www.hackney.gov.uk

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Governance Officer

governance@hackney.gov.uk

Cabinet

Monday, 26 February 2024

Order of Business

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Urgent Unrestricted Business

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of Urgent Unrestricted Business which will be considered under the agenda item where they appear.

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 the **Exclusion of the Press and Public** agenda item. 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

At the time of the agenda publication, no questions or deputations have been received and approved.

6 Unrestricted Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Cabinet (Pages 9 - 24)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet held on 22 January 2024 as a correct record.

7 Unrestricted Minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee (Pages 25 - 30)

To note the minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee (CPIC) held on 8 January 2024.

- 8 **F S215 2023/24 Overall Financial Position Report - December 2023**
(Pages 31 - 66)
- 9 **F S214 Capital Update and Property Disposals and Acquisitions Report**
(Pages 67 - 84)
- 10 **F S242 2024/25 Budget and Council Tax Report** (Pages 85 - 456)
- 11 **CE S288 Children and Families Service Full Year Update Report to Members 2022/23** (Pages 457 - 538)
- 12 **CHE S246 Stamford Hill Area Action Plan** (Pages 539 - 676)
- 13 **CHE S249 Stamford Hill Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document** (Pages 677 - 740)
- 14 **CHE S290 Woodberry Down Phase 4 Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)**
(Pages 741 - 842)
- 15 **F S296 Community Municipal Investment - Green Loan Issuance** (Pages 843 - 858)
- 16 **CHE S221 Consolidation Of Historic Smoke Control Orders And Public Consultation** (Pages 859 - 892)
- 17 **F S252 Chalkhill Partners - Temporary Accommodation Acquisition and Lease Project** (Pages 893 - 928)
- 18 **AHI S299 Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2024- 2029** (Pages 929 - 1052)
- 19 **CHE S303 Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Control** (Pages 1053 - 1342)
- 20 **CED S272 Equality Plan - Final Draft** (Pages 1343 - 1462)
- 21 **Nominations to Outside Bodies and Updated Executive Committee Membership** (Pages 1463 - 1466)
- 22 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Note from the Governance Team Leader:

Items 23 - 26 allow for the consideration of exempt information.

Proposed resolution:

That the press and public be excluded during discussion of the remaining items on the agenda, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 23 CHE S290 Woodberry Down Phase 4 Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)
- Exempt Appendix (Pages 1467 - 1600)**
- 24 F S296 Community Municipal Investment - Green Loan Issuance -
Exempt Appendix (Pages 1601 - 1622)**
- 25 F S252 Chalkhill Partners - Temporary Accommodation Acquisition and
Lease Project - Exempt Appendix (Pages 1623 - 1628)**
- 26 Urgent Exempt Business**

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of Urgent Exempt Business

Public Attendance

The Town Hall is open. Information on forthcoming Council meetings can be obtained from the Town Hall Reception.

Members of the public and representatives of the press are entitled to attend Council meetings and remain and hear discussions on matters within the public part of the meeting. They are not, however, entitled to participate in any discussions. Council meetings can also be observed via the live-stream facility, the link for which appears on the agenda front sheet of each committee meeting.

On occasions part of the meeting may be held in private and will not be open to the public. This is if an item being considered is likely to lead to the disclosure of exempt or confidential information in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Reasons for exemption will be specified for each respective agenda item.

For further information, including public participation, please visit our website <https://hackney.gov.uk/menu#get-involved-council-decisions> or contact: governance@hackney.gov.uk

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.



DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET MONDAY, 22 JANUARY 2024

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, HACKNEY TOWN HALL,
MARE STREET, LONDON, E8 1EA

- Councillors Present: **Mayor Caroline Woodley in the Chair**
- Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble (Vice-Chair),
Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Mete Coban,
Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas (Part),
Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Claydon McKenzie,
Cllr Guy Nicholson and Cllr Carole Williams (Part)**
- Apologies: **Cllr Sem Moema**
- Officers in Attendance: **Mark Agnew, Governance Officer
Dawn Carter-McDonald, Interim Chief Executive
Sandra Farquharson, Director of Human Resources
and Organisational Development
Louise Humphreys, Acting Director of Legal,
Democratic & Electoral Services
Rickardo Hyatt, Group Director Neighbourhoods &
Housing
Gerry McCarthy, Head of Community Safety,
Enforcement & Business Regulation
Tessa Mitchell, Team Leader, Governance Services
Jackie Moylan, Interim Group Director, Finance
Donna Thomas, Assistant Director, Early Years,
Early Help & Well-being
Joe Willson, Interim Assistant Director, SEND and
Inclusion**

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Moema, and Cllr Fajana-Thomas confirmed she would join the meeting late.

2 Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 In relation to agenda item 15, CED S294 Hackney a Place for Everyone – Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme 2024/25, Deputy Mayor Bramble confirmed they were a trustee of Hackney Playbus; Cllr Coban confirmed they were a member of the BADU advisory board; Cllr Kennedy confirmed they were a member of the London Community Credit Union and Hackney Foodbank; Cllr Fajana-Thomas also confirmed their membership of the London Community Credit Union; and, Cllr Williams confirmed they were a trustee of Shoreditch Trust.

3 Urgent Unrestricted Business

3.1 There was no urgent business for consideration.

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

4.1 No representations were received.

5 Questions/Deputations

5.1 No questions were received.

6 Unrestricted Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Cabinet

RESOLVED: To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet held on 11 December 2023 as a correct record.

7 Unrestricted Minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee

RESOLVED: To note the minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee (CPIC) held on 4 December 2023.

8 F S213 2023/24 Overall Financial Position Report - November 2023

8.1 Mayor Caroline Woodley provided context for the report and highlighted that the Government had again failed to provide assistance to Local Authorities, but that both herself and Cllr Robert Chapman, Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service, had recently written to Ministers lobbying for changes to the Local Government Finance Settlement.

8.2 Introducing the report, Cllr Chapman highlighted that the overspend in the current year had increased to £11.3m, with the recent increase due to additional pressures in Adult Social Care. Cllr Chapman confirmed that there would be difficult decisions that would need to be made as a result of the lack of support from the Government, which had seen a real term decrease of £150m per year since 2010. However, as long as the Council was able to continue to address these issues they would avoid having to make emergency recommendations like other Local Authorities were having to do.

Cllr Williams joined the meeting after the start of this agenda item so was unable to vote on the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the savings set out at paragraph 2.9 of this report.**
- 2. To note the overall financial position of the Council as at November 2023 as set out in this report.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

To facilitate financial management and control of the Council's finances and to approve the savings schemes.

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

This budget monitoring report is primarily an update on the Council's financial position.

9 F S212 Capital Update and Property Disposals And Acquisitions Report

- 9.1 Mayor Woodley noted that despite financial pressures the Council was still able to invest into the Borough, and welcomed the proposed funding for Hackney Central Library, the Carnival, Discover Young Hackney, Hackney Circle, the Windrush programme, Hackney Pride 365, the Black History season, and the upgrading of IT systems.
- 9.2 Cllr Chapman spoke of the investment into the Mosaic IT system, which was a vital part of the Council's management of both adult and children's social care, and that the investment into Hackney Central Library would facilitate better use by the community and by partners.
- 9.3 Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture, welcomed the confirmation that Hackney Carnival would happen for the first time in four years.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the scheme for Finance and Corporate Resources Directorate as set out in section 11 be given approval as follows:**

Mosaic ICT System Development Strategy: Resource and spend approval of **£1,257k (£571k in 2024/25, £481k in 2025/26 and £205k in 2026/27)** is requested to enable Council Officers to progress with the transformation development work on the Mosaic ICT System.

- 2. That the s106 & CIL Capital funded scheme summarised below and set out in section 11 be approved:**

S106	2024/25 £'000
Capital	425
Total S106 & CIL Capital for Approval	425

- 3. That the CIL Revenue summarised below and set out in section 11 be approved:**

CIL	2024/25 £'000
Revenue	500
Total CIL Revenue for Approval	500

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 January 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

None.

10 F S241 2024/25 Council Taxbase and Local Business Rates Income Report

10.1 Mayor Woodley thanked Officers for their work in preparing this report, which would provide the framework to the Council's budget and Council Tax in the next financial year

10.3 Introducing the report, Cllr Chapman confirmed that the report laid out what the Council expected to collect in relation to both Council Tax and Business Rates in the next year, and noted that there had been a small, but steady, improvement in collection rates. Cllr Chapman also highlighted that the report was seeking to amend the policy on empty homes, to move the point when the empty homes premium becomes payable from 2 years to 1 year, and was also giving notice that the Council intended to apply a premium on second homes from 2025/26.

10.3 Following the results of a recorded vote, as set out below, the recommendations were agreed.

For: (8 Members) Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cllr Chapman, Cllr Coban, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr McKenzie, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Williams, and Mayor Woodley.

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Cllr Fajana-Thomas joined the meeting after the start of this agenda item so was unable to vote on the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

1. **Recommend to Council that, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Hackney Council as its Council Tax Base for 2024/25 shall be 77,766.9 Band D equivalent properties adjusted for non-collection. This represents an estimated collection rate of 93.5%.**

2. **Recommend to Council that in accordance with The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 Hackney's non-domestic rating income for 2024/25 is £179,559,273 subject to verification by the Academy (our Revenues Software supplier) software release. This comprises three elements.**

- **£66,209,106 which is payable in agreed instalments to the Greater London Authority**

- **£54,298,802 which is retained by Hackney Council and included as part of its resources when calculating the 2024/24 Council Tax requirement.**
 - **£59,051,365 which is payable in agreed instalments to Central Government**
- 3. To note that changes to the current CTRS scheme in 2024/25 were agreed by Cabinet in December 2023.**
 - 4. Recommend to Council that it approves a proposal to levy a council tax premium equal to a 100% of the Council tax charge in 2024/25 on any liable property which is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a continuous period of at least one year.**
 - 5. Recommend to Council that we signal our intent prior to 1st April 2024 that we will levy second homes premium from 1st April 2025.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 January 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The requirement to calculate the Council Tax base and business rates has been laid down by Statute. As such, there are no alternatives to be considered.

11 CE S293 Children's Centres Childcare Consultation

- 11.1 Mayor Woodley introduced the report by thanking colleagues across the Council for their work progressing this work, which included broadening 4 children's centres into Children and Family Hubs, and undertaking a Commission into affordable childcare to best understand how the children's centre network operated and how best to make it sustainable. There was a commitment to maintaining as much of the network as possible.
- 11.2 The Mayor also noted that the independent financial review had raised some difficult questions, especially in the context of increasingly challenging financial considerations across the Council. The sustainability of early years provision continued to be threatened by the rising childcare delivery costs, as well as the challenges of finding sufficient staff, all while Local Authorities continued to struggle with insufficient central funding. The Mayor confirmed that universal services for babies in the first 1001 days would remain a focus of the Hubs, and support would be put in place for families with children aged 0-19 as part of an integrated system of support.
- 11.3 Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities, asked about the timing of the publication of the papers and the Mayor confirmed that the delay of publication, as a result of the Cazenove By-election, had been publicised and that the proposed report had been on the Forward Plan since November 2023. Delaying publication by a month might

have threatened the amount of time that the Council could dedicate to the consultation from the 12 weeks that were proposed.

RESOLVED:

Cabinet is recommended to agree that:

- 1. A 12 week statutory consultation and engagement period on the restructuring of early education and childcare provision delivered by the children's centres funded by the Council to deliver subsidised childcare, as a means to achieving greater efficiency. The consultation is scheduled to commence on 31 January to 24 April 2024.**
- 2. Following the conclusion of the consultation, to consider the results of the consultation and recommendations on the restructuring of early education and childcare provision.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 January 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The option to significantly increase fees to recover a greater portion of expenditure, if implemented, may discourage families from accessing the children's centre provision, and therefore have a negative impact on occupancy. The provision may also become affordable to higher income families at the exclusion of lower income families. We have seen a reduction in higher income families since introducing the new fee bands and post Covid. For this reason, this option is not being acted on as suggested. Instead, annual increases to nursery fees will continue to be subject to inflation and in doing so will continue to significantly taper the subsidy to higher fee bands.

Opportunities identified during the review in collaboration with a stakeholder reference group to test and refine 3 levers to reduce expenditure, increase income and refine the model are set out in the executive summary of the E&Y Report: Appendix 1, attached to the exempt appendices section of this report.

As part of the SEND Strategy 2022-25, and the Early Years Strategy 2021-26, one centre in the north of the borough is in scope to be re-provisioned by 2025 into an Additional Resource Provision (ARP) to support children with complex needs. Respondents to the recent 2023 Children and Family Hubs consultation commented on SEND provision and support needed for children and their families. The intention is to align the ARP with best SEND practice in accordance with the requirements of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and replace subsidised childcare places with term time funded 15 and 30 hours Early Years Entitlement places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds with additional needs, alongside mainstream children.

12 CE S258 Hackney Home to School Travel Policy

- 12.1 Introducing the report, The Mayor confirmed that Hackney's SEND Strategy for 2022-2025 set out the Council's vision to provide an excellent, inclusive and equitable local experience for all Hackney children and young people with

special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and that all young people and children should be able to access the right support at the right time and be able to travel easily to an inclusive local school. No child should be prevented from accessing education because they could not get to school. The proposed consultation would help the Council find out about current travel arrangements and develop an overall home to school travel policy for Hackney that is clear, and which promotes sustainable and independent forms of travel.

- 12.2 Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care, welcomed the proposed policy which she believed would help meet the aspirations of the Council to facilitate the independence of children and young people.

RESOLVED:

It is recommended that Cabinet approve a consultation on a new home to school travel policy for Hackney during the spring term of 2024.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 January 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No other options were considered.

13 F S243 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2023/24 including Tenants Rents and Service Charges

- 13.1 Mayor Woodley regretted that as a result of underfunding by the Government the Council would have to increase rent for Council tenants in order to keep delivering services that residents relied on. In response to the challenges of the age and condition of the Council's housing stock, more would be invested into repairs, retrofit, and advice and support for residents.
- 13.2 Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation, introduced the report and confirmed that the Council was still feeling the impact of inflation, and many of the Council's residents were still feeling the impact of the continued cost of living crisis. Despite the proposed increases in rent, Hackney's rents would still remain amongst the lowest in London and would compare favourably with rents charged by Housing Associations. In addition, the Council remained committed to assisting residents who faced financial hardships.
- 13.3 Mayor Woodley, Deputy Mayor Bramble, and Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, spoke in support of the report, welcoming the expansion of the DLO service, the improvement in the response to issues related to mould and damp, and Cllr McKenzie's support with residents' casework.

RESOLVED:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. To approve the HRA budget proposals as set out in Section 6 and Appendix 1.**
- 2. To approve the increase in rent of 7.7% in line with the Social Housing Regulator's rent ceiling and agree that rents will increase on average by £8.91 from £115.68 per week to £124.59 per week with effect from Monday 1st April 2024.**
- 3. To approve the increase in HRA fees and charges as set out in Appendix 2.**
- 4. To approve the increase in tenant service charges as set out in paragraph 6.14; and the service charges for the Concierge service as set out in paragraph 6.16.**
- 5. To approve the increase in Travellers charges at 7.7% as set out in paragraph 6.21.**
- 6. To approve the increase in Shared Ownership rent at 7.7% as set out in paragraph 6.22.**
- 7. To delegate to the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Resident Participation and Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Services the setting of communal heating charges to reflect the unit costs of utilities.**
- 8. To agree the Housing Capital Programme budget as set out in paragraph 6.33 to be included in the overall Council Capital budget for approval as part of the Council Budget and Council Tax Setting Report to be approved at February 2024 Cabinet.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 January 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The HRA covers all income and expenditure relating to the portfolio of housing stock owned by the Council. It is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to be ring-fenced from the Council's General Fund. The legislation specifies that only expenditure relating to the Council's landlord role can be charged to the HRA and, by extension, funded by the rents charged to tenants. The Council has a legal duty to ensure that the account remains solvent and to prepare a long-term business plan annually that keeps this under regular review.

Preparing the 30-year HRA Business Plan involves a long-term assessment of the funding needed to deliver landlord duties alongside wider strategic housing objectives. This involves detailed modelling of operating resource requirements, capital

investment plans and external funding streams against wider environmental factors such as macroeconomic assumptions and potential legislative changes.

The 2024/25 budget has been built from the 30 Year HRA Business Plan and reviewing the base budget, including current forecasts of items of essential expenditure, maintenance and investment to preserve the housing service and its assets.

Alternative rent increases were considered in setting the budget, but any reduction to the rent rise as set by the Regulator of Social Housing in the Rent Standard would result in additional savings that would impact on services to tenants, and substantial savings for the Government in the subsidy of Housing Benefit. A reduction in income would also have a long term impact on future rent levels and income and the ability to deliver front line services and invest in the Housing stock.

14 CHE S278 Draft Future Shoreditch Area Action Plan Public Consultation (Regulation 18)

- 14.1 The Mayor highlighted the increased popularity of Shoreditch as a cultural and economic destination, but that as a result the Council needed to ensure that its success did not damage its character for local residents and businesses.
- 14.2 Introducing the report, Cllr Guy Nicholson, Deputy Mayor for Delivery, Inclusive Economy and Regeneration, discussed the background to the development of the draft Area Action Plan, which reflected on the changes that had taken place in Shoreditch over the last few years, as well as looked forward to the area's future. The consultation would provide a further opportunity for members of the community to familiarise themselves with the draft plan and help establish a direction of travel.
- 14.3 Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services, spoke in support, discussed the Hackney Night Time Economy, and welcomed the consultation.

RESOLVED:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. Approve the draft Future Shoreditch Area Action Plan, including the Direction of Travel document (Appendix 2), for public consultation.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Group Director of Climate Homes and Economy to make minor changes ahead of consultation.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 January 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Consultation on a draft Future Shoreditch Area Action Plan is required to comply with Government regulations.

The alternative was to move onto a Regulation 19 consultation. This was considered to not provide enough opportunity for communities to feedback on the plan before adoption.

15 CED S294 Hackney a Place for Everyone – Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme 2024/25

- 15.1 The Mayor celebrated the important role that voluntary and community sector organisations (VCS) played in the Borough, the achievements that could be seen throughout Hackney, and that the Council was able to continue to offer support to the VCS to help the Council do more and reach more residents.
- 15.1 Cllr Kennedy also welcomed the support that the proposed £2.5m grants programme, which was now in its third year, would offer Hackney's VCS. Cllr Kennedy provided Cabinet with details of the specific grants in the programme and highlighted the proposed use of £65k to undertake a council wide review of VCS investment, as it was unlikely that the Council could be as generous in future years.
- 15.3 Deputy Mayor Bramble thanked Cllr Kennedy and Officers for their work on the grants programme, especially in relation to the development of grants related to children and young people.

RESOLVED:

Cabinet is recommended to :-

- 1. Agree the timetable for the Hackney Voluntary and Community Sector Open Grants Programme for 2024/25**
- 2. Agree that the following funding streams can be launched through the programme:**
 - **Project Grants for up to £20,000 for one or two years from April 2024.**
 - **Community Chest grants for up to £1,000 for one year for short term projects or one-off activities from April 2024 (with four grant rounds spread throughout the year)**
 - **Children and Young people activity based grants of up to £20,000 over one year totalling £225,000 from April 2024.**
- 3. Agree the second year of funding of advice grants as set out in Appendix one, totalling £922,500.**
- 4. Note that £77,826 remains set aside to meet some of the identified gaps in provision and provide additional capacity to the advice system.**
- 5. Agree one year funding for Specialist grants totalling £719,066 as set out in Appendix One.**

- 6. Agree in regards to Community Infrastructure grants to award a third year of funding (of a total of three) for 20 Community Infrastructure organisations at £19,800 each per annum and a second year of funding (of a total of two) for four community infrastructure organisations at £19,800 each.**
- 7. Note the carry over of £25,000 development funding for Community Infrastructure that can be deployed to support development and capacity building to enable gaps in geography or community to be addressed.**
- 8. To continue to set aside £200,000 of the grant programme budget provision for financial intervention for organisations at risk of closure and delegate authority to approve grants to the Head of Policy and Strategic Delivery in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, adult social care, voluntary sector and leisure.**
- 9. Agree to use £65,000 of the grant program reserves to increase organisational capacity in order to undertake a council wide review of our investment in the VCS**
- 10. Agree to contribute to the London borough's grant scheme administered by London Councils 2024/25 and note that the contribution will be in the region of £208,093**
- 11. To delegate authority to approve the Project Grants 2024/25 including Community Chest, Physical Activity and Children and Young People's Grants, as well as the deployment of resources to address and/or meet any gaps and capacity in Advice Services or Community Infrastructure grants, to the Head of Policy and Strategic Delivery in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, adult social care, voluntary sector and leisure, and the Portfolio Holder for education, young people and children's social care**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 January 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Given the budgetary pressures facing the Council the future of the VCS Grants Programme is regularly reviewed. However, consideration has been given to the reductions in public spending through welfare cuts and reduced grants to local government which can lead to increased demands upon the VCS. The unique position of the VCS to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents as well as its ability to deliver added value e.g. through inward investment and volunteering necessitates a grant programme that ensures that the sector can continue to thrive and build resilience to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic and in the face of further budget reductions.

Whilst procurement resources the VCS, the investment through the Council's grants programme helps to maintain a thriving third sector and a wide range of suppliers. Funding the sector through grants ensures that it can identify new needs and new

ideas and innovate and test new solutions. It enables added value activity that complements direct or procured service delivery and can fund open universal activity. The sector is also able to use grant funding to respond to specific challenges in regards to community cohesion by providing grassroots community based activity that builds cohesion and community action and the support that is needed by our most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents.

16 F S279 Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap 2023

- 16.1 Confirming Hackney's commitment to being an anti-racist Council, the Mayor also confirmed the commitment to lead on transparency which is why, as well as the statutory gender pay gap report, the Council also published an ethnicity pay gap report. It was hoped that this would set an example to other employers.
- 16.2 Cllr Williams provided detail on the legislative framework underpinning the report and the calculation methodology. The snapshot of pay was taken on 31 March 2023 and the gender pay gap in Hackney remained in favour of women, with the median hourly rate for women at £20.74, and £19.65 for men. The ethnicity pay gap had marginally decreased, in part because of the insourcing of staff in Parking and Markets. Work was underway to continue to reduce the ethnicity pay gap and improve the mean ethnicity pay gap by at least 1% over the following two years, and to better understand the intersectional impact of pay on gender in conjunction with other protected characteristics.
- 16.3 Mayor Woodley welcomed the report, particularly the work on intersectionality, and Cllr Williams thanked Officers for their work.

RESOLVED:

Cabinet and Council are invited to note the contents of this report.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 January 2024, and can be [found here](#).

17 F S297 Hackney Light and Power Residential Solar PV Pilot

- 17.1 The Mayor spoke to the Council's environmental record, highlighted the desire to expand the capacity to generate solar energy in the Borough, and shared her recent experiences visiting Parkwood Primary school and Stoke Newington Secondary School to see their newly installed solar panels. This work would help contribute to the Council's fairness agenda.
- 17.2 Introducing the report, Cllr Coban reminded Cabinet of the Banister House project, and the impact that had had. The proposals sought to take that project one step further and install 4,000 solar panels to generate 1MW every year from 2024, the equivalent of the clean energy power consumption of 700-800 homes. Results of the project would include the creation of local green jobs and provide support with energy bills for vulnerable residents.

- 17.3 Cllr McKenzie welcomed the report, highlighting both the benefits this would have for residents and that this was a practical solution with long term benefits.

RESOLVED:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. Agree the proposed approach as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.25 of this report for setting up Hackney's branded residential solar project to supply locally generated solar energy to residents in the Borough.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Group Director of Finance in consultation with the Hackney Light and Power Delivery Board; and, with the Cabinet Member for Energy, Sustainability and Transport to:**
 - **proceed with plans set out in the Hackney Light and Power Residential Solar Business Case (Appendix 1)**
 - **agree the final lists of sites and buildings to be included in the pilot**
 - **enter into contracts and create all other necessary or ancillary agreements with suppliers in accordance with the strategies set out in the report and relevant business case.**
- 3. Spend approval of up to £1.96m is requested of capital investment by the council to enable design, installation and operation of a solar powered system as outlined in this paper.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 January 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

As part of the LEA-funded business case development, an independent market assessment provided as Appendix 3 was commissioned to explore a number of options for the installation of solar PV on Hackney's housing estates. The other options explored by the Council which were subsequently rejected include:

Option 1 - Energy Local Clubs

This approach is delivered by a Community Interest Company that has designed a means for local people to benefit from local energy through Energy Local Clubs. This enables households to join together and use local, clean power when it is generated. A better price is agreed for local generators and residents reduce their bills.

Option 2 - Solar Sharing Microgrid

This approach involves sharing the benefits of solar panels with the residents. Instead of residents each having their own supplier, the landlord (or new group) would buy all of the electricity for the block and sell this, along with the solar energy, to residents as needed.

Option 3 - Peer-to-Peer Exchange

This approach involves a peer-to-peer energy exchange to increase the energy provision efficiency and divide the value between generators and consumers. The concept of peer-to-peer is also known as a shared economy, and it is typically implemented in a local grid system. Peer-to-peer energy trading typically involves a group of participants, including generators, and consumers. Peers buy or sell energy directly from each other without intermediating conventional energy suppliers.

Option 4 - Solar Microgrid

This solar microgrid solution is able to supply residents and the landlord directly with energy produced from the solar PV on-site. The solution uses a Power Division Control System (PDCS). The function of a PDCS is to share a single source of energy generation to multiple, separately connected units, behind the meter, while conforming to all safety and network regulations.

All of the above solutions offer financial benefits to residents, but none provide the option for a return on investment for the Council and were rejected on this basis.

18 CHE S292 Hackney Serious Violence Duty Strategy (SVDS) 2024- 2027

- 18.1 Mayor Woodley stated that the safety and wellbeing of residents was a priority for the Council, and that the proposals would ensure a multi-agency approach to reducing serious violence to make Hackney a safe place to live, work and visit.
- 18.2 Introducing the report, Cllr Fajana-Thomas discussed the priorities that the strategy laid out for the following three years, which included violence against women and girls; domestic abuse; serious sexual violence; gangs and serious violence against young people; hate crime; and, serious violence in the night time economy. Cllr Fajana-Thomas also confirmed that the strategy would be overseen by the Community Safety Partnership.

RESOLVED:

It is recommended that Hackney Cabinet approves the Hackney Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024 to 2027.

REASONS FOR DECISION

This is a statutory responsibility and the SVDS 2024 to 2027 will significantly support our Community Safety Partnership's response to reducing serious violence in Hackney.

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

This is a statutory requirement and therefore an options analysis is not applicable.

19 CHE S285 Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading Strategy 2024-2029

- 19.1 Mayor Woodley welcomed the valuable contribution of markets to Hackney, but noted that although the majority were doing well and were vibrant spaces for

residents and visitors, the Council needed to ensure that it planned effectively for their long term sustainability.

- 19.2 Cllr Fajana-Thomas introduced the report and discussed the 7 missions contained within the strategy; a safe and inclusive shopping experience; fair and transparent markets; financially secure and sustainable markets; supported enterprise and business growth; mental health and wellbeing of market traders; a future for young entrepreneurs; and, Hackney markets - going green. Cllr Fajana-Thomas stated her confidence that the strategy would enable markets to flourish and keep pace with the needs of our community, and thanked Officers for their work.

RESOLVED:

This report recommends that Cabinet:

- 1. Approves the final draft of the Market Strategy 2024-2029 and the recommendations contained within (as set out in Appendix 1) to be actioned and implemented.**
- 2. Delegates Authority to the Director Environment and Climate Change (formerly Strategic Director Sustainability and Public Realm) to approve any add ons or amendments to the Market Strategy 2024-2029 following Cabinet approval.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 23 January 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Adopting no future strategy was considered but rejected due to the risks involved in sustaining the Borough's Markets and street trading activities - Please refer to Section 5.6 (Risk Assessment).

20 Schedule of Local Authority School Governor Appointments

- 20.1 Deputy Mayor Bramble discussed the recommendations, thanked governors throughout the Borough for their tireless work in Hackney's schools making sure the Borough's children and young people had the best start in life, and spoke to her own personal and rewarding experience as a school governor.

RESOLVED:

Cabinet is recommended to approve the following nominations as set out below:

Governing Body	Name	Date Effective
St Paul's with St Michael's C of E Primary School	Alex Doherty	22 January 2024
St Monica's Catholic Primary School	James Hill	22 January 2024

Jubilee Primary School	Max Lawton	22 January 2024
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21 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED: 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.

22 CE S293 Children's Centres Childcare Consultation - Exempt Appendix

22.1 The Cabinet agreed that no further consideration of the exempt appendix in relation to agenda item 11 was required.

23 F S297 Hackney Light and Power Residential Solar PV Pilot - Exempt Appendices

23.1 The Cabinet agreed that no further consideration of the exempt appendices in relation to agenda item 17 was required.

24 Urgent Exempt Business

24.1 There were no new exempt items for consideration.

Duration of the meeting: 5.35 - 6.34 pm



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET PROCUREMENT AND INSOURCING COMMITTEE

MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2024

Councillors Present:	Councillor Robert Chapman in the Chair Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Mayor Caroline Woodley and Cllr Mete Coban
Officers in Attendance:	Simone Barclay - Placements Manager Rabiya Khatun - Governance Officer Maria Zazovskaya - Strategic Resource Manager
Officers in Attendance Virtually:	Rotimi Ajilore - Head of Procurement Merle Ferguson - Procurement Strategy and Systems Lead Leila Gillespie - Procurement Category Lead for Corporate Services Divine Ihekwoaba - Procurement Category Lead for Construction Timothy Lee - Procurement Category Lead for Health and Social Care Tessa Mitchell – Governance Team Leader Patrick Rodger - Senior Lawyer Jamie Whitehouse - Acting Head of Insurance

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 There were no apologies received.

1.2 Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Cllr Coban.

2 Notice if Intention to Conduct Business in Private and Representations Received

2.1 There were no representations to consider.

3 Declarations of Interest

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4 Urgent Business

4.1 There was no urgent business to consider.

5 Deputations/Petitions/Questions

5.1 There were no deputations, petitions or questions to consider.

6 Unrestricted Minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee held on 4 December 2023

6.1 Members considered the previous unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee held on 4 December 2023.

RESOLVED

That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee held on 4 December 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Actions Tracker

6.2 Members noted the Action Tracker contained within the agenda and in response to a query relating to Reference 7 - CED S286 Extension of Temporary Accommodation Dynamic Purchasing System, the Head of Procurement clarified that officers had reported at the previous meeting that the bulk of the contract sum is payment of rent to landlords and that officers would explore the level of social value that can be delivered in negotiation with the providers. The Head of Procurement advised that he would liaise with relevant officers and provide an update at a future meeting of the Committee.

(Cllr Mete Coban joined the meeting at 6.05pm)

7 CE S211 Commissioning Framework - Homes for Looked After children and Care Leavers via London Borough of Newham Dynamic Purchasing System - Business Contract

7.1 Maria Zazovskaya, Strategic Resource Manager, introduced the report setting out an opportunity for the Council to join an existing Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) hosted by the London Borough of Newham for the provision of independent fostering agencies. The DPS framework would expire on 8 March 2026 with an option to extend for a further 4 years. Independent fostering agencies allowed the Council to fulfil its Corporate parenting duties in particular for children that required specialist support and meet efficiencies for looked after children, and the Council held up to 40% of all foster placements with independent foster agencies. The previous arrangements via London Care Services ceased to operate from 1st of April 2023, and although existing contracts remained valid until the child moved on, these providers were not bound by any formal contractual arrangements or agreement on prices. This had resulted in many London authorities being inundated with fee reviews and spot purchase price increases and due to legacy prices that had not increased for several years this meant a potential increase of 10% on all existing arrangements for the North and East London authorities. It was emphasised that the DPS did not commit the Council to any given level of expenditure, however, it was in the Council's interest to make as many arrangements through the contractual DPS, and the London Living Wage would be applied across all providers. Officers were gradually working through the providers on the DPS and at the time of presenting the report Hackney was working with 25 of the 27 providers on the DPS.

7.2 Following the introduction, Members of the Committee asked questions which were responded to as follows:

- There were over 100 independent fostering agencies in London and 25 of the first 27 providers on the list had arrangements in place with the Council
- The Mockingbird family model had been successfully adopted by the Council's in-house fostering service as well as many independent fostering agencies and a small group East London authorities and Fostering agencies worked collaboratively to explore more innovation and improve quality and raise awareness of the Mockingbird programme with fostering agencies.
- Officers were currently negotiating with suppliers on the spot purchasing arrangements and they had indicated a willingness to change to the DPS terms and fees, however the fees for specialist services could not be renegotiated but work would be undertaken with other LA to drive improvements in quality which would result in best outcomes for children.
- It was clarified that the DPS had been live for over a year and the Council would be joining midway and the existing terms would cease on 8 March 2026. The system had an annual break clause which allowed the Council to leave the system as well an option to renew for a second term from 2026 to 2030.
- With regard to any lessons learnt from the sudden collapse of the London Council's arrangements, it was explained that the lack of contract management opportunities and coordination between the 32 London boroughs in terms of driving priorities and no fees increases in many years had led many suppliers to exit the arrangement and therefore London Care Placements were not viable to sustain financially. The DPS arrangement would enable the Council to drive forward its priorities and the system would be successful if it continued to respond to the market. Post Covid-19 had impacted on the costs for suppliers and the London Council arrangement had been an unofficial procurement framework and the arrangements made under this had been seen as individual spot purpose arrangements between the council and the providers. Over the previous 7 years, many providers had exited the framework predominantly because providers could not agree to continue when their fees increases were not agreed, which had left many suppliers dissatisfied and the low fees enjoyed by local authorities unsustainable for the market. The DPS is a formal contractual arrangement with regular monitoring and it was anticipated from January 2024 that there would be a steady increase in the local authorities and local providers joining the DPS. As long as the Council continues to listen to the market and works with providers to drive improvements and their priorities, the framework should be successful.
- In terms of potential savings, while prices were increasing from the artificially low costs it was emphasised that cost avoidance could be achieved through better contract management. Paying providers the market rate would ensure stable places would make good homes and was in line with the annual increases paid to foster carers and children. It was value for money and would provide fair and transparent and clear process for providers to ask for increases instead of negotiating fees with individual local authorities.

RESOLVED to:

- 1. Agree to join the established Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) managed by London Borough of Newham for the provision of Independent Fostering Agencies.**
- 2. Agree to redirect the funding allocated to the London Care Services (LCS) Subscription into funding the management fee of the DPS by Newham (currently £6,300 p.a.).**

The Decision Notice sets out the reasons for the recommendations, the options considered and the decision.

8 F S267 Provision of Leasehold (Buildings) Insurance

8.1 Jamie Whitehouse, Acting Head of Insurance, introduced the report that outlined the results of the re-tendering of the Council's Leasehold Buildings Insurance contract following a procurement exercise undertaken during September to November 2023 prior to the expiry of the existing contract on 31 March 2024. This was a challenging time to procure insurance with market uncertainty leading to increased premiums and the position not expected to change in the immediate future. Officers in conjunction with the Council's insurance brokers, Marsh, evaluated the 2 bids received and only one had been viable, which was the incumbent insurer and premium cost had increased by 16.5%. There were no material changes in the policy for the next year.

8.2 Following the introduction, Members of the Committee asked questions which were responded to as follows:

- With regard to self insurance creating unmanageable levels of uncertainty and financial risk but potential for significant savings to the Council, it was emphasised that due to the nature of insurance it would be a high risk for the Council not to have insurance cover as it would not be insured for a major event.
- The insurance market was limited and it would not be a viable option for the Council to have hybrid insurance to include catastrophic elements. This option was reviewed with insurers but there was no appetite for the risk in the market.
- Where the Council is the freeholder, buildings insurance has to be procured by the Council for leasehold properties as per the terms of the lease contracts. The insurance premium is then recharged to leaseholders on an annual basis.
- It was confirmed that there had been more insurance claims in 2022 compared to 2023 but the claims could increase during the winter period.
- It was explained that it had been a challenge to get social value from this type of contract and that the social value in terms of the volunteering days offered had been marked as low within the report. The Acting Head of Insurance undertook to raise social value at the contract implementation meeting.

RESOLVED:

To agree the award of the leasehold buildings insurance contract to Insurer A for a period of 3 years (with provision to extend for 2 years) following a 30 day statutory consultation with leaseholders.

The Decision Notice sets out the reasons for the recommendations, the options considered and the decision.

9 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED:

THAT the press and public be excluded from the proceedings of the Cabinet Procurement Insourcing Committee during consideration of Exempt items 10 -

13 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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

10 Exempt Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee on 4 December 2023

10.1 Members considered the previous restricted minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee held on 4 December 2023.

RESOLVED

That the restricted minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee held on 4 December 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

11 CE S211 Commissioning Framework - Homes for Looked After children and Care Leavers via London Borough of Newham Dynamic Purchasing System - Business Contract (Exempt Appendices)

11.1 The exempt appendices relating to item 8 were noted.

12 F S267 Provision of Leasehold (Buildings) Insurance (Exempt Appendices)

12.1 The exempt appendices relating to item 7 were noted.

13 Urgent Exempt Business

13.1 There was no urgent business to consider.

Duration of the meeting: 5.00-5.30pm

Cllr Robert Chapman
Chair of Cabinet Procurement Insourcing Committee

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Title of Report	2023/24 Overall Financial Position - December 2023	
Key Decision No	F S215	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Robert Chapman, Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service	
Classification	Open Report	
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards	
Key Decision & Reason	Yes	Result in the Council incurring expenditure or savings which are significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service / function
Implementation Date if Not Called In	6 March 2024	
Group Director	Jackie Moylan, Interim Group Director, Finance	

1. Cabinet Member's Introduction

- 1.1 This is the seventh Overall Financial Position (OFP) report for 2023/24. It shows that as at December 2023, the Council is forecast to have an overspend of £8.766m on the General Fund. While this shows a reduction from the previous month, the net figure includes a £3m one-off gain arising from the application of the 2023-24 estimated localised business rates pool surplus. Without this we would be reporting an overspend of £11.766m an increase in the total directorate overspend of £0.390m.
- 1.2 The major increase in overspend is in Childrens and Education of £450k which is primarily due to placement costs within Corporate parenting.
- 1.3 As can be seen below, the overspend relates to various pressures including:- Adult Social Care (primarily Care Packages, Mental Health and Provided Services); Climate, Homes and Economy (Environmental Operations); Children and Education (Corporate Parenting, Looked After Children and Leaving Care and Family Intervention Support Services); F&CR (staffing pressures in Revenues and Benefits and web based computing costs in ICT).

- 1.4 The Council is in a very challenging position but, as set out in paragraph 2.5 below, we are not unique in this regard. The Council must, of course, deal with our own position this financial year and the Corporate Leadership Team will continue to work on actions to mitigate and contain the forecast, reporting back here on actions taken. It is essential that we continue to address this challenge head on if we are to remain financially stable over the longer term.
- 1.5 Despite the recent small reduction in inflation, and taking into account the provision in the budget for increases in energy and fuel costs, this is still significantly impacting on the Council's services. Hackney's residents also continue to face significant financial pressures as the inflation surge continues; we set out below details of what the Council is doing to assist residents to manage the impact of the cost of living crisis.
- 1.6 The Council has, however, been successful in securing a total of £1,360,000 of external funding from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (LEVI) Fund, which supports local authorities in England to plan and deliver chargepoint infrastructure for residents without off-street parking. The LEVI funding will go towards delivering 608 charge points in blue badge holder parking bays. Providing equal access to affordable electric vehicle charging across Hackney is a key part of our plan to rebuild a greener Hackney and acceptance of the grant award is an important step in achieving this objective
- 1.7 I commend this report to Cabinet

2. Interim Group Director's Introduction

- 2.1 The OFP shows that the Council is forecast to have an overspend of £17.257m after the application of reserves but before the application of the additional in-year savings set out in the July OFP and three further mitigations all of which are one off. The first mitigation is the budget provision for demand pressures, cost pressures and the ongoing impact of Covid and Cyber (£3.500m); the second is the backdated refund from HMRC (£0.867m) reported in the September OFP; and the third is the application of the estimated 2023-24 localised business rates pool surplus (£3m). The application of the savings and mitigations reduces the overspend to £8.766m - a decrease of £2.610m since November. This will be funded by applying corporate provisions, the underspend on the 2023-24 General Finance Account and reserves
- 2.2 The main areas of overspend are: -

Children's and Education - £4.644m primarily in the area of Corporate Parenting (i.e. looked after children placements). There are also smaller overspends in Looked After Children Leaving Care and Access & Assessment

Adults, Health and Integration - £9.954m primarily in the area of Care Support Commissioning with smaller overspends in Provided Services and Mental Health.

Climate, Homes and Economy - £1.078m primarily in Environmental Operations with a smaller overspend in Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation.

Finance & Corporate Resources - £1.960m - primarily in Benefits and Revenues £1.884m. In Benefits and Revenues the primary cause of the overspend is £1.241m of costs from additional staff working on debt recovery, additional demand caused by the cost of living crisis, and additional manual processes within the service. The latter are required while automation software is restored post cyber.

Special educational needs and disability (SEND) - there is also uncertainty around the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) high needs deficit and the treatment of any deficit post 2025/26. The brought forward SEND deficit in 2023/24 is circa £17.1m, based on current forecasts this will increase to circa £20.7m by the end of this financial year. The statutory override which allowed this deficit balance to be carried in the Council's accounts has been extended from 31 March 2023 to 31 March 2026 by Government. However, this continues to remain a long term risk for Hackney in the event there is no further funding provided by the Department for Education (DfE) to mitigate this balance. As stated earlier in this report Hackney is included in Tranche 2 of the Delivering Better Value (in SEND) programme which aims to help local authorities maintain effective SEND services, however the programme aims to provide assistance on deficit recovery actions/mitigations through a grant of up to £1m, rather than provide direct funding to address the deficit, hence the potential risk to the Council. The grant application has been successful and will be received in tranches from December 2023.

- 2.3 There is further pressure as a result of the 2023/24 pay award (£6.5m in addition to what we had budgeted for). This will be met from the use of one-off reserves this year but will need to be factored in the budget on an ongoing basis from next year and this has been taken account of in our budget planning for 2024/25.
- 2.4 Given the direction of travel of the forecast towards the end of 2022/23 the fact that we have a considerable forecast overspend is disappointing but not a surprise. It is also worth noting that this overspend, with the exception of the Chief Executive's directorate, is Council-wide.
- 2.5 While these pressures are not unique to Hackney, and indeed in areas such as homelessness, other boroughs are reporting much more extensive pressures, we have to look to address our own position. We need to address this as a leadership team. We have undertaken measures to mitigate the overspend as reported in the July OFP and the leadership team will continue to identify further actions to reduce the forecast overspend.

2.6 The General Fund financial position for December is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Overall Financial Position (General Fund) December 2023

Revised Budget £000	Service Area	Forecast Variance Before Reserves £000	Appropriation to Reserves £000	Reserves Usage £000	Forecast Variance After Reserves £000	Change in Variance from last month £000
£k		£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
98,317	Children and Education	9,004	45	-4,404	4,644	450
127,651	Adults, Health and Integration	15,994	160	-6,199	9,954	214
37,474	Climate, Homes & Economy	5,009	210	-4,141	1,078	142
28,109	Finance & Corporate Resources	4,238	251	-2,529	1,960	-286
16,266	Chief Executive	2,743	179	-3,301	-379	-130
47,618	General Finance Account	0	0	0	0	0
355,435	SUB TOTAL	36,988	845	-20,574	17,257	390
	Less the budget provision for demand pressures, cost pressures and the ongoing impact of Covid and Cyber				-3,500	0
	Less Corporate Savings				-1,124	0
	Less Backdated HMRC Refund				-867	0
	Less 2023-24 Pool Surplus				-3,000	-3,000
	GENERAL FUND TOTAL				8,766	-2,610

2.7 The remaining overspend of £8.766m will be funded by unspent contingencies, the GFA underspend, provisions and reserves.

2.8 We are forecasting a significant but not full achievement of the 2023/24 budgeted savings. Climate, Homes and Economy (CHE) has achieved £2.508m of the 2023/24 savings plans of £2.858m. The Hackney Commercial Services company saving of £0.350m is being forecast as not being achieved this year given the company is a year behind schedule and this was a saving expected in year three of operations. The company has not established its market share base yet to deliver the 2023/24 savings target. There has also been a delay in achieving the full year effect saving of £500k in the Children's and Education staffing review however one-off contributions from grants and other areas have mitigated this in this financial year.

2.9 We are also on course to achieving a significant proportion of the 2023/24 vacancy savings. In CHE, the vacancy factor savings agreed as part of the 2021/22 budget are not being achieved in two of the directorate services, Environmental Operations and Community Safety, Enforcement & Business Regulation (CSEBR). The total of non delivery is £753K. The Heads of

Service are reviewing services and budget lines to mitigate the impact of this non delivery.

Grant Award from LEVI Fund

- 2.10 The Council has been successful in securing a total of £1,360,000 of external funding from the LEVI Fund, which supports local authorities in England to plan and deliver charge point infrastructure for residents without off-street parking. The LEVI funding together with £3.722m funding from our delivery partner Zest, will deliver 608 charge points in blue badge holder parking bays. These will be installed as dual charging bays, with one bay dedicated to blue badge EVs and one bay open for public charging.
- 2.11 These charge points will contribute to the Climate Action Targets for the borough and reduce the reliance on fossil fuel vehicles and carbon emissions.

Cost of Living Crisis

- 2.12 As the Council feels the pressure of rising inflation and interest rates, and increased fuel costs, so do our residents. Hackney already had high levels of poverty and this worsened during the pandemic, and now poverty is entrenching and more people are falling into difficulty. The cost of living crisis disproportionately impacts lower income groups, as more of their income goes on essential costs.
- 2.13 Tackling Poverty has been a key priority for the Council in recent years and we adopted a poverty reduction framework in March 2022. This was informed by work during the pandemic when we tried, from the outset, to focus our response on how those on lower incomes were going to be impacted and campaigning for more funding. We have continued to work closely with the community organisations at the heart of the pandemic response because we always knew more people would be struggling financially coming out of the pandemic.
- 2.14 The response to the cost of living crisis, which is set out below, is in line with the third objective of the poverty reduction framework which is about responding to material needs, by developing a more coordinated emergency support and advice offer, with more preventative help, linking emergency support with income maximisation and advice and supporting frontline services and community partners on the ground who are best placed to support residents. Ultimately we are trying to create one connected system of support, with the Council, statutory partners and community organisations working together.
- 2.15 The Council has established the Money Hub - a team of specialist advisors who will support those in severe hardship, who have no other source of monetary support available. In terms of the financial support the Council is able to offer to residents through the Hub, we have the Hackney Discretionary Crisis Support Scheme (HDCSS), which provides one-off

payments for emergencies and items that are difficult to budget for. In addition, we also support residents having temporary difficulty meeting housing costs through the discretionary housing payments (DHPs) and have the Council Tax Reduction Discretionary Fund, which allocates out a small cash limited fund to provide discretionary financial help for council tax payers in hardship. Finally the Hub is allocating out £475k of Household Support Fund monies (see below for detail on the Housing Support Fund).

2.16 As well as paying out discretionary funds, the Money Hub works to increase benefits take-up and connect residents with other financial support, including providing housing navigation support and signposting to debt advice. So far:

- 9,489 residents have requested support since the team launched in November 2022. More than half of applicants are already in rent or Council Tax arrears.
- The team has distributed £1.5m of discretionary funds, and delivered £2.01m worth of increased incomes through benefits uptake work, mainly through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), Housing Benefit, Universal Credit and Pension Credit.

2.17 On funding distributed from the various funds, thus far we have made the following payments:

- *CTRS Discretionary Hardship Scheme - £24k paid out*
- *Discretionary Housing Payments - £666k paid out*
- *Hackney Discretionary Crisis Support Scheme - £121k paid out*

2.18 Government has awarded a total of £5.6m of Household Support Funding (HSF) from April 2023 to March 2024. The focus remains on emergency support although there is now some ability to fund the following initiatives:

Children and families 0-19

Total allocation: £3,075,100

Rationale:

- An estimated 32,786 (48%) children in Hackney are living in poverty (on household incomes of less than £14,000) after housing costs are deducted.
- An estimated 49% of children in poverty live in families where the youngest child is aged 4 or under (total population estimated 20,000)
- There are an estimated 25,000 people in the Orthodox Jewish community and 11,000 (44%) are under 14 and 6,600 (60%) live in households in receipt of benefits, although a very low number claim free school meals even in maintained schools (1% compared with 32% overall).

Vulnerable people known to the Council

Total allocation: £879,900

Rationale:

There are groups of people identified in the Poverty Reduction Framework and analysis of risks and needs, who the Council is able to reach directly. These groups include: residents in temporary and supported accommodation (TA/SA), disabled adults and their unpaid carers, foster carers, Special Guardians, Shared Lives Carers and Children in Need.

Breaking down the barriers to reach a wider group of vulnerable residents who are at risk of poverty

Total allocation: £1,405,946

Rationale

There are a wide range of groups identified in the Poverty Reduction Framework and analysis of risks who we need to reach, and, in some cases, they face multiple barriers to accessing help, such as learning disability or language needs, or they would not access help from the Council because of stigma or lack of trust in statutory services.

We need to ensure that a mixed economy approach is taken so we can maximise reach into diverse communities. This means that a range of routes are being employed to reach residents with a financial help offer, as outlined below:

Money Hub £545,946 Government requires us to maintain an open application route to local Household Support Fund (HSF) spend - we are delivering this through Money Hub. This is being spent on food and fuel vouchers to residents in need - 12% of those who have received a voucher have also increased their benefits income through support from the Money Hub.

From Quarter 3, an additional £70,000 has been allocated to the Money Hub to support households moving into social housing from temporary accommodation with large household items.

Income maximisation advice £80,000 The Money Hub team employs two advice workers to enable residents to maximise their incomes by claiming benefits they are entitled to.

Trusted referral partners £200,000 - The **direct referral route for frontline workers from across sectors enables us** to reach residents in need who are least likely to contact a Council helpline, and offer timely support.

Hackney Giving £240,000 - Grant funding community organisations who are set up to deliver financial help to residents enables us to tap into the community reach that grassroots organisations have and offer timely support on the ground.

Community infrastructure organisations £65,000

Grant funding community organisations who will be able to deliver food/fuel help as well as advice to the community.

Citizens Advice £70,000 - Citizens advice will deliver help with fuel costs through the scheme they have already been running in HSF 2 and HSF 3. Residents will be able to top up their metres with a voucher or get a cash alternative if not using a metre.

Food Banks and low cost shops £140,000 - This funding supports food partners to provide food to residents who are struggling financially.

Support to residents recently given leave to remain £65,000 - This funding will support migrants placed in Hackney hotels who have recently achieved the right to remain status and are awaiting benefits.

Some £10,000 has been allocated to support a robust evaluation of the programme to inform future commissioning and design of services to support residents facing financial crisis. We are retaining 6% toward administration, management, grant management and monitoring.

Any continuation of the Household Support Fund into the 2024-25 financial year was not mentioned in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 22nd November 2023 nor in the 2023-24 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. Subsequent press reports suggest that this funding will not be available in the next financial year although we have not received official confirmation at the time of writing. The Council will need to consider its future approach to crisis response depending on the outcome. The Tackling Poverty and Inequalities team is setting up a number of communications with internal and external funding partners about possible mitigations and support across the network given this risk of the fund ending.

- 2.19 Our November 2022 OFP report identified a further £600k to support poverty reduction. The team has distributed £1m of discretionary funds, and delivered £1.32m worth of increased incomes through benefits uptake work. The focus is on either developmental interventions or those that meet the needs of groups that Household Support Fund cannot support, and specifically those with no recourse to public funds. In summary resources will support:

- £300k - Tackling Food Poverty in Schools: A task group **has reviewed food poverty affecting children in schools**. The task group has listened to schools and community organisations to inform thinking

about how we might expand the Free School Meals offer in a financially sustainable way to a wider group of children and look at models that reduce unit cost, improve quality, but do not simply rely upon Councils providing the funding. The task group produced a report outlining practical measures for use of the £300k allocation. The announcement that the Mayor of London will be funding universal free school meals for the 2024/25 academic year in primary schools is welcomed and will compliment our work

- Money Hub support: topping up grant funding support for in home appliances and investing further in income maximisation officers
- Hardship support and preventative help for those who have no recourse to public funds - this £65k scheme was launched in September.

2.20 Alongside the direct support that the Council is putting in place, we are doing what we can to support organisations on the ground, who are struggling with rising costs and demands. This is vitally important because it is these organisations that have the greatest reach into diverse communities, can ensure that residents are supported in a more ongoing way at community level, and can access *independent* advice and accredited financial, debt and legal advice when appropriate. For example:

- We worked in partnership with Food Hubs to bring in £170k over three years. We supported the Hackney Food Bank to apply for GLA funding to employ a Coordinator for the Hackney Food Network and are now supporting further fundraising to make the best use of surplus food.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 **To note the overall financial position of the Council as at December 2023 as set out in this report.**
- 3.2 **Approve the acceptance of the grant from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund of £1,360,000 and agree to enter into a grant agreement with the applicable parties in respect of such funding.**

4. Reasons for Decision

- 4.1 To facilitate financial management and control of the Council's finances and to approve the grant award

5.0 Details of Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 5.1 This budget monitoring report is primarily an update on the Council's financial position. On the LEVI grant proposal, If the grant was rejected, dedicated electric vehicle charge point infrastructure for blue badge holders would not be delivered and there would be a risk to the Council's reputation for not accepting external funding to deliver the project.

6.0 Background

6.1 Policy Context

This report describes the Council's financial position as at the end of December 2023. Full Council agreed the 2023/24 budget on 1st March 2023.

6.2 Equality Impact Assessment

An EQIA for the borough wide electric vehicle charge point project will be carried out prior to installation commencing.

6.3 Sustainability and Climate Change

The installation of Electric Vehicle Charge Points will significantly reduce the reliance on fossil fuel vehicles and carbon emissions. The charging stations will be powered by 100% renewable electricity, in some cases generated locally, which will contribute towards achieving a zero-net carbon target by 2040.

6.4 Consultations

Relevant consultations have been carried out in respect of the forecasts and savings contained within this report involving the Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service, the Mayor, Scrutiny, Heads and Directors of Finance and Service Directors through liaison with Finance Heads, Directors and Teams.

6.5 Risk Assessment

The risks associated with the Council's financial position are detailed in this report.

7. Comments of the Interim Group Director of Finance

- 7.1 The Interim Group Director of Finance financial considerations are included throughout the report.

8. Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 8.1 The Interim Group Director of Finance is the officer designated by the Council as having the statutory responsibility set out in section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. The section 151 officer is responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs.
- 8.2 In order to fulfil these statutory duties and legislative requirements the Section 151 Officer will:
- (i) Set appropriate financial management standards for the Council which comply with the Council's policies and proper accounting practices and monitor compliance with them.
 - (ii) Determine the accounting records to be kept by the Council.
 - (iii) Ensure there is an appropriate framework of budgetary management and control.
 - (iv) Monitor performance against the Council's budget and advise upon the corporate financial position.
- 8.3 Under the Council's Constitution, although Full Council sets the overall budget, it is the Cabinet that is responsible for putting the Council's policies into effect and responsible for most of the Council's decisions. The Cabinet must take decisions in line with the Council's overall policies and budget.
- 8.4 Paragraph 2.6.3 of FPR2 Financial Planning and Annual Estimates states that each Group Director in charge of a revenue budget shall monitor and control Directorate expenditure within their approved budget and report progress against their budget through the Overall Financial Position (OFP) Report to Cabinet. This Report is submitted to Cabinet under such provision.
- 8.5 Article 13.6 of the Constitution (Part Two) states that key decisions can be taken by the Elected Mayor alone, the Executive collectively, individual Cabinet Members and officers. Under the Mayor's Scheme of Delegation financial matters are reserved to Cabinet, therefore, this report is being submitted to Cabinet for approval.
- 8.6 With regards to recommendation 3.2 above, it will be necessary for the Council to enter into an agreement to secure the grant funding from the LEVI Fund in accordance with the timeline required by the funding body (the Department for Transport).
- 8.7 All other legal implications have been incorporated within the body of this report.

9. Children and Education

Revised Budget	Service Area	Forecast Variance After reserves
£k		£000
98,317	Children and Education	4,644

- 9.1 **Children and Families Services (CFS)** CFS are forecasting a £4.6m overspend as at the end of December 2023 after the application of reserves totalling £4.4m and after the inclusion of the Social Care Grant allocation of £13m. The forecast has increased by £0.45m since November primarily due to placement costs within Corporate parenting. The changes relate to high cost low volume placements this month, including two new placements and two existing placements which have increased significantly in cost, although rate increases are always challenged annual increases to unit costs do have to be negotiated and agreed.
- 9.2 As has been the practice since the grant was announced in 2019/20, the Social Care Grant for both children's and adult social care has been split equally across both services. In 2023/24 the grant was increased by a further £1.5bn nationally, Hackney's allocation is a total of £26.7m this year, which represents a £9.7m increase from 2022/23. Except for a specific Independent Living Fund element of £0.7m which has been allocated to Adult Social Care the remaining £26m has equally shared between Children's Services and Adult Social Care.
- 9.3 There is a gross budget pressure in staffing across Children and Families Services (CFS) of £1m. In 2023/24 savings of £500k have been agreed with a further £500k to be delivered in 2024/25. The service is working towards implementing these proposed changes to the structure with formal consultation planned for early 2024, this has led to a delay in achieving the full year effect saving of £500k however one-off contributions from grant and other areas have mitigated this in this financial year. A review of services will achieve the following:
- Provide best outcomes for children and families
 - Enhance the development of the service
 - Protect front line practice
 - Simplify and provide clearer management oversight
 - Creating career development opportunities for staff
 - Ensure service resilience and meet business continuity requirements
 - Provide cost savings
- 9.4 The main areas of pressure in CFS continue to be in Corporate Parenting which is forecast to overspend by £3.1m after the use of £1.4m reserves. Since 2019/20, we have monitored unit costs in different placements types and have seen them significantly increase during this period. This is illustrated in the table below.

	LAC Residential Average		Independent Fostering Average		LAC Semi Independent Average		LC Semi Independent Average	
Unit Costs	Per Week	No. of Young People	Per Week	No. of Young People	Per Week	No. of Young People	Per Week	No. of Young People
2019-20	£3,725	32	£967	143	£1,211	41	£390	104
2020-21	£3,979	35	£987	126	£1,309	36	£529	103
2021-22	£5,399	35	£1,080	131	£1,667	40	£515	166
2022-23	£6,346	30	£1,241	114	£1,996	35	£558	162
2023-24 (at period 6)	£6,122	29	£1,348	114	£2,618	43	£543	96
% increase over 5 year period	64%		39%		116%		39%	

9.5 The increase in unit costs has been coupled with a relative increase in the profile of placements linked to the complexity of care for children and young people coming into the service. For example children with very complex mental health needs, which can carry a constant risk of self harm, require round the clock supervision. In addition restricted supply nationally coupled with higher demand results in an extremely competitive market for placements, which drives up costs. At the start of 2023/24 we saw a reduction in residential placements, however placement costs are increasing in residential care and semi-independent placements due to care providers being faced with the challenges of rising inflation linked to the cost of living crisis. The forecast has increased by £0.6m since November due to an increase in individual placements in a very challenging market. The forecast is susceptible to variation due to the demand led nature of the service, depending on the complexity of the arrangement new clients can add a considerable cost and holiday periods during the summer and winter have historically experienced spikes in demand and pressure on the budget due to care arrangements breaking down. This combined with carers having holiday plans makes finding new care arrangements particularly challenging leading to the use of more expensive residential homes rather than foster care.

9.6 **The Family Intervention Support Services** is showing an overspend of £0.4m which is related to over established posts and agency staff, as well as higher spend in LAC incidental costs.

9.7 **The Access and Assessment and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub** have an overspend of £0.2m primarily related to increased staffing costs from over established staff and agency.

9.8 **Looked After Children & Leaving Care Services** are expected to overspend by £0.3m, and this relates to an increase in commissioning costs

and some staffing costs pressures linked to additional posts and agency staff usage to respond to increasing demands in the service.

- 9.9 **The Workforce Development Board** has a rolling Social Worker recruitment process which should address the agency premium costs, providing successful permanent appointment of candidates. Competition for social workers, particularly in London, is challenging. This applies both in permanent and agency recruitment. Local authorities are now frequently offering 'golden handshakes' and 'retention bonuses' along with promises of competitive salaries, career development opportunities and a variety of other benefits.
- 9.10 **The Disabled Children Services** is showing an overspend of £0.2m, and this primarily relates to the demand in short break services which is a statutory requirement.
- 9.11 **The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance** are showing an overspend of £0.1m. The quality assurance and improvement team and the safeguarding and reviewing team both have staffing overspend primarily related to agency premium, maternity and long term sickness cover pressures.
- 9.12 **Hackney Education (HE)** Hackney Education (HE) is forecast to overspend by around £3.630m after the use of reserves in 2023/24. The underlying overspend across the service before reserves is £4.760m, and this is partially offset by mitigating underspends of £1.130m. The main driver is a £3.560m pressure in SEND as a result of a continuing increase in recent years of children and young people with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs), and this increase is predicted to continue in 2023/24, the forecast has been reviewed based on trend and reduced by £0.3m from the previous month. Discussions with Newton Europe/CIPFA, who are working on behalf of the Department of Education (DfE) and the development of a grant application to secure £1m through the SEND Developing Better Value (DBV) programme have continued in 2023/24. The process started in February 2023 and the now approved grant application includes an action plan to spend the £1m allocation towards targeted workstreams which may help to mitigate some elements of the high needs budget pressures which have contributed towards year on year overspends.
- 9.13 **SEND Transport** is forecasting a £0.5m budget pressure after the use of reserves in 2023/24 due to increased activity coupled with continuing increases in fuel prices and transport costs (this is included in the overall £3.560m overspend above). Given the volatility seen in fuel prices since last financial year, this area will continue to be monitored closely, £0.5m of corporate reserves have been applied towards these increased fuel costs. Other areas of overspend are within Education Operations (£57k) and Early Years which includes Children's Centres (£626K), reduced income levels are expected to continue within our Early Years service as a result of lower activity levels within services, that has been the pattern post-pandemic. There has also been a change in legislation which means previously traded

services for attendance and specialist intervention provided to schools are now required to be delivered free of charge.

- 9.14 **The Savings Requirement** for Children's Services and Education in 2023/24 includes £250k through the consolidation of the Children, Education and Health commissioning functions which will allow more effective market engagement and more effective joint commissioning, and £500k from a review of the Children and Families staffing structure which is expected to be in place in early 2024. Implementation later than originally planned has meant that one-off grants and underspends in other areas have been used to mitigate this saving in 2023/24. A further £650k has been delivered through a wide-range of targeted and specialist interventions for young people that need extra support, as well as a range of play and sports opportunities on a universal basis, including through Youth Hubs and adventure playgrounds. The £650k is an addition to £350k of savings in 2022/23 from our early help services.
- 9.15 The Vacancy Factor savings target of £1.7m has been set for the directorate in 2023/24 (£0.9m for Children and Families and £0.8m for Education) and the forecast assumes that this will be achieved or mitigated within respective service budgets. Progress against the target is carefully monitored and tracked by the C&E Senior Management Team and this will continue to be monitored closely and reported through this monthly finance report.
- 9.16 Many of the **financial risks** to the service that were present in 2022/23 have continued into 2023/24. One of the main risks for the directorate is the cost of living and fuel price crisis, and the potential impact that it will have on the cost of service delivery going forward. It is difficult to estimate the impact that the cost of living crisis will have across services, however we can expect care providers to seek greater inflationary uplifts to care placements than in previous years and this has had an impact in the movement in December's forecast. In Education, the trend data does illustrate that taxi fares within SEND transport are experiencing increased rates for journeys.

SEND -- there is also uncertainty around the DSG high needs deficit and the treatment of any deficit post 2025/26. The brought forward SEND deficit in 2023/24 is circa £17.1m, based on current forecasts this will increase to circa £20.7m by the end of this financial year. The statutory override which allowed this deficit balance to be carried in the Council's accounts has been extended from 31 March 2023 to 31 March 2026 by Government. However, this continues to remain a long term risk for Hackney in the event there is no further funding provided by the Department for Education (DfE) to mitigate this balance. As stated earlier in this report Hackney is included in Tranche 2 of the Delivering Better Value (in SEND) programme which aims to help local authorities maintain effective SEND services, however the programme aims to provide assistance on deficit recovery actions/mitigations through a grant of up to £1m, rather than provide direct funding to address the deficit, hence the potential risk to the Council. The

grant application has been successful and is received in tranches from December 2023.

Early Years -The National reform of the free early years entitlement is expected to have a significant impact on demand for childcare placements, with the greatest shift expected to be for two year olds 30 hour care. There is likely to be significantly more demand for childcare through the proposed reform, specifically for two year olds. Further funding details have been received and implementation of the reforms will commence from September 2024, the scale of the potential impact is currently being assessed.

- 9.17 In addition to budgeted savings further cost reduction measures have been developed for 2023/24.

For CFS, management actions of £1.5m have been identified and these have been factored into the forecast. These include reductions in the number of high cost placements (£0.5m); review of the top 30 high cost placements (£0.3m); a Foster First Approach (£0.5m); and review of agency spend through maximising permanent recruitment and greater challenge through the workforce development board (£0.2m).

For Hackney Education, the focus of cost reduction measures this year will be through further development of in-borough SEND provision and reviewing SEND transport eligibility. Detailed plans continue to be developed for these proposals, in particular the development of in-borough SEND provision has been factored into our SEND deficit recovery plans being developed with the DfE and CIPFA.

10. Adult, Health and Integration

Revised Budget	Service Area	Forecast Variance After reserves
£k		£000
127,651	Adults, Health and Integration	9,954

- 10.1 Adult Social Care (ASC) is forecasting an overspend of £9.95m (2022/23 outturn position was £7.7m) after the application of reserves of £6.2m and the inclusion of the Social Care Grant allocation of £13.7m. This represents an adverse movement of £0.2m from the November position.

- 10.2 As has been the practice since the Social Care Grant was announced in 2019/20, the grant allocation for both children's and adult social care has been split equally across both services. This financial year the grant was increased by a further £1.5bn nationally and this has meant the Council has received a total of £26.7m, which represents a £9.7m increase on the previous year. Children's Services have been allocated £13m and Adult Social Care have been allocated £13.7m (including the Independent Living

Fund £0.7m, now rolled into Social Care grant in 23/24), and this has been fully factored into the current forecast.

- 10.3 In 2023-24, the Government introduced the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) designed to support local authorities to make improvements in adult social care capacity, services and market sustainability. The MSIF Grant is payable in 2023-24 and 2024-25. In total, the fund amounted to £400 million of new funding for adult social care in 2023-24. There is a further £683 million expected in 2024-25. In 2023-24, the MSIF funding was combined with £162 million of continued Fair Cost of Care funding rolled forward from 2022-23 to yield a total allocation of £562m. Hackney's 2023-24 MSIF grant allocation was £3.3m. The Government has now announced that an additional £600m will be provided to adult social care across 2023-24 and 2024-25. £570m will be payable in 2023-24 and 2024-25 through the new MSIF Workforce Fund (£365m in 2023-24 and £205m in 2024-25). The remaining £30m of the announced funding will be paid to "local authorities in the most challenged health systems". Hackney's share of the £365m grant in 2023-24 is £2.1m.
- 10.4 Local authorities will be able to decide how they choose to focus the funding, in line with local circumstances and priorities but the Statement does draw attention to the same target areas of improvement that are set out for the MSIF. These are:
- increasing fee rates paid to adult social care providers in local areas
 - increasing adult social care workforce capacity and retention
 - reducing adult social care waiting times
- 10.5 Adult Social Services in Hackney is already taking action and pursuing initiatives to support the workforce and provide more capacity within the adult social care sector. The initial MSIF funding received has been used primarily to support provider fee uplifts based on the Fair Cost of Care exercise completed in 2022, as well as allocating funding towards helping to reduce social care waiting times. The additional round of MSIF funding has primarily been used to reduce waiting times for social care, and currently there is only £0.2m of funding remaining and these funds are expected to be fully utilised by the financial year end.
- 10.6 On 14 September 2023, the government announced a £40 million fund in 2023/24 to support local authorities to strengthen urgent and emergency care resilience and performance this winter - the Local Authority Urgent Emergency Care Support Fund (LA UEC). Local authorities within Integrated Care Systems (ICS) identified by NHS England as experiencing the greatest challenges with urgent and emergency care (in Urgent Emergency Care tiers one and two) were invited to put forward proposals for access to the fund. Hackney was successful in receiving £0.7m of this fund. The purpose of this grant is to enable Hackney to fund additional interventions or services which support urgent and emergency care performance and resilience over the 2023-24 winter period, whether by helping prevent avoidable admissions to hospital or by reducing discharge

delays. This fund has been fully committed, with approximately £0.4m already utilised, with the remaining £0.3m expected to fund demand pressures over the next couple of months.

- 10.7 The forecast continues to be adversely impacted by the challenging situation on a number of fronts. Firstly, there has been increased demand seen particularly from hospital discharge for people requiring ongoing social care, and also due to mitigations required to be in place to manage the risk to vulnerable adults as a result of recent strike action by NHS staff. This includes significant increases in care package costs to allow care agencies to manage increased risk in the community, additional funding invested in securing taxi transportation for clients to and from hospital in the place of ambulance services, additional commissioned step down and care home placements to help the hospital manage flow, and an increase in staffing to support the hospital with discharge. This increase in demand, and consequent increase in cost to ASC is predicted to continue for at least the next quarter. The Discharge Fund from the DLUHC has provided a grant of £2.3 million for the 23/24 period. However, it's important to note that this funding is specifically designated for additional initiatives aimed at facilitating discharges. It does not address the substantial rise in expenses and demand associated with ongoing care packages. Secondly, there is increasing demand and complexity coming from the community, including new adults requiring long term care, due to deterioration in health or circumstances, higher prevalence of severe mental ill health in Hackney compared to other authorities, and multiple intersecting complexities, including substance use and trauma.
- 10.8 **Care Support Commissioning** is the service area with the most significant budget pressure in Adult Social Care with a £8m budget pressure (after reserve usage of £3.1m) against an overall budget of £47m. The position has moved adversely by £0.6m compared to the previously reported position, largely driven by further demand pressures, specifically increases in Home Care activity (£0.6m). The increased cost of care continues to be primarily driven by growth in new clients as well as increased complexity of care needs for existing service users. This overall service records the costs of long term care for service users including their primary support reason, and the budget overspend reflects both the growth in client activity and increasing complexity of care provision being commissioned. The service has seen a 30% increase in the total number of people receiving care and support since 2019/20. For some services such as home care, the increase is even more significant (43%). In addition to rising demand, unit costs have also increased significantly since 2019/20 due to inflationary pressures including London Living Wage (LLW) coupled with greater complexity of care in care packages. ASC has been allocated a total of £14m of budget growth (excl employee related pay growth) primarily to support provider inflation uplifts (incl LLW) and demographic growth over the last 5 years, in addition grant funding for Social Care has increased by £17.8m (incl the Discharge and MSIF grants) over the last 5 years, despite this the ASC budget continues to face mounting challenges due to both escalating demand and growing costs, which together exert significant pressure on the

overall service budget. In Hackney, the growth in all age population between 2016 and 2020 was on average 1.13%, whereas the growth in the number of people receiving care in the same period was 6.14%. The tables below illustrate both the rise in demand, and increase in unit costs:

The tables below illustrate both the rise in demand, and increase in unit costs:

ASC Demand 2019/20 v 2022/23

	2019/20	2022/23	% increase
Overall number of ASC service users	2610	3390	30%
Home care provided (hours)	915,297	1,312,959	43%
Residential care (number of placements)	619	626	1%
Supported living (number of placements)	305	398	30%

Snapshot Unit costs trend

	2019/20			2022/23			
Service type	# of Service Users/ Hours	Avg unit cost (£)	Total cost (£m)	# of Service Users/ Hours	Avg unit cost (£)	Total cost (£m)	% Change in Unit Cost
Home care*	915,297	17.97	16.45	1,312,959	19.16	25.16	7%
Supported Living	279	911	13.79	342	1,241	21.83	36%
Residential	347	970	18.75	388	1,068	21.56	10%
Nursing	157	766	6.72	155	879	7.83	15%

- 10.9 The Hackney Council and North East London Integrated Care Board (NEL ICB) received discharge funding of £2.3m and £1.1m, respectively, for the 2023-24 financial year. Within this allocation, £1m has been earmarked to facilitate the efficient discharge of individuals from hospitals by supporting the cost of care packages. It's important to note that there has been an £0.8m reduction in overall discharge funding specifically designated for covering care package costs compared to the previous year. The current projection indicates a pressure of approximately £0.7m on the allocated discharge funding for post-discharge care. Ongoing discussions between NE London Integrated Care Board (NEL ICB) and LBH colleagues aim to identify additional funds to alleviate this pressure. In addition to discharge funding, the NEL ICB contributes a total of £9.2m toward healthcare costs for service users with learning disabilities. This contribution is part of the integrated commissioning arrangements established with the council.

- 10.9 **Provided services** are forecast to overspend by £1.2m against a £11.1m budget. This represents a favourable movement of £0.4m from the November position, primarily due to delays in planned recruitment. The £1.2m overspend is made up primarily of an overspend on Housing with Care (HwC) scheme costs of £2.2m, offset by underspends on day services of £1m. This HwC forecast overspend of £2.2m reflects both the impact of £1m of undelivered savings from 21-22 and 22-23, as well as high levels of staff sickness and the service engaging agency staff to cover these roles alongside additional capacity required to maintain the service. The service is currently undertaking a number of management actions to address both the high level of sickness and agency staff usage, this includes working closely with HR, and Occupational health to reduce sickness levels, medically retiring staff that are no longer able to work, addressing the issues relating to staff members who are on reduced capacity due to medical conditions, as well as offering fixed term contracts to long term agency staff to reduce the dependency on agency usage. The majority of the day service underspend of £0.8m is from the Oswald Street day centre which continues with a limited number of service users as a result of maintenance work needed to the ventilation at the premises. A capital bid for the work required at Oswald Street was submitted, and agreed in the June 23 cabinet. There was a delay in the maintenance work commencing, however planning has now been approved with the capital work commencing soon, and is expected that the day centre will be back at full capacity by early 24-25.
- 10.10 **Mental health** is forecast to overspend by £1.2m against a £8.9m budget. This represents a £0.1m adverse movement on the November position, primarily as result of demand pressures within external commissioned care for mental health service users (£0.1m). The overall Mental Health budget overspend is linked in two parts, a budget overspend on Long term care services for mental health service users of £1.8m offset by an underspend against staffing budgets of £0.6m due to vacancies across the service. Adult Services continue to work in collaboration with East London Foundation Trust to reduce the budget overspend as part of the agreed cost reduction measures.
- 10.11 **Preventative Services** reflects a favourable movement of £0.3m this month, primarily driven by a reduction in costs for the interim bed facility at Leander Court and Substance Misuse linked to lower than expected demand for these services. The overall position now reflects a budget underspend of £0.7m, which is primarily attributable to the following: staff vacancies £0.1m, taxicard budget underspend of £0.3, and lower than expected demand for the interim bed facility at Leander Court and Substance Misuse services of £0.3m.
- 10.12 The **Care Management and Adult Divisional Support's** budget position is an overall budget underspend of £0.06m. This represents an adverse movement of £0.14m, largely due to workforce pressures as a result of increased staff capacity primarily within the Integrated Learning Disabilities

team. The overall budget underspend is primarily due to staff vacancies across the ASC management team, as result of delays in recruitment.

- 10.13 The **ASC commissioning** reflects a £0.04m budget overspend, There is no material movement from the November position. The ASC commissioning position also includes one-off funding of £0.7m which is supporting various activities across commissioning. This includes additional staff capacity across the Brokerage Team, Direct Payment teams, and funding of extracare services at Limetrees and St Peters. The forecast also includes £1.6m of Discharge Funds (as noted previously, £2.3m LBH, £1.1m ICB), which is supporting the funding of various hospital discharge facilities including interim accommodation and nursing care block placements.

This directorate is coordinating the Council response for the support required for Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers, including the Homes for Ukraine scheme, Afghan Resettlement schemes, as well as asylum seekers residing in the Borough in Home Office accommodation. There is Government support for the costs being incurred under these schemes and so no cost pressure is currently forecasted. However there is uncertainty about the level of funding we will receive to support Refugees (including Ukrainians), Migrants and Asylum Seekers in future years.

- 10.14 **Public Health** Public Health (PH) is forecasting a breakeven position.

The Public Health Grant funding allocation for local authorities in 2023/24 rose to £3.5 billion nationally, representing a 3.3% cash terms increase compared to the previous year's allocation. Hackney's share of the increased allocation is £1.1 million. The 2023/24 grant includes an adjustment to cover the cost of implementing the Botulinum Toxin and Cosmetic Fillers (Children) Act 2021 (our allocation is £15k). The 2023/24 grant will continue to be subject to conditions, including a ring-fence requiring local authorities to use the grant to deliver public health outcomes. This may include public health challenges arising directly or indirectly from the legacy impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure the allocated Public Health budget is managed effectively, demand-led services, such as sexual health, are carefully monitored by the service. This monitoring process aims to maintain service provision within the allocated budget for the current and future financial years.

The Hackney Mortuary position reflects £0.18m budget overspend, primarily attributable to ongoing cost pressures in relation to the council's contribution towards the coroner's costs.

- 10.16 Adult Social Care has **Savings** of £1.4m to deliver in 2023/24. Savings related to efficiencies of housing related support contracts (£650k), housing related support review (£194k), ASC commissioning (£100k) are on track to be delivered this financial year, and are factored into the forecast. Savings relating to Day Care (£200k) and Care Charges (£250k) are currently forecast to be partially met and are factored into the forecast. There still

remains £1m of undelivered savings from previous years in relation to the Housing with Care service 2021/22 (£0.5m) and 2022/23 (£0.5m). In previous years these savings have been mitigated by efficiencies across our Housing related Support contracts, but currently there is real cost pressure of £1m.

- 10.17 **A vacancy rate savings** target of £0.3m has been set for the directorate in 2023-24. The forecast assumes that this will be achieved or mitigated within respective service budgets. Progress against the target is carefully monitored by the AH&I Senior Management Team and reported through this monthly finance report.
- 10.18 **Financial Risks.** Many of the financial risks to the service that were present in 2022-23 continue into 2023-24 as set out above. Following the recovery of the basic social care system (Mosaic) in November 2022, further work is ongoing to develop the system including improving important case management functionality. Further to this, Mosaic has not been in place as the primary Social Care Finance system for Adult Social Care for over two years, and further significant improvements are required. The majority of care package information has now been loaded on to Mosaic and the service teams are following up to ensure that all information is up to date and correct. However, until this task is completed and the data verified we cannot be certain that we are fully capturing and monitoring the cost of any additional demand for care. The service is working proactively to ensure that packages are loaded accurately and in a timely manner.
- 10.19 One of the main risks for the directorate is the ongoing cost of living and fuel price crisis, and the potential impact that it will have on the cost of service delivery going forward. It is difficult to estimate the impact that the cost of living crisis will have across services, however we can expect care providers to seek greater inflationary uplifts to care placements than in previous years. Inflation rates are currently 3.9% as at November 2023, and this not only presents challenges to the Council but also to care providers.
- 10.20 The current forecast includes only existing service users and does not include any potential costs arising from additional demand above estimated initial demographic growth assumptions. As mentioned in section 10.7 above, despite net budget growth of £14m and increases in grant funding of £17.8m over the last 5 years, the ASC budget continues to face mounting challenges due to both escalating demand and growing costs, which continue to exert significant pressure on the overall service budget. Actual care costs have risen by £8.1m per year on average over the last 5 years. The table below illustrates the year on year increase on external commissioned care spend.

Gross Outturn - External care commissioned services

	2019-20 (£m):	2020-21 (£m):	2021-22 (£m):	2022-23 (£m):	2023-24 Forecast Outturn (£m)
Total Outturn	65.3	72.5	77.9	87.8	99.2
Movement on Previous Year	6.4	7.2	5.4	9.9	11.4
% Increase on Previous Year	10.9%	11.1%	7.5%	12.7%	12.9

Management Actions

- 10.21 In addition to budgeted savings, further cost reduction measures have been developed for 2023/24. For Adult Social Care, management actions of £1.25m have been identified and these are factored into the forecast. These include continuation of the multi-disciplinary panel process (£0.25m); double-handed care package review (£0.2m); direct payment monitoring of accounts (£0.1m); review of agency spend through tighter controls with Head of Service and greater challenge through the Workforce Development Board (£0.1m); working with ELFT to manage the Mental Health overspend (£0.35m) and a commissioning review team (£0.25m).

11.0 Climate, Homes and Economy

Revised Budget	Service Area	Forecast Variance After reserves
£k		£000
37,474	Climate, Homes and Economy	1,078

- 11.1 The directorate is showing a £1.08m overspend after use of £4.1m in reserves and corporate support. There is a £142k deterioration from the November 2023 reported position. The directorate's main areas of underlying overspend are Environmental Operations, Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation (CSEBR) and Streetscene.
- 11.2 Previous OFP reports to Cabinet detailed how the Directorate Leadership Team has worked with the finance team to take actions to reduce spend and increase income. This yielded an in-year cost reduction of £1.2m

reflected which arose from holding uncommitted budgets on non staff budget lines, factoring income which is exceeding budgets into the forecast and forecasting underspend on budgets to deliver manifesto and other commitments due to delays in recruiting staff.

- 11.3 All possible levers to call underspends continue to be considered. This is a continually moving picture and the position will change over the coming months. We are introducing monitoring processes to ensure that the saving forecast can be fully delivered but accept that there are items of expenditure that are essential, such as equipment replacement, and will need to happen to deliver services that may well reduce the forecast saving. In the same way a downward trend in income will impact what we have forecast this month. All Service Managers and Assistant Directors in the directorate are aware of the financial challenge facing the Council and will use their best endeavours to deliver the cost reductions.
- 11.4 The net overspend for **Environmental Operations (EO) and Environment Strategy & Recycling (EWS)** is £1.662m (£1.567m Nov-23). The projected overspend in EO of £1.759m which is offset by an underspend of £0.097m in EWS, is due to a range of demand-driven challenges, including housing growth, population increases (including temporary influxes), responding to the aftermath of ASB, and emergency responses, all of which have put strain on current resources. Inflation and the cost of living crises have had an additional impact on the service, particularly in the areas of vehicle maintenance and increased consumable expenses, such as PPE. Vehicle maintenance costs had been flagged as a risk in previous forecasts - this risk is now materialising and represents the main movement in the forecast for this area.
- 11.5 Other priorities in terms of addressing the climate emergency have also had an influence on the service budget, which has implications for the operation of our street cleaning function. 5,000 street trees, which impact not only the leafing season but also the spring and summer with blossom, seed, and fruit; LTNs, which impact drive time and fuel usage; e-bikes, scooters, and bike hangers, which cause impediments to cleaning; and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs), which require litter picking and, in some cases, take longer to clean. In addition, the Service responds to emergency calls in the event of flash flooding. When this occurs, services are diverted from their regular duties to respond.
- 11.6 The principal cost pressures within the service are as follows:
- £0.687m - overspend relating to the impact of increased demand on the service; Since 2013 Hackney has seen household numbers rise by 13,530; this increase in households and the waste they produce has, up until last year, been absorbed into existing rounds and other services as far as possible. This demand pressure has also resulted in non-funded services, such as responsive cleansing of the highways and estates, night time economy cleansing, being delivered to maintain our cleanliness standards across the public

realm. However, this increased pressure on services for both refuse collection and street cleansing can no longer be contained within the existing budgets.

- £0.562m - non delivery of previously approved vacancy factor savings. This saving approved in 2021/22 is proving increasingly difficult to deliver especially given the increased pressure on the services as outlined above.
- £0.350m - non delivery of the savings relating to the establishment of the Commercial Waste company. Due to the impact of the pandemic there was a delay in establishing the company and this saving was to be delivered in year 3 following the establishment of the Company. We are just entering year 2 and therefore this saving will not be achieved until 2024/25.
- £0.268m - due to the impact of inflation on material purchasing such as goods used across the service, PPE and the cost of a route optimisation system
- £0.296m - vehicle maintenance increased costs previously noted as a potential risk. Up £96k from Nov 23.

11.7 The total of these cost pressures of approx £2m will be mitigated in part by steps offered by the Head of Service, with an estimate of £496k in cost mitigation across the full year to lower the predicted overspend. These actions are being implemented from October 2023. The impact to date is estimated at £245k of the £496k being achieved suggesting these mitigation actions are on track to be delivered. These recommendations should have little effect on service delivery and performance. The Assistant Director will continuously analyse service budgets to seek cost-cutting possibilities in order to reduce overspend while maintaining existing levels of service.

11.8 **Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation** is projected to overspend by £0.262m. This is an increase of £18k from November, due to the cost of a new database which has been offset by underspends from various budget lines. The overspend also relates to the service's continued need to generate vacancy factor savings, which is proving difficult in this vital front-line service. The Head of Service continues to evaluate budget lines in order to uncover opportunities to contain spend.

11.9 **Leisure, Parks & Green Spaces** are forecasting an underspend of £0.062m, which is an improvement of £0.044m on the November position. The reduction is due to prudent housekeeping and a review of controllable budgets across the service. There is a risk, detailed in the table below, that the rental income for one of the major cafe areas will not be realised.

11.10 **Economy, Regeneration & New Homes** There is currently a £0.371m underspend forecast for the service. £0.297m of the forecast underspend relates to Private Sector Housing (PSH). An additional budget of £0.400m was allocated to the service for 2023/24 to enhance the Council's response to Damp and Mould in the private rented sector, however there has been a delay in appointing Environmental Health Officers to deliver this

commitment and this is driving the significant underspend. Offsetting some of this is a reduction in licence fee income of £0.057m and an underachievement in income arising from enforcement notices and inspection fees equating to £0.100m. There is a further risk relating to PSH licensing income, with the old scheme ending in October 2023 and a decision on whether to extend, expand or scrap the scheme is yet to be made. There currently appears to be enough in the PSH licensing reserve to cover this gap, but this also depends on what income is received for the last few months of the current scheme. This risk will be mitigated by use of the reserve funding. There is also a £0.099m underspend within Area Regeneration and Economic Development due to the actions taken by management to hold unspent non staff budget to mitigate the Council's forecast overspend.

- 11.11 **Employment, Skills and Adult Learning** are forecasting a small underspend of £0.083m as the majority of expenditure in Adult Learning is covered by grants. The reduction in spend in the period relates to non essential spend items that have been identified.
- 11.12 **Markets and Shop Front Trading** Markets and Shop Front Trading are showing a £0.183m underspend, representing a £0.002m adverse movement from November 2023. Markets are expected to exceed the budgeted target as a result of new initiatives such as Sunday trading at Broadway Market. This is despite the Indoor Markets not being able to meet their target income for this financial year. The team responsible for the markets is actively engaging with both the contractor and legal services to explore options for compensation due to the missed deadline.
- 11.13 **Parking** Is showing an underspend of £0.118m. This is in line with the November forecast. The underspend relates to delays in staff recruitment. Parking revenue is below budgeted expectations in particular revenue from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs). There are two primary reasons for this decline. Firstly is the continuous acts of vandalism directed at CCTV cameras in the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and School Streets. This situation is aggravated by the high costs of fixing and maintaining these cameras. A secondary cause is the maturation of existing CCTV schemes (where compliance has improved), and a reduction in new moving traffic restrictions being implemented. As a result, income from PCNs has dropped by approximately 30% compared to last year. Another area of concern that is emerging is parking suspensions. Income over the first 5 months is down by 9% compared to the first 5 months of last year, despite inflationary price increases having been applied.

The Assistant Director has proposed a number of solutions to mitigate the risk posed by recurring acts of vandalism. The estimated annual impact and risk to the revenue projections is £1.4m which is being closely monitored. The forecast for PCN income has been reduced over previous months - these reductions have been mainly offset by other income revisions. This period there has been no offsetting increases as this income risk

materialises and so one-off risk resources have been used to manage the impact.

- 11.14 **Streetscene** is projecting an overspend of £0.161m, a negative movement of £0.064m from November 2023. The challenges posed by inflation and the prevailing cost of living crisis have brought about notable changes in the utilisation of services, consequently diminishing the demand for licences and associated fees. This trend is particularly evident in the context of contributions from companies such as G Network, which has reduced activity across the borough, and a reduction in the issuance of Highways Act Licences. This marked decline in activity across the Service is due to the broader economic challenges in the wider economy.
- 11.15 **Planning and Regulatory Services** is forecast to underspend by £0.109m which is a deterioration of £0.026m from the November 2023 position. Some income in planning is not predictable - the forecast is based on a number of assumptions including planning application activity - the forecast will continue to be reviewed. A risk around these income assumptions has been added to the list of risks this period.
- 11.16 **Savings/Vacancy Savings.** The directorate has achieved £2.508m of the 2023/24 savings plans of £2.858m. The Hackney Commercial Services company saving of £0.350m is being forecast as not being achieved given the company is a year behind schedule and this was a saving expected in year three of operations. The company has not established its market share base yet to deliver the 2023/24 savings target. The vacancy factor savings agreed as part of the 2021/22 budget are not being achieved in two of the directorate services: Environmental Operations and CSEBR. The total of non delivery is £753K. The Assistant Directors are reviewing services and budget lines to mitigate the impact of this non delivery.
- 11.17 **Management Actions to reduce the overspend in 2023/24.** Assistant Directors and Heads of Service are continually reviewing their overspends and working to identify strategies to mitigate the level of overspend. Strategic Directors will review all service areas to hold non essential spend to mitigate the overspending areas. An in-year review of non-essential spend resulted in forecasts previously being reduced by £1.2m.

11.18 Risks

	Amount £'000
Decline in TfL funding impacting capitalised salaries in Streetscene - we are keeping a watching brief	TBA
Vehicle Maintenance cost in Environment Operations - based on expenditure 22/23 exceeding the budget significantly. This is due, in part, to more extensive maintenance work to lengthen the life of vehicles. This is being closely monitored to pick up trends early.	214

Assumed savings from operational changes in Environmental Operation - close monitoring of the mitigating actions will be undertaken to track delivery of the savings.	249
NLWA levy for non household waste -increase in tonnage projections reported show an increase in the estimated cost for 23/24. Final 22/23 rebate from NLWA plus the estimated rebate for 23/24 has reduced the risk down to £100k from £500k.	100
Parking Income - reduction in PCN and parking suspension income due to acts of vandalism and reduced activity from companies in requesting parking bay suspensions to carry out work.	1400
A catering company operates the Clissold House Cafe at a base rent of £50,000 p.a. Since the pandemic and the wider challenges in the hospitality sector, this company has fallen into arrears on the payment of its rent, turnover share and utilities. Whilst a payment plan has been put in place by the Council there is a significant risk that this will not be met and the forecast income of £50,000 plus utility costs for 2023/24 not received."	100
Planning income assumptions - the forecast includes assumptions around the timing of income related to planning applications for large schemes. There is a risk that one of the major schemes will be delayed until 2024-25.	243
The Hackney Commercial Services company had savings of £0.500m at the start of the year. £0.350 has been forecast as not being achieved given the company is a year behind in operations. The £0.150m balance is now also at risk due to low turnover in the company. We are highlighting as a potential risk now the possibility that the full £0.150 may also not be achievable. Further analysis is needed to establish if this risk will materialise.	150

12.0 Finance and Corporate Resources

Revised Budget	Service Area	Forecast Variance After reserves
£k		£000
28,109	Finance & Corporate Resources	1,960

- 12.1 **Finance and Corporate Resources** are currently forecasting an overspend of £1.96m after a reserve drawdown of £2.27m. This is a favourable movement of £286k on last month's forecast. The service continues to be impacted by the cost of living crisis and cyber with significant overspends in Revenues, Benefits and ICT totalling £2.93m
- 12.2 **Financial Management and Control** are currently forecast to budget after a reserve drawdown of £58k.

- 12.3 **Education Client** is currently forecast to budget after a reserve drawdown of £14k. The reserve funding is being used to offset the costs associated with the legal fees for the withdrawal of lifecycle funding to the VA schools. Currently, there are 4 schools that have been impacted by this decision and an external legal team has been procured to ensure that there is a resolution. It is anticipated that the costs could change and as a result, we will continue to monitor and report any changes. The overall impact is unknown, and the total overspend will be supported by reserves
- 12.4 **Strategic Property Services** are forecasting to break even for the 2023/24 financial year after reserve movements. Commercial Property continues to be affected by the under recovery of income, this being the main budgetary pressure on the service. The Head of Commercial Estates has expressed concerns about the high risk associated with income collection and deferred rents, considering the current fragility of the market. We continue to monitor this however, it is anticipated that the pressure in this area could potentially increase. Additional budgetary constraints arise from the need to allocate resources towards enhanced security services, aimed at deterring break-ins and thwarting squatting incidents. To name a few, the Englefield Road site, the Wally Foster Community Centre, and the more recent case of the Brooksby Walk site have all been subject to increased security-related expenses. It is worth noting that these pressures will be alleviated through the utilisation of reserves that were earmarked during the last financial year to address fluctuations in income generated from commercial properties.
- 12.5 **Housing Benefits** Housing Benefits are currently forecasting an overspend of £1.24m after reserve drawdown of £315k. There has been no movement on the previous month's forecast.
- The agency forecast is currently £2m, of which £750k can be either 1) funded by specific grant funding or 2) absorbed by the underspend on permanent staff due to vacancies. The remaining £1.24m pressure is a result of the additional agency staff required to work on the backlog of work as part of Cyber recovery and additional demand in the service.
 - The Net Cost of Benefits (NCOB) forecast is not currently included in the above table. Eligible error continues to be significantly higher than pre-cyber levels which poses a financial risk however it is too early to provide an accurate forecast. Once the figures have been refined any overspend will be included in the forecast.
- 12.6 **Customer Services** are currently forecast to budget.
- 12.7 **Revenues** are currently forecasting an overspend of £643k. There has been no movement on last month's forecast. The £643k overspend relates to the following:
- £0.5m off-site resources required to access and process the backlog of outstanding work across Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates

using the Council's existing software systems Comino (document imaging) and Academy (revenues system) due to Cyber.

- The remaining overspend relates to the ongoing need for additional staff in the Customer Services Contact Centre who are working on the increase in the level of customer calls relating to council tax and business rates.

There is a possibility that additional grant funding will be awarded to help fund new burdens within the service. If awarded, this will reduce the following month's forecasts.

12.8 **Soft Facilities Management** is currently forecast to budget.

12.9 **Support Services** are currently forecast to budget.

12.10 **Registration Services** are currently forecast to underspend by £150k. There has been no movement on last month's forecast. The forecast underspend is as a result of overachieving on income targets.

12.11 **Housing Needs** are currently forecast to overspend by £316k after a reserve drawdown of £983k. There has been no movement on last month's forecast. The total additional pressure on the temporary accommodation rental forecast remains at £1.1m. Of this £800k can be offset by a one-off additional homelessness prevention grant resulting in a £300k overspend.

The £1.1m overspend in the temporary accommodation rental expenditure remains attributable to:

- 1) A significant 58% rise in the average nightly cost per unit for nightly paid temporary accommodation from 2022/23 rates.
- 2) Renegotiations on an expired hostel lease resulting in a 25% increase in the nightly cost per unit.
- 3) An increase in the use of nightly paid temporary accommodation due to the current shortage of alternative temporary accommodation tenures
- 4) A clause in one of our hostel leases requiring a rent review in response to any changes to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate
- 5) Securing a new lease on a block of temporary accommodation comprising of 27 units

It should be noted that the increase in costs have only been partially realised in-year, mitigating the full impact of the annual cost increase that we are likely to see in the upcoming financial year.

The current availability of temporary accommodation is also having an impact on the financial forecast. This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and the forecast will be updated to reflect any changes in the availability of TA properties.

- 12.12 **ICT** are forecasting an overspend of £373k after a reserve drawdown of £733k, this is a favourable movement of £253k on last month. The overspend is primarily linked to the on-demand cloud computing platforms provided by Amazon Web Services (AWS). Acknowledging the necessity of addressing this financial strain, the management is actively engaged in identifying strategies to mitigate the overspend. Significant headway has been achieved in discontinuing the use of certain outdated data centres, leading to a reduction in the projected annual costs associated with data centre hosting and network connectivity. Additionally, a thorough assessment is in progress to evaluate data migration and recovery efforts post the cyberattack. The objective of this assessment is to pinpoint areas where expenses related to cloud hosting can be minimised without compromising data security and operational efficiency. By implementing these measures, the service anticipates a decrease in the overspend and a more cost-effective utilisation of cloud computing resources. Additionally, it is worth noting that the service is already offsetting the overspend in the current position due to holding a number of vacant posts resulting from a recent restructure. Management is reviewing the possibility of delaying recruitment to these vacant posts to ease the budget pressure in the current financial year.
- 12.13 **The Audit and Anti-Fraud** service is forecasting an underspend of £154k. The overall underspend is due to the service holding vacant posts and a reduction in agency expenditure.
- 13.14 **Directorate Finance Support Teams** are forecasting an underspend of £158k. There has been no movement on last month's forecast.
- 12.15 **Procurement** is currently forecast to overspend by £9k. There has been no movement on last month's forecast. The overspend relates to the approval to award 10% market supplements on new and existing posts to increase staff retention, which is partially offset by underspends across the service.
- 12.16 **HR & OD** is currently forecast to underspend by £160k. There is no movement on last month's forecast and the forecast underspend is due to holding posts vacant for an extended period of time pending restructure.
- 12.17 All of F&CR **Savings** and the **Vacancy Savings** are forecast to be achieved.
- 12.18 The main areas of potential financial risks within F&R, where the forecast may see increases in the coming months are:
- Net Cost of Benefits - Loss of subsidy from Local Authority (LA) error & increase in the Bad Debt Provision (BDP).
 - Customer service costs depending on the level of demand.

13.0 Chief Executive

Revised Budget	Service Area	Forecast Variance After reserves
£k		£000
16,266	Chief Executive	-379

- 13.1 The Chief Executive's Directorate is forecasting an underspend of £0.379m following the use of £3.3m of reserves and corporate support. This is a £130k improved position on the November forecast of £0.249m. The impact of cost reduction actions taken by the directorate to support the Council's forecast overspend are reflected within this forecast. The changes within services mainly reflects revised staffing and contract forecasts across the directorate.
- 13.2 **Communications, Culture & Engagement** is forecasting an underspend of £0.198m in line with the November forecast. This underspend is arising from a forecast overachievement in venues and film location income. Further downward revisions to the income forecast for the Tomlinson centre have been made this month which offset increased income forecasts across other areas. All the income streams are monitored closely to identify trends and pick up any potential fall in activity which reduces income so that mitigating actions can be taken to respond.
- 13.3 **Legal, Democratic & Electoral Services** is forecasting an underspend of £0.269m showing a £27k deterioration from the November forecast. The underspend reflects the directorate's response to the Council's overall overspend which arises from underspends arising from the delay in filling posts to improve member casework (the forecast for this service reflects full implementation from 1st October); and holding unspent non staff budgets across the service. In addition the forecast underspend reflects a number of vacancies across the services, the service is achieving its vacancy factor and will be recruiting to vacant posts over the coming months. The deterioration reflects revisions in the overall staffing costs relating to recruitment and agency costs. There has been a significant increase in reserve usage resulting from the recent local elections costs where the Council had set aside funds to cover this cost. The Council will now need to set aside new balances over time to prepare for the cost of future local elections.
- 13.4 **Libraries & Heritage** is currently forecasting a £0.093m underspend, which is an improvement of £0.140m on the November position. The underspend is predominantly due to a decision to delay recruitment and hold vacancies where possible until the new financial year. The service continues to review the total forecast for this area taking a prudent approach which resulted in further savings to operational budgets which, as mentioned above, is a response to the Council's overall overspend position.

13.5 The directorate is on target to deliver the approved **Savings**.

13.6 A summary of risks to the service going forward are:

- Not achieving the external income target of £0.563m in legal services is a risk. Income was £67k (13%) below target in 2022/23 and this may continue into 2023/24. The income risk is due to the slowdown in the development activity across the borough. The income generated from capital recharges, property and S106 agreements has reduced in the last couple of years. This forecast shows achievement to budget and a review of activity will be carried out to inform the forecast for the end of financial quarter two. We continue to monitor this risk closely.
- Whilst we are currently forecasting an overachievement of income from our venues and film location service, the non delivery of income remains a risk. The cost of living crisis and high inflation continues and these income streams are particularly sensitive to the impact of the current economic situation. We will continue to monitor income streams closely as part of our OFP reporting.

13.6 **Management Actions to reduce any overspends.** The Directors and Heads of Service will continually review their budgets to identify opportunities to reduce reserve use and mitigate any potential income shortfalls.

14.0 HRA

14.1 The HRA is forecasting to draw down £1m from reserves in order to breakeven for 2023/24. This reflects the decision taken in April to phase the increase to the Council's district heat networks over two years. The forecast outturn position and future performance remain subject to the risk factors described in this report. The current forecast now includes the impact of the recently agreed pay award for 2023/24, this has been offset by a saving on central recharges to the HRA as the actuals for 2023/24 have now been posted into Cedar.

14.2 **Income**

- **Dwelling rents.** An increase of £355k income is forecast. The rental income forecast for temporary accommodation, reflecting the use of vacant homes across our housing regeneration programme estates, has reduced which reflects the decanting of properties for the next phases of the developments. This has been more than offset by an increase in the forecast for rent which is due to the new permanent and shared tenancies starting in-year reflecting an improvement in void turnaround times.
- **Non-dwelling rent** is forecast to be £759k above budget as a result of increased income from garages and community halls generated by the

new online booking system, along with a forecast increase in commercial rent income.

- **Income from Tenant Charges** is forecast to be £958k over budget as a result of increased income collected within the Housing Finance System, which largely relates to Landlord lighting reflecting increased costs of energy.
- **Leaseholder Charges for Services and Facilities** is forecast to generate £554k of additional income due to the impact of the issue of actual bills for 2022/23.
- **Other Charges for Services and Facilities**, the reduction in forecast income of £717k is mainly due to the management fee collected as part of major works billing. A review of major works bills is currently being undertaken by the homeownership team to establish the level of income expected for 2023/24.

14.3 Expenditure

- **Housing Repairs Account** - there is an adverse change of £29k from the previous month due to refinement of forecasts. The forecast for the year is just over a £1.2m overspend driven by the DLO (£600K), which reflects increased labour and materials costs. There is an additional resources requirement in legal disrepair and building maintenance (£640k) needed to tackle the demand for legal cases/complaints. This is offset by £200k underspend within community halls and the R&M forecast.
- **Special Services** - the overspend of £2.474m mainly relates to gas and electricity prices. Energy prices have significantly increased for 2023/24 which has been reflected in the monitor. Also, there is an overspend on lifts due to works required on maintenance and renewal. The lift procurement contract has been delayed resulting in a forecast overspend. There is also a forecast overspend on ground maintenance due to additional agency staff and forecast increased spend on hardware maintenance fees.
- **The repairs contract centre (RCC)** is forecast to overspend by £300k but this could increase during the rest of the year. The volume of phone calls is significantly high and the winter period has yet to complete, which is usually the peak time of the year. This is being driven by the increased demand in the number of reactive repairs, including damp and mould works along with average length of the phone calls.
- **Supervision and Management** - there is an underspend due to a reduction in allowances to be paid to TMO's as service responsibilities were handed back to the Council after the 2023/24 budget was set. Also there are a number of vacancies within Asset Management - a

recruitment drive is currently underway and staff are expected to be in place for the last quarter of the year. There are also some additional forecast overspends in other areas including £200k on the call centre. An increase in Insurance premiums has resulted in a forecast additional cost to the HRA for 2023/24 of £1m which has been offset by an estimated £1m reduction in the additional pension contribution required by the HRA in 2023/24. These forecasts will be refined and firmed up over the next few months. The current forecasts now include the impact of the recently agreed pay award for 2023/24. There are also additional costs relating to the redundancy and pension costs of a senior office that amount to £279k. These have been offset by a saving on central recharges to the HRA as the actuals for 2023/24 have now been posted into Cedar.

- **Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges** - there is an adverse variance of £186k due to a confirmation that Christopher Addison House is no longer a HRA asset and therefore the budget for rents is not required. There is also an increase in the forecast for business rates on Community Halls and Housing Management Offices of £46k.

14.4 Management Actions to reduce the overspend in 2023/24

Assistant Directors are continually reviewing their overspends and working to identify strategies to mitigate the level of overspend.

14.5 Risks

A number of new risks have been identified during December that require further investigation, quantifying and discussion with the relevant Heads of Service.

Area	£000
Bills relating to gas and electricity are often based on estimated usage. If the estimates are higher than the usage assumed in the budgets there may be a risk to the HRA. The estimated charges are yet to be verified by the Energy Management Team.	TBC
DLO - the forecast overspend could increase up to £1.9m, this will be offset against the capitalisation of revenue works.	TBC
Legal dis-repair -external legal/court fees / compensation is significantly higher as YTD spend is around £1.6m, this is due to backlog of legal cases and the current upward trend of cases. Qtr 1 & Qtr 2 external legal/court/compensation charges have been estimated at £526K for Q1 & for Q2 £320k. These are being analysed and need verifying due to the increase from last year.	600
Ombudsman/compensation payments - Due to a significant increase in the number of complaints (Relating to repairs) payments required to prevent complaints going further to legal dis-repair cases.	300
Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) & Legal disrepair cost avoidance- Works being undertaken as part of the ADR which runs parallel to Legal Disrepair. This results in compensation payments being made as part of the process (Outside of Legal Disrepair Payments), as well as repair works to remedy damp & mould. Overall 99 cases have gone through the ADR route, of which 86 cases for 23/24. This will result in cost avoidance from legal/court & higher compensation charges.	450

Area	£000
Resident Safety - (Seaton Point & Morris Blitz Court Security) 24 hour costs relating to security of site due to H&S. YTD spend is £300k potential spend at year end could be £400k. Could potentially be capitalised. Follow up for the end date.	300
	1,650

There remain several other risks within the HRA budgets which could have a further financial impact as detailed in the commentary above. These will be continuously monitored and communicated to Senior Management during the remainder of the financial year.

Appendices

None

Background documents

None.

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Comments of the Interim Group Director for Finance	Jackie Moylan Interim Group Director of Finance Tel: 020 8356 3003 jackie.moylan@hackney.gov.uk
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Title of Report	Capital Update and Property Disposals and Acquisitions Report	
Key Decision No	F S214	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Robert Chapman, Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	All	
Key Decision & Reason	Yes	Spending or Savings
Implementation Date if Not Called In	6 March 2024	
Group Director	Jackie Moylan, Interim Group Director, Finance	

1. **Cabinet Member's Introduction**

- 1.1 This report updates members on the capital programme agreed in the 2023/24 budget.
- 1.2 Through the proposals in this report we demonstrate our commitment to meeting our manifesto pledges and to deliver against the Council's Strategic Plan.
- 1.3 This month we propose an investment of £150k to adapt part of the building at the Daubeney Children's Centre to become a Children and Family Hub. Daubeney Children's Centre has been operating as a multi-agency strategic centre, but has recently been redesignated as a Children and Family Hub. This project is part of our contribution to the Government's Start for Life and Family Hub programme for which we have received grant funding. The programme's objective is to join up and enhance services delivered to families, ensuring all parents and carers can access the support they need when they need it. In this hub we will be able to provide support to parents and carers so they are able to nurture their babies and children thereby contributing to a reduction in inequalities in health and education outcomes for babies, children and their families.

- 1.4 We are also planning to invest in two of our key communications channels, Firstly, an investment of £441k to enhance the Council Website to respond to the changing needs and expectations of our residents. The investment will see significant improvements to the website through redesigning and improving the website content, processes and underlying technology. The Council's website plays a vital role in the Council's service delivery and receives a significant number of visitors every year and this investment will improve the customer experience. We are also planning to invest £50K to implement a new cloud based telephony and contact centre system which will enable Hackney residents to contact the council through the Contact Centre, creating a seamless customer experience. It will also provide telephony access for staff to make internal and external calls, securely from any device, provide performance reporting data on interactions with residents and reduce costs.
- 1.5 We are seeking approval for the use of £500K of Section 106 monies to invest in a Residential Solar PV Pilot which is a pioneer project that will provide a replicable model for solar panel generation across Hackney housing estates. This project will contribute to our net zero ambitions and deliver 1MW generation across similar archetypes that have been identified through a techno-economic feasibility study and subsequent business case carried out by a specialist energy consultant. This is a new innovative approach that will allow Hackney Light and Power to sell solar-generated energy to residents at a reduced cost whilst generating revenue for the Council. This business model gives Hackney Light & Power the ability to recoup capital costs which can then be ring fenced for future energy service projects or grant programmes.
- 1.6 Finally, this report proposes to invest £502K Section 106 monies to establish an Affordable Work Space Fund to be available to businesses on a grant basis to create new or upgraded affordable workspace in the borough. Funding will be allocated to businesses via a competitive grant application process to deliver the capital improvement works to their premises. This will present invaluable support to Hackney businesses during the current cost of living crisis.
- 1.7 I commend this report to Cabinet.

2. Interim Group Director's Introduction

- 2.1 This report updates Members on the current position of the Capital Programme and seeks approval as required to enable officers to proceed with the delivery of those schemes as set out in section 3 of this report.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 **That the scheme for Children and Education Directorate as set out in section 11 be given approval as follows:**

Daubeney Children's Centre and Family Hub: Resource and spend approval of £150k (£73k in 2023/24 and £77k in 2024/25) is requested to enable

Council Officers to progress the building adaptations to part of the building at the Daubeney Children's Centre to become a Children and Family Hub. Daubeney Children's Centre has been operating as a multi-agency strategic centre, but has recently been redesignated as a Children and Family Hub.

- 3.1 **That the scheme for Finance and Corporate Resources Directorate as set out in section 11 be given approval as follows:**

New Telephony System Implementation: Spend approval of **£50k (£14k in 2023/24 and £36k in 2025/26)** is requested to enable Council Officers to progress with the implementation of a new cloud based telephony and contact centre system.

Enhancing the Council Website: Spend approval of **£441k (£37k in 2023/24, £220k in 2024/25 and £184k in 2025/26)** is requested to enable Council Officers to deliver the transformative improvements to the Council's website through redesigning and improving the website content, processes and underlying technology.

- 3.2 **That the s106 Capital funded scheme summarised below and set out in section 11 be approved:**

S106	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total
Capital	100	400	0	500
Tota S106 Capital for Approval	0	400	(0)	500

- 3.3 **That the s106 Revenue funded scheme summarised below and set out in section 11 be approved:**

S106	2023/24 £'000	Fr Capital 2024/25 £'000	To Revenue 2024/25 £'000	Total
Capital	0	(506)	0	(506)
Revenue	0	0	506	506
Tota S106 Revenue for Approval	0	(506)	506	506

- 3.4 **That the S106 Capital funded scheme below and set out in section 12 be noted:**

S106	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total
Capital	42	134	84	260
Tota S106 Capital for Noting	42	134	84	260

3.5 **That the schemes outlined in section 13 be noted.**

3.6 The purchase of a ex-right to buy property part funded by the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) Round 2 and the submission of a funding application to the Brownfield Land Release Fund (Round 3) from the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) for a number of schemes across the Housing Supply and Estate Regeneration Programmes.

4. Reason(s) for Decision

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

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

5. Details of Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

6. Policy Context

6.1 The report to recommend the Council Budget and Council Tax for 2023/24 considered by Council on 27 February 2023 sets out the original Capital Plan for 2023/24. Subsequent update reports considered by Cabinet amend the Capital Plan for additional approved schemes and other variations as required.

6.2 Equality Impact Assessment

6.2.1 Equality impact assessments are carried out on individual projects and included in the relevant reports to Cabinet or Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee, as required. Such details are not repeated in this report.

6.3 Sustainability and Climate Change

6.3.1 As above.

6.4 Consultations

6.4.1 Relevant consultations have been carried out in respect of the projects included within this report, as required. Once again details of such consultations would be included in the relevant detailed reports to Cabinet or Procurement Committee.

6.5 Risk Assessment

- 6.5.1 The risks associated with the schemes detailed in this report are considered in detail at individual scheme level. Primarily these will relate to the risk of the projects not being delivered on time or to budget. Such risks are however constantly monitored via the regular capital budget monitoring exercise and reported to Cabinet within the Overall Financial Position reports. Specific risks outside of these will be recorded on departmental or project based risk registers as appropriate.

7. Comments of the Interim Group Director of Finance

- 7.1 The gross approved Capital Spending Programme for 2023/24 currently totals **£212.700m (£109.552m non-housing and £103.147m housing)**. This is funded by discretionary resources, borrowing, capital receipts, capital reserves (mainly Major Repairs Reserve and revenue contributions) and earmarked funding from external sources.
- 7.2 The financial implications arising from the individual recommendations in this report are contained within the main report.
- 7.3 The recommendations in this report will result in a revised gross capital spending programme for 2023/24 of **£212.984m (£109.317m non-housing and £103.667m housing)**.

Current Directorate	Revised Budget Position	Feb 2024 Cabinet	Updated Budget Position
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive's	366	0	366
Adults, Health & Integration	1,641	0	1,641
Children & Education	13,687	73	13,760
Finance & Corporate Resources	63,061	(350)	62,711
Climate, Homes & Economy	30,798	42	30,839
Total Non-Housing	109,552	(236)	109,317
Housing	103,147	520	103,667
Total	212,700	284	212,984

8. Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 8.1 The Interim Group Director, Finance is the officer designated by the Council as having the statutory responsibility set out in section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. The section 151 officer is responsible for the proper

administration of the Council's financial affairs.

- 8.2 In order to fulfil these statutory duties and legislative requirements the Section 151 Officer will:
- (i) Set appropriate financial management standards for the Council which comply with the Council's policies and proper accounting practices, and monitor compliance with them.
 - (ii) Determine the accounting records to be kept by the Council.
 - (iii) Ensure there is an appropriate framework of budgetary management and control.
 - (iv) Monitor performance against the Council's budget and advise upon the corporate financial position.
- 8.3 Proposals for capital spending shall be submitted to Cabinet for acceptance into the capital programme recommended to Full Council for adoption (paragraph 2.17, Financial Procedure Rule FPR2, Section A, Part Five of the Council's Constitution).
- 8.4 Once the capital programme has been approved, Cabinet exercises control over capital spending and resources and may authorise variations to the capital programme provided such variations are within available resources and are consistent with Council policy (paragraph 2.18, Financial Procedure Rule FPR2, Section A, Part Five of the Council's Constitution).
- 8.5 Section 106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 permits anyone with an interest in land to enter into a planning obligation which is then enforceable by the local planning authority. Planning obligations are private agreements intended to make acceptable developments which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. Frequently such obligations require the payment of a financial contribution to compensate for the loss or damage created by the development or mitigate against the development's impact. Local authorities must have regard to the legal tests laid down in Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 prior to requiring a developer to enter into a s106 obligation. Hackney Council approved the Planning Contributions Supplementary Planning Document on 25 November 2015 under which contributions are secured. Once completed, s106 agreements are legally binding contracts and financial contributions can only be used for the purposes specified within the obligation itself.
- 8.6 The Council also receives payments under the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 based upon the Council's adopted charging schedule adopted in 2015 (this is separate to the Mayor of London's CIL). The Council's adopted Regulation 123 list details the infrastructure that the payments received will be spent upon. In addition, there is a neighbourhood element to CIL and areas where development is taking place will receive a proportion of the receipts to be spent in local neighbourhoods, this includes the Hackney Community Fund.

9. Comments of the Director of Strategic Property Services

None required.

10. VAT Implications on Land and Property Transactions

None required.

11. Capital Programme 2023/24 and Future Years

11.1 Children and Education

- 11.1.1 **Daubeney Children's Centre and Family Hub:** Resource and spend approval of **£150k (£73k in 2023/24 and £77k in 2024/25)** is requested to enable Council Officers to progress the building adaptations to part of the building at the Daubeney Children's Centre to become a Children and Family Hub. Daubeney Children's Centre has been operating as a multi-agency strategic centre, but has recently been redesignated as a Children and Family Hub. The current configuration of the children's centre does not meet the space requirements for a Children and Family Hub. The project will include some adaptations to the building to provide for additional space and equipment for the new hub, to include 5 new hot desk spaces, a multi-functional parents/consultation room, improved access to reception area and associated mechanical and electrical works.

In April 2022 the government announced that 75 local authorities would be taking part in the Start for Life and Family Hub programme. The programme is supported by a £300 million government investment up to 2025. In February 2023 the government formally announced that Hackney was one of the local authorities to be awarded a grant. The programme's objective is to join up and enhance services delivered through transformed family hubs in local authority areas, ensuring all parents and carers can access the support they need when they need it. The programme will:

- provide support to parents and carers so they are able to nurture their babies and children, improving health and education outcomes for all
- contribute to a reduction in inequalities in health and education outcomes for babies, children and families across England by ensuring that support provided is communicated to all parents and carers, including those who are hardest to reach and/or most in need of it
- build the evidence base for what works when it comes to improving health and education outcomes for babies, children and families in different delivery contexts

Children and Family Hubs offer information, help and support to families from conception up until age 19 (or 25 for young people with SEND). They bring together staff working across a range of different services, including the Council, health services and voluntary and community organisations (VCS).

The hubs will act as a 'one stop shop' to offer guidance and advice on a range of circumstances.

Daubeney Children's Centre is housed in a single storey building constructed in approximately 2008 in the Clapton Park ward in the east of the borough. The centre shares its site with Daubeney Primary School's nursery and is just down the road from Daubeney Primary School. The Daubeney Children's Centre building sits on the Daubeney Primary School site and is owned by the local authority.

The reconfigured space will provide opportunities to reach more Hackney children and families and provide a multi-use space for a range of partners from the VCS, Statutory services and health. The space will allow improved community access, provide an efficient layout, suitable spaces and sanitary provision at the site.

This capital approval will allow the Council to deliver the programme which aims to join up and enhance services delivered through a transformed family hub ensuring all families can access the support they need. This demonstrates the Council's commitment to tackling inequalities, ensuring every child in Hackney has the best start in life and lives a fairer, safer and active life. This approval will have no net impact on the capital programme as it will be funded by grant.

Project milestone	Estimated completion date
Feasibility	January 2024
Detailed design	March 2024
Procurement	April / May 2024
Start on site	May 2024
Completion	Aug / Sept 2024

11.2 Finance and Corporate Resources

- 11.2.1 **New Telephony System Implementation:** Spend approval of **£50k (£14k in 2023/24 and £36k in 2024/25)** is requested to enable Council Officers to progress with the implementation of a new cloud based telephony and contact centre system. Following extensive engagement across the Council's service teams and soft-market testing, the decision was made to proceed with procurement of a new telephony service and contact centre software. This will continue to be based on a cloud model, retaining the benefits of flexibility, scalability, resilience and reduced vendor lock-in.

Back in 2016, the Council introduced a cloud based service for telephony and contact centre software (NFON), and in 2021 moved to the current supplier (Vonage). In May 2023 the current contract with Vonage reached its second

anniversary. While the Council has the option to extend the contract with Vonage by up to a further two years, our assessment of the Council's user needs and the market for these services concluded that it would be advantageous to procure an alternative system.

To deliver the implementation of the new system, the Council's ICT service requires 2 additional Associate Digital Analysts for a period of up to 6 months to assist with the work required. The implementation phase will require these additional resources to work with teams to help design, setup and configure the new RingCentral system, understanding staff requirements to determine the most appropriate product modules, setting up accounts, call queues, call groups, contact centre light, number porting and working with the supplier to assist with post implementation support. These improvements and advancements will bring about the following benefits:

- Allow Hackney residents to contact the council through the Contact Centre to create a seamless customer experience.
- Provide telephony access for staff to make internal and external calls, securely from any device (including personal devices)
- Enable customer service teams to provide performance reporting data on interactions with residents
- Ability to provide an omnichannel communication strategy
- Reduce costs for the Council as well as improved KPIs & Metrics

The migration is expected to take approximately 6 months (based on benchmarking with comparable organisations) and will be delivered by transferring users and call groups from the current telephony system to the new telephony system. As part of the migration process, call groups will be reviewed and user requirements validated to ensure that the Council secures best value from the new service. This will be delivered through an agile project with regular planning and prioritisation and stakeholder engagement through various 'show & shares'.

The Council's move to cloud based services has provided significant benefits in terms of the relative ease of changing telephony providers and reduced capital outlay. A traditional 'on premises' system would have required substantial up front investment in specialist hardware. This is not the case with cloud services so the investment needed to change providers is much reduced.

The Council has adopted a ICT strategy based on the Government's Technology Code of Practice, which includes adoption of public cloud technologies. This enables the best use of modern technology, increases flexibility and resilience and also reduces lock-in to technology suppliers. The use of cloud based telephony was an important part of the Council's ability to continue to provide telephone based contact for residents and businesses following the cyberattack in October 2020.

This approval will ensure all Council Services across have an effective and efficient telephony system that enables high quality communication with our residents and businesses. This capital expenditure demonstrates the Council's commitment to putting residents first and transforming both our services and the way we work to a modern and innovative environment. This project supports all the Priorities of the Council's 2018-2028 Sustainable Community Strategy. This approval will have no net impact as the resources already form part of the capital programme.

- 11.2.2 **Enhancing the Council Website:** Spend approval of **£441k (£37k in 2023/24, £220k in 2024/25 and £184k in 2025/26)** is requested to enable Council Officers to deliver the transformative improvements to the Council's website through redesigning and improving the website content, processes and underlying technology. Extensive user research was conducted by the Council's ICT Customer Experience Team, into accessibility, usability and service processes, to gain a deeper understanding of the website user experience. The Council's website plays a vital role in the Council's service delivery. It receives a significant number of visitors every year.

Year	Users who have initiated at least one session during the date range
2022	2,338,756
2021	2,382,025
2020	2,085,209
2019	1,784,308

Our users are increasingly accessing the Council's website via mobile. In 2018, when the current website was built, the majority of users accessed it via desktop and the new WordPress website was designed to improve mobile support. Since then access from mobile devices has continued to grow and now represents a majority of visits to the website.

Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Desktop	58%	56%	50%	44%	43%	42%
Mobile	36%	39%	47%	54%	55%	56%
Tablet	6%	5%	3%	2%	2%	2%

Following all the extensive user research by the Council's ICT Customer Experience Team, the decision was made to proceed with further enhanced online access to the Council's services. To do this team have established four key areas of opportunity for improvement:

No	Key Areas	Summary
1.	Residents:	Acceleration and scaling up of content redesign, enabling more residents to access the service they need online.
2.	Technology:	Further upgrades and accessibility and functionality enhancements to the WordPress CMS software and development of the medium term CMS platform strategy.
3.	Content Quality and Publishing Process:	Optimise this process to reduce the amount of time the team spends managing the website inbox to increase efficiency and scale up our strategic content transformation
4.	Hackney Design System:	Improve management and functionality of the system in order to improve user experience and deliver greater consistency of user interfaces across Hackney platforms and services.

To deliver the transformative improvements, the Council's ICT service requires an Associate Content Designer, Software Engineer and Lead Content Designer. It is proposed to recruit on a fixed term basis over the proposed two year period as this is lower cost than agency recruitment, external consultancy and also aligns with the longer term talent strategy.

The Associate Content Designer role will backfill established content designer capacity to focus on the proactive content improvement work set out in this proposal. The Lead Content Designer will provide the leadership for the project, setting and shaping the vision, standards, processes and strategic direction for hackney.gov.uk. The Software Engineer role will be embedded in the team to manage technical improvement work. The software engineer may also need to work on the Council's intranet platform support (expected to be about 5%-10% of their time). This is still a relatively limited resource setup for an ambitious programme of content and platform enhancement, so may need to be reviewed and scope assessed and prioritised once we have completed discovery work.

The skills and roles in the Council's Customer Experience Team is organised around a roadmap of work, which focuses on Customer Services and the website (the main two interfaces residents have with the Council). As such, this website improvement project will also have the following resources: product manager, user researcher, service designer, data and insight analyst (possibly a delivery manager). These will be delivered through an agile project with regular planning and prioritisation and stakeholder engagement through show & shares. These improvements and advancements will bring about the following benefits and outcomes:

Benefits	Outcomes
Make sure the website has the right content and a good user experience so that more people use it as their first point of contact, shifting transactional demand to digital channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More users are able to find out and/or do what they need to do online, reducing telephony/email/face to face demand into Customer Services

Benefits	Outcomes
A website that greatly improves the speed and ease with which users find what they need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved navigation speed and accuracy for users Reduction in time taken to find desired information/complete task
A more inclusive and accessible website which enables more users to self-serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both the website technology and content should be accessible in line with WCAG 2.1 (AA standard) The website & content enables digital inclusion through inclusive language The website signposts people to the right place to get help and continue their journey in order to meet their goals (staying online where possible)
The right product and interaction patterns for the right context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cohesive design system with GOV.UK styles, components, and patterns An improved navigation solution that works across all screen sizes and device types
A better content publishing process, improving operational efficiency and productivity	

This approval will deliver significant upgrades to the Council's website content designed around our users' needs. By working closely with our service partners on proactive content improvement we can make sure that residents have the opportunity to find out everything they need to know and do via the website, and that this information is up to date. This will enhance the resident experience and maximise the website's value by increasing digital uptake.

This capital expenditure demonstrates the Council's commitment to putting residents first and tackling inequality by making the website inclusive and accessible. This project supports all the Priorities of the Council's 2018-2028 Sustainable Community Strategy. This approval will have no net impact as the resources already form part of the capital programme.

Project milestone	Estimated completion date
Recruit internally and externally for new roles	January 2024
New hires start	February 2024
Year 1 - technology (CMS) reviewed; content audit and proactive content review plan; review and improve the content management process to increase efficiency; start proactive content improvement based on top tasks/web traffic improving searchability, usability	March 2025
Year 2 - decision on new CMS - if moving then a business case with	August 2026

Project milestone	Estimated completion date
migration plan, if staying with WordPress continue to optimise; continue proactive content improvement; improving searchability, usability and searchability; improve management and functionality of the design system	
End of fixed term contracts	

11.3 S106 Capital for approval

11.3.1 Capital Resource and Spend approval of £500k (£100k in 2023/24 and £400k in 2024/25) is requested for **Residential Solar PV Pilot (Estates)**. These works will be financed by S106 contributions and carried out in accordance with the terms of the appropriate S106 agreements.

Agreement No.	Project Description	Site Address	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total
2019/2116	Residential Solar PV Pilot	Kennaway Estate, Stoke Newington Church Street, Hackney, London, N16 9JD	96	0	0	96
2016/4414		Majestic Hotel, 392-394 Seven Sisters Road N4 2PQ	4	35	0	39
2017/1720		22-24 Powell Road, London, E5 8DJ	0	1	0	1
2018/1124		Unilateral undertaking relating to Garages Site at Daubeney Road, Hackney, London, E5 0JQ	0	12	0	12
2020/3363		141 Evering Road, Hackney, London, N16 7BU	0	2	0	2
2019/0462		Quick and Tower House, 65 Clifton Street, EC2A 4JE	0	2	0	2
2018/4172		The Laundry, 2-18 Warburton Road, Hackney, London, E8 3FN	0	22	0	22
2020/4188		Finsbury Park Methodist Church, 1 Wilberforce Road, Hackney, London, N4 2SN	0	1	0	1
2018/2948		2-16 Bayford Street, Hackney, London, E8 3SE	0	52	0	52
2020/1546		61 Queens Drive, London, N4 2BG	0	7	0	7
2017/5024 or 2012/1731		Marian Court, Link Street, London, E9 6DT	0	267	0	267
Total S106 Capital for Approval			100	400	0	500

Residential Solar PV Pilot: The Residential Solar PV pilot will be a pioneer project that will provide a replicable model for solar panel generation across Hackney housing estates. The project will deliver 1MW generation across similar archetypes that have been identified through a techno-economic feasibility study and subsequent business case carried out by specialist energy consultant, Emergent Energy.

A new innovative approach identified by Emergent will allow Hackney Light & Power to sell solar-generated energy to residents at a reduced cost whilst generating revenue for the council. This business model gives Hackney Light & Power the ability to recoup capital costs which can then be ring fenced for future energy service projects or grant programmes.

The installation of the panels will contribute to a significant carbon reduction. It is estimated that 212.33 tCO₂e will be saved each year. This is an estimate based on 1MW generation using the BEIS conversion factors for company reporting 2022 (assumed kWh * 0.21233 = kgCO₂e). Assuming a lifespan of 20 years, the estimated total carbon savings will be 4,246.6 tCO₂e.

HLP will report back to the s106 board with actual carbon savings once the panels are in operation alongside detailed carbon saving reporting for other projects financed through the carbon offset fund.

11.4 S106 Revenue for approval

- 11.4.1 Revenue Resource and Spend approval is requested for the **Affordable Work Space Fund** £506k in 2025/26 of reallocation of small pots of funds moved into one larger. These works will be financed by S106 contributions and carried out in accordance with the terms of the appropriate S106 agreements.

Agreement No.	Project Description	Site Address	2023/24 £'000	Fr s106 Capital 2024/25 £'000	To s106 Revenue 2024/25 £'000	Total
2015/2643	Reallocated from South Hackney Affordable Workspace Programme Funds	32-34 Wharf Road, London N1 7EG	0	(238)	0	(238)
2014/2819		1A&1C Shepherdess Walk N1 7QE	0	(162)	0	(162)
2006/0390	Reallocated from Morning Lane Railway Arch Allocations	Bateman's Row 1-6	0	(13)	0	(13)
2007/1781		5 Mill Row, De Beauvoir N1 5RL	0	(15)	0	(15)
2006/2724		11 Mill Row, De Beauvoir N1 5RL	0	(15)	0	(15)
2007/0537		3 Mill Row De Beauvoir N1	0	(16)	0	(16)
2006/1197		Phipp Street EC2A 4NU	0	(47)	0	(47)

Agreement No.	Project Description	Site Address	2023/24 £'000	Fr s106 Capital 2024/25 £'000	To s106 Revenue 2024/25 £'000	Total
2015/2643	To Affordable Work Space Fund	32-34 Wharf Road,London N1 7EG	0	0	238	238
2014/2819		1A&1C Shepherdess Walk N1 7QE	0	0	162	162
2006/0390		Bateman's Row 1-6	0	0	13	13
2007/1781		5 Mill Row, De Beauvoir N1 5RL	0	0	15	15
2006/2724		11 Mill Row, De Beauvoir N1 5RL	0	0	15	15
2007/0537		3 Mill Row De Beauvoir N1	0	0	16	16
2006/1197		Phipp Street EC2A 4NU	0	0	47	47
Total S106 Revenue for Approval			0	(506)	506	506

Affordable Work Space Fund: This approval will enable Council Officers to consolidate various small allocations of affordable workspace S106 funding into one larger workspace fund to be available to businesses on a grant basis to create new or upgraded affordable workspace in the borough.

The Council will create an Affordable Workspace Fund in the form of a capital grant available to affordable workspace providers and businesses in affordable workspaces. Eligible expenditure will include creating new or improving existing affordable workspace, and energy efficiency measures.

Funding will be allocated to businesses via a competitive grant application process (similar to the £2.5m Hackney Business Support Fund). Project addresses/locations will be confirmed in approved applications to the Hackney workspace fund and set out in grant agreements between the successful applicants and the Council.

Most applicants to the Affordable Workspace Fund are expected to be businesses/workspace providers and they will be responsible for delivering the capital works to their premises and having the requirement permissions and approvals in place to carry out these works. This will be captured in a grant agreement between the Council and successful applications and monitored by the Council to ensure that the funding provided to applications has been used for its intended purpose.

Robust project and grant monitoring procedures were put in place for the £2.5m Hackney Business Support Fund so these protocols are already established in the Council's Regeneration and Economic Development Service.

12. S106 Capital for Noting

- 12.1 The s106/CIL Corporate Board Meetings dated 5 July 2023, 18 September 2023 and 7 December 2023 considered the following bids for resource and spend approval. As a result **£260k (£42k in 2023/24, £134k in 2024/25 and £84k in 2025/26)** will be spent in accordance with the terms of the appropriate s106 agreements.

Agreement No.	Project Description	Site Address	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total
2018/4172	Hackney Central	The Laundry, 2-18 Warburton Road, Hackney, London, E8 3FN	0	33	0	33
2014/1460	Railway Arches Art	Great Eastern Buildings Reading Lane London E8 1DR	5	28	0	33
2016/3602 & 2013/3602	Tree Planting 211-227 Hackney Rd	211-227 Hackney Road, London, E2 8NA	29	0	0	29
2017/0596	Legible London Signing	183-187 Shoreditch High Street, bounded by Holywell Lane, New Inn Yard, and rail viaduct, London, E1 6HU	7	0	0	7
2012/3871		Land @ Curtain Road, Hewett Street, Great Eastern	0	0	0	0
2014/2552	Car Club	Zaim Trading Estate Leaside Road, London, E5 9LU	0	0	2	2
2015/0877		5-29 Sun Street, 1-17 Crown Place 8-16 Earl Street, and 54 Wilson Street, London, EC2M 2PS (ONE CROWN PLACE)	0	0	14	14
2018/2681		Block B (Phase 2) Woodberry Down, Woodberry Grove, N4 2NL	0	0	10	10
2016/4414		Majestic Hotel, 392-394 Seven Sisters Road N4 2PQ	0	0	16	16
2016/0901		28 Powell Road, London, E5 8DJ	0	0	2	2
2016/1814		225 City Road,, London, EC1V 1JT	0	0	6	6
2020/1667		Land On Wimbourne Street, Hackney, London, Hackney, N1	0	0	12	12
2020/1567		Land on Buckland Street, N1 6TR	0	0	12	12
2020/4110		209-223 Hoxton Street, London, N1 5LG	0	0	1	1
2015/0555		1A Downs Road, London E5 8QJ	0	0	7	7
2015/3968		Homerton Baptist Church Barnabas Road, London E9 5SD	0	0	3	3
2018/4172	Highway Works at The Laundry, 2-18	The Laundry, 2-18 Warburton Street E8 3FN	0	73	0	73

Agreement No.	Project Description	Site Address	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	Total
	Warburton Street E8 3FN					
2020/4256	Towards Net Zero Carbon Study Update	3 Princess Crescent, Hackney, London, N4 2HH	1	0	0	1
Total S106 Capital for Noting			42	134	84	260

13. **For Noting**

- 13.1 Cabinet is requested to note the purchase of an ex-Right to Buy Property as part of the Afghan Resettlement Scheme to be part funded from the Housing AMP capital programme. The property costing £520k will be part funded by the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) Round 2 funding and part funded from the Council's housing capital budget and held within the HRA.
- 13.2 In October 2023, the Council was successful in being awarded £1.8m in Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF) funding from DLUHC Round 2, for Kings Crescent Phases 3 & 4. The BLRF funding is for unlocking brownfield sites in Council ownership for housing delivery, and is targeted towards providing up front capital to address viability issues arising from abnormal costs of a proposed development. Cabinet to note the Council's intention to apply for Brownfield Land Release Fund (Round 3). The requirements of this round of funding are that a contractor needs to be in place (in contract) by March 2025, and land must be released by March 2028. The sites we are exploring funding for are Marian Court, Frampton Park Estate, De Beauvoir, and Fairbank - the strategic case (and strength of our bids) is being tested / workshopped with our Regional Programme Managers at One Public Estate to determine the best fit for the funding.

APPENDIX

None.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

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Comments for the Interim Group Director, Finance prepared by	Deirdre Worrell Interim Director, Finance Management Tel: 020 8356 7350 deirdre.worrell@hackney.gov.uk

Comments for the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services	<p>Louise Humphreys Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services Tel: 020 8356 4817 louise.humphreys@hackney.gov.uk</p>
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Title of Report	2024/25 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX REPORT	
Key Decision No	FCR S097	
For Consideration By	Cabinet and Council	
Meeting Date	Cabinet 26 February 2024 And Council 28 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Mayor Caroline Woodley	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards	
Key Decision & Reason	Yes	To set the 2024/25 Council Tax Rate and the 2024/25 General Fund Revenue Budget
Implementation Date if Not Called In	6 March 2024	
Group Director	Jackie Moylan, Interim Group Director of Finance	

1. MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 My first budget as Mayor of Hackney comes in hugely difficult financial circumstances, with the long-term impact of growing demand, rising costs and over a decade of government underinvestment putting immense pressures on local services across the country. That's why I'm proud to present an ambitious budget that not only balances the books at a time when so many councils like ours are struggling to do so, but also shows that we can continue to work together for a better Hackney in challenging times.
- 1.2 This budget comes off the back of sustained cuts. Excluding Council Tax, our core spending power is £156m, or 40%, in real terms less than in 2010-11. Once again, this year's funding is set through a one-year settlement from the government and a proliferation of one-off grants, rather than the sustainable, long-term funding we need to plan and provide the services our residents deserve.
- 1.3 Demand for, and the cost of delivering, these services has never been higher, particularly in some of the most critical areas like social care, homelessness and special educational needs. Without adequate additional funding, we now have to plan for an even greater proportion of our resources to be spent in these areas.

- 1.4 The decision to propose a 4.99% increase to the Council's element of Council Tax during a cost-of-living crisis is not one taken lightly. However, the additional £5m it raises is vital for those who rely on the services the Council provides and adds around £1 a week to the bill for a Band B property, maintaining one of the lowest Council Tax rates in London.
- 1.5 We have at the same time increased the maximum Council Tax discount for working households on low incomes from 85% to 90%. That's two years ahead of the timeline set out in our manifesto, and a big step towards our goal of offering those who need it most a 100% discount on Council Tax by 2030. Through our pioneering Money Hub, we will continue to ensure every resident gets all the help they're entitled to, whether through council tax support, crisis payments, discretionary housing payments or other benefits.
- 1.6 Protecting frontline services, and Hackney's most vulnerable residents, will always be my number one priority. Although our financial position is challenging, we can still invest in a fairer, safer, greener, healthier borough, work for every child in Hackney and make our borough an exciting place to grow up and age well.
- 1.7 To work towards a fairer Hackney, we will continue to spend £4.7m on our award-winning employment and lifelong learning efforts, ensuring local people are first to benefit from the huge opportunities in our borough. We will also maintain our capital programme, including over £50m on maintaining and improving our Council homes, and £94m towards our 1,000 new Council homes target, with 49 social rent homes starting and 182 completing this year.
- 1.8 To create a safer Hackney, we will spend over £12.3m on programmes like the Community Gangs Team – a partnership approach to supporting people out of violent crime alongside the police, probation service and public health partners – and our enforcement teams tackling anti-social behaviour on estates and in green spaces. We will help businesses to create safe spaces through the Hackney Nights accreditation scheme, and prevent vulnerability with schemes such as "Ask for Angela" which aligns with the Council's commitment to ending violence against women and girls, and upholds Hackney as No Place for Hate, standing up against all forms of racism and prejudice, including antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, hatred towards travellers, disability discrimination and ageism.
- 1.9 To build a greener, healthier Hackney, we will make £55m in capital investments towards our net zero ambitions in the next year, supplemented by external funding streams including the £18.1m secured this year. This includes £20.7m in retrofit and housing improvements, £10.7m decarbonising other buildings, £6.9m on schools projects, £5.9m on streets and public spaces, £3.9m greener vehicles, £1.9m on a solar panel pilot and £1.3m on cycle hangers. We will also spend a further £16m on community investment and amenities, maintaining Hackney's 58 parks and seven sport and leisure centres, including £1.7m in refurbishing play areas and over £2m to progress the transformation of Kings Hall Leisure Centre.

- 1.10 To work for every child in Hackney, we will spend over £85.4m on our network of children's centres, our early intervention and prevention services, supporting our schools to create an inclusive, high-performing education system and looking after children where they cannot be cared for within their family networks. During 2023-24 we revisited children's centre provision across the borough to ensure it delivers the best service possible, expanding four centres into Children and Family Hubs, receiving a report from the former Mayor's commission into affordable childcare, and securing an independent review focused on sustainability of the service. We have recently launched a consultation on proposed changes to ease pressures and secure a sustainable network of provision into the future.
- 1.11 We will continue to invest £10.2m on youth and early help services for families, including our four youth hubs and six adventure playgrounds, and put £21m capital investment in our school buildings, including increasing provision for special educational needs and disabilities in the borough, creating an additional 300 places for children with SEND in Hackney. And for our older residents, we will continue to deliver on the ambitions of our ageing-well strategy by transforming adult social care, giving a voice to our older and disabled residents, and maintaining our commitments as a dementia-friendly borough.
- 1.12 Finally, despite the cost pressures, we have worked to sustain limited additional resources on projects to support these priorities, including continuing our commitment to be a Right to Food borough and deliver on our Food Poverty Action Plan, expanding our Zero Emissions Network across the whole of Hackney, developing new planning guidance on green infrastructure, and continuing the 10 by 10 Programme to ensure by the time they are 10 years old, every child in Hackney has access to at least ten different activities. We will also launch our local green investment scheme to enable local residents to invest in the decarbonisation of our borough.
- 1.13 Presenting a balanced budget in these circumstances has been a huge challenge, and we know there are more challenges to come. We expect to have to find a further £22.5m in savings in 2025-26, rising to a cumulative £34.6m and then £52.3m in the following two years. We aim to meet as much of this shortfall as possible through transforming our services and doing more for less. But there will inevitably be some hard choices to make, and we will make these in a way that measures, understands and minimises the impact on our residents. That's why we'll keep making the case to the Government for additional funding to minimise these shortfalls, just as we have helped secure councils an additional £600m in this year's funding and are now pushing for the vital Household Support Fund to be extended beyond March.
- 1.14 We can only achieve these ambitions, and meet our legal obligation for a balanced budget through sound financial management, working with an excellent team of Council officers and councillors. I would also like to thank Cllr Chapman, my Cabinet and councillor colleagues, especially on Scrutiny and Audit committees, the Interim Group Director for Finance and her entire team for their work on the

budget report, as well as the continued work to maintain the financial resilience of the Council. I would also like to thank the Corporate Leadership team for their tireless work on the budget and maintaining services across the Council. There has also been extensive work with the Chairs and members of Scrutiny and Audit to ensure pre-budget engagement on these proposals. A special mention also goes to the former Group Director for Finance and Corporate Resources, Ian Williams, who left us in the summer to take up a new challenge in Liverpool. Without his tireless efforts and sound advice over a period of more than 15 years I would not be presenting this sound and ambitious budget for the forthcoming year.

- 1.15 This is an ambitious, Labour values driven budget that protects universal services, builds resilience, creates opportunities and supports the most vulnerable in the most challenging of times, while investing in our priorities and Hackney's future. I am proud to commend this report as my first Budget to Cabinet and then Full Council.

2.0 INTERIM GROUP DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report asks Cabinet to agree and recommend to Council for approval, the 2024/25 General Fund budget estimates, a 4.99% increase in the Hackney element of Council Tax made up of 2% in respect of adult social care and 2.99% in respect of other services, and a series of recommendations relating to the Council finances in respect of the 2024/25 financial year.
- 2.2 I would like to place on record my thanks and gratitude for the support and cooperation I have received from the Mayor, Cabinet Members, Scrutiny and Audit Committee members as well as colleagues on the Corporate Leadership Team and Officers within my own team and the other Directorates throughout the budget setting process. This year we have seen significant change in our Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), with Dawn Carter-McDonald as Interim Chief Executive, Louise Humphreys as Acting Director of Legal, Democratic & Electoral Services (and Monitoring Officer) and myself as Interim Group Director of Finance (and s151 officer). The support received from this group has been invaluable and in a particularly difficult year, unyielding. Also, special thanks to the former Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, Ian Williams who led a large part of this year's process. Reporting, for the first time as s151 officer to the Full Council it is emphasised that this has been a challenging process given the ongoing pressures on our services and the lack of clarity around funding streams going forward. Faced with yet another one year settlement containing many one-off funding streams - as we have fed back to the Government on many occasions - medium term financial planning is extremely difficult. It is only by the Leadership working together, both Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) that we continue to navigate through the uncertainty.
- 2.3 The 2024/25 Revenue Budget and Capital Strategy has continued to be put together against the backdrop of significant real terms funding cuts since 2010/11. The settlement in respect of 2024/25 was disappointing in that very little funding over and

above that which had already been announced was made available. The late announcement of additional funds for social care was welcome but is insufficient to meet our growing cost pressures. Costs in adult social care and children's services have sharply increased and we continue to be concerned that increases in funding for preventing homelessness will not meet demand in this area. Alongside this the legacy of a very high inflation rate is impacting on many services. Furthermore, the publication of the 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement gave us little information of funding allocations for the following years. Little is known about the aggregate Local Government budgets post 2024-25 and still, no decision has been taken on the timing and scope of the local government funding review and business rates reset. So whilst we are able to present here a balanced budget, we face a challenging and uncertain future.

- 2.4 Turning to Council Tax, this report proposes to set an increase of 4.99% in the Hackney element of the Tax in 2024/25. Given the significant reduction in real terms core funding since 2010/11, I believe such an increase is essential to protect the Council's funding position in both the short and medium term whilst balancing the demands it places on local taxpayers. Moreover, the increase must be viewed not just in the context of the external funding losses but also in terms of the ongoing demand and inflationary pressures referred to above.
- 2.5 With regard to the 2024/25 revenue budget proposals set out in this report, they are underpinned by budget proposals approved throughout the current and previous financial years. We have developed proposals that achieve expenditure reductions through a range of measures and sought to maximise income opportunities to as far as possible sustain universal services and those to the most vulnerable. In this regard I would like to thank in particular, Cllr Margaret Gordon who supported by the Head of Scrutiny, Tracey Anderson led an extensive budget scrutiny process on the budget which is referred to later in this report.
- 2.6 In preparing this budget we have ensured that the Council has in place, appropriate arrangements and controls to manage the risks and impacts. These include: -
 - (a) Extensive Financial Management, Monitoring and Reporting. Regular finance updates are provided in the Overall Financial Position (OFP) report and detailed reporting to both the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and joint sessions of Cabinet and the CLT on financial planning in the short and medium term.
 - (b) Risk Management. The Council has in place mechanisms for managing risks on savings through relevant risk registers and has looked to link the delivery of savings to outputs and performance, taking on board recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel.
 - (c) Prioritising Resources to Strategic Plan Objectives. This report includes a summary of our Strategic Plan and sets out how we continue to invest in line with our priorities.

- (d) Equality. The Corporate Leadership Team makes sure that equality underpins all that we do. It also looks to ensure that all equality impact assessments on staff and service changes are undertaken.
- (e) Cumulative Impacts. The budget proposals that underpin the budget are wide-ranging and have been subject to a cumulative impact assessment. Although this exercise cannot be used to fully protect residents given the level of budget reductions required, we can work to anticipate impacts, plan for them and build them into our new equality plan, wider corporate strategy and transformation work.

2.7 In considering the proposals set out in this report Members should have regard to the future indicative budgetary position of the General Fund that has been set out throughout the year. The Medium Term Financial Plan, at **Appendix 5**, summarises the challenges we face in future years. It is vital therefore that the work already underway to bridge this gap intensifies so that plans and proposals for future years can be set out and progress on early implementation achieved to ensure that we continue to maintain our strong track record of sound financial management. To this end as set out in **Appendix 10** to this report, we have updated our self assessment of how we shape up compared to the financial standards which are a translation of CIPFA's Principles of Good Financial Management.

3. RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to consider the report and make the following recommendations to Council for approval:

3.2 Council is recommended:

3.2.1 To bring forward into 2024/25 the Council's projected 2023/24 General Fund balance of £17.0m with the aim of increasing this to £20m over the medium-term period to 2026/27 noting the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) projected 2023/24 balance of £15m with the aim of increasing to £17.6m by the end of March 2024.

3.2.2 To agree for approval the directorate estimates and estimates for the General Finance Account items set out in Table 2 in Section 14 of this report.

3.2.3 To note that the budget is a financial exposition of the priorities set out within the Strategic Plan summarised at Section 6 below.

3.2.4 To note that in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the Interim Group Director of Finance, is of the view that:

The General Fund balances which currently stand at £17.0m and the level of other reserves are adequate to meet the Council's financial needs for 2024/25 and that considering the economic uncertainty they should not fall below this

level and that the aim is to increase these to £20m over the medium term period to 2026/27 from a review of current earmarked reserves.

This view takes account of the reserves included in the Council's latest published 2022/23 Accounts and the movements of those reserves since that date – which have been tracked through the Overall Financial Position (OFP) Reports, and the latest OFP projections. Note also, that the projections in the HRA Budget to increase the balance to £17.6m by 31 March 2024 are also considered to be adequate at this point in time but will need to continue to be reviewed in the light of the challenges facing the HRA.

The General Fund estimates are sufficiently robust to set a balanced budget for 2024/25. This takes into account the adequacy of the level of balances and reserves outlined above and the assurance gained from the comparisons of the 2023/24 budget with the projected spend identified in the December 2023 OFP. The overall level of the corporate contingency has been set at £2m.

- 3.2.5 To approve the proposed General Fund fees and charges as set out in Appendix 7 for implementation from 1st April 2024.
- 3.2.6 To continue the policy requiring the Interim Group Director of Finance to seek to mitigate the impact of significant changes to either resources or expenditure requirements.
- 3.2.7 To require the Mayor, Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team to develop robust plans to deliver against the revised Medium Term Financial Plan included at Appendix 5 taking into account the recommendation of the S151 Officer as set out in the Section 25 Statement (Appendix 11). This is needed to maintain the financial resilience of the Council and to avoid the requirement to make short-term decisions which will adversely impact on our residents.
- 3.2.8 To note the summary of the HRA Budget and Rent setting report proposed to Cabinet on 22nd January 2024.
- 3.2.9 To authorise the Interim Group Director of Finance to implement any virements required to allocate provision for demand and growth pressures set out in this report subject to the appropriate evidence base being provided.
- 3.2.10 To approve:

The allocation of resources to the 2024/25 capital programme referred to in Section 22 and Appendix 6.
- 3.2.11 To note that the new capital expenditure proposals match uncommitted resources for the year 2024/25.

3.2.12 To agree the prudential indicators for Capital Expenditure:- the Capital Financing Requirement; the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt; the Affordability prudential indicators; and the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 as set out in Section 23 and Appendix 3.

3.2.13 To confirm that the authorised limit for external debt of £792m agreed above for 2024/25 will be the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003. Further reassurance about the robustness of the budget is the confirmation that the Council's borrowings are within the boundaries of prudential guidelines.

3.2.14 To continue to support the approach of using reserves to manage emerging risks and liabilities.

3.2.15 To note that at its meeting on 24th January 2024 the Council agreed its Council Tax Base for the 2024/25 financial year as 77,766.9 in accordance with regulations made under section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Council Tax Base is the total number of properties in each of the eight council tax bands A to H converted to an equivalent number of band D properties.

3.2.16 To agree that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Localism Act 2011.

The authority calculates the aggregate of: (in accordance with Section 31A (2) of the Act)

- (a) £1,374.738m being the expenditure which the authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.**
- (b) £2m being such allowance as the authority estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to amounts to be charged or credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices.**
- (c) £nil being the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting its estimated future expenditure.**
- (d) £nil being such financial reserves as are sufficient to meet so much of the amount estimated by the authority to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for.**
- (e) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year**

from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with section 97(4) of the 1988 Act, and

- (f) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(5) of the 1988 Act and charged to a revenue account for the year.

3.2.17 The authority calculates the aggregate of: (in accordance with Section 31A (3) of the Act)

- (a) £1,263.182m being the income which it estimates will accrue to it in the year and which it will credit to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.
- (b) £4.218m being the amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with section 97(3) of the 1988 Act.
- (c) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(4) of the 1988 Act and will be credited to a revenue account for the year, and
- (d) £nil being the amount of the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will use in order to provide for the items mentioned in subsection (2) (a), (b), (e) and (f) above.

3.2.18 £109.338m being the amount by which the aggregate calculated under subsection (1) above exceeds that calculated under subsection (2) above, the authority calculates the amount equal to the difference; and the amount so calculated is its Council Tax Requirement for the year.

3.2.19 £109.338m being the amount at (3.2.18) divided by the amount at (3.2.15) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A of the Act, £1,405.97 as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.

3.2.20 That the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council tax for 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands Hackney

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£937.31	£1,093.53	£1,249.75	£1,405.97	£1,718.41	£2,030.84	£2,343.28	£2,811.94

3.2.21 That it be noted that for 2024/25 the Greater London Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands GLA

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£314.27	£366.64	£419.02	£471.40	£576.16	£680.91	£785.67	£942.80

3.2.22 That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.2.20 and 3.2.21 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown below.

Valuation Bands Combined Hackney/GLA

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£1,251.58	£1,460.17	£1,668.77	£1,877.37	£2,294.57	£2,711.75	£3,128.95	£3,754.74

3.2.23 To agree, subject to the decision of Members on recommendations 3.2.16 to 3.2.18 that Hackney's Council Tax requirement for 2024/25 be £109.338m which results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,405.97 for Hackney purposes and a total Band D Council Tax of £1,877.37 including the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept.

3.2.24 To agree that in accordance with principles approved under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and the new provisions included in the Localism Act 2011, the increase in the Council's Council Tax requirement for 2024/25 as shown at Appendix 8 is not excessive (5% or above) and therefore does not require the Council to hold a referendum.

3.2.25 To agree the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25, set out at Appendix 3.

3.2.26 To agree the criteria for lending and the financial limits set out at Appendix 3.

3.2.27 To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision statement setting out the method of calculation to be used, as set out in paragraphs 23.19-23.28 below.

4.0 REASONS FOR DECISION

4.1 The Council has a legal obligation to set its Council Tax and adopt its annual budget. This report is seeking formal approval of the 2024/25 budget.

4.2 Previous decisions in this context relate to:

- The Overall Financial Position reports presented monthly to Council during 2023/24.
- The Calculation of the 2024-25 Council Taxbase & Local Business Rates report approved by Council on 24th January 2024

5.0 DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 5.1 The requirement to agree a legal budget and set the Council Tax for the forthcoming year has been laid down by Statute. As such there are no alternatives to be considered.
- 5.2 The details of the budget, including savings, have been the subject of reports to Cabinet and consideration by the Corporate Leadership Team at meetings throughout 2023/24.
- 5.3 As part of the political process opposition groups are permitted to put forward alternatives to these proposals for consideration. Any alternative proposals put forward will be tabled at the Council meeting on 28th February 2024.

6.0 BACKGROUND

Statutory context

- 6.1 The Mayor's budget proposals set out in this report show the position in relation to the development of the 2024/25 Revenue Budget including the effect of savings proposals which were agreed by Cabinet in May and December 2023 and January 2024 and others which were formulated during the 2022/23 and 2023/24 budget setting process.
- 6.2 The annual budget decisions are among the most important of those which local authorities are called upon to make during the course of the year. This is emphasised by the fact that they are among the few decisions which the Council is not permitted by law to delegate to a Committee or to Officers. They affect every household and service user and the manner in which decisions must be made, is closely prescribed by law. **Appendix 1** of this report sets out the relevant legal considerations which affect the budget process of which Members must be aware. Members are required therefore to give careful consideration to the information and advice set out in this report. It is also important in taking this decision for Members to take into account the Medium-Term financial plan (which is attached at **Appendix 5**) and recognise that the scale of reductions set out will impact on the services the Council provides beyond 2024/25.

- 6.3 In addition, the Local Government Act 2003 placed a specific personal duty on the Interim Group Director of Finance (and s151 officer) to report to Council on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves allowed for in the budget proposals. Members are advised that due regard has been given to the requirement of the Local Government Act 2003 during the current budget process. Specific reference is made to the adequacy of the General Fund reserves in Section 19 of this report and the basis for the assessment included at Appendix 11 to this report. The position on the HRA reserves includes a projected level of balances of £17.6m by 31 March 2024. This level of balances is in-line with the Council's policy on reserves and balances. However, she advises that this is a matter that Members should keep under review.
- 6.4 It should also be noted that there is an ongoing requirement to review limits and indicators in accordance with the Prudential Code. There is a requirement to agree these indicators and limits are set in conjunction with the Council's overall budget. See section 13 of this report for more detail.

Strategic Plan

- 6.5 A new Strategic Plan was adopted for 2022-2026. This was timely, as it was at the beginning of a new political term and with new senior leaders having joined the Council. This Strategic Plan has been adopted whilst the economy is deteriorating nationally, public funding is under pressure and demand on services is becoming even greater and more acute. The more our residents struggle, the greater the demand for council services and support, whilst the pressures of inflation and potential for further government cuts, make those services more expensive to deliver.
- 6.6 The Strategic Plan, 'Working Together for a Better Hackney', sets out the ambitions for the Council as well as the challenges we face, and describes how we need to respond and change, working closely with residents and partners. The Plan is framed by the commitments for the 2022-2026 Labour administration and the priorities of the Directly Elected Mayor. Following the Mayoral by election in November 2023, Mayor Woodley has confirmed that the existing Mayoral priorities and the Strategic Plan will continue for the remainder of her term. They are underpinned by the Council's corporate values and the priorities for change. The Plan was developed with the Council's finances in mind. There is no certainty about future finances from the Government and we have had to make a lot of assumptions. We will need to be prepared to adapt the Plan as we face yet greater challenges, whilst keeping focused on the key outcomes and the key commitments we want to deliver. We have a role to play in driving economic recovery in a way that builds community wealth and continues to make the borough greener and fairer. As a leading institution in Hackney, we can use our assets, job opportunities and our buying power to benefit residents and the local community, and the Strategic Plan encourages others to join us.
- 6.7 To support the delivery of the Strategic Plan, we are ensuring it informs and frames Council service plans and performance management frameworks. The plan also

guides partnership working and workforce plans, as well as future strategies. Updates will be provided every year. The [first update](#), which was on how the plan was being mobilised, went to the Council annual meeting in May 2023. The next update is due to go to Council in July 2024.

6.8 In 2018, Hackney adopted a long term vision for the borough, [the Community Strategy](#), that has informed our plans and strategies including the [Local Plan 2033](#):

- A borough where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life and the whole community can benefit from growth
- A borough where residents and local businesses fulfil their potential and everyone enjoys the benefits of increased local prosperity and contributes to community life
- A greener and environmentally sustainable community which is prepared for the future
- An open, cohesive, safer and supportive community
- A borough with healthy, active and independent residents

6.9 This vision recognised that, over the last twenty years, Hackney had become a vibrant place and that the Council had helped shape this dynamic economy and the opportunities that have been created for residents. The Community Strategy recognised that not all residents had benefited from the prosperity and set a broad strategic aim to focus on aspects of the economy we could influence, to enable better access and a share of good economic growth and prosperity.

6.10 Even when this vision was adopted four years ago we were operating in an increasingly constrained and difficult context. The Strategic Plan has considered risks and opportunities to achieving this vision and identified the key issues we now face:

- The cumulative impacts of the pandemic, the cost of living crisis and global crises
- A predicted budget gap for each of the years of this plan
- Economic uncertainty
- Low trust and confidence in the state in some sections of the community
- Population uncertainty after Brexit and the pandemic and in the context of the cost of living crisis
- Housing crisis making it virtually impossible to meet housing needs
- Meeting net zero targets - at the time of writing we are consulting on a Climate Action Plan which sets out how we might reach net zero by 2030 rather than 2040
- Working with uncertainty and crisis as the likely “new normal.”
- Workforce and leadership - we are asking more of our staff but they are also under pressure after so many crises, and now the cost of living crisis

Strategic Plan overview

6.11 Vision for the next four years:

Working together with our communities and our partners to tackle the unprecedented challenges that we face, we will make transformational change, we will co-produce and co-design solutions with residents, we will campaign for a better deal for Hackney; we will deliver outstanding public services; we will drive a fairer economic recovery; and we will make a better Hackney for everyone who lives and works here.

6.12 Mayoral Priorities

Working together...

FOR A FAIRER, SAFER HACKNEY

We will tackle inequality through poverty reduction, and anti-racism, providing at least 1000 more Council homes as we improve standards of our existing homes, and creating pathways into decent jobs. We will improve our customer services. We will create safe, vibrant, and successful town centres and neighbourhoods and foster strong, cohesive communities and a more inclusive economy.

FOR A GREENER, HEALTHIER 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.

FOR EVERY CHILD IN HACKNEY

We will work to ensure every child and young person in Hackney has the best start in life; shaping a more inclusive and high performing education system, maintaining our early years and youth services, keeping children safe and investing in their mental health and well being, providing access to outstanding play, culture, and sport, and opportunities; tackling child poverty, and supporting those families who need us most.

6.13 Underpinning our priorities is the need to **Tackle Inequality** head on in all that we do through:

- Tackling structural and systemic discrimination - embedding an anti-racist approach and ensuring accountability
- Taking protective, preventative and positive action, that tackles underlying issues, recognising there is proven bias in the system
- Promoting prosperity and wellbeing with targeted, positive action when needed
- Building strong, cohesive communities that are part of the solution
- Developing a workforce that is inclusive and anti-racist and reflects the

diversity of Hackney, at all levels

6.14 We also need to clear about the values that underpin the work that we do:

OUR VALUES

We are...

OPEN AND INCLUSIVE; AMBITIOUS AND PROUD; PIONEERING AND PROACTIVE

Putting our residents first: a Council that works for the people who live and work here

Securing Hackney's future: a Council that is financially sustainable and investing in what matters

Changing Together: a Council that is modernised, flexible, collaborative, and skilled to meet our future challenges.

6.15 We will be transparent around delivery and we have identified the key outcomes that will be tracked and the specific underlying priorities across the three main priority areas.

6.16 Fairer, Safer: Key Outcomes we will track

Income	Average pay in Hackney is about the same as London but lower than neighbouring boroughs (Earnings by place of residence).
Employment	Employment rate is 78.7% which is higher than before the pandemic and higher than the London average. (ONS annual survey). The proportion of people claiming out of work benefits is however also higher than London (6.3% compared with 5% in London).
Satisfaction with the place	85% percent of residents are either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with their local area as a place to live, which is slightly higher than in 2018 when it was 83%. (Hackney Residents' Survey 2022)
Trust in the Council	65% of residents are satisfied with Hackney Council, down from 68% in 2018 and 74% in 2013. 67% of residents say that they have trust in the Council compared with 73% in 2018 Social renters and Black residents are significantly more likely to give negative responses to all these questions.

6.17 Fairer, Safer priorities:

- Tackling poverty and inequality
- Responding to the Housing Crisis
- Making Hackney Safer
- Building trust and confidence
- Building community cohesion
- Promoting good growth: Jobs, businesses and regeneration

6.18 Greener, Healthier: Key Outcomes we will track

Net Zero	<p>Fuel used in buildings and vehicles are the biggest part of Hackney's 'territorial emissions.' Since 2010, emissions from buildings and road transport in Hackney have fallen by about 27%</p> <p>The majority, 74% of all emissions, come from 'consumption emissions' relating to goods and services, the vast majority of which are not created within Hackney's borders</p>
Air quality	<p>7% of deaths of people over 30 can be attributed to air pollution in Hackney. This is similar to neighbouring boroughs, Tower Hamlets and Islington but is slightly lower than London as a whole and is 2% higher than England.</p>
Life Expectancy	<p>Life expectancy in Hackney from birth is estimated in 2018-2020 to be 84 for women and 79 for men. Women's life expectancy has increased from 2001 from 80 and men's from 74 so there's a slightly larger increase for men, although the trends have broadly similar trajectories (Public Health England).</p>

6.19 Greener, Healthier priorities

- Maximising impact by seeing climate action as an opportunity to improve population health
- Responding to the climate emergency
- Improving health and wellbeing and tackling health inequality
- Shaping healthier places

6.20 Every Child: Key outcomes we will track

Infant mortality	<p>The infant mortality rate is 3.6 per 1000 births which is slightly higher than London and lower than England (no trend data available). Public Health Data published by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.</p>
Early years	<p>69.6% of reception pupils in Hackney schools are achieving a good level of development by the end of their first school year. This has remained at</p>

	<p>around the same level for the last 5 years and is lower than London (74.1%) and England (71%).</p> <p>2019 data from the Department of Education (this is the latest published data, assessments were not carried out during the pandemic)</p>
Education	<p>Hackney's average "Attainment 8 Score" is 54 which is the same as London and higher than England (50.9). Although attainment has improved over the last 5 years, students on free school meals, Turkish Kurdish Cypriot pupils, Caribbean pupils (boys) and Orthodox Jewish pupils face inequalities in outcomes.</p> <p>(each pupil's score is calculated by adding up the points for their 8 subjects, with English and Maths counted twice)</p> <p>Department of Education data for 2021.</p>
Children's health	<p>27.4% of children in year 6 (at 10-11 years old) are overweight which is worse than London (23.7%) and England (21%).</p> <p>This rate has not changed in recent years.</p> <p>Public Health Data published by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.</p>

6.21 Every Child priorities

- Every child is safe
- Every child is healthy, every child develops positive and caring relationships and feels seen and heard
- Every child's needs are identified and responded to early
- Every child fulfils their potential
- Every child is equipped for adulthood and has choice over their future

How we will work

- 6.22 The more our residents struggle, the greater the demand for council services and support, whilst the pressures of inflation make those services more expensive to deliver. This also puts a greater strain on staff. This means we will need to fundamentally change the way we deliver some of those services, so we can safeguard them for the future. Ultimately, we want our residents, staff and our peers in local government all to think Hackney is one of the best Councils in the country. Without the changes set out below, we do not think we will be able to achieve this ambition and the aspirations set out in the Strategic Plan.
- 6.23 The way we work is going to be as important as what we do, because this is how we can be most impactful and create the right working relationships and conditions for work to be sustained. We want to be a Council that works for the people who live and work here - putting residents first. We need to be financially sustainable and invest in what matters to have a secure financial future. We want to be a

Council that is modernised, flexible, collaborative, and skilled to meet our future challenges.

6.24 We will do this by:

- **Using data more effectively to help us understand problems in a more holistic way**
- **Building capabilities across our services-** bringing frontline staff directly into how we do change and creating development opportunities for all staff.
- **Enabling service areas to access a broad set of skills to support change.**
- **Implementing a Corporate Landlord Operating Model and creating the right governance frameworks** - the concept of a Corporate Landlord is that management around all property assets is carried out at a corporate and strategic level, rather than at a service level.
- **Measuring and evaluating our work** so we know what to do more of and what we need to do less of in the future.
- **Working in the open by creating opportunities for residents to participate in our work** so that we can ensure our services and decisions are co-designed and informed by the communities we serve.
- **We will work to close the digital divide and make better use of digital technology to modernise and innovate** where we can to create better experiences for our residents and staff.

6.25 The following ways of working were developed over the last four years and put into practice during the pandemic and we are now seeking to embed this further through working at all levels to support staff and partners with the right skills and tools:

- **Seeing communities as assets and putting residents first**
- **Inclusive, open and humble and anti-racist**
- **Collaborative working**
- **Place shaping and community wealth building**

Priorities for strategic partnership working

6.26 As a partnership we need to be more outward facing and collaborative, working across the whole system to find the right sustainable solutions. This will require leaders to work across boundaries with a greater degree of flexibility and openness to change than they have perhaps been used to. Working with universities can help us improve many of the challenges in the Strategic Plan, developing the way we work and tackle the most intractable issues in an evidence based way, as well as shaping a more inclusive economy by working with local institutions to design learning for local people and businesses.

6.27 The Council is proactively developing local partnerships, as well as assessing all the partnerships already in place across the Council, so we can maximise and strengthen these links in support of the Strategic Plan. We need to ensure that we

have systematic ways to engage with a diverse range of partners, whether they are large or small, focused on the whole borough or hyper local and across all sectors - other statutory partners, the voluntary and community sector and social enterprises and the private sector and business community. We have discussed the Strategic Plan priorities with partners. The following are emerging shared priorities for how we work and what we focus on together, which will be developed further:

- Rebuilding trust and confidence with communities
- Tackling inequality
- Net Zero Commitment
- Shared challenges for our workforce

6.28 We will continue to invest in the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan through our ongoing revenue budgets and the table below is a high level exposition of how as well as delivering our statutory services a large proportion of what we will spend in 2024/25 will be on teams and services that contribute to delivering against these objectives.

6.29 The table also highlights the specific investment which was allocated last year and continues through 2024/25 to deliver the manifesto and how this investment contributes to the delivery of the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan.

Fairer Safer priorities (Gross budget £599.0m, Net budget £51.2m)
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Promoting good growth: Jobs, businesses and regeneration</i></p> <p>Jobs and businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maximise and shape employment opportunities, continue to be a London Living Wage employer and ensure our suppliers do the same. ● Develop the Council's employment, lifelong learning and apprenticeship programme. ● Support local businesses, developing those with a social ethos and helping them respond to the opportunities and threats of achieving net zero. <p>Shaping places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finalise and adopt area based plans for Dalston, Stamford Hill and Shoreditch and start on Clapton and Homerton. ● Adopt and deliver the Hackney Central Town Centre Strategy and area based plan. <p>Delivering on Manifesto Commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We continue to resource support towards the setting up of co-operatives where there is failure in the market or public sector delivery. ● We continue to develop the 'SpaceBank' initiative bringing together council owned buildings to ensure the Council is supporting local businesses, social enterprises, voluntary, community and third sector tenants through the properties it owns.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Tackling poverty and inequality</i></p>

- Take action in the short and long term to respond to this priority, creating the safety net needed for our residents.
- Continue to deal with the underlying causes of poverty and inequality and develop new equality priorities.
- Play our part along with the rest of London in supporting refugees and asylum seekers
- Maximise employment opportunities and support.

Delivering on Manifesto Commitments:

- We continue to invest in services to sustain the support for those in poverty that will be needed for the next few years. This will be achieved through our work building local partnerships that support our residents at grassroots level, through the Money Hub and through developing long term access to affordable food. We continue our work, as a Right to Food borough, to end holiday hunger in our schools; work together with the Hackney Food Justice Alliance and the Community Partnership Network to end hunger in Hackney; deliver on our Food Poverty Action Plan; and ensure there is emergency support when needed, while also promoting access to good, nutritious food.

Responding to the Housing Crisis

- Continue to maximise opportunities for developing genuinely affordable housing.
- Campaign to improve standards in the private rented sector and offer support to residents who face the risk of eviction.
- Review the impact of the Council Lettings Strategy adopted in 2021.
- Develop an Ending Homelessness Strategy.

Delivering on Manifesto Commitments:

- We continue to help those in the private rented sector secure the repairs needed to ensure their homes are safe and free from damp and mould building on the focus and investment in our Council homes, included as part of our Housing Revenue Account budget proposals, which will continue to fund our repairs service to provide a swift, more focused response to improve repairs and tackle damp and mould in our own homes.
- We continue to deliver a council-led Building Control service that will ensure new development in Hackney meets the highest fire safety standards and we will be ready to implement the post-Grenfell recommendations.

Making Hackney Safer

- Work in partnership to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and progress actions to tackle hate crime. Progress a Hackney Nights Strategy.
- Support people into drug treatment and recovery programmes
- Continue to prioritise building and fire safety recommendations for all housing in Hackney.

Building trust and confidence

- Work with the Police to build trust and confidence through shared action.
- Take action at all levels to become more inclusive and anti-racist and to develop cultural humility.

Building community cohesion

- Value and invest in volunteers and the voluntary and community sector including £2.6m investment through community grants.
- Work with creatives to help them shape the cultural life of the borough.

Greener Healthier priorities (Gross budget £207.8m, Net budget £107.9m)

Responding to the climate emergency

Adaptation

- Work with residents to be prepared for the impacts of climate change - overheating, flooding, and ensuring planting is resilient to climate change.

Buildings

- Adapt existing buildings and set new guidance for new development.

Transport

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport network, improve air quality and help residents live active and healthy lifestyles.

Consumption

- Encourage residents to change what and how we buy, use and sell, creating a new green economy in Hackney.

Environmental Quality

- Maximise the potential for biodiversity in our green spaces, reducing pollution and helping local ecosystems thrive.

Delivering on Manifesto Commitments:

- We continue to invest to expand our Zero Emissions Network across the whole of Hackney embedding the importance of the programme and making it less dependent on external funding. We will also establish Hackney Light & Power as a publicly-owned municipal energy company to accelerate our efforts to deliver renewable energy across the borough.
- We continue to develop enhanced and expanded Supplementary Planning Guidance on green infrastructure, including vertical forests, green thoroughfares and gardens - ensuring developments include high levels of infrastructure to support biodiversity. We are also developing a Circular Economy Strategy to transform our attitudes towards the way we create, consume and dispose of rubbish, with the objective of significantly reducing Hackney's borough-wide carbon footprint through reduce, reuse and recycle.
- We are planning to launch the Hackney Community Municipal Investment - Green Loan - in the Spring to enable local residents to invest in local projects to support the decarbonisation of our Borough and leave a lasting local net zero legacy.

Improving health and wellbeing and tackling health inequality

Developing an integrated care system

- Deliver the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing strategy for 2022-2026 which has a specific focus on mental health, social connection and financial security.
- Deliver the new Integrated Mental Health Network and establish a Black Thrive programme.
- Deliver the ambitions of the Smokefree 2030 commitment.
- Continue action with partners to reduce obesity through Hackney Healthy Weight Strategic Partnership.
- Work with partners on the City and Hackney Health and Care Board to reduce health inequalities through earlier intervention and more targeted treatment.

Shaping Healthier places

- Review our day services provision to improve choice and personalisation.
- Promote the Healthy Streets Approach and support Play Streets and School Streets.
- Encourage food growing, with a focus on estates.
- Improve leisure centres and parks, investing in new, free, outdoor gym facilities.
- Develop a new design guide to ensure that the public realm and buildings are inclusive and accessible for all.
- Progress work to make Hackney a place where residents can age well.

Delivering on Manifesto Commitments:

- We will ensure that the location of all public toilets across the borough are well publicised and we will continue to modernise the facilities, ensuring they are inclusive and well signposted and free.
- We are building on the principles we have already established through the Child Friendly Borough planning guidance, the Ageing Well Strategy, and our Hackney an Accessible Place for Everyone and co-producing a new design guide with disabled and older people to ensure that our streets, parks, estates, public buildings, high streets and public spaces are inclusive and accessible for all.

Every child (Gross budget £410.5m, Net budget £97.4m)

Every child is safe

- Develop a Care Charter for all the children in our care.
- Develop the Edge of Care Strategy to focus on earlier intervention.
- Focus on safeguarding children during adolescence including through contextual safeguarding.

Every child is healthy

- Continue the Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools (WMHS).
- Develop a Healthy Schools Charter.

Every child's needs are identified and responded to early

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new early help offer, including developing a number of strategic children's centres into new Children and Family Hubs. • Develop and deliver our <u>Autism Strategy</u> and SEND Strategy. • Reshape our SEND services. • Increase the number of places provided for children with SEND within the borough.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Every child fulfils their potential</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an Affordable Childcare Commission. • Liaise with schools, including Alternative Provision providers, to ensure a whole school commitment to the principles of inclusion. Continue to roll out a 'no need to exclude' policy across our schools.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Every child is equipped for adulthood and has choice over their future</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will maintain and champion Young Hackney services. • We will also codesign a Leaving Care Plan. <p>Delivering on Manifesto Commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue our commitment to create a 10 by 10 Programme to ensure by the time they are 10 years old, every child in Hackney has access to at least 10 different activities and we will go further to promote youth participation in our democratic functions by inviting young people to attend each of the Scrutiny Commissions, to help make sure council decisions and services work for young people.

6.30 We are also making long-term commitments in our priorities through our capital programme, further details are provided later in this report but in summary:

Priority	Example Projects	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	Total £m
Fairer, Safer Hackney	Maintaining the homes of our Council residents, Housing Regeneration Schemes delivering more and improved homes, the Britannia Scheme also delivering new homes, Stoke Newington Library Refurbishment, improved accessibility at Stamford Hill Library, investment in temporary accommodation and new GP surgeries.	149.6	267.7	374.3	467.0	1,258.6
Greener, Healthier Hackney	Essential Maintenance to Leisure Centres including Kings Hall, London Fields Learner Pool, Parks Infrastructure, Parks Depot, Highways Planned Maintenance, Waste & Fleet Replacement and specific Green projects including	44.2	61.0	37.0	14.5	156.8

Priority	Example Projects	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	Total £m
	Cycle Hangers and Electrical Vehicle charging points.					
Every Child in Hackney	Investment in the maintenance of our schools and delivery of additional in-borough, SEND places.	14.0	21.1	9.1	5.1	49.3
Corporate Cross-cutting	Stoke Newington Town Hall and investment in ICT to support a range of our services.	4.9	7.6	0.3	0.3	13.1
Total		212.7	357.4	420.8	486.9	1,477.8

Cumulative Impacts

6.31 Guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission advises that the public sector should see individual decisions within the wider context of decisions made by the authority and by the wider public sector, so that people with particular protected characteristics are not unduly affected by the cumulative effects of different decisions. This means that alongside ensuring that equality impact assessments are carried out for individual decisions that have a material impact on staff or residents, we also undertake a cumulative impact assessment when there are a range of savings or changes being proposed at the same time.

6.32 Equality impact analysis was undertaken as part of developing individual savings proposals. This analysis has been used to pull together the cumulative impact assessment that has been shared iteratively with decision makers so that it can support final decisions going into the budget 24/25. A final cumulative equality impact assessment is published here along with the final budget for 24/25. It will be kept under review to support future budget setting, the implementation of savings and to help shape transformation and inform corporate planning. The assessment has been done at the same time as we have been developing a new Equality Plan for Hackney for 2024-26 and the plan has been informed by the assessment.

6.33 This assessment considers cumulative impacts on specific groups:

- The compounding impacts on a **specific equality or vulnerable group (resident or employee)** that arise from changes across a set of services
- **How the wider social, fiscal and economic context** might be impacting some groups disproportionately who are also impacted by changes to services

This assessment also looks at potential impacts on other services and the community and place.

6.34 A full assessment is provided at Appendix 12 .

7.0 COMMENTS OF THE INTERIM GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

- 7.1 The Group Director's comments are set out in Section 2 of this report

8.0 COMMENTS OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL SERVICES

- 8.1 Under the Local Government Act 2003 calculation of the Council Tax and adoption of an annual budget must be carried out by full Council on the recommendation of the Mayor and Cabinet.
- 8.2 When considering decisions on the budget and the level of Council Tax, Members should have regard to the legal framework for such decisions which is shown at **Appendix 1**. When considering the budget, Council must take into account this report from the Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposals for reserves. The Council has a legal duty to set a lawfully balanced budget and adoption of the recommendations in this report would fulfil its obligations in this regard.
- 8.3 The Council's Constitution details the procedure that is to be followed in the event that there is a conflict between Cabinet and the Council with regards to the setting of the budget / council tax. This procedure complies with the requirements set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001.
- 8.4 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public sector equality duty which requires the Council, when exercising its functions to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination (both direct and indirect discrimination), harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share that protected characteristic. Compliance with this statutory duty is dealt with via the specific Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken for this decision.
- 8.5 There is a requirement to publish notice of the amount set for Council Tax in at least one local paper within 21 days of the Council's decision under section 38(2) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992.

9. THE COUNCIL'S GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IN 2023/24

- 9.1 Based on Directorate returns, the General Fund forecast for 2023/24 at the end of December 2023 is an overspend against the revenue budget of £8.766m.

Table 1: Overall Financial Position (General Fund) December 2023

Revised Budget £000	Service Area	Forecast Variance Before Reserves £000	Appropriation to Reserves £000	Reserves Usage £000	Forecast Variance After Reserves £000	Change in Variance from last month £000
£k		£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
98,317	Children and Education	9,004	45	-4,404	4,644	450
127,651	Adults, Health and Integration	15,994	160	-6,199	9,954	214
37,474	Climate, Homes & Economy	5,009	210	-4,141	1,078	142
28,109	Finance & Corporate Resources	4,238	251	-2,529	1,960	-286
16,266	Chief Executive	2,743	179	-3,301	-379	-130
47,618	General Finance Account*	0	0	0	0	0
355,435	SUB TOTAL	36,988	845	-20,574	17,257	390
	Less the budget provision for demand pressures, cost pressures and the ongoing impact of Covid and Cyber				-3,500	0
	Less Corporate Savings				-1,124	0
	Less Backdated HMRC Refund				-867	0
	Less 2023-24 Pool Surplus				-3,000	-3,000
	GENERAL FUND TOTAL				8,766	-2,610

*The GFA includes budgets for items such as Concessionary Fares, Levies, capital items, pension contributions, corporate contingency and the energy provisions and is forecast to budget subject to review in the fourth quarter.

9.2 This reflects the position part way through the year and, as with all forecasts, there is always a possibility of unforeseen circumstances changing things but assuming the position remains unchanged to the end of the financial year 2023/24 unallocated General Fund reserves of £17.0m brought into 2023/24 will be unchanged going into 2024/25, notwithstanding this, the Interim Group Director of Finance is recommending an increase in the unallocated General Fund reserve to £20m over the medium term period to 2026/27 (see Section 19 below). The remaining overspend of £8.766m will be funded by unspent contingencies, the GFA underspend, provisions, unspent grants and reserves.

9.3 The maintenance of corporate contingencies continues to be an important element of the Council's Financial Strategy and the inclusion of adequate contingencies in the base budget going forward is essential. However, there must be a balance between holding back contingencies to mitigate against unforeseen circumstances and the recognition that in an environment of budget reductions, contingencies at too high a level could result in reductions to other budgets and therefore services. The Interim Group Director of Finance is content to maintain the total level of corporate contingencies at £2m for 2024/25. This will however be reviewed on an annual basis. It should be noted however, that contingencies are a buffer against unforeseen and exceptional circumstances and there is still the same requirement for Group Directors to ensure they keep within their base budget allocation.

9.4 It is recommended that similar reporting arrangements for contingencies apply for

2024/25, as those that apply to 2023/24, i.e. that the commitment of these sums in-year should continue to be permitted only on the agreement of Cabinet after it has considered a written report from the Interim Group Director of Finance setting out the circumstances of each case and with a full justification provided by the relevant Group Director.

10.0 THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET STRATEGY 2024/25

Background and context

- 10.1 Planning for the 2024/25 budget has been set against the continuing uncertainty over the main funding streams, which was not fully resolved until the Provisional 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) was published on 18th December (and the final settlement was published on 5th February 2024) following the 2023 Autumn Statement in November. Disappointingly once again, this Settlement demonstrates a short-term approach to funding local government. In particular, there is little or no information on funding streams in 2025-26 and beyond. Hackney in common with other Councils, is experiencing acute budgetary pressures which are only exacerbated by this approach.
- 10.2 In November 2023, Cabinet approved our continued participation in the localised London business rates pooling scheme in 2024-25. We joined the scheme in 2022-23 and continued to participate in 2023-24. The scheme comprises the City of London and 6 other London boroughs. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, we received a significant financial benefit, estimated to be £5.1m over the two years; and work by the scheme's financial advisers, LG Futures, suggests that the 2024-25 scheme will deliver a financial benefit of £1.6m to £2m to the Council.
- 10.3 Directorate savings plans have been formulated as part of the 2024/25 budget processes totalling £12.7m in addition to other expenditure reducing measures including a review of provisions for council tax and business rates. These were approved at July and December 2023 Cabinet and January 2024 Cabinet.
- 10.4 As has been the case in previous years, budget proposals were subject to budget scrutiny. This year that process was extended and incorporated a Group Director presentation to Scrutiny Panel in July 2023 which gave members important context on where the Council spent its budget, the medium term financial plan incorporating the estimated budget gap and the cost pressures faced. Following on from this the various Scrutiny Commissions held private Scrutiny Sessions to review proposals within their specific remits.
- 10.5 The process was far more intense than previous years, partly reflective of the increasing financial challenges the Council faces, which we do not repeat here, but are clearly set out elsewhere in this report. Where there were two private budget scrutiny sessions in setting the 2023/24 budget, for 2024/25 there were nine separate sessions.

- 10.6 Following receipt of the Budget Scrutiny Report which is included at Appendix 13, an Executive response was provided and is included at Appendix 14. This response addresses Scrutiny comments raised in respect of the overarching themes and cross-cutting issues, as well as lessons learnt for future years. In most instances this is to provide further background and context to the comments made. Overall the Scrutiny process provided invaluable input to the process and the focus and depth of the work undertaken this year is very much welcomed. While challenging at times, this is as it should be. Overall, there appears to be a consensus on the lessons learnt and it is helpful that these have been highlighted at this stage as we acknowledge the milestone of presenting this year's budget report to Council and continue on the cycle of addressing our medium term financial challenges.
- 10.7 The budget proposals have allowed the Council to propose a balanced budget despite the ongoing impact of significant reductions in real terms financial support from Central Government. Some risks have been highlighted in relation to the delivery of some of the savings proposals which have been agreed. This is part mitigated by these savings being 'back loaded' i.e. the majority of cashable savings to be delivered beyond 2024/25, which gives the opportunity for subsequent review and additional plans. The risk in relation to the savings profile to be delivered in 2024/25 is mitigated by earmarked reserves.
- 10.8 Of course identifying budget savings proposals to offset a reduction in financial support is only part of the budget setting process. For 2024/25, as has been the case for many years, there have been emerging cost pressures and areas of unavoidable growth. These have been addressed, in the same way as previous years, by a combination of reallocating existing resources, additional savings and allocation of specific Government grants. Earmarked reserves will also be set aside at year end to mitigate against some of these risks. The following paragraphs set out some of the cost pressures and growth in more detail.

Cost Pressures and Growth

- 10.9 The Council's preferred strategy to manage growth, inflation and its impact on cost pressures has been for service areas to manage pressures within their budgets wherever possible including by factoring one-off funding and grants (for example, the Social Care Grant and the Homelessness Prevention Grant) as far as possible. Although it has always been recognised that there will inevitably be some cost pressures which cannot be managed by service areas or which are truly unavoidable and for which budget growth has been added.
- 10.10 This strategy has become increasingly more difficult given the escalating demands on services (particularly social care) and the reductions in external funding. For 2024/25 - 2026/27 significant budget growth was built into the medium term financial plan to address some of these pressures.
- 10.11 For 2024/25 in particular the following growth has been added to budgets.

- Assumed Pay award for 2024/25 at 3% but held corporately until pay award is agreed (£6.6m); and growth in respect of the shortfall against pay award assumed in 2023/24 (£6.5m)
- Assumptions in relation to increases in demand for social care (£11.6m) taking account of increases in social care grant (£10.4m).
- Other directorate cost pressures including homelessness prevention, pressures in environment operations and parks and green spaces caused by increasing number of households (£3.7m).
- Increase in the budget for minimum revenue provision and external interest as a result of an increased reliance on borrowing to fund the Council's capital programme (£3.8m).
- Increase in concessionary fares and the NLWA levy (estimated £4m in total).

10.12 The estimates in respect of the above growth items are reviewed on an ongoing basis as the current year picture emerges and as more information becomes available and estimates adjusted accordingly where appropriate. The forecast estimate in adults and children's social care expenditure has increased significantly in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 and there is an extremely high risk that expenditure will exceed budget for 2024/25. It is emphasised that work is underway in both these areas which aims to address cost pressures, but given trends in recent years an earmarked reserve will be set aside at year end to mitigate this risk.

10.13 Funding for Directorate cost pressures where there is certainty over the impact are allocated to Directorate budgets, but where the impact of pressures are unclear, resources are held corporately until such time as the pressure emerges and will only be allocated to Directorates following agreement of the Interim Group Director of Finance and after it is clear that the pressure cannot be managed from within the current directorate cash limits and/or additional funding streams. This includes energy and fuel costs where following the significant increases in prices of a couple of years ago a significant provision is held corporately and kept under review.

11. THE PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2024/25

11.1 The key points of the Statement that impact on Local Government are as follows: -

- Core Spending Power (CSP) will increase by 6.5% in cash terms across England.
- The Council Tax referendum threshold will remain at 3%. Eligible local authorities can set an adult social care precept of up to 2% without a referendum.
- Compensation for under-indexation of the business rates multiplier will total

£2.6bn in 2024-25, an increase of £377m in 2024-25

- The CSP funding guarantee introduced in 2023-24 continues in 2024-25 to ensure authorities receive a minimum 3% increase (before local council tax decisions).
- The Social Care Grant will increase by £692m in 2024-25 to £4.5bn. The majority of this will be allocated using the ASC relative needs formula.
- The Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) will be £1.1bn in 2024. This now includes the rolled in MSIF Workforce fund with total funding levels between the two funds unchanged from 2023-24.
- The Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) will continue with the same quantum and distribution as 2023-24. The ASC Discharge Grant will increase by £200m nationally using the existing IBCF grant formula.
- The New Homes Bonus will continue in 2024-25 as an annual grant at the same level and using the same calculations as the previous year.
- Services Grant will reduce by £406m in 2024-25 to £77m in England, and a proportion will be held back as contingency for any unexpected movements (e.g. within the New Homes Bonus Grant).
- Public Health and Homelessness Prevention Grant allocations have not yet been announced.
- The Government launched a data collection exercise and is seeking to consult on the potential of using financial levers in future settlements to disincentivise the practice of implementing a four-day working week.

11.2 Hackney's CSP has increased by 6%, from £336.6m to £356.8m. However, this will be entirely offset by inflation and will leave us significantly below our 2010 real terms funding levels.

11.3 A continuing issue with the calculation of Core Spending Power, is that what is presented as "making available" funding is in large part, the ability for local authorities to raise council tax to cover shortfalls in government funding. This hurts our community, especially given the regressive nature of council tax, and the additional burden this places on residents already suffering multiple pressures through the cost of living crisis.

11.4 Social Care Grant increased broadly in line with the announcement in the 2022 Autumn Spending Review - the main difference being the additional ASC Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) funding that was announced in July 2023. Overall our entitlement to Social Care Grant, MSIF and the ASC Discharge Fund increased from £34.478m in 2023-24 to £44.963m in 2024-25

- 11.5 Hackney's Services Grant entitlement will reduce from £4.5m in 2023-24 to £0.7m in 2024-25. This is a significant reduction for which we were given no prior warning.
- 11.6 The Provisional Statement made no indication that the Household Support Fund, due to end in April 2024, would be extended. The fund provides councils with essential funding to help low-income residents struggling to afford their energy bills and fund emergency food support services. The Fund is worth £5.6m in 2023-24.
- 11.7 Finally, the 2024/25 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement gave us little information of funding allocations for the following years. Little is known about the aggregate Local Government budgets post 2024-25 and still, no decision has been taken on the timing and scope of the local government funding review and business rates reset.
- 11.8 On 24th January 2024, the Government announced that it would increase local authority funding over and above that announced in the provisional 2024-25 LFGS, by £600m. The funding will primarily see an additional £500m added to the Social Care Grant. In addition, £100m will be added to: - the Fair Funding Guarantee, increasing it from 3% to 4% (the Fair Funding Guarantee ensures all councils will receive at least a 4% increase in core spending power in 2024-25; the Rural Services Delivery Grant total; and to the Internal Drainage Boards allocation. As a result of this, LBH's CSP increased by an estimated £3m to £359.7m (+6.9% from 2023/24)
- 11.9 On future funding levels the Autumn Statement 2023 stated that planned departmental spending will grow at 1% a year in real terms (accounting for inflation) from 2025-26 to 2028-29. No detail was given on how individual departments will be affected but the Institute for Fiscal Studies have estimated that, based on reasonable assumptions about what may be needed for the NHS and schools and existing commitments on defence, overseas aid and childcare, funding for other services in England may need to be cut by an average of over 3% per year in real terms. It follows that pressures on external funding allocations are likely to continue if these departmental spending plans are carried out.

12. GENERAL FUND PRINCIPLES 2023/24

Inflation and Local Government pay

- 12.1 The Government's preferred measure of inflation for economic management purposes is the Consumer Price Index (CPI). CPI is also the measure that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee must target when setting the Bank Rate. The latest inflation figures from the Bank of England are as follows:

	Year on year increase CPI
November 2020	0.3%

November 2021	5.1%
November 2022	10.7%
November 2023	3.9%
2024 (Estimate)	3%

12.2 There will inevitably always be some costs which don't correlate with CPI e.g. Levies and Concessionary Fares and care contracts which are aligned to more local indices. Where known to be unmanageable within existing cash limits, specific provision has been made in the budget proposals as set out above.

12.3 For 2024/25 we have assumed an additional 3% on pay budgets (£6.6m).

Concessionary Fares

12.4 The costs associated with Concessionary Fares have witnessed a rise as the effects of the Covid pandemic recede. The resurgence in travel demand, particularly among Freedom Pass holders, has led to a substantial increase in journey volumes. Consequently, the borough charges have seen an increase forecast for the 2024/25 period, with Hackney's estimated charge at £10.6m, an increase of £1.9m compared to the previous year. This heightened expenditure has been incorporated into our budget assumptions for 2024/25. We anticipate a sustained uptrend in demand beyond 2024/25, and are actively engaged with London Councils on cost projections, which will be built into our medium term financial planning.

North London Waste Authority Levy

12.5 The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) charges Hackney, by way of an annual levy, for the disposal of the Borough's waste from residents and businesses. The levy in 2024/25 is estimated to be £9.8m (excludes chargeable household waste cost), which is a circa £2.3m increase from the previous year.

12.6 The Council is one of seven constituent boroughs of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA). NLWA handles waste disposal on the Council's behalf and recovers the costs from the Council by way of a levy. Borough levies are apportioned between the constituent boroughs in accordance with an Inter-Authority Agreement entered in 2015. The NLWA is presently undertaking a refresh of its treatment infrastructure in the North London Heat & Power Project (NLHPP). This project involves £1.2bn (2019 cash price base) of expenditure on new assets including a 700,000 tonne Energy Recovery Facility and a Resource Recovery Facility. As a result of this and partly because the current treatment assets are fully depreciated, the NLHPP will cause an increase to the Council's levy, by 2033-34 the increase will be in the range £3m-£7m per year. This increase will impact on the levy as the assets come into use, with most of the increase being in place by 2027/28. Constituent boroughs have been kept up to date by NLWA on likely levy increases arising from the NLHPP since 2019.

- 12.7 We could see our annual levy increase to £16m by 2027/28. Mitigating this additional cost, through waste minimisation and maximising recycling, is key.

Use of Reserves

- 12.8 These budget proposals do not include any planned use of reserves. It is emphasised though that the Council holds earmarked reserves against a number of risks and that should cost pressures continue to rise across service areas these reserves will be called upon. Further detail in this regard is set out in the statement by the S151 officer on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of proposed reserves at Appendix 11.

Pension Fund

- 12.9 In previous Budget Reports, Members have been provided with updates on the Fund's climate targets, the impact on the Pension Fund of the McCloud case, changes to the Fund through asset pooling and the 2022 valuation process and how this might impact on Council budgets.
- 12.10 The 2022 valuation process is now complete, with the final valuation report signed off on 30th March 2023. To assess the funding level, the Fund Actuary took into account a wide range of factors to assess the liabilities that the Pension Fund needs to meet over the longer term and the assets that the Fund holds to meet these liabilities. As at 31 March 2022, fund assets totalled £1,965m, while liabilities were £1,861m, resulting in an overall funding level of 106%. The overall monetary surplus (the gap between assets and liabilities) was £104m.
- 12.11 Following the receipt of the valuation data, discussions took place with employers in the fund to determine appropriate contribution rates. Given the position of the Council as a long-term stable employer, the Council's contribution rate was reduced to 27% for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. The reduction has been achieved through a realistic approach to funding the Council's pension scheme, recognising that maintaining contribution rates in the short term can reduce longer term funding pressure on the Council.
- 12.12 It should be remembered that the valuation is heavily reliant on the actuarial assumptions used and that the stated funding level is extremely sensitive to those assumptions. The Fund's Actuary has confirmed that the assumptions used for 2022 valuation remain valid, although it should be noted that the value of both the Fund's assets and liabilities have decreased during the recent period of high inflation.
- 12.13 Benefits built up by some LGPS members between 2014 and 2022 may be affected by the McCloud case, which ruled that transitional protections introduced in 2014 to older members were discriminatory against younger members of the scheme. The Fund Actuary has made an allowance in the 2022 valuation for the cost of these potential increases based on guidance from the Department of

Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The impact is expected to be minimal for most employers; the impact on the Council as an employer will become clearer as the project progresses.

- 12.14 The Pension Fund has continued to work hard to collaborate with other LGPS funds both through national procurement frameworks and through the London Collective Investment Vehicle (LCIV). LCIV is part of the Government's asset pooling agenda for LGPS funds, which requires funds to pool their investment assets to achieve economies of scale, greater assurance around governance, reduced costs and an improved capacity to invest in infrastructure. The Pension Fund has now transferred a significant portion of its assets onto the CIV platform, through implementation of its agreed investment strategy.
- 12.15 The Fund will continue to move further assets to the LCIV as suitable funds to deliver its investment strategy become available. Over time such changes may deliver significant benefits in terms of cost savings and opportunities to benefit from investment returns. Such benefits will however take time to flow through to the Pension Fund and ultimately the Council and therefore are not able to contribute to budget savings at this time.
- 12.16 In 2016, the Fund set a target to reduce its exposure to carbon reserves across its equity portfolio by 50% over 6 years. Between 2016 and 2022, the Fund was able to reduce this exposure by 97%, significantly exceeding the 6 year target. Whilst significant progress has therefore already been made, the previous target did not capture the Committee's wish to make a positive contribution to the transition to a low carbon economy. The Committee has therefore set 3 new interim targets to focus on the positive climate impact of the Fund's investments and help measure progress against the Fund's 2040 net zero ambition.
- 12.17 The Fund's new climate targets are as follows:
- to reduce the fund's carbon footprint by 50% by 2030. This will cover carbon emissions across all sectors of the economy, unlike the fund's previous carbon reserves target which focused on energy companies.
 - to align the fund's portfolio to a 2C warming scenario by 2030 with a 1.5C goal for 2040. This is a forward-looking target to help the fund focus on driving change in the real economy by investing in assets that make a positive contribution to the transition to net zero.
 - to allocate 10% of assets to climate solutions over the next five years. This could include assets that help avoid carbon emissions, such as renewable energy or nature-based solutions such as sustainable forestry which can help remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Whilst these targets do not contribute directly to the Council's budget savings, robust management of ESG risk could make a positive contribution to future Fund performance, helping to reduce pressure on the Council's contribution rate over the longer term.

13.0 COUNCIL TAXBASE, COLLECTION RATE AND COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS

- 13.1 For 2024/25, the referendum limit is 2% for the social care precept and 2.99% for general spending.
- 13.2 In recognition of the significant pressures on adult social care budgets, both in terms of increased cost of provision and increased demand for the service; and significant cost pressures in other services; this budget proposes to increase the Band D Council Tax rate by 2% in respect of adult social care and 2.99% in respect of other services giving a total increase of 4.99% for 2024/25. This proposal will generate around £5m in additional resources which will help protect adult social care services and other services.
- 13.3 To determine the total amount of income to be raised from Council Tax for 2024/25, both the amount expected to be collected (the collection rate) and the physical number of properties in the Borough (the taxbase) must be considered.
- 13.4 There are a number of factors to be considered when assessing the likely collection rate for 2024/25. Collection rates since 2020/21 have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the cyber attack and latterly by the cost of living crisis. The collection rate for council tax in 2023/24 was set at 92.5% but now the Council Tax and NNDR databases are up to date and the systems are fully operational, we expect a higher collection rate in 2024-25. However, the collection rate will continue to be depressed by the cost of living crisis. It is very difficult to estimate what the actual rate will be given the impact of this on residents' ability to pay which make it, as ever, more important that we continue to provide and signpost to support where it is needed in a timely manner to prevent arrears positions escalating for taxpayers. Notwithstanding this we believe a collection rate of 93.5% is achievable and this is what we have assumed in the taxbase calculations.
- 13.5 If actual collection in the forthcoming year exceeds the budgeted collection rate this could generate a surplus in the Collection Fund which would provide additional one-off resources available for use in 2025/26 and beyond, either for one-off revenue spending (including on expenditure pressures) or the Capital Programme. If on the other hand, the collection rate set is over-optimistic, this may result in a deficit on the collection fund at the end of 2024/25, the major part of which would need to be met from Hackney's 2025/26 Budget.
- 13.6 A collection rate of 93.5% results in a tax base of 77,766.9 Band D equivalents.
- 13.7 The calculation of the taxbase for 2024/25 was finalised and approved by Council on 24th January 2024.

14. OVERALL POSITION ON THE GENERAL FUND

14.1 The overall 2024/25 proposed budget position is summarised in the table below.

TABLE 2: NET EXPENDITURE BUDGETS 2024-25

Table 2	2024/25 Budget £m	2023/24 Budget £m
Net Expenditure Budgets		
Adults Services	93.134	85.417
Public Health (Note 1)	37.811	36.324
Children's Services	62.212	58.834
Education	23.229	22.001
Education – Schools Budget (estimate)	255.521	239.086
Less Dedicated Schools Grant (estimate)	-255.521	-239.086
Climate, Homes & Economy	21.211	18.696
Chief Executives	21.158	20.683
Finance & Resources	61.154	55.290
HRA Recharge	-8.000	-8.000
Directorate Cash Limits (Note 2)	311.909	289.246
General Finance Account (Note 3)	65.950	66.189
Net Expenditure Budget	377.859	355.435
Revenue Support Grant Allocation	-43.696	-40.982
Top up Grant (Note 2)	-74.222	-68.084
Retained Business Rates adjusted for prior year surplus	-54.299	-48.357
Public Health Grant	-37.041	-35.871
New Homes Bonus Grant	-0.185	-1.901
Services Grant	-0.707	-4.491
Better Care Fund	-7.700	-7.700
Additional Better Care Fund	-14.137	-14.136
Prior year Council Tax surplus	-1.670	1.751
Other Income including S31 Grants (Note 4)	-34.864	-32.403
Resources	-268.521	-252.174
Council Tax Requirement	109.338	103.260

Note 1: Set equal to the 2023-24 actual grant as 2024-25 grant not published at the time of writing. Any additional funding will be vired to the service in 2024-25

Note 2: The increase in cash limits is primarily due to the 2023-24 pay award exceeding the budget provision (the additional costs are rolled into the 2024-25 budget) and the allocation of additional funding to manage additional cost pressures and growth

Note 3: The GFA includes budgets for items such as Pension contributions, Concessionary Fares, NLWA Levy, Capital Items, Energy provision, 2024-25 Pay award and RCCO.

Note 4: Primarily compensatory S31 grant for the failure to index the business rates multiplier in line with inflation and the S31 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant to compensate for the reliefs we will pay out

- 14.2 At paragraph 3.2.2 Cabinet is asked to consider and recommend to Council for approval, the budget estimates for 2024/25 for expenditure budgets totalling £377.859m, included in the table above. Of this total £319.909m is allocated to directorates (before HRA recharge) to deliver a range of services to residents ranging from statutory support to some of our more vulnerable residents such as social care packages and support for those who are homeless and investment in targeted work to prevent escalation of need, such as targeted youth work through to the provision of universal services which all residents will be familiar with such as waste collection and maintaining our parks to a high standard. Further details on how these budgets will be spent are set out in the tables below.

Where the Council will spend the money in 2024/25

<i>Adult Services - Net budget £93.1m</i>
<p>Adult Social Care plans to spend their budget on statutory Adult Social Care services from assessment of need, hospital discharge planning and the commissioning and provision of care and housing related support. We will support residents who have statutory need for care and support, which includes but is not limited to those with learning disabilities, mental health conditions, physical disabilities, sensory impairments as well as older people and unpaid carers. Services provided include: safeguarding vulnerable adults; providing information and advice to residents including linking people to universal and preventative services including reablement; planning and paying for individual packages of care for clients ranging from support in the home to residential and nursing placements for those with a high level of need and ensuring our service users have out of hours support in an event of an emergency.</p> <p>Adults Social Care continues to work with a number of key stakeholders, including the NHS North East London Integrated Care Board (NEL ICB), Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT), the East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT), and a range of third sector partners as well as independent providers to deliver joined up care for people in Hackney.</p>
<i>Public Health - Net budget £37.8m</i>
<p>Spending will be in accordance with conditions of the ring-fenced Public Health Grant. In 2024/25 we will spend our money on a range of services including sexual health services, services for the 0-5s (including health visiting), substance misuse services, health promotion and prevention for children aged 5-19 (including school nursing and young people's sexual health services), obesity prevention work, mental health services, smoking cessation and dental health checks.</p> <p>We will also use the ring-fenced grant to provide continuation funding for the community champions programme. Additionally the grant funds the core public health staff team, which includes some of the Population Health Hub, as well as staffing for public health intelligence and strategy, commissioning and contract management. The service level agreement with the City of London to manage a number of public health services for City residents, for which the City pays</p>

agreed service contributions and management fees, will continue.

Children's Services - Net budget £62.2m

The Service will work with families to support safe and effective parenting where children are at risk of significant harm. Where it is not possible for children to be safely cared for within their family network, the Service will look after those children. The core focus is child protection, children in need, supporting families where their children are on the edge of care, securing positive long-term life chances of children looked after by the Council and providing universal (for example, youth services provision) and targeted early help and prevention services for Hackney's children and young people (for example, parenting support). Expenditure in this area will be predominantly on staffing (mainly social workers, youth workers and other practitioners) and on the care (foster care or residential) for our looked after young people. The Council will also deliver a Domestic Abuse Intervention Service from this budget.

Education - Net Budget £23.2m

Hackney Education (HE) will spend its non-delegated budgets on statutory services such as admissions and school place planning and also services such as school improvement services to ensure delivery against the vision that all schools in the borough are graded good or better as soon as possible. Currently circa 92% of pupils at maintained provision attend good or better schools.

HE invests in young people with Education & Health Care Plans (EHCP) to ensure they receive the support and education they need in mainstream schools or specialist schools and provision. The High Needs Budget also provides for our pupil referral unit at New Regent's College.

The early years service passes on government funding for 2, 3, and 4 year old provision across the borough. We also maintain a range of early years activities, services, support and childcare across our children's centres. The early years service provides quality assurance for the range of settings across the borough.

Climate, Homes and Economy- Net Budget £21.2m

These General Fund budgets will be spent on a wide variety of front-line services which benefit all of our residents. These include:

Cleaning our streets and collecting and recycling both domestic and commercial waste - including activities to promote and directly impact recycling in the borough - including the provision and emptying of 'recycling & go bins', zero waste hubs for unwanted electrical and other goods, work in schools to actively promote recycling.

Managing parking and parking enforcement.

Managing our six street markets and management and marketing of shop front trading with an emphasis on local growth.

Management and maintenance of our public highways, cycle ways, footpaths and streetlights including ensuring our increased number of street trees are maintained and promoting walking and cycling in the borough.

Managing and maintaining Hackney's parks, green spaces and its seven sport and leisure centres. Hackney's green spaces range from potentially the largest concentration of football pitches in Europe at Hackney Marshes to 29 Green Flag Parks including Springfield and Clissold.

Developing and implementing planning policy for the borough, consulting and determining planning applications and enforcing planning breaches where necessary. The preparation of the Council's Local Plan, and accompanying Area Action Plans, Supplementary Planning Documents, the Authority Monitoring Report and a broad range of evidence and research documents to justify/inform the plans and ensure effective implementation. Building Control ensures that buildings are properly designed and constructed to meet regulatory requirements that guarantee the health, safety and welfare of people in or around buildings.

Providing community safety and enforcement services across the borough. This ranges from a preventative focus through our integrated gangs work as well as civil protection, and an enforcement team with officers empowered to enforce a range of legislation, including streetscene enforcement, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and noise nuisance.

Regeneration services including estate regeneration, supplying new affordable homes including Hackney Living Rent properties alongside teams focussed on area regeneration delivering and coordinating strategic regeneration in the borough in line with the Council's Inclusive Economy Strategy which sets out a new approach to regeneration and economic development aimed at maximising the local benefits of growth.

Private Sector Housing is responsible for driving up standards in Hackney's privately rented homes by tackling rogue landlords, supporting private renters and encouraging the professionalisation of the sector, in line with the Council's #BetterRenting commitments. As well as providing a responsive complaints service, the team proactively enforces property licensing schemes across three wards.

Housing Strategy and Policy Service is responsible for developing, monitoring and implementing housing policy in line with the Council's strategic objectives and manifesto commitments, developing and overseeing the implementation of the Council's Housing Strategy.

An integrated Adult Education and Hackney Works team supporting local people into work through one to one work and working in partnership with other agencies. In addition, Hackney's Supported Employment Team has continued to deliver on the commitment to ensuring young people, with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 16-24, have access to high quality employment opportunities, through further development of its Supported Internship Programme.

Chief Executives - Net Budget £21.2m

This area of the budget delivers key strategic functions as well as some frontline delivery including:

Running the legal and governance services for the Council, ensuring it is legally compliant and that processes are clear and transparent and includes servicing the Council's many meetings throughout the municipal year.

The Council's Policy and Strategic Delivery as well communication functions.

Business Intelligence, Elections and Member Services.

Culture services, including the provision of eight libraries and a community library service with a range of partners which aims to connect with all sectors of the community, as well as Hackney Museum which is recognised as one of the best community museums in the capital. These services will also continue to tackle digital exclusion through provision of public PC use.

Finance & Resources - Net Budget £61.2m

The Finance and Corporate Resources directorate contains a combination of front-line and support services.

Significant front-line services supporting our communities include housing benefit services and overseeing the crisis support scheme for residents as well as managing housing allocations, providing housing advice, working to prevent homelessness but also providing temporary accommodation (TA) where it is needed. There are currently over 3,000 households in TA across the borough, and TA approaches from residents have increased. In 2022/23 total approaches across the year totalled 4,085. In 2023/24 there were 2,874 approaches up to the end of November.

The Revenues Service delivers the statutory administration of Council Tax billing and collection, Non Domestic rate billing and collection, Housing Benefit Overpayment collection and Temporary Accommodation former tenant arrears collection.

Support functions include Finance, ICT, HR and Property Services.

The finance function manages the Council's finances, producing financial plans, supporting services to deliver against these plans, producing statutory accounts, undertaking audits to ensure we have the proper controls in place to protect public money and collecting income due including Council Tax and Business Rates.

The Strategic Property Services team runs the Council's portfolio of corporate, commercial and voluntary sector properties as well as delivering capital projects (including for schools) and managing the maintenance of the estate. It sets out investment plans and advises the wider Council on matters of development, tenancy, planning, asset performance and Health & Safety compliance.

The ICT function provides and manages our ICT networks, supporting residents to access our services in an efficient way and also running a contact service ensuring residents can reach us with a range of queries and requests regarding our services.

Finally, our Human Resource services work to support our managers and staff including in recruitment and delivering the payroll service.

- 14.3 In addition to the above there is also the General Finance Account (GFA). This is where all expenditure that is not easily attributable to any division or directorate is contained. Gross expenditure budgets contained in the GFA include; NWLA Levy, Corporate contingencies, Pension Back funding, Concessionary Fares, Minimum

Revenue Provisions, contribution to lifecycle funding for the Hackney Service Centre and Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay. The GFA also includes the budget estimate for the pay award for 2024/25 which will be vired to directorates in due course depending on the outcome of 2024/25 pay negotiations.

15.0 LEVIES

- 15.1 The Council receives levies from a variety of other bodies, which it must meet from within its total budget requirement. The levies include those from the North London Waste Authority (NLWA), the Environment Agency, the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA), and the London Pensions Fund Authority. In addition, the Council also pays into the London Borough Grants Scheme (LBGS).
- 15.2 Other than the NLWA levy, which is apportioned on a different basis, the levies are apportioned on shares of Band D taxbase. As mentioned at Paragraph 13.6 above, the taxbase for Hackney for 2024/25 was agreed at 77,766.9 Band D equivalent properties and this figure has been used for apportionment of the applicable levies. The number of Band D equivalent properties can be thought of as the average number of properties liable to pay council tax.
- 15.3 The following table summarises the 2024/25 levies and the 2023/24 levies for comparison.

Levying Authority	2024/25	2023/24
	£m	£m
North London Waste Authority*	9.82	7.56
London Pensions Fund Authority*	0.46	0.46
Lee Valley Regional Park*	0.20	0.20
Environment Agency*	0.18	0.18
London Borough Grants Scheme*	0.21	0.21
TOTAL	10.87	8.61

*Provisional

16.0 PRECEPTS

- 16.1 The only body which issues a precept to the Council is the Greater London Authority [GLA]. Payments to the GLA will be made from the Collection Fund. The GLA advises the Council of the total amount of precept required and calculates the amount of Council Tax this equates to. The precept will be net of government support. The amount of Council Tax required, as calculated by the GLA, is added to the Council's own calculation to give the total Council Tax to be charged.

16.2 The GLA Group Budget Proposals and Precepts were published in December 2023. The final consolidated draft budget was published on 17 January 2024 and will be presented to the London Assembly for final decision on 22nd February 2023. The final consolidated budget requires a precept of £471.40 per Band D property, which is an 8.6% increase from 2023/24. The total GLA precept for Hackney will be £36.659m.

16.3 The table below shows the increase in Hackney's and the GLA's council tax compared to the 2023-24 values

	2023-24 Band D £	2024-25 Band D £	Increase £	% Increase
Hackney	1,339.15	1,405.97	66.82	4.99%
GLA	434.14	471.40	37.26	8.58%
Total	1,773.29	1,877.37	104.08	5.87%

17. HACKNEY'S COUNCIL TAX FOR 2024/25

17.1 A description of the Council Tax regime is set out in **Appendix 4** as background information for Members. The Council Tax figures set out below are based on a 4.99% increase in the Council Tax and a collection rate of 93.5%. The collection rate is in line with the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan and assists the Council to continue to deliver high quality services, financial stability and first-class local facilities.

Table 3: Council Tax Income

COUNCIL TAX TO BE RAISED	2024/25
	£m
Net Budget Requirement	377.859
External Support	-212.552
Retained Business Rates	-54.299
Collection Fund deficit & Council Tax Support and Govt. Grant	-1.670
Council Tax requirement for Hackney	109.338
Council Tax requirement for the Greater London Authority (GLA)	36.659
Overall Council Tax Requirement	145.997
No. of Band D equivalent properties (the Council's Taxbase)	77,766.9
Basic amount of Council Tax for Hackney £	1,405.97
Basic amount of Council Tax for GLA £	471.40
Total Basic amount of Council Tax (per Band D property) £	1,877.37

17.2 Members should note that decisions around the level of Council Tax increase

must be made with reference not only to local political and financial considerations but also taking into account the Government's controls over Local Government spending such as the use of local referendum powers. In addition, the Council has to formally consult with representatives of the local business community. Local business representatives are invited to a consultation meeting held on the 19th February 2024 to discuss the final budget proposals.

- 17.3 The amount of the Council's General Fund revenue expenditure to be funded from Council Tax is £109.338m
- 17.4 The formal resolutions by Council to agree the budget and Council Tax rate are set out in the recommendations to this report. These can only be agreed by Council. The decisions cannot be delegated.

18.0 FUTURE YEARS COST PRESSURES AND BUDGET PLANNING

- 18.1 The finance strategy underlying the budget is unchanged from previous years such that the budget is not looked at solely in isolation of the year in question but also in terms of the issues that may affect the budget in future years.
- 18.2 The Council produces its Medium-Term Financial Plan and the Interim Group Director of Finance also updates CLT and Cabinet on the future year's indicative budgets on a regular basis throughout each year.
- 18.3 The Council is experiencing significant cost pressures in Adult Social Care, Children's Services and in Temporary Accommodation. A further pressure arises from the 2023-24 Pay Award. These pressures have been highlighted in our budget monitoring reports to Cabinet for 2023/24. The pressures in Adult Social Care primarily reflect increases in demand, particularly from hospital discharges and increased complexity of client needs. In Children's services, the major cost pressure is in Corporate Parenting which is linked to increases in the unit costs which in turn reflects the increased complexity of care for children and young people coming into the service. In addition restricted supply nationally coupled with higher demand results in an extremely competitive market for placements, which has driven up costs. High inflation has also impacted on costs through high energy and fuel costs, and the rising cost of care packages and temporary accommodation. Going forward we anticipate further demands on our services and increased unit costs. The 2024/25 budget includes significant increases in cash limits for Adult Social Care and Children's Services and increases in social care grants will go towards specific pressures in this area of spend. We have also set aside in the General Finance Account further funds to meet increased energy prices. At a service level, the following cost pressures and management actions are noted:

18.4 Adults, Health and Integration

18.4.1 In Adult Social Care increases in the cost of care packages have exceeded allocated demographic growth year on year, which represents an additional cost pressure and is factored into the forecast as it materialises. The cost of living crisis, increased interest rates, COVID-19 legacy and social care reforms add additional burdens to existing pressures within Adult Social Care. This significantly impacts people's ability to live independently, therefore the Council is seeing increased demand, particularly for more complex needs cases, which require a more comprehensive support package. Service demand continues to rise which affects all age groups and inflationary pressure causing providers to raise their prices are impacting the Council as a whole, with particular pressures on Adults.

18.4.2 There continues to be an increase in people being discharged from hospital with intensive care support packages which will be partially offset by the new discharge grant and other one-off funding for social care recently announced by the Government, however this additional revenue is significantly below the additional cost pressures forecast.

Work to reduce cost pressures in this area includes:

- Implementation of a new quality assurance process, bringing together multiple processes into one enabling closer financial oversight and strategic oversight across all operational services
- Establishment of a Fair Cost and Quality Review Team on an initial 12 month pilot to undertake a programme of Individual/Provider/Care based reviews with the following strategic aims:
 - reduce the current level of spend as it is not sustainable
 - to embed a 'strengths based approach' to care assessments, reviews and planning
 - working towards maximised service user independence, choice and control and step down from more intensive forms of social care, where appropriate
 - Opportunity to link the needs of service users, desired outcomes and the price paid for community support services in a clear, transparent model
 - Providers commissioned against a clear commissioning strategy and specification, playing an active role in shaping & enabling maximised Service User outcomes
- Working with mental health partners to bring expenditure back in line with the budget. This will be delivered through joint working group meetings and measures include the use of the Care Cubed tool to assess the cost of care, targeting the highest cost care packages as well as being used to review all existing care packages. Commissioners are now working on re-introducing a framework to reduce the reliance on spot purchase and are also reviewing the HRS block contract to ensure efficiency.

18.4.3 Hackney remains an area with significant health inequalities and very high levels of need especially for the clinical services commissioned by Public Health including substance misuse, sexual health and school aged health services. In Public Health there continue to be cost pressures from providers experiencing very significant cost inflation especially from NHS pay awards. Need for many services has increased due to displacement from the COVID pandemic and direct impact of lockdown.

Work to reduce cost pressures in this area includes:

- Proactively meeting with NHS providers to clarify NHS agenda for change pay increases have been met directly from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
- Recommissioning contracts with fixed pricing over an extended period
- Continuing the work to embed a more preventive approach across other statutory services through Health in All Policies

18.5 Children and Education

18.5.1 In looked after children and leaving care services there is a continuing financial pressure resulting from increases in the number of children and young people that have come into care since 2011/12, the significant increase in residential placements (30 young people in residential care as at January 2024) and the adverse ratio between independent foster care and in-house placements. In comparison to the previous year, the gross forecast for 2023/24 for Corporate Parenting placements has increased by £0.4m. Over the period from 2015/16 to 2022/23 the service has seen budget growth of £10.6m, however, increases in spend outstrips this growth year on year. Management actions have been developed by the service in this area and these include:

- A forensic analysis of residential placements, the service is targeting a reduction through a process of continual review.
- There is a significant increase in children moving to in house foster care arrangements (90% of all foster care referrals and 1 in 3 children referred to residential care are supported by an in house even if it's interim basis). All children under the age of 16 are to be offered a foster placement as first option and residential and semi-independent placements are to be agreed in exceptional circumstances.

18.5.2 The cost of services in respect of young people with special educational needs due to the significant increase in young people with Education and Health Care Plans continues to be a significant issue for the Council. A cost which is meant to be met by the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant; a funding source which until recently has seen growth which does not match the significant increase in demand. In 2024/25, Hackney expects to receive an additional

£1.9m in High Needs Block funding which represents a circa 3% increase. The 2023/24 in year pressure on SEND is £3.9m, and we usually have growth in expenditure of approximately £3-4m per year, so the funding allocated for 2024/25 will not allow us to address the forecast SEND deficit of £20.6m at the end of 2023/24. As a result, a major issue facing the Council is the continuing escalation in unfunded SEND costs and the resulting overspend in DSG.

- 18.5.3 Since 2006 the dedicated schools grant (DSG) has funded local authorities for their current expenditure on schools, early years and children and young people with high needs. This specific grant must be spent on the local authority's Schools Budget. At the end of each financial year, a local authority may have underspent or overspent on its DSG allocation. Until the last few years, few local authorities were recording DSG overspends, and those overspends were small. However, pressures on the high needs budget, referred to above, have led to more and larger overspends in recent years. Further many local authority Section 151 Officers concluded that if their DSG account is in deficit, they need to be able to cover the deficit from the authority's general reserves – a view shared by organisations that audit local authority accounts. Given the size of some authorities' DSG deficits, and the other pressures on authorities' reserves, there was a risk that covering DSG deficits from general funds may lead authorities to make spending reductions in other services that they would not otherwise make.
- 18.5.4 In response to this, the Government announced at the beginning of 2020 that DSG deficits should not be covered from general funds but that over time they should be recovered from DSG income. No timescale has been set for the length of this process. The DfE have held discussions with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (formerly the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government) about changes that it might make to the DSG conditions of grant and the regulations in order to create certainty that local authorities will not have to pay for DSG deficits out of their general funds. Such changes were written into regulations and under the regulations, effectively Local Authorities will not be permitted to fund any part of a DSG deficit from sources other than DSG itself until the end of 2025/26, the 31 March 2026 date was extended recently from an original expiry date of 31 March 2023. Should they wish to use core council funds then they will need to apply to the Secretary of State for permission.
- 18.5.5 Hackney was included in Tranche 2 of the Delivering Better Value (in SEND) programme which aims to help local authorities maintain effective SEND services, however the programme aims to provide assistance on deficit recovery actions/mitigations through a grant of up to £1m, rather than provide direct funding to address the deficit, hence the potential risk to the Council. The grant application has been successful and the funding will be received in instalments in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

18.6 Climate, Homes and Economy

- 18.6.1 Future cost pressures in Environmental Operations (EO) reflect a range of demand-driven challenges, including housing growth, population increases (including temporary influxes), and emergency responses. Inflation and the cost of living crises will continue to have an impact on the service, particularly in the areas of vehicle maintenance and consumable expenses.
- 18.6.2 Other priorities in terms of addressing the climate emergency will also continue to impact on the service budget, which has implications for the operation of our street cleaning function: - 5,000 street trees, which impact not only the leafing season but also the spring and summer with blossom, seed, and fruit; LTNs, which impact drive time and fuel usage; e-bikes, scooters, and bike hangers, which cause impediments to cleaning; and Sustainable Drainage System, which require litter picking and, in some cases, take longer to clean.

18.7 Finance and Corporate Resources

- 18.7.1 **Strategic Property Services:** With most of the concentration of spend on the main campus buildings in years past, there are a number of building assets within the portfolio that have received limited spend and are now in need of significant investment. These buildings are used by both housing services and General fund services and, therefore, maintenance will be covered by funding from both the HRA and the General Fund budgets. The amount of reactive work on these buildings is likely to increase due to essential maintenance requirements which will require increased budget going forward.
- 18.7.2 **ICT:** as local public services become ever more reliant on technology, effective ongoing investment in the Council's digital platforms will be increasingly critical. Future cost pressures are expected to come from: the need for further investment in maintaining current software and equipment; implementation of enhanced functionality and integrations; continued investments to defend against the growing cyber threats; investment in new opportunities to increase productivity and improve services (such as generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)); and the need for changes / new developments to support changes in service delivery across the Council's services. There are also ongoing cost pressures arising from inflation and foreign exchange rates (given the global nature of the market for ICT).
- 18.7.3 **Housing Needs:** the ongoing pressures of the housing crisis and cost-of-living crisis will continue to drive demand (and costs) for temporary accommodation and homelessness prevention support for residents. Factors driving these pressures include increasingly constrained supply of affordable housing (in both the private and social rented sectors); landlords exiting the market for affordable rented accommodation and temporary accommodation; increasing complex needs of residents presenting as homeless requiring specialist support provision; and more residents being affected by increasing living costs and the financial impacts of welfare reform. The impact of increasing living costs on residents may

be partly alleviated by the announcement that Local Housing Allowance rates will increase from April 2024 but there is the likelihood that households will still be impacted by the benefits caps due to the level of private sector rates in the borough. It should be noted that this change does not apply to households presenting as homeless and therefore there is no mitigation to the cost pressures for Temporary Accommodation.

- 18.7.4 **Benefits:** the Government has announced that the roll out of Universal Credit (UC) has been extended further to 2028, but following recent updates from the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) we are expecting further significant migration to UC over the 2024/25 financial year. This will reduce the volume of benefits processed directly by the Council and the funding from DWP for this work.

18.8 Summary approach to cost pressures

- 18.8.1 The above highlights that there are potentially significant future demand and cost pressures. Further budget growth has been factored into our medium term financial plan to meet some of these risks however as far as possible officers need to work to contain these pressures in order for the Council's financial plans to be sustainable. Although the Council also retains some capacity in its reserves to mitigate some of these risks, reserves are one-off, once they are gone they are gone and this is therefore not a long-term solution.

19.0 ROBUSTNESS OF THE ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES

- 19.1 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council's Chief Finance Officer (The Interim Group Director of Finance) to report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

- 19.2 The Interim Group Director of Finance has reviewed the budget proposals recognising the ongoing challenges, particularly those set out in Section 18 to this report alongside the current level of earmarked reserves which act as a mitigation to these challenges. This review is recorded in the Section 25 statement included at Appendix 11 to this report. The review considers:

- The macroeconomic context and in particular future funding prospects.
- The Council's track record in financial management and governance
- Compliance with codes and standards
- Robustness of estimates including the adequacy of budget growth and income collection assumptions
- Savings plans and risks around delivery
- Adequacy of reserves taking account of the CIPFA resilience index and historical reserve drawdowns
- Capital programme with particular regard to capacity to repay borrowings and meet debt servicing costs

- 19.3 In summary, it is the opinion of the Interim Group Director of Finance (S151

officer) that estimates and balances are sufficiently robust and at the appropriate level with due regard to the risks set out in the Section 25 Statement.

- 19.4 There has in recent years been a decline in the level of earmarked reserves which we hold against specific risks as those risks have materialised and reserves drawn down. It is important, in order to maintain our financial resilience and to avoid the requirement to make short-term decisions which will impact on our residents, for the Mayor, Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team to develop robust plans to deliver against the revised Medium Term Financial Plan included at Appendix 5 to this budget report. This will mitigate a further significant decline in our reserves.
- 19.5 Overall, the Council has taken a long term and strategic approach to managing the budget gap over a number of years and this has allowed and continues to allow proposals to be developed to cover a range of years to enable services to be properly and fully reviewed. As set out in Appendix 11 the Council holds earmarked reserves to mitigate the risks to the budget. These risks have been set out in this report alongside the measures in place to mitigate these risks. The clear advice of the Interim Group Director of Finance is that the current level of General Balances should be held at the existing position of £17m which is in line with our current policy to not allow the general balance to drop below £17m. Cognisant of the uncertainty in which this budget is set and the ongoing nature of some of the risks set out the aim is to increase these to £20m over the medium term period to 2026/27 from a review of current earmarked reserves.

20. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

- 20.1 Formal proposals for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget including Tenants Rent and Service Charges for 2024/25 were included as an item to the January 2024 Cabinet Agenda.
- 20.2 The rent increase of 7.7% in the 2024/25 budget is in line with the Government's policy for social rent, which is CPI (as at September)+1%. This will result in an average rent increase of £8.91 from £115.68 per week to £124.59 per week.
- 20.3 Service charges for tenants are based on a pooled cost approach, where all tenants receiving a service are charged the same amount. The proposed charges will ensure that the income recovered matches the level of expenditure on these services. As part of our commitment to provide value for money to tenants we have been able to freeze some service charges for 2024/25 through the efficiencies we are making in these services. The exceptions to this are charges for CCTV and landlord lighting which are increasing in line with the cost inflation for these services. The proposed service charges for 2024/25 are as follows:

	2024/25 Charge £ per week	2023/24 Charge £ per week
Grounds Maintenance	2.15	2.15
Block Cleaning	6.11	6.11
Estate Cleaning	2.66	2.66
Landlord Lighting	3.27	3.06
CCTV Monitoring	0.51	0.47

- 20.4 For those blocks with a concierge service, Cabinet approved in January 2018 that increases to charges for the concierge service will include a requirement for the service provider to pay London Living Wage. This year's increase is in line with contract price inflation which is linked to the increases to London Living Wage.
- 20.5 The Housing Service continues to invest in tenant sustainability services and work collaboratively across the Council, and in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), advice providers, and other partners to co-design ways to boost benefit take up and income maximisation (involving the local Universal Credit Partnership), prevent debt, as well as consolidating approaches to debt collection and preventing evictions. The service is committed to working with tenants by providing crisis support, income maximisation and debt support. We continue to work with partners to support the delivery of the Council's Poverty Reduction Strategic priorities.

21.0 RECHARGES

- 21.1 The budgets shown at paragraph 14.1 are before central recharges. The majority of central services cost centres will be fully or partially recharged to front line services in accordance with CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice.
- 21.2 This will be carried out in March 2024, after consideration of the budget by full Council but this has no impact on the Council's overall budget.

22.0 CAPITAL

- 22.1 This report sets out an indicative three year programme which is designed to deliver an ambitious Capital Plan in order that the Council strategic objectives are met. It also details the impact of reduced supported funding for the Capital schemes and that the Council will need to borrow in order to ensure it has sufficient resources to deliver the Plan. Having a longer-term outlook of the Capital programme, as presented here, will allow for better financial management of the resources as this captures requirements over the life of the projects which can then effectively be fed into the Council's Treasury Management. Going forward, given the increasing impact on revenue budgets in the long term, we are extending this forward look further to a 10-year time frame, see Capital Strategy

(appendix nine) for further details.

- 22.2 Due consideration continues to be given, through the governance structures already in place, to how the UK's changing economic position is impacting on key parts of the capital programme as it currently stands. Adjustments to plans will be made where it is deemed in the best interests of the borough's long term financial sustainability.
- 22.3 This section and **Appendix 6** present the Council's indicative three-year capital budget, for 2024/25 to 2026/27, although it should be noted that formal resource approval is sought only for 2024/25. Annual profiling of capital spend will change, as schemes are developed more fully. The three year programme is included as it is used to inform the calculation of our prudential indicators, which are required for the next three financial years. The current year's (2023/24) forecast capital outturn position is included, to provide better understanding of the whole capital programme and put into context the capital investment of the following years.
- 22.4 The Council's programme for 2023/24 is budgeted at £212.7m, of which £103.1m relates to Housing and Regeneration, and £109.6m is non-Housing schemes. For the four years from 2023/24 to 2026/27, the programme budgets as a whole total £1.5bn. There are of course risks associated with the capital programme. A significant proportion requires substantial upfront investment financed by increased borrowing, to be repaid as capital receipts are realised from the sale of assets developed within mixed-use schemes (in the General Fund) and our substantial regeneration programme.
- 22.5 Hackney uses its resources effectively and therefore did not need to borrow externally on a long-term basis until the 2019/20 financial year, when we borrowed £80m from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb). The expectation is that we will require more external borrowing over the medium-term window of 2024/25 to 2026/27, to temporarily cashflow significant parts of the capital programme being presented here but also as a longer-term funding source as capital receipts are depleted and other funding sources (e.g grants) limited.

Schemes

- 22.6 A granular analysis of the three-year indicative Capital Programme is presented in Appendix 6. The programme provides a breakdown for each directorate with a further summary of the Housing and Non-Housing requirements. Details of the new resource approvals being sought as part of this budget setting process are included in the schedules at Appendix 6.
- 22.7 The indicative programme incorporates schemes that will deliver the following:
- An ongoing and ambitious regeneration programme which will bring homes of different tenures to the market.
 - Continued investment in our schools to ensure these are kept in a good state of repair as well as an increase in in-borough SEN places.

- Regeneration of our town centres.
- Ongoing maintenance of the corporate property estate and maintenance of our ICT infrastructure going forward following the current investment in upgrades to the Council's main technology platforms.
- A highways maintenance programme of £4.75m pa and associated schemes.
- Maintenance of the Council's parks and green spaces and libraries, including Stoke Newington Library, Stamford Hill Library and Kings Hall Leisure Centre.
- An ongoing commitment towards delivering on our zero carbon target, including decarbonisation of non-housing building stock, LED street lighting and cycle hangers.
- Working in partnership with City and Hackney CCG to build two new primary care facilities in the borough. The inaugural facility, the Portico, is anticipated to commence operations in the latter part of the financial year 2023/24. Subsequently, the second facility Belfast Road is projected to be operational towards the conclusion of 2024.

22.8 In April 2017 Cabinet considered and approved proposals to replace the Britannia Leisure Centre, deliver a new secondary school (City of London Academy Shoreditch Park) and at least 80 genuinely affordable homes paid for in part by the development of private for sale housing units. The Council prioritised the upfront delivery of the social infrastructure and affordable housing with the majority of the private for sale housing being delivered as part of the latter phases of the project. The brand new Britannia Leisure Centre opened in June 2021 and with its modern and wide-ranging facilities usage has already risen above the pre-pandemic levels of the old leisure centre. Also in June 2021, the City of London Academy Shoreditch Park were able to move from their temporary site in Audrey Street to the newly built school building adjacent to Shoreditch Park. As part of the masterplan, we promised to build 80 genuinely affordable new homes, the majority of which will be for social rent. The Government stalled these plans by refusing permission to repurpose land at Shoreditch Park Primary School despite a significant investment package being agreed with the school. The next stages of the Britannia masterplan have now been rephased but we are still ensuring that the genuinely affordable homes are delivered. The affordable housing will now be delivered on the Phase 2b site. As this scheme is funded primarily by sale of on-site private residential accommodation there is a significant element of risk. Brexit, followed by Covid, and an increase in inflation and thus interest rates has destabilised the housing market and there is considerable work continuing to monitor and manage this risk. There is a separate project board and governance process for Britannia in terms of ongoing project management and the relevant financial scrutiny.

22.9 The Council wishes to sustain its investment in its housing assets by ensuring all homes are maintained to a high standard, through a wide range of works and cyclical programmes that ensure compliance with legal and safety regulations and that protect against, and prevent deterioration of its buildings. In addition to investment in existing properties, the Council continues to progress three extensive

regeneration programmes within the borough: Woodberry Down, the Estate Regeneration Programme (ERP), and the Housing Supply Programme (HSP). In addition, Cabinet approved a housing regeneration programme, the New Council House Building Programme in December 2022. The financial plans for the existing HRA stock and the regeneration programmes are presented and monitored separately to ensure the viability of each of the asset investments. The numbers presented here include regeneration schemes which are at the development and tender stages, and which can only go ahead where it is financially viable to do so.

Hackney Capital Programme

Non-Housing	23/24 Forecast £m	24/25 Estimate £m	25/26 Estimate £m	26/27 Estimate £m	Total £m
Chief Executive	0.4	5.9	1.0	0.0	7.2
Adults, Health and Integration	1.6	1.8	0.5	0.2	4.2
Children and Education	13.7	20.9	8.9	4.9	48.4
Finance/Corp Resources – mixed use schemes	27.7	74.7	75.0	11.8	189.2
Finance/Corp Resources - other	35.4	39.8	5.9	4.6	85.7
Climate, Homes & Economy	30.8	45.0	30.1	7.9	113.9
Total Non-Housing budget	109.6	188.2	121.4	29.4	448.5

Housing	23/24 Forecast £m	24/25 Estimate £m	25/26 Estimate £m	26/27 Estimate £m	Total £m
AMP Capital Schemes HRA	46.3	55.3	53.6	55.6	210.9
Council Capital Schemes GF	5.9	4.8	2.3	2.3	15.3
Private Sector Housing schemes	1.6	2.0	2.0	1.7	7.4
Estate Regeneration	20.7	55.7	148.8	187.7	412.9
Housing Supply Programme	19.8	32.6	70.6	99.9	222.9
Woodberry Down Regeneration	8.2	12.6	5.7	10.7	37.3
New Homes	0.6	6.0	16.4	99.6	122.6
Total Housing budget	103.1	169.2	299.4	457.5	1,029.2

Total Capital Programme	212.7	357.4	420.8	486.9	1,477.8
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The increases in 2024/25 budgets are due to a combination of the mixed use development scheme (Britannia) and number of housing projects moving into the construction phase of developments along with grant funded projects from the Levelling Up programme.

Resources

22.10 The Capital Programme is funded through various sources including;

- 1) Specific & non-specific government grants
- 2) Capital receipts
- 3) Council reserves
- 4) Revenue contributions to capital
- 5) Other one off funding sources e.g. CIL/S106 developer contributions
- 6) Borrowing (internal - against our balance sheet - and external)

22.11 The indicative resources available for each year of the Capital Programme are set out below. It is important to note that these are based upon the work done as part of the development of the Capital Strategy, taking account of the progression of various negotiations with Developers and other External Parties. They are therefore best estimates using the information currently available and will be subject to change. Any change in resources available will result in changes to the associated expenditure and/or financing plans in order that a net balanced position for the capital budget is maintained.

Resourcing of the non-housing side of the programme is as follows.

Non-Housing	23/24 Forecast £m	24/25 Estimate £m	25/26 Estimate £m	26/27 Estimate £m	Total £m
Grants	17.1	30.9	15.9	3.1	67.0
S106/HCIL	4.9	7.0	0.9	0.0	12.8
RCCO*	0.1	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.6
Capital Receipts	0.1	1.6	33.5	3.8	38.9
Reserves	7.5	10.9	1.6	0.1	20.1
Borrowing	79.9	134.3	66.0	18.9	299.1
Total	109.6	188.2	121.4	29.4	448.5

* Subject to review at year end finances

22.12 The detailed resource position reflects the following:

- The borrowing line includes expenditure in the programme on the Britannia scheme that is funded by sales of dwellings, and which in large part will happen post-construction. Income from capital receipts occurs after construction, meaning there will be a short to medium term borrowing requirement. Further, where actual sales are lower than anticipated, and/or where they are later than expected, there may then become expenditure that needs to be financed by other means.
- The Grants & Contributions incorporates resources announced by the government for 2024/25 and the figure for the following two years captures

our forecast based on initial agreements with various governmental Departments. These largely relate to the education programme where we are expecting some limited, albeit not sufficient, Government support for the delivery of ongoing maintenance and SEN provision.

22.13 The resources available to finance the Housing capital programme are summarised in the table below.

Housing	23/24 Forecast £m	24/25 Estimate £m	25/26 Estimate £m	26/27 Estimate £m	Total £m
Grants	13.6	25.8	32.4	59.4	131.2
S106/HCIL	0.2	7.4	0.0	0.0	7.6
RCCO	46.2	52.2	53.6	55.6	207.6
Capital Receipts	1.7	16.7	6.5	2.6	27.6
Borrowing	41.4	67.1	206.8	339.9	655.2
Total	103.1	169.2	299.4	457.5	1,029.2

22.14 The detailed resource position reflects the following:

- The borrowing line includes cash flowing requirement of the regeneration programme, which will be recouped via capital receipts from private for sale dwellings from various current and future schemes including Woodberry Down and Colville Estate.
- The revenue contribution is mainly the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR), which is the depreciation calculation on the housing stock recycled to create resources for re-investment.
- The Capital Receipts line incorporates residential sales from Housing Regeneration projects and also reimbursement costs relating to Woodberry Down. The application of Right to Buy (RTB) receipts and GLA grant can be seen under Grants. It is expected that RTB sales might decrease slightly over the next few years due to the increase in mortgage rates.
- With the allocation of all expected and known resources, the Housing Capital Plan is projecting a significant and rising borrowing requirement through this three year programme. A surplus in capital receipts is anticipated in the years after the medium term window to 2026/27, which will reverse the trend and repay borrowing, however long term affordability of the Housing programme remains the focus.

22.15 The Council continues to budget for Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay (RCCOs) in 2023/24, amounting to £3.5m within the General Fund and £46m in the Housing Revenue Account.

Financial exposure within the programme

- 22.16 The key risk to financing Hackney's capital programme for this medium-term window is capital expenditure that is funded by private for sale dwellings. The combined impact of the short-term borrowing requirement of Britannia and regeneration schemes as planned puts an additional £1bn on our capital financing requirement (underlying need to borrow) between 2023/24 to 2026/27. Whilst we expect to generate capital receipts in the years directly after 2026/27 to fund this expenditure, a funding gap is realised where receipts are not recouped at levels incorporated at the planning stage. The risk of this remains high as the current economic climate from the war in Ukraine and the Middle East, together with higher inflation and higher interest rates, will have adverse impact on the housing market.
- 22.17 This risk is being closely monitored through the gateway process and the Britannia and Kings Hall Leisure Centre Board. For Britannia the financial business case is regularly revisited to test assumptions and sensitivity modelling around cost inflation and house price forecasts are kept under ongoing review. We have incorporated Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charges into our calculations, taking into account the most recent estimates for the Britannia model. Regeneration schemes must demonstrate viability (which would take into account risk around sales) before being permitted to commence to the next stage of the gateway process.
- 22.18 Outside of this risk, it should also be noted that on the non-housing side, the commitments within the capital programme as laid out, exhaust us of available capital receipts (£70m), and there are currently no significant anticipated future receipts. Within the programme that has been laid out here, and outside of the Housing programmes, we have assumed revenue budgets to fund the programme increase to £24m (including PFI charges) by 2027/28. This is made up of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP - see below for further detail) and forecast borrowing costs. Borrowing will become a bigger constituent part of funding our capital programme in the years after this medium-term period.

23.0 PRUDENTIAL CODE

Background

- 23.1 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Code) was originally implemented in 2004/05 and the latest version is 2021. This is a professional Code that sets out a framework for self-regulation of capital spending, in effect allowing authorities to invest in capital projects, through borrowing, without any imposed limit as long as they are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Government also has reserve powers to restrict aggregate local authority borrowing for national economic reasons and to intervene to restrict individual local authority's borrowing.
- 23.2 Under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003, Local Authorities are required to maintain the prudential indicator for the authorised limit for external

debt for the current year. Regulation around local authority borrowing and capital investment is subject to change by Government at any point and dependent on macroeconomic circumstances.

- 23.3 The Prudential Code requires the Council to agree and monitor a minimum number of prudential indicators which for housing authorities are separated into HRA and non-HRA elements. These indicators are mandatory but can be supplemented with local indicators if this aids interpretation.
- 23.4 The indicators from both Codes are purely for internal use by the Council because any comparisons with other Councils would not necessarily be meaningful. However, comparing the level of the indicators over time does add value to the capital and treasury management process. The codes require projections for the next three financial years up to 2026/27.
- 23.5 The Prudential Code sees a further increase in focus on exposure to commercial investments in the local government sector. Central government has voiced its concern in recent years over local government's involvement in property deals and other more esoteric investments and, on the back of this, CIPFA has moved to reinforce the principle within the Prudential Code that local authorities cannot invest purely for commercial gain/borrow in advance of need. It has also bolstered requirements so that boroughs must demonstrate both exposure to commercial investment and subsequent risk management.
- 23.6 There was an additional prudential indicator emanating from the latest review, covering net income from commercial and service investments (ie non treasury investments) against net revenue stream. Hackney's exposure in this area is deemed low. There are no instances where we have externally borrowed specifically for commercial investments, in the main our commercial property portfolio is one that has accumulated over a long period of time, and the income stream is proportionate to our wider revenue budget.

Capital Expenditure and the Capital Financing Requirement

- 23.7 The Prudential Code requires local authorities to calculate the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR represents the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. Movement between years will be influenced by in-year capital expenditure and provision for repayment of debt.
- 23.8 The Prudential Code allows local authorities to undertake unsupported borrowing so they can deliver projects such as spend to save schemes (which may have previously been limited by the credit approval system) or take decisions to direct resources from revenue to capital to enable service enhancements. However, before using unsupported borrowing the authority must be satisfied that the additional borrowing costs can be afforded within future year's revenue budgets, for both the General Fund and HRA.
- 23.9 Once again, the Council anticipates the potential need to undertake unsupported borrowing to fund both its Housing and non-Housing capital programme, given the nature of the programme set out, particularly in respect of the provision of new

social infrastructure and housing projects that will require forward funding before realisation of capital receipts.

23.10 The capital expenditure presented in this report is based on the level of capital resources that can be realistically estimated over the next three years. Decisions on the actual financing of capital expenditure are taken each year during the year-end closure of accounts process on the basis of all the relevant information available at that time. It is therefore possible that the balance of the resources used in a particular year, for example, between capital receipts and Major Repairs Reserve (MRR), may change, although the totals over the three year period are expected to remain broadly the same.

23.11 Following Royal Assent of the Localism Act 2011, HRA Self Financing started in April 2012. The subsidy system was replaced and the Council now retains all rent and service charge income in return for delivering housing services to tenants and taking on investment in its housing assets based on a 30 year business plan. A “once and for all settlement” between Government and local authorities, in the form of a “one off” reallocation of debt was also undertaken. Government may reopen the settlement in very limited circumstances for major policy changes making a “substantial and material impact on the landlord business”. For the Council, this equated to a reduction in debt and DLUHC settled this by repaying a proportion of each of the Council’s PWLB loans. As a result Hackney was debt free until 2019/20.

23.12 Tables below summarise the proposed level of capital expenditure, the means of funding that expenditure and projections of the CFR over the next three years. The Council is asked to approve these projections.

Capital Expenditure and Financing 2023/24 to 2026/27

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Programme:					
Non-Housing	109.6	188.2	121.4	29.4	448.5
Housing	103.1	169.2	299.4	457.5	1,029.2
Total spend	212.7	357.4	420.8	486.9	1,477.8
Financed by:					
Capital Receipts	1.8	18.3	40.0	6.4	66.5
Government Grants	30.8	56.7	48.3	62.4	198.3
Reserves	7.5	10.9	1.6	0.1	20.1
RCCO	46.2	55.7	57.1	59.1	218.1

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
S106/CIL	5.1	14.4	0.9	0.0	20.4
Borrowing	121.3	201.4	272.9	358.8	954.4
Total Financing	212.7	357.4	420.8	486.9	1,477.8

Capital Financing Requirement and External Debt 2021/22 to 2025/26

	31/03/23 Actuals £m	31/03/24 Estimated £m	31/03/25 Estimated £m	31/03/26 Estimated £m	31/03/27 Estimated £m
Capital Financing Requirement At Year End					
CFR – Non Housing	343	377	499	497	413
CFR – Housing	121	162	229	436	776
Total CFR	464	539	728	933	1,189
Net CFR movement		75	189	205	256
External Debt					
Borrowing	67	63	363	599	886
Other long term liabilities	10	9	7	6	5
Total Debt 31 March	77	72	370	605	891

Limits to Borrowing Activity

23.13 The first key control over the Council's activity is to ensure that over the medium term debt is only for a capital purpose. The Council needs to ensure that external debt (i.e. borrowing for any purpose, plus other long-term liabilities) does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the previous year plus the estimates of any increase in the capital financing requirement at the end of the current and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years.

Gross Debt Compared to Capital Financing Requirement

	31/03/23 Actuals £m	31/03/24 Estimated £m	31/03/25 Estimated £m	31/03/26 Estimated £m	31/03/27 Estimated £m
CFR	464	539	728	933	1,189
Gross Debt	77	72	370	605	891

- 23.14 The Interim Group Director of Finance confirms that the Council will comply with the requirement to keep gross debt below the Capital Financing Requirement over the next 3 years. The estimated movement in gross debt and the CFR is set out in the table above and takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in the budget report. The increase in gross debt over the period reflects both the anticipated increase in the CFR and prudent assumptions on the future movement of revenue reserves and balances.
- 23.15 A further two Prudential Indicators assist in exercising control of the overall level of borrowing which supports capital investment. These are:
- **Authorised limit** – This represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, whilst not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable. It is the expected maximum borrowing needed with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under Section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.
 - **Operational boundary** – This indicator is based on the probable external debt during the course of the year; it is not a limit and actual borrowing could vary around this boundary for short times during the year. It should act as an indicator to ensure the authorised limit is not breached.
- 23.16 The authorised limits and operational boundary need to be set at a level which will allow for borrowing to support the delivery of the capital programme as set out earlier in this report. Increases in the HRA CFR arise from HRA Unsupported Borrowing undertaken to support the HRA Business Plan. The increases in the General Fund CFR arise from GF Unsupported Borrowing undertaken to fund the capital programme as reserves and cash balances held by the Council reduce, and shorter term cash flowing of our mixed-use schemes, where there is a lag in the receiving of capital receipts from residential sales.
- 23.17 The Council is asked to approve the following Authorised and Operational Limits (see overleaf), which have been calculated in the case of the Operational Limit on the basis of anticipated cash flow and the potential increase in the Capital Financing Requirement, and in the case of the Authorised Limit allowing a margin for unlikely (but possible) scenarios affecting the timing of grant receipts, Council Tax collection and capital receipts:

Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Approved	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Authorised limit for external debt				
Borrowing	761	778	983	1,239
Other long term liabilities	16	14	13	12
Total	777	792	996	1,251
Operational limit for external debt				
Borrowing	732	748	953	1,209
Other long term liabilities	16	14	13	12
Total	748	762	966	1,221

Affordability Prudential Indicators

23.18 The previous sections cover the overall capital and control of borrowing prudential indicators, but within this framework prudential indicators are required to assess the affordability of the capital investment plans. These provide an indication of the impact of the capital investment plans on the overall Council finances. The Council is asked to approve the following indicators:

- Actual and Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream**
 This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream, separately for housing and non-housing services. The higher ratio for the HRA reflects the high depreciation charges which are included as financing costs in the HRA and represent a significant proportion of the HRA revenue budget. The increase in the Non-HRA indicator is largely the result of the requirement to replace internal borrowing with external as cash reserves reduce in future years. The estimates of financing costs allow for the level of borrowing set out in the capital expenditure plans.

Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	2023/24 Revised	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate
Non-HRA	1.7%	2.6%	4.4%	5.5%
HRA	30.7%	30.4%	33.7%	38.7%

Estimates of net income from commercial and service investments to net revenue stream

	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate
Net income from Commercial/ Service investments	1.9%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%

MRP Statement

23.19 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 place a duty on local authorities to put aside resources to repay debt that has been used to finance capital expenditure in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Authority to have regard to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision.

23.20 The broad requirement of the MRP regulations is to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits. The Guidance requires the Authority to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year, and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP, although it does not preclude other prudent methods.

23.21 The four MRP options available are:

- Option 1: Regulatory Method
- Option 2: CFR Method
- Option 3: Asset Life Method
- Option 4: Depreciation Method

23.22 The MRP Statement must be submitted to Council before the start of the relevant financial year. If it is ever proposed to vary the terms of the original MRP Statement during the year, a revised statement should be put to Council at that time.

23.23 The following statement incorporates options recommended in the Guidance:

23.24 For capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the average useful life of the relevant assets.

23.25 For capital expenditure incurred after 31st March 2008, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset starting in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be charged over 50 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over a period which reflects the economic benefit to the council.

23.26 For assets acquired by finance leases or Private Finance Initiative (PFI), MRP will be determined as being equal to the element of the rent or charge that goes to

write down the balance sheet liability.

23.27 No MRP will be charged in respect of assets held within the Housing Revenue Account

23.28 MRP in respect of leases and Private Finance Initiative schemes brought on the Balance Sheet under the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) based Accounting Code of Practice will match the annual principal repayment for the associated deferred liability.

APPENDICES

The following are appended to this report

Legal framework governing budget decisions 2024/25	Appendix 1
Gross and Net budgets by Directorate 2024/25	Appendix 2
Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25	Appendix 3
The Council Tax regime 2024/25	Appendix 4
Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2027/28	Appendix 5
Proposed Capital Schedules 2024/25 to 2026/27	Appendix 6
Proposed Fees and Charges 2024/25	Appendix 7
Referendum Calculation 2024/25	Appendix 8
Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27	Appendix 9
Financial Management Code Review 2024-25	Appendix 10
Statement by the S151 officer on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of proposed reserves (Section 25 statement)	Appendix 11
Cumulative Equality impact assessment - Council Budget 2024-25	Appendix 12
Budget Scrutiny Report on the Council Budget 2024/25	Appendix 13
Executive Response to the Budget Scrutiny Report 2024/25	Appendix 14

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2024/25 REVENUE ESTIMATES AND COUNCIL TAX

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK GOVERNING BUDGET DECISIONS

1. The Council is required to set a Council Tax for 2024/25 before 11 March 2024. It may not be set before all precepts have been issued and the decision cannot be delegated to a committee or to Officers. Before setting the level of the tax the Council must have agreed a balanced budget, differentiated by services, which is sufficient to meet estimated revenue expenditure, levies, contingencies, any deficit estimated to be brought forward from previous years, and any amounts required to be transferred between funds. The tax itself must be sufficient to cover the difference between the agreed budget, less government grants, retained Business Rates and other grants credited to the consolidated revenue account, and any other expenditure which must be met from the Collection Fund, less any surplus (or plus any deficit) brought forward from previous years.
2. In reaching decisions on these matters, Members are bound by the general principles of administrative law and must not fetter their discretion, for example by training as decisive a proposal or proposals contained in an election manifesto. All relevant considerations must be taken into account and all irrelevant considerations must be disregarded. Any decision made must be one that only a reasonable authority, properly directing itself, could have reached; i.e. it cannot make a decision which is so irrational or perverse that no reasonable authority could have reached it. These factors are known collectively as "Wednesbury " reasonableness, following the principles set down in the case of *Associated Provincial Picturehouses Limited v Wednesbury Corporation*. Members must also balance the interests of service users against those who contribute to the Council's finances. The full resources available to the Council must be deployed to their best advantage and Members must act prudently.
3. Among the relevant considerations, which Members must take into account in reaching their decisions, are the views of business ratepayers and the advice of officers. The duty to consult representatives of non-domestic ratepayers on the Council's expenditure plans which existed under previous legislation is repeated in Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
4. In considering the advice of officers, and the weight to be attached to that advice, Members must have regard to the personal duties placed upon the Interim Group Director of Finance, the Council's Section 151 Officer. The Council may take decisions which are at variance with his advice, providing there are reasonable grounds to do so. However, Members must take into consideration their exposure to a personal risk if they disregard clearly expressed advice, for example, as to the level of provision required for

contingencies, bad debts and future liabilities.

5. The Section 151 Officer is required by the Local Government Act 1972 and by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 to ensure that the Council's budgeting, financial management, and accounting practices meet relevant statutory and professional requirements. Furthermore Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Interim Group Director of Finance to report on the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of reserves to which Members must have regard.
6. Members must also have regard to, and be aware of the wider duties placed upon the Council by various statutes governing the conduct of its financial affairs. These include the distinction between revenue and capital expenditure, specified within the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Local Government Act 2003 requires that the prudential borrowing limits are set by the Council having regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code ("the code"). This sets out a framework for self-regulation of capital spending, in effect allowing Councils to invest in capital projects without any limit, so long as they are affordable, prudent and sustainable. To facilitate this arrangement the code requires the Council to agree and monitor a number of prudential indicators.
7. Finally, Members must have in mind their fiduciary duties as a trustee of the Council's assets and the need to apply those assets in the public interest. In *Roberts v Hopwood* (1925), it was said that a local authority charged with the administration for definite purposes of funds contributed in whole or in part by ratepayers owes a duty "to conduct that administration in a fairly business-like manner with reasonable care, skill and caution, and with a due and alert regard to the interest of those (ratepayers)" towards whom the authority "stands somewhat in the position of trustees or managers of the property of others". The same principle applies in relation to Council Tax payers. The fiduciary duty owed will include the following considerations:
 - (a) Prudent use of the Authority's resources, including the raising of income (such as rents and other charges) and the control of expenditure;
 - (b) Awareness of the financial consequences of any proposal of Council Tax payers and ratepayers;
 - (c) Financial prudence both in the short and long term;
 - (d) Striking a fair balance between the interests of Council Tax payers and ratepayers on the one hand, and the community's interest in adequate and efficient services on the other hand;
 - (e) Acting in good faith with a view to complying with statutory duties and exercising its statutory powers for the benefit of the community.

8. Having set a budget at the beginning of the year, the Council is also under a duty to monitor that budget during the course of the year and to take remedial action if at any time it appears likely that expenditure will exceed available resources. Members will be aware of the statutory duty placed on the Section 151 Officer under Section 114(3) of the Local Government Finance 1988 Act to report to the Council if it appears that this will happen, and of the impact of Section 115(6) which prohibits any new agreement which would incur expenditure from being entered into following the issuing of such a report and pending its consideration by the Council. The Members of the Council, having received a Section 114 report, are obliged to take all reasonable practicable measures to bring the budget back into balance.
9. A Section 114 report is a serious matter which can destabilise an authority and can only be avoided by prudent budgeting and effective budgetary control. This adds emphasis to the need for an adequate contingency provision and a strong corporate commitment to holding chief officers accountable for containing expenditure within cash limits approved during the budget process.
10. It is the duty of the Interim Group Director of Finance as the Section 151 Officer to provide the relevant financial information, which is or ought to be available and advise on the financial prudence of options before Members, and Members must take account of such information and advice in reaching their decisions. The Council is however free to take decisions which are at variance with the advice of those officers, providing there are reasonable grounds to do so.
11. The Interim Group Director of Finance must consider whether in their view the Council has agreed a balanced budget which is capable of delivery taking all known factors into account. In the event that he considers this not to be the case, then they have a personal duty to indicate this by issuing the Council with a notice under Section 114 Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Restrictions on voting for members with Council Tax Arrears

12. Members should be aware of the provisions of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which applies to all elected members where:
 - (a) They are present at a meeting of the Council, Cabinet or any Committee and at the time of the meeting an amount of council tax is payable by them and has remained unpaid for at least two months; and
 - (b) Any budget or council tax calculation, or recommendation or decision which might affect the making of any such calculation, is the subject of consideration at the meeting.

In these circumstances, any such members shall at the meeting, and as

soon as practicable after its commencement, disclose the fact that section 106 applies to them and they may not vote on any question concerning the matters outlined in paragraph 12(b) above, although they may speak on those matters.

13. Failure to comply with the requirements under section 106 is a criminal offence unless the member can prove that they did not know (a) that the section applied to them at the time of the meeting or (b) that the matter in question was the subject of consideration at the meeting. Thus unwitting Members who for example can prove that they did not know and had no reason to suppose at the time of the meeting that their bank has failed to honour a standing order will be protected should any prosecution arise.
14. With regard to applications for benefits, it would not be enough to state that an application has been submitted which has not yet been determined, as the liability to pay remains pending any determination.
15. The application of Section 106 is very wide and there have been successful prosecutions under this legislation. It can include meetings held at any time during the year, not just the annual budget meeting, and it may include meetings of committees or sub-committees as well as Council meetings. Members should be aware that the responsibility for ensuring that they act within the law at all times rest solely with the individual Member concerned.

Voting on Budget / Council Tax Recommendations

16. Attention is also drawn to the effect of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which came into effect on 25 February 2014. The Regulations, which are reflected in the Council's Constitution, provide that where any vote is taken at a Council meeting on setting the budget for the authority, the Minutes of the meeting will record the names of all Councillors present at the vote and how each Councillor voted (for or against) or the fact that they abstained from voting.

Gross And Net Budgets By Directorate 2024/25

2024/25 Budget Proposals by Directorate

Directorate	Service / Division	Gross Expenditure £	Income £	Net Expenditure £
Adults, Health & Integration	Adult Services	138,871,558	(45,737,444)	93,134,114
	Public Health	39,991,046	(2,180,163)	37,810,883
		178,862,604	(47,917,607)	130,944,997
Chief Executive's	Chief Executive's Office	1,627,272	(65,839)	1,561,433
	Comms, Culture & Engagement	4,147,502	(2,685,198)	1,462,304
	Legal & Governance	9,424,221	(2,014,916)	7,409,305
	Libraries & Heritage	5,940,368	(87,175)	5,853,193
	Strategy Policy & Economic Dev	6,709,462	(1,837,585)	4,871,877
		27,848,825	(6,690,713)	21,158,112
Children & Education	Children & Families	88,681,470	(26,469,669)	62,211,801
	Hackney Education	306,484,701	(283,255,427)	23,229,274
		395,166,171	(309,725,096)	85,441,075
Climate, Homes & Economy	Directorate Management	641,513		641,513
	ERNH - Adult Skills	4,957,203	(4,157,436)	799,767
	Housing	831,620	(872,432)	(40,812)
	Public Realm	95,829,257	(78,433,348)	17,395,909
	Regeneration	3,902,016	(1,487,746)	2,414,270
		106,161,609	(84,950,962)	21,210,647
Finance & Corporate Resources	Audit & Anti Fraud	1,648,454	(125,361)	1,523,093
	Customer Services	370,493,495	(337,691,302)	32,802,193
	Directorate Finance Support	3,524,375	(72,535)	3,451,840
	Financial Management	6,573,837	(1,136,407)	5,437,430
	HR & OD	5,150,864	(2,135,061)	3,015,803
	ICT	16,656,481	(3,169,890)	13,486,591
	Procurement	1,835,962	(412,955)	1,423,007
	Strategic Property	18,844,945	(18,830,513)	14,432
		424,728,413	(363,574,024)	61,154,389
HRA Recharge		0	(8,000,000)	(8,000,000)
Housing Revenue Account		178,022,000	(178,022,000)	0
General Finance Account		65,949,780	0	65,949,780
Overall Council Budget		1,376,739,402	(998,880,402)	377,859,000

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TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition (the CIPFA Code) and the Prudential Code require local authorities to determine the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) and Prudential Indicators on an annual basis.

BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year.
- 2.2 This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.
- 2.3 The Council invests large sums of money and therefore, potentially, has exposure to certain financial risks concerning the capital sums invested and the effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk, is therefore central to the Council's treasury management strategy.

3 ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The impact on the UK from higher interest rates and inflation, a weakening economic outlook, an uncertain political climate due to an upcoming general election, together with war in Ukraine and the Middle East, will be major influences on the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2024/25.
- 3.2 The Bank of England (BoE) increased the Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023, before maintaining this level for the rest of 2023. In December 2023, members of the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee voted 6-3 in favour of keeping the Bank Rate at 5.25%. The three dissenters wanted to increase rates by another 0.25%. The November quarterly Monetary Policy Report (MPR) forecast a prolonged period of weak Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth with the potential for a mild contraction due to ongoing weak economic activity. The outlook for CPI inflation was deemed to be highly uncertain, with upside risks to CPI falling to the 2% target coming from potential energy price increases, strong domestic wage growth and persistence in price-setting.
- 3.3 Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures showed CPI inflation was 3.9% in November 2023, down from a 4.6% rate in the previous month and, in line with the recent trend, lower than expected. The core CPI inflation rate declined to 5.1% from the previous month's 5.7%, again lower than

predictions. Looking ahead, using the interest rate path implied by financial markets the BoE expects CPI inflation to continue falling slowly, but taking until early 2025 to reach the 2% target before dropping below target during the second half 2025 and into 2026. ONS figures showed the UK economy contracted by 0.1% between July and September 2023. The BoE forecasts GDP will likely stagnate through 2024. The BoE forecasts that higher interest rates will constrain GDP growth, which will remain weak over the entire forecast horizon.

- 3.4 Having increased its key interest rate to a target range of 5.25-5.50% in August 2023, the US Federal Reserve appears now to have concluded the hiking cycle. It is likely this level represents the peak in US rates following a more dovish meeting outcome in December 2023. US GDP grew at an annualised rate of 4.9% between July and September 2023, ahead of expectations for a 4.3% expansion and the 2.1% reading for Q2. But the impact from higher rates has started to feed into economic activity and growth will weaken in 2024. Annual CPI inflation was 3.1% in November.
- 3.5 Eurozone inflation has declined steadily since the start of 2023, falling to an annual rate of 2.4% in November 2023. Economic growth has been weak and GDP contracted by 0.1% in the three months to September 2023. In line with other central banks, the European Central Bank has increased rates, taking its deposit facility, fixed rate tender, and marginal lending rates to 3.75%, 4.25% and 4.50% respectively.

4 INTEREST RATE FORECAST

- 4.1 Although UK inflation and wage growth remain elevated, the Authority's treasury management adviser Arlingclose forecasts that Bank Rate has peaked at 5.25%. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will start reducing rates in 2024 to stimulate the UK economy but will be reluctant to do so until it is sure there will be no lingering second-round effects. Arlingclose sees rate cuts from Q3 2024 to a low of around 3% by early-mid 2026.
- 4.2 Arlingclose expects long-term gilt yields to be broadly stable at current levels (amid continued volatility), following the decline in yields towards the end of 2023, which reflects the expected lower medium-term path for Bank Rate. Yields will remain relatively higher than in the past, due to quantitative tightening and significant bond supply. As ever, there will undoubtedly be short-term volatility due to economic and political uncertainty and events.
- 4.3 A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose is attached at **Appendix A**.

5 CREDIT OUTLOOK

- 5.1 Credit Default Swap (CDS) prices were volatile during 2023, spiking in March on the back of banking sector contagion concerns following the major events

of Silicon Valley Bank becoming insolvent and the takeover of Credit Suisse by UBS. After then falling back in Q2 of calendar 2023, in the second half of the year, higher interest rates and inflation, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and now the Middle East, have led to CDS prices increasing steadily. On an annual basis, CDS price volatility has so far been lower in 2023 compared to 2022, but this year has seen more of a divergence in prices between ring fenced (retail) and non-ring fenced (investment) banking entities once again.

- 5.2 Moody's revised its outlook on the UK sovereign to stable from negative to reflect its view of restored political predictability following the volatility after the 2022 mini-budget. Moody's also affirmed the Aa3 rating in recognition of the UK's economic resilience and strong institutional framework. Following its rating action on the UK sovereign, Moody's revised the outlook on five UK banks to stable from negative and then followed this by the same action on five rated local authorities. However, within the same update the long-term ratings of those five local authorities were downgraded.
- 5.3 There remain competing tensions in the banking sector, on one side from higher interest rates boosting net income and profitability against another of a weakening economic outlook and likely recessions that increase the possibility of a deterioration in the quality of banks' assets.
- 5.4 However, the institutions on our adviser Arlingclose's counterparty list remain well-capitalised and their counterparty advice on both recommended institutions and maximum duration remain under constant review and will continue to reflect economic conditions and the credit outlook.

6 CURRENT POSITION AND BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

- 6.1 The Council currently (as at 31.12.23) has outstanding external borrowing of £63.85m. Total investments as of the date were £92.5m.

Table 1: Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position as at 31/12/23

	Portfolio outstanding as at 31/12/2023 £m	Average Rate %
External Borrowing:		
Market – Fixed Rate	63.850	1.92
Total External Borrowing	63.850	
Other Long Term Liabilities:		
PFI	9.676	
Finance Leases	0.023	
Total Gross External Debt	73.526	
Investments:		
Short-term monies - Deposits/ monies on call/MMFs	92.300	5.31

	Portfolio outstanding as at 31/12/2023 £m	Average Rate %
Long-term investments	0.200	
Total Investments	92.500	

- 6.2 The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while balance sheet resources are the underlying sums available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, otherwise known as internal borrowing. The figures below are subject to change pending finalisation of the capital programme for the budget report. Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis in table 2 below.

Table 2: Balance Sheet Summary and Forecast

	31/03/23 Actuals £m	31/03/24 Estimated £m	31/03/25 Estimated £m	31/03/26 Estimated £m	31/03/27 Estimated £m
General Fund CFR	343	377	499	497	413
HRA CFR	121	162	229	436	776
Total CFR	464	539	728	933	1,189
Less: Other long-term liabilities *	10	9	7	6	5
Loan CFR	454	530	721	927	1,184
Less: External borrowing	67	63	59	55	51
Cumulative Maximum External Borrowing Requirement	387	467	662	872	1,133
Less: Balance Sheet Resources	418	388	358	328	298
Cumulative Net Borrowing Requirement /(Investments)	-31	79	304	544	835

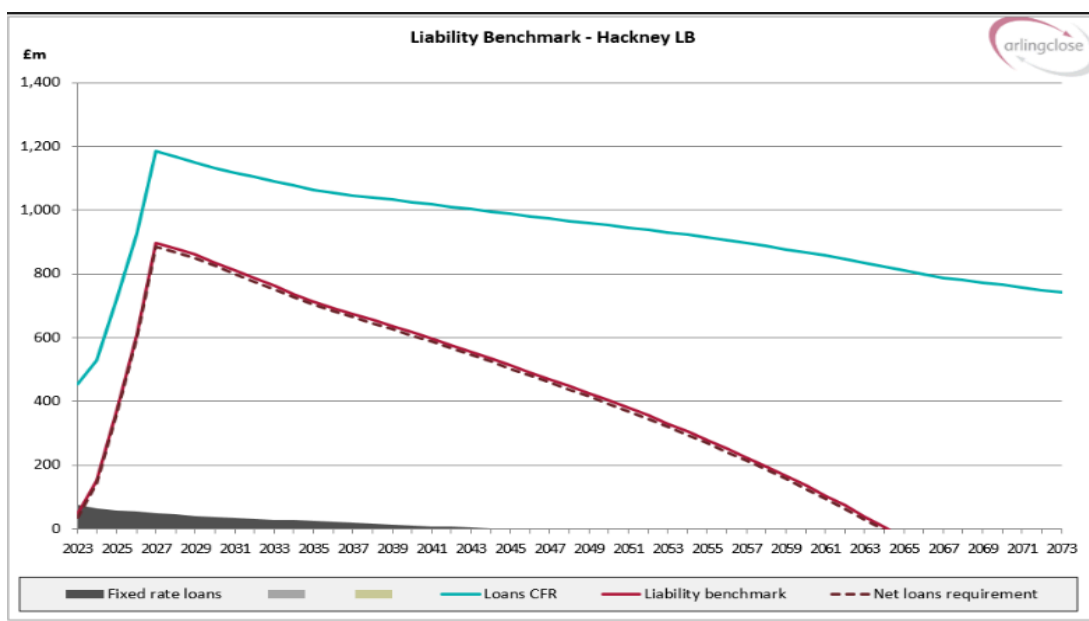
* finance leases and PFI liabilities that form part of the Authority's debt

- 6.3 To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as table 2 above, but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £10m at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

Table 3: Liability benchmark

	31/03/23 Actuals £m	31/03/24 Estimated £m	31/03/25 Estimated £m	31/03/26 Estimated £m	31/03/27 Estimated £m
Loan CFR	454	530	721	927	1184
Less: Balance Sheet Resources	418	388	358	328	298
Net loans requirement	36	142	363	599	886
Plus: Liquidity allowance	10	10	10	10	10
Liability benchmark	46	152	373	609	896

Liability Benchmark Chart: The Council's liability benchmark is projected to rise to around £896m by 2026/27 due to a rise in the CFR and fall in usable reserves. This compares with the Council's projected debt portfolio of £51m at end 2026/27 in Table 2, suggesting a cumulative borrowing requirement over this and the next two financial years of around £835m.



- 6.4 The Authority currently has £63.85m in external borrowing. This is made up of a single £0.8m London Energy Efficiency Fund (LEEF) loan from the European Investment Bank to fund housing regeneration, along with £63.05m long term used to finance part of the borrowing requirement within the Housing Revenue Account associated with the delivery of the housing capital programme, particularly in respect of regeneration.

- 6.5 Furthermore, the Council has an increasing CFR due to the delivery of its capital programme with many regeneration schemes requiring borrowing upfront ahead of the realisation of capital receipts. It is therefore likely that the Council will need to borrow over the forecast period, the actual amount depending on the actual level of reserves and other cash balances available.
- 6.6 CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities recommends that the Authority's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 2 shows that the Authority expects to comply with this recommendation during 2024/25.
- 6.7 Table 4 sets out the operational boundary and authorised limit for the Authority for the coming years. The numbers for 2024/25 to 2025/26 are provisional, ahead of February's annual budget report, and as such may be subject to change.

Table 4: Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Approved	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Operational Boundary for External Debt	747	762	966	1,221
Authorised Limit for External Debt	777	792	996	1,251

7 BORROWING STRATEGY

- 7.1 The balance sheet forecast in Table 2 shows that the Authority has a borrowing requirement of £662 million in 2024/25. The Authority may also borrow additional sums to pre-fund future years' requirements, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing of £792 million in 2024/25.
- 7.2 The Authority's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.
- 7.3 Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. Short-term interest rates are currently at a 15-year high but are expected to fall in the coming years and it is therefore likely to be more cost effective over the medium-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term loans instead.
- 7.4 By doing so, the Authority is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of

internal borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. Arlingclose will assist the Authority with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. Its output may determine whether the Authority borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2024/25 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.

- 7.5 The Authority has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the PWLB but will consider long-term loans from other sources including banks, pensions and local authorities, and will investigate the possibility of issuing bonds, and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA Code. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield; the Authority intends to avoid this activity in order to retain its access to PWLB loans.
- 7.6 Alternatively, the Authority may arrange forward starting loans, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.
- 7.7 In addition, the Authority may borrow further short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.

The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- HM Treasury's PWLB lending facility (formerly the Public Works Loan Board)
- UK Infrastructure Bank Ltd
- UK local authorities
- Any other UK public sector body
- Any institution approved for investments (see below)
- Any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except London Borough of Hackney Pension Fund)
- Capital market bond investors
- Special purpose companies created to enable joint local authority bond issues.
- UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues
- Retail investors via a regulated peer-to-peer platform
- Private Placements and Loan

In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- operating and finance leases

- hire purchase
- Private Finance Initiative
- sale and leaseback
- similar asset based finance

- 7.8 UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the PWLB. It issues bonds on the capital markets and lends the proceeds to local authorities. This is a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for two reasons: borrowing authorities will be required to provide bond investors with a guarantee to refund their investment in the event that the agency is unable to for any reason; and there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable. Any decision to borrow from the Agency will therefore be the subject of a separate report to the full Council.
- 7.9 The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Authority may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk. The recent rise in interest rates means that more favourable debt rescheduling opportunities should arise than in previous years.
- 7.10 Short-term and variable rate loans leave the Council exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the limit on the net exposure to variable interest rates in the treasury management indicators in point 10.4 below.

8 INVESTMENT RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 The CIPFA Code requires the Authority to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Authority will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested. The Authority aims to be a responsible investor and will consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues when investing.
- 8.2 As a result of the 2008 financial crisis, there has been a major effort by governments and regulators to make legislative and regulatory changes to the banking environment. These changes were undertaken with the aim of preventing the future failures of banks and to move away from taxpayer

funded bailouts, as was the case for Lloyds and RBS, and move towards a bail-in scenario.

- 8.3 Bail in is whereby a levy on deposits within banks would be made to lower the amount of external bailout needed. It would take place before a bankruptcy with regulators imposing losses on shareholders, bond holders and unsecured deposits.
- 8.4 Bail in was first introduced during the Cypriot financial crisis in March 2013, when the Cypriot government was able to refinance its banks and the EU did not provide the finance to bail the banks out. Subsequently, the Cypriot banks were bailed-in via a levy on all unsecured depositors of more than £100,000.
- 8.5 The Banking Reform Act (2013) delivered significant reform to the UK banking sector and introduced into law the bail-in process as a pre-emptive measure to stop failing banks. This means that unsecured depositors, such as Local Authorities, would be subject to a levy on their deposits if that counterparty was bailed in.
- 8.6 To reduce and manage this risk, it is recommended that the Council continues with its current investment strategy for high diversification and hold some investments in more secured instruments (those instruments excluded from bail in risk) such as Covered Bonds and Tri-party Repos, as well as looking at non-financial counterparties such as corporations. For unsecured deposits, the Council will continue to ensure high diversification amongst the Banks and Building Societies which will help to reduce single exposure to one organisation and increase diversification.

9 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

- 9.1 The Authority holds varying levels of invested funds at varying lengths of duration. These investments represent income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held.
- 9.2 For the 2023/24 financial year the Council had an investment balance of £92.5m as of 31.12.23. It is expected that investment levels will decrease in forthcoming years as balances are used to finance the capital programme.
- 9.3 Given the investment risk as detailed in *section 8*, the Authority aims to further diversify into more secure asset classes during 2024/25. The majority of the Authorities surplus cash is currently invested in money market funds, deposits.
- 9.4 The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in table below, subject to the limits shown.

Treasury investment counterparties and limits:

Sector	Time limit	Counterparty limit	Sector limit
The UK Government	50 years	Unlimited	n/a
Local authorities & other government entities	25 years	£10m	Unlimited
Secured investments *	25 years	£10m	Unlimited
Banks (unsecured)*	13 months	£5m	Unlimited
Building societies (unsecured)*	13 months	£5m	£10m
Registered providers (unsecured)*	5 years	£5m	£25m
Money market funds*	n/a	£10m	Unlimited
Strategic pooled funds	n/a	£10m	£50m
Real estate investment trusts	n/a	£10m	£25m
Other investments*	5 years	£5m	£10m

- 9.5 Treasury investments in the sectors marked with an asterisk will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than A-. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

For entities without published credit ratings, investments may be made either (a) where external advice indicates the entity to be of similar credit quality; or (b) to a maximum of £5m per counterparty as part of a diversified pool e.g. via a peer-to-peer platform.

- 9.6 Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Authority's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. The credit rating agencies in current use are listed in the Treasury Management Practices document. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be

- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as “negative watch”) so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

- 9.7 The maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £10 million to reduce the chance of a credit event placing the council under undue financial pressure. A group of entities under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes.

Limits are also placed on fund managers, investments in brokers’ nominee accounts and foreign countries as below. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

Additional investment limits

	Cash limit
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	£25m per manager
Negotiable instruments held in a broker’s nominee account	£25m per broker
Foreign countries	£10m per country

- 9.8 The Council understands that credit ratings are a good predictor of investment default but are rating agencies’ expressed opinions and not a perfect indicator. Therefore, Officers will use other sources of information; including credit default swap ratings and equity prices, to determine the credit quality of an organisation. These are detailed in Appendix B.
- 9.9 No investments will be made with an organisation if there are doubts about its credit quality even though it may meet the Lending Policy criteria. This means the Lending Policy applied operationally may at times be more restrictive than it formally allows.
- 9.10 When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations but these are not generally reflected in credit ratings, then the Council will restrict its investments in those organisations to maintain the required level of security. These restrictions may mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available for investment and so any cash surplus will be deposited with the government’s Debt Management Office or with other local authorities. This may result in a

reduction in the level of investment income earned but will protect the principal sums invested.

- 9.11 The proposed 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy has considered a full range of risks and Officers will apply the strategy to ensure that security of deposits is the prime consideration. However, in agreeing the proposed strategy, Members should be aware that there is always a risk of default of counterparties other than the Debt Management Office which is guaranteed by the government.
- 9.12 The Authority uses cash flow forecasting to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a pessimistic basis, with receipts under-estimated and payments over-estimated to minimise the risk of the Authority being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Authority's medium term financial plan and cash flow forecast.
- 9.13 Environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations are increasingly a factor in global investors' decision making, but the framework for evaluating investment opportunities is still developing and therefore the Authority's ESG policy does not currently include ESG scoring or other real-time ESG criteria at an individual investment level. When investing in banks and funds, the Authority will prioritise banks that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and funds operated by managers that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance and/or the UK Stewardship Code. The Authority recognises it can further enhance its efforts through its investment decisions and activity. The Authority will consider options for investments with institutions who ring fence the use of such funds for ESG related matters.

10 TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

- 10.1 The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.
- 10.2 **Security:** The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

	Target
Portfolio average credit rating	A-

- 10.3 **Liquidity:** The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount it can borrow each quarter without giving prior notice.

	Target
Total sum borrowed in past 3 months without prior notice	£20m

- 10.4 **Interest Rate Exposures:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates will be:

	2024/25
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	£0.8m
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	£0.8m

1% rise in interest rate - It is unlikely that the borrowing to this extent will be done on a short term basis but if borrowing takes place on a short term basis then the impact of 1% increase in interest rates will be funded from reserves.

1% fall in interest rate exposure is calculated based on the current investment portfolio of the council. In the event of a fall in interest rate investment strategy will be revisited to identify measures to be put in place to nullify the impact of fall in interest rate.

- 10.5 **Maturity Structure of Borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing will be:

	Upper	Lower
Under 12 months	100%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	100%	0%
24 months and within 2 years	100%	0%
2 years and within 10 years	100%	0%
10 years and above	100%	0%

This indicator highlights the existence of any large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates and is

designed to protect against excessive exposures to interest rate changes in any one period. No limits have been put in place as the current debt portfolio is relatively small and no limit gives us more flexibility in restructuring the borrowing as and when required. Limits will be put in place if the debt portfolio is likely to increase.

- 10.6 **Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than a year:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the total principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	No Fixed Date
Limit on principal invested beyond 364 days	20	20	20	10

11 Related Matters

- 11.1 The CIPFA Code requires the Authority to include the following in its treasury management strategy.
- 11.2 **Policy on Use of Financial Derivatives:** Local authorities have previously made use of financial derivatives embedded into loans and investments both to reduce interest rate risk (e.g. interest rate collars and forward deals) and to reduce costs or increase income at the expense of greater risk (e.g. LOBO loans and callable deposits). The general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 removes much of the uncertainty over local authorities' use of standalone financial derivatives (i.e. those that are not embedded into a loan or investment).
- 11.3 The Authority will only use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options) where they can be clearly demonstrated to reduce the overall level of the financial risks that the Authority is exposed to. Additional risks presented, such as credit exposure to derivative counterparties, will be taken into account when determining the overall level of risk. Embedded derivatives, including those present in pooled funds and forward starting transactions, will not be subject to this policy, although the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.
- 11.4 Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria, assessed using the appropriate credit rating for derivative exposures. An allowance for credit risk calculated using the methodology in the Treasury Management Practices document will count against the counterparty credit limit and the relevant foreign country limit.

- 11.5 In line with the CIPFA Code, the Authority will seek external advice and will consider that advice before entering into financial derivatives to ensure that it fully understands the implications.
- 11.6 **Policy on Apportioning Interest to the HRA:** The Council has adopted a two pooled approach following the self-financing settlement in March 2012. In the future, new long-term loans borrowed will be assigned in their entirety to one pool or the other. Interest payable and other costs/income arising from long-term loans (e.g. premiums and discounts on early redemption) will be charged/ credited to the respective revenue account. Differences between the value of the HRA loans pool and the HRA's underlying need to borrow (adjusted for HRA balance sheet resources available for investment) will result in a notional cash balance which may be positive or negative. Where the HRA needs to borrow from the General Fund to meet its remaining borrowing requirement the General Fund is compensated based on what the Council would have to borrow from the PWLB, with rates based on a best decision from a treasury management perspective and the current interest rate outlook. This will be determined annually following advice from the Council's treasury advisers and the interest transferred between the General Fund and the HRA at the year end.
- 11.7 **Markets in Financial Instruments Directive:** The Authority has opted up to professional client status with its providers of financial services, including advisers, banks, brokers and fund managers, allowing it access to a greater range of services but without the greater regulatory protections afforded to individuals and small companies. Given the size and range of the Authority's treasury management activities, the Chief Financial Officer believes this to be the most appropriate status.
- 11.8 **Investment Training:** The needs of the Authority's treasury management staff for training in investment management are assessed as part of individual staff appraisal processes, and additionally when the responsibilities of individual members of staff change. Training will be arranged as required for members of the Audit Committee who are charged with reviewing and monitoring the Council's treasury management policies.
- 11.9 Staff regularly attend training courses, seminars and conferences provided by Arlingclose and CIPFA. Relevant staff are also encouraged to study professional qualifications from CIPFA, the Association of Corporate Treasurers and other appropriate organisations.
- 11.10 **Investment Advisers:** The Council has appointed Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers and receives specific advice on investment, debt and capital finance issues. Arlingclose is an independent treasury advisory company providing unbiased financial advice and capital financing expertise for the public sector. They provide advice on investment trends, developments and opportunities consistent with the Council's chosen strategy relating to investments, debt repayment and restructuring, and also for economic information and data interpretation.

- 11.11 Although the Council uses the expertise of an external provider for treasury management advice relating to investing, borrowing and restructuring of the portfolios, the Council remains fully accountable for any decisions made.
- 11.12 Regular communications are received in relation to economic data releases, interest rate forecasts and debt structuring opportunities with, sometimes, daily communications in respect of counterparties. Officers also attend training sessions facilitated by Arlingclose relating to Prudential Code, Treasury Management Code of Practice and Accounting.
- 11.13 Meetings are held on a quarterly basis with Officers of the Council, including the Director Financial Management, to discuss treasury management strategies, which may, from time to time, include discussions in regard to enhancement of the service provision if required. Additional ad-hoc meetings are arranged as required if specific issues arise during the course of the year outside of scheduled quarterly meetings.

12 Other Options Considered

- 12.1 The CIPFA Code does not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Group Director Finance believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long-term costs may be less certain

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be less certain

Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast December 2023

Underlying assumptions:

- UK inflation and wage growth remain elevated but have eased over the past two months fuelling rate cuts expectations. Near-term rate cuts remain unlikely, although downside risks will increase as the UK economy likely slides into recession.
- The MPC's message remains unchanged as the Committee seeks to maintain tighter financial conditions. Monetary policy will remain tight as inflation is expected to moderate to target slowly, although some wage and inflation measures are below the Bank's last forecasts.
- Despite some deterioration in activity data, the UK economy remains resilient in the face of tighter monetary policy. Recent data has been soft but mixed; the more timely PMI figures suggest that the services sector is recovering from a weak Q3. Tighter policy will however bear down on domestic and external activity as interest rates bite.
- Employment demand is easing. Anecdotal evidence suggests slowing recruitment and pay growth, and we expect unemployment to rise further. As unemployment rises and interest rates remain high, consumer sentiment will deteriorate. Household and business spending will therefore be weak.
- Inflation will fall over the next 12 months. The path to the target will not be smooth, with higher energy prices and base effects interrupting the downtrend at times. The MPC's attention will remain on underlying inflation measures and wage data. We believe policy rates will remain at the peak for another 10 months, or until the MPC is comfortable the risk of further 'second-round' effects has diminished.
- Maintaining monetary policy in restrictive territory for so long, when the economy is already struggling, will require significant loosening in the future to boost activity.
- Global bond yields will remain volatile. Markets are currently running with expectations of near-term US rate cuts, fuelled somewhat unexpectedly by US policymakers themselves. Term premia and bond yields have experienced a marked decline. It would not be a surprise to see a reversal if data points do not support the narrative, but the current 10-year yield appears broadly reflective of a lower medium-term level for Bank Rate.
- There is a heightened risk of fiscal policy and/or geo-political events causing substantial volatility in yields.

Forecast:

- The MPC held Bank Rate at 5.25% in December. We believe this is the peak for Bank Rate.
- The MPC will cut rates in the medium term to stimulate the UK economy but will be reluctant to do so until it is sure there will be no lingering second-round

effects. We see rate cuts from Q3 2024 to a low of around 3% by early-mid 2026.

- The immediate risks around Bank Rate have become more balanced, due to the weakening UK economy and dampening effects on inflation. This shifts to the downside in the short term as the economy weakens.
- Long-term gilt yields are now substantially lower. Arlingclose expects yields to be flat from here over the short-term reflecting medium term Bank Rate forecasts. Periodic volatility is likely.

	Current	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00
Central Case	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.75	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	3.00
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
3-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00
Central Case	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.15	4.80	4.30	4.10	3.80	3.50	3.25	3.05	3.05
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	3.77	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.35
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	3.72	3.75	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.75	3.65	3.60	3.65	3.70
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	4.16	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.25
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	3.76	3.80	3.85	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.95	3.95	3.95
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00

PWLB Standard Rate = Gilt yield + 1.00%

PWLB Certainty Rate = Gilt yield + 0.80%

PWLB HRA Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

UK Infrastructure Bank Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

London Borough of Hackney's Investment Policy

1. Institutions and instruments included:

1.1 The Council will invest in the following types of institutions;

- UK Central Government
- UK Local Authorities
- Other government entities
- Secured investments
- Banks (unsecured)
- Building societies (unsecured)
- Registered providers (unsecured)
- Money market funds
- Strategic pooled funds
- Real estate investment trusts
- Other investments

1.2 The Council will invest using the following types of instruments

- Call and Notice Account
- Fixed Term deposits
- Treasury bills
- Bonds
- Certificate of deposits
- Money Market Funds
- Commercial Papers
- Pooled Funds
- Revolving Credit Facility
- Repurchasing agreements
- Alternatives

1.3 Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

1.4 For secured investments, where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit

rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used. The combined secured and unsecured investments with any one counterparty will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

1.5 Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

1.6 As well as assessing credit rating as an indicator of risk, the Council will also analyse the following sources of information:

- Credit default Swap
- Equity Prices
- Economic output
- Counterparty's financial Statements and financial ratios
- News

Glossary of Terms

Government: Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

Secured investments: Investments secured on the borrower's assets, which limits the potential losses in the event of insolvency. The amount and quality of the security will be a key factor in the investment decision. Covered bonds and reverse repurchase agreements with banks and building societies are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used. The combined secured and unsecured investments with any one counterparty will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

Banks and building societies (unsecured): Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.

Registered providers (unsecured): Loans to, and bonds issued or guaranteed by, registered providers of social housing or registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (in England), the Scottish Housing Regulator, the Welsh Government and the Department for Communities (in Northern Ireland). As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

Money market funds: Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. Although no sector limit applies to money market funds, the Authority will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

Strategic pooled funds: Bond, equity and property funds that offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Authority to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and

manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Authority's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

Real estate investment trusts: Shares in companies that invest mainly in real estate and pay the majority of their rental income to investors in a similar manner to pooled property funds. As with property funds, REITs offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile especially as the share price reflects changing demand for the shares as well as changes in the value of the underlying properties.

Other investments: This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and company loans. Non-bank companies cannot be bailed-in but can become insolvent placing the Authority's investment at risk.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

1. Approved Activities

In accordance with the Council's Constitution and Delegated Powers, the Group Director Finance and Corporate Resources and Officers authorised by the Group Director, may arrange all investments, borrowing, repayment of debt outstanding and leasing required and permitted by the Local Government Act 2003.

Borrowing must be contained within the limit determined under the Authorised Limit of the Prudential Code and used solely for the purpose of the Council's statutory functions. Treasury management operations will comply with the CIPFA Code of Practice.

2. Treasury Management Policy Objectives

The Council defines its treasury management activities as:

"The management of the Council's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."

The Council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the organisation, and any financial instruments entered into to manage these risks.

The Council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management, and to employing suitable performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.

The treasury management activities of the Council will be conducted to achieve the following policy objectives: -

- (a) To ensure that risk to the Council's financial position is minimised by the adoption of sound debt management and investment practices;
- (b) The Council's borrowing will be affordable, sustainable and prudent and consideration will be given to the management of interest rate risk and refinancing risk. The source from which the borrowing is taken and the

type of borrowing should allow the Council transparency and control over its debt.

- (c) The overall average rate of interest on short-term investments to be greater than the average seven-day SONIA rate, whilst having regard to the security of funds and the minimisation of risk;
- (d) To have a policy to repay debt, take opportunities to make premature debt repayments, and restructuring of debt when and where it is advantageous to the Council to do so.

3 Adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice

The Council has adopted the key recommendations of CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the Code), as described in Section 2 of that Code.

Accordingly, this organisation will create and maintain, as the cornerstones for effective treasury management:

- A Treasury Management Policy Statement, stating policies and objectives of its treasury management activities.
- Suitable Treasury Management Practices (TMPs), setting out the manner in which the organisation will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, prescribing how the Council will manage and control those activities.

The contents of the Policy Statement and TMPs will follow the recommendations contained in Sections 6 and 7 of the Code, subject only to amendment where necessary to reflect the particular circumstances of the Council. Such amendments will not result in the Council materially deviating from the Code's key recommendations.

- The Council will receive reports on its treasury management policies practices and activities, including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year.
- The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation, monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to Audit Committee, and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the Group Director Finance, who will act in accordance with the policy statement, TMPs and CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.

4 Investment of Cash Balances

Investment of all balances arising from day to day cash flows, capital receipts, minimum revenue provisions and other financial reserves and provisions will be in

accordance with Government regulations or guidelines to produce a maximum return having regard to the security of funds and the minimisation of risk.

The Council's primary objective in relation to investments remains the security of capital. The liquidity or accessibility of the Authority's investments followed by the yield earned on investments remain important but are secondary considerations.

The spread of risk will be controlled by reference to the approved criteria and financial limits. Investment liquidity will be structured with regard to cash flow projections maintained under the authority of the Group Director Finance.

5 Investment Names/Financial Limits

Investments are to be made only to those institutions, which meet the approved criteria for lending, and within the current maximum financial limits as approved, by the Cabinet and Council. Where investments in any of these institutions were made at a time where a higher maximum limit applied, the new maximum limit will be applied as existing investments mature.

Between reports to the Cabinet/Council, the Group Director Finance and Corporate Resources, under delegated powers, is authorised to revise, and further restrict or relax, the investment names/limits to reflect changes in market sentiment, information and credit ratings.

6 Risk Appetite Statement

The Council's objectives in relation to debt and investment is to assist the achievement of the Council's service objectives by obtaining funding and managing the potential debt and investments at a net cost which is as low as possible , consistent with a degree of interest cost stability and a very low risk to sums invested.

This means that the Council takes a low risk position but is not totally risk averse. Treasury management staff have the capability to actively manage treasury risk within the scope of the council's treasury management policy and strategy.

7 Legal Issues

Borrowing and investment will be arranged efficiently through a range of brokers practising in the money markets and, in addition, the Director of Finance is authorised to deal directly with counterparties where it is advantageous to do so. The requirements of the Bank of England Non-Investment Products Code (NIPS) (November 2011) will be met in all the above arrangements.

8 Use of Bankers

Approved agreements are currently in place with the Lloyds Bank and the RBS/Natwest Bank for the conduct of banking business for the Council and schools respectively.

The Group Director Finance is authorised to negotiate appropriate changes to the mandates which may be needed to cover any exceptional market circumstances to protect the Council's finances.

9 Review

The Group Director Finance will report to the appropriate committee on the Treasury Management performance as follows:

- **TM Outturn Report –**

Frequency - once a year against the TM Strategy and Prudential Indicators approved for the previous financial year, no later than September of the current financial year

To – Cabinet via the OFP (Overall Financial Position) and Audit Committee

- **TM Half-Year Activity and Performance Report –**

Frequency – a report on its treasury activity and performance, it is anticipated to be no later than January of the current financial year

To – Cabinet via OFP and Audit Committee

- **TM Quarterly Activity Report –**

Frequency - report to be submitted on treasury activity for the previous quarter

To – Audit Committee

- **Ad-hoc –**

Additional reports will be submitted to the appropriate committee as required, in order to react to extreme fluctuations in market conditions and/or increased levels of treasury activity

The Group Director Finance will make such arrangements as are necessary for monitoring daily activities in the treasury functions.

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THE COUNCIL TAX REGIME 2024/25

- 1 The Council Tax regime, introduced by the Local Government Finance Act 1992, is primarily a tax on domestic property but the number of residents in a given property is a factor in determining how much a household pays. All domestic properties in the borough have been assigned by the Valuation Office Agency of HMRC to one of eight value bands, with properties in the lowest band (A) being liable for the lowest bills and those in the highest band (H) for the highest. The difference in the proportion of tax paid at each band level is fixed by statute in broadly the following ratios.

Band A 0.7	Band B 0.8	Band C 0.9	Band D 1.0
Band E 1.2	Band F 1.4	Band G 1.7	Band H 2.0

- 2 The Council is required to determine the tax at the Band D level, by reference to the previously agreed tax base which expresses all domestic properties in the borough in terms of Band D equivalents adjusted for estimated losses on collection. The basic tax for each property is then determined by applying the appropriate ratio to the Band D tax figure. However, overlaying this is a complex system of discounts. In addition, there is a hierarchy of persons liable to pay the tax on any property, so that liability is not always easy to determine.
- 3 Properties were valued for Council Tax purposes by reference to their market value on 1st April 1991 and the movement in market values since that date should have no impact on relative valuations and hence on the bills facing individual households. The market values determining the band to which each property has been assigned are as follows:

	Property Band Value (£000)
A	40 or under
B	40 – 52
C	52 – 68
D	68 – 88
E	88 – 120
F	120 – 160
G	160 – 320
H	Over 320

4. Bills are discounted by 25% if there is only one adult resident in the property, and between 0% and 100% if the property is unoccupied, or a second home. Local Authorities have discretion to reduce the discounts awarded for long term empty properties and second homes. With effect from 1 April 2012 Hackney decided to withdraw the discount for long term empty properties where any appropriate exemption has expired and reduce the discount to 10% for second homes. Further discretion was allowed from 1 April 2013 and it was agreed at Council on 30 January 2013 that Hackney reduced the discount to 0%. Further changes came into effect from 1 April 2013 giving authorities discretion to charge Council Tax on other empty property types and it was also agreed at Council on 30 January 2013 that Hackney replaced the exemption period of 12 months available to owners of vacant properties which are either uninhabitable or undergoing structural alteration with a discount of 25% for 12 months and replaced the exemption period of 6 months available to owners of vacant, habitable property with a discount of 100% for the first month with the full charge payable after that. A further change agreed by Council was that with effect from 1 April 2013 a premium of 50% in addition to the Council Tax be charged to owners of homes which have been empty for two years or more. From 1 April 2019 further discretion was allowed to increase the premium to 100% and the Council adopted this at the meeting on 21 January 2019; and this was extended by the Government to 200% for properties empty for 5 years, effective from 1 April 2020, which the Council adopted in January 2020. Finally, the Council also applies a discount for Care Leavers under 25, reducing bills to zero where qualifying conditions have been met and extended this to foster carers residing in the borough in April 2023 again, subject to the meeting of qualifying conditions
5. We are proposing to levy a council tax premium equal to a 100% of the Council tax charge in 2024/25 on any liable property which is unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a continuous period of at least one year. We are also proposing to signal our intent prior to 1st April 2024 that we will levy second homes premium from 1st April 2025.
6. The number of resident adults in a property will in many instances be a notional figure since there are several categories of residents who are disregarded for this purpose. Persons in these categories of disregarded adults include those who are severely mentally impaired, schoolchildren aged 18 or over, apprentices, trainees and student nurses, resident care workers provided by a charitable body, and persons in detention or in long-term residential care. Many low-income families will nevertheless benefit significantly from eligibility for the Council Tax reduction scheme, with reductions of up to 90% of the tax. Joint and several liability for the payment of the Council Tax applies to any person falling into the same category in the hierarchy of liability as the liable person to whom the bill is sent. This hierarchy of liability is:

- Resident freeholder
- Resident leaseholder
- Resident statutory or secure tenant
- Resident with a contractual license to occupy
- Other resident
- Owner

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MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) 2025/26 to 2027/28

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This MTFP updates the Council's budget strategy for the financial years 2025/26 to 2027/28. It is based on current policies and a review of the service and financial planning horizon. The resources forecasts contained therein are based on illustrative external funding levels for 2025/26 to 2027/28 including: - the 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement and the 2023 Autumn Statement.
- 1.2 The updated MTFP is also based on estimates of future council tax, business rates and other income.
- 1.3 The financial challenge ahead remains considerable, particularly given the significant uncertainty regarding the impact of future government plans for funding levels. The report emphasises the need to build upon a direction of travel whereby the Council looks to embed a transformation programme which aims to maximise efficiency but also recognises that the scale of the budget gap set out in this MTFP means that there will need to be reductions in some of the services we provide.
- 1.4 It will also be necessary to build upon the Council's track record in relation to sound financial management with an emphasis on financial solutions that increase financial sustainability, get things right first time, drive out value from our asset base and create the conditions for and to harness economic growth, with a real focus on the customer, residents and businesses. We also need to ensure that robust action plans are developed in areas where we have cost pressures - most significantly, but not exclusively, in social care which despite significant growth in budgets and increases in grant remains our biggest revenue spend risk.
- 1.5 The Forecast is primarily concerned with General Fund revenue expenditure and income, but consideration is also given to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). For further information on the HRA please refer to the HRA budget and business plan approved by Cabinet on 22nd January 2024.

3.0 FINANCIAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The Council has been operating in a challenging financial environment for some years. Over the past decade, Hackney's core funding from the Government has fallen significantly in real terms since 2010 by almost 40% if we exclude Council Tax. This has coincided with significant ongoing cost

pressures resulting from: - increased demand for many services; increased unit costs; the impact of Government interventions in areas such as welfare, homelessness and education; the on-going impact of the cyberattack, the very high inflation levels in 2022 and 2023, and the ongoing albeit reducing impact of Covid-19. Areas particularly affected include adult social care, children's services, supporting an ageing population, homelessness and certain Education services such as SEN and home to school transport.

3.2 Autumn Statement 2023

3.2.1 The key points of the Statement that impact on Local Government are as follows: -

- In general terms, the Statement was disappointing as no new money was announced for services under most pressure (Adult Social Care and Children's Services), although an additional £120m homelessness prevention grant will be made available UK wide
- The small business multiplier is frozen for a further year which means businesses with a rateable value of £51k will not face an increase in their bills (if their rateable value does not increase during the year). But businesses with a rateable value greater than £51k will face increases as the standard business rates multiplier will increase in line with inflation
- Retail Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) business rates relief (75% relief) will be extended for another year.
- Councils will receive compensation for the freezing of the small business rates multiplier and the extension of the RHL relief
- There are plans to allow local authorities to be able to fully recover the cost of planning fees for major planning applications if decisions are made within certain timelines. If the timelines are not met, developers will receive a refund of these fees
- There was no mention of an extension of the Housing Support Fund into 2024-25 in the Statement and there remains a considerable amount of uncertainty with respect to its future. The message seems to be that the Government is not currently planning an extension but does not rule it out.
- The Local Housing Allowance rate (a determinant of the level of housing benefit people receive to pay private sector rent) will be increased to 30% of local market rents. This is intended to relieve pressure for those on low incomes, particularly regarding housing costs.
- OBR forecasts assume that council tax receipts will increase by 5% in 2024-25 and 2025-26 and by 5.1% in 2026-27 and then by 5.2% in 2027/28 and 2028/29

- There will be £3bn more invested into the Affordable Homes Guarantee Scheme to support housing associations access cheaper loans for energy efficiency works and building new homes.

3.2.2 On future funding levels the Statement noted that planned departmental spending will grow at 1% a year in real terms (accounting for inflation) from 2025-26 to 2028-29. No detail was given on how individual departments will be affected but the Institute for Fiscal Studies have estimated that, based on reasonable assumptions about what may be needed for the NHS and schools and existing commitments on defence, overseas aid and childcare, funding for other services in England may need to be cut by an average of over 3% per year in real terms. It follows that pressures on external funding allocations are likely to continue if these departmental spending plans are carried out.

3.3 Provisional and Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25

3.3.1 The Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2024/25 was published on 18th December 2023. Additional funding for social care was subsequently announced in January 2024 and the Final Settlement was published on 5th February 2024. The details of the Provisional Settlement are set out in the 2024-25 Budget report but it is worth reiterating the concluding paragraph.

3.3.2 It is clear that the funding in the Settlement does not provide enough funding to meet the severe cost and demand pressures Hackney and other Councils face next year and in future years. The LGA have estimated, for example, that “The settlement means councils still face a £4 billion funding gap over the next two years”. The financial situation therefore remains extremely challenging going forward. In terms of future years we have no indication of our future funding levels but we do know that we cannot rely on inflationary increases in funding in future years, to reduce budget gaps - the inflation rate (CPI) in January 2024 was 4% and in February 2024 the Bank of England stated that “It could fall to 2% for a short while in the Spring before rising a bit after that”.

3.3.3 What is of most relevance in the Settlement in the context of the MTFP is the uncertainty surrounding future years. Nothing was added to what was set out in the Autumn Statement and noted above.

3.3.4 Also, neither the fundamental reform to needs assessments (previously termed the Fair Funding Review) nor the business rates reset will be implemented before 2025/26 and no indication was given by the Government as to when either will be introduced. Given that much of the work previously done on the new needs assessments is now out of date, this will have to be revisited which will almost certainly require a substantial amount of work to be carried out. It follows that there must be significant doubt whether the new funding system will be introduced in 2025-26 or even in 2026-27.

3.3.5 In conclusion, the 2024-25 Local Government Finance Settlement and 2023 Autumn Statement failed to provide any certainty for the future funding of local government. The uncertainty hinders the ability of Hackney and other councils to plan their budgets and deliver the maximum value for money for taxpayers, including our residents. The Council needs certainty over how it will be resourced and we look forward to the reintroduction of multi year settlements.

3.4 Cost Pressures

3.4.1. As we noted in the Budget Report, the Council's preferred strategy to manage growth, inflation and its impact on cost pressures, has been for service areas to manage pressures within their budgets including by factoring one-off funding and grants (for example, the Social Care Grant and the Homelessness Prevention Grant) as far as possible. Although it has always been recognised that there will inevitably be some cost pressures which cannot be managed by service areas or which are truly unavoidable and for which budget growth has been added.

3.4.2 This strategy has become increasingly more difficult given the escalating demands on services (particularly social care). Over the period 2025/26 to 2027/28, we expect most cost pressures to be contained within existing budgets and, or met in part by one-off funding (e.g. the Social Care Grant) but there are pressures which will require additional funding, primarily the

- Assumed Pay awards
- Energy Costs
- Some Building Maintenance Costs
- Certain Directorate Cost pressures - primarily pressures in social care and children's services which are not met by one-off grants.
- Temporary Accommodation

Funding for Directorate cost pressures are held corporately until such time as the pressure emerges and will only be allocated to Directorates following agreement of the Interim Group Director of Finance and after it is clear that the pressure cannot be managed from within the current directorate cash limits.

3.4.3 During the period covered by the Plan we expect that additional cost pressures in certain services will require increased funding. These include: - Childrens' services (placements, especially residential and high cost supported, and disabled children's services), Adult Social Care (demand led cost pressures arising from demographic factors and the increasing complexity of client needs); and Homelessness, Energy costs and Building Maintenance. For the latter three categories there is less certainty around the direction of travel and although provision is made corporately they are subject to variation.

3.5 Medium Term Financial Plan

- 3.5.1 In this section we present a revised indicative financial forecast which covers the period 2025/26 to 2027/28.
- 3.5.2 Making budgetary forecasts for future years is very difficult because a robust estimate of core funding is crucial to the validity of the forecast as we are so dependent on this funding stream; and as noted previously, no departmental spending plans beyond 2024/25 were published in the 2023 Autumn Statement. It follows that there is minimal information on which to base our estimates
- 3.5.3 As noted above, the Autumn Statement 2023 stated that planned departmental spending will grow at 1% a year in real terms (accounting for inflation) from 2025-26 to 2028-29. No detail was given on how individual departments will be affected but as previously noted, the Institute for Fiscal Studies have estimated that, based on reasonable assumptions about what may be needed for the NHS and schools and existing commitments on defence, overseas aid and childcare, funding for other services in England may need to be cut by an average of over 3% per year in real terms. year. It follows that external funding allocations will remain challenging if these departmental spending plans are implemented
- 3.5.4 With regards to the long awaited Funding Review and Business Rates Reset, as noted previously, there is great uncertainty about when it will be introduced. What we do know is that Hackney will almost certainly lose from any funding reform that amends the current system rather than completely replaces it, as:
- (a) We have become less deprived (according to official deprivation measures such as the Index of Multiple Deprivation), since the needs assessments (a critical element of funding allocations) were last formulated in 2013.
 - (b) Our population (one of the most important determinants of the needs assessments) will be based on the 2021 Census in any new system, which has grown by relatively less than the London average;
- 3.5.5 A more specific issue is that any reform is likely to review the way in which councils in London and the South East are compensated for the higher wages and rates bills that they face compared to the rest of England: and every reformulation of the governing formula that has been made to date has disadvantaged Hackney.
- 3.5.6 Also, the Business Rates Reset will almost certainly reduce our external funding as our rateable value has increased by far more than the national average primarily because of the 2017 and 2022 business rate revaluations

- 3.5.7 Given we expect to lose funding as a result of the review, we anticipate that if and when a new system is introduced, we will be protected by a system of safety nets but at this stage, we do not know how this will operate, what level of protection it will afford and how quickly it will be unwound. A safety net is a mechanism employed to limit the losses from one year to the next with the protection eventually being withdrawn at which time the full loss will flow through.
- 3.5.8 Given that no departmental spending plans were published beyond 2024/25 and given that we don't know when Fair Funding nor the Business Rates reset will be introduced, then we can only make (very) indicative estimates of our external funding levels in the forecast. These estimates may change if more clarification is issued on any of these matters.

3.6 Medium Term Financial Plan - Underlying Assumptions

The underlying assumptions are as follows:-

Income

- (a) We assume that the Funding Reform and Business Rates Reset will both be introduced during 2027/28. As noted in 3.5.4 above, we expect to lose funding with the annual losses being limited by the application of safety nets by the Government. We have assumed that in 2027/28 our losses will be limited to 2% of our 2024-25 core spending allocation which equals £7.280m.
- (b) Revenue Support Grant is increased by 2% in each year of the Plan in line with forecast inflation levels.
- (c) The business rates multiplier is assumed to increase by 2% in each year of the Plan for properties with rateable values greater than £51k, but frozen in all years for properties with a rateable value of less than £51k. This is reflected in our estimation of the top-up grant. It is further assumed that we receive a S31 grant allocation which ensures that we receive full compensation for the failure to increase multiplier in line with inflation for the properties with a rateable value of less than £51k.
- (d) The business rates rateable values in all years are assumed to be unchanged from 2024-25. Retail Hospitality Reliefs are assumed to be deleted in 2025/26 but all other reliefs are assumed to increase by the forecast inflation of 2% in each year. A provision against income losses from appeals of £8m is included in each year and the collection rate is assumed to be 95% in 2025/26, 96% in 2026/27 and 96.25% in 2027-28.

- (e) Business Rates Retention is set at 30% throughout the period of the Plan (i.e the % that Hackney keeps from the total business rates yield, with the balance going to the GLA and the Government)
- (f) The Council Tax rate is assumed to increase by 2.99% in all years of the Plan. We also assume that taxbase will increase by 300 Band D properties each year; and the collection rate will be 94% in 2025/26, 94.5% in 2026/27 and 95% in 2027-28.
- (g) We assume that we will not receive any Services Grant nor New Homes Bonus Grant in all years of the Plan. This follows on from the significant decreases in the Settlement for 2024/25.
- (h) Public Health Grants are set equal to the previous year's grant with any subsequent increase being passed on to the service.
- (i) The 2024/25 Social Services Grants are assumed to increase by 2% per annum and this is factored into the growth we have assumed in the forecast for social care.

Expenditure

- (a) It is assumed that all of the 12 Area Savings for 2025-26 and 2026-27 and other agreed savings are achieved. This will need to be closely tracked and alternative proposals identified if these are not delivered.
- (b) A total of £20.481m growth has been included in the plan to manage cost pressures in 2025-26 (£18.329m for Adults and Childrens), which rises to £34.481m in 2026-27 (£30.329m for Adults and Childrens) and to £38.981m in 2027-28 (£34.329m for Adults and Children). These are cumulative estimates which take into account the assumptions around increases in the social care grants set out above. This provision for growth will be subject to ongoing review.
- (c) An additional provision for Energy of £6.220m is applied in each year of the plan and will be subject to ongoing review as energy prices fluctuate.
- (d) In constructing the impact of the pay award, we have rolled forward the additional costs of the 2024-25 pay award costs into 2025-26 to 2027-28 (assumed to be 3%), and further assumed an additional 3% for 2025-26, and then a further 3% for 2026-27 and a further 3% for 2027-28.
- (e) The Concessionary Fares and NLWA levies are increased in line with latest forecasts from TfL and the NLWA.
- (f) RCCO is set at £3.350m in each of the three years.

- (g) The Minimum Revenue Provision is £12m in 2025/26, then £15.7m in 2026/27 and £17.9m in 2027/28. Interest charges are set at £2.9m, £3.9m and £3.9m respectively.

3.7 The forecast derived from these assumptions is shown below. Please note that the forecast must be regarded as **illustrative only**. This is primarily due to the external funding uncertainties but also due to unknowns in relation to demand pressures.

Forecast 2025-26 to 2027-28

RESOURCES	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
External Core Funding incl S31 Top Up Grant	134.329	135.273	130.567
Business Rates Income including S31 & deficit c/fwd	75.878	78.355	80.406
Council Tax incl deficit c/fwd & support netted off	112.300	116.723	121.314
Improved Better Care Fund & Better Care Fund	21.837	21.837	21.837
Public Health	37.041	37.041	37.041
New Homes Bonus/Services Grant	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	381.385	389.230	391.166
EXPENDITURE	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
Directorate Cash Limits after Savings and HRA Recharge	302.867	295.030	295.030
AH&I and C&E Cost Pressures and Growth	18.329	30.329	34.329
Other Directorates' Cost Pressures and Growth	2.152	4.152	4.652
General Finance (Corporate) Account			
Superannuation	11.951	11.951	11.951
Capital (Minimum Revenue Provision & Interest)	14.900	19.643	21.834
Pay Award	13.479	20.483	27.778
NLWA Levy	11.588	11.737	15.591
Concessionary Fares Levy	12.625	14.404	16.183
Provision for increased Energy Costs	6.220	6.220	6.220
Provision for increased Building Maintenance Costs	3.200	3.200	3.200
Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO)	3.350	3.350	3.350
Other Corporate Items	3.185	3.365	3.370
TOTAL	403.846	423.864	443.488
GAP	-22.461	-34.635	-52.322

3.8 The cumulative forecast budget gaps are £22.461m, £34.635m and £52.322m respectively. The primary reasons for the large budget gaps in all years is the

budget added to address cost pressures in adult social care and children's services, the pay award and increases in the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).

3.9 These budget gaps can be reduced by the following mitigations:

- (a) Pause the Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) transfer. This will mean replacing revenue funding with borrowing. This will increase our assumption around money set aside for borrowing (the minimum revenue provision) and interest costs, however this cost is spread over a much longer timeframe and could assist the Council in the medium term given the challenging level of the budget gap.
- (b) Pause the current budgeted revenue contributions to lifecycle funds in relation to fleet replacement and whole life costing in respect of corporate buildings. This will increase our assumption around money set aside for borrowing (the minimum revenue provision) and interest costs, however this cost is spread over a much longer timeframe and could assist the Council in the medium term given the challenging level of the budget gap.

3.10 If (a) and (b) were agreed as part of the budget setting process for the medium term period it would be recommended that this was kept under review and potentially built back into the budget at a future date if and when this becomes feasible.

This has the following impact on the budget gaps:

	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
Budget Gaps before Mitigations	-22.461	-34.635	-52.322
Mitigations:			
Pause RCCO Transfer	3.350	3.350	3.350
Pause budgeted revenue contributions to lifecycle funds	1.610	1.610	1.610
Adjustments to MRP and interest (3.9a)	-0.165	-0.424	-0.679
Adjustments to Interest charges (3.9b)	-0.079	-0.204	-0.326
Budget Gaps after Mitigations	-17.745	-30.303	-48.367

3.11 It is also worth noting that the assumed increase in the council tax rate in the Plan is 2.99%. However, it is quite possible, given the 2023-24 and 2024-25 council tax referendum schemes, boroughs may be able to increase their rate increase to 4.99% in future years. The effect of a 4.99% increase in each year would be to increase council tax income (and hence reduce the gaps) by the following amounts: £2.2m in 2025-26; £4.6m in 2026-27; and £7.3m in 2027-28 (these estimates are cumulative).

4.0 HRA

- 4.1 The HRA covers all income and expenditure relating to the portfolio of housing stock owned by the Council. It is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to be ring-fenced from the Council's General Fund. The legislation specifies that only expenditure relating to the Council's landlord role can be charged to the HRA and, by extension, funded by the rents charged to tenants. The Council has a legal duty to ensure that the account remains solvent and to prepare a long-term business plan, the 30-year HRA Business Plan annually and keeps this under regular review.
- 4.2 The HRA budget is set in line with the HRA Business Plan which was approved in March 2019 as part of the Housing Asset Management Strategy. This plan sets out the Council's financial plans for managing and maintaining its housing stock (including leasehold properties) and other assets held in the HRA. The HRA Business Plan financial model informs the budget setting and capital programme over the Business Plan period. Its fundamental purpose is to set out the resources required to ensure the effective and sustainable management of our housing assets.
- 4.3 Reviewing and updating the 30-year HRA Business Plan involves a long-term assessment of the funding needed to deliver landlord duties alongside wider strategic housing objectives. This involves detailed modelling of operating resource requirements, capital investment plans and external funding streams against wider environmental factors such as macroeconomic assumptions and potential legislative changes.
- 4.4 In undertaking this review we follow the HRA Voluntary Code of Practice which covers six Principles that describe what the sector considers as essential elements for the continued sustainability of a self-financed HRA Financial viability. The finance Principle is that the housing authority has put in place arrangements to monitor the viability of the housing business and takes appropriate actions to maintain viability. Therefore, the following framework has been designed for assessing the viability of the HRA Business Plan and is being applied within the current model. These metrics are based on successful operation of similar minimum/maximum metrics across the housing sector. They represent a sound and effective way of managing borrowing and investment capacity:
- A minimum closing reserve balance of 10% of total revenue expenditure
 - An Interest Cover Ratio set at a minimum of 1.25, defined as net operating surplus divided by HRA interest costs;
 - A Loan to Value ratio set at a maximum of 70%, defined as outstanding HRA borrowing (HRA Capital Financing Requirement) divided by total asset valuation of HRA assets on the balance sheet.
- 4.5 Adopting these measures and testing changes to the plan against them will enable the Council to maximise its outcomes whilst ensuring a financially sustainable Business Plan is always in place. It will also ensure that decision

making on future HRA capital schemes becomes more efficient in terms of considering long-term income and expenditure forecasts.

- 4.6 The main source of funding for housing is rental income. The Social Housing Regulator sets the rent standard for Social Housing and for 2024/25 this was set as CPI plus 1%. For 2024/25 we have approved this rent increase. The current policy within the HRA business plan is to follow the Social Housing Rent Standard in order to maintain a financially viable HRA. This policy is needed to fund general inflation levels to deliver our operational requirements and strategic priorities, from repairs and maintenance to building safety and decarbonisation. 2024/25 is the last year of the Rent Standard of CPI plus 1%
- 4.7 The assumption for rent increases in the HRA business plan going forward is CPI, 3% for 2025/26 and 2% thereafter which is the Government long term target for inflation. It is essential that rent levels need to keep pace with inflation because any departure from this would require additional savings that would impact on services to tenants and ultimately, have a long term impact on future rent levels and income and reduce the resources we have to invest in our housing stock.
- 4.8 Over the medium term there is a need to deliver service transformation and deliver savings from 2025/26 onwards in order to replenish the RCCO budget removed to balance the 2023/24 budget and continue to invest in our housing stock. It is recognised that there will need to be an continuing open and honest conversation with our tenants that recognises that in real terms there will be less money to spend going forward and therefore want to ensure that we proactively target our spending of the available budget in a way that reflects their priorities. This engagement has begun with the consultation over the Summer on “Future Housing Priorities” which will inform our financial planning going forward.
- 4.9 The Council wishes to sustain its investment in its housing assets by ensuring all homes are maintained to a high standard, through a wide range of works and cyclical programmes that ensure compliance with legal and safety regulations and that protect against, and prevent deterioration of its buildings. There are also wider Council ambitions to reduce the carbon emissions from the housing stock from investment in thermal and heating technologies, but there is currently no identified resource to fund this investment. However, the Council will continue to adopt the “fabric first” approach and use existing available resources to carry out improvements to the fabric of our buildings until better and more reliable technology is available to replace current energy systems. This will include carrying out pilot retrofit initiatives.
- 4.10 In addition to investment in existing properties, the Council continues to progress three extensive regeneration programmes within the borough: Woodberry Down, the Estate Regeneration Programme (ERP), and the Housing Supply Programme (HSP). In addition, it approved a new housing regeneration programme, the New Council House Building Programme, in

December. The financial plans for the existing HRA stock and the regeneration programmes are presented and monitored separately to ensure the viability of each of the asset investments.

4.11 There are risks facing the HRA over the medium to long term and the financial modelling takes these risks into account as far as possible. To mitigate the risks and to ensure the financial viability of the HRA we have set the metrics in para 4.4 and we will monitor these regularly. The specific risks facing the HRA are as follows:

- Assumed Pay awards, if the pay awards is in excess of the planning assumption
- Energy Costs - the volatility of the energy market continues to be impact financial planning
- Inflation on Building Maintenance Costs exceeding the planning assumption. Rent increases are linked to CPI and the inflation impacting building maintenance costs may be significantly more than that.
- Impact of the cost of living crisis on rent collection and other income.
- The requirements of the Building Safety Act.

4.12 The HRA Business Plan financial model requires savings of £10.5m over the period 2024/25 to 2027//28 and the current savings plan will deliver £7.8m over the period. The development of savings proposals will be undertaken in the context of the strategic objectives for housing services, the housing improvement plan, the feedback from our residents and also the need to balance the competing priorities of :

- Maintaining and improving the service we deliver to our tenants and leaseholders;
- Maintaining the investment in our housing stock;
- Ensuring the safety of our residents in their homes;
- Delivering the Council's climate action ambitions for council housing stock;
- The delivery of our housing regeneration programmes; and
- Sustainable borrowing for the HRA.

5.0 CAPITAL

5.1 The capital program significantly influences our Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), especially in terms of the provisions we allocate for debt repayment and financing, as well as our revenue contributions to capital expenditures. As we move ahead, with a decreasing pool of capital receipts and a growing dependence on borrowing, it becomes imperative for us to enhance the provisions within our revenue budgets. In this iteration of the MTFP, we have

incorporated increases in revenue allocations to align with our existing capital program.

- 5.2 It's essential to highlight that regulations mandate a 'minimum revenue provision' for assets funded through borrowing, which comes into play a year after the asset comes into use. Consequently, a decision taken, let's say in 2024/25, regarding a major capital project may not translate into a revenue charge on the general fund until 2026/27 or even later. This impact necessitates careful consideration during capital investment decision-making, despite the fact that the charge won't materialise until after the asset is in use. Furthermore, it underscores the cumulative and long-term implications of significant capital decisions; for instance, a new asset with a useful life of 30 years will generate a revenue charge extending over the next three decades.

6.0 EDUCATION

- 6.1 Hackney Education. In the medium term, the key financial considerations for the Council in relation to Hackney Education are the continued impact of the rising numbers of children and young people (CYP) with education, health and care plans (EHCP's). Government expectation is that the DSG overspend will remain in the Council's accounts as a deficit balance which will then reduce in future years as additional funding is received. However, the Government's commitment to this additional funding and the level this will be at remains unclear. The recent increase in funding has not kept pace with increases in demand. The current regulations around the treatment of any DSG overspends have been extended to the end of 2025/26, therefore there is a financial risk to the Council of carrying this deficit forward beyond this period. The deficit is expected to be circa £20.7m by the end of 2023/24. Also the National reform of the free early years entitlement is expected to have a significant impact on demand for childcare placements, with the greatest shift expected to be for two year olds 30 hour care. There is likely to be significantly more demand for childcare through the proposed reform, specifically for two year olds. Further funding details have been received and implementation of the reforms will commence from September 2024, the scale of the potential impact is currently being assessed.

- 6.2 Schools. During the early stages of the consultation for the National Funding Formula (NFF), some of the initial models suggested that Hackney schools may have ended up facing significant funding reductions. This was as a result of the expectation that central government would redirect resources from those local authorities viewed as better funded - like Hackney - to those viewed as less well-funded. After significant lobbying from many stakeholders, the reality of the implementation of the NFF was per pupil funding increases across the board, with increases weighted towards lower funding authorities. This is expected to continue to be the case in the medium term.

Hackney, in line with the rest of London, is facing considerable changes in terms of demographics, with many primary schools now facing falling rolls after a decade of unprecedented demand for places. It is uncertain how long

this period of decreased demand will last and it is vital that the school funding system is able to respond to this challenge swiftly to ensure that schools are not destabilised financially. This is the main financial concern for schools in Hackney in the medium term.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The 2024-25 MTFP demonstrates the significant financial challenge the Council faces over the period 2025-26 to 2027-28. Against a background of a likely real term freeze in external resources, the council faces increasing demand and cost pressures across various services especially in Adult Social Care, Children's Social Services, SEND and Temporary Accommodation. This will require the development of further savings proposals, the successful implementation of the various transformation exercises and the continued effort to drive out efficiencies and economies across all services.
- 7.2 The most significant issue that we faced in formulating this plan was the huge uncertainty regarding external funding arrangements. If and when more is known about financing levels for 2025-26 and the timing and content of the possible funding review, we will produce an updated iteration of the Plan.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2026/27					APPENDIX 6
Programme Description	Capital Budget 23/24	Capital Budget 24/25	Indicative Capital Budget 25/26	Indicative Capital Budget 26/27	Total Indicative Capital Budget 23/24 to 26/27
Chief Executive's					
Libraries and Archives					
Library Security	0	200,000	0	0	200,000
Library Capital Works	224,173	595,000	0	0	819,173
Library Refurb Programme	1	19,075	0	0	19,076
Stoke Newington Library Refurb	126,349	4,174,000	100,000	0	4,400,349
Library & Comm Transformation	15,650	369,850	0	0	385,500
2nd Gen Library Self Issue Mac	0	120,000	0	0	120,000
Hackney Museum Refurbishment	0	0	350,000	0	350,000
Hackney Central Library Imp. project	0	425,000	0	0	425,000
Stamford Hill Library	0	0	500,000	0	500,000
Net Subtotal - Libraries and Archives	366,173	5,902,925	950,000	0	7,219,098
Total Budget Chief Executive's	366,173	5,902,925	950,000	0	7,219,098
Adults, Health and Integration					
Adults, Health and Integration					
Hackney Mortuary	596,643	1,231,000	30,000	0	1,857,643
Mosaic	720,000	570,765	481,468	205,172	1,977,405
Oswald Street Day Centre	324,400	0	0	0	324,400
Net Subtotal - Adults, Health and Integration	1,641,043	1,801,765	511,468	205,172	4,159,448
Total Budget Adults, Health and Integration	1,641,043	1,801,765	511,468	205,172	4,159,448
Children and Education					
Children and Family Services					
Shoreditch Play Adventure	151,624	398,000	0	0	549,624
Care Leavers Hub	15,000	285,000	0	0	300,000
Ferncliff Centre CCTV	82,157	0	0	0	82,157
Net Subtotal - Children and Family Services	248,781	683,000	0	0	931,781
Education Asset Management Plan					
Jubilee Primary	10,281	0	0	0	10,281
Queensbridge Primary	2,776	0	0	0	2,776
Mapledene Day Nursery	8,655	0	0	0	8,655
Oldhill AMP	290,504	0	0	0	290,504
Benthal AMP	5,679	0	0	0	5,679
Morningside AMP	186,255	600,000	600,000	165,000	1,551,255
Colvestone AMP	4,181	0	0	0	4,181
Parkwood AMP	9,047	0	0	0	9,047
Berger School Works	366,898	275,933	0	0	642,831
AMP Contingency	561,711	443,651	0	0	1,005,362
Sir Thomas Abney AMP	617,077	612,022	0	0	1,229,099
Daubeney School & CC AMP	30,000	219,645	0	0	249,645
Development AMP	50,000	1,747,570	1,750,000	1,837,500	5,385,070
Ann Tayler CC	184,299	661,676	0	0	845,975
Education Asbestos Removal	67,000	40,000	0	0	107,000
Lauriston PS AMP	325,000	500,000	0	0	825,000
Woodberry Down PS AMP	50,000	1,300,000	0	0	1,350,000
Gayhurst PS AMP	100,000	250,000	0	0	350,000
Hillside CC AMP	0	260,000	0	0	260,000
Millfields PS AMP - Boiler & Roof	117,445	1,990,000	0	0	2,107,445
CC Development	180,265	400,000	105,000	110,250	795,515
Kingsmead AMP	0	400,000	0	0	400,000
London Fields AMP	0	600,000	600,000	165,000	1,365,000
Net Sub Total - Education Asset Management Plan	3,167,073	10,300,497	3,055,000	2,277,750	18,800,320
Education Sufficiency Strategy					
Ickburgh BSF Ph3	4,880	0	0	0	4,880
Net Subtotal - Education Sufficiency Strategy	4,880	0	0	0	4,880
SEND and Other Education Capital					
DFC Holding Code	384,484	0	0	0	384,484
The Garden School SEN	3,507	0	0	0	3,507
Education SEND Strategy	84,892	199,183	0	0	284,075
Simon Marks SEND	174,687	0	0	0	174,687
Nightingale SEND	97,998	5,002	0	0	103,000
Petchey Academy SEND	0	288,000	0	0	288,000
Side by Side SEND	500,000	0	0	0	500,000
Sebright SEND	64,900	255,100	0	0	320,000
Daniel House SEND	197,200	2,402,800	0	0	2,600,000
The Bridge Academy SEND	70,000	30,000	0	0	100,000
Comet CC SEND	98,700	846,300	0	0	945,000
Contingency SEND	0	570,000	230,000	0	800,000

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2026/27					APPENDIX 6
Programme Description	Capital Budget 23/24	Capital Budget 24/25	Indicative Capital Budget 25/26	Indicative Capital Budget 26/27	Total Indicative Capital Budget 23/24 to 26/27
SEND Refurbishment	0	1,000,000	4,000,000	800,000	5,800,000
Net Subtotal - SEND and Other Education Capital	1,676,368	5,596,385	4,230,000	800,000	12,302,753
Primary School Programmes					
Woodberry Down CC Relocation/r	2,985,872	0	0	0	2,985,872
Shacklewell School	0	400,000	0	0	400,000
Façade Developmnt & Profes Cost	233,566	0	0	0	233,566
Daubeney Façade	22,331	8,603	0	0	30,934
Contingency Facade Repairs	83,305	1,000,000	0	0	1,083,305
Colvestone Façade	47,256	13,098	0	0	60,354
Gayhurst Façade	772,765	0	0	0	772,765
Grasmere Façade	8,144	0	0	0	8,144
Harrington Hill Façade	0	99,251	0	0	99,251
Hoxton Gardens Façade	201	0	0	0	201
Mandeville Façade	719,680	418,756	0	0	1,138,436
Millfields Façade	96,023	0	0	0	96,023
Morningside Façade	1	0	0	0	1
Orchard Façade	316,922	0	0	0	316,922
Southwold Façade	313,473	7,837	0	0	321,310
Springfield Façade	548,697	14,228	0	0	562,925
Oldhill Façade	418,575	9,204	0	0	427,779
William Patten Façade	0	543,808	0	0	543,808
Net Subtotal - Primary School Programmes	6,566,811	2,514,785	0	0	9,081,596
Secondary School Programmes					
BSF Whole Life Costing	28,129	0	0	0	28,129
Stoke Newington BSF Life Cycle	484,775	0	0	0	484,775
Clapton Girls BSF Life Cycle	35,422	0	0	0	35,422
Clapton Portico	260	0	0	0	260
BSF LC Early Failure Conting	838,087	1,538,344	1,615,261	1,824,354	5,816,046
Temp Sec School Audrey St site	200,000	136,626	0	0	336,626
The Urswick School Expansion	25,404	155,122	0	0	180,526
Urswick School Lifecycle	1,454	0	0	0	1,454
Haggerston School Lifecycle	409,456	0	0	0	409,456
Net Sub Total - Secondary School Programmes	2,022,987	1,830,092	1,615,261	1,824,354	7,292,694
Total Budget Children and Education	13,686,900	20,924,759	8,900,261	4,902,104	48,414,024
Finance and Corporate Resources					
Strategic Property Capital					
Decant to MBH & Moves to CAH	91,476	0	0	0	91,476
HSC Flooring Replacement Works	15,981	0	0	0	15,981
Corp Accommodation Restack	162,822	355,000	155,000	155,000	827,822
HTH Essential Works	262,000	2,105,230	762,173	0	3,129,403
HSC Lighting Upgrade	0	197,718	0	0	197,718
39-43 St Andrews Rd Works	148,710	13,482	0	0	162,192
14 Andrews Rd Works	500,000	207,109	0	0	707,109
SN Town Hall and Assembly Hall	725,000	1,932,558	0	0	2,657,558
DDA	0	346,496	0	0	346,496
Reactive Maintenance	21,743	71,237	0	0	92,980
Asbestos Surveys	24,118	470,266	0	0	494,384
Corporate Property Annual Surv	53,307	97,762	101,478	104,718	357,265
Core Campus Life Cycle Costing	41,000	34,000	0	0	75,000
CPAM Database	27,400	109,600	0	0	137,000
CCG Primary Care Capital Proje	13,596,776	0	0	0	13,596,776
Millfields Disinfecting Statio	20,000	35,728	0	0	55,728
161 Northwold Rd	25,000	33,358	0	0	58,358
80a Eastway	13,319	0	0	0	13,319
Commercial Properties	100,000	100,000	0	0	200,000
LandlordWks12-14 Englefield Rd	1,360,467	0	0	0	1,360,467
61 Evering Road	69,718	0	0	0	69,718
Wally Foster Centre	168,325	0	0	0	168,325
Landlord Wks 329 Queensbridge	83,296	20,764	0	0	104,060
61 Leswin Road	56,106	96,250	0	0	152,356
Millfields Waste Depot	123,625	772,449	60,000	0	956,074
VCS Fire Risk & Rem Wks (GF)	880,000	3,246,352	2,029,002	1,355,790	7,511,144
Property Overall	287,100	1,900,000	0	0	2,187,100
Vehicle Maintenance Workshop	71,508	385,515	0	0	457,023
CA Fire Risk & Rem Wks (GF)	0	5,354,223	0	0	5,354,223
Net Subtotal - Strategic Property Capital	18,928,797	17,885,097	3,107,653	1,615,508	41,537,055
ICT Capital					
ICT General	589,095	0	0	0	589,095
Cyber Recovery Capital	171,219	0	0	0	171,219

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2026/27					APPENDIX 6
Programme Description	Capital Budget 23/24	Capital Budget 24/25	Indicative Capital Budget 25/26	Indicative Capital Budget 26/27	Total Indicative Capital Budget 23/24 to 26/27
End-user IT Equipment	159,816	0	0	0	159,816
Members Device Refresh	5,482	0	0	0	5,482
Mobile Phone Refresh	30,526	0	0	0	30,526
Data Analytics Platform	127,400	208,000	69,600	0	405,000
Libraries ICT Upgrades	30,279	0	0	0	30,279
Financial Management System	75,336	0	0	0	75,336
Target Services	300,000	450,000	0	0	750,000
Liveable Hackney	906,172	99,733	0	0	1,005,905
Network refresh	300,000	200,000	0	0	500,000
Net Sub Total - ICT Capital	2,695,325	957,733	69,600	0	3,722,658
Corporate Resources Other Schemes					
E-Tendering System	4,108	15,000	0	0	19,108
Intallation of AMR's	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Shoreditch Hoxton Heat Cluster	10,350	0	0	0	10,350
Hackney Green Homes Programme	50,000	150,000	0	0	200,000
Community Energy Fund	307,389	0	0	0	307,389
PV Solar Panel	9,544	35,000	0	0	44,544
Green Homes Fund	244,627	0	0	0	244,627
Solar Project (Commercial)	482,795	0	0	0	482,795
Building Access System	20,000	430,000	0	0	450,000
HLP - Residential Solar PV Pilot	0	1,960,000	0	0	1,960,000
PSDS3b - Decarbonisation	6,100,000	10,700,000	0	0	16,800,000
Net Sub Total - Corporate Resources Other Schemes	7,238,813	13,290,000	0	0	20,528,813
Temporary Accommodation					
Hostel Fire Risk and Remedial Works	780,000	1,735,973	2,749,316	2,959,271	8,224,560
Acquisition 2a Woodberry Grove	5,750,000	0	0	0	5,750,000
104 Greenwood Rd	0	955,000	0	0	955,000
Temporary Accommodation Investment Fund	0	5,000,000	0	0	5,000,000
Net Sub Total - Temporary Accommodation	6,530,000	7,690,973	2,749,316	2,959,271	19,929,560
Mixed Use Developments					
Tiger Way Development	89,139	0	0	0	89,139
PRU Nile Street	63,974	0	0	0	63,974
Britannia Phase 1a & 1b	95,000	4,010,506	0	0	4,105,506
Britannia Phase 2b	27,414,561	70,735,065	75,000,000	11,751,478	184,901,104
Britannia Phase 2a	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Net Sub Total - Mixed Use Developments	27,667,674	74,745,571	75,000,000	11,751,478	189,164,723
Total Budget Finance and Corporate Resources	63,060,609	114,569,374	80,926,569	16,326,257	274,882,809

Climate, Homes and Economy (Non-Housing)					
Leisure, Parks and Green Spaces					
Essential maint to Leis Facil	700,000	0	0	0	700,000
Essential Main to Leisure	600,000	523,797	0	0	1,123,797
Clissold Park Paddling Pool	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
London Fields Learner Pool	912,645	3,921,956	0	0	4,834,601
Parks Strategy - Infrastruct	737,741	1,000,000	1,020,000	1,040,400	3,798,141
Parks PublicConveniences&Cafes	50,000	425,000	0	0	475,000
Daubeney Fields Play Area	250,000	355,346	0	0	605,346
Fairchild's Gardens	771,000	110,186	0	0	881,186
Parks Equipment and Machinery	90,911	75,000	76,500	78,030	320,441
Connecting Green Spaces	4,667	0	0	0	4,667
Abney Park	1,877,815	694,500	0	0	2,572,315
Shoreditch Park	198,751	0	0	0	198,751
Clissold Park Mansion Works	300,998	0	0	0	300,998
Grow Back Greener North Marsh	45,000	0	0	0	45,000
Rewild London River Lea	62,576	0	0	0	62,576
Clissold Pk Old Paddling Pool	0	150,000	0	0	150,000
Former Side-by-Side	150,000	150,000	0	0	300,000
Haggerston Park Pitch	20,000	580,000	0	0	600,000
Green Building Fund	50,000	150,000	300,000	0	500,000
Pathway Repair Programme	250,000	350,000	400,000	408,000	1,408,000
Connecting Green St Thomas	97,260	0	0	0	97,260
Litter Bin Replacement	73,000	130,390	0	0	203,390
Parks Depot	540,000	1,300,809	1,300,000	0	3,140,809
Drinking Water Fountains	50,000	32,958	0	0	82,958
Play Area Refurbishments	820,000	1,674,781	1,000,000	0	3,494,781
West Reservoir Improvements	500,000	2,350,592	0	0	2,850,592
Biodiversity Improvements	35,080	0	0	0	35,080
Millfields Depot & Lodge Refurb	300,000	305,305	0	0	605,305
Kings Hall LC - Remedial Works	1,000,000	2,095,600	0	0	3,095,600
Kings Hall LC - Survey Costs	287,731	75,000	0	0	362,731

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2026/27					APPENDIX 6
Programme Description	Capital Budget 23/24	Capital Budget 24/25	Indicative Capital Budget 25/26	Indicative Capital Budget 26/27	Total Indicative Capital Budget 23/24 to 26/27
Kings Hall LC - Design Team	1,735,844	0	0	0	1,735,844
Net Subtotal - Leisure, Parks and Green Spaces	12,561,019	16,451,220	4,096,500	1,526,430	34,635,169
Streetscene					
Bridge Maintenance Schemes	63,054	362,289	200,000	200,000	825,343
Parks Trees	200,000	0	0	0	200,000
Street Lighting	120,000	260,149	0	0	380,149
SS Road Safety	891,116	669,423	300,000	306,000	2,166,539
LED Lights on Highways	699,625	171,298	0	0	870,923
Highways Planned Maintenance	4,750,000	4,750,000	4,750,000	4,845,000	19,095,000
Develop Borough Infrastructure	600,683	557,604	300,000	306,000	1,764,287
Highways Planned WaterDrainage	368,526	315,000	315,000	321,300	1,319,826
1-14 Spurstowe Works	20,840	0	0	0	20,840
H/ways Oakwharf (0040-08) S106	0	81,000	0	0	81,000
Denne Terrace Retaining Wall	0	290,000	0	0	290,000
Park Trees H&S Works	0	165,397	200,000	204,000	569,397
Regents Canal Denne Terr Wall	0	31,000	0	0	31,000
Legible London Wayfinding	0	1,616	0	0	1,616
Traffic Calming Measure	0	190,000	0	0	190,000
Wick Road	25,436	0	0	0	25,436
Borough Wide 20mph	0	83,174	0	0	83,174
Highway Works 8-10 Paul Street	0	26,041	0	0	26,041
Highways Works 217 Q'bridg Rd	704	0	0	0	704
Hackney Car Club - Various	18,072	0	0	0	18,072
Shoreditch Village	0	15,459	0	0	15,459
52 well Street & 1 Shore Plac	25,080	0	0	0	25,080
Gascoyne Road	0	15,364	0	0	15,364
Wenlock Rd/Sturt St/Shepherde	14,988	0	0	0	14,988
Clapton Common Pedestrian Imp	5,717	0	0	0	5,717
Hackney Car Club - Furr & Hom	7,650	0	0	0	7,650
Hgway Works 48-76 Dalston Lane	20,584	0	0	0	20,584
Hgway Works Kings Crescent Est	73,793	0	0	0	73,793
Highway Works at 10 Andre St	2,205	0	0	0	2,205
Highway Wk 112-118 Kingsland	0	5,350	0	0	5,350
Highway Wk 357-359 Kingslnd Rd	0	68,626	0	0	68,626
Highway works 130 Cazenove	0	23,539	0	0	23,539
Highway wks Bayton Crt	16,494	0	0	0	16,494
Highway works Spurstowe Works	35,355	0	0	0	35,355
Highway wks 70 Wilson Street	11,102	0	0	0	11,102
The Shoreditch Public Realm (September Bid)	21,823	0	0	0	21,823
Highway works 11-15 Tudor Road	0	17,737	0	0	17,737
Pembury Circus Improvemnt Wks	0	0	872,886	0	872,886
HighwayWk KingslandFireStation	2,224	0	0	0	2,224
Highway Wks 145 City Road	0	49,502	0	0	49,502
Highway Wks 55 Pitfield	21,597	0	0	0	21,597
Highway Wks at The Lion Club	25,740	5,149	0	0	30,889
Highway Wks at The Stage	85,100	13,137	0	0	98,237
Public Realm at The Stage	77,000	531,152	0	0	608,152
Highway Wks at 293-295 Old St	1,394	0	0	0	1,394
Highway Wks Land 83UpperClapt	26,100	0	0	0	26,100
Highway Wks 97-137 Hackney Rd	10,624	0	0	0	10,624
Highway Wks 1-8 & Regen Way	22,829	0	0	0	22,829
Highway Wks at Mare St Studios	78,165	0	0	0	78,165
Highway Wks Great Eastern St	0	55,803	0	0	55,803
Highway Wks Lyttleton House	20,785	0	0	0	20,785
Schools Streets	304,319	304,048	465,000	0	1,073,367
Highway Wk BridgeHse&MarianCrt	0	46,942	0	0	46,942
Highway Wks 211-227 Hackney Rd	100,014	0	0	0	100,014
Highway Wks 35 Shore Road	589	0	0	0	589
Highway Wk 420-424 SevenSister	0	22,547	0	0	22,547
Highway Wk Sheep Lane Ion Hse	494	0	0	0	494
Public Realm New Inn Broadway	0	39,359	0	0	39,359
Highway Wks Thirlmere House	8,387	0	0	0	8,387
Highway Wks King Edwards Road	658	0	0	0	658
Tree Planting	59,779	0	0	0	59,779
Greens Screens	70,000	200,000	267,052	0	537,052
Highway Wk 183-187 Shoreditch	216,739	0	0	0	216,739
St Thomas's Rec Shelter	0	1,463	0	0	1,463
Highway Wks One Crown Place	71,217	0	0	0	71,217
Highway Wks The Lawns	30,359	0	0	0	30,359
Highway Wks Mandeville Street	3,262	0	0	0	3,262

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Programme Description	Capital Budget 23/24	Capital Budget 24/25	Indicative Capital Budget 25/26	Indicative Capital Budget 26/27	Total Indicative Capital Budget 23/24 to 26/27
Highway Wks 8-10 Long Street	0	26,407	0	0	26,407
Highway Wks 164-170 Mare St	9,146	0	0	0	9,146
Highway Wks at Tower Court	181,573	0	0	0	181,573
Highway Wks W-berry Down 1b+2	0	196,517	0	0	196,517
Dockless Bikes	32,890	100,000	0	0	132,890
EV Buildout Go Ultra Low City	15,163	0	0	0	15,163
Highway works 55 Dalston Lane	9,840	0	0	0	9,840
Highway Wk 9-15 Helmsley Place	9,457	0	0	0	9,457
Highway Wks 17 Corsham Street	0	16,636	0	0	16,636
Highway Wks 102 Milton Grove	2,317	0	0	0	2,317
Highway Wk 1 Wilberforce Rd	2,773	0	0	0	2,773
H'way Wks H'ton Sq & H'ton St	4,385	0	0	0	4,385
Leonard St(West) Public Realm	0	104,473	0	0	104,473
Legible London Signing	17,976	22,565	80,000	0	120,541
Highway Wks 30-36 Stamford Rd	1,869	0	0	0	1,869
Highway Wks Leagrave St	120,770	0	0	0	120,770
Highway Wks 25 Downham Rd	3,266	0	0	0	3,266
Highway Wks 14-44 Spurstowe	1,175	0	0	0	1,175
H'way Wk 392-394 Seven Sisters	0	32,121	0	0	32,121
New North Rd Public Realm	40,501	0	0	0	40,501
Charles Square Public Realm	145,681	0	0	0	145,681
Phipp St Public Realm	155,129	630,838	0	0	785,967
Highway Wks 100 Hassett Road	0	35,300	0	0	35,300
H'way Wk Bridport Pl & W'shire	0	15,564	0	0	15,564
EV Charging Points	181,003	390,632	223,000	112,000	906,635
Street Lighting Column Structural Testing & Replacement	400,000	600,000	500,000	0	1,500,000
LTN's	500,000	500,000	500,000	0	1,500,000
Colvestone Crescent	50,000	550,000	0	0	600,000
Remarking Road Marking	100,000	100,000	100,000	102,000	402,000
70a-78 Oldhill Street	29,314	0	0	0	29,314
91-93 Rendlesham Road	28,030	0	0	0	28,030
Highway Wks 12-16 Rowe Lane	96,195	0	0	0	96,195
Highway Wks Morpeth Road	97,805	0	0	0	97,805
Highway Wks 74 Rivington Stree	103,943	0	0	0	103,943
Highway Wks 225 City Road	337,889	0	0	0	337,889
Olive School Street S106	20,000	100,000	29,804	0	149,804
Hackney Central Station	0	280,000	0	0	280,000
Pembury Circus & Amhurst Rd	500,000	1,725,000	9,895,300	0	12,120,300
Tree Planting near Principal Place	18,764	0	0	0	18,764
Cycle stands at New Inn Yard	18,771	0	0	0	18,771
Highway Wk 130 Kingsland High	0	5,000	0	0	5,000
Highway Wk Mildenhall Road	0	12,853	0	0	12,853
39-47 East Road	0	165,332	0	0	165,332
Hertford Road	0	65,569	0	0	65,569
Highways Wks Olive School	273,516	117,224	0	0	390,740
Highway Wk 168-178 Shoreditch	22,552	0	0	0	22,552
Highway Wks 28 Powell Road	29,135	0	0	0	29,135
Highway Wks 2A Forest Road	16,550	0	0	0	16,550
Highway Wk 17-33 Westland Plac	72,048	0	0	0	72,048
Marvin Street	50,000	100,000	0	0	150,000
Highway Wk 61 Queens Drive	5,284	0	0	0	5,284
Green Lane Cycle Scheme	0	125,684	0	0	125,684
Net Sub Total - Streetscene	12,934,932	15,386,883	18,998,042	6,396,300	53,716,157
Environmental Operations and Other					
Waste & Fleet Replacement	149,930	3,923,107	5,715,755	0	9,788,792
Comm VehiclesWinterMaintenance	352,754	0	0	0	352,754
Millfields Depot Maintenance	293,000	0	0	0	293,000
Net Sub Total - Environmental Operations and Other	795,684	3,923,107	5,715,755	0	10,434,546
Public Realms Transport for London Funded Schemes					
Corridors (TFL)	1,241,000	0	0	0	1,241,000
Streetspace (TFL)	460,000	0	0	0	460,000
Net Sub Total - Public Realms Transport for London Funded Schemes	1,701,000	0	0	0	1,701,000
Parking and Market Schemes					
Hackney Street Markets Strat	0	0	289,408	0	289,408
Cycle Hangers	637,000	1,322,770	875,000	0	2,834,770
Net Sub Total - Parking and Market Schemes	637,000	1,322,770	1,164,408	0	3,124,178
Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulations					
Enforcement Strategy database	100,000	0	0	0	100,000
Dalston CCTV Cameras	1,924	0	0	0	1,924
Shoreditch CCTV Cameras	128,626	0	0	0	128,626

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2026/27					APPENDIX 6
Programme Description	Capital Budget 23/24	Capital Budget 24/25	Indicative Capital Budget 25/26	Indicative Capital Budget 26/27	Total Indicative Capital Budget 23/24 to 26/27
CCTV Enforcement Cameras	426,946	0	0	0	426,946
Enforcement Database	37,238	100,000	120,000	0	257,238
Net Zero Carbon Study	9,262	0	0	0	9,262
CCTV (S106)	85,135	0	0	0	85,135
Net Sub Total - Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulations	789,131	100,000	120,000	0	1,009,131
Area Regeneration					
Afford Workspace Space Studio	0	106,000	0	0	106,000
Hackney Central TC Mang.Proj	0	24,994	0	0	24,994
Trelawney Pocket Park	0	4,039	0	0	4,039
Affordable Workspace Programme	0	399,752	0	0	399,752
Hoxton Public Realm	0	512,222	0	0	512,222
Bohemia Place Public Realm	100,000	319,750	0	0	419,750
Town Hall Square	500,000	4,285,850	0	0	4,785,850
Dalston Public Realm	6,700	421,991	0	0	428,691
Morning Lane	100,000	804,000	0	0	904,000
Hackney Wick Regeneration	155,609	43,797	0	0	199,406
Dalston Public Toilets	0	74,999	0	0	74,999
80-80a Eastwy(GLA)	18,470	0	0	0	18,470
Trowbridge (GLA)	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Ridley Road Improvements	37,106	0	0	0	37,106
Dalston & Hackney Town Centre	450,973	839,094	0	0	1,290,067
Plough Yard Fit Out	0	29,417	0	0	29,417
Net Subtotal - Area Regeneration	1,378,858	7,865,905	0	0	9,244,763
Total Budget Climate, Homes and Economy (Non-Housing)	30,797,624	45,049,885	30,094,705	7,922,730	113,864,944

Total General Fund Budget	109,552,349	188,248,708	121,383,003	29,356,263	448,540,323
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Housing					
Asset Management Plan Capital Schemes HRA					
HiPs North West	3,184,035	10,135,425	19,193,274	22,822,859	55,335,593
HiPs Central	6,225,231	800,000	0	0	7,025,231
HiPs South West	450,000	0	0	0	450,000
Estate Lighting	520,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	2,320,000
Ventilation Systems	150,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	750,000
CCTV upgrade	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	6,800,000
Street Lighting SLA	450,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,950,000
Door Entry Syst (Replacements)	550,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	2,350,000
Drainage	60,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	360,000
Lifts Major Components	300,000	0	0	0	300,000
Dom Boiler Replace/Cen Heating	2,059,170	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,200,000	8,659,170
Replace Play Equipment	290,115	200,000	200,000	200,000	890,115
Road & Footpath Renewals	50,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	350,000
Void Re-Servicing	2,250,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	9,750,000
Water Mains/Boosters	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	200,000
Disabled Adaptations	1,700,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	7,700,000
H & S and Major Replacement	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
Community Halls Maj. Reps/DDA	600,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	2,700,000
Lift Renewals	10,000	2,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	10,010,000
Intergrated Housing Manag Sys	1,543,240	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,543,240
Boiler Hse Major Works	2,000,005	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	8,000,005
Fire Risk Works	1,050,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	2,550,000
Planned & Reactive Water Mains	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	200,000
High Value Repairs/Imp & Wk	2,900,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	11,900,000
Lightning Conductors	800,000	900,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,700,000
Estate Boundary Security Imp	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	600,000
Garage Review	112,292	100,000	100,000	100,000	412,292
Capitalised Salaries	4,771,182	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	19,771,182
Lateral Mains	800,000	1,200,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	5,400,000
Re-wire	120,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	420,000
Green initiatives	388,464	300,000	300,000	300,000	1,288,464
Cycle Facilities	130,162	100,000	100,000	100,000	430,162
Hardware Smoke Alarms	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	2,400,000
Commercial Properties	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
Comm Vehicles Building Main	50,000	19,875	19,875	19,875	109,625
Recycling Scheme	508,731	500,000	500,000	500,000	2,008,731
Bridport	7,500,000	0	0	0	7,500,000
HSG Vehicle Fleet Replacement	50,000	2,731,900	0	0	2,781,900
VCS Fire Risk & Rem Wks (HRA)	725,633	1,028,800	893,851	1,236,266	3,884,550
SHDF Wave 2.1 Retrofit Net Fee	500,000	810,000	135,000	0	1,445,000
SHDF Wave 2.1 Retrofit Net Wks	864,732	10,859,500	1,810,000	0	13,534,232

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2026/27					APPENDIX 6
Programme Description	Capital Budget 23/24	Capital Budget 24/25	Indicative Capital Budget 25/26	Indicative Capital Budget 26/27	Total Indicative Capital Budget 23/24 to 26/27
Net Sub Total - Asset Management Plan Capital Schemes HRA	46,312,992	55,335,500	53,602,000	55,629,000	210,879,492
Council Capital Schemes					
Temp Accomodation Voids Wks	362,615	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	5,762,615
Hostels - Major Repairs	285,000	3,031,684	500,000	500,000	4,316,684
Purchase Leasehold Properties (September Bid)	5,238,563	0	0	0	5,238,563
Net Subtotal - Council Capital Schemes	5,886,178	4,831,684	2,300,000	2,300,000	15,317,862
Private Sector Housing Schemes					
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,500,000	1,730,686	1,730,686	1,730,686	6,692,058
General repairs grant (GRG)	100,000	200,000	200,000	0	500,000
Warmth & security grant (WSG)	20,000	100,000	100,000	0	220,000
Net Sub Total - Private Sector Housing Schemes	1,620,000	2,030,686	2,030,686	1,730,686	7,412,058
Estate Regeneration Programme					
Estate Renewal Implementation	10,402,538	4,641,784	5,253,979	3,000,000	23,298,301
Bridge House Phase 2	518	0	0	0	518
ER1 Tower Court	793,353	0	0	0	793,353
Kings Crescent Phase 3+4	1,999,844	7,480,711	13,269,231	48,749,202	71,498,988
ER1 Colville phase 4	0	2,594,358	10,047,872	33,632,267	46,274,497
ER1 Colville phase 5	1,133,776	5,018,513	6,324,247	1,527,954	14,004,490
ER1 Colville phase 6	380,000	958,662	2,264,506	1,785,175	5,388,343
ER1 Colville phase 7	485,000	1,676,385	2,759,041	1,501,753	6,422,179
St Leonard's Court	11,971	0	0	0	11,971
Frampton Park Regeneration	6,722	0	0	0	6,722
Marian Court Phase 3	2,078,941	4,253,660	13,983,248	25,774,974	46,090,823
Colville Phase 2C	2,567,978	23,385,750	27,795,024	4,632,504	58,381,256
Lytelton House	240	0	0	0	240
Nightingale - Block E	827,898	5,161,608	17,676,048	17,676,048	41,341,602
Nightingale	0	482,244	49,428,576	49,428,576	99,339,396
Net Sub Total - Estate Regeneration Programme	20,688,779	55,653,675	148,801,772	187,708,453	412,852,679
Housing Supply Programme					
Housing Supply Programme	2,143,168	0	0	0	2,143,168
Wimbourne Street	9,605,110	9,340,884	0	0	18,945,994
Buckland Street	6,826,940	11,250,337	0	0	18,077,277
Murray Grove	63,641	5,749,842	10,997,244	10,997,244	27,807,971
Downham Road 1	34,356	1,088,340	10,229,369	14,812,384	26,164,449
Downham Road 2	36,758	432,662	5,499,901	8,046,020	14,015,341
Balmes Road	33,432	268,887	3,978,195	5,845,349	10,125,863
Pedro Street	40,599	1,659,514	5,164,880	2,043,013	8,908,006
Mandeville Street	484,341	0	0	0	484,341
Tradescant House	432	0	0	4,120,833	4,121,265
Lincoln Court	680	0	0	0	680
Rose Lipman Project	313,980	906,785	12,493,933	18,350,007	32,064,705
Woolridge Way	107,661	479,024	6,744,024	13,109,024	20,439,733
81 Downham Road	37,682	1,064,609	11,903,051	17,334,772	30,340,114
Hertford Road	31,400	395,364	3,595,448	5,207,991	9,230,203
Net Subtotal - Housing Supply Programme	19,760,180	32,636,248	70,606,045	99,866,637	222,869,110
Woodberry Down Regeneration					
Woodberry Down Cultural Plan	166,628	0	0	0	166,628
Other Heads	1,478,683	1,770,975	1,815,249	1,860,630	6,925,537
Phase 2 & Other Heads	6,498,000	0	0	0	6,498,000
Woodberry Down Phase 2-5	102,088	10,864,488	3,875,346	8,867,590	23,709,512
Woodberry Down Tenancy Agreee	235	0	0	0	235
Woodberry Down Regeneration	8,245,633	12,635,463	5,690,595	10,728,221	37,299,912
Orwell & Welshpool	206,402	1,387,711	213,494	18,875,665	20,683,272
Cropley Court	104,952	650,489	100,075	11,204,189	12,059,705
Fellows Court	64,501	433,660	2,591,169	10,097,808	13,187,138
Wayman Court	0	346,928	53,374	5,949,162	6,349,464
Blackwell Close	10,238	289,106	6,244,764	3,100,143	9,644,251
Nye Bevan Estate	4,607	130,098	3,139,098	1,559,542	4,833,345
Morris Blitz	10,750	303,562	1,843,407	7,186,821	9,344,540
Sellman & Wellday	0	346,928	53,374	5,458,336	5,858,638
Parkside Est (Morpeth Grove)	0	260,196	40,030	4,124,092	4,424,318
Blandford Court	0	202,374	31,135	5,058,278	5,291,787
Regents Court	79,551	534,847	82,284	5,875,771	6,572,453
Buckland Court	107,284	664,945	102,299	11,040,382	11,914,910
Weymouth Court	45,150	303,562	1,852,510	7,223,230	9,424,452
Graham Road	0	173,464	26,687	2,814,119	3,014,270
New Home	633,434	6,027,870	16,373,700	99,567,536	122,602,540
Total Budget Housing	103,147,198	169,151,126	299,404,799	457,530,532	1,029,233,655
Total Housing Budget	103,147,198	169,151,126	299,404,799	457,530,532	1,029,233,655

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - 2026/27					APPENDIX 6
Programme Description	Capital Budget 23/24	Capital Budget 24/25	Indicative Capital Budget 25/26	Indicative Capital Budget 26/27	Total Indicative Capital Budget 23/24 to 26/27
Total Non-Housing Budget	109,552,346	188,248,708	121,383,004	29,356,263	448,540,321
Total Housing Budget	103,147,198	169,151,126	299,404,799	457,530,532	1,029,233,655
Total Capital Budget	212,699,544	357,399,834	420,787,803	486,886,795	1,477,773,976

Fees & Charges 2024/25
Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
AHI	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	ADULT SOCIAL CARE				
AHI	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Respite Care, P&V for older persons over 65 (per week)	TBC	127.95		Fee uplifts based on DWP published rates set nationally. Awaiting 24/25 rates to be published
AHI	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Respite Care, P&V for Adults between the ages of 25 and 59 yrs (per week)	TBC	56.55		Fee uplifts based on DWP published rates set nationally. Awaiting 24/25 rates to be published
AHI	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Respite Care, P&V for Adults between the ages of 18 and 24 yrs (per week)	TBC	38.95		Fee uplifts based on DWP published rates set nationally. Awaiting 24/25 rates to be published
AHI	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Meals in house including tea and coffee (per meal)	4.50	4.32	4.2%	Fee increase is based on a subsidised comparison to current ONS CPI data (September).
AHI	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Respite Care, in house for older persons over 65 (per week)	TBC	127.95		Fee uplifts based on DWP published rates set nationally. Awaiting 24/25 rates to be published
C&E	CHILDREN SERVICES	CHILDREN SERVICES	CHILDREN SERVICES				
C&E	CHILDREN SERVICES	Corporate Parenting	Inter Agency Charge per week per carer for temporary/short term foster care (Consortium)	TBC	150.00		Inter Agency Charges in Fostering and Adoption have not yet been announced nationally. Awaiting 24/25 rates to be published
C&E	CHILDREN SERVICES	Corporate Parenting	Inter Agency Charge per week per carer for temporary/short term foster care (Non- Consortium)	TBC	200.00		Inter Agency Charges in Fostering and Adoption have not yet been announced nationally. Awaiting 24/25 rates to be published
C&E	CHILDREN SERVICES	Corporate Parenting	Inter Agency Charges - Charge per family for Adoption per child for Local Authorities outside London	TBC	27,000.00		Inter Agency Charges in Fostering and Adoption have not yet been announced nationally. Awaiting 24/25 rates to be published
C&E	CHILDREN SERVICES	Corporate Parenting	Inter Agency Charges - Charge per family for Adoption per child for Local Authorities within London	TBC	27,900.00		Inter Agency Charges in Fostering and Adoption have not yet been announced nationally. Awaiting 24/25 rates to be published
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Hackney Education				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Child Care				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Band 1 - Household income under £34,000 p.a.				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Child Age 0-2				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	213.00	207.00	2.9%	3% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	47.00	45.50	3.3%	3% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	23.00	22.50	2.2%	3% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Child Age 2-3				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	204.00	198.00	3.0%	3% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	44.50	43.00	3.5%	3% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	22.00	21.50	2.3%	3% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Child Age 3-5				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	201.00	195.00	3.1%	3% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	44.00	42.50	3.5%	3% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	21.50	21.00	2.4%	3% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Band 2 - Household income over £34,000 p.a. and £55,000 p.a.				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Child Age 0-2				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	262.50	246.00	6.7%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	58.00	54.50	6.4%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	29.50	27.50	7.3%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Child Age 2-3				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	255.00	239.00	6.7%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	56.50	53.00	6.6%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	28.00	26.50	5.7%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Child Age 3-5				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	250.50	235.00	6.6%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	55.50	52.00	6.7%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	26.50	25.00	6.0%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Band 3 - Household income over £55,000 p.a. and £70,000 p.a.				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Child Age 0-2				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	296.00	277.50	6.7%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	64.50	60.50	6.6%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	32.50	30.50	6.6%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Child Age 2-3				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	285.50	267.50	6.7%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	62.00	58.00	6.9%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	31.50	29.50	6.8%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Child Age 3-5				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	280.00	262.50	6.7%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	61.00	57.00	7.0%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	31.00	29.00	6.9%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education		Band 4 - Household income over £70,000 p.a. to £100,000 p.a.				
C&E	Hackney Education		Child Age 0-2				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	343.50	322.00	6.7%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	75.50	71.00	6.3%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	38.00	35.50	7.0%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education		Child Age 2-3				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	321.50	301.50	6.6%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	71.00	66.50	6.8%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	35.50	33.50	6.0%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education		Child Age 3-5				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	313.00	293.50	6.6%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	67.50	63.50	6.3%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	34.50	32.50	6.2%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education		Band 5 - Household income over £100,000 p.a.				
C&E	Hackney Education		Child Age 0-2				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	463.50	434.50	6.7%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	102.00	95.50	6.8%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	51.00	48.00	6.3%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education		Child Age 2-3				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	387.00	363.00	6.6%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	85.00	79.50	6.9%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	42.50	40.00	6.3%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
C&E	Hackney Education		Child Age 3-5				
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Full day care per week	344.50	323.00	6.7%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Part time care per day	76.00	71.50	6.3%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
C&E	Hackney Education	Hackney Education	Sessional care per half day	38.00	35.50	7.0%	6.7% Inflationary uplift round to the nearest 50p
F&R	DEBT COLLECTION	Court costs (Non-payment of Council tax)	Court costs (Non-payment of Council tax)				
F&R	DEBT COLLECTION	Court costs (Non-payment of Council tax)	Summons	67.00	67.00	0.0%	Recognising the impact of the cost of living crisis and the severe financial hardship of households experiencing debt we have decided to hold fees at 2023/24 levels
F&R	DEBT COLLECTION	Court costs (Non-payment of Council tax)	Liability order	8.50	8.50	0.0%	Recognising the impact of the cost of living crisis and the severe financial hardship of households experiencing debt we have decided to hold fees at 2023/24 levels
F&R	DEBT COLLECTION	Court costs (Non-payment of Council tax)	Total cost	75.50	75.50	0.0%	Recognising the impact of the cost of living crisis and the severe financial hardship of households experiencing debt we have decided to hold fees at 2023/24 levels
F&R	DEBT COLLECTION	Court costs (Non-payment of NNDR)	Court costs (Non-payment of NNDR)				
F&R	DEBT COLLECTION	Court costs (Non-payment of NNDR)	Summons	92.00	92.00	0.0%	Recognising the impact of the cost of living crisis and the severe financial hardship of households experiencing debt we have decided to hold fees at 2023/24 levels
F&R	DEBT COLLECTION	Court costs (Non-payment of NNDR)	Liability order	8.50	8.50	0.0%	Recognising the impact of the cost of living crisis and the severe financial hardship of households experiencing debt we have decided to hold fees at 2023/24 levels
F&R	DEBT COLLECTION	Court costs (Non-payment of NNDR)	Total cost	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Recognising the impact of the cost of living crisis and the severe financial hardship of households experiencing debt we have decided to hold fees at 2023/24 levels
F&R	HOUSING DIVISION	Housing Needs	Housing Needs				
F&R	HOUSING DIVISION	Housing Needs	Rent - 1 bedroom (weekly cost)	256.00	256.00	0.0%	Linked on the subsidy rate, and not aware of any changes to this for 24/25
F&R	HOUSING DIVISION	Housing Needs	Rent - 2 bedroom (weekly cost)	310.00	310.00	0.0%	Linked on the subsidy rate, and not aware of any changes to this for 24/25
F&R	HOUSING DIVISION	Housing Needs	Rent - 3 bedroom (weekly cost)	355.00	355.00	0.0%	Linked on the subsidy rate, and not aware of any changes to this for 24/25
F&R	HOUSING DIVISION	Housing Needs	Rent - 4 bedroom (weekly cost)	445.00	445.00	0.0%	Linked on the subsidy rate, and not aware of any changes to this for 24/25
F&R	HOUSING DIVISION	Housing Needs	Rent - 5 bedroom (weekly cost)	500.00	500.00	0.0%	Linked on the subsidy rate, and not aware of any changes to this for 24/25
F&R	HOUSING DIVISION	Housing Needs	Service Charge (weekly cost)	12.00	9.00	33.3%	Increase to £12 per week - Year 2 of phasing of increase to service charges to recover costs as agreed by Cabinet in March 2023
F&R	REGISTRARS	REGISTRARS	REGISTRARS				
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Marriages / Civil Partnership				
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Register Office	56.00	56.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Gold Suite (Tues, Wed, Thurs) (Capacity: 50 seated / 70 standing) now Lanchester Suite (Capacity 40 seated)	295.00	280.00	5.4%	Benchmarked and small increase but remains competitive.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Gold Suite (Fri) (Capacity: 50 seated / 70 standing) now Lanchester Suite (Capacity 40 seated)	295.00	280.00	5.4%	Benchmarked and small increase but remains competitive.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Gold Suite (Sat) (Capacity: 50 seated / 70 standing) now Lanchester Suite (Capacity 40 seated)	370.00	355.00	4.2%	Benchmarked and small increase but remains competitive.

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Council Chamber (Capacity: 150)	504.00	504.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the upper end of what other councils charge.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	New HTH Assembly Hall (Weekdays and Saturday)	504.00	504.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the upper end of what other councils charge.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	New HTH Assembly Hall (Sunday and Bank Holidays)	624.00	624.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the upper end of what other councils charge.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Stoke Newington Town Hall Council Chamber (weekday)	479.00	479.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the upper end of what other councils charge.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Stoke Newington Town Hall Council Chamber (Saturday morning)	529.00	529.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the upper end of what other councils charge.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Stoke Newington Town Hall Council Chamber (Sunday)	654.00	654.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the upper end of what other councils charge.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Approved Venues (As per venue) Weekdays and Saturdays	604.00	604.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the upper end of what other councils charge.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Approved Venues (As per venue) Sundays and Bank Holidays	704.00	704.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the upper end of what other councils charge.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Admin Charge to New Venues when they apply for approval	950.00	950.00	0.0%	Reduced ceremonies due to Covid and its impact therefore no change in fee (also want to get more approved venues on board to increase portfolio so price unchanged)
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Admin Charge to Existing Venues when they apply for approval	950.00	950.00	0.0%	Reduced ceremonies due to Covid and its impact therefore no change in fee (also want to get more approved venues on board to increase portfolio and customer offering so price unchanged)
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Evening Ceremony fees (Premium for evening ceremonies - 6 to 8pm)	150.00	150.00	0.0%	Fee remains the same as adequate, charge is from 5pm (and very few requests yearly for this service)
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Nighttime Ceremony fees (Premium for night time ceremonies after 8pm)	375.00	375.00	0.0%	No change - No late ceremony requests received in last 4 years
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Referral fee to Home Office	24.00	24.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Attendance at registered building for marriage or civil partnership	95.00	95.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
F&R	REGISTRARS	Marriages / Civil Partnership	Civil Partnership conversion fee	45.00	45.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Certificates				
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Fast Track (24 hour Service)	35.00	35.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Postage - International Delivery	10.00	10.00	0.0%	Postage Fee - No change as reflects Royal Mail Pricing
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Guaranteed Next Day Delivery (Mail costs have increased)	7.00	7.00	0.0%	Postage Fee - No change as reflects Royal Mail Pricing
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Postage - Standard First Class	1.00	1.00	0.0%	Postage Fee - No change as reflects Royal Mail Pricing
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Birth, Death, Marriage or Civil Partnership Certificate (current register at point of registration)	11.00	11.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Birth, Death, Marriage or Civil Partnership Certificate (current register before register completed)	11.00	11.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Birth, Death, Marriage or Civil Partnership Certificate (when register closed)	11.00	11.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Search Fee of Indexes	18.00	18.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
F&R	REGISTRARS	Citizenship	Citizenship				
F&R	REGISTRARS	Citizenship	Individual ceremony in Council Offices				
F&R	REGISTRARS	Citizenship	Mon – Fri	150.00	150.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the average of what other councils charge.

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
F&R	REGISTRARS	Citizenship	Sat	175.00	175.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the average of what other councils charge.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Cltizenship (virtual)	Mon – Fri	160.00	160.00	0.0%	No change. Benchmarking exercise was carried out and Hackney fees are towards the average of what other councils charge.
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Certificates				
F&R	REGISTRARS	Certificates	Birth, death and marriage(current register before register completed)	11.00	11.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
CEx	ADVERTISING	ADVERTISING	ADVERTISING				
CEx	ADVERTISING	ADVERTISING	Leaflet distribution (90,000– 100,000)	£45 per 1,000	£45 per 1,000	0.0%	
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	COUNCIL VENUES	COUNCIL VENUES (excluding VAT)				
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Hackney Town Hall				
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour Hackney Town Hall Assembly Hall (Mon - Fri)	376.00	352.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour Hackney Town Hall Assembly Hall (Sat, Sun & BH)	470.00	440.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour Hackney Town Hall Assembly Room (one third of space) (Mon - Fri)	247.00	231.00	6.9%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Set-up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate Hackney Town Hall Assembly Hall (Mon-Fri)	106.00	99.00	7.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Set-up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate Hackney Town Hall Assembly Hall (Sat, Sun & BH)	141.00	132.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Set-up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate per hour Hackney Town Hall Assembly Room (one third of space) (Mon - Fri)	106.00	99.00	7.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Community & Charity Rate per hour Hackney Town Hall Assembly Hall (Mon - Thu)	229.00	214.50	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Community & Charity Rate per hour Hackney Town Hall Assembly Hall (one third of space) (Mon - Thu)	153.00	143.00	7.0%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Set-up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate Hackney Town Hall Assembly Hall (Mon-Thu)	106.00	99.00	7.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour Hackney town Hall South Courtyard (Mon-Fri)	317.00	297.00	6.7%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour Hackney town Hall South Courtyard (Sat, Sun & BH)	446.00	418.00	6.7%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Set-up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate Hackney Town Hall Courtyards (Mon-Fri)	106.00	99.00	7.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Set-up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate Hackney Town Hall Courtyard (Sat, Sun & BH)	141.00	132.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Community & Charity Rate per hour Hackney Town Hall South Courtyard (Mon - Thu 9am-5pm)	194.00	181.50	6.9%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Set-up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate Hackney Town Hall South Courtyard (Mon-Thu 9am-5pm)	106.00	99.00	7.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour HTH Council Chamber (Mon-Fri)	294.00	275.00	6.9%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour HTH Council Chamber (Sat, Sun & BH)	352.00	330.00	6.7%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Ceremony Rate per 50mins in HTH Committee Rooms	411.00	385.00	6.8%	CPI

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour HTH Civic Suite / Committee Rooms (Mon-Fri)	153.00	143.00	7.0%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour HTH Civic Suite / Committee Rooms (Sat, Sun & BH)	235.00	220.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Hackney Town Hall	Ceremony Rate per 50mins in HTH Committee Rooms	411.00	385.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Stoke Newington Town Hall				
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour Stoke Newington Council Chamber (Mon-Thurs)	117.00	110.00	6.4%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour Stoke Newington Council Chamber (Fri-Sun & BH)	235.00	220.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Ceremony Rate per 50mins in SNTH Council Chamber	328.00	306.90	6.9%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Community & Charity Rate per hour Stoke Newington Council Chamber (Mon-Thurs)	59.00	55.00	7.3%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour Stoke Newington Assembly Hall (Mon - Fri)	247.00	231.00	6.9%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Commercial Rate per hour Stoke Newington Assembly Hall (Sat, Sun & BH)	329.00	308.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Set Up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate per hour Stoke Newington Assembly Hall (Mon - Fri)	106.00	99.00	7.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Set Up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate per hour Stoke Newington Assembly Hall (Sat, Sun & BH)	141.00	132.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Community & Charity Rate per hour Stoke Newington Assembly Hall (Mon - Thurs)	159.00	148.50	7.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Stoke Newington Town Hall	Set Up per hour (Max 3 hours) Community & Charity Rate per hour Stoke Newington Assembly Hall (Mon - Thu)	106.00	99.00	7.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Clissold House				
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Commercial Rate per hour Clissold House Drawing Room (Mon - Thur)	153.00	143.00	7.0%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Commercial Rate per hour Clissold House Drawing Room (Fri - Sun)	194.00	181.50	6.9%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Commercial Rate per hour Clissold House Dining Room (Mon - Thur)	153.00	143.00	7.0%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Commercial Rate per hour Clissold House Dining Room (Fri - Sun)	194.00	181.50	6.9%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Commercial Rate per hour Clissold House Church Room (Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm)	70.00	66.00	6.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Commercial Rate per hour Clissold House Church Room (Mon - Fri 5pm - 12am & Sat & Sun 9am - 12am)	94.00	88.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Commercial Rate per hour Clissold House New River Room (Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm)	70.00	66.00	6.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Commercial Rate per hour Clissold House New River Room (Mon - Fri 5pm - 12am & Sat & Sun 9am - 12am)	94.00	88.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Charity, Internal & local business Rate per hour Clissold House Drawing Room (Mon - Fri 08.30 - 16.30)	94.00	88.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Charity, Internal & local business Rate per hour Clissold House Dining Room (Mon - Fri 08.30 - 16.30)	94.00	88.00	6.8%	CPI

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Charity, Internal & local business Rate per hour Clissold House New River Room (Mon - Fri 08.30 - 16.30)	47.00	44.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Charity, Internal & local business Rate per hour Clissold House Church View Room (Mon - Fri 08.30 - 16.30)	47.00	44.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Community Groups Rate per hour Clissold House Drawing Room (Mon - Fri 08.30 - 16.30)	47.00	44.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Community Groups Rate per hour Clissold House Dining Room (Mon - Fri 08.30 - 16.30)	47.00	44.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Community Groups Rate per hour Clissold House New River & Church View Room (Mon - Fri 08.30 - 16.30)	35.00	33.00	6.1%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Ceremony Drawing Room (Mon - Sun)	376.00	352.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Ceremony Dining Room (Mon - Sun)	376.00	352.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Ceremony New River Room (Mon - Sun)	247.00	231.00	6.9%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Clissold House	Ceremony Church View Room (Mon - Sun)	247.00	231.00	6.9%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Extras	Extras				
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Extras	Temporary Event Notice Application	94.00	88.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Extras	Commission on staff and equipment	0.10	10%	0.0%	Not increasing as contracted with businesses at 10%
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Extras	Commission for Food and Beverage	0.10	10%	0.0%	Not increasing as contracted with businesses at 10%
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Extras	Admin Fee	59.00	55.00	7.3%	CPI
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Extras	Damage Deposit Town Halls Assembly Halls	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.0%	No need for increase, refundable deposit
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Extras	Damage Deposit Clissold House	500.00	500.00	0.0%	No need for increase, refundable deposit
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Extras	Catering List Buy Out	534.00	500.00	6.8%	CPI
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING				
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Process simple application - per form (1-5 people)	80.00	75.00	6.7%	NEW We used to charge £85+VAT for anything up to 10 cast and crew. Most of those shoots will now be pushed into the new Small band with the absolutely smallest fitting into this new extra small band
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Process simple application - per form (5-15 people)	125.00	100.00	25.0%	Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Process simple application - per form (16-25 people)	200.00	150.00	33.3%	Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Process simple application - per form (26-50 people)	300.00	200.00	50.0%	Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Process simple application - per form (51+ people)	400.00	300.00	33.3%	Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Process simple application - per form (student/charity)	30.00	30.00	0.0%	Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Drone Fee	250.00	175.00	42.9%	NEW To be charged on top of other admin fees where drone permissions are required alongside standard permissions
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Late notice (Per application)	150.00	100.00	50.0%	NEW To be charged when less than 24 hours notice is given for applications
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Location fee (1-5 people) per hour	125.00	100.00	25.0%	New smallest category for location fees to align with new extra small (1-5) admin fee
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Location fee (6-15 people) per hour	150.00	125.00	20.0%	Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Location fee (16-25 people) per hour	250.00	175.00	42.9%	Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Location fee (26-50 people) per hour	350.00	250.00	40.0%	Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Location fee (51+ people) per hour	POA	350		Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Location fee (student/charity)	POA	POA		Students generally charged no location fee, however we keep it POA to cover very large student shoots

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Temporary structure licence (Covers standard equipment on public highways e.g. dolly & track, lights on stands, EZ ups etc.) half day	300.00	250.00	20.0%	Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Temporary structure licence (Covers standard equipment on public highways e.g. dolly & track, lights on stands, EZ ups etc.) full day	600.00	500.00	20.0%	Benchmarked against other London film offices
CEx	FILM COMMISSIONING	FILM COMMISSIONING	Stop / go traffic management (Charged per traffic management plan) full day	600.00	500.00	20.0%	Fees and charges were last reviewed in 2020 and are not increased to support recovery of the industry especially smaller production companies
CEx	LOVE HACKNEY	LOVE HACKNEY	LOVE HACKNEY				
CEx	LOVE HACKNEY	LOVE HACKNEY	1/4 Page advertising space	600.00	600.00	0.0%	No Increase as costs were increased by 10% in 2023/24 and any further increase would not be commercially valuable to sell.
CEx	LOVE HACKNEY	LOVE HACKNEY	1/2 Page advertising space	900.00	900.00	0.0%	No Increase as costs were increased by 10% in 2023/24 and any further increase would not be commercially valuable to sell.
CEx	LOVE HACKNEY	LOVE HACKNEY	Full Page advertising space	1,550.00	1,550.00	0.0%	No Increase as costs were increased by 10% in 2023/24 and any further increase would not be commercially valuable to sell.
CEx	LOVE HACKNEY	LOVE HACKNEY	Back page	1,850.00	1,850.00	0.0%	No Increase as costs were increased by 10% in 2023/24 and any further increase would not be commercially valuable to sell.
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House					
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Commercial Rate per hour The Sky Room (Mon - Thur)	147.00	137.50	6.9%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Commercial Rate additional per hour The Sky Room (Sat, Sun & BH)	264.00	247.50	6.7%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Set-up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate The Sky Room (Mon-Fri)	106.00	99.00	7.1%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Commercial Rate per hour The Orchard Room (Mon - Thur)	176.00	165.00	6.7%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Commercial Rate additional per hour The Orchard Room (Sat, Sun & BH)	294.00	275.00	6.9%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Set-up per hour (Max 3 hours) Commercial Rate The Orchard Room (Mon-Fri)	141.00	132.00	6.8%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Charity, Internal & local business Rate per hour The Sky room (Mon - Fri)	94.00	88.00	6.8%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Charity, Internal & local business Rate per hour The Orchard room (Mon - Fri)	117.00	110.00	6.4%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Community Groups Rate per hour The Orchard Room (Mon - Fri - 08.00 - 17:00)	59.00	55.00	7.3%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 22
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Community Groups Rate per hour The Orchard Room (Mon - Fri - 17:00 - 20:00)	88.00	82.50	6.7%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Community Groups Rate per hour The Sky Room (Mon - Fri - 08.00 - 17:00)	59.00	55.00	7.3%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Community Groups Rate per hour The Sky Room (Mon - Fri - 17:00 - 20:00)	88.00	82.50	6.7%	Increasing in line with CPI for September 23
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	The Glass House	Ceremony Rate per 50mins in Sky Room (Mon - Sun)	500.00	500.00	0.0%	Not increasing as an area of the business we need to increase to make income targets and price is already at premium for the offer.
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Abney Chapel					
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Abney Chapel	Commercial Rate per hour The Chapel (Mon - Thur)	107.00	100.00	7.0%	New venue
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Abney Chapel	Community & Charity per hour The Chapel (Mon-Thurs) 8am-4pm	69.00	65.00	6.2%	New venue

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Abney Chapel	Community & Charity per hour The Chapel (Mon-Thurs) past 4pm	107.00	100.00	7.0%	New venue
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Abney Chapel	Ceremony Rate per 50mins in the chapel (Mon - Sun)	416.00	390.00	6.7%	New venue
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Abney Chapel	Commercial Rate per hour The Chapel (Fri - Sun)	267.00	250.00	6.8%	New venue
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Abney Chapel	Commercial Rate set up (max 3) per hour The Chapel (Fri - Sun)	141.00	132.00	6.8%	New venue
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Tomlinson Centre				
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Okoruwa Hall (142m) full day - Mon-Fri	1,050.00	933.00	12.5%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Okoruwa Hall (142m) half day - Mon-Fri	650.00	573.00	13.4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Okoruwa Hall (142m) Evenings - Mon-Fri	780.00	688.00	13.4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Okoruwa Hall (142m) full day Mon - Fri	788.00	700.00	12.6%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Okoruwa Hall (142m) half day - Mon-Fri	488.00	430.00	13.5%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Okoruwa Hall (142m) Evenings - Mon-Fri	586.00	516.00	13.6%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Okoruwa Hall (142m) full day Mon - Fri	585.00	500.00	17.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Okoruwa Hall (142m) half day - Mon-Fri	395.00	350.00	12.9%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Okoruwa Hall (142m) Evenings - Mon-Fri	525.00	420.00	25.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bandura 1 full day - Mon-Fri	429.00	390.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bandura 1 half day - Mon-Fri	292.00	265.00	10.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bandura 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	350.00	318.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bandura 1 full day Mon - Fri	322.00	293.00	9.9%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bandura 1 half day - Mon-Fri	219.00	199.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Bandura 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	263.00	239.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bandura 1 full day Mon - Fri	285.00	250.00	14.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bandura 1 half day - Mon-Fri	195.00	175.00	11.4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bandura 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	259.00	210.00	23.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bandura 2 full day - Mon-Fri	583.00	530.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bandura 2 half day - Mon-Fri	391.00	355.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bandura 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	469.00	426.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bandura 2 full day Mon - Fri	437.00	398.00	9.8%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bandura 2 half day Mon - Fri	293.00	266.00	10.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Bandura 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	352.00	319.00	10.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bandura 2 full day Mon - Fri	285.00	250.00	14.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bandura 2 half day Mon - Fri	195.00	175.00	11.4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bandura 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	259.00	210.00	23.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bandura 1 & 2 full day Mon - Fri	900.00	820.00	9.8%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bandura 1&2 half day Mon - Fri	594.00	540.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bandura 1 & 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	713.00	648.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bandura 1 & 2 full day Mon - Fri	675.00	615.00	9.8%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bandura 1 & 2 half day Mon - Fri	446.00	405.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Bandura 1 & 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	535.00	486.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bandura 1 & 2 full day Mon - Fri	505.00	450.00	12.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bandura 1 & 2 half day Mon - Fri	305.00	270.00	13.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bandura 1 & 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	406.00	324.00	25.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Maslow 1 full day Mon - Fri	515.00	460.00	12.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Maslow 1 half day Mon - Fri	347.00	315.00	10.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Maslow 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	416.00	378.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Maslow 1 full day Mon - Fri	386.00	345.00	11.9%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Maslow 1 half day Mon - Fri	260.00	236.00	10.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Maslow 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	312.00	283.00	10.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Maslow 1 full day Mon - Fri	285.00	250.00	14.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Maslow 1 half day Mon - Fri	195.00	175.00	11.4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Maslow 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	259.00	210.00	23.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Maslow 2 full day Mon - Fri	515.00	460.00	12.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Maslow 2 half day - Mon-Fri	347.00	315.00	10.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Maslow 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	416.00	378.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Maslow 2 full day Mon - Fri	386.00	345.00	11.9%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Maslow 2 half day - Mon-Fri	260.00	236.00	10.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Maslow 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	312.00	283.00	10.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Maslow 2 full day Mon - Fri	285.00	250.00	14.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Maslow 2 half day - Mon-Fri	195.00	175.00	11.4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Maslow 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	259.00	210.00	23.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Maslow 1 & 2 full day - Mon-Fri	900.00	820.00	9.8%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Maslow 1&2 half day - Mon-Fri	594.00	540.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Maslow 1 & 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	713.00	648.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Maslow 1 & 2 full day Mon - Fri	675.00	615.00	9.8%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Maslow 1 & 2 half day - Mon-Fri	446.00	405.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Maslow 1 & 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	535.00	486.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Maslow 1 & 2 full day Mon - Fri	505.00	450.00	12.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Maslow 1 & 2 half day - Mon-Fri	305.00	270.00	13.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Maslow 1 & 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	406.00	324.00	25.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bloom 1 full day - Mon-Fri	583.00	530.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bloom 1 half day - Mon-Fri	391.00	355.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bloom 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	469.00	426.00	10.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bloom 1 full day Mon - Fri	437.00	398.00	9.8%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bloom 1 half day - Mon-Fri	293.00	266.00	10.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bloom 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	352.00	319.00	10.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bloom 1 full day Mon - Fri	285.00	250.00	14.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bloom 1 half day - Mon-Fri	195.00	175.00	11.4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bloom 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	259.00	210.00	23 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bloom 2 full day - Mon-Fri	429.00	390.00	10 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bloom 2 half day - Mon-Fri	292.00	265.00	10 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bloom 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	350.00	318.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bloom 2 full day Mon - Fri	322.00	293.00	9 . 9%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bloom 2 half day - Mon-Fri	219.00	199.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Bloom 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	263.00	239.00	10 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bloom 2 full day Mon - Fri	285.00	250.00	14 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bloom 2 half day - Mon-Fri	195.00	175.00	11 . 4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bloom 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	259.00	210.00	23 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bloom 1 &2 full day - Mon-Fri	900.00	820.00	9 . 8%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bloom 1&2 half day - Mon-Fri	594.00	540.00	10 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Bloom 1 &2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	713.00	648.00	10 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bloom 1 &2 full day Mon - Fri	675.00	615.00	9 . 8%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Bloom 1 &2 half day - Mon-Fri	446.00	405.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Bloom 1 &2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	535.00	486.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bloom 1 &2 full day Mon - Fri	505.00	450.00	12 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bloom 1 & 2half day - Mon-Fri	305.00	270.00	13 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bloom 1 &2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	406.00	324.00	25 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Plaget 1 full day - Mon-Fri	579.00	525.00	10 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Plaget 1 half day - Mon-Fri	391.00	355.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Plaget1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	469.00	426.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Plaget 1 full day Mon - Fri	434.00	394.00	10 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Plaget1 half day - Mon-Fri	293.00	266.00	10 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Plaget 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	352.00	319.00	10 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Plaget 1 full day Mon - Fri	285.00	250.00	14 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Plaget 1 half day - Mon-Fri	195.00	175.00	11 . 4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Bloom Plaget 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	259.00	210.00	23 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Plaget 2 full day - Mon-Fri	579.00	525.00	10 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Plaget 2 half day - Mon-Fri	391.00	355.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Plaget 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	469.00	426.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Plaget 2 full day Mon - Fri	434.00	394.00	10 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Plaget 2 half day - Mon-Fri	293.00	266.00	10 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Plaget 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	352.00	319.00	10 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Plaget 2 full day Mon - Fri	285.00	250.00	14 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Plaget 2 half day - Mon-Fri	195.00	175.00	11 . 4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Plaget 2 Evenings - Mon-Fri	259.00	210.00	23 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Plaget Suite full day - Mon-Fri	980.00	890.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Plaget Suite half day - Mon-Fri	622.00	565.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Plaget Suite Evenings - Mon-Fri	746.00	678.00	10 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Plaget Suite full day Mon - Fri	735.00	668.00	10 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Plaget Suite half day - Mon-Fri	466.00	424.00	9 . 9%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Plaget Suite Evenings - Mon-Fri	559.00	509.00	9 . 8%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Plaget Suite full day Mon - Fri	505.00	450.00	12 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Plaget Suite half day - Mon-Fri	305.00	270.00	13 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Plaget Suite Evenings - Mon-Fri	406.00	324.00	25 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Vygotsky 1 (full day - Mon-Fri	579.00	525.00	10 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Vygotsky 1 half day - Mon-Fri	391.00	355.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Vygotsky 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	469.00	426.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Vygotsky 1 ull day Mon - Fri	434.00	394.00	10 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Vygotsky 1 half day - Mon-Fri	293.00	266.00	10 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Vygotsky 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	352.00	319.00	10 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Vygotsky 1 full day Mon - Fri	285.00	250.00	14 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Vygotsky 1 half day - Mon-Fri	195.00	175.00	11 . 4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Vygotsky 1 Evenings - Mon-Fri	259.00	210.00	23 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Vygotsky 2 (IT Suite) (full day - Mon-Fri	579.00	525.00	10 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Vygotsky 2 (IT Suite) half day - Mon-Fri	391.00	355.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Vygotsky 2 (IT Suite) Evenings - Mon-Fri	469.00	426.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Vygotsky 2 (IT Suite) full day Mon - Fri	434.00	394.00	10 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Vygotsky 2 (IT Suite) half day - Mon-Fri	293.00	266.00	10 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Vygotsky 2 (IT Suite) Evenings - Mon-Fri	352.00	319.00	10 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Vygotsky 2 (IT Suite) full day Mon - Fri	285.00	250.00	14 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Vygotsky 2 (IT Suite) half day - Mon-Fri	195.00	175.00	11 . 4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Vygotsky 2 (IT Suite) Evenings - Mon-Fri	259.00	210.00	23 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Vygotsky Suite (full day - Mon-Fri	980.00	890.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Vygotsky Suite half day - Mon-Fri	622.00	565.00	10 . 1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Vygotsky Suite Evenings - Mon-Fri	746.00	678.00	10 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Vygotsky Suite full day Mon - Fri	735.00	668.00	10 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Vygotsky Suite half day - Mon-Fri	466.00	424.00	9 . 9%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Vygotsky Suite Evenings - Mon-Fri	559.00	509.00	9 . 8%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Vygotsky Suite full day Mon - Fri	505.00	450.00	12 . 2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Vygotsky Suite half day - Mon-Fri	305.00	270.00	13 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Vygotsky Suite Evenings - Mon-Fri	406.00	324.00	25 . 3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Mtg Rm1 & Obs (full day - Mon-Fri	286.00	260.00	10 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Mtg Rm1 & Obs half day - Mon-Fri	198.00	180.00	10 . 0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Mtg Rm1 & Obs Evenings - Mon-Fri	238.00	216.00	10.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Mtg Rm1 & Obsfull day Mon - Fri	215.00	195.00	10.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Mtg Rm1 & Obs half day - Mon-Fri	149.00	135.00	10.4%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Mtg Rm1 & Obs Evenings - Mon-Fri	179.00	162.00	10.5%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Mtg Rm1 & Obs full day Mon - Fri	200.00	175.00	14.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Mtg Rm1 & Obs half day - Mon-Fri	140.00	120.00	16.7%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Mtg Rm1 & Obs Evenings - Mon-Fri	186.00	144.00	29.2%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Mtg Rm2 & Rm3 (full day - Mon-Fri	165.00	150.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Mtg Rm1 Rm2 & Rm3 half day - Mon-Fri	110.00	100.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Commercial Rate Mtg Rm2 & Rm3 Evenings - Mon-Fri	132.00	120.00	10.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Mtg Rm2 & Rm3 full day Mon - Fri	124.00	113.00	9.7%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% discount Mtg Rm2 & Rm3 half day - Mon-Fri	83.00	75.00	10.7%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Partner & Charity rate @ 25% Mtg Rm2 & Rm3 Evenings - Mon-Fri	100.00	90.00	11.1%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Mtg Rm2 & Rm3 full day Mon - Fri	105.00	90.00	16.7%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Mtg Rm2 & Rm3 half day - Mon-Fri	75.00	68.00	10.3%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CEx	COUNCIL VENUES	Tomlinson Centre	Internal Rate Mtg Rm2 & Rm3 Evenings - Mon-Fri	100.00	82.00	22.0%	Increase follows benchmarking exercise to better align to commercial pricing
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	BUILDING CONTROL	BUILDING CONTROL				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Section 30 and 80 of London Building Acts (As Amended) Act 1939	Section 30 and 80 of London Building Acts (As Amended) Act 1939				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Minor Works	Minor Works				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Minor Works	Section 80 - Notification of Demolition of Buildings	345.00	323.18	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Charges for Dangerous Structures Notice	Charges for Dangerous Structures Notice				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Charges for Dangerous Structures Notice	Survey and Report	199.00	186.45	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Charges for Dangerous Structures Notice	Administration Charge	262.00	245.30	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Solicitors Enquiries	Solicitors Enquiries				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Solicitors Enquiries	Solicitors Enquiries (plus 20% VAT - resulting fee £66.00)	73.00	68.37	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	1 Dwelling - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	808.00	757.24	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	1 Dwelling - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	970.00	908.38	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	2 Dwellings - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	1,077.00	1,008.88	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	2 Dwelling - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	1,292.00	1,210.66	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	3 Dwellings - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	1,346.00	1,260.77	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	3 Dwelling - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	1,615.00	1,512.94	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	4 Dwellings - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	1,615.00	1,512.66	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	4Dwelling - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	1,938.00	1,815.20	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	5 Dwellings - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	1,884.00	1,764.56	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table A - New Build Dwelling Charges - Building Act 1984 Regulations	5 Dwelling - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	2,260.00	2,117.48	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Full Plan Applications				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Extensions less than 10m2 - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	673.00	630.39	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Extensions less than 10m2 - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	808.00	756.47	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Extensions 10m2 to 40m2 - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	706.00	661.71	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Extensions 10m2 to 40m2 - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	848.00	794.05	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Extensions 40m2 to 60m2 - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	773.00	724.36	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Extensions 40m2 to 60m2 - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	928.00	869.23	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Loft Conversion to 40m2 - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	606.00	567.74	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Loft Conversion 40m2 - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	727.00	681.29	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Loft Conversion 40m2 to 60m2 - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	706.00	661.71	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Loft Conversion 40m2 to 60m2 - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	848.00	794.05	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Basements for Habitable Use - less than 60m2 - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	1,077.00	1,008.87	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Basements for Habitable Use - less than 60m2 - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	1,292.00	1,210.66	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Erection or Extension of Garage, Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	471.00	441.14	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Erection or Extension of Garage.Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	565.00	529.38	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Electrical Wiring - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	352.00	329.75	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Domestic Electrical Wiring - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	418.00	391.55	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Through Lounge - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	269.00	251.89	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Through Lounge - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	323.00	302.27	6.9%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	1 Chimney Breast Removal full height of part thereof - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	202.00	189.24	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	1 Chimney Breast Removal full height or part there of - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	242.00	227.10	6.6%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	2 Chimney Breast Removal full height of part there of - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	269.00	251.89	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	2 Chimney Breast Removal full height or part there of - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	323.00	302.28	6.9%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Underpinning of terrace property up to 60m2 - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	673.00	630.39	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Underpinning of terrace property up to 60m2 - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	808.00	756.47	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Underpinning of terrace property per 6m length or part there of - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	169.00	157.92	7.0%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Underpinning of terrace property per 6m length or part there of - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	202.00	189.51	6.6%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Window Replacement.Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	103.00	96.58	6.6%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Window Replacement.Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	124.00	115.89	7.0%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Re-Roofing -Terrace or semi detached Property - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	269.00	251.90	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table B - Domestic Alterations and Extensions, including Lofts - Building Act 1984 Regulations	Re-Roofing -Terrace or semi detached Property - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	323.00	302.28	6.9%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Small Flat Conversions (Excluding Major structural works, extensions, lofts or new basement fees)	Small Flat Conversions (Excluding Major structural works, extensions,lofts or new basement fees)				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Multiple Table works reduction (wiring fee excluded) = Total of individual fees 0.9	Multiple Table works reduction (wiring fee excluded) = Total of individual fees 0.9				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Multiple Table works reduction (wiring fee excluded) = Total of individual fees 0.9	2 Flats	706.00	661.72	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Multiple Table works reduction (wiring fee excluded) = Total of individual fees 0.9	3 Flats	875.00	819.63	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Multiple Table works reduction (wiring fee excluded) = Total of individual fees 0.9	4 Flats	1,044.00	977.56	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	<£1k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	202.00	189.24	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	<£1k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	242.00	227.09	6.6%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£1k to <£5k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	337.00	315.84	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£1k to <£5k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	405.00	379.00	6.9%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£5k to <£10k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	404.00	378.50	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£5k to <£10k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	485.00	454.20	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£10k to <£15k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	471.00	441.13	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£10k to <£15k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	565.00	529.38	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£15k to <£20k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	534.00	499.87	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£15k to <£20k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	640.00	599.84	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£20k to <£25k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	606.00	567.74	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£20k to <£25k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	727.00	681.28	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£25k to <£30k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	673.00	630.39	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£25k to <£30k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	808.00	756.48	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£30k to <£35k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	740.00	693.03	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£30k to <£35k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	888.00	831.64	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£35k to <£40k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	808.00	756.99	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£35k to <£40k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	970.00	908.38	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£40k to <£45k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	875.00	819.63	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£40k to <£45k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	1,050.00	983.57	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£45k to <£50k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	942.00	882.27	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£45k to <£50k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	1,130.00	1,058.74	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£50k to <£55k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	1,010.00	946.23	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£50k to <£55k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	1,212.00	1,135.48	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£55k to £60k -Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT)	1,077.00	1,008.88	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Table -C- for work not described in Table A or B	£55k to £60k - Regularisation application (VAT not applicable)	1,292.00	1,210.65	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Over £60k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT),BN and Reg Apps	Over £60k - Full Plan or Building Notice application (plus 20% VAT),BN and Reg Apps				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Section 30 - (VAT not applicable) - Building Control	Section 30 - (VAT not applicable) - Building Control				

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Section 30 - (VAT not applicable) - Building Control	Simple special or temporary structure	135.00	126.50	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Putting up temporary building or structure to be used for a special event as follows:	Putting up temporary building or structure to be used for a special event as follows:				
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Putting up temporary building or structure to be used for a special event as follows:	Grandstand	431.00	403.98	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Putting up temporary building or structure to be used for a special event as follows:	Stage	431.00	403.98	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Putting up temporary building or structure to be used for a special event as follows:	Framed tower for loudspeakers, lighting, video screens etc.	£151.00 (+50% for each additional tower of a similar type)	£141.25 (+50% for each additional tower of a similar type)	6.9%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Putting up temporary building or structure to be used for a special event as follows:	Event gantries	153.00	142.95	7.0%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Putting up temporary building or structure to be used for a special event as follows:	Event Marquees or tents up to 3 of same design	153.00	142.95	7.0%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Putting up temporary building or structure to be used for a special event as follows:	Event fencing	153.00	142.95	7.0%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUILDING CONTROL	Putting up temporary building or structure to be used for a special event as follows:	Other structures of a complex nature	431.00	403.98	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Street Naming and Numbering	Street Naming and Numbering				
CHE	PLANNING	Street Naming and Numbering	Naming new or changing name of existing road	493.00	462.00	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Street Naming and Numbering	Naming new or changing name of existing building	123.00	115.50	6.5%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Street Naming and Numbering	Small Flat Conversions (Excluding Major structural works, extensions,lofts or new basement fees)	62.00	58.30	6.3%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Street Naming and Numbering	Naming building and numbering, up to 20, flats or commercial units that are served by a communal entrance	309.00	289.30	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Street Naming and Numbering	Naming building and numbering, between 21 to 50, flats or commercial units that are served by a communal entrance	493.00	462.00	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Street Naming and Numbering	Naming building and numbering, between 51 and 100, flats or commercial units that are served by a communal entrance	740.00	693.00	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Performance Agreements (PPA)	Planning Performance Agreements (PPA)				
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Performance Agreements (PPA)	Category 1: Complex minor application where PPA is appropriate	6,360.00	5,958.31	6.7%	new type of PPA
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Performance Agreements (PPA)	Category 2: up to 30 residential units and/or up to 5,000 sqm of non-residential floorspace	14,678.00	13,750.00	6.7%	new type of PPA
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Performance Agreements (PPA)	Category 3: up to 150 residential units and/or up to 10,000 sqm of non-residential floorspace	29,356.00	27,500.00	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Performance Agreements (PPA)	Category 4: 150 to 400 Units and/or up to 50,000sqm of non residential floorspace	53,820.00	50,416.65	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Performance Agreements (PPA)	Category 5: Post Planning PPA – for discharge of conditions, s106/CIL matters, non material and minor material amendments	£833 per specialist condition £416.50 per non-specialist condition £833 per NMA. £TBC bespoke fee for MMA depending on complexity	£750 per specialist condition £375 per non-specialist condition £750 per NMA. £TBC bespoke fee for MMA depending on complexity	11.1%	Increasing costs/ re-evaluation of inputs
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Performance Agreements (PPA)	Category 6: Bespoke PPA – for large scale, complex developments requiring significant resources	On a case by case basis	On a case by case basis		
CHE	PLANNING	Optional Bespoke Services for Planning Performance Agreements	Optional Bespoke Services for Planning Performance Agreements				
CHE	PLANNING	Optional Bespoke Services for Planning Performance Agreements	Major Site Review	Fees included in PPA	normally only offered as part of PPA		
CHE	PLANNING	Optional Bespoke Services for Planning Performance Agreements	Review by Pre-App Sub Committee	Fees included in PPA	normally only offered as part of PPA		
CHE	PLANNING	Optional Bespoke Services for Planning Performance Agreements	Focussed Workshop Meeting	Fees included in PPA	normally only offered as part of PPA		
CHE	PLANNING	Design Officer Services	Design Officer Services				
CHE	PLANNING	Design Officer Services	Design Review Panel	6,050.00	£5500, but normally only offered as part of PPA	10.0%	Increasing costs/ re-evaluation of inputs
CHE	PLANNING	Design Officer Services	Bespoke Design Officer Developer Meeting	Fees included in PPA	normally only offered as part of PPA		
CHE	PLANNING	Policy Document Requests	Policy Document Requests				
CHE	PLANNING	Policy Document Requests	Supplementary Planning Documents and Area Action Plans	29.00	27.50	5.5%	Increasing costs/ re-evaluation of inputs
CHE	PLANNING	Policy Document Requests	Development Plan Documents	47.00	44.00	6.8%	Increasing costs/ re-evaluation of inputs
CHE	PLANNING	Land Charges	Land Charges				
CHE	PLANNING	Land Charges	Local Land Charges Register (LLC1)	50.00	47.30	5.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Land Charges	Additional search on Extra Parcel (LLC1)	7.00	6.60	6.1%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	PLANNING	PLANNING				
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Applications	Planning Applications				
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Applications	Request for compliance check for planning conditions (only): Householders Consents: £25 per condition or set of conditions requested for one site	35.00	33.00	6.1%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Applications	Other consents: £85 per condition or set of conditions requested for one site.	120.00	112.20	7.0%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	Planning Pre-applications				
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	Householders Written Request	147.00	137.50	6.9%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	Householders Written Request (listed building)	222.00	208.34	6.6%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	Telecommunications (single mast and associated equipment - over this ad hoc)	489.00	458.34	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	Smallscale commercial development (up to 100sqm incl.change of use, shopfronts, plant/machinery, adverts) - written advice within 15 working days (30 days if relating to a listed building)	294.00	275.00	6.9%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	1 new residential unit written advice within 15 working days (30 days if relating to a listed building)	534.00	500.00	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	2-4 residential units and/or 100-499 sqm non-residential floor space	890.00	833.34	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	5-9 new residential units and/or 500 - 999 sqm non-residential floorspace written advice within 30 working days	1,957.00	1,833.33	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	Early stage discussion and written response within 30 days on key planning issues based on preliminary planning brief	2,936.00	2,750.00	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	10-24 residential units and /or 1000-1999sqm non-residential floor space	4,003.00	3,750.00	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	25-49 residential units and/or 2000-4999 sqm non-residential floor space	6,850.00	6,416.66	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	50-149 residential units and/or 5000 - 14999 sqm non-residential floor space	8,896.00	8,333.33	6.8%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Pre-applications	150 + residential units, and/or over 15000 sqm non-residential floor space, and/or buildings 30m or taller	14,678.00	13,750.00	6.7%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Research provision of information	Planning Research provision of information				
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Research provision of information	Planning history database search £20 per site (includes description of works and decision outcome only)	23.00	22.00	4.5%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Research provision of information	General planning research/ enquiries (including enquiries relating to planning enforcement notices) £50 per hour.	59.00	55.00	7.3%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Research provision of information	Request for compliance check for planning conditions one or more (only):	112.00	104.50	7.2%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Research provision of information	Other consents: £85 per condition or set of conditions requested for one site.	100.00	93.50	7.0%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Validation Checking Services	Validation Checking Services				
CHE	PLANNING	Validation Checking Services	Householder Applications				
CHE	PLANNING	Validation Checking Services	Alterations/extensions to a single dwelling,including work within boundary	258.00	226.60	13.9%	CPI increase to reflect cost increase rounded to nearest £
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Full Applications				Regulations were introduced to permit local authorities to increase planning applications fees for the first time in a decade. The charges below reflect statutory increase . The instrument also adds an annual inflation indexation of fees from 1 April 2025.
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Alterations/extensions to two or more dwellings including works within boundaries	509.00	407.00	25.1%	Statutory Increase

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	New dwellings up to and including 50 per dwelling	£578 for each dwelling house (up to 10 dwelling houses); £624 for each dwelling house (between 10 and 50 dwellinghouses)	462.00	25.1%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	New dwellings for more than 50	£30,860 + £186 for each additional dwelling house in excess of 50 Maximum fee of £405,000	£22859 + £138 per dwelling	35.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Alterations of buildings - not dwellings	293.00	234.00	25.2%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Erection of building - not dwellings, agricultural, glasshouses, plant or machinery - no increase of floor space of no more than 40m2	293.00	234.00	25.2%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Erection of building - not dwellings, agricultural, glasshouses, plant or machinery - increase of floor space of more than 40m2 but no more than 1000m2	£578 for each 75 square metres (or part thereof).	462.00	25.1%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Erection of building - not dwellings, agricultural, glasshouses, plant or machinery - increase of floor space of more than 1,000m2 but no more than 3,750 m2	£624 for each 75m2 or part thereof	£462 for each 75m2 or part thereof	35%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Erection of building - not dwellings, agricultural, glasshouses, plant or machinery - increase of floor space of more than 3,750m2	£30,680 + £186 for each 75 square metres (or part thereof) subject to a maximum in total of £405,000	£22,859 + £138 for each additional 75m2 in excess of 3750m2 to a maximum of £300,000	35.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	The erection of building on land used for agriculture for agricultural purposes - not more than 465m2	120.00	96.00	25.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	The erection of building on land used for agriculture for agricultural purposes - more than 465m2 but not more than 4,215m2	578.00	£462 for first 540m2 and £462 for 75m2 (or part thereof) in excess of 540m2	25.1%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	The erection of building on land used for agriculture for agricultural purposes - more than 4,215m2	£30,860 + £186 for each additional square metres (or part thereof) in excess of 4,215 square metres Maximum fee of £405,000	£462 for first 540m2 and £462 for 75m2 (or part thereof) in excess of 540m2		Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Erection of greenhouse - on land for purpose of agriculture - not more than 465m2	120.00	96.00	25.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Erection of greenhouse - on land for purpose of agriculture - more than 465m2	3,225.00	2,580.00	25.0%	Statutory Increase

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Applications other than Building Works				Regulations were introduced to permit local authorities to increase planning applications fees for the first time in a decade. The charges below reflect statutory increase. The instrument also adds an annual inflation indexation of fees from 1 April 2025.
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Application car park, service roads or other access - for existing use	293.00	234.00	25.2%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Waste - use of land for disposal of refuse, waste materials or deposits of material remaining after extraction or storage of material - not more than 15 hectares	£316 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£234 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	35.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Waste - use of land for disposal of refuse, waste materials or deposits of material remaining after extraction or storage of material -more than 15 hectares	£47,161 + £186 for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 15 hectares Maximum fee of £105,300	£34,934 + £138 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 15 hectares to a maximum of £78,000	35.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Operations connected with exploratory drilling for oil or natural gas - not more than 7.5 hectares	£686 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£462 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	48.5%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Operations connected with exploratory drilling for oil or natural gas - more than 7.5 hectares	£51,395 + £204 for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 7.5 hectares. Maximum fee of £405,000	£38,070 + £151 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 7.5 hectares to a maximum of £300,000	35.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Other operations - winning and working of minerals not more than 15 hectares	£316 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	£234 for each 0.1 hectare	35.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Other operations - winning and working of minerals more than 15 hectares	£47,161 + additional £186 for each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares Maximum fee of £105,300	£34,934 + £138 for each 0.1 hectare in excess of 15 hectares to a maximum of £78,000	35.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Full Applications	Other operations - not coming within any of the above categories	£293 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) Maximum fee of £2,535	£234 for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) up to a maximum of £300,000	25.2%	Statutory Increase
CHE	PLANNING	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is raised on developers to fund capital infrastructure projects in the Borough. Up to 5% may be utilised to fund management costs.	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is raised on developers to fund capital infrastructure projects in the Borough. Up to 5% may be utilised to fund management costs.				
CHE	PLANNING	CILfor Residential Development	CILfor Residential Development				
CHE	PLANNING	CILfor Residential Development	Zone A	190.00	190.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
CHE	PLANNING	CILfor Residential Development	Zone B	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
CHE	PLANNING	CILfor Residential Development	Zone C	55.00	55.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
CHE	PLANNING	CILfor Residential Development	Zone D	0.00	0.00		

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PLANNING	CIL Commercial and Other Developments	CIL Commercial and Other Developments				
CHE	PLANNING	CIL Commercial and Other Developments	Offices - City Fringe	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
CHE	PLANNING	CIL Commercial and Other Developments	Offices - Rest of the Borough	0.00	0.00		
CHE	PLANNING	CIL Commercial and Other Developments	Retail - City Fringe	65.00	65.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
CHE	PLANNING	CIL Commercial and Other Developments	Retail - Rest of the Borough	0.00	0.00		Statutory Fee
CHE	PLANNING	CIL Commercial and Other Developments	Hotel - City Fringe	80.00	80.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
CHE	PLANNING	CIL Commercial and Other Developments	Hotel - Rest of the Borough	55.00	55.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
CHE	PLANNING	CIL Commercial and Other Developments	Large Format Retail	150.00	150.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
CHE	PLANNING	CIL Commercial and Other Developments	Student Housing	373.00	373.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee
CHE	PLANNING	CIL Commercial and Other Developments	All Other Uses	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
CHE	PLANNING	Planning	General Enquiries				
CHE	PLANNING	Duty Planner	Detailed general enquiries - (Per response)	53.00	50.00	6.0%	CPI increase
CHE	PLANNING	Enforcement	Express Compliance Check				
CHE	PLANNING	Enforcement	Express Compliance Check	757.00	709.50	6.7%	CPI increase
CHE	PLANNING	Planning Registration					
CHE	PLANNING	planning application withdrawal administration fee	planning applications that are withdrawn prior to validation	53.00	50.00	6.0%	CPI increase
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Litter and Waste				
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Litter (depositing)	300.00	150.00	100.0%	Increase within statutory guidelines to drive behavioural change and deliver saving proposal approved at January Cabinet
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Litter (depositing) FPN early payment	200.00	95.00	110.5%	Increase within statutory guidelines to drive behavioural change and deliver saving proposal approved at January Cabinet
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Litter (max penalty in court)	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Breach of a Street Litter Control Notice or a Litter Cleaning Notice	110.00	110.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Breach of a Street Litter Control Notice or a Litter Cleaning Notice (FPN early payment)	60.00	60.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Breach of a Street Litter Control Notice or a Litter Cleaning Notice (Max.Penalty in court)	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Household Waste duty of care	400.00	400.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Household Waste duty of care (FPN early payment)	250.00	250.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Commercial dumping of waste	300.00	300.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Commercial dumping of waste (FPN Early Payment)	180.00	180.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Commercial dumping of waste (Max. Penalty in court)	unlimited	unlimited		Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Residential dumping of waste	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Residential dumping of waste (FPN early payment)	60.00	60.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Residential dumping of waste (max.Penalty in court)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.0%	Statutory

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Failure to produce waste Transfer Notes	300.00	300.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Failure to produce waste Transfer Notes (FPN early payment)	180.00	180.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Failure to produce waste Transfer Notes (max.Penalty in court)	5000 - unlimited	5000 - unlimited		Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Failure to provide Waste Transfer Notes	300.00	300.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Failure to provide Waste Transfer Notes (FPN early payment)	180.00	180.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Failure to provide Waste Transfer Notes (max.Penalty on court)	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Breach of a waste receptacle notice	110.00	110.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Breach of a waste receptacle notice(FPN early rEPA Environmental Protection yment)	60.00	60.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Litter and Waste	Breach of a waste receptacle notice(max.penalty in court)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control				
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Graffiti	250.00	80.00	212.5%	Increase within statutory guidelines to drive behavioural change and deliver saving proposal approved at January Cabinet
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Graffiti (FPN early repayment)	150.00	50.00	200.0%	Increase within statutory guidelines to drive behavioural change and deliver saving proposal approved at January Cabinet
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Graffiti (max.penalty in court)	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Fly posting	250.00	50.00	400.0%	Increase within statutory guidelines to drive behavioural change and deliver saving proposal approved at January Cabinet
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Fly posting (FPN early payment)	150.00	50.00	200.0%	Increase within statutory guidelines to drive behavioural change and deliver saving proposal approved at January Cabinet
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Fly posting (max.penalty in court)	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Unauthorised distribution of literature on designated land	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Unauthorised distribution of literature on designated land (FPN early payment)	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Unauthorised distribution of literature on designated land(Max.penalty in court)	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Breach of dog control conditions	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Breach of dog control conditions(FPN early payment)	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Breach of dog control conditions(max.penalty in court)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Failure to remove dog fouling(max.penalty in court)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Environmental Enforcement Officer Case Time Costs (per Hour)	65.00	65.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Highways and street trading	Highways and street trading				
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Highways and street trading	Obstruction of highways ('A' Boards, unlicensed skips, scaffolding, unlicensed hoarding, temporary cross over etc)	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Highways and street trading	Contraventions of street trading conditions or failure to produce street trading license on demand	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Highways and street trading	unlicensed street trading	150.00	150.00	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 2014	Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 2014				

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 2014	Community Protection Notice FPN	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statute
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 2014	Community Protection Notice FPN (early Payment minimum)	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 2014	Community Protection Notice FPN (max.penalty in court for individuals)	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.0%	Statute
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 2014	Community Protection Notice FPN (max.penalty in court for businesses)	Unlimited	Unlimited		
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 2014	Public Space Protection Order	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statute
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 2014	Public Space Protection Order (early FPN Payment minimum)	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Disorder Act 2014	Public Space Protection Order (max.penalty in court)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.0%	Statute
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Environmental Protection Act 1990 section 33 - Environmental	Environmental Protection Act 1990 section 33 - Environmental				
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Environmental Protection Act 1990 section 33 - Environmental	Fly Tipping FPN	600.00	400.00	50.0%	Increase within statutory guidelines to drive behavioural change and deliver saving proposal approved at January Cabinet
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Environmental Protection Act 1990 section 33 - Environmental	Fly Tipping FPN (Discounted FPN if paid within 10 days)	400.00	250.00	60.0%	Increase within statutory guidelines to drive behavioural change and deliver saving proposal approved at January Cabinet
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Environmental Protection Act 1990 section 33 - Environmental	Maximum Fine	£50,000 or unlimited fine and/or imprisonment	£50,000 or unlimited fine and/or imprisonment	0.0%	Statutory
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control				
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Failure to remove dog fouling	80.00	80.00	0.0%	Statute
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	Graffiti, Fly tipping, dog control	Failure to remove dog fouling (PCN Early Payment)	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	FOOD HYGIENE	FOOD HYGIENE				
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	BEREAVEMENT - FUNERAL COSTS	BEREAVEMENT - FUNERAL COSTS				
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	BEREAVEMENT - FUNERAL COSTS	Complex cases including referral to Treasury Solicitor	634.90	595.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	BEREAVEMENT - FUNERAL COSTS	Non complex cases	253.95	238.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	BEREAVEMENT - FUNERAL COSTS	Searches for Homerton Hospital	253.95	238.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	ENFORCEMENT	BEREAVEMENT - FUNERAL COSTS	Property Protection Care Act 2014 (hourly rate)	55.50	52.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	CIVIL PROTECTION	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)				
CHE	CIVIL PROTECTION	Public Space Surveillance	CCTV - Review of evidence	35.20	33.00	6.7%	This has been reviewed and is in line with the cost to the service.
CHE	CIVIL PROTECTION	Public Space Surveillance	CCTV - Production of evidence	135.00	126.50	6.7%	This has been reviewed and is in line with the cost to the service.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Environmental Services - Pollution				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Application fee for a permit for an installation: Part B activity or solvent emission activity				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	I. Any Part 1 reduced fee activity (other than those in items II and vehicle refinishers)	155.00	155.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	II. Petrol vapour recovery PVR stage I (at pump) & PVR stage II (at the tanks and pumps) carried on at the same service station	257.00	257.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	III. Vehicle refinishers(b), any Part 2 reduced fee activity, any Part 3 reduced fee activity or any Part 4 reduced fee activity	362.00	362.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	IV. Any other Part B activity or any other solvent emission activity (previously Standard Permit)	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Reduced fee activity: Additional fee for a late application and where a regulation 33 direction is issued	71.00	71.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Where a direction has been issued under regulation 33 whereby a local authority is to exercise Environment Agency functions in respect of a single permit covering - (a) Part B and waste operations; or (b) solvent emission activities and waste operations; or (c) Part B activities, solvent emission activities and waste operations, then for any activity described in item III or IV above an additional fee.	1,188.00	1,188.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Part B activity or any other solvent emission activity (other than reduced fee activity): Additional fee for a late application and where a regulation 33 direction is issued (previously Standard Permit)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Fee payable for each permit to operate mobile plant	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permits 1 and 2 - Low Risk	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permits 3 to 7 (inclusive) - Low Risk	985.00	985.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permit 8 and over - Low Risk	498.00	498.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Mobile plant: Additional fee for a late application and where a regulation 33 direction is issued	71.00	71.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Amount of subsistence charge payable. Charges for each authorised Part B activity or solvent emission activity	1,188.00	1,188.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Low Risk				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	I. Any Part 1 reduced fee activity (other than those in items II and vehicle refinishers)	79.00	79.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	II. Petrol vapour recovery PVR stage I (at pump) & PVR stage II (at the tanks and pumps) carried on at the same service station	113.00	113.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	III. Vehicle refinishers(b), any Part 2 reduced fee activity, any Part 3 reduced fee activity or any Part 4 reduced fee activity	228.00	228.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	IV. Any other Part B activity or any other solvent emission activity (previously Standard Permit)	772.00	772.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Medium Risk				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	I. Any Part 1 reduced fee activity (other than those in items II and vehicle refinishers)	158.00	158.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	II. Petrol vapour recovery PVR stage I (at pump) & PVR stage II (at the tanks and pumps) carried on at the same service station	226.00	226.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	III. Vehicle refinishers(b), any Part 2 reduced fee activity, any Part 3 reduced fee activity or any Part 4 reduced fee activity	365.00	365.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	IV. Any other Part B activity or any other solvent emission activity (previously Standard Permit)	1,161.00	1,161.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	High Risk				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	I. Any Part 1 reduced fee activity (other than those in items II and vehicle refinishers)	237.00	237.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	II. Petrol vapour recovery PVR stage I (at pump) & PVR stage II (at the tanks and pumps) carried on at the same service station	341.00	341.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	III. Vehicle refinishers(b), any Part 2 reduced fee activity, any Part 3 reduced fee activity or any Part 4 reduced fee activity	548.00	548.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	IV. Any other Part B activity or any other solvent emission activity (previously Standard Permit)	1,747.00	1,747.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Additional fee: where the operator carries on an operation that falls within the reporting obligations of the EC Regulation, a fee is applied to cover authorities cost of collection, quality assurance checking and processing the reported data on pollutants and off-site waste transfers	104.00	104.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Where a direction has been issued under regulation 33 whereby a local authority is to exercise Environment Agency functions in respect of a single permit covering - (a) Part B and waste operations; or (b) solvent emission activities and waste operations; (c) Part B activities, solvent emission activities and waste operations, then an additional subsistence charge is payable as follows (a) (b) (c)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	(a) Low risk activity	104.00	104.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	(b) Medium risk activity	156.00	156.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	c) High risk activity	207.00	207.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	New operator at low risk reduced fee activity	78.00	78.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Mobile Plant: subsistence charge in respect of each permit	626.00	626.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permits 1 and 2 - Low Risk	626.00	626.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permits 3 to 7 (inclusive) - Low Risk	385.00	385.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permit 8 and over - Low Risk	198.00	198.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permits 1 and 2 - Medium Risk	1,034.00	1,034.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permits 3 to 7 (inclusive) - Medium Risk	617.00	617.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permit 8 and over - Medium Risk	314.00	314.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permits 1 and 2 - High Risk	1,551.00	1,551.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permits 3 to 7 (inclusive) - High Risk	924.00	924.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Permit 8 and over - High Risk	473.00	473.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Addition fee to pay subsistence fee in instalments; four equal instalments 1 April, 1st July, 1st October and 1st January of that financial year.	38.00	38.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Reduced subsistence charge: The operator of an installation or mobile plant may apply to the local authority to pay the subsistence charge at a reduced rate (-40%) if qualifying criteria met; if this criteria ceases to apply within 12 months from the date of acceptance notice, the operator shall repay the local authority for the period it has benefitted (TBC), and pay an administrative fee.				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Late payment of subsistence charge; if not received within 8 weeks beginning with the date of the issue of the invoice, also applicable if paying in instalments.	52.00	52.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Environmental Permitting Regulations Transfer				Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Transfer of a permit authorising a reduced fee activity - partial transfer of permit (no fee payable for total transfer)	47.00	47.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Transfer of permit authorising any other Part B activity or any other solvent emission activity (total transfer) (previously Standard Permit)	497.00	497.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Transfer of permit authorising any other Part B activity or any other solvent emission activity (partial transfer) (previously Standard Permit)	169.00	169.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Mobile plant: joint application for the transfer of a Part B mobile plant permit from the operator to another person ("the plant user") for the fixed period of the hire of that mobile plant, the plant user shall pay to the authority that issued the permit to the operator the following fees (a) (b) (c)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	(a) First application between the plant user and operator (covers both the transfer to the plant user and the subsequent transfer of the permit to the operator after the expiry of the fixed period	53.00	53.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	(b) Following the first inspection i) where the same plant user and operator jointly apply for a second time to the same authority for a further fixed period transfer, no fee, unless evidence is available to the local authority of previous non-compliance; or ii) where the joint application is made either by different parties, to another authority, or where there is evidence of previous non-compliance	53.00	53.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Environmental Permitting Regulations Substantial change under regulation 20				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Part B activity or any other solvent emission activity (other than reduced fee activity)	1,050.00	1,050.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	A substantial change in operation of an installation which in itself meets any of the thresholds specified for a Part B activity or any other solvent activity	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Reduced fee activities	102.00	102.00	0.0%	Fees and Charges set by DEFRA, 2024/25 not released yet. Not been increased for previous 5 years.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Animal Warden Service				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Return fee for dogs	70.40	66.00	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	boarding fee per night (stray dogs)	29.30	27.50	6.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Boarding fee per night (all other dogs)	42.70	40.00	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Out of hours stray dogs collection fee (untagged/un micro chipped)	133.90	125.48	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Out of hours stray dogs collection fee (tagged/micro chipped)	133.90	125.48	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Pet Shops Annual Fee	269.50	252.56	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Additional fees per category	37.90	35.55	6.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Additional fee for Dangerous Wild Animal	196.20	183.89	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Single Dog day rate	17.60	16.50	6.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Single Dog overnight rate (24 Hrs)	23.50	22.00	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	2 Dogs from the same household sharing Day Rate	29.35	27.50	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	2 Dogs from the same household sharing Over night Rate	41.10	38.50	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Insect Control (Prices exclude VAT)	Insect Control (Prices exclude VAT)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Insect Control (Prices exclude VAT)	Cockroaches	130.50	122.3	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Insect Control (Prices exclude VAT)	Pharaoh's Ants	130.50	122.30	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Insect Control (Prices exclude VAT)	Bedbugs	145.05	135.93	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Insect Control (Prices exclude VAT)	Fleas	145.05	135.93	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Insect Control (Prices exclude VAT)	Wasps	79.80	74.78	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Insect Control (Prices exclude VAT)	Other Insects	145.05	135.93	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Rodent Control (prices exclude VAT)	Mice	145.05	135.93	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Rodent Control (prices exclude VAT)	Rats (domestic -owner occupiers only)	145.05	135.93	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Rodent Control (prices exclude VAT)	Rats (commercial)	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Block Treatment -per dwelling (prices exclude VAT)	Block Treatment -per dwelling (prices exclude VAT)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Block Treatment -per dwelling (prices exclude VAT)	Cockroaches	102.05	95.63	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Block Treatment -per dwelling (prices exclude VAT)	Pharaoh's Ants	102.05	95.63	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Block Treatment -per dwelling (prices exclude VAT)	Cockroaches & ants	204.10	191.27	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Block Treatment -per dwelling (prices exclude VAT)	Mice	95.70	89.66	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Block Treatment -per dwelling (prices exclude VAT)	Survey	19.15	17.93	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Block Treatment -per dwelling (prices exclude VAT)	Rats on Estates (per treatment)	145.05	135.93	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Clinical Waste (prices exclude VAT)	Clinical Waste (prices exclude VAT)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Clinical Waste (prices exclude VAT)	Clinical Waste per bag	11.35	10.62	6.9%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Clinical Waste (prices exclude VAT)	Household Clinical Waste over 3,000 bags/boxes, (including hospitals,special schools, hospices)	4.85	4.55	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Clinical Waste (prices exclude VAT)	Household Clinical Waste under 3,000 bags/boxes, (including hospitals,special schools, hospices)	7.20	6.77	6.4%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Pests on Commercial (including commercial landlords, food Premises etc)	Treating Pests on Commercial (including commercial landlords, food Premises etc)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Pests on Commercial (including commercial landlords, food Premises etc)	Rodent control (rats and mice)	By Quotation	By Quotation		

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Pests on Commercial (including commercial landlords, food Premises etc)	Additional Treatment of infested Rooms	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Pests on Commercial (including commercial landlords, food Premises etc)	Insects (pharaohs ants, wasps, cockroaches and other insects)	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Pests on Commercial (including commercial landlords, food Premises etc)	Commercial Properties (Pests)	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Pests on Commercial (including commercial landlords, food Premises etc)	Housing Associations (pests)	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Pests on Commercial (including commercial landlords, food Premises etc)	Pigeon proofing	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pigeon Control (in both occupied and empty premises)	Pigeon Control (in both occupied and empty premises)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pigeon Control (in both occupied and empty premises)	Category A - Remove Pigeon & Net	395.40	370.58	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pigeon Control (in both occupied and empty premises)	Category B - remove pigeon fouling from room	153.05	143.45	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pigeon Control (in both occupied and empty premises)	Category C- remove pigeon fouling from balcony	153.05	143.45	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pigeon Control (in both occupied and empty premises)	Category D - Remove Pigeon & Install Spike	395.40	370.58	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	PEST CONTROL	Treating Occupied Premises for infestation (Prices exclude VAT)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Occupied Premises for infestation (Prices exclude VAT)	Category A - treat for infestation	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Occupied Premises for infestation (Prices exclude VAT)	Category B - treat premises + rubbish removal	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Occupied Premises for infestation (Prices exclude VAT)	Category C - clinical + Hazardous waste removal	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Void Premises for infestation (Prices exclude VAT)	Treating Void Premises for infestation (Prices exclude VAT)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Void Premises for infestation (Prices exclude VAT)	Category A - treat for infestation	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Void Premises for infestation (Prices exclude VAT)	Category B - treat premises + rubbish removal	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Treating Void Premises for infestation (Prices exclude VAT)	Category C - clinical + Hazardous waste removal	By Quotation	By Quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	PEST CONTROL	Environmental - Hygiene Services				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Environmental - Hygiene Services	Cancellation fee private within 24 hours of the appointment or cancelled when the Pest Control Officer attends the address.	25.50	23.91	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Environmental - Hygiene Services	Cancellation fee Hackney Housing within 24 hours of the appointment or cancelled or when the Pest Control Officer attends the address.	25.50	23.91	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Environmental - Hygiene Services	Survey and advice charge for pest control at a private property.	38.30	35.86	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Environmental - Hygiene Services	Rodent (Rats/Squirrels and Mice) Cancelled within 24 hours of the appointment will be treated as the second or third visit.	25.50	23.91	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Environmental - Hygiene Services	Private or commercial pest control treatments may require a deposit when booking with the council Support Admin Team.	25.50	23.91	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Housing Services SLA (Dogs)	Housing Services SLA (Dogs)				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Collection per dog	76.55	71.73	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Kennelling per each 24 hours (per dog)	31.90	29.89	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Vaccination	31.90	29.89	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	re-homing	70.15	65.75	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Neutering	By quotation	By quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Any medical/ vets bills	By quotation	By quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Put to sleep (all services)	By quotation	By quotation		
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service	Squirrels	145.05	135.93	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Environmental Permitting Regulations Substantial change under regulation 20				
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Risk Assessment (for Each Assessment)	500.00	700.00	-28.6%	Statutory Fee - Risk Assessments are only required periodically but are now due.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Sampling of Private Water Supply (each visit)	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee - Sampling is only required periodically but is now due. Requirement will depend on whether any supplies identified in the borough.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Investigation of Private Water Supply (each investigation)	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee - Chargeable only if an investigation is required.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Granting of an authorisation (each authorisation)	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee - Chargeable only if an authorisation needs to be issued.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Analysis of each sample from a water supply taken under Regulation 10 or 11	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statutory Fee - Sampling is only required periodically but is now due. Requirement will depend on whether any supplies identified in the borough.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Analysis of each sample for a parameter under Group A	100.00	110.00	-9.1%	Statutory Fee - Sampling is only required periodically but is now due. Requirement will depend on whether any supplies identified in the borough.
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Analysis of each sample for a parameter under Group B	500.00	600.00	-16.7%	Statutory Fee - Sampling is only required periodically but is now due. Requirement will depend on whether any supplies identified in the borough.
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	Land Charges Other (Con 29)				
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	CON29R	143.00	124.30	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	Other charges				cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	CON29O	13.16	11.44	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	CON29O Q.22	24.67	21.45	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	Duplicate of search result	16.45	14.30	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	CON 29	57.56	50.05	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	CON29R	11.01	9.57	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	CON29R extra parcels	3.85	3.35	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	CON29O	13.16	11.44	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	CON29O extra parcels	4.68	4.07	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	CON29O Q.22	24.67	21.45	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LAND CHARGES	Land Charges Other (Con 29)	CON29O Q.22	8.73	7.59	15.0%	cost recovery/Inflation - final VAT inclusive amount will be rounded up to nearest £1
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	SPORTS & LEISURE	The following charges are proposed by Greenwich Leisure Limited following consultation with Hackney Council (Annual increase based on contract arrangement - June CPI)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Classes and Activities				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Senior 55+ Session - Adult Non Member	4.45	4.25	4.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Senior 55+ Session - Pay & Play Concession	2.20	2.10	4.8%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Senior 55+ Session - Better H&F Prepaid	3.00	2.85	5.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Creche 2 Hr Session - Adult Non Member	3.85	3.55	8.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Creche 2 Hr Session - Adult Pay & Play	2.90	2.70	7.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Creche 2 Hr Session- Adult Pay & Play Concs	2.00	1.85	8.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	GE Class 60 mins - Adult Non Member	10.00	9.50	5.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	GE Class 60 mins - Adult Pay & Play	7.05	6.70	5.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	GE Class 60 mins - Adult Pay & Play Concs	4.85	4.65	4.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	GE Class 60 mins - Junior Non Member	5.85	5.60	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	GE Class 60 mins - Junior Pay & Play	4.25	4.05	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	GE Class 60 mins - Junior Pay & Play Concs	2.85	2.70	5.6%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Gym - Adult Pay & Play	8.75	8.35	4.8%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Gym - Adult Pay & Play Concs	5.85	5.55	5.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Gym - Junior Pay & Play	4.25	4.05	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Gym - Junior Pay & Play Concs	2.90	2.75	5.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Gym Induction - Adult Pay & Play	16.15	15.40	4.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Gym Induction - Adult Pay & Play Concs	11.00	10.50	4.8%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Gym Induction - Junior Pay & Play	9.50	9.05	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Gym Induction - Junior Pay & Play Concs	6.70	6.40	4.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Judo - Junior Non Member	4.80	4.45	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Judo - Junior Pay & Play/Prepaid	3.25	3.00	8.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Judo- Junior Pay & Play/Prepaid Concs	2.25	2.10	7.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Holiday scheme - full day member/concessions	13.55	12.55	8.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Holiday scheme - full day non-member	18.35	17.00	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Holiday scheme West Res - Junior day rate	42.75	39.60	8.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Holiday scheme West Res - Junior concessions day rate	20.65	19.15	7.8%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Short Mat Bowls - Adult Non Member	3.55	3.40	4.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Short Mat Bowls - Adult Pay & Play	3.05	2.90	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities		2.30	2.20	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Spectator Entry Fee - Adult Non Member - All Centres	1.65	1.55	6.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Spectator Entry Fee - Junior Non Member - All Centres	0.90	0.85	5.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming 45min lesson - Adult Member - All Pools	8.15	7.55	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming 45min lesson - Adult Concs - All Pools	5.60	5.20	7.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming 45min lesson - Junior Member - All Pools	6.55	6.05	8.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming 45min lesson - Junior Concs - All Pools	3.25	3.00	8.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming 30min lesson - Junior Member - All Pools	5.65	5.25	7.6%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming 30min lesson - Junior Concs - All Pools	2.90	2.70	7.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	School Swimming Lessons per 30mins lesson for 30 pupils	59.65	55.30	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming General - Adult Non Member - All Pools	6.00	5.70	5.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming General - Adult Pay & Play - All Pools	4.25	4.05	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming General - Adult Pay & Play Concs - All Pools	1.60	1.50	6.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming General - Junior Pay & Play - All Pools	2.45	2.35	4.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming General - Junior Pay & Play Concs - All Pools	1.55	1.50	3.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming General - Junior Non Member - All Pools	3.50	3.35	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	School Swimming Lessons per 30mins lesson for 30 pupils (Britannia)	47.20	43.75	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Classes and Activities	Swimming 1-2-1 lessons - All pools	26.65	24.70	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Parties	Parties				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Parties	Kayak Party	233.85	216.75	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Parties	Aqua Activity Party	222.15	205.90	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Parties	Multi Activity Party	272.60	252.65	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES		Birthday party (themed- Clissold only)	311.40	288.60	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES		Coaching Party	279.05	258.60	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Parties	West Reservoir Events package - Option 1	4,319.50	4,003.25	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Parties	West Reservoir Events package - Option 2	6,343.80	5,879.35	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Open Water Swimming				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Fitness Swim - Member	5.85	5.60	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Fitness Swim - Non Member	12.25	11.65	5.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Adult 1-2-1 Private Session (60mins)	45.75	42.40	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Junior 1-2-1 Private Session (60mins)	25.40	23.55	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Adult 1-2-1 Adult Private Session (30mins)	22.85	21.20	7.8%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Junior 1-2-1 Private Session (30mins)	12.60	11.70	7.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Open Water Hire 60mins (20-40 people)	172.25	159.65	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Open Water Hire 60mins (40-60 people)	222.20	205.95	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Open Water Hire 60mins (60-80 people)	320.00	296.55	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir - Open Water Swimming	Open Water Hire 60mins (80-100 people)	482.35	447.05	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Table Tennis					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Table Tennis	Table Tennis Coached - Adults All	4.45	4.15	7.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Table Tennis	Table Tennis Coached - Junior All	2.10	1.95	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Table Tennis	Table Tennis - Adult Non Member	8.15	7.75	5.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Table Tennis	Table Tennis - Adult Pay & Play & Prepaid	5.55	5.30	4.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Table Tennis	Table Tennis - Adult Pay & Play Concs	4.00	3.80	5.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Table Tennis	Table Tennis - Junior Non Member	4.75	4.50	5.6%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Table Tennis	Table Tennis - Junior Pay & Play & Prepaid	3.30	3.15	4.8%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Table Tennis	Table Tennis - Junior Pay & Play Concs	2.20	2.10	4.8%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Toddlers World	Toddlers World				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Toddlers World	Toddlers World - Junior Non Member	6.70	6.40	4.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Toddlers World	Toddlers World - Junior Pay & Play	4.65	4.45	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Toddlers World	Toddlers World - Junior Pay & Play Concs	2.95	2.80	5.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES		Women Only Sessions - Adult Non Member				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES		Women Only Sessions - Adult Pay & Play	6.75	6.45	4.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES		Women Only Sessions - Adult Pay & Play Concs	4.75	4.55	4.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir	Watersports Course (BCU/RYA)	203.10	188.25	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir	Watersports Course (BCU/RYA) Concession	96.30	89.25	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir	UKCC Level 1	358.15	331.95	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir	UKCC Level 2	399.60	370.35	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir	Learn to Sail	399.60	370.35	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir	Introduction to Watersports	109.25	101.25	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir	Birthday Parties	184.10	170.60	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Memberships				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Youth Club Membership - Junior Non Member/Member - WR	180.00	119.75	50.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Youth Club Membership - Junior Concs - WR	126.95	119.75	6.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Joining Fees - Adult Pay & Play	46.90	44.25	6.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Joining Fees - Adult & Junior Pay & Play Concs	1.60	1.50	6.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Memberships				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Better H&F Junior Membership Prepaid Monthly Single	18.40	17.35	6.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Better H&F Junior Membership Prepaid Monthly Single Concs	14.85	14.00	6.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Better H&F Membership Prepaid Monthly Single - All Centres	59.10	55.75	6.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Better H&F Membership Prepaid Monthly Single Concs	28.75	27.10	6.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Better H&F Club Membership Prepaid single	29.55	27.90	5.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Better H&F Student Prepaid Monthly Single	42.25	39.85	6.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Better Swim Prepaid Monthly Single	39.15	36.95	6.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Better H&F UK Prepaid Monthly Single	69.85	65.90	6.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Full Sports Hall Hire - Adult (all membership types) - BLC/CLC	102.15	97.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Full Sports Hall Hire - Junior (all membership types) - BLC/CLC	61.85	58.90	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Full Sports Hall Hire - Adult (all membership types) - KHLC/QB	51.05	48.60	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Full Sports Hall Hire - Junior (all membership types) - KHLC/QB	34.15	32.50	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Half Sports Hall Hire - Adult (all membership types) - BLC/CLC/KHLC/QB	51.10	48.65	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Memberships	Half Sports Hall Hire - Junior (all membership types) - BLC/CLC/KHLC/QB	34.15	32.50	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Tennis - Peak	7.45	7.45	0.0%	No Increase for 2024/25
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Tennis - Juniors Off Peak (Monday to Friday - Before 6 p.m.)	3.65	3.65	0.0%	No Increase for 2024/25
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Tennis - Off Peak (Monday to Friday - Before 6 p.m.)	4.90	4.90	0.0%	No Increase for 2024/25
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Cricket - grass wicket per session evening & weekend Adult Peak	123.70	117.80	5.0%	Increase is set at 5% in line with Pitch Hire increases set by GLL
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Cricket - grass wicket evening & weekend Junior Peak	56.50	53.80	5.0%	Increase is set at 5% in line with Pitch Hire increases set by GLL
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Cricket - grass wicket per session weekday Adult Off Peak	101.20	96.40	5.0%	Increase is set at 5% in line with Pitch Hire increases set by GLL
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Cricket - grass wicket weekday - Junior Off Peak	40.95	39.00	5.0%	Increase is set at 5% in line with Pitch Hire increases set by GLL
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Cricket - NTP wicket per session weekend Adult Peak	56.50	53.80	5.0%	Increase is set at 5% in line with Pitch Hire increases set by GLL
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Cricket - NTP wicket weekend Junior Peak	25.60	24.40	4.9%	Increase is set at 5% in line with Pitch Hire increases set by GLL
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Cricket - NTP wicket per session weekday Adult Off Peak	40.50	38.55	5.1%	Increase is set at 5% in line with Pitch Hire increases set by GLL
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Cricket - NTP wicket weekday - Junior Off Peak	20.40	19.45	4.9%	Increase is set at 5% in line with Pitch Hire increases set by GLL
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football - GLL				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Show Pitch - Adult Peak - HMC	132.65	126.35	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Show Pitch - Adult Off Peak - HMC	107.45	102.35	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Show Pitch - Junior Peak - HMC	94.55	90.05	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Show Pitch - Junior Off Peak - HMC	75.90	72.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 9 v 9 Adult Peak	91.45	87.10	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 9 v 9 Adult Off Peak	73.45	69.95	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 9 v 9 Junior Peak	45.80	43.60	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 9 v 9 Junior Off Peak	36.75	35.00	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 9 v 9 Schools Peak	22.90	21.80	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 9 v 9 Schools Off Peak	18.45	17.55	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 7 v 7 Adult Peak	79.10	75.35	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 7 v 7 Adult Off Peak	61.20	58.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 7 v 7 Junior Peak	39.55	37.65	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 7 v 7 Junior Off Peak	30.60	29.15	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 7 v 7 Schools Peak	19.85	18.90	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 7 v 7 Schools Off Peak	15.45	14.70	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 5 v 5 Adult Peak	66.80	63.60	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 5 v 5 Adult Off Peak	48.85	46.50	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 5 v 5 Junior Peak	33.40	31.80	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 5 v 5 Junior Off Peak	24.35	23.20	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 5 v 5 Schools Peak	16.65	15.85	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass Football 5 v 5 Schools Off Peak	12.20	11.60	5.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass football (Monday - Friday) 11v11 Adult Off Peak	85.90	81.80	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Grass football (Monday - Friday) - School's Off Peak 11 v 11	21.70	20.65	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Football (Weekend) Adult Peak 11v11	109.60	104.35	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Football 11v11 Block Booking	86.40	82.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Football 11v11 League	74.90	71.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Football (Weekend) School's 11 v 11	25.90	24.70	4.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Junior Football (Monday-Friday) 11 v 11 Junior Off Peak	43.05	41.00	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Grass Football	Junior Football (Weekends) 11 v 11 Peak Juniors	51.90	49.40	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community/Community Use Agreement Partner Rate (Up to 50% reduction on adult and youth facility hire fees for Football, Cricket and Rugby if agreed by LBH)	Community/Community Use Agreement Partner Rate (Up to 50% reduction on adult and youth facility hire fees for Football, Cricket and Rugby if agreed by LBH)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Shoreditch Park and Clissold Park Charges (venues with no changing rooms)	Shoreditch Park and Clissold Park Charges (venues with no changing rooms)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Shoreditch Park and Clissold Park Charges (venues with no changing rooms)	Cricket pitch without changing room Adult Peak Evenings & Weekend	93.90	89.45	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Shoreditch Park and Clissold Park Charges (venues with no changing rooms)	Cricket pitch without changing room (weekday) Adult Off Peak	76.65	73.00	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Shoreditch Park and Clissold Park Charges (venues with no changing rooms)	Rugby no C/Rooms Adults Off Peak Weekdays	59.90	57.05	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Shoreditch Park and Clissold Park Charges (venues with no changing rooms)	Rugby No C/Room Adult Peak Weekends & Evenings	66.10	62.95	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Football Artificial Surfaces - Mabley Green and Haggerston	Football Artificial Surfaces - Mabley Green and Haggerston				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Football Artificial Surfaces - Mabley Green and Haggerston	3G Half pitch Adult Peak (evenings & weekends)	83.40	79.40	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Football Artificial Surfaces - Mabley Green and Haggerston	3G Full pitch Adult Peak (evenings & weekends)	164.30	156.45	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Football Artificial Surfaces - Mabley Green and Haggerston	3G Full Pitch Junior Off Peak (weekdays)	78.30	74.55	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Football Artificial Surfaces - Mabley Green and Haggerston	3G Full pitch - Adult Off Peak (weekdays)	107.50	102.40	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Football Artificial Surfaces - Mabley Green and Haggerston	3G Full pitch - Junior Peak (evenings & weekends)	88.30	84.10	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Football Artificial Surfaces - Mabley Green and Haggerston	3G Half pitch - Adult Off Peak (weekdays)	53.70	51.15	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Football Artificial Surfaces - Mabley Green and Haggerston	3G Half pitch - Junior Peak (evenings & weekends)	44.25	42.15	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Football Artificial Surfaces - Mabley Green and Haggerston	3G Half pitch - Junior Off Peak (weekdays)	39.10	37.25	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Tennis	Tennis	7.45	7.20	3.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community/Community Use Agreement Partner Rate (Up to 50% reduction on adult and youth facility hire fees for Football, Cricket and Rugby if agreed by LBH)	Community/Community Use Agreement Partner Rate (Up to 50% reduction on adult and youth facility hire fees for Football, Cricket and Rugby if agreed by LBH)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community/Community Use Agreement Partner Rate (Up to 50% reduction on adult and youth facility hire fees for Football, Cricket and Rugby if agreed by LBH)	MUGA - London Fields and Hackney Downs				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Use of floodlighting	Use of floodlighting	12.65	12.20	3.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Use of floodlighting	Use of floodlighting - Junior - Up to 6pm	7.45	7.10	4.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Use of floodlighting	MUGA - Haggerston				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Use of floodlighting	Football/Netball/Basketball - Peak (evenings & weekends)	50.65	48.25	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Use of floodlighting	Football/Netball/Basketball - Off Peak (weekdays)	45.75	43.60	4.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Use of floodlighting- Haggerston	Tennis	12.65	12.20	3.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hire of Pitches	Hire of Pitches				

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Rugby - grass pitches	Rugby - Adult Off Peak (weekdays)	86.40	82.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Rugby - grass pitches	Rugby Adult Peak (evenings & weekends)	104.50	99.50	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Rugby - grass pitches	Rugby - Junior Off Peak (weekdays)	43.05	41.00	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Rugby - grass pitches	Rugby - Junior Peak (evenings & weekends)	51.75	49.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Rugby - grass pitches	Softball	45.45	43.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Rugby - grass pitches	Baseball	45.45	43.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Rugby - grass pitches	Touch Rugby	45.45	43.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community/Community Use Agreement Partner Rate (Up to 50% reduction on adult and youth facility hire fees for Football, Cricket and Rugby if agreed by LBH)	Community/Community Use Agreement Partner Rate (Up to 50% reduction on adult and youth facility hire fees for Football, Cricket and Rugby if agreed by LBH)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Junior Sports Sessions	Junior Sports Sessions				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Junior Sports Sessions	Athletics - Junior	4.60	4.25	8.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Junior Sports Sessions	Athletics - Junior Concessions	3.20	2.95	8.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Junior Sports Sessions	Basketball - Junior	4.60	4.25	8.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Junior Sports Sessions	Basketball - Junior Concessions	3.20	2.95	8.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Junior Sports Sessions	Football - Junior	3.40	3.15	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Junior Sports Sessions	Football - Junior Concessions	2.40	2.20	9.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Junior Sports Sessions	Gymnastics - Junior	4.60	4.25	8.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gymnastics - Junior Concessions	Gymnastics - Junior Concessions	3.20	2.95	8.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Pool hire 50m	92.75	88.35	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Pool hire 25m (8 lanes)	91.95	87.56	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Pool hire 25m (6 lanes)	70.25	66.90	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Pool Lane hire 50m (double lane)	92.75	88.35	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Pool Lane hire 25m (single lane)	11.65	11.10	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Racquet Sports - Adult Non Member	11.45	10.90	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Racquet Sports - Adult Pay & Play/Prepaid	8.25	7.85	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Racquet Sports - Adult Concs	5.60	5.35	4.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Racquet Sports Junior Non Member	6.90	6.55	5.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Racquet Sports- Junior Pay & Play/Prepaid	4.90	4.65	5.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Racquet Sports- Junior Concs	3.25	3.10	4.8%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Racquet Hire - All Centres	3.00	2.85	5.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Studio Hire	48.85	45.80	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	School Education Session - 1 hour (Foundation Stage Only)	81.20	76.10	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	School Education Session - 2 hours	159.70	149.65	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	School Education Session - 4 hours	267.05	250.30	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Lost Key replacement	146.50	137.30	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Changing Room Key Deposit	13.35	12.50	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Abney park Cemetery interment casket or coffin	1,257.73	1,178.75	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Interment of Ashes	547.90	513.50	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Rodding without interment	187.70	175.90	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Memorial licences	71.95	67.45	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Sports and Leisure	Council Record searches	67.90	63.65	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Hackney Marshes Room Hire				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Note 1: Community organisations/Charities are entitled to 40% discount, in line with other Hackney venues				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Hackney Marshes: Meeting room 1 or 2 hourly rate - Peak - Weekday 5pm-10pm	76.85	73.20	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Hackney Marshes: Meeting room 1 or 2 hourly rate - Off Peak - Weekday 9am-5pm	61.80	58.85	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Hackney Marshes: Meeting room 1 or 2 hourly rate - Weekend	102.70	97.80	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Hackney Marshes: Meeting room 1 and 2 combined hourly rate - Peak - Weekday 5pm-10pm	132.25	125.95	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Hackney Marshes: Meeting room 1 and 2 combined hourly rate - Off Peak - Weekday 9am-5pm	105.15	100.15	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Meeting room 1 and 2 combined hourly rate - Weekend	163.80	156.00	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Hackney Marshes: Meeting room 3 - Peak - Weekday 5pm-10pm	38.35	36.50	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Hackney Marshes: Meeting room 3 - Off Peak - Weekday 9am - 5pm	30.70	29.25	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Hackney Marshes: Meeting room 3 - Weekend	40.85	38.90	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hackney Marshes Room Hire	Hackney Marshes: Bar area				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre Room Hire	Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre Room Hire				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre Room Hire	Gallery hire	24.40	23.25	4.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre Room Hire	Gallery with booked room hire	16.85	16.05	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre Room Hire	Meeting Room 1 hire	24.50	23.35	4.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre Room Hire	Meeting Room 2 hire	26.05	24.80	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre Room Hire	Meeting Room 1 & 2 hire	41.35	39.40	4.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre Room Hire	Flipchart / Paper / Pens hire	24.50	23.30	5.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Queensbridge Sports & Community Centre Room Hire	Pens / Paper per person	1.15	1.10	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Tower Room - Off Peak	183.85	175.10	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Tower Room - Peak (before 10pm)	183.85	175.10	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Tower Room - Peak (after 10pm)	229.90	218.95	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Dry classroom - Off Peak	61.45	58.50	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Dry classroom - Peak	68.85	65.55	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Lecture Room - Off Peak	61.45	58.50	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Lecture Room - Peak	68.85	65.55	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Wet Classroom hire - Off Peak	61.45	58.50	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Wet Classroom hire - Peak	68.85	65.55	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Meeting room hire - Peak	61.45	58.50	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Meeting room hire - Off Peak	53.50	50.95	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Seminar room - Off Peak	61.45	58.50	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Seminar room - Peak	68.85	65.55	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Flipchart / Pens / Paper hire	25.30	24.10	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Laptop hire	50.50	48.10	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	OHP hire	30.25	28.80	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	PA system & microphone hire	63.15	60.15	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Pens / Paper hire per person	1.15	1.10	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Photocopying / Emails	0.30	0.30	0.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	Projector hire	38.00	36.20	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	West Reservoir Meeting Room Hire	TV/ Video hire	52.80	50.30	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event, daily event fee				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	51 to 500	162.95	152.70	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	501 to 1000	325.75	305.30	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	1001 to 2000	651.50	610.60	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	2001 to 3000	977.20	915.85	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	3001 to 4000	1,303.00	1,221.20	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	4001 to 5000	1,628.90	1,526.60	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	5001 to 6000	1,954.60	1,831.85	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	6001 to 7000	2,280.40	2,137.20	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	7001 to 8000	2,606.05	2,442.40	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	8001 to 9000	2,931.90	2,747.80	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	10001 to 20000	6,515.20	6,106.10	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	Daily non-event day fee (set-up and break-down days)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	51 to 500	40.70	38.15	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	501 to 1000	81.40	76.30	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	1001 to 2000	162.95	152.70	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	2001 to 3000	244.35	229.00	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	3001 to 4000	325.75	305.30	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	4001 to 5000	407.15	381.60	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	5001 to 6000	488.65	457.95	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	6001 to 7000	570.20	534.40	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	7001 to 8000	651.50	610.60	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	8001 to 9000	733.00	686.95	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	10001 to 20000	1,628.90	1,526.60	6 . 7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Community - cultural festivals /celebrations / fetes – non ticketed event	*more than 20000 would require extensive discussions with LBH - fees would be agreed during approval				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	Daily event day fee				

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	51 to 500	162.90	152.65	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	501 to 1000	325.75	305.30	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	1001 to 2000	651.50	610.60	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	2001 to 3000	977.25	915.90	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	3001 to 4000	1,303.00	1,221.20	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	4001 to 5000	1,628.90	1,526.60	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	5001 to 6000	1,954.60	1,831.85	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	6001 to 7000	2,280.39	2,137.20	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	7001 to 8000	2,606.05	2,442.40	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	8001 to 9000	2,934.60	2,750.35	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	9001 to 10000	3,257.65	3,053.10	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	10001 to 20000	6,515.25	6,106.15	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	Daily non-event day fee (set-up and break-down days)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	51 to 500	40.70	38.15	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	501 to 1000	81.40	76.30	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	1001 to 2000	162.95	152.70	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	2001 to 3000	244.35	229.00	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	3001 to 4000	325.75	305.30	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	4001 to 5000	407.15	381.60	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	5001 to 6000	488.65	457.95	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	6001 to 7000	570.20	534.40	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	7001 to 8000	651.50	610.60	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	8001 to 9000	733.00	686.95	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	9001 to 10000	814.50	763.35	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Charity - walks / rides / fundraising stalls etc	10001 to 20000	1,628.90	1,526.60	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs

Fees & Charges 2024/25
Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Parks user groups. Over 250 (Administration fee)	Parks user groups. Over 250 (Administration fee)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Family gatherings - picnics / birthday parties etc	Family gatherings - picnics / birthday parties etc				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Less than 50	Less than 50				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	More than 50 - by negotiation	More than 50 - by negotiation	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Wedding receptions	Wedding receptions				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Wedding receptions	Less than 50	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Wedding receptions	50 to 100	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Wedding receptions	101 to 150	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Public art installations/performance - workshops / static displays / performance	Public art installations/performance - workshops / static displays / performance				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Public art installations/performance - workshops / static displays / performance	Daily event day fee	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Public art installations/performance - workshops / static displays / performance	1 day	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Public art installations/performance - workshops / static displays / performance	Up to 28 days (per day)	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Public art installations/performance - workshops / static displays / performance	More than 28 days - Projects to be discussed on individual basis with appropriate Managers Green Spaces and Culture	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Public art installations/performance - workshops / static displays / performance	Daily non-event day fee (set-up and break-down days)	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Public art installations/performance - workshops / static displays / performance	1 day	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Public art installations/performance - workshops / static displays / performance	up to 28 days (per day)	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Public art installations/performance - workshops / static displays / performance	More than 28 days - Projects to be discussed on individual basis with appropriate Managers Green Spaces and Culture	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	Funfairs				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	Daily event day fee				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	Small - up to 5 rides	560.40	525.20	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	Medium - 6 to 10 rides	825.55	773.70	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	Large - more than 10 rides	1,099.80	1,030.75	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	X large - more than 20 rides	1,372.10	1,285.95	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	Daily non-event day fee (set-up and break-down days)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	Small - up to 5 rides	273.00	255.85	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	Medium - 6 to 10 rides	339.50	318.20	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	Large - more than 10 rides	413.10	387.15	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Funfairs	X large - more than 20 rides	546.00	511.70	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	Circuses				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	Daily event day fee				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	Small - up to 500 seating capacity	977.30	915.95	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	Medium - 501 to 750 seating capacity	1,303.00	1,221.20	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	Large - 751 to 1000 seating capacity	1,628.90	1,526.60	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	X large - greater than 1000 seating capacity	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	Daily non-event day fee (set-up and break-down days)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	Small - up to 500 seating capacity	488.55	457.88	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	Medium - 501 to 750 seating capacity	651.50	610.60	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	Large - 751 to 1000 seating capacity	814.50	763.35	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Circuses	X large - greater than 1000 seating capacity	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Commercial for profit - Ticketed concerts / Entry fee festivals / Operating under LBH Premises Licence or their own	Commercial for profit - Ticketed concerts / Entry fee festivals / Operating under LBH Premises Licence or their own				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Commercial for profit - Ticketed concerts / Entry fee festivals / Operating under LBH Premises Licence or their own	Daily event day fee	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Commercial for profit - Ticketed concerts / Entry fee festivals / Operating under LBH Premises Licence or their own	Daily non-event day fee (set-up and break-down days)	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	*more than 20000 would require extensive discussions with LBH - fees would be agreed during approval process	*more than 20000 would require extensive discussions with LBH - fees would be agreed during approval process				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Daily event day fee				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Attendance/invitations up to 250 per day	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Attendance/invitations up to 500 per day	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Attendance/invitations up to 1000 per day	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Attendance/invitations greater than 1000 per day	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Daily non-event day fee (set-up and break-down days)	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Attendance/invitations up to 250 per day	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Attendance/invitations up to 500 per day	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Attendance/invitations up to 1000 per day	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Attendance/invitations greater than 1000 per day	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Hot Air Balloon launch	599.35	561.70	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Admin fee to process all charity, community, commercial and corporate event applications	84.65	79.35	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Helicopter landing	599.35	561.70	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Officer/Keeper/Gardener charge per hour	45.70	42.85	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Corporate - product launches / brand events / incentive events	Key deposit - use of a park gate master key will be required to pay a £100 refundable deposit	130.30	122.10	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Utility Charges	Power usage - event power is now available in a number of our parks and will be charged out at a daily usage rates based on scale of usage				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Power Usage	Small - small PA + other small power appliances	135.70	127.20	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Power Usage	Medium - Stage PA, lighting + multiple other power requirements	273.00	255.85	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Power Usage	Large - multiple stages and + multiple other power requirements	413.10	387.15	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Water charges	Water charges	65.15	61.05	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Site clean up - charged at £25 per hour per staff member + materials	Site clean up - charged at £25 per hour per staff member + materials	58.65	54.95	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PRS & PPL royalty fees – Performing Right Society and Phonographic Performance Limited collect royalty fees for recorded piped music and live music respectively. Any event that involves the above will incur an additional charge over and above the standard.					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES		Use of Hackney Downs Pavilion meeting room	33.90	31.75	6.8%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	Green Spaces				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	LBH/ Partner Park activities (maximum charge - adult)	6.50	6.10	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	LBH / Partner Park activities (maximum charge - children)	3.90	3.65	7.0%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	New Memorial Bench (depending on the park or green space and the bench design)	By Negotiation	By Negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	Memorial Tree (depending on species and park / green space)	By Negotiation	By Negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	Memorial Tree including additional summer watering to establishment (depending on species and park / green space)	By Negotiation	By Negotiation		This cost includes additional watering requested due to increasingly dry summer conditions
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	Commercial Forest School	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	Memorial (other) - e.g fountain/swing etc	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	Refurbish existing bench excluding plaque (for 10 years)	907.70	850.70	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	Corporate Volunteering Charge per head	30.30	28.40	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Green Spaces	Park Development facilitation charge per hour (for site visits with utility companies, private developers etc.)	60.50	56.70	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Hire of Pitches	Marking out additional pitches	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Tennis Courts - Use of Floodlighting	12.65	12.65	0.0%	These are set in line with the other Tennis charges and should be £12.65 per hour
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)	Tennis Courts - Use of Floodlighting - Junior - Up to 6pm	7.45	7.35	1.4%	These are set in line with the other Tennis charges at 7.45 per hour
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Coaching Sessions (GLL)	Coaching Sessions (GLL)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Coaching Sessions (GLL)	Tennis - Coached - Adult	7.65	7.10	7.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Coaching Sessions (GLL)	Tennis - Coached - Junior - 30mins	3.95	3.65	8.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Coaching Sessions (GLL)	Tennis - Coached - Junior Concessions - 30mins	2.80	2.60	7.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Coaching Sessions (GLL)	Tennis - Coached - Junior - 45mins	4.60	4.25	8.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Coaching Sessions (GLL)	Tennis - Coached - Junior Concessions - 45mins	3.15	2.90	8.6%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	Gainsborough Playing Fields				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	3G 5v5 pitch - Adult peak	55.35	52.70	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	3G 5v5 pitch - Adult off peak	47.95	45.65	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	3G 5v5 pitch - Junior peak	27.65	26.35	4.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	3G 5v5 pitch - Junior off peak	24.00	22.85	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	Polymeric 9v9 pitch- Adult peak	66.50	63.30	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

Fees & Charges 2024/25
Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	Polymeric 9v9 pitch- Adult off peak	51.65	49.20	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	Polymeric 9v9 pitch- Junior peak	33.20	31.60	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	Polymeric 9v9 pitch- Junior off peak	25.85	24.60	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	Polymeric pitch 2 (small) - Adult peak	50.35	47.95	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Gainsborough Playing Fields	Polymeric pitch 2 (small) - Adult off peak	45.45	43.30	5.0%	
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park	Ground Floor meeting room in Springfield House				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park - Room Charge Springfield House	Weekday - hourly rate	23.45	22.00	6.6%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park - Room Charge Springfield House	Weekend - hourly rate	29.35	27.50	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park	Hire of old Bowling Green Pavilion				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park - Bowling Pavilion	Weekday - hourly rate	35.20	33.00	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park - Bowling Pavilion	Weekend - hourly rate	44.00	41.25	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Leisure Water Swimming Adult - PEAK	5.85	5.55	5.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Leisure Water Swimming Adult - OFF PEAK	5.85	5.55	5.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Leisure Water Swimming JR - PEAK	3.50	3.35	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Leisure Water Swimming JR - OFF Peak				Charges for the use of facilities at the Britannia Leisure Centre.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Leisure Water Swimming JR - OFF Peak	3.50	3.35	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Aqua Play Party - All leisure water	400.30	371.00	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Leisure Water Parties	303.80	281.55	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Sensory Session Adult - PEAK	5.85	5.55	5.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Sensory Session Adult - OFF PEAK	5.85	5.55	5.4%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Sensory Session JR - PEAK	3.50	3.35	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Sensory Session JR - OFF PEAK	3.50	3.35	4.5%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Sensory Session School / Club	56.65	53.95	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Sensory Party	303.80	281.55	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Soft Play	7.00	6.50	7.7%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Soft Play Party	14.10	13.05	8.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Wexer Party	272.25	252.30	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	School Gym Session	116.10	107.60	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	5-side football Adult - PEAK	65.15	62.05	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	5-side football Adult - OFF PEAK	47.60	45.35	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	5-aside football JR - PEAK	39.10	37.25	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	5-aside football JR - OFF PEAK	32.60	31.05	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Tennis adult - PEAK	12.45	11.85	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Tennis adult - OFF PEAK	10.05	9.55	5.2%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Tennis JR - PEAK	6.00	5.70	5.3%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Tennis JR - OFF PEAK	4.40	4.20	4.8%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Use of Flood Lights	12.45	11.85	5.1%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Football Party	272.25	252.30	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Tennis Party	272.25	252.30	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Conference room with kitchen	72.35	68.90	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Conference room without kitchen	45.25	43.10	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Studio hire 1	45.25	43.10	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Studio hire 2	45.25	43.10	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.

Fees & Charges 2024/25
Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Multi Function room hire - Double Size	90.50	86.20	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Virtual Filming Studio	116.50	110.95	5.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Holiday Play Scheme Full Week	124.95	115.80	7.9%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Britannia Leisure Centre	Holiday Play Scheme Half Day	25.00	23.15	8.0%	These charges are set in consultation and agreement with GLL and are collected and managed by GLL directly. The income is either added to the surplus share to fund landlord responsibilities - or help cover any deficit running costs.
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park	Ground Floor meeting room (Red Wood) in Springfield House (Community)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park - Room Charge Springfield House	Weekday - hourly rate	23.45	22.00	6.6%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park - Room Charge Springfield House	Weekend - hourly rate	29.35	27.50	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park	Hire of old Bowling Green Pavilion (Community)				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park - Bowling Pavilion	Weekday - hourly rate	35.20	33.00	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Springfield Park - Bowling Pavilion	Weekend - hourly rate	44.00	41.25	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Abney Park	Abney Park Garden Classroom				
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Abney Park - Garden Classroom	2 hour session including use of equipment by schools and non-profit	53.35	50.00	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Abney Park - Garden Classroom	2 hour session including use of equipment by private forest school providers	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Abney Park - Garden Classroom	whole day session including use of equipment by private forest school providers	By negotiation	By negotiation		Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Abney Park - Community / Education Room	Commercial Hourly Rate Weekdays (10am-5pm)	62.20	58.30 per hour	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Abney Park - Community / Education Room	Commercial Hourly Rate Weekdays (5-10pm)	77.35	72.50 per hour	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Abney Park - Community / Education Room	Commercial Hourly Rate Weekends (10am-10pm)	103.35	96.85 per hour	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Abney Park - Community / Education Room	Community Hourly Rate Weekdays (10am-5pm)	37.30	34.98 per hour	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Abney Park - Community / Education Room	Community Hourly Rate Weekdays (5-10pm)	46.40	43.5 per hour	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	Abney Park - Community / Education Room	Community Hourly Rate Weekends (10am-10pm)	62.00	58.11 per hour	6.7%	Inflationary increase September 2023 CPI 6.7% to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES					
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Main Museum:	Main Museum:				
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Main Museum:	9:30am - 5:30pm	202.75	190.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Main Museum:	5:30pm - 8:00pm	106.70	100.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p

Fees & Charges 2024/25
Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Hourly Rate	Hourly Rate	45.00	42.00	7.2%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Museum	Education Room Only:				
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Museum	9:30am - 5:30pm	96.00	90.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Museum	Hourly Rate	28.00	26.00	7.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Museum	Hire of temporary exhibition space (12 weeks), including three days staff time for one meeting, installation, deinstallation	1,353.00	1,268.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Museum	Hire of Platform space 12 weeks inclusive (excluding staff time)	168.00	158.00	6.3%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Archives				
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Publication of Hackney Museum or Archives image worldwide rights (books, newspapers, magazines, ebooks, web pages, online published pdfs, apps, excluding front cover or web lead banner images)	91.75	86.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Publication of Hackney Museum or Archives image worldwide for front cover or lead web page image - books, newspapers, magazines, ebooks, websites	149.00	140.00	6.4%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Publication of Hackney Museum or Archive image - worldwide rights (books, newspapers, magazines, websites). Discounted rate that includes front covers and lead images on web pages - only available to Hackney-based charities and not-for-profit organisations	32.00	30.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Print Format: Exhibitions: temporary exhibitions - commercial (entrance fee charged)	45.00	42.00	7.2%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Print Format: Exhibitions: Permanent exhibitions - commercial (entrance fee charged)	96.00	90.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Exhibitions: temporary exhibitions - non - commercial (no entrance fee charged)	27.00	25.00	8.0%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Exhibitions: Permanent exhibitions - non - commercial (no entrance fee charged)	45.00	42.00	7.2%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Merchandise/advertising material	225.00	211.00	6.6%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Exhibit - exterior display in or on commercial premises	135.00	127.00	6.3%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	FILMING COLLECTIONS IN SITU: LBH Film Office Charges, https://www.hackney.gov.uk/film plus Museum/Archive staff time of £200 per day. Additional cost will be incurred if filming takes place outside core hours i.e. building security and staff time. Additional costs will be calculated on a project by project basis.	By negotiation	By negotiation		
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Heritage	Heritage				
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Digital:	Digital:				
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Digital:	Research Service per hour for remote users. Minimum service 30, maximum 20 hours (including photography of collections where photocopying/scanning is not appropriate. Please note not all items can be photographed in house due to size or condition. Fee excludes copies and external costs incurred if specific to the enquiry	56.55	53.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Reproduction Charges	Reproduction Charges				
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Reproduction Charges	Photography permit	9.00	8.50	5.9%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Reproduction Charges	Self-service microfilm printouts	2.15	2.00	7.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Reproduction Charges	Scanning charge - up to 300dpi Jpeg only (photographic print/negative collections only)	6.00	5.50	9.1%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Reproduction Charges	Scanning charge - 600 dpi Jpeg & TIFF (photographic print/negative collections only)	17.00	16.00	6.3%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Libraries				
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Fines for adult stock (excluding U18's and disabled people in receipt of a relevant benefit / payment or at the discretion of the Duty Library Manager, supervisor or relevant staff member)	0.20	0.20	0.0%	No increase - any increase could be counter productive and it is hoped that Hackney will be able phase out fines in line with several other London Boroughs
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Hire charge for Box set of DVDs	No Charge	No Charge		
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Reservations other sources	5.40	5.05	6.9%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Reservations from British Library	16.10	15.10	6.6%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Photocopies - A4	0.12	0.10	20.0%	Although higher than the September CPI figure this increase has been proposed after benchmarking with other authorities in the Libraries consortium
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Photocopies - A3	0.22	0.20	11.7%	Although higher than the September CPI figure this increase has been proposed after benchmarking with other authorities in the Libraries consortium
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Photocopies - A4 colour	0.55	0.50	10.7%	Although higher than the September CPI figure this increase has been proposed after benchmarking with other authorities in the Libraries consortium
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Photocopies - A3 colour	1.10	1.00	9.7%	Although higher than the September CPI figure this increase has been proposed after benchmarking with other authorities in the Libraries consortium
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Computer prints A4 B/W	0.12	0.10	16.7%	Although higher than the September CPI figure this increase has been proposed after benchmarking with other authorities in the Libraries consortium
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Computer prints A4 colour	0.55	0.50	10.7%	Although higher than the September CPI figure this increase has been proposed after benchmarking with other authorities in the Libraries consortium
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Replacement cost for lost ADULT membership tickets	1.10	1.00	10.0%	This is a discretionary Fee and very little take up now for a hard copy ticket
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Replacement cost for lost CHILD membership tickets	0.55	0.50	10.0%	This is a discretionary Fee and very little take up now for a hard copy ticket
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Discarded stock sale various from 0.10p upwards	0.10	0.05	100.0%	Very little discarded stock for sale and mostly sold from .50p upward
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Stoke Newington Gallery hire per week	353.20	331.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Lost stock charges at replacement costs (or £6 if no price)	6.45	6.05	6.5%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Homerton Library piano room per hour	11.25	10.55	6.6%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Dalston CLR James (basement room) / Homerton Hall / Stamford Hill Hall per hour	46.40	43.50	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Printed overdue notice	1.05	1.00	4.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Reservation Hackney/London Library Consortium	0.55	0.50	10.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Maximum Fine for overdue items	8.60	8.05	6.8%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Hire charge for all DVD's for 7 days	No Charge	No Charge		
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Hire charge for all CD's for 7 days	No Charge	No Charge		

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Hire charge for all DVD's for 14 days (for Children, Over 60's & Concs)	No Charge	No Charge		
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Hire charge for all CD's for 14 days (for Children, Over 60's & Concs)	No Charge	No Charge		
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Reservation charges for ADULTS	0.55	0.50	10.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Printed overdue notice (Under 60's)	1.05	1.00	4.7%	No change for several years and little take up but decision to increase by 0.5p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Dalston CLR James 2nd floor meeting room hire per hour	33.60	31.50	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Security cover - £20.00 per hour (minimum 5 hour booking)	21.35	20.00	6.8%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries					
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Stoke Newington Gallery (Monday to Thursday) per day	99.25	93.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Stoke Newington Gallery (Friday) per day	76.80	72.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Stoke Newington Gallery (Saturday) per day	66.15	62.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Stoke Newington Gallery (Sunday) per day	43.75	41.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Stoke Newington Gallery (Per hour outside opening times)	11.20	10.50	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Clapton Meeting Room Per Hour	22.40	21.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES					
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Heritage Education & Events programming	Adult programme (talks, workshops, seminars)	£5-15	£5-15		No increase as very little take up and any increase could be counter productive residents generally have less money to spend
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Heritage Education & Events programming	Childrens programme (workshops)	£1.50-£5	£1.50-£5		No increase as very little take up and any increase could be counter productive residents generally have less money to spend
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Heritage Education & Events programming	Professional Development workshops/seminars/training/INSETs	£50-£120	£50-£120		No increase as very little take up and any increase could be counter productive residents generally have less money to spend
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Heritage Education & Events programming	Non-LBH schools programme (half day/full day)	£160/£320	£160/£320		No increase as very little take up and any increase could be counter productive residents generally have less money to spend
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Heritage Education & Events programming	School outreach: assemblies/half-day	170.70	160.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Heritage Education & Events programming	School outreach: full day	341.45	320.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Archives				
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	TV/Film Broadcast of Hackney Museum or Archives image - all platforms/ worldwide / multiple transmissions - Hackney based/active charities and not-for profits only	55.50	52.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	TV/ Film Broadcast of Hackney Museum or Archives moving footage or audio per minute - all platforms/worldwide/multiple transmissions Hackney based/active charities and not-for profits only	55.50	52.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Archives				
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Reproduction Charges	introduction of a day license: microfilm printout	9.00	8.50	5.9%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Archives	Look-up and copying service to identify documents and supply 10 digital captures for £20 £21.50 additional captures/images (up to 30, at additional £1 pre capture (in response to specific enquiry and identify records) (maximum staff time 30 minutes)	£21.50 (plus £1 for any additional; captures over 10 (30 max)	£20 (plus £1 for any additional; captures over 10 (30 max)		Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Re-use licenses	Broadcast in TV/Feature or theatrical broadcast of Hackney Museum or Archives image - all platforms/ worldwide/ multiple transmissions Commercial Organisations	Single use, 5 year license - £208 for first image, £90 per subsequent images, additional charge of £90 if used in trailer Single use, Perpetuity - £480 for first image, £232 per subsequent images, Additional charge of £232 if used in trailer or promotion.	Single use, 5 year license - £195 for first image, £85 per subsequent images, additional charge of £85 if used in trailer Single use, Perpetuity - £450 for first image, £225 per subsequent images, Additional charge of £225 if used in trailer or promotion.		Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Re-use licenses	TV Broadcast of Hackney Museum or Archives moving footage or audio Single country/Network – unlimited transmissions, plus time-limited internet streaming Min 30 seconds	5 year licence @ £16 per second for the first 30 seconds, £16 per second thereafter or 10 year licence @ £21.50 per second or the first 30 seconds, £21.50 per second thereafter	5 year licence @ £15 per second for the first 30 seconds, £15 per second thereafter or 10 year licence @ £20 per second or the first 30 seconds, £20 per second thereafter		Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Re-use licenses	TV Broadcast of Hackney Museum or Archives moving footage or audio World – all television, unlimited transmissions, plus time-limited internet streaming Min 30 seconds	5 years @ £32 per seconds for first 30 seconds, £32 per second thereafter or 10 years @ £42 per second for first 30 second, £42 per second thereafter	5 years @ £30 per seconds for first 30 seconds, £30 per second thereafter or 10 years @ £40 per second for first 30 second, £40 per second thereafter		Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Re-use licenses	TV Broadcast of Hackney Museum or Archives moving footage or audio Broadcast online only of Hackney Museum or Hackney Archives moving footage or audio min 30 seconds	5 year @ £8.00 per second (min £240) for first 30 seconds & £8.00ps thereafter or In perpetuity worldwide licence @ £12.00 per second (min £360) for the first 30 seconds & £12.00 ps thereafter	5 year @ £7.50 per second (min £225) for first 30 seconds & £7.50 ps thereafter or In perpetuity worldwide licence @ £11.00 per second (min £330) for the first 30 seconds & £11 ps thereafter		Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Re-use licenses	TV Broadcast of Hackney Museum or Archives moving footage or audio Worldwide all media rights up to 10 years	£48 per second for first 30 seconds, £50 per second thereafter	£45 per second for first 30 seconds, £45 per second thereafter		Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Re-use licenses	TV inc theatrical-film Broadcast of Hackney Museum or Archives moving footage or audio Worldwide all media rights in perpetuity	£85 per second for first 30 seconds, £85 per second thereafter £58 per second for first 30 seconds, £585 ps thereafter (documentaries only)	£80 per second for first 30 seconds, £80 per second thereafter £55 per second for first 30 seconds, £55 ps thereafter (documentaries only)		Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Re-use licenses	Museums/galleries/exhibition (single venue) where the title is displayed on a loop for the duration of the exhibition per title	320.00	300.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest £1.00
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries					
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Large Shoreditch meeting room per hour	22.40	21.00	6.7%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries					
CHE	LIBRARIES & HERITAGE	Libraries	Shoreditch - small divided meeting room per hour	11.25	10.55	6.6%	Increase by September CPI and rounded up or down to nearest 0.05p
CHE	LICENSING	Explosives	interim authority notice following death etc of licence holder				
CHE	LICENSING	Explosives	Explosives				
CHE	LICENSING	Explosives	Renewal Registration (1yr)	54.00	54.00	0.0%	Explosives Regulations 2014
CHE	LICENSING	Explosives	New Registration (1yr)	109.00	109.00	0.0%	Explosives Regulations 2014
CHE	LICENSING	Explosives	Renewal Licence (1yr)	86.00	86.00	0.0%	Explosives Regulations 2014
CHE	LICENSING	Explosives	New Licence (1yr)	185.00	185.00	0.0%	Explosives Regulations 2014
CHE	LICENSING	Explosives	Amendment of Licensee or address of site	36.00	36.00	0.0%	Explosives Regulations 2014
CHE	LICENSING	Explosives	Transfer of licence or registration	36.00	36.00	0.0%	Explosives Regulations 2014
CHE	LICENSING	Explosives	Replacement of licence or registration if lost	36.00	36.00	0.0%	Explosives Regulations 2014
CHE	LICENSING	Explosives	Licence to Store Explosives all year round	500.00	500.00	0.0%	Explosives Regulations 2014
CHE	LICENSING	New Premises	New Premises				
CHE	LICENSING	New Premises	Rateable Value Band A	100.00	100.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	New Premises	Rateable Value Band C	315.00	315.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	New Premises	Rateable Value Band D	450.00	450.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LICENSING	New Premises	Rateable Value Band E	635.00	635.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Variation Fee	Premises Variation Fee				
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Variation Fee	Minor variation	89.00	89.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Variation Fee	Rateable Value Band A	100.00	100.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Variation Fee	Rateable Value Band B	190.00	190.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Variation Fee	Rateable Value Band C	315.00	315.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Variation Fee	Rateable Value Band D	450.00	450.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Variation Fee	Rateable Value Band E	635.00	635.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Annual Fees	Premises Annual Fees				
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Annual Fees	Rateable Value Band A	70.00	70.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Annual Fees	Rateable Value Band B	180.00	180.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Annual Fees	Rateable Value Band C	295.00	295.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Annual Fees	Rateable Value Band D	320.00	320.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Annual Fees	Rateable Value Band E	350.00	350.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	Exceptionally Large Events				
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	5000 to 9999	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	10000 to 14999	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	15000 to 19999	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	20000 to 29999	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	30000 to 39999	16,000.00	16,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	40000 to 49999	24,000.00	24,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	50000 to 59999	32,000.00	32,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	60000 to 69999	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	70000 to 79999	48,000.00	48,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	80000 to 89999	56,000.00	56,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Exceptionally Large Events	90000 and over	64,000.00	64,000.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees				
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Application for a granting or reNewal of Personal Licence	37.00	37.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Temporary Event Notice	21.00	21.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Theft, Loss etc of premises licence or summary	10.50	10.50	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Application for a provisional statement where premises being built etc	195.00	195.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Notification of change of name or address	10.50	10.50	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Application to vary licence to specify individual as premises supervisor	23.00	23.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Application for transfer of premises licence	23.00	23.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Interim authority notice following death etc of licence holder	23.00	23.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Theft, Loss etc of certificate or summary	10.50	10.50	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Notification of change of name or alteration of rules of club	10.50	10.50	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Change of relevant registered address of club	10.50	10.50	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Theft, Loss etc of temporary event notice	10.50	10.50	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Theft, Loss etc of personal licence	10.50	10.50	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Duty to notify change of name or address	10.50	10.50	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Right of freeholder etc to be notified of Licensing matters	21.00	21.00	0.0%	The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005
CHE	LICENSING	Gambling Act 2005	Gambling Act 2005				
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licences	Premises Licences				
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licences	Bingo Club Premises	2,870.00	2,870.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licences	Adult Gaming Centre	1,640.00	1,640.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licences	Family Entertainment Centres	2,050.00	2,050.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licences	Betting Premises (excluding tracks)	2,460.00	2,460.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licences	Tracks	2,050.00	2,050.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licence - First Annual Fee and Annual Fee	Premises Licence - First Annual Fee and Annual Fee				
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licence - First Annual Fee and Annual Fee	Bingo Club Premises	820.00	820.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licence - First Annual Fee and Annual Fee	Betting Premises (excluding tracks)	492.00	492.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licence - First Annual Fee and Annual Fee	Tracks	820.00	820.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licence - First Annual Fee and Annual Fee	Family Entertainment Centre	615.00	615.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Premises Licence - First Annual Fee and Annual Fee	Adult Gaming Centre	820.00	820.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Vary Premises Licence	Application to Vary Premises Licence				
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Vary Premises Licence	Bingo Club Premises	1,435.00	1,435.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Vary Premises Licence	Betting Premises (excluding tracks)	1,230.00	1,230.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Vary Premises Licence	Tracks	1,025.00	1,025.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Vary Premises Licence	Family Entertainment Centre	820.00	820.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Vary Premises Licence	Adult Gaming Centre	820.00	820.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Transfer Premises Licence	Application to Transfer Premises Licence				
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Transfer Premises Licence	Bingo Club Premises	540.00	540.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Transfer Premises Licence	Betting Premises (excluding tracks)	540.00	540.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Transfer Premises Licence	Tracks	427.50	427.50	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Transfer Premises Licence	Family Entertainment Centre	427.50	427.50	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Transfer Premises Licence	Adult Gaming Centre	540.00	540.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Reinstate Premises Licence	Application to Reinstate Premises Licence				
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Reinstate Premises Licence	Bingo Club Premises	540.00	540.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Reinstate Premises Licence	Betting Premises (excluding tracks)	540.00	540.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Reinstate Premises Licence	Tracks	427.50	427.50	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Reinstate Premises Licence	Family Entertainment Centre	427.50	427.50	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application to Reinstate Premises Licence	Adult Gaming Centre	540.00	540.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application for Provisional Statement	Application for Provisional Statement				
CHE	LICENSING	Application for Provisional Statement	Bingo Club Premises	2,870.00	2,870.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application for Provisional Statement	Betting Premises (excluding tracks)	2,460.00	2,460.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application for Provisional Statement	Tracks	2,050.00	2,050.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application for Provisional Statement	Family Entertainment Centre	1,640.00	1,640.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Application for Provisional Statement	Adult Gaming Centre	1,640.00	1,640.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holders)	Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holders)				Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holders)	Bingo Club Premises	984.00	984.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holders)	Betting Premises (excluding tracks)	779.00	779.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holders)	Tracks	779.00	779.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holders)	Family Entertainment Centre	984.00	984.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holders)	Adult Gaming Centre	984.00	984.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Copy Licence	Copy Licence				
CHE	LICENSING	Copy Licence	Bingo Club Premises	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Copy Licence	Betting Premises (excluding tracks)	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Copy Licence	Tracks	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Copy Licence	Family Entertainment Centre	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Copy Licence	Adult Gaming Centre	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Notification of change	Notification of change				
CHE	LICENSING	Notification of change	Bingo Club Premises	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Notification of change	Betting Premises (excluding tracks)	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Notification of change	Tracks	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LICENSING	Notification of change	Family Entertainment Centre	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Notification of change	Adult Gaming Centre	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol / Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	Alcohol / Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit				
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol / Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	Convert Existing	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol / Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	New	150.00	150.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol / Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	Vary	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol / Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	Transfer	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol / Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	Annual Fee / First Annual fee	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol / Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	Change Name	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol / Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	Permit copy	15.00	15.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Family Entertainment Centre gaming Machine Permit	Family Entertainment Centre gaming Machine Permit				
CHE	LICENSING	Family Entertainment Centre gaming Machine Permit	Convert Existing	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Family Entertainment Centre gaming Machine Permit	New	300.00	300.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Family Entertainment Centre gaming Machine Permit	Change Name	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Family Entertainment Centre gaming Machine Permit	Permit copy	15.00	15.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Family Entertainment Centre gaming Machine Permit	Renewal	300.00	300.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits	Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits				
CHE	LICENSING	Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits	Application	200.00	200.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits	Conversion Application	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits	Annual Fee	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits	Variation	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits	Copy Permit	15.00	15.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits	ReNewals under GA05 para24(1)	200.00	200.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol Licensed Premises Notifications	Alcohol Licensed Premises Notifications				
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol Licensed Premises Notifications	Notification of automatic entitlement	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Gambling Temporary Use Notices	Gambling Temporary Use Notices	500.00	500.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LICENSING	Registration of Small Society Lotteries	Registration of Small Society Lotteries				
CHE	LICENSING	Registration of Small Society Lotteries	Registration	40.00	40.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Registration of Small Society Lotteries	Annual Fee	20.00	20.00	0.0%	Statute - GA2005 set by DCMS
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Other Licenses				
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Dangerous Wild Animals	484.00	453.20	6.8%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Zoo Licences	545.00	510.40	6.8%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Guard Dogs	484.00	453.20	6.8%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	New Site Licence	445.00	416.90	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Renewal of Site Licence	408.00	381.70	6.9%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Variation of Site Licence	186.00	173.80	7.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	New Collectors Licence	234.00	218.90	6.9%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Renewal of Collectors Licence	206.00	192.50	7.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Variation of Collectors Licence	168.00	157.30	6.8%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Sex Establishments:	Sex Establishments:				
CHE	LICENSING	Sex Establishments:	Sex Shops	4,268.00	4,000.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Sex Establishments:	Sex shop Renewal	2,918.00	2,734.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Sex Establishments:	Sex Cinemas	4,268.00	4,000.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Sex Establishments:	Sex Cinema Renewal	2,918.00	2,734.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Sex Establishments:	Sex Entertainment Venues	4,268.00	4,000.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Sex Establishments:	SEV Renewal	2,918.00	2,734.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Sex Establishments:	Transfer	455.00	426.00	6.8%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Sex Establishments:	Variation	455.00	426.00	6.8%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Other Licenses				
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Hypnotism on stage	98.00	98.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Competitive Bidding Premises	348.00	326.00	6.7%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Transfer	64.00	64.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Variation	112.00	112.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Duplicate / replacement licence document	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Replacement of Scrap Metal Dealer Site licence	24.00	24.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Replacement of Scrap Metal Dealer Collectors licence	24.00	24.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Changes of details on Scrap Metal Site licence	24.00	24.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Changes of details on Scrap Metal Collectors licence	24.00	24.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Film Classification (Hourly rate)	57.00	44.00	29.5%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Licensing Officer (includes VAT)	51.00	39.22	30.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Licensing Service Pre-Application:				
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Check and Send (VAT included)				
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	New premises, Variation , Provisional Statement, club premises certification	51.00	39.00	30.8%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Minor Variation	38.00	29.00	31.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Transfer of Premises	15.00	11.50	30.4%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Variation and disapplication of Designated Premises Supervisor (Vary DPS)	15.00	11.50	30.4%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Transfer & Vary DPS	26.00	20.00	30.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Interim Authority Notice	15.00	11.50	30.4%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Temporary Event Notice	15.00	11.50	30.4%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Personal Licence	15.00	11.50	30.4%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Pre - App (Front Desk service as current (incl Check & Send)) VAT included	102.00	78.00	30.8%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Other Licenses	Pre-App (Full Service - site meeting, written report, incl Check & Send) VAT included + invoice from DMT	230.00	176.53	30.3%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare					
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding (New)	687.00	687.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding (Renewal)	585.00	585.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding (Variation)	469.00	469.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding (Duplicate Licence)	42.00	42.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding (Update Licence Details)	56.00	56.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding (Re-rating)	216.00	216.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding - Franchise Model (New)	520.00	520.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding - Franchise Model (Renewal)	450.00	450.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding - Franchise Model (Variation)	334.00	334.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding - Franchise Model (Duplicate Licence)	42.00	42.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding - Franchise Model (Update Licence Details)	56.00	56.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Animal Boarding - Franchise Model (Re-rating)	216.00	216.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Home Boarder (New)	520.00	520.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Home Boarder (Renewal)	450.00	450.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Home Boarder (Variation)	334.00	334.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Home Boarder (Duplicate Licence)	42.00	42.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Home Boarder (Update Licence Details)	56.00	56.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Home Boarder (Re-rating)	216.00	216.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Doggie Day Care (New)	593.00	593.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Doggie Day Care (Renew)	510.00	510.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Doggie Day Care (Variation)	394.00	394.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Doggie Day Care (Duplicate Licence)	42.00	42.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Doggie Day Care (Update Licence Details)	56.00	56.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Doggie Day Care (Re-rating)	216.00	216.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Dog Breeding Establishment (New with kennel units)	695.00	695.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Dog Breeding Establishment (Renewal with kennel units)	585.00	585.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Dog Breeding Establishment (Variation with kennel units)	469.00	469.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Dog Breeding Establishment (New domestic dwelling)	604.00	604.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Dog Breeding Establishment (Renewal domestic dwelling)	494.00	494.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Dog Breeding Establishment (Variation domestic dwelling)	394.00	394.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Dog Breeding Establishment (Duplicate licence)	42.00	42.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Dog Breeding Establishment (Update Licence Details)	56.00	56.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Dog Breeding Establishment (Re-rating)	216.00	216.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Keeping or training animals for exhibition (New)	687.00	687.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Keeping or training animals for exhibition (Renewal)	585.00	585.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Keeping or training animals for exhibition (Variation)	469.00	469.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Keeping or training animals for exhibition (Duplicate licence)	42.00	42.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Keeping or training animals for exhibition (Update Licence Details)	56.00	56.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Riding Establishments (New)	591.00	591.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Riding Establishments (Renewal)	551.00	551.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Riding Establishments (Variation)	435.00	435.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Riding Establishments (Duplicate Licence)	42.00	42.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Riding Establishments (Update Licence Details)	56.00	56.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Animal Welfare	Riding Establishments (Re-rating)	216.00	216.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments					
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Category 1 - New)	784.00	784.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Category 1 - Renewal)	772.00	772.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Category 2 - New)	610.00	610.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Category 2 - Renewal)	561.00	561.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Variation)	179.00	179.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Transfer)	146.00	146.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Category 1 - Temporary Licence)	341.00	341.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Category 2 - Temporary Licence)	260.00	260.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Practitioner Registration)	168.00	157.00	7.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Registration of exempt premises)	84.00	84.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment (Registration of exempt practitioner)	34.00	34.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment - Change of licence details	34.00	34.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Message and Special Treatments	Massage and Special Treatment - Duplicate licence	23.00	23.00	0.0%	Discretionary - set by Service to recover costs
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy					
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy	Late Night Levy - Band A	299.00	299.00	0.0%	The Late Night Levy (Application and Administration) Regulations 2012
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy	Late Night Levy - Band B	768.00	768.00	0.0%	The Late Night Levy (Application and Administration) Regulations 2012
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy	Late Night Levy - Band C	1,259.00	1,259.00	0.0%	The Late Night Levy (Application and Administration) Regulations 2012
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy	Late Night Levy - Band D	1,365.00	1,365.00	0.0%	The Late Night Levy (Application and Administration) Regulations 2012

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy	Late Night Levy - Band E	1,493.00	1,493.00	0.0%	The Late Night Levy (Application and Administration) Regulations 2012
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy					
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy	Late Night Levy - Band A (Accredited)	209.30	209.30	0.0%	Charge reflecting 30% reduction on full Late Night Levy charge subject to business meeting best practice criteria
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy	Late Night Levy - Band B (Accredited)	537.60	537.60	0.0%	Charge reflecting 30% reduction on full Late Night Levy charge subject to business meeting best practice criteria
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy	Late Night Levy - Band C (Accredited)	881.30	881.30	0.0%	Charge reflecting 30% reduction on full Late Night Levy charge subject to business meeting best practice criteria
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy	Late Night Levy - Band D (Accredited)	955.50	955.50	0.0%	Charge reflecting 30% reduction on full Late Night Levy charge subject to business meeting best practice criteria
CHE	LICENSING	Late Night Levy	Late Night Levy - Band E (Accredited)	1,045.10	1,045.10	0.0%	Charge reflecting 30% reduction on full Late Night Levy charge subject to business meeting best practice criteria
CHE	LICENSING	Alcohol Licensed Premises Notifications	Alcohol Licensed Premises Notifications				
CHE	LICENSING	Personal Licenses, Temporary Events and Other Fees	Temporary Event Notice - Statement of remaining annual entitlement.	36.00	36.00	0.0%	No increase proposed
CHE	MARKETS	STREET MARKETS	STREET MARKETS				
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Traders	Permanent Traders				
CHE	MARKETS	Kingsland Market	Kingsland Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Kingsland Market *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Saturday (only) - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	29.00	27.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Hoxton *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Hoxton *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays				
CHE	MARKETS	Hoxton *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Monday - Friday - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	51.50	48.00	7.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Hoxton *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Monday - Friday (fruit and vegetable / street food)	55.50	52.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Hoxton *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Saturday (fee per day) - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	32.00	30.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Hoxton *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Saturday (fee per day) - fruit and vegetable / street food	34.50	32.00	7.8%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Ridley Road Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Monday - Saturday zones one and two (fee per week) - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	98.50	92.00	7.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Monday - Saturday zone three (fee per week) - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	69.50	65.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Monday - Saturday -fruit and vegetable / street food- zones one and two (fee per week)-	155.00	145.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Monday - Saturday - fruit and vegetable/ street food - zone three (fee per week)	109.00	102.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Thursday, Friday or Saturday (fee per day) zones one and two - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	42.00	39.00	7.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Thursday, Friday or Saturday (fee per day) zone three- non fruit and vegetables/ street food	29.00	27.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Friday or Saturday (fee per day) zones one and two - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	42.00	39.00	7.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Friday or Saturday (fee per day) zone three- non fruit and vegetables/ street food	29.00	27.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Friday or Saturday (fee per day - fruit and vegetable / street food) zones one and two	42.00	39.00	7.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Friday or Saturday (fee per day) - fruit and vegetable / street food- zone three	58.00	54.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Friday and Saturday (only) zones one and two - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	55.00	51.20	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Friday and Saturday (only) zone three - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	50.50	47.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Friday and Saturday (only) - fruit and vegetable / street food- zones one and two	73.00	68.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Friday and Saturday (only) - fruit and vegetable / street food- zone three	69.50	65.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway Market	Broadway Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway Market	Saturday - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	59.00	55.00	7.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway Market	Saturday - fruit and vegetable/ street food)*	64.00	60.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Kingsland Market	Kingsland Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Traders	Temporary Traders				
CHE	MARKETS	Kingsland Market *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Saturday - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	33.50	31.00	8.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Kingsland Market *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Saturday (fruit and vegetable/ street food)	35.50	33.00	7.6%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Hoxton	Hoxton				
CHE	MARKETS	Hoxton *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Monday - Friday (fee per day) - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	20.50	19.00	7.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Hoxton *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Monday - Friday (per day - fruit and vegetable / street food)	26.00	24.00	8.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Hoxton *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Saturday (fee per day) - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	34.50	32.00	7.8%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Hoxton *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Saturday (fee per day - fruit and vegetable / street food)	38.50	36.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway	Broadway				
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Saturday (only) non fruit and vegetables/ street food	64.00	60.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway *fees inclusive of stall hire on Saturdays	Saturday (only - fruit and vegetable / street food)	70.50	66.00	6.8%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Chatsworth Road	Chatsworth Road				
CHE	MARKETS	Chatsworth Road *fees inclusive of stall hire on Sunday	Sunday (only) non fruit and vegetables/ street food	37.50	35.00	7.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Chatsworth Road *fees inclusive of stall hire on Sunday	Sunday (only - fruit and vegetable / street food)	45.00	42.00	7.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Variable Charges for Temporary Traders	Ridley Road Variable Charges for Temporary Traders				
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 1	Zone 1				
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 1	Monday to Thursday - non fruit and vegetables	41.00	38.00	7.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 1	Monday to Thursday - fruit and vegetables	48.00	45.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 1	Friday or Saturday - non fruit and vegetables	66.50	62.00	7.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 1	Friday or Saturday - fruit and vegetables	75.00	70.00	7.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 2	Zone 2				
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 2	Monday to Thursday - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	26.00	24.00	8.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 2	Monday to Thursday - fruit and vegetables/ street food	34.50	32.00	7.8%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 2	Friday or Saturday - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	50.50	47.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 2	Friday or Saturday - fruit and vegetables	57.00	53.00	7.5%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 3	Zone 3				
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 3	Monday to Thursday - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	10.00	9.00	11.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 3	Monday to Thursday - fruit and vegetables/ street food	20.50	19.00	7.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 3	Friday or Saturday - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	24.50	23.00	6.5%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Zone 3	Friday or Saturday - fruit and vegetables/street food	36.50	34.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Referral Credit Scheme	Referral Credit Scheme				
CHE	MARKETS	If a trader makes a referral for another trader to join the market and the new trader names an existing trader as having referred them, both new and existing trader will receive a credit to their account equal to a single day pitch fee	If a trader makes a referral for another trader to join the market and the new trader names an existing trader as having referred them, both new and existing trader will receive a credit to their account equal to a single day pitch fee	0.00	0.00		CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees				
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	New market temporary licence application or renewal fee (online only)	61.00	57.00	7.0%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	New market permanent licence application or renewal fee (online only)	61.00	57.00	7.0%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Application to change the terms of a permanent licence (such as commodity or pitch number).	61.00	57.00	7.0%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Replacement licence card	36.50	34.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Replacement assistant identity card	24.50	23.00	6.5%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Replacement nameplate	18.00	17.00	5.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Traders replacement statement of account	13.00	12.00	8.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	Markets promotional prices				
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotional pricing may be introduced or withdrawn at any time depending on the needs of relevant markets - terms and conditions will apply				
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - £10 off new applications and renewals completed and received online	11.50	10.90	5.5%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - Buy one pitch get one free	Various	Various		
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - Buy one pitch and get one half price	Various	Various		
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - 25% discount on pitch fee	Various	Various		
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - 50% discount on pitch fee	Various	Various		

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - 75% discount on pitch fee	Various	Various		
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - Free stall hire	0.00	0.00		
CHE	MARKETS	STREET MARKETS	STREET MARKETS				
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Traders	Permanent Traders				
CHE	MARKETS	Kingsland Market	Kingsland Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Kingsland Market	Saturday (only - fruit and vegetable /street food)	31.00	29.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Well Street Market	Well Street Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Well Street Market	Monday - Friday (no fruit and vegetable/ street food)	36.50	34.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Well Street Market	Monday - Friday (fruit and vegetable / street food)	40.50	38.00	6.6%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Well Street Market	Saturday only (no fruit and vegetable/ street food)	20.50	19.00	7.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Well Street Market	Saturday only (fruit and vegetable / street food)	22.50	21.00	7.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Chatsworth Road Market	Chatsworth Road Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Chatsworth Road Market	Sunday (only)	37.50	35.00	7.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Chatsworth Road Market	Sunday (only - fruit and vegetable / street food)	45.00	42.00	7.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Private Street Trading / Market Site	Private Street Trading / Market Site				
CHE	MARKETS	Private Street Trading / Market Site	Markets with less than 10 pitches - Daily fee private / public land	175.00	164.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Private Street Trading / Market Site	Markets with more than 10 pitches but less than 20 - Daily fee private / public land	291.50	273.00	6.8%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Private Street Trading / Market Site	Markets with more than 20 pitches - Daily fee private / public land	407.50	382.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Private Street Trading / Market Site	Monthly seasonal licences (i.e. Christmas tree sales)	1,163.00	1,090.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Private Street Trading / Market Site	Weekly seasonal licences (i.e. Christmas tree sales)	192.00	180.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Traders	Temporary Traders				
CHE	MARKETS	Kingsland Market	Kingsland Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Kingsland Market	Saturday (only) - 1 day licence trading fee	18.00	17.00	5.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Well Street Market	Well Street Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Well Street Market	Monday - Friday (fee per day)	20.50	19.00	7.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Well Street Market	Monday - Friday (fee per day - fruit and vegetable / street food)	25.50	24.00	6.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Well Street Market	Saturday (only)	34.00	32.00	6.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Well Street Market	Saturday (only - fruit and vegetable / street food)	38.50	36.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous City Sites	Miscellaneous City Sites				
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous City Sites	Monday - Sunday (fee per day)	58.50	55.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous City Sites	Monday - Sunday (fee per day - fruit and vegetable / street food)	61.00	57.00	7.0%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous Primary Sites	Miscellaneous Primary Sites				
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous Primary Sites	Monday - Sunday (fee per day)	37.50	35.00	7.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous Primary Sites	Monday - Sunday (fee per day - fruit and vegetable / street food)	40.50	38.00	6.6%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous Secondary Sites	Miscellaneous Secondary Sites				
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous Secondary Sites	Monday - Sunday (fee per day)	25.50	24.00	6.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous Secondary Sites	Monday - Sunday (fee per day - fruit and vegetable / street food)	29.00	27.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous single event fee	Miscellaneous single event fee				
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous single event fee	Any trading day (for individual events in the year, not regular events e.g. single annual event)	58.50	55.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Commercial Event	Commercial Event				
CHE	MARKETS	Commercial Event	Any trading day (food trading)	291.50	273.00	6.8%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Commercial Event	Any trading day (non-food)	175.00	164.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Hackney Carnival	Hackney Carnival				
CHE	MARKETS	Hackney Carnival	Carnival trading only (food trading)	465.00	436.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Hackney Carnival	Carnival trading only (non-food)	291.50	273.00	6.8%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees				
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Fast track licence application (within 48 hours)	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Private Street Trading/Market licence application or renewal fee	1,163.00	1,090.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	1 Day Street Trading Licence	18.00	17.00	5.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Arrears letter	6.50	6.00	8.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Enforcement/revocation letter	11.50	11.00	4.5%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Gazebo hire charge if booked but does not attend	21.50	20.00	7.5%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Private Street Trading/Market licence application or renewal fee	1,163.00	1,090.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Storage Container Hire	Storage Container Hire				
CHE	MARKETS	Storage Container Hire	Hoxton Street Market - 20ft- monthly fee	175.00	164.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Storage Container Hire	Well Street Market - 20ft - monthly fee	175.00	164.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Storage Container Hire	Ridley Road Market - 10ft - monthly fee	87.50	82.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Storage Container Hire	Ridley Road Market - 20ft - monthly fee	175.00	164.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Event Stall Hire	Event Stall Hire				
CHE	MARKETS	Event Stall Hire	Stall hire	24.50	23.00	6.5%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Event Stall Hire	Table hire	13.00	12.00	8.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Markets/ Shop Fronts promotional prices	Markets/ Shop Fronts promotional prices				
CHE	MARKETS	Markets/ Shop Fronts promotional prices	*Promotional pricing may be introduced or withdrawn at any time depending on the needs of relevant markets - terms and conditions will apply				
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - Buy one pitch and get the second pitch for 75% off	Various	Various		CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - 50% discount on pitch fee for private land owners miscellaneous street trading	Various	Various		CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - 10% discount on shop front licence	Various	Various		CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Markets promotional prices	*Promotion - 20% discount on shop front licence	Various	Various		CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Trading Places - discount for first 6 months trading	Trading Places - discount for first 6 months trading				

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	MARKETS	Trading Places - discount for first 6 months trading	Ridley Road Market - Monday to Saturday (fee per week) Zone 3	51.00	48.00	6.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Trading Places - discount for first 6 months trading	Chatsworth Road Market - Sunday (only)	23.50	22.00	6.8%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Trading Places - discount for first 6 months trading	Kingsland Market - Four Saturdays	70.50	66.00	6.8%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Trading Places - discount for first 6 months trading	Gazebo hire	11.50	11.00	4.5%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Trading Places - discount for first 6 months trading	Table hire	6.50	6.00	8.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	SHOP FRONTS	SHOP FRONTS				
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Licence Holder	Permanent Licence Holder				
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Licence Holder	Fee per m2	87.50	82.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Licence Holder	1 day shop front trading licence	58.50	55.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Licence Holder	30 day shop front trading licence	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Licence Holder	First application fee (online only)	105.50	99.00	6.6%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Licence Holder	Renewal fee with no variation (online only)	58.50	55.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Licence Holder	Renewal fee with licence variation	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Licence Holder	Temporary Licence Holder				
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Licence Holder	Fee per m2	95.00	89.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Licence Holder	First time application fee (online only)	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Licence Holder	Renewal fee with no licence variation (online only)	58.50	55.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Licence Holder	Renewal fee with licence variation	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Licence Holder	Application fee for 1 day or 30 day licence	175.00	164.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	A Boards - Enforcement Costs	A Boards - Enforcement Costs				
CHE	MARKETS	A Boards - Enforcement Costs	Removal costs	134.50	126.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	A Boards - Enforcement Costs	Storage cost per week	11.50	11.00	4.5%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	A Boards - Enforcement Costs	Disposal cost- per item	35.00	33.00	6.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	A Boards - Enforcement Costs	Return cost (collection only)	64.00	60.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	A Boards - Enforcement Costs	Total cost if not collected within 14 days	239.00	224.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	PAVEMENT LICENCES	PAVEMENT LICENCES				
CHE	MARKETS	Pavement Licence Fees	Pavement licence fee	500.00	500.00	0.0%	As per Business and planning Act 2020 we cannot exceed the fees for Pavement licence applications.
CHE	MARKETS	Pavement Licence Fees	Renewal fee	350.00	350.00	0.0%	As per Business and planning Act 2020 we cannot exceed the fees for Pavement licence applications.
CHE	MARKETS	STREET MARKETS	STREET MARKETS				
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Traders	Permanent Traders				
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway Market	Broadway Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway Market	Sunday (only) - non fruit and vegetables/ street food	58.50	55.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway Market	Sunday (only) - fruit and vegetable/ street food	64.00	60.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Traders	Temporary Traders				
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway Market	Broadway Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway Market	Sunday (only) non fruit and vegetables/ street food	64.00	60.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Broadway Market	Sunday (only) - fruit and vegetable / street food	70.50	66.00	6.8%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	MARKETS	STREET MARKETS	STREET MARKETS				
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Traders	Permanent Traders				
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Ridley Road Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Monday - Saturday (fee per week) - Food Court	154.50	145.00	6.6%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	STREET MARKETS	STREET MARKETS				
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Variable Charges for Temporary Traders	Ridley Road Variable Charges for Temporary Traders				
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Market	Ridley Road Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Food Court	Monday to Thursday (fee per day) - Food Court	25.50	24.00	6.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Food Court	Friday or Saturday (fee per day) - Food Court	50.00	47.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	SHOP FRONTS	SHOP FRONTS				
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Licence Holder	Permanent Licence Holder				
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Licence Holder	First application fee (paper/email only)	175.00	164.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Permanent Licence Holder	Renewal fee with no variation (paper/email only)	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Licence Holder	Temporary Licence Holder				
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Licence Holder	First application fee (paper/email only)	175.00	164.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Temporary Licence Holder	Renewal fee with no variation (paper/email only)	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees				
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	New market temporary licence application or renewal fee (paper/email only)	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	New market permanent licence application or renewal fee (paper/email only)	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Storage Container Hire	Storage Container Hire				
CHE	MARKETS	Storage Container Hire	Hoxton Street Market - 5ft- monthly fee	43.50	41.00	6.1%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Ridley Road Indoor Market	Ridley Road Indoor Market				
CHE	MARKETS	Retail Units (Non Food)	Fee per m2	23.00	23.00	0.0%	We are not increasing the fees for the indoor market as we have committed to no increases for the 2 years following the opening the refurbished indoor market
CHE	MARKETS	Retail Units (Food)	Fee per m2	25.00	25.00	0.0%	We are not increasing the fees for the indoor market as we have committed to no increases for the 2 years following the opening the refurbished indoor market
CHE	MARKETS	Storage Container Hire (Standard)	Fee per m2	10.00	10.00	0.0%	We are not increasing the fees for the indoor market as we have committed to no increases for the 2 years following the opening the refurbished indoor market
CHE	MARKETS	Storage Container Hire (Cold)	Fee per m2	20.00	20.00	0.0%	We are not increasing the fees for the indoor market as we have committed to no increases for the 2 years following the opening the refurbished indoor market
CHE	MARKETS	Storage Container Hire (Freezer)	Fee per m2	25.00	25.00	0.0%	We are not increasing the fees for the indoor market as we have committed to no increases for the 2 years following the opening the refurbished indoor market
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees				
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Late invoice payment letter / reminder	18.00	17.00	5.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Register an Assistant	26.50	25.00	6.0%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous single event fee					
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous single event fee	Event in designated market/ site (Existing traders)	59.00	55.00	7.3%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Miscellaneous single event fee	Event in designated market/ site (New traders)	58.50	55.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS						
CHE	MARKETS	Clifton Street Market	Mon to Fri (Non Food)	50.00	47.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Clifton Street Market	Mon to Fri (Food/Fruit & Veg)	53.50	50.00	7.0%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Market and Street Trading Administration Fees	Late renewal application submission	26.50	25.00	6.0%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Gazebo Hire	Gazebo Hire	18.00	17.00	5.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Weekend fee per m2 - Permanent	104.50	98.00	6.6%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Renewal fee with licence variation (paper / email) - Permanent	175.00	164.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Licence variation fee (online) - Permanent	58.50	55.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Licence Variation fee (paper / email) - Permanent	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Late renewal application submission - Permanent	26.50	25.00	6.0%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Late night licence (under review) - Permanent	0.00	0.00		
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Monthly seasonal licences (i.e. Christmas tree sales)	524.00	491.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Weekly seasonal licences (i.e. Christmas tree sales)	192.00	180.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Weekend Fee per m2 (Sat / Sun) - Temp	114.00	107.00	6.5%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Renewal fee with licence variation (paper / email) - Temp	175.00	164.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Licence variation fee (online) - Temp	58.50	55.00	6.4%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Licence Variation fee (paper / email) - Temp	116.50	109.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	MARKETS	Shop Fronts	Late renewal application submission - Temp	26.50	25.00	6.0%	CPI increase rounded up to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	PARKING	PARKING				
CHE	PARKING	Pay and display machine	Mobile phone parking charge - transaction fee	0.20	0.10	100.0%	Level of fee set in contract with cashless parking provider
CHE	PARKING	Pay and display machine	Mobile phone charge - optional reminder message fee	0.20	0.10	100.0%	Level of fee set in contract with cashless parking provider
CHE	PARKING	Motorbikes and mopeds					
CHE	PARKING	Parking	Motorbikes and mopeds (under all permits) aligned to existing permit types full price charging structure.	Various	Various		As per Motorcycle parking review Cabinet paper February 2021
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permits	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permit - 12 months	No local CO2 emissions	1,389.00	1,302.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permits - 12 months	CO2 emissions (up to 120 g/km)				
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permit - 12 months	All other vehicles	1,886.00	1,767.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permit - 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	2,386.00	2,067.50	15.4%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permits - 12 months	CO2 emissions (121-185 g/km) or smaller engines (under 1200cc)				
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permit - 12 months	All other vehicles	2,381.00	2,231.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permit - 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	2,881.00	2,531.50	13.8%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permits - 12 months	CO2 emissions (186-225g/km) or engines (1200cc - 2000cc)				
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permit - 12 months	All other vehicles	2,877.50	2,697.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permit - 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	3,377.50	2,997.00	12.7%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permits - 12 months	CO2 emissions (226 g/km +) or engines (2001cc +)				
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permit - 12 months	All other vehicles	3,560.00	3,336.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	All zone parking permit - 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	4,060.00	3,636.50	11.6%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - standard rate for all other parking zones	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	No local CO2 emissions	285.50	267.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	CO2 emissions (up to 120 g/km)				
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	All other vehicles	422.50	396.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	Diesel powered vehicles	672.50	596.00	12.8%	Diesel surcharge of £200 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	CO2 emissions (121-185 g/km) or smaller engines (under 1200cc)				
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	All other vehicles	558.00	523.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	Diesel powered vehicles	808.00	723.00	11.8%	Diesel surcharge of £200 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	CO2 emissions (186-225g/km) or engines (1200cc - 2000cc)				
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	All other vehicles	694.50	651.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	Diesel powered vehicles	944.50	851.00	11.0%	Diesel surcharge of £200 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	CO2 emissions (226 g/km +) or engines (2001cc +)				
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	All other vehicles	831.50	779.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months standard rate for all other parking zones	Diesel powered vehicles	1,081.50	979.50	10.4%	Diesel surcharge of £200 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit A and B only	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A & B	No local CO2 emissions	546.00	511.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	CO2 emissions (up to 120 g/km)				
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	All other vehicles	682.50	639.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	Diesel powered vehicles	932.50	839.50	11.1%	Diesel surcharge of £200 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	CO2 emissions (121-185 g/km) or smaller engines (under 1200cc)				
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	All other vehicles	818.50	767.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	Diesel powered vehicles	1,068.50	967.00	10.5%	Diesel surcharge of £200 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	CO2 emissions (186-225g/km) or engines (1200cc - 2000cc)				
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	All other vehicles	955.00	895.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	Diesel powered vehicles	1,205.00	1,095.00	10.0%	Diesel surcharge of £200 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	CO2 emissions (226 g/km +) or engines (2001cc +)				
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	All other vehicles	1,092.00	1,023.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Doctors permit - 12 months zones A and B only	Diesel powered vehicles	1,342.00	1,223.50	9.7%	Diesel surcharge of £200 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Permit administration fees	Permit administration fees				
CHE	PARKING	Administration fee for refunds	Administration fee for refunds - on street all permit types	24.50	23.00	6.5%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Visitor vouchers	Visitor vouchers (price per book)				
CHE	PARKING	Visitor vouchers residents	Book of five one day vouchers, standard rate	26.50	25.00	6.0%	Price increased as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Visitor vouchers residents - blue badge holder, 60 and over discounted rate	Book of five one day vouchers, discount on standard rate, available to customers aged 60 and over, or blue badge holders (only applicable to the first two books bought per month).	13.25	12.50	6.0%	Discounted at 50% of full book price
CHE	PARKING	Visitor vouchers residents	Book of 20 two hour vouchers, standard rate	42.50	40.00	6.3%	Price increased to £2 per 2hr voucher, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Visitor vouchers residents - blue badge holder, 60 and over discounted rate	Book of 20 two hour vouchers, discount on standard rate, available to customers aged 60 and over, or blue badge holders (only applicable to the first two books bought per month).	21.25	20.00	6.3%	Discounted at 50% of full book price
CHE	PARKING	Health and social care vouchers	Health and social care vouchers, book of five one day vouchers, standard rate	52.50	49.00	7.1%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	All zone business vouchers	All zone business voucher (book of 10, each lasting one day)	279.00	261.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Film vouchers	Film voucher - one day	38.50	36.00	6.9%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Bay suspensions	Bay suspensions				
CHE	PARKING	Bay suspensions	Suspensions charge per five metre car space per day - all controlled parking zones (excluding domestic removals, highway maintenance, NHS, Hackney Housing and housing associations).	41.00	38.50	6.5%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Bay suspensions	Administration fee - new and extended suspensions (one off fee)	93.50	87.50	6.9%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Bay suspensions	Suspensions daily fee for domestic removals (up to one day), highway maintenance, NHS, Hackney Housing and housing associations.	0.00	0.00		CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Bay suspensions	Unauthorised suspension or late notice fee (requests seven days or less from suspension start date - in addition to administration fee)	150.00	150.00	0.0%	No Change
CHE	PARKING	Dispensations - removals, extended deliveries, works or parking in a suspended bay	Dispensations - removals, extended deliveries, works or parking in a suspended bay				
CHE	PARKING	Dispensations	Dispensation charge per 5m car space per day	24.50	23.00	6.5%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Dispensations	Dispensation - wedding (two free dispensations valid on one day only)	Free	Free		As per policy in PEP 2022-27, and previous iterations
CHE	PARKING	Dispensations	Dispensation - funeral (ten free dispensations valid on one day only)	Free	Free		As per policy in PEP 2022-27, and previous iterations
CHE	PARKING	Parking enforcement	Enforcement				
CHE	PARKING	Parking enforcement	Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)	80.00 - 130.00	80.00 - 130.00		Charges set by external body
CHE	PARKING	Parking enforcement	Parking removal	200.00	200.00	0.0%	Charges set by external body
CHE	PARKING	Parking enforcement	Parking Removal Storage	40.00	40.00	0.0%	Charges set by external body
CHE	PARKING	Parking enforcement	Parking Removal Disposal	70.00	70.00	0.0%	Charges set by external body
CHE	PARKING	Parking enforcement	Hackney residents - abandoned vehicles removal and disposal only.	200.00	200.00	0.0%	No change
CHE	PARKING	Companion badge	Companion badge - up to three years and the blue badge expiry date				
CHE	PARKING	Companion badge - up to three years or the blue badge expiry date	Resident blue badge holders only	Free	Free		No change
CHE	PARKING	Car clubs dedicated bays					
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	Car club permit types based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	No local CO2 emissions	744.00	697.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	CO2 emissions (up to 120 g/km)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	All other vehicles	1,116.50	1,046.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	Diesel powered vehicles	1,516.50	1,346.50	12.6%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	CO2 emissions (121 - 185 g/km) or smaller engines (under 1200cc)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	All other vehicles	1,488.50	1,395.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	Diesel powered vehicles	1,888.50	1,695.00	11.4%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	CO2 emissions (186 - 225g/km) or engines (1200cc - 2000cc)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	All other vehicles	1,860.50	1,743.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	Diesel powered vehicles	2,260.50	2,043.50	10.6%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27

Fees & Charges 2024/25
Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	CO2 emissions (226 g/km +) or larger engines (2001cc +)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	All other vehicles	2,232.50	2,092.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for parking zones A and B only	Diesel powered vehicles	2,632.50	2,392.50	10.0%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	Car club permit types based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	No local CO2 emissions	388.00	363.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	CO2 emissions (up to 120 g/km)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	All other vehicles	582.00	545.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	Diesel powered vehicles	982.00	845.50	16.1%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	CO2 emissions (121-185 g/km) or smaller engines (under 1200cc)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	All other vehicles	775.00	726.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	Diesel powered vehicles	1,175.00	1,026.50	14.5%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	CO2 emissions (186-225g/km) or engines (1200cc - 2000cc)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	All other vehicles	970.00	909.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	Diesel powered vehicles	1,370.00	1,209.00	13.3%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	CO2 emissions (226 g/km +) or larger engines (2001cc +)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	All other vehicles	1,163.00	1,090.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (standard bay based) - 12 months for all other parking zones and no zone	Diesel powered vehicles	1,563.00	1,390.00	12.4%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Car club floating	Car club permit types based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	No local CO2 emissions	806.00	755.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	CO2 emissions (up to 120 g/km)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	All other vehicles	1,613.00	1,511.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	Diesel powered vehicles	2,013.00	1,811.50	11.1%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	CO2 emissions (121 - 185 g/km) or smaller engines (under 1200cc)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	All other vehicles	2,015.50	1,889.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	Diesel powered vehicles	2,415.50	2,189.00	10.3%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	CO2 emissions (186 - 225g/km) or engines (1200cc - 2000cc)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	All other vehicles	2,419.00	2,267.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	Diesel powered vehicles	2,819.00	2,567.00	9.8%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	CO2 emissions (226 g/km +) or larger engines (2001cc +)				
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	All other vehicles	2,817.50	2,640.50	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Car club permit (floating) - 12 months borough-wide	Diesel powered vehicles	3,217.50	2,940.50	9.4%	Diesel surcharge of £300 added to standard price, as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident visitors voucher	Estate resident visitors voucher				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident visitors voucher	Standard rate - including blue badge holders (one day, ten cards in a book)	12.00	8.00	50.0%	Price increased as per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident visitors voucher	Discount rate for people 60 and over (one day, ten cards in a book)	6.00	4.00	50.0%	Discounted at 50% of full book price
CHE	PARKING	Delivery charges	Delivery charges				
CHE	PARKING	Delivery charges	Paper vouchers - postage and packaging per order	3.00	3.00	0.0%	No change - due to be implemented in 2023/24
CHE	PARKING	Delivery charges	Paper vouchers - delivery charge (other delivery methods)	Various	Various		No change - due to be implemented in 2023/24
CHE	PARKING	Dedicated bays	Borough wide - per permit/car space, 12 months (permit fee applies separately)				
CHE	PARKING	General disabled parking bays	General disabled parking bays	Free	Free		No change
CHE	PARKING	Dedicated parking bays	One off charge to implement a dedicated parking bay (all types other than a disabled person's bay)	2,115.00	1,982.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Parking Zones Amendments	Parking zone amendments - charged to developers requesting amendments as part of building works only and Parking Zone Implementations - private land only				
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	Traffic order costs (per scheme)	Various	Various		
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	Yellow line cost (per linear metre)	0.66	0.62	6.5%	CPI Increase
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	White line cost (per linear metre)	1.30	1.20	8.3%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 10p

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	Traffic restriction refresh (per linear metre)	35.50	33.50	6.0%	CPI increase rounded to nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	Line removal per sq metre, Minimum charge 10m2	14.00	13.00	7.7%	CPI increase rounded to nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	4m post installation (per post)	183.50	172.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	3m post installation (per post)	176.50	165.50	6.6%	CPI increase rounded to nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	Post removal (per post)	145.50	136.50	6.6%	CPI increase rounded to nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	Entry sign (per sign)	208.00	195.00	6.7%	CPI increase rounded to nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	All other sign (per sign)	30.00	28.00	7.1%	CPI increase rounded to nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Enforcement	Enforcement				
CHE	PARKING	Enforcement	Unwanted vehicles surrendered to Hackney by non-Hackney resident	34.50	34.50	0.0%	No Change
CHE	PARKING						
CHE	PARKING	Administration fees and charges	Estate parking permits refunds	13.00	12.00	8.3%	Staff wage increases inclusive of CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Companion badge linked to personalised disabled bay - up to three years or the blue badge expiry date	Residents with personalised disabled bays only - companion e-badge unique to bay	Free	Free		No change
CHE	PARKING	Dedicated parking bay	Personalised disabled bays	Free	Free		No change
CHE	PARKING	Cycle hangar					
CHE	PARKING	Cycle hangar - Hackney on street resident	Price per space, per year	51.00	48.00	6.3%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Cycle hangar - Hackney estate resident	Price per space, per year	36.50	34.00	7.4%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Cycle hangar - non Hackney resident	Price per space, per year	242.00	227.00	6.6%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Cycle hangar - Key replacement	Fees to replace lost keys	30.50	28.50	7.0%	CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Cycle hangar - Key refund	Refund if the cycle hangar is no longer wanted and the key is returned	As paid when rental commenced	28.50		CPI increase rounded to the nearest 50p
CHE	PARKING	Debt recovery					
CHE	PARKING	Register a debt at County court	Fee to register a debt at TEC ot County court.	9.00	9.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Enforcement agent - Compliance stage	Fees and charges for PCN enforcement action	75.00	75.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Enforcement agent - Enforcement stage	Fees and charges for PCN enforcement action	235.00	235.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Enforcement agent - Sale of goods stage	Fees and charges for PCN enforcement action	110.00	110.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Untaxed vehicles					
CHE	PARKING	Clamp	Untaxed vehicles	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Removal before 24 hours	Release fee- at roadside/offence location or from the vehicle pound within 24 hours of enforcement action	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Removal after 24 hours	Release fee- at roadside/offence location or from the vehicle pound within 24 hours of enforcement action	200.00	200.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Storage fee per complete day	Release fee- at roadside/offence location or from the vehicle pound within 24 hours of enforcement action	21.00	21.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Parking permits	Cumulative supplement for household vehicles or motorcycles that exceed permit allocation limits				

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	12 months	50% increase to normal permit price for that duration	25.00	Various		No change
CHE	PARKING	6 months	50% increase to normal permit price for that duration	12.50	Various		No change
CHE	PARKING	3 months	50% increase to normal permit price for that duration	6.25	Various		No change
CHE	PARKING	Dedicated bays	Borough wide - per permit/car space, 12 months (permit fee applies separately)				
CHE	PARKING	Registered disabled parking bays	Registered disabled parking bays	Free	Free		No change
CHE	PARKING	Enforcement	Borough wide - Abandoned vehicles				
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for abandoning motor vehicle	200.00	200.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Vehicle on road, upright and not substantially damaged or any two-wheeled vehicle whatever its condition or position on or off the road (Vehicle equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes MAM)	150.00	150.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Vehicle on road, upright and not substantially damaged or any two-wheeled vehicle whatever its condition or position on or off the road (Vehicle exceeding 3.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 7.5 tonnes)	200.00	200.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Vehicle on road, upright and not substantially damaged or any two-wheeled vehicle whatever its condition or position on or off the road (Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM)	350.00	350.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Vehicle on road, upright and not substantially damaged or any two-wheeled vehicle whatever its condition or position on or off the road (Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM)	350.00	350.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, on-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes MAM)	250.00	250.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, on-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle exceeding 3.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 7.5 tonnes)	650.00	650.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Unladen - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, on-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Laden - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, on-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM)	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Unladen - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, on-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM)	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Laden - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, on-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM)	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control

Fees & Charges 2024/25
Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road, upright and not substantially damaged (Vehicle equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes MAM)	200.00	200.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road, upright and not substantially damaged (Vehicle exceeding 3.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 7.5 tonnes)	400.00	400.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Unladen - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road, upright and not substantially damaged (Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Laden - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road, upright and not substantially damaged (Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM)	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Unladen - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road, upright and not substantially damaged (Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM)	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Laden - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road, upright and not substantially damaged (Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes MAM)	300.00	300.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle exceeding 3.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 7.5 tonnes)	850.00	850.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Unladen - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM)	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Laden - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM)	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Unladen - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM)	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Removal Fee - Laden - A vehicle, excluding a two-wheeled vehicle, off-road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both (Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM)	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Storage Fee - Two wheeled vehicle	10.00	10.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Storage Fee - Vehicle, not including a two wheeled vehicle, equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes MAM	20.00	20.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Storage Fee - Vehicle exceeding 3.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 7.5 tonnes MAM	25.00	25.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Storage Fee - Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM	30.00	30.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Storage Fee - Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM	35.00	35.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Disposal Fee - Two wheeled vehicle	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Disposal Fee - A vehicle, not including a two-wheeled vehicle, equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes MAM	75.00	75.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Disposal Fee - Vehicle exceeding 3.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 7.5 tonnes MAM	100.00	100.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Disposal Fee - Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM	125.00	125.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Abandoned vehicles	Disposal Fee - Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM	150.00	150.00	0.0%	Statutory charge outside LBH control
CHE	PARKING	Untaxed vehicles					
CHE	PARKING	Untaxed vehicles	Release fee - at roadside/offence location or from the vehicle pound within 24hours of enforcement action	TBC	100.00		Fee is set by third party. Will be updated when the contract gets updated later in the year.
CHE	PARKING	Untaxed vehicles	Release fee - when vehicle has been impounded and more than 24 hours have elapsed since enforcement action	TBC	200.00		Fee is set by third party. Will be updated when the contract gets updated later in the year.
CHE	PARKING	Untaxed vehicles	Surety fee - General car/Motorcycles/Special vehicles/Special concessionary vehicles. Refundable fee charged by the Council for the purpose of the person taxing their vehicle.	TBC	160.00		Fee is set by third party. Will be updated when the contract gets updated later in the year.
CHE	PARKING	Untaxed vehicles	Surety fee - Buses/recovery vehicles/light goods vehicles. Refundable fee charged by the Council for the purpose of the person taxing their vehicle.	TBC	330.00		Fee is set by third party. Will be updated when the contract gets updated later in the year.
CHE	PARKING	Untaxed vehicles	Surety fee - Vehicles used for exceptional loads/heavy goods vehicles. Refundable fee charged by the Council for the purpose of the person taxing their vehicle.	TBC	700.00		Fee is set by third party. Will be updated when the contract gets updated later in the year.
CHE	PARKING	Parking Zones amendments	Parking zone amendments - charged to developers requesting amendments as part of building works only and Parking Zone Implementations - private land only				
CHE	PARKING	Works costs.	White bay lettering (per letter)	16.50	15.40	7.1%	CPI rounded to nearest 10p
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	Yellow line cost (per linear metre)	0.66	0.62	6.5%	CPI Increase
CHE	PARKING	Works costs	White line cost (per linear metre)	1.28	1.20	6.7%	CPI Increase
CHE	PARKING						
CHE	PARKING	Zero emissions vehicles	Band 1	4.30	4.00	7.5%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Zero emissions vehicles	Band 2	3.30	3.00	10.0%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Zero emissions vehicles	Band 3	2.50	2.30	8.7%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Zero emissions vehicles	Around Homerton University Hospital	1.80	1.70	5.9%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Petrol vehicles registered from 2005	Pay by mobile and local payment point				
CHE	PARKING	Petrol vehicles registered from 2005	Band 1	5.30	5.00	6.0%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Petrol vehicles registered from 2005	Band 2	4.30	4.00	7.5%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Petrol vehicles registered from 2005	Band 3	3.50	3.30	6.1%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Petrol vehicles registered from 2005	Around Homerton University Hospital	2.30	2.20	4.5%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Diesel vehicles registered from 2015 (£1 per hour surcharge)	Pay by mobile and local payment point				
CHE	PARKING	Diesel vehicles registered from 2015 (£1 per hour surcharge)	Band 1	6.30	6.00	5.0%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Diesel vehicles registered from 2015 (£1 per hour surcharge)	Band 2	5.30	5.00	6.0%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Diesel vehicles registered from 2015 (£1 per hour surcharge)	Band 3	4.50	4.30	4.7%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Diesel vehicles registered from 2015 (£1 per hour surcharge)	Around Homerton University Hospital	3.30	3.20	3.1%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	All other vehicles and payments at pay and display machines (£2 per hour surcharge)	Pay and display, pay by mobile and local payment point				
CHE	PARKING	All other vehicles and payments at pay and display machines (£2 per hour surcharge)	Band 1	7.30	7.00	4.3%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	All other vehicles and payments at pay and display machines (£2 per hour surcharge)	Band 2	6.30	6.00	5.0%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	All other vehicles and payments at pay and display machines (£2 per hour surcharge)	Band 3	5.50	5.30	3.8%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	All other vehicles and payments at pay and display machines (£2 per hour surcharge)	Around Homerton University Hospital	4.30	4.20	2.4%	Charging structure based on fuel-type per PEP 2022-27
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge. RDE2 compliant diesels exempt from surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	0g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	All other vehicles	51.00	50	2.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	1-50g/km, 50cc or under*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	All other vehicles	69.00	67	3.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	319.00	267	19.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	51-75g/km, or 51 - 125cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	75.00	70	7.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	325.00	270	20.4%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	76-90g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	81.00	73	11.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	331.00	273	21.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	91-100g/km, or 126 - 400cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	87.00	76	14.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	337.00	276	22.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	101-110g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	92.00	78	17.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	342.00	278	23.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	111-130g/km, or 401 - 800cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	130.00	124	4.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	380.00	324	17.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	131-150g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	140.00	129	8.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	390.00	329	18.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	151-170g/km, or 801 - 1200cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	161.00	140	15.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	411.00	340	20.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	171-190g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	204.00	161	26.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	454.00	361	25.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	191-225g/km, or 1201cc- 2000cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	279.00	226	23.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	529.00	426	24.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	226-255g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	378.00	302	25.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	628.00	502	25.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit - 12 months	Over 256g/km or 2001cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	473.00	349	35.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	723.00	549	31.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge. RDE2 compliant diesels exempt from surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	0g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	25.50	25	2.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	1-50g/km, 50cc or under*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	34.50	33.5	3.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	159.50	£133.50	19.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	51-75g/km, or 51 - 125cc*				

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	37.50	35	7.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	162.50	£135.00	20.4%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	76-90g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	40.50	36.5	11.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	165.50	£136.50	21.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	91-100g/km, or 126 - 400cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	43.50	38	14.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	168.50	£138.00	22.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	101-110g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	46.00	39	17.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	171.00	£139.00	23.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	111-130g/km, or 401 - 800cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	65.00	62	4.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	190.00	£162.00	17.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	131-150g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	70.00	64.5	8.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	195.00	£164.50	18.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	151-170g/km, or 801 - 1200cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	80.50	70	15.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	205.50	170	20.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	171-190g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	102.00	80.5	26.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	227.00	180.5	25.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	191-225g/km, or 1201cc- 2000cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	139.50	113	23.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	264.50	213	24.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	226-255g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	189.00	151	25.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	314.00	251	25.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 6 months	Over 256g/km or 2001cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	All other vehicles	236.50	174.5	35.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 6 months	Diesel powered vehicles	361.50	274.5	31.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge. RDE2 compliant diesels exempt from surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	0g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	13.00	12.5	4.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	1-50g/km, 50cc or under*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	17.50	16.75	4.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	80.00	£66.75	19.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	51-75g/km, or 51 - 125cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	19.00	17.5	8.6%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	81.50	£67.50	20.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	76-90g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	20.50	18.25	12.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	83.00	£68.25	21.6%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	91-100g/km, or 126 - 400cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	22.00	19	15.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	84.50	£69.00	22.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	101-110g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	23.00	19.5	17.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	85.50	£69.50	23.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	111-130g/km, or 401 - 800cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	32.50	31	4.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	95.00	£81.00	17.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	131-150g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	35.00	32.25	8.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	97.50	£82.25	18.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	151-170g/km, or 801 - 1200cc*				

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	40.50	35	15.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	103.00	£85.00	21.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	171-190g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	51.00	40.25	26.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	113.50	£90.25	25.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	191-225g/km, or 1201cc- 2000cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	70.00	56.5	23.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	132.50	£106.50	24.4%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	226-255g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	94.50	75.5	25.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	157.00	£125.50	25.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Residents permits - 3 months	Over 256g/km or 2001cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	All other vehicles	118.50	87.25	35.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Resident permit 3 months	Diesel powered vehicles	181.00	£137.25	31.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge. RDE2 compliant diesels exempt from surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	0g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	44.00	42	4.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	1-50g/km, 50cc or under*				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	51.00	46	10.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	165.00	103	60.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	51-75g/km, or 51 - 125cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	55.00	48	14.6%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	169.00	105	61.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	76-90g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	59.00	50	18.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	174.00	107	62.6%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	91-100g/km, or 126 - 400cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	64.00	52	23.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	178.00	109	63.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	101-110g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	68.00	54	25.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	182.00	111	64.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	111-130g/km, or 401 - 800cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	71.00	56	26.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	185.00	113	63.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	131-150g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	78.00	59	32.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	193.00	117	65.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	151-170g/km, or 801 - 1200cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	93.00	67	38.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	208.00	124	67.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	171-190g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	123.00	82	50.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	237.00	139	70.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	191-225g/km, or 1201cc- 2000cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	153.00	97	57.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	267.00	154	73.4%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	226-255g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	197.00	119	65.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	312.00	176	77.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit - 12 months	Over 256g/km or 2001cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	All other vehicles	272.00	156	74.4%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Estate resident permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	386.00	213	81.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Car-sharing permit					
CHE	PARKING	Car-sharing permit	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge. RDE2 compliant diesels exempt from surcharge				
CHE	PARKING	Resident and estate resident permits	One permit per vehicle. Permit covers two parking zones. A permit fee will be applied to each zone.	Various	Various		New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022.
CHE	PARKING	Permit discounts					

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Motorcycle permits					
CHE	PARKING	Resident, estate resident and business motorcycle permits.	Motorcycles, scooters and other powered two wheelers - year 1 discount on permit price	0.50	100%	-50.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022.
CHE	PARKING	Additional vehicle surcharge					
CHE	PARKING	Resident and estate resident permits	Resident and estate resident permits	50.00	£50	0.0%	This is discounted for year 1 as set-out in the PEP 2022-27.
CHE	PARKING	Resident and estate resident permits	Additional vehicle surcharge - year 1 discount (applies to all permits in households where more than one permit is registered to the same address)	1.00	100%	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022.
CHE	PARKING	Resident visitor vouchers					
CHE	PARKING	1 day on-street resident visitor voucher	Number of voucher books (all types) bought per household per year		Price per voucher		
CHE	PARKING	1 day on-street resident visitor voucher	1 - 10 books	5.50	5.00	10.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	1 day on-street resident visitor voucher	11 - 20 books	7.50	7.00	7.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	1 day on-street resident visitor voucher	21 - 30 books	10.50	10.00	5.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	1 day on-street resident visitor voucher	31 - 40 books	15.00	14.00	7.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	1 day on-street resident visitor voucher	Discount on standard rate, available to customers aged 60 and over, or blue badge holders (only applicable to the first 24 books bought per household per year).	0.50	50%	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	2 hour on-street resident visitor voucher	Number of voucher books (all types) bought per household per year		Price per voucher		
CHE	PARKING	2 hour on-street resident visitor voucher	1 - 10 books	2.10	2.00	5.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	2 hour on-street resident visitor voucher	11 - 20 books	3.20	3.00	6.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	2 hour on-street resident visitor voucher	21 - 30 books	4.30	4.00	7.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	2 hour on-street resident visitor voucher	31 - 40 books	5.30	5.00	6.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	2 hour on-street resident visitor voucher	Discount on standard rate, available to customers aged 60 and over, or blue badge holders (only applicable to the first 24 books bought per household per year).	0.50	50%	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Market trader permit					
CHE	PARKING	Market trader permit - 1 day	All vehicles	5.30	5	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Doctor's permit	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge. RDE2 compliant diesels exempt from surcharge.				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge. RDE2 compliant diesels exempt from surcharge.				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	0g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	51.00	50.00	2.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	1-50g/km, 50cc or under*				

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	128.00	128.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	378.00	328.00	15.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	51-75g/km, or 51 - 125cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	143.00	135.00	5.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	393.00	335.00	17.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	76-90g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	148.00	138.00	7.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	398.00	338.00	17.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	91-100g/km, or 126 - 400cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	157.00	143.00	9.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	407.00	343.00	18.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	101-110g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	172.00	150.00	14.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	422.00	350.00	20.6%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	111-130g/km, or 401 - 800cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	276.00	277.00	-0.4%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	526.00	477.00	10.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	131-150g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	304.00	291.00	4.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	554.00	491.00	12.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	151-170g/km, or 801 - 1200cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	329.00	304.00	8.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	579.00	504.00	14.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	171-190g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	382.00	330.00	15.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	632.00	530.00	19.2%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	191-225g/km, or 1201cc- 2000cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	474.00	409.00	15.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	724.00	609.00	18.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	226-255g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	621.00	536.00	15.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	871.00	736.00	18.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit - 12 months	Over 256g/km or 2001cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	All other vehicles	750.00	600.00	25.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	Community support permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	1,000.00	800.00	25.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022. The community support permit will replace the health and social care permit.
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge. RDE2 compliant diesels exempt from surcharge.				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	0g/km				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,150.00	1,166.00	-1.4%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	1-50g/km, 50cc or under*				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,423.00	1,514.00	-6.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	1,923.00	1,914.00	0.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	51-75g/km, or 51 - 125cc*				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,436.00	1,521.00	-5.6%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	1,936.00	1,921.00	0.8%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	76-90g/km				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,449.00	1,527.00	-5.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	1,949.00	1,927.00	1.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	91-100g/km, or 126 - 400cc*				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,469.00	1,537.00	-4.4%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	1,969.00	1,937.00	1.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	101-110g/km				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,502.00	1,554.00	-3.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	2,002.00	1,954.00	2.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	111-130g/km, or 401 - 800cc*				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,787.00	1,907.00	-6.3%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	2,287.00	2,307.00	-0.9%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	131-150g/km				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,847.00	1,937.00	-4.6%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	2,347.00	2,337.00	0.4%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	151-170g/km, or 801 - 1200cc*				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,905.00	1,966.00	-3.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	2,405.00	2,366.00	1.6%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	171-190g/km				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	2,024.00	2,026.00	-0.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	2,524.00	2,426.00	4.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	191-225g/km, or 1201cc- 2000cc*				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	2,396.00	2,423.00	-1.1%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	2,896.00	2,823.00	2.6%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	226-255g/km				

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	2,929.00	2,980.00	-1.7%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	3,429.00	3,380.00	1.4%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit - 12 months	Over 256g/km or 2001cc*				
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	3,218.00	3,124.00	3.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	All zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	3,718.00	3,524.00	5.5%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit	Based on CO2 emissions with a diesel surcharge. RDE2 compliant diesels exempt from surcharge.				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	0g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	50.00	50.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	1-50g/km, 50cc or under*				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	250.00	250.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	650.00	650.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	51-75g/km, or 51 - 125cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	361.00	361.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	761.00	761.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	76-90g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	405.00	405.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	805.00	805.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	91-100g/km, or 126 - 400cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	472.00	472.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	872.00	872.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	101-110g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	583.00	583.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	983.00	983.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	111-130g/km, or 401 - 800cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	693.00	693.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	1,093.00	1,093.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	131-150g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	897.00	897.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	1,297.00	1,297.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	151-170g/km, or 801 - 1200cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,092.00	1,092.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	1,492.00	1,492.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	171-190g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,496.00	1,496.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	1,896.00	1,896.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	191-225g/km, or 1201cc- 2000cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	1,895.00	1,895.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	2,295.00	2,295.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	226-255g/km				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	2,520.00	2,520.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	2,920.00	2,920.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit - 12 months	Over 256g/km or 2001cc*				
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	All other vehicles	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Internal all zone permit 12 months	Diesel powered vehicles	3,900.00	3,900.00	0.0%	New fee structure for PEP 2022-27 approved at Cabinet in October 2022
CHE	PARKING	Bay suspensions	Bay suspensions				
CHE	PARKING	Bay suspensions	Fee for unauthorised use of parking spaces by third parties	500.00	500.00	0.0%	No Change
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING				
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Licensing of Houses in multiple occupation	Licensing of Houses in multiple occupation				
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Licensing of Houses in multiple occupation	Basic Fee per HMO	950.00	1,045.00	-9.1%	
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Licensing of Houses in multiple occupation	Basic Fee Accredited Landlords	875.00	962.50	-9.1%	
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Licensing of Houses in multiple occupation	Renewal of existing Licence	as per basic fee	as per basic fee		
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Selective License	Selective License				
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Selective License	Basic Fee per dwelling	500.00	500.00	0.0%	
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Selective License	Basic Fee Accredited Landlords	425.00	425.00	0.0%	
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Selective License	Housing and Planning Act Civil Penalties - determined in accordance with policy agreed by Cabinet	upto £33,000	upto £33,000	0.0%	
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Work in Default	Work in Default				
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Work in Default	Supervising officers time (private Sector Housing Officer) per hour	74.69	70.00	6.7%	Increase to reflect increase is costs - payward impact circa 8%

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Work in Default	Supervising officers time (Head of service/Team manager) per hour	86.43	81.00	6.7%	
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	Work in Default	Administration of contract	15% of principal contract exl VAT	15% of principal contract exl VAT		
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	General	General				
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	General	Photocopying - Officer time	48.02	45.00	6.7%	
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	General	Photocopying - cost per side copied	0.21	0.20	6.7%	
CHE	PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING	General	Land Registry search fee	4.80	4.50	6.7%	
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE				
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Inspections (Non-compliance/Defect)	120.00	120.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Inspections (Sample)	50.00	50.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE		Traffic Management Act (Category 0 - 2 Traffic Sensitive Streets)				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 0 - 2 Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Application Fee for Major Activity Permit	105.00	105.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 0 - 2 Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Issue of Major Activity Permit	240.00	240.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 0 - 2 Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Issue of Standard Activity Permit	130.00	130.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 0 - 2 Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Issue of Minor Activity Permit	65.00	65.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 0 - 2 Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Issue of Immediate Activity Permit	60.00	60.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 0 - 2 Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Permit Variation	45.00	45.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 3 & 4 non Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Traffic Management Act (Category 3 & 4 non Traffic Sensitive Streets)				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 3 & 4 non Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Application Fee for Major Activity Permit	75.00	75.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 3 & 4 non Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Issue of Major Activity Permit	150.00	150.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 3 & 4 non Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Issue of Standard Activity Permit	75.00	75.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 3 & 4 non Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Issue of Minor Activity Permit	45.00	45.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 3 & 4 non Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Issue of Immediate Activity Permit	40.00	40.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic Management Act (Category 3 & 4 non Traffic Sensitive Streets)	Permit Variation	35.00	35.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street not in road category 2, 3 or 4.	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street not in road category 2, 3 or 4.				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street not in road category 2, 3 or 4.	Amount (£)(each of first three days)	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street not in road category 2, 3 or 4.	Amount (£) (each subsequent day)	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Other street not in road category 2, 3 or 4.	Other street not in road category 2, 3 or 4.				

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	STREETSCENE	Other street not in road category 2, 3 or 4.	Amount (£)(each of first three days)	2,500.00	2,500.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Other street not in road category 2, 3 or 4.	Amount (£) (each subsequent day)	2,500.00	2,500.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street in road category 2.	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street in road category 2.				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street in road category 2.	Amount (£)(each of first three days)	3,000.00	3,000.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street in road category 2.	Amount (£) (each subsequent day)	8,000.00	8,000.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Other street in road category 2.	Other street in road category 2.				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Other street in road category 2.	Amount (£)(each of first three days)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Other street in road category 2.	Amount (£) (each subsequent day)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street in road category 3 or 4.	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street in road category 3 or 4.				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street in road category 3 or 4.	Amount (£)(each of first three days)	750.00	750.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Traffic-sensitive street or protected street in road category 3 or 4.	Amount (£) (each subsequent day)	750.00	750.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Other street in road category 3 or 4.	Other street in road category 3 or 4.				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Other street in road category 3 or 4.	Amount (£)(each of first three days)	250.00	250.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Other street in road category 3 or 4.	Amount (£) (each subsequent day)	250.00	250.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Charges in relation to works outside the FOOTWAY during period of overrun.	Charges in relation to works outside the FOOTWAY during period of overrun.				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Charges in relation to works outside the FOOTWAY during period of overrun.	Street not in road category 2, 3 or 4.	2,500.00	2,500.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Charges in relation to works outside the FOOTWAY during period of overrun.	Street in road category 2.	2,500.00	2,500.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Charges in relation to works outside the FOOTWAY during period of overrun.	Street in road category 3 or 4.	250.00	250.00	0 . 0%	Statutory fee set by DfT
CHE	STREETSCENE	Road closures	Road closures (Permanent)				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Road closures	Permanent	7,500.00	7,500.00	0 . 0%	No Change
CHE	STREETSCENE	Road closures	Up to 18 months	7,500.00	7,500.00	0 . 0%	No Change
CHE	STREETSCENE	Road closures	Section 16A closure up to 3 days / free to community events	1,750.00	1,500.00	16 . 7%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Road closures	Filming Order / Notice	550.00	500.00	10 . 0%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Streetscene				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Streetscene fees for capital type works, including those for external agencies. Site supervision only.	7.5% of works cost	7.5% of works cost		
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Streetscene fees for capital type works, including those for external agencies. Design and site supervision.	20% of works cost	20% of works cost		
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Land Searches	250.00	225.00	11 . 1%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Cross-overs (inspections)				

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Cross-overs Application (Non Refundable)	225.00	195.00	15.4%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Oversailing licence, temporary, renewable every 3 months	1,000.00	900.00	11.1%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Construction Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCS) and Construction Logistics Plan (CLP) monitoring	10,250.00	9,625.00	6.5%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £10
CHE	STREETSCENE	Road Closures/Restrictions	Road Closures (temporary)				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Section 14 (Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders	Section 14(1) Planned Carriageway Closure up to 5 Days	2,300.00	2,100.00	9.5%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Section 14 (Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders	Up to 1 month	2,750.00	2,500.00	10.0%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Section 14 (Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders	Up to 3 months	3,800.00	3,500.00	8.6%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Section 14 (Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders	Up to 6 months	5,500.00	5,000.00	10.0%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Section 14 (Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders	Up to 12 months	8,000.00	7,350.00	8.8%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Section 14 (Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders	Up to 18 months	11,000.00	9,975.00	10.3%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Section 14 (Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders	Section 14(2) - Unplanned/Emergency carriageway closures up to 5 Days	1,815.00	1,700.00	6.8%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £5
CHE	STREETSCENE	Section 15 (Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders	Section 15 (Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Highways	TTRO of over 18 month duration	22,000.00	20,000.00	10.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	STREETSCENE	Highways	Section 16A closure up to 3 days / free to community events	1,750.00	1,500.00	16.7%	Statutory Increase
CHE	STREETSCENE	Highways	Filming Order / Notice	550.00	500.00	10.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Charge for preparation of estimates	300.00	300.00	0.0%	Statutory charge
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Charge for provision of marking enforceable yellow lines	500.00	500.00	0.0%	Statutory charge
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Charge for licence for crane operation (Section 171 of Highways Act 1980)	500.00	420.00	19.0%	Statutory Increase
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Skip Licence (administration)				
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Skip Licence charge per month	145.00	135.00	7.4%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Materials Licence charge per month	180.00	165.00	9.1%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Container small (including portalooes) - per month	300.00	265.00	13.2%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Container large - per month	600.00	525.00	14.3%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Highways Act inspection fee (initial non-refundable payment)	110.00	100.00	10.0%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Third Party Inspection fees	68.00	68.00	0.0%	Statutory Charge
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Temporary Crossovers - up to 3 months	335.00	315.00	6.3%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £5
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Temporary Crossovers - extension per month after initial 3 month period.	335.00	315.00	6.3%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £5
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	NRSWA Section 50	1,100.00	1,000.00	10.0%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Streetworks Administration	90.00	85.00	5.9%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £5
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	TMA Fixed Penalty Notices Regulation 19 (paid after 29 days)	500.00	500.00	0.0%	Statutory Charge

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	TMA Fixed Penalty Notices Regulation 19 (paid before 29 days)	300.00	300.00	0.0%	Statutory Charge
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	TMA Fixed Penalty Notices Regulation 20 (paid after 29 days)	120.00	120.00	0.0%	Statutory Charge
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	TMA Fixed penalty Notices Regulation 20 (paid before 29 days)	80.00	80.00	0.0%	Statutory Charge
CHE	STREETSCENE	Network Team	Assessment of Construction Management (Logistics) Plans	300.00	271.00	10.7%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Streetscene				
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Oversailing licence, temporary up to 3 months	500.00	420.00	19.0%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Oversailing licence, temporary 4 to 6 months	1,000.00	840.00	19.0%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Oversailing licence - temporary 6 to 9 months	1,500.00	1,260.00	19.0%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Oversailing licence - temporary more than 9 months	2,000.00	1,680.00	19.0%	Increased in excess of CPI to recover costs
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Highways Licences				
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Opening of the highway licence - up to 10sq.m (section 171 Highways Act 1980) - min deposit - £1500	585.00	550.00	6.4%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £5
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Opening of the highway licence - over 10sq.m (section 171 Highways Act 1980) - minimum deposit - £2500	585.00	550.00	6.4%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £5
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Hoarding Licence up to 10sq.m (Section 172 Highways Act 1980) - per month	285.00	265.00	7.5%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £5
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Hoarding Licence over 10sq.m (Section 172 Highways Act 1980) - per month	335.00	315.00	6.3%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £5
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Scaffold Licence up to 10sq.m (Section 172 Highways Act 1980) - per month	285.00	265.00	7.5%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £5
CHE	STREETSCENE	STREETSCENE	Scaffold Licence over 10sq.m (Section 172 Highways Act 1980) - per month	335.00	315.00	6.3%	CPI Increase rounded to nearest £5
CHE	STREETSCENE	Road closures	Road closures (Permanent)				
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Streetworks - Coring samples	325.00	325.00	0.0%	Held at 2023/24 levels as introduced part way through 2023/24
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	TRADING STANDARDS	TRADING STANDARDS				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Weights	Weights				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Weights	Weights not exceeding 25kg	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Weights	Other weights (hourly rate)	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measures	Measures				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measures	Linear measures not exceeding 3m for each scale	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measures	Capacity measures without divisions	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measures	Cubic Ballast measures (other than brim measures)	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measures	Liquid capacity measures for making up and checking average quantity packages	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Templets	Templets				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Templets	a) Per scale - first item	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Templets	b) Second and subsequent items	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Weighing Instruments	Weighing Instruments				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Instruments calibrated to weigh only in metric units	Instruments calibrated to weigh only in metric units				

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Instruments calibrated to weigh only in metric units	a) Not exceeding 15kg	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Instruments calibrated to weigh only in metric units	b) Between 15kg & 100kg	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Instruments calibrated to weigh only in metric units	c) Between 100kg & 250kg	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Instruments calibrated to weigh only in metric units	d) Between 250kg & 1 tonne	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Instruments calibrated to weigh only in metric units	e) Between 1 tonne & 60 tonne - hourly rate per officer plus cost of hiring the test unit where applicable	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Intoxicating Liquor	Measuring Instruments for Intoxicating Liquor				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Intoxicating Liquor	Not exceeding 150ml	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Intoxicating Liquor	Other	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	Container type (un-subdivided)	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	Other types - single outlets	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	1 meter tested	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	2 meters tested	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	3 meters tested	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	4 meters tested	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	5 meters tested	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	6 meters tested	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	7 meters tested	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	8 meters tested	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuel & Lubricants	A charge to cover any additional costs involved in testing ancillary equipment that additional testing on site, such as credit card acceptors, will be based upon the basic fee given above plus additional costs at the rate of £72.50 per officer hour				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Road Tanker Fuel Measuring Equipment (>100 litres)	Road Tanker Fuel Measuring Equipment (>100 litres)				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Road Tanker Fuel Measuring Equipment (>100 litres)	a) Initial dipstick	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Road Tanker Fuel Measuring Equipment (>100 litres)	b) Spare dipstick	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Road Tanker Fuel Measuring Equipment (>100 litres)	c) Replacement dipstick (including examination of compartment)	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Special Weighing & Measuring Equipment	Special Weighing & Measuring Equipment				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Special Weighing & Measuring Equipment	Other equipment not mentioned above to be charged at the hourly rate shown				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Administration	Administration				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Administration	Searching, photocopying and sending requested documentation to business users	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Mail Forwarding	Mail Forwarding				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Mail Forwarding	Registration Fee	161.00	150.00	7.3%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Food Condemnation	Food Condemnation				
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Food Condemnation	Minimum charge (average two hours)	206.00	192.94	6.8%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Food Condemnation	Hourly rate	103.00	96.47	6.8%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Factual Statement for Civil Proceedings following accident investigation					
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Factual Statement for Civil Proceedings following accident investigation	Factual Statement	103.00	96.47	6.8%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Factual Statement for Civil Proceedings following accident investigation	Voluntary Disclosure	155.00	145.09	6.8%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	TRADING STANDARDS	Factual Statement for Civil Proceedings following accident investigation	Searching, photocopying and sending requested documentation to business users	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI - rounded to nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Consultation	Consultation				
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Consultation	Environmental Health Officers & Commercial Standards Officers supplying consultancy, advisory or attendance on site services to other London Borough of Hackney corporate users or external business users - Hourly rate.	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Basic Food Hygiene Training Course	Basic Food Hygiene Training Course				
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Basic Food Hygiene Training Course	Course fees	77.00	71.50	7.7%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Basic Food Hygiene Training Course	Re-sit examination	31.00	28.88	7.3%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Basic Food Hygiene Training Course	Level 2 Course fees (Learning Trust)	62.00	57.81	7.2%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Basic Food Hygiene Training Course	Level 2 Course (off site)	1,234.00	1,155.66	6.8%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Basic Food Hygiene Training Course	Discounts 10 or more participants	10% of course fee	10% of course fee		
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Basic Food Hygiene Training Course	Discounts - 5 or more participants	5% of course fee	5% of course fee		
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Basic Food Hygiene Training Course	Refresher course	50.00	46.09	8.5%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Supervising Food Safety in Catering				
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Supervising Food Safety in Catering	Level 3 Course	432.00	404.58	6.8%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Health and Safety Level 2	Health and Safety Level 2				
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Course fees	Course fees				
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Course fees	Primary Authority Partnership Agreements (Section 25 of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008)	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI rounded to the nearest £

Fees & Charges 2024/25

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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Course fees	Business Compliance Consultancy Service	87.00	80.91	7.5%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Administration	Administration				
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Export Certification	Fee levied for administrative function to issue an export certificate (10 working day turnaround)	193.00	180.00	7.2%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Export Certification	Fee levied for administrative function to issue an export certificate (max 2 working day turnaround)	267.00	250.00	6.8%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Sound Level Certification Programme	This fee is levied on licensed premises that provide regulated entertainment	604.00	566.00	6.7%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	FOOD HYGIENE	FOOD HYGIENE				
CHE	BUSINESS REGULATION	Food Hygiene Rating Scheme	Re- Inspection of Business Premises	342.00	320.00	6.9%	CPI rounded to the nearest £
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	WASTE MANAGEMENT	WASTE MANAGEMENT				
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Sack Collection	2.30	2.17	5.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Chamberlain Collection	16.25	15.24	6.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Paladin Collection	16.25	15.24	6.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Euro Collection	16.25	15.24	6.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	660L Collection	13.35	12.51	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	360L Collection	9.25	8.66	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	240L Collection	6.90	6.49	6.4%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Chamberlain Hire Charge	3.65	3.42	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Paladin Hire Charge	3.65	3.42	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Euro Hire Charge	3.65	3.42	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	660L Hire Charge	2.80	2.63	6.3%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	360L Hire Charge	1.20	1.14	4.9%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	240L Hire Charge	1.20	1.14	4.9%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	12 Cubic Yard Skip Collection	310.70	291.20	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	40 Cubic Yard Skip Collection	557.20	522.20	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	14 Cubic Yard Compactors Collection	575.85	539.69	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Hire of Compactor	30.85	28.90	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Hire of Skips	30.85	28.90	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Glass Recycling Euro Collection	8.65	8.13	6.5%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Glass Recycling 660L Collection	7.65	7.16	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Glass Recycling 240G Collection	3.80	3.55	7.0%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Glass recycling sack (per sack)	1.25	1.19	5.0%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Special Collections	88.05	82.50	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Cardboard recycling (Per Strap)	25.40	0.00		No Change
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Organic recycling (per sack)	1.25	1.19	5.0%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Co-mingled Sack collection	1.25	1.19	5.0%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Sack Collection (Collection Only)	1.30	1.20	8.4%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Chamberlain Collection (Collection Only)	8.70	8.13	7.1%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Paladin Collection (Collection Only)	8.70	8.13	7.1%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Euro Collection (Collection Only)	8.70	8.13	7.1%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	360L Collection (Collection Only)	5.05	4.74	6.5%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	240L Collection (Collection Only).	3.80	3.55	7.0%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	12 Cubic Yard Skip Collection (Collection Only)	193.20	181.07	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	40 Cubic Yard of Skip Collection (Collection Only)	193.20	181.07	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	14 Cubic Yard Compactors (Collection Only)	193.20	181.07	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Cost per sack upon cancellation of contract	0.11	0.10	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Admin cost associated with cancellation of contract through non payment and resigning of contract	106.70	100.00	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	140L Hire Charge (Food Waste Service)	1.20	1.14	4.9%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Household Recycling 660	425.95	399.18	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Household Recycling 1100 (A)	402.85	377.54	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Household Recycling 1100 (B)	437.45	409.99	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Commercial Commingled Recycling 660	391.30	366.73	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Commercial Commingled Recycling 1100	402.85	377.54	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Commercial Glass Recycling 660	391.30	366.73	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Commercial Glass Recycling 1100	402.85	377.54	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Waste 660	386.60	362.33	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	Waste 1100	398.15	373.14	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bulky Waste removal (includes White Goods)	Bulky Waste removal (includes White Goods)				
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bulky Waste removal (includes White Goods)	Special Bulky Waste collection	88.05	82.50	6.7%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bulky Waste non-POP items removal (includes White Goods)	Bulky Waste Disposal for up to 5 items that don't have persistent organic compounds (A £21.35 fee will be charged for every subsequent 5 item requests made)	21.35	20.00	6.7%	Increased following no increase since introduction. Also new regulations require that we collect some items separately due to the presence of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and rather than people paying twice, the overall collection cost has been increased.
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bulky Waste removal (includes White Goods)	Exemption for Residents in receipt of Housing Benefits	Free	Free		
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Clinical Waste (prices exclude VAT)	Clinical Waste (prices exclude VAT)				
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Clinical Waste (prices exclude VAT)	Sharps per burn bin up to 3ltr Bin	8.10	7.58	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Clinical Waste (prices exclude VAT)	Sharps per burn bin 4ltr to 12ltr	16.20	15.17	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Clinical Waste (prices exclude VAT)	Sharps per burn bin over 12ltr	24.25	22.75	6.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bin Rental - Waste	Bin Rental - Waste				
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bin Rental - Waste	Euro Hire Charge (Weekly Household Recycling)	2.45	2.28	7.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bin Rental - Waste	660L Hire Charge (Weekly Household Recycling)	1.85	1.75	5.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bin Rental - Waste	500L Hire Charge (Weekly Household Recycling)	1.85	1.75	5.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	COMMERCIAL WASTE	Commercial Waste				
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	COMMERCIAL WASTE	1280L Collection	18.35	17.22	6.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	COMMERCIAL WASTE	Glass Recycling 1280L Collection	10.10	9.46	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	COMMERCIAL WASTE	Co-Mingled 1280L Collection	10.10	9.46	6.8%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	COMMERCIAL WASTE	Discount of up to 15% on all core prices where a collective agreement is put in place with a group of businesses in a defined area				
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	BIN WASHING HOUSEHOLD/COMMERCIAL	Single Wash 180 - 240 Litre Bin	6.95	6.50	6.9%	Prices amended following a benchmarking activity, to bring prices more in line with other providers of this type of service

Fees & Charges 2024/25
Appendix 7

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	BIN WASHING HOUSEHOLD/COMMERCIAL	Single Wash 660 - 1280 Litre Bin (when three cleans are booked)	10.65	10.00	6.5%	Prices amended following a benchmarking activity, to bring prices more in line with other providers of this type of service
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Domestic Waste Collection	Admin & Delivery Fee - per bin lost, stolen, damaged and replacements	45.00	20.00	125.0%	
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	COMMERCIAL WASTE	Commercial Waste				
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	660L Collection (Collection Only)	8.25	7.74	6.6%	Inflationary increase to reflect increased operational costs - change of bin size.
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	23L Food Waste Recycling Collection	3.95	3.70	6.7%	Commercial food waste recycling charges being introduced as the provision of a free service is no longer sustainable
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	140L Food Waste Recycling Collection	4.75	4.47	6.3%	Commercial food waste recycling charges being introduced as the provision of a free service is no longer sustainable
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	240L Food Waste Recycling Collection	5.45	5.13	6.3%	Commercial food waste recycling charges being introduced as the provision of a free service is no longer sustainable
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Commercial Waste	660L Food Waste Recycling Collection	12.90	12.08	6.8%	Commercial food waste recycling charges being introduced as the provision of a free service is no longer sustainable
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bin Washing Household/Commercial	Single Wash 180 - 240 Litre Bin (when six cleans are booked)	6.40	6.00	6.7%	To enhance and expand the bin washing service
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bin Washing Household/Commercial	Single Wash 180 - 240 Litre Bin (when 12 cleans are booked)	6.95	6.50	6.9%	To enhance and expand the bin washing service
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bin Washing Household/Commercial	Single Wash 660 - 1280 Litre Bin (when six cleans are booked)	9.60	9.00	6.7%	To enhance and expand the bin washing service
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bin Washing Household/Commercial	Single Wash 660 - 1280 Litre Bin (when 12 cleans are booked)	8.55	8.00	6.8%	To enhance and expand the bin washing service
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bulky Waste removal (includes White Goods)	Bulky Waste Disposal for up to 5 items, unless soft seating where those items that have persistent organic compounds, and then a separate £40 charge applies (A £35 fee will be charged for every subsequent 5 item requests made)	42.70	40.00	6.8%	To enhance and expand the bulky waste collection service
CHE	HOUSING	Housing Management					
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Parking Permits	.			Set by Parking Services
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Parking Permits - Renewal				Set by Parking Services
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Parking Permits - Visitor				Set by Parking Services
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Copy Documents (Tenant Files)	12.00	11.24	6.8%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Replacement Key Fobs	24.00	22.48	6.8%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Carport	4.20	3.94	6.7%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Garages above ground	22.20	20.79	6.8%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Garages Underground	17.30	16.23	6.6%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Parking Space (Uncovered)	2.50	2.37	5.7%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Parking Space (Covered)	4.20	3.94	6.7%	
CHE	HOUSING	Hire of Community Halls Managed by Housing Services					
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	New Lettings (Private functions and non community linked events)	420.00	393.50	6.7%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	New Lettings (Private functions and non community linked events)	36.00	33.73	6.7%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Community Bookings(community activities, provisions and functions)	240.00	224.86	6.7%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Community Bookings(community activities, provisions and functions)	24.00	22.48	6.8%	

Fees & Charges 2024/25
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Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Housing Service Related meetings (e.g. TRA Meetings, councillor surgeries, police meetings)	0.00	0.00		
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant Charges					
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Grounds Maintenance	2.15	2.15	0.0%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Block Cleaning	6.11	6.11	0.0%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Estate Cleaning	2.66	2.66	-0.2%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Landlord lighting	3.25	2.75	18.2%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	CCTV monitoring	0.51	0.47	8.3%	
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Concierge	32.00	30.61	4.5%	
CHE	HOUSING	Leaseholder Charges					
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Processing applications to carry out alterations	£107 to £800	£100 to £750		no change
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Providing pre-sale information packs and reply to further enquiries	£200 and £50 for further enquiries	200.00		no change
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Providing mortgage packs and dealing with remortgage enquiries	£200 and £50 for further enquiries	£150-£400		no change
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Registration of subletting	32.00	30.00		no change
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Providing copies of lease/transfer agreement	32.00	30.00		no change
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Advising on and processing requests to extend leases	£1400 Legal and £750 surveyor fees	£1500 or more		no change
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Advising on and processing enfranchisement applications	£1400 Legal and £750 surveyor fees	£1500 or more		no change
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	Processing shared owners requests to staircase	0.00	£350 (LRTBS) £750 (Legal)		no change
CHE	HOUSING	Tenant and Leasehold services	External Wall Survey Report (EWS1) (charged by Resident Safety)	750.00			
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Pollution	Information from the councils records in relation to contaminated land	144.00	0.00		Previously listed under Planning
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Bulky Waste POP item removal	Bulky Waste Disposal for up to 5 items that have persistent organic compounds (A £20 fee will be charged for every subsequent 5 item requests made)	21.35	20.00	6.8%	Increased following no increase since introduction. Also new regulations require that we collect some items separately due to the presence of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and rather than people paying twice, the overall collection cost has been increased.
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Garden Waste Collection	Annual Subscription for Garden Waste Collection 1 x 140 litre bin	85.00			New Charge to deliver savings proposal approved by January Cabinet to be implemented 30th April 2024 - charge to be pro rata'd for 2024/25
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Garden Waste Collection	Annual Subscription for Garden Waste Collection 2 x 140 litre bins	127.00			New Charge to deliver savings proposal approved by January Cabinet to be implemented 30th April 2024 - charge to be pro rata'd for 2024/25
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Garden Waste Collection	Annual Subscription for Garden Waste Collection 2 x 90 litre bags	110.00			New Charge to deliver savings proposal approved by January Cabinet to be implemented 30th April 2024 - charge to be pro rata'd for 2024/25
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Garden Waste Collection	Annual Subscription for Garden Waste Collection 4 x 90 litre bags	165.00			New Charge to deliver savings proposal approved by January Cabinet to be implemented 30th April 2024 - charge to be pro rata'd for 2024/25
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Garden Waste Collection	Annual Subscription for Garden Waste Collection 1 x 140 litre bin and 2 x 90 litre bags	147.00			New Charge to deliver savings proposal approved by January Cabinet to be implemented 30th April 2024 - charge to be pro rata'd for 2024/25
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Garden Waste Collection	Admin & Delivery Fee - per bin lost, stolen, damaged and replacements	45.00			New Charge to deliver savings proposal approved by January Cabinet to be implemented 30th April 2024 - charge to be pro rata'd for 2024/25
CHE	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Garden Waste Collection	Admin & Delivery Fee - per reusable sack lost, stolen, damaged and replacements	15.00			New Charge to deliver savings proposal approved by January Cabinet to be implemented 30th April 2024 - charge to be pro rata'd for 2024/25
CHE	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	Animal Warden Service (Out of Borough)	All services pertaining to collection, handling, kennelling, medical and rehoming fees	On quotation			Local authorities are struggling for kennel space, and provides an opportunity to offer this service to other boroughs

Fees & Charges 2024/25

Directorate	Section	Department	Description	2024/25 Fees & Charges £	2023/24 Fees & Charges £	% increase/de crease	Comments
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS (sports facilities set by LBH)					
CHE	LEISURE & GREEN SPACES	PARKS	Tennis - Early Morning (Monday to Friday - Before 10 a.m. and Saturday / Sunday before 9 a.m.)	4.00	0.00		Fee to be introduced to capture the early morning users in the Parks Service
CHE	PARKING	Short stay parking charges					
CHE	PARKING	Zero emissions vehicles	Solo motorcycle bays only - year 1 discount of 97%	Various	Various		As per Motorcycle Cabinet paper approved in March 2023
CHE	PARKING	Petrol vehicles registered from 2005	Pay by mobile and local payment point				
CHE	PARKING	Petrol vehicles registered from 2005	Solo motorcycle bays only - year 1 discount of 93%	Various	Various		As per Motorcycle Cabinet paper approved in March 2023
CHE	PARKING	Diesel vehicles registered from 2015 (£1 per hour surcharge)	Pay by mobile and local payment point				
CHE	PARKING	Diesel vehicles registered from 2015	Solo motorcycle bays only - year 1 discount of 93%	Various	Various		As per Motorcycle Cabinet paper approved in March 2023
CHE	PARKING	All other vehicles (£2 per hour surcharge)	Pay and display, pay by mobile and local payment point				
CHE	PARKING	All other vehicles and payments at pay and display machines (£2 per hour surcharge)	Solo motorcycle bays only - year 1 discount of 93%	Various	Various		As per Motorcycle Cabinet paper approved in March 2023
CHE	Building Control	Building Control	Hourly rate to support the Building Safety Regulator (Health and Safety Executive) in the performance of its relevant functions under the Building Safety Act 2022	168.00	168.00	0.0%	Introduced October 2023
CHE	STREETSCENE	Streetscene	Crane Operation (additional week)	150.00	130.00	15.4%	

Referendum Calculation 2024/25

	2024/25	2023/24
Council Tax Requirement	£109.338m	£103.260m
Divided by Council Tax base	77,766.9	77,108.86
Band D Equivalent Council Tax	£1,405.97	£1,339.15
Increase in Band D Council Tax £	66.82	
Increase in Band D Council Tax %	4.99	
<p>Referendum thresholds for 2024-25 were published alongside the Local Government Finance Settlement on 5th February 2024. A local authority providing social care's council tax increase is deemed excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2024-25 is 5% (comprising 2% for expenditure on adult social care, and 3% for other expenditure), or more than 5%, greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2023-24.</p> <p>Hackney has ASC responsibilities and the budget proposals include an increase of 2% for ASC expenditure and 2.99% for all other expenditure and the proposed 4.99% total increase in the Hackney element of the Band D Council Tax for 2024/25 is within the set criteria of not being excessive as set above. The increase will therefore be considered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as not excessive and NOT requiring a referendum.</p>		

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Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Capital Strategy sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investment by the Council. The strategy focuses on the core principles that underpin decision making on the council's capital programme including how we will prioritise new capital expenditure; capital expenditure objectives; the key issues and risks that impact on the delivery of the capital programme; and the governance framework required to ensure the capital programme is delivered successfully and provides value for money for residents and businesses of Hackney.
- 1.2 The capital strategy should align with the priorities set out in the Council's Community Strategy, Strategic Plan and other key council strategies.
- 1.3 The Capital Strategy sets out:
 - How the agreed capital programme will align and contribute to the delivery of the Council's Strategic Plan and its priorities, as well as other relevant Council strategies and priorities.
 - An updated profile of the Borough's population, housing, employment and other features.
 - An overview of the Council's existing capital programme 2023/24 - 2026/27 and what it will deliver.
 - How additional capital investment over and above the existing capital programme will be prioritised.
 - The funding strategy for the capital programme, presented to Cabinet as part of the overall budget.
 - Details of the governance and delivery assurance framework in place to support the strategic planning and delivery of the capital programme
- 1.4 This capital strategy has been prepared with reference to CIPFA's Capital Strategy Guidance 2021 and whilst it seeks to follow good practice set out in that document it is recognised that there is more to be done to develop the strategy, further details on this are set out in section 15.

2. Policy framework & the local context

- 2.1 Hackney's Capital Strategy is an essential part of delivering on the vision for the borough set out in our [Community Strategy \(2018-2028\)](#) and [Strategic Plan \(2022-2026\)](#). The Council's aim is to make Hackney a fairer, safer and more sustainable place for everyone. The five themes of the Community Strategy are:
 - A borough where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life and the whole community can benefit from growth

- A borough where residents and local businesses fulfil their potential and everyone enjoys the benefits of increased local prosperity and contributes to community life
- A greener and environmentally sustainable community which is prepared for the future
- An open, cohesive, safer and supportive community
- A borough with healthy, active and independent residents.

2.2 The three Mayor's priorities of the Council Strategic Plan (2022) are set out below:

- **FOR A FAIRER, SAFER HACKNEY**
We will tackle inequality through poverty reduction, and anti-racism, providing more Council homes as we improve standards of our existing homes, and creating pathways into decent jobs. We will improve our customer services. We will create safe, vibrant, and successful town centres and neighbourhoods and foster strong, cohesive communities and a more inclusive economy.
- **FOR A GREENER, HEALTHIER 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.
- **FOR EVERY CHILD IN HACKNEY**
We will work to ensure every child and young person in Hackney has the best start in life; shaping a more inclusive and high performing education system, maintaining our early years and youth services, keeping children safe and investing in their mental health and well being, providing access to outstanding play, culture, and sport, and opportunities; tackling child poverty, and supporting those families who need us most.

2.3 Other Council plans and strategies related to the Capital Strategy are:

- [Local Plan](#) and accompanying [Infrastructure Delivery Plan](#)
- [Housing Strategy](#)
- [The Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Inclusive Economy Strategy](#)
- [Hackney Central Town Centre Strategy](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) (draft version)
- Economic Development Plan (in development)
- [Housing Asset Management Strategy](#) (2019-2027)
- Strategic (Corporate Estate) Asset Management plan (in development).

2.4 Our Capital Strategy has a key role to play in delivering the aims of the Community Strategy and the Strategic Plan in the context of the other key documents listed above. By providing a clear and considered approach to the Council's capital

investment, the Council has a framework, set out in the Capital Strategy, to invest to deliver against the objectives of the organisation.

- 2.5 The Council's growth strategy is set in the borough's Local Plan (2020). The Local Plan states that based on the rate of growth at the time of preparing the Local Plan, Hackney's population will reach around 320,000 by 2033, a growth of 13% above the 2020 figure of 280,900. This population growth will result in a need for more homes, jobs, services, and community facilities such as SEND school places and health care. The Local Plan, supported by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, sets out a framework to support this population growth by providing 26,250 new homes and at least 23,000 new jobs by 2033. Although the latest census figures were below those projected, there was still a projected population increase of 5.3% (ONS June 2022) and there remains a requirement for significantly more homes to deal with the housing affordability crisis.
- 2.6 The majority of growth is planned in the borough's town centres and high streets due to the fact these areas have excellent public transport connections and existing services and facilities, and therefore offer the most sustainable development opportunities. The key growth areas in the Local Plan are Hackney Central, Dalston, Shoreditch and Hoxton, Woodberry Down, Hackney Wick and Clapton.
- 2.7 The Council's Capital Strategy prioritises inclusive growth and development in the key growth and regeneration areas of Hackney Central, Dalston, Woodberry Down, Shoreditch and Hoxton, Hackney Wick and Clapton. By investing in, and making better use of, Council land and assets in these locations, the Council will seek to meet the needs of a growing population and address the lack of affordable homes and workspace, deliver improved town centres, homes, jobs, commercial space, and community facilities, whilst at the same time realising the financial benefits to the whole borough of a targeted and coordinated approach to investment in specific places.
- 2.8 In addition to the key growth areas set out above, the Council will consider the current and future needs of our communities and neighbourhoods and prioritise, where affordable, investment in Council assets and buildings strategically across the borough that will unlock the most benefits for Hackney and our residents and demonstrate a financially sound case for capital investment. Via our Asset Management Plans we will consider further investment in Council owned land and buildings that are underused or in need of improvement.
- 2.9 The capital strategy will also play an active role in delivering on the Council's commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2040, set out in the Climate Action Plan, and build a borough with cleaner air, healthier lives and better neighbourhoods for all of our residents and businesses. It will do this by taking a targeted approach to growth and development as set out above and by ensuring that any new development meets the highest possible environmental standards and actively contributes to the delivery of the net zero commitment. The Council will ensure the need to achieve our net zero target is factored into all future capital investment decisions and new capital expenditure.
- 2.10 By adopting this approach, the Council stands to realise more from its own land and assets by maximising the opportunities they present for long term income and growth

and reducing unnecessary expenditure on our assets. By pursuing a strategy of capital investment and expenditure that is targeted and focused on delivering inclusive growth and a greener and more sustainable borough we will be better placed to invest in our services, communities and places for years to come and deliver on the ambitions in our Community Strategy and Strategic Plan.

- 2.11 The Council must also live within its means and remain cognisant of the long-term financial impact (as well as benefits) of capital spend. To this end there are appropriate governance arrangements in place and capital proposals will be subject to business cases and appropriate scrutiny before being brought forward and decisions are taken.

3. Priorities for capital investment

- 3.1 Inevitably there will always be a gap between our overall capital ambition to deliver for our residents, businesses and the borough, and our resources to deliver. For this reason the Council must make decisions on future capital investment based on an agreed set of priorities.
- 3.2 The Council's capital investment priorities are set out below. Any requests for additional capital investment/expenditure must meet as many of the below criteria as possible.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY - PRIORITIES FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

- *To use the capital programme and capital investment to support the delivery of services in line with the Mayor and Council's priorities set out in the Strategic Plan:*
 - **FOR A FAIRER, SAFER HACKNEY**
 - **FOR A GREENER, HEALTHIER HACKNEY**
 - **FOR EVERY CHILD IN HACKNEY**
- *To ensure that Council assets (where there is no business case in place, or planned, for the redevelopment, disposal or regeneration of the asset) are maintained in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements and are fit for purpose. Investment in existing Council assets must be aligned with the relevant approved asset management plan for the asset (e.g. Housing Asset Management Plan, Highways Asset Management Plan, Parks Asset Management Plan etc).*
- *Capital investment to support the delivery of additional Council homes, regeneration, and an inclusive economy in accordance with the borough Growth Strategy in the Local Plan.*
- *Capital investment to support the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.*
- *Capital investment that will facilitate the generation of significant revenue or capital income to the Council.*
- *Capital investment which will result in a significant long term saving for the Council.*

3.3 Capital investment proposals will be considered against these priorities via the governance process and methodologies as set out in section 13.

3.4 In addition to the above priorities, it is often the case where the Council will be making a capital investment in a project or programme that is largely funded via other sources (e.g. Government grant funding, S106, CIL etc). This is demonstrated by the table in 6.2. The decision to bid for and accept external sources of capital funding will be made via the capital governance framework set out in section 13 and a capital bid form will need to be completed to set out how the project will contribute to the Council strategic and capital expenditure priorities, however the capital bid form will recognise that the direct capital ask of the Council is mitigated via the availability of external funding sources. In many cases it should also be noted that the Council will be requested to provide some 'match' funding for external capital funding in order to secure it.

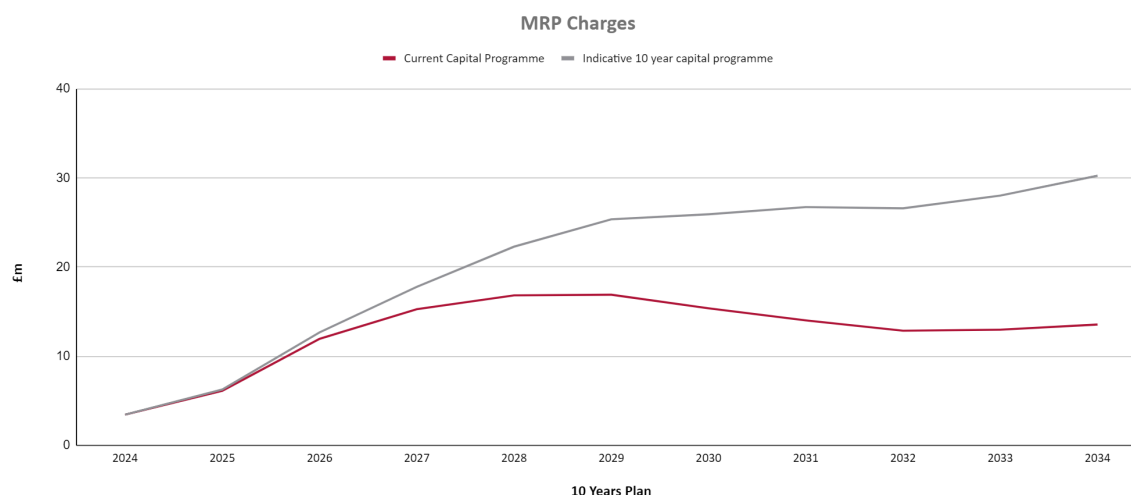
4. 10 Year capital programme outlook

4.1 As part of the budget setting we are looking at a longer-term time horizon as we aim to develop a robust financial framework that will serve as a guiding compass for the Council's decision-making on capital investments. The table presented below outlines our anticipated 10 year capital requirements. While this representation will not capture everything, it's crucial to note that our approach is iterative, and we are committed to ongoing refinement as we strive for a comprehensive understanding of our financial landscape.

	23/24 - 26/27	27/28 - 33/34	10 year outlook
	Estimate	Indicative	Total
	£m	£m	£m
Capital Programme:			
Non-Housing	448.5	298.5	747.0
Housing	1,029.2	979.6	2,008.8
Total spend	1,477.8	1,278.0	2,755.8
Financed by:			
Capital Receipts	66.5	213.5	280.0
Government Grants	198.3	99.9	298.2
Reserves	20.1	2.4	22.5
RCCO	218.1	428.1	646.2
S106/CIL	20.4	0.0	20.4
Borrowing	954.4	534.1	1,488.5
Total Financing	1,477.8	1,278.0	2,755.8

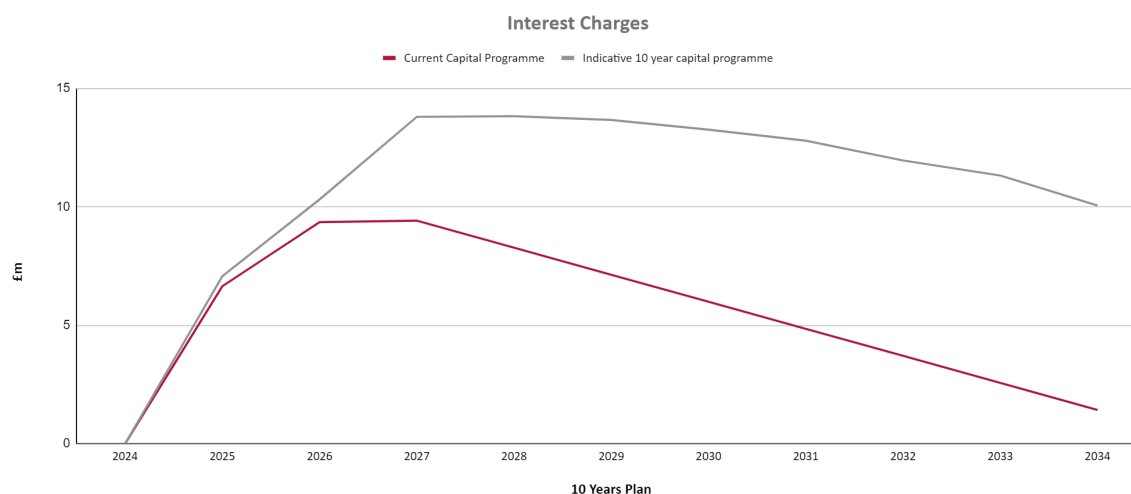
4.2 There HRA borrowing requirement is predominantly to fund the Housing Regeneration Programmes, Estate Regeneration Programme, Housing Supply Programme and Woodberry Down, until capital receipts are realised through sales of residential properties becoming available through these developments. The capital receipts will be realised once developments are complete and private for sale and shared ownership units are marketed. Some of the programmes will not complete until after 2033/34 when the capital receipts will be realised. The residual borrowing from the schemes, which equates to circa 30% of the build costs, will be repaid from the rental income streams from the new social housing units over a fifty year period. This residual borrowing for the new social rented homes, as well as interest costs has been factored into HRA business planning.

4.3 The graph below captures the impact this will have on the General Fund.



4.4 The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is the minimum amount that a local authority must statutorily charge to its income and expenditure account each year, for the repayment of borrowing. The MRP charge will increase from £3.5m to £30m in 10 years.

4.5 The annual interest charge is much more difficult to estimate as it is dependent on the availability of cash balances to 'cash flow' schemes which are ultimately to be funded from external borrowing. The below estimate is based on the assumption that 100% of the schemes are funded from external borrowing 100% of the time. In reality this may not occur, however, there is, of course, an opportunity cost of using internal cash balances in terms of the interest that could be earned from investing these balances. The assumption around interest rates is 5% over a 10 year period.



4.6 As we progress, we aim to enhance financial viability of the capital programme through a combination of

- Scrutinising the existing capital programme for potential rationalisation. This ensures efficient resource allocation aligned with strategic objectives.
- Performing a strategic evaluation of the council's property portfolio with the aim of easing the strain on the capital programme. The goal is to assess various

"non-core" assets in relation to corporate priorities, financial performance, and their potential future benefits and risks to LBH. This assessment may result in the identification of assets for potential disposal, generating capital receipts and reducing the need for borrowing to finance the capital programme.

- Increasing the MTFP savings target to provide additional funding for the capital programme, ensuring a more robust financial foundation.

5. Hackney's three year capital programme

- 5.1 Included as part of the budget report is a three year capital programme which reflects the capital investment position over the medium term which informs the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan through identifying the monies required to be set aside to repay debt principal, interest charged on external borrowing and Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay.
- 5.2 The capital programme primarily represents two types of expenditure - enhancing of our existing assets, and the creation of, or acquisition of, new assets. Over the three financial years 2020/21 to 2022/23 our capital expenditure has ranged between £133m to £202m. In recent years, there has been a decline, attributed to the impact of Covid and a substantial rise in construction inflation, leading to project delays. The reprofiled capital budget for 2023/24 is at £212m. The current capital programme suggests this will increase in future years though this is materially dependent on viability of our regeneration schemes and organisational capacity and technical skills, and external factors such as construction industry inflation and the increased cost of borrowing.
- 5.3 The Council's capital programme is ambitious in delivering on our zero carbon commitment and on the community infrastructure and affordable housing our residents deserve. The programme does need, however, to remain affordable and we need to ensure that we link our capital programme to our medium term financial plan by factoring in provisions to repay capital borrowing (the 'minimum revenue provision') and interest costs (see section 7).

Non-Housing	23/24 Forecast £m	24/25 Estimate £m	25/26 Estimate £m	26/27 Estimate £m	Total £m
Chief Executive	0.4	5.9	1.0	0.0	7.2
Adults, Health and Integration	1.6	1.8	0.5	0.2	4.2
Children and Education	13.7	20.9	8.9	4.9	48.4
Finance/Corp Resources – mixed use schemes	27.7	74.7	75.0	11.8	189.2
Finance/Corp Resources - other	35.4	39.8	5.9	4.6	85.7
Climate, Homes & Economy	30.8	45.0	30.1	7.9	113.9
Total Non-Housing budget	109.6	188.2	121.4	29.4	448.5

Housing	23/24 Forecast £m	24/25 Estimate £m	25/26 Estimate £m	26/27 Estimate £m	Total £m
AMP Capital Schemes HRA	46.3	55.3	53.6	55.6	210.9
Council Capital Schemes GF	5.9	4.8	2.3	2.3	15.3
Private Sector Housing schemes	1.6	2.0	2.0	1.7	7.4
Estate Regeneration	20.7	55.7	148.8	187.7	412.9
Housing Supply Programme	19.8	32.6	70.6	99.9	222.9
Woodberry Down Regeneration	8.2	12.6	5.7	10.7	37.3
New Homes	0.6	6.0	16.4	99.6	122.6
Total Housing budget	103.1	169.2	299.4	457.5	1,029.2
Total Capital Programme	212.7	357.4	420.8	486.9	1,477.8

5.3 The 'Finance/Corp Resources - mixed used schemes' line above is primarily the mixed use Britannia project. With the significant social infrastructure already delivered in the summer of 2021 with a brand new leisure centre and school, we now move to the delivery of affordable and private for sale housing. As this scheme is funded primarily by sale of on-site private residential accommodation there is a significant element of risk. Brexit, followed by Covid and recent economic events has destabilised the housing market and there is considerable work continuing to monitor and manage this risk. This includes regular updates of the financial model including the forecast income from sales at present day value. Where there is a shortfall from the original estimate and therefore a gap in the estimated Council contribution extra borrowing costs are factored into our medium term financial plan. There is a separate project board and governance process for Britannia in terms of ongoing project management and the relevant financial scrutiny.

5.4 The table below shows where our capital investment from April 2023 to March 2027 is helping to deliver against our priorities in the Strategic Plan.

Priority	Example Projects	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	Total £m
Fairer, Safer Hackney	Maintaining the homes of our Council residents, Housing Regeneration Schemes delivering more and improved homes, the Britannia Scheme also delivering new homes, Stoke Newington Library Refurbishment, investment in temporary accommodation and new GP surgeries.	149.6	267.7	374.3	467.0	1,258.6

Priority	Example Projects	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	Total £m
Greener, Healthier Hackney	Essential Maintenance to Leisure Centres including Kings Hall, Play areas in parks, London Fields Learner Pool, Parks Infrastructure, Parks Depot, Highways Planned Maintenance, Waste & Fleet Replacement and specific Green projects including Cycle Hangers and Electrical Vehicle charging points.	44.2	61.0	37.0	14.5	156.8
Every Child in Hackney	Investment in the maintenance of our schools and delivery of additional in-borough, SEND places.	14.0	21.1	9.1	5.1	49.3
Corporate Cross-cutting	Stoke Newington Town Hall and investment in ICT to support a range of our services.	4.9	7.6	0.3	0.3	13.1
Total		212.7	357.4	420.8	486.9	1,477.8

5.5 The overall indicative programme incorporates schemes that will deliver the following:

- An ongoing and ambitious estate regeneration programme which will bring homes of different tenures to the market helping make Hackney a fairer place with genuinely affordable homes including the delivery of 1,000 new council homes.
- Regeneration, place shaping, and inclusive growth in the borough's town centres and regeneration areas, ensuring that the opportunity for growth in our town centres and regeneration areas delivers on community priorities such as cleaner, greener and safer town centres and more affordable homes and workspace.
- Investing in our young people and helping give them the best start in life through our ongoing investment in our school estate to ensure it is in a suitable state of repair, including the ongoing programme of works to primary school facades.
- Investment in expanding in-borough SEN provision to support some of our more vulnerable young people with new facilities close to home.
- Ongoing maintenance of the corporate property estate and the maintenance of the ICT infrastructure going forward following the current investment in upgrades to the Council's main ICT platforms - improving our processes internally and making front-line services more accessible.
- A highways maintenance programme and associated schemes
- Maintenance of the Council's parks and green spaces and libraries, including refurbishment of Stoke Newington - ensuring our residents have the space to exercise and stay healthy and have access to good local facilities.
- An ongoing commitment towards delivering on our zero carbon target, including implementing the new Climate Action Plan, decarbonisation of non-housing building stock, LED street lighting and cycle hangers.

- Working in partnership with City and Hackney CCG to build two new primary care facilities in the borough.

6. Financing the capital programme

- 6.1 During 2019/20, we secured a £80m loan from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) to support our capital programme. As of March 2024, our long-term borrowings stand at £63.1m. We also continue to use internal borrowing, i.e. using balances to temporarily finance capital expenditure, notably to contribute towards forward funding development of the mixed-use and regeneration schemes.
- 6.2 All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue contributions, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the above expenditure is as follows:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Programme:					
Non-Housing	109.6	188.2	121.4	29.4	448.5
Housing	103.1	169.2	299.4	457.5	1,029.2
Total spend	212.7	357.4	420.8	486.9	1,477.8
Financed by:					
Capital Receipts	1.8	18.3	40.0	6.4	66.5
Government Grants	30.8	56.7	48.3	62.4	198.3
Reserves	7.5	10.9	1.6	0.1	20.1
RCCO	46.2	55.7	57.1	59.1	218.1
S106/CIL	5.1	14.4	0.9	0.0	20.4
Borrowing	121.3	201.4	272.9	358.8	954.4
Total Financing	212.7	357.4	420.8	486.9	1,477.8

It should be noted that some forward funding to be financed by borrowing will be required until these capital receipts are realised through sales of residential properties made available through the development of mixed use schemes.

7. Capital programme and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

- 7.1 It is important to emphasise the impact of the capital programme on the Council's revenue budgets through the MTFP. This occurs in the following ways:
- Through monies that are required to be set aside to repay debt principal. This is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). This is required to be charged on all capital expenditure which is funded by borrowing, whether that be internal or external borrowing.
 - Interest charged on external borrowing.

- Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay.

7.2 Budgets are set aside for these charges in the General Fund. Historically MRP and interest budgets have been low as we have had relatively significant levels of capital receipts as well as a large proportion of our schemes being self-funded through mixed-use developments. This has meant our levels of long-term borrowing have also been quite low. Going forward as internal sources of funding deplete both in terms of capital receipts and cash balances borrowing will increase as set out in section 8 of this strategy.

7.3 The capital governance arrangements (see section 13) will ensure that all decisions on capital investment fully reflect the revenue impacts. We will do this by:

- ensuring that all business cases fully consider the revenue costs of borrowing (both MRP and interest) where they are not fully funded by a ring-fenced source.
- Maintaining an up-to-date forecast of the impact of the capital programme on the revenue budgets.
- Ensuring that there is transparency over investment decisions and these are informed by the affordability of revenue impacts.

8. Capital Financing Requirement

8.1 The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed (external or internal) capital expenditure and reduces with minimum revenue provision charges and capital receipts used to repay debt. Current modelling sees the aggregate CFR increase from £464m in 2022/23 to £1,189m in 2026/27.

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement

	31/03/23 Actuals £m	31/03/24 Estimated £m	31/03/25 Estimated £m	31/03/26 Estimated £m	31/03/27 Estimated £m
Capital Financing Requirement At Year End					
CFR – Non Housing	343	377	499	497	413
CFR – Housing	121	162	229	436	776
Total CFR	464	539	728	933	1,189
Net CFR movement		75	189	205	256
External Debt					
Borrowing	67	63	363	599	886
Other long term liabilities	10	9	7	6	5
Total Debt 31 March	77	72	370	605	891

8.2 The movements in the General Fund CFR reflect the modelled profiling of cash outflows (construction costs) and cash inflows (capital receipts) of the mixed-use schemes. The Housing CFR increase is primarily through the same principle, for its

regeneration programme and asset management of existing stock, where future rental flows pay down an element of the debt over a much longer (50 years) term.

- 8.3 The CFR over the longer term (beyond 2026/27) will begin to reduce, reflecting years where cash inflows exceed outflows. This is of course dependent on additional schemes which may be added to the programme. There is also a risk in the modelling, around the volume and value of the capital receipts, taking into account the deterioration in the housing market amid the current economic climate from the war in Ukraine, together with higher inflation and higher interest rates, this will have adverse impact on the housing market. The modelling therefore needs to be revisited on a regular basis.
- 8.4 When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. The Council expects to receive £271m of capital receipts between 2023/24 and 2026/27. The majority of this is from sales of properties developed as part of mixed use and housing regeneration schemes and will be applied to the repayment of debt incurred to forward fund the schemes, in the first instance.

Asset disposals	23/24 opening balance £m	23/24 forecast £m	24/25 forecast £m	25/26 forecast £m	26/27 forecast £m	Total received 23/24 to 23/27 £m	Cumulative total £m
HRA	113	2	21	35	17	75	188
GF	0	42	8	57	89	196	196
Total	113	44	29	92	107	271	384

9. Asset Management

- 9.1 Asset Management Strategies are designed to set out the objectives, policies and process for managing the Council's assets including parks, leisure centres, highways, housing assets held within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and General Fund (GF) property assets effectively and meet the Council's strategic objectives. Asset management strategies must take into account the values of the Council as an organisation, the relevant local and national policy context, the Council's Capital Strategy, and set out the guiding principles to produce asset management plans that drill down into more detail the options around individual assets and properties, whilst ensuring that the limited available resources are utilised within the context of the priorities set out within the Strategic Plan and the Capital Strategy.
- 9.2 Property and the management and maintenance of Council owned property assets is a significant cost to the Council. Each portfolio category requires a unique focus and approach to asset management which, in turn, requires different expertise, governance and decision-making. Hackney seeks to ensure that decision making is transparent and fully accountable. As pressure on the Council to mitigate budget shortfalls rises, the various strategies and plans will be periodically reviewed and updated to support the release of greater capital and revenue returns and efficiency savings from the estate. All of this will be further addressed with a move towards the proposed implementation of a corporate landlord model.

9.3 The Council has the following asset management strategies/plans in place:

- [Housing Asset Management Strategy](#) - approved at March 2019 Cabinet.
- There are operational asset management plans in place for the boroughs highways and road network incorporating maintenance of highways infrastructure, street lighting, bridges and drainage

9.4 The following asset management strategies/plans are under development:

- Corporate Estate Asset Management Strategy and Plan. The Asset Management Policy which precedes the Asset Management Strategy is being refined to reflect the objectives set out within Hackney's Strategic Plan and to ensure it integrates other service plans and strategies which were since approved and published. This is being tested via a programme of consultation with Group Directors and senior service leaders. This is the precursor to a fully resourced comprehensive review of LBH's operational space requirements now and anticipated. This is programmed alongside investments to refine and modernise our asset data tools to assist officers in making recommendations for the best use of assets given the demand, cost projections and resources available.

10. Treasury Management

10.1 This section of the Capital Strategy provides an overview of our treasury management strategy. This strategy's focus is keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council's spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account. The Council is typically cash rich in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent, but cash poor in the long-term as capital expenditure is incurred before being financed. The revenue cash surpluses are offset against capital cash shortfalls to reduce overall borrowing.

i) Borrowing Strategy

10.2 The Council commenced long-term external borrowing in 2019/20 (excluding the London Energy Efficiency Fund loan) for the first time since 2012. We estimate at March 2024 we will have £63.1m long term borrowings and no short term borrowing. We anticipate taking on more medium to long term borrowing over 2024/25 to fund our ambitious capital programme. The Council's detailed borrowing strategy is set out in section 7 of our Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 3 to the budget report) and is not repeated here. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield. The Council does not have any such schemes in its capital programme and as part of its capital strategy must recognise the impact of any such proposals on our overall ability to access PWLB loans.

10.3 The Council needs to ensure that external debt (i.e. borrowing for any purpose, plus other long-term liabilities) does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the previous year plus the estimates of any increase in the capital financing requirement at the end of the current and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years.

- 10.4 Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing, PFI liabilities, leases are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement (see above). The increase in gross debt rises in line with the borrowing requirement of the capital programme.

	31/03/23 Actuals £m	31/03/24 Estimated £m	31/03/25 Estimated £m	31/03/26 Estimated £m	31/03/27 Estimated £m
CFR	464	539	728	933	1,189
Gross Debt	77	72	370	605	891

ii) Affordable borrowing limit

- 10.5 The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit. For clarity:

- **Authorised limit** – This represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, whilst not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under Section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.
- **Operational boundary** – This indicator is based on the probable external debt during the course of the year; it is not a limit and actual borrowing could vary around this boundary for short times during the year. It should act as an indicator to ensure the authorised limit is not breached.

The limits recommended for approval in the 2024/25 budget report are set out below:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Approved	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Authorised limit for external debt				
Borrowing	761	778	983	1,239
Other long term liabilities	16	14	13	12
Total	777	792	996	1,251
Operational limit for external debt				
Borrowing	732	748	953	1,209
Other long term liabilities	16	14	13	12
Total	748	762	966	1,221

ii) Investment strategy

- 10.6 Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.
- 10.7 The Council's investment strategy is set out in the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 3 to the Budget Report) and is not repeated in full here. In summary, the Council's strategy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield, that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with other local authorities, money market funds or selected high-quality financial institutions, to minimise the risk of loss. Money that will be held for longer terms is invested more widely, including in corporate bonds etc., to balance the risk of loss against the risk of receiving returns below inflation. Both near-term and longer-term investments may be held in pooled funds, where an external fund manager decides which particular investments to buy and the Council may request its money back at short notice.

Snapshot of treasury management investments	31.3.2023 £m	31.3.2024 £m	31.3.25 £m	31.3.2026 £m
Near-term investments	45	30	30	30
Longer-term investments	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29
TOTAL	45.29	30.29	30.29	30.29

- 10.8 The above numbers are based on the current level of investments including liquid cash invested in MMF, call/notice accounts. The level of cash invested in MMFs and call/notice accounts changes regularly depending on when cash receipts and payments are realised.

11 Commercial Activities

i) Commercial/Investment properties

- 11.1 Hackney has an investment property portfolio of 50 properties (46 buildings and 4 pieces of land), with an aggregate balance sheet value of £183m as at 31 March 2023. The net revenue return was £11.4m in the same year (includes one off £6.4m of historic income following settlement of a legal dispute).
- 11.2 Hackney's asset acquisitions each have specific purposes. An acquisition must meet requirements in terms of price (we know how much something is worth to us, and if the price is higher than that we walk away), and strategic value (does owning this asset help us to unlock value in something else we already own or help us influence a crucial piece of development in the Borough), will it safeguard jobs etc etc.

11.3 Before the Council makes an acquisition a great deal of work goes into investigating whether an apparent opportunity truly is an opportunity. The Council has long term objectives for the sustained delivery of services and housing, and if it is to spend capital acquiring physical assets it must:

- Know how and why the asset in question will contribute to the achievement of its long term objectives, and
- Understand whether or not an acquisition can offer value for money. This requires a rigorous and formal valuation of the asset which we then test ourselves informally, noting that property values are only measured at a point in time and subject to markets which vary over the months and years.

11.4 Decisions on commercial investments are ultimately made through Cabinet/Full Council, but after consultation through the Capital Asset Steering Board (CASB) (formerly the Capital Investment Board) which is a member/senior officer board.

ii) Wholly owned companies

11.5 The Council has six wholly owned subsidiaries.

- The two residential building management companies for the Makers and the Otto provide only this service, are funded by resident service charges, and work primarily on a cost recovery basis.
- With regard to the housing acquisition side - Hackney PRS Housing Limited acquired 25 properties developed as part of the Council's regeneration programme in 2019/20. A combination of £16m equity/loan was issued to the company to acquire the units at Hoxton Press, Colville Estate, which are now all let at market rates. In 2020/21 Hackney HLR Housing Limited purchased 8 properties at Bridge House from the Council, at a cost of £3.4m, with all of the units occupied by Hackney residents paying a living rent. In 2021/22, the PRS company also leased three units on Stoke Newington Church Street from the General Fund, which are let at a market rate. In the same financial year the HLR company added 16 bedsits to its portfolio by way of a 21 year lease Agreement, at an annual rental of £86,661 (increasing by CPI each year). The bedsits are within an existing Council block, Gooch House, and were refurbished as part of the council's regeneration programme.
- Commercial waste company was incorporated in October 2021 and began trading in April 2022. The company provides commercial waste and recycling services beyond the borough boundaries specifically across East and Central London,

12. Knowledge and Skills

12.1 The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making decisions on capital expenditure, borrowing and investment.

12.2 Where Council staff do not have the knowledge and skills required or an independent view is required to corroborate officer views, use is made of external advisers and consultants that are specialists in their field. The Council currently

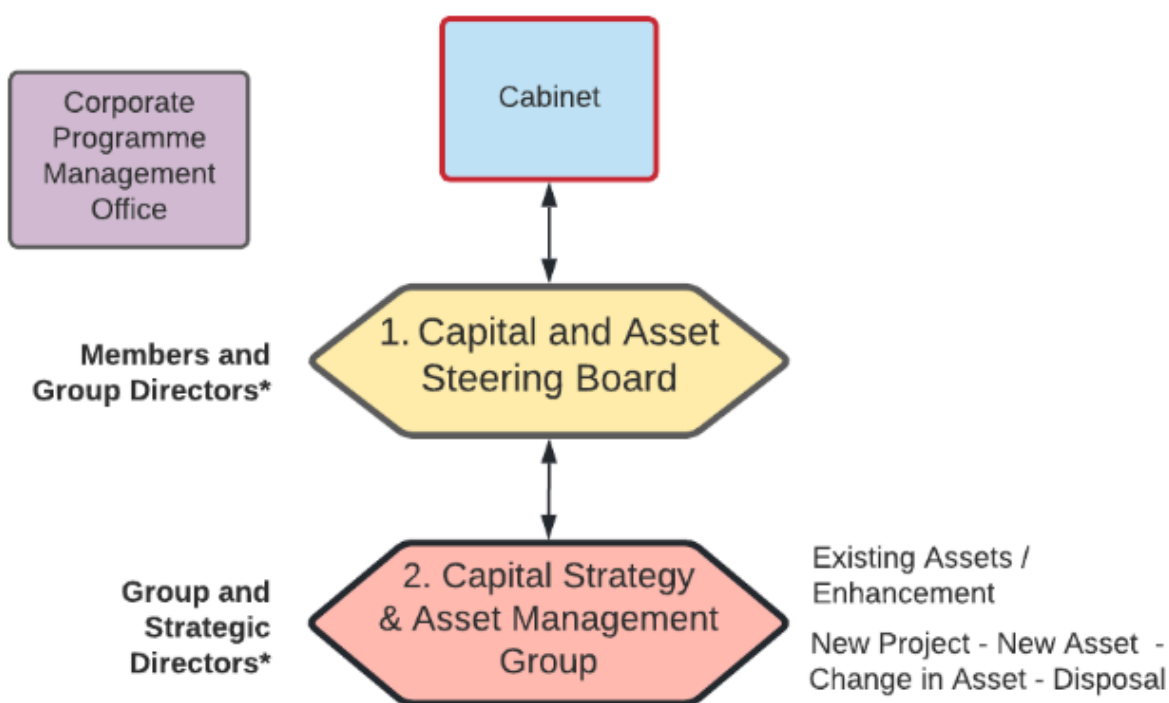
employs Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers. We use a range of property consultants from framework contracts and PWC as tax advisers.

- 12.3 The commercial property market constantly evolves with the local and global economy. The Council informs its decisions by using internally sourced knowledge and external knowledge. Internal knowledge comes from Council services which engage closely with local businesses, landowners and developers, including Regeneration, from the daily activity of the Strategic Property team who are constantly negotiating rent reviews and lease renewals locally, and who also provide viability modelling and negotiation for the Planning Authority.
- 12.4 External knowledge comes from a consistently maintained network in Hackney, the City of London and East London Property market where relationships are maintained with private landowners, and public sector stakeholders such as the City of London Corporation, LLDC, TfL, GLA etc. Hackney's Strategic Property team also maintains a professional services framework, which hosts a range of property advisers, both technical and agents, selected for their particular individual strengths and local knowledge. This arrangement encourages the more committed advisers to invest in understanding the Council's agenda, and economic circumstances, leading to a more beneficial long term relationship for all parties.
- 12.5 In the future there may be a requirement to undertake a more comprehensive review of in-house capital project and programme delivery skills, resources and capacity in order to ensure that the Council can deliver investment in assets, and the capital programme, at pace to the highest possible standard.

13 Governance

- 13.1 At the apex of this governance structure is a joint Cabinet Member and Chief Officer Board - the Capital Asset Steering Board (CASB) which will review and agree any decisions relating to capital investment and assets that are required to go to Cabinet for a decision. The scope of the CASB is to:
- To review new project proposals, including their affordability and make recommendations to Cabinet on their inclusion on the capital Programme. Capital bids will note the proposed funding route and this will inform the CASB's decision, but final funding will be determined at year end as approved by the Group Director of Finance
 - Monitor the delivery and development of the Capital Programme, Strategic Asset Management Strategy and the HRA Asset Management Plan.
 - To review and monitor the performance of assets against strategic objectives.
 - To approve (subject to scheme of delegation) or recommend approval to Cabinet of all disposals and acquisition.
 - To make strategic decisions on external funding bids and proposals.
 - Help steer the approach to strategic stakeholder relationships or communications relating to capital projects and Council assets.
 - Major change control decisions on existing capital projects e.g. additional funding using scheme of delegation limits, pause of project, alternative delivery model.

- 13.2 The Capital and Asset Steering Board (CASB) meets monthly and is a first tier board, and a tier two officer board, the Capital Strategy & Asset Management Group reports into it within the new corporate governance framework. Finance teams and service colleagues will work closely to both manage the agenda of the CASB, provide appropriate information for consideration. The governance structure is as follows:



- 13.3 The Capital Strategy and Asset Management Group (CSAMG), is a senior officer steering group that will use the principles established within the Strategic Plan to discuss and agree a corporate approach (cross directorate) when it involves decisions relating to capital investment and the future use and operation of assets across the Council's entire estate.
- 13.4 The Group comprises senior officers who have delegated powers under the Council's current scheme of delegation to make decisions. As such the Group will have the authority to make decisions that do not need Cabinet approval. The Group will also discuss and make recommendations for Cabinet decisions, which will be discussed at the Capital and Asset Steering Board (CASB) ahead of Cabinet or will go straight to Cabinet.
- 13.5 The Group will provide leadership, accountability and assurance to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account property and asset management functions. It will have oversight of the capital programme in terms of capital financing and the impact of the programme on the Council's revenue budgets.
- 13.6 The Group will receive updates and monitoring information on a range of property asset strategy issues, which will include:
- asset strategy development and implementation
 - asset policy development

- asset performance
 - corporate landlord implementation
 - asset challenge programmes
 - property based regeneration projects
- 13.7 The Group will perform a 'triage' role in relation to business cases to be presented to and approved by the Capital and Asset Steering Board, in relation to:
- Capital funding bids
 - Asset closures and staff relocations
 - Asset disposals and acquisitions
- 13.8 As part of the governance arrangements a capital bid form captures key information to enable a proposed project to be assessed in terms of its deliverables and alignment with the Council's strategic priorities in the Strategic Plan, the Community Strategy and the Capital Strategy alongside the financial business case. Significant points to note are:
- It includes the high level requirements of a Project Initiation Document (PID) and project business case.
 - It is designed to ensure that consistent information is available on each proposed capital project from the outset, that project managers and Heads of Service have considered the projects robustly prior to seeking approval and funding, and that there is full transparency on the project business case, benefits, expected outcomes and outputs, and all capital and revenue costs associated with the project throughout.
 - The form is completed for all proposed new capital projects, and increases in existing capital project budgets of £50,000 or 10% (whichever is the lower) of the original project budget. Increases below this de-minimus will be processed as part of the quarterly capital adjustments process and approved by Cabinet.
 - For all new projects, directorates should ideally complete the amended form in advance of the financial year in which it is anticipated that a project will begin to spend. This will facilitate the prioritisation of different projects via the CASB governance process. However, flexibility is built into the process to allow for new capital projects to be approved throughout the year as it is recognised that it will not always be possible to anticipate projects (e.g. new funding opportunities, emergency health and safety issues etc).
 - The completing officer/project manager should engage with Finance colleagues on completing the Finance section of the form to ensure all financial implications are reflected.
 - For capital projects requiring S106 contributions, the form should clearly state whether the project meets the requirements of the S106 bid and that this funding is available and the S106 team should confirm this before submission.
 - Where S106 contributions are part of the funding the bid will still need to go to the S106 Board for funding confirmation. In the event of the S106 bid being

rejected at this stage, this will be fed back to the CASB. Further discussions will take place to determine if this process could be further streamlined and the capital project approval form and the S106 bid approval process can be amalgamated.

- 13.9 Once capital budgets are approved, spend is monitored through the Finance Team, who meet with the Service Area, and then complete the return and feed back to the Capital Team (Capital OFP Timetable). The Capital Programme budget monitoring is reported to Cabinet quarterly via the Capital OFP (Overall Financial Position), Capital Update & Property Acquisition and Disposals Report) and Audit Committee. The monitoring covers actual year to date capital expenditure, the forecast and the variance against the revised budget position, there is also an update on the projects themselves. Each financial year, two re-profiling exercises are carried out in order that the budget reflects the progress of the projects.
- 13.10 As part of governance arrangements we have standardised the quarterly monitoring of the capital programme and projects contained within. The capital monitoring is reported through to the CASB and summarised in the Capital Update report on a quarterly basis. This will be on an area basis where appropriate but also thematic, for example, for the Education or Leisure capital programmes.
- 13.11 In addition to the above governance arrangements we also put in place specific project boards for large and/or complex projects. Detailed risk registers are retained and are regularly reviewed in light of changing circumstances, for example, increasing construction inflation and its impact on the delivery of construction projects alongside the economic impacts including the housing market. The Boards will oversee mitigation to these risks and ensure that alternate strategies are considered as and when appropriate. An example of this is the Britannia Board which has recently been extended to cover the refurbishment of Kings Hall.

14. Risks

- 14.1 There are a number of significant risks to the delivery of our capital programme and these are reflected and managed through the Council's well-established Risk Management Framework which reports through to the Audit Committee (quarterly for the corporate risk register and annual by directorate). 'Management of Capital Programmes/Schemes' is classified as High Risk on the Finance & Corporate Resources risk register (**SRCR 0002**).
- 14.2 The risk is that Major Capital Schemes may not be managed or targeted effectively to maximise the use of resources available and ensure delivery according to expectations. From a financial perspective, as a result of substantial external borrowing to fund the ambitious capital programme, the Council is moving from a debt free position and becoming more vulnerable to changes in the market (potential volatility of the housing market affecting sales volumes / value) and interest rates as well as building cost inflation.
- 14.3 Controls in place to manage this risk include:
- All capital schemes are subject to review via the capital budget monitoring process. Slippage and/or budget pressures can be identified via this process

and appropriate action taken.

- Major schemes are managed via project boards to ensure appropriate actions are taken to ensure delivery of scheme to expected standards and within financial business cases. These schemes have project-based risk registers which records the active management of risks on an ongoing basis.

- 14.4 At the capital programme level, the CASB (see section 13), has overall oversight of the entirety of the programme with reporting on an area basis and/or thematically. There will also be periodic reporting on industry-wide risks affecting the programme, such as construction inflation, house-price forecasts and borrowing rates to provide context and inform capital bid decisions.

15. Summary and next steps

- 15.1 This Capital Strategy outlines our key capital investment priorities and articulates our commitment to aligning with the Community Strategy and the Strategic Plan. It provides an overview of how our existing capital programme is contributing to our strategic goals and outlines the evolving governance structures for transparent decision-making. Additionally, the document describes the monitoring mechanisms in place to ensure that projects adhere to established financial parameters and deliver on their intended outcomes. The strategy delves into our risk management approach and outlines the borrowing parameters within which we operate. It emphasises the importance of decision-makers understanding the direct connection between our capital ambitions and the medium-term financial plan. In essence, this strategy serves as a comprehensive guide to our capital investment focus, decision-making processes, risk management, and financial alignment
- 15.2 This strategy has been prepared with reference to CIPFA's Capital Strategy Guidance 2021 and whilst it seeks to follow good practice set out in that document it is recognised that there is more to be done to develop the strategy. For example, before this document is reviewed again in a year's time we aim to:
- Move forward the intention to advance the transition from a three year capital programme to a ten year capital programme;
 - Consider further how we measure return on investment in terms of social, economic and environmental impact alongside financial impact. This needs to dovetail with requirements which are already embedded through our sustainable procurement strategy; and
 - Incorporate work being developed by Strategic Property Services on moving towards a Corporate Landlord model.

CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE - REVIEW 2024/25

Strong financial management is an essential part of ensuring public sector finances are sustainable. The Financial Management Code (FM Code) provides guidance for good and sustainable financial management in local authorities and assurance that authorities are managing resources effectively.

It requires authorities to demonstrate that the processes they have in place satisfy the principles of good financial management. The FM Code identifies risks to financial sustainability and introduces a framework of assurance. This framework is built on existing successful practices and sets explicit standards of financial management. Complying with the standards set out in the FM Code is the collective responsibility of elected members, the Interim Group Director Finance (CFO) and colleagues on the leadership team. Complying with the FM Code helps strengthen the framework that surrounds financial decision making.

The code applies to all local authorities and by following the essential aspects of the FM Code, local authorities are providing evidence to show they are meeting important legislative requirements in their jurisdiction.

The underlying principles that inform the Code will assist in determining whether a local authority is financially sustainable. They are as follows:

- Organisational **leadership**: demonstrating a clear strategic direction based on a vision in which financial management is embedded into organisational culture.
- **Accountability**: based on medium term financial planning that drives the annual budget process supported by effective risk management, quality supporting data and whole life costs.
- Financial management is undertaken with **transparency** at its core using consistent, meaningful and understandable data, reported frequently with evidence of periodic officer action and elected member decision making.
- Adherence to professional **standards** is promoted by the leadership team and is evidenced.
- Sources of **assurance** are recognised as an effective tool mainstreamed into financial management, including political scrutiny and the results of external audit, internal audit and inspection.
- The long term **sustainability** of local services is at the heart of all financial management processes and is evidenced by prudent use of public resources.

The FM Code is aligned with the *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* and has links to the *Treasury Management in the Public Sector Code of Practice* and the annual *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK*. In this way, the FM Code reiterates the key elements of the statutory requirements of these other codes.

The FM Code sets out a number of financial management standards that it believes must be evidenced, and provides examples on each. Set out below is the authority's current assessment of how it believes it complies with the requirements and also highlights evidence of compliance and areas for further development.

Financial Management Standard A: The leadership team is able to demonstrate that the services provided by the authority provide value for money.

The achievement of value for money is the collective responsibility of elected members and senior officers, who together make up an authority's leadership team.

The Council seek to ensure that it achieves value for money in the delivery of its services through its formal governance structures, its ongoing challenge of service costs through the budget setting cycle and performance management arrangements. Arrangements are summarised below.

Clear Governance Structures

The Council's Scheme of Delegation sets out decision-making responsibilities in relation to Full Council and committees, including Cabinet and those delegated to officers.

Scheme of Delegation Refresh

Where key decisions are made they require a business case in the form of a Cabinet, Capital Procurement and Insourcing Committee report or a delegated powers report (DPR). All reports are required to be considered by finance to determine financial implications and in the case of procurement decisions, compliance with procurement procedures. These reports also contain an assessment of whole-life costs and overall set out the value for money implications of decisions before they are made.

<https://hackney.gov.uk/council-business>

Scrutiny Arrangements

The Council has an effective Scrutiny function which leads scrutiny reviews in key areas of service delivery. An annual report is provided to Council, the report for 2022/23 went to Council in September 2023, link below.

12. Overview and Scrutiny Appendix 1.pdf

The report summarises Scrutiny's role and responsibilities and the scope and outcome of work over the period, including Cabinet members and Mayor's Question Times.

Audit Arrangements

The Audit Committee has an explicit requirement through its terms of reference to consider the Council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.

It discharges this requirement through its receipt of regular reports from service areas, oversight of internal and external audit work (including the VFM audit opinion) and a specific Performance Report through which it scrutinises performance trends and performance against targets against a range of key indicators. From these reports the Committee determines areas for 'deep dive' reviews to gain further insight and assurance.

In addition to the Audit Committee has undertaken deep dive reviews into specific areas of Council business, including capital spend, the pandemic response, Net Zero and Council reserves. As part of their work for 2023/24, the Audit Committee is

undertaking deep dive reviews into recent public interest reports and best value interventions and School Budgets and financial sustainability.

Council boards

The Council establishes joint Member/officer boards to ensure there is appropriate oversight for key areas of business where there is significant risk and expenditure. For example:

- The Britannia Board was established to provide ongoing oversight of this major masterplan project. This ensures there is appropriate scrutiny and challenge to the project in between key decisions taken by the Cabinet. This Board has now been extended to cover a second major leisure project - the refurbishment of Kings Hall - and is now renamed to Britannia/Kings Hall Leisure Centre Board.
- A Corporate Parenting Board to provide oversight of the service and for Members to understand their corporate parenting responsibilities. The Board also has oversight of the 2023-25 Children's Parenting and Sufficiency Strategy as well as providing challenge to annual reports (e.g. LAC Health Annual Report)
- The Environmental Sustainability Board was established to provide executive oversight and lead the strategic activity required to deliver the Council's organisational response to the climate emergency. This will include 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 an annual work plan. The Council's Climate Action Plan was approved Cabinet in May 2023 and the deliverables of the detailed action plan will be reported to and monitored by the Environmental Sustainability Board.
- The Capital Asset Steering Board, established in October 2022 which is a member and senior officer steering board which will review and agree any required decisions relating to capital investment and assets that are required to go to Cabinet for a decision. It will have oversight of the delivery of the Capital Programme, Strategic Asset Management Strategy (including the HRA Asset Management Plan).

Clear objectives and strategy based on local need

The Council's Community Strategy 2018-28 sets out our overarching vision for Hackney over the decade to 2028. It provides direction for all of the Council's decision making throughout this period and a focus for our work in partnership with residents, businesses, local organisations and community groups. The strategy was produced in partnership with local people and organisations in our community over a period of three years ensuring it is reflective of the lived experiences of residents in our borough.

<https://hackney.gov.uk/community-strategy>

Effective service and financial planning

The Council adopts, delivers and keeps under review a Strategic Plan (formerly the Corporate Plan) for each new four year local electoral term. The Strategic Plan is in line with the ten year Community Strategy, but it sets out how the Council will use its resources and its workforce to help achieve the Mayor's manifesto over the shorter

elected period of office. Both the Community Strategy and the Strategic Plan and any related delivery plans or annual updates are publically available.

The leadership team (Members and officers) are fully engaged in the financial planning process through Cabinet/Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and CLT meetings at which the budget proposals are reported and fully discussed and challenged where appropriate. The expectation is that services continuously challenge the costs incurred to ensure services are delivered as efficiently, effectively and economically as possible with the leadership team challenging proposals in the context of Council objectives and service priorities.

Strategic Plan:

<https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s79199/10.%20Strategic%20Plan%20Report.pdf>

Financial regulations

Part 4 of the Council's Constitution (September 2023) includes the Financial Procedure Rules which provide the framework for the financial administration of the Council with a view to ensuring that the Council's financial affairs are conducted in a sound and proper manner, constitute value for money and minimise the risk of legal challenge to the Council. The Financial Procedure Rules are considered in conjunction with the Procurement Framework and the Scheme of Delegation.

[Council Constitution | Hackney Council](#)

Procurement regulations

All procurement activities must be carried out, in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution, but also in compliance with the Council's General Scheme of Delegation to Officers. The Contract Standing Orders set out procurement routes applicable to various levels of spend, and in addition a risk management framework is in place for procurements above £100k. The application of the risk framework and the estimated value of the requirement determine the governance arrangements which are applicable to individual procurements. All procurements assessed as medium or high risk go through the Council's procurement gateway process with decisions taken by the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee for high risk or Hackney Procurement Board for medium risk procurements.

<https://intranet.hackney.gov.uk/procurement-home/>

Contract management arrangements

Contract managers are responsible for monitoring contracts to ensure that suppliers are delivering against specifications and maintaining records of supplier performance. Arrangements are proportionate to the value and risk of the contracts. Support is provided from the Procurement Team for the management of high risk and key strategic contracts

Risk management arrangements

Hackney's Risk Strategy clearly details the approach which the Council takes towards managing and reporting risk. The process is clearly outlined where risks are

identified at service level, which are then considered (if relevant or serious enough) at a Divisional and then Directorate level. Then if appropriate, they may be categorised as Corporate risks - those which could potentially threaten the core objectives of the entire organisation. Leadership teams are involved in managing risks at all levels, whether at service level where management teams review risk registers, or at senior management level (Corporate Leadership Team) where the overall Corporate Risk Register is reviewed at least every six months. Audit Committee also plays an important role in ensuring effective risk management occurs throughout the organisation. Each Directorate presents their risk register to the Committee on an annual basis, and the Corporate register is reviewed at every other meeting (with a headline summary provided at every single meeting). This ensures a high level of scrutiny in order for Members to feel assured that the right arrangements are in place. These high level reviews also ensure that throughout the organisation, management teams are aware of the importance of considering their risks and how to effectively manage them.

Detailed risk registers are also maintained at a project level basis to ensure risks to outcomes are fully considered and mitigated appropriately.

The Risk Strategy (and Policy) are reviewed biennially, and were last ratified by the Audit Committee in October 2022 and is scheduled to be reviewed in mid 2024.

Efficiency reviews

Services are expected to consider the efficiency of the services they deliver on an ongoing basis. Proposals for improved efficiency improve the bedrock of directorate budget savings proposals each year, including for 2024/25.

Benchmarking

The Council employs benchmarking at a range of levels including:

- reviewing performance compared to other local authorities to inform performance target setting and performance monitoring (for example, data sets reported through to the Children's Management team)
- benchmarking of costs to determine areas to consider for efficiency savings (for example, use of CIPFAStats+) and engage in formal cost benchmarking such as those initiated by London Councils (in areas including Children's Social Care and SEND).
- Adult Social Care benchmarking of unit costs facilitated by London Council's to ensure efficient use of resources and to ensure best practice in commissioning arrangements. This has been through the ASC-FR statistical returns and through regular ADASS budget surveys as well as responding to ad hoc requests for benchmarking facilitates through the ADASS finance Leads group.
- Housing Services use the Housemark Benchmarking data to underpin Transformation work in Housing Services. Key performance indicators are set annually for each service area in Housing Services informed by this benchmark data and we aim to set targets that will improve our Housemark quartile ranking, thereby improving services to residents. We also regularly use Housemark in addition to other benchmarking activities to look at best practice across the sector when we undertake any service improvement project work.
- Environmental Operations use benchmarking data to assess the cleanliness of our streets. It uses the national Local Environmental Quality Indicator, to compare the cleanliness of Hackney's streets with other local authorities and to

ensure continuous improvement in our performance. NI195 covers litter, detritus, graffiti and flyposting. It has been developed to measure the cleanliness of the local environment, as a member of the public would see it. The surveys produce information to help managers improve resource efficiency and the attractiveness of an area. This benefits visitors, residents, businesses and workers.

Peer reviews

The authority invites representatives of other authorities to review the delivery of specific services, to use their experience to assess how well these services are performing and to make recommendations for improvement. Examples include the recent peer review of SEND which outlined ten recommendations for service improvements which are being implemented.

The Council is also embarking on a LGA peer review process in 2024 for which planning is underway.

Monitoring of Performance Data

The Council has a suite of performance indicators which it collects on a regular basis as well as in a large number of services access to 'live' management data on current service performance (via Qlik). Performance (data and progress against projects etc) is monitored at all levels of the organisation to ensure that the Council is delivering its objectives (as laid out in the Corporate Plan and statutory obligations).

Performance is monitored at local management level as well as Directors, Group Director, CLT and Cabinet members. CLT, Directors and Cabinet members have access to online performance dashboards which have the top PIs (agreed by CLT/Cabinet) for the Council updated as new data becomes available. Regular review of these takes place at meetings of CLT and between CLT and Cabinet Members and the Mayor. The Council's Head of Service responsible for performance also meets the Chief Executive monthly to update on performance issues and emerging issues and trends.

The Council's Audit Committee has also compiled a dashboard of KPIs which are reported on each quarter to the committee with relevant Directors available to answer questions and address concerns.

<https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s85538/06-1%20Appendix%201%20-%20Performance%20Indicators.pdf>

User surveys

The authority undertakes a periodic survey of users of particular services, designed to assess the extent to which these services meet users' needs and to identify opportunities for improvement. This is in the form of a residents survey and more focused surveys where specific service changes are required or where specific feedback is required. In ASC, the annual service user survey and bi-annual carers survey are monitored by services and used to inform strategic decisions and service planning. Education Services uses a variety of forums to take account of stakeholder expectations including an annual customer survey with all schools and

setting purchasing services through our traded offer. Schools' Forum is a statutory meeting that acts as a consultative body regarding school funding in the borough.

Current live consultations and surveys can be found via this link [Hackney Council](#)

External assessments

The authority engages with statutory and non-statutory external reviews of its services, such as Ofsted reviews of children's social care services, and seeks to use the results of these reviews to improve the operation and management of the services under review.

In December 2019 the Council received a 'Requires Improvement' judgement following the inspection of Children's Services. An action plan for improvement has been agreed with Ofsted to respond to specific recommendations. In parallel a Members Oversight Board and a Children's Leadership and Development Board (cross-Council officers group with external challenge partner) are overseeing a strategy to move Children's Services to 'Outstanding'.

A further Ofsted focused visit took place in September 2022, and focused on the 'front door' services, including decision-making and thresholds for referrals about children, child protection enquiries, decisions to step up or down from early help, and emergency action out of hours. The findings from the focused visit were positive, and recognised the strength of 'front door' services, the recent integration of early help services, and that senior leaders continue to make improvements to services in a challenging context. From December 2022 to February 2023, Hackney Youth Justice Service was jointly inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, and colleagues from HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue, the Care Quality Commission, Ofsted Education and Ofsted Social Care, receiving an overall rating of 'Good'. Inspectors were impressed with the strong direct work and impactful practice they saw.

Equality impact assessments

The authority undertakes equality impact assessments of policies, activities and services, to ensure that they do not – deliberately or inadvertently – discriminate against certain groups or individuals, especially those that are disadvantaged or vulnerable. Equality impacts considerations are embedded in decision-making processes - for example, decisions on budget proposals, the procurement impact assessment (PRIMAS), organisational change procedures all require the consideration of equalities impacts. As part of the work in developing budget proposals it was recognised that managers would benefit from a training refresh on carrying out Equality Impact Assessments to ensure a consistent approach in assessing the impact of decisions. This is being planned for in the coming year.

[Equality and diversity | Hackney Council](#)

Financial Management Standard B: The authority complies with the CIPFA *Statement on the Role of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) in Local Government*.

The CFO in a local authority is a key member of the leadership team, helping it to develop and implement strategy and to resource and deliver the authority's strategic objectives sustainably and in the public interest

The Interim Group Director of Finance (GDF) is the CFO for the Authority and is a key member of the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), reports to the Chief Executive, is professionally qualified and is actively engaged on all matters of strategy direction and delivery. All key decisions require financial implications to be considered by a representative of the CFO and the CFO personally signs off on all Level 1 Cabinet or Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee decisions.

The CFO in a local authority must be actively involved in, and able to bring influence to bear on, all material business decisions to ensure immediate and longer term implications, opportunities and risks are fully considered and aligned with the authority's overall financial strategy

The GDF leads the Council's financial strategy to deliver against its objectives. This includes the development of the medium term financial plan and the annual budget cycle.

The Council has a strong track record of ensuring that a balanced budget is planned and delivered despite considerable reductions in Government funding and significant cost pressures. This is a result of a considered approach to resource allocation which reflects the impact demand-led services can have on expenditure and the volatility this can bring. For example, measured allocation of budget growth with earmarked reserves set aside to mitigate risk.

All key decisions require financial implications to be considered by a representative of the CFO and the CFO personally signs off on all Level 1 Cabinet or Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee decisions. Beyond this the GDF has representation on directorate management teams which ensures there is an awareness of emerging issues and/or service developments and that financial impacts both long and short term are fully considered at an early stage in the process.

The CFO in a local authority must lead the promotion and delivery by the whole authority of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently, and effectively

The GDF maintains a continuous review of the Financial Procedure Rules and financial schemes of delegation as set out in the Council's constitution. Furthermore, the GDF provides regular budget updates to meetings of senior managers, setting out financial performance, forecasts and the challenges ahead. As set out above the GDF has representation on directorate management teams which ensures that sound financial management remains at the forefront of operations.

The CFO in a local authority must lead and direct a finance function that is resourced to be fit for purpose

The GDF leads a mix of qualified and non-qualified working professionals with the requisite skills to carry out their roles effectively.

The Council invests in CIPFA and other recognised training regimes to ensure staff have the appropriate skills and knowledge to deliver an effective service.

Additional skills, for example, tax advice where transactions are complex, will be bought in where it is considered necessary to enhance in-house skills and experience.

There are sufficient numbers in the finance teams - and the impact of any staff reductions on the ability to provide a robust level of service are always considered before any restructures are undertaken of finance teams. Teams have appropriate access to ICT and relevant software packages to support the work they do.

The CFO in a local authority must be professionally qualified and suitably experienced

The GDF is CIPFA qualified, was appointed in August 2023 and has 3 years experience as the Council's Deputy section 151 officer. In addition she has been a key member of Hackney Finance Leadership team for over 10 years over which time the Council has demonstrated sound financial management as evidenced by successive external audit reports and annual outturn.

Financial Management Standard C: The leadership team demonstrates in its actions and behaviours responsibility for governance and internal control

Establishing a clear framework for governance and internal control

The Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure that decisions are taken efficiently and transparently and that those who make the decisions are accountable to local people. Some of these procedures are legal requirements while others are how the Council has chosen to conduct its business.

The Council's governance structure is set out in the Constitution including the role of the Executive (Cabinet) and Overview and Scrutiny. All committees have formal, agreed terms of reference (also contained within the Constitution), setting out the scope of their responsibilities. Terms of reference are regularly reviewed and updated in line with good practice. They also have a defined membership and a suitable, pre-agreed schedule of meetings and work plan.

All meetings of the committees forming part of the authority's governance structure have a published agenda and have its proceedings and decisions recorded in formal, written minutes which are available on the Council website (with the exception of exempt information). Members of the committee, and others who may reasonably wish to address the committee, are given adequate notice of such meetings as set out in the Constitution.

The responsibility for Council and Executive functions are set out in Part 3 of the Constitution including Council functions which cannot be the responsibility of the Executive, Role and function of the elected Mayor and the officers scheme of delegations.

The Council has an effective system of internal control in place which it reviews and reports on annually through the annual governance statement which is also subject to review by internal audit on an annual basis. Furthermore internal audit provides assurance through its programme of cyclical and annual reviews of elements of the control framework.

Financial Procedure Rule 19 clearly defines partnership arrangements and states that all Councillors and Officers currently involved in or considering 'partnership' working shall have regard to the Council's Partnership Code of Practice and ensure compliance with it.

Establishing clear arrangements for assurance and accountability

Internal Audit is an in-house service which conforms to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. Conformity with these standards is verified by external assessment at least once every five years (most recently in November 2023).

The Council ensures that the head of internal audit is able to fulfil their role effectively, in line with the responsibilities set out in the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2019). This includes direct lines of communication to the Chair of the Audit Committee and the Chief Executive if circumstances require.

Internal audit works to an agreed plan which is developed following a review of the authority's governance and internal control arrangements, the environment within which the authority operates and the risks and challenges that it faces. Internal audit is resourced adequately and reports to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee approves the audit plan and receives regular progress reports against the plan.

Hackney's Risk Strategy details the approach which the Council takes towards managing and reporting risk. The process is clearly outlined where risks are identified at service level, which are then considered (if relevant or serious enough) at a Divisional and then Directorate level. Then if appropriate, they may be categorised as Corporate risks - those which could potentially threaten the core objectives of the entire organisation. Leadership teams are involved in managing risks at all levels, whether at service level where management teams review risk registers, or at senior management level (Corporate Leadership Team) where the overall Corporate Risk Register is reviewed at least every six months. The Audit Committee also play an important role in ensuring effective risk management occurs throughout the organisation. Each Directorate presents their risk register to Committee on an annual basis, and the Corporate register is reviewed at every other meeting (with a headline summary provided at every single meeting). This ensures a high level of scrutiny in order for Members to feel assured that the right arrangements are in place. These high level reviews also ensure that throughout the organisation, management teams are aware of the importance of considering their risks and how to effectively manage them.

There is a well established Audit Committee in place in accordance with the principles in CIPFA's Position Statement on Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police (2018) and the supporting guidance publication. Its responsibilities include receiving reports on and monitoring the implementation of internal and external audit recommendations - receiving regular progress reports on a quarterly basis. The Audit Committee also has delegated responsibility in relation to oversight of the treasury management function (receiving update reports at each meeting), risk management arrangements (receiving reports from each of the directorates on a cyclical basis) and receives regular reports on performance of the Council. Based on the information received, it commissions and leads deep dive reviews in specific areas, for example, this year it is reviewing the Council's standing in relation to themes that have emerged from local authority Public Interest Reports.

Espousing high standards of governance and internal control

The Council's Code of Conduct for officers provides a framework and outlines core behaviours. It forms part of the employment contract, is readily accessible on the intranet and is required to be read and understood by every Council employee.

Hackney Council has adopted a Councillor Code of Conduct, which applies to the Elected Mayor, Councillors and Co-Optees in accordance with the Localism Act 2011. The Code assists the Council in complying with its duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the Elected Mayor, Councillors and co-optees and forms part of the Council's Constitution (Part Seven, Section A). The Councillor Code of Conduct was last adopted by Council, following a comprehensive review, in January 2022 and took effect following the elections in May 2022. The Code follows the Local Government Association's (LGA) model Code of Conduct, with local amendment. The Code was further modified during 2023. The Monitoring Officer is responsible for ensuring the proper operation of the Code and for recommending any amendments to the Council's Standards Committee for consideration and onward recommendation to Full Council.

The Council maintains a register of interests for senior officers and members. This is updated annually as a matter of course and declaration of interests is a standard item on the agenda at all Council meetings. Any potential conflicts are brought to the attention of the Director and steps put in place to ensure that the position of the Council is not compromised by any such conflict.

The Council is open to constructive challenge and consults openly with key stakeholders, staff and residents as part of the decision-making processes as evidenced in Cabinet and other committee reports. We regularly consult the public and other interested groups such as businesses about our plans. Outcomes of these consultations on our [Consultation Hub](#).

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees provide regular challenge through its work and this can lead to reports advising and making recommendations on policies and service delivery.

The Council's decisions are supported by a robust evidence base. This includes ensuring all options are explored, the consideration of impacts of decisions (for example, budget savings decisions) and use of options appraisals and consultation with relevant stakeholders. Where considered necessary, the Council will engage external experts to support decision making processes, for example treasury management advisors, tax advice and bespoke advice for major decisions on a project by project basis.

Creating, maintaining and nurturing a culture of governance and internal control

The Corporate Leadership Team demonstrates a high standard of governance and internal control at all times and embraces conscientiously the authority's governance and internal control processes - this is evidenced through transparent decision-making processes; attendance of the leadership team at meetings where performance is reviewed (Audit Committee, Scrutiny Committees), engagement in audit processes and follow up.

The Council reviews its Constitution on a regular basis, taking on board new developments in good practice. The Monitoring Officer is the officer under whose remit the Constitution falls and a Constitution Committee was established in January

2022, whose primary remit is to review areas in the Constitution to ensure that they are fit for purpose and propose appropriate changes.

During 2022/2023, the Council's Constitution was subject to a review and refresh. This review did not seek to change the balance of decision-making within the Council or how decisions are made generally, rather it aims to provide greater clarity for the public, elected Members and Officers as to the operation of the Council through improvements to the layout and format and a greater emphasis on the use of plain English. In addition, greater emphasis will be placed upon how the public / businesses / other organisations can become involved in the formal aspects of Council decision-making. The revisions also introduced a number of new sections, for example the Principles of Decision-Making (Part One, Section C) and the Protocol on the Governance of Council Interests in Companies (Part Nine, Section D)

Full Council adopted the revised Constitution in July 2023 and it became operational in September 2023. A commitment has been given to review how the new Constitution has operated in practice at the end of year 1 of its operation.

The Council seeks development and quality mark opportunities, for example, it was rated 'Excellent' on the [Equality Framework for Local Government](#) in 2013 and 2018 - [Local Government Association's assessment](#).

The Council is proactive in its promotion of its values within its workforce - this is embedded through the 'Check In' processes, conducted at all levels of the organisation and rewarded through the Hackney Stars awards and the Big Thank You initiative.

Financial Management Standard D: The authority applies the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)

The Council adheres to the requirements set out within the CIPFA/ SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016) as evidenced in the process for the completion of the annual governance statement (AGS) which provides a detailed and evidenced-based record of compliance.

The Code of Corporate Governance was reviewed summer 2021 and subsequently updated to reflect how the Council best evidenced the CIPFA Framework. The updated version was reported to the Audit Committee in October 21 for information and is now published online alongside the Council's Constitution:

[Council Constitution | Hackney Council](#)

In summary each Group Director is required on an annual basis to review the internal controls in operation in their directorate informed by:

- Review of completed Control Assurance Matrices for services within the directorate
- The performance management arrangements for services
- The risk management processes in place within services
- Other corporate management, monitoring and review processes, and
- Review work undertaken by internal audit, the external auditors and any other review agencies or assurance providers.

They are also required to confirm that:-

- Statutory obligations (where relevant) and objectives have been established
- Risks to the achievement of objectives have been identified
- Key controls have been identified and evaluated to manage risks,
- Mechanisms are in place to obtain assurance on the effectiveness of performance management as well as key controls.
- Declarations of interest are complete and up to date in respect of themselves, managers and where necessary for other staff in their directorate, and the related party disclosures are complete.

As part of the process the Group Director is required to highlight any areas of exception or non-compliance. The primary evidence base for the statement is the controls assurance matrix which records areas of assurance, required standards and compliance along with evidence at service level. Once complete the statement and supporting matrix is forwarded to Internal Audit for review and testing prior to aggregation as part of the preparation of the annual accounts.

Financial Management Standard E: The financial management style of the authority supports financial sustainability

The financial management style of the authority is reflective of the four dimensions reflected in the financial management code, namely Leadership, People, Processes and Stakeholders.

Leadership

Delivering Accountability:

The Group Director of Finance (GDF) is a key member of the Corporate Leadership Team, reports to the Chief Executive, is professionally qualified and is actively engaged on all matters of strategy direction and delivery. Beyond this the GDF has representation on directorate management teams which ensures there is an awareness of emerging issues and/or service developments and that financial impacts both long and short term are fully considered at an early stage in the process.

Part 4 of the Council's Constitution (September 2023) includes the Financial Procedure Rules which provide the framework for the financial administration of the Council with a view to ensuring that the Council's financial affairs are conducted in a sound and proper manner, constitute value for money and minimise the risk of legal challenge to the Council. The Financial Procedure Rules are considered in conjunction with the Procurement Framework and the Scheme of Delegation. Compliance with these rules is mandatory and subject to cyclical review as part of the annual Internal Audit Plan.

Within the annual budget-setting process the authority's leadership team sets income requirements, including taxation income, and allocates resources to different activities in order to achieve its objectives. This is evidenced in the annual tax base report to Cabinet and the Annual Budget setting report to Cabinet and Full Council. The authority monitors its financial and activity performance in delivering planned outcomes through monthly reports to Cabinet - the OFP report provides an overview of financial performance at Council and individual directorate level.

<https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s86177/08%20FCR%20S209%20202324%20Overall%20Financial%20Position%20-%20October%202023.pd>

Supporting performance

The authority has a developed Medium Term Financial Plan which is regularly updated to take account of new and emerging circumstances. This factors in forecast cost pressures, savings proposals and estimated impacts of future funding levels. In financial plans, resources are aligned to meet current and future objectives and priorities as evidenced in the Annual Budget Report.

The GDF leads a mix of qualified and non-qualified working professionals with the requisite skills to carry out their roles effectively. The Council invests in CIPFA and other recognised training regimes to ensure staff have the appropriate skills and knowledge to deliver an effective service. Additional skills, for example, tax advice where transactions are complex, will be bought in where it is considered necessary to enhance in-house skills and experience.

Enabling transformation

The Council's financial management approach supports the change agenda and service transformation. The Council has taken the decision to establish a corporate approach to transformation and has appointed a Director of Transformation reporting to the Chief Executive. The corporate programme is in the process of development with recruitment to an enabling central team planned. The transformation programme will be an important tool to ensure the Council delivers on both the priorities for residents set out in the Strategic Plan and on the requirements of the MTFP to set and deliver a balanced budget. The financial context for the authority is a key consideration for the programme and the transformation team will work closely with both finance and services to develop robust business cases and put in place effective process and governance to ensure these are delivered. CLT will meet monthly as a Transformation Board to provide strategic oversight and direction.

People

Delivering accountability

The GDF leads a mix of qualified and non-qualified working professionals with the requisite skills to carry out their roles effectively.

The Council invests in CIPFA and other recognised training regimes to ensure staff have the appropriate skills and knowledge to deliver an effective service.

Additional skills, for example, tax advice where transactions are complex, will be bought in where it is considered necessary to enhance in-house skills and experience.

Supporting performance

The Council has a long-established business partnering approach with finance staff reporting through to the GDF officer but embedded in service management teams and structures. Directors of Finance attend DMT and report on financial performance and this is replicated at divisional level and in individual Head of Service budget meetings. Finance staff also participate in induction training for staff and GDF regularly provides finance update to senior managers - tiers 1-3 meetings.

Enabling transformation

See under 'delivering accountability' above - the Council invests in the finance function to ensure that it is equipped to deliver a service which supports change. This is evidenced in objectives set out in service reviews of the finance functions as well as in recruitment where the need to add value and support change is clearly articulated.

Stakeholders

Delivering accountability

The Council through its decision-making structures provides external stakeholders with evidence of the integrity of its financial conduct and performance, and demonstrates fiscal discipline including compliance with statutory, legal and regulatory obligations. In particular reference is made to standard Cabinet reports which evidence these considerations and the reports received by the Audit Committee on performance, treasury management, internal and external audits and deep dive reviews, all of which are in the public domain.

Supporting performance & Enabling transformation

The Council has a developed approach to stakeholder and consultation engagement which is evidenced in co-production and consultation across the range of services in respect of both business as usual processes to service transformation and more wide-ranging customer insight exercises. From consultation and engagement with tenants and leaseholders, through wide-ranging consultation on the wider community strategy to focussed engagement pieces such as the Young Futures Commission and in relation to the Children & Family Hub proposals.

[Hackney Council](#)

Financial Management Standard F: The authority has carried out a credible and transparent financial resilience assessment

The GDF and her Financial Management Team reviewed the outcomes from the CIPFA resilience indices. This was shared with the Mayor, Cabinet Member of Finance and Chief Executive and we have regard to the indices in the work that we do.

In addition, the GDF led a review of the Council's reserves and balances which has been discussed with Cabinet members and was also the subject of an Audit Committee Deep Dive. This review work included using benchmarking information with other London boroughs and this information is being used to inform the review of reserves and balances undertaken as part of the budget development process for 2024/25.

This summary of the Council's performance in relation to the FM Code is completed in the midst of the impact of the cost of living crisis which is compounded by the ongoing increase in demand for services. Of note is:

- There is a significant draw down on reserves forecast for 2023/24 to meet service pressures. This will not impact the level of General Fund Balance reserve. Budget growth is factored in 2024/25 to meet some of these service pressures and services are developing plans to transform services and reduce spend. The high risk areas are in Children's and Adults services.
- The Council is challenged by inflationary pressures particularly energy and fuel as well as pay agreements exceeding those budgeted. The budget incorporates significant growth for these elements in 2024/25, but spend needs to be kept under review to ensure it does not exceed sums included in the base budget for this pressure.

- The Council reviews its MTFP on a regular basis. Of course, this is within an ever more uncertain context given the cost of living crisis, one-year settlements, delays to both the Fair Funding Review and a sustainable adult social care solution. The budget report for 2024/25 includes an updated MTFP however it is noted that there is considerable uncertainty regarding Government funding beyond 2025/26.
- The majority of savings plans for the next financial year are fully developed and have been through a robust scrutiny process, where plans are not fully developed they will come before Members for consideration and approval before progressing to implementation. In addition, there are agreed savings proposals in place for 2025/26 and 2026/27 but there is a recognition that further plans will be required.

The Council has effective financial management systems in place including:

- Monthly financial reporting at overall Council and service level through to Cabinet.
- Regular finance reporting to directorate management teams and divisional meetings.
- Regular finance updates by the GDF to CLT, Cabinet/CLT and to managers tier 1-3 including the medium term financial strategy.
- Regular meetings with budget holders and finance support identifying significant budget variations.

As well as revenue reporting referred to above, Capital Update reports are reported on a monthly basis to Cabinet and the Capital Programme is subject to quarterly review.

There is a well established capital bid and approval process and the annual budget report contains the Council's capital strategy. Historically the Council has had very low borrowings but is cognisant that this is likely to change in the next few years if we are to maintain our estate and deliver against housing targets as well as the Council's wider capital ambition including in relation to climate change.

In response to this and in order to continue to review and challenge established practice, the Council carried out a Council-wide Capital Management Review and introduced revised governance arrangements to provide greater transparency and consistency over decision-making on capital investment as well as clearer linkages between the capital programme, the Strategic Plan and the MTFP. Two elements of the arrangements are now operational, the Capital Asset Steering Board and the Capital Strategy & Asset Management Group.

[Capital and Asset Steering Board Terms of Reference](#)

[CASMG Terms of Reference](#)

Historically and in common with other authorities, the Council's capital programming has demonstrated significant optimum bias. As we move towards becoming a borrowing authority it becomes increasingly important that within realistic parameters that we improve on this. The Audit Committee led a deep dive review on this and a number of actions were taken. It is noted, however, that slippage has continued to be an issue especially as a result of external factors including construction inflation which has required further work to be undertaken on some schemes to ensure they remain viable and affordable. We continue to review and challenge budgets and budget profiles within the capital programme to ensure they are as realistic as possible.

The Council is outward looking in terms of its performance monitoring and this includes financial performance and responds to benchmarking information requests both corporately and in service areas and reviews outputs to inform future planning. The Council also

utilises cost benchmarking to determine areas to consider for efficiency savings (for example, use of the CIPFA benchmarking tool) and engages in formal cost benchmarking such as those initiated by London Councils (CSC benchmarking) and utilises professional networks to undertake more focussed and bespoke benchmarking exercises to inform service planning and change.

Financial Management Standard G: The authority understands its prospects for financial sustainability in the longer term and has reported this clearly to members

The Council reviews its Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) on a regular basis and reports this through to members. This has been reviewed and updated as part of the Budget Report for 2024/25. This is reflective of the ongoing uncertainty brought about by single-year settlements, significant one-off funding sources and the potential impact of the delayed Fair Funding Review.

The MTFP clearly sets out assumptions made and the risks to those assumptions both internal (e.g. delivery of savings, unmanaged cost pressures) and external factors such as Government funding and the impact on other income sources such as NNDR and commercial rents from the general economic position.

The Council uses scenario planning where circumstances are considered highly volatile (for example, the 2024/25 budget was developed in this context) and this was reported to members. This is also used at a more granular level for specific volatile service areas, for example, adults and children's social care.

Financial Management Standard H: The authority complies with the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Code) was originally implemented in 2004/05 and the latest version is 2021. This is a professional Code that sets out a framework for self-regulation of capital spending, in effect allowing authorities to invest in capital projects, through borrowing, without any imposed limit as long as they are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

The Prudential Code requires the Council to agree and monitor a minimum number of prudential indicators which for housing authorities are separated into HRA and non-HRA elements. These indicators are mandatory but can be supplemented with local indicators if this aids interpretation. The Council sets these indicators as part of the budget setting process and these are set out in the annual budget report. Performance against these are reported through to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis as part of the Treasury Management update report.

The latest iteration of the Prudential Code sees a further increase in focus on exposure to commercial investments in the local government sector. Central government has voiced its concern in recent years over local government's involvement in property deals and other more esoteric investments and, on the back of this, CIPFA has moved to reinforce the principle within the Prudential Code that local authorities cannot invest purely for commercial gain/borrow in advance of need. It has also bolstered requirements so that boroughs must demonstrate both exposures to commercial investment and subsequent risk management.

Hackney's exposure in this area is deemed low. There are no instances where we have externally borrowed specifically for commercial investments. In the main, our commercial property portfolio is one that has accumulated over a long period of time, and the revenue

income stream it drives is proportional to our wider revenue budget.

The Council has a capital strategy in place and this is reviewed on an annual basis and is approved as part of the budget setting process. As mentioned above, the Council has undertaken a capital management review and this has incorporated an indicative 10 year programme as part the review of the capital strategy for inclusion in the budget report for 2024/25.

Financial Management Standard I: The authority has a rolling multi-year medium-term financial plan consistent with sustainable service plans

The Council has a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which it reviews on a regular basis and reports this through to members. This has been reviewed and updated as part of the Budget Report for 2024/25. This is reflective of the ongoing uncertainty brought about by single-year settlements, significant one-off funding sources and the potential impact of the delayed Fair Funding Review.

The MTFP sets out the economic context and assumptions made and the risks to those assumptions both internal (e.g. delivery of savings, unmanaged cost pressures) and external factors such as Government funding and the impact on other income sources such as NNDR and commercial rents from of the general economic position.

The MTFP noted:

- The 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement gave us little information of funding allocations for the following years. Little is known about the aggregate Local Government budgets post 2024/25 and still, no decision has been taken on the timing and scope of the local government funding review and business rates reset.
- On future funding levels, all we have to work on is a paragraph in the Autumn Statement 2023 which stated that planned departmental spending will grow at 1% a year in real terms (accounting for inflation) from 2025-26 to 2028-29. No detail was given on how individual departments will be affected but the Institute for Fiscal Studies have estimated that, based on reasonable assumptions about what may be needed for the NHS and schools and existing commitments on defence, overseas aid and childcare, funding for other services in England may need to be cut by an average of over 3% per year in real terms. That means that even cash-flat settlements for the grant-funding components of councils' core spending power, would only equate to a cut in grant funding of around 1.7% in real terms per year. It follows that the worst is yet to come in terms of external funding allocations if these departmental spending plans are implemented.
- The local government funding review (previously termed the Fair Funding Review) and the business rates reset have been postponed again. In fact neither will be implemented before 2025-26 and no indication was given by the Government as to when either will be introduced. Given that all of the work previously done on new needs assessments is now out of date, it will all have to be done again which will require a substantial amount of work to be done. It follows that there must be significant doubt whether the new funding system will be introduced in 2025-26.

- Whilst we don't know the timing and content of the reform, we do know that Hackney will almost certainly lose from any implementation as we score less highly in deprivation measures than we did when the current allocation system was framed (2013). Also our population as measured by the latest Census grew less than the London average which will negatively impact on our funding allocations. Finally an amount is effectively netted off our calculated funding to reflect our relative share of business rates resources. Because of the two revaluations since 2013, our relative share has increased which again will negatively impact on funding levels. Given we expect to lose funding if and when the new funding system is introduced, we anticipate that we will be protected by a system of safety nets but what level of protection they will afford and how quickly they will be unwound is clearly unknown. This creates a significant financial risk for future years as well as adding to the uncertainty
- The long term position on SEND and its funding remains unclear and the financial impact of the cost of living crisis in the short and medium term constitute further risks. There are also considerable risks and uncertainties about the future path of public sector pay.

The next iteration of the MTFP will reflect updates on these significant and uncertainties risks, although many of these will remain.

Financial Management Standard J: The authority complies with its statutory obligations in respect of the budget setting process

The Council complies with its statutory obligations in respect of the budget setting process. This is set out and clearly evidenced in the annual budget setting report.

Budget development is led by the GDF in consultation and collaboration with the rest of the leadership including Members.

In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council's budget includes the expenditure that the authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its function, an allowance for contingencies in relation to this expenditure and the financial reserves that the authority estimates it will need to raise in the year to meet its estimated future expenditure such financial reserves as might be required to fund deficits generated in previous periods.

The Council has a sound track record of financial management and the current circumstances continue to test this. The 2024/25 budget sets aside additional contingencies in respect of demand-led pressures such as social care and temporary accommodation. The leadership team are clear about the main pressure areas which are a risk to financial sustainability and alongside the development of cost savings proposals the GDF sets aside specific earmarked reserves to mitigate against these risks. The GDF is fully aware of S114 responsibilities and the circumstances under which such a notice should be issued.

Performance against the budget is reported to Cabinet on a regular basis at Council-wide and service level. The GDF is aware of areas of cost pressure and their magnitude.

Financial Management Standard K: The budget report includes a statement by the chief finance officer on the robustness of the estimates and a statement of the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves

The Council has taken a long term and strategic approach to managing the budget gap over a number of years and this has allowed and continues to allow proposals to be developed to cover a range of years to enable services to be properly and fully reviewed. The authority enjoys a high measure of financial stability and has over a number of years managed its finances well. Inevitably there are several risks to the budget, and these are set out in the budget report including cost pressures in relation to demand-led services which have been increased post-pandemic and as a result of the cost of living crisis along with the measures in place to mitigate these risks. However, the GDF is cognisant of the uncertainty in which this budget is set and the ongoing nature of some of these risk and is clear in his advice to increase the level of General Balances from the existing position of £17m to £20m by 2026/27, and to continue to hold earmarked reserves for a range of specific purposes.

To summarise, as recorded in the budget report, based upon the measures in place to manage the delivery of the savings, the provisions made in relation to contingency sums, levels of reserves and balances the GDF is of the view that the estimates are sufficiently robust and at the appropriate level with due regard to the risks set out in the Section 25 Statement included in the Budget Report.

Financial Management Standard L: The authority has engaged where appropriate with key stakeholders in developing its long-term financial strategy, medium-term financial plan and annual budget

The Council's Community Strategy 2018-28 sets out our overarching vision for Hackney over the decade to 2028. It provides direction for all of the Council's decision making throughout this period, including budget setting and a focus for our work in partnership with residents, businesses, local organisations and community groups. The strategy was produced in partnership with local people and organisations in our community over a period of three years ensuring it is reflective of the lived experiences of residents in our borough.

The Council adopts, delivers and keeps under review a Strategic Plan (formerly the Corporate Plan) for each new four year local electoral term. The Strategic Plan is in line with the ten year Community Strategy, but it sets out how the Council will use its resources and its workforce to help achieve the Mayor's manifesto over the shorter elected period of office. Both the Community Strategy and the Strategic Plan and any related delivery plans or annual updates are publically available. As set out in the budget report, the annual budget is a financial exposition of the Strategic Plan - providing that thread back through to stakeholder engagement.

In addition to this, at a day to day level, the Council has a developed approach to stakeholder and consultation engagement which is evidenced in its approach to co-production and consultation across the range of services in respect of both business as usual processes to service transformation (including those integral to budget decisions) and more wide ranging customer insight exercises. From consultation and engagement with tenants and leaseholders, through wide-ranging consultation on the wider community strategy to focussed engagement pieces such as the Young Futures Commission and in relation to the proposals for Family Hubs.

<https://hackney.gov.uk/community-strategy>

Financial Management Standard M: The authority uses an appropriate documented option appraisal methodology to demonstrate the value for money of its decisions

The Council undertakes options appraisals in respect of difficult decisions. All Cabinet reports require the author to identify options considered and rejected.

At a more granular level decisions will be supported by recognised options appraisal techniques. These are particularly pertinent to complex capital schemes. Sensitivity analysis is considered on a routine basis where relevant, for example around key variables such as house prices and cost inflation. Where necessary the process will also call for the input of external expertise - particularly where schemes are high in value and risk.

The results of option appraisals are reported to members and where not commercially sensitive, will be contained within Cabinet reports. Reports are clear on risks around specific options and the mitigations to address these risks.

Financial Management Standard N: The leadership team takes action using reports, enabling it to identify and correct emerging risks to its budget strategy and financial sustainability

Regular and timely reports are provided to Cabinet and CLT on the budget position in the current year, including emerging risks and action taken to mitigate them, and on future risks.

At Directorate level the finance team provides regular updates to directorate management teams and supports third tier managers in understanding their budget, cost pressures and developing recovery actions. Information provided is accessible and understandable - with use of visuals where appropriate.

Financial Management Standard O: The leadership team monitors the elements of its balance sheet which pose a significant risk to its financial sustainability

The Council is aware of and monitors the elements of the balance sheet which pose a significant risk to financial sustainability.

Long-term and short term investments

The Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. The Treasury Management Strategy fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.

The Treasury Management Strategy is reviewed and approved on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process. This strategy includes security and liquidity indicators (i.e. credit rating and short term cash availability). Updates against this strategy are reported to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. At an operational level the Head of Treasury, Banking and Accounts Payable monitors the position on a day to day basis and provides

weekly updates to the Director, Financial Management. Regular meetings are also scheduled with our Treasury Advisors and the GDF.

Debtors

The Council monitors the collection of debt from main income sources on a routine basis and has historically achieved the targets set. Performance is reported to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. 2023/24 (as did the previous two years) has proved challenging due to Cost of Living Crisis and some legacy issues related to the Cýber attack particularly concerning debt chasing activities. Bad Debt Provisions, now referred to as Expected Credit Loss, are robustly reviewed and increased specifically for areas where impacts are expected to continue into 2024/25. 2024/25 budgets are set in the context of risk around collection rates particularly in relation to the Cost of Living crisis and the impact this could have on residents/businesses ability to pay.

Cash

The Council maintains an up to date cash flow forecast which is updated on a daily basis. The Council maintains a prudent head room and ensures it operates within the treasury management indicators set within the Treasury Management Strategy.

Current liabilities

The cash flow forecast includes regular payments (for example, payroll, precepts, loan repayments) where payment dates are known and also estimates for other outgoings and regular income sources. As above this is monitored and updated on a daily basis. The Treasury Management Strategy also includes liquidity indicators. Additionally, payments against targets are reviewed. The Council is confident that it maintains sufficient liquid balances such that it can meet liabilities as they become due.

Provisions and Reserves

The Council makes appropriate provisions for bad debts and other known liabilities which are reviewed in light of changed circumstances in setting its budget. The Council also sets aside earmarked funds for areas where there is risk to the annual budget. There has in recent years been a decline in the level of earmarked reserves which we hold against specific risks as those risks have materialised and reserves drawn down. To mitigate further decline in our reserves the GDF will undertake a further review of earmarked revenue reserves ring-fenced for both revenue and capital purposes to increase the General Fund Balance to £20m and ensure that reserves are appropriately prioritised against the biggest risks the Council faces.

Pension liabilities

The Council has a liability to fund part or all of the future pensions which are payable to retired employees. The measurement of these liabilities is reflected on the balance sheet, but we are not required to fund them (i.e. reduce usable reserves) when the liabilities are incurred. These liabilities are managed in the longer term, including adjustments to the employer's annual contributions to the LGPS based on actuarial review.

There is a Pensions Committee in place which oversees the Pension Fund which receives regular updates on the performance and administration of the fund from officers and our pension fund advisors. This provides further assurance that pension liabilities are appropriately managed.

Long term borrowing

The Council sets its prudential indicators in line with the Code of Practice on an annual basis and provides regular updates against these in its Treasury Management updates to the Audit Committee.

The Council has a comparatively low level of long-term external borrowing at circa £63.85m and the impact on the revenue budget of interest payments is offset by interest from investments. MRP is currently budgeted for at a corporate level.

The Council has an ambitious capital programme going forward and further borrowings are required, as reflected under Financial Management Standard 'H'. The revised governance arrangements put in place following the Capital Management Review is supporting decision making for capital investment and reiterating to decision makers the clear link between capital investment decisions and the MTPF.

Financial Management Standard P: The chief finance officer has personal responsibility for ensuring that the statutory accounts provided to the local authority comply with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom

The GDF is aware of responsibilities in terms of the preparation of the annual financial standards and these are routinely produced in line with the statutory deadline and in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK.

The statements themselves are of course subject to external audit and are routinely given a clean opinion in line with the audit deadline. The Audit Committee have oversight of this process including any recommendations arising from the audit and the external auditors have confirmed they are satisfied with the Council's processes in place.

For 2022/23, the draft accounts deadline of 31 May was successfully adhered to. However, the ongoing audit process has encountered delays attributed to well-established resourcing challenges in the external market, impacting not only our organisation but also affecting our peers. Furthermore, setbacks in finalising the 2021/22 accounts have arisen due to national issues related to pension funds' assets and liabilities. These challenges have stemmed from delays in the audit process prompted by a national infrastructure asset issue. It is noteworthy that a temporary resolution has been implemented to address the concerns surrounding infrastructure assets. As a result, we anticipate the issuance of the audit opinion in the Spring of 2024

Financial Management Standard Q: The presentation of the final outturn figures and variations from budget allow the leadership team to make strategic financial decisions

A final outturn against the budget report is presented to Cabinet which identifies the main variance against the budget.

In reality this tends to reflect very little movement from the February forecast position which provides a detailed analysis of spend against budget and sets out main cost pressure areas.

Statement by the S151 officer on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of proposed reserves

Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2003 (Section 25) requires that the chief financial officer (S151 officer) reports the following matters to members when agreeing its annual budget and council tax:
 - The robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations; and
 - The adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 1.2 For members the Section 25 statement provides critical context for budgetary discussions and in which budget decisions are made.
- 1.3 This statement considers the macroeconomic context within which the Council operates and the medium term financial outlook, the Council's track record on financial management and the adequacy of the estimates contained within the proposed budget for 2024/25. Consideration is given to the risks to the budgetary position for 2024/25 and the adequacy of factors to mitigate those risks including earmarked reserves. The overall level of reserves and the level of resilience they provide is also considered.

Macroeconomic context within which the council operates and medium-term economic outlook

- 2.1 The Council operates in an extremely challenging macroeconomic environment. We have seen a reduction of £156m in real terms (40%) in our spending power (excluding council tax) since 2010-11. Spending power is the Government's measure of our core resources.
- 2.2 The medium term economic outlook is extremely uncertain. The Autumn Statement 2023 stated that planned departmental spending will grow at 1% a year in real terms (accounting for inflation) from 2025-26 to 2028-29. No detail was given on how individual departments will be affected but the Institute for Fiscal Studies have estimated that, based on reasonable assumptions about what may be needed for the NHS and schools and existing commitments on defence, overseas aid and childcare, funding for other services in England may need to be cut by an average of over 3% per year in real terms. It follows that significant pressures on external funding allocations are likely to continue if these departmental spending plans are carried out.
- 2.3 Further uncertainty arises out of the absence of information on the timing and scope of the local government funding review and business rates reset. Any changes

introduced by the review and reset that significantly alter the distribution of funding will impact on Hackney and other councils.

Financial management track record, governance & strategic planning

- 2.4 The Council has a sound track record of financial management and good governance. Despite the reduction in funding, increased demands and cost pressures, the impact of Covid-19 and the cyberattack, and the cost of living crisis; we have continued to set a balanced budget for many years. This has been supported by an approach which seeks to mitigate budgetary risks through the deployment of earmarked reserves. Our budgeting is underpinned by budget proposals that are subject to a comprehensive scrutiny process involving various Scrutiny Groups, Cabinet Lead Members, the Corporate Leadership Team and Service Heads.
- 2.5 From an external perspective the Council's finances are subject to an external audit regime under which our Annual Statement of Accounts are subject to review and testing by the appointed auditor. The Council has been issued with unqualified opinions for many years up to and including 2020/21. As with most local authorities, failures in the audit market have resulted in delays to the issue of subsequent opinions. At the time of writing auditors findings for 2021/22 and 2022/23 have been reported to the Audit Committee. These reports highlight that for both years the auditor anticipates issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, on the financial statements. There does however remain a risk of change to this assessment until the opinions are issued.
- 2.6 In terms of preparing the 2024-25 budget, we have ensured that the Council has in place, appropriate arrangements and controls to manage the risks and impacts. These include: -
- (a) Extensive Financial Management, Monitoring and reporting. Regular finance updates are provided in the Overall Financial Position (OFP) report and detailed reporting to both the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and joint sessions of Cabinet and the CLT on financial planning in the short and medium term.
 - (b) Risk Management. The Council has in place mechanisms for managing risks on savings through relevant risk registers and reviewing delivery on an ongoing basis.
 - (c) Prioritising Resources to Strategic Plan Objectives. The budget report includes a summary of our Strategic Plan and sets out how we continue to invest in line with our priorities. Budget proposals are prepared in the context of our Strategic Plan and risks to delivery that they might pose considered and mitigated where appropriate.
 - (d) Equality. The Corporate Leadership Team makes sure that equality underpins all

that we do. It also looks to ensure that all equality impact assessments on service and staff impacts are undertaken and details of these are available for review by Members and are published on the Council Website.

- (e) Cumulative Impacts. The budget proposals that underpin the budget are wide-ranging and have been subject to a cumulative impact assessment which is included at Appendix 12 to the budget report. Although this exercise cannot be used to fully protect residents given the level of budget reductions required, we can work to anticipate impacts, plan for them and build them into our new equality plan, wider corporate strategy and transformation work.

- 2.7 The Council's Objectives as set out in the Strategic Plan are developed on the basis of the best strategic fit between the actual and forecast resources available to meet stakeholder needs and expectations which prevail. There are clear links between Strategic objectives and decisions, the financial implications and the resulting services delivered to local people.
- 2.8 In order to facilitate the successful implementation of the Council's strategic objectives, we undertake a regular review of the medium term financial plan to ensure that it covers known and projected planning commitments on a rolling basis. We also carry out central budgeting of both revenue and capital expenditure to align with proposed spending.

Compliance with the codes and standards

- 3.1 To demonstrate our compliance with codes and standards in respect of strong financial management we undertake a review of our processes and procedures against the Cipfa Financial Management Code (FM Code) on an annual basis. The Cipfa FM Code provides guidance for good and sustainable financial management in local authorities and assurance that authorities are managing resources effectively. The code applies to all local authorities and by following the essential aspects of the FM Code, local authorities are providing evidence to show they are meeting important legislative requirements in their jurisdiction.
- 3.2 The code requires authorities to demonstrate that the processes they have in place satisfy the principles of good financial management. The FM Code identifies risks to financial sustainability and introduces a framework of assurance. This framework is built on existing successful practices and sets explicit standards of financial management. Complying with the standards set out in the FM Code is the collective responsibility of elected members, the Interim Group Director Finance (CFO) and colleagues on the leadership team. Complying with the FM Code helps strengthen the framework that surrounds financial decision making.
- 3.3 Each year as part of the budget setting process we review compliance with the code to demonstrate compliance with the principles of good financial management. This review, attached at Appendix 10, has found that we continue to demonstrate compliance with the principles set out in the FM code and can demonstrate that we

are in compliance with all financial management codes and standards thereby giving assurance that we are managing resources effectively. We identified two areas for improvement as part of this review; 1) the consistency of our approach to Equality Impact Assessments in decision making needs to be improved and training for all managers is being planned for the coming year and 2) the transformation work needs to be led by the Corporate Leadership Team and more closely aligned with the budget strategy and savings development process and a revised governance structure has been put in place to address this.

Robustness of estimates

- 4.1 The Council's preferred strategy to manage growth, inflation and its impact on cost pressures has been for service areas to manage pressures within their budgets wherever possible including by factoring one-off funding and grants (for example, the Social Care Grant and the Homelessness Prevention Grant) as far as possible. Although it has always been recognised that there will inevitably be some cost pressures which cannot be managed by service areas or which are truly unavoidable and for which budget growth has been added.
- 4.2 This strategy has become increasingly more difficult given the escalating demands on services (particularly social care) and the reductions in external funding. For 2024/25 -2026/27 significant budget growth was built into the medium term financial plan to address some of these pressures.
- 4.2 For 2024/25 in particular the following growth has been added to budgets.
- Assumed Pay award for 2024/25 at 3% but held corporately until pay award is agreed (£6.6m); and growth in respect of the shortfall against pay award assumed in 2023/24 (£6.5m)
 - Assumptions in relation to increases in demand for social care (£11.6m) taking account of increases in social care grants (£10.4m).
 - Other directorate cost pressures including homelessness prevention, pressures in environment operations and parks and green spaces caused by increasing number of households (£3.7m).
 - Increase in the budget for minimum revenue provision and external interest as a result of an increased reliance on borrowing to fund the Council's capital programme (£3.8m).
 - Increase in concessionary fares and the NLWA levy (estimated £4m in total).
- 4.3 The estimates in respect of the above growth items are reviewed on an ongoing basis as the current year picture emerges and as more information comes available and estimates adjusted accordingly where appropriate. The forecast estimate in adults and children's social care expenditure has increased significantly in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 and there is an extremely high risk that expenditure will exceed budget for 2024/25. It is emphasised that work is underway in both these areas which aims to address cost pressures, but given trends in these areas in recent years an earmarked reserve has been set aside to mitigate this risk. As part of the review of

the Council's MTFP growth assumptions for 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 have increased.

- 4.4 Moving on to the main income areas, collection rates assumed for Council Tax and business rates reflect our assessment of the economic environment and our improved ability to chase debt now backlogs from the cyber attack have been cleared. In 2024-25, we are prudent in both reflecting these system improvements while still recognising the possible difficulties council tax and business rates payers may have in paying bills in light of the previous very high and current high inflation rates.
- 4.5 Assumptions around grants for 2024/25 are built upon the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and subsequent announcements. Where allocations have not been received, e.g. Public Health Grant no increase has been assumed; and for Homelessness Prevention Grant we have assumed the increase set out in the Governments' Homelessness Prevention Grant 2023 to 2025 announcement in December 2022.

Savings requirement and feasibility of the plans to achieve the required savings

- 5.1 Savings requirements are derived from our ongoing budgetary process which identifies the current year savings requirement and future years requirements based on a Medium Term Financial Plan which is refreshed internally on a regular basis. Where necessary revisions are made to the savings requirements if the financial and the non-financial environment changes significantly for individual services and the Council as a whole. For example, the MTFP has been adjusted to reflect the further demand increases in social care from 2025/26 onwards.
- 5.2 Regarding feasibility, each individual saving proposal goes through a review process involving service heads, directorate leadership teams, the Council's corporate leadership (CLT) team, lead members, various scrutiny panels comprising members and officers and Cabinet/CLT meetings.
- 5.3 For 2024/25 a specific risk has been raised around the savings proposals to be delivered from the Transforming Adult Social Care Programme. This has been identified through the governance process established for this programme. In addition, savings proposals in relation to Childrens & Education are not as clearly defined as would prudently be required at this stage of the process. The risk for both of these areas is mitigated by these savings being 'back loaded' i.e. the majority of cashable savings to be delivered beyond 2024/25, which gives the opportunity for subsequent review and additional plans. The risk in relation to the savings profile to be delivered in 2024/25 is mitigated by earmarked reserves.
- 5.4 A significant risk factor for some authorities is the inclusion of material estimates in relation to commercial ventures, partnerships and investment. The Council's exposure in this space is relatively limited with the main element being income from

our commercial estate which with budgeted income at £6.2m represents 1.6% of the Council's income. This is subject to ongoing monitoring throughout the financial year alongside the review of the adequacy of bad debt provisions.

- 5.5 The Council has a relatively low level of debt (estimated to be £63m as at 31st March 2024) with debt servicing costs relatively low. Going forward our plans for capital investment are increasingly reliant on borrowing and as internal balances decrease a greater proportion of this will be from external borrowing and we will have further financial exposure in this regard. Furthermore, this increased reliance on borrowing will increase the proportion of our budgets which we are required to set aside to repay debt principal (the 'minimum revenue provision') and to service that debt ('interest'). In order that these trends are fully reflected in our revenue estimates, capital and revenue expenditure plans are aligned and routinely cross-checked and provisions set aside in the 2024/25 budget are prudent.

Adequacy of reserves

- 6.1 Determining the appropriate level of reserves and balances is a matter of professional judgement based on individual circumstances such as size of budgets and their robustness, risks identified (both short and long term) and track record in budget money. They act as a safeguard against risks of a one-off nature and can only be replenished if in any one given year income exceeds expenditure. The Council holds a General Fund balance and a range of earmarked reserves for different purposes. The General Fund balance is the absolute last line of defence and a requirement to utilise this reserve would indicate severe financial difficulty.
- 6.2 A deep dive of the Council's reserve position was reported to the Audit Committee. <https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=555&MId=5558> in April 2023. The report noted that General Fund reserves were forecast to fall in the 2022/23 after an upturn experienced as a result of Covid grants and reliefs. Comparisons with other London boroughs show Hackney in the bottom third when comparing reserves as a proportion of net relevant expenditure. HRA reserves are comparable to other London boroughs and in recent years have seen some significant movements as we have been required to fund pressures such as increases in the bad debt provisions over and above that budgeted and additional pension charges. The report also noted that there were a number of identified financial risks in relation to areas such as social care, inflation (including energy), temporary accommodation and pay awards which necessitated continuing to hold earmarked reserves to mitigate financial impacts in both the General Fund and the HRA.
- 6.3 CIPFA publishes resilience indices for local authorities which sets out on a comparative basis authorities financial resilience. This looks at reserves levels in relation to budgets, use of reserves, external debt, council tax base and proportion of budgets taken up by social care. The updated index (2022/23) index is expected imminently and this will be reviewed and considered in the context of delivering against our MTFP.

- 6.3 Looking forward to 2024/25 and beyond, the table below sets out the forecast position as at the end of 2023/24 taking on board forecast reserves movements in 2023/24.

	£m
Overall General Fund Reserves as at 31st March 2023*	162.5
Less: General Fund Balance	17
Less: Schools balances	14.5
GF Reserves (exc GF bal & Schools Balances)	131
Forecast Net Reserves usage 2023/24 (note, this is an estimated figure which is subject to change depending on variations to the current year forecast and the level of capital financed from reserves at year end)	30.3
Forecast GF Reserves 2024/25 (excluding GF balances & Schools)	100.7

*As per note 8 to 2022/23 unaudited accounts

- 6.4 I have recently reviewed the Council's reserves to identify the usable reserves which are not committed (either contractually or are so specific it would be imprudent to unringfence, e.g. the insurance reserve) and they do not require the agreement of a third party to access (e.g. S256 balances held with local health partners). When we take these factors into account the available reserves are considerably decreased.

	£m
Forecast GF Reserves 2024/25 (excluding GF bal & Schools)	100.7
Committed Reserves (main elements are the PFI, the Insurance Fund & elections reserves)	10.9
Third Party Agreement (S256 agreements with health and other joint balances)	16.8
Capital Commitments (Parking reserve for climate and transport projects £4.2m, Fleet replacement reserve £4.9m and Town Hall sinking fund £4.4m)*	18.6
Other Earmarked reserves	54.4

*These are amounts prudently set aside from revenue to meet future costs mitigating the need to borrow. These, however, can be used for revenue purposes.

- 6.5 As set out in the main budget report there are a number of significant cost risks particularly around social care, temporary accommodation, savings delivery and the pay award.
- 6.6 Forecasts towards the end of 2023/24 highlight that despite additional funding built into the budget of £22.1m (£11.6m growth and £10.5m additional grant) for 2024/25 if social care spending continues to grow at the same average pace it has over the past

three years there is a requirement to earmark an estimated £10m for these cost pressures alone for 2024/25.

- 6.7 In terms of temporary accommodation, the Council is not experiencing the same level of pressure as some of our London counterparts. We also await an announcement around additional Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2024/25. There is a risk, however, that as the availability of affordable options for temporary accommodation decreases, increases in demand will result in increased use of more expensive nightly paid accommodation over and above this increased funding. This risk is very difficult to quantify and will be kept under review.
- 6.8 There is also a risk around savings delivery particularly in regard to Adult Social Care where there has been a delay in implementation and also in Children's Savings which are subject to consultation. Furthermore a 1% increase in the pay award over and above that budgeted (budgeted at 3%) generates a cost of pressure of £2.2m per additional 1%. In totality these risks amount to around £4m.
- 6.9 All of these risks will be monitored through our business as usual processes but it is noted there is a high risk that the potential financial impact of these risks should they materialise will exceed budgets and provisions set aside as part of the annual budget process resulting in further significant draw down from reserves. Although reserve levels are considered adequate to mitigate these risks for 2024/25 it is clear that action needs to be taken to as far as possible to minimise the drawdown from reserves both next year and future years.
- 6.10 Attention is also drawn to the Council's negative reserve in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit which currently stands at £17m. With the statutory override which allows the Council to hold this negative reserve on the balance sheet ending in March 2026, there is a risk that if there is no extension of this override or DfE funding to meet this deficit, this will need to be covered from the Council's reserves.
- 6.11 Staying with Education, the Council holds on its balance sheet net schools balances of £12.4m. These are an amalgam of deficit and surplus balances across our maintained schools. The impact of inflation alongside falling rolls has meant that more of our schools are now in deficit. This is a financial risk to the Council as where a school closes, for example, as a result of insufficient pupil numbers the cost of redundancies and any remaining deficit balance are borne by the Council's General Fund. The Council works closely with schools in a deficit position to develop recovery plans which contributes to mitigating this risk.
- 6.12 Finally, the Council's General Fund Reserve is set at £17m which represents 4.5% of the net General Fund budget. Historically, the aim has been to hold the General Fund balance at around 5% of the net General Fund budget. Last year the then Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources signalled his intention for this to raise to £20m over the three year period to 2026/27 (from the 2022/23 level of £15m) to reflect the cash increase in the Council's budget and the risk therein. It is my intention to continue this direction of travel and to review the earmarked reserves and identify a further £3m to reach this £20m.

HRA estimates, reserves and balances

- 7.1 The budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), including the setting of rents for 2024/25 was approved by Cabinet in January 2024. The budget was following an update and review of the 30-Year HRA Business Plan for 2024/25 onwards. The 30-Year Business Plan is a statutory requirement and demonstrates that the HRA is financially viable whilst continuing to deliver the Council's Housing priorities. The budget was set taking into account decisions made in relation to HRA reserve levels designed to improve the resilience of the HRA. The financial strategy and approach to risk management within the HRA business plan support the delivery of the Council's strategic housing objectives in a manner that is sustainable and keeps the HRA on a secure financial footing.
- 7.2 In setting the HRA business plan we follow the HRA Voluntary Code of Practice covering six Principles that describe what the sector considers as essential elements for the continued sustainability of a self-financed HRA Financial viability. The finance Principle is that the housing authority has put in place arrangements to monitor the viability of the housing business and takes appropriate actions to maintain viability. Therefore, the following framework has been designed for assessing the viability of the HRA Business Plan and is being applied within the current model. These metrics are based on successful operation of similar minimum/maximum metrics across the housing sector. They represent a sound and effective way of managing borrowing and investment capacity:
- A minimum closing reserve balance of 10% of total revenue expenditure
 - An Interest Cover Ratio set at a minimum of 1.25, defined as net operating surplus divided by HRA interest costs;
 - A Loan to Value ratio set at a maximum of 70%, defined as outstanding HRA borrowing (HRA Capital Financing Requirement) divided by total asset valuation of HRA assets on the balance sheet.
- 7.3 Adopting these measures and testing changes to the plan against them will enable the Council to maximise its outcomes whilst ensuring a financially sustainable Business Plan is always in place. It will also ensure that decision making on future HRA capital schemes becomes more efficient in terms of considering long-term income and expenditure forecasts.
- 7.4 Therefore as part of setting the budget for 2024/25 we plan to move to a HRA General reserve balance of £17.6m by the end of March 2024 which gets us to 10% of total revenue expenditure. This reserve balance will enable us to manage the risks facing the HRA such as the inflation risks in respect of construction and building maintenance costs, the cost of living crisis and its impact on rent collection and the requirements of the Building Safety Act.

Capital programme

- 8.1 Attention is also drawn to the ambitious capital programme which is set out in Section 22 to this report. The programme (including HRA schemes) total over £1.5bn in the four years to 2026/27 and as current capital receipts are earmarked to existing schemes, borrowing will increase. This borrowing includes for the medium term where it is anticipated that capital receipts will be generated from the later sale of private homes (e.g. Britannia Phase 2b and Regeneration schemes) but also for the longer-term where there is no receipt generated or other funding source identified (primarily refurbishment, asset maintenance or investment assets). For this long-term borrowing the Council is required to set aside sums in its revenue budget to both service the interest on its debt and to repay the borrowing. This latter amount is referred to as the minimum revenue provision (MRP). Whilst for 2024/25 £9.9m (including PFI) is budgeted for both these sums this is anticipated to increase to around £24m by 2027/28 (the end of the medium term period), increasing from 2.6% to 6.0% of the Council's net revenue budget.
- 8.2 It is imperative that the Council continues to maintain tight control of the capital programme and its revenue and cash flow impacts. Section 23 of the budget report sets out the requirement of The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2021 (the Code) and how the Council adheres to this and sets the required limits. The Code sets out a framework for self-regulation of capital spending, in effect allowing authorities to invest in capital projects, through borrowing, without any imposed limit as long as they are affordable, prudent and sustainable. Furthermore, Appendix 3 sets out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, which was recommended for approval by Council, by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 31 January 2024.

Conclusion

- 9.1 In conclusion it is the opinion of the Interim Group Director of Finance (S151 officer) that estimates and balances are sufficiently robust and at the appropriate level with due regard to the risks set out in this statement. There has in recent years been a decline in the level of earmarked reserves which we hold against specific risks as those risks have materialised and reserves drawn down. It is important, in order to maintain our financial resilience and to avoid the requirement to make short-term decisions which will impact on our residents, for the Mayor, Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team to develop robust plans to deliver against the revised Medium Term Financial Plan included at Appendix 5 to this budget report. This will mitigate further significant decline in our reserves.
- 9.2 Furthermore, the clear advice of the Interim Group Director of Finance is that the current level of General Balances should be held at the existing position of £17m which is in line with our current policy to not allow the general balance to drop below £17m. Cognisant of the uncertainty in which this budget is set and the ongoing nature of some of the risks set out the aim is to increase these to £20m over the medium term period to 2026/27 from a review of current earmarked reserves.

Recommendation

The S151 officer emphasises that it is critical in order to maintain our financial resilience and to avoid the requirement to make short-term decisions which will adversely impact on our residents, for the Mayor, Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team to develop robust plans to deliver against the revised Medium Term Financial Plan included at Appendix 5 to this budget report.

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Cumulative Equality impact assessment - Council Budget 2024-25

1. Context

The Medium Term Financial Plan presents an indicative budget gap of £22.5m in 2025-26. The indicative cumulative budget gaps in the following two years are £34.6m and £52.3m respectively. The aim is to deliver as large a proportion of the budget reductions required through transforming the way the Council delivers some of our services, but are inevitably some difficult choices to make. We will look to make these in a measured way and will continue to consider the cumulative impacts on our residents and how these will be managed.

This Cumulative Equality Impact Assessment has been developed iteratively as budget for 2024/25 has been developed. It will be kept under review to support future budget setting, the implementation of savings and to help shape transformation and inform corporate planning. The assessment has been done at the same time as we have been developing a new Equality Plan for Hackney for 2024-26 and the plan has been informed by the assessment and mitigations needed.

2. Background

In 2018, Hackney adopted a long term vision for the borough, the Community Strategy.

1. A borough where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life and the whole community can benefit from growth
2. A borough where residents and local businesses fulfil their potential and everyone enjoys the benefits of increased local prosperity and contributes to community life
3. A greener and environmentally sustainable community which is prepared for the future
4. An open, cohesive, safer and supportive community
5. A borough with healthy, active and independent residents

This vision recognised that, since early 2000s, Hackney has become a vibrant place and that the Council had helped shape this dynamic economy and the opportunities that have been created for residents. The vision recognised that not all residents had benefited from the prosperity and set a broad strategic aim to focus on aspects of the economy we could influence, to enable better access and a share of good economic growth and prosperity.

Hackney faces even greater inequality and poverty, impacting those who were already disadvantaged the most. There are national drivers affecting our communities- the cumulative impacts of the pandemic, which are complex and manifold, the cost of living crisis which has worsened levels of poverty, economic uncertainty, wage stagnation and global crises. Locally, Hackney like other London boroughs is seeing a changing demographic, with fewer families and a housing crisis. Hackney has challenges building trust and confidence with significant groups of residents who are more likely to be disadvantaged. We have a workforce that is

having to respond to a growing need in a community, whilst experiencing the cost of living crisis themselves. This has all also exposed more greatly the deep rooted structural and systemic inequality. Trying to respond with a shrinking Council budget and public sector budget, and growing demand is extremely challenging.

The Strategic Plan 2022-26 identifies how much more difficult it has been therefore to work towards the long term vision. This cumulative equality impact assessment needs to be understood in this wider context.

3. What is a Cumulative Equality Impact Assessment?

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to demonstrate how Council decisions give due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, with regards to protected characteristics.

Whilst due regard is not well defined in the Duty, Hackney's is based on the Equality and Human Rights Commission's technical guidance, which draws on a set of principles from case law ("Brown Principles"). An Equality Impact Assessment is not required in this guidance, keeping a record of this process is the best way to demonstrate how consideration has been given. This should be integrated into the key decision making documents and can also be shown in separate analysis.

In Hackney, our equality impact assessment asks decision makers to consider the impact on groups protected by the 2010 Equality Act and also those experiencing social and economic disadvantage, and any other groups who might be identified as vulnerable.

Guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission advises that the public sector should see individual decisions within the wider context of decisions made by the authority and by the wider public sector, so that people with particular protected characteristics are not unduly affected by the cumulative effects of different decisions. This means that alongside ensuring that equality impact assessments are carried out for individual decisions that have a material impact on staff or residents, we also undertake a cumulative impact assessment when there are a range of savings or changes being proposed at the same time. The cumulative impact assessment helps us to understand:

Council Services: The compounding impacts on a specific equality or vulnerable group that arise from changes across a set of services; and

Wider Services: The knock on impact on other services arising from a cut or change to a Council Service

In considering these impacts we look at:

Potential Impact: Future costs that may arise as a result of current savings

The wider social and economic context and the way this might exacerbate any impacts;

Indirect Impact: The way impacts on individuals might impact the wider community or place; and

Community Impact: Wider risks to the reputation of the Council or wider area e.g. trust, community cohesion or business confidence)

Cumulative impact assessments help ensure decisions are:

- To ensure we are being fair – and understand how we might be disproportionately or disadvantaging one group because of their protected characteristic or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged
- To therefore promote good relations between communities because we are making decisions that are fair
- To try to anticipate all consequences as far as possible so that this informs final decision making and implementation
- To identify risks to delivering our strategic vision and strategic plan

The cumulative impact assessment builds on the last budget cumulative impact assessment undertaken for 21/22 and a cumulative impact assessment of the pandemic impacts summarised [here](#).

4. Which proposals have equality impacts?

Area	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	Total £m	Is there an impact? Is EqIA needed?	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of Change
12 AREAS								
Parking	2.5	0.4	0.4	3.3	No impact. No EqIA needed.	None	None	No impact expected
Estates work	1.05	0.45	0	1.5	Indirect impact. EqIA will support implementation	None	Potential indirect impacts	Potential indirect No impact expected impacts on voluntary sector and on reduced resident contact points
Public Health	1	1	1	3	There is an impact. EqIAs needed for contract reviews. Preventative work will need to be underpinned by equality analysis.	None	Children and Young People Residents with multiple needs	Positive impacts intended by moving to: Early help and Preventative work Empowerment and independence Change, in itself, has an impact which needs to be understood. Potential impact on other services and partners.
Adult Social Care Transformation	0.77	1.78	3.31	5.86	There is an impact. EqIAs will be needed for each strand of		Older residents , Residents with multiple needs	Positive impacts intended by moving to: Early help and Preventative work Empowerment and

Area	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	Total £m	Is there an impact? Is EqlA needed?	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of Change
					work.		Disabled residents	independence Change, in itself, has an impact which needs to be understood. Potential impact on other services and partners and parents / carers.
Street Cleansing & Waste	0.65	0.65	0.7	2	No impact. No EqlA needed.	Changes to working hours under flexible working	None	Potential impacts on reduced service standards
Income Generation	1.4	0.5	0.3	2.2	No impact. No EqlA needed.	No	None	No impact expected
Future workforce & corporate centre 2024/25	1.4	0.6	0.3	2.3	Potential indirect impact in future years (not 24/25) EqlA needed for future plans	Not clear yet.	Not clear yet	Not clear yet.

Children's Centres	1.1	1	1.9	4	There is an impact. EqlA will be developed to support the final decision.	Women from black and global majority backgrounds	Children, particularly Black and Global Majority heritage Children being assessed as being, in need of early help Parents and carers	Positive impacts intended by ensuring support is focused on children most in need. Change, in itself, has an impact which needs to be understood. Negative impact on children, parents and carers using specific children's centres under review. Potential impact
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								on other services and partners.
Young Hackney	0.5	0.5	0	1	There is an impact. EqlA completed.	Majority (65.5%) are women from black and global majority backgrounds and over 80% aged under 50 years	Children and Young People, Black and global majority residents, Socio-economically disadvantaged groups	Negative impact on capacity for: Early help and Preventative work Empowerment and independence. Positive impact: by focusing on adolescents (10-19 years olds, and up to 25 years for young people with SEND Potential impact on other services and partners.
SEN transport	0.25	0.25	0	0.5	There is an impact. EqlA will be developed to support implementation		Disabled children	Positive impacts intended by moving to: Empowerment and independence Change, in itself, has an impact which needs to be understood. Potential impact on other services and partners, and parents / carers.
DISCRETIONARY								
Area	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	Total £m	Is there an impact? Is EqlA needed?	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of Change
Stoke Newington Library Two year saving related to temporary closure that was already planned	0.175	0.073		0.248	No impact. No EqlA needed.	Permanent library staff will be redeployed. 4 apprentice roles will not be recruited to.	Indirect- no apprentice roles created.	Reducing service standards (temporarily)
Communications	0			0.17	No impact. No EqlA needed.	None	None	No impact expected

Love Hackney	0.04	0.04		0.08	There is an impact. Resident awareness will be monitored.	Older residents, Disabled residents	Resident contact points	Impact on reduced resident contact points
Parks	0.1			0.1	No impact. No EqIA needed.	None	None	No impact expected
Introduction of chargeable garden waste service to residents	0.35	0.118		0.468	No impact. No EqIA needed.	None	None	Reducing service standards
Reduce the spend on the intelligence hub by 50%.	0.22			0.22	There is an impact. EqIA completed.	5 staff affected	Women LGBTQIA communities social disadvantaged communities all disproportionately affected by crime.	Negative impacts: On place Reducing service standards On partners and other services
Enforcement.	0.301	0.101		0.402	There is an impact. EqIA completed.	3 staff affected	Potential impact depending on whether Fixed penalty notices (FPN) affect certain groups more than others.	Increase in FPN may affect some groups
Changes to cash management channels	0.141			0.141	No impact. No EqIA needed.	3 staff affected, one agency	None	No impact expected
Regeneration	0.2			0.2	No impact. No EqIA needed.	None	Indirect	Impact on place On partners and other services
Private rented	0.2			0.2	No impact. No EqIA needed.	None	None	No impact expected

5. Analysis

5.1 Groups most impacted by change

The groups who are most affected cumulatively by proposals where impacts are likely to be *positive* are:

- Children and young people and households with children - particularly 0-9 year old children who are black or global majority
- 10-19 year old children who are black or global majority
- Black and global majority staff
- Children with special educational needs or identified as in need of early help
- Residents with multiple needs, including older residents and those who are learning disabled

The groups who are most affected cumulatively by proposals where impacts are likely to be *negative* are:

- Children and young people and households with children - particularly 0-9 year old children who are black or global majority
- Black and global majority staff

Children from black and global majority groups, children with special educational needs and children who have been identified for early help are most impacted cumulatively by proposals. This is because there are there are significant proposals under Children's Centres and Young Hackney. Both proposals, however, consider how resources can be better targeted at those in greatest need, so that black and global majority children. The observations and recommendations below address the need to develop more granular analysis and keep intended outcomes under review.

5.2 Proposals have largely been developed over a medium term 2-3 year time frame

This means that many proposals are still at an early stage. As the detail is developed, a more detailed equality analysis and impact assessment will be needed. **The proposals that require a more detailed equality analysis and impact assessment are identified in the table above.**

Furthermore, there are proposals that are unlikely to have an impact in 24/25, but may have an impact in future years, depending on the detail. **The proposals that are likely to have a future impact have been identified in the table above.**

5.3 Proposals move to more empowering models of service that promotes independence and work upstream, supporting prevention and early help

Proposals coming forward from Adults Social Care, Public Health and Children and Education (SEND) all present a more positive, enabling and empowering model of public service delivery. Proposals coming forward from Public Health are seeking to move resources "upstream" and proposals from Young Hackney are seeking to prioritise preventative work, and to support further integration with health partners, for example via the super youth hubs.

These proposals, which are intended to deliver positive outcomes, can, nevertheless, have negative, unintended, consequences which need to be understood. **We need to keep impacts under review and be prepared to modify approaches to ensure outcomes are as intended.**

Even when proposals are intended to deliver positive outcomes, change, in itself, has an impact. **The differential impact of change on groups should be analysed**

and kept under review. Specifically, some groups may need more support or advocacy to be able to be truly empowered. **To support this, a detailed consideration of who these groups are, how they are best engaged and supported, would help ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved.**

More savings of this nature may be coming on stream in future years as we have to look at more budget areas. There will be a common set of conditions needed to help us move to more empowering, upstream models of service delivery- including communications, partnerships and the development of community based work.

There is an opportunity to look at an approach to early help and prevention across the system so we can better pool resources as we develop the right conditions for this change to happen.

A communications and engagement plan that includes service users, carers, families, the voluntary and community sector and the wider community will help ensure that people understand the positive ambitions and can feed back on how changes are working in practice.

5.4 Proposals are intended to target support to those who need it most

Proposals which are intended to deliver positive outcomes can nevertheless still have impacts on current user groups, who can no longer access the service or the service as it was. There will be an overall reduction in capacity across all areas of Young Hackney, and changes in Children's Centres. There will be changes to contracts in Public Health. **These proposals are identified in the table above. The implementation will need to be kept under review, to ensure that the targeting of support is having the intended impact, and the impacts on those who can no longer access service, can be justified.**

5.5 Impact on Voluntary and community sector

Proposals in this tranche of savings and future plans will cumulatively impact on the overall resources available for the voluntary and community sector.

Savings proposals impacting on the VCS should be looked at in the round and plans to mitigate impacts should also be looked at in the round, so we are coordinated about:

- Plans to leverage in external funding
- Plans to work collaboratively with the VCS sector to be as effective as possible in diversifying income
- Plans for savings across the system

5.6 Impact on place

As more detailed proposals come on stream during 24/25, and we reduce the level of service, we will need to explain why we have had to make these choices because other savings would have greater impacts. There is a potential impact on place arising from community safety- we need to ensure we do not unintentionally create new problem areas or hot spots that cost more to manage in the longer term.

We also need to undertake work that helps us reset civic expectations and responsibilities of the role residents have to play.

5.7 Impact on partners

There is an opportunity to engage proactively with partners about plans and where there might be opportunities to work in partnership to develop solutions and approaches. Proposals could make more explicit reference to current plans for engaging partners. **Further plans to engage partners, underpinned by a stakeholder analysis linked to these proposals should also be developed.**

5.8 Impact on staff

A large number of staff are not impacted by these proposals but where staff are impacted, proposals are disproportionately impacting women from black and global majority groups. Staff will also be impacted by changes to terms and conditions. In some cases staff will be impacted by changing expectations or more demand. **We will need to keep these impacts and mitigations under review, and they will need to inform workforce plans and the wellbeing strategy that is under way.**

6. Recommendations

6.1 To undertake the more detailed analysis identified in section 5 to understand the impact of proposals agreed for 24/25

6.2 To update this assessment to reflect this more detailed analysis and as new proposals are developed for 25/26

6.3 To use the thematic analysis and actions proposed to inform:

- future budget setting
- the implementation of future savings
- Plans for transformation
- corporate planning

The assessment has been done at the same time as we have been developing a new Equality Plan for Hackney for 2024-26 and the plan has been informed by the assessment.

7. Detailed overview of impacts

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
12 AREAS								
Parking The saving can be delivered through increased income arising from the continuing implementation of the Parking Enforcement Plan and including sustainable income achieved over the last couple of years in the budget. (agreed in July Cabinet)	2.5	0.4	0.4	3.3	No EqlA needed. This is about securing income from enforcement so there shouldn't be an impact.	None	None	No impact expected
Estates work This workstream incorporates a range of activities aimed at maximising the financial contribution from our commercial estate; ensuring the efficient and effective operation and maintenance of our corporate buildings (incorporating the implementation of a Corporate Landlord model and a review of our assets generally including the	1.0 5	0.45	0	1.5	Indirect impact. EqlA will support implementation There could be impacts in the future arising from any plans around disposal and consolidation of assets, This work needs to be closely linked to wider asset management work and Space Bank commitments.	None	Potential indirect impacts	Potential indirect No impact expected impacts on voluntary sector and on reduced resident contact points

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
sustainability of assets in the VCS portfolio). (agreed in July Cabinet)								
Public Health An exercise is being undertaken in the service to review all service contracts and associated end dates. A working group will then be established to review service pathways and to establish which contracts can deliver further efficiencies through rebadging of eligible expenditure to ensure we adhere to the Public Health grant conditions. The proposal focuses on how Public Health funding and Council funding could be optimised to better tackle health inequalities. Funding will be moved from “downstream” services like smoking cessation, mental health and sexual health to “upstream” preventative	1	1	1	3	There is an impact. EqIAs needed for contract reviews. Preventative work will need to be underpinned by equality analysis. In the short term, there could be a set of equality groups who are more impacted than others because they are overrepresented in “downstream” services. There could also be a wider community impact in some cases if vulnerable people no longer receive support they were used to accessing. The equality impact assessment and cumulative impact assessment of any specific contract endings or revisions should be undertaken - eg CHYPS. This analysis should inform fine tuning of plans for decommissioning downstream services. Underperformance of CHYPS	None	Children and Young People Residents with multiple needs	Positive impacts intended by moving to: Early help and Preventative work Empowerment and independence Change, in itself, has an impact which needs to be understood. Potential impact on other services and partners.

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
<p>work that focuses on the “drivers of wellbeing.”</p> <p>(Recommended for approval December Cabinet)</p>					<p>contract is noted - but also the need to still meet the needs that the CHYPS service was set up to address.</p> <p>Health in all policies: Proposals for preventative work need to be underpinned by population health needs analysis and kept under review, to ensure that the changes do have the intended preventative impact and impact on Council budgets.</p>			

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
Adult Social Care Transformation Programme LBH ASC are working with a Delivery Partner, Newton Europe, to design and implement a significant programme of change, called the 'Transforming Outcomes Programme'. The programme is currently in the 'Design' phase. This is when teams will collaborate to design solutions and changes to realise opportunities to deliver better outcomes identified through a diagnostic activity that took place in Spring/Summer 2022. Recommended for approval December Cabinet	0.7 7	1.78	3.3 1	5.86	There is an impact. EqlAs will be needed for each strand of work. The assumption is that the savings proposed are primarily "cost avoidance" The Transformation Programme also identifies alternative support that could be provided and also how services are commissioned. This will help us understand the groups who may need more support or advocacy to be able to be truly empowered. To support this, a detailed consideration of who these groups are, how they are best engaged and supported, would help ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved. Insight on outcomes from service users, family and carers on the changes should be tracked by equality group. A communications and engagement		Older residents , Residents with multiple needs Disabled residents	Positive impacts intended by moving to: Early help and Preventative work Empowerment and independence Change, in itself, has an impact which needs to be understood. Potential impact on other services and partners and parents / carers.

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
					plan that includes service users, carers, families, the voluntary and community sector and the wider community will help ensure that people understand the positive ambitions and can feed back on how changes are working in practice.			
Street Cleansing & Waste - route optimisation and increasing commercial charges in line with inflation in 2024-25 and proposals which are arising out of service transformation in 2025-26 & 2026-27 Recommended for approval December Cabinet	0.6 5	0.65	0.7	2	No impact. No EqlA needed. There will be changes to working hours under flexible working, there is also flexibility in the model to meet preferences if new working patterns don't suit. Removal of waste liners might impact on those on low incomes if they decide to still line food bins- and may lead to fewer participating in food recycling. Changes to waste liner need to be communicated so that people understand the changes in practical terms, but they also need to be explained in wider communications plans about the difficult choices we are having to make.	There will be changes to working hours under flexible working, there is also flexibility in the model to meet preferences if new working patterns don't suit.	None	Potential impacts on reduced service standards

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
Income Generation Development of commercial approach to traded activities and maximisation of income generation opportunities. This will include a review of financial sustainability of existing trading activities to ensure that they at least cover the full cost of providing the service, and exploration of new areas to maximise income. This work will include the development of a commercial strategy. Recommended for approval December Cabinet	1.4	0.5	0.3	2.2	No impact. No EqlA needed. Current proposals do not introduce any changes that impact on public services or impact on delivery of public services in any other way.	No	None	No impact expected
Future workforce & corporate centre 2024/25 savings will be achieved through a combination of the benefits of hybrid working possible through the changes introduced throughout the pandemic, which has resulted in less expenditure on items such as equipment, printing and stationery plus an efficiency	1.4	0.6	0.3	2.3	EqlA needed for future plans to identify groups impacted by 2025/26. 24/25 savings are identified as efficiencies that do not impact on services to residents. Medium term: unclear what proposal is as yet.	Not clear yet.	Not clear yet	Not clear yet.

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
target for corporate support services. 2025/26 savings may impact on residents. Recommended for approval December Cabinet								

<p>Children's Centres An independent review of Children's Centre childcare provision was undertaken by Ernst and Young over a period of 9 weeks. A 12 week statutory consultation and engagement period has now started on the restructuring of early education and childcare provision delivered by the children's centres funded by the Council to deliver subsidised childcare, as a means to achieving greater efficiency. The consultation is scheduled to commence on 31 January to 24 April 2024.</p> <p>For January Cabinet</p>	1.1	1	1.9	4	<p>EqlA will be developed to support the final decision. <u>Cabinet Paper</u></p> <p>The Cabinet Paper identifies that vulnerable and disadvantaged families, as well as speakers of other languages, may need additional support to engage with the consultation or be engaged via non-traditional means.</p> <p>The final proposal will demonstrate how proposals are intended to to prioritise support to marginalised and vulnerable children and families with the creation of SEND provision, child in need places, and enable lower income families to continue to access early education in order to reduce inequalities in child development, and school readiness.</p>	Women from black and global majority backgrounds	<p>Children, particularly Black and Global Majority heritage</p> <p>Children being assessed as being, in need of early help</p> <p>Parents and carers</p>	<p>Positive impacts intended by ensuring support is focused on children most in need.</p> <p>Change, in itself, has an impact which needs to be understood.</p> <p>Negative impact on children, parents and carers using specific children's centres under review.</p> <p>Potential impact on other services and partners.</p>
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Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
Young Hackney The aim is to design a future service model that will continue to meet the Council's statutory duty to secure educational, recreational and leisure time activities, and sufficient facilities for such activities and respond to the identified needs of young people across the borough over the next decade - Supporting early intervention to address the broad range of needs and risks children and young people can experience; removing barriers to their progression and helping them to build resilience and develop qualities and skills for life so that they have opportunities to develop their potential in education, employment and enterprise, feel healthy and safe and contribute to civic society and local community.	0.5	0.5	0	1	EqlA completed here Proposal applies % reduction evenly across all universal, targeted and commissioned activity. Impact assessment should consider the impacts of this proposal on residents and on staff and to explain why the % saving has been applied rather than redesigning or protecting of some services over others. EqlA raises concerns that there will be gaps in provision which would impact negatively on young people and families, possibly causing more problems and costs later.	Majority (65.5%) are women from black and global majority backgrounds and over 80% aged under 50 years	Children and Young People, Black and global majority residents, Socio-economically disadvantaged groups	Early help and Preventative work Empowerment and independence

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
For January Cabinet								
SEN transport Hackney has a vision to provide an excellent, inclusive and equitable local experience for all Hackney children and young people with SEND. This proposal is part of Hackney's vision to promote independent living. One component of independent living is to have the ability and infrastructure to access community facilities. To support this objective, the Council is proposing to facilitate sustainable travel assistance through travel training and personal budgets. The proposals below set out the legal duties of the local authority, a reshaping of the existing travel assistance offer within a framework of co-production and support for families.	0.2 5	0.25	0	0.5	There is an impact. EqlA will be developed to support the final decision. <u>Cabinet Paper</u> Equality impact assessment of groups who will be impacted is needed so we have an analysis of those who will struggle to travel independently.		Disabled children	Empowerment and independence Positive impacts intended by moving to: Empowerment and independence Change, in itself, has an impact which needs to be understood. Potential impact on other services and partners, and parents / carers.
For January Cabinet								

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
DISCRETIONARY all for Jan Cabinet								
Stoke Newington Library Two year saving related to temporary closure that was already planned	0.1 75	0.07 3		0.248	No impact. No EqlA needed.	Permanent library staff will be redeployed. 4 apprentice roles will not be recruited to.	Indirect- no apprentice roles created.	Reducing service standards (temporarily)
Communications Hold a Service Director Vacancy pending a leadership review. (one off)	0			0.17	No EqlA needed. The service includes one vacant post Strategic Director Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development. The functions of the post have been redistributed across the Council and there are no plans to recruit to this post.	None	None	No impact expected

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
Love Hackney The proposal is to reduce the number of Love Hackney editions in the year. We produce our print magazine Love Hackney c. 6-10 editions per year. Each edition costs c. 20k in paper, print and distribution costs. We are going to trial limiting our number of editions we print to see if we can maintain providing the information residents need with a decreasing number of editions each year.	0.0 4	0.04		0.08	There is an impact Resident awareness will be monitored - should it drop significantly, we will have to review our approach. Residents will eventually receive 6 as opposed to 10 editions of Love Hackney per year. This could be seen as further impacting those who are most excluded from digital information and could have an equality impact. 10 % of people prefer to access information via Hackney Today according to the last resident survey (and 16% of 45-64 year olds and 19% of over 65s). 6% of residents have never used the internet, but this rises to 33% for over 65s.		Older residents, Disabled residents	Impact on reduced resident contact points
Parks The savings proposed includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal Bedding / Bulbs: Removing all seasonal bedding in parks and green spaces Waste Collection (Evening): Stopping the evening / night litter collection within Parks and 	0.1			0.1	No EqIA needed. The choices we have had to make about seasonal beddings and waste collection will need to be explained as part of wider communications.	Some staff affected by overtime ending.	None	Reducing service standards Impact on place

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
Green spaces in the summer months (April - Sept)								
<p>Introduction of chargeable garden waste service to residents This brings the service in-line with most other boroughs. Hackney currently offers a free of charge service, whereas 66% of London boroughs (and a greater proportion nationwide) apply a charge for garden waste services.</p> <p>Introduce a new subscription service of £85 per subscription, whereby residents will only be entitled to utilise the service if subscribed and the annual service fee paid. This is a model adopted by many local authorities, and is known as a 'subscription service' or 'chargeable service'.</p> <p>Properties on estates using</p>	0.3 5	0.11 8		0.468	<p>No impact. No EqlA needed. Hackney is anomalous in offering a free service and those with gardens are more likely to be able to afford the £85. Changes need to be communicated so that people understand the changes in practical terms, but they also need to be explained in wider communications plans that set out the big picture challenges and the difficult choices we are having to make.</p> <p>Provide advice about composting schemes.</p> <p>Look at potential for communal composting projects.</p>	None	None	Reducing service standards

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
<p>the communal garden waste service share bins, as such charging per bin would not be feasible. However, there is the potential to introduce an ad hoc collection, per bag, garden waste service as part of a phase 2.</p> <p>(off set by one off investment of £150k)</p>								

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
<p>Reduce the spend on the intelligence hub by 50%.</p> <p>This change proposal affects the Community Safety Intelligence Hub (Intel Hub) and would result in a reduction in staff from 8 to three posts. Consequently only the Partnership Analyst and Performance Manager, Partnership Analyst and one Intelligence and Demand Officer will remain within the Intel Hub. This would result in only the retention of the :-</p> <p>Partnership Analyst and Performance Manager</p> <p>Intelligence and Demand Officer</p> <p>Part Time Administrator and Finance Officer</p>	0.2 2			0.22	<p>There is an impact. EqlA needed.</p> <p>A detailed impact analysis is needed to understand any mitigations This is crucial in providing the evidence base upon which decisions are made, and in ensuring that our finite resources are focused and targeted; on the places and people that require them the most.</p> <p>This will affect provision in other areas such as our street users interventions and the service we provide to internal and external community safety partners. There is likely to be redundancies</p>	5 staff affected	Women LGBTQIA communities social disadvantaged communities all disproportionately affected by crime.	Negative impacts: On place Reducing service standards On partners and other services

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
Enforcement The proposals for 2024/25 Includes:- Increasing the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) fine to £300 with an early payment reduction to £200 which is projected to bring in £152k. To mainstream the additional manifesto commitment allocation of £83k into the Enforcement Officer duties which will produce an overall saving of £83k Reduce one EO post at £51K. To increase the number of fixed penalty notices issued by 50 at £300 per ticket giving an additional revenue of £15k. The increase is in line with an increase in the use of FPNs over the last 3 years. The proposed saving for 2025/2026 will see a further reduction of 2 EOs provides a saving of £102K	0.3 01	0.10 1		0.402	There is an impact. EqlA needed to help understand whether FPN increase will affect any groups who are already disadvantaged.	3 staff affected		Increase in FPN may affect some groups

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/26 £m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
<p>Changes to cash management channels: Savings of £141,459 per annum could be achieved through closing the Council's Self-Service Payment Centre. The Council will continue to accept cash payments through more than 100 Post Office and PayPoint locations across the borough.</p> <p>The analysis in the template shows how cash payment trends have changed since the period of lockdown restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic (an 80.78% reduction in payments made through the Self-Service Payment Centre in 2023/24 year to date compared to 2019/20).</p> <p>Interviews with a sample of users of the Self-Service Payment Centre have shown that a majority (63%) pay by card rather than</p>	0.141			0.141	No EqlA needed. Residents can continue to pay in cash in a large number of convenient locations across the borough and the number of residents using the Self-Service Payment Centre has reduced very significantly from pre-pandemic levels.	3 staff affected, one agency		No impact expected

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
<p>cash.</p> <p>Arrangements are being made to ensure that all payments that can currently be made through the Self-Service Payment Centre are available through other cash payment channels. The only remaining area still under investigation is leaseholder service charges (for which 30 cash payments were received between April - September 2023).</p>								

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
<p>Regeneration The proposal involves a reduction in the Regeneration and Economic Development revenue staff budget (£100k) and in the revenue non staff budget (£100k) for the service.</p> <p>The staff revenue savings proposal can only come into effect once the Regeneration and Economic Development service restructure is complete (Spring 2024 but exact date tbc) as the savings are linked to a restructure of the service. The non staff revenue budget saving can come into effect from the start of the new financial year- April 2024.</p>	0.2			0.2	<p>No EqlA needed Less funding available to commission consultants to carry out regeneration and economic development work. Less revenue budget available for regeneration and economic staff but the service restructure will take this into account.</p> <p>Potential impact on all Regen and ED related manifesto commitments in terms of speed of delivery and completion.</p>	None	None	Impact on place On partners and other services

Area	24/ 25 £m	25/2 6£ m	26/ 27£ m	Total £m	Recommendations	Details of staff impacted	Resident groups impacted summary	Type of impact
Private rented sector Over the last twenty years, the private rented sector in Hackney has grown from around 10,000 units of stock to over 32,000 units in 2023, one of the fastest growing stock rates in the UK. The private rented sector currently constitutes the single largest housing tenure in Hackney. The Private Sector Housing (PSH) team is responsible for intervention within this particular housing stock. Work requirements for the team in 2023 are vastly different and vastly increased including for example: dealing with damp and mould, fire safety, licensing, enforcement and advice to landlords and tenants. Private sector housing (one off)	0.2			0.2	No EqlA needed. Amended working practice to focus efforts on frontline - saving is achieved by not taking up additional £200k			No impact expected

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Scrutiny Panel

Budget Scrutiny Report on the Council Budget 2024/25

Summary of outcomes from Scrutiny Panel and the Scrutiny Commissions

29 January 2024

Overview and Scrutiny

FOREWORD

As Chair of the Scrutiny Panel I'm pleased to present the report of Hackney Council's Overview & Scrutiny function on the Council's budget proposals for 2024/25.

This year we reviewed our budget scrutiny processes to widen participation and transparency in the process. Members of the four themed standing Scrutiny Commissions examined proposals in their area and this report contains detailed comments which arose from those individual sessions and from the overarching Scrutiny Panel. That comprises the Chair and Vice Chair of each Commission.

We acknowledge all the hard work officers and Cabinet Members put in to preparing for and contributing to each session, in addition to their many other responsibilities, and we note that the volume of information provided this year (including in the regular Budget Overview report to the regular Scrutiny Panel meetings), far exceeded what was provided to us in the past. We are most grateful for this level of constructive engagement and we have greatly benefited from the quality of the information provided to us in performing our functions.

I would like to thank Commission Members both elected Councillors and Co-opted Members including our Youth Parliament members who gave additional time to the process on top of their existing commitments to Scrutiny and used their knowledge and experience to bring a focussed and skillful challenge. I would also like to thank the Scrutiny Team who have worked tirelessly to develop this process.

As a Scrutiny function we recognise that these are unprecedented times for the Council as it faces some tremendous challenges in balancing its budget. There are residents in Hackney who are in acute need and the Council is working very hard to ensure it can provide the basics for them in order to give them shelter, security and good health. Whilst finding ourselves in this difficult financial position wasn't of our making, this is the financial reality now faced by so many Councils.

Overview and Scrutiny has a responsibility to make sure that it supports the Council's Executive in navigating these difficult times and in ensuring that the decisions made are balanced and fair and we hope that the 'critical friend' challenge we provided to officers and Cabinet Members has helped them to refine their proposals.

What follows is a summary of the outcomes from each of the Budget Scrutiny Sessions held by the Commissions. At the end of the process the Scrutiny Panel met to draw some overall conclusions and this is covered in the final section on 'Overarching Themes and Cross Cutting Issues'.

As this was the first year of doing budget scrutiny in this way there was of course some learning for both sides here and we end with some suggestions for ways in which we can refine and streamline the process for next year. We hope to begin the work for the 24/25 Budget in May 2024.

I commend this report to the Mayor and Cabinet.

Cllr Margaret Gordon, Chair of Scrutiny Panel 2023/24

Overview and Scrutiny

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BUDGET SCRUTINY for Council Budget 2024/25

Background

We changed the approach to the budget scrutiny process this year, with individual Commissions being asked to be more involved in scrutinising the savings proposals relating to their remit and Scrutiny Panel looking at the cross cutting or 'all Council' issues.

The saving proposals came in two tranches:

a) *General Fund & HRA*

b) *General Fund Discretionary Spend Areas.*

For the General Fund & HRA cost savings proposals the relevant Commissions met in July and Oct/Nov. For the General Fund Discretionary Spend Areas the relevant Commissions met in December. Below is a summary of the outcomes from those Commission meetings.

The Commissions met as follows:

CYP	<u>25 July, 27 Nov</u>
HiH	<u>25 July, 24 Oct</u>
LiH	<u>31 July, 31 Oct, 5 Dec</u>
SEG	<u>6 Dec</u>
SP	<u>4 Dec</u>

This report will be submitted to Cabinet and included as an Appendix in the formal Budget papers going to Cabinet and Full Council on 26 and 28 February 2024.

Financial Context

Latest Overall Financial Position

The OFP report that went to Cabinet in December showed that the Council is forecast to have an overspend of £10.369m for 2023/24 after the application of £19.2m reserves, set aside and in-year savings.

Overview and Scrutiny

Assumptions in Medium Term Financial Plan

The last Budget Report includes an update of the MTFP and the medium case assumption was for a gap of £22m for 24/25. Medium, best and worst case scenarios set out below.

Table from Budget Overview report to Scrutiny Panel (July 2023)

Year	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Medium Case	-22.162	-39.692	-57.583
Best Case	-17.176	-25.039	-41.008
Worst Case	-27.490	-55.003	-81.969

The [budget overview reported](#) to the Scrutiny Panel in July 2023 informed that the MTFP report set out the assumptions on which the forecast was based, and the scale of the challenge ahead, as well as how the Council needs to respond, including the need to make some hard choices.

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SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES FROM COMMISSIONS

General Fund

1. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

The Budget Scrutiny process is, by its nature, a time limited process each year but the Members who are also on Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission have asked here for further clarification and information in order to be able to monitor and review the potential impact of these savings proposals. This work will be considered as part of CYP SCs regular work planning during 2024/25.

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
<i>a) Children's Centre Childcare Review (£4m)</i>	Hackney Education officers declined to provide full financial details of the budget savings for the Children's Center savings during the scheduled session with the scrutiny commission saying it would not be available until February, by which time budgets will have been confirmed, undermining the principles and purpose of this budget scrutiny process.	This was referred to the Monitoring Officer. Following confirmation from the Monitoring Officer that there was a requirement on officers to provide this information as part of the scheduled budget scrutiny process, supplementary information was provided to the Chair and Vice Chair but this was outside the agreed formal budget scrutiny process and did not give the full scrutiny Commission membership an opportunity to scrutinise the proposals.
	The Commission was concerned that <u>externalisation</u> of children's centre provision ran contrary to the Council's insourcing policy, and would end up being supported by nursery staff on lower terms and conditions, which may undermine the quality of provision. As no specific savings details were put forward for this proposal, it was not possible to assess how savings would be realised.	Whilst questioning revealed that externalisation would not apply to all children's centres, if the decision to externalise provision of two centres was taken, further assurance was needed on staff terms and conditions and the quality of provision within the subsequent procurement

Overview and Scrutiny

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
		process (i.e. protections for London living Wage and standards in service provision).
	Nursery settings in the independent sector are often reluctant to take on vulnerable children and those with complex needs, and such cases are often referred to local Children's Centres that can offer multidisciplinary integrated support. Proposals to externalise and repurpose Children's Centres may limit opportunities for this vulnerable cohort of children to access <i>integrated</i> high quality childcare.	Members wanted further clarification as to how the capacity of Children's Centres to meet the needs of vulnerable children would be maintained (which was also highlighted in the Ernst & Young review).
	Occupancy of childcare places is central to children centre income, yet Children's Centres were operating different policies in relation to parents' part-time use. The Ernst & Young review noted that those Children's Centres operating a part-time policy had higher levels of occupancy.	Members sought assurance that all Children's Centres are operating a part-time childcare policy to increase occupancy rates and maximising opportunities to increase income.
	It is broadly acknowledged that Children's Centres provide a strong community focus for children and families which are highly inclusive, where children from all backgrounds can grow and learn together. Children's Centres are also supported by qualified staff who work to deliver the council's broader social cohesion ambitions. As officers acknowledged, not all childcare settings were as inclusive as those located within children centres, therefore scrutiny members were concerned as to how reprovision and the externalisation of provision to the private or independent sector of 4 Children's Centres would impact on the availability of <i>inclusive</i> early education and childcare in Hackney, which has	Further to the proposed reconfiguration, members would welcome further clarity as to the policy ambitions for local children centres and their role in supporting inclusive childcare and early education.

Overview and Scrutiny

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
	<p>been a central tenet of early years provision in the borough.</p> <p>Budget data presented to the Commission suggested that expansion of free childcare will contribute to the delivery of £1.9m of savings within the Children's Center budget to 2025/26. The Ernst & Young Review however indicates far larger savings will be accrued from the government expansion of free-childcare, as this will reduce the council subsidy for childcare at Children's Centres from £5.2m to £1m by 2025/26 - which suggests a saving of over £4.2m - far in excess of what is being proposed in actual budget proposals.</p> <p>Given the significance of the savings here, Members feel that the lack of detail within these proposals is a missed opportunity for the executive to get the input and expertise of scrutiny members.</p>	<p>Members would like further details on the financial modelling for the introduction of extended free childcare, its impact on the council subsidy for childcare, and the possible savings that this will provide for the Children Centre budget.</p>
b) Young Hackney (£1m)	<p>There is a lack of clarity around savings required, identified and put forward for Young Hackney savings proposals in the MTFS. Members noted that the independently commissioned report was requested to find £1.75m of savings, the budget presentation suggested that £1.4m had 'been identified' and yet just £1m of savings were put forward as contributions to savings required for the MTFS?</p>	<p>Members would like clarification over the year of the extent of savings to be delivered across the Young Hackney budget.</p>
	<p>Members felt that taking 30% off of all unprotected budgets was a '<i>salami slicing</i>' approach to the identification of savings and would have welcomed further critical challenge to this approach recommended in the independent report.</p>	<p>Members would welcome further information as part of CYP SC's ongoing overview work here on the possible impact and outcome assessments in relation to savings</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
		options, to help assess where agreed savings would have been 'best' targeted.
	The independent report noted that the proposed savings for Young Hackney would have a direct impact on other services, in particular that costs would be pushed on to statutory services, in particular children's social care. Members were concerned therefore, that the proposed savings would just shunt costs to other council budgets.	Members are seeking further clarity as to how service reductions in Young Hackney might impact on other council budgets. Members were also seeking assurance as to how affected services would manage with additional demand, and the extent to which collaborative partnerships could mitigate the impact.
	Members noted that the independent review made clear that the impact of Young Hackney provision, both broadly and specifically, had benefits for other statutory service areas, and that there was a potential to increase income for YH, through contributions from both education and health care partners.	To support income maximisation, officers should further engage with statutory partners to develop 'matrix funding' solutions where there are shared outcomes.
	Proposals to reduce targeted early help must be viewed in the wider context of other savings already identified in the early help offer: - £250k via OBIS; - £650k from in-year budget savings to early help 2023/24 - restructuring of children centre provision. The Commission notes that the local early help offer is particularly susceptible to budget pressures, as these services are predominantly funded through discretionary spend.	Further reassurance was needed as to what the cumulative impact of these savings would be on the local early help offer, <i>and</i> what impact they may have on statutory and VCS sectors (given that they are also facing funding pressures)

Overview and Scrutiny

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
	<p>The early help offer is also central to Council's approach to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting vulnerable families to prevent their needs from escalating, which may require a later, more complex and costlier intervention; - Help to address systemic inequalities and service disproportionalities. <p>Members were therefore concerned as to what the cumulative impact of these early help savings would be across the council, and how these would affect council wide ambitions to address local inequalities.</p>	
	<p>The independent YH report set out that the return on investment in youth services was between three and six times that invested, making YH a clear investment to save proposition - with benefits to the local taxpayer estimated to be between £24m-£46m. Members also noted that the YH service is of high quality, award winning and greatly valued by children, families and local stakeholders.</p>	<p>Given that there are such clear financial returns on investment, and the esteem in which this service is held, the Commission sought assurance that other less impactful parts of wider children's service have been fully assessed to identify alternative savings.</p>
c) <i>SEN Transport (£500k)</i>	<p>The Commission was concerned that an external consultant would be recruited to deliver these savings at a cost of £210k, meaning a net saving of just £290k over the MTFS period.</p> <p>Members also expressed concerns that the appointment of external consultants would reduce opportunities for scrutiny.</p>	<p>Noting that the external consultant would also be assisting with others of transformation in the SEND Transport team, the Commission would welcome further evidence of the financial benefit of this investment.</p>
	<p>Whilst recognising the value of travel training in developing a pathway to independence for young people with SEND, the Commission sought</p>	<p>Members recommended that officers should be explicit that any move to independent travel</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
	<p>additional assurance that the proposed travel training measures would be led by the needs and preferences of children and their families and should be voluntary.</p>	<p>training would be voluntary and with the consent of the family.</p> <p>As this cost saving is dependent voluntary transfer, Members indicated that further details should be provided on the numbers of children which, with the assistance of travel training, will be expected to switch across from taxi transport and on to more sustainable methods (ie. council SEND transport) to deliver the required savings. This would help to assess the viability of this savings proposal.</p>
<p><i>d) Creation of Outcomes Business Intelligence and Strategy (OBIS) Directorate: (£1m)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - C&E directorate service transformation (500k) - Early Help (250k) - Commissioning (250k) 	<p>Members had concerns around the £500k of savings within the Children's Social Care derived from layering of management. At the Scrutiny Panel in July 2023, this was identified as a saving for this year (2023/2024) but it was also included within the budget savings proposals for 2024/25. It is not clear if the totality of savings is £1m or this budget saving of £500k has slipped to 2024/25?</p> <p>If there was slippage for this saving, members were concerned that this would exacerbate the need for savings in other areas of the children's social care budget.</p> <p>Members were also concerned that this layering of children's social care management might coincide with the expected Ofsted inspection in early 2024.</p>	<p>Members were seeking further clarification of the scale, scope and timeline for delivering savings in the children's social care budget through the layering of management.</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
	<p>Members noted that there was a lack of clarity as to how savings would be achieved in these individual proposals from OBIS and it was therefore difficult to assess what impact they may have on service users or other services.</p> <p>There also seemed to be little parity in how savings were identified, which may lead to inequitable impact upon services and service users. For example, just £250k of savings were attributed to merging of commissioned services from a budget in excess of £90m (0.2% of total budget) yet savings proposals of £1m were being asked of Young Hackney which equated to 30% of the total staff budget. These savings would also have very different impacts on the number of front-line service users affected.</p>	
	<p>Members questioned officers as to whether there would be a return investment in OBIS team - and whether operational costs of this service would be recovered from the transformation and merger work that it supported across childrens and education services.</p>	<p>Members requested further information be presented to CYP SC giving clarity on the future of the OBIS team, how it will be funded, and the savings expected from the transformation aspect of this service.</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

2. HEALTH IN HACKNEY SCRUTINY COMMISSION

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
<p>a) Public Health (inc PH investment into other eligible expenditure areas of the council) (£3m)</p>	<p>A major aim is to release PH funds to target services within the Council which can deliver on the requirements of the Grant and at the same time address health inequalities.</p> <p>A concern raised was that savings might not be delivered within the period being asked for as costs are tied up in existing contracts and there would be a wait for them to conclude.</p> <p>Members noted that the service was exploring whether better outcomes could be achieved by allocating PH funding to other areas to deliver the same outcomes. Members noted the uncertainty here until this plan is worked up fully.</p>	<p>The Commission asked DPH to provide a summary, initially after 1 year, of the changes made, as each PH contract comes up for recommissioning and savings are sought.</p>
<p>b) Delivering Better Outcomes in ASC (transformation programme) (£5.86m)</p>	<p>Savings will be delivered here as part of a transformation programme 'Delivering Better Outcomes in ASC'. This will involve different care journeys for different service users and exploring how these can be redesigned to generate savings.</p> <p>Savings will be delivered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting practitioners to promote independence, and ensure the least restrictive packages are put in place. - Redesigning reablement - Rethinking support for learning disabled adults <p>In the medium term this plan won't halt demand pressure but it should mitigate some of it and slow it down.</p> <p>An 8.1% current growth in demand in ASC is outstripping demographic growth of just 1.9%.</p> <p>Chair expressed concern that if demand continues at this pace this could lead to a standstill position going forward.</p>	<p>The Commission asked for a series of briefings on what is now called the 'Adult Social Care Transforming Outcomes Programme'. The first took place at the Commission's meeting on 20 Dec '23.</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
<p><i>c) Housing related support</i> (was £1.5m comprising £1.3m for Floating Support and £0.24 lunch clubs)</p>	<p>Cabinet and CLT decided that this full proposal would <u>not go forward</u>. It was noted that most of the HRS money was actually being used to deliver statutory services and so it was agreed to transfer these funds into statutory services budgets.</p> <p>A small element of the funding (£240k) related to lunch clubs was agreed to transfer that funding from Public Health to Policy & Strategic Delivery team.</p> <p>Chair raised concerns about securing ongoing support for lunch clubs as they were key to improving social connection for often isolated older people. The Commission was told that by linking to wider poverty reduction activity in P&SD there will be more opportunities for diversifying income streams and identifying cost savings.</p>	<p>The Commission asked that the wider plan for the recommissioned lunch clubs be brought to a future Scrutiny Panel and/or HiH.</p> <p>The Commission also noted NHS NEL's plans for an <i>Anticipatory Care Strategy</i> and asked that a briefing on this be brought to the Commission that would also pull together the various Hackney strands in prevention being initiated as part of the wider budget savings process.</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

3. LIVING IN HACKNEY SCRUTINY COMMISSION

General Fund - Street Cleaning & Waste

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
<p><i>a) Commercial waste</i></p> <p>Additional income of up to £360k.</p>	<p>Concerns were raised around the impact of the proposals on the commercial waste income stream, noting the risk of businesses increasingly using private commercial waste providers should charges exceed far beyond current levels.</p>	<p>We feel it would be important to monitor the impact of inflationary pressures and the cost of living crisis on this income stream to ensure the Council's Commercial Waste market share is maintained.</p> <p>Careful consideration should be given to the affordability of the proposed increase, and any assumptions that increasing the financial amount will lead to significant increases in income.</p> <p>We also feel it would be particularly important to develop robust engagement and communications plans to communicate the proposed changes.</p>
	<p>Concerns were raised around the impact of unregulated waste on the commercial waste income stream.</p>	<p>We feel it will be important to use active enforcement to ensure local businesses have waste disposal contracts in place, ideally with the Council.</p>
<p><i>b) Route optimisation for domestic collections</i></p>	<p>Concerns were raised over the impact of the proposals on staff, particularly when considering the current age profile of frontline staff, as well as service users.</p>	<p>We feel it is important that a detailed EIA is undertaken promptly to understand the impact of the proposals on staff and</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
Savings of up to £210k (excluding implementation costs and ongoing revenue costs).	Similarly, concerns were raised over the risk of a negative response from employees and unions if the proposals were to go ahead.	<p>residents, especially those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>We also feel it would be important to monitor the impact on staff workloads and shift allocation challenges if the proposals were to go ahead, as well as the impact on the use of agency staff and related costs.</p> <p>It will be particularly important to robustly engage with frontline staff and unions to develop the proposals further.</p>
	<p>Major concerns were raised over the impact of the proposals on street cleanliness, given that this is a front facing universal service.</p> <p>It was noted that the level of current provision was put in place to meet increasing demand, and there were therefore concerns over the potential impact of the proposal on fly-tipping and bin capacity.</p>	<p>We feel it will be important to thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on street cleanliness, and, if the proposals were to go ahead, to retain the flexibility within the service to make changes to and/or reintroduce routes where appropriate.</p> <p>We feel that there is a risk of creating a false economy with additional resources having to be utilised to manage waste overflow, and careful consideration should therefore be given to any assumptions that the proposal will lead to significant savings.</p>
	Concerns were raised over resident perception and backlash regarding the proposed service changes.	We feel it would be particularly important to develop robust engagement and

Overview and Scrutiny

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
		communications plans to communicate the proposed changes and manage expectations.
<p><i>c) Removal of free provision of compostable liners</i></p> <p>Savings of up to £81k (£53k for removal of provision for street level households and £28k for removal of provision for schools).</p>	<p>Concerns were raised over storage and collection challenges and a potential drop off in food waste participation rates if the proposal was to go ahead, especially when considering that many of the borough's street properties are HMOs.</p> <p>This was coupled with concerns around there not being immediate plans to align the proposal with increases in local community composting.</p>	<p>We were encouraged to hear that properties on estates would continue to receive free food waste liners.</p> <p>We feel it would be important for borough-wide collection rates to be routinely monitored, and for targeted communications and engagement with residents should participation rates drop.</p> <p>If the proposal is to go ahead, we feel there should be targeted communications to explain to residents that they do not need to line their food waste bin, and should not put food in plastic bags as they do not break down during composting.</p> <p>We would also encourage the service to explore opportunities for partnerships with local community composting initiatives where appropriate to encourage food waste recycling.</p>

Overview and Scrutiny

Housing Revenue Account

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
<p><i>d) Bad debt provision reduction</i></p> <p>Savings of up to £2.6m.</p>	<p>Concerns were raised over the impact of the pursuance and collection of rent arrears on residents, especially in the current context of the cost of living crisis and welfare reform.</p>	<p>We feel that the pursuance and collection of rent arrears should be undertaken in a fair, open and transparent manner.</p> <p>This should involve proactively giving advice, assistance and support to those behind on their rent to help them make best use of their income, tackle debt and signpost to other services.</p> <p>Careful consideration should also be given to any assumptions that the new methodology will make debt easier to collect in the context of the cost of living crisis and impact of welfare reform.</p>
<p><i>e) Formula Rent calculation</i></p> <p>Savings of up to £300k.</p>	<p>Questions were raised over the impact of the proposed introduction of the Formula Rent calculation on the affordability of rents.</p> <p>It was noted that the proposal may lead to a situation in which there were tenants living in close proximity to one another, in homes of the same specification, but with significantly different rent charges.</p>	<p>We were assured that the calculation was for new tenancies only, in line with the Rent Standard issued by the regulator and still substantially lower than equivalent market rent.</p> <p>We feel the Council should nonetheless carefully consider the impact of the proposals on social cohesion and integration on council-managed estates and blocks, recognising the commitments made in the Housing Services Resident Engagement</p>

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
		Strategy to promote the integration and resilience of housing communities.
<p><i>f) Move rents charged on HRA hostels and regen voids in line with other temporary accommodation rents</i></p> <p>Savings of up to £295k.</p>	<p>Concerns were raised over any adverse impact on the affordability of already limited and oversubscribed temporary accommodation stock, and the experiences of those living in temporary accommodation.</p> <p>It was highlighted that residents living in temporary accommodation are on low incomes, and even when in receipt of housing benefit, may well struggle to afford basic amenities once rent is accounted for. Moreover, there is often little money left over for things like transportation and childcare, which can limit education and employment opportunities and longer-term economic and social mobility.</p>	<p>We feel that the impact of the proposal on the affordability of temporary accommodation units in HRA hostels or regen voids should be carefully evaluated, as well as the wider social impacts on residents living in these units.</p>
<p><i>g) Review of housing disrepair</i></p> <p>Savings TBC (it was advised that the service believed they could make significant savings in this area, but the figures had not yet been confirmed).</p> <p>Note: The proposal subsequently presented in the Budget proposals to January Cabinet is for a saving of £682K for 2024/25.</p>	<p>Concerns were raised over the increase in legal disrepair cases in 2022/23, and in particular the cost of cases to the Council and impact of lengthy cases on residents.</p>	<p>We were encouraged by the potential impact of an Alternative Disrepair Resolution (ADR) process on residents and the Council itself.</p> <p>We feel it would be important to ensure robust engagement and communications with residents to ensure they are aware of the ADR process, and are encouraged to use it where appropriate.</p> <p>We also feel it would be important for the new process to be coupled with continued improvements across the repairs service, which reflect key lessons learned from the</p>

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
		pandemic and cyber attack as well as the priorities of residents.

DISCRETIONARY SPEND - GENERAL FUND

SCRUTINY PANEL (for cross-cutting items)

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
<i>a) Communications and Engagement (£170k)</i>	<p>Relates to holding a Service Director post vacant for another financial year pending a leadership review.</p> <p>Members agreed but were concerned that sufficient resources for strategic communications at a high level is vital particularly in the context of the Council embarking on service level reductions.</p>	To ensure that a robust strategic communications resource is in place to deal with the budget and the ongoing programme of cost savings.
<i>b) Love Hackney (£80k)</i>	Relates to reducing the number of issues from 10 to 6 per year.	Suggests that continued efforts be made to increase advertising spend from public sector partners who might currently use privately owned media. Also that editions are carefully spaced to maximise their utility to the various departments.
<i>c) Changes to cash payment channels (£141k)</i>	<p>Relates to closure of Christopher Addison House cashier's office.</p> <p>Concerns around the challenges of collecting equalities data and that current data is incomplete and therefore unreliable.</p>	Suggestion that data on who is currently paying with cash be checked against arrears data in a year's time to see if there has been an impact.

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
	<p>Concern that no equalities data can be collected when payment channels outside the council's system are used e.g. with PayPoint and Post Office Counters.</p> <p>Some concern about the risks of PayPoint as a private provider making future changes to T&Cs.</p> <p>A concern was raised about the contradiction between this proposal and aspiration in the "cash welcome here" motion passed at Full Council.</p>	

LIVING IN HACKNEY SCRUTINY COMMISSION

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
<p><i>a) Parks and Green Spaces – Various Proposals</i></p> <p>Savings of up to £100k plus capital/set up costs of £205k - cost of £105k for next financial year.</p> <p>Breakdown of savings in future years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals in Clissold Park - £15-20k p.a. Reducing cricket provision - £30k p.a. 	<p>Concerns were raised around the impact of rehoming the animals in Clissold Park and returning the compound to wider park use, on local residents, in particular on health and wellbeing and children and young people's opportunities to interact with the natural world and farm life.</p> <p>The proposed savings were viewed as nominal given the wider benefits that the provision brings to residents across all social and cultural demographics. Further to this, no alternative funding avenues had been investigated at that stage.</p> <p>It was also highlighted that rehoming the animals could be seen as a beneficial move for the animals, assuming they were moved to a location where they would have more space.</p>	<p>We feel it is important that a detailed cost-benefit analysis is undertaken to understand the benefits of this provision for residents, and in particular children and young people, against the associated costs.</p> <p>We also feel it is important that a detailed EIA is undertaken promptly to understand the impact of the proposals on residents, especially those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>We would also encourage the service to explore opportunities for external funding or collaboration</p>

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal bedding/bulbs - £10k p.a. Waste collection (evenings) - £40k 		with local organisations and charities such as Hackney City Farm to support the current provision and its financial viability.
	<p>Concerns were raised around the impact of stopping the evening/night litter collections within parks and green spaces in the summer on cleanliness, given that this is a front facing universal service.</p> <p>It was noted that there was potential for an increase in litter and public nuisance in park and green space hotspots such as those seen in London Fields in the summer of 2020, which led to wide-scale media attention and costly waste collection and enforcement interventions.</p> <p>Concern was raised more generally around making relatively small savings in such high profile and visible areas rather than focusing on areas of higher spend which could be seen to be out of place in the current financial climate.</p>	<p>We feel it will be important to thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on the cleanliness of parks and green spaces, and, if the proposals were to go ahead, to retain the flexibility to reintroduce evening/night litter collections where appropriate.</p> <p>We feel that if the proposal was to go ahead, costly waste collection and enforcement interventions may be needed at park and green space hotspots.</p> <p>Careful consideration should therefore be given to any assumptions that the proposal will lead to significant savings.</p>
	<p>Concerns were raised around the impact of stopping the evening/night litter collections within parks and green spaces in the summer on staff workloads.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the proposal may lead to more work for day litter crews due to having to clear up previous overnight litter in the main park sites, and could also impact on their schedules as getting to smaller parks in a timely fashion could be compromised.</p>	<p>We feel it will be particularly important to engage with frontline staff to develop the proposals further, and, if the proposals were to go ahead, monitor the impact on day litter crews' schedules and retain the flexibility to reintroduce evening/night litter collections where appropriate.</p>

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
<p><i>b) Charging for Green Waste Collections</i></p> <p>Savings of up to £468k minus capital/set up costs of £157k (some of which will be incurred in 2023/24) - total savings in 2024/25 £350k - rising to £468K pa from 2025/26</p>	<p>Concerns were raised around the affordability of the proposed charges and residents' ability to pay a flat annual fee.</p> <p>Comparisons with bulky waste collections were highlighted, which allows residents to make one-off payments and offers free collections for those in receipt of housing benefits.</p>	<p>If the proposals were to go ahead, we feel that alternative payment options should be explored, such as a one-off payment option for residents who may not use the service frequently and/or an option to pay the proposed annual fee in instalments.</p> <p>We also feel that consideration should be given to free collections for those in receipt of housing benefits, much like bulky waste collections which allow for four free collections (of up to five items) per year.</p>
	<p>Concerns were raised over resident perception and possible backlash regarding the proposed introduction of these charges.</p>	<p>We feel it would be particularly important to develop robust engagement and communications plans to communicate the proposed changes and manage expectations.</p>
	<p>Concerns were raised over a potential drop off in garden waste participation rates and the potential for increased fly-tipping if the proposals were to go ahead.</p>	<p>We feel it would be important for borough-wide collection rates to be routinely monitored, and for targeted communications and engagement with residents to be utilised should participation rates drop.</p> <p>Careful consideration should also be given to the affordability of the proposed charges, and</p>

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
		<p>any assumptions that increasing the financial amount will lead to significant increases in income with the potential for increased fly-tipping and costly waste collection interventions.</p> <p>We would also encourage the service to explore opportunities for partnerships with local community composting initiatives where appropriate to encourage garden waste recycling.</p>
<p><i>c) Community Safety Intelligence Hub</i></p> <p>Savings of up to £220k</p>	<p>Concerns were raised around the impact of the proposed reduction in service provision on community safety, particularly ASB and crime.</p> <p>The centrality of the Intelligence Hub to community safety interventions across the partnership was noted, ensuring already finite and overstretched resources are focused and targeted. There was concern that without this there likely would not be the same level of focus, potentially resulting in high risk of harm in the community.</p> <p>At this stage, detail on the impact of current service provision stopping or being significantly reduced was not clear. Whilst it is understood that the proposal was at a relatively early stage of its development, it was difficult to fully understand or appreciate its implications.</p>	<p>We feel that the impact of the proposal on service provision should be carefully evaluated, particularly around community safety partners being less well briefed for their deployments which may lead to increases in ASB and crime.</p> <p>We would encourage the service to explore the alternative possibility of the Intel Hub being given the authority to charge internal and external departments and stakeholders for their services, which may reduce the proposed reduction in staff by a post.</p> <p>We would also encourage the service to continue to engage with community safety partners to explore opportunities to deliver the</p>

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
		proposed gap in service provision and/or further funding opportunities.
	<p>Concerns were raised around the impact of losing experienced staff whose replacement may be difficult to find.</p> <p>It was noted that, should the savings target be agreed, the proposal would see a reduction in staff within the Intel Hub of over 50%. Those staff members would then be subject to the redeployment processes with the potential for redundancy.</p>	<p>We feel that careful consideration would need to be given to the reprioritisation of service provision should the proposals go ahead, fundamentally to reflect our statutory duties but also to explore the possibility of retaining other interventions where possible.</p> <p>We also feel it will be particularly important to robustly engage with staff and unions to develop the proposals further.</p> <p>Robust communication with staff would be needed should the proposals go ahead, as well as support to those who may be subject to redeployment and potential redundancy.</p>
	Concerns were raised over a risk of community disquiet and resident backlash due to the proposed reduction in service provision.	We feel that it would be important to proactively consider and respond to community tensions and impacts if the proposal was to go ahead, such as through robust communication and engagement with staff, residents and partners.
<p><i>d) Enforcement Service</i></p> <p>Savings of up to £402k</p>	Concerns were raised around the impact of the proposed reduction in enforcement officer staff on the service's ability to respond to significant events and possible increases in ASB & crime.	We feel that the impact of the proposal on service provision should be carefully evaluated, particularly around the risks to ASB, crime, public

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
	<p>It was noted that it would be unrealistic to expect the same level of service for residents from a community safety perspective if the proposal was to go ahead. For example, support for certain major events may be impacted as the work of the service becomes more focused, and interventions may need to be reprioritised into higher priority objectives at the expense of estate based work.</p>	<p>safety and community cohesion.</p> <p>We feel it will be particularly important to consider the impact of redirecting resources away from hotspot areas and town centres, as well as estate based activities and responses to significant events.</p> <p>This should include a detailed EIA being undertaken promptly to understand the impact of the proposals on residents, especially those with protected characteristics.</p>
	<p>Concerns were raised around the impact of losing experienced staff whose replacement may be difficult to find.</p> <p>It was noted that the proposed saving for 2024/25 would see a reduction of one enforcement officer post, and the proposed saving for 2025/26 would see a reduction of further two enforcement officer posts. The service will hold vacancies as they arise to mitigate the risk of redundancies.</p>	<p>We feel that careful consideration would need to be given to the reprioritisation of service provision should the proposals go ahead.</p> <p>We also feel it will be particularly important to robustly engage with staff and unions to develop the proposals further.</p> <p>Robust communication with staff would be needed should the proposals go ahead, as well as support to those who may be subject to redeployment and potential redundancy.</p>
	<p>Concerns were raised over a risk of community disquiet and resident backlash due to the proposed reduction in enforcement officer staff.</p>	<p>We feel that it would be important to proactively consider and respond to community tensions and impacts if the proposal</p>

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
		was to go ahead, such as through robust communication and engagement with staff, residents and partners.
	<p>Questions were raised around the rationale for the proposal to increase Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) fines.</p> <p>It was noted that the saving proposals are predicated on the Council's ability to optimise the issuing of FPN fines to act as a deterrent for those who may partake in anti-social behaviour and other nuisances.</p>	<p>We were assured that the proposal was not being put forward as a means of generating income for the service, but rather as a tool to encourage behaviour change.</p> <p>We feel it is essential that FPN fines are used as part of a wider enforcement strategy that primarily focuses on engagement with, and education of, the local community.</p> <p>Careful consideration should also be given to the affordability of the proposed increases, and any assumptions that increasing the financial amount will lead to significant increases in income.</p>
<p><i>e) Private Sector Housing</i></p> <p>Savings of up to £200k</p>	<p>Concerns were raised around the impact of the proposals on service delivery, particularly preventative work and its ability to respond to events and issues such as fire or building issues, rogue/criminal landlord activity and increased cases of damp & mould.</p> <p>It was noted that there were long-standing issues across the borough's private sector housing stock which the service had historically found difficult to address, and there were concerns that the</p>	<p>We were assured that there would be no impact on the service currently being delivered if the proposals were to go ahead.</p> <p>We feel that it would be important to keep the function under review, ensuring resources are available as and when needed to respond to events and issues such as during the winter months.</p>

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
	proposal would limit any preventative and enforcement activities across these areas.	Looking forward, we would encourage careful consideration to be given to the commitments made to expand the Private Sector Housing function and the significant additional regulatory and enforcement responsibilities placed on councils by the Renters' Reform Bill.

SKILLS ECONOMY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMISSION

	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
<i>a) Libraries Service (£248k)</i>	<p>Relates to saving on staffing, security and building upkeep for Stoke Newington Library during its forthcoming 2 year closure to fix its roof. It is a one off saving and not prejudging the future of Library Services. It is helping to balance the budget for one year.</p> <p>Concerns about the mitigations for the current service users and the loss of their library service for 2 years.</p> <p>Concerns that this saving is not a permanent fix and that they still face the challenge about the wider issues of the future library provision and options going forward.</p>	<p>A key issue here is communication plans around much loved services such as libraries so this has to be handled sensitively in the climate of having to make service reductions.</p> <p>The changes will impact on school children and students studying in libraries and residents using it as a warm space and Members queried how much the immediate changes and possible alternatives were being communicated to these users.</p> <p>In relation to the options being considered for library services post refurbishment, and taking</p>

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
		into consideration the ongoing asset maintenance costs, Officers were asked to consider income generation possibilities to help contribute towards costs.
<i>b) Regeneration and Economic Development (£200k)</i>	<p>Relates to less funding available to commission consultants to carry our regeneration and economic development work.</p> <p>Concerns about how to use more creative procurement with third sector or partners to fill the gap.</p> <p>Concerns about how to fill the gaps there will be in the service with fewer staff.</p> <p>Concern about the need to be strategic in relation to which consultancy services we're going to stick with externally and which skills we are going to develop more in house.</p> <p>Concerns that pursuance of external funding for projects (funding for ambitious Regen projects) comes with strings attached depending on the funders priorities and that we will be required to twist our plans into their preferred shape rather than our requirements.</p> <p>Concern that the withdrawal from this funding pot could impede the Area Regen team's convening power. Therefore ensuring the various consultancy funding pots across the council are rationalised so they can be used for cross departmental work.</p> <p>Concern about how the impact will be</p>	<p>Because we are losing some consultancy budget in this area Members asked if we can rationalise the overall consultancy pot across the whole council so it can be called upon in a cross departmental manner and shared.</p>

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	<i>Areas of concern raised</i>	<i>Suggestions to Cabinet Members and Officers</i>
	measured and will this impact overall prosperity and the Council's ability to raise revenues.	

OVERARCHING THEMES AND CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

The following cross cutting issues were identified across the 4 Commissions and Scrutiny Panel

1. There is an overarching concern that there needs to be a greater political steer to the administration about the impact on the Council's reputation of **making a number of small savings on a few very high profile areas** which are actually very visible to all residents. We would suggest that greater consideration should have been given to the cumulative impact of these in the first instance and the allied media coverage to be expected. The attention in certain areas is unlikely to be proportionate to the actual savings made. The Council instead should aim to be more explicit with residents about the extent of the challenge being faced and then illustrate this with a more judicious focus on the larger savings areas that are being proposed.
2. We would emphasise that the Council needs to act with caution when making savings plans across multiple related areas in order to ensure that the **full cumulative impact of these is assessed in advance**. The savings in waste management services, for example - the end of free food waste sacks, the route optimisation of waste collections, and the reduction in the waste collections in parks, should be introduced in a phased way and should be kept under review.
3. We learned how **Transformation Programmes** have been put in place in a number of areas both to drive efficiency ("doing more with less") and enable cost savings. There was however a lack of financial and other detailed information presented on some of these. Whilst we acknowledge some have only been instigated, Scrutiny is not yet able to test the proposals or their underlying assumptions and we're unable therefore to understand how precisely these savings might be realised.
4. We expressed a general concern that most services **have been through major transformation programmes** in the not too distant past, which begs the question of how much more can be achieved with trying to push for behaviour change and/or further reductions in relation to staffing or work practices. We would need greater reassurance that there is still scope for these.
5. We would ask that **evaluations and analyses of these pilots** and transformation programmes should be reported to the relevant Scrutiny Commissions at key milestones and that these be added to future work programmes so that there can be some ongoing monitoring of progress.
6. There was a lack of detail so far on a plan for **public engagement** in relation to the transformation programmes and wider savings plans. We recognise that the Council has started communicating with residents about the Council's budget and financial position. Having **robust communication plans for both residents and staff** will be critical to everyone having the

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same level of understanding about the difficult choices being made. For this reason we would suggest that the strategic communications function needs to continue to be adequately resourced. Some of the Council's workforce are also residents and so both cohorts need to be given an opportunity to feedback.

7. We have concerns about the high use of **external consultants** and their costs. We would suggest that there needs to be tighter control of costs here and that the spend in each programme always needs to be proportionate to the level of savings they are expected to deliver.
8. We would suggest that there needs to be a rationalisation of use of consultants across the whole Council and a **review of the level of expertise** that appears to be lacking in certain departments and the reasons for this. We acknowledge that previous delaying of management is likely to have contributed to the lack of expertise in these 'change management' functions but again an overview of this area needs to be taken.
9. Some savings proposals are predicated on a **standstill position** in terms of both demand and costs yet, in Adult Social Care for example, growth in demand is fast outstripping demographic growth. We have a concern therefore that these trends could potentially derail future savings plans. We recognise that all budgets have factored in growth, where needed, but it is clear from the wider economic situation that these financial pressures will continue to increase and so need to be taken into account.
10. Allied to this we'd question whether sufficient allowance has been made in the plans for the impact of **cost of living increases** on financially stretched residents and the wisdom, for example, of assuming an elasticity of demand when increasing fees and charges. We acknowledge too that inflationary pressures are hitting every aspect of procurement.
11. CYP Scrutiny Commission in particular found it difficult to make observations without having the detail needed before them to provide sufficient challenge. The refined set of proposals going to their second meeting were **6 weeks later than expected** and so the time for them to consider these was condensed. Timing and getting the right information to Scrutiny Members is the key to effective budget scrutiny.
12. There needs to be acknowledgement here of the impact of the **Renters Reform Bill** which if it becomes law will impose a number of new obligations on the Council to those in the Private Rented Sector and in Housing Associations. With the remit and workloads of the PRS department now expected to increase there needs to be adequate budgetary provision for this.

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LEARNING FOR NEXT YEAR

1. We had understood that this year there would be an attempt to better integrate long term change programmes with the Medium Term Financial Planning and this would be our ongoing aspiration for this work. This past year however we felt that not enough clarity was provided on the underlying assumptions behind the budget process. We acknowledge the hard work Finance officers, Directors and the Cabinet Members put in in preparing for and contributing to these sessions and we noted that the volume of information provided this year (including in the regular Budget Overview report to the regular Scrutiny Panel meetings), far exceeded what was provided in the past, and we are most grateful for this.
2. A key learning point for next year is that information needs to be provided in a more timely manner if a budget scrutiny process is to be effective. Forward planning for the process for next year needs to commence now by adding budget scrutiny dates in the Council calendar to secure the sessions.
3. Scrutiny has generally not had sight of all the alternatives considered but discarded by senior officers before selecting the proposals that came before us. We acknowledge that this could be difficult but having a greater insight into the rationale and the assumptions underpinning the decisions made would, we think, help to improve the process.
4. A new process was used this year and so there are lessons for both sides. For the work leading up to the 2024/25 budget we welcome the suggestion to commence this work from May 2024 and that we programme in advance 2 or 3 sessions per Scrutiny Commission.
5. We acknowledge that the individual Scrutiny Commissions may choose to get into the detail of a number of areas which have been considered at Budget Scrutiny and may get involved in looking at the policy, service provision and financial context for those. In addition, the Budget Scrutiny Process will throw up issues where individual Commissions might be seeking more detail which they can look at separately at their Commission meetings. This is for agreement between the Chairs, Cabinet Members and the Directors, in the normal course of their agenda planning, but it should be treated as separate from the Budget Scrutiny process which addresses specific savings proposals.
6. We will explore with officers drafting a **Budget Scrutiny Protocol** which we can agree and will set out clearly the process, the timeline, the expectations on both sides at each stage and the governance process up until the agreement of the budget at Full Council. We hope that this will lead to a more streamlined process for next year.

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Appendix 1: Summary Tables of Savings and Income Generation From Proposals by Directorate

General Fund Account

Directorate	Service Areas	Cost Saving	Income Generation	Total	Notes
Climate Homes & Economy Street Cleansing and Waste Review	Commercial Waste		£360,000		
	Route Optimisation	£210,000			
	Removal of free compostable liners	£81,000			
				£651,000	
Children and Education	Children Centres	£4,000,000			
	Young Hackney	£1,000,000			
	SEN Transport	£500,000			
	OBIS	£1,000,000			
				£6,500,000	
Adults Health & Integration	Public Health	£3,000,000			
	Delivering Better Outcomes for ASC	£5,860,000			
	Housing related Support	£1,500,000			Withdrawn
				£8,860,000	

Housing Revenue Account

Directorate	Service Areas	Cost Saving	Income Generation	Total	Notes
Climate, Homes & Economy	Bad Debt Reduction	£2,600,000			
	Formula Rent Calculation		£300,000		
	Rent charges for Regen Void in line		£295,000		

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Directorate	Service Areas	Cost Saving	Income Generation	Total	Notes
	with TA Rents				
	Review of Housing Disrepairs	£682,000			Notified after the meeting
				£3,877,000	

Discretionary Spend

Directorate	Service Areas	Cost Saving	Income Generation	Total	notes
Chief Executives	Communication & Engagement	£170,000			
	Love Hackney	£80,000			
	Cash Payment Channels	£141,000			
				£391,000	
Climate, Homes & Economy	Parks and Green Spaces	£70,000			Proposal reduced by £25K reflecting member feedback
	Green Waste Charges		£468,000		
	Community Safety Intelligence Hub	£220,000			
	Enforcement	£235,000	£167,000		
	Private Sector Housing	£200,000			One off
	Libraries	£248,000			One off
	Regeneration & Economic Development	£200,000			
				£1,838,000	

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Executive Response to Budget Scrutiny Report 2024/25

Introduction

Firstly, in this response to the Budget Scrutiny Report, the Mayor and Cabinet would like to thank the Chairs of the Scrutiny Panel and Scrutiny Commissions and all other Scrutiny Commission members who took part in this year's Budget Scrutiny process alongside Scrutiny officers.

This year the process was far more intense than previous years, partly reflective of the increasing financial challenges the Council faces, which we do not repeat here, but are clearly set out in the budget report. Where there were two private budget scrutiny sessions in setting the 2023/24 budget, for 2024/25 there were nine separate sessions. This takes an enormous amount of time, commitment and preparation from panel members, scrutiny officers, Cabinet, CLT Members, Directors and Heads of Service.

This response does not attempt to go through the response to individual comments from Scrutiny Commissions and next steps but addresses those comments raised in respect of the overarching themes and cross-cutting issues, as well as lessons learnt for future years. In most instances this is to provide further background and context to the comments made. We thank all the Scrutiny Bodies for their considerations which will help in framing the implementation of budget decisions as well as the budget process generally. The aim in this response is to be as constructive as possible and feed into the ongoing development and improvement of Budget Scrutiny in this immensely challenging time for the Council.

Overarching themes and cross-cutting issues

Scrutiny Comment (para 1)

There is an overarching concern that there needs to be a greater political steer to the administration about the impact on the Council's reputation of making a number of small savings on a few very high profile areas which are actually very visible to all residents. We would suggest that greater consideration should have been given to the cumulative impact of these in the first instance and the allied media coverage to be expected. The attention in certain areas is unlikely to be proportionate to the actual savings made. The Council instead should aim to be more explicit with residents about the extent of the challenge being faced and then illustrate this with a more judicious focus on the larger savings areas that are being proposed.

Executive Response

We agree with Scrutiny's concerns regarding proportionality and will take this on board as we continue to address the considerable financial challenges the Council faces. However, it is presumed that these comments relate primarily to the discretionary spend areas of savings, which formed the minority of budget proposals put forward as opposed to the higher level of savings proposed under the '12 areas.' Cabinet Members and Group Directors did give consideration to the cumulative impact of the small savings proposals and the communications required. Indeed during the process some proposals were rejected for this very reason.

While each year as part of the budget process we have a communications strategy which sets out the challenges we face, more has been done this year and even more is planned in this regard. As set out at the Scrutiny Commission meetings at the end of September, the Council's communications team [launched](#) a [resident-focused consultation](#) to inform a longer-term budget campaign. The campaign aimed to establish and improve resident understanding, awareness and preparedness of the Council's budget. This will make it easier to explain the changes we need to introduce, and the challenges the Council faces. As part of the campaign the communications team will produce a range of materials to inform residents of the council's finances and budget setting processes including a feature on the setting of the Council budget in Love Hackney; we will write to all residents when they receive their Council Tax bill, and we will use online and offline advertising and media as appropriate.

While recognising the importance of timely and effective communications and of assessing and mitigating impacts, the Council faces considerable budget pressures both for 2024/25 and future years. Meeting these will require some hard decisions which regrettably are likely to be both unwelcome news and have some impacts which cannot be avoided.

Scrutiny Comment (para 2)

We would emphasise that the Council needs to act with caution when making savings plans across multiple related areas in order to ensure that the full cumulative impact of these is assessed in advance. The savings in waste management services, for example - the end of free food waste sacks, the route optimisation of waste collections, and the reduction in the waste collections in parks, should be introduced in a phased way and should be kept under review.

Executive Response

This is agreed and as far as possible, recognising that savings proposals will be developed across different timelines, this is done. We also undertake a full cumulative impact assessment. This has been completed on an iterative basis and shared with decision makers (senior officers and cabinet members) to support final decisions about savings. An up to date version will be published with the budget report considering the final suite of proposals. The cumulative impact assessment is helping inform a phased approach to implementation to mitigate the cumulative impact of service changes on residents. The cumulative impact assessment will be a live tool - it will identify actions needed to support the implementation of savings, cross cutting mitigations (e.g. communications, transformation, workforce) and to consider and frame further savings proposals coming on line next year. Where appropriate the specific changes referred to are being implemented in a phased way, supported by appropriate communications and review points.

Scrutiny Comment (para 3)

We learned how Transformation Programmes have been put in place in a number of areas both to drive efficiency (“doing more with less”) and enable cost savings. There was however a lack of financial and other detailed information presented on some of these. Whilst we acknowledge some have only been instigated, Scrutiny is not yet able to test the proposals or their underlying assumptions and we’re unable therefore to understand how precisely these savings might be realised.

Executive Response

A lack of detail in some areas is acknowledged and the ongoing engagement with the Commissions, as set out in the report, on these issues is welcomed. Health in Hackney, for example, has already timetabled when it will consider the ongoing Transforming Outcomes Programme in Adult Social Care. While proposals will inevitably be at different stages of development throughout the year we will endeavour to learn lessons from this year’s process and ensure as much detail as possible is provided in a timely manner.

Scrutiny Comment (para 4)

We expressed a general concern that most services have been through major transformation programmes in the not too distant past, which begs the question of how much more can be achieved with trying to push for behaviour change and/or further reductions in relation to staffing or work practices. We would need greater reassurance that there is still scope for these.

Executive Response

The continuation of single year settlements and the paucity of information from the Government regarding funding more than one year in advance makes the development of a balanced budget over the medium-term period extremely difficult although we will continue to target this approach. In terms of future years the Director of Transformation is leading on scoping savings potential of a wider corporate transformation programme, however, given the level of the budget gap in the medium term, alongside this it is inevitable that there will be difficult decisions required that will have impacts on services provided.

Scrutiny Comment (para 5)

We would ask that evaluations and analyses of these pilots and transformation programmes should be reported to the relevant Scrutiny Commissions at key milestones and that these be added to future work programmes so that there can be some ongoing monitoring of progress.

Executive Response

This is agreed and the helpful feedback from individual Scrutiny Commissions on this matter is welcomed.

Scrutiny Comment (para 6)

There was a lack of detail so far on a plan for public engagement in relation to the transformation programmes and wider savings plans. We recognise that the Council has started communicating with residents about the Council's budget and financial position. Having robust communication plans for both residents and staff will be critical to everyone having the same level of understanding about the difficult choices being made. For this reason we would suggest that the strategic communications function needs to continue to be adequately resourced. Some of the Council's workforce are also residents and so both cohorts need to be given an opportunity to feedback.

Executive Response

See comment re paragraph 1 above.

The Council's communications team plans to engage with residents and with staff in support of the transformation programme. This work is currently being scoped and will be part of the Council's wider budget communications and then continue throughout the year as transformation projects start to gain momentum.

Scrutiny Comment (para 7)

We have concerns about the high use of external consultants and their costs. We would suggest that there needs to be tighter control of costs here and that the spend in each programme always needs to be proportionate to the level of savings they are expected to deliver.

Executive Response

It is agreed that use of consultants needs to be tightly controlled. The point regarding proportionality is well made and we will continue to have due regard to this, recognising that one-off investment in consultants which might seem high can lead to savings which accrue over many years and at a much higher cumulative level.

Scrutiny Comment (para 8)

We would suggest that there needs to be a rationalisation of use of consultants across the whole Council and a review of the level of expertise that appears to be lacking in certain departments and the reasons for this. We acknowledge that previous layering of management is likely to have contributed to the lack of expertise in these 'change management' functions but again an overview of this area needs to be taken.

Executive Response

The vast majority of change projects and initiatives within the council are responding to growth in demand and change that is required in the model of our service delivery, to remain within budget restraints. Training for officers is an essential part of service delivery and a skills gap analysis is planned to support ensuring that the Council takes an evidence based approach to investing in and developing colleagues, in order to address identified gaps between the current and future skills needed.

Whilst we must continue to review and carefully monitor the use of consultants, and ensure that the engagement of consultants is absolutely necessary, compiling a project team of specialists from within the existing workforce to transform parts of the council cannot always be considered business as usual. As Consultant roles are not permanent, the purpose of the engagement to deliver change within a defined and time limited project can also represent the best VFM overall in response to those influencing factors outlined.

Scrutiny Comment (para 9)

Some savings proposals are predicated on a standstill position in terms of both demand and costs yet, in Adult Social Care for example, growth in demand is fast outstripping demographic growth. We have a concern therefore that these trends could potentially derail future savings plans. We recognise that all budgets have factored in growth, where needed, but it is clear from the wider economic situation that these financial pressures will continue to increase and so need to be taken into account.

Executive Response

The current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) factors budget growth of over £27m into social care across the period of 2024/25 to 2026/27, whereas savings across these service areas are significantly lower than this. Therefore a standstill position in this regard is not assumed. In terms of the updated MTFP this includes further growth in reflection of continuing pressures in these areas.

Scrutiny Comment (para 10)

Allied to this we'd question whether sufficient allowance has been made in the plans for the impact of cost of living increases on financially stretched residents and the wisdom, for example, of assuming an elasticity of demand when increasing fees and charges. We acknowledge too that inflationary pressures are hitting every aspect of procurement.

Executive Response

As officers set out in response to questions to Scrutiny Commissions and the Income Generation Task and Finish Group, the elasticity of demand has been considered in fee increases and we have been prudent in our assumptions about increased income. In some instances this has resulted in us not proposing fee increases. We will of course continue to keep this under review. It is also worth noting here that the Council is subject to inflationary increases in its costs and therefore, while not ideal, increases in fees and charges are necessary in order to maintain the services residents rely upon.

Scrutiny Comment (para 11)

The CYP Scrutiny Commission in particular found it difficult to make observations without having the detail needed before them to provide sufficient challenge. The refined set of proposals going to their second meeting were 6 weeks later than expected and so the time for them to consider these was condensed. Timing and getting the right information to Scrutiny Members is the key to effective budget scrutiny.

Executive Comment

These comments are noted and we will endeavour to address these in the coming year. Again we emphasise the challenging financial position and the difficult decisions this administration will continue to face which will inevitably require some flexibility to approaches.

Scrutiny Comment (para 12)

There needs to be acknowledgement here of the impact of the Renters Reform Bill which if it becomes law will impose a number of new obligations on the Council to those in the Private Rented Sector and in Housing Associations. With the remit and workloads of the PRS department now expected to increase there needs to be adequate budgetary provision for this.

Executive Response

The Mayor and Cabinet are acutely aware of the issues in the private rented sector space and that is why additional investment has been put into this area. As Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission were advised it has been extremely challenging to recruit to some of the additional posts added to the structure and this has resulted in an underspend which will be maintained through 2024/25, but kept under review should circumstances change.

Learning for next year

Overall, the comments in this section are welcomed and the Mayor and Cabinet are committed to continuing to engage and develop the Budget Scrutiny process with members of the Scrutiny Commission and officers. We must, of course, do this in a pragmatic and reflective manner which is mindful of the financial challenges the Council faces and is suitably flexible to respond to changing circumstances and the iterative processes the budget development processes necessarily entail.

Scrutiny Comment (para 1)

We had understood that this year there would be an attempt to better integrate long term change programmes with the Medium Term Financial Planning and this would be our ongoing aspiration for this work. This past year however we felt that not enough clarity was provided on the underlying assumptions behind the budget process. We acknowledge the hard work Finance officers, Directors and the Cabinet Members put in in preparing for and contributing to these sessions and we noted that the volume of information provided

this year (including in the regular Budget Overview report to the regular Scrutiny Panel meetings), far exceeded what was provided in the past, and we are most grateful for this.

Executive response

We very much share this aspiration set out in the Budget Scrutiny report. Although we edged close to this for 2024/25 there is more to be done. As recently reported at Scrutiny Panel, a Director of Transformation has been appointed and work is underway to scope what level of efficiencies from this programme may be possible to feed into the MTFP. The budget timeline and processes will very much reflect this work but we have to acknowledge that this work alone will not close the budget gap going forward and difficult decisions will need to be made. This year we will look to frame these decisions with a fuller iteration of the wider budget and what is and isn't possible to influence. In regard to the underlying budget assumptions we will look to set these out in the initial engagement with the Scrutiny Panel early on in the process.

Scrutiny Comment (para 2)

A key learning point for next year is that information needs to be provided in a more timely manner if a budget scrutiny process is to be effective. Forward planning for the process for next year needs to commence now by adding budget scrutiny dates in the Council calendar to secure the sessions.

Executive Response

This is agreed and planning for this is already underway for next year. As mentioned elsewhere, while we endeavour to stick to timetables set out the nature of the process will mean there may need to be some flexibility.

Scrutiny Comment (para 3)

Scrutiny has generally not had sight of all the alternatives considered but discarded by senior officers before selecting the proposals that came before us. We acknowledge that this could be difficult but having a greater insight into the rationale and the assumptions underpinning the decisions made would, we think, help to improve the process.

Executive response

This is always a challenge given workloads and the need to plan for the implementation of proposals. However, we will consider how more of this information can be factored into what is presented to Budget Scrutiny.

Scrutiny Comment (para 4)

A new process was used this year and so there are lessons for both sides. For the work leading up to the 2024/25 budget we welcome the suggestion to commence this work from May 2024 and that we programme in advance 2 or 3 sessions per Scrutiny Commission.

Executive Response

Agreed and we will look to make this work in the coming year, although, as noted above some flexibilities may be required.

Scrutiny Comment (para 5)

We acknowledge that the individual Scrutiny Commissions may choose to get into the detail of a number of areas which have been considered at Budget Scrutiny and may get involved in looking at the policy, service provision and financial context for those. In addition, the Budget Scrutiny Process will throw up issues where individual Commissions might be seeking more detail which they can look at separately at their Commission meetings. This is for agreement between the Chairs, Cabinet Members and the Directors, in the normal course of their agenda planning, but it should be treated as separate from the Budget Scrutiny process which addresses specific savings proposals.

Executive Response

This comment is noted and supported.

Scrutiny Comment (para 6)

We will explore with officers drafting a Budget Scrutiny Protocol which we can agree and will set out clearly the process, the timeline, the expectations on both sides at each stage and the governance process up until the agreement of the budget at Full Council. We hope that this will lead to a more streamlined process for next year.

Executive Response

This suggestion is very much welcomed but again we would urge the acknowledgement that there will need to be some flexibility in the process.

Conclusion

In this document the Executive has looked to provide an objective and practical response to the detailed report of Budget Scrutiny. The focus and depth of the work undertaken this year is very much welcomed. While challenging at times, this is as it should be. Overall, there appears to be a consensus on the lessons learnt and it is helpful that these have been highlighted at this stage as we acknowledge the milestone of presenting this year's budget report to Council and continue on the cycle of addressing our medium term financial challenges.



Title of Report	Children and Families Service Full Year Update Report to Members 2022/23	
Key Decision No	CE S288	
For Consideration By	Cabinet and Council	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024 And 28 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Councillor Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards	
Key Decision & Reason	No	
Implementation Date if Not Called In	N/A	
Group Director	Jacquie Burke, Group Director for Children and Education	

1. Cabinet Member's introduction

- 1.1. One of the most important things we do as a Local Authority is look after the children in our care, who we have high aspirations for. I have requested this report from the Group Director for Children and Education. My role as Lead Member for Children's Services requires me to ensure that the Local Authority fulfils its legal responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people in Hackney. As such, I wish to ensure that services with the important mandate of protecting Hackney's children and young people from risk of harm are understood across all areas of the Council.
- 1.2. In October 2023, the Children and Families Service took part in the council-wide month-long Anti-Racist Summit on the theme of 'Building Better Together'. I was proud to see the array of workshops, lectures and events available and enthused and inspired to see that the first day of the conference was sold out, with an additional 2,700 individual viewers joining us online! It is now for all of us, to continue to challenge our own practice

and behaviour and strive to build an anti-racist culture, for ourselves and for the children and families of Hackney.

- 1.3. It is over a year since the Child Safeguarding Practice Review for Child Q was published, and the City and Hackney Safeguarding Partnership have published a subsequent update report in June 2023. The importance of this Review cannot be overstated and we are seeing the repercussions of this work play out at a national level. In September 2023, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) released the findings from their investigation into the treatment of Child Q calling for a 'substantial review of policing powers relating to strip searches of children' and confirming that four Metropolitan Police Service officers should face gross misconduct hearings. More than ever, we are certain that our continued focus on Anti-Racist Practice for our children and families is critical.
- 1.4. We are very proud that inspectors were impressed with our strong direct work and impactful practice when they came to jointly inspect our Youth Justice Services in Hackney at the beginning of this year, and rightly saw how advanced our Anti-Racist Practice is, and how deeply our practitioners care about the children we support. We are excited to work with our partners as we progress on our journey to deliver outstanding services.
- 1.5. The last twelve months have also seen progress in our work to improve the systems and tools available for our workforce. Having re-embedded Mosaic as our primary case recording system, and continuing to mature our data reporting capability to support leaders to oversee and understand practice.
- 1.6. This has also been supported by the embedding of our Improving Outcomes for Children Board, bringing together our data, performance and quality assurance learning. This means we are in a strong position as we navigate our services through the post-pandemic period. Our service is also working to co-create and roll out a STAR (Systemic, Trauma Informed and Anti-Racist) framework and transform how our internal services are set up for delivery, aligning with Hackney Education over the coming year.
- 1.7. I want to thank the Interim Chief Executive, Dawn Carter-McDonald for her input, and all staff for their hard work, commitment and dedication to the children and families of Hackney. I also want to acknowledge all of Cabinet, in particular Mayor Woodley, Cllr Etti, Cllr Fajana-Thomas and Cllr Williams, Corporate Parenting Board members and Councillors for their input and support over the past year.

2. Group Director's introduction

- 2.1. Children's services in Hackney work in partnership to protect children and keep them safe from harm and help them thrive. The Children and Families' Service is the key service designed to protect children by working with families to support safe and effective parenting where children are at risk of significant harm. Where it is not possible for children to be safely cared for

within their family network, the local authority will look after those children. This report provides Members with oversight of activities within the Children and Families' Service including performance updates and information about key service developments and information about vulnerable adolescents and adoption. The report also includes information on Young Hackney, the Council's early help, prevention and diversion service for children and young people aged 6-19 years old and up to 25 years if the young person has a special education need or disability. Information on the Service's work with children and young people through Hackney of Tomorrow (Hackney's Children in Care Council) is included in the report.

3. **Recommendations**

- 3.1. **Cabinet and Council are recommended to note and endorse the content of the Children and Families Annual Report 2022/23 (Appendix 1).**

4. **Reason(s) for decision**

- 4.1. The report is for information and endorsement only

5. **Details of alternative options considered and rejected**

- 5.1. Not applicable.

6. **Background**

Policy Context

- 6.1. This report summarises progress against key areas for the service.

Equality impact assessment

- 6.2. There are no new decisions within the report that require an Equality Impact Assessment.

Sustainability and climate change

- 6.3. There are no issues within the report that impact on the physical and social environment.

Consultations

- 6.4. The report does not contain any issues or decisions that require consultation.

Risk assessment

- 6.5. There are no proposals for action that require a risk assessment.

7. Comments of the Interim Group Director, Finance

- 7.1. The outturn for 2022/23 for the Children and Families Service on a net budget of £64.9m was an overspend of £4.7m after use of grants and reserves of £12.4m including a drawdown on the commissioning reserve of £3.1m and £8.5m of Social Care Grant funding. There has been a requirement to draw down from the commissioning reserve since 2012/13 due to the increase in complexity and the number of children in care.
- 7.2. The financial position for 2023/24 is a net budget of £65.3m for the Children and Families Service, and the service is forecasting to overspend by £3.1m (as at September 2023) after use of reserves and drawdown of grants totalling £16.9m (including full use of the commissioning activity reserve of £2.7m and £13.0m of Social Care Grant funding). Within the current forecast, cost reduction proposals have been agreed by the service to reduce the overspend within the year, and these are tracked on a monthly basis.
- 7.3. The Children and Families Service has continued to make contributions to the efficiency agenda of the Council. Over the previous ten years the service has delivered £12.5m savings with a further £1.4m targeted to be delivered in 2023/24. The increase in commissioning costs has been driven by an increase in complexity and the number of looked after children since 2011/12. There is a continuation of a large proportion of children being placed with independent fostering agencies (IFAs) due to a lack of suitable in-house foster carers. The cost of an IFA placement is significantly greater than that of an in-house placement. The service continues to be proactive in recruiting in-house foster carers to meet demands across the service and the Council has incentivised this by providing Council Tax discounts to foster carers in the borough and a weekly allowance to those who live outside Hackney.
- 7.4. Hackney has also seen an increase in residential placements since 2015 adding considerable budget pressures with an average annual unit cost of circa £300k. There have been some improvements more recently in the number of residential placements, and the service is working proactively to reduce the level of placements. We are also seeing a rise in the number of under 18s in high-cost semi-independent placements. Where young people in their late teens are deemed to be vulnerable, and in many cases are transitioning from residential to semi-independent placements, they may still require a high-level of support and in extreme circumstances bespoke crisis packages. These pressures have been recognised by the Group Director of

Finance & Corporate Resources with a growth of £13.4m in total included in the budget across a number of financial years.

8. **VAT implications on land and property transactions**

8.1. There are no VAT implications in this report.

9. **Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

9.1. In line with Article 5.2 of the Council's Constitution, Cabinet will carry out all of the Council's Local Authority functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Council. The Elected Mayor may choose to delegate functions to be carried out by the Cabinet collectively that set priorities that contribute to the life and development of the Borough and those that improve the economic, social and environmental well being of Hackney and its inhabitants. As outlined in section 3 of this report, Cabinet is recommended to note the report and recommend it to Full Council which has the authority to agree the strategic direction of the Council.

9.2. There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - The Children and Families Service 2022/23 Full Year Report to Members.

Background documents

None

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**CHILDREN
& FAMILIES**

Annual Report to Members

Page 463
2022/23



Working for every child

Hackney

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Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Children and Families Service annual report for 2022/23.

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our Youth Justice Services in Hackney at the beginning of this year, and rightly saw how advanced our Anti-Racist Practice is, and how deeply our practitioners care about the children we support. We are excited to work with our partners as we progress on our journey to deliver outstanding services.

The last twelve months have also seen progress in our work to improve the systems and tools available for our workforce. Having re-embedded Mosaic as our primary case recording system, and continuing to mature our data reporting capability to support leaders to oversee and understand practice.

This has also been supported by the embedding of our Improving Outcomes for Children Board, bringing together our data, performance and quality

assurance learning. This means we are in a strong position as we navigate our services through the post-pandemic period. Our service is also working to co-create and roll out a STAR (Systemic, Trauma Informed and Anti-Racist) framework and transform how our internal services are set up for delivery, aligning with Hackney Education over the coming year.

I want to thank the Interim Chief Executive, Dawn Carter-McDonald for her input, and all staff for their hard work, commitment and dedication to the children and families of Hackney. I also want to acknowledge all of Cabinet, in particular Mayor Woodley, Cllr Etti, Cllr Fajana-Thomas and Cllr Williams, Corporate Parenting Board members and Councillors for their input and support over the past year.

Councillor Anntoinette Bramble

Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member
for Education, Young People and
Children's Social Care



Priorities for the year ahead

Our **Children's Action Plan** was refreshed in February 2023 and builds on the work outlined in previous plans and is organised around five thematic headings:



1. Proud to be Systemic, Trauma Informed and Anti-Racist so that our practitioners can flourish to achieve the best outcomes for children and families: We will reset the Practice Model for Hackney Children's Services, so it describes a whole system approach to supporting children and families. The refreshed vision of practice will describe our values and principles. It will outline how children and families can expect to be supported from education, early help right through to leaving care or transition to adult services. Every practitioner will employ a systemic approach as a way of understanding the lived experience of our children and families. We will focus on relationships and work collaboratively. We will always recognise that individuals are embedded in their social context and remain curious about this. This practice model will enable us all to understand our roles and responsibilities as part of a wider system supporting Hackney children. It will focus on making a difference for every child.



2. Proud to listen to children and families in the shaping of our services: We will ensure that the voices of children and their loved ones shape both the support plans offered to individual children and families, as well as the strategic development of our services.



3. Proud to work with partner agencies to keep children safe and to help children and families get the right support at the right time: We will ensure there is a culture of collaborative work with partners in Hackney to keep children safe and improve their outcomes. We will listen to and be appreciative of multiple perspectives to consider how children's needs can best be met and ensure as a partnership that we are clear on our roles, responsibilities and associated powers.



4. Proud to work with partners to improve safety for children during adolescence in all contexts: As they journey towards adulthood, young people in Hackney will experience safety in the context of their families, peer groups, schools and neighbourhoods, as well as online. We will foster person centred support and engagement, through trusted and empowering relationships that are informed by knowledge of adolescent development and contextual safeguarding. Young people will be encouraged to challenge their ideas and test their capabilities; finding out about themselves and others, whilst gaining information and skills to develop their own agency, independence and to support wellbeing.



5. Proud to support our workforce to do their very best for children in Hackney:

We recognise that having a skilled, resilient, stable and engaged workforce, equipped with the tools they need to do their jobs well, is crucial to achieving the best possible outcomes for children. We acknowledge that this requires a relentless focus on the recruitment, development and retention of staff. We want to demonstrate that we are proud of our staff and want them to be proud of working for Hackney's children. We hope to promote Hackney as a great place to build a career working with children and families.



Key data about the Children and Families Service

*Please note that all data contained in this report is accurate as of the time of reporting but can still be subject to change



4,148 referrals were received in 2022/23 a 16% increase from 3,559 received in the previous year. 1,950 referrals have been received between April and September 2023.



3,998 social work assessments were completed in 2022/23 a 23% increase from the 3,244 completed in the previous year. 1,854 assessments have been completed between April - September 2023.



181 children were supported on Child Protection Plans as at 31st March 2023, a 14% decrease from 211 children at the same time in 2022. 208 children are supported on a Child Protection Plan as at 30th September 2023.



An estimated total of 16,811 young people accessed universal services offered through Young Hackney during 2022/23, based on 154,030 named and anonymous attendances.

This is in line with 16,676 accessing Young Hackney Universal services during 2021/22. Young Hackney delivered targeted support to 1,410 in 2022/23, which is

in line with the previous year with 1,471 young people in 2021/22.



392 children were looked after as at 31st March 2023, a 3% decrease from 405 children at the same time the previous year. 390 children were looked after as at 30 September 2023.



185 children entered care during 2022/23, a 13% increase from 163 children in 2021/22. 73 children entered care between April - September 2023.



50 children aged 16 and 17 entered care in 2022/23, a 24% decrease from the 66 young people from this cohort entering care in 2021/22. This represented 27% of the total number of children who entered care in 2022/23, compared to 40% in 2021/22.



14% of children in care had three or more care arrangements within the last 12 months as at 31st March 2023, equal to 14% at the same time in 2022. 12% of looked after children had three or more care arrangements as at 30 September 2023.



65% of children, under the age of 16, who had been in care for more than 2.5 years were in stable care arrangements of more than 2 years in 2022/23, a decrease from 71% in 2021/22. 69% of children, under the age of 16, were in stable care arrangements at the end of September 2023.



409 care leavers aged between 17 and 21 were being supported by the Leaving Care service at 31 March 2023, a 5% increase from 391 at the same point in 2022. 378 care leavers were supported at the end of September 2023.



There were 291 children and families allocated to the Clinical Service for direct work in 2022/23, a 32% increase from the period 2021/22.



The Experiences and Progress of Children Who Need Help and Protection

We are proud of the assessment of our Youth Justice Services, rated as 'Good' by inspectorates following a joint Youth Justice Service inspection from December - February 2023. Our early help plans are making good progress and we have introduced early help practice standards to embed our approach. We have stabilised staffing in our Assessment Service, improved the timeliness of our assessments and continued to embed our early help pathway.

This means that children are likely to access early help more quickly and will only be supported through statutory plans when necessary. Planning and court work is strong with clear management oversight in place. There is good work taking place across the service and our focus is on ensuring consistency of support to all of our children and families.

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“We are proud of the assessment of our Youth Justice Services, rated as 'Good' by inspectorates Ofsted...”





Early Help

Early Help and Family Hubs

Our ambition is that every child in Hackney who has additional needs is identified and their needs addressed at the earliest opportunity, providing support to help overcome challenges, build resilience for the future and wherever possible, prevent escalation to statutory services.

The Council's Early Help services are part of a wider offer across Hackney; including schools and settings, the health sector and the community and voluntary sector.

Between 2019-2022, Hackney Council undertook a review of its Early Help Model in consultation with parents and young people, schools, partner agencies and staff. The review assessed the effectiveness and accessibility of pathways into targeted early help and how the existing organisation of provision reflected current and projected patterns of need within Hackney. The review included Children's Centres and Children's Centres Multi-Agency Teams (MATs), the Family Support Service and Young Hackney. The review has produced a refreshed vision for Early Help in Hackney and identified a series of operational changes we have been embedding since January 2022. Our vision is that Early Help in Hackney involves connected services working together to ensure that all Hackney's children and young people, and their families, have access to the opportunities, resources and support needed to set them up for whole-life success.

Our review has highlighted that we need:

- Visible, approachable services that are local to children, young people and their families, and that they trust.
- Effectively communicated support, and clarity and consistency about how to access this support.

- Support able to meet the needs of the whole family, especially parenting capacity.
- Services that are built on trusting and consistent relationships with practitioners and services, so that engagement with children, young people and their families is the basis of all support.
- Support which is able to meet the specific needs of children, young people and their families, through specialist and expert interventions, including at key points in a child's, young person's or family's life.
- Interventions led by outcomes and impact, as well as young people and families being able to provide feedback and shape support.

Our progress to date includes:

- The introduction of a shared set of Early Help Practice Standards.
- One 'Request for support' form which will all be screened by the Early Help Hub.
- A consistent step-up/ step-down protocol between Children's Social Care and targeted Early Help.
- The Hackney Wellbeing Framework will continue to be embedded across Early Help services.
- One case-management system for all Early Help services, with the ability for improved information-sharing with partners, in-line with GDPR and consent.

Our upcoming activity includes:

- Designated Child and Family Hubs will deliver support on a locality basis aligned with Primary Care Network (PCN) Neighbourhoods.
- Building awareness of the Early Help Hub across the partnership and embedding the Early Help Practice Standards across the Council's Early Help services; through a shared quality assurance framework, inclusive of key performance indicators and development of a Qlik Sense dashboard to monitor performance alongside impact evaluation of individual cases.
- Multi-agency Early Help Strategy developed through engagement with partners (including schools, health, police and the Community and Voluntary Sector), led and agreed by an Early Help Partnership Strategic Group - ensuring a shared responsibility for the delivery of Early Help.
- Identify and embed actions for the delivery of Anti-Racist Practice in Hackney Council Early Help services.
- Inclusion of Early Help Services as a specific focus for the Improving Outcomes For Children Board chaired by the Director of Children's Social Care providing high challenge and high support in respect of the quality of practice and performance as indicated through data and quality assurance.
- Undertaking a holistic review of the Young Hackney Service to understand the impact of delivery on outcomes for young people, and to consider the future direction of the service in light of increasing financial pressures on the Council.
- Ongoing co-production of service improvements, working with families to understand how we can continue to shape Early Help services work with families.



Young Hackney is the Council's integrated early help service for children and young people aged 6-19 years old and up to 25 years if the young person has a special education need or disability. The service works with young people to support their development and transition to adulthood by intervening early to address adolescent risk, develop prosocial behaviours and build resilience. The service incorporates universal youth, play, sports and participation activities and opportunities, targeted early help support for those young people and families who need it, and more specialist

substance misuse, health and wellbeing, young carers and crime prevention and diversion interventions. Young Hackney workers ensure the voice of the young person and 'think family' are at the centre of practice, and are considerate of the strengths and needs of parents and carers as individual assessments and plans are developed.

An estimated total of 16,811 young people accessed universal services offered through Young Hackney during 2022/23, based on 154,030 named and anonymous attendances. This is in line with 16,676 accessing Young Hackney Universal services during 2021/22. Young Hackney delivered targeted support to 1,410 in 2022-23, which is in line with the previous year with 1,471 young people in 2021/22.

Evidence of Impact

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Early Help Routine Audits

From April - September 2023, the Young Hackney Service undertook 13 full audits looking at practice in the service, with 62% rated as good.

Findings:

- 69% of children were visited in line or partially in line with practice standards within the last 6 months.
- Key documents were on file and of the quality required for 77% of children.
- Key decisions were on file and justified fully for 62% of children and partially for 31% children.
- For 46% of children there was evidence that key meetings/ reviews were undertaken within timescales, and that decisions from these meetings were actively followed up. This was partially the case for 46% of children.

- The quality and progress of the plan was good for 54% of children.
- Practice around the voice of the child was good or outstanding for 69% of children.
- Management oversight was good or outstanding for 54% of children.

Feedback from children and families about Young Hackney support:

- Feedback from parent: *'Thank you for spending time with [child] over the last few weeks. [Child] has enjoyed talking to you and sharing her thoughts with you. Personally, I want to say thank you for showing up for her and coming when you said you would. It's the little things that mean a lot to her. Also your insight into how we can better communicate and navigate through our emotions were very helpful'.*

- Feedback from child: *'Our conversations helped me a lot as I was able to understand things in a different perspective. Our little walks around the area were fun, thanks for seeing me for me'.*
- Feedback from a parent: *'I was blown away by the support we received from [Practitioner] from Young Hackney, it was beyond my expectations and I will always be grateful for the guidance my son, and I received. Not only did [Practitioner] create a great space for the family to be open, but he was quick to grasp the intricacies of the post-separation abuse my family*

suffers, without judgement. In addition to doing a cracking job in helping [Child] manage his emotions, ([Child]'s mood visibly improved for days after each meeting, which accumulated as the sessions progressed), he provided solid guidance and support for me when dealing with Hackney Children Services. Furthermore, when [Child]'s frustrations flared up recently, [Practitioner] made an appointment to see [Child] without hesitation! [Child] and I wish to thank [Practitioner] and Young Hackney for helping my family through a tricky time. He is truly a 'man of the people'.

“...Our little walks around the area were fun, thanks for seeing me for me”





Youth Justice

The Youth Justice Service works with young people in Hackney, aged 10 - 17, who are arrested or convicted of crimes and undertakes youth justice work including bail and remand supervision and supervising young people who have been given community or custodial sentences. Young people are supported by a multi-agency team including a Forensic Psychologist, the Virtual School, Speech and Language Therapists, the Police, a Nurse, Probation Services, a Substance Misuse Worker and a Dealing Officer. The Youth Justice Service would like to recognise the unwavering support of Councillor Fajana-Thomas, our Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services, whose significant contribution was recognised during the HMIP Joint Inspection of Hackney Youth Justice Services (further details below).

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
No. of first time entrants to Youth Justice system in Hackney	79	67	54

The overall number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time in Hackney in 2022/23 was 54, a 19 % decrease from 67 young people in 2021/22. This remains below national and statistical neighbour averages.

Evidence of Impact

[Link to video of DT](#) talking about his engagement with the Prevention and Diversion Service.

[Link to video of LS](#) talking about the impact of his work with Your Choice Programme and the Youth Justice Service.

91 % of the young people referred to the Youth Justice Prevention and Diversion Team via Triage in 2021/22 were successfully diverted from becoming first time entrants to the youth justice system in the 12 months that followed (the 2022/23 cohort outcomes will be reported by November 2023). However, early help for young people at risk of becoming involved in crime is still not effective enough at preventing the most serious youth crime: the small number of young people referred to the Prevention and Diversion Team from Triage who have gone on to enter the youth justice system have in some cases faced extremely serious charges against them. It is important to note that these children face challenges in relation to a range of areas of their lives namely adverse childhood experiences, multiple and prolonged services' interventions; parental mental health and/or substance misuse; trauma; school exclusion; unemployment and extra-familial risk. Such complexity of need requires a partnership response across all statutory and voluntary agencies to lead to more impactful results.

Turnaround

The Turnaround Project is a 3 year nationwide project funded by the Ministry of Justice, offered to every Youth Justice Service in the country. The project aims to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime and reducing risks of offending behaviours reoccurring by working in partnership with a range of practitioners across the Children, Families and Education Service, police, health practitioners and Voluntary & Community sector partners and divert them from further contact with the youth justice system. The project has been fully operational for 6 months and the delivery team are currently working with approximately 35 children. The most common referral pathway is children who have been released on police bail. The cohort of children working with the Turnaround Project reflects the demographic seen within Prevention & Diversion and Youth Justice with the majority of children identifying as male and Black and Global Majority. Whilst it is too early to report on any meaningful outputs we feel confident that there are early indicators that the project will meet the intended performance targets for our borough.

Stop & Search Project

In March 2022, in light of the publication of the Child Q report, it became apparent that the Stop & Search page on the Young Hackney website needed to be reviewed. In parallel, our partners in the Met police wanted to develop the use of a QR code that officers can share with young people and adults who care for them in relation to knowing their rights around Stop & Search.

The aims of this collaborative partnership project were:

- to increase transparency of decision-making by police around their use of stop & search powers; empower young people to seek support and/or make complaints if they have experienced stop & search negatively in Hackney and address the disproportionate impact of stop & search on Black and Global Majority children in Hackney as suggested by data;

- to provide ways for children to express their views and experiences and seek support through a range of organisations;
- to identify sources of support for children who found the experience traumatic.

Recent development of this project will include the production of a video that summarises young people's rights and sources of support; the publication of a guide on stop & search for neurodiverse young people, with input from Speech and Language therapy partners, and information on seized property and long bail terms.

In terms of data usage regarding the Young Hackney Stop & Search webpage, from April 2023 to November 2023 the webpage received 764 visits, 612 of which were unique users. From December 2022 - November 2023, 147 scans of the QR code have taken place.

Evidence of Impact

HMIP Joint Inspection of Hackney Youth Justice Services

Hackney Youth Justice Service has received an overall rating of 'Good' following a joint inspection led by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, and colleagues from HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue, the Care Quality Commission, Ofsted Education and Ofsted Social Care. The inspection took place over December 2022 - February 2023 and the [published report can be viewed here](#)

Inspectors were impressed with Hackney Youth Justice Service's anti-racist position – overseen by the Safer Young Hackney Strategic Board, which underpins our plans for the future. Inspectors found high-quality work is delivered by youth justice workers who mirror our diverse local population.

Inspectors identified that more could be done earlier in the process for children committing less serious offences; better screening and assessment of children, before a decision is made to progress a child to a formal court process, could help divert additional cases into a more appropriate response.

Inspectors asked children and their parents/carers for their thoughts on the service. The response was overwhelmingly positive and reflected inspector findings that the team are genuinely motivated by their work and passionate about the prospects of every child.

The report makes six recommendations to Hackney YJS and an action plan was submitted to HMIP on 26th May 2023 outlining how these recommendations will be addressed.



Domestic Abuse Intervention Service

The Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) works with anyone experiencing domestic abuse or harming others through domestic abuse who is living in Hackney and aged 16 or over. The service works with clients and partner agencies to assess and reduce risk and offers an assertive, interventionist, social-work-informed approach to protecting victims from harm. DAIS also intervenes with those harming others through domestic abuse to reduce the risk they pose. DAIS leads within the Council and across the partnership on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls: strategy, policy, campaigns and practice development.

None of the over 8,000 clients that have been referred to DAIS (operating since 2016) have ever been killed or have killed anyone.

The average weekly number of referrals into DAIS across 2022/23 was 29, 14% higher than the weekly pre-Covid rate of 25 cases per week and from the 2021/22 rate of 23 per week. During 2022/23 and in 2023/24 DAIS has increased its offer of training to the Hackney partnership and it is believed this, along with campaign work, increase in awareness has led to greater confidence in the public and professionals accessing help for domestic abuse. The rate of 'high risk' domestic abuse heard at MARAC in 2022/23 fell which indicates that more domestic abuse is being identified and reported sooner, allowing for an early-intervention approach to be taken.

The Domestic Abuse Prevention Programme, working with those who harm others through their behaviour, is a 26 session programme that continues to operate virtually on a rolling basis. In 2022/23 there were 97 suitability assessments for the programme and 23 participants. Alongside the formal programme (offered as a group and also individually) DAIS provides consultation and intervention on those who are harming others who are not suitable for a structured programme of intervention.

The fortnightly virtual MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is a multi-agency meeting to discuss and take action on cases of domestic abuse where there is a 'high risk' of death or serious injury. Between 2019/20 and 2021/22 'high risk' cases heard at MARAC rose from 492 in 2019/20 to 694 in 2021/22 which was a rise of 41%. In 2022/23 there has been no rise in overall numbers; 691 'high risk' domestic abuse cases were heard at Hackney's MARAC. 327 (47%) of MARAC cases had children under 18 within the home. This proportion (around half of all cases having children in the home) has remained constant over the years.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

In 2022/23 the Council expanded CCTV coverage and improved street lighting at six locations across Hackney, following feedback from local people during a ground-breaking consultation on women's safety two years ago. The Hackney Nights programme delivers training and promotes preventative messaging about gender-based abuse across the Night Time Economy as well as offering a rapid response to anyone affected by harassment, drink spiking or other forms of misogyny. Preventative work is also undertaken by DAIS in the form of public awareness campaigns and through training for stakeholders across Hackney on how to recognise and respond to domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG such as Female Genital Mutilation and public-space harassment. Young Hackney delivers a programme of preventative work for young people in schools and in Youth Hubs across the borough.

“...more domestic abuse is being identified and reported sooner, allowing for an early-intervention approach to be taken...”

Evidence of Impact

Domestic Abuse Intervention Service Routine Audits: April - September 2023

In 2022/23, management conducted 44 audits of DAIS work. 70% of audits found practice to be good or outstanding.

From April - September 2023, the Domestic Abuse Service undertook 12 full audits of practice, with 75% rated as good.

Findings:

- 83% of referrals were allocated within 48 hours.
- The client's voice had been captured in 75% of audits.
- All of the client's histories and vulnerabilities were taken into account.
- 92% of child/adult safeguarding concerns were properly identified and responded to.
- There was evidence of robust case management and supervision, ensuring effective recording practice and appropriate support from intake to closure for all clients.

- There was a copy or record of the SafeLives Risk Identification Checklist on 67% of files.
- There was evidence of a sensitive response to cultural and diversity needs of 42% of the clients.

In 2022/23, 42 DAIS clients gave feedback via a simple online survey. Key data:

- 98% are happy with the service
- 90% feel safer
- 86% feel their cultural / identity needs were taken into account
- 95% would recommend DAIS to a friend / family member experiencing domestic abuse



Identifying and responding to children's needs and appropriate thresholds

Contacts, referrals and assessments

Contacts

	Outturn 2020/21	Outturn 2021/22	Outturn 2022/23	Apr - Sept 2023
Number of contacts	11,473	12,313	14,248	7,193
% of contacts progressing to a referral	26 %	29 %	29 %	27 %

There has been a 16 % increase in contacts over the past year, however this has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels when contacts were at approximately 16,000 (2019/20). Hackney did not see the immediate rise in contact levels that many local authorities experienced following the pandemic, but we have had a steady increase in contacts over the last year. The majority of London authorities have experienced increased demand and the [ADCS Safeguarding Pressures Phase 8 Report](#) details an overall increase in safeguarding activity nationally in the last 2 years.

Purposeful work has been undertaken through the revision of the Hackney Child Wellbeing Framework, the shift to a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, an Early Help Hub, changes to the way contacts are recorded and the introduction of a consultation line. The positive impact of the consultation line means that requests for support not meeting statutory intervention are not processed as contacts. However, there is still some 'oversharing' from some agencies, mainly the Police, which is being addressed.

Referrals

	Outturn 2020/21	Outturn 2021/22	Outturn 2022/23	Apr - Sept 2023
Number of Referrals	2,930	3,559	4,148	1,950
Rate of Referrals per 10,000 population	459	639	744	350
Statistical neighbours	497	579	606	n/a
England	494	538	545	n/a

	Outturn 2020/21	Outturn 2021/22	Outturn 2022/23	Apr - Sept 2023
Percentage of cases which were re-referrals which had been open in the past 12 months	18 %	17 %	20 %	20 %
Statistical neighbours	18 %	18 %	18 %	n/a
England	19 %	22 %	20 %	n/a

There has been a 16 % increase in the number of referrals received over the last year, compared to a 21 % increase over the previous year which reflected the post-lockdown period. Re-referrals within 12 months at the end of March 2023 were at 20 %, which is higher than statistical neighbours and on a par with England for the same year. 29 % of contacts proceeded to referrals last year, in line with 29 % for the previous year.

Assessments

	Outturn 2020/21	Outturn 2021/22	Outturn 2022/23	Apr - Sept 2023
Number of social work assessments completed	3,858	3,244	3,998	1,854
Rate of assessments per 10,000 population	604	538	718	333
Statistical neighbours	477	533	589	n/a
England	518	533	557	n/a

	Outturn 2020/21	Outturn 2021/22	Outturn 2022/23	Apr - Sept 2023
% of social work assessments completed within 45 working days	78 %	82 %	69 %	82 %
Statistical neighbours	94 %	90 %	90 %	n/a
England	89 %	84 %	82 %	n/a

The number of completed assessments has increased by 23 % over the last year, compared to a 16 % decrease over the previous year, this is less than the pre-pandemic period in 2019/20 when 4,923 assessments were completed, representing a rate of 771 per 10,000. The percentage of assessments completed within 45 working days was 69 % last year compared with 82 % the previous year; this was due to a combination of staffing and management capacity. Staffing and leadership in the Assessment Service has now stabilised following new recruitment and retention measures. Management oversight and accountability has improved and assessment timeliness has steadily improved: it is currently at 82 % for April to September 2023 .

In 2022/23, 67 % of assessments completed resulted in no further statutory social work action, a slight decrease compared to 70 % in 2021/22. While small, this decrease is a positive development in the context of the introduction of Early Help Assessments within the Family Support Service in April 2022 and how they continue to be embedded within the service. 67 % of assessments completed resulted in no further statutory social work action as at the end of September 2023. This is an area of focus for the service and for particular application of the STAR lens.

“...this is a positive development
in the context of the introduction of Early Help Assessments within
the Family Support Service in April 2022 and how they continue to be
embedded within the service.”

Evidence of Impact

Assessment leading to no further social work or early help action - April 2023

As a result of continuing high numbers of assessments leading to no further social work or early help action, a dip sample of 50 cases was undertaken.

Findings:

- 94% of referrals met the threshold for statutory or early help assessment (Hackney Child Wellbeing Framework)
- In 98% of audits, the outcome of the assessment was in line with thresholds
- In 98% of audits, the auditor did not think that an alternative course of action could have been taken - confirming that pathways are working correctly

- In 42% of audits, there was no clear recording of consent for assessment - this is being analysed further but indicates that our interaction with some families has been incorrectly reported as an assessment with no further action, when they have withdrawn consent for the assessment or moved out of Hackney

Recommendations:

- A Mosaic workstep was introduced that allows for clearer reporting on when families do not give/withdraw consent for assessment or move out of Hackney. Since July 2023, the workstep introduced on Mosaic now means that we are able to accurately report on those families who did not give consent for the assessment to take place or who moved out of the area.

Local Area Designated Officer

Organisations where employees and volunteers work with children (including foster carers and prospective adopters) are required to have clear and accessible policies and procedures to manage occasions when allegations are made against staff or volunteers. Organisations are required to appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead to whom the allegations are reported. The Designated Safeguarding Lead then reports any allegations to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who has the responsibility to manage and have oversight of all allegations against people who work with children.

The LADO service received 355 contacts during 2022/23 which is an increase of 44 (12 %) on the previous year (311 contacts). It is therefore evident that, other than during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, there remains a continued trajectory of year-on-year increases in the number of LADO contacts received.

The occupations with the highest number of contacts were school support staff (26 %), teachers (26 %) and nursery workers (12 %). An increase was noted for both school support staff (by 3 %) and nursery workers (by 5 %) with teachers showing a decrease (by 3 %) compared to 2021/22. The three occupation groups with the highest number of contacts remain unchanged. Again, the postulation is that these three groups will remain consistent as it is likely attributable to the higher ratio of children to staff in schools and day care provisions, compared with health or leisure facilities for example.

Evidence of Impact

Compliment received about the LADO service:

- *'[Profesional] at a hospital stated that [Staff member] had been assisting in a hospital matter concerning a staff member and attended as "expert witness", at a hearing earlier this week. They wanted to commend [staff] stating that her knowledge base is clearly very comprehensive, but that she is also incredibly personable and measured in her responses. Her delivery and input into the hearing was succinct, professional, clear and without falter - I have been grateful throughout the process for her counsel, support and expertise.'*

“...Her delivery and input into the hearing was succinct, professional, clear and without falter...”



Making good decisions and providing effective help

Strategy Discussions

The City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) continues to promote the CHSCP strategy discussion protocol through regular 'Things You Should Know' briefings and animated video guidance for multi-agency professionals. The CHSCP Quality Assurance Sub-Group maintains oversight of the quality of strategy discussions and tracks the progress of multi-agency improvement actions.

1,326 Section 47 investigations began last year, a 61 % increase on 825 the previous year (which was particularly low due to data recording issues as a result of the cyberattack). This represents a rate of 238 Section 47 investigations per 10,000, which is more than statistical neighbours (203 in 2021/22) and the England average (180 in 2021/22). In 2019, our Section 47 data was a count of 942, but this represented 1,572 individual children. In 2019 a decision was made to report on Section 47 episodes but we have now reversed this decision in line with Department of Education requirements to report on individual children. The current Section 47 data therefore represents an overall decrease of 15.6 % in individual children being subject to Section 47 investigations since 2019.

We have also identified through audits that we have a high number of Section 47 investigations where there have been concerns around physical chastisement or domestic abuse and where those concerns are quickly

dissipated with parents expressing remorse and willingness to engage in support and/or a swift safety plan has been put in place. There is an over-representation of Black and Global Majority parents in this cohort and we are reviewing our practice in the light of our STAR principles and application of the principles of the Children Act 1989. We are addressing this operationally by working with Police colleagues to review threshold application in order to reduce the number of unnecessary Section 47 enquiries where a Section 17 assessment would be an appropriate and supportive intervention for the child and family. At a strategic level we are addressing this through the CHSCP to ensure the evidence is clear, the partnership supports and understands the direction and the service is held to account.

23 % of Section 47 investigations progressed to an Initial Child Protection Conference in 2022/23, a decrease from 32 % in 2021/22. This is lower than statistical neighbours (31 % in 2021/22) and the England average (34 % in 2021/22). Following an audit on this in the summer of 2022, we introduced practice guidance on Strategy Discussions, Section 47 Investigations and Convening an Initial Child Protection Conferences in March 2023. 31 % of completed Section 47 investigations progressed to an Initial Child Protection Conference between April and September 2023.

Evidence of Impact

Disproportionality in Section 47 investigations dip sample - September 2023

37 dip samples were undertaken across CFS looking at Section 47 investigations where there were incidents of physical chastisement to consider whether there was disproportionality in decision-making. 29 of these were looking at practice in A&A units, with 4 in Child in Need units and 4 in other units.

Findings:

- In 87% of cases, it was appropriate to escalate to a Section 47.
- In 62% of cases, this was a joint investigation with another partnership agency such as the Police.
- Ethnicity was discussed during the Section 47 process in 14% of dip samples.
- There was evidence of a disproportionate response in correlation with children's ethnicity.

- The threshold seems to be lower for police intervention when it comes to black families.

Recommendations to improve practice included:

- Ensuring that the evidence for threshold is met - where the child has experienced or is at risk of experiencing significant harm
- Police should only become involved in visiting families where the threshold for significant harm has been reached or is very likely to be reached;
- Culture, ethnicity and identity need to be considered more consistently in the strategy discussion and Section 47 process.
- Where children or parents disclose experiences of racism from social workers or partner agencies, the anti-racist practice guidance outlines our duty to support the family to challenge this.

Children supported on Child in Need Plans

	July 2021	Sep 2021	July 2022	Mar 2023	Aug 2023
Snapshot of children supported on Child in Need Plans	699	619	495	421	465

The number of children supported on Child in Need Plans in September 2023 has decreased in comparison to July 2022, and remains below numbers in 2021. This decrease is linked to increased oversight by managers to ensure that children are on the correct plan according to thresholds. We have adjusted our expected practice standard for Children in Need Visits to a minimum of 20 working days to ensure social work activity is purposeful and meaningful for children and to ensure plans progress. Senior management oversight of Child in Need plans at agreed points is occurring and is evidenced on the file and reducing drift.

Evidence of Impact

Sexual Harm Live Learning Audit - June 2023

27 audits were completed and the percentage of audits scoring good or outstanding overall was 67%.

- Strong practice was found around consideration of children's identity, with 21 audits scoring good or outstanding for this aspect of practice (78%).
- Management oversight required improvement, with 14 (52%) of audits graded good for this area of practice.
- There was a correlation between accessing and following advice in child sexual abuse consultations and good practice in response to concerns.

Following this audit, the following actions have taken place or are in progress:

- Practitioners have been reminded about practice guidance on working with families affected by CSA, supported by a '7-minute

guide' on how to respond to a disclosure or concern about sexual abuse.

- Hackney CFS has embedded the CSA consultation process into practice, where discussions about threshold and decision making for children at risk of CSA take place.
- Multi agency practice guidance to support work with the non-abusing parent/partner will be reviewed and re-circulated across the partnership.
- Children who are at risk of CSA need to have clear case notes on file specifically detailing the safety plan including contact arrangements with the alleged perpetrator/person posing the risk of CSA, with 'safety plan' named in the case note title. This expectation will be circulated in a service-wide email bulletin.

Children Supported on Child Protection Plans

The number of children supported on Child Protection Plans decreased by 15 % (from 211 to 181) over the course of last year. The rate per 10,000 of children supported on Child Protection Plans has also decreased, from 38 to 33 as at March 2023 which is significantly below statistical neighbours (42) and national average (42) for the previous year. As at 30th September 2023, there were 208 children in Hackney supported on Child Protection Plans. This is a rate of 37 per 10,000, compared to 44 per 10,000 for statistical neighbours in 2022/23.

Our rate per 10,000 last year was also lower than our rate the previous year. This decrease in the rate is despite a 13 % increase in Initial Child Protection Conferences, with 301 held in 2022/23 compared to 267 in 2021/22. There was a 5 % increase in children ceasing a Child Protection Plan over the last year, from 267 up to 281.

Through the course of the pandemic we saw an increase in some of our longer Child Protection Plans where children were subjects of Care Proceedings and living at home. As these proceedings have come to a conclusion we have seen a decrease in the number of Child Protection Plans. London neighbouring boroughs are reporting a similar reduction in Child Protection numbers, as families are also moving out of London due to cost of housing and cost of living crisis, evidenced through the closure/merging of schools across London due to falling pupil numbers.

85 % of Child Protection Plans were reviewed at a Review Child Protection Conference in the required timescales last year, compared to 91 % the previous year. This is in part due to staffing challenges and train strikes impacting Conference timescales. In addition, we always aim to be trauma-informed and collaborative in our approach with parents, which may mean some Conferences being held outside of the statutory timescale if this is in the child's best interests. 5 Conferences took place outside of the statutory timescale where this was to support full parental engagement; any conference held outside of timescale is agreed by the Head of Service.

The numbers of children starting and ceasing Child Protection Plans have both increased over the course of last year, with a 7 % increase (from 242 to 258) in the number of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plans and a 5 % increase (from 267 to 281) in the number of children ceasing to be subject to Child Protection Plans. Of the 181 Child Protection Plans open the end of March 2023: 70 (39 %) had been open for under 3 months; 45 (25 %) had been open for 3-6 months; 52 (29 %) had been open for 6-12 months; 14 (8 %) had been open for 1-2 years; and none had been open for more than 2 years.

Number of children supported on Child Protection Plans

March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	Sept 2023
237	211	181	208

Children supported on Child Protection Plans per 10,000 population aged under 18

	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	Sept 2023
Hackney	37	38	33	37
Statistical Neighbour	39	42	44	n/a
England	41	42	43	n/a

Duration of closed Child Protection Plan (percentage)

	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	April to Sept 2023
Under 3 months	34 %	19 %	17 %	25 %
3 - 6 months	31 %	12 %	9 %	13 %
6 - 12 months	32 %	38 %	42 %	47 %
1 - 2 years	20 %	30 %	29 %	14 %
2+ years	3 %	1 %	4 %	1 %

Between April 2022 and March 2023, 44 children were supported on a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time (17 %). This is higher than 10 % in 2021/22, but lower than statistical neighbours (19 %) and the England average (23 %) in 2021/22. There was a 7 % increase in children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan over the last year from 242 children up to 258 children.

Evidence of Impact

Live Learning Audit on Domestic Abuse - December 2022

31 audits completed looking at the support provided to families where domestic abuse was present. The percentage of audits scoring good overall was 55%.

- Strong practice was seen where the Safe and Together approach and multi-agency work was used.
- Auditors noted appropriate escalation to the Public Law Outline (PLO) process and Court where there was lack of progression working in partnership with families on Child in Need or Child Protection Plans to protect child(ren).
- There was a lack of safety planning seen on files.
- There was a theme noted of children who have experienced trauma receiving autism diagnoses.

- There were difficulties in finding housing for non-abusive parents, reflecting the housing crisis in London and nationally.
- Inconsistencies in the recording of ethnicities on the system was highlighted.
- Where abusers were not engaging, emphasis to keep the children safe was put on the non-abusive parent.

A number of recommendations were made following this audit, supported by an action plan which is tracked by the Improving Outcomes for Children Board and the monthly Service Manager Audit Meeting:

- All children who are experiencing domestic abuse need to have safety planning on their file. Work to develop our reporting capability around this is underway, and practice guidance has been refreshed and shared with staff in the spring of 2023.

- Practitioners should be curious about autism diagnoses in children who have experienced trauma and ensure that children are also supported appropriately to access trauma support. Trauma-informed training will be developed as we progress our STAR (Systemic, Trauma Informed and Anti-Racist) practice model.
- The approach to working with domestic abuse in Hackney CFS must be in line with Safe and Together and DAIS practice. The

DAIS team will be visiting each service area to reinforce the Safe and Together model and understanding of the work DAIS undertakes with families.

- Managers need to ensure there is support for staff working with those experiencing abuse, promoting emotional support and highlighting the availability of training around this. This will also be developed as we progress our STAR practice model.

Child Protection Plans - visits

As at 14 September 2023, 75 % of children supported through Child Protection Plans had visits undertaken and recorded within 10 working days. Recording of visits is being monitored to ensure all children are seen in a timely way in accordance with their plans. There is urgent escalation to the Head of Service if this is not happening, with identification of alternative practitioners where there are gaps in staffing and a monthly performance monitoring meeting if there are regular or persistent issues with recording. There are also a small number of families (20 families) supported through Child Protection and Child in Need plans where there are difficulties

in gaining entry to the family home within statutory timeframes. Actions to address these delays are monitored at a Head of Service level at monthly Frustrated Access meetings.





Public Law Outline (PLO) - Pre-proceedings and Care proceedings

On 31 March 2023, there were 29 children in pre-proceedings compared to 12 children in pre-proceedings in September 2022. As at the end of October 2023, there were 32 children in pre-proceedings.

	2019-21	2020-22	2022-23
Hackney number of care applications	78	51	87
Hackney care applications per 10,000 child population	11.8	7.6	15.6
England care applications per 10,000 child population	10.5	9.6	N/a

On 31 March 2023, there were a total of 139 children in care proceedings. We issued care proceedings for 129 children (a total of 87 care applications) from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The overall increase in number is as a result of covid delays and the increasing length of Care Proceedings, meaning children are subject to care proceedings for longer. We have had an increase in the number of Supervision Orders, Special Guardianship Orders and Child Arrangement Orders. As at the end of October 2023, there were 139 children (94 Care Applications) subject to care proceedings.

The time taken to complete care and supervision proceedings was an average of 58 weeks in Hackney in 2022/23, compared to the London average of 52 weeks in the same period, and the national average of 47 weeks for 2021/22. This is an increase for Hackney from 47 weeks in 2021/22, reflecting the national picture since April 2020 due to the pressures on the court system as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown. The national average target for the length of court proceedings is 26 weeks. As at the end of October 2023, the average for Hackney has reduced to 55 weeks.

In December 2022, Her Honour Judge Roberts and Family Justice Board agreed to implement the President's campaign to get back to implementing the pre-proceedings process and to complete public law cases within 26 weeks, the plan is called "Making Cases Smaller." Key aspects of that plan are: no more than three Hearings for any care proceedings case (currently on average there are 6) and an expectation that experts are commissioned only where absolutely necessary.



Clinical Support

The Clinical Service aims to integrate a mental health and wellbeing offer across the Children and Families Service as we know that children and young people who access children's social care are at greater risk of mental health difficulties by virtue of their experiences prior to coming into care. By moving to a 'stepped care' clinical model the service is able to work with a broad range of children and families from early intervention, as well as for our most vulnerable children and young people in care or on the edge of family breakdown, in a responsive, targeted offer. The Clinical Service offers both a direct and indirect offer:

- Indirect Clinical Offer: This is available for all families and individuals open to the Children and Families Service. The main part of this offer is consultation offering advice and guidance to support the lead practitioners own practice, through consideration of the type of support that may best meet a child's needs, what sort of assessment might be required and whether the inhouse Clinical Service or another specialist service is most suitable to offer support.

- Direct Clinical Offer: This is only available to children and families in the Children and Families Service with an allocated social worker, or open to the Youth Offending Team. This includes those children supported on a Child in Need plan, a Child Protection Plan or Children in Care. This includes Talking Together appointments and a range of short and medium clinical interventions.

As at 31 March 2023, the Clinical Service had received 263 referrals (within the quarter), this included 135 consultations, 40 Talk Together Appointments, 3 requests for Court work, 59 requests for direct allocation, 11 referrals for residential review, 10 referrals into the Edge of Care Team and 5 referrals into SURGE. Overall in the period 2022/23 there were 291 children allocated for direct work, a 32 % increase from the period 2021/22 (220 children). The interventions being delivered for these children included (but are not limited to) assessments within PLO/ Care Proceedings and specialist assessments, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), child psychotherapy, family therapy, art therapy, individual therapy with the child and/or a parent (or a combination of both), couples therapy, eye movement desensitisation and reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, and other systemic interventions.

... By moving to a 'stepped care' clinical model the service is able to work with a broad range of children and families from early intervention, as well as for our most vulnerable children and young people in care or on the edge of family breakdown, in a responsive, targeted offer. ...





Participation and direct work with children and families

Hackney Youth Parliament

Hackney Youth Parliament represents the views of young people in the borough. They aim to advocate on behalf of all their peers and contribute to positive change for all young people. They run campaigns about important issues, and hold regular events and consultations.

There are twenty-four elected members of the Youth Parliament including six elected leaders and three deputies for 2023 – 2025.

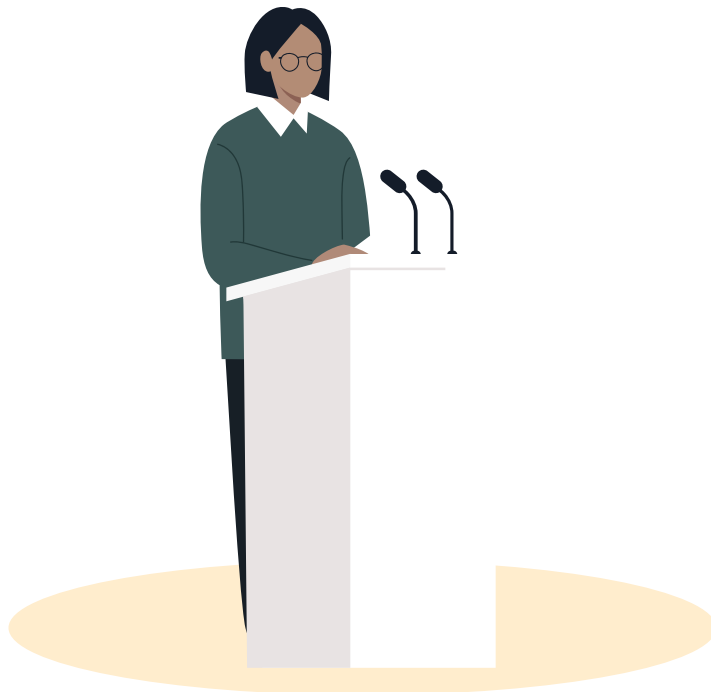
Children's Rights Service

Hackney's Children's Rights Service provides a range of support to children and young people who are, or have been, supported by Hackney Children's Social Care, with priority given to children who are looked after, leaving care or supported on Child Protection Plans. The team provides an independent service that helps young peoples' voices be heard through advocacy; represents children's wishes and feelings; and provides information to children and young people about their rights and entitlements.

The team also offers an Independent Return Home Interview service to young people who have been reported missing by their parents or carers. This provides a safe space to allow young people to talk in confidence about their experiences and to create safety plans.

In 2022/23, 513 children were offered support by the service. 386 of these young people were referred during the calendar year, the remaining 127 children were open to the service prior to 01/04/2022. 56 % of children offered support from a Children's Rights Officer accepted the service. Of the 45 % of children (169) who declined the service, the vast majority of these were children 53 % (90) were automatically offered advocacy following an Initial Child Protection Conference.

During 2022/23, 1,302 missing episodes were recorded, in relation to 265 children. Due to the ongoing impact of the cyber attack, full data in relation to Return Home Interviews is not available. However, of the data available (865 missing episodes), Return Home Interviews were offered in relation to 81 % of episodes, and accepted in 32 % of cases. There is a practice expectation that Return Home Interviews should take place within 72 hours of a child returning, this was met for 66 % of Return Home Interviews.





Identifying and responding to all types of abuse, recognising the vulnerability of specific groups of children

Safeguarding children during adolescence

In March 2023, in response to a locally commissioned report on serious youth violence, 'Living in Fear', we introduced the process of convening Initial Child Protection Conferences where the risk of significant harm is identified as being solely outside of the family home. Previously these children would be supported primarily through a Child in Need Plan and Initial Child Protection Conferences were held where the risk was identified inside of the family home, or both inside and outside of the family home. These Child Protection Plans are monitored by the Head of Service and we will be reviewing and monitoring the impact of these plans on children's outcomes.

Neglect

Following the feedback from Ofsted during our ILACS inspection in 2019 that a small number of children on Child Protection Plans were experiencing neglectful circumstances for too long, we have undertaken much work to strengthen our management oversight and decision-making for these children.

In 2021 the City and Hackney Safeguarding Partnership (CHSCP) initiated discussions with the NSPCC to introduce the Graded Care Profile II (GCP2) across the Hackney partnership. A multi-agency steering group was

established in September 2021 to progress the implementation of the GCP2 and support the existing arrangements in place to respond to neglect. After significant effort in developing an implementation plan and identifying over 20 practitioners as trainers in line with the licence expectations of the NSPCC, the actual tool itself was released to local partners for consideration. This was some months after the CHSCP's initial agreement to implement the tool. On analysis, a number of safeguarding professionals raised significant concerns regarding the GCP2 materials and assessment scorecard, these concerns included that the toolkit used a Eurocentric approach that was not relatable to the majority of families supported in Hackney; the scoring was seen as inconsistent in line with local safeguarding frameworks and appeared to lean heavily towards statutory intervention/ Child Protection Plans. Overall, professionals reviewing the tool were concerned about the impact and potential unintended consequences of implementation, especially considering the licence does not allow for any alteration of the material to adapt it to current practice or location. Given the assessment by partners, it was agreed that the CHSCP would disengage with the GCP2. Given the licences were purchased, the City of London Corporation decided to test the GCP2 within its context (noting that this is significantly different to Hackney's). This is ongoing and the City of London will report back to the CHSCP in due course.

Evidence of Impact

Learning Conversation on Neglect - August 2023

31 learning conversations were completed for children experiencing neglect and the percentage of audits scoring good overall was 41%.

Findings:

- Good practice included strong understanding of children's lived experiences, good management oversight under legal frameworks including PLO and care proceedings, and good multi-agency work to support children's plans.
- Areas of improvement include management oversight when children are not supported by legal frameworks, including timely decision making around the threshold for escalation of support. Some children needed a higher level of support earlier than they received it.
- No single tool/intervention will 'solve' the myriad complex issues facing families. Rather, this takes a multi-pronged approach with a combination of activities to enhance our practice around neglect.

Recommendations include:

- Initiate the use of multi agency chronologies, to inform threshold decisions for families who have multiple contacts with CFS/partner agencies over neglect concerns.
- Neglect practice guidance to be refreshed.
- Legal training for social workers to be delivered around gathering and presenting evidence in respect of neglect in legal proceedings, to ensure that children's circumstances are fully understood in decision making around their plan.
- Research in Practice training 'neglect and working with children in poverty' will be provided to a cohort of at least 25 social workers, with the view to extending this to further practitioners if this is impactful.
- Joint visits will take place for children experiencing neglect, at 3 month intervals, with an experienced social worker.



Disabled Children's Service (DCS)

All new referrals for an assessment from the service are made through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and all children of school age should have an Education, Health and Care Plan in place.

As at the 31 of March 2023, the service was working with 416 children and young people. Of these 143 were female and 273 were male. This is a 5 % increase compared to 2021/22, when the service was working with 395 children and young people.

As of the 31 of October 2023, the service was working with 406 children and young people. Of these 123 were female and 283 were male. This is on par compared to 2022/23, when the service was working with 410 children and young people.

There was a reduction in the DCS support due to 32 young people who turned 18 and moved to the adult service and 15 children and young people have moved out of Hackney or decided that they no longer wish to receive support from the DCS. However, between the period 1 April and 31 October 2023, support has been allocated to 54 new children and young people.

Age breakdown of children open to Disabled Children's Service

Age	Number of Children
5 or under	27
6 - 8	86
9 - 11	88
12 - 14	116
15+	89
Total	406

Short breaks are defined as any service or activity outside of school hours which gives the family of a disabled child or young person a break from their caring responsibilities, and gives the disabled child or young person an enjoyable experience. As at the end of September 2023, there were 1,917 children accessing short breaks provision, 350 of whom also accessed a care package. This is a reduction of 5 % of children accessing short breaks since March 2023. This reduction is due to the fact that 149 young people have turned 18 since 1 April 2023 and are no longer eligible to access the Short Breaks service. However, there are approximately 125 applications to be processed, pending provision of proof that the child has a diagnosed disability (a DLA letter).

	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	Sept 2023
Number of young people accessing short breaks	1,388	1,542	2,042	1917

Since April 2021, children receiving care packages who are also on Child in Need Plans in relation to safeguarding concerns have transferred to the Disabled Children's Service. This provides greater consistency and ensures that processes are clearer for families. As at the end of March 2023, there were 14 children on Child in Need Plans, 4 children on Child Protection Plans and 4 looked after children receiving support from the Disabled Children's Service.

The care packages for all children have been reviewed in the last year or are currently in the process of being reviewed - this is a significant improvement from 2019 when CFS took over the service.

Currently the Disabled Children's Service support is delivered by 32 commissioned providers and 2 spot-purchased providers with plans to develop the overnight provision available to the DCS service by commissioning specific overnight services.

Evidence of Impact

Disabled Children's Service audits over 2022-23

Over 2022-23, there were 11 audits of the Disabled Children's Service looking at children's assessments and plans, with 64% rated as good or outstanding.

Audit findings included:

- Children's voices were promoted.
- Plans were progressing and of good quality.
- Children's fathers and extended families could be involved further as part of the assessment.
- There was more work to do to explore children's identities.

Management oversight has been strengthened in the service, with a Practice Development Manager joining the service at the end of April 2023.

Corporate Parenting audit on working with care experienced children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) - June 2023

For our looked after children in Hackney: more than a third have an Education and Health Care Plan; 7% have a formally recognised disability; 44% of those with a disability have an ASD diagnosis. In June 2023, the Corporate Parenting Service undertook an audit on 5 looked after children and 3 care leavers with ASD. 75% of audits were graded as good or outstanding:

- The work with all 5 looked after children and 1 care leaver was graded as good, 1 other care leaver as requires improvement,

and the other care leaver as inadequate. The audit rated inadequate was followed up by managers using our Inadequate audit follow-up process .

- Regular visits are taking place to looked after children, sometimes more frequently than practice standards. Observations and non verbal methods of communication were evidenced to support communication with and understanding of four children.
- Generally, records offer a good sense of who the children and young people are and their views on the world.
- Four looked after children were observed to present as settled and happy, in what is planned to be their long-term homes, with carers who know them well and are able to respond to their needs. One care leaver was also accessing a specialist educational provision, which he had attended for many years.
- Whilst delays in accessing services e.g. education or therapeutic support, were noted for some children, due to waiting lists or an apparent lack of proactivity about others in the professional network, auditors also commented positively on practitioners persistence in advocating for these.
- Care experienced children and young people with ASD, as well as their carers, may benefit from more opportunities to explore their understanding of their diagnosis and what it might mean for them, now and in the future.

- Practitioners may benefit from greater exploration about what ASD looks like, specific to the child and young person they are working with.

To further strengthen practice, the following actions are underway:

- Corporate Parenting will work closely with the newly appointed Designated Social Care Officer role to ensure specific needs of those with care experience are considered.
- To ensure greater knowledge and expertise of ASD within CFS, the Corporate Parenting Head of Service will work with their counterpart in the Disabled Children's Service, the Workforce Development Team and other senior leaders to scope training and identify support required for the CFS workforce.



Private Fostering

A child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) who is cared for, or proposed to be cared for, and provided with accommodation by someone other than a parent, person with parental responsibility or close relative for 28 days or more is described as being privately fostered. Local authorities do not approve private foster carers, but are required to assess a private fostering arrangement to ensure that the welfare of privately fostered children is being safeguarded and promoted. At the end of October 2023, 9 private fostering arrangements were open to Hackney.



Evidence of Impact

Private Fostering Audits

In September 2023, 6 of the privately fostered children's files open to Hackney CFS were audited.

Findings:

- All audits were rated as good, with 1 rated as outstanding.
- All but one audit had up to date DBS checks for all adults - management oversight was clear for this child and this is being prioritised.
- All arrangements had been reviewed annually and presented to the Care Planning Panel.
- In all cases, parents had not been involved in the most recent assessment of the arrangement.
- 2 Special Guardianship Orders were recently granted for privately fostered children, resulting in a stable home for these children with excellent feedback from the courts.

Recommendations:

- Any identified immediate actions have been shared with case holders and progress against these are being monitored.
- A Private Fostering improvement action tracker has been created.
- A briefing has been presented to all staff as a reminder of the criteria for Private Fostering and relevant staff will be suitably trained so they are familiar with private fostering notification timescales and are able to recognise private fostering arrangements at the earliest opportunity. To date, we have completed briefings to Social Workers and students across FISS and MAT.
- Twice a week a social worker from the NRPF/Private Fostering Team sits with the MASH to assist with screening queries when new referrals are received and to ensure the Private Fostering Protocol is followed.
- A private fostering screening tool has been updated and shared with MASH to ensure more effective screening at the front door.

Children missing education

As of September 2023, there were 356 children electively home educated (EHE) by their parents. Whilst numbers started to fall back towards the second half of 2022, we have seen a recent increase in the number of families wishing to educate their children at home.

New referrals receive a suitability assessment within 12 weeks of referral and an annual assessment. 84 % of our current cohort were seen within 12 weeks.

Locally, the majority of children missing education (CME) are from the Charedi community. These children attend unregistered education settings (UES) on a full time basis, where we are unable to assess the suitability of their education.

As of September 2023, there are 1,173 registered children missing education, with 1,051 from the Charedi community. Processes are in place

for tracking CME in and out of the borough and steps are taken to visit the known Charedi families to check on children's wellbeing, though impact here is more limited.

For many years, we have been lobbying for the Government to legislate to regulate the settings our Charedi children attend. Some enhancements were included in the proposed Schools Bill which was withdrawn in December 2022.

Locally, our unregistered education settings protocol coordinates a multi-agency response to new settings or incidents involving a known setting. Strengthening our relationship with the Orthodox Jewish communities in respect of unregistered educational settings and the children who attend them remains a focus for our work.





The Experiences and Progress of Children in Care

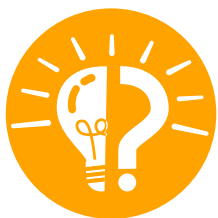
In February 2023, we launched our Corporate Parenting and Sufficiency Strategy for 2023-25, setting out our improvement priorities for the next 3 years. We continue to focus on the experiences of our Black and Global Majority care experienced children and young people, who are disproportionately represented, endeavouring to embed our commitment to delivering anti-racist parenting. We have had some success at moving children closer to home and this continues to be a priority area, alongside a

‘foster first’ approach. We know there is more work to do to secure stability for some of our children, particularly those with the most complex needs. We have strengthened our work for our adolescents on the edge of care, through a new multi-agency Edge of Care Service, reducing the number of 16 and 17 year olds coming into care. We have work to do to improve the timeliness of health checks, with success in improving our dental checks for our children in care that we hope to build on in the coming year.

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... Our practice for looked after children and care leavers continues to strengthen ...





Making good decisions for children

Information about our looked after children

As of 30 September 2023, there were 390 looked after children, down from a peak of 470 in November 2020. We believe numbers of looked after children increased as a result of family stressors related to Covid-19 lockdowns, with them coming down again and stabilising with a renewed focus across the service on ensuring right children come into care at the right time.

Number of children in care

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	End of Sept 2023
Number of children in care at snapshot date (31 March)	431	405	392	390
Children entering care	185	163	185	73 (April-Sept)
Children leaving care	186	187	204	77 (April-Sept)

Rate of children in care

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	End of Sept 2023
Rate of children in care per 10,000	68	73	70	70
Statistical neighbours	63	70	65	n/a
England	67	70	71	n/a

The rate of looked after children per 10,000 in Hackney last year is equal to both our statistical neighbours and England for the previous year. Of the 390 children looked after at the end of September 2023, 23 (6 %) were unaccompanied minors, with the number of unaccompanied minors remaining below pre-pandemic levels.

Age breakdown of looked after children at 31 March

Age	2021		2022		2023	
	Eng	Hackney	Eng	Hackney	Eng	Hackney
Under 1	5 %	18 (4 %)	5 %	15 (4 %)	5 %	15 (4 %)
1 - 4	14 %	47 (11 %)	14 %	49 (12 %)	13 %	45 (12 %)
5 - 9	18 %	57 (13 %)	18 %	49 (12 %)	18 %	58 (15 %)
10 - 15	39 %	157 (37 %)	39 %	155 (38 %)	38 %	158 (40 %)
16+	24 %	147 (34 %)	25 %	137 (34 %)	26 %	116 (30 %)

30 % of our looked after children are aged 16 and 17 and we continue to have a high proportion of adolescents coming into care compared to recent national averages. Analysis indicates that these children have a family history of trauma, educational exclusion, extra-familial risk and have significant risk factors for adolescents on the edge of care (with Black Caribbean and African backgrounds strongly over-represented). This analysis is informing the development of our STAR approach and Edge of Care strategy to try and support children to safely return home to parents or family from care, whether they are in care short or long-term.

Age of children entering care

Age	2021		2022		2023	
	Eng	Hackney	Eng	Hackney	Eng	Hackney
Under 1	20 %	22 (12 %)	17 %	23 (14 %)	17 %	28 (15 %)
1 - 4	18 %	19 (10 %)	15 %	15 (9 %)	15 %	26 (14 %)
5 - 9	17 %	21 (11 %)	15 %	19 (12 %)	14 %	27 (15 %)
10 - 15	26 %	50 (27 %)	27 %	40 (25 %)	27 %	54 (29 %)
16+	20 %	73 (39 %)	25 %	66 (40 %)	27 %	50 (27 %)
Total		185	N/A	163	N/A	185

There are some indications that a renewed commitment to a foster-first approach is achieving good outcomes for our looked after children and care leavers with 74 % of looked after children in foster care arrangements as at the end of March 2023, which is in line with 75 % at the end of March 2022. 28 children (7 %) were living in residential homes as at the end of March 2023, a significant decrease from 34 (17 %) at the end of March 2022 and down from a high point of 40 children at the end of March 2020.

The percentage of children entering care by virtue of remand has halved from 9 % in 2021/22 to 4.9 % in 2022/23. New practice guidance on reducing criminalisation of looked after children has been developed.

We have had a renewed focus on a foster-first approach to adolescents entering our care in the past year and have been successful in reducing our number of 16 and 17 year olds entering care.

A new accommodation pathway for supported accommodation began in April 2022. This commissioning contract was developed with input from our care leavers and with a key focus on the importance of providing local high quality homes for our young people. An emphasis on psychologically-informed environments is built into the contract.

Around half of looked after children are subject to Care Orders (208 children or 53 %); this has slightly decreased from 54 % for the previous reporting period (2021/22). 74 % of our looked after children are in foster placements, a slight decrease from 75 % during the previous year.

The destinations for children leaving care in 2022/23 were as follows:

Returned home	60	Custody	2
Special Guardianship Order	22	Other (usually children turning 18)	108
Adoption	12		

Evidence of Impact

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Life story audit - November 2022

10 audits were undertaken looking at life story work on looked after children and care leaver's files.

- 67% of these audits rated good or better for overall practice.
- 100% of audits on looked after children's files were rated as good or better.
- 50% of audits on care leaver's files were rated good or better.
- 0% of audits on foster carer's files were rated good or better (100% were rated as requires improvement).
- Strengths included quality of reports written to children and families, strong focus on promoting familial relationships, strong direct work, and consideration of children's history by foster carers.
- Areas for improvement included lack of chronologies and other key documents on files including later life letters and life story

work, a lack of reflection of children's histories on their files, and a need for practitioners to be more consistent and persistent in their efforts to maintain contact between children and families. None of the fostering audits highlighted specific discussions / exploration about foster carers contribution to life story work.

A number of recommendations were made following this audit, supported by an action plan which is tracked by the Improving Outcomes for Children Board and the monthly Service Manager Audit Meeting:

- Copies of all life story work undertaken by carers / care providers to be taken as part of Looked After Child Review processes, to be saved on children's files.
- The Fostering Independent Chair will also request to see life story work as part of foster carers Fostering Annual Reviews.
- We will continue to roll out and embed use of the 'Preparation for LAC Review' tool for foster carers, which captures feedback on life story work undertaken by carers.

Looked after children and care leavers in custody - August 2023

In August 2023 a total of 10 audits were undertaken within the Looked After Children and Leaving Care Service by the Practice Development Managers, Service Manager and Head of Service. Four of these young people were open to the Looked After Children Service, although one had recently turned 18. The rest were open to the Leaving Care Service and range in age from 18 to 21.

Findings:

- The practice within 70% of the audits were graded good or outstanding overall.
- For 80% of children and young people, the frequency of visits was in line or partially with practice standards.
- The practice standards for supervision was an area for improvement, with 40% rated as good and 60% rated as required improvement.
- Overall, visits were rated as high quality, with meaningful, appropriate conversations about a wide range of issues and planning for release taking place.
- In 60% of audits, strong communication between the young people's professional and family network was observed.
- In 70% of audits, there was evidence of strong pathway planning.

Edge of Care

Following the decision made in 2022 to bring to a close the Family Learning Intervention Project (FLIP) and reinvest resources into Hackney-based services, with the sale of the FLIP house in Oxfordshire, a new permanent Edge of Care Service is in place. This service works with families who have a child or children on a statutory social care plan or with those who are in the process of receiving a Children and Families assessment. The service provides intensive, relational support to families where there is a risk of one or more child(ren) entering into care and where the home environment and care given is assessed by the social worker as safe for the child or children to remain. Drawing on a systemic and trauma informed approach, the service tailors interventions according to the families needs while promoting anti-racist practice. Families who are open to the Edge of Care service often have multiple risk factors that include intra/extra familial risk. Most of the children referred to the service are from Black or Global Majority backgrounds, have additional needs, have family histories of trauma and are struggling in education. The multi-agency team is drawn from clinical and social care backgrounds and includes an educational psychologist, seconded from Hackney Education, in order to try and intervene across multiple contexts in order to improve outcomes for the children with whom it works.

In the past year, the service has worked with 32 children and successfully supported 81 % to remain at home. For those who have come into care, the service has supported the network to make timely decisions about their long-term care planning, stabilise them in care and to rebuild and repair family relationships.

Children in care - visits

As at 30 September 2023, 72 % of looked after children were visited within 30 working days (6 weeks). Looked after children who are in settled care arrangements will usually have agreements that have been made with their Independent Chairs that they need to be seen at a minimum of 12 weekly.



Fostering and Permanency Service

As of 31 March 2023, Hackney Fostering Service had supported 165 fostering and supported lodging households: 54 % of carers live in Hackney, with an additional 11 % of carers living in neighbouring boroughs. This is positive in terms of supporting Hackney's looked after children to remain close to home, wherever possible and safe, which minimises disruption, for example, in their education provision and key personal and professional relationships. As at the end of September 2023, there were 166 fostering and supported lodgings households.

There are three established Hackney Village constellations (formally Mockingbird constellations). Work is underway to create similar constellation networks so all foster carers are able to benefit from this model of support.

Fostering recruitment and retention continues to perform well, with an ongoing increase in fostering households year on year. There has been an increase over the past few months of children coming into care and being placed in temporarily approved connected carers. Whilst this is a positive outcome for most, the number of unregulated connected carers remains too high: delays in court proceedings, often due to difficulties in court time-tabling, has been a barrier to the positive progress of plans for Special Guardians for many children.

The Fostering Service has maintained a strong recruitment record over recent years, despite a very challenging national context, acknowledged by the Department for Education, who plan a national fostering campaign as part of their reform of children's social care. We remain ambitious for the year ahead, with a target of recruiting 15 new fostering households. Our enquiries have dropped this year, and our data around this suggests that our web presence needs to be strengthened - we are exploring creative solutions such as chat bots with ICT colleagues to increase enquiries.

Form F	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Enquiries	272	222	138
Approvals	15	14	12

Hackney has engaged a diverse audience interested in becoming foster carers, through a mixed media approach and a flexible way of working. In order to maintain a competitive fostering offer with other local authorities, we have secured Council tax exemption for Hackney carers from April 2023 and continue to make progress with other benefits, such as discounts on local leisure activities.

The service is aware of the challenging role of a foster carer, and has a range of support systems in place in addition to the individual statutory support and supervision received from allocated fostering social workers. Foster carers are able to attend a therapeutic peer support group; male carers have access to a male carers support group; buddy support is offered to new carers from our most experienced foster carers; and matching and stability support is offered via our Matching Consultant. Carers are offered a wide range of training, including anti-racist parenting training delivered by our fostering staff and a Nurturing Attachments group programme delivered by our clinical service. We are in the process of scoping trauma-informed care training for carers, in line with our emerging practice model.

We are committed to learning from our foster carers about what we are doing well and what we could do better. For every foster carer that is deregistered, the Fostering Service Manager will offer a formal exit interview, as an opportunity to gather feedback in order to support the ongoing development of our service. In the year 2022/23, there were 14 resignations, compared to 17 in the year 2021/22.

Evidence of Impact

Our fostering audit activity over the last 6 months shows clear improvement in recording and practice. There were 9 audits of foster carer's files in this period and 50% of these were rated as good, with practice from March - May 2023 rated as 80% good. Auditors found evidence of good practice supporting the child's plan and progressing outcomes for the child, good management oversight, and strong work to support children's identities and understand their cultures.

Hackney's Supported Lodging Scheme launched in 2018 as an additional option for young people preparing to leave care, to offer young people aged 16+ the opportunity to live in the home of an approved person who will help them prepare for independent living. This provides the young person with a safe and supportive environment to develop the practical skills and emotional maturity needed to move on and cope with living independently. As of March 2023, Hackney had 1 young person living in supported lodgings arrangements. As at the end of September 2023, there are no young people in supported lodgings arrangements. We are working hard to strengthen our planning and support for Special Guardians, in acknowledgement of the critical role they play in children's lives. Senior leaders met with them at a celebration event in March 2023 and a focus group in May 2023 to hear their feedback on their experiences, in order to inform our improvement plans in this area.



Participation and direct work with children in care

Hackney of Tomorrow (HoT) - Children in Care Council

Over the past year, Hackney of Tomorrow (HoT) has delivered a series of successful participation projects, which have enabled children in care to shape and influence multiple aspects of Hackney's Corporate Parenting service, including:

- **Skills for Fostering Training Programme:** HoT has continued to deliver training for prospective foster carers as part of Hackney's Skills for Fostering programme. This hour-long training delivered by HoT members takes place quarterly and aims to provide an introduction to key issues significant to the lives of looked after children. The HoT members are given the opportunity to plan and develop their own training sessions, including exercises, activities and speaking from their own experiences of being in foster care.
- **Young Person Recruitment Panels:** HoT members have continued to participate in Young Person Panels within the recruitment process within Hackney's Corporate Parenting Service, enabling them to formulate their own interview questions, chair interview panels and provide scores and feedback that contribute to the overall recruitment scores for individual candidates. Engaging HoT members in this important decision-making progress ensures that their views and judgements are shaping our service. Throughout 2022/23, HoT members have contributed to the appointment of several different roles, including Social Workers, Youth Workers, Clinical Practitioners, Children's Rights Officers and Participation Officers.
- **Representation at Hackney's Corporate Parenting Board:** HoT members have continued one of their primary functions of the Care Council in representing the views of children in care and care leavers

at Hackney's Corporate Parenting Board, where they have continued to be allocated a 30-minute agenda item every quarter to showcase their work. This regular contact time with Service Leads and elected Councillor allows HoT members to highlight issues central to their lives, as well as views of other children and young people gathered through research projects delivered by HoT.

- **An Open Letter to Hackney Council:** In October 2022, Hackney of Tomorrow (HoT) members wrote an open letter to Hackney's Corporate Parenting Service outlining their view of what it is to be a Corporate Parent and how Hackney Council can best live up to this role. The letter was sent to Service Managers within Hackney's Corporate Parenting Service, as well as Local Councillors and was discussed at Hackney's Corporate Parenting Board and incorporated into the Council's 2023/25 Corporate Parenting Strategy. This autumn, we recruited to two new Care Leavers Ambassador posts, to support the work of HoT and to become full-time members of the Corporate Parenting Board, to represent the voice of care leavers.
- **Epic Awards:** In February 2023, HoT members supported the planning and delivery of the Epic Awards at Hackney Town Hall, which included presenting multiple awards to exceptional Looked After Children and Care Leavers.



Helping and protecting looked after children

Independent Chairs and Looked After Child Reviews

505 looked after children received a review between in 2022/23, and 978 Looked After Reviews took place during that period. This is a decrease compared to last year when 518 children received a review and 1,068 Reviews took place, reflecting the decrease in the number of looked after children in that period. In 2022/23, 91 % of Reviews took place within timescale, compared to 90 % last year. Where reviews are not held in timescale the Service Manager will make a note of the reasons for this on the child's Mosaic record. Requests to change the planned date of a Review, if within 6 weeks of the meeting, need to be agreed by the respective Head of Service. Depending on the needs of the child the Chair may meet or speak with the child in the interim.

During 2022/23, 91 % of looked after children participated in their Looked After Reviews in some way whether directly, through an advocate, or another method. 15 % of children were under 4 years old at the time of their Review and so there is no expectation of a formal contribution from them, and 9 % of children did not attend or convey their views to the Review, this is a slight increase of 1 % from previous years. However, the data continues to show that participation in Reviews is good.

Following Covid-19 lockdown restrictions all meetings have moved back to in-person meetings unless there is a specific request from a child to hold it virtually, or from a carer due to illness etc. Sometimes due to issues of safety or to avoid overwhelming the child, Reviews may be held in multiple parts, parts of these may be virtual. Where Reviews are held in multiple parts, the meeting with the child will be in person.

The role of the Independent Chair is to quality assure and provide effective challenge as a critical friend and therefore they will also, where required, challenge any delay and escalate any concerns in respect of planning or practice. They maintain regular contact with social work units to provide opportunities for consultation and support to achieve the best outcomes for children. The team seeks to recognise and commend good practice and to ensure that learning opportunities based upon best practice are shared.

Data reporting from individual Review meetings is being developed but information available to date shows that:

- 78 % of Reviews - No escalation required
- 16 % of Reviews - Escalation required
- 6 % of Reviews - Data not available

In 2022/23 there were 62 escalations made by Independent Chairs, it is not possible to break this data down into those escalations made in relation to looked after children, and those made in relation to children supported by Children Protection Plans.

The vast majority of escalations continue to be resolved before involving Service Managers or Head of Services. There have been no cases which have required escalation to the Director or CAFCASS.

At present the data is not able to identify the thematic issues which are being raised through these escalations due to outstanding reporting developments following the cyberattack. However, year on year the general themes tend to be delays in implementing actions from the Care Plan.

Last year also saw some challenges in relation to staff stability and the impact upon progressing plans for children in the context of staff turnover.

Whilst managers were well aware of the challenges within their service area, Independent Chairs continued to highlight the need for reports to be

available within statutory timescales prior to meetings, and for there to be staff attendance with knowledge of the child, family and their circumstances.

Evidence of Impact

Preparation for Looked After Child Reviews 2022/23- updates and questions from children and carer feedback

These are some of the questions children had for their Reviews, and achievements that they wanted to share:

I want to know why did my mum not go to court and try and get me back?

Since my last review I have been spending quality time with my mum and brother, becoming familiar with my foster carer and her family, enaging in lots of activties that are heping me to develop!

Since my last review I have saved up for a new phone, got over my sore knee, am half way through saving to buy a PS5, and I got a bike for my birthday!

Who is going to be my forever carer, and what are the options if my mum can't be my forever carer? Will my forever carer be able to meet all my needs, and look after me in the light of the additional needs that were highlighted in my psychological assessment?

All reports for the meeting and minutes from the meeting continue written to the child in an age appropriate way. These contribute to their life story work and provide a record of achievement for each child.

Evidence of Impact

Carers also have a feedback form that they are asked to complete prior to Reviews so that they can share children's achievements and future goals. Below is some of the feedback shared:

You are doing so great in school, really proud of you as I know school is not always easy for you. Your behaviour at home is second to none, absolutely amazing and such a pleasure to be your carer!

My best memories are the first time you rode a bike without stabilisers, how surprised you were that you could do it, watching you swim on your own and when you shared your schoolbooks with me and your teachers at parents' evening. You were so happy and proud. I remember the first time you wrote your name out without any help, and how proud you were.

You have been doing some amazing learning like reading, phonics, maths, swimming. You have been keeping active and you enjoyed being outside and you are good at getting involved in group play situations. You have enjoyed getting to know other looked after children in Mockingbird - this extended family has been really beneficial to you. You have been happy when you're watching the football on your tablet, or reading a new book - when you achieve tricky words, you are so proud.



Health of looked after children

Physical health of looked after children

Further work is required to improve looked after children health indicators, particular immunisation levels, Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire compliance and dental checks. A new workstep was developed and is now live in Mosaic, to be used in collaboration with the Looked After Child Health team, to improve real time reporting and help drive up performance.

Percentage of looked after children whose health checks were in time during a 12 month period

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Hackney	91 %	95 %	92 %
England	91 %	89 %	89 %

The number of children with an up-to-date health assessment is above the England average for 2022/23.

Percentage of looked after children whose immunisations are up to date

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Hackney	59 %	56 %	84 %
England	86 %	85 %	82 %

Following work with the Council's Public Health Service to understand and address the issue, the percentage of looked after children with up-to-date immunisations last year was significantly improved compared to the previous two years. The performance for 2022/23 is now above the England average.

Percentage of looked after children who have an up to date dental check

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Hackney	64 %	71 %	90 %
England	40 %	70 %	76 %

The percentage of children with up-to-date dental checks has improved significantly compared to 2021/22, and is now well above the England average for 2022/23.



Mental health of looked after children

The mental health of looked after children is at greater risk compared to other children due to their experiences before and during care. Every year, our looked after children will complete a strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) as part of their health check, and we will provide ongoing support to our children with their health needs, including their mental health. There has been an increased proportion of children with a 'cause for concern' score as part of their SDQ, which reflects what is happening nationally post-pandemic. Our focus for our looked after children is always to find the right home that will meet their needs, no matter how complex these may be - this is increasingly challenging.

Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	England 2021-22	SN 2021-22
Children looked after for at least 12 months aged 4 to 16 with an SDQ score	73 %	84 %	94 %	77 %	83 %
Average score per child	11.8	14.6	14.9	14	13

An SDQ score over the evidence based threshold - where therapeutic support is not already in place - results in a clinical consultation with an in-house clinician to undertake joint thinking about the mental health needs of each child, followed by a Talk Together Appointment (TTA) - a session with the child, social worker and clinician.

... The mental health of looked after children is at greater risk than other children due to their experiences before and during care...





Learning

The Virtual School

The Virtual School team provides additional educational support for children looked after, from early years all the way through to post-16 education and training opportunities, which provides continuity for children and young people in care. The Virtual School is well-resourced and includes a variety of roles including social pedagogues, learning mentors, an occupational therapist and speech and language therapists.

Key Stage 4

The progress for pupils in Key Stage 4 is monitored throughout the year and where necessary individual targeted support is offered. Where it is felt appropriate, 1 to 1 tuition is offered. All Year 11 pupils receive support to identify appropriate pathways once statutory schooling has ended, and when necessary, are accompanied to college open days and interviews by a member of the Virtual School staff.

Key Stage 4 Attainment in 2022

The published data this year shows a poor set of matches and out of 54 students published data was only available for 16 children. These results show that for those students achieving a good pass in English and Maths Hackney achieved better results than national and the DfE region. The attainment 8 score was also higher but the Progress 8 score was not.

The raw data shows that 25 % of the students achieved a standard pass. Considering that this was a very complex group of pupils where 21 of them had become looked after during the year and 23 did not take any GCSEs this is a satisfactory result. This is down somewhat from the previous comparable year of 2019 where children scored 31 % in English and maths. Of significant

interest is that of those children who passed their GCSEs a significant majority were Global majority pupils.

Percentage of children achieving Grade 4 at Key Stage 4

	Grade 4 and above
English level 4+	25 %
Maths level 4+	25 %
English level 5+	20 %
Maths level 5+	9%



Key Stage 2

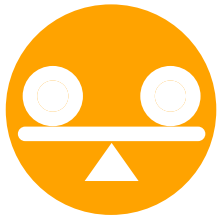
Pupils in year 6 are closely monitored and additional support is provided if it is necessary. All pupils are offered support for the transition to secondary school, and links are made with designated teachers before children transition to their new school.

There was a cohort of 13 children for whom published data for 2022 was available. This data shows the children did well in Reading, almost reaching the Hackney average but less well in Writing and Maths.

Percentage of children working at the required standard at Key Stage 2

	Working at the required standard
Reading	78 %
Writing	44 %
Maths	50 %





Stability and permanence

Care arrangement stability

The Ofsted Focused Visit in February 2019 raised questions about the strength of our planning for children and particularly raised a question about whether there are some children in Hackney that are living in situations where their needs are not being appropriately met for too long. A spotlight on the Public Law Outline (PLO) pre-proceedings process questioned whether this was being used enough to support timely decision making for children and for parallel planning. Since then, we have introduced systems to ensure senior management oversight at key points for children supported on Child in Need and Child Protection Plans, to help make sure the right decisions are being made for children, at the right time. More attention has been paid to parallel, and triple, planning for children in the PLO process and to ensure this legal framework is being used effectively, early enough, to support long-term planning for children, avoiding the use of care proceedings where appropriate. Over time, our numbers of children in PLO have risen, from 16 children at the end of March 2022, to 29 children at the end of March 2023.

Percentage of looked after children with three or more care arrangements in one year

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sept 2023
Hackney	10 %	14 %	15 %	12 %
Statistical neighbours	9 %	10 %	9 %	n/a
England	9 %	10 %	10 %	n/a

The percentage of children aged under 16 who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years, who have lived in the same home for over 2 years

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sept 2023
Hackney	77 %	71 %	64 %	69 %
Statistical neighbours	70 %	74 %	71 %	n/a
England	71 %	71 %	69 %	n/a

The number of children experiencing three or more care arrangements over the course of a year for 2022/23 was 14 % which is higher than the statistical neighbour and national averages in 2022/23 of 9 % and 10 % respectively. As at 30 September 2023, 12 % of looked after children had experienced three or more care arrangements in one year.

The proportion of children aged under 16 who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years, who have lived in the same home for over 2 years was 64 % in 2022/23 compared to 71 % in 2021/22. As at 30 September 2023, 69 % of looked after children aged under 16 who had been looked after for more than 2.5 years had lived in the same home for over 2 years.

2020/21 stability figures were particularly good, believed to be influenced by the context of lockdown in the pandemic. However, further analysis has taken place on the cohort of children with 3+ care arrangements and those who have left long term homes to think about what we need to do

to strengthen placements; we are working to strengthen our oversight of Independent Fostering Agencies support and training for their carers, we reviewed all connected care arrangements in July 2023 to consider opportunities to strengthen them.

We have also taken steps to improve the process of oversight for planning for children once they enter a legal framework and beyond the conclusion of any legal proceedings, again to help ensure that the right decisions are made for children, at the right time. For example through our Permanency Planning Meetings, which are overseen by senior managers, we ensure parallel planning is in place to consider alternative routes to permanency for long-term looked after children.

Care arrangement types as at 31 March 2023

Care arrangement type	Number of looked after children
Foster care arrangements	222 (57 %)
Connected carer arrangements	67 (17 %)
Placed for adoption	0 (0 %)
Care arrangements with parents	31 (8 %)
Secure Units/Youth Offending	6 (2 %)
Children's Homes	28 (7 %)
Semi-Independent Living Accommodation	46 (0 %)
Total	392

Care arrangements for looked after children by location at 31 March 2023

Care arrangements location	Number of children
Hackney	110 (30 %)
Under 20 miles from Hackney	209 (57 %)
Over 20 miles from Hackney	46 (13 %)

(Note - distance for unaccompanied asylum seeking children is not captured within this performance measure)

The percentage of children looked after in Hackney has increased each year for the last three years, with 23 % of children accommodated in Hackney in 2019/20, increasing to 30 % of children in 2022/23. We know that it is important that children are kept close to their support networks when they come into care, and that particularly for children who are from Black and Global Majority backgrounds, being placed at a distance may mean that they are living in communities that do not reflect their culture or identity, which can place them at risk of experiencing racism and feeling isolated.

Adoption

12 children were adopted in 2022/23, and although this is a significant increase on the 3 children adopted in 2021/22, this previously low number was due primarily to court delays related to the pandemic (a trend seen across the Adopt London North consortium). This number is in line with both 2018/19 (12 children adopted) and 2019/20 figures (11 children adopted). 2 children were adopted between April - September 2023.

22 Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) were granted in 2022/23, a significant increase on the 16 granted in 2021/22. Greater attention has been placed over the past year on the prospect of progressing alternative routes to permanency through adoption or SGOs for children in long-term care, with a small but significant number of positive outcomes to this approach. 10 SGOs were granted between April - September 2023.

Updated Sufficiency Strategy

Our Corporate Parenting Strategy and Children's Social Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-25, published in February 2023, commits to the following priority areas in relation to our placement sufficiency over the next three years:

1) Promotion of a fostering first approach

Going forward, we would like to see more of our looked after children and young living in family settings in and around Hackney, with carers who have been recruited, trained and retained by us.

We would like the diversity of our carers backgrounds and life experiences to be more reflective of the diversity of our care experienced population. We would like to hear that all our carers feel ready and able to meet the complexity of the presenting need, because they feel well supported by our staff, as well as each other.

In order to achieve this, we know that we need to prioritise the ongoing development of our fostering recruitment and retention offer. We have a comprehensive Fostering Recruitment and Retention Strategy for 2022–23 and will review this each year, in order to ensure that we are doing everything we can to recruit and retain foster carers, connected carers and supported lodgings hosts.

2) Improved quality assurance

Where our children and young people do need to live for a period outside of a family setting, we are aware of the need to deliver improved quality assurance systems to help ensure that the standards of care they receive are always in line with our best hopes for them. We understand that the further away from Hackney a child is living, the more stringent our quality assurance systems need to be. We want to see that all our care providers are sufficiently sensitive to children and young people's cultural needs, in line with our anti-racist corporate parenting position. We appreciate that the more joined up we are with our health and education partners in our commissioning arrangements, the more likely we are to achieve the best possible services and outcomes for our children and young people. We have updated our Quality Assurance Framework for Externally Commissioned Care arrangements in November 2022, which will support more robust and formal monitoring activities and ultimately we hope this will improve stability and greater oversight of the quality of our commissioned services.

3) Regional collaboration

We believe that regional collaboration is key in our response to the significant challenges facing the current market in care provision.

We are committed to continuing to develop and build upon our existing partnerships with our neighbouring boroughs through the NEL and look forward to and exploring new opportunities to work together over the next few years, in the best interests of all our children. As outlined above, the Pan-London Commissioning Placements Panel has identified seven key project areas that are being developed on a regional level and Hackney is committed to contributing to these solutions alongside our London neighbours.

4) Developing our supported accommodation pathway

We will continue to grow and develop the Young People's Supported Accommodation Pathway and seek to formalise commissioning arrangements with other local providers. We will continue to work with our providers and registered social housing landlords to anticipate future needs and increase the capacity of the Pathway accordingly. We know that an increasing number of our care-experienced young people are in employment and that we therefore need to source more affordable supported accommodation, wherever possible. We will also look to develop a framework for other spot-purchase providers that will formulate commissioning arrangements as well as raising quality through setting standards and establishing monitoring processes.



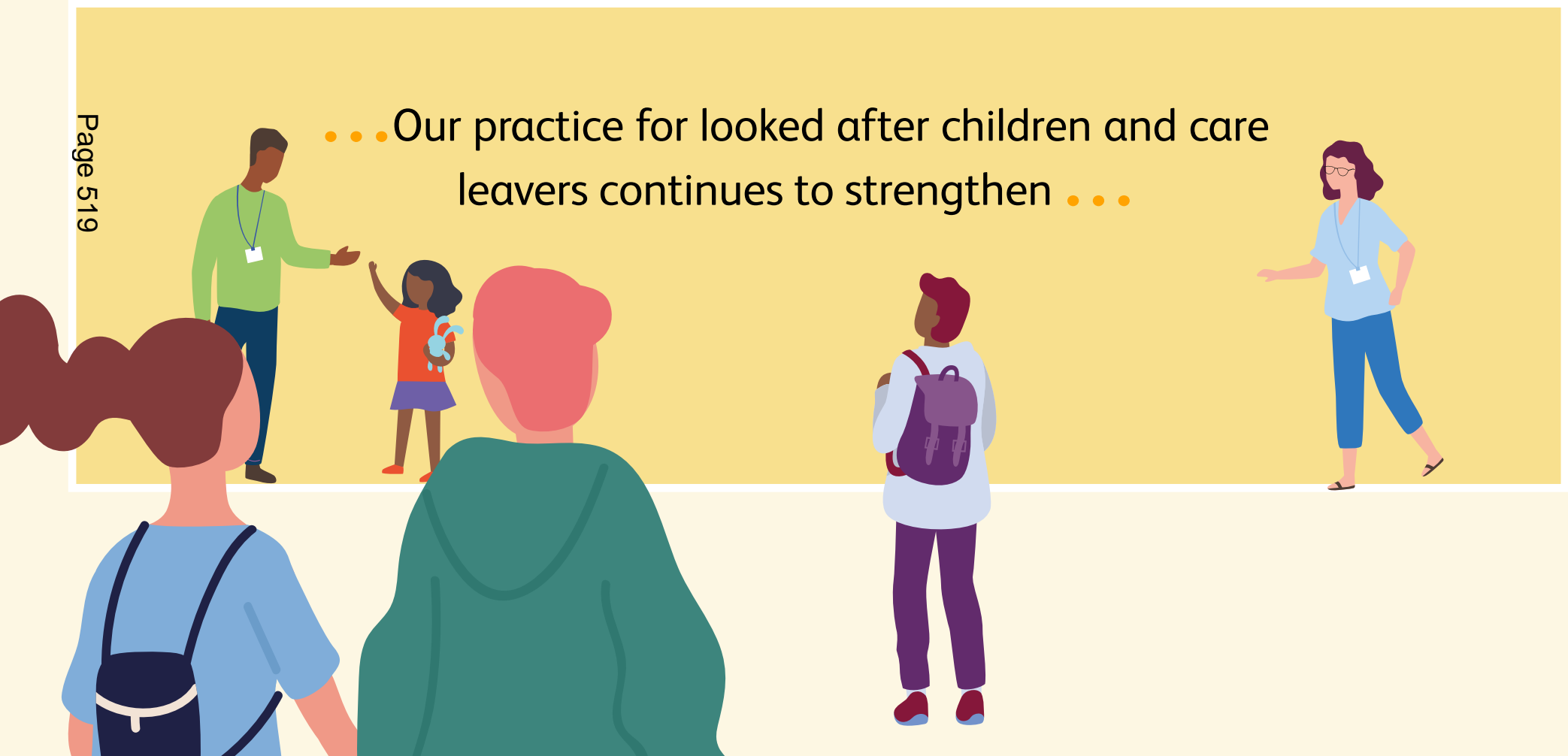
The Experiences and Progress of Care Leavers

Our practice for care leavers continues to strengthen, with an updated local offer now in place. We have work to do to ensure we provide good transitions for our care leavers, and improvement in post-18 pathway plan completion rates is a key area of focus. We are working closely with housing

colleagues to try and improve the housing offer to care leavers, both before and after they turn 21. There is good work taking place across the service but our focus is on ensuring consistently high standards of practice for all of our care leavers.

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... Our practice for looked after children and care leavers continues to strengthen ...



Care leavers and participation

Hackney of Tomorrow (HoT) - Children in Care Council

Over the past year, Hackney of Tomorrow (HoT) has delivered a series of successful participation projects, which have enabled care leavers to shape and influence multiple aspects of Hackney's Corporate Parenting service, including:

- **Panel Event with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People:** In August 2022, we supported four unaccompanied asylum seeking young people to deliver a panel event at the Hackney Museum titled, 'This is my life: young people's experience seeking safety in Hackney'. Hosted by the young people and chaired by professionals from Safe Passage, a charity that works for young people seeking asylum in the UK, the event enabled the young people to share their experiences of migrating to the UK. Members of the public in attendance were able to ask questions and learn from the young people's experiences. The aim of the event was to engage the general public in Hackney and present a more positive view of refugees and asylum seekers in the community.
- **Reviewing Hackney's Local Offer for Care Leavers:** Following a visit to Hackney from the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, in June 2022 HoT members were invited to help review and improve Hackney's Local Offer for Care Leavers. This process took shape through a series of consultations with Heads of Service, during which HoT members were able to put forward recommendations that were then considered by key decision makers within Hackney's Corporate Parenting Service. Following these initial consultations, HoT members were invited to present their recommendations to Local Councillors and the Deputy Mayor for their consideration at a Cabinet meeting. At the end of this process, several of the young people's recommendations were taken up and included in Hackney's reviewed Local Offer. Once the new commitments within the offer had been formalised, HoT members took part in co-production of a **new webpage to present the refreshed Local Offer.**

- **UASC Football Sessions:** From July to September 2022, we provided two hour football sessions for unaccompanied asylum seeking young people at the Eastway Youth Centre in Hackney Wick, providing good opportunities for young people to meet and make connections while also learning and developing new skills.
- **Care Leaver Cooking Workshops:** From July to September 2022, Hackney's Participation Officer worked alongside the Hackney School for Food to deliver a series of cooking workshops for care leavers, designed to equip them with basic cooking skills as well as important tips on how to cook nutritious food on a tight budget.
- **Housing Advisors for Care Leavers:** Following the visit from the National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, in June 2022 Service Managers were able to create two new Care Leaver Housing Advisor roles in the Housing Team. Through the creation of these two roles, Hackney's Corporate Parenting Service is able to provide a dedicated service for care leavers in need of housing advice and support. By working closely with colleagues in the Housing Team, HoT members were able to shape the job description and provide an induction to the successful candidates appointed to the roles.
- **National Local Government Take Over Week:** As part of the National Local Government Take Over Week in November 2022, HoT members were given the opportunity to chair Hackney's Corporate Parenting Board, enabling care leavers to fully participate in the meeting by reading the papers and reports presented to the Board and putting questions to Officers after hearing their presentations. It also required one HoT member to chair the entirety of the meeting.
- **Scrutiny Commission and Young Parents:** In March 2023, HoT members facilitated consultation sessions with young parents. These consultations fed into a report from the Scrutiny Commission, which was then presented to Local Councillors at a subsequent Cabinet meeting. The focus of these consultations was on the provision of support to young parents who are also care leavers, as well as the universal support open to all.

Local offer for care leavers



Updated care leaver local offer

Recent Corporate Parenting priorities for developing the Hackney care leavers local offer have included: housing pathways, employment support and apprenticeship opportunities, virtual and physical spaces for care leavers, subject access requests, access to discounted leisure activities, and council tax exemption for care leavers.

Our **Corporate Parenting Strategy and Children's Social Care Sufficiency Strategy 2023-25**, published in February 2023, commits to the following priority areas in relation to care leavers over the next three years:

Priority areas for the next three years	Why?
Enable care leavers to feel more ready for adulthood through the roll out of a Preparation for Adulthood skills audit and corresponding training programme.	This was identified as a priority from a Preparation for Adulthood audit in June 2022 and also highlighted in the annual survey of looked after children and care leavers in September 2022.
Strengthen the whole-Council, whole-partnership local offer to care leavers.	This was a recommendation from the visit by Mark Riddell, National Implementation Advisor for Care Leavers, in May 2022 and also highlighted in feedback to senior leads on the local offer by Hackney of Tomorrow in July 2022.
Provide more spaces, both online and in-person, for care leavers to come together to access support from each other and professionals.	This was also a recommendation from the visit by Mark Riddell in May 2022.
Improve transition planning for looked after children with disabilities.	This was identified as a priority from audits focused on transitions for looked after children with disabilities in October 2021.

A **new website** was launched in February 2023 to explain our updated local offer to care leavers in an engaging and accessible way.





Care Leavers and transitions

Education, employment and training of care leavers

409 care leavers aged between 17 and 21 years were being supported by the Leaving Care service at 31 March 2023, an increase of 20 (5 %) from 391 at the same point in 2022. As at 30th September 2023, 378 care leavers aged 17-21 were being supported. There were 296 care leavers aged 22 and older being supported as at 31st March 2023. This has decreased to 102 being supported as at 30th September 2023.

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% of care leavers aged 19-21	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	SN 2021-22	England 2021-22
In education, employment or training	56 %	69 %	63 %	60 %	55 %
In suitable accommodation	87 %	88 %	88 %	86 %	88 %
In higher education	11 %	17 %	9 %	8 %	7 %

63 % of Hackney care leavers aged 19 to 21 were in education, employment or training in 2022/23. This is higher than statistical neighbours and the national average for last year (60 % and 55 % respectively) but lower than last year's performance in Hackney (69 %).

The percentage of care leavers aged 19-21 who were in suitable accommodation in 2022/23 was 88 %, in line with 88 % last year. Housing is a challenge both locally and nationally but the Service will continue efforts to improve the number of care leavers in suitable accommodation in partnership with the Council's Housing Needs Service.

There has been an increase in the use of Staying Put arrangements, with 10 % of care leavers in these settings at the end of March 2023, a slight decrease from 13 % of care leavers in Staying Put arrangements last year.

9 % of our care leavers were in higher education in 2022/23, which is higher than the most recent statistical neighbours and national average.

Pathway plans

Pathway Plans are recorded for those under 18 and identified as care leavers or still in care and meeting eligibility criteria. We are rapidly improving our performance and are aiming to have 90 % of Pathway Plans reviewed by the end of the year. As at the end of September 2023, of all 16 and 17 year olds, 85 % had their Pathway Plan reviewed in timescale (104/123). This includes the eligible children (i.e. still in care) and for those, 86 % had their Pathway Plan reviewed in timescale (99/115). This is an improvement compared to early June, when 64 % of all under 18s had their Pathway Plan reviewed in timescale. The Service Manager attends a weekly panel with the Leaving Care Practice Development Manager and reports this data to the Head of Service each week. The Pathway Plan Panel chaired by the Practice Development Manager has addressed the most overdue Pathway Plans by setting deadlines and providing oversight and the length of time between Pathway Plan reviews has reduced significantly.

Evidence of Impact

Live Learning Audit on Care Leaver Parents - October 2022

25 audits were undertaken to better understand how well care leavers are supported both in their adult lives since leaving care, and to parent their children where needed; 40% were rated as good, 52% rated as requires improvement, and 8% rated as inadequate.

- There were positive working relationships between care leavers and their social workers - this was noted in 21 audits.
- Practice around identity was strong in this audit, with 13 audits rated as good and 1 outstanding for this area.
- There were widespread issues across the audits in meeting practice standards for timescales of completion of pathway plans and reasons for this were noted to be staffing changes and care leavers cancelling meetings to complete pathway plans.
- Only 4 of the 25 files audited demonstrated supervision which was held in timescales. Where supervision was not held within timescales, rationales for this were lacking.

A number of recommendations were made following this audit, supported by an action plan which is tracked by the Improving Outcomes for Children Board and the monthly Service Manager Audit Meeting:

- Review Pathway Plans for care leavers need to be up to date and led by care leavers and their children's needs, including plans around visiting/contact frequency, as well as stating who they have consented to contribute to the review. The practice

standards for care leavers are being reviewed in June 2023 to address this.

- Promote anti-racist practice further in this service area; social workers to explore and understand the identity of the care leavers they are working with, and accurately record this discussion on file. Our anti-racist practice work continues with roadshows and training across all service areas.
- The service continues to strive for care leavers and their children to be living in suitable, permanent accommodation. The housing information for care leavers has been updated as part of the local offer and a new leaflet about housing pathways was published in spring 2023 to support care leavers understand what they can access.
- Missing historical data for care leavers to be transferred to Mosaic. This work continues as we recover from the cyber attack in 2020.
- Safety planning for young parents experiencing domestic abuse to be paramount when supporting care leavers with children. Safety planning guidance has been refreshed and circulated to staff, and the DAIS are meeting with every service area to support practitioner understanding about domestic abuse interventions and planning.

All files found to be inadequate have been brought to the attention of the relevant Head of Service and Service Managers to ensure senior management oversight in practice improvement. Those to be inadequate or requires improvement will be re-audited in 3 months to ensure improvement actions identified as a result of this audit have resulted in improved practice for the child.



The Impact of Leaders on Social Work Practice with Children and Families

Leaders in Hackney Children and Families Service continue to strive to improve services for our children and families, with a clear focus on Anti-Racist Practice, which has received increased investment over the past year and is being recognised nationally for leading the way in this area. The monthly Improving Outcomes for Children Board is maturing and clearly evidencing the quality of practice and is supporting managers to identify

where to focus improvement activity. The transformation team within the Outcomes, Business Intelligence and Strategy Service (OBIS) team are working to roll out the STAR (Systemic, Trauma Informed and Anti-Racist) approach and transform how our internal services are set up for delivery, aligning with Hackney Education.

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...The complex work to develop a comprehensive case recording system for the Children and Families Service has resulted in the successful reintroduction of Mosaic in April 2022...





Strategic Leadership

Driving improvement

Supervision

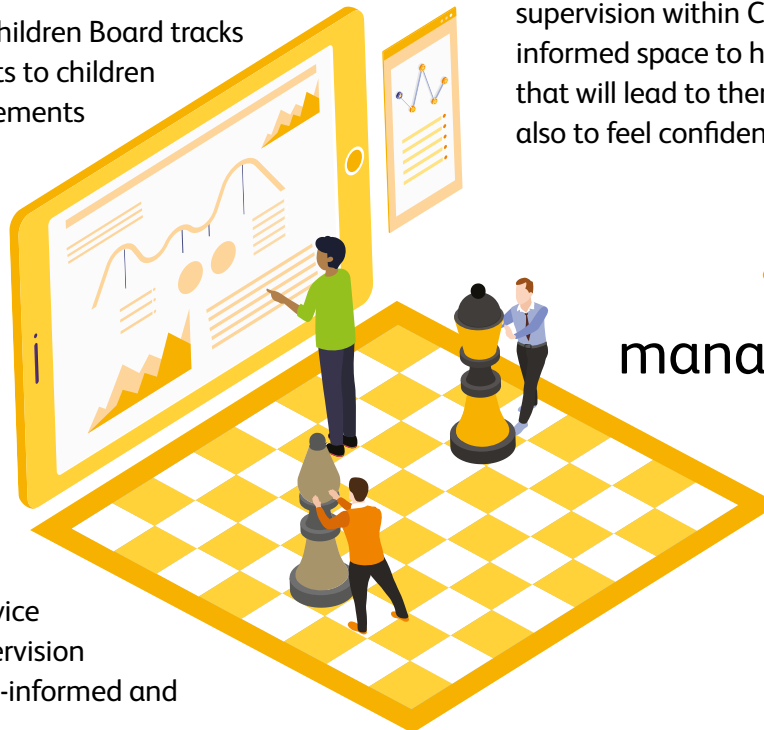
Children are allocated to individual social workers and individual Reflective Case Supervision is in place. There is a focus on management oversight to ensure that supervision is consistent with practice standards. Following the re-introduction of Mosaic, we are now able to track supervision timeliness across the Service and forward plan for future supervision so that managers have oversight of the progress we are making to support children and their families.

The Monthly Improving Outcomes for Children Board tracks performance including in respect of visits to children and supervision to drive forward improvements in practice. Staffing and performance issues are being addressed where supervision is not completed and uploaded to Mosaic in-line with our Supervision Policy timescales. A new supervision template was trialled in the Child in Need Service to streamline the process and this was launched across the whole of CFS in Mosaic in April 2023.

In line with the development of Hackney's practice model, Heads of Service have developed the Hackney group supervision model which draws on Systemic, trauma-informed and

anti-racist practices, allowing us to embed and uphold the techniques that sit within these methods. Consultation was undertaken with Practice Development Managers when refreshing the group supervision approach, and the Director held a 'show and tell' session to launch this model on 1st June 2023. This is in addition to individual supervision and it is to enhance worker development.

Aligned with the Anti-Racist Action Plan, there is a Task and Finish group developing a new approach to personal (currently termed Management) supervision. By the end of 2023/24, there will be a new approach to supervision within CFS that will offer staff an anti-racist, systemic and trauma informed space to have open and reflective conversations with their manager that will lead to them feeling more confident in the work they undertake, but also to feel confident about career opportunities available to them.



... There is a focus on management oversight to ensure that supervision is consistent with practice standards...

Improving Outcomes for Children Board

The Service introduced the new monthly Improving Outcomes for Children Board in October 2022. The Board is the central Children and Families Service meeting to reflect on performance data and the quality of practice in the service. The forum forms a key part of the Children and Families Service Quality Assurance Framework. Chaired by the Director of Children's Social Care, the Board has a critical role in the oversight of the Children and Families Service. The Board scrutinises practice against the Practice Standards that have been set across CFS, providing high challenge and high support in respect of the quality of practice and performance indicated through data and learning from quality assurance. The aim of the Board is to increase transparency and accountability within the system, ensuring that managers at all levels provide practice leadership and take responsibility for improving outcomes for children. The Board ensures that we really know ourselves as an organisation, as well as providing evidence of the impact of quality assurance in driving improvement in practice. The Board focuses on each cohort of children according to their status and journey through the system, scrutinising practice and highlighting strengths that can be built upon, agreeing purposeful actions to support continuous practice improvement. Cohorts are as follows:

- A)** Children with a potential need for support - Decision making in MASH and the Early Help Hub and Children open for an early help or statutory assessment, children assessed for Private Fostering and families with no recourse for public funds, and supported by Family Support Service
- B)** Children in Need of Help and Protection - the quality of intervention and support for children on Child in Need, Child Protection Plans, pre-proceedings and Disabled Children, children whose parents are supported by DAIS and the Clinical Service
- C)** The Experiences of Children who are in Care - including those are open to Care Proceedings, children who are placed for adoption, Children who have left Care and Foster Carers, and looked after children who are on remand

- D)** Children who are at risk of Extra Familial Harm - including those who are missing, who are at risk of exploitation, who are on a Child Protection Plan due to Extra Familial Harm, and children who are supported through pre-and post-Court youth justice disposals. Also - all children who are supported by the Clinical Service.

Children's Leadership and Development Board (CLDB)

Co-chaired by the Chief Executive and Group Director for Children and Education, with membership from across corporate teams and an independent critical friend, CLDB is held every 2 months to support and challenge children's social care on its improvement journey and to achieve the best outcomes for children through the oversight and scrutiny of developments with the Children's Action Plan which is underpinned by 5 'Proud to be' priorities.

Children's Member Oversight Board (CMOB)

The Children's Member Oversight Board was established at the same time as the CLDB and is Co-Chaired by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Hackney. CMOB provides oversight and accountability on the progression of the Action Plan from an Elected Members' perspective. Meetings are held bi-monthly in accordance with the CLDB meetings cycle - with the agenda replicating that of the preceding CLDB meeting.

City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP)

Keeping children safe in Hackney rises and falls on the strength of partnership working. CHSCP is a well established Board with long-service leadership overseeing arrangements and outcomes for safeguarding children in Hackney. The CHSCP Child Safeguarding Practice Review Child Q and subsequent action plan holds the partnership to account to maintain a child and safeguarding first approach, and is one example of the support and challenge CHSCP provides.

Safer Young Hackney Board (SYHB)

The impact of the SYHB was recently assessed in a joint agency inspection. Chaired by the Group Director for Children and Education, the SYHB aligns the work of the youth justice service with key strategic work, including the Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership and Community Safety Partnership. The board is well-attended and provides an appropriate balance of support and challenge to the work of the youth justice service. Through comprehensive performance information risks to the service are systematically and extensively identified, adverse consequences are recognised, and mitigating actions are in place.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission meets 6 times a year. The commission selects areas for reporting as well as routine challenge of data and performance. In the past year it has reported on the experiences of foster carers, care leavers, children excluded from school to name but not a few. Each of these commissions has gone direct to the subjects of inquiry to contrast their experience against the views and ambition of the service and lays down a suite of recommendations which mandate a response. This vehicle provides additional member and senior leadership oversight of the services we provide.

Changes to the Hackney model of social work - STAR

As services integrate under one Hackney Children and Education Directorate, we are developing a practice model that underpins our approach in children's social care, education and health. The principles of this whole-system approach will be clearly embedded in the way all professionals in Children and Education work with Hackney children and families. A central drive for this change is that more can be done in Hackney to support children and families to facilitate change, support resilience and improve the life chances of all children living in Hackney.

A relational approach informs the way we think about children and families.

This approach is led by three key methods used by Children and Families, Education and Health to underpin this Relational Approach which are:

1. Systemic Theory (used widely in CSC)
2. Attachment and trauma informed practice (used widely in Education)
3. Anti-racist practice (developed and used across CSC, Education and health)

These 3 approaches are threads that are currently being weaved together under the relational approach and vision for Hackney Children's Services. Our Practice Model will provide clear techniques for practitioners across the service to work with children and families. In the Spring of 2023, the Outcomes, Business Intelligence and Strategy Service (OBIS) director and project team were appointed to lead this work across the group directorate to align SEND, Early Help, Integrated Commissioning for Children, Young People, Maternity and Families and Social Care. This will enable children to receive more holistic and timely support to meet their needs. It is anticipated this work will take 12 months to bring about the shape of the services we need and to develop a detailed workforce development strategy to embed our Systemic, Trauma-Informed and Anti-Racist approaches. OBIS have held workshops with colleagues in Early Help, Youth Justice, Clinical Services, Quality Assurance & Improvement, Safeguarding, Early Years, Early Help and Wellbeing Services, School Performance and Improvement to gather insights about what STAR means within these services as part of its discovery phase.

In October 2023 the STAR joint approach for Children and Education was launched. The approach has been co-created with colleagues across the directorate and is a non-pathologising way to understand each other and our residents. The STAR approach champions and encourages all staff, regardless of our role, to be reflective, collaborative and to act in the best interests of the children, families and colleagues we work with. Work will now be undertaken to build on this universal approach to turn this into a practice model for all practitioners across the Children and Education directorate.



Anti-Racism

Our ambition is for leadership and practice with children and families to take a proactive stance to address racism, discrimination and inequality and are in the early stages of the following:

Research through a lens of disproportionality is beginning to allow us to understand and identify common factors and tailor effective interventions earlier. In line with our Anti-racist approach, the first of these tailored interventions took place when designing the Edge of Care service where over 80 % of referrals were from children (largely boys) from Black African and Caribbean backgrounds. We will be closely monitoring the impact of this service through 2023 into 2024 to hopefully see a reduction in the number of boys from Black African and Caribbean backgrounds becoming and remaining Looked After in late adolescence.

The Anti-Racist Practice Staff Reference Group, made up of colleagues from across the Children and Education directorate (including Integrated Health Commissioning) and colleagues from the wider Council, met in January 2023 for the first time in its new format. The Group comes together every six weeks and acts as a sounding board for the development of anti-racist activities in the directorate, providing transparency, accountability and opportunities for co-production, involving a range of colleagues from across the organisation.

Three appointments have been made to further the development of our anti-racist priorities; Head of Service for Race Equality and Inclusion, Race Equality and Inclusion Programme Manager and Senior Policy and Project Officer - all roles will sit across CFS and Education to ensure a single approach to our anti-racism work across the whole directorate. In addition, there is an Anti-Racist Practitioner for Children and Families who will support the rollout and embedding of the CFS Anti-Racist Practice Standards across the service, as well as working closely with service

managers and their teams, offering consultations to social workers, delivering anti-racist practice training and working with our partner agencies. The Anti-Racist Practice Standards have been rolled out with roadshows across the whole of CFS over the last 6 months, this has been a significant undertaking.

CFS staff from Black and Global Majority background have been encouraged to sign up for a seven-week course being run by Consultant Rowan Carr that examines and provides practical tools and approaches to antidote the effects that racial trauma has on the body.

As part of Black History Season in November and December 2022, CFS worked together with Adult Services to deliver four online lunchtime seminars for staff exploring how we can practically 'do' anti-racism in our day-to-day work, covering the following topics:

- What Doing Anti-Racism means for our Social Care Practitioners;
- Anti-Racism - A Focus on Intersectionality in Assessment and Care Planning;
- Anti-Racist Relationship Based Practice; and
- Supervision and Critical Reflection with an Anti-Racist Lens.

In partnership with the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), CFS staff have worked to create a series of anti-racist podcasts, each of which is powerful and full of experience, questions and challenges that everyone can learn from.

In November 2022, Hackney CFS won the Workforce Development Award at the Children and Young People Now Awards - regarded as the 'gold standard for everyone working with children, young people and families'. The judging panel commended Hackney's inspirational work and highlighted how Hackney's Anti-Racist Praxis Conference in 2022 started a ripple effect of conversations and a wider commitment to anti-racist action in the sector. Nationally, Hackney CFS is now recognised as a leader in anti-racist practice.

A joint Children and Education Anti-Racist Action Plan is in place and aligns activities to reduce disproportionality across Children's Social Care, Hackney Education and Health. The Joint Action Plan also incorporates the recommendations put forward in the Anti Racist Praxis post-conference report, setting out how the Council will respond to these. The joint plan is based around four priority areas, as follows:

- Reducing Black Global Majority Rates of School Exclusions.
- Reducing Black Global Majority Rates of Entrants to Care.
- Improved Sign-Posting of Black Global Majority Families.
- Changing the way we Think, Talk and Act in relation to Anti-Racism.

In addition the plan incorporates key health priorities in relation to young black male mental health and disproportionate outcomes in relation to maternity services.

In October 2023, Hackney ran a month-long council-wide Anti-Racist Summit. The theme of this year's summit was 'Building Better Together'. The Children and Education element of the summit consisted of four dedicated days focusing on anti-racist culture, practice and behaviour as a Directorate and at an individual level. This consisted of an array of workshops, lectures, films and events to challenge and stretch our teams, while supporting staff to reflect on how they can move forward on our anti-racist journey. A 'day four' Hackney Council Anti-Racist Partnerships Day took place on 21 November 2023, where a wide range of partners including community partners were invited to:

- share feedback on the Council's anti-racism action plan commitments
- secure commitments from partners to work together to develop an anti-racist system, based on a shared understanding of racism and anti-racism and one shared approach.

Key initial Summit evaluation findings:

- The launch event on day one at St. John at Hackney Church was fully sold out - 550 places
- Over 2,700 individual viewers of the launch day live-stream, the biggest online attendance for a single event in Hackney Council's history.
- 2,221 unique bookings across 29 events
- Events had an overall average rating of 4.5 out of 5
- 92 % of events had a reported average increase in knowledge and skills for those who attended
- For all questions asked on Qcast (interactive audience feedback platform), 72 % of 683 responses were analysed to be positive

Child Q

Child Q was referred to our LADO service in 2020 following the notification by health professionals of her experiencing a strip search in school. LADO enquiries were initiated alongside a Child and Family Assessment, which has led to longer term support through early help and our CAMHS services. The Local Authority notified the City and Hackney Safeguarding Partnership (CHSCP) who made a collective agreement to undertake a Child Safeguarding Practice Review with notification to the National Panel.

In March 2022, the Child Safeguarding Practice Review for Child Q was published following consultation and engagement with Child Q and her parents. The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel De Souza, subsequently **reported about the strip-searching of children by police officers** across the country, prompted by the CHSCP review, and she found that Child Q's ordeal was far from an isolated case.

Hackney Council has made some significant changes in the past year: from launching a restorative justice pilot scheme to enable young people to share negative experiences of 'stop and search' with the Council and police officers; to work with MOPAC, the local police and the community to build

London's first representative 'Community Scrutiny Group'; to ongoing work to develop an innovative police and partnership training proposal - focused on anti-racism, adultification, cultural awareness, trauma awareness and unconscious bias - in order to learn from successes elsewhere.

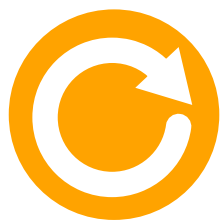
In the local education system, Hackney Council have ensured schools created a new, more robust framework for searches conducted in schools; supported spaces on talking to and listening to children and staff affected by racism; expanded and rolled out adultification training and made it available to all schools; and are now in the process of creating an 'Inclusion Charter' to centre conversations and actions around disproportionality; and Hackney are continuing our work to diversify governing boards and expand

the young governor initiative, focusing on Black and Global Majority recruits.

A multi-agency action plan is in place in response to the findings within the CSPR for Child Q to create change in addressing structural racism and adultification. The **Child Q Update Report – Why was it me?** was released on 20 June 2023. On the 14 September the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) released the findings from their investigation into the treatment of Child Q. The IOPC found that four Metropolitan Police Service officers should face gross misconduct hearings and called for a 'substantial review of policing powers relating to strip searches of children'.

... Our ambition is for leadership and practice with children and families to take a proactive stance to address racism, discrimination and inequality...





Workforce and caseloads

Staff wellbeing

The Children and Education leadership team continue to hold regular all staff drop-in sessions on issues that affect the entire service. There has been significant efforts from the Group Director and Director for CFS to increase communication with staff across CFS following feedback in the council wide staff survey in 2021. The Director for CFS sends out a weekly newsletter which has a 60 % rate of review (outside of school holidays), suggesting over half the CFS workforce is reading this for updates about the service which includes training opportunities, good news stories, and vital information about practice, guidance and policy.

The senior leadership team recognised that the publication of the CSPR for Child Q was triggering for staff, particularly from Black and Global Majority backgrounds in the context of the racialised trauma. In response to this the Children and Education Directorate set up a series of peer support sessions for staff, including some exclusively for Black and Global Majority staff to respond to racialised trauma.

A survey in respect of staff experiences of racism was undertaken by our Promoting Racial Equality Leadership Group in May 2021. This survey highlighted the need for support to staff who have experienced and continue to experience racialised trauma within the workplace, within their communities, in the wider context of society and internationally. Peer Support Groups in response to racialised trauma were piloted from October

to December 2021 and an evaluation shared with the Chief Executive and senior leadership team in February 2022. Scoping is underway to develop a longer term strategy to support staff who experience racialised trauma.

In 2023, Hackney Council developed an offer of Racialised Trauma Counselling and CFS offered staff racialised trauma training which has received positive participant feedback. We run a weekly Racial Trauma Peer Support Group which is open to all Council staff. This group looks at improving staff wellbeing, especially those that have experienced other types of minoritised stress, exposed to difficult situations or vicarious trauma. Work continues on developing the support available for Black and Global majority staff and strengthening the Racial Trauma Therapeutic offer, and exploration is underway of how to provide staff in CFS with peer support groups and safe spaces.

Staff Reference Group

The Staff Reference Group, is chaired by the Director of Children's Social Care, has continued to meet on a 6 weekly basis. The group is open to all staff members with takeup from four out of five service areas currently represented. The group's role is to act as a critical friend and sounding board, supplying an additional line of communication to and from the director and staff. The staff reference group has met to discuss topics such as Child Q reflections amongst staff, and the service improvement Children's Action Plan.

Workforce data

Children and their families need to get the right help at the right time. We need to ensure work flows effectively through the service and that proportionate responses are offered in accordance with the needs or risk of harm to children - this should appropriately manage demand and create capacity in the service.

Percentage of agency social workers (FTE) as at 30 September

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hackney	32 %	22 %	28.5 %	29 %
Statistical Neighbour	22 %	21 %	23.7 %	n/a
England	15.4 %	15.5 %	18 %	n/a

Percentage rate of social worker turnover as at 30 September

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hackney	15.9 %	11.7 %	21.6 %	14 %
Statistical Neighbour	16 %	19 %	19 %	n/a
England	13.5 %	15 %	17 %	n/a

As at 30 September 2023, our social worker turnover rate for the year was 14 %, lower than our statutory return information as at 30th September 2022, which was 21.6 %. Turnover for Quarter 1 and 2 2023/24 was 7.3 %, compared with 13.1 % for Quarter 1 and 2 2022/23.

Cases (children) per social worker (based on FTE equivalents) as at 30 September - (this is updated annually)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hackney	16.4	14	15.4	14.7
Statistical Neighbour	14.0	15	15	n/a
England	16.3	16	17	n/a

Hackney's average social worker caseload, as calculated using the Department for Education methodology, has decreased over the past year as the number of children and the number of social workers have reduced in the service. However this measure does not reflect an accurate picture of caseloads for our social workers as it divides the number of children we are supporting equally across all case holding social workers, including our Consultant Social Workers and ASYE social workers who hold smaller caseloads. The reality for some social workers will be higher than this average caseload figure. As a result of individual casework allocation we are now more effectively able to monitor caseloads for individual practitioners and this enables us to be more agile in allocating resources according to need and there is a strong line of sight from the Director to the frontline practitioner which means that this is under constant review.

Recruitment and Retention

As a Local Authority we have prioritised the need to stabilise and value our workforce and the Director led a task and finish group during the autumn of 2022 which focused on improving staff retention and recruitment. As a result we have implemented a number of incentives:

- Retention bonus of £1500 every 6 months for social workers within Access and Assessment and Children in Need service areas.
- Establishing a Senior Social Worker role to support our practitioner career development pathways, this rolled out at the end of 2022.
- A streamlined process for agency social workers to progress into permanent roles without needing to go through the social work recruitment process, which was introduced in the Autumn 2022.
- Development of a Refer a Friend scheme which launched in the autumn 2022 and offered a £500 payment to anyone who referred a social worker to come to Hackney to work, paid to the referrer on successful appointment into role.
- Launch of an induction timetable in May 2023 for managers to ensure a planned and informative induction period for new starters.
- Parking Permits for social workers to use on an adhoc basis when needing to use a car for work purposes.
- Improved support and oversight of students and ASYEs with the introduction of the Senior Social Worker in Workforce Development Hub who joined in July 2022.
- A Social Work Apprenticeship has been offered to one internal employee who commenced in September 2023. This supports our ethos to promote career development from within the organisation.
- In person event to celebrate World Social Work day on 21 March 2023 hosted in the Town Hall and attended by the Chief Executive and the Deputy Mayor .

There remain challenges in recruiting and retaining social workers. This is reflective of a national issue and we know from speaking to other local authorities that they are experiencing the same issue.

As at 30 September 2023:

- There were 176.5 FTE permanent social workers
- There were 72.45 FTE agency social workers, representing 29.1 % of our social work

From 1 June 2022 until 31 May 2024, the pan-London Pledge is a commitment by Children's Services system leaders to work cooperatively and transparently to manage the agency market, improve the quality of agency staff and regulate pay rates within Children's Social Work. This London Pledge is designed to address challenges related to the supply and quality of agency workers through evidenced protocols and a commitment to transparent and co-operative working. The Boroughs agree that they will:

- Pay agency social worker staff at set rates.
- Work proactively to convert agency workers to permanent roles within 6 months.
- Adopt a common referencing standard.
- Not employ any qualified social worker leaving a permanent contract to take up an agency contract with another authority within London for a minimum of 6 months after leaving the permanent post.
- Commit to a 3-week notice period both in candidates joining and leaving placements.

The pledge has had varying degrees of impact, with some agency workers choosing to go outside of London to councils where the pledge does not apply, and some local authorities not applying pay rates consistently as agreed. Hackney is resolutely faithful to the principles of the pledge.



Learning culture

Continuing to strengthen our approach to Quality Assurance

The Hackney Children and Families Services Quality Assurance Framework provides insight into the quality of practice and the degree to which this is having a positive effect on children and their families in Hackney. Key to this is measuring impact - it is critical to understand what difference Hackney Children and Families Service and our partners are making for children. Work has been underway to convert our Quality Assurance Framework into a Learning Framework and this was finalised in August 2023. Work will then continue into 2023 to fully embed this framework. This will ensure that the focus of our quality assurance activity across all of the Children and Families Service is on learning - about the quality of our practice with children, and about what is effective in improving this.

From November 2022 - April 2023, the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service have met with colleagues in Newham to learn about their approach to quality assurance and improvement work, in particular around auditing activity. This covered: structures and governance around auditing and quality assurance; audit training; follow-up and impact of auditing and quality assurance activity. Following this, the Quality Assurance and Improvement Team, working with the Mosaic Development Team worked to introduce an audit workflow onto Mosaic, directly linking audit actions into supervision - this went live in August 2023 and work to embed this and develop reports from Mosaic will continue into the autumn of 2023. A session has been planned for Newham colleagues to observe our Improving Outcomes for Children Board in November 2023 to gather insights about the impact this is having.



We have improved audit impact monitoring: three months after an audit has been completed that was scored 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate', a review of the work completed by the auditor is undertaken by PDMs across CFS and the findings from this audit are shared with leaders. Headlines from the two most recent reports show that:

- Of 17 dip samples completed in June 2023, practice improved in 65 % of files, with practice rated as good in 59 % of files.
- This is an improvement compared to the 31 dip samples completed in April 2023, where 59 % of files improved in rating, with 49 % now rated as good.

Audit overview reports usually contain recommendations and/or actions to improve practice in the Children and Families Service. These actions are tracked at the Monthly Service Manager Audit Meeting which is

attended by Heads of Service and Service Managers, and chaired by the Head of Safeguarding Quality Assurance. These actions are also tracked at the monthly Improving Outcomes for Children Board, chaired by the Director of Children's Services, which considers key data and quality assurance information about each aspect of a child's journey across the Children and Families Service in depth. Each service area reports on the improvement work being undertaken in response to the actions arising from the audit programme. Our Live Learning Audits have shown that practice in the Children and Families Service over the last year has generally been improving - with audits rated as:

- Care leaver parents - June 2022, where 40 % of audits were rated as good and 52 % rated as requires improvement.
- Domestic abuse - December 2022, where 55 % of audits were rated as good and 39 % rated as requires improvement.
- Sexual harm - March 2023, where 67 % of audits were rated as good or outstanding and 26 % rated as requires improvement..
- Neglect - July 2023, where 41 % of audits were rated as good, and 56 % rated as requires improvement.



Financial Update

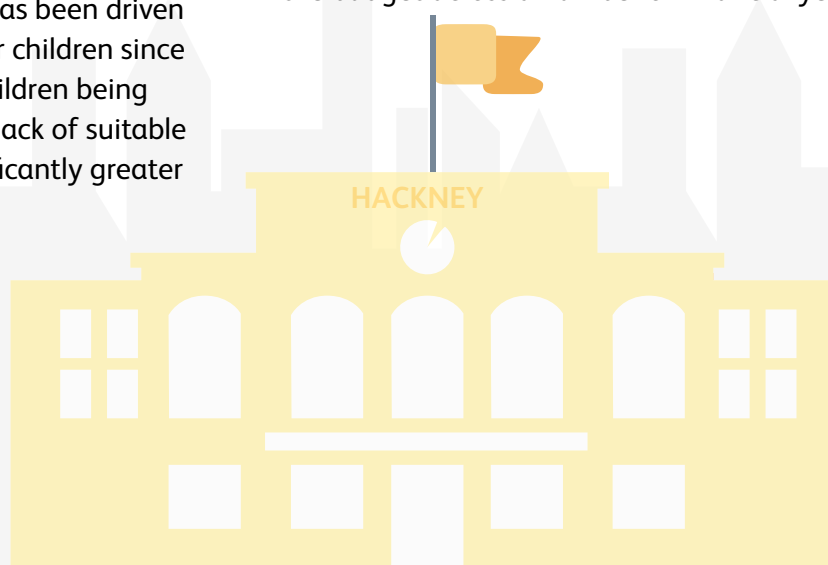
The outturn for 2022/23 for the Children and Families Service on a net budget of £64.9m was an overspend of £4.7m after use of grants and reserves of £12.4m including a drawdown on the commissioning reserve of £3.1m and £8.5m of Social Care Grant funding. There has been a requirement to draw down from the commissioning reserve since 2012/13 due to the increase in complexity and the number of children in care.

The financial position for 2023/24 is a net budget of £65.3m for the Children and Families Service, and the service is forecasting to overspend by £3.1m (as at September 2023) after use of reserves and drawdown of grants totalling £16.9m (including full use of the commissioning activity reserve of £2.7m and £13.0m of Social Care Grant funding). Within the current forecast, cost reduction proposals have been agreed by the service to reduce the overspend within the year, and these are tracked on a monthly basis.

The Children and Families Service has continued to make contributions to the efficiency agenda of the Council. Over the previous ten years the service has delivered £12.5m savings with a further £1.4m targeted to be delivered in 2023/24. The increase in commissioning costs has been driven by an increase in complexity and the number of looked after children since 2011/12. There is a continuation of a large proportion of children being placed with independent fostering agencies (IFAs) due to a lack of suitable in-house foster carers. The cost of an IFA placement is significantly greater

than that of an in-house placement. The service continues to be proactive in recruiting in-house foster carers to meet demands across the service and the Council has incentivised this by providing Council Tax discounts to foster carers in the borough and a weekly allowance to those who live outside Hackney.

Hackney has also seen an increase in residential placements since 2015 adding considerable budget pressures with an average annual unit cost of circa £300k. There have been some improvements more recently in the number of residential placements, and the service is working proactively to reduce the level of placements. We are also seeing a rise in the number of under 18s in high-cost semi-independent placements. Where young people in their late teens are deemed to be vulnerable, and in many cases are transitioning from residential to semi-independent placements, they may still require a high-level of support and in extreme circumstances bespoke crisis packages. These pressures have been recognised by the Group Director of Finance & Corporate Resources with a growth of £13.4m in total included in the budget across a number of financial years.



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Title of Report	Stamford Hill Area Action Plan Proposed Submission Version	
Key Decision No	CHE S246	
For Consideration By	Cabinet and Council	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024 And 28 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Councillor Nicholson, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	Stamford Hill West, Springfield, Woodberry Down and Cazenove	
Key Decision & Reason	Yes	It affects more than two or more wards
Implementation Date if Not Called In	N/A	
Group Director	Rickardo Hyatt Group Director, Climate, Homes and Economy	

1. Cabinet Member's introduction

- 1.1. The Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (AAP) describes a community led vision for future development in the Stamford Hill neighbourhood and the Planning policies to realise this vision. It is the culmination of extensive community engagement undertaken with thousands of local residents and community organisations over the course of the last seven years which has included the development of and the formal consultation on 'Towards a Stamford Hill Plan' in 2017 and a 'Draft Stamford Hill Area Action Plan' in 2021. To achieve these milestones of the plan making process there has been extensive community engagement informed by evidence gathering and intensive policy development work which has taken place over a sustained period of time.
- 1.2. The objective of this extensive engagement was to bring together the wide range of stakeholders living in the Stamford Hill neighbourhood and better understand the range of social needs and ambitions for the built environment

and the future of the neighbourhood alongside a range of concerns. These conversations have been used to arrive at a collective vision and set of objectives for the future of Stamford Hill. The area plan goes beyond planning bricks and mortar development, to thoughtfully considering the need to support the wellbeing and different needs of the diverse communities living in Stamford Hill and the Council's objectives to help realise strong cohesive communities in Hackney.

- 1.3. This extensive participatory consultation confirmed the need for a range of bespoke planning policies for Stamford Hill to respond to the neighbourhoods unique challenges. The area plan aims to strike the right balance between enabling growth to address the intense need for family housing and social and community infrastructure while maintaining the built character and design quality of the neighbourhood. The associated Stamford Hill Design Guide provides further detailed planning guidance to inform and guide implementation.
- 1.4. The area plan will help maintain and enhance those characteristics that residents value, including enhancing the well used local shopping centres to help diversify and strengthen the service offer available to residents. It also advocates enhancing the important green infrastructure and connecting corridors that cross the area. The Plan also seeks to maximise and direct the opportunities for expanding the provision of community infrastructure and commercial spaces that provide employment and business opportunities.
- 1.5. The area plan will help make sure that the planning processes effectively deliver high quality development that enhances the rich heritage and special character of the neighbourhood. However, the extensive consultation has also highlighted the need for an ongoing effort from the Council and its partners to not only ensure the area plan itself is effectively delivered but a clear implementation framework is included to ensure the appropriate action is taken to curate the neighbourhood going forward and realise the vision and objectives of the area plan.
- 1.6. Approval is sought from Cabinet and Council to publish the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (Regulation 19 Publication Version) and to take this next procedural step towards the examination in public led by the Planning Inspectorate and the formal adoption of the Area Action Plan.
- 1.7. I commend this report to the Cabinet and to Full Council.

2. Group Director's introduction

- 2.1. This report seeks Cabinet and full Council's approval to publish the proposed submission version of the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan under Regulation 19 of the Local Plan Regulations (2012) for consultation prior to submission to the Government for an independent examination in public. This follows

consultation on a Draft Stamford Hill Area Action Plan, approved by Cabinet in November 2021.

- 2.2. Building on the Local Plan (LP33), the strategic planning document used to direct and guide future growth and development across the borough, the AAP identifies specific planning policies for Stamford Hill. Once adopted, the AAP will form part of the Development Plan for Hackney. It will be used, along with the Local Plan 2033 (LP33, 2020) to determine planning applications in Stamford Hill.
- 2.3. The Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (Regulation 19 Publication Version) has been prepared in line with relevant national planning policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 and the process of preparation has met the requirements for relevant planning and other legislation. It is an important document that responds to the challenges and opportunities in this part of Hackney, identified through extensive consultation and evidence gathering over the last few years development of the AAP with the community.
- 2.4. Before development plan documents like Area Action Plans can be adopted, they must be published for consultation and then submitted to the Government for an independent examination in public. Cabinet and Council approval is therefore sought to publish the Proposed Publication Version of the Stamford Hill AAP for public consultation and submission to Government for examination.

3. Recommendations

3.1. Cabinet is asked to:

- 1. Recommend to Full Council to approve the proposed submission Stamford Hill Area Action Plan at appendix 1 for publication and subsequent submission to Government for an independent examination in public.**
- 2. Recommend to Full Council to delegate authority to the Group Director, Climate, Homes and Economy to approve administrative alterations, graphical, typographical amendments, to improve cross referencing (e.g. para numbering, page numbering) ahead of consultation or ahead of submission to Government for examination in public.**

3.2. Council is asked to:

- 1. Approve the proposed submission Stamford Hill Area Action Plan at appendix 1 for publication and subsequent submission to Government for an independent examination in public.**

2. Delegate authority to the Group Director, Climate, Homes and Economy to approve administrative alterations, graphical, typographical amendments, to improve cross referencing (e.g. para numbering, page numbering) ahead of consultation or ahead of submission to Government for examination in public.

4. Reason(s) for decision

- 4.1. Following consultation on a draft Stamford Hill AAP, the Council has now produced the proposed submission version of the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (Stamford Hill Area Action Plan, 2024 Regulation 19 Publication Version). The Council is to publish this for comment before submitting it to the Secretary of State for independent examination in public. The AAP will manage existing development pressures and shape future growth in a sustainable manner.

5. Details of alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The alternative is not to produce an Area Action Plan for the Stamford Hill area and rely on the adopted borough-wide Local Plan policies. This has been rejected as the AAP is considered necessary to provide an essential framework for growth which responds to the specific needs of the Stamford Hill community and safeguards the area's unique character.
- 5.2. The AAP will ensure that development delivers real benefits to the community, particularly in terms of maximising the supply of larger family homes, improving open space and the public realm more broadly, and enabling the provision of new education and community facilities and improving local shopping centres in Stamford Hill. In producing the Stamford Hill AAP, the Council has engaged positively with the community and different groups and organisations within it to shape the vision for the future of Stamford Hill and inform the objectives and detailed planning policies.

6. Background

- 6.1. In November 2021, the Cabinet approved a Draft Stamford Hill AAP for public consultation. This took place from December 2021 to February 2022. Following this consultation on a draft, and an extended period of consultation and engagement prior to this, the Stamford Hill AAP is now ready to be submitted to the Government for an independent examination. In line with legal requirements the Council needs to publish the 'Publication Version' AAP for comment first.
- 6.2. Cabinet is now asked to recommend approval to full Council and full Council is asked to approve publication of Stamford Hill AAP (Publication Version, Regulation 19) for submission for an examination.

Policy Context

- 6.3. Stamford Hill AAP, like the Local Plan (LP33) is a development plan document (identified in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) is part of the Council's policy framework defined in the constitution.
- 6.4. The Stamford Hill AAP must be consistent with and complement the Hackney Local Plan LP33 adopted in 2020. It also addresses the commitment in Hackney's Strategic Plan 2022 - 2023 to finalise and adopt a Stamford Hill Area Action Plan.

The scope and content of the AAP

- 6.5. The Stamford Hill AAP (Publication 19, Publication Version) is included as Appendix 1 to this report. LP33 sets out the strategic policies and will be used to assess the amount of affordable housing and affordable workspace that must be provided amongst other matters. These policies are not repeated. Instead the role of the Stamford Hill AAP (Publication Version) is to provide additional detailed planning policies.
- 6.6. The Stamford Hill AAP (Publication Version) sets out a vision and objectives for development. It includes development management policies across seven themes which are: Housing, Local Enterprise and the Economy, Community Wellbeing, Design & Historic Environment, Public Realm and Green Infrastructure. The AAP identifies 9 sites within the Plan boundary as Site Allocations. These are individual sites of strategic importance where preferred land uses and mix, indicative capacity, building heights and development principles are indicated. The AAP also includes an Implementation Strategy, highlighting specific actions that will support effective delivery of the AAP vision.
- 6.7. The policy approaches identified respond to the specific issues in Stamford Hill. These issues are derived from consultation and a review of evidence and are summarised, along with the policy response in the AAP, below.
- 6.8. **Housing:** There is a significant need for genuinely affordable housing, in common with other parts of the borough. Stamford Hill is subject to the affordable housing requirements established in LP33 and the AAP will contribute to the delivery of the 3,000 homes in Woodberry Down/ Stamford Hill LP33 identifies. There is a particular need for larger family homes, particularly for Stamford Hill's Orthodox Jewish communities to reduce overcrowding.
- 6.9. A more enabling approach towards housing extensions to alleviate overcrowding and create more space was advocated by a large number of respondents to consultation. However, some respondents raised significant concerns about two storey roof extensions on the grounds of design, loss of amenity and impact on the street. More broadly concerns around the effect

of incremental and uncoordinated development on character and identity of the area were also highlighted.

6.10. The AAP sets out policies which will:

- Maximise the provision of 4+ beds across all tenures in new development to address both affordability and overcrowding issues while also providing a mix of smaller units for smaller households and to encourage residents to 'downsize' unoccupied larger family homes. This is supported by local viability evidence.
- Ensure a mix of housing is provided by ensuring that the conversion of larger homes in Stamford Hill provides a family unit (4+ bedroom).
- Further maximise the delivery of larger family sized housing by enabling larger extensions where these are of a high design quality and are appropriate to the street, balancing the need for larger homes with the effect on the character of the area. A Stamford Hill Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document is also being prepared to support the effective implementation of this policy.

6.11. **Local Enterprise and Economy:** Full time employment in Stamford Hill is lower than the rest of Hackney. There is a range of commercial and light industrial uses, but the dominant employment source is retail. The Town Centre is popular and well used. Consultation responses reflected a desire to support a more diverse shopping offer and avoid any decline or narrowing of the range of goods available.

6.12. The AAP sets out policies which will:

- Reinforce the town centre as the main destinations for shops alongside commercial, leisure and cultural uses in order to protect their vitality and viability in line with LP33.
- Use planning powers to manage the change of use to retain a diverse retail offer, while recognising that national changes to planning 'use classes' limit planning controls that can be exercised on changes between different town centre uses.
- Amalgamation of retail units to provide larger floorspace where appropriate.
- 4 of the 9 site allocations require the inclusion of commercial uses on site

6.13. **Social and Community Infrastructure:** Stamford Hill has a diverse and growing population, with the ONS data alone indicating that the birth rate and growth of 0-5 year olds is higher than the rest of Hackney. One of the biggest challenges facing the AAP is to address social infrastructure that is currently under pressure, especially community space and faith-based school places in the independent sector.

6.14. The AAP sets out policies which will:

- Encourage co-location of different community uses and make better use of existing underutilised facilities and guide new social and community uses to the most sustainable and appropriate locations.
- Provide a flexible and enabling policy framework that supports the provision of new social and community facilities, including schools, to accommodate the different and unique needs of the community in Stamford Hill.
- Through actions defined in the implementation strategy, continuously assess social and other infrastructure needs of communities living in the area.

6.15. **Design & Heritage:** Stamford Hill has a more suburban character than other parts of the borough with relatively low density and almost 40% of the area made up of terraced housing. Community engagement highlighted concerns that the built heritage and character of the area is being incrementally eroded. By contrast many respondents felt that there was an overfocus on conservation and character issues at the expense of meeting housing needs.

6.16. The AAP sets out policies which will:

- Includes policies to ensure that any new development responds positively to the defined qualities which includes respecting the prevailing scale, form and grain of development and making appropriate use of building materials.
- Defines 16 Character Areas that are important to conserving and enhancing the area.
- Sets out (in part 4, chapter 1 on housing) an enabling framework for the delivery of housing, taking a design led approach.

6.17. **Public Realm:** Improving the walking and cycling environment is a corporate objective reflecting in the Council's Transport Strategy and Climate Action Plan. The consultation responses suggested a general consensus about improving pedestrian safety and introducing better cycling and walking routes in the area along with general support for improving the public realm more broadly. However, there were some concerns about implementation issues including impacts on parking provision, especially on Dunsmure Road.

6.18. The AAP sets out policies which will:

- Ensure that new development responds positively to the public realm in Stamford Hill and addresses issues concerning pedestrian & cyclist safety.
- Support the opening up of access to the River Lea and related improvements to the pedestrian environment.

- Support the delivery of a range of public interventions that aim to improve connectivity, accessibility, urban greening and create child-friendly environments in five cluster areas identified as: Stamford Hill District centre, Dunsmure Road, Stamford Hill Boulevard, Ravensdale Road to the River Lea and Oldhill Street. The AAP will also highlight that these will be the subject of separate consultation.

6.19. **Green Infrastructure:** The evidence identifies deficiencies in open space and play space in Stamford Hill. There was general support, in consultation responses, for improving green infrastructure. However, this also revealed differences over the relative priority to be given to open space compared to demand for community facilities and housing.

6.20. The AAP sets out policies which will:

- Require development to support key green infrastructure, with a focus on key links and opening up access to open space
- Support enhancement of the natural environment including Wetlands to Wetlands Greenway

7. **Main changes to the Draft Stamford Hill AAP, 2021**

7.1. The issues raised through consultation are complex interlinked and many go well beyond the scope of planning. All responses have been carefully considered. There is a high degree of continuity between overall policy direction in the 2021 Draft SPD and this Publication Version. However, there have been some significant revisions. These include:

- Revising the vision text to better reflect the range of ambitions for the area and to include a focus on community cohesion. Linked to this, a more nuanced presentation of the main challenges and opportunities is included to better reflect the diversity of communities in the area and the positive contribution of the Charedi community.
- Clarifying the housing mix for new development in Stamford Hill based on updated assessment of housing need.
- New site allocations were added to the five in the 2021 draft which will contribute to delivering the housing and commercial space envisaged in LP33.
- While specific sites for education or community facilities are not identified in site allocation, an enabling policy for their provision is provided. A criteria based approach provides the flexibility needed to respond to changes in demand for social infrastructure and clear planning criteria to manage associated impact.
- Incorporation of a more detailed, action focused implementation plan to ensure effective engagement with stakeholders continues into the implementation phase and to monitor the impact of the AAP, including

the delivery of key infrastructure, including schools, site allocations and public realm projects.

- 7.2. In addition to these changes, minor revisions were made to ensure stronger alignment with more recently produced corporate strategies, for example the Hackney Climate Action Plan, 2023 and Hackney Local Nature Recovery Plan, 2023. Ensuring policies are clear and unambiguous is a requirement of national policy and helps save time and money for all parties at the planning application stage. Therefore drafting revisions were made to provide a more precise expression of design and other criteria and to avoid repetition or ambiguity.

Equality impact assessment

- 7.3. The Stamford Hill AAP has been informed by an Integrated Impact Assessment which includes an Equalities Impact Assessment and the conclusions have been considered. The Equalities Impact Assessment did not find that there were any significant negative impacts from the AAP policies on those with Protected Characteristics.
- 7.4. This discharges the Council's public sector equality duty in the Equality Act 2010 by having due regard to:
- eliminating discrimination; harassment and victimisation;
 - advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Sustainability and climate change

- 7.5. A Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken as part of the Integrated Impact Assessment to ensure that the plan meets agreed sustainability objectives. Assessment of significant effects of policies and site allocations on climate change was included in the Integrated Impact Assessment.

Consultations

- 7.6. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require that development plans documents like Local Plans and AAPs are subject to consultation. Plan making authorities must:
- Notify key stakeholders that the plan is being prepared and the scope of the plan (Regulation 18) and
 - Publish the plan for comments before it is submitted for independent examination and make it available (Regulation 19)
 - Ensure all consultation aligns with any adopted Statement of Community Involvement

- 7.7. The approach to developing the Stamford Hill AAP has gone well beyond these minimum statutory requirements and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, 2014 and temporary amendments in response to coronavirus (Covid-19) for Plan-Making, June 2020.
- 7.8. The decision to prepare the Stamford Hill AAP evolved from discussions relating to Neighbourhood Planning during 2013 and 2014. Two local groups with distinct visions for the area applied to establish a Neighbourhood Forum in Stamford Hill. Both groups had local support, but very different approaches in relation to planning. Working with both local groups, the Council has proposed an alternative approach which was to develop an AAP for Stamford Hill. Meetings were held with both groups and a strategy agreed which resulted in the refusal of both applications for Neighbourhood Forums and the commitment from the Council to resource an AAP for Stamford Hill and to develop this in an inclusive way.
- 7.9. A Cross Party Steering Group was established at the end of 2014 to manage the production of the Plan. Membership of the Steering Group includes senior officers from the planning team and Councillors from the Stamford Hill West, Springfield, Woodberry Down and Cazenove wards. The Steering Group is responsible for making all major decisions in respect of the consultation process as well as ensuring overall quality of output in accordance with relevant Council standards and statutory processes.
- 7.10. The Council also set up a Community Panel in 2015. The Community Panel, aided by an independent facilitator, meets up to 4 times a year. The Community Panel includes community representatives and local organisations. The primary purpose of the Community Panel is to ensure that a range of local views are taken into account in the policies developed in the AAP and to help ensure that consultation reaches a wide audience. The make up of this group aims to reflect the demographic, faith and ethnic profile of the diverse community in Stamford Hill. Members are all volunteers who have given their time to shape the Area Action Plan.

Towards a Stamford Hill Plan', December 2016

- 7.11. An 18-month engagement programme including drop-in events, questionnaires, sessions with local schools and workshops covering different themes informed the key issues set out in the 'Towards a Stamford Hill Plan'. Public consultation on the 'was undertaken in Spring 2017. More than 2,000 responses over an eight week period.

Draft Stamford Area Action Plan, 2021 (Extended Regulation 18 Consultation

- 7.12. The Draft Stamford Area Action Plan, 2021 (Extended Regulation 18 Consultation) was consulted on from December 2021 to February 2022. The consultation provided an opportunity for people to comment on more detailed policies. Extensive efforts were made to disseminate information about the consultation. Advertisements were placed in the December 2021 edition of Hackney Today, which is distributed to 108,000 homes and businesses in Hackney. Council e-newsletters were sent to over 9,000 subscribers and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were utilised to promote the consultation. In addition, an email was sent to each of the over 1300 contacts on the Strategic Planning Consultee list, ensuring that key stakeholders were informed and invited to participate.
- 7.13. To further facilitate access to the consultation materials, hard copies of the plan, summary documents, evidence base and questionnaires were made available for viewing at prominent locations such as Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington and Hackney Central libraries. An additional hard copy questionnaire designed in consultation with the Interlink Foundation to encourage responses from Charedi residents. The Council also organised two outdoor in-person events and officers attended two virtual ward forums to provide an overview of the plan and address questions from residents. These efforts were undertaken to ensure that the consultation process was comprehensive, inclusive and accessible to all members of the Stamford Hill community.
- 7.14. In response:
- The Council received feedback from 1488 respondents
 - Through 'Common Place', an online engagement portal, 298 completed 'Quick Feedback' and a further 341 completed the full online questionnaire
 - 531 'Quick Feedback' forms and 204 full questionnaires were received in hard copy
 - 114 representations were received via emails.
- 7.15. The established approach of going beyond minimum legal requirements will be continued for consultation on Stamford Hill AAP (Publication Version, Regulation 19). The approach to dissemination set out in paragraphs 7.10 to 7.13 above will be replicated. In addition, all respondents to the consultation will also be invited to express an interest in taking part in the independent examination in line with requirements. These requests along with comments will be submitted to the Government and reviewed by the independent Planning Inspector.

Risk assessment

- 7.16. A full risk assessment has been carried out as part of the project plan produced for the AAP. The outcome of this has informed the 'reasons for decision' set out above.

Next Steps

7.17. If Cabinet recommends approval and Council approves publication and consultation on the Stamford Hill AAP (Regulation 19 Publication Version), the document will be consulted on in Spring 2024. It will then be submitted along with all comments received on it and evidence documents to the government for an independent examination. Subject to the conclusions of this Inspector's report, the AAP can then be formally adopted by the Council. A Planning Inspector will be appointed to test the plan to establish whether it is 'sound'. To be sound, a Plan needs to:

- meet the objectively assessed needs of an area
- be justified by evidence
- be able to be effectively implemented and
- should be consistent with national planning policies.

7.18. If during the course of the examination it is identified changes are needed for soundness, these will be the subject of further consultation and will be reported back to Cabinet and Council for approval. The Inspector will then produce a report on findings and decide on whether the plan is 'sound'. Subject to the conclusions of this Inspector's report, the AAP can then be formally adopted by the Council. The key milestones are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Stamford Hill AAP key milestones for plan production

AAP Milestone	Dates
Cabinet & Council consideration of the Proposed Submission	February 2024
Consultation on the Stamford Hill (Regulation 19 Publication version)	Spring 2024
Submission of the AAP to Government for examination	Spring 2024
Examination of the AAP and potentially consultation on proposed modifications required for soundness	Summer 2024*
Adoption	Winter 2025*

8. Comments of the Interim Group Director, Finance

8.1. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the release of the planned submission version of the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (AAP) in accordance with Local Plan Regulations (2012), an important step towards formalising the plan's inclusion into the local planning framework.

8.2. This detailed plan lays out the goals, principles, and strategies for the development of Stamford Hill in the future. It underlines the need to strike a

fine balance between meeting particular issues and preserving and strengthening the area's individual characteristics.

- 8.3. The AAP was created as a result of intensive consultation with neighbourhood residents and community organisations. This is consistent with the Council's commitment to involving the community and making sure that policies are sensitive to their needs and aspirations. The Council's objective of fostering community welfare is directly supported by the plan's emphasis on upgrading social infrastructure, community amenities, and schools.
- 8.4. The process of developing the AAP, conducting consultations, and preparing associated documentation have costs related to staffing, administration, public engagement activities, and materials which have been covered by existing resources.

9. Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 9.1 The recommendations sought in Section 3 of this report are Key Decisions as they concern decision making that is likely to 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.
- 9.2 Pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 before submitting a local plan to the Secretary of State, the Local Planning authority must (a) make a copy of the proposed submission document and a statement of the representations procedure available in accordance with the regulations and (b) ensure that a statement of the representations procedure and a statement of the fact that the proposed submission document is available for inspection and the of the places and times at which they can be inspected, is sent to each of the general consultations bodies and each of the specific consultation bodies invited invited to make presentations under regulation 18(1).

Cabinets authority to approve the recommendations

- 9.3 Cabinet is authorised to approve the recommendation in Section 3 of this report pursuant to the Mayor's Scheme of Delegation (See Note 3 and the section on 'Policy Framework' which grants Cabinet the responsibility for making recommendations to the Council on the Local Development Framework (now known as the Local Plan) and Local Area Action Plans).

Council's authority to approve the recommendations

- 9.4 The Council is authorised to approve the recommendations in Section 3 of this report pursuant to:

i) Part 2, Article 4.7(b) of the Constitution which states that the Full Council will among other things exercise functions on approving or adopting the policy framework. Articles 4.8 and 4.9 of the Constitution define the policy framework, which includes 'the Local Development Framework' prepared pursuant to section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Section 15 of this Act has been amended and now refers to 'development plan documents' instead and includes strategic planning policies such as the Stamford Hill (AAP); and

ii) Part 2, Article 4.8(a) (and Article 4.7(b)) of the Constitution which authorises Full Council to approve or adopt plans including the Local Development Framework (which includes the Stamford Hill (AAP)).

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (AAP) Proposed Submission Version

Background documents

None

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STAMFORD HILL AREA ACTION PLAN

FEBRUARY 2024

Publication (Reg 19) Consultation Version



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Accessibility Statement

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planmaking@hackney.gov.uk

We will consider your request and get back to you in the next five working days.

1. Introduction

1.1 What is the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan?

The Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (AAP) is a planning document which will provide a comprehensive framework for Stamford Hill for the next 15 years. The Plan will manage existing development pressures and shape future growth in a sustainable manner.

The Plan evolved from discussions relating to Neighbourhood Planning which took place in Stamford Hill during 2013 and 2014. Two local groups with different objectives applied for Neighbourhood Forums in Stamford Hill. Both groups had local support, but different approaches to planning for Stamford Hill. Working with both of the groups, the Council developed an alternative approach which resulted in agreement with these groups to develop a fully inclusive AAP for Stamford Hill.

The AAP provides a framework for growth which safeguards the area's unique character. It will be used to guide future development in the area. The AAP will ensure that development delivers real benefits to the community, particularly through maximising the supply of large family homes, improving public space and public realm, providing new schools and community facilities and improving local shopping centres. In producing the Stamford Hill AAP, the Council has involved the community in a positive way to create a new vision for the future of Stamford Hill.

1.2 Planning Policy Context

The Stamford Hill AAP is not being developed in isolation, it is consistent with relevant national, regional and borough wide planning policies. Once the plan is finalised, examined and adopted it will form part of the borough's Local Plan which means that it will be part of the development plan for the borough. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The AAP's will help direct and shape new development in Stamford Hill as it will be used to determine planning applications located within the AAP boundary area. Figure 1 shows the Stamford Hill AAP in the wider policy context.

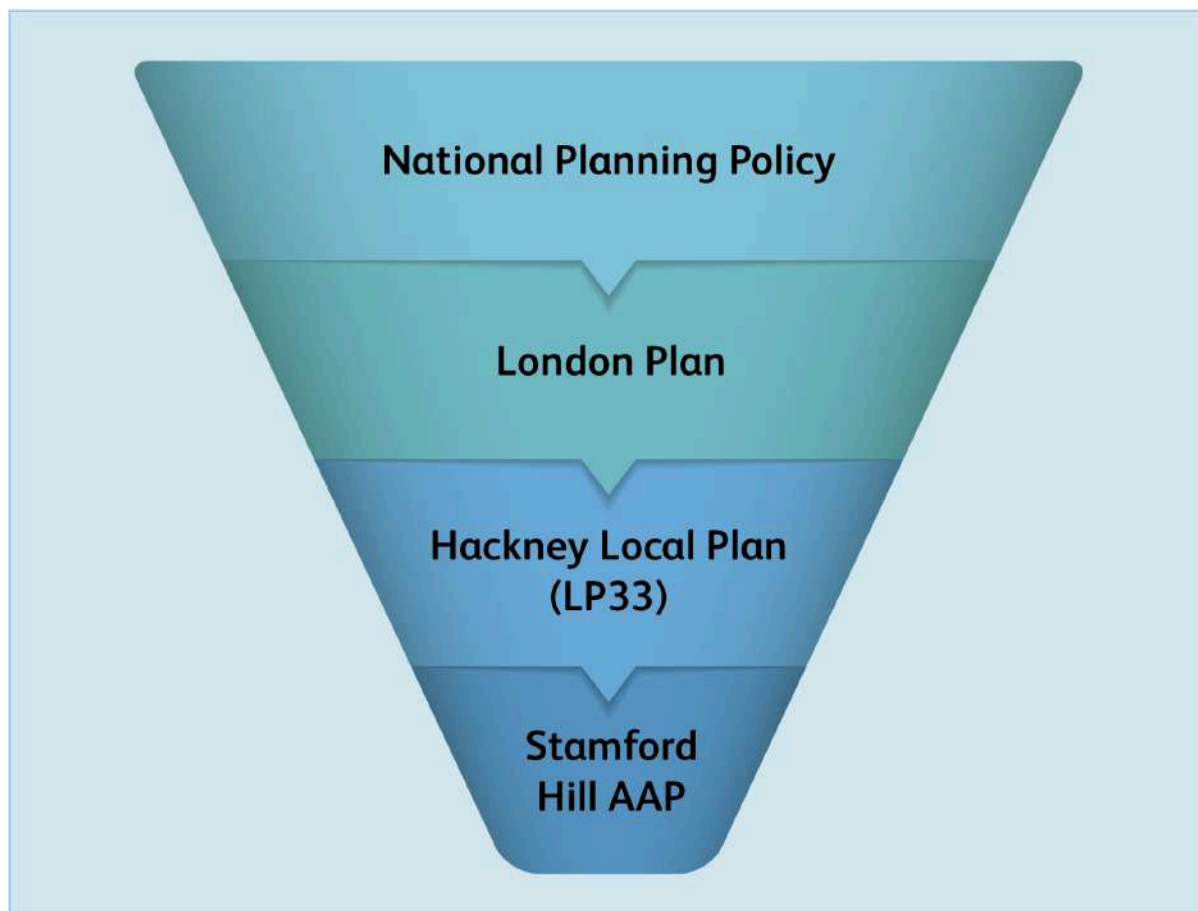


Figure 1: The relationship of the Stamford Hill Plan with other plans and policies in Hackney

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

The Stamford Hill AAP must comply with national policy guidance as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The AAP is in accordance with the law set out in the Localism Act (covering Duty to Cooperate and Neighbourhood Plans) and the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act.

The NPPF requires local planning authorities to plan positively to seek opportunities to meet objectively assessed development needs. Planning applications that accord with the policies in this plan will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Council will work proactively with applications to secure development opportunities that economically, socially, environmentally benefit the area.

London Plan

The London Plan is prepared by the Mayor of London, setting out regional planning policies for all of London regarding housing, transport, economic development and the environment. It forms part of Hackney's Development Plan, and therefore, the AAP must be in general conformity with the London Plan, as adopted in March 2021. The AAP has an important role in delivering the 'Good Growth' articulated in the London Plan. London Plan policy GG1 encourages a strong and inclusive community 'ensuring that new buildings and spaces are designed to reinforce or enhance the identity, legibility, permeability, and inclusivity of neighbourhoods, and are resilient and adaptable to changing community requirements'. Stamford Hill contains areas of Metropolitan Open Land, which are protected through the London Plan, including Springfield Park.

Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework (2013)

The Upper Lee Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework (ULV OAPF) was published by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in July 2013. It was developed in collaboration with Transport for London (TfL) and the London boroughs of Enfield, Haringey, Waltham Forest and Hackney which have land in the Upper Lee Valley.

The OAPF seeks to increase the number of homes, jobs and the quality of the environment within its area by producing an overarching framework for the regeneration of the area. The ULV OAPF provides additional guidance to support implementation of the London Plan and will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Local Plan 2033 (LP33)

The borough-wide Local Plan 2033 (LP33) was adopted in July 2020. It sets out a vision, a growth strategy and the supporting policies to guide development in Hackney through to 2033. Visit hackney.gov.uk/lp33 to read the Local Plan.

The Stamford Hill AAP has been developed alongside the LP33. Policies within the LP33 will also apply to the Stamford Hill area.

The AAP provides a local spatial planning framework for the area, giving detailed expression to the Stamford Hill Place Policy 4 (PP4) of LP33 that sets out the overall strategic policies for Stamford Hill. The AAP sets out a vision, objectives and policies to help deliver these principles and to promote positive change to address local issues, especially around overcrowding.

The AAP builds upon the LP33 evidence base and the policies in the Local Plan have informed the development of the draft policies outlined in this AAP which includes non-strategic and locally specific policies and site allocations. Some policies and site allocations in this AAP supersede the borough-wide policies in LP33; these are identified in sections 7 and 8.

The AAP has also been informed by objectives contained in other corporate strategies including:

- Strategic Plan 2022–2026
- Community Strategy 2018–2028
- Climate Action Plan 2023
- Transport Strategy 2015–2025
- Hackney Housing Strategy 2017–2022
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022–2026
- Hackney's Air Quality Action Plan 2021–2025
- Hackney Green Infrastructure Strategy 2021

Neighbouring Authorities

Stamford Hill is located at the north of the borough on the border with Haringey and South Tottenham to the north. It is also adjacent to the boroughs of Haringey and Waltham Forest, and in close proximity to Islington. The Stamford Hill AAP has been prepared in coordination with these neighbouring authorities and having regard to their existing and emerging policies.

The NPPF requires local planning authorities to prepare and maintain statements of common ground which document cross-boundary matters being addressed and the progress made in addressing them. This requirement will be tested in an independent examination process led by a Planning Inspector before the AAP can be formally adopted.

It is therefore important for Stamford Hill AAP to work in tandem with the emerging and adopted local policy positions of neighbouring boroughs and to have collaborated with them in developing this AAP. The cooperation has many far-ranging benefits and will be instrumental in helping address cross-boundary issues and shared objectives such as meeting; housing needs, addressing demand for community space, transport links and issues, corridor capacity and improving the public realm.

1.3 Evidence Base

A broad range of studies have been undertaken during the preparation of the Stamford Hill AAP. These build upon the evidence base prepared to support the 'Towards a Stamford Hill Plan'. For more information on the studies undertaken to support the AAP, please visit the website at: hackney.gov.uk/stamford-hill-aap

1.4 Engagement and Consultation

As a planning document that will form part of the development plan for Hackney, the AAP has met the minimum requirements for formal consultation set out in Planning Law. But it also went beyond this and provided opportunities for all to be involved throughout the preparation of the AAP. Engagement with individual members of the community and community groups has been central to the Stamford Hill AAP process from the start. This has helped develop a shared understanding of the issues and has informed a collective vision for the future development of Stamford Hill.

Early Engagement before 2016

Extensive community engagement at the start of the process included street consultations, community workshops and working with local schools. The Council has also sought to maximise inclusion and identify shared concerns across religious, cultural and party political divides throughout the process.

To build support across the whole community, a Cross Party Steering group involving local Ward Councillors from the main political parties was set up to steer the delivery of the plan. The Council also set up a Community Panel which includes local community leaders who live or work in Stamford Hill.

Cross Party Member Steering Group

A Cross Party Steering Group was established at the end of 2014 to manage the production of the Plan. Members include Councillors from the following wards; Stamford Hill West, Springfield, Woodberry Down and Cazenove and council officers. The Steering Group is responsible for making all major decisions in respect of the consultation process as well as ensuring overall quality of output in accordance with relevant Council standards. The Cross Party Steering group is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy.

Community Panel

The Council set up a Community Panel in 2015. Moderated by an independent facilitator, it has played a major role in the organisation of a programme of community engagement for the Stamford Hill AAP. The main purpose of the Community Panel is to ensure that a range of local views are taken into account in the policies developed in the Plan. The group includes representatives of both of the Stamford Hill neighbourhood forum applicants, key community groups, faith groups and ward Councillors. The group

aims to reflect the demographic, faith and ethnic profile of the community in Stamford Hill.

‘Towards a Stamford Hill Plan’ (Regulation 18 Plan), 2017

The 18 month programme of early engagement has helped build a substantial body of evidence to understand the issues and challenges facing Stamford Hill and how best to approach these in the AAP. The key issues were reflected in ‘Towards a Stamford Hill Plan’ which was consulted on for 8 weeks from February to March 2017.

The [Consultation Statement](#) (2019) for Stamford Hill Area Action Plan outlines what steps were taken by the London Borough of Hackney to engage with the community and stakeholders regarding the AAP. In total, the Council received over 2,000 responses to the ‘Towards a Stamford Hill Plan’ in the form of letters and online responses. This consultation identified a number of key planning issues and options for the Council to consider and explore as detailed in the Stamford Hill AAP Consultation Statement (2019).

Draft Stamford Hill AAP (Extended Regulation 18 Plan), 2021

Feedback from the public and stakeholders to help the Council develop a more detailed set of preferred policy options and consultation were set out in a Draft Area Action Plan. Consultation on an updated Draft Area Action Plan took place in December 2021 to February 2022. Again, levels of engagement were high, with 1488 respondents making representations in different formats. The [Consultation Report](#) (2023) on the Draft Stamford Hill Area Action Plan provides a detailed summary of the responses to this consultation.

Stamford Hill AAP (Regulation 19 Publication Version) – We are at this stage

We are now consulting on the **Stamford Hill AAP (Regulation 19 Publication Version)** which has been informed by supporting evidence and previous consultations.

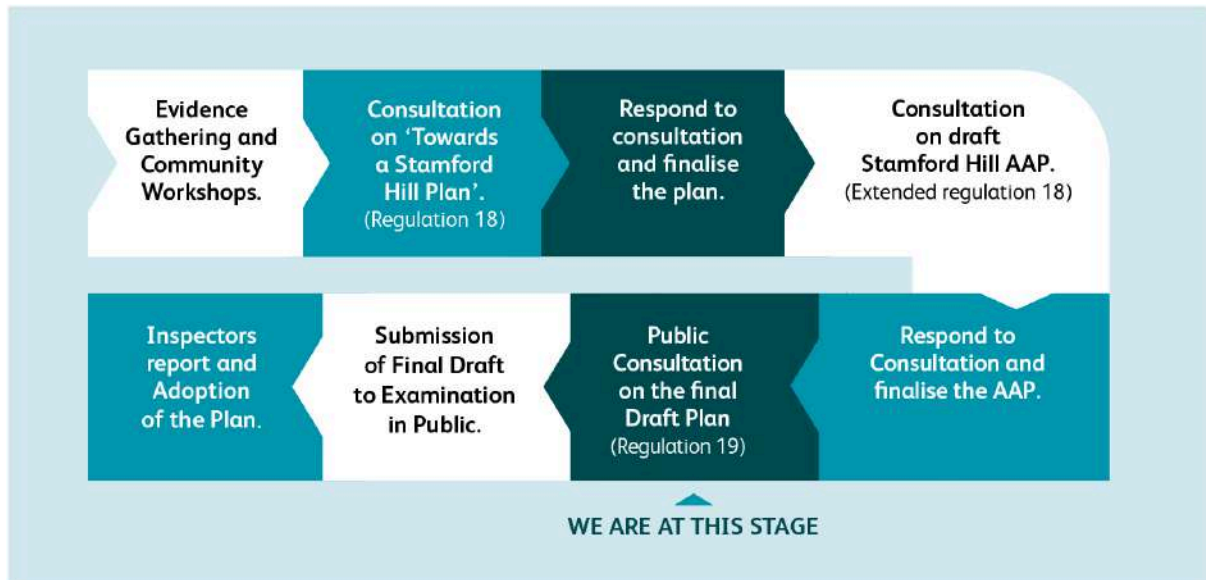


Figure 2: Stages to the creation of the Stamford Hill AAP

1.4 Next Steps

This Stamford Hill AAP (Regulation 19 Publication Version), comments received on it, and all related evidence documents will then be submitted to the government for an independent examination. A Planning Inspector will be appointed to test the plan to establish whether it is 'sound'. To be sound, a Plan needs to:

- meet the objectively assessed needs of an area
- be justified by evidence
- be able to be effectively implemented and
- should be consistent with national planning policies.

Further information about this process is available on the Council's website.

2. Stamford Hill's Identity, Opportunities and Challenges

2.1 Stamford Hill Today: Location and Role

Stamford Hill is located at the northern edge of Hackney at the border with Haringey. Stamford Hill AAP area is home to nearly 44,000 residents according to the Census 2021. Past analysis has indicated a degree of undercount in the Census for this part of Hackney. However, what is clear is that there is population growth in this area which has the highest birthrates in Hackney and the highest proportion of children under 5 years old¹.

The centre of Stamford Hill Broadway is located at the summit of a shallow hill dominated by mature plane trees. Stamford Hill Broadway itself has recently been upgraded from a local centre to a district centre in Hackney's borough-wide Local Plan. As Stamford Hill is on the edge of the borough it also serves the community in South Tottenham, in Haringey. To the east lies Springfield Park and the Lea Valley, and to the west is the Woodberry Down estate, one of Europe's biggest single-site estate regeneration projects. Woodberry Down will bring much needed additional housing to the area, improve the public realm, and create new east-west routes through the estate and towards the Stamford Hill Broadway.

The hub of the local community is centred on Stamford Hill Broadway which lies on the old Roman road Ermine Street. Development of the area began around 1800, and many prosperous dwellings were built around Stamford Hill over the next 100 years. In the post war period many large estates were built by Charitable Trusts and the London County Council. Stamford Hill feels distinct in terms of its relatively low density with wider streets and larger properties compared to the rest of the borough.

People and Community

The area has a rich heritage and is characterised by its diverse community. People of a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and faiths live in the four wards that make up the AAP area. The largest religious group in the area is Jewish and there are also significant numbers of Christian and Muslim people.

Stamford Hill is home to the UK's largest Orthodox Jewish community, the Charedi community. This community has a higher birth rate and larger large family sizes than the average in Hackney. This is contributing to much higher population growth rate when compared to the rest of Hackney. Interlink and the Council worked together to conduct a Charedi Community Survey in 2016 which suggested the average size of Charedi

¹ Census 2021 and ONS Statistic on birthrates

Households in Stamford Hill was 5.7 individuals. Census 2021 data shows the largest concentration of households with more than 4 people is in the Stamford Hill Area.

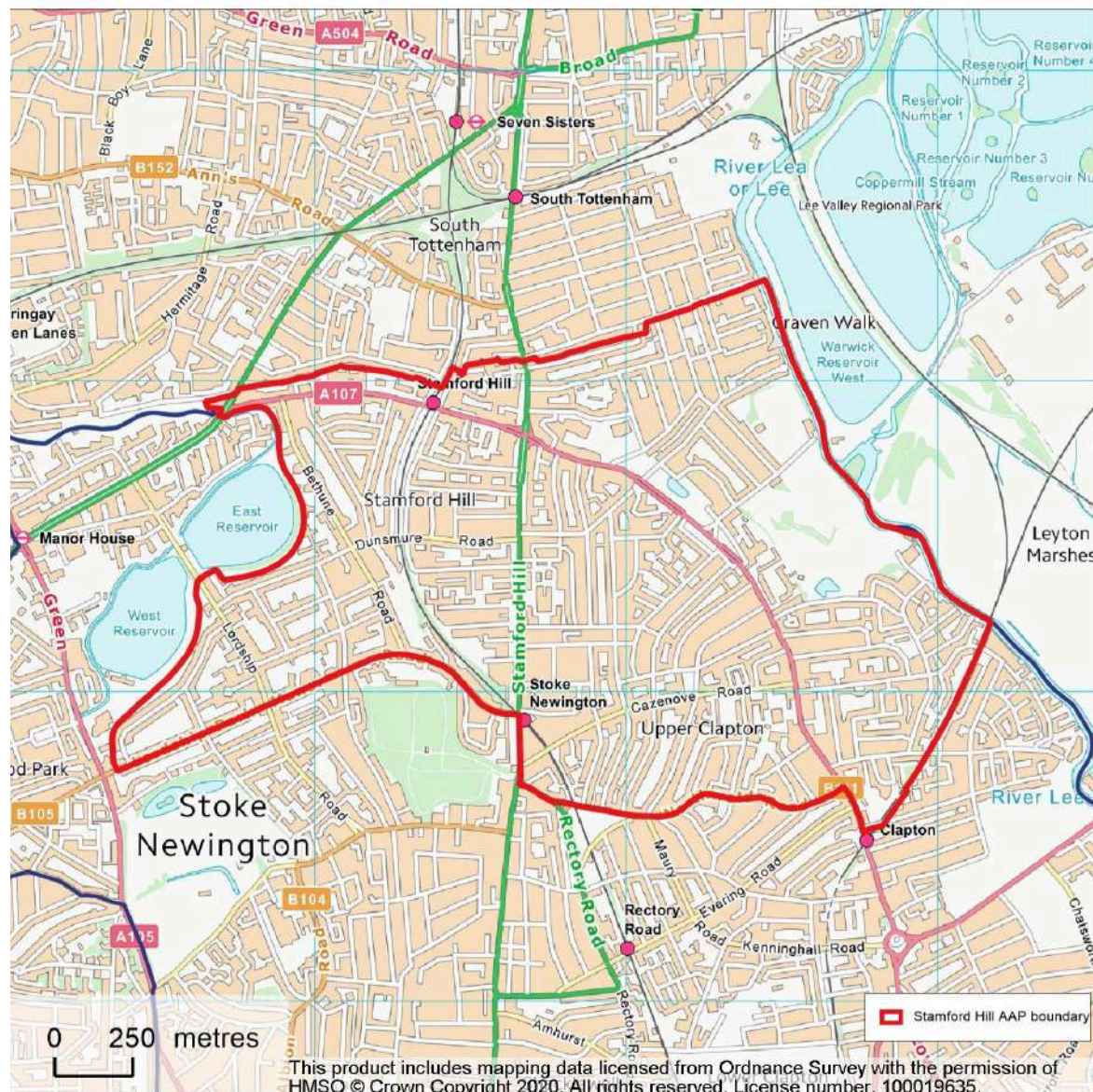


Figure 3 – Stamford Hill AAP Boundary

For religious reasons, members of the Charedi community desire to live within walking distance of their place of worship, shops and local services such as schools. The combination of a high birth rate and a desire to remain in a relatively tightly defined geographic area inevitably leads to pressure for development, in particular higher demand for social infrastructure and large family sized housing.

History

Stamford Hill attracted wealthy residents (merchants) in the late 18th and early 19th century due to its elevated position where the Roman road of Ermine Street meets the Clapton Road. From 1872, Stamford Hill experienced rapid growth due to the emergence of the tramline and the train station which established the present layout of Stamford Hill. This consisted of a 20-year building programme. This growth can be seen in Figures 4 to 6. This growth attracted upwardly mobile Jews who relocated from the East End. This migration saw several synagogues being relocated or founded in Stamford Hill.

In the 1930s, the London County Council and Guinness Trust built estates in Stamford Hill, and more blocks were added after the war along with the Samuel Lewis Trust. This was a period of Charedi Jew immigration from eastern Europe.

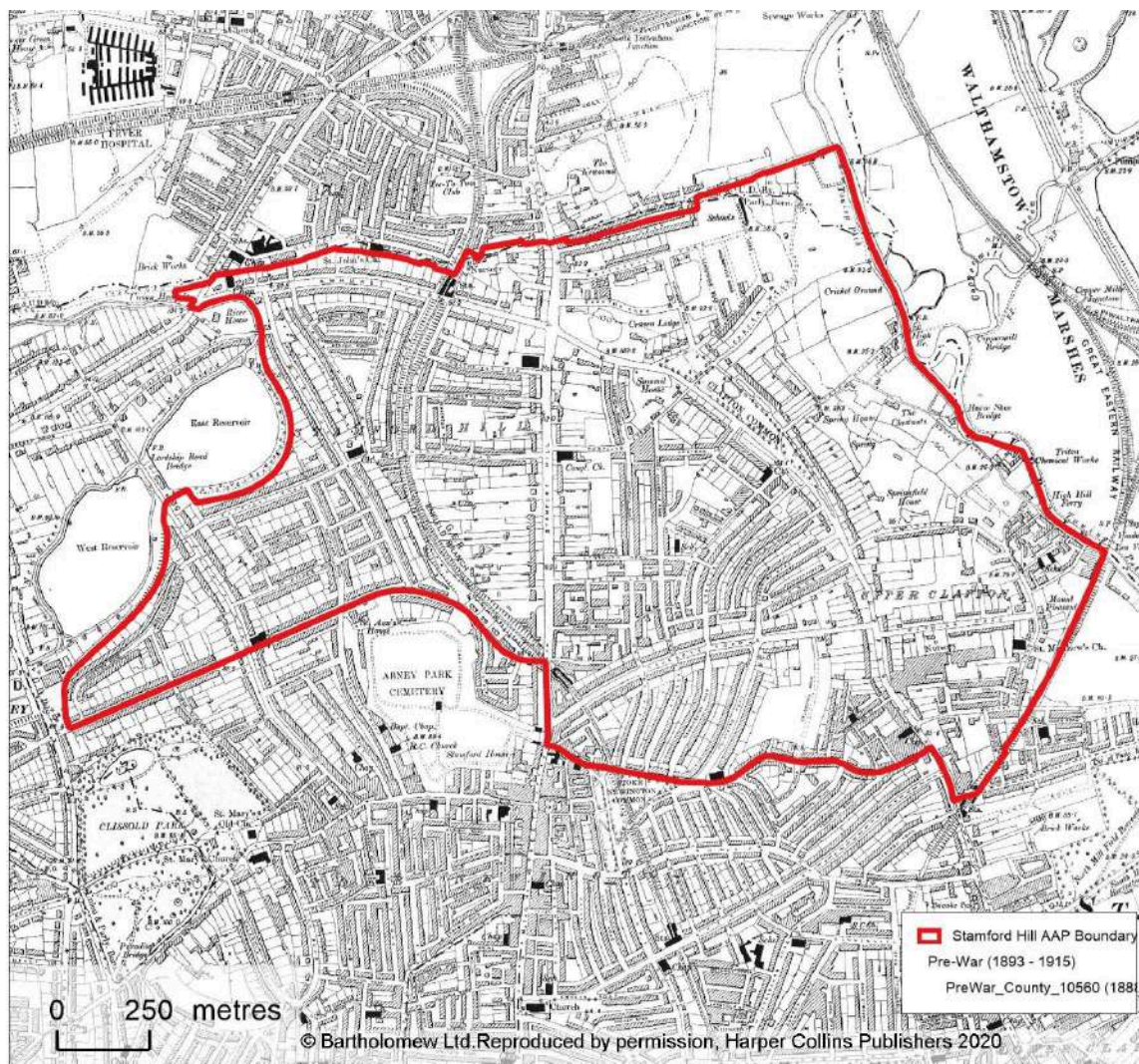


Figure 4: Stamford Hill AAP Area 1893–1915

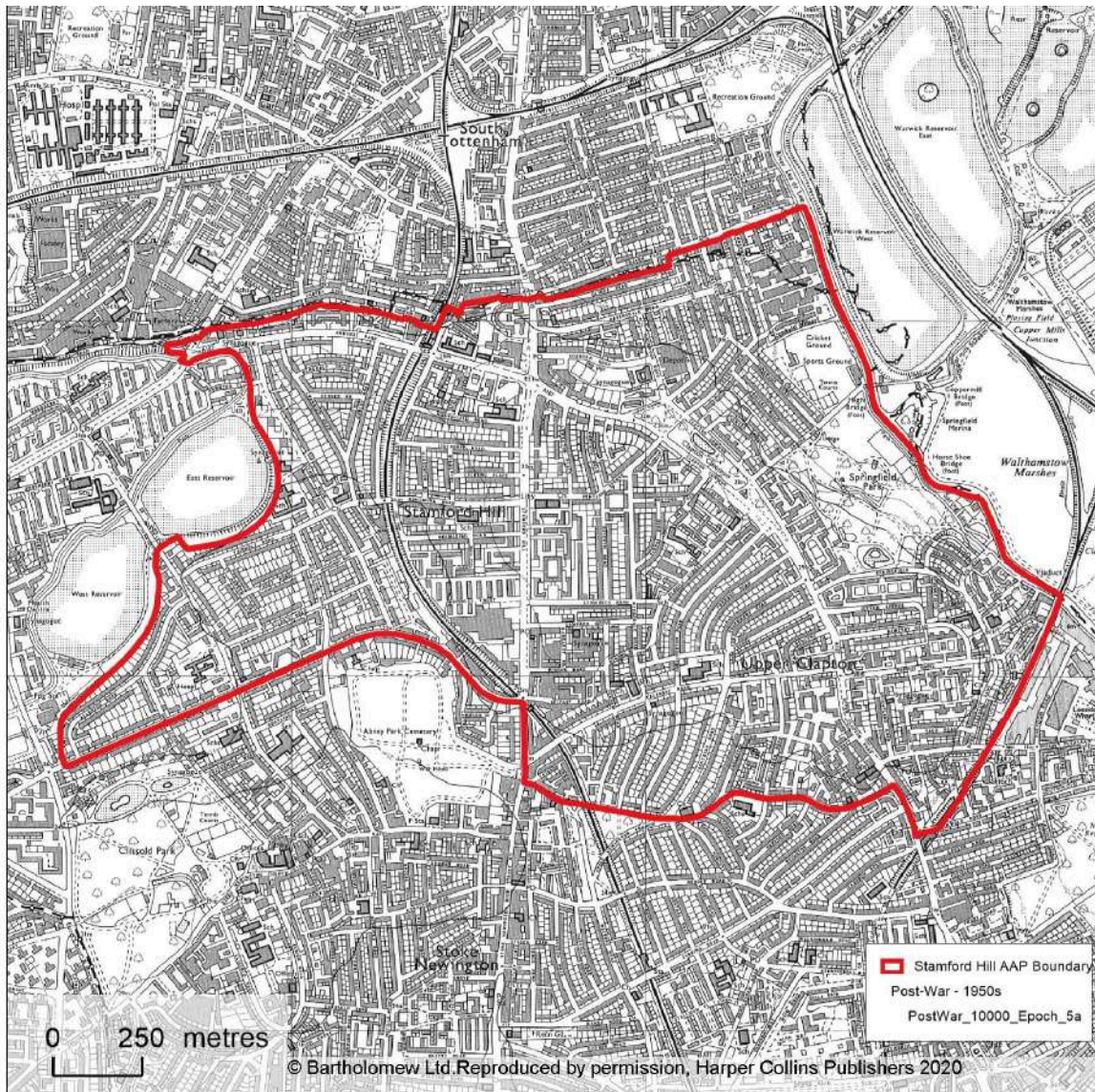


Figure 5: Stamford Hill AAP 1950s

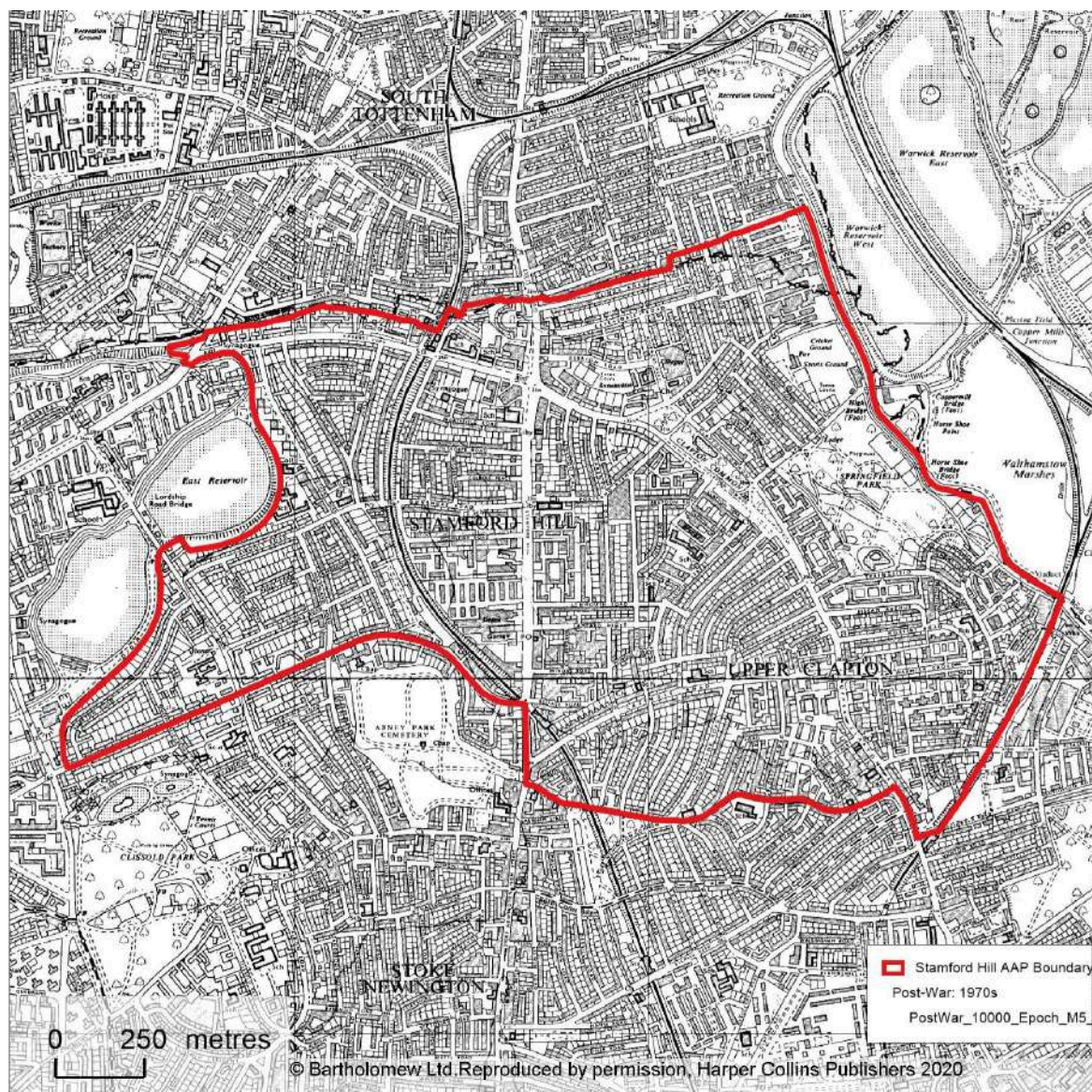


Figure 6: Stamford Hill AAP Area 1960s

2.2 Key Issues, Opportunities and Challenges

The following section summarises the key issues, opportunities and challenges that have been identified through community engagement, consultation and analysis of evidence.

- **Housing**

- Stamford Hill is a desirable place to live and as such purchase and rental prices are continuing to increase. There is a housing need crisis in Stamford Hill and even though this is a London-wide problem, certain aspects may be more pronounced in Stamford Hill. In common with other parts of Hackney, sites for development of new homes are limited.
- Stamford Hill has a high average household size, there is higher occupancy with households experiencing overcrowding. There is a need for more large homes suitable for large families.
- Residential extensions have the potential to help alleviate overcrowding and create more space, but if poorly designed this can negatively impact on the built character of the area.
- The London Borough of Haringey has a policy that enables upward residential extensions in South Tottenham in Haringey in response to similar housing challenges.

- **Social and Community Facilities**

- Community facilities such as places of worship and community centres are an essential requirement for the local community in Stamford Hill.
- There is a demand across the areas for high quality community spaces and retaining and creating shared spaces for different community groups to connect is an important community priority.
- The Orthodox Jewish Community educate their children in faith schools which are mostly independent schools. There is a growing number of independent schools serving this community in Stamford Hill. Pressure for housing across the area has limited the availability of sites to meet this need and there is an urgent need for suitable sites and buildings for schools.
- The Charedi Community for religious reasons, need to live close to their own synagogues and schools.
- Schools and housing are both priorities for the areas so there is contention around losing housing for community facilities. Management of the amenity impacts of uses such as schools in residential areas is also an issue.

- **Town Centres**

- The retail function of town centres in Stamford Hill is very strong and is essential to meet the needs of the local community. There is a need to

diversify the centres to make them more resilient and broaden the commercial, leisure and community services in the area.

- The quality of units could be upgraded in the town centres along with improvement to the public realm to create more inviting shopping and cultural destinations that improves the overall experience when using the goods and services offered.
- Planning does not control the occupancy of these town centre units, and the retail sector is changing, there is a strong trend towards online shopping which is affecting the diversity of goods town centres across the country. However, Stamford Hill has remained a popular shopping centre with a very low vacancy rate.

- **Design and Local Character**

- Some parts of Stamford Hill are designated as conservation areas in order to protect their special historical and architectural quality
- There is a desire for growth in the area to meet housing and other needs, but for this to be realised in a that does not adversely impact the public street or townscape character
- Support for the defined character areas identified through the character area analysis.

- **Public Realm and Urban Greening**

- Main road corridors run through the centre of the AAP area and concerns have been raised around pedestrian safety, especially around the town centres.
- Public Realm improvements are needed to provide better walking and cycling routes to improve safety and reduce the need for car use in Stamford Hill.
- Quality of existing public spaces in Stamford Hill could be improved through urban greening and other interventions to improve their amenity value.

- **Green Infrastructure**

- The connectivity between open spaces could be improved particularly east-west links across the area.
- Creating and improving green links between open spaces could also benefit wildlife movement and enhance biodiversity.
- The need to provide high quality recreational spaces in Stamford Hill is central to maintaining the health and wellbeing of local residents. It is recognised that the new homes proposed in this plan will generate demand for additional recreational opportunities.

3. The AAP Framework: Visions and Key Objectives

3.1 Vision Statement:

Stamford Hill Connected

Stamford Hill will retain its distinctive character and be developed in a way that connects its communities to places, opportunities and each other. Development will respond to and celebrate Stamford Hills diversity and culture and contribute to fostering a strong, cohesive community in Stamford Hill.

Spacious new or extended homes will be well designed and reflect the built form character of the area. They will be supported by community facilities that meet specific needs of service users as well as new and improved shared spaces and co-located services that provide opportunities for connection between different groups living in the area.

The Town Centre will thrive serving the range of retail, leisure and civic needs of communities in Stamford Hill and attracting visitors from across Hackney and beyond. These, along with other community and commercial spaces will contribute to creating training and job opportunities and a vibrant local economy.

Stamford Hill will have an improved public realm, designed around the communities' residential, civic and economic needs, and connected to a choice of sustainable modes of transport. More access to open and natural spaces will support nature recovery and climate mitigation and adaptation and wellbeing.

3.2 Key Objectives

1. To deliver high quality urban design in Stamford Hill that enhances its distinctive local character, celebrates its diverse community and seeks to enhance its architectural and landscape merits through a fine grained approach that promotes positive change and optimises the use of underdeveloped sites.
2. To deliver well designed new homes, and enable extensions to existing homes, to address overcrowding through providing a range of dwelling types, sizes and tenures to sustain mixed and balanced communities, with a particular focus on housing for large families.
3. To maximise the benefits of active travel by improving walking and cycling infrastructure to support growth and existing communities.

4. To address deficiencies in children's play provision in the northern and southern parts of the Stamford Hill AAP area.
5. To improve connections between existing open spaces within the Stamford Hill area with a particular focus on east to west links to improve accessibility between Woodberry Down and the Lea Valley Regional Park.
6. To improve the network of streets and footpaths to make walking and cycling safe and pleasant and reduce traffic congestion in the Stamford Hill area particularly around Oldhill Street and Dunsmure Road.
7. To create new opportunities for adult learning, training and job opportunities and enable delivery of workspace/affordable workspaces that diversifies the economy and boosts employment.
8. To enhance and intensify the town centre function of Stamford Hill Broadway, Stoke Newington (north), Dunsmure Road and Oldhill Street as vibrant and mixed use shopping centres that are attractive, accessible, and meet the needs of the local community.
9. To create an accessible, distinctive and vibrant town centre at Stamford Hill Broadway that builds on its distinct architectural quality and is a cultural destination for visitors, to promote flexible mixed-use development in the Stamford Hill town centre and increase the range of shops, restaurants, cafes and employment opportunities.
10. To facilitate shared space and opportunities for greater interaction between people of different social, ethnic and religious affiliation.
11. To ensure schools provision is aligned with type and level of need in Stamford Hill and to facilitate provision of additional school places in the independent sector.
12. To ensure that people who live and/or work in Stamford Hill have access to local educational, training, health and community facilities to meet their day-to-day needs.
13. To promote the health and well-being of local people by supporting active lifestyles and reducing health inequalities.
14. To promote the development of additional arts, cultural, leisure and entertainment opportunities in Stamford Hill.

3.3 Stamford Hill AAP Diagram

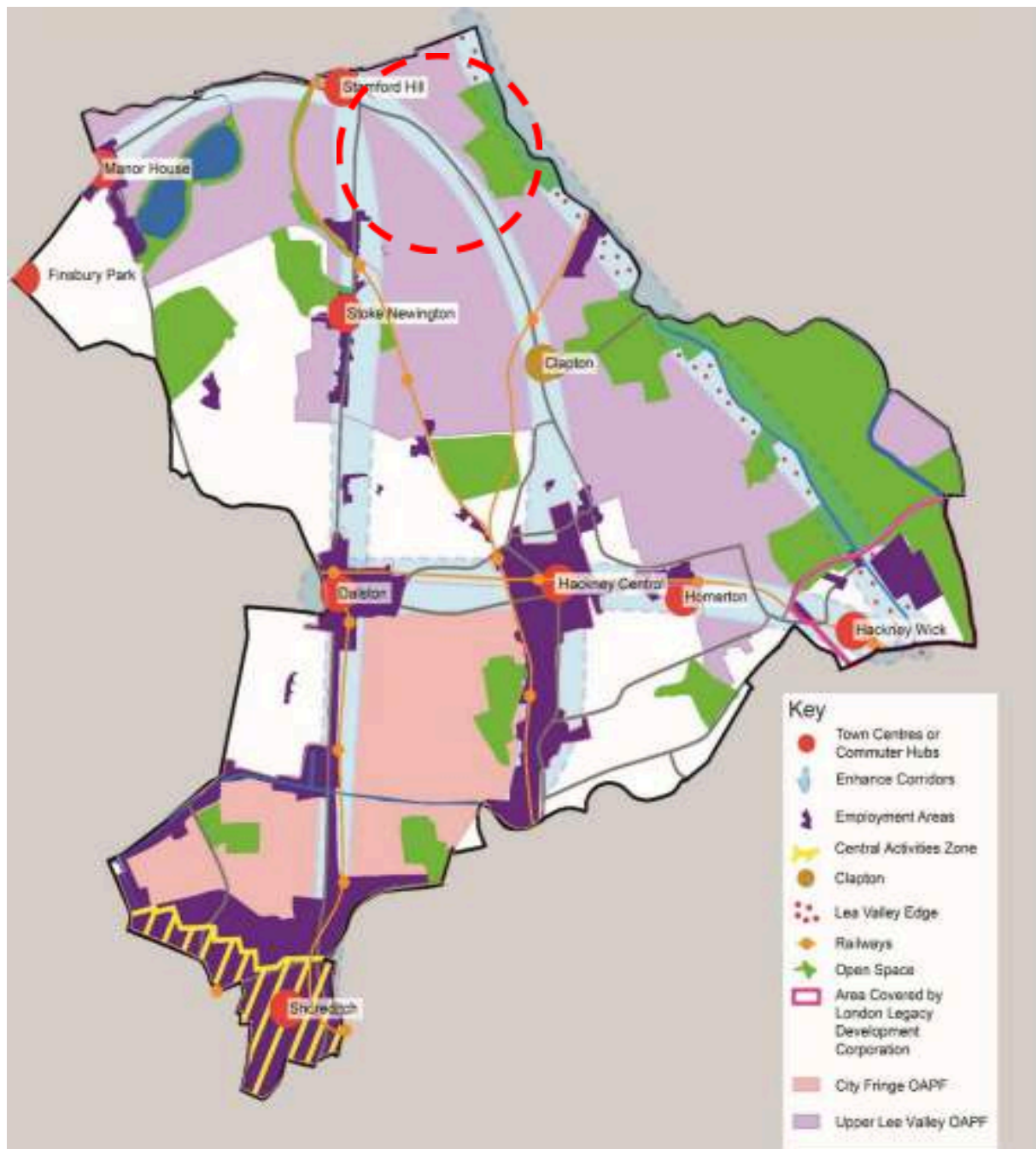


Figure 7: Stamford Hill AAP Key Diagram

4. Stamford Hill AAP Area Wide Policies

This section of the Area Action Plan (AAP) sets out detailed Stamford Hill specific policies that complement the borough-wide planning policies, to guide and manage new development within the area. It should be noted that these policies do not repeat nor conflict with the Council's wider Local Plan policies or those that are in the London Plan but should be read in conjunction with them. Where a policy in the AAP supersedes a Local Plan policy, this has been identified in Part 7.

Area Wide Policies

Policy AAP1: Dwelling Mix

Policy AAP2: Residential Conversions to Flats

Policy AAP3: Residential Extensions and Alterations

Policy AAP4: Local Enterprise and the Economy

Policy AAP5: Social, Community and Cultural Infrastructure

Policy AAP6: Delivering High Quality Design

Policy AAP7: Public Realm

Policy AAP8: Green Infrastructure

Chapter 1 Housing

With a growing population that already experiences significant over-crowding, delivering good quality, genuinely affordable family homes to meet the needs of Stamford Hill's existing and future households is a key challenge for the AAP. Stamford Hill experiences substantially more overcrowding compared to the rest of the borough. Larger family homes are needed. Alongside this need, there is also a need to provide some smaller units to encourage older residents to down size and allow them to stay in the area.

Reflecting Borough-wide needs, a lack of affordable housing remains one of the predominant issues across the whole community in Stamford Hill. The Council will continue to secure the maximum amount of affordable housing in new developments by applying existing borough wide Local Plan policies to the Stamford Hill area.

Key Facts

- The average size of households within Stamford Hill is significantly higher than in other parts of the borough
- Stamford Hill is the most overcrowded part of the borough

Chapter Objectives

- To deliver high quality urban design in Stamford Hill that enhances its distinctive local character, celebrates its diverse community and seeks to enhance its architectural and landscape merits through a fine grained approach that promotes positive change and optimises the use of underdeveloped sites.
- To deliver new homes to address overcrowding through providing a range of dwelling types, sizes and tenures to sustain mixed and balanced communities, with a particular focus on housing for large families.
- To increase the supply of new housing in Stamford Hill, especially family homes that are genuinely affordable.

Policy AAP1: Dwelling mix

- A. New build housing development should maximise the provision of larger homes in Stamford Hill. Schemes of five or more residential units will be expected to deliver at least 20% of new homes with 4 or more bedrooms, across all tenures.**
- B. The Council will consider other variations to the dwelling size mix set out under A above if this can be justified based on the tenures and type of housing proposed, site location, area characteristics, design constraints, scheme viability; and where shared ownership is proposed, the ability of potential occupiers to afford the homes proposed.**
- C. Variations to the dwelling mix will be permitted in the context of estate regeneration schemes where it can be demonstrated that this is needed to meet the needs of returning residents and has been informed by consultation with residents of the estate.**
- D. Specialist housing for older people and extra care housing are not subject to the same dwelling mix requirements and are exempt from requirements to provide larger family homes.**

Hackney Local Plan (2033) policy cross reference:

- LP14 Dwelling Size Mix

The dwelling size mix in new development in Stamford Hill needs to be considered alongside the outstanding housing needs in the borough, and in particular the ability of local residents to be able to meet their housing costs, and the continued delivery of genuinely affordable homes to meet housing needs.

In order to meet the need for large family units and address overcrowding, Local Plan Policy LP14 identifies the need to maximise the amount of 4 bedroom + dwellings in Stamford Hill. Proposals for residential use should reflect the latest evidence of need for units sizes across the plan area:

The policy approach takes into account deliverability. Given the housing challenges experienced in the borough, the Council will continue to ensure that affordable homes delivered are genuinely affordable in line with Local Plan policy. For example, the delivery

of larger affordable home ownership dwellings will need to be considered alongside a resident's ability to afford the associated housing costs. It may be appropriate to provide a lower proportion of larger family-sized private units within a scheme if this can be demonstrated to deliver a greater proportion of genuinely affordable units on site.

The ability to deliver larger homes may also vary depending on the site location, characteristics, and scheme viability. The Council recognises the need to allow flexibility in the mix of dwelling sizes in estate regeneration schemes, in particular where a unit mix has been agreed on the basis of detailed consultation with the residents. Taking on-board the specific needs of returning residents will necessarily influence the mix of units that can be delivered.

Similarly, it is recognised that there will be a need for flexibility on the requirement for family units for proposals for retirement, sheltered or extra care housing as they are responding to specific and specialised needs. These needs require a smaller unit setting and the provision of larger family sized homes will not be essential.

Policy AAP2: Residential Conversions of Houses to Flats

- 1. The conversion of houses to flats will be supported where a minimum of one 4+ bed family unit is provided at ground floor and has access to private amenity space.**

Hackney Local Plan (2033) policy cross reference:

- LP19 Residential Conversions

The overall objective in Stamford Hill is to increase the supply of larger family homes. However, the opportunities to build new homes are limited and it is therefore important to protect existing family stock.

Evidence confirms the continued, long standing need to deliver and retain larger family homes in Stamford Hill with 4 or more bedrooms and direct access to a garden. The Council's approach to residential conversions from houses to flats remains consistent with that set out in policy LP19 of the adopted Local Plan.

Policy AAP3: Residential Extensions and Alterations

All extensions and alterations must be of the highest quality in terms of material, detailing, retention of existing features and respect and complement the host building.

A. Roof extensions in the form of front dormers or an additional new floor in a matching style will be permitted where:

- 1. The building typology can support an addition without adversely affecting existing features or symmetry or appearing overbearing ;**
- 2. The host building is not in a Conservation Area;**
- 3. The host building is not a Statutory Listed Building;**
- 4. The host building is not a Locally Listed Building;**
- 5. The host building is located on an identified street. Identified streets are those visited as part of a Council street survey, where more than 25% of the buildings on both sides of the street are altered by front roof extensions or other alterations to the front elevation.**
- 6. The roof extension does not adversely impact neighbour amenity.**
- 7. The roof extension has regard to the guidance in the Stamford Hill Design Guide.**

B. Other residential extensions, including rear dormers, basements and rear extensions, will be supported where they:

- 1. Respect the character and size of the host building;**
- 2. Remain subordinate to the host building.**
- 3. Use appropriate, high quality materials and detailing.**
- 4. Do not result in significant loss of garden space.**
- 5. Do not adversely impact neighbouring amenity, including during construction phase and, in the case of proposals for basement extensions, a construction management plan is provided.**

C. Roof extensions will be permitted in combination with a rear or basement as part of the same or a subsequent planning application only where;

1. The cumulative impact does not lead to overdevelopment of the property.

Hackney Local Plan (2033) policy cross reference:

- LP1 Design Quality and Local Character
- LP2 Development and Amenity
- LP17 Housing Design

The Council recognises there is a need to tackle overcrowding, and provide for additional habitable accommodation for large families in Stamford Hill. The AAP seeks to deliver new homes across Stamford Hill to help meet the growing demands in the area. It allocates eight sites for housing or mixed-use development, including housing (See Part 5). In line with LP33 the Council seeks to maximise the delivery of housing, and where appropriate other commercial and community uses from unallocated sites within Stamford Hill (and across the borough).

Increasing the size of existing homes to meet the needs of the existing community is an important part of the strategy for meeting this need for larger family homes in this part of the borough. Optimising internal layouts can be a good way of creating more usable space, and should be considered as the first option. Many community members in Stamford Hill need more living and utility space to accommodate for the larger household size that requires going beyond internal configuration to the extending of a property to create additional habitable rooms.

Many of the properties and streets have already been significantly altered with large front dormers and roof extensions in the AAP area. Overdevelopment can change the appearance of the house and its relationship to the street, negatively affecting the building's architectural character, the urban context and can compromise the daylight and privacy of adjacent properties.

There are options to extend above the roof line on different housing types whilst safeguarding the architectural and urban character of the area. Any new extension needs to take account of the both form and nature of the building typology and the the street in which it is located. As well as conservation areas and listed buildings (statutory & local), certain building typologies such as three storey Victorian Villas are generally not suited to upward roof extensions as these buildings cannot support dormers (due to shallow roof pitch) or additional floors (due to overbearing appearance). Conservation areas, which are generally characterised by well preserved historic buildings and a large proportion of unbroken roof lines are also unsuitable. Further guidance is set out in the Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide, 2024.

Residential extensions, to the rear of a property, can be less obtrusive and less detrimental to uniformity of a street, but still need to be subordinate to the host building and respect the size and character of the property and the need to retain garden space. The Residential Extensions and Alterations Supplementary Planning Document (2009), and any successor guidance) and Stamford Hill Design Guide provides practical advice to help ensure this policy is implemented in a way that accommodates more internal space and avoids adverse amenity impacts on neighbouring properties or harmful impacts to townscape character.

Chapter 2 Local Enterprise and Economy

Stamford Hill is located on the northern boundary edge and the town centre also serves the communities in South Tottenham in the London Borough of Haringey. The community in Stamford Hill and South Tottenham is very distinctive, with a large Orthodox Jewish community which has a strong influence on the community services and shops available in the area.

The borough-wide Local Plan policies seek to create an accessible, distinctive and vibrant network of town centres in Stamford Hill that builds on its distinct character and performs as a cultural destination for visitors, whilst also promoting innovation and employment opportunities, by increasing the range of shops, services and commercial outlets. The Area Action Plan (AAP) provides guidance on how to apply the recent change to the Use Class Order to the Local Plan policies to ensure the vitality and vibrancy of Stamford Hill shopping centres is protected and maintained.

Key Facts

- The employment floorspace in Stamford Hill is mainly retail-based, accounting for nearly two-thirds of floorspace.
- Full-time employment within the Stamford Hill AAP area is lower than in Hackney and London.
- There are low vacancy rates² and in past surveys have typically shown fewer units in 'sub optimal uses' such as betting shops and pawn shops than other centres.
- There are a number of more industrial employment spaces to the east of the area on the edge of Lea Valley.

² Hackney Economy, Workspace and Social Value Study, Hatch Regeneris & We Made That, 2019

Key Objectives

- To create new opportunities for adult learning, training and job opportunities and enable delivery of workspace/affordable workspaces that diversifies the economy and boosts employment.
- To enhance and intensify the function of Stamford Hill Broadway, Stoke Newington (north), Dunsmure Road and Oldhill Street as vibrant and mixed use shopping centres that are attractive and accessible to, and meet the needs of the local community.
- To create an accessible, distinctive and vibrant town centre at Stamford Hill Broadway that builds on its distinct architectural quality and is a cultural destination for visitors, to promote flexible mixed-use development in the Stamford Hill town centre and increase the range of shops, restaurants, cafes and employment opportunities.
- To promote the development of additional arts, cultural leisure and entertainment opportunities in Stamford Hill.

Policy AAP4: Local Enterprise and the Economy

A. To achieve and maintain vibrant town and local centres with a viable mix of uses that respond to community needs, the Council will support proposals in district and local centres for :

1. Town centre uses (E class)
2. Community development proposals that do not result in the loss of town Centre (E Class) uses; and
3. the amalgamation of retail units to provide larger floorspace, where a high standard of design appropriate to the setting can be achieved.

Conditions and/or planning obligations to help manage the types of town centre uses permitted may be applied.

C. Commercial workspace will be permitted in district and local centres and locations identified in Site Allocations in Section 5 of this AAP.

D. Major development is required to contribute to the provision of training and adult learning opportunities.

Hackney Local Plan (2033) policy cross reference:

- LP8 Social and Community Infrastructure
- LP10 Arts, Culture and Entertainment Facilities
- LP26 Employment Land and Floorspace
- LP27 Protecting and Promoting Office Floorspace in the Borough
- LP28 Protecting and Promoting Industrial Land and Floorspace in the Borough
- LP29 Affordable Workspace and Low Cost Employment
- LP32 Town Centres
- LP34 Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill and Finsbury Park
- LP35 Local Shopping Centres
- LP36 Shops Outside of Designated Centres
- LP37 Small and Independent Shops

Stamford Hill has a series of shopping areas, comprising both designated district and local town centres (see Figure 7), which are key to successful functioning of neighbourhood life, offering a focus of not only retail, but also civic culture. It is important that the vibrancy of the town centres in Stamford Hill remain to meet the needs of the local community. Town centres are an important component of the local economy by employing residents and providing services for visitors, employees and residents of the area.

Stamford Hill has a diverse residential community and this adds to the richness of the experience of the Town Centre and the area as a whole. The large Charedi community is an integral and valued constituent of the wider Stamford Hill community with a strong connection and commitment to Stamford Hill. The presence of this community also generates a powerful clustering effect on local business that enriches the neighbourhood and draws visitors from outside, creating a unique competitive advantage within the local economy.

Overall, residents are satisfied with the range of goods and services available in these centres, although consultation with communities highlighted concerns that the retail offer could be expanded. There is a local interest in broadening and diversifying the retail, commercial, leisure and community services available. As new people move into the area, the range of businesses and enterprises offering goods, services and amenities will increase and this in turn has the potential to improve the economic resilience of the centre. Ensuring that the emerging and developing retail offer serves all parts of the community and reflects local needs can help build social capital and cohesion.

The planning system does not control the types of shops or businesses that can occupy buildings. In addition, most changes between different town centre uses do not require permission. At the time of preparing this AAP shops, financial and professional services, restaurants and cafes, offices, nurseries, certain indoor sport, recreation or fitness facilities all fall within use class E, defined in the Use Class Order.

The Council will consider the use of planning conditions to ensure the community needs for a variety of town centre uses – including shopping needs and leisure offers – are met and the future vitality and vibrancy of the town centres are protected.

For the purposes of this policy, community uses would include all uses falling within use class F1, with the exception of F1(a)- provision of education and F1(f) Public worship or religious instruction (or in connection with such use).



Figure 8: Stamford Hill Designated Town Centres

The site allocations set out in Part 5 identify potential development opportunities in the Stamford Hill area that can deliver commercial floorspace, including the retention of retail floorspace, as part of mixed use development. Each site allocation policy outlines

development principles that respond positively to the identified local character areas and their qualities.

Adult Learning and Training opportunities

Local evidence on educational infrastructure in the area suggests lower educational attainment and formal skills training within the adult population of Stamford Hill, with above average numbers of the community having no formal qualifications compared to elsewhere in Hackney³. The provision of new and existing facilities to support adult education opportunities in Stamford Hill is encouraged as part of new development where it helps upskill residents and increase access to the labour market.

³ Census 2021 data identifies that 30.5% and 28.5% in Springfield and Stamford Hill West wards have no qualifications compared to 16.7% average across Hackney.

Chapter 3 Social, Community and Cultural Infrastructure

Existing social infrastructure in Stamford Hill is under pressure, particularly education facilities in the independent sector. Increases in population and demand from new development will put further pressure on a wide range of services and facilities, including; health, education, community, faith, emergency and other local services and facilities that contribute positively to the quality of life of residents.

Key Facts

- A third of households in Stamford Hill live below the poverty line, and exclusion from key services is an issue affecting most households.
- Birth rates in the AAP area are higher compared to Hackney as a whole and the number of 0–5 years olds is the highest in the borough.
- The general health of most of the community in Stamford Hill is good.
- Child obesity rates in Stamford Hill are lower than the Hackney average amongst the Charedi Community, but are still higher than the National average.

Key Objectives

- To facilitate shared space and opportunities for interaction between people of different social, ethnic and religious affiliation.
- To ensure schools provision is aligned with type and level of need in Stamford Hill and to facilitate provision of additional school places in the independent sector.
- To ensure that people who live and work in Stamford Hill have access to local educational, training, health and community facilities to meet their day-to-day needs.
- To promote the health and well-being of local people by supporting active lifestyles and reducing health inequalities.
- To promote the development of additional arts, cultural, leisure and entertainment opportunities in Stamford Hill.

Policy AAP5: Social, Community and Cultural Infrastructure

- A. Proposals to provide new and/or extended social and community infrastructure facilities and their co-location with other social and community uses will be supported. Development of new social, community and cultural facilities should:**
- 1. Be designed to be flexible and adaptable to meet a range of community needs.**
 - 2. Consider opportunities to make better use of existing social and community facilities that are currently under-used through the integration, co-location, and/or reconfiguration of facilities and services.**
 - 3. Incorporate shared community spaces where possible.**
- B. Proposals for new or improved community and education facilities will be supported, including provision of education facilities and places of worship, should be directed, in order of priority, to:**
- 1. Existing social or community facilities surplus no longer required in their current use;**
 - 2. New purpose built premises within the town centre or areas or streets already characterised by a mixture of uses;**
 - 3. Conversions of existing non residential building; or**
 - 4. Conversions of residential buildings in areas or streets characterised by a mixture of uses.**
- C. The redevelopment, conversion or change of use of residential use to education facilities, places of worship or health facilities will be permitted where all of the following criteria are met:**
- 1. It has been demonstrated that suitable alternative sites (as identified B.1 to B3 above) are not available.**
 - 2. Amenity impacts on occupiers of neighbouring buildings, including that associated with travel and servicing, can be avoided or mitigated;**
 - 3. It can be demonstrated that there is no harm in terms of highway safety as demonstrated by a transport statement and where active travel is**

encouraged and a travel plan, with provision for implementation of a School Street where appropriate; and

4. It is appropriate to the built form and character of the area having regard to relevant guidance in the Stamford Hill Design Guide, with streets with wide thoroughfares, and mixture of uses, likely to be more suitable.

Hackney Local Plan (2033) policy cross reference:

- LP2 Development and Amenity
- LP8 Social and Community Infrastructure
- LP9 Health and Wellbeing
- LP10 Arts, Culture and Entertainment Facilities
- LP24 Preventing the Loss of Housing
- LP43 Transport and Development

Given the projected population growth in Stamford Hill, the AAP seeks to encourage the better use of existing social and community facilities such as the integration, co-location, reconfiguration of facilities and services, that look to support and empower local people and businesses, and that accommodates a range of activities, including; education, cultural, health, adult learning or leisure. The Council will work with relevant stakeholders to encourage the provision and design of flexible and adaptable community facilities that can accommodate a range of different needs, where appropriate. Co-location of facilities should be encouraged, in order to align service provision, use land more efficiently and facilitate opportunities for different groups of people to come together, encouraging further inclusion and community participation. Shared use and co-location will also help facilities and service providers to work in a more coherent and joined-up way, and share maintenance and management costs. There is an aspiration in Stamford Hill to facilitate the shared use of social and community facilities where a range of social and cultural activities may take place to facilitate social interaction between people of different social, ethnic and religious affiliation.

Stamford Hill already has significant existing pressures on social infrastructure and new development will add to the need for new social and other infrastructure. The needs of faith-based schools and places of worship within Stamford Hill are unique to its communities. Although the need is related to population growth, its nature is different from that typically encountered in the rest of Hackney. There is a cultural need for the community to live close to these uses for religious reasons, to access the required facilities that are typically unavailable elsewhere in the borough.

Assessments of multiple sources of evidence about local needs supports an urgent need to facilitate delivery through a locally based policy approach which permits the conversion, redevelopment or change of use from residential to community use where alternative locations cannot be identified. Local Plan Policy LP24 sets out circumstances where a loss of housing may be acceptable, one of which being, the loss of a residential unit to enable

the provision of a community facility such as a school or health facility, when suitable alternative sites are not available and the community facility can only be provided by use of a residential building. Planning applications should therefore be supported by evidence identifying other sites/properties in the area that have been considered and explaining why they are unsuitable. Key considerations for this evidence will include size requirements for the proposed facility and its catchment area.

Residential conversions for social and community facility use can be appropriate where impacts on the highway safety can be managed and living conditions – and amenity – of neighbouring occupiers maintained. Amenity can be comprised in a number of ways through development, such as through detrimental loss of daylight and sunlight to existing and adjacent occupiers; loss of privacy and outlook due to the proximity and design of development; harmful noise, odour, vibration and air pollution from existing and proposed developments; conditions with potential for danger to highway safety; and causing detrimental microclimate effects. Local Plan Policy LP2 sets out the requirement of amenity considerations in development

Guidance on extension of residential buildings is set out in the Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD, to help proposals respond to the specific townscape character of the location. It identifies that detached residential buildings and corner plots potentially are more suitable for conversion to residential use, where other criteria are met, but this will depend on the street and building. Streets with a mixture of uses and wide thoroughfares, such as Amhurst Road, are likely to be most suitable.

Active and sustainable travel

New development of social and community facilities, wherever they are located, should also encourage active, efficient and sustainable travel and this should be set out in a Travel Plan. Related to this, development for educational facilities should, where appropriate, sign up to 'School Streets', the Council's pioneering programme to transform roads outside schools, so that pedestrians and cyclists are prioritised at school start and finish times.

Other non planning requirements:

Safeguarding and Health & Safety in Schools Informative

Ensuring children are safe when they attend school means that safeguarding and health & safety arrangements are paramount and therefore schools need to be appropriately registered and inspected. For new schools this means registering with the Department for Education and meeting the requirements set out in the [Independent School Standards](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/800615/Independent_School_Standards-__Guidance_070519.pdf):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/800615/Independent_School_Standards-__Guidance_070519.pdf

Existing schools looking to expand or change their site must notify the Department for Education of a material change to their existing registration.

Fire Safety in Schools Informative

New development of school buildings must comply with the building regulations enforced by local building-control bodies. *Building Bulletin 100: design for fire safety in schools* (Department for children, schools and families, 2007) is the normal means of compliance with building regulations for fire safety design in new school buildings.

Refurbishment and/or conversion work that include new extensions and alterations to an existing school should also comply with the Building Regulations 2010, the guidance set out in the Building Bulletin 100 as mentioned above and any subsequent amendments. However, there are other routes to compliance but this would need to be discussed with the Building Control Body at the early stage of the project. Any new works should not impact on the existing fire safety arrangements for the school. A fire risk assessment should be undertaken to identify the general fire precautions needed to safeguard the safety of occupants in case of fire, including their safe means of escape will need to be undertaken.

Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) fire legislation has become simplified. The Department for Communities and Local Government has produced a guide for schools – *fire safety risk assessment: educational premises*. The guide deals with the provision and management of fire safety.

Development will need to:

- ensure procedures are in place to reduce the likelihood of fire
- maintain fire detection and alarm systems
- ensure staff and pupils are familiar with emergency evacuation procedures.

It is important that:

- fire risk assessments are kept up to date
- fire precautions remain current and adequate (they should be reviewed in detail when significant alterations are made to a school's premises).

Chapter 4 Design and Historic Environment

Stamford Hill has a more suburban character than other parts of the borough with relatively low density with wider streets and larger properties compared to the southern part of Hackney. It also contains a number of large open spaces, which add greatly to the quality of the area. There are three existing conservation areas within the AAP boundary; Clapton Common, Northwold and Cazenove and Lordship Park and potential for further designations. The Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (AAP) aims to capture the huge potential offered by the combination of the area's unique history, its architecture, public realm and generous green spaces to further improve this distinctive neighbourhood.

Key Facts

- Almost 40% of the area is made up of terraced housing.
- The area contains a number of mansion block estates, particularly focused on the A10 corridor.
- To the east of the area on the edge of Lea Valley, the built form changes and there is more industrial employment space.

Key Objectives

- To deliver high quality urban design in Stamford Hill that enhances its distinctive local character, celebrates its diverse community and seeks to enhance its architectural and landscape merits through a fine grained approach that promotes positive change and optimises the use of underdeveloped sites.

Policy AAP6: Delivering High Quality Design

- A. Development should respond to the local character and qualities of the defined Character Areas as set out in Figures 8 and 9, which includes respecting the prevailing scale, form and grain of development and making appropriate use of building materials.**
- B. Development on Site Allocations, set out in Part 5, should be in accordance with the land use allocation, design principles, and building heights specified in the site allocation policy.**

Hackney Local Plan (2033) policy cross reference:

- LP1 Design Quality and Local Character
- LP2 Development and Amenity
- LP3 Designated Heritage Assets
- LP4 Non Designated Heritage Assets
- LP5 Strategic and Local Views

In Hackney we value our rich architectural heritage and are committed to design excellence and achieving high quality, sustainable development. The Council will require a high quality of design for all buildings and spaces in Stamford Hill and work towards making Stamford Hill a healthier and an even more attractive place to live, work and visit. We will work to ensure that development reinforces the current character and condition, repairs the historic fabric and reinvents local character through development which is informed by lost grain.

All development proposals in Stamford Hill should demonstrate an understanding of the local historic environment and clearly consider the proposal's physical and functional impact on this environment as well as the wider area. The Council will seek sensitive integration of new development within the existing urban and historic fabric. The policy recognises the need to balance present day local needs and the preservation of local distinctiveness and character with the historic environments as active living spaces for the local communities.

Stamford Hill contains a network of residential areas divided by the main thoroughfares, open spaces and local centres⁴. There are 16 distinct character areas that are essential to the fabric of Stamford Hill, and which are key to conserving and enhancing the area summarised in the remainder of this part of the AAP. The character areas have been grouped under four key themes; Civic Hubs, Key Corridors, Neighbourhoods and Open Space.

The site allocations set out in Part 5 identify potential development opportunities in the Stamford Hill area that can deliver a mix of residential, commercial and community uses. Each site allocation policy outlines development principles that respond positively to the identified local character areas and their qualities.

⁴ Stamford Hill Character Area Analysis and Overarching Design Framework, Jan Kattein Architects, 2016

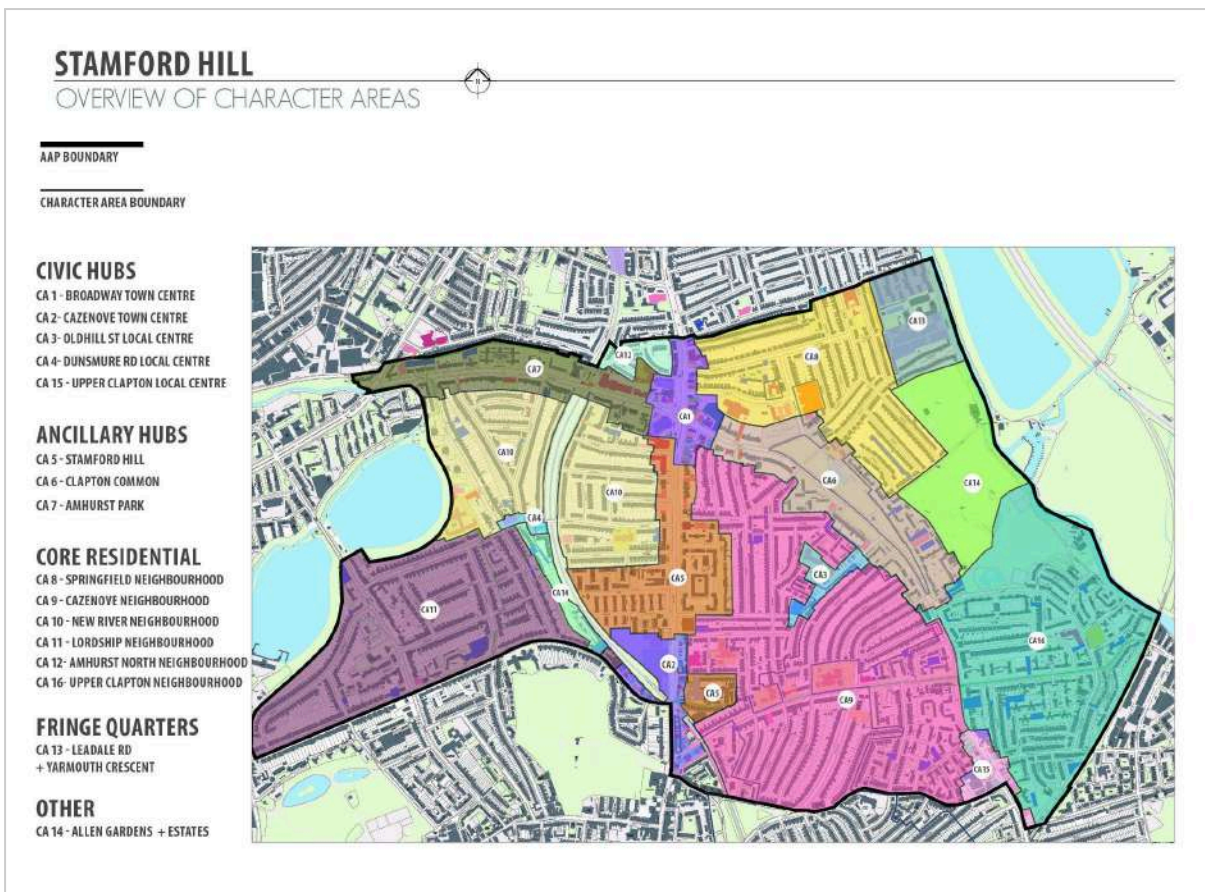


Figure 9: Stamford Hill Character Areas

Character Areas – Local Character and Qualities

CA1 – Broadway Town Centre

- Largest town centre in Stamford Hill.
- Well connected by public transport, but dominated by vehicular traffic.
- Contains a mix of buildings from the 19th and 20th Centuries – a key element of which is the Victorian terrace.
- 2–7 storeys, with the general grain being large plots with interspersed modern architecture.

CA2 – Cazenove Local Centre

- The southern gateway to Stamford Hill.

- Typical buildings no more than 2–3 storeys in height, predominantly Victorian terrace or 20th century infill.
- The centre's north west area, is dominated by the 10 storey apartment block High Gaitskill, and 7 storey Ockway houses, both of which are in modernist style.

CA3 – Oldhill Street Local Centre

- The street has a mixture of buildings, largely 2–3 storeys.
- Overall the architecture is varied, with several buildings of notable historic value (the area forms the north end of the Northwold Cazenove conservation area) including St Thomas' Church.
- Many buildings share a style with the surrounding Cazenove neighbourhood.

CA4 – Dunsmure Road Local Centre

- Compact but busy retail parade.
- Unified architecture made up of two Victorian terraces with two continuous runs of shops.

CA5 – Stamford Hill

- Buildings are between 5-6 storeys set back from the A10, giving the corridor a very open feeling.
- The Architecture is split between two very different styles and urban grains; to the south, post-war estate blocks, set back with little relation to the road, and to the north, older mansion-type buildings which maintain consistency of roof line and style.
- Buildings are in a range of mixed or community uses.

CA6 – Clapton Common

- Attractive corridor which is marked out by the linear park of the same name, to the north east side of Stamford Hill.
- Many buildings of very high quality dating from the late Victorian and Georgian era, such as Clapton Terrace set back from the A107. Otherwise the mix is highly eclectic with the northwest side of the common being 7–8 storey inter or post war estates, while the east side folds away into 2–3 storey suburban houses.

CA7 – Amhurst Park

- East west route travelling along the north western boundary of Stamford Hill.
- Buildings in primarily residential or community uses set back from the road in a range of styles.

CA8 – Springfield

- 43 blocks of low rise terraces from the Victorian/Georgian and Interwar periods, predominantly 2–3 storeys, with some pockets of taller 3–4 storey Victorian and interwar apartments.
- Many properties have been remodelled and extended, especially to the rear.
- Dense grid is interspersed with various community uses, such as the New Synagogue and notably the former tram depot, now in use as a bus garage.

CA9 – Cazenove

- Largest of Stamford Hill's neighbourhoods, and is made up of highly consistent Victorian terraces, much of which is within the Northwold Cazenove Conservation Area.
- Area is predominantly 2–3 storey, occasionally broken up by 3–5 storey apartment blocks in a range of styles.

CA10 – New River

- Well preserved grid of Victorian streets and shares similar level of quality and consistency of streetscape with Cazenove neighbourhood.
- Area is predominantly late-Victorian 2–3 storey terraces in a range of styles; many include basements, front gardens and generous back gardens.

CA11 – Lordship

- Sits against the reservoirs at Woodberry down, arranged around a traditional grid of Victorian terraced streets.
- Area is predominantly 2 storey, with a mixture of terrace and semi-detached properties, and some 3 storeys properties on Manor and Bethune roads, with a generally consistent, dense streetscape.

CA12 – Amhurst North

- More mixed neighbourhood to the south of Stamford Hill Broadway.
- Area is made up of late Victorian/Edwardian and interwar terraced housing to the south of the area, with the northern area being made up of a mix of 3 bed new

build housing developments, and larger 4-5 storey developments along the High road.

CA13 – Leadale Road

- The fringe neighbourhoods area configuration of 3–5 storey housing and industrial blocks adjacent to the River Lea.
- The character of the area is in sharp contrast to the fine grain of the traditional residential streets in the surrounding context with blocks of maisonettes and flats.

CA14 – Springfield Park and Allen Gardens

- One main park; Springfield, to the North West, and the smaller Allen Gardens which runs along the railway to the west.

CA15 – Upper Clapton Local Centre

- Bustling area of shops and community facilities which sits on the southern boundary of Stamford Hill, between Cazenove and Upper Clapton Neighbourhoods.
- The architecture of the parade is predominantly made up of several Victorian shopping parades. Creating an attractive environment which is complemented by other buildings such as Clapton Library.

CA16 – Upper Clapton

- To the south of Clapton Local Centre, the south-east of Stamford Hill.
- Area contains a mixture of terraced and semi-detached housing, generally 2–3 storeys, mixed in (as is typical with many neighbourhood's) with more dense post war housing which is generally of 5 storeys.

Figure 10 – Local Character Areas and Qualities

Taller Buildings

In Hackney, a taller building is defined as any building or structure which is taller than its neighbours (50% taller than the prevailing building height) or which significantly changes the skyline or is 30 metres or more in height. Proposals for taller buildings will be assessed on a case by case basis and in accordance with policy LP1 of the borough-wide Local Plan. Given the relatively low density of the area, taller buildings are uncharacteristic and no areas are specifically identified as suitable for tall buildings; however, the Site Allocations in Part 5 specify appropriate building heights for each allocation site.

Chapter 5 Public Realm

Stamford Hill is a densely populated urban area and public spaces are essential to the well-being profile of the local community. People of all ages and backgrounds should be able to access high quality public spaces. Ensuring easier access to key connecting transport infrastructure and regional green assets such as the Lea Valley has the potential to enhance the experience of people who live, work or visit Stamford Hill.

Key Facts

- Where there is little undeveloped land in Stamford Hill, enhancing the quality of existing public spaces through greening increases their biodiversity and amenity value.
- Improving accessibility and wayfinding makes public spaces relevant for all members of the community.
- Introducing new uses and functions ensures a lively and safe street scene at all times.

Key Objectives

- To maximise the benefits of active travel by improving walking and cycling infrastructure to support growth and existing communities.
- To address deficiencies in children's play provision in the northern and southern parts of the Stamford Hill AAP area.
- To improve the network of streets and footpaths to make walking and cycling safe and pleasant and reduce traffic congestion in the Stamford Hill area particularly around Oldhill Street and Dunsmore Road.
- To promote the health and well-being of local people by supporting active lifestyles and reducing health inequalities.

Policy AAP7: Public Realm

- A. Development will be required to make a positive contribution to the quality of the public realm of Stamford Hill, through the design of new development and through using developer contributions where appropriate.**
- B. Development should contribute to the range of proposals to improve connectivity, accessibility, urban greening, and create child friendly environments as set out in Figures 16 to 20 where appropriate.**
- C. Development should contribute to improving pedestrian and cycle routes,**

including, along the Lea Navigation towpath.

Hackney Local Plan (2033) policy cross reference:

- PP1 Public Realm
- LP9 Health and Wellbeing
- LP41 Liveable Neighbourhoods
- LP42 Walking and Cycling
- LP44 Public Transport and Infrastructure

The Council is committed to improve the quality of life for people who live, work or visit Stamford Hill. The public realm policy aims to build upon the success of policy LP41 in creating livable and sustainable neighbourhoods. Public realm improvements are needed to achieve an inclusive, vibrant, safe, attractive, functional and welcoming environment that can be enjoyed by everyone, including people of different ages.

Many children and young people in Stamford Hill find that there are limited opportunities to play and spend time in their local neighbourhood. This is heightened as a result of restrictive street design, road layouts and danger of fast moving vehicles. The public realm improvements not only look to achieve an attractive and accessible environment but also safe spaces for children to play. More broadly, public realm interventions should also enhance social use and legibility, and be flexible in function.

It is essential that new areas of the public realm should be designed carefully to accommodate and strengthen pedestrian and cycle linkages to public transport and surrounding areas.

There have been improvements to lighting, seating and ambience at stations at Stamford Hill, Clapton and Stoke Newington. These have seen significant increases in passenger numbers. The Council will continue to press for further improvements to transport services and station accessibility (see part 6).

Public Realm Projects

A series of public realm projects are proposed to enhance the public realm of Stamford Hill (See Appendix 1). These projects include improvements and measures to better link the neighbourhood through safe and green pedestrian and cycle routes with easy access to key connecting transport infrastructure and regional green assets such as the Lea Valley. The proposals have been identified in the Stamford Hill Public Realm Study (2020) in line with the Emergency Transport Plan (2020)⁵. They also reflect the eight Child Friendly Design principles that are outlined in the borough-wide Growing up in Hackney Child Friendly Places SPD.

⁵ Hackney, Emergency Transport Plan: responding to the impacts of Covid-19 on the transport network (September 2020)

Chapter 6 Green Infrastructure

Stamford Hill has numerous open spaces. The largest of these is Springfield Park, covering nearly 15 hectares, there are also Lea Valley Park and Clapton Common within the Area Action Plan (AAP) boundary. Adjacent to the area to the north-west lies the recently renovated Woodberry Wetlands. Springfield Park is also part of the Springfield and Stamford Hill Local Nature Recovery Area which is focused on Springfield and Stamford Hill.

Stamford Hill residents are able to benefit from the 3.2km catchment of The Lea Valley Regional Park and its proximity to Stamford Hill, within acceptable walking distance from their homes. The area also has adequate access to District size parks, Clissold Park, North and South Millfields Park, Coppermill Fields, Lower Hall Fields and Finsbury Park are all District scale parks which have a catchment area that reaches the Stamford Hill neighbourhood.

The Green Links policy alongside the Hackney's Green and Open Spaces policies in the borough-wide Local Plan seeks to protect and enhance existing biodiversity, develop and improve green links between these spaces and support the creation of new open spaces.

Key Facts

- There is less public park provision in Stamford Hill in comparison to the Hackney average. The average provision per 1000 population in Hackney is 1.36ha, the level of provision in Stamford West is significantly lower⁶.
- Springfield Park is a classified 'cool space' ⁷, with around 48.52% tree canopy cover. 'Cool spaces' areas for Londoners to take respite on hot days.

Key Objectives

- To improve connections between existing open spaces within the Stamford Hill area with a particular focus on east to west links to improve accessibility between Woodberry Downs and the Lea Valley Regional Park.
- To retain and enhance Green Chains and Green Corridors to encourage positive impacts on climate change, drainage, air quality, active travel and health.

⁶ Hackney Open Space Assessment, LUC, 2018

⁷ Mayor of London 'Cool Spaces (summer 2023)':
<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change/climate-change/climate-adaptation/cool-spaces>

Policy AAP8: Green Infrastructure

- A. Development adjacent to existing Green Chains and Green Corridors, identified in Figure 12, must be developed in a way that enhances access to the green infrastructure network and contributions may be sought towards improvements to address recreational demand.**
- B. Development fronting onto the Wetlands to Wetlands Greenway on Figure 13 should deliver ground level urban greening that contributes to a coherent green character and disperse air pollution.**
- C. Contribute to opening up access to the River Lee, celebrating the nature and character of the Lee, including introducing signposting and public art where appropriate.**
- D. Ensure flood risk assessments and flood risk mitigation is incorporated in the design of new development including those within Site Allocations identified in part 5.**

Hackney Local Plan (2033) policy cross reference:

- LP46 Protection and Enhancement of Green Infrastructure
- LP47 Biodiversity and Sites of Importance of Nature Conservation
- LP48 New Open Space
- LP49 Green Chains and Green Corridors
- LP53 Water and Flooding
- LP54 Overheating and Adapting to Climate Change
- LP55 Mitigating Climate Change
- LP56 Decentralised Energy Networks
- LP57 Waste
- LP58 Improving the Environment - Pollution

Green Infrastructure Network

Green infrastructure networks are important components to tackling climate change. Improving the quality, use and greening of existing open spaces, particularly improved accessibility to existing parks through enhanced links between open spaces is important in Stamford Hill. The Hackney Open Space Assessment, (LUC, 2018) concludes that in some areas of Stamford Hill access falls beneath these benchmarks. It identifies areas that are deficient in overall quantity and accessibility to open space. Figure 15 shows that there are areas of deficiency in access to local and/or small size parks within 400m walking distance extending from north west to the south east of the AAP area. In addition, there is a general lack of access at the district level – Clissold Park and Millfields are the only two district size parks in Hackney (20-59ha).

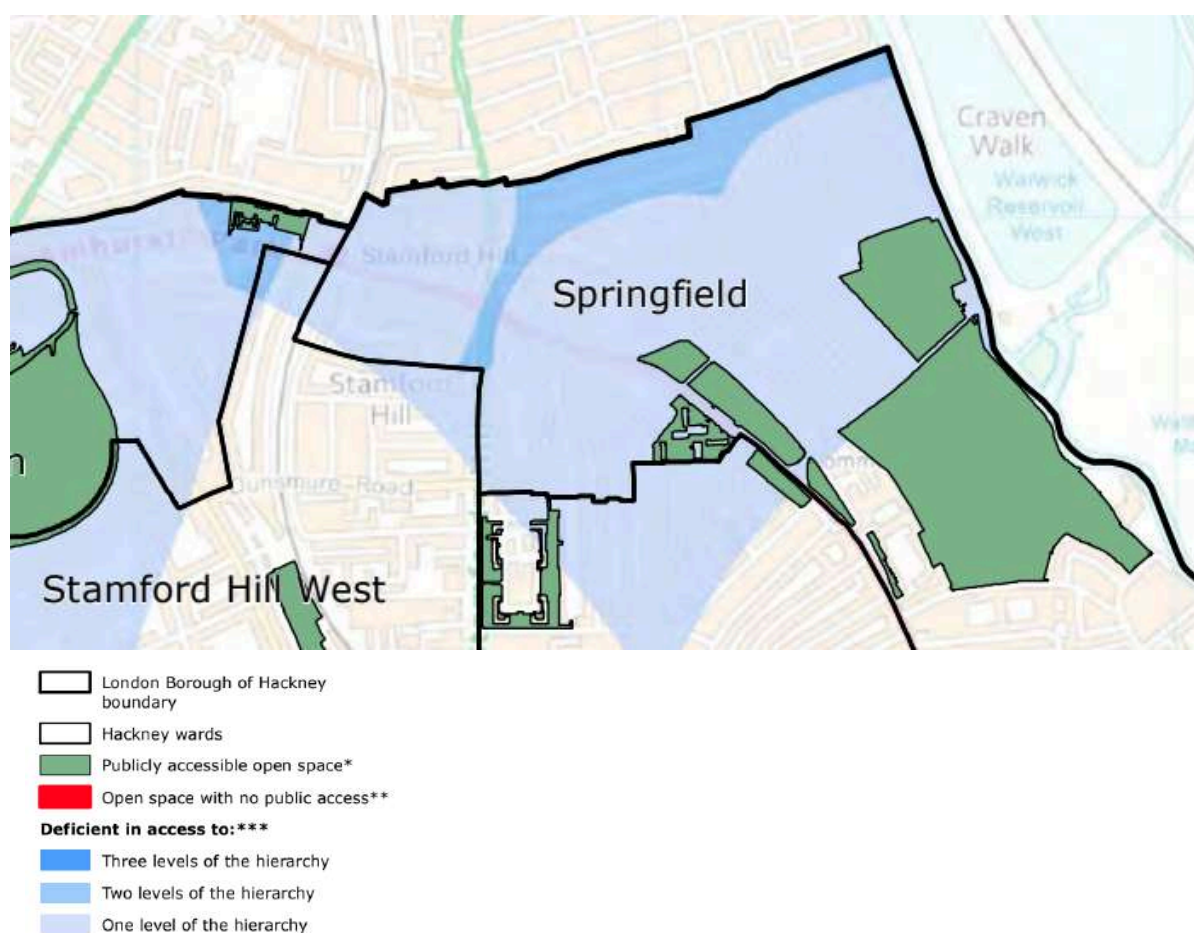


Figure 11: Open Space Access and Deficiency in Stamford Hill
Source: Hackney Open Space Assessment, LUC, 2018



Figure 12: Green Chains and Green Corridors in Stamford Hill

Green Chains and Green Corridors, as identified in LP33 Policy LP49, are an integral part of the green infrastructure network. They can aid accessibility to open spaces and encourage biodiversity into the built environment. The Green Chains identified in Stamford Hill are: Clissold Park to Springfield Park Green Chain: From Clissold Park through Cazenove to Springfield Park

Green Corridors are relatively continuous areas of greenery leading through the built environment, which may be linked and may not be publicly accessible. They may allow animals and plants to be found further into the built-up area than would otherwise be the case and provide an extension to the habitats of the sites they join. The green corridors identified in Stamford Hill are:

- Hackney Downs to Amhurst Park Road Railway Cutting: Along the railway line from Stoke Newington station up to Stamford Hill station which forms an important linear woodland for wildlife;
- Lea Navigation Corridor: The east boundary of the AAP area along the River Lea Canal;
- Hackney Downs to Leaside Road Railway Cutting: The south eastern boundary of the AAP area along the railway line to Clapton Station; and,
- New River: The western boundary of the Stoke Newington reservoirs (adjacent to the AAP area).

Enhance the setting of development along the River Lea Canal (in line with Policy AAP7) and will improve the access to the Lee Valley Regional Park, which includes the green corridor of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Leyton Marshes and Walthamstow Wetlands that are located partially in Hackney and in the neighbouring boroughs.

Green Infrastructure Strategy – Green Spine 1

The Wetlands to Wetlands Greenway joins Woodberry Wetlands to Walthamstow Wetlands and provides a quiet east to west link to improve accessibility between Woodberry Downs and the Lea Valley Regional Park. The Council's adopted Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2023 identifies further opportunities for the Wetlands to Wetlands Greenway. The GIS is a framework for protecting, improving, expanding and connecting Hackney's green infrastructure. It has identified seven Green Spines within the borough with the potential to increase greening. Green Spine 1 is a link running from Finsbury Park to Walthamstow Wetlands. It utilises the Wetlands to Wetlands Greenway in some parts and runs through the Stamford Hill area. It is an important means to improving and extending greening in the AAP area, particularly through the planting of street trees.



Figure 13: Wetland to Wetlands Greenway

Biodiversity and Sites of Importance of Nature Conservation

National guidance set out in both the NPPF 2021 and the Environmental Bill 2020 outlines that eligible new development should secure a 10% net gain in biodiversity to curate robust green infrastructure networks across the built environment. Policy LP47 of the borough-wide Local Plan provides detailed guidance.

Stamford Hill has a number of nature conservation areas within and adjacent to the AAP area, including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). SINCs are valuable local wildlife habitats where people can experience nature close to where they live and work. Sites are classified into Sites of Metropolitan (London-wide), Borough and Local Importance depending on their relative value. Stamford Hill has a number of designated SINCs which include:

- Spring Hill Playing Fields and Allotments
- Springfield Park
- Homeleigh Railway Cutting / Stamford Hill Railsides
- Allen's Gardens
- Clapton Common Pond

- Lea Valley (adjacent to AAP area)
- Abney Park Cemetery (adjacent to AAP area)
- Clissold Park (adjacent to AAP area)
- The New River (Woodberry Down) (adjacent to AAP area)
- Stoke Newington Reservoirs (adjacent to AAP area)

The Hackney Local Nature Recovery Plan (2023) also identifies Springfield and Stamford Hill as one of five nature recovery areas in Hackney. The priorities are to:

- continue to improve the ecological value of Springfield Park, especially remnant areas of semi-improved grassland;
- introduce areas of wildflower meadow or prairie planting into amenity green spaces to increase the range for common grassland invertebrates found on the nearby Walthamstow Marshes;
- encourage and support additional wetland edge planting to increase ecological connectivity along the Lea;
- renew the management plan for the East and West Bank Nature Reserve in light of the new vegetation management standard instituted by Network Rail on their land-holding.

Adjacent to the AAP area along the north west boundary is Woodberry Wetlands (previously known as East Reservoir) and West Reservoir, also known as Stoke Newington Reservoirs. Parts of Woodberry Down and Stamford Hill West within the Stamford Hill AAP area are within the 400m catchment for West Reservoir; the site currently has restricted public access but work is underway to open up West Reservoir for wider public access. The neighbouring Woodberry Wetlands (previously known as East Reservoir) provides a higher quality open space with full public access and in recent years has received Lottery funding to enhance the site for wildlife and the public.

Flooding and Contribution of Green Infrastructure

Stamford Hill is predominately in Flood Zone 1 so there is a low risk of fluvial flooding in the AAP area, except along the eastern boundary where it is in Flood Zone 2 and 3 and there is an increased risk of fluvial flooding from the River Lea. The AAP area also contains three critical drainage areas, mainly to the southeast in Upper Clapton and Clapton as well as the southwest in Stoke Newington. Critical drainage areas are defined as a discrete geographic area (usually a hydrological catchment) where multiple and interlinked sources of flood risk (surface water, groundwater, sewer, main river and/or tidal) cause flooding during severe weather thereby affecting people, property or local infrastructure. When building or developing in an identified Local Flood Risk Zone (LFRZ) as shown in Figure 18, policy LP53 of the borough-wide Local Plan will apply. There may be a requirement required to submit a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).

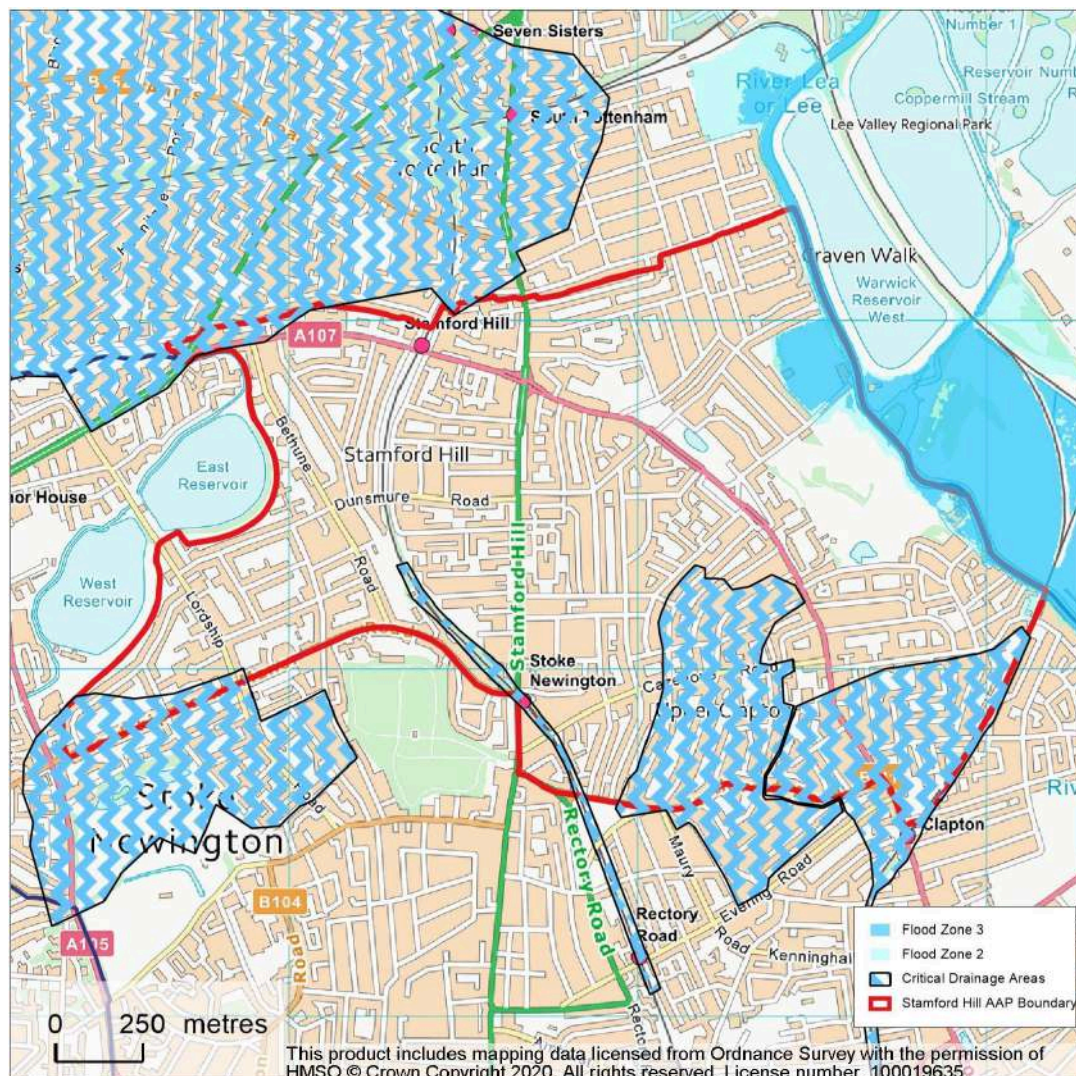


Figure 14 – Local Flood Risk Zones in Stamford Hill

The risk of surface water flooding has a greater impact on the urbanised environment due to runoff from impermeable and made surfaces. These risks are exacerbated by the impact of climate change, which will lead to increased rainfall intensity and frequency. As much of Stamford Hill is densely populated, any further addition of impermeable surfaces will increase the risk of flooding to the area and surface water flow path will also become more unpredictable, which can then affect areas which may not previously be under the threat of flood risk.

Increasing permeable ground within the Stamford Hill region is essential to allow water to soak into lower soil profiles and the underlying geology where feasible. Green infrastructure such as green roofs, rain gardens, bioretention areas, wetlands, swales etc are an important component in encouraging natural infiltration into the ground. This can reduce surface runoff, thereby decreasing the risk of surface water flooding which can occur after a heavy rainfall when the public drainage system is overwhelmed.

The Local Plan sets out a number of other policies to manage environmental impacts which will apply in Stamford Hill. These include policies to deliver a reduction in carbon emissions to address climate change, through adaptation requirements in policies, LP53 and LP54, build-in resilience and prepare for expected changes to the environment that will occur through climate change and LP55 and LP56 address mitigation.

Improved Recreational Space

The provision of high quality recreational spaces for residents of Stamford Hill is central to maintaining the health and wellbeing of local residents. It is recognised that the new homes proposed in this plan will generate demand for additional recreational opportunities.

Significant improvements have already been made to existing parks and green spaces such as Springfield Park, which recently received £3.1m of investment from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The following projects will further improve the recreational experience for existing and future residents:

West Reservoir, Woodberry Down:

A number of improvements are proposed for this incredible urban reservoir, which is a popular location for open water swimming, canoeing and sailing. These include:

- Increased public access to the green space along the eastern bank of the reservoir for local residents and visitors, via a new footpath from the West Reservoir Centre connecting to Woodberry Down across a new pedestrian footbridge.
- A new accessible bridge across the New River to the south-west of the reservoir (replacing and slightly relocating the current bridge which has steps).

- Improved landscaping, including wildflower meadows, trees and hedgerows.
- Enhanced habitats for wildlife, including extensive new reed beds in the reservoir.

In addition, the proposals will deliver:

- A new introduction to open water swimming area for beginner swimmers and other groups.
- New indoor 'village changing' facilities with showers and additional toilets.
- Relocation of the cafe with new outdoor seating area, to maximise the space inside the building.
- Upgraded conference spaces.
- Upgraded boat workshop and learning spaces.

Clapton Common Improvements

There is a proposal to convert an old road that currently dissects Clapton Common into parkland, better linking a new café to the rest of the green space.

These improvements are proposed to improve the overall accessibility to the common and introduce semi natural elements.

The proposals include new footpaths and greenery and the removal of redundant street furniture. Areas of semi-natural environment will be created through additional planting and setting aside areas that will remain in an 'unmanaged' state. These aspects will encourage greater biodiversity across the Common, making it a more attractive place for residents to spend time.

5. Site Allocations

Key strategic development sites that contribute to the realisation of the objectives and vision for Stamford Hill have been identified as Site Allocations. Developers are to refer to the Site Allocations and engage with the Council early on development proposals for these sites. The sites are shown on Figure 15.

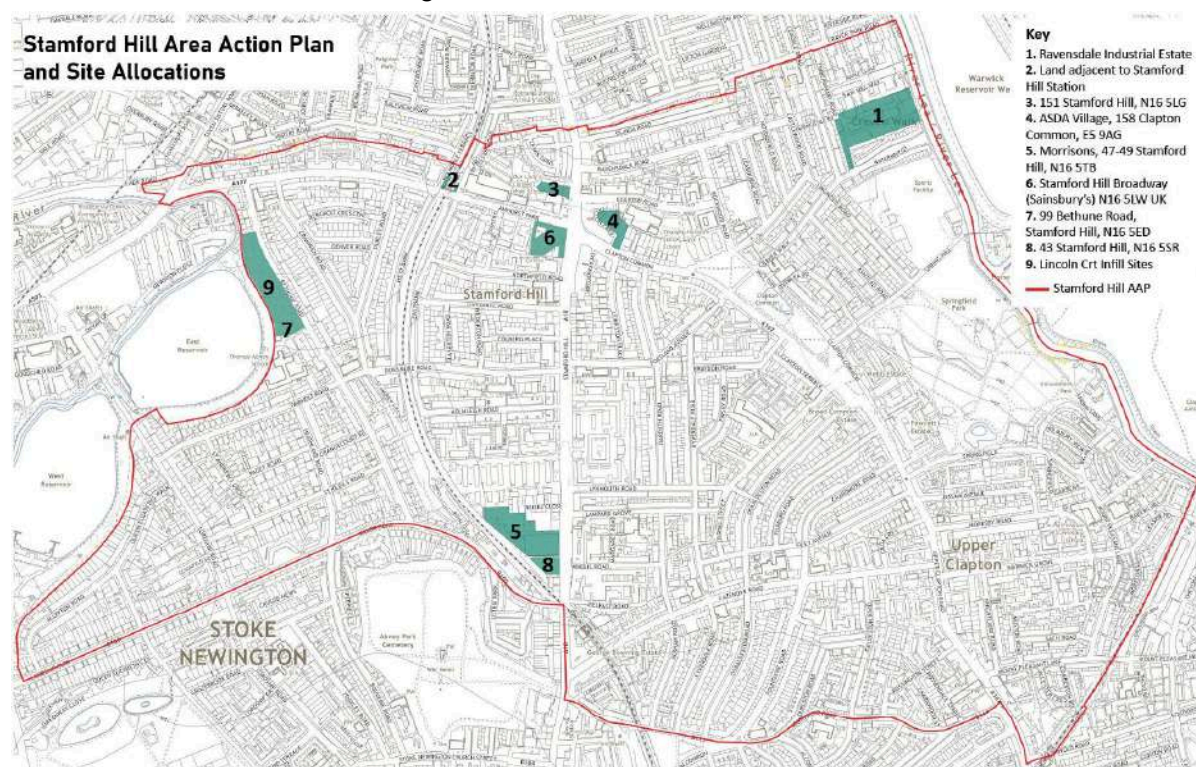


Figure 15: Stamford Hill Area Action Plan Site Allocations

Site-specific development principles, uses and indicative quantum of development are identified for each site. It also identifies when sites are likely to be built out, whether in the 'short term' (0–5 yrs), 'medium term' (6–10 yrs) or 'long term' (11–15 yrs).

Site Capacity Assumptions

The Gross External Area (GEA) capacity figures set out below are indicative and should not be considered to be the exact quantum sought. However, they are a reasonable approximation of the scale of development of these uses that are expected from the allocated sites.

SHAAP	Site Name	Housing	Housing (sqm)	Employment (sqm)	Total (sqm)	Phasing (Short Medium or Long Term)
01	Ravensdale Industrial Estate	314	40,200	4,750	44,950	Medium
02	Land adjacent to Stamford Hill Station	8	900	0	900	Medium
03	151 Stamford Hill, N16 5LG	50	4,500	1,400	5,900	Medium
04	ASDA Village, 158 Clapton Common, E5 9AG	35	4,000	2,200	6,200	Long
05	Morrisons, 47-49 Stamford Hill, N16 5TB	196	22,100	6,800	28,900	Medium
06	(Sainsburys), 1 Amhurst Park, N16 5LW	61	6,500	2,600	9,100	Short
07	Chasidey Belz Beth Hemedrash 99 Bethune Road, N16 5ED	12	1,600	0	1,600	Medium
08	43 Stamford Hill Road. N16	34	4,550	0	4,550	Medium
09	Lincoln Court, Berthune Road N16 5EA Infill Sites	86	9,000	0	9,000	Short

Table 1: Stamford Hill Site Allocation and Capacity

SHAAP 01 – Ravensdale Industrial Estate



Site View



Site 3D View



Site Plan

Ward: Springfield

Ownership: Private

Area in Hectares: 1.7

Existing use: Commercial, light industrial and residential

Planning Considerations:

- Local Plan 2033 Policy PP4 Stamford Hill
- Lea Navigation Green Corridor
- Flood Zone 2 to east of the site
- Ravensdale Road to River Lea public realm improvements
- Site slightly in Flood Zone 2 on eastern boundary
- PTAL 1a–2

How was the site identified?

Site identified by the Council.

Timescale: Medium Term

Policy SHAAP 01 Site Allocation

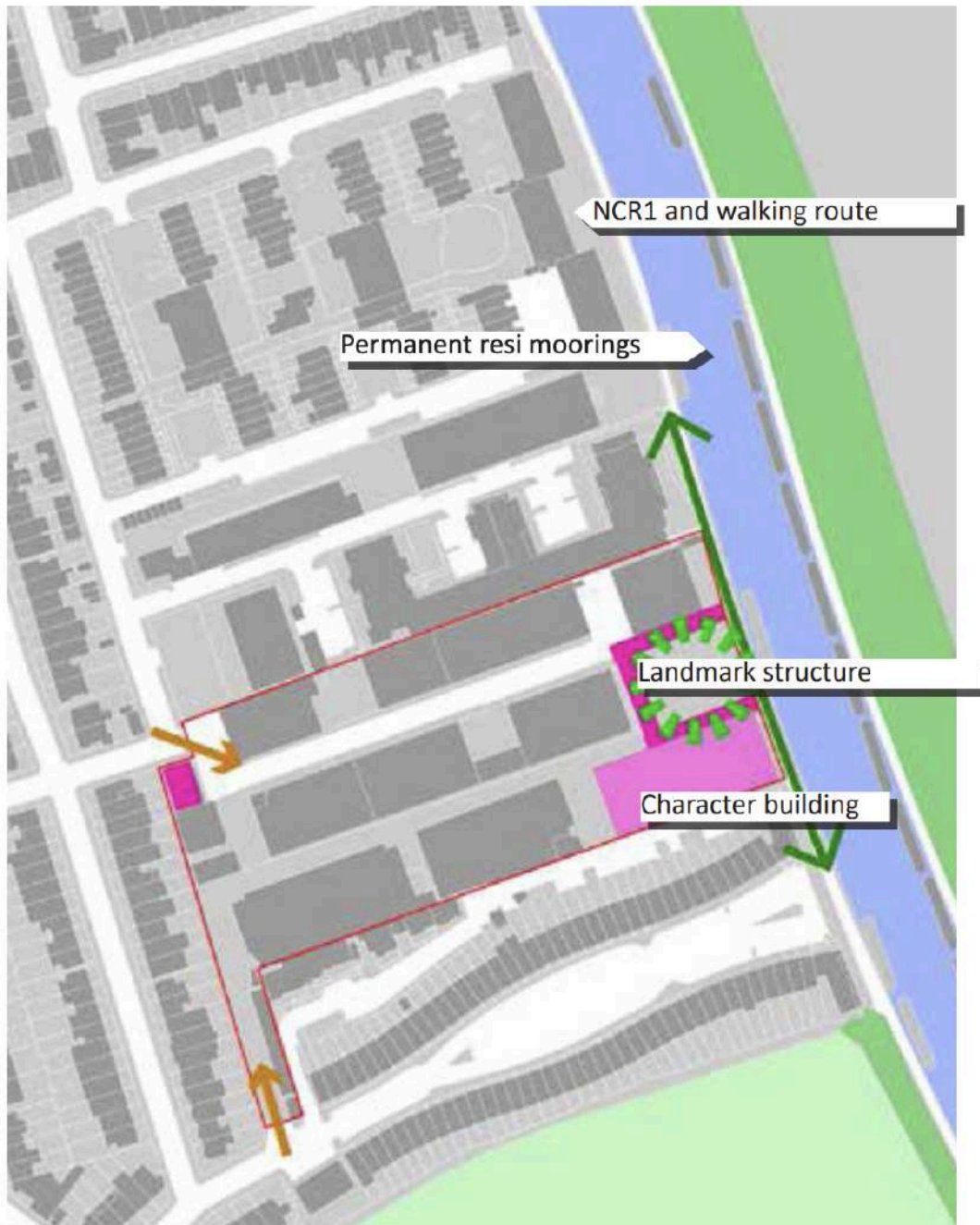
Allocation: Residential and commercial mixed-use development

Indicative Capacity: Approximately 314 residential units with community use and provision of commercial use.

Development on Site Allocation SHAAP01 should:

- Be of an appropriate building height of up to 8 storeys, including 2 setback top storeys, with potential to incorporate a landmark building
- Improve public realm through the site from Timberwharf Road to the River Lea.
- Improve connections through the site to the canal
- Provide waterside amenity space
- Deliver significant urban greening in the form of trees and planting
- Look to retain/incorporate characterful elements such as the waterside crane structure
- Any development needs to take into consideration the fact that the site falls within a fluvial flood zone 2, therefore an appropriate Flood Risk Assessment will need to be produced.

Development Context



Site analysis

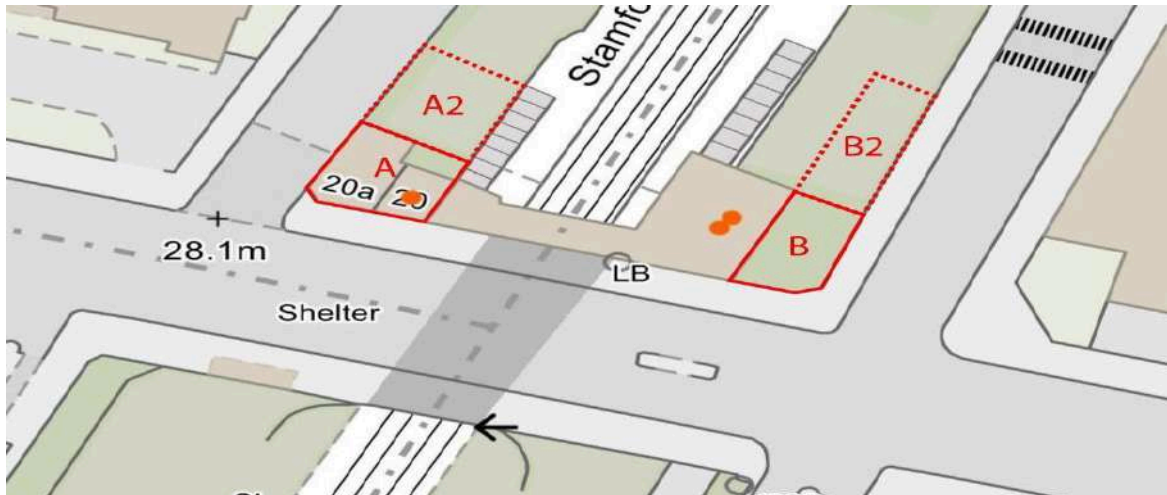
The Ravensdale Industrial Estate is a small commercial and informal warehousing site left from a time when similar sites lined the west bank of the Lea Navigation. The cranes on site and local landmarks which oversail the canal are a reminder of the industrial heritage of the

navigation. The cranes also enclose an unbuilt space which serves as a waterside amenity space.

There are large landmark scale twentieth century warehouses, some of which have character value. The large buildings on site are flexible and offer low cost accommodation for a variety of uses, including an element of residential use/ live work accommodation and informal housing for creative people. The site is not particularly accessible by public transport given the PTAL rating of 1a–2.

Notable features: A landmark crane structure.

SHAAP 02 – Land adjacent to Stamford Hill Station Railway



Site Plan



Site View

Ward: Springfield/Woodberry Down

Ownership: Public

Area in Hectares: 0.041

Existing use: Retail and banks of the railway cutting

Planning Considerations:

- Local Plan 2033 Policy PP4 Stamford Hill
- Hackney Downs to Amhurst Park Road Railway Cutting Green Corridor (south of site)
- PTAL 5

How was the site identified?

Site identified by the Council.

Timescale: Medium Term

Policy SHAAP 02

Allocation: Residential

Indicative Capacity: Approximately 8 residential units.

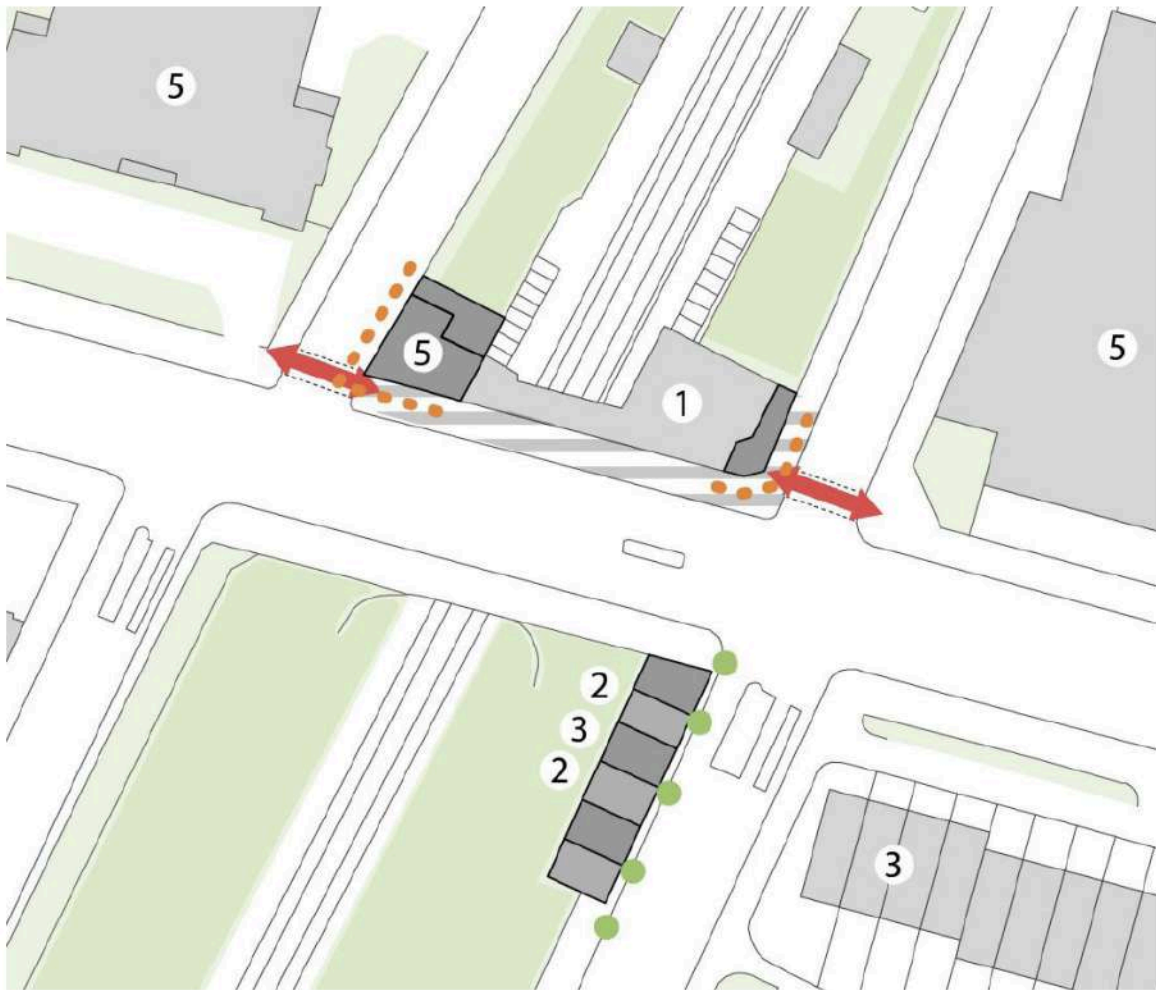
Development Principles:

- The site could support a 3 storey building, stepping down to a single storey to Amhurst Park.
- Public realm improvements along the station would benefit east/ west movement along Amhurst Park. The building footprints on both sites should be in line with the existing station building.
- Development will require removal of 2–3 mature trees alongside the railway embankment which should be replaced around the new development.

Development Site Allocation SHAAP02 should:

- Be of an appropriate building height of 1–3 storeys.
- Adopt a sensitive and innovative design to complement the complexity of this site.
- Create a new platform access.

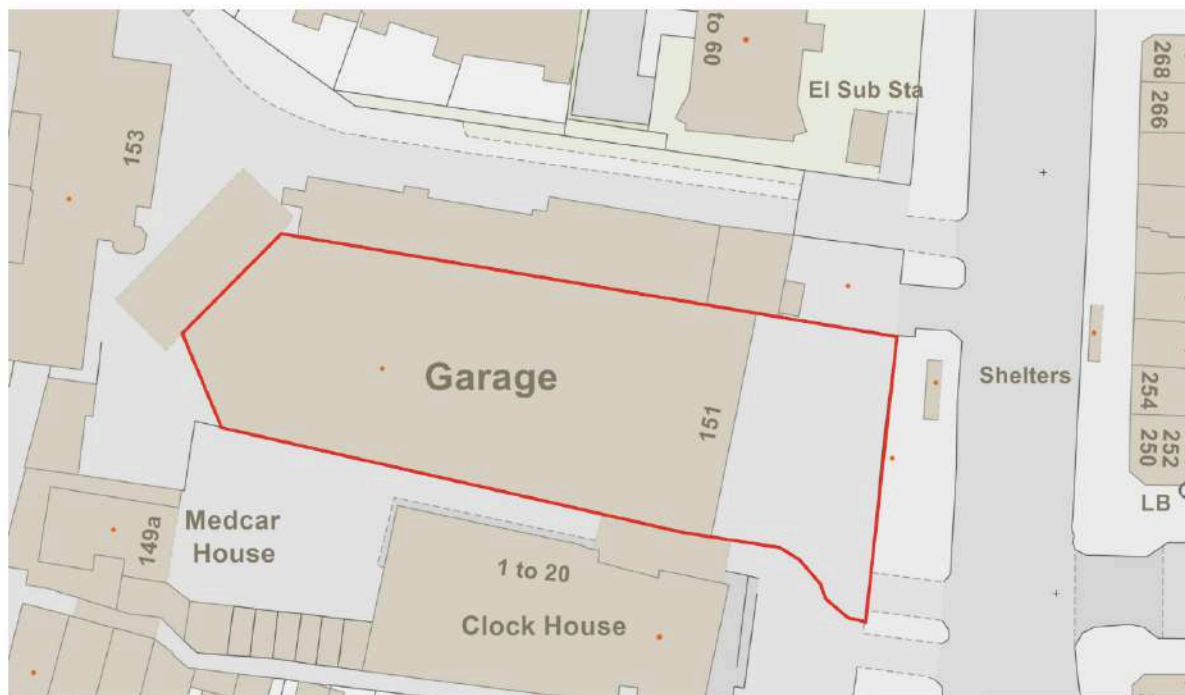
Development Context



Site analysis

- The two sites are adjacent to the entrance of Stamford Hill station. The sites are small corner sites plus land behind on the banks of the railway cutting. One site is cleared and vacant and the other site is occupied by a small retail unit.
- The station is a single-storey heritage asset. Buildings to the west are 5 storeys and to the east are 4 storeys.
- The site boundaries are assumed to be those in the measurements of A and B. However, the site could become more viable if extended to take in some small area of adjacent embankment. This could be in conjunction with work to create a new platform access.
- There are several mature trees alongside the railway embankment which would need to be reprovided for in any new development.

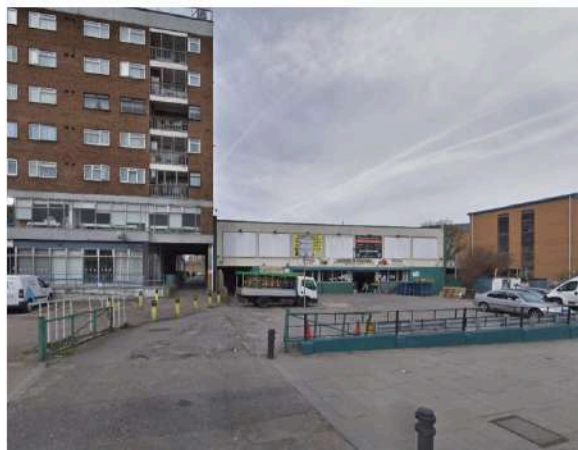
SHAAP 03 – 151 Stamford Hill, N16 5LG



Site Plan



Site 3D View



Site View

Ward: Springfield

Ownership: Private

Area in Hectares: 0.19

Existing use: Retail

Planning Considerations:

- Local Plan 2033 Policy PP4 Stamford Hill
- LP34 Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill and Finsbury Park
- Located in Stamford Hill District Centre
- Stamford Hill District Centre public realm improvements
- PTAL 5

How was the site identified?

Site identified by the Council.

Timescale: Medium Term

Policy SHAAP 03**Allocation:**

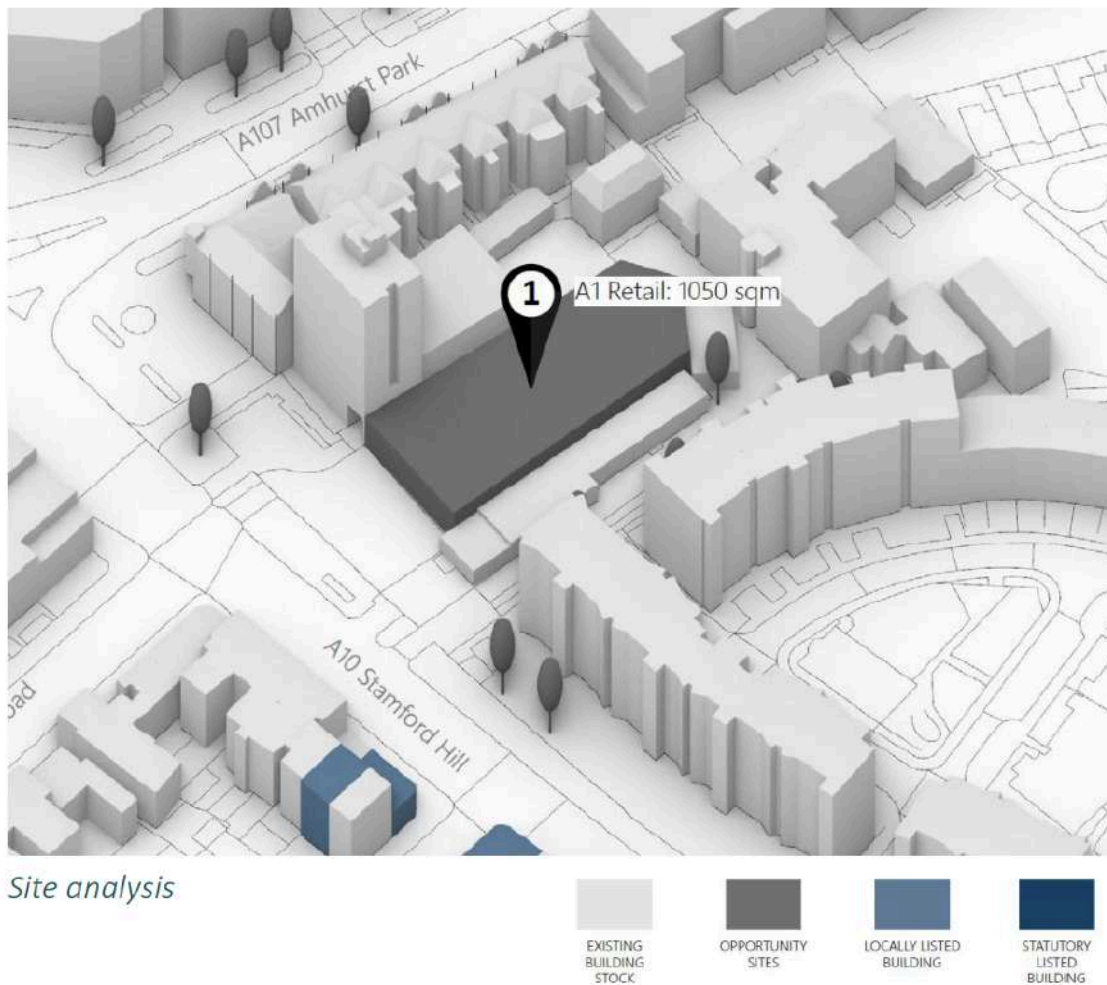
Residential and re provision of commercial use (town centre use)

Indicative Capacity: Approximately 50 residential units with re provision of commercial and community floorspace.

Development on Site Allocation SHAAP 03 should:

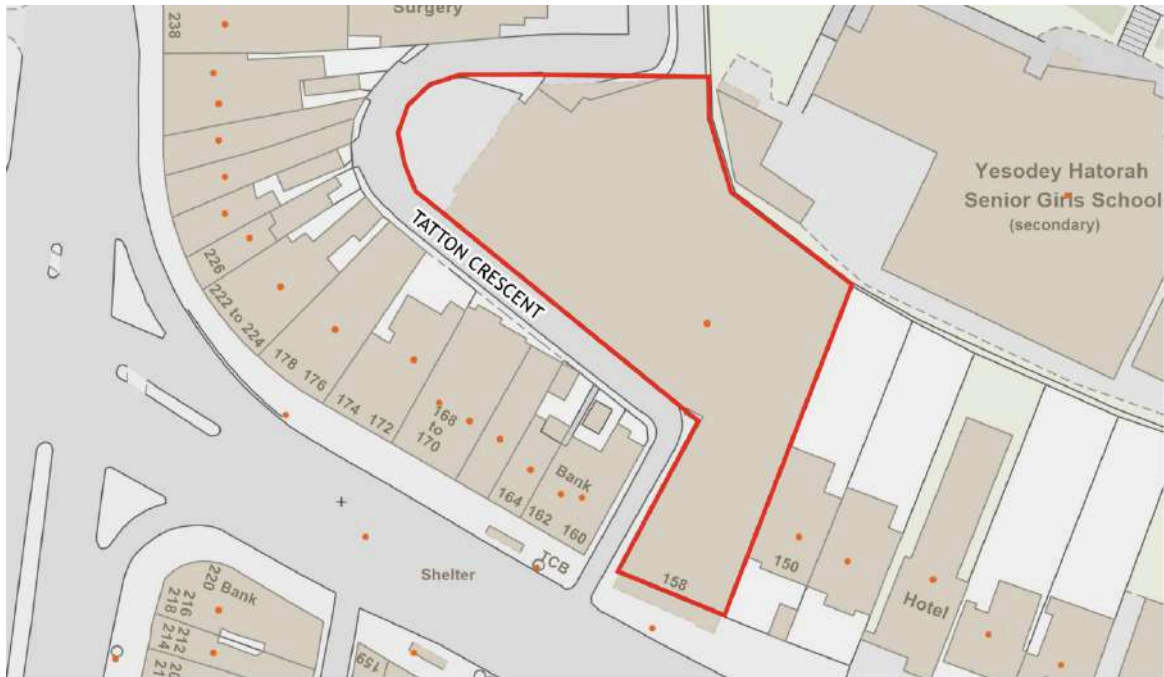
- Be of an appropriate building height of 6 storeys and set in from the northern and southern boundaries at the rear
- Create dual aspect flats, likely by using deck access
- Follow the front building line along Stamford Hill Broadway.
- Have private and communal gardens at first floor level
- A commercial frontage on ground floor is essential due to location within the town centre facade of the building fronting Stamford Hill Broadway should follow the existing building line.
- There is the opportunity to create new pockets of active, well overlooked public spaces, along key routes which provide further opportunities for greening.

Development Context



- A commercial frontage on ground floor is essential due to location within the town centre facade of the building fronting Stamford Hill Broadway should follow the existing building line.
- There is the opportunity to create new pockets of active, well overlooked public spaces, along key routes which provide further opportunities for greening.

SHAAP 04 – ASDA Village, 158 Clapton Common, E5 9AG



Site Plan



Site 3D View



Site View

Ward: Springfield

Ownership: Private

Area in Hectares: 0.4

Existing use: Vacant (previously ASDA superstore and commercial units)

Planning Considerations:

- Local Plan 2033 Policy PP4 Stamford Hill
- LP34 Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill and Finsbury Park
- Located in Stamford Hill District Centre
- Stamford Hill District Centre public realm improvements

- PTAL 5

How was the site identified?

Site identified by the Council.

Timescale: Long Term

Policy SHAAP 04

Allocation:

Residential and re provision of commercial use (town centre use)

Indicative Capacity: Approximately 35 residential units with re provision of commercial floorspace.

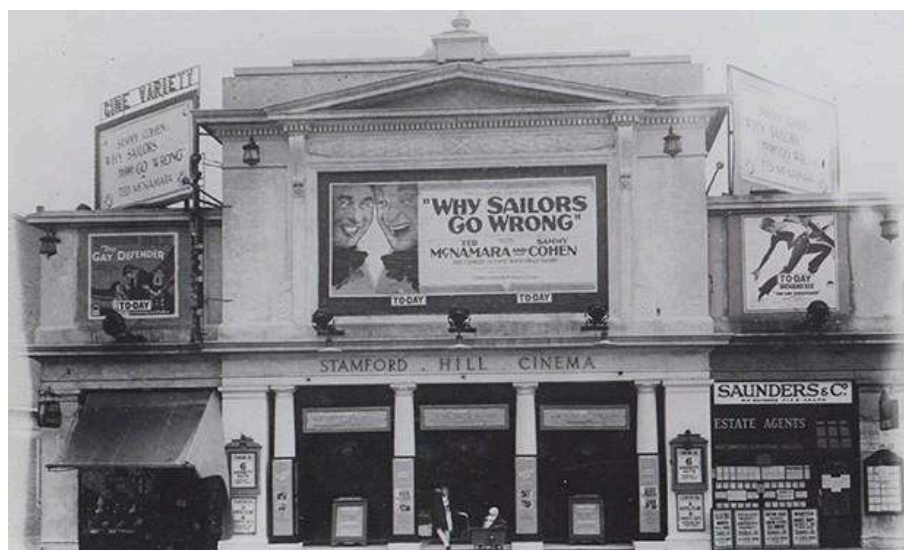
Development on Site SHAAP 04 should:

- Improve street surveillance with front doors and windows animating a new throughway
- Be of an appropriate massing and building line in order to be sensitive to surrounding residential buildings
- Frame the entrance to the site from Clapton Common with a slightly taller corner feature
- Be of an appropriate building height of up to 3 storeys fronting the street, rising to 5 storeys at the rear.
- Creation of a new pedestrian street and play corner space, creates new north-south connections between Clapton Common and Egerton Road
- A taller corner feature building can frame the entrance to the square from Clapton Common.
- Building massing to be setback and sensitive to surrounding residential buildings and rear gardens.

Development Context



Site analysis



Archive Cinema Building

- Maps from 1953 show the site, which today is a shopping arcade anchored by Asda, as a cinema and subsequently the first ten pin bowling alley in the UK in the early 60s.
- For most of the 20th Century the site has been the location of an important landmark building anchoring the eastern end of Stamford Hill Broadway Town Centre.
- In the past the building on the site has also been taller and architecturally more substantial than the current single storey building. Opportunity for the creation of a new pedestrian street and play corner space, creates new north- south connections between Clapton Common and Egerton Rd.

SHAAP 05 – Morrisons, 47-49 Stamford Hill, N16 5TB



Site Plan



Site View



Site 3D View

Ward: Stamford Hill West

Ownership: Private

Area in Hectares: 1.18

Existing use: Morrisons Superstore and car park

Planning Considerations:

- Local Plan 2033 Policy PP4 Stamford Hill
- LP34 Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill and Finsbury Park

- Located in Stoke Newington District Centre
- Stamford Hill Boulevard public realm improvements
- Critical Drainage Area (western end of site)
- Hackney Downs to Amhurst Park Road Green Corridor
- PTAL 5

How was the site identified?

Site identified by the Council.

Timescale: Medium Term

Policy SHAAP 05

Allocation:

Residential and commercial use

Indicative Capacity: Approximately 196 residential units with community use and re provision of commercial floorspace.

Development on SHAAP 05 should:

- Re-establish the set back build line that characterises Stamford Hill with the inclusion of new public square by the corridor essential to mark entrance into the development and establish relationships with existing historic buildings
- Be a street-based development with perimeter blocks up to 3-9 storeys, lowering to the north of the site to, minimise daylight impact on existing housing blocks
- Have a 4 storey frontage with 2 further storeys set-back towards Stamford Hill
- Have a form and style that respects the setting of the adjacent locally listed building
- Retain existing mature trees
- Include a large commercial ground floor space on site.
- Provide a Flood Risk Assessment and install any sustainable drainage system(s) where appropriate to account for the western part of the site which was identified for risk from surface water flooding

Development Context



Site analysis



- The site is in the Stoke Newington District centre. The supermarket use should be maintained as it is an important destination for the local community.
- There are opportunities for the back building line that characterises Stamford Hill Broadway to be reinstated marking the entrance of the development and establishing relationships with existing historic buildings.
- It is next to a grade II listed pair of houses 51 and 53 Stamford Hill N16 and the view to the listed properties to the south over the railway should be maintained.
- A public space and shared surface street at the centre of the development could introduce much needed opportunities for play and greening through tree-lining.

- There are existing housing blocks to the north of the site which are lower in height which would require careful consideration in terms of daylight impact
- There are a number of existing mature trees on the site.
- The western part of the site falls within an identified area at risk from surface water flooding.
- Public space at the centre of the site could introduce much needed opportunities for play.

SHAAP 06 – SAINSBURY'S STAMFORD HILL BROADWAY, 1 Amhurst Park, N16 5LW



Site Plan



Site View



Site 3D View

Ward: Springfield

Ownership: Private/Council

Area in Hectares: 0.35

Existing use: Retail

Planning Considerations:

- Local Plan 2033 Policy PP4 Stamford Hill
- LP34 Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill and Finsbury Park
- Located in Stamford Hill District Centre
- Stamford Hill District Centre Public realm improvements
- PTAL 5–6a

How was the site identified? Site identified by the Council.

Timescale: Medium Term

Policy SHAAP 06

Allocation: Residential and commercial

Indicative Capacity: Approximately 61 residential units with community use, re-provision of commercial floorspace and public space.

Development here should:

- Reprovide the supermarket and new commercial space on the ground floor with frontage onto Stamford Hill Broadway, with a finer grained active frontage than the current building with additional commercial units
- Have building highest on the street frontage at around 5 storeys in height and 5–7 storeys to the rear, with massing of building to the rear of the site to minimise impact on adjacent apartment blocks and Victorian school building.
- Deliver high quality contemporary architecture to set a precedent for new development within the town centre, with well articulated facades fronting Stamford Hill Broadway.
- Improve the surrounding public realm, including refurbishment and repurposing of the existing 1930s public toilets and give consideration to:
 - Creation of an additional pedestrian retail arcade or lane (open, or built above)
 - Extension of the building frontage to increase street enclosure
 - Creation of public realm that could enhance the value of the ground floor commercial uses for Holmwood Court and Hanover Court
- Deliver significant urban greening in the form of trees and planting

Development Context



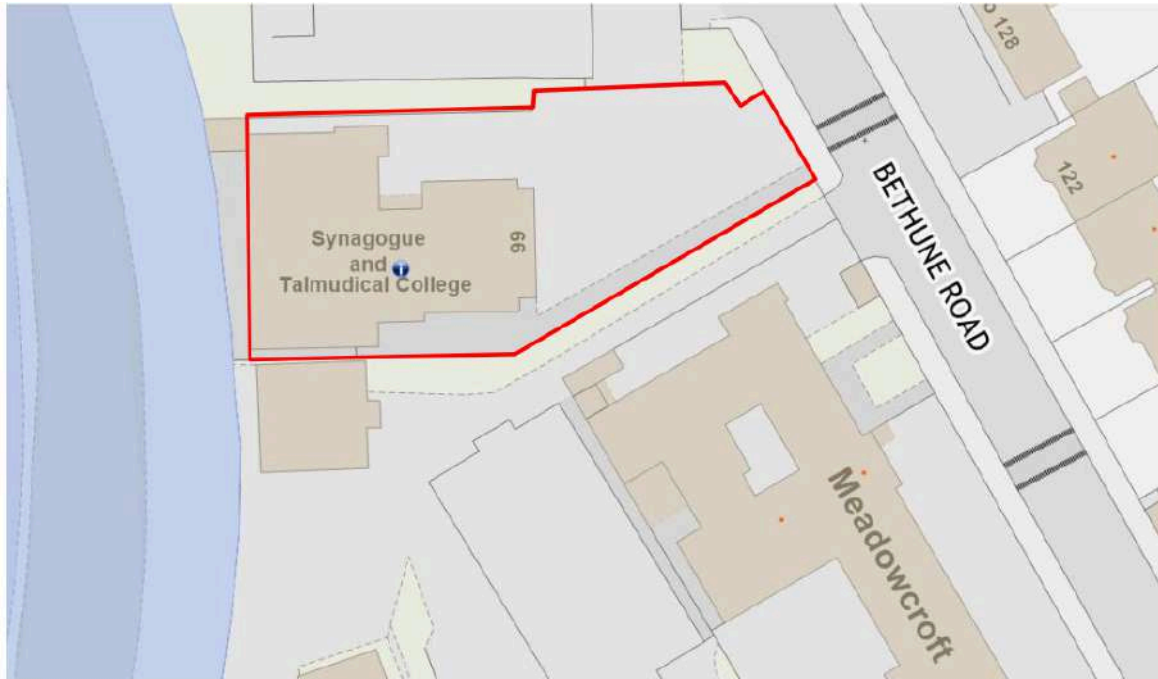
Site analysis

- Since Broadway Town Centre was developed, the site has been the location for the largest landmark buildings in the area. Broadway Town Centre is characterised by a very wide space between fine grained retail frontages. The prevailing heights range from 3 to 5 storeys with high points of around 6 storeys in some blocks of flats nearby. The tallest building in Broadway Town Centre is a 7 storey block of flats. The buildings flanking the site are 6 storey blocks of flats.
- The background built character is of 20th century masonry construction of traditional and modern styling. Materially, most buildings are red brick with some London stock with some white decoration. Pitched roofs are common as are decorative gables facing the street. The architecture is relatively functional with few instances of remarkable or very high quality buildings. There could be potential for a new landmark building on the site if the architecture was of sufficiently high quality. This

would need a civic quality and would need to be an enhancement to the character of the area. This could help enclose the wide open space and reduce the sense of distance between the four sides of the street.

- Pavements are relatively wide in places but there are no public realm focal points or quality gathering places. There are also very few opportunities to walk away from the traffic and noise which places a definite pressure on the pedestrian environment. There are several large landmark trees but the town centre has very few trees or relief from paved surfaces.
- The rear of the site is relatively unconstrained. The backs of blocks of flats would need a good distance between them and new frontage to maintain access to light and privacy.

SHAAP 07 – Chasidey Belz Beth Hemedrash – 99 Bethune Road, Stamford Hill, London N16 5ED



Site Plan



Site View



Site 3D View

Ward: Woodberry Down

Ownership: Private

Area in Hectares: 0.13

Existing use: Synagogue and car park

Planning Considerations:

- Local Plan 2033 Policy PP4 Stamford Hill
- LP47 (Biodiversity and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation)
- The setting of Stoke Newington Reservoirs Conservation Area
- PTAL 2

How was the site identified? Site suggested by the community

Timescale: Medium Term

	<p>Policy SHAAP 07</p> <p>Allocation: Residential and community use</p> <p>Indicative Capacity: Approximately 12 residential units and community use</p> <p>Development on site SHAAP07 should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contain appropriate building height of 4–5 storeys• Account for the setting of the 3 distinctive Lincoln Court Towers in terms of height and impact on any views• Make use of the views across the reservoirs• Follow the building line already established on Bethune Road and provide an access passage to the synagogue.• Retain the synagogue building on site, providing appropriate access and associated parking• Follow the setback building line of the neighbouring buildings on Bethune Road <p>Opportunities:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide public realm on Bethune Road • Provision of much needed housing including genuinely affordable homes
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Development Context



Site analysis

- This is a 20th century building suitable for redevelopment although there is a need to consider the setting of Stoke Newington Reservoirs CA and views across the reservoirs. The existing car park provides an opportunity for development.
- The site is located off Bethune Road and next to the Lincoln Court Tower podium.

- The surrounding context is medium rise, with terraced houses of up to 3 storeys and small blocks of 4 storeys, accounts for the surrounding residential context which is set at 3–5 storeys.
- The existing synagogue should be maintained on site, but the carpark at the front has some potential for redevelopment.

SHAAP 08 – 12 to 43 Stamford Hill, Hackney, London N16 5SR



Site Plan



Site 3D View



Site View

Ward: Stamford Hill West

Ownership: Private

Area in Hectares: 0.26

Existing use: Petrol station, car repair garage

Planning Considerations:

- Local Plan 2033 Policy PP4 Stamford Hill
- LP34 Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill and Finsbury Park
- Stamford Hill Boulevard Public realm improvements
- PTAL 5

How was the site identified? Site suggested by the planning agent of the landlord.

Timescale: Medium Term

Policy SHAAP 08

Allocation: Residential, commercial mixed-use development with community facilities

Indicative Capacity: Approximately 34 residential units

Development here should:

- Maintain the set back build line that characterises Stamford Hill with the provision of new public square at the front of the development
- Have a form and style that respects the setting of the Large Victorian Villa building present on site. A building line following the Victorian Villa will need to be reinstated.
- Place any height near the railway line
- Connect in a positive manner with the Morrisons site next door

Opportunities:

- Set back building line can introduce successful public realm and play opportunities along Stamford Hill boulevard and the inclusion of new public square at the front of the development
- Connections with the Morrisons site next door through public realm routes

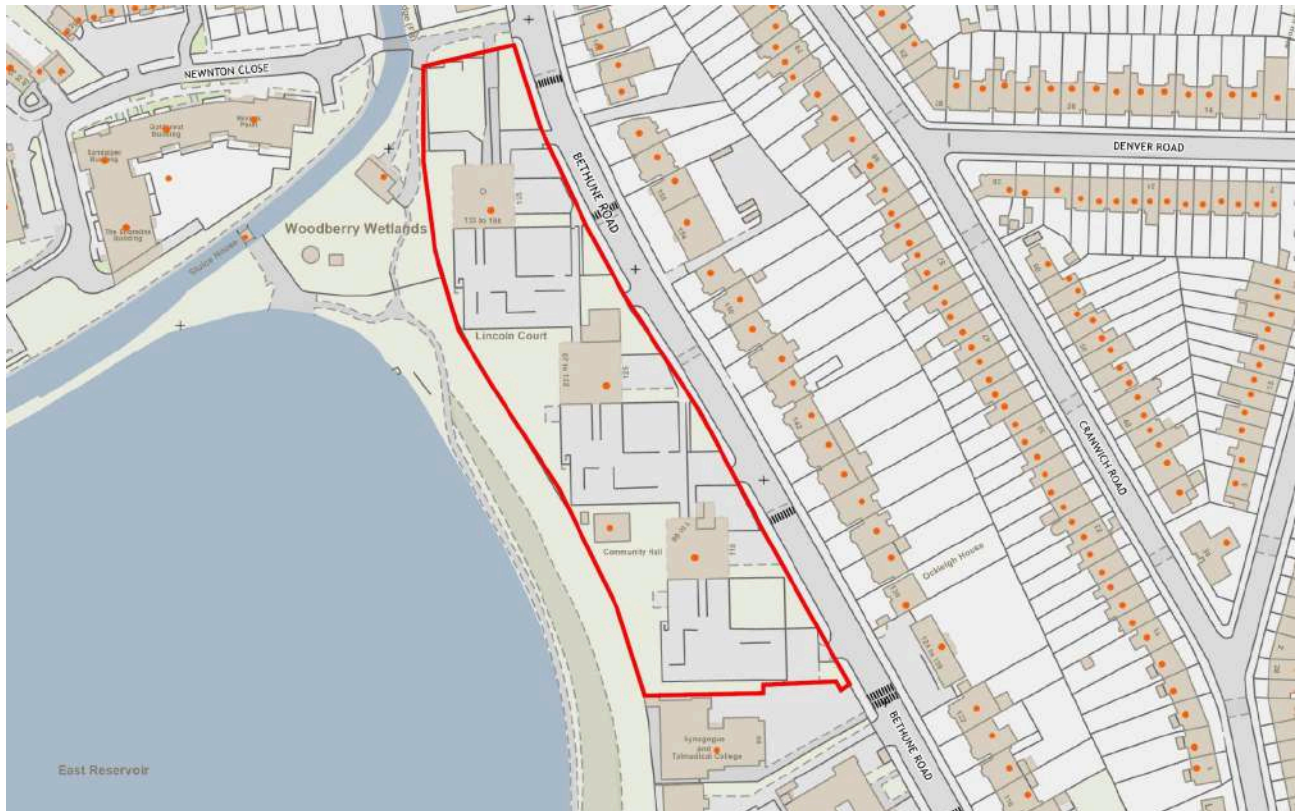
Development context



Site analysis

- The garage and petrol station have potential for redevelopment, but the large Victorian Villa, set back from the road, is one of the few examples of this type of buildings surviving in the area and should be maintained and refurbished.
- The surrounding context is varied in scale. Next to the site there is an eight storey residential tower block.
- Scope for new development to the rear is more limited as this is railway land harbouring the railway that leads from Stoke Newington to Stamford Hill.

SHAAP 09 – Lincoln Court Infill Sites, 115–135 Bethune Road, N16 5DZ, N16 5EB, N16 5EA



Site Plan



Site View



Ward: Woodberry Down
Ownership: Public (London Borough of Hackney)
Area in Hectares: 1.2

Existing use: Three towers, 16 storeys high with 198 homes, garages at ground floor and large play decks above at first floor level; three communal gardens

Planning Considerations:

- Local Plan 2033 Policy PP4 Stamford Hill
- LP34 Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill and Finsbury Park
- LP47 (Biodiversity and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation)
- The setting of Stoke Newington Reservoirs Conservation Area
- PTAL 2–3

How was the site identified? Site identified by the Council

Timescale: Short Term

Policy SHAAP 09

Allocation: Residential development with community facility

Indicative Capacity: Approximately 86 residential units

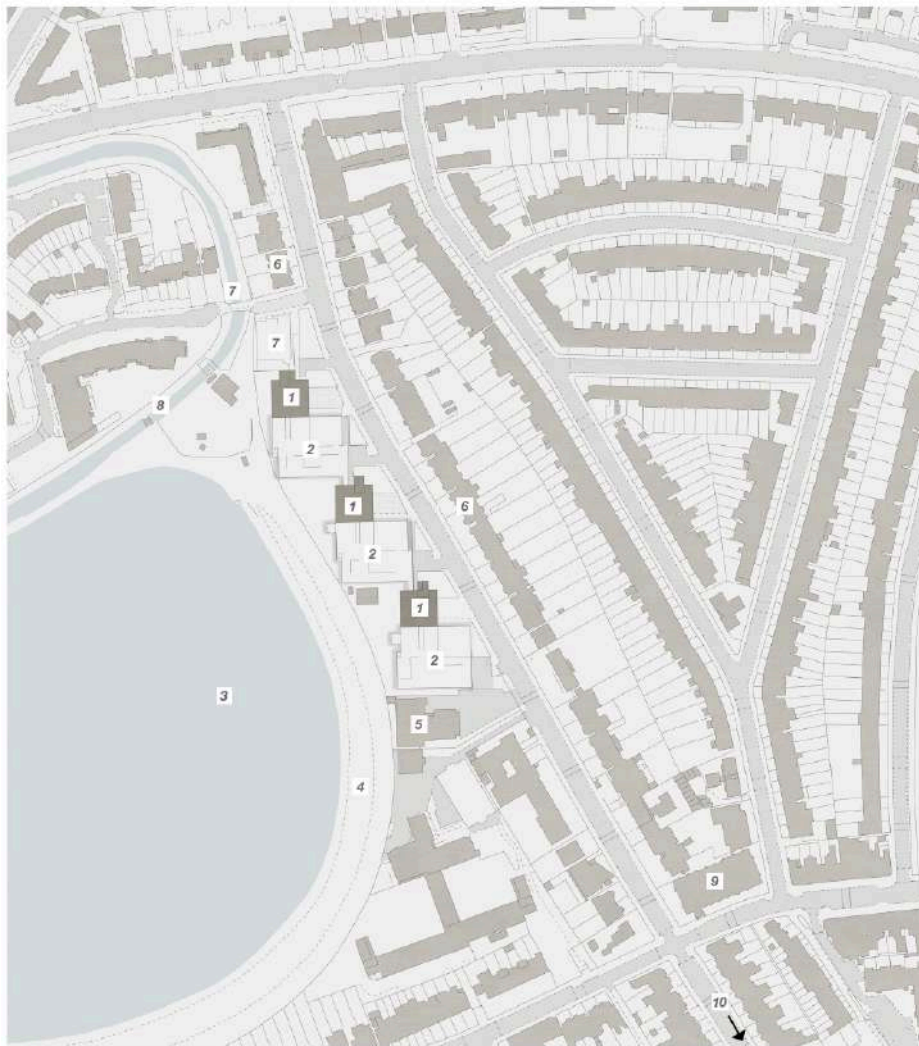
Development here should:

- Relate to the context of both towers and the terraced houses.
- Reinstatement of the appearance of the street that characterised Bethune Road before its post war redevelopment.
- Allow for new buildings of medium size and height (5–7 storeys); a middle ground between the tower height and the neighbouring terraced houses.
- Integrate new housing with the existing towers, by making use of under tower spaces, garages and play decks.
- Maintain sightlines to play spaces to allow for passive surveillance and keep children safe.
- Enhance communal gardens by increasing connection between these spaces and allowing for areas for different activities and for residents of all ages.
- Reinforce connection with the wetlands and help preserve its biodiversity.
- Preserve and enhance views to the reservoir.
- Better integrate the existing community hall, by improving access from the street and visibility.

Opportunities:

- Highlight the connection to the reservoir whilst maintaining privacy for residents
- Make improvements to the existing ground level facilities for residents, including recycling and refuse, lobbies and cycle parking.
- Positioning new blocks along Bethune Road would maximise the amount of open space in the communal gardens at the back.
- Improvements to the community hall such as direct access and visibility from the street and adding a roof terrace to make use of the views of the reservoir.
- Create new building forms that respond to the context through covered entrances 'porticos' on the street side, inset balconies that do not stick out, green roofs and a well designed landscape proposition.
- Integrating new housing into the existing community to provide much-needed council homes.
- Provide well designed and surveilled playspaces.

Development Context



KEY

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Lincoln Court Towers | 5 Synagogue |
| 2 Podium Decks | 6 Terraced Houses along Bethune Road |
| 3 Reservoir | 7 Secret Garden |
| 4 Woodberry Wetlands | |

Site analysis

- The site is located just outside the setting of the Stoke Newington Reservoirs Conservation Area. The site benefits from direct views to the natural setting of the East Reservoir located to the west.
- The Lincoln Court Estate, originally built in 1969 by architects Howes, Jackman and Partners, is composed of three towers each 16 storeys high. The towers house 198

homes and are stitched together by three concrete structures comprising garages at ground floor and large play decks above at first floor level. There are three

- Communal gardens behind the play decks next to the reservoir and a secret garden with a small play area is located to the north of the site.
- The existing garages are in poor condition and no longer suited to modern parking requirements, and the play decks don't make the best use of the space available.
- At the east of the site, along Bethune Road the surrounding context is characterised by 2 storey Edwardian Terrace houses.
- Pre-war Bethune Road from the 1800's was characterised by a continuous line of terraced houses on either side of the street.

STAMFORD HILL BUS GARAGE - Rookwood Rd, London N16 6SS- POTENTIAL FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Stamford Hill Bus Garage was identified as a site allocation in the Site Allocations Local Plan (2016) and since then, engagement with the landowners has concluded that the site is currently an important asset to the transport network and local bus infrastructure. However there may be potential to develop the site in the longer term as part of mixed use development retaining an element of transport infrastructure there.

The AAP must explore all options to maximise growth to meet the needs of residents and businesses, as well as meeting the needs for strategic transport infrastructure. In addition to allocating sites for development, the role of the AAP is to identify potential future development opportunities that may come forward in the longer term, such as the Stamford Hill Bus Garage.

The site is a former tram depot, built between 1905 and 1907 by the London Council Council and survives largely intact. The Council have identified the site as a Non-Designated Heritage Asset and therefore any future development opportunities should be heritage led. Option studies for the site should be directly informed by a full heritage assessment of the site to ensure that the significance of the site is understood and appropriately responded to.

Future proposals for the site should also respect the setting of the nearby Grade II* listed Church of the Good Shepherd and Grade II listed Egerton Road Synagogue.

6. Implementation Strategy

The Council will deliver and monitor the implementation of the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan's vision, objectives and policies. We will:

- Work to deliver the objectives and policies for Stamford Hill that align with the strategic principles set out in Place Policy 4 of the Local Plan 2033 and support the delivery of sites allocated in the AAP, through proactive development management services;
- Make appropriate use of developer contributions (planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy);
- Take account of issues of development viability and contingency;
- Follow through wider actions, identified in the Stamford Hill Implementation Framework, to support the effective implementation of the AAP
- Monitor implementation of the actions and the impact of development decisions

Development Management

The primary mechanism for delivering the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan will be the Council's decisions on planning applications. Most development requires planning permission (other than that allowed under 'permitted development rights') and the LB Hackney is the statutory local planning authority, with the power to determine planning applications and enforce the implementation of policies and decisions. Major applications are also subject to the London Mayor's powers of refusal or determination. The policies in the Borough wide Local Plan (LP33), along with those in this AAP, once adopted, will provide the framework for such decisions.

Planning decisions will be crucial to ensuring that new development appropriately responds to the AAP's vision, objectives and policies (including site allocations). The development management process provides an opportunity to manage the form that development takes in Stamford Hill, in relation to its location, scale, design, appearance, and land use. In this regard, pre-application discussions are an important tool. The Council will also take account of any supplementary planning documents and guidance when determining planning applications, including the [Draft] Stamford Hill Design Guide.

Developer Contributions

Development proposals will need to provide or fund local improvements and non-infrastructure items to mitigate the impact of development and/or facilities; and requirements made necessary by development. The way in which development contributes towards community infrastructure will be guided by the Planning Contributions SPD and the

Hackney Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (or any successor funding mechanisms).

Viability

The Council commissioned a viability study to ensure that the policies and site allocations identified in Part 4 and 5, respectively, are deliverable and this tested requirements for developer contributions. All site guidance is subject to viability and detailed consideration of design and amenity impacts as reflected in Local Plan and AAP policies. Viability will be taken into account in line with policies in LP33.

Table 2: Implementation Framework

Ref	Key Action	Lead Agency	Partners	Timeframe
A1	Enabling implementation and delivery of the site allocations to ensure a coordinated approach is achieved.	Hackney Council Planning	Landowners and developers, infrastructure providers, the Greater London Authority Transport for London	Short to Medium Term Year 1–15 AAP implementation
A2	Track the progress of the delivery of Public realm projects (PR01 to PR06 as detailed in Appendix 1) and including securing funding to enable this through the Local Implementation Plan and where appropriate developer contributions.	Hackney Council Street Scene	Transport for London	Short to Medium Term Year 1–10 AAP implementation
A3	Provide a strategy to enhance the vitality of Stamford Hill Town Centre and integrate this into a wider economic development plan.	Hackney Council Regeneration	Transport for London	Short Term Year 1–5 AAP implementation

Ref	Key Action	Lead Agency	Partners	Timeframe
A4	Continue to work with Transport for London to seek improvements to the local bus network and help improve local bus services.	Hackney Council Street Scene	Transport for London	Ongoing Year 1–15 AAP implementation
A5	Seek enhanced frequencies to train services in the area, including accessibility improvements. All the stations within the AAP area would benefit from accessibility improvements and step free access.	Hackney Council Street Scene	Transport for London	Ongoing Year 1–15 AAP implementation
A6	Monitor the proposals and development of the Stamford Hill Bus Garage and engage with partners to ensure it supports AAP objectives	Hackney Council Street Scene	Transport for London	Medium to Long Term Year 1–10 AAP implementation
A7	Enhance Green Infrastructure links and Stamford Hill Nature Recovery Area	Hackney Council Leisure Parks & Green Spaces	Hackney Biodiversity Partnership	Ongoing Year 1–15 AAP implementation

Monitoring

In addition to monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan, the performance of the Stamford Hill AAP will be monitored to enable an understanding of the extent to which its policies deliver the Council's vision and objectives for the area. The Council will monitor the effectiveness of the AAP and the Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD by regularly assessing its performance against a series of quantitative indicators. The Council's performance will be reported in the annual authority monitoring report (AMR). The AMR also reports on the collection and spend of the community infrastructure levy (CIL) and S106 obligations in accordance with government regulations.

7. Schedule of Site Allocations Replaced by the AAP

The following site allocation from Hackney's Site Allocations Local Plan (2016) is replaced by the site allocation in this Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (AAP).

Superseded Site Allocation Local Plan (2016)	Stamford Hill AAP Site Allocation to replace
Ref. 285–151 Stamford Hill, N16 5LG	SHAAP 03 – 151 Stamford Hill, N16 5LG
Table 10. Superseded Site Allocations	

8. Glossary

Accessibility – the ability of people to move around an area and to reach places and facilities, including pensioners and disabled people, those with young children and those encumbered with luggage or shopping.

Affordable Housing – Social Rent/London Affordable Rent and Intermediate products such as Hackney/London Living Rent or Affordable Home Ownership products like shared ownership, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. Policy LP13 of the Local Plan sets out Hackney's preferred genuinely affordable tenures.

Affordable Workspace – New-build employment floorspace, providing affordable space for small businesses, to occupy, often operated and managed by a workspace provider.

Area Action Plan (AAP) – a particular type of Development Plan Document/Local Plan which provides a planning framework for any area where significant change and/or conservation is needed.

Article 4 Directions – Article 4 directions remove some or all permitted development rights, for example within a conservation area or curtilage of a listed building. Article 4 directions are issued by the local planning authority.

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) – a document produced by the Local Planning Authority to report on the progress of producing development plan documents (DPDs) and the implementation of policies. Formerly known as the Annual Monitoring Report.

Biodiversity – all species of life on earth including plants and animals and the ecosystem of which we are all part.

Communal Open Space – Open space that is for shared use by the occupants of a number of dwellings and/or business. The term is used to distinguish such space from private open space i.e. gardens or balconies attached to an individual dwelling or business premises, and 'public' open space i.e. parks, public squares where there is a degree of freedom about who can use the space and for what purposes.

Community Facilities (also see social infrastructure) – Community facilities can be broadly defined as including children's play and recreation facilities, services for young people, older people and disabled people, as well as health facilities, education facilities, libraries, community halls, meeting rooms, places of worship and public toilets. Adequate provision for these facilities is particularly important in major areas of new development and

regeneration. The definition also includes statutory undertakers, emergency services, indoor recreation serving local catchments (especially dual use) and welfare or meeting halls.

Conservation Area – A formally designated area of special historic or architectural interest whose character must be preserved or enhanced.

Critical Drainage Area – A discrete geographic area (usually hydrological catchment) where multiple and interlinked sources of flood risk (surface water, groundwater, sewer, main river and/or tidal) cause flooding in one or more Local Flood Risk Zones during severe weather thereby affecting people, property or local infrastructure.

Designated centre – Applies to major centres, district centres and local centres.

Designated open space – Applies to all open space shown on the Policies map. It includes areas defined as Metropolitan Open Land and Local Open Space.

Development – This refers to development in its widest sense, including buildings, and in streets, spaces and places. It also refers to both redevelopment, including refurbishment, as well as new development.

Development Plan – this includes adopted Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and the London Plan, and is defined in Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Development Plan Documents – Spatial planning documents that are subject to independent examination, and together with the relevant Regional Spatial Strategy, form the development plan for a local authority. Development Plan Documents include the Core Strategy, Local Plan (and the associated proposals map), Site Allocations of Land and Area Action Plans.

Disabled people – A disabled person is someone who has an impairment, experiences externally imposed barriers and self-identifies as a disabled person.

District Centre – District centres are smaller than Major centres and generally comprise groups of shops and services for local communities including at least one supermarket or superstore, fewer clothes shops compared to Major centres, as well as a range of non-retail services, such as banks, building societies and restaurants, as well as community facilities such as libraries.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – In these assessments, information about the environmental effects of a project is collected, assessed and taken into account in reaching a decision on whether the project should go ahead or not. Applicants for certain types of development, usually more significant schemes, are required to submit an 'environmental

statement' accompanying a planning application. This evaluates the likely environmental impacts of the development, together with an assessment of how the severity of the impacts could be reduced.

Estate Regeneration Programme – This Council programme is replacing existing, poor-quality homes across the Borough that are uneconomical to repair, one in five of which are bedsits, with new homes for social renting, shared ownership and private sale.

Examination – a form of independent public inquiry into the soundness of a submitted local plan, which is chaired by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. After the examination has ended the Inspector produces a report with recommendations which are binding on the Council.

Family housing – Generally defined as having three or more bedrooms.

Family housing/units – Family Units consist of accommodation suitable for households including children, consisting of three or more bedrooms and normally including private garden space.

Floorspace – Floor space is defined as the sum of the floor area within the building measured externally to the external wall faces at each level. Basement car parks, rooftop plant rooms, caretakers' flats etc. should be included in the floor space figure.

Fluvial Flooding – Flooding resulting from water levels exceeding the bank level of a watercourse (river or stream).

Greater London Authority (GLA) – The GLA is made up of a directly elected Mayor and a separately elected London Assembly. The organisation assists the Mayor of London fulfil his statutory responsibilities which includes strategic planning in London. In this regard, the main responsibilities of the Mayor are to: produce a spatial development strategy – the London Plan - which covers the type of development and land use that the Mayor wants to see in London; ensure that, as they are revised, London boroughs' UDPs conform generally with The London Plan; be consulted on planning applications of strategic importance, with the power to refuse planning permission on strategic grounds; and monitor and collect information on the implementation of The London Plan.

Green/brown roofs – Intensive ornamental roof gardens and extensive roofs with more naturalistic plantings or self-established vegetation, climbing plants and other natural features of greening on, or adjacent to buildings. On brown roofs the intention is to allow ruderal vegetation (vegetation associated with disturbed sites) to colonise low fertility substrates like those found in the rubble of demolished buildings. Can create or improve biodiversity, contribute to minimising flood risk, improve thermal efficiency and improve the microclimate. Examples are reducing air conditioning costs by providing summer shade, reducing wind-chill, and incorporating insulating layers to improve insulation.

Habitable Room – A Habitable Room is a room within a residential dwelling considered appropriate for occupation. Habitable rooms exclude bathrooms, and kitchens under 13 sqm. (140 sq. ft).

Hackney Strategic Housing Market Assessment – An assessment of housing need and demand in Hackney's housing market area which informs the local plan.

Heritage Assets – a building, monument, site or landscape of historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest whether designated or not designated. Heritage assets in Hackney include statutorily listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, London Squares, Historic Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Remains, Archaeological Priority Areas, Locally Listed Buildings, Local Landmarks, Buildings of Townscape Merit and Area of Townscape Interest.

Historic Significance – the value of a heritage asset, because of its heritage interest which may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

Intermediate Housing – Housing that is affordable to households on middle incomes, which includes a wide range of housing for rent, ownership, or part-buy, part-rent. It may include shared ownership, London Living Rent and other sub-market housing for rent or purchase. The household income thresholds for intermediate housing are set by the GLA and are £90k per annum for shared ownership and £60k per annum for London Living Rent.

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority – The Park Authority and boundary of the regional park were established under the Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966. The broad remit of the Authority is to manage, innovate, lead and enable the Park to be a place for leisure, recreation and nature conservation. Hackney's section of the Park includes Hackney Marshes, the River Lea and Lee Navigation. The Park Authority has a statutory duty to produce a plan(s) of proposals for the future and development of the Park. Its adopted Park Development Framework sets out the vision, aims, objectives and six thematic proposals. It also has a series of Area Proposals including Area 2 which covers The Three Marshes: Walthamstow, Leyton and Hackney. The plans and proposals can be viewed at: leevalleypark.org.uk.

Listed Building – a building or structure designated by the Secretary of State under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for its special architectural or historic interest, and therefore included in a 'list' of such buildings and structures. Statutory Listed Buildings are buildings of special architectural or historic interest, they are graded as I, II* or II with grade I being the highest. Statutory listing includes the interior as well as the exterior of the building, and any buildings or permanent structures (e.g. walls within its

curtilage). English Heritage is responsible for designating buildings for the statutory listing in England.

Living roofs (also known as green/brown roofs) – living roofs can create or improve biodiversity, contribute to minimising flood risk, improve flood risks, improve thermal efficiency and improve microclimate. The substrate depth of living roofs should vary between 80mm and 150mm with peaks and trough, but should average at least 130mm unless it can be demonstrated that this is not reasonably possible. Extensive living roofs should be planted with 16 plugs per m2.

Local Centre/Local Shopping Centre – Local centres or Local Shopping Centres include a range of small shops of a local nature, providing services for local communities (a small catchment) and are of cumulative strategic significance. Typically, local centres include a small supermarket, a newsagent, a sub-post office and a pharmacy.

Local Development Document (LDD) – a set of documents specified in the United Kingdom planning law which a Local Planning Authority creates to describe their strategy for development and use of land in their area of authority.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) – a document which sets out the Local Planning Authority's intentions and timetable for the preparation of new LDDs (including LPs, SPDs and the SCI).

Local Flood Risk Zone (LFRZ) – Local Flood Risk Zones are defined as discrete areas of flooding that do not exceed the national criteria for a 'Flood Risk Area' but still affect houses, businesses or infrastructure. A LFRZ is defined as the actual spatial extent of predicted flooding in a single location.

Local Open Space – This includes the parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, linear open space/green corridors, water spaces, allotments and community gardens, cemeteries and churchyards, playing fields and the civic spaces/pedestrianised areas.

Local Plan – the plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Current core strategies or other planning policies, which under the regulations would be considered to be development plan documents, form part of the Local Plan. The term includes old policies which have been saved under the 2004 Act.

Local Planning Authority (LPA) – the local authority which has duties and powers under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.

Locally Listed Buildings – Locally listed buildings are those that satisfy one or more of the following local criteria: historic interest, architectural interest or environmental significance.

London Affordable Rent – A new housing tenure introduced by the Mayor of London as an alternative London specific tenure to Affordable Rent, with rent levels set by the GLA and to be substantially less than 80% below market rent.

London Living Rent – A new housing product introduced by the Mayor of London, with rent levels set at one third of average local household earnings. Existing private or social renters with incomes of up to £60,000 will be able to apply. For homes that are built using funding from the Mayor of London, tenants will be expected to purchase their homes on shared ownership terms within 10 years.

London Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy) – The London Plan is the name given to the Mayor's spatial development strategy for London. Together with Development Plan Documents it forms the Development Plan for the Borough.

Low cost employment floorspace – Existing employment floorspace which may be secondary or tertiary in nature, of a lower quality or specification, with cheaper rents or leases, often providing space for general and light industrial uses, and start-ups, creative occupiers such as artists or makers spaces. It is found throughout the Borough, often in railway arches, designated employment areas (Priority Office Areas, Priority Industrial Areas, and Locally Significant Industrial Sites) and also in town centres including back-of town centre and high street locations.

Main Town Centre Uses – retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment facilities, the more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurant, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, night-clubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres, and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).

Major Development – Major development is development which does not fall under Paragraph (2) applications of the General Permitted Development Order (1995) and which involves the following:

- (a) The winning and working of minerals or the uses of the land for mineral working deposits;
- (b) Waste development, i.e. development involving the treating, storing, processing or disposing of refuse or waste materials;
- (c) The provision of dwelling houses where the number of houses is ten or more, or where the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more and the number of houses is not known;
- (d) The provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more; or

(e) Development carried out on a site having an area of one hectare or more.
[para 2, art 8, GDPO, 1995]

Metropolitan Open Land – Metropolitan Open Land is strategic open land within the urban area that contributes to the structure of London.

Mitigation measures – actions necessary to restrict or remedy the negative impacts of a particular development.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – a national planning policy document which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system only to the extent that it is relevant, proportionate and necessary to do so. It provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.

Natura 2000 Site – a site of international importance for nature conservation established under the EC Birds and Habitats Directives, comprising (in the UK) designated Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation.

Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAPF) – Opportunity Area Planning Frameworks provides strategic planning guidance for development within Opportunity Areas. OAPF's are non-statutory documents which are intended to assist boroughs implement the London Plan policies. It is up to boroughs to decide how to reflect OAPF guidance within local development plans.

Permeability – The ability to move freely through a site, area or region via a choice of routes.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 – This Act updates elements of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act and introduces: a statutory system for regional planning; a new system for local planning; reforms to the development control and compulsory purchase and compensation systems; and removal of crown immunity from planning controls.

Planning obligations (s.106) – Planning obligations, also known as section 106, are legally binding agreements typically negotiated between local authorities and developers in the context of planning applications. They are a mechanism by which measures are secured to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms.

Policies Map – An Ordnance Survey based map illustrating all the policies contained in the AAP together with the Local Plan policies. It must be revised as each new Local Plan is adopted, and it should always reflect the up-to-date planning strategy for the area.

Pollution – The main types of pollution include:

- **Air Pollution (Indoor air quality and Ambient air quality)** – Noxious gases in the air causing any harmful effects to human health or to buildings or to the environment known as air pollution.
- **Land pollution** – Contamination of land usually occurs from harmful industrial or development activities that penetrate into soil and further cause damage to human health or ecosystem or water sources.
- **Noise pollution** – Any unwanted sound coming from different kinds of sources such as transportation, any industrial activity, construction work, neighbourhood activities that irritates one's ear refers to noise pollution.
- **Water pollution (including river water quality and ground water quality)** – Any intrusion of unwanted substance that changes the chemical, physical or biological characteristics of water to such extent which leads to a failure of meeting any good standards of water quality and therefore reducing the usefulness of it for any human or other natural activity.

Priority Industrial Areas (PIA) – PIAs are suitable for industrial mixed-use development. These areas are important for the retention and intensification of industrial land/floorspace.

Private rented sector -- All non-owner occupied self-contained dwellings that are being rented out as housing (not including forms of affordable housing).

Public Realm – This is the space between and within buildings that are publicly accessible, including streets, squares, forecourts, parks and open spaces.

Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) – Public Transport Accessibility Levels are a measure of the extent and ease of access to the public transport network. They range from 6 (excellent) through to 1 (very poor).

Ramsar Site – a wetland site of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat, listed under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention, 1971).

Reasoned Justification – The supporting text in a Development Plan or Local Development Document explaining and justifying the approach set out in the policies contained in the document.

Regeneration – The economic, social and environmental renewal and improvement of rural and urban areas.

Retail – Includes both comparison goods (or consumer durables), which are retail goods such as clothes, shoes, homeware, jewellery, sportswear, games/toys, books, music, electricals and furniture, and convenience goods such as food, drink, tobacco and non-durable household goods commonly used to clean and maintain the home.

Shared Ownership – Intermediate housing available from the Council or housing associations for part-buy, part-rent. Applicants must normally purchase between 25–75% of the value of the homes, and pay rent on the remainder.

Sites of Nature Conservation – Locally important sites of nature conservation adopted by the Council authorities that include Metropolitan; Borough Grade I; Borough Grade II; and Local.

Social Infrastructure (also see Community Facilities) – Social infrastructure can be broadly defined as comprising: the voluntary organisations and community groups that operate in communities; the communities of interest, place and culture that exist in and across localities; networks of people and organisations that provide contacts, links and association with one another; social interaction between people, neighbours and communities; the recruitment, development and support of community leaders; opportunities for social inclusion, lifelong learning and community development.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the processes to be used by the local authority in involving the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all local development documents and development control decisions.

Statutory Development Plan – the overall term for a number of documents which, together, have a particular status under the planning legislation in decision-making. The Development Plan includes all adopted local plans for the area.

School Streets – This is the Council's pioneering programme to transform roads outside schools, so that pedestrians and cyclists are prioritised at school start and finish times. The schemes tackle congestion and improve air quality at the school gates, making it easier and safer to walk and cycle to school. They create a more pleasant environment for everyone, while making sure residents, businesses, pedestrians and cyclists can still use the road.

Submission Stage – the stage at which an AAP, LP or SCI is sent to the Secretary of State as a prelude to its examination, having previously been published for public inspection and formal representations.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Supplementary Planning Documents provide supplementary information to support the policies in Development Plan Documents. They do not form part of the Development Plan and are not subject to independent examination.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Used interchangeably with SPD above.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – a formal, systematic process to assess the environmental, economic and social effects of strategies and policies from the start of preparation onwards. The process includes the production of reports to explain the outcomes of the appraisal.

Sustainable Development – usually referred to as ‘development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’ (Brundtland, 1987).

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) – an overall term for systems of surface water drainage management that take into account the quantity and quality of runoff, and the amenity value of surface water in the urban environment. The main focus is on source control and the mimicking of natural processes to enable infiltration and gradual discharge into watercourses.

Taller Building – Buildings or structures that are 50% taller than the prevailing building height or which significantly change the skyline or are 30 metres or more in height.

Tenure – The conditions under which land or buildings are held or occupied. In terms of housing, for example, homes may be social, private-rented or owner-occupied.

The Act - the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which put in place the statutory framework for preparing the LDF (now the Local Plan).

The Regulations – the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009; and the Town and Country Planning (Transitional Arrangements) Regulations 2004; and Town And Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Town Centre – Town centres will usually be the second level of centres after city centres and, in many cases, they will be the principal centre or centres in a local authority’s area. In London the ‘major’ and many of the ‘district’ centres identified in the Mayor’s Spatial Development Strategy typically perform the role of town centres.

Town Centre Management – Activities associated with town centre management are generally operational and result in improvements to the appearance of town centres. In some instances such activities include works such as installation of lighting, CCTV, minimising fly tipping, enforcement activities and public realm/highways improvements.

Transport Statement/Local Level Transport Threshold – A transport statement for a smaller development, Threshold details are contained in the Hackney Transport Strategy.

Travel Plan – A long-term management strategy that encourages active, efficient and sustainable travel for new and existing developments. It sets out transport impacts, establishes targets and identifies the package of measures needed for improvement.

Urban Greening Factor – The UGF is a method for expressing the quality, function and quantity of urban greening proposed as part of an application. By setting a minimum target, it aims to ensure that urban greening is a fundamental element of site and building design. The new London Plan indicates that urban greening should be a fundamental element of site and building design and delivered on site, as part of a proposed development. Consequently, the new Hackney Local Plan includes a policy requirement for major residential developments to achieve an Urban Greening Factor Score (UGF) of at least 0.4; and for mixed-use or commercial developments to achieve a score of 0.3.

Use Class/Use Class Order – The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) puts uses of land and buildings into various categories. Planning permission is not needed for changes of use within the same use class. The Use Classes Order can be viewed at the Planning Portal website.

Appendix 1: Public Realm Projects

The Council's ambition is to ensure that motor traffic is managed at appropriate levels across the entire borough and to continue to improve Hackney for walking and cycling, encourage people to spend time in their local area and create quieter, greener, safer and more pleasant neighbourhoods.

Low Emission Zones will have an important role to play in the future. In addition, linked to work on a new Transport Strategy, the council is reassessing its strategy for managing the kerbside on borough controlled roads. This involves reallocating kerbside space currently allocated for general residential car parking to create space dedicated to public electric vehicle charging points, car clubs and cycle parking and cargo bikes, as well as the creation of parklets, tree planting; increasing greening and sustainable urban drainage.

These strategic changes inform the detailed projects described for Stamford Hill and achieving the AAP vision. Implementation of these public realm plans will be the subject of further consultation with residents and businesses and with key stakeholders such as Transport for London.

Area 01: Stamford Hill District Centre

Stamford Hill District Centre, is the largest town centre in Stamford Hill and is the civic and cultural heart of the area. The A10 is the main traffic artery through Stamford Hill extending north up the High Road and crossing the borough boundary into Haringey. The primary shopping area is clustered around the Broadway intersection with the A107 and contains the main concentration of retail space, with many independent Orthodox Jewish businesses.

The area benefits from rich architecture that is defined primarily by twentieth century buildings, wide pavements on the west side of the junction between the A10 and A107 which provides an opportunity for informal spill out from shops and socialising, however, is underused. The main parade of shops are separated from the A10 by a grass verge with trees. The low retaining walls provide informal seating areas and shade.

The Broadway is well connected and enjoys the most extensive transport links in the area, with eleven bus stops in the town centre. Stamford Hill rail station is a few minutes' walk from the Broadway, providing links to Liverpool Street, Stansted Airport/Essex/Herts and beyond.

There are some issues in the area with the dominance of vehicle traffic caused by the Broadway being intersected by two major through routes. The traffic is heavy and fast flowing and contributes to air and noise pollution in the area. The pedestrian experience of the town centre is compromised by the dominance of motor vehicles. Pedestrian crossings

between different corners of the town centre are difficult and laborious and there is no dedicated provision for cyclists.

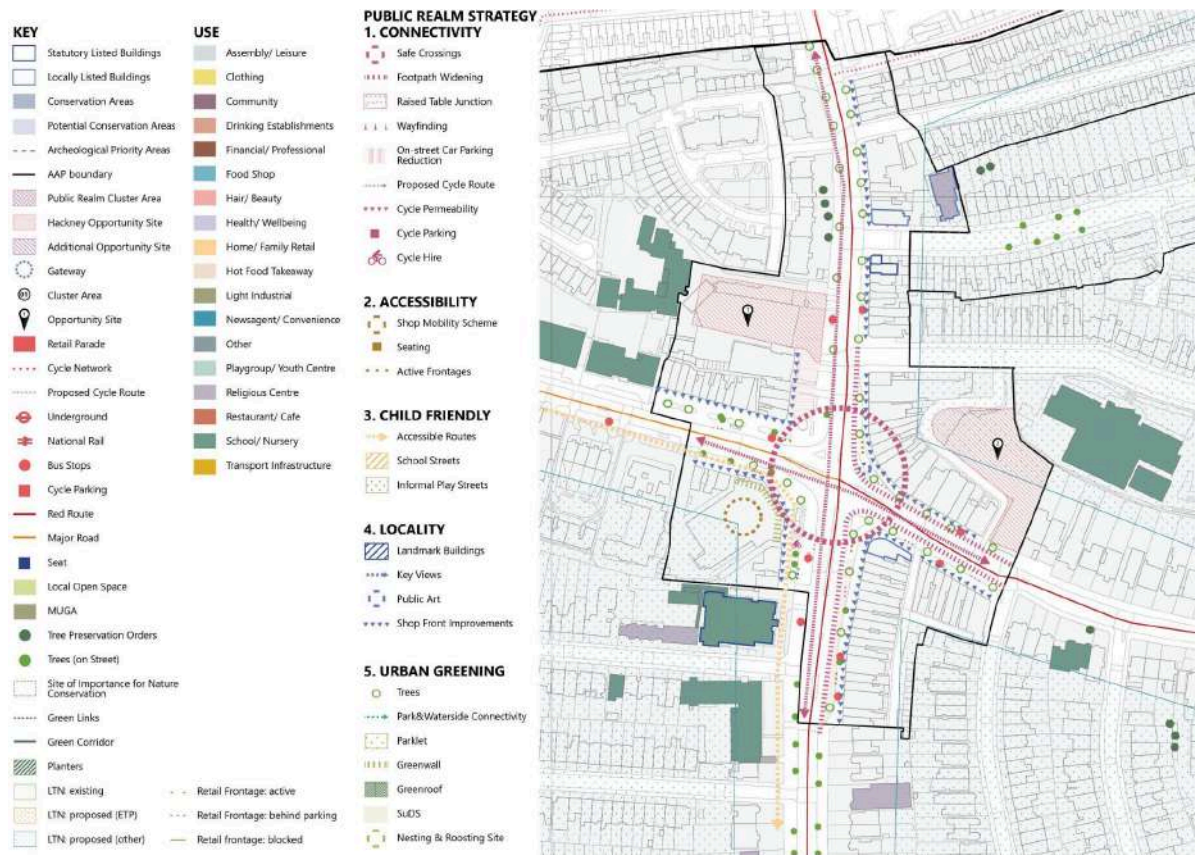
The District Centre has a low level of greening and a lack of street seating for people to rest and relax. The main function of the Broadway is convenience retail with a limited food and beverage offer. While much of the building stock is of good quality, the visual appearance of the high street is marred by the poor physical condition of the retail units and building facades and cluttered forecourts at ground level. Signage and shop fronts lack sympathy with their host buildings, and many are in a state of disrepair. The prevalence of car parking along the pavements is to the detriment of the retail frontages.

The Broadway is cluttered with street furniture. The bins in front of Sainsbury's are unsightly and the disused public toilets at the intersection between the Broadway and Amhurst Park create a visual barrier and are subject to littering/fly tipping.

Project Reference	Public Realm Improvements for Stamford Hill District Centre
PR. 1	<p>Area 01: Stamford Hill District Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrowing the A10 at the junction approach and making it safer for vulnerable road users and giving maximum priority to buses and planting legacy trees such as London Plane Trees to continue the tree planting pattern established along the southern stretch of the A10 in Stamford Hill. • Safe crossings and footpath widening/carriageway narrowing around the A10 and A107 junction. • Vehicle access and parking should be removed from shop forecourts. • Proposed cycle lane along the A10 and A107. • Additional cycle parking should be provided. • Provision of a cycle hire scheme on the Broadway. • Provision of a shopmobility scheme in the Stamford Hill town centre. • Increase the number of seats and places to rest on the Broadway. • Remove the public realm clutter to simplify the streets and to maximise the clear footpath width for wheelchairs and pushchairs to pass easily.

- Scope to provide child friendly routes along the Broadway from Stamford Hill station towards Holmleigh Road and the Hillside Children's Centre.
- Enhance the identity of the Broadway by adding public artwork.
- Shop front and facade improvements.
- Feature green walls on blank facades around the Broadway.

Table PR 1: Public realm improvements for Stamford Hill district centre



Public realm improvements for Stamford Hill District Centre

Area 02: Dunsmure Road

The Dunsmure Road cluster area includes the junction between Portland road and Dunsmure Road, the Stamford Hill Library forecourt and the Dunsmure Road neighbourhood shopping centre. The surrounding area is composed predominantly of residential Victorian terraces.

The area benefits from the Dunsmure Road neighbourhood shopping centre that is rich in architectural value and is in close proximity to the Woodberry Wetlands. The Stamford Hill library on the corner of Portland Avenue and the A10 is a local landmark which contributes positively to the public realm.

Dunsmure road is lined with mature street trees on both sides that are an important asset to the streetscape. The section of Dunsmure Road by the high street forms part of the CS1 cycle route. There is an opportunity to extend the cycle network along Dunsmure Road towards Clapton Common.

There are traffic issues along Dunsmure Road being one of three connections over the railway in Stamford Hill, leading to high vehicular traffic volumes and making it difficult for pedestrians to cross. The lanes are narrow with further congestion caused by on street parking.

Project Reference	Public Realm Improvements for Dunsmure Road
PR. 2	<p>Area 02: Dunsmure Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crossing improvements are required at the junction between Dunsmure Road, the A10 and Portland Avenue to increase the pedestrian priority at the junction. • Traffic calming measures are required on Dunsmure Road. There is scope to raise the table by the high street and by the junction to the A10. • Explore, in consultation with residents and businesses, management of on-street car parking and provision of electrical vehicle charging on Dunsmure Road to improve pedestrian accessibility and visibility of retail frontages. • Identify opportunities for footpath widening by the Dunsmure high street and on Portland Avenue adjacent to the public library, the wide pavements by the Dunsmure Road high street could facilitate small parklets on the four corners. • Proposed cycle route to connect between the existing CS1 route on Dunsmure Road and Clapton Common and the River Lea to increase accessibility to local open space. • Providing seating by the retail parade to provide opportunities for people to stop and rest. • Scope to connect the area to the proposed child friendly routes along the Broadway.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the facade of the Stamford Hill Library to increase its presence as a local landmark. Extend the tree canopy coverage along the Dunsmure Road further east from East Bank to St Andrew's Church.
Table PR2. Public realm improvements for Dunsmure Road	



Public realm improvements for Dunsmure Road

Area 03: Stamford Hill Boulevard

The Stamford Hill Boulevard cluster area includes the section of the A10 southwards from the town centre, fronting the post war estates and new developments, terminating at the junction with Cazenove Road.

The area benefits from varying architectural styles and includes Cazenove Town centre and Belfast Road PIA. The mature London plane trees along the Boulevard between Linthorpe Road to Manor Road are a real asset to the streetscape, with generously wide pavements

from Dunsmure Road intersection to the Cazenove Town centre that are predominately uncluttered.

The Stamford Hill Estate forecourts provide greening in the form of grass strips and planted shrubbery along the East of the Boulevard. The middle section facing the street is used as vegetable patches.

Forming the southern gateway to the Stamford Hill area, the Cazenove Town Centre is a conglomeration of streets centred around Stoke Newington train station and a busy intersection with Manor Road. The forecourts in front of the Cazenove Road shopping parades vary in width and are under-used.

The area is well served by bus stops along the A10 and Stoke Newington Underground Station.

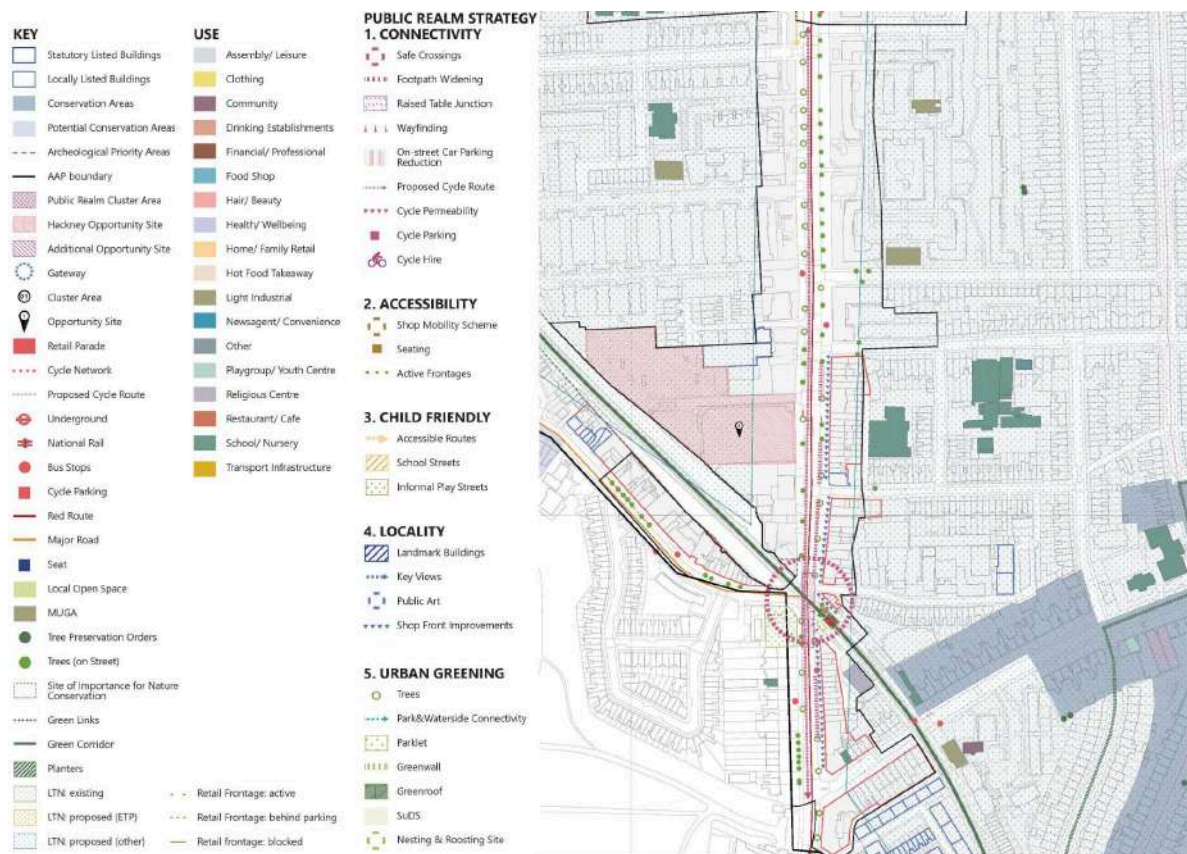
The key issues of this area are largely the underuse space at Hugh Gaitskill House forecourt and Stoke Newington underground Station, improving the relationship between these areas and the street could provide a use for the space and has the potential to animate the junction by providing amenity space for the residential building and users of the train station.

The junction by Stoke Newington Station suffers from traffic congestion. Further south the existing gyratory system creates an unfriendly environment for pedestrians and unsafe environment for cyclists.

The Manor Road retail parade has the highest proportion of vacant units in the town centre, and many occupied premises operate only during limited opening hours. Signage is lacking on nearly all shops on Manor Road and a number of businesses fail to engage with the street. The forecourts in front of the Manor Road are under-used or are used for car parking.

Project Reference	Public Realm Improvements for Stamford Hill Boulevard
PR. 3	<p>Area 03: Stamford Hill Boulevard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Redesign the crossing between Manor Road, Belfast Road and the A10, to provide a safer crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists.● Junction improvements between Stoke Newington Station and Manor Road to slow down vehicle traffic and to emphasise pedestrian safety and priority.● Improve pedestrian environment on retail forecourts to Manor Road.● The bus lane further South on the A10 could be extended North to provide a dedicated route for buses and cyclists to the Stamford

	<p>Hill District Centre and should be integrated with changes proposed for PR1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The signage for Stoke Newington Station could be enhanced to aid wayfinding and contribute to placemaking objectives. • Improve accessibility and pedestrian and cycle environment and allow for additional space around Stoke Newington Station and bus stops for passengers queuing. • The forecourt in front of Stoke Newington station should be regenerated and decluttered. The bicycle stands could be relocated to on-street cycle parking to provide more footway space for seating. • The North parade of Cazenove Road leading to the rail station has a strategic location; retail activity and cafe seating should be encouraged on the forecourts. • Provision of new seating areas along the wide pavements in the area • Shop front and facade improvements to the key retail parades would help to conserve unique historic building stock and create a more attractive and vibrant town centre. • To investigate the capacity for existing buildings such as Stoke Newington Station to feature green or brown roofs to mitigate local air pollution • Hugh Gaitskell House could produce a welcoming and pedestrian friendly public space at this significant point of arrival in Stamford Hill. The forecourt could be transformed into a park, increasing local biodiversity and providing accessible seating and opportunities for play. • To extend the street tree canopy coverage further South from Windus Road to Cazenove Road.
Table 4. Public realm improvements for Stamford Hill Boulevard	



Public realm improvements for Stamford Hill Boulevard

Area 04: Ravensdale Road to the River Lea

The Ravensdale Road to the River Lea cluster area includes the residential streets and the Lea Navigation and Ravensdale Estate opportunity area.

This area benefits from the River Lee runs along the eastern boundary of the AAP area. The river is a valuable resource to Stamford Hill, providing an important link to London's green infrastructure. The path is well used at all times of the year and at most times of day for walking, cycling, running and boating. There is a canalside based residential community along the River Lea which provides passive surveillance over the path. Ravensdale Road is well connected to open space. It is in close proximity to both Springfield Park, the sports grounds and Clapton Common.

Despite the River Lea being a key natural and recreational asset in the area, access to the river through Stamford Hill is convoluted and compromised. The boundary between Springfield Park and the sports ground to the River Lea is on the whole impermeable, primarily obscured by mature trees. There are few public-facing uses along the entire length of the river path, with the exception of the pub on the corner of Harrington Hill and the Boat House. The majority of the towpath including the Ravensdale Commercial Estate has blank

frontages. In addition the towpath is narrow, resulting in a conflict for space between pedestrians and cyclists.

The Lea Navigation and Ravensdale Estate area is a configuration of three to five storey housing and industrial blocks sited on the edges of Stamford Hill, adjacent to the River Lea, somewhat isolated from the central civic hubs of Stamford Hill Broadway. The character of this area contrasts the fine grain of the traditional residential streets in the surrounding context. The quality of both the built fabric and open space within the estate is poor in comparison to other areas of Stamford Hill. There is a large quantity of underutilised parking space.

The average vehicle speeds along Ravensdale Road are higher than the speed limit. This is problematic due to the concentration of schools in the neighbouring area including Bnos Zion of Bobov Girls School on Ravensdale Road, Springfield School on Castlewood Road and numerous schools on Egerton Road.

Project Reference	Public Realm Improvements for Ravensdale Road to River Lea
PR. 4	<p>Area 04: Ravensdale Road to River Lea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To improve the junction, following incorporation of a pedestrian refuge island, on Ravensdale Road as outlined in the Ravensdale Road Pedestrian Accessibility Improvements working with LB Haringey. <li>● To provide a safe cycle route along Ravensdale Road, connecting to Clapton Common and to the River Lea. <li>● A new green infrastructure link to the River Lea could be created in the extension of Fairweather Road and Maple Close. This requires the redevelopment of the Ravensdale Commercial Estate. <li>● To infill the street canopy coverage along Ravensdale Road and at the junction with the A10. To plant trees along Fairweather Road towards the River Lea. <li>● To provide nesting and roosting sites along the interface with the River Lea to increase the biodiversity of the area.
Table 5. Public Realm Improvements for Ravensdale Road to River Lea	



Public Realm Improvements for Ravensdale Road to River Lea

Area 05: Oldhill Street

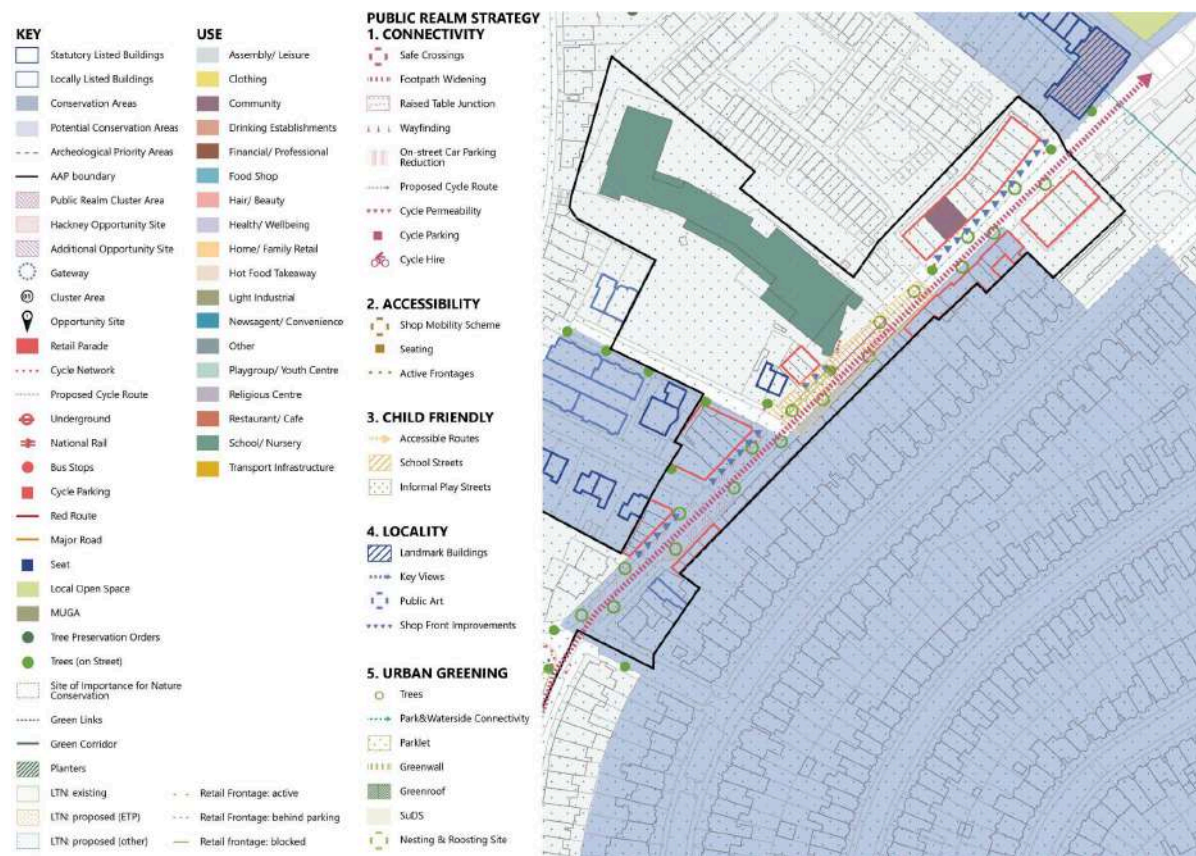
The Oldhill Street cluster area is the neighbourhood shopping centre boundary. The area benefits from the Northworld Cazenove Conservation Area as well as Listed and Locally listed buildings of notable historical value concentrated around Stamford Grove East and West. Recent improvements to the public realm at the Lynmouth Road junction have included the successful interventions of a raised table, adding sculptural benches and feature paving. Street furniture is limited along the rest of Oldhill Street, with scope for improvements.

No public transport routes serve Oldhill Street itself. However there are buses from Clapton Common and Stoke Newington Rail Station is just a walk from the southern end of Oldhill Street.

Oldhill street is congested with slow-moving traffic, especially at the start and end of the school day. This is exacerbated by on-street parking. The road is noisy and polluted which undermines the value of the public realm. Despite the area being in close proximity to Clapton Common, it suffers from a lack of greenery and open spaces on the road itself.

Retail advertising along Oldhill Street is relatively subdued, and there are no outdoor displays. The vast majority of shops employ solid external shutters. Several units appear to be derelict. In addition, the forecourts are underutilised by businesses.

Project Reference	Public Realm Improvements for Oldhill Street
PR. 5	<p>Area 05: Oldhill Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve junction in front of Oldfield Community School to reduce traffic and to increase the safety of the school crossing. • Reduce the dominance of cars parked on streets as they obstruct views to the shopping parade and in some places impinge on the Tyssenwidth of the footway. • Provide a safe cycle route connecting Northwold Road to Clapton Common. • A streetscape improvement programme that builds on the intervention at Lynmouth Road would improve the accessibility of Oldhill Street. • The Oldhill Street retail parade would benefit from investments in the shop frontages and the usage of the forecourts for cafe seating and stalls. • Increase the street tree planting along Oldhill Street towards Clapton Common. • Introduce a parklet on the parking spaces on Oldhill Street, in front of the health centre on the junction of Lynmouth Road.
Table 6. Public Realm Improvements for Oldhill Street	



Public Realm Improvements for Oldhill Street

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Title of Report	Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document	
Key Decision No	CHE S249	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Councillor Nicholson, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	Stamford Hill West, Springfield, Woodberry Down and Cazenove	
Key Decision & Reason	Yes	It affects more than two wards.
Implementation Date if Not Called In	6 March 2024	
Group Director	Rickardo Hyatt Group Director, Climate, Homes and Economy	

1. Cabinet Member's introduction

- 1.1. The Stamford Hill Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document, will help ensure the policies and objectives described in the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan can be realised by providing detailed, clear and accessible guidance to residents and developers about how they can extend homes in the neighbourhood to meet housing needs in the Stamford Hill neighbourhood.
- 1.2. The Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD, like the work on the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan, captures the culmination of an extensive community engagement undertaken with thousands of local people and numerous community organisations over the course of the last seven years. This engagement has confirmed that a range of bespoke planning policies and design guidance for the Stamford Hill neighbourhood is necessary to respond to the needs of communities living in the neighbourhood whilst

maintaining the townscapes character and rich heritage which make this a popular neighbourhood to live and grow up in.

- 1.3. As the community consultation progressed it became clear that there was a clear need for greater clarity about the types of house extensions that would be appropriate in meeting the need for more living space and how they should be designed.
- 1.4. The Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD provides this clear guidance that will facilitate extensions so families have the living space they need and achieves this in a way that respects the built character and design quality of the neighbourhood. In addition the SPD, provides the additional guidance on the implementation of the SPD.
- 1.5. I commend this report to the Cabinet.

2. Group Director's introduction

- 2.1. This report seeks Cabinet's approval to consult on the draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD under Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 2.2. The Draft Stamford Design Guide SPD sets out guidance for planning applicants on residential extensions. It will support the implementation of policies in the emerging Stamford Hill Area Action Plan which contains specific planning policies for Stamford Hill. The Stamford Hill Design Guide, once adopted, will be a material consideration in determining planning applications in Stamford Hill and will be a clear guidance for applicants with proposals to extend their homes in Stamford Hill.
- 2.3. The SPD does not create policies, rather it will 'supplement' those in the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan. The Stamford Hill Area Action Plan will need to be published and submitted to the Government for an Independent Examination before it can be adopted.
- 2.4. Consultation responses on the Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD will be considered in finalising the guide.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. **Cabinet is asked to:**
 - 1. Approve the draft Stamford Hill Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (Appendix 1) for consultation.**
 - 2. Delegate authority to the Group Director, Climate, Homes and Economy to approve administrative alterations, graphical,**

typographical amendments, to improve cross referencing (e.g. para numbering, page numbering) ahead of consultation.

4. Reason(s) for decision

- 4.1. The Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (2024) will support the implementation of the emerging Stamford Hill Area Plan.
- 4.2. Consultation and engagement with stakeholders and the public is integral to producing planning documents. Consultation on the draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD is required in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and will help inform and influence the final version of the SPD.

5. Details of alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The alternative is not to produce a Design Guide for Stamford Hill and rely on the adopted borough-wide Local Plan policies, the Stamford Hill AAP and the boroughwide Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD. This has been rejected as the Stamford Hill Design Guide is considered an essential tool to support implementation of planning policies for the Stamford Hill area.

6. Background

- 6.1. The Council is currently producing an Area Action Plan for Stamford Hill. In November 2021, the Cabinet approved a Draft Stamford Hill AAP for public consultation. This took place from December 2021 to February 2022. Following this consultation on a draft, the Stamford Hill AAP is now ready to be published and submitted to the Government for an examination. Approval of this is the subject of a separate report to Cabinet (26 February 2024). The Stamford Hill Design Guide is needed to support the effective implementation of the AAP.

Policy Context

- 6.2. The purpose of the Stamford Hill AAP is to provide detailed planning policies for Stamford Hill. Once adopted, it will sit alongside Hackney Local Plan LP33 and will, with the London Plan, form the statutory development plan. and the finalisation and adoption of the AAP is identified in the Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026.
- 6.3. Policy AAP3 (Residential Extensions & Alterations) in the emerging Stamford Hill AAP sets out the policy governing housing extensions across the Stamford Hill area. The Draft Stamford Hill Design SPD will supplement this policy by providing more detailed design guidance for Policy AAP3 (Residential Extensions & Alterations) in the draft Stamford Hill AAP. It is

proposed that it is adopted as a supplementary planning document which will mean that it is a material consideration in assessing planning applications.

Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide

- 6.4. The Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD is included as Appendix 1 to this report. It provides design guidance principally expanding on Policy AAP3 (Residential Extensions & Alterations) in the draft Stamford Hill AAP. It sets out how to extend some of the common house types across the Stamford Hill area in order to create larger homes and gives detailed advice on how to reconfigure dwellings in its appendix.
- 6.5. The Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD responds to specific issues raised during consultation on the Area Action Plan which include:
- The need for clearer design guidance on house extensions and alterations to provide more certainty on what is considered acceptable and where.
 - Feedback from consultees that the optimisation of layout (internal reconfiguration) within existing homes, whilst useful, was limited in its impact to create more needed space.
 - The suggestion that roof extensions can bring forward more additional space and should be enabled.
 - An aspiration to maintain and enhance the existing townscape character.
 - A desire for clarity on the appropriateness of extensions to social and community facilities within a residential setting.
- 6.6. The SPD responds to these issues and sets out an approach to simplify the process and allow applicants to easily determine the type of extensions that will be acceptable for their dwelling located in Stamford Hill. It sets out clear criteria that need to be met and includes a map showing the geographical areas where the Guide applies, which are termed 'identified streets'.
- 6.7. The Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide outlines the housing types that are more appropriate for roof extensions. Utilising a self assessment chart, applicants are directed to understand the types of roof extensions which will be suitable for their properties.
- 6.8. Applicants are directed to use the boroughwide *Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD* where they are not in an 'identified street', within a conservation area or listed buildings, or where the property is not one of the six common housing types included in the Guide.

- 6.9. The Design Guide supports roof extensions in a style that matches the existing building. Materials that need to match, include brick, render and windows.
- 6.10. Core design principles are set out, with the guidance covering scale & form, proportions, alignment, uniformity, sustainability.
- 6.11. The Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD references optimisation of layout in the main document and signposts to the 2017 Stamford Hill Characterisation Study for further information.

Equality impact assessment

- 6.12. An Integrated Impact Assessment, which includes an Equalities Impact Assessment, was undertaken in support of the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan. The conclusions of this assessment have been considered that it has discharged its the public sector equality duty in the Equality Act 2010 by having due regard to:
- eliminating discrimination; harassment and victimisation,
 - advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 6.13. The draft Stamford Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD supplements the Area Action by providing specific design guidance and does not itself create new policies. There will not be any detrimental impact to groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 caused by the adoption of this SPD, rather it works towards building a more inclusive society and environment.

Sustainability and climate change

- 6.14. The Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD supplements the Local Plan and emerging Stamford Hill Area Action Plan and does not create new policies. A Sustainability Appraisal, which considers climate change, has already been undertaken as part of the Integrated Impact Assessment of the Local Plan and emerging Stamford Hill Area Action Plan. However, sustainability weaves through many of the objectives of the Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide Plan SPD, for example, the SPD encourages the reuse of the existing roofing materials (natural slate, tiles) wherever possible. This supports the objective to 'mitigate climate change and reduce CO2 emissions.'

In addition, a key focus of the Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD is on roof extensions. Where these are brought forward instead of basement and rear extensions, there is greater opportunity to create more space at ground

level for greenery, garden storage and outdoor activities. This aligns with the sustainability objectives 'to conserve and enhance green space and biodiversity' and 'to improve health in the local community and promote healthy lifestyles.'

Consultations

- 6.15. This draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD has been informed by consultation. A Cross Party Steering group and the Stamford Hill Community Panel, comprising local organisations and community representatives has informed the approach taken
- 6.16. The approaches underpinning the Stamford Hill Design Guide, were set out in the Draft Stamford Area Action Plan, 2021 (Extended Regulation 18 Consultation) and the Stamford Hill Extensions and Alterations Consolidated Evidence Base which was published alongside it. These were consulted on from December 2021 to February 2022.
- 6.17. Hard copies of the plan, summary documents, evidence base and questionnaires, with an additional hard copy questionnaire designed in consultation with the Interlink Foundation, were made available for viewing at prominent locations such as Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington and Hackney Central libraries. The Council also organised two outdoor in-person events and officers attended two virtual ward forums to provide an overview of the plan and address questions from residents. These efforts were undertaken to ensure that the consultation process was comprehensive, inclusive and accessible to all members of the Stamford Hill community.
- 6.18. A large number of responses were received to this consultation on the Area Action Plan :
- The Council received feedback from 1488 respondents
 - Through 'Common Place', an online engagement portal, 298 completed 'Quick Feedback' and a further 341 completed the full online questionnaire
 - 531 'Quick Feedback' forms and 204 full questionnaires were received in hard copy
 - 114 representations were received via emails.
- 6.19. The outcomes of the consultation, where they relate to the scope of the Draft Stamford Hill design Guide SPD were used to inform the draft Supplementary Planning document as outlined in paragraph 6.11 above.
- 6.20. Consultation on the Design Guide will take place in parallel with the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (Publication Version), subject to Cabinet

approval of both. Any responses will be reviewed and used to inform the final draft SPD.

Risk assessment

- 6.21. A full risk assessment has been carried out as part of the project plan produced for the Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD. The outcome of this has informed the 'reasons for decision' set out above.

Next Steps

- 6.22. Subject to approval of this SPD for consultation, the next steps in the production of the draft Stamford Hill Design Guide are outlined below:

Plan Making Stage	Dates
Cabinet approval	26 February 2024
Consultation on the draft SPD	Spring 2024
Final adoption (immediately after adoption of the Stamford Hill AAP)	Spring 2025

7. Comments of the Interim Group Director of Finance.

- 7.1. In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, this report requests Cabinet authorisation to consult on the proposed Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD. The SPD supports the growing Stamford Hill Area Action Plan's policies by supporting applicants for residential extension plans. Once implemented, the Design Guide will provide a clear framework for residents wishing to expand their homes and will be an important factor in considering planning applications within Stamford Hill.
- 7.2. The Stamford Hill Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) establishes a vision for the future development of Stamford Hill and provides specific planning policies to realise that vision. It is intended to function in tandem with the Local Plan (LP33), 2020, to provide particular planning recommendations for the area. The Design Guide is critical in assuring the implementation of policies within the Stamford Hill AAP. It provides clear and simple guidelines to residents who want to expand their homes while preserving the area's character and traditions.
- 7.3. The Design Guide, which was created after significant collaboration with local communities and organisations, addresses specific concerns raised during consultations. It satisfies the demand for clarity on appropriate house additions and their design. The draft Design Guide not only offers guidance but also facilitates the creation of family friendly spaces while respecting the

area's architectural identity. It also provides additional policy implementation guidance, which is critical to meeting the objectives.

- 7.4. Developing, publishing, and promoting the Design Guide requires resources, including staff time, expertise, costs for printing, distribution, and engagement activity which all have been covered within existing resources. While the Design Guide itself may not create new policies, it could influence development practices and applications. If the guidelines in the Design Guide call for certain design standards or materials that are more costly to implement, it could impact construction costs for developers and homeowners.

8. **Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

- 8.1. The recommendations sought in Section 3 of this report are Key Decisions as they concern decision making that is likely to 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.
- 8.2. Part 2, Article 13.5 of the Constitution authorises Cabinet to determine key decisions, such as the present matter that are 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.
- 8.3. Cabinet is authorised to approve the recommendations in this report pursuant to the Mayor's Scheme of Delegation, the adoption/amendment of policies related to matters including the Local Development Framework are delegated to the Executive (i.e. Cabinet).
- 8.4. SPDs are described in Regulation 5 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. They are documents prepared by a local authority that are not Local Plan documents. They are local development documents containing statements regarding matters including the development and use of land which the local planning authority wishes to encourage during any specified period and any environmental, social, design and economic objectives relevant to the attainment of the development and use of such land

- 8.5. The LPA must prepare SPDs in accordance with their statement of community involvement (section 19(3), Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). The statement of community involvement is a document which sets out a Local Planning Authority's policy for consulting and engaging with individuals, communities and other stakeholders, both in the preparation and revision of LDDs and in development control decisions (*section 18(2), PCPA 2004*).
- 8.6. Under Regulation 8 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, any policies in a SPD must be consistent with the adopted development plan.
- 8.7. Part 5 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012 sets out the regulations that must be adhered to when preparing an SPD. In summary, the regulations require that Local Planning Authorities;
- Allow any person to make representations about the SPD, make the document available for viewing, and set a date by which this must be received (being not less than 4 weeks).
 - Prepare a statement setting out who was consulted, a summary of the main issues, and how these issues have been addressed.
 - Prepare an adoption statement setting out the date on which the SPD was adopted, and that any person with sufficient interest may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of that decision, no later than 3 months after the adoption date.
- 8.8. Once the Stamford Hill Design Guide SPD has been adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document and forms part of the Council's Local Plan, it will have material weight as a planning consideration when determinations are made with respect to planning applications

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Draft Stamford Hill Design Guide, February 2024

Background documents

None

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Stamford Hill Design Guide

February 2024



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Accessibility statement

If you require this document in a different format, please email:

planmaking@hackney.gov.uk

We will consider your request and get back to you within five working days.

Structure of the Guide

This Design Guide is structured into two key parts:

Part 1

Introduces the guide, provides background on the need for larger homes in the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan (AAP) area and sets out the approach to extensions in the area, along with other important considerations.

Part 2

Provides design guidance for roof extensions on a number of housing types in identified streets, in the form of front and rear dormers and/or an additional matching floors.

Part 1. Introduction

Stamford Hill has a rich heritage and a diverse community. With its wide tree lined streets and beautiful green spaces, Stamford Hill has historically been considered a place of refuge for people who have escaped persecution or war. People from a wide range of backgrounds live in Stamford Hill.

The purpose of this supplementary planning document is to provide design guidance on how to extend at roof level on some of the common house types across the Stamford Hill area, in order to create larger homes. It is a tailored response that responds directly to the altered rooflines in many of the streets and also addresses the specific housing needs of the community.

It provides additional guidance on how to implement Policy AAP3 Residential Extensions & Alterations in the emerging Stamford Hill Area Action Plan. Once adopted Stamford Hill AAP will, along with the Hackney Local Plan, 2020 and London Plan 2021, form the development plan used to assess planning applications in Hackney. Once adopted, this Design Guide will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for house extensions in Stamford Hill.

1.1 Background: Addressing the need for larger homes

The Census 2021 data identifies that Stamford Hill has a greater need for larger homes and is experiencing substantially more overcrowding compared to the rest of the borough and London more generally. Stamford Hill has a high average household size, there is higher occupancy and around a third of all households experience overcrowding. There is a need for more large homes suitable for large families.

In addition to experiencing substantially more overcrowding, the community that resides in Stamford Hill has a highly distinctive age structure, which is significantly skewed towards young children and adults, resulting in large household sizes across the AAP area and many households requiring additional space.

To respond to these needs, the emerging Stamford Hill Area Action Plan draft AAP seeks to further maximise the delivery of larger family sized homes by supporting larger extensions in identified streets, which have heavily altered rooflines.

The draft AAP includes Policy AAP3: Residential Extensions and Alterations, which sets out how roof extensions can come forward in Stamford Hill, balancing the need for larger homes with the effect on the built character and environmental impact on the area.

1.2 Approach to extensions and alterations

The key focus of the Design Guide is on creating additional space at the roof level in the form of dormers and additional floors. However, the Council recognises that there can also be value in reconfiguring or optimising existing layouts to work more efficiently. Some residents may also benefit from adding basement or rear extensions rather than roof extensions.

Optimisation of internal layout

When considering ways to accommodate larger families, reconfiguration of existing homes can be helpful in creating more usable spaces. Larger families in Stamford Hill require flexible and enlarged living spaces, usually at ground level, in addition to a greater number of bedrooms. Many community members identified more living space and more utility space as their primary need. Separate spaces for families to undertake individual or independent activities such as reading and playing, as well as space to undertake more mundane but essential activities such as laundry or a place for shoes and coats by the front door. In addition, 'free-space' such as larger circulation space, larger hall space for buggies, break-out spaces, and play spaces are desirable to enable larger groups of children to happily inhabit their homes, without feeling confined or overcrowded. Internal reconfiguration of existing homes generally doesn't need planning permission. However space standards need to be followed and building control approvals may be required.

Further information on this topic can be found in the 2017 Stamford Hill Characterisation Study:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ko3br6dToW-8Ej7_oZQLDVNd8jeyDXp2/view

Residential Extensions & Alterations SPD (2009)

The Council's 2009 Residential Extensions & Alterations Supplementary Planning Document (and any successor guidance) is applicable across the whole of the borough, including the Stamford AAP area, except for on statutory listed buildings. It includes guidance on all types of extensions, including basement, rear and roof extensions.

Rear and basement extensions can be an appropriate way of adding extra living spaces to individual properties. This type of extension can provide larger kitchens, dining, living rooms, play and workspaces for family homes, without having a detrimental impact on the character of the public street and townscape. The borough wide SPD contains advice on how to bring forward successful basement and rear extensions and is applicable across the borough.

At roof level, the SPD generally supports rear dormers on most properties, providing they are of a suitable size and design. In addition, the Stamford Hill Design Guide identifies a number of streets and housing types across the AAP area where larger roof extensions can be implemented, in the form of front dormers and additional storeys in a matching style.

Roof Extensions

This guidance is specific to the Stamford Hill AAP area and only applies on identified streets and housing types. A map of the identified streets can be found on page 10. Please note that the guidance does not apply in Conservation Areas or on listed buildings.

Whilst reconfiguration of home layouts can be beneficial in creating more usable space, it may not provide much needed additional space. Many homes are also limited in terms of the scope to extend at the basement or rear of the property, due to concerns about loss of amenity space (*for example a private garden*). The key focus of the Design Guide is therefore on appropriate ways to extend properties to create additional usable space in the form of roof extensions.

The Design Guide identifies specific housing types and streets altered by existing roof extensions, where upward extensions can be brought forward successfully. The design guidance explains where roof extensions are likely to be supported and the form that they should take. It also provides clarity on the streets where front roof extensions will not be appropriate in order to maintain uniformity.

Not all of the guidance will be relevant to every home and the Council will consider the cumulative impact of extensions on a case by case basis. For example, a property that benefits from large rear extensions may not be suitable for an additional roof extension as this could constitute overdevelopment of the site and lead to harmful impacts to neighbouring residential amenity and to the local townscape.

1.3 How your application will be assessed

In determining planning applications that seek alterations and extensions to family homes, the Council will make an assessment against adopted planning policies in the London, Hackney's Local Plan 2033, Stamford Hill AAP and Stamford Hill Design Guide, whilst having regard to any other material considerations. Appendix 2 gives further advice on what is required when you submit an application.

Roof extensions can impact neighbours in terms of daylight/sunlight, outlook and overlooking/privacy and this is a key consideration when assessing an application. This is particularly the case on narrow roads, where the separation distance between houses is shorter. A roof extension will only be permitted where the impacts to neighbours are not significantly affected. Further information on sunlight/daylight assessments can be found in Appendix 1.

You are encouraged to use the Council's pre-application service for an in principle assessment of your proposal, prior to making a planning application. For more information, please visit:

www.hackney.gov.uk/preapplication

1.4 Other Considerations

When using this Design Guide, you should also be aware of the following key considerations:

Building Control

All roof extensions will be subject to building control regulations, particularly with regards to foundations, lateral restraint and fire protection. Further information on this can be found in Appendix 2.

Permitted Development

Some extensions may benefit from 'Permitted Development' rights, which allows the work to be carried out without the need for planning permission. To check whether a proposal falls within Permitted Development rights, applicants can apply to the Council for a Lawful Development Certificate (LDC), or a Prior Approval, depending on the type of extension. Building Control approvals will also be required. To check if your property benefits from these rules, please visit:

https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200187/your_responsibilities/37/planning_permission/2

Climate Resilience

Extending your house, reconfiguring the internal layout or adding a completely new floor is the perfect opportunity to consider improving the thermal performance and energy efficiency of your home which in turn will improve your thermal comfort, air quality and general well being as well as reducing your energy bills. Further information on ways to achieve this can be found in Appendix 3.

Part 2. Roof Extensions

Note: This section provides guidance on front dormers and additional floors in identified streets across the AAP area. Rear roof extensions are generally supported across the borough in all streets. Please refer separately to the Council's 2009 Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD (or any successor guidance) for advice on rear dormer roof extensions.

Roof extensions are a useful way to gain additional internal floor space and the guidance in this section seeks to strike a balance between giving householders increased flexibility and clarity on appropriate extensions whilst drawing on the architectural and urban character of the area. The guidance is a direct response to the acute need for larger family homes in the area along with the altered rooflines in many of the streets. The work follows detailed evidence gathering and street by street surveys in order to ensure that the guidance is tailored to defined streets where the rooflines are already heavily altered. The guidance is intended to provide householders with clarity on the type of roof extensions that will be considered acceptable in principle.

Structure of the Roof Extensions guidance

The guidance is structured into three key sections:

Section 1. Self-Assessment Chart

Provides a self-assessment chart to check whether a roof extension to your house would be supported in principle.

Section 2. Roof Extensions: Key Design Principles

Sets out the design principles that applicants need to follow when applying for planning permission for a roof extension.

Section 3. Roof Extensions: Detailed Design Guidance

Provides detailed design guidance for roof extensions

Section 1: Self-Assessment Chart

This flowchart allows you to assess whether your property is suitable for a roof extension in the form of front and rear dormers, an additional floor, or a combination of the two.

Before, using the flowchart, you should carefully consider whether a roof extension would constitute overdevelopment of the property, cause structural issues or adversely impact neighbours.

To use the self assessment chart follow the green arrow, answering the sequence of questions labelled A, B and C starting from the top of the page. If there are any terms you are unfamiliar with, refer to either the illustrations or the glossary at the end for further explanation.

Self-assessment chart

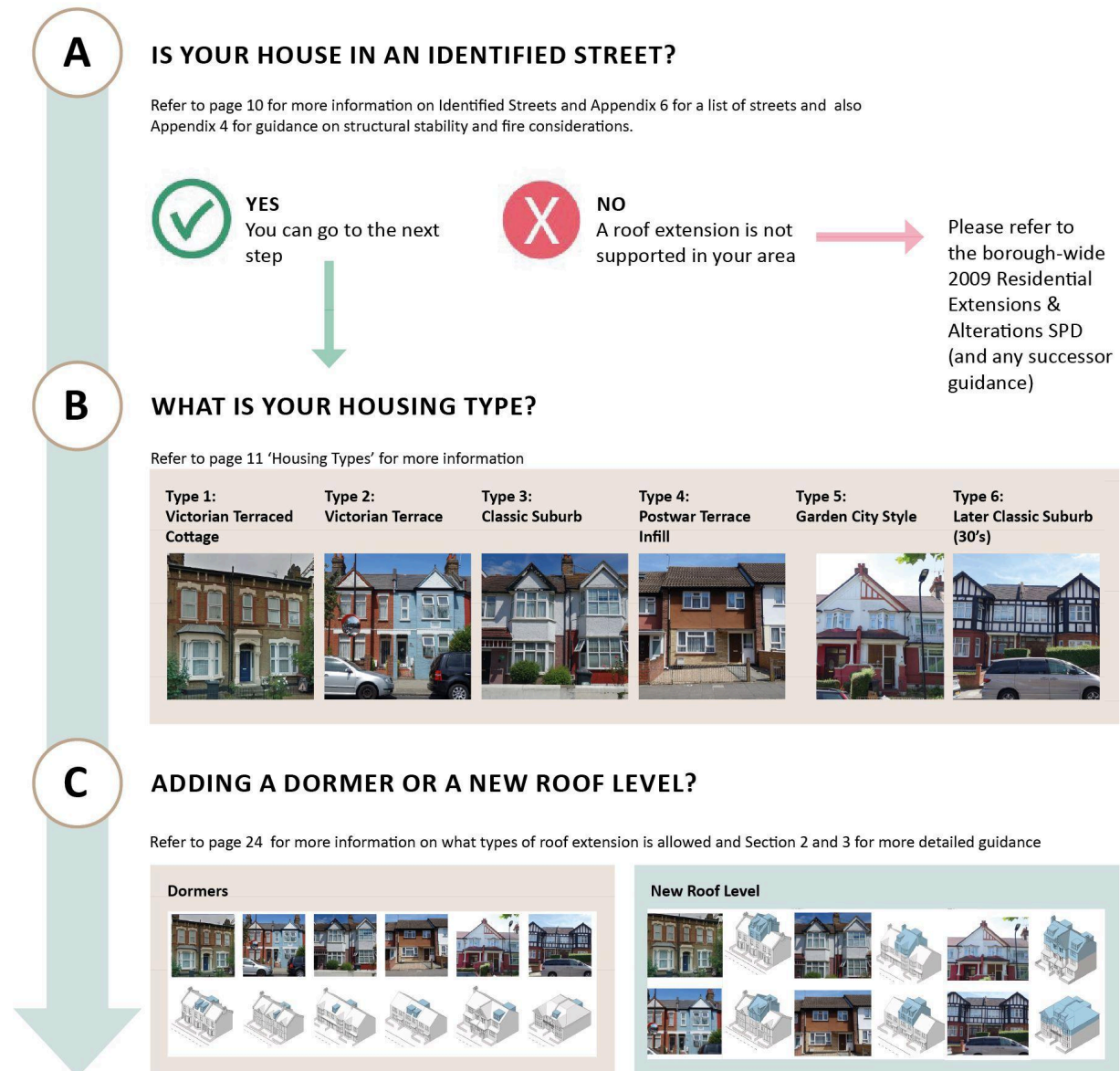


Fig.1: Self-assessment chart

A. Are you in an identified street?

The first step is to check if your property is in an identified street. Identified streets are those visited as part of a Council street survey, where more than 25% of the buildings on both sides of the street are altered by front roof extensions or other alterations to the front elevation. This figure was chosen as streets where more than 25% of the buildings have been altered are considered to have a less uniform townscape character.

Houses that are not in identified streets are recognised as being part of a uniform street, where at least 75% of the properties are unaltered at the front. In these streets, the roof extensions guidance will not apply and you are advised to instead refer to the Council's Residential Extensions & Alterations SPD (and any successor guidance). This approach can help to preserve the character of the townscape.

Please see map below showing identified streets where the roof extensions guidance is applicable.

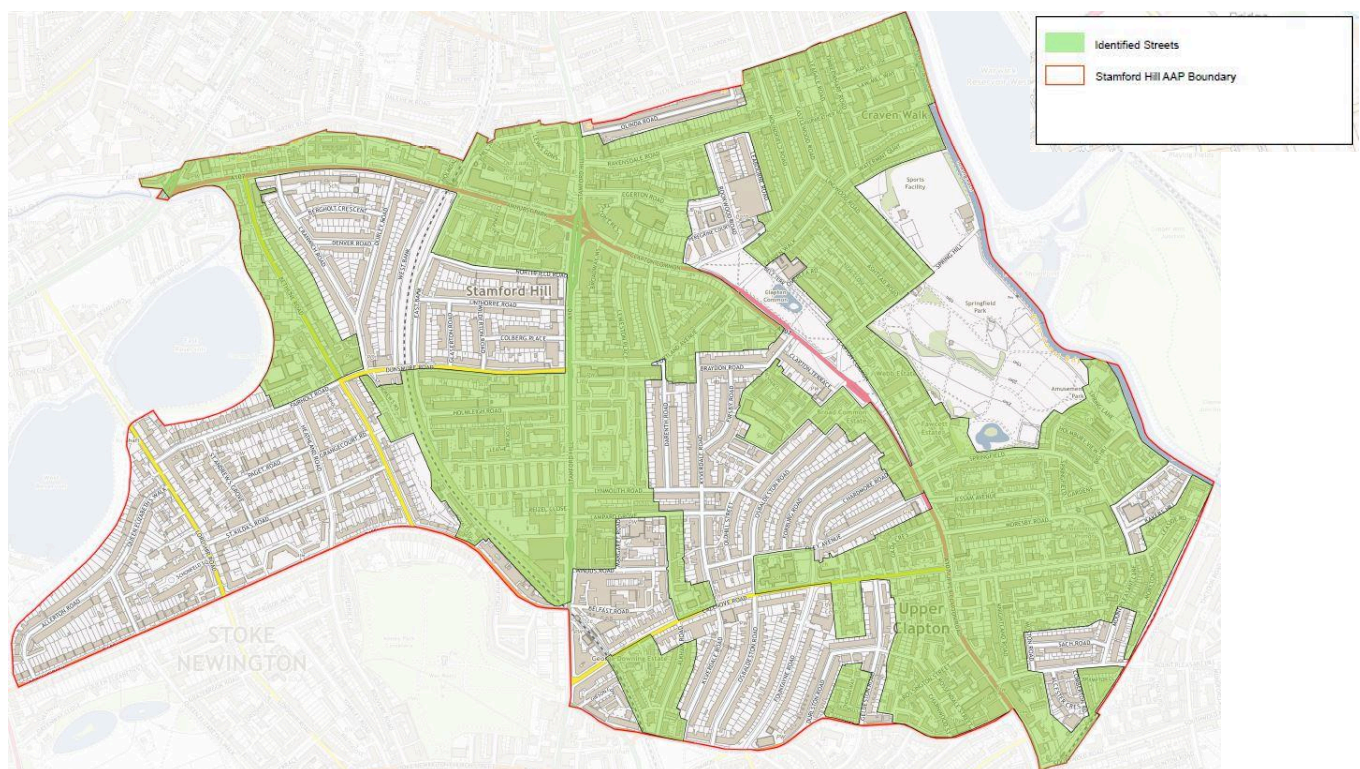


Fig.2: Map of identified streets where the roof extensions guidance is applicable

B. What is your housing type?

The Design Guide identifies six of the most common housing types in the Stamford Hill area. Select the type that most closely resembles your property.

Roof extensions, in the form of front dormers and/or additional floors are only allowed in identified streets and on the following housing types:

Type 1: Victorian Terraced Cottage (late 1800s)

Type 2: Victorian Terrace (late 1800s)

Type 3: Classic Suburb (1919–1938)

Type 4: Garden City Style (1919–1938)

Type 5: Later Classic Suburb (1930s)

Type 6: Postwar Terrace Infill (Post 1948)

Where your property does not resemble one of the identified housing types, a bespoke approach may be needed. A list of excluded housing types can be found in Appendix 4.

You are encouraged to use the Council's Pre-Application service to determine if your proposal is acceptable. See <https://hackney.gov.uk/pre-application> for details.

Type 1: Victorian Terraced Cottage [construction period: 1837–1901]

This housing type is two storeys and appears in continuous terraced arrangements. It includes features such as ground floor single storey projecting bay windows, timber sash windows, exposed window and door lintels (often painted white), panelled front doors with a fanlight above, pitched roofs and stock brick construction, which is sometimes painted.



Alkham Road



Alkham Road



Alkham Road



Lingwood Road



Northfield Road



East Bank

Fig.3: Collection of examples of Victorian Terraced Cottage houses in Stamford Hill Area



Fig.4: Key Features of Type 1: Victorian Terraced Cottage

Type 2: Victorian Terrace [construction period: 1837–1901]

The Victorian terrace housing type is two storeys and defined by front gables which step up on the front facade. It includes other features such as timber sash windows with exposed lintels (often painted white), panelled front doors with fanlight above, exposed door lintels, pitched roofs, clay chimney pots and stock brick construction, which is sometimes painted.



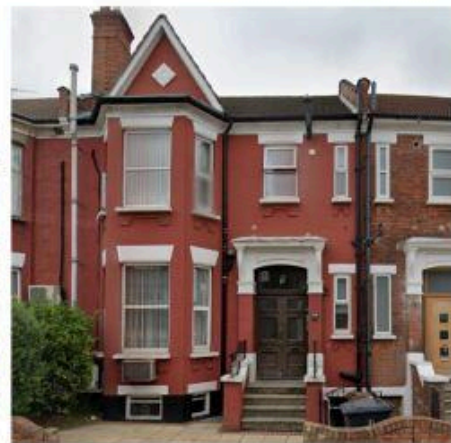
Egerton Road



Holmleigh Road



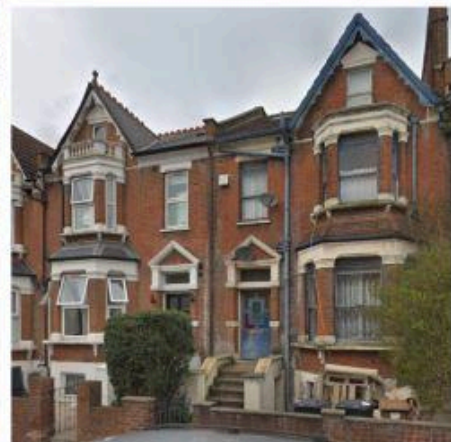
Lynmouth Road



Leweston Place



Bethune Road



Linthorpe Road

Fig.5: Collection of examples of Victorian Terrace houses in Stamford Hill Area



Fig.6: Key Features of Type 2: Victorian Terrace

Type 3: Classic Suburb [construction period: 1919–1938]

This interwar housing type is defined by its stylistic terraces and by its simple detailing, casement windows and front gables with wide eave overhangs. This typology includes key features such as curved bay windows, plain clay roof tiles, rendered facades, pitched porch roofs, timber casement windows, panelled front doors with fanlights above and brick construction.



Leadale Road



Moundfield Road



Lingwood Road



Leadale Road



Castlewood Road



Leabourne Road

Fig.7: Collection of examples of Classic Suburb houses in Stamford Hill Area

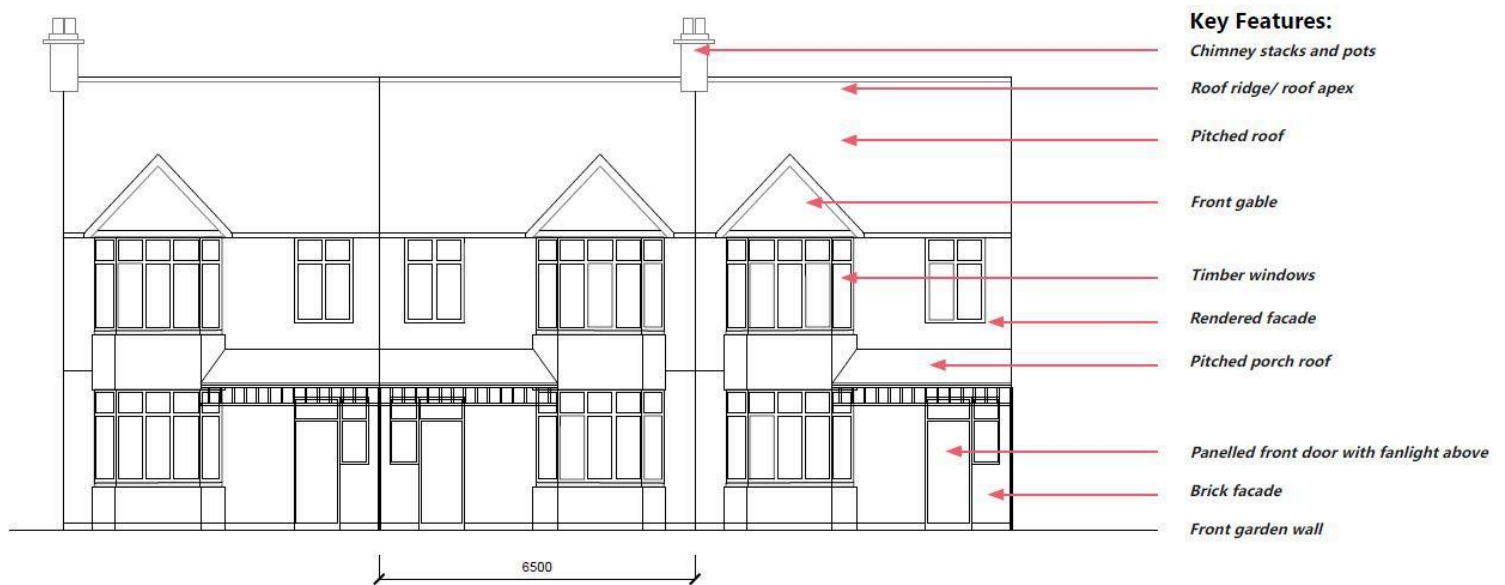


Fig.8: Key Features of Type 3: Classic Suburb

Type 4: Garden City Style [construction period: 1919–1938]

The garden city style is defined by stylistic symmetry between paired facades. This housing type uses natural materials with ornate detailing and cornicing. The key original features include a paired front gable, external cornicing, a rendered facade, timber windows, panelled front door with fanlight above, pitched porch roof and a pitched roof. The front gardens are large and traditionally contained greenery, hedges, trees and shrubs.



Overlea Road



Ashtead Road



Overlea Road



Ashtead Road



Leweston Place

Fig.9: Collection of examples of Garden City Style houses in Stamford Hill Area

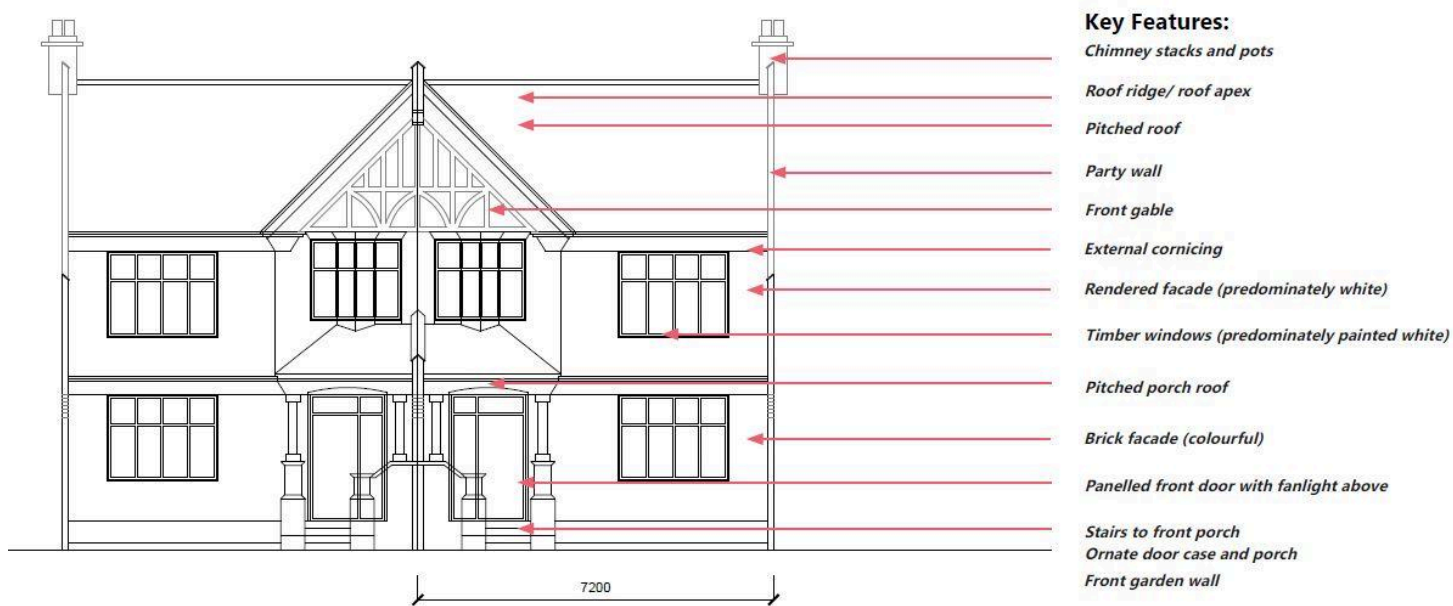


Fig.10: Key Features of Type 4: Garden City Style

Type 5: Later Classic Suburb [construction period: 1930's]

This housing type is defined by its stylistic symmetry in pairs of houses and by its paired front gables with wide eave overhangs, casement windows and hipped tile roofs. The key original features include, plain clay roof tiles, rendered facades, timber casement windows, panelled front doors with fanlights above. The houses have front gardens which are often paved and defined by hedges and low brick walls.



Craven Walk



Jessam Avenue



Bethune Road



Jessam Avenue



Leweston Place

Fig.11: Collection of examples of Later Classic Suburb houses in Stamford Hill Area



Fig.12: Key Features of Type 5: Later Classic Suburb

Type 6: Postwar Terrace Infill [construction period: Post 1948]

Note: Some properties built post 1948 can be extended at roof level with an additional floor under Permitted Development Rights. To check if your property benefits from these rules, please visit:

https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200187/your_responsibilities/37/planning_permission/2

With this housing type, the arrangements and plots are irregular as the houses were often designed to in-fill bomb damaged sites. The style of the development is varied with a diversity of building materials and cladding types. The key original features include casement windows, rendered and painted facades, tiled pitched roofs and brick construction, often with exposed party walls. Front gardens were traditionally enclosed by low level metal gates.



Moundfield Road



Egerton Road



Egerton Road



Ravensdale Road



Amhurst Park

Fig.13: Collection of examples of Postwar Terrace Infill houses in Stamford Hill Area



Fig.14: Key Features of Type 6: Postwar Terrace Infill

C. What type of extension can I do?

The roof form of a house and neighbouring houses in a street makes a significant contribution to the character of an area. Roof extensions and alterations should be designed to complement the individual house and the existing townscape.







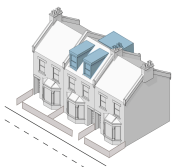
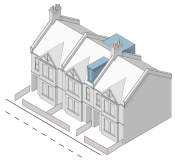

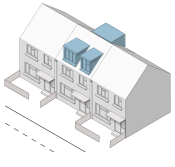
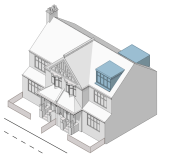
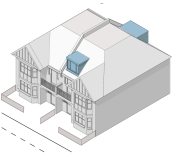
Roof extensions that are supported by the Design Guide are:

- The conversion of existing roof-spaces, consisting of the addition of dormer windows and roof-lights to existing roof-forms.
- Roof alterations to enable the creation of a new floor. Note that on certain typologies, this is only supported if done as a pair, in order to maintain symmetry of key features such as front gables.
- A combination of an additional matching floor and dormers.

Dormers

Roof dormers should sit within the roof slope and appear as an extension to the existing roof whilst maintaining the existing roof form. Both front and rear dormers will be accepted, providing they align with guidance contained in the Council's Residential Extensions and Alterations SPD (or any successor guidance). Please see below acceptable examples of dormers for each housing type. Full width dormers are not supported on any property.

Table 1: Indicative Roof Dormers per House Type

Type 1: Victorian Terraced Cottage	Type 2: Victorian Terrace	Type 3: Classic Suburb	Type 4: Postwar Terrace Infill	Type 5: Garden City Style	Type 6: Later classic suburb (30's)
					
					

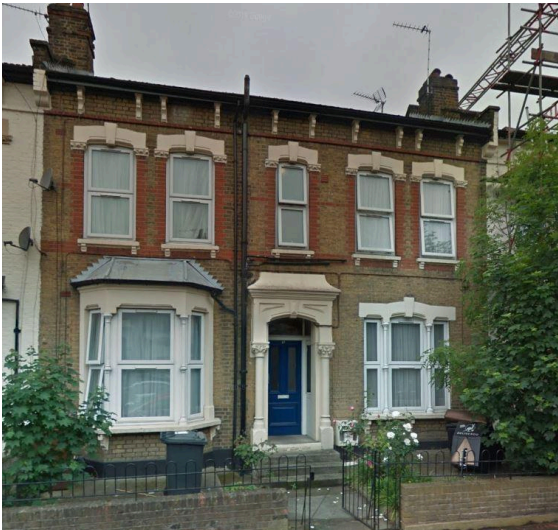
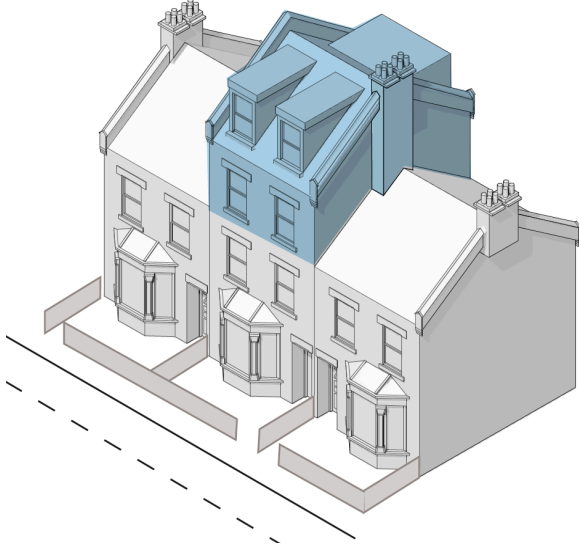
Additional Matching Floors


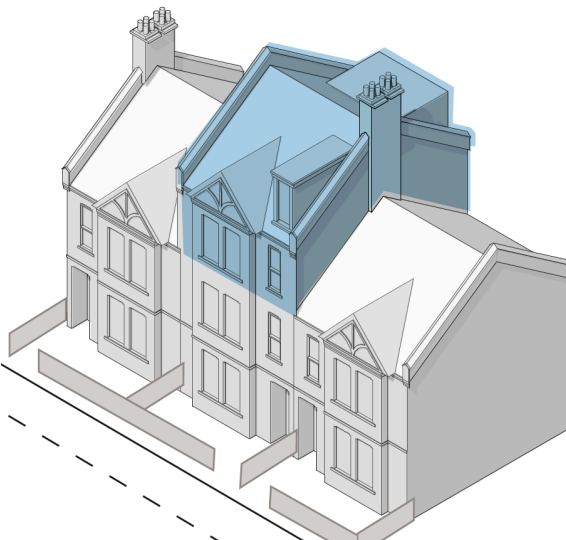


Extending properties with a new storey at roof level is a useful method of increasing the usable space of properties whilst leaving space at ground level available for greenery, garden storage and outdoor activities. The following guidance on roof extensions for the key housing types in the Stamford Hill area are the maximum permissible upward extension allowed.




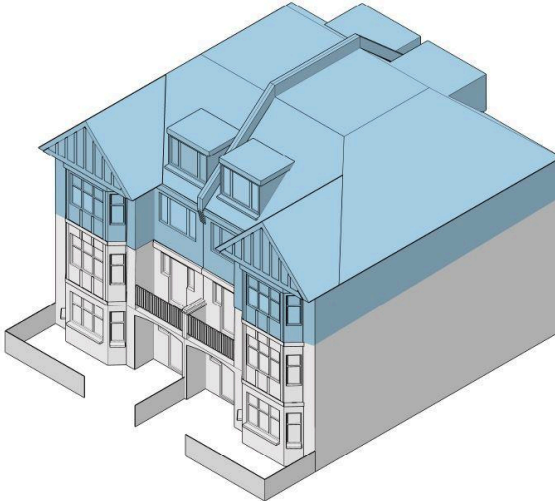
The illustrations provided are for illustrative purposes only and are not binding upon the Council, nor prejudice any future planning application decisions made by the Council. All new roof extensions must comply with the design principles and detailed design guidance described in Section 2 and 3 of this document.


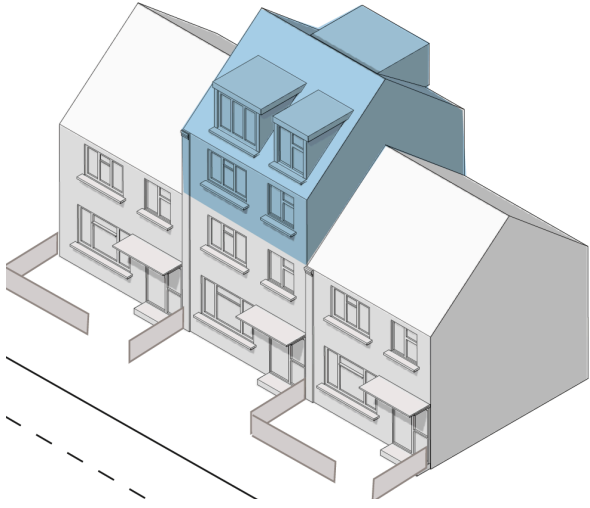
Planning consents for additional floors will come with a standard set of conditions to ensure the highest quality in terms of materials, detailing and retention of existing features.

Table 2: Indicative New Floors per House Type

House Type	Indicative New Floor
Type 1: Victorian Terraced Cottage 	

House Type	Indicative New Floor
<p>Type 2: Victorian Terrace</p> 	
<p>Type 3: Classic Suburb</p> 	

House Type	Indicative New Floor
<p>Type 4: Garden City Style</p> 	
<p>Type 5: Later Classic Suburb</p> 	

House Type	Indicative New Floor
<p>Type 6: Postwar Terrace Infill</p> 	

Paired Housing Typologies

Some housing types (such as the Garden City Style and Later Classic Suburb) were constructed as a matching pair of semi-detached houses, sharing key features such as paired gables. It is important to maintain symmetry on these paired properties and additional floors would only be possible if both homes are extended jointly by way of a legal agreement as part of a planning application. Symmetrical features are less prominent on terraced properties and therefore individual applications are supported.

Section 2: Roof Extensions – Key Design Principles

1. Scale and Form

When creating an additional floor, it is important to consider the relationship to the scale of the neighbouring properties on the street.

1.1 Additional floors should take up the whole width of the house and replace the existing roof in its entirety. Any additional floors should be proportional to the existing floor to floor height. It is recommended that new storey roof extensions maintain the same floor to height as the existing building. The floor to ceiling heights can differ between the housing types identified in the guide.

1.2 Form to be in keeping with the existing building and its neighbours.



Fig.15: Roof extension has a bulky appearance and no relationship to the existing form; loss of architectural character of the existing front dormer

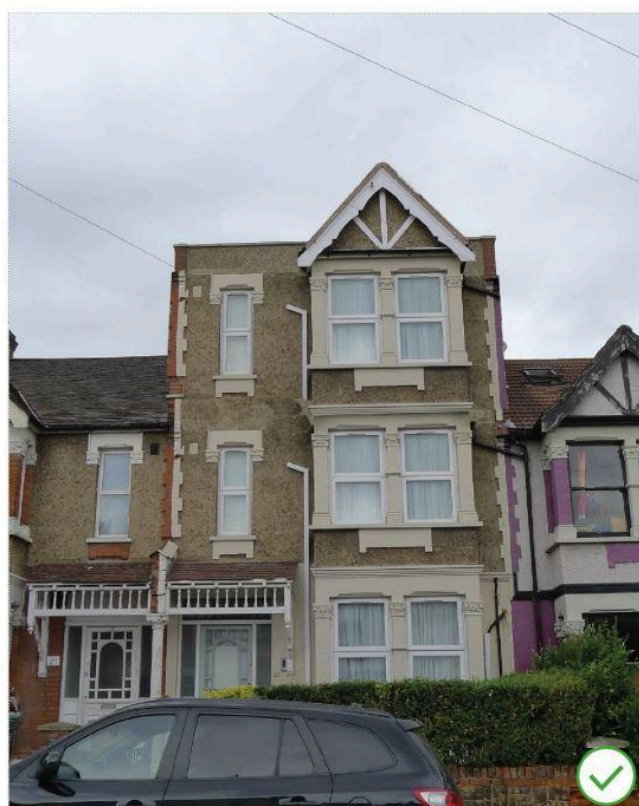


Fig.16: The characteristics of the front dormer are retained by replicating and elevating the original front dormer

2. Proportions

2.1 Proposed window heights and widths to be the same as the floor below.

2.2 A common approach to window spacing and roof type is important to ensure consistency along a street. An inconsistent approach can contribute to an unbalanced sense of proportions and streetscape.

2.3 The height of the extension should be no greater than the height of the floor below and the distances between windows should match those on the host building.



Fig.17: The additional level is out of proportion with the host house



Fig.18: The additional floor level is proportional in scale and height to the existing floor to ceiling heights of the floors below

3. Alignment and Symmetry

3.1. The front facade of an additional storey must be flush with the existing facade.

3.2 Dormer windows should be well spaced and positioned within the existing roof slope. A general guideline is for dormer windows to be set below the roof ridge, set at least 0.5m in from party walls on either side and set 0.5m above the roof eaves. Dormer windows should not extend the entire width of the roof and should always be aligned with the existing windows below.

3.3 Properties built as a pair will only be allowed to extend as a pair, including any symmetrical features.

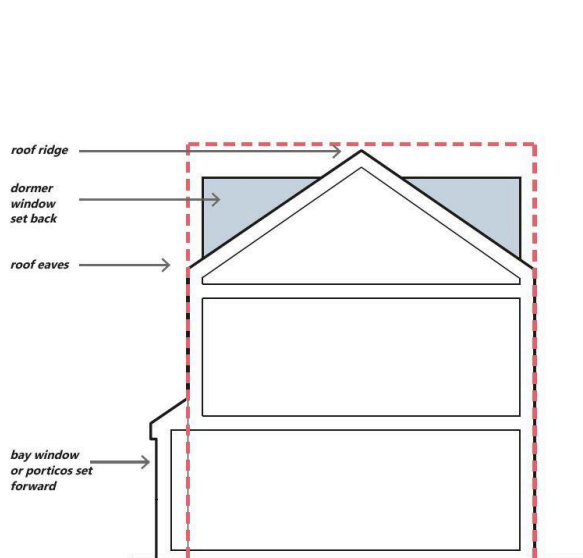


Fig.19: Section of dormer roof extension showing windows set back from the eaves and set in from the party wall.

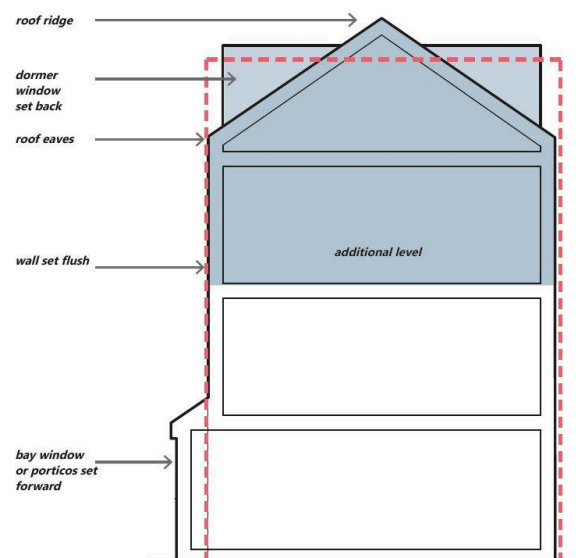


Fig.20: Section of new floor extension showing flush walls with the existing facade and set back dormer window



Fig.21: Dormer windows not set back from the roof eave and not set in from the party wall, windows misaligned from the existing windows below



Fig.22: Dormer windows set back from the roof eave, set in from the party walls and aligned with the existing windows below



Fig.23 and Fig.23: Examples of unacceptable extensions that create asymmetry

4. Uniformity

4.1 A seamless approach should make a roof extension appear as if it is part of the existing house. It should match the materials of the existing house and continue the scale, proportions, form and details. Proposals adopting this approach should ensure detailing is carefully considered to ensure a seamless final development that allows the addition to be read as part of the original dwelling.

4.2 Particular attention should be given to the materials, windows, doors, rainwater goods and details to ensure the new addition integrates seamlessly with the existing.

4.3 The external design of the new top storey must match the design of the existing house.



Fig.24: Roof extension is not acceptable due to change in materials that draws too much attention on the upper element



Fig.25: The external design of the new top storey extension matches the design of the existing house with aligned matching windows, flush facade and matching brick detailing that continues seamlessly

Section 3: Roof Extensions – Detailed Design Guidance

1. Materials and Detailing

1.1 All materials used should be of the highest quality. Materials must be sustainable and durable.

1.2 All materials must match the original house. Where brick facades have been rendered over, applicants are encouraged to reinstate the brickwork where possible, and then use an appropriate matching brick for the additional floor.

1.3 The texture, colour, pattern and finish of materials used for any house alterations, including upward extensions should relate well to the existing character and appearance of both the existing home and the character of the street.

1.4 Applicants are encouraged to retain and reinstate all original, decorative brick and stone details to the elevations of extended houses; and such details should be replicated where appropriate in extensions.



Fig 24: Summary of predominant materials and heritage features in Stamford Hill Area

2. Wall Finishes

2.1 Applicants are encouraged to match additional floors to the same material as the original house. The same material should continue seamlessly. There should be no horizontal joint, line, change in materials or projecting horizontal feature where the extension joins the

original house.

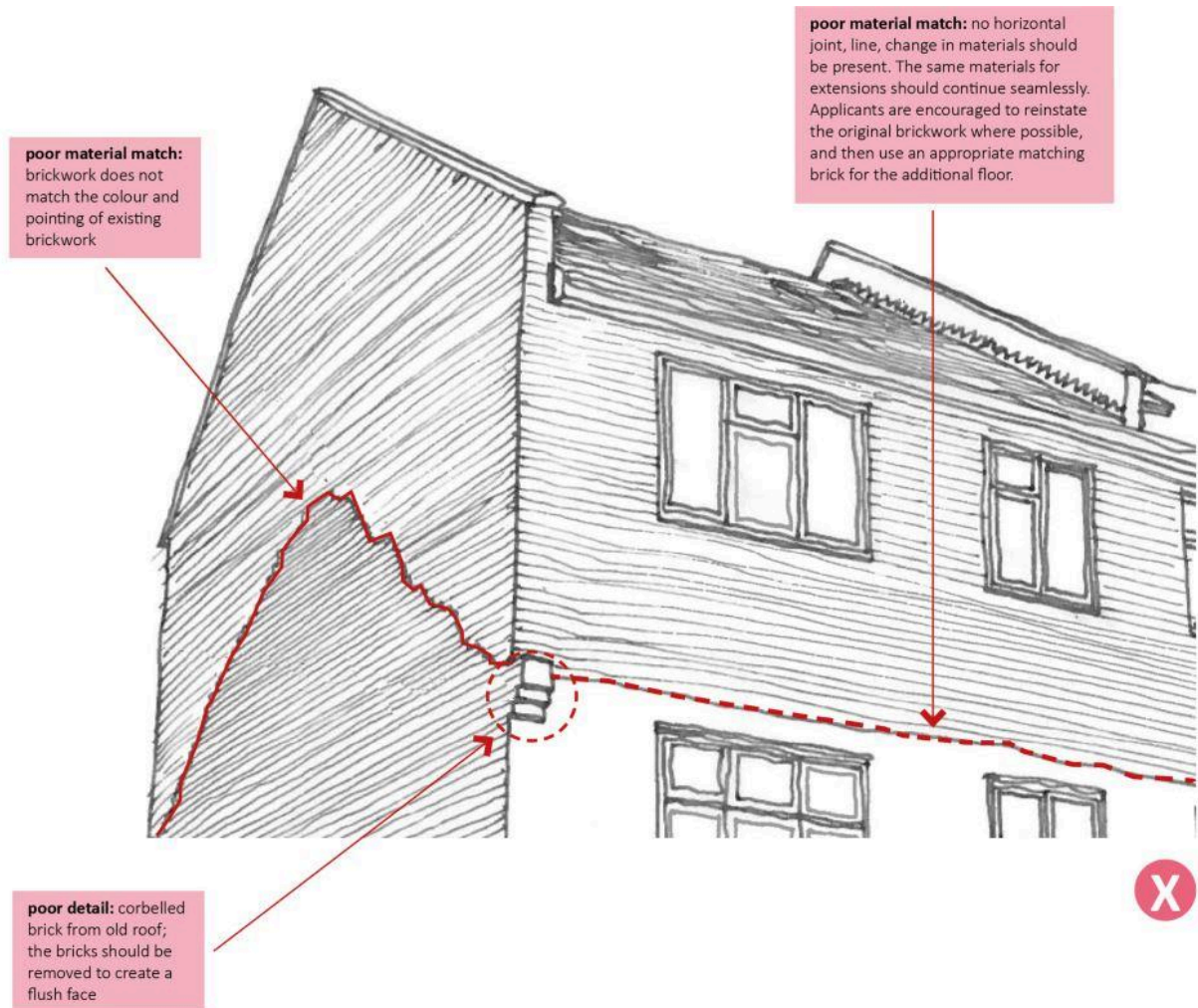


Fig 25: Examples of unacceptable wall detailing

2.2 All extensions should be of high quality design and features which respond to the streetscape context. This means that extension should aim to reflect the architectural character of the existing building and its neighbours in their features and detailing.

Bricks

Bricks need to match in colour, pattern and texture. If the original bricks are discoloured then applicants are encouraged to artificially age the new brickwork or clean the original brickwork in order to get an appropriate match.

Bricks need to match exactly in terms of size (imperial/metric), texture and colour to ensure that the extension seamlessly ties into the host building. The brick bond, mortar colour, texture and pointing should also match.

Details of brick matching, including brick samples where appropriate, should be provided at the application stage to ensure acceptable quality.

Architectural features

The architectural details need to be accurately replicated and mimicked above. This includes replicating the original stucco work, cornice detail and correct positioning of the window reveals.

Any original features such as decorative brick and stone details should be retained and reinstated. Such details should be replicated where appropriate in upward extension to keep in line with the character of each housing typology.

External Pipework

Original external pipework and guttering should be repaired or reinstated in a like-for-like manner for all dwellings.

3. Roofs

3.1 Extended roofs must replicate the angle and pitch of the existing roof (and of the existing roofs on the street). The roof should be slated or tiled in a similar material (by look and appearance) to the existing roof.

3.2 Applicants are encouraged to reuse the existing roofing materials (natural slate, tiles) wherever possible. Reused existing tiles should be used first on the front (street facing) slope of the roof, and if possible new roofing materials can be on the rear of the properties.

3.3 New and modified pitched roofs should follow the original roof in materials and detailing. Where houses have parapets at party walls, between houses, a parapet should be provided in extended roofs both between the pair of extended roofs and at either end. Where the original terrace did not have party walls extended through the roof as parapets, no parapets between or at either end of pairs are required.

3.4 At the end of terraces, some houses were originally built as hipped roofs, others as pitched roofs ending in a gable. It is preferable to replicate the hipped pitched roof, where that is original. It is also acceptable to detail the upward extension as a gable end, where the proposal would not be overbearing. The Council's Residential Extensions & Alterations SPD provides further guidance on end of terrace properties.

Parapets

Parapets need to project above the roof line of additional floors, they must include a cornice and should be an appropriate distance from the window heads below. It is usually best for parapets to 'turn the corner' and continue along each party wall, but this is only essential where the house is on the end of a terrace. Care must be taken to avoid water run-off and spread of fire from one property to another. Rainwater guttering must be behind the parapet.

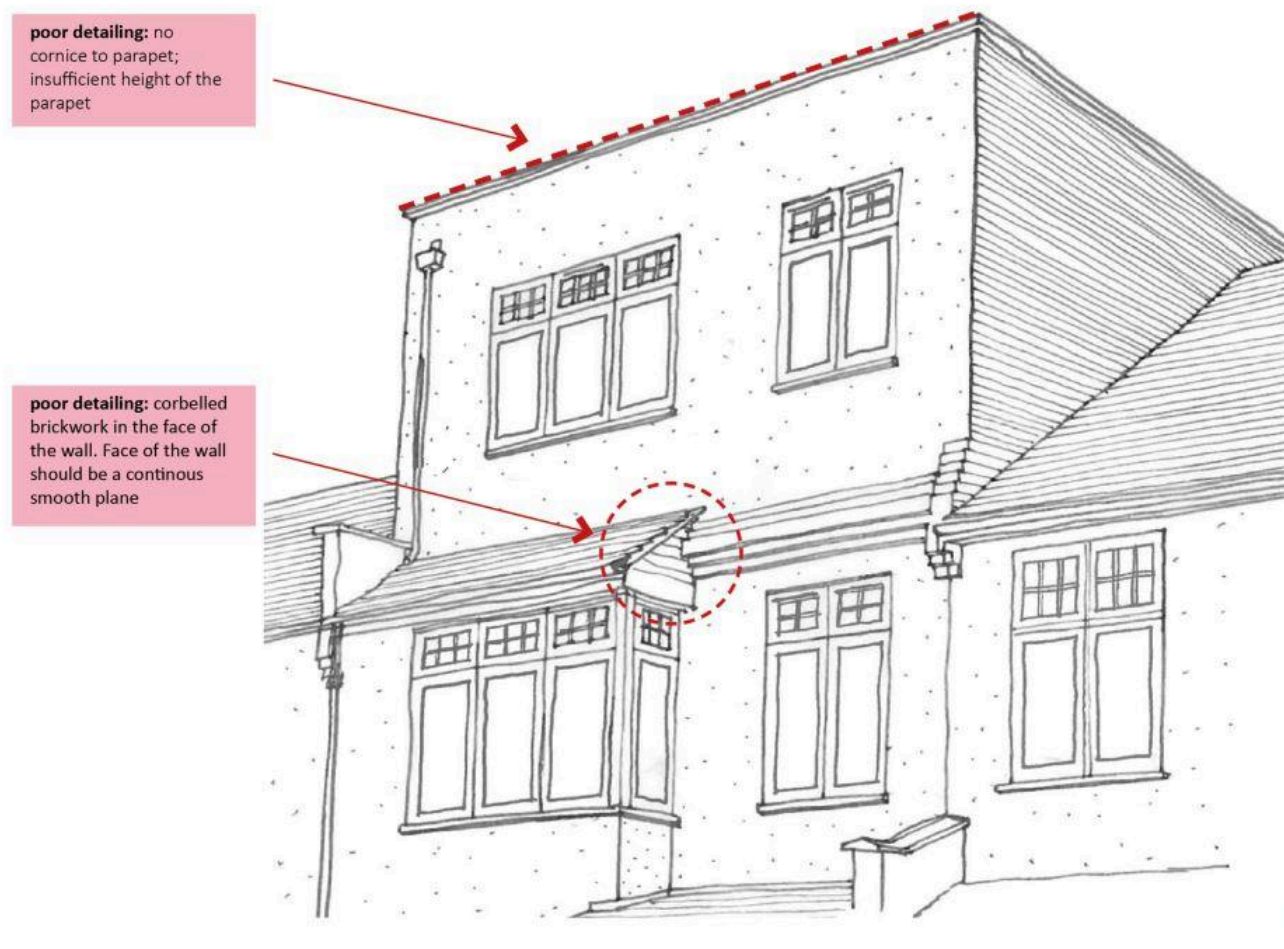


Fig 26: Examples of unacceptable parapet detailing

Party Wall Parapets

Many existing houses have party walls that extend as parapet walls above the roof level of the houses either side. This also includes existing corbelled brickwork.



Fig.27: An unacceptable example of a party wall has been corbelled out, not in keeping with the original architectural detailing



Fig.28: The party wall is flush with the continuous facade

For roof extensions to adjoining properties i.e. terraces, the party wall will need to be raised. The new facade must be flush and continuous with the existing facade. Raised party walls should not be corbelled out.

Eaves

Roof eaves must replicate the existing eaves with similar distances to the window heads below.

Cornices

All parapets must include cornices.

Cornices are normally set three or four brick courses below the coping to the parapet and consist of three or four projecting courses in render or moulded stone.

At either side of the house, the cornice should turn the corner, but do not need to continue the length of a party wall or gable end parapet.

Chimneys

Applicants are encouraged to retain chimney stacks when creating additional floors or match the originals.

4. Windows

4.1 Windows must exactly match the floor below and where UPVC windows exist, applicants are encouraged to replace in timber and match windows in timber. Windows should be of exactly the same dimensions and finish as those on the floor below. This also includes the decorative treatments around the windows like sills and lintels. It is also important to replicate the same window reveal width (at least $\frac{1}{2}$ brick width) to maintain the sense of depth on the front elevation.

4.2 The size and pattern of windows should be reproduced from the floor below. The line of the window sills and heads will set the line of fenestration, which must be maintained and appropriate proportions and distances between windows should be maintained.



Fig 29. The roof extension windows are not in keeping with the existing window shape, size and alignment.

Bay Windows with Gabled Pitched Roofs

Houses within the Victorian Terrace housing types have 2 storey bay windows with pitched roofs with a pointed gable facing onto the street. It is important to retain this pitched roof and pointed gable over bay windows in houses that have been extended. The bay should be extended upwards to the additional floor, with the bay window roof replicated at the new level.



Fig 30: The roof extension is bulky and detracts from the front gables architectural character. The pitched roof form has been lost and the flat roof is not in keeping with the neighbouring properties.

Glossary

Apex/roof ridge

The highest point of a pitched roof.

Bay window

A large window or series of windows projecting from the outer wall of a building and forming a recess within.

Building line

The line formed by the frontages of buildings along a street. The building line can be shown on a plan or section.

Character

The distinctive visual identity of a building or a particular place. Character-defining elements include the architectural form, landscaping, materials, craftsmanship, decorative details and features. The local character of a townscape is defined by patterns of development.

Conservation area

A conservation area is of special architectural or historic interest in which the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Conservation area designation is a means of recognising the importance of the quality of the area as a whole, as well as protecting individual buildings. Hackney designates conservation areas to preserve and enhance their character and appearance, and to control and manage change.

Corbel

A structural piece of stone or wood which projects out from a wall to support the structure above it. Victorian corbels are often ornate.

Cornice

Horizontal structure located at the edge of the house where the roof meets the walls. The main purpose of the cornice is to keep rainwater away from the walls of a building.

Chimney stack

The part of a chimney that rises above the roof of a building.

Chimney pot

Decorative unit used to extend the length of the chimney and to improve the chimney's draft. More than one pot on a chimney usually indicates that there is more than one fireplace on different floors sharing the chimney.

Door case

The ornamental frame around a door or front entrance.

Dormer window

A form of roof window which has a roofed structure and projects vertically beyond the plane of a pitched roof. Dormer windows increase the usable space in a loft.

Eaves

The overhanging edge of a roof.

Gable

The portion of the front or side of a building, usually triangular in shape, enclosed by or masking the end of a roof that slopes downward from a central ridge.

Hipped roof

A type of roof where all sides slope downwards to the walls. A hipped roof has no gables or other vertical sides to the roof.

Lintel

A beam over an aperture carrying the wall above and spanning between jambs.

Listed building

A building that has been included on the Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest, by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) based on recommendations from Historic England. The general principles are that all buildings built before 1700 which survive in anything like their original condition are likely to be listed, as are most buildings built between 1700 and 1850. Particularly careful selection is required for buildings from the period after 1945. Buildings less than 30 years old are not normally considered to be of special architectural or historic interest because they have yet to stand the test of time.

Listed Building Consent is required from the Council for the demolition of, or material alterations, both internal and external, to a listed building or within the curtilage or setting of a listed building.

Overlooking

An outlook from a development onto adjoining land or properties, especially in a manner that causes loss of privacy.

Parapet

A parapet is typically the top of a wall that extends above the roof level and provides a degree of protection to the roof, gutters, balconies and walkways. The top of a parapet will usually be finished with a layer of capping or coping in brick, stone, or concrete, or even sheet metal (lead, zinc or steel).

Party wall

A common or shared wall between adjoining properties.

Reveal

A vertical return of side of an aperture in a wall, such as a door or window frame.

Roofline

The profile of a roof.

Roof pitch

The angle of a roof.

Sash window

A window with one or two sashes which can be slid vertically to make an opening.

Streetscape

The view along the street from a pedestrian street level perspective. The visual elements of the street including the buildings, roofline, street furniture, trees, open spaces all combine to form the street's character.

Unbroken roofline

A line of terraces or buildings, which have a roof line that is largely unimpaired by alterations or extensions.

Window sill

The horizontal ledge at the bottom of a window. Typically made of timber or masonry construction. The window frame sits on top of the sill. The sill channels rainwater away from the wall directly below the window.

Window surrounds

The ornamental frame around a window.

Appendices

Appendix 1.

Building Research Establishment (BRE) Sunlight/Daylight Guidance

Access to daylight and sunlight is a vital part of a healthy environment. Sensitive design should provide sufficient daylight and sunlight to new roof extensions while not obstructing light to existing homes nearby.

Hackney Council takes the conventional approach of considering daylight and sunlight amenity with reference to the various numerical tests laid down in the Building Research Establishment (BRE) guide 'Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight: a guide to good practice, 3rd Edition' by P J Littlefair 2022.

More information can be found:

<https://bregroup.com/services/testing-certification-verification/lighting/natural-light/>

Appendix 2.

Building Control Advice

Before you commence any development work, you must also serve a building notice or submit a full plans application. You can do this using the local authority building control service. Building Regulations assess whether a development is constructed to an appropriate standard, assessing matters such as foundations, drains and structural requirements.

Foundations

The addition of a new floor may increase the loading of the existing house on its foundation and subsequently on the ground below.

It is essential that all proposals for a new floor including the dormer window are provided with structural calculations to demonstrate that the proposal is in compliance with the Part A Structures of the Building Regulations. The calculation should also consider the additional loading on the existing foundations. Foundations should not exceed the accepted maximum bearing capacity of the ground.

The council recommends that an appropriately qualified professional (structural engineer) provides advice regarding the structural calculations and capacity of the existing foundations.

It is considered that most foundations in the area are deep and sturdy enough to safely be extended without any strengthening, however it remains up to the person doing the extension to show that the foundations are adequate. This would be by exposing them in the locations required by the building control body to the satisfaction of Building Control.

Lateral restraint

Due to the additional height and loading of the external walls it is a requirement that the existing first floor, second floor and loft floor (or new floor) be strapped to the external walls to provide adequate restraint and ensure the stability of the house.

Fire

Smoke detection will be required to each level of the hall in the stair enclosure of the property. The smoke detectors need to be mains wired to their own circuit in the consumer unit with battery backup. They are also required to be interlinked so if one detector is activated, they all activate. The whole stair enclosure will be required to be 30 minutes fire resistant with 30 minute fire doors to all the rooms off the stair enclosure with the exception of the bathroom and WCs.

For the top floor of the loft conversion or new floor, being a floor over 7.5m above ground level, the means of escape in case of fire is critical. The means of escape can be satisfied by:

- an alternative means of escape through the property
- an alternative route out of the building to a place of safety, separated from the main staircase of the house
- the property can be fitted with sprinklers

Properties with Basements

If the upper storey of the building has been provided with an alternative means of escape then the protected hallway is to be extended down to the basement level and the smoke detection system extended into the basement with a fire door provided into the stairwell.

If the building has been provided with a sprinkler system then the sprinkler system is to be extended down into the basement and the basement separated from the ground floor with fire resisting construction and a fire door.

Appendix 3.

Climate Resilience

Note: Please also refer to Policy LP55 Mitigating Climate Change, in Hackney's Local Plan.

See: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HRu0A_fdoWUi3OBfzUT03TT4S9gYwHDq/view

Extending your house, reconfiguring the internal layout or adding a completely new floor is the perfect opportunity (trigger point) to consider improving the thermal performance and energy efficiency of your home which in turn will improve your thermal comfort, air quality and general well being as well as reducing your energy bills.

Suggested ways to make your home more thermally efficient include:

- improving thermal comfort by adding insulation to existing elements (eg. loft insulation, internal wall insulation, floor insulation)
- reducing thermal discomfort by draught proofing
- optimising heat gains with heat losses by selecting double or triple glazing windows
- heating systems that run on non-fossil fuels such as heat pumps (air source and ground)
- on site energy generation such as electricity (PV panels) or hot water (solar thermal)
- improving indoor air quality with mechanical ventilation such as Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR)
- reducing energy consumption by installing energy efficient lighting and appliances
- selecting low embodied carbon and repairable building materials such as timber windows or re-used bricks

It is recommended you seek advice from a retrofit consultant and/or appoint a Trustmark certified contractor to determine which energy efficiency measures are appropriate for your project and in what order they should be implemented to deliver the best outcome –

<https://www.trustmark.org.uk/homeowner>

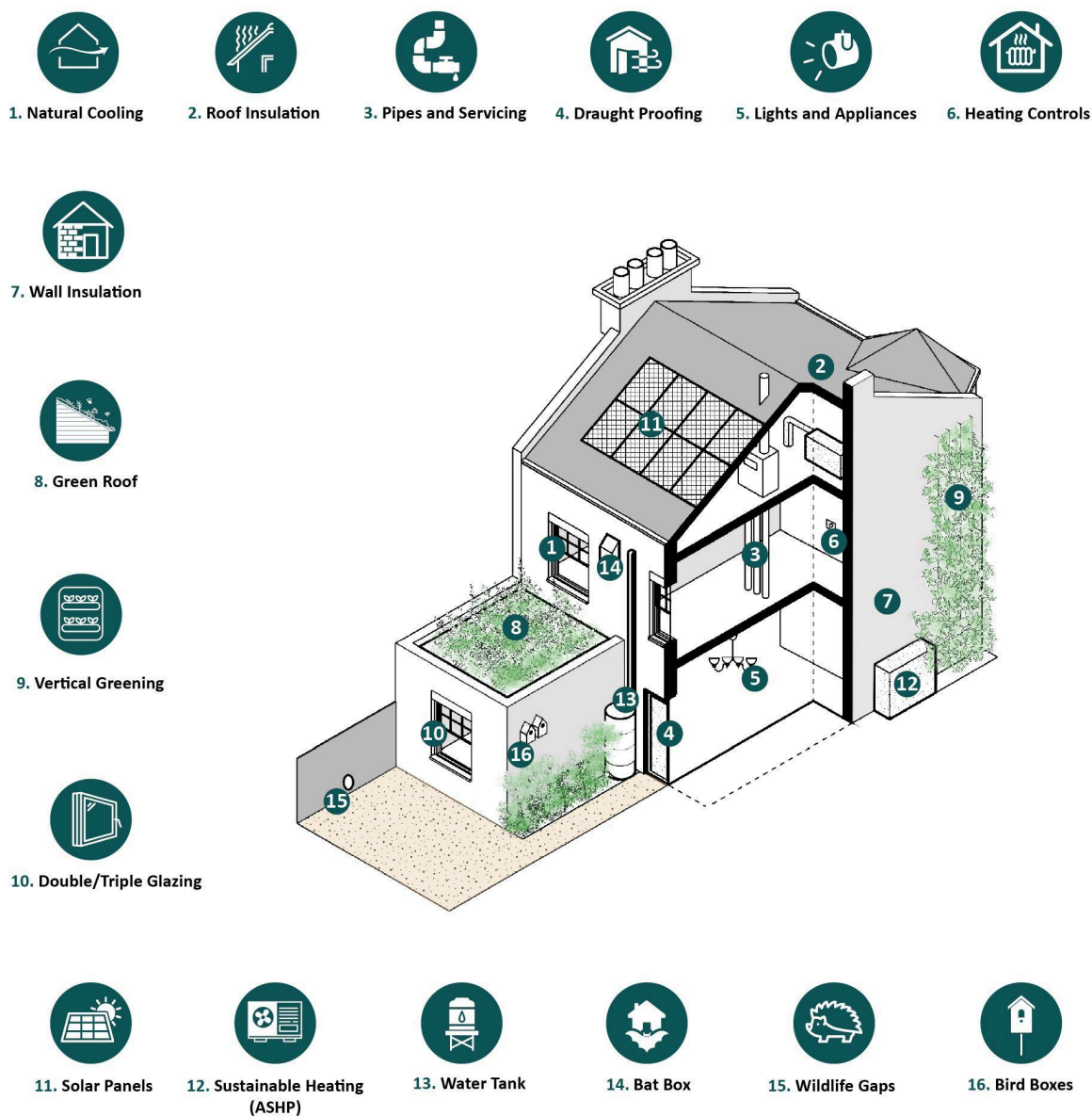


Fig 31: Diagram showing measures for energy efficiency, greening and biodiversity that can be implemented

Regardless of the type of alteration or extension planned, there are some basic guidelines that need to be carefully considered:

- The orientation of your home and where the most appropriate location for an alteration/extension would be. For instance, west facing large openings will tend to create overheating issues whilst large openings to the North will lead to heat losses.
- The size and design of your proposal, a larger extension may not always be the best solution, so consider your internal and external space requirements and the climate impact, such as maintenance costs (heating/cooling), use of materials and their embodied carbon, and the resulting quality of the external/garden space.

- The quality of materials contributes to the overall efficiency and long term cost savings, particularly important for insulation, structural elements and new windows/doors. In all cases, the insulating quality of materials (also known as u-value) should be considered. This measures the heat loss through a material, this meaning the lower the u value is, the better the chosen material is at insulating your home. In addition, the material's embodied carbon (the carbon emitted by the energy used to produce a material from its extraction to installation on site) and their potential for recycling in the future and reuse in a circular loop should be considered. For instance, a sustainably sourced timber frame will typically have a lower embodied carbon than virgin steel structure and will have the capacity to be dismantled and re-used if you decide to further alter your home.

Roof Insulation

Approximately 25% of heat in an uninsulated house is lost through its roof. Roof insulation is generally the most cost effective way to reduce energy use.

A roof can be insulated in several ways:

- by using loft insulation blankets, also known as 'quilts'. As a guide, loft insulation should be around 270mm (about 1 foot) thick if using mineral wool to be effective; or
- with blown insulation which uses specialist equipment to blow loose, fire-retardant material into the loft.
- where the loft space is inhabited, insulation can be installed between the roof rafters

Solar Panels/Photo-Voltaics (PV's)

If your home improvement work requires scaffolding, such as a loft conversion or upward extension, this would be an ideal time to install solar panels. Scaffolding is a significant part of the solar installation costs, so combining it with other works could make them much more cost-effective. Note that in some cases, solar panels also require planning permission.

Other tips to be considered when installing solar panels, to reduce their impact on the streetscene, and wider area:

- Ensure panels are spaced evenly on the roof slope and not in an irregular pattern.
- Ensure the position of the panels would retain even distances to the roof margins (ridge, eaves, party walls) and/or wall margins;
- Place panels behind parapets or roof features where possible (such as chimneys), and where these features do not cause shading issues;
- Run cabling in a position to minimise visibility from the street and neighbouring properties
- Use cabling and cable ducts which are in keeping with the colour of the building exterior


- On flat roof extension, PV panels can be combined with green roof which help to lower their temperature and increase their efficiency

Appendix 4.

Excluded Housing Types

Besides the 6 core housing types identified in the Stamford Hill Area, other housing types are present in the area, but they are less common or isolated examples and require a case by case approach to alterations.

The table below shows other common building typologies that can be found in the AAP Area and that have been identified as not suitable for upward extensions.

Other housing types in the AAP Area	Characteristics	Reasons for exclusion
 <p>Victorian Villa [construction period: 1837–1901]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Villas are predominantly semi-detached symmetrical paired buildings. • defined by its grand scale and ornate detailing. • The villas are often four storeys, including a lower ground level. • Key original features include bay windows, ornate door cases, panelled front doors with fanlight, timber sash windows with ornate window surrounds and exposed lintels, hipped roofs and stock brick construction. 	<p>Buildings are very large and cannot support dormers (due to shallow roof pitch) or additional floors (due to overbearing appearance)</p>



Mansion Block [construction period: 1918–1939] : Laindon House – Stamford Hill Estate

- Built as purpose built housing estates (ex. Stamford Hill Estate) by LLC or the borough councils
- defined by its municipal appearance, strong symmetrical form and distinct chimney stacks.
- The blocks are set back from the road by open shared green space, which in instances partially define the street frontage. The majority of the blocks are accessed from the rear via shared stair cores with deck access to individual front doors.
- The estates are typically five or six storeys high.
- The detailing and material palette was influenced by the style of Georgian and Victorian tenement blocks.
- Key original features include latticed brickwork, facade tiles, steel lettering, external balconies and hipped roofs set behind a parapet wall.

Flats can support upward extensions only at entire block level in order to maintain symmetry; complexities associated with fire, access and structure. Not all blocks will be suitable, for example locally listed buildings.



Free Form Block [construction period:1950-2970]

- Built during the post-war period
- Non-perimeter development, blocks set back from the street and face inwards to grassed areas
- Three or four storey stand alone blocks with pitched or flat roofs
- Access to the flats is usually an open deck formed of open-to air walkways
- Key original features include balconies and sometimes ornate communal walkways

Flats can support upward extensions only at entire block level in order to maintain symmetry; complexities associated with fire, access and structure.

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Title of Report	Woodberry Down Phase 4 Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)	
Key Decision No	CHE S290	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Nicholson, Deputy Mayor for Delivery, Inclusive Economy and Regeneration	
Classification	Open with Exempt Appendix	
Ward(s) Affected	Woodberry Down	
Key Decision & Reason	Yes	Result in the Council incurring expenditure or savings which are significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service / function
Implementation Date if Not Called In	6 March 2024	
Group Director	Rickardo Hyatt, Group Director, Climate, Homes and Economy	

1. Cabinet Member's introduction

- 1.1. The regeneration of Woodberry Down is well underway. Phases 1 and 2 have been completed, delivering over 2,000 new homes, of which more than 500 are for social rent. Phase 3 is under construction. Phase 4 is the next phase of the regeneration to come forward.
- 1.2. In addition to new homes, the regeneration of Woodberry Down has already delivered a new community centre and library, and new retail and commercial space alongside the provision of three new parks. The proposals for Phase 4 will add significantly to both housing and high quality local infrastructure, for the benefit of existing and new residents. The housing mix will address local housing need with 43% of the proposed 511 units being affordable, of which 41% will be for social rent. 90% of the 511 new homes will be wheelchair adaptable and 10% fully wheelchair accessible. Phase 4 will include a new public square, together with 1,215 sqm new community and commercial floorspace, to form a new 'civic' centre and focus for Woodberry Down. Homes will be designed to high standards of thermal efficiency, reducing energy demand and the risk of fuel poverty. All of

these measures will help to support a thriving community and a more sustainable environment in Woodberry Down.

- 1.3. At its meeting on 28 February 2022 Cabinet gave approval for the following: for the serving of Initial Demolition notices on Phase 4; to award Decant Status to Council Tenants in Phase 4, and for Council Officers to begin the preparation of a CPO.
- 1.4. Since then, the Council has been pre-allocating secure tenants who currently live in the blocks in Phase 4 (Finmere, Keynsham, Kilpeck, Knaresborough, Leighfield and Lonsdale Houses) to a new home in Phase 3, as well as supporting tenants who do not wish to move to Phase 3 to find a new home off the estate.
- 1.5. On 18 July 2022 Cabinet also authorised the buy back of leasehold properties, further to a CPO indemnity being entered into. The CPO Indemnity Agreement for Phase 4 was signed in March 2023. The Council has also therefore been in negotiation with leasehold residents of the Phase 4 blocks in order to purchase the leasehold interests required to allow the regeneration to continue. The Council always seeks to acquire properties through negotiation rather than by compulsorily acquiring the remaining interests, however it is evident that in order to avoid incurring delays to Phase 4 of the Woodberry Down regeneration scheme the Council must be able to use its compulsory purchase powers in order to acquire interests where necessary. This is an approach that has been adopted in previous phases at Woodberry Down and elsewhere. Resident leaseholders are encouraged to remain on in Woodberry Down if they wish, in new homes they can afford via a shared equity offer which is explained below.
- 1.6. Any CPO for Phase 4 will need to be confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, who will consider any objections to the making of the Order before reaching a decision.
- 1.7. The Council is committed to continuing to engage with affected residents of all tenures.
- 1.8. I commend this report to Cabinet.

2. Group Director's introduction

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is to recommend that Cabinet agrees to make the London Borough of Hackney (Woodberry Down Phase 4) Compulsory Purchase Order 2024 ("the Order") to acquire the remaining leasehold and freehold interests, interests of secure tenants, and any private rights that may exist over the Order Land, to enable the regeneration of Woodberry Down to continue in accordance with the project programme.
- 2.2. This report contains the relevant documentation required to make the Order. An executive summary of the Order is set out in Section 4 of this report. A copy of the Order Schedule, the Statement of Reasons and the Equality

Impact Assessment report, which has to be submitted to the Secretary of State for the DLUHC for confirmation, are attached.

3. **Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

- 3.1. **Approve the draft London Borough of Hackney Woodberry Down (Phase 4) Compulsory Purchase Order 2024 as attached at Appendix 1 ("the Order"), the map identifying the Order Land ("the Order Land") as attached at Appendix 2 and the Statement of Reasons made in support of that Order and attached at Appendix 3 ("the Statement of Reasons") and the Equality Impact Assessment Report attached at Appendix 4.**
- 3.2. **Authorise the Group Director of Climate, Homes and Economy, after consultation with the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services to make any minor changes considered necessary to the Order, the Order Land, or the Statement of Reasons, and to approve the schedules of land and interests to be attached to the Order.**
- 3.3. **Authorise the making of the Order under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ("the 1990 Act") and authorise the confirmation of the Order if the Council is given the power to do so by the Secretary of State under Section 14A of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981.**
- 3.4. **Authorise the Group Director of Climate, Homes and Economy after consultation with the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services, to issue notices and carry out actions under Section 172 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and, where necessary, to enter onto land and carry out surveys of any land which the Council proposes to acquire compulsorily.**
- 3.5. **Authorise the Group Director of Climate Homes and Economy after consultation with the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and following confirmation of the Order, to publish and serve notice of confirmation of the Order, together with notice of the Council's intention to make a General Vesting Declaration ("GVD"), and to make one or more GVDs (and to serve all appropriate notices in connection therewith) or to serve notices to treat and notices of entry (as appropriate) in respect of the Order Land.**
- 3.6. **Authorise the use of powers under the 1990 Act to secure the removal of any apparatus of statutory undertakers or communication code operators from the Order Land shown within the red line in the map in Appendix 2.**

- 3.7. **Authorise the acquisition by agreement of all third party interests in and over the Order Land under Section 227 of the 1990 Act before or after confirmation of the Order and in respect of any new rights required for the development or use of the Order Land.**
- 3.8. **Authorise the Group Director of Climate Homes and Economy after consultation with the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services to take all necessary steps to override all third party interests and rights over the Order Land under Section 203 of the Housing & Planning Act 2016, and to pay such compensation and costs as is agreed between the parties or determined by the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber). This authorisation includes the publication and advertisement of the Order, serving appropriate notices, seeking confirmation of the Order, participation in a Public Inquiry (if required), taking all necessary steps to acquire relevant interests, and any other such steps as deemed appropriate to facilitate the development, redevelopment or improvement of the Order Land or to facilitate the Council's participation in a potential Public Inquiry.**
- 3.9. **Authorise the Group Director of Climate Homes and Economy after consultation with the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services to enter into agreements and to make undertakings, contracts and transfers on behalf of the Council with third parties with interests in the Order Land.**
- 3.10. **Authorise the Group Director of Climate Homes and Economy after consultation with the Acting Director of Legal, Electoral and Democratic Services to create new rights in favour of the Order Land with parties otherwise affected by the Order in order to secure the withdrawal of objections to the confirmation of the Order, including but not limited to the removal of any land from the Order.**

4. **Reason(s) for decision**

- 4.1. The decision to use compulsory purchase powers will be as a last resort to ensure the continued delivery of the Woodberry Down regeneration programme. A full justification of the need for compulsory purchase powers in order to facilitate the regeneration of Phase 4 is set out in the Statement of Reasons attached to this report at Appendix 3. A summary of key issues has been provided below, although this summary should not be considered a substitute for the full text of the draft Statement of Reasons.

Order Land

- 4.2. The Order Land includes:
- Finmere, Keynsham, Kilpeck, Knaresborough, Leighfield and Lonsdale Houses;

- Any rights over the Order Land required for the purpose of constructing and implementing the proposed redevelopment.
- 4.3. The nature of the interests to be acquired include those of leaseholders, freeholders, secure tenants, and any private express or implied rights that may have been granted over the Order Land.
 - 4.4. Land referencing to identify all owners, lessees, tenants, occupiers and other interests in the draft Order Land has been undertaken, the details of which are included in the Order Land and schedule contained within the draft Order. The Order Land and the draft Order (which is attached as an exempt appendix due to the nature of the information enclosed) has been compiled on the basis of the land referencing information made available to date and is subject to change. As further information is received, the Council will update the information in the Schedule as necessary.
 - 4.5. Exercise of the Council's powers of compulsory purchase will ensure that all private rights, covenants and other qualifying interests by which the Order Land is burdened, details of which are recorded in the Schedule, will be acquired or rendered unenforceable, thereby ensuring there is no impediment to scheme delivery.
 - 4.6. Land within the Phase 4 boundary which is not included in the Order Land but is required for the development will be appropriated for planning purposes pursuant to s122 of the Local Government Act 1972 and using s203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to override any interests. The appropriation for planning purposes will require Cabinet approval to be referred at a later date .

Description of the proposed development

- 4.7. The Woodberry Down regeneration is being delivered through a delivery partnership between Hackney Council, Berkeley Homes and Notting Hill Genesis. The scheme is set out in the Principal Development Agreement (PDA). Under the terms of this contract, Hackney Council must assemble the land and provide vacant possession for Berkeley Homes, who is responsible for delivering the development. Notting Hill Genesis takes on the management of all new social and affordable homes delivered through the scheme.
- 4.8. The original masterplan for Woodberry Down was adopted in 2007 and first updated in 2009, allowing for a five phase programme. Phase 1 comprised five 'kick start sites' and delivered a total of 1,433 homes.
- 4.9. In 2012 the masterplan was reviewed in consultation with local residents. The revised masterplan received planning consent in February 2014, with detailed permission for Phase 2, for 670 homes and 550 sqm of non-residential space, and outline permission for the remainder of the

scheme (Phases 3-8), comprising of up to 3,242 residential units, 10,921 sqm of commercial floorspace and the provision of a new open space, highway improvement works to Seven Sisters Road, and an energy centre.

- 4.10. Construction started at Woodberry Down in March 2009, and the first residents moved into their new homes in 2011. So far 2,317 homes have been completed, of which 537 are for social rent and 350 are shared ownership and shared equity. Phase 3 is under construction, with 117 homes for social rent due to complete in autumn 2024 (out of a total 584 homes). The phase will be fully completed in summer 2025.
- 4.11. In 2021, the delivery partners agreed to review the masterplan for the remaining phases at Woodberry Down. The 2014 masterplan was deemed to be no longer implementable as the timescales set in the outline permission for submission of Reserved Matters Applications (RMAs) could not be met. It was envisaged that a new hybrid planning application, with Phase 4 in detail and Phases 5-8 in outline would be developed. There proved, however, insufficient time to progress a hybrid application for Phases 4-8 without delaying the target start on site date for Phase 4. The partners therefore further agreed to bring forward a standalone planning application for Phase 4, with a clear timetable and process in place for agreeing a revised masterplan. This was set out in a Side Letter to the PDA which was approved by Cabinet in July 2022.
- 4.12. In October 2023 a detailed planning application for Phase 4 was submitted as a standalone application. The application is for 511 homes, of which 90 will be for social rent, and 132 for shared ownership/equity. In addition the scheme includes 1,215 sqm commercial or community floorspace set around a new 'central' square, on Woodberry Grove, which is intended to become a 'hub' for the Woodberry Down development.
- 4.13. The review of the masterplan for phases 5-8 is underway and an outline planning application is due to be submitted in Spring 2024.
- 4.14. Berkeley Homes intends to begin development of the Phase 4 site as soon as Phase 3 is complete. Phase 3 is due to complete by mid 2025, and the demolition of Phase 4 is intended to commence in summer 2025.

Enabling Powers

- 4.15. The Acquiring Authority is the local planning authority for the Order Land.
- 4.16. Section 226 of the 1990 Act enables a local authority to acquire land compulsorily for planning purposes. Specifically, Section 226(1)(a) of the 1990 Act authorises a local authority to exercise its compulsory purchase powers if acquiring the land in question will facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment, or improvement of, or in relation to, the land being acquired.

- 4.17. Section 226(1)(A) of the 1990 Act prevents a local authority from exercising its powers under Section 226(1)(a) unless the local authority can demonstrate that the proposed development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to the achievement of any one or more of the following objects: the promotion or improvement of the economic, social, or environmental well-being of its area.
- 4.18. The Council is satisfied that the proposed use of compulsory purchase powers will result in the redevelopment of the Order Land in a manner which will bring about social, economic and environmental improvements through the provision of new residential dwellings and ancillary development. It will secure new open market and affordable housing in place of existing poor quality housing, thus securing both quantitative and qualitative improvements to the housing stock within the Borough.
- 4.19. The Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) sets out the process for compulsory acquisition and therefore applies to the Order. The acquiring authority is the Council.
- 4.20. The “Guidance on Compulsory Purchase Process and The Crichel Down Rules for the Disposal of Surplus Land Acquired by, or under the Threat of, Compulsion” (2019) (“the CPO Guidance”), recognises that the power in Section 226 of the 1990 Act provides a positive tool to help local authorities with planning powers to assemble land and implement proposals in their local plan or where a strong planning justification for the use of the power exists.
- 4.21. Among other things, the CPO Guidance states that land assembly must be in accordance with a clear strategic framework which is founded on an appropriate evidence base, and which has been the subject of consultation. The Council is confident that this is the case for Woodberry Down Phase 4.

Purpose and Justification for Seeking to Compulsory Acquire the Legal Interests in the Blocks and Individual Properties

- 4.22. Phase 4 is the fourth phase in an eight phase redevelopment programme for the Woodberry Down Estate, with Phases 1 and 2 complete, and Phase 3 well underway. As such it is a critical part of the programme which once developed will unlock the subsequent four phases of the comprehensive regeneration of the estate by providing new social rented homes to assist with rehousing residents from future phases.
- 4.23. In addition the proposals for Phase 4 include a new public square, which will provide a civic hub for the whole of Woodberry Down. The Cultural Strategy, that was submitted as part of the Phase 4 planning application, highlighted the Central Square as being a significant opportunity for the public realm to

reflect the local community and heritage of Woodberry Down through elements designed through a community co-design process.

- 4.24. In economic terms, the proposed redevelopment will deliver a sustainable mix of high quality new properties for outright sale, social rent and shared ownership. The existing properties are very costly to maintain and offer no opportunities for shared ownership. The new affordable homes will be maintained by Notting Hill Genesis, and the properties will be more cost effective for occupiers to heat. The shared ownership/shared equity properties will also provide opportunities for home ownership for existing and local residents who cannot afford to purchase a home outright on the open market. The construction of the development will offer a number of local employment benefits from apprenticeships to work experience placements. Local employment targets will be embedded in the construction contract to ensure the contractor/developer provides these much needed local employment opportunities. Furthermore the new commercial/community floorspace represents opportunities for new local employment.
- 4.25. In social terms, the new development will be of vastly improved design compared to the existing estate and will deliver a mixed and sustainable community. The detailed building designs for the new development will deliver higher quality housing, which is safe and secure, and provides both privacy and defensible space. Buildings will be integrated into the streetscape and safer, more accessible open areas, incorporating play and amenity for all age groups, will be provided. A communal garden with landscaping and play features, will serve all residents of the new blocks, regardless of tenure.
- 4.26. The proposed new development will deliver significant environmental benefits, including high quality, sustainable new housing, using sustainably sourced and recycled materials, alongside well designed public realm. Whilst the new development will be of a higher density than at present, it provides an opportunity to improve the quality of the Estate environment through tree planting, improved landscaping, and substantial cycle parking, creating environmental improvements alongside the social and economic benefits described above. The proposals will also deliver a biodiversity net gain.
- 4.27. The Council has a long and established reputation for large-scale, estate-based regeneration. Over the last two decades it has successfully transformed a number of large, deprived, mono-tenure estates into thriving mixed tenure communities. In addition to Phases 1 and 2 of Woodberry Down, successes include the redeveloped Colville, Holly Street, Haggerston West, Kings Crescent and Tower Court Estates.
- 4.28. The Council holds the freehold of the majority of the Order Land. However of the two hundred properties in Phase 4, fifty six had been acquired on a leasehold basis through the 'Right to Buy' at various locations across the Order Land: at the point when the Council commenced actively seeking to

buy back properties in conjunction with the potential CPO, there were forty one remaining leasehold properties (fifteen having been previously acquired by the Council). The Council seeks to acquire all the necessary interests by private agreement within a reasonable timescale, having already completed or agreed terms on thirteen properties, and with nineteen further offers in negotiation (at the time of writing).

- 4.29. It is recognised that it may not be possible to reach agreement by negotiation in all cases. In such cases the Council will need to exercise its compulsory purchase powers in order to acquire the legal interests of leaseholders and freeholders, as well as any other rights and interests required, together with adjoining roads and any private rights, including the rights of utilities, within the redline boundary of the Order Land as shown on the map. Even if the Order is confirmed, exercising those powers will remain a last resort and negotiations will be ongoing throughout the process.
- 4.30. The Council therefore seeks to make the Order so that it can, if necessary, compulsorily acquire the interests required to enable implementation of the proposed development.
- 4.31. The Council has already successfully acquired a number of leasehold and freehold interests across the estate by negotiation and, on previous phases, by using its powers of compulsory purchase. For the reasons outlined above, failure to acquire the remaining interests in Phase 4 would seriously jeopardise the programme and delivery of the regeneration project. Compulsory purchase powers will enable the regeneration to progress in accordance with a managed programme, providing certainty for site assembly and the implementation of the scheme. This will enable the Council's regeneration objectives for the Order Land and for the wider Borough to be achieved. The use of compulsory purchase powers is therefore considered by the Council to be necessary and justifiably in the public interest.
- 4.32. It is the Council's view that there is a compelling case in the public interest to acquire all of the remaining third party interests in the Order Land.

Re-housing residents

- 4.33. The table below illustrates the position as at December 2023 regarding the re-housing of secure tenants and the acquisition of leasehold properties in Phase 4.

Table 1 – No. of remaining secure tenants and leaseholders as at 31 December 2023:

Block/Property	Secure Tenants	Leaseholders	Voids/ Non-secure	Other

Finmere House	5	9	31	
Keynsham House	7	8	20	
Kilpeck House	1	9	25	
Knaresborough House	9	2	22	1
Leighfield House	5	5	15	
Lonsdale House	3	2	20	
Total	30	35	133	1

- 4.34. Consultation with residents, stakeholders and the wider community has taken place since proposals for the regeneration of Woodberry Down were first reviewed by Cabinet in November 2002. The Council has sought to encourage all residents to participate in consultation regarding the future of Woodberry Down. Consultation has included steering group meetings, surgeries, site visits and other organised events as outlined in the Statement of Reasons found at Appendix 3 of this report. The representative resident group, the Woodberry Down Community Organisation (WDCO), has been involved in all aspects of the regeneration since the beginning of the project, and has an effective and positive working relationship with all partners.

Leaseholders

- 4.35. At Woodberry Down, the original leaseholder and freeholder offer document was approved at Cabinet in July 2007. This included a range of options such as leasehold swap, shared equity and shared ownership. This document has been updated a number of times since then to reflect changes in legislation and minor amendments in Council policy, and to reflect improvements in the shared equity offer.
- 4.36. The most recent update of the Council's Woodberry Down Leaseholder and Freeholder Options Document was issued in Autumn 2022. The revised document provides a detailed 4 step guide to the buy-back process as well as an explanation of the CPO and related compensation. It offers all resident leaseholders opportunities to remain on the estate through the offer of shared equity in one of the properties newly built as part of the regeneration.
- 4.37. Throughout the regeneration programme, leaseholders in Phase 4 have had the opportunity to participate in consultation events and have been provided with regular updates through community events, WDCO Board meetings, Regeneration meetings involving WDCO representatives (such as the Design Committee and Round Table), and newsletters.
- 4.38. In July 2022 the Council's Cabinet authorised preparation of a CPO, buying back of leaseholder properties and awarding compensation to leaseholders.
- 4.39. The Council's Woodberry Down Regeneration Team has provided regular updates alongside specific information sessions since 2022. In June 2022 a

letter was sent to all Phase 4 leaseholders with an update about the likely next steps in relation to a CPO and buying back properties. Further to Cabinet authority to commence these processes, a 'notification letter' was sent in September 2022, to inform leaseholders that the Council was now actively seeking to buy back properties, commence preparation of a CPO, and was able to pay compensation to leaseholders upon completing buy backs. Three information sessions were held during the autumn, with a presentation and opportunity for questions and discussion. The updated Leaseholder and Freeholder Options Document was also provided to all leaseholders.

- 4.40. The offer of shared equity is where a leaseholder who lives in their property as their only or main residence, is eligible to purchase a share of a newly built flat by investing the equity from their current property together with their compensation paid when the Council buys back their property. The remaining value of the new property, since the new flats have a higher market value than the existing ones, is retained by Notting Hill Genesis. However, unlike with shared ownership, there is no rent to pay on the portion of the property that is not owned by the leaseholder. This enables resident leaseholders who may wish to remain living in Woodberry Down to do so. The shared equity offer is set out in detail in the Options Document, and has been subsequently highlighted and explained in communications to leaseholders. Information and marketing sessions were held in July and August 2023: working with NHG, details of the new properties were provided, to enable leaseholders to understand the options available, and next steps.
- 4.41. On 5 October 2023 a further detailed update letter was sent to all leaseholders advising again on timescales and options and explaining the need to engage prior to pursuing the CPO.
- 4.42. Each of the letters sent to leaseholders took the opportunity to include contact details for relevant staff, and promote the services of the Independent Tenant and Leaseholder Adviser (ITLA), which as well as being contactable by telephone and email, holds twice weekly 4 hour long drop-in sessions. In addition, translation of all materials circulated to leaseholders was offered, and was provided in Turkish as standard. A Turkish translator was also present at all information sessions, due to there being a number of resident leaseholders who are known to be Turkish speaking.
- 4.43. Since the commencement of the buyback process - when the 'notification letter' was sent in September 2022 - the Regeneration Team, working with the ITLA and Acquiring Agent, has made contact with all leaseholders. As of October 2023, 6 properties have been bought back, a further 7 have been agreed and are under legal instruction, and 19 offers have been made. The Regeneration Team and Acquiring Agent are actively and frequently reaching out to individuals as part of the engagement programme.

- 4.44. Of the forty one leaseholders at the start of the Phase, thirteen lived in the properties as their sole or main home, and twenty eight were non-resident, often renting their properties privately. Throughout the engagement with leaseholders tailored information has been provided to resident and non-resident leaseholders, and relevant contact details for non-resident leaseholders has been established, through a combination of existing records, active outreach and the land referencing process. Where a non-resident leaseholder has a tenant, it is their responsibility to keep the tenant informed and to serve the relevant notices. However the Council has also provided communications to all residents living in the blocks, and has shared contact details for the Regeneration Team and Housing Services if private tenants have questions or concerns about their housing circumstances.
- 4.45. As described above, in February 2023 all leaseholders received the Request for Information and Equality Impact Assessment pack, including detailed cover letters providing information specific to resident and non-resident leaseholders. The letter of 5 October 2023 noted above also provided an explanation of the IDN, in addition to the detailed update on the progress of the CPO, options and next steps.

Secure Tenants

- 4.46. Secure tenants in Phase 4 were granted Decant Status in February 2022 following Cabinet approval. Decant Status allows tenants who wish to move away from Woodberry Down to bid for properties off the estate. It also increases their priority for rehousing and entitles them to receive Home Loss and Disturbance payments.
- 4.47. The Woodberry Down Regeneration Team, working with the Council's Decant Team, has undertaken a rigorous and detailed consultation process with secure tenants, including seven drop-in sessions from June 2021, pre-allocation confirmation letters, a secure tenant offer document revised in May 2022 and the phasing document referred to in 8.6 hand delivered in autumn 2022. Secure Tenants are offered a range of re-housing options and assistance with moving, including support and advice from the ITLA. All options have now been agreed with a planned September 2024 move programmed for 30 tenants (3 have left the estate by choice). Each Secure Tenant is allocated to a Decant Officer, who provides a regular point of contact and supports individuals through the allocation and rehousing process.
- 4.48. In February 2023 Secure Tenants received the Request for Information and Equality Impact Assessment pack, with a detailed cover letter providing details specific to this tenure. In autumn 2023 an Initial Demolition Notice (IDN) was delivered to individuals, together with a cover letter explaining the IDN and providing a wider update about the regeneration and CPO.

Non-Secure Tenants and Private Tenants

- 4.49. The Council has engaged in extensive consultation with all residents at Woodberry Down. This has included open meetings and surgeries which have been advertised to, and open to, all residents. The ITLA is available to support and advise all private tenants. As above, the phasing booklet was temporarily delivered to all addresses across the estate.
- 4.50. Homeless applicants placed in temporary housing - non-secure tenants - are supported by the Council's Downsizing and Rehousing Team (DART). DART wrote to all residents in Temporary Accommodation in Phase 4, in February 2023, to inform them that the Council is progressing with the regeneration, and that they would be required to move. The letter provided contact details, and information about the process of finding a new home. These residents are eligible to bid for a Council property, and where successful will be given a Secure Tenancy.
- 4.51. In February 2023 residents in Temporary Accommodation and Private Tenants also received the Request for Information and Equality Impact Assessment pack, as described above, including detailed cover letters providing information specific to these groups, including contact details for the Council's Housing Advice. In autumn 2023 a further letter to update residents in Temporary Accommodation about the progress of the CPO and the IDN was provided.
- 4.52. In respect of private tenants, all communications with leaseholders, who let their property, include reference to it being the leaseholder's responsibility to inform private tenant(s) about the CPO and to serve them with the correct notices. Contact details for the Council's Housing Advice team are provided.

Human Rights

- 4.53. The Human Rights Act 1998 places direct obligations on public bodies such as the Council to demonstrate that the use of compulsory purchase powers is in the public interest and the use of such powers is proportionate to the ends being pursued.
- 4.54. It is acknowledged that the compulsory acquisition of the Order Land or the creation of new rights may amount to an interference with the human rights of those with an interest in the Order Land. Rights likely to be impacted include the right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions (Article 1) and the right to respect a person's private and family life, their home and correspondence under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights ("ECHR"). Residents whose rights are affected will also have a right to a fair and public hearing under Article 6.
- 4.55. For the reasons outlined in 4.1 of this Report and the Statement of Reasons, the Council considers that the use of compulsory purchase powers to achieve the regeneration objectives for Phase 4 of Woodberry Down is proportionate to any interference with the above rights. Further, there is a

compelling case in the public interest for the redevelopment and therefore for the compulsory acquisition of the interests within the Order Land.

- 4.56. In respect of Article 6, any owner, lessee or occupier of land included in the Order will be notified and may have the opportunity to make representations to the Secretary of State and to be heard at a Public Inquiry before a decision is made as to whether or not the Order should be confirmed, and would in any event have legal rights under the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 to challenge any CPO made on the relevant statutory grounds.

Withdrawal of Right to Buy / Demolition Notices

- 4.57. Initial Demolition Notices (IDNs) have been served on secure tenants in Phase 4 in accordance with the provisions of Section 138a and Schedule 5a of the Housing Act 1985, as amended by the Housing Act 2004, to prevent the Council from having to complete Right to Buy sales of properties within the Order Land. Schedule 5a sets out what must be included in the IDN, including the intention to demolish, the reasons for demolition, and identifying the period within which the landlord intends to demolish. The period set out in the IDN to carry out the demolition of the relevant properties cannot in any case expire more than five years after the date of the service of the Notice. The Council intends to serve Final Demolition Notices at the appropriate time.

Planning Position

- 4.58. A detailed, standalone Planning Application for Phase 4 was submitted to the Council on 9 October 2023 (2023/2371). A decision is due in Spring 2024.
- 4.59. The masterplan for Woodberry Down is currently being reviewed. The original intention was for a hybrid Planning Application to be submitted, with outline permission for Phases 5 - 8 and detailed permission for Phase 4. However due to programme difficulties and a risk of an overall delay to Phase 4 it was agreed that Phase 4 be separated from the masterplan, to allow sufficient time to be given to the detail of the Phase 4 designs. The masterplan Planning Application is currently out for public consultation, and is due to be submitted in spring 2024.
- 4.60. Whilst Phase 4 stands alone from the masterplan, it is consistent with the design principles established for the new masterplan and is proposed in the context of the overall Woodberry Down regeneration.

Land Referencing

- 4.61. The Order will include all occupiers and all interests that are included within the red line area identified on the Map at Appendix 2. All parties with an interest in the land, including tenants and residents in temporary

accommodation, have been written to as part of the land referencing process that precedes the making of the Order and all names and addresses will be included in the Schedule to the final Order.

Appropriation of Land for Planning Purposes

- 4.62. The Council intends to appropriate the Order Land for planning purposes under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 once it is no longer required for its current purpose. The Order Land will then benefit from the operation of Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016, which overrides existing rights that could prevent the development of the land from proceeding.

5. Details of alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. Vacant possession of the Order Land is required in order for the redevelopment to be delivered. Vacant possession can only be achieved by acquiring the necessary leasehold and freehold interests that exist. The Council has and will continue to attempt to acquire these interests by negotiation, however, this may not be possible in all cases. Where agreement by negotiation is not possible the only other option is to acquire the interests through the exercise of the Council's powers of compulsory purchase.
- 5.2. Refurbishment is not an option as the current condition of the properties is generally poor and any refurbishment would be very expensive but still fall short of modern standards. This is detailed in earlier Cabinet reports, in particular the Cabinet Report of 4 November 2002, where 5 options for the Woodberry Down Estate, including demolition, were first put forward. The Council subsequently concluded that the demolition of the Estate and its replacement with modern residential accommodation, was the best and most cost effective option. This is reflected in the Woodberry Down site allocation in LP33, and further supported by building surveys conducted as part of the Phase 4 planning application.
- 5.3. Doing nothing is not an option as failure to secure vacant possession on Phase 4 would jeopardise the ability to realise the full vision of the Woodberry Down regeneration. Phase 4 is crucial to the overall development, by providing a central civic hub for Woodberry Down, with new shops, public space and services. Furthermore delivery of the remaining phases (Phases 4-8) mean that Council tenants in Phases 6 and 7 in Woodberry Down have an opportunity to move into a new home earlier than would be possible if Phase 4 is not delivered. Therefore, the redevelopment is vital in order to complete the wider programme and realise the associated benefits.

6. **Background**

Policy Context

6.1. Sustainable Community Strategy 2018 - 28

- 6.1.1. Hackney's 'Sustainable Community Strategy 2018 – 2028' sets out a vision for mixed use neighbourhoods which cater to all ages, where residents have access to decent, stable and genuinely affordable housing that meets their needs. The strategy sets out five priority areas, and the regeneration of Woodberry Down, will assist in realising this vision.
- 6.1.2. The first priority creates areas where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life and where the whole community can benefit from growth. The Phase 4 proposals will provide a mix of homes including homes for social rent, shared ownership and shared equity, as well as privately owned homes. This mix provides for a range of needs. A communal garden will be shared amongst all tenures.
- 6.1.3. Priority two relates to enabling businesses and all residents to participate in economic prosperity and community life. The new public square will serve the whole Woodberry Down community, forming a civic hub, with space for shops and/or community space, welcoming to all and supporting the development of a cohesive community. New shops provide an opportunity for local enterprise and employment. Furthermore the construction of Phase 4 will create jobs, training and apprenticeship opportunities for local people, which will allow local residents and businesses to fulfil their potential and enjoy the benefits of increased prosperity.
- 6.1.4. The Sustainable Community Strategy also prioritises environmental sustainability; this is a key part of the Woodberry Down development and further detailed below.
- 6.1.5. The fourth priority of creating an open, cohesive, safer and supportive community will be achieved through the provision of the new square and high quality public realm around the site, together with improved landscaping and integrated opportunities for play.
- 6.1.6. The proposed improvements to the public realm will help create a healthy and safer neighbourhood which is pedestrian, cyclist and child friendly to support the fifth priority relating to promoting healthy and active residents.
- 6.1.7. In addition, the development of the new Woodberry Down masterplan references and strives to meet objectives from a number of Council policies. There is a stream of work to actively engage with young people, ensuring that younger peoples' voices are represented, aligning with the Child Friendly Places policy.

- 6.1.8. To date, the Woodberry Down regeneration has delivered 887 affordable homes, of which 537 are for social rent. Phase 3 is currently on site and will add a further 117 homes for social rent and 126 shared ownership/equity homes at Woodberry Down. The proposals for Phase 4 provide for a further 90 social rent and 132 shared ownership homes. The on-going delivery of homes for social rent and low cost home ownership helps to meet the need for additional affordable housing in the borough.

6.2. Local Plan 33

- 6.2.1. MH1 Woodberry Down is the policy within LP33 that identifies Woodberry Down as a regeneration site. This policy includes principles specific to the site, including creating a mixed and balanced community, supporting and enhancing local ecology, improving connectivity, creating high quality public realm and play space, bringing forward new community and retail facilities and improving the quality of the surroundings. The Phase 4 proposal responds to each aspect of this policy.
- 6.2.2. Phase 4 proposals directly deliver on a number of other policies including within LP33, including LP1 Design Quality and Local Character, LP12 Meeting Housing Needs and Locations for New Homes, LP13 Affordable Housing, LP17 Housing Design, LP54 - 56 dealing with issues of sustainability, including (respectively) Water and Flooding, Overheating and Adapting to Climate Change and Mitigating Climate Change.

6.3. Housing Strategy

- 6.4. In 2018 the Council published its five-year housing strategy, 'Delivering the homes Hackney needs', in which the long-term housing ambitions for Hackney were set out, based on a borough-wide consultation with residents. Building high quality, well-designed and genuinely affordable new homes was one of the key priorities of this strategy. These Phase 4 proposals will deliver on the relevant actions including increasing genuinely affordable housing, sustainable communities and design standards.
- 6.5. Ahead of the new 5-year Housing Strategy being published at the end of 2024, the Council has produced a Housing Strategy Position Paper which re-committed to housing and regeneration aims and set out ambitions for the coming year. One of the key themes of this document was 'Delivering the Homes that Hackney Needs'. These Phase 4 proposals will enable more genuinely affordable housing to be delivered in the borough at a time of critical need.
- 6.6. It will remain a priority to maximise genuinely affordable housing across all tenures and continue delivering well designed homes as the forthcoming strategy is developed next year.

Sustainability and climate change

- 6.7. The regeneration of Woodberry Down will result in a more mixed community, given the mix of new housing being provided, as well as the improved community facilities and shared communal outdoor spaces and public realm.
- 6.8. Specifically in terms of environmental sustainability, a recent (2020) update to the Principal Development Agreement (PDA), which defines the terms of the regeneration brings the sustainability standards of the development in line with national and local policy, through delivering energy efficient buildings which will be connected to the new district heat network, increased biodiversity, high quality public realm with retained and new tree planting, and extensive cycle parking for residents of the blocks.
- 6.9. The high standards of sustainability which are embedded in the Phase 4 application will specifically contribute to the Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP) and are compliant with LP33. The scheme provides a SUDS plan with extensive measures to achieve a water run-off rate equivalent to a greenfield site; construction will include extensive re-use of existing materials and when built the scheme will embed multiple on-site carbon reduction measures including thermally efficient buildings, air source heat pumps (providing 80% of heating for homes) and extensive secure cycle parking for residents. The non-residential space will be built to BREEAM 'excellent' standards, and overall the development will provide a much higher quality local environment with a 15.6% improvement in biodiversity.
- 6.10. A Low Carbon Transition Plan for Woodberry Down has been written, providing a framework for the design of the energy centre being constructed within Phase 3, as well as connections on future phases to low carbon energy sources.

7. Equality impact assessment

- 7.1. The Equality Act 2010 introduced the public sector equality duty. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.2. Before making the Order, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity, and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It must also discharge its duties during the course of the CPO process.
- 7.3. The Council has conducted an Equalities Impact Assessment which is proportionate to the potential impact of the Order on individuals or

communities. The Council has furthered its duty under the Equalities Act 2010 by preparing and considering the results of an Equalities Impact Assessment which considers the impact of the proposals on those with protected characteristics. This can be seen at Appendix 4.

- 7.4. The Council is committed to improving equality and making the Borough a place for everyone. In practice, this means ensuring all actions taken by the Council contribute to its equality objectives. The CPO process for Woodberry Down Phase 4 needs to ensure positive impacts on equality and diversity and safeguard against any negative impacts arising for those affected.
- 7.5. Hackney has a high level of persons with protected characteristics (under the Equalities Act 2010). It also has high levels of deprivation and overcrowding. It is believed that the regeneration of housing estates, which will provide new, improved housing in a better mix of sizes, improved accessibility and social infrastructure, will improve the quality of life of many residents, and will support the Borough in meeting its duty under the Equalities Act 2010. The CPO process, by allowing the Woodberry Down regeneration scheme to move forward, will help to facilitate this.
- 7.6. The Council has met with all secure tenants living in Phase 4 to discuss their personal circumstances and re-housing preferences. Three tenants opted to move to a property in another part of Hackney, and were supported by the Council to do so. The remaining 30 secure tenants have been pre-allocated a new home, in discussion with the tenant, in the newly built Phase 3. The tenants have had the opportunity to participate in selecting their preferred options for various decor of the new home, including tiles, flooring, and kitchen fittings, via the Tenants Choice offer. This process is in accordance with the Woodberry Down Secure Tenants Offer Document.
- 7.7. The Council has taken a similar approach with leaseholders. In September 2022 an updated Leaseholder and Freeholder Options Document was approved by Delegated Authority granted by Cabinet in February 2022. This document offers the options of shared equity and shared ownership for leaseholders living in the Order land that wish to continue living in the neighbourhood and within the same community, as well as support from the Council for all leaseholders affected by the CPO and the buy back process.
- 7.8. The shared equity offer was improved by the Council and the regeneration delivery partners in 2018, by removing the requirement for any minimum equity share to be invested, thereby making it more accessible to all leaseholders.
- 7.9. Engagement and consultation with all tenants and leaseholders impacted by the regeneration has been open and accessible to all. There are a number of elderly and/or vulnerable tenants affected by the redevelopment proposals, and they have been given additional support and advice by the Council's Housing Support Officer at Woodberry Down. As a result of thorough

engagement across a number of Council teams, including Housing Needs, Decants, and Property Services, as well as the services of the Independent Tenant and Leaseholder Adviser, considerable work has been undertaken to ensure all information is disseminated effectively.

- 7.10. The full Equalities Impact Assessment of the Woodberry Down Phase 4 CPO sets out a baseline of information on the existing residents and the local area. It assesses the impacts of the Order on the different groups affected (leaseholders as well as secure, non-secure and private tenants) and whether the Order could produce disadvantage or enhance opportunity for affected groups or individuals with protected characteristics. It then sets out recommendations to remove or reduce disadvantage for those affected and outlines relevant mitigation strategies.

Consultations

- 7.11. Comprehensive and detailed consultation is an integral part of the delivery of Woodberry Down. Residents, stakeholders and all parties with an interest in the Order Land have been notified of the intention to commence the CPO process.
- 7.12. As part of the wider regeneration programme, Phase 4 has been the subject of regular updates at the WDCO Board meeting, as well as Round Table meetings with the scheme partners. Designs have been developed in close discussion with the Design Committee, which involves Berkeley Homes, the Council, Notting Hill Genesis and six members of WDCO. There have also been numerous consultation events held with residents throughout the regeneration programme.
- 7.13. Since the beginning of the regeneration, WDCO has been involved in all aspects of the regeneration. WDCO was involved with the development of the 2014 masterplan, and supported it, and is closely involved with the development of the new masterplan proposals through the Design Committee.
- 7.14. WDCO receives regular updates about the progression of the CPO and vacant possession. Residents in Phase 4 will be updated on the proposed CPO process through the WDCO Board meetings and the Round Table, as well as direct contact from the Regeneration, Decant and Downsizing and Rehousing Teams, working in coordination. Drop-in and information sessions have also been made available to residents.
- 7.15. In February 2023 a Request for Information pack was sent to all who have an interest in Phase 4, including residents of all tenures as well as non-resident leaseholders. A weekly drop-in over a month was available for anyone who needed support in completing the forms, or to ask questions, as well as contact details for Ardent, who were running the RfI exercise, relevant Council teams, and the ITLA.

- 7.16. The principal mechanisms for notifying residents about the CPO process have been through written communications and through the ongoing individual rehousing consultations and purchase negotiations with tenants and leaseholders respectively. The Council has emphasised that its objective will always be to reach agreement by negotiation wherever possible and that the Council's powers of compulsory purchase will only be used as a last resort.
- 7.17. Further detail regarding the consultation process can be found in the Statement of Reasons in Section 8.

Risk assessment

- 7.18. The Council's powers of compulsory purchase are in themselves an important risk management tool. The authority to use these powers ensures that where negotiations to buy back leasehold interests by agreement have been unsuccessful, the Council can achieve vacant possession in a timely manner and avoid the risk of delay in delivering the Woodberry Down regeneration scheme. Such a delay would have financial and resource implications as well as having a negative impact on the residents of the Estate.
- 7.19. The exercise of CPO powers can be controversial and the Council is managing the potential risk through continued consultation and engagement with affected residents and stakeholders and by taking independent professional advice.

8. Comments of the Interim Group Director, Finance

- 8.1. This report requests authorisation to make a compulsory purchase order for Woodberry Down Phase 4. These properties need to be demolished as part of the Woodberry Down regeneration project. CPO powers will only be used should it not be possible to reach a negotiated settlement.
- 8.2. In total, when Cabinet authorised making Phase 4 'in Phase' and progressing a CPO, there were 41 leasehold buybacks required. As of 1st December 2023, 35 repurchases remain outstanding. The HRA Capital Programme and Business Plan includes the cost of these repurchases and the Council's development cash flow and budget to deliver this phase. The budget includes provision for acquisition of the necessary interests including the making of a CPO.
- 8.3. As set out in sections 1.5 and 9.8.3 Berkeley Homes signed an agreement with the Council in March 2023 to indemnify costs incurred by the Council in connection with the Order, subject to certain conditions being met.
- 8.4. The making of the CPO will require some professional assistance which has been the subject of a procurement, and some legal costs. In total these costs

are not expected to exceed £300,000 and can be met within the approved capital budget.

- 8.5. A delay to the scheme would result in additional cost and the making of a CPO is intended to reduce the risk of any delay to the acquisition of necessary interests.
- 8.6. There are risks in relation to the project as a whole which are common to all large building projects and have been set out in previous reports. The specific risk in relation to making a CPO is that it may be challenged and therefore the reasons and legal background must be carefully prepared.

9. **Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

9.1. **Making a Compulsory Purchase Order (“CPO”)**

- 9.1.1. The making of a CPO under S.226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 pursuant to the Mayor Scheme of Delegation is a decision to be made by the Mayor and Cabinet
- 9.1.2. Assembling the land for Phase 4 of the regeneration of Woodberry Down includes the land shown on the Map and the land is known as the Order Land.
- 9.1.3. Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enables a local authority to exercise its compulsory purchase powers:
 - i. if it considers that acquiring the land in question will facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment, or improvement on, or in relation to, the land being acquired (S.226(1)(a)); and
 - ii. provided that it considers that the proposed development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to achieving the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area (S.226(1A)). Cabinet must therefore be satisfied on both counts.
- 9.1.4. The Council is proposing to make the Order for the purpose of facilitating the comprehensive continued redevelopment and regeneration of Woodberry Down.

9.2. **Confirmation of a Compulsory Purchase Order**

- 9.2.1. If Cabinet resolves to make the Order, the Order must be submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation, notified to those persons affected by it, and advertised in the local press.

9.2.2. The Council cannot exercise its compulsory purchase powers until such time as the Order has been confirmed by the Secretary of State.

9.2.3. Following confirmation of a CPO the Council has three years within which to exercise its CPO powers.

9.3. Compensation

9.3.1. It may be possible for the Council to acquire all the legal interests set out in Section 4.2 by negotiation before or after the Secretary of State decides whether or not to confirm the Order. Where the Council uses its compulsory purchase powers to acquire any of the legal interests, compensation will be payable. Compensation may be negotiated between the Council and the party from whom the interest is acquired, but in the event of no settlement being agreed then either party may refer a compensation claim to the Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal in order for it to rule on the level of compensation due.

9.3.2. Compensation costs have been included in the budget as noted in 8.2 above.

9.4. Duty to re-house

9.4.1. Section 39 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 places an obligation on the Council to re-house any resident who is displaced from their home by the Council exercising its compulsory purchase powers if no suitable alternative residential accommodation on reasonable terms is available.

9.4.2. The Council has and intends to continue to work closely with all of the residents of the blocks/properties affected to identify suitable alternative accommodation for them. This should reduce the likelihood of a resident being unable to find suitable alternative accommodation on reasonable terms.

9.4.3. If, however, a situation does arise that a resident is unable to find suitable alternative residential accommodation on reasonable terms then case law has held that providing temporary accommodation and placing a person's name on the housing list would be sufficient to discharge the obligation to re-house placed on the Council by Section 39 of the Land Compensation Act 1973.

9.5. Human Rights

9.5.1. The Human Rights Act 1998 incorporated into domestic law the European Convention on Human Rights ("the Convention"). Specific rights protected by the Convention include, amongst others:

- the right of everyone to the peaceful enjoyment of their possessions, which can only be impinged upon in the public interest and subject to relevant national and international laws;
- the right to a fair and public hearing for those affected by the making of a CPO, including those whose property rights are affected by the same; and
- the right to a private and family life, home and correspondence, which again can only be impinged upon in accordance with law and where such encroachment is necessary in the interest of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country.

The above rights would be affected by the use of compulsory purchase powers to acquire land and interests for the purpose of regenerating of Woodberry Down. However, the European Court has recognised that "regard must be had to the fair balance that has to be struck between competing interests of the individual and of the community as a whole". Any interference with a Convention right must be necessary and proportionate.

9.5.2. In light of the significant public benefit which would arise from the regeneration of Woodberry Down, and the fact that the known owners and occupiers of the Order Land within the site have been contacted regarding the regeneration and will, should their land be compulsorily acquired, qualify for compensation under the compensation code, the Council has concluded that it would be appropriate to make the Order. It does not regard the Order as constituting an unlawful interference with any individuals' rights under the Convention, including in particular any property rights.

9.5.3. The Council is of the view that there is a compelling case in the public interest that the provision of new residential accommodation and the associated benefits of the scheme outweigh the impact on any private interests in the Order Land. It also believes that the use of compulsory purchase powers to achieve its regeneration objectives for Woodberry Down and the Borough more widely are proportionate to any potential interference with human rights.

9.6. Overriding Existing Rights

9.6.1. Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 authorises the erection, construction or maintenance of any building or work on land which has been acquired or appropriated by a local authority for planning purposes if it is done in accordance with planning permission, even if it involves interference with an existing interest or right.

9.6.2. The effect of this Section is to ensure that where land is owned by a local authority and held for planning purposes then existing rights, which could prevent the development of that land from proceeding, can be overridden. Compensation may be claimable in respect of such rights when they are overridden.

- 9.6.3. The statutory provision has effect whether the development is undertaken by the local authority or a person deriving title from them. Accordingly, the Council's development partner will benefit from the operation of Section 203 as well.

9.7. Appropriation of Land for Planning Purposes

- 9.7.1. In order for Section 203 to apply to all of the land required for Phase 4 of the regeneration of Woodberry Down, the land must be held for planning purposes. It will therefore be necessary to appropriate the Council's freehold interest in Phase 4 for planning purposes under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 before the construction of the new development commences. The appropriation for planning purposes will be referred to Cabinet to resolve.

9.8. Principal Development Agreement (PDA)

- 9.8.1. The PDA entered into on the 28 May 2010 between the Council, Berkeley Homes (North East London) Limited and Paddington Churches Housing Association, as amended by a First Deed of Variation made 28 February 2011, a Second Deed of Variation made 12 November 2014, a Third Deed of Variation made 13 November 2017 and a Fourth Deed of Variation made 4 December 2020 made between the same parties, obligates Berkeley Homes to provide an indemnity for the costs incurred by the Council in connection with a CPO, once a trigger date has been reached.
- 9.8.2. Under the terms of the PDA, the Council enters into a CPO Indemnity Agreement (CPOIA) further to planning consent being achieved and a successful (or waived) post-planning viability test (an agreed form of the CPOIA is included in Schedule 7 of the PDA). This trigger point is expected to be reached in spring 2024. However Berkeley Homes are targeting an start on site for Phase 4, which would require the Council to achieve Vacant Possession by June 2025.
- 9.8.3. As this would not allow sufficient time to achieve all of the leaseholder properties, the Council and Berkeley Homes therefore agreed to enter into a variation to the agreed form of the CPOIA for Phase 4 which allowed the programme for vacant possession to be brought forward.
- 9.8.4. However, Berkeley Homes is not required to repay the CPO costs to the Council until the Plot Unconditional Date for Plot 4 has been reached (i.e. for Phase 4), which is when the latest of the following has taken place:
- (a) a Satisfactory Planning Permission has been granted;
 - (b) the Title Condition has been satisfied for that Phase;
 - (c) Vacant Possession has been secured for that Phase; and

- (d) the Post Planning Viability Test for the relevant Phase showing that the Phase is Financially Viable or is deemed viable in accordance with the terms of the agreement has been carried out

Appendices

Appendix 2: draft map showing the Order Lands

Appendix 3: Statement of Reasons

Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessment report

Exempt

Appendix 1: draft CPO Order and Schedule

By Virtue of Paragraph(s) (1) and (2) Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government 1972 this appendix is exempt because it contains information relating to an individual and information which is likely to reveal the identity of individual and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Background documents

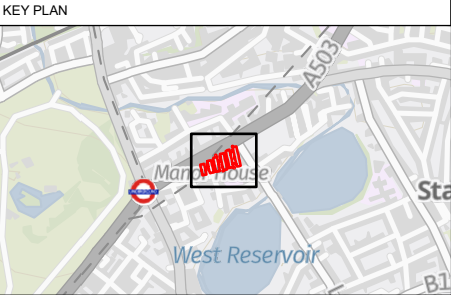
None

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THE COMMON SEAL OF THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF
THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY WAS HEREUNTO
AFFIXED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

(AUTHORISED SIGNATORY)

DATED THISDAY OF2023



- KEY
- CPO Boundary
 - CPO Plots

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Client

Hackney

Designer

Ardent

Project

WOODBERRY DOWN PHASE 4

Drawing Title

MAP REFERRED TO IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF
HACKNEY (WOODBERRY DOWN PHASE 4)
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2023
SHEET 1 OF 1

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY
(WOODBERRY DOWN PHASE 4)
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2024

STATEMENT OF REASONS

London Borough of Hackney, Town Hall, Mare Street,
London, E8 1AE

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The London Borough of Hackney ("the Council") has made the London Borough of Hackney (Woodberry Down Phase 4) Compulsory Purchase Order 2024 ("the Order") pursuant to a resolution by the Council's Cabinet on 26th February 2024.
- 1.2 This is the Statement of Reasons of the Council in support of the Order. The Order has been made pursuant to Section 226(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) ("the 1990 Act"). In this Statement of Reasons, the land included within the Order is referred to as "the Order Land". The Order Land is shown shaded pink on the plan attached to this Statement of Reasons as Appendix 1.
- 1.3 This Statement of Reasons has been prepared in accordance with the "Guidance on Compulsory Purchase Process and the Criche Down Rules (July 2019) ("the CPO Guidance"). It sets out the reasons why the powers of compulsory purchase contained in the Order are considered necessary and confirms the basis on which the Council believes there to be a compelling case in the public interest for the making of the Order.
- 1.4 The Council is satisfied that the proposed acquisition of the Order Land will facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment or improvement on or in relation to the Order Land. In considering whether to exercise its powers to make the Order, the Council has, as is required, had regard to Section 226(1A) of the 1990 Act and considers that the proposed redevelopment will promote and/or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Council's administrative area.
- 1.5 Woodberry Down is a large housing estate, predominantly owned by the Council, which is located in the northeast of the London Borough of Hackney ("the Borough").
- 1.6 The primary purpose of the Order is to facilitate the continuation of the comprehensive redevelopment and regeneration of the Woodberry Down Estate ("the Estate"). The Council considers that the proposed redevelopment will result in social, economic and environmental improvements to the Estate and the Borough. It will also secure new private and affordable housing in place of that proposed to be removed, thus securing both quantitative and qualitative improvements to the housing available in the Borough. The Secretary of State confirmed CPOs for Phases 1 (2007), 2 (2014) and 3 (2019), facilitating the successful regeneration of these phases.
- 1.7 The Council has entered into an agreement with Berkeley Homes (North East London) Limited ("Berkeley") and a social housing provider, Notting Hill Genesis ("NHG"), to undertake the regeneration of the Estate, which is to be delivered in eight phases. Phases 1 and 2 have been completed and construction work is underway in relation to Phase 3 of the development.
- 1.8 The Council is now seeking to secure clean title and vacant possession of the Order Land in order to implement Phase 4 of the redevelopment.
- 1.9 The majority of the land in Phase 4 is in urgent need of redevelopment due to the poor standard of the housing blocks currently sited on it.
- 1.10 Although the Council owns the freehold interest in the majority of the Order Land, the implementation of the redevelopment proposals requires the acquisition of all property interests currently owned by third parties, including a number of leasehold interests.
- 1.11 The Council has and will continue to take steps to consult and negotiate with third party owners to acquire their interests by agreement, but it is clear that compulsory purchase

powers must be employed to ensure that Phase 4 of the redevelopment can be achieved within a reasonable timeframe, or at all.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ORDER LAND

- 2.1 The Order Land forms part of the Woodberry Down Estate, which is located in the north-west of the Borough, approximately 4 miles north of the City of London.
- 2.2 The Estate was built as a landmark project by the London County Council from the 1940s through to the 1970s. It comprises approximately 24 hectares of developed land, with 60 residential blocks of up to 7 storeys and four 10 storey blocks, some of which have now been replaced by the regeneration. The Estate also comprises two schools, together with open space. It is bisected by two main roads, the A503 Seven Sisters Road and Woodberry Grove.
- 2.3 The Order Land is located in the central part of the Estate. It is bounded to the north by Seven Sisters Road, to the east by Woodberry Grove, to the south by Woodberry Down and to the west by St Olave's Church, yard and associated buildings.
- 2.4 The Order Land comprises six five storey residential blocks – Finmere House, Keynsham House, Kilpeck House, Knaresborough House, Leighfield House and Lonsdale House. The current condition of the properties is generally poor and any refurbishment would be very expensive but still fall short of modern standards.
- 2.5 The red line boundary of the CPO has been drawn around the relevant buildings to ensure that relevant interests in land are acquired. The amenity space surrounding the buildings will be appropriated and the rights in land overridden using the council's powers under s122 Local Government Act 1972 and s203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016. This will ensure that the development can be delivered.

3 OWNERSHIP OF THE ORDER LAND

- 3.1 The Council owns the freehold of the Order Land.
- 3.2 Of the 200 residential properties included in the Order, 56 were acquired by residents through the Right to Buy scheme. To date 21 of these leasehold interests have been successfully re-acquired by the Council by negotiation, leaving 35 leasehold interests that need to be acquired to enable the comprehensive regeneration of this part of the Estate. Of the remaining residential properties, 131 are owned and managed by the Council – 30 are occupied by secure Council tenants and 108 are occupied as temporary accommodation. There are 25 void properties.
- 3.3 The Council also wishes to acquire all private rights, covenants and other qualifying interests by which the Order Land is burdened, details of which are recorded in the Schedule to the Order. The CPO will ensure that all third-party interests can be overridden, thereby ensuring that there are no impediments to the delivery of the Phase 4 development.

4 BACKGROUND TO THE MAKING OF THE ORDER

Housing in Hackney and socio-economic considerations

- 4.1 Hackney is one of the most densely populated local authority areas in the United Kingdom and has experienced dramatic household growth over recent decades. The Private Rented Sector accounts for 32% of all homes across the borough and social rented sector 43%.
- 4.2 The Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2023 (SHMA 2023), commissioned by Hackney Council to inform an updated Housing Strategy shows that there are 119,090 dwellings and

106,087 households across the borough as of 2022. Most dwellings are flats (83.8%), 15.9% are houses and 0.2% are bungalows. 24.6% of households are owner occupiers, 32.4% privately rent and 43.0% live in social rented housing from a council or housing association (with around 95% social rented and 5% affordable rented). In the same report, the poor condition or quality of existing homes in Hackney was considered as one of the top 5 challenges facing Hackney. 55% of residents considered building new council and housing association homes for social rent to be "important" or "very important". 88% prioritised housing those on the waiting list as "important" or "very important".

- 4.3 The London Plan 2021 sets out the overall dwelling target for Hackney which is 13,280 over the period 2019/2020 to 2028/29 or 1,328 each year (rounded to 1,330). There is a considerable annual net shortfall of affordable housing of 1,780 each year (SHMA 2023). The need for new housing of all tenures is extensively documented. For December 2022, the DLUHC recorded 8,235 households on Hackney's waiting list (Source: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/households-local-authority-waiting-list-borough>). Whilst the Housing Delivery Test has not been updated by DLUHC since the 2021 measurement, the database from the London Plan indicates that Hackney is falling short of its annualised target, with 5,312 homes required between 2019-2023 but only 3,264 homes delivered over this period (delivery rate of 61.5% (Source: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/residential-completions-v-london-plan-2021-target>)). It is also known that the 2021 measurement was adjusted to reflect the impact of Covid-19 on housing delivery, but prior to this the Council had been required under the 2020 measurement to provide an Action Plan under the NPPF as only 90% of the Council's housing delivery had been achieved. In two recent planning appeals it was also noted by the Planning Inspectorate that the Council had a housing delivery shortage (case references: APP/U5360/W/21/3274580 and APP/U5360/W/22/3298787).
- 4.4 The total number of households is expected to increase by around 20,262 over the period 2022-2039 using 2018-based ONS household projections. Growth is mainly expected across older age cohorts. The last officially endorsed annual dwelling target for Hackney was the 2021 London Plan figure of 1,328. Based on the standard methodology and 2022 affordability ratios, the minimum local housing need for Hackney for the period 2023 to 2033 is 2,514 dwellings each year - this is almost double the London Plan target. A detailed analysis of affordable housing need, in accordance with PPG, established an overall gross affordable need of 3,342 and after taking into account affordable lettings and newbuild the net shortfall is 1,780 each year. Ultimately, the council should view the 1,328 annual target as a minimum and seek to maximise delivery wherever possible and specifically deliver more affordable housing to help address the acute shortage experienced in Hackney. Hackney already has a severe need for more genuinely affordable housing, with over 8,500 households waiting for social housing on the Council's housing register, and over 3,000 households living in temporary accommodation.
- 4.5 Hackney has experienced a huge amount of change over the last 15 years; council services have improved, and the borough's population has increased by a third. Better schools, cleaner and greener open spaces, and much improved transport links mean that Hackney is now a highly desirable place to live. However, house prices in Hackney have risen faster than in many other parts of London. Since 2000, median prices have increased by 344%, compared with 310% across inner-London, 270% across Greater London and 217% across England. In 2022, median rents were £2,102 per month, having increased 49.3% since 2010 compared with 46.6% across Inner London, 38.5% across Greater London and 34.4% across England. As a result, many of Hackney's residents have been priced out of the market, creating a growing polarisation between those on low incomes, mostly living in social rented housing, and high earners who can afford to buy property on the open market. There is an increasing affordability gap for moderate earners who cannot access a home on the open market. This presents an on-going challenge to the creation of sustainable, cohesive

communities in the Borough. As Hackney becomes increasingly popular as a place to live, with greater opportunity and prosperity, the Council must plan and address the Borough's requirements for a range of high-quality housing to suit all income groups and meet the needs of a changing and diverse community.

- 4.6 Housing has a vital role to play in shaping places and neighbourhood identity, allowing people from all sections of the community to thrive, prosper and realise their ambitions at every stage in their lives. Housing in Hackney should be responsive to the needs and support the requirements of the Borough's most vulnerable residents and contribute to social, environmental and economic well-being. It should also act as a catalyst that will continue to help attract new investment and skilled and professional workers to the Borough. It is critical that housing in Hackney is designed, built, maintained and managed to high standards, is energy efficient and sustainable, and is set in attractive, environmentally friendly neighbourhoods, with good transport connections to employment opportunities, social infrastructure and high-quality public amenities.
- 4.7 Giving residents access to a range of housing opportunities that help meet their needs and aspirations is essential to local economic growth and to maintaining high levels of community cohesion. Opportunities include social housing and private rented housing available to those on low incomes, and homes available to the mid-market to help meet the home ownership aspirations of a skilled workforce. The Council's regeneration programme has a key role to play in this through the creation of new mixed tenure communities with new homes for social rent, shared ownership/shared equity and outright sale.
- 4.8 It is against this overall economic, social and environmental background that the regeneration of the Estate is being promoted. The scheme's housing mix will address local housing need for existing residents. 43% of the proposed 511 units will be affordable, with 59% of the affordable units being for shared ownership, and 41% for social rent. This tenure split is in accordance with the London Plan. Across the tenures, 90% (460) of the new homes will be wheelchair adaptable and 10% (51) built to fully wheelchair accessible standards. In addition to the new homes, Phase 4 will include a new public square, together with 1,215 sqm new community and commercial floorspace, to form a new 'civic' centre and focus for Woodberry Down. All homes will be connected to the new energy centre, currently in construction in Phase 3. This will deliver a district heating network and assist in providing more efficient energy and heat for the new homes, which will have thermally efficient walls, windows and roofs that reduce energy demand and the risk of fuel poverty. The regeneration of Woodberry Down has already delivered a new community centre and library, a new secondary school, improvements to the existing primary school, and new retail and commercial space alongside the provision of three new parks and improved public realm; all of this will help to create a more sustainable environment on the Estate. A package of contributions to social, community and transport facilities and to open space has been negotiated as part of the Section 106 Agreements linked to the planning permissions for the regeneration, and these will also help in improving the sustainability of the Estate.

The regeneration of Woodberry Down

- 4.9 The Council's purpose in seeking to acquire the Order Land is to undertake the fourth phase of the multi-phase comprehensive regeneration of Woodberry Down.
- 4.10 Phases 1 and 2 have been completed and provide over 2,300 new homes, community facilities, including a new community centre, green spaces and a new public park, Spring Park, as well as the opening of the Woodberry Wetlands. Phase 3 is currently under construction and will deliver a further 584 new homes, including 117 homes for social rent and 126 for shared ownership, together with a new public park of 6,621 sqm, and 1,045 sqm

commercial and community space. Phase 3 also includes a new energy centre which will eventually serve the whole of Woodberry Down.

- 4.11 Woodberry Down forms part of the Council's wider regeneration objectives for the Borough. It is a key project for the Council and will help meet the Council's central objectives of improving the design, quality and condition of existing homes on the Council's estates as well as, over time, delivering extra homes at higher densities. Crucially it will also meet wider objectives for neighbourhood renewal such as improving opportunities and quality of life, promoting social inclusion, and reducing inequality.
- 4.12 The Masterplan approved in 2014 set out that the redevelopment of the wider Woodberry Down Estate will deliver over 5,500 new homes, new retail and commercial facilities, a new community centre, a new energy centre, and new improved amenity space and public realm. The Masterplan also established the phasing, and sequence of development, providing a framework for delivering increased numbers of homes, optimising the use of the land, and enabling the renewal of an existing housing estate which has deteriorated, is costly to run due to energy inefficiencies, and where adequate refurbishment of homes would be expensive and not cost effective. It provided for re-configured and improved amenity space and together with significant improvements to the public realm including opening up access to the nearby reservoirs.
- 4.13 In 2021 it was agreed by the regeneration delivery partners, Berkeley Homes, NHG and Hackney Council, that a revised masterplan is required, to reflect changes in planning policy since 2014. This review is underway, with an application due to be submitted in 2024. However, given the need to progress with the regeneration programme and meet the pressing need to deliver new and improved housing for the people of Hackney, it was simultaneously agreed by the delivery partners to submit Phase 4 whilst the new Masterplan (for Phases 5-8) is in preparation, although ensuring that the application for Phase 4 reflects the ambitions anticipated for the new Masterplan. The phasing of future plots will remain the same for the new Masterplan.

Surveys of stock condition and the decision to comprehensively regenerate the estate

- 4.14 Regeneration proposals for the Estate first emerged in 1999, after a structural survey that was carried out in 1998 identified major structural defects in the properties on the Estate and found that many of the blocks were in a poor structural condition. The structural defects included large cracks of up to 20mm width, some of which rose from ground level up to the full height of the block. The report concluded that major repairs were required for many of the blocks.
- 4.15 Given the poor condition of the Estate highlighted by the 1998 structural evaluation report, the Council decided to authorise a further survey of the Estate and the preparation of feasibility studies relating to its potential regeneration.
- 4.16 In 2002 the Council commissioned engineers Waterman HDC Limited to undertake a second structural evaluation report (the "2002 Stock Condition report").
- 4.17 The 2002 Stock Condition report revealed a wide range of chronic defects across the whole Estate, including:
 - 4.17.1 The majority of homes across the Estate have metal windows, giving rise to condensation and poor thermal performance;
 - 4.17.2 The insulation of the blocks is generally poor causing the homes to be expensive to heat;

- 4.17.3 The Estate's drainage system was not designed to cope with current discharge rates and has degenerated to the extent that it is beyond repair and needs replacing;
- 4.17.4 Disabled access to the blocks is poor and below the standards required by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (the "DDA"). All of the blocks have lifts and they are in a state of disrepair. The internal layout of the flats is such that it is very difficult to adapt and reconfigure them to meet the DDA standards;
- 4.17.5 Less than 10% of blocks have secure entry systems, which presents a constant security concern;
- 4.17.6 Many of the balconies are in poor condition. Since the date of the report some have had to be removed for safety reasons.
- 4.18 The 2002 Stock Condition report recommended that, although physical repairs remained possible in theory, it would not be economical to do so because such refurbishment would incur repair costs of over £50,000 per unit.
- 4.19 During 2002 the Council appointed consultants Broadway Malyan to provide advice in relation to the options available for the regeneration of the Estate.
- 4.20 Broadway Malyan initially prepared cost options. These were consulted upon with the Estate Development Committee ("EDC") (now known as and referred to hereinafter as the Woodberry Down Community Organisation ("WDCO")). WDCO is a voluntary organisation whose membership comprises representatives of residents from all tenures on the Estate, including social rent, shared ownership and private housing.
- 4.21 Following consultation with WDCO and further investigation by the Council's Woodberry Down Regeneration Team, the options that were initially identified by Broadway Malyan evolved into five main proposals, which ranged between refurbishing some or all of the properties to the complete redevelopment of the Estate.
- 4.22 The five proposals were first reported to Cabinet on 4 November 2002 and the Council subsequently concluded that the demolition of the Estate and its replacement with modern residential accommodation, compliant with current regulations and policies, was the best and most cost-effective option.
- 4.23 Since November 2002 the redevelopment option has evolved following consultation with stakeholders, as set out further on in this Statement.

Planning policy and proposals

- 4.24 The above process culminated in the preparation of an Area Action Plan ("AAP"), which was subject to consultation and adopted by the Council in 2004. The AAP was subsequently translated into an Urban Design Framework ("UDF"), and again consulted on and adopted by the Council in 2005.
- 4.25 During 2005 and 2006, the Council commissioned work to translate the UDF into a comprehensive Masterplan. This served as the basis for an outline planning application submitted by the Council's appointed development partner, Berkeley Homes (North East London) Limited ("Berkeley"), in March 2007.
- 4.26 Outline planning permission was secured for comprehensive regeneration of the estate in 2009. This provided for 4,684 new homes, a range of non-residential uses, including community uses, and new open space across five phases of development. A further outline

planning permission for the redevelopment of the Estate was granted in 2014, revising the proposals for the regeneration of the Estate over 8 phases and increasing the number of new homes to over 5,500. A revised masterplan for the remaining Phases 5 - 8 is currently in development, with an application due to be submitted in Spring 2024. The revised masterplan will retain the core principles of the 2014 Masterplan but seek to increase the quantum of housing, provide additional publicly accessible open space, retain more trees, and further optimise the use of land. Further details relating to the planning position are provided in Section 10 of this Statement.

- 4.27 As the blocks in the remaining phases of the regeneration, including those in the Order land, remain occupied by Council tenants, leaseholders and residents placed by the Council in temporary accommodation, the Council continues to carry out condition surveys and a programme of proactive and reactive repairs. The Council has invested in improvements including new doors, windows and a programme of new kitchens and bathrooms. It continues to ensure that homes are maintained in accordance with its standard housing management practice and is committed to delivering quality and responsive services to all residents on the Estate. This includes maintaining and repairing lighting, heating and ventilation, lifts, plumbing, power supplies and energy management systems, and security and safety systems, drains, guttering, external pipes, and installations for the supply of water, gas, electricity and sanitation. In addition to this on-going maintenance, the Council continues to invest significant resources into bringing void properties on the Estate back into use to meet the extreme need for temporary accommodation for homeless people in the borough. Furthermore, the Council continues to provide a full range of estate services including communal cleaning and grounds maintenance.

Woodberry Down – Phase 4

- 4.28 In common with many estates across Hackney, the properties within the Order Land were constructed in a different era, catering for different social needs, and using different building technologies and standards. Since its construction there has generally been a gradual deterioration in the condition of the blocks on the Estate and for a number of years it has been widely recognised that the Estate is in need of significant redevelopment.
- 4.29 The existing blocks within the Order Land suffer from significant fabric failures. Calford Seaden were instructed to undertake a building survey report of Phase 4 in Autumn 2022 and identified a number of issues including damp, damaged brickwork and pipes, possible corrosion to encased steelwork and, specifically in Finmere House, horizontal and vertical cracks.
- 4.30 The on-going maintenance of the existing properties is not a sustainable, long-term solution for the Estate, given its deteriorating condition and the costs involved in bringing the properties up to modern day standard.

5 ENABLING POWERS

- 5.1 The Council is the local planning authority for the Order Land.
- 5.2 Section 226 of the 1990 Act enables a local authority to acquire land for planning purposes. Specifically, Section 226(1) (a) of the 1990 Act authorises a local authority to exercise its compulsory purchase powers if it thinks that acquiring the land in question will facilitate the carrying out of the development, redevelopment, or improvement on, or in relation to, the land being acquired.
- 5.3 Section 226(1A) of the 1990 Act prevents a local authority from exercising its powers under Section 226(1) unless the local authority thinks that the proposed development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to the achievement of any one or more

of the following objects: the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area.

- 5.4 The Council is satisfied that the proposed use of compulsory purchase powers will result in the redevelopment of the Order Land in a manner which will bring about social, economic and environmental improvements through the provision of new residential dwellings and ancillary development. It will secure new outright sale and affordable housing in place of poor-quality housing, thus securing both quantitative and qualitative improvements to the housing stock within the Borough.
- 5.5 The Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) sets out the process for compulsory purchase and therefore applies to the Order. The acquiring authority is the Council.
- 5.6 The CPO Guidance recognises that the power in Section 226 of the 1990 Act provides a positive tool to help local authorities with planning powers to assemble land and implement proposals in their local plan or where suitable planning justification for the use of the power exists.
- 5.7 The CPO Guidance provides general policy guidance on the matters that will be taken into account by the Secretary of State when assessing the merits of a CPO.
- 5.8 In addition to the general parts of the CPO Guidance, Tier 2 para 106 of the CPO Guidance sets out the factors the Secretary of State can be expected to consider in deciding whether or not to confirm an order under Section 226 (1)(a) as follows:
- a) Whether the purpose for which the land is acquired fits in with the adopted planning framework for the area – See Section 10;
 - b) The extent to which the purpose for which the land is being acquired will contribute to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area – see Section 11;
 - c) Whether the purpose for which the Acquiring Authority is proposing to acquire the land could be achieved by any other means – see Sections 4 and 9; and
 - d) The potential financial viability of the scheme – see Section 12.

6 THE SCHEME

- 6.1 The Council is seeking to acquire the Order Land to deliver Phase 4 of the redevelopment of the Estate. The project for the redevelopment of the Estate overall is referred to as the Scheme. This is explained further in Section 7 below. The Order will therefore facilitate one phase of a larger Scheme which is already underway.
- 6.2 Phase 4 will secure the delivery of new market and affordable residential properties, and commercial or community floor space (Use Class E(a, b c)/Use Class F1) together with public realm, landscaping, play space, servicing facilities, car and cycle parking, plant space and associated works.
- 6.3 The planning position is explained in more detail in Section 10 below.

7 THE REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTATE

- 7.1 Phases 1 and 2 have been completed and provide over 2,300 new homes (including 887 affordable homes of which 537 are for social rent), community facilities and green spaces, as well as the opening of the Woodberry Wetlands. Phase 3 is currently under construction and will deliver a further 584 new homes, an energy centre and park. Of the new homes in Phase

3, 117 are for social rent, 126 intermediate, and 341 for private sale. Construction of Phase 3 will be completed by Summer 2025.

- 7.2 The proposed scheme for Phase 4 will provide 511 homes, of which 90 will be for social rent and 132 for affordable ownership - a total of 41% affordable homes. Sited at the centre of the estate, the scheme also includes a new public square with adjacent commercial/community floorspace of 1,215sqm which will serve the whole of Woodberry Down and form a new civic hub for the development. New high quality, landscaped public realm around the Phase 4 site totals 4,273.5sqm including the new square, a pocket park, and a 'mews gardens' pedestrian route connecting Seven Sisters Road with Woodberry Down, enhancing permeability and allowing for 'play on the way' landscaping.
- 7.3 The regeneration is being delivered by Berkeley Homes, in partnership with the Council, NHG, and the residents of Woodberry Down. There is a high level of consultation and collaborative design of the scheme. In particular, in connection with the Phase 4 proposals, a Cultural Strategy was prepared as part of the planning application. This was developed following community engagement, and identifies a number of opportunities for the public realm around Phase 4 to embed features which reflect the community and highlight the heritage of Woodberry Down through community-engaged, co-design (for example a wall mural, bespoke elements in the public realm, landscaping inspired by the heritage of Woodberry Down). Funding has recently been secured for the Council to appoint a Cultural Development Officer to support the development of these proposals.
- 7.4 In addition Berkeley Homes, in collaboration with the delivery partners, is developing a Ground Floor Strategy to ensure that non-residential uses across Woodberry Down are coordinated and offer the range of services, activities and spaces to meet that the community needs, and that are accessible for all, and sustainable. The strategy is being developed in consultation with WDCO and will seek to support local business and employment. The new commercial/community floorspace in Phase 4 will be directly guided by the recommendations of the Ground Floor Strategy.
- 7.5 The non-residential elements of Phase 4 build on the significant environmental benefits which have already been delivered in Woodberry Down, which includes over 2.61 acres of new public realm and 4.5 acres of parkland. Phases 1 & 2 also provided new retail space as well as affordable workspace for use by small, new local enterprises. When complete, Phase 3 will add 7,548sqm of amenity space, including a new public park, and 2,025sqm of commercial and community space. Phase 4 continues this balanced approach to the development, bringing forward new public spaces and amenities, as well as housing.
- 7.6 To date the regeneration of the Estate has created construction jobs with 514 operatives currently on site on Phase 3. Berkeley Homes is committed to providing construction jobs for local people and monitors the numbers of both apprenticeships and local labour. Hackney Council's Ways into Work has a base in Woodberry Down, in support of the regeneration, which supports local people to identify training and job opportunities, including linking to opportunities offered by Berkeley Homes. NHG runs a successful Enterprise Programme to help residents to start their own businesses. The new residents and employees brought to site on Phase 4 are likely to deliver economic benefits such as job creation from end-uses and spending generation.
- 7.7 A key objective of the regeneration is that it is socially sustainable and integrated with the existing community. In addition to the new community facilities already delivered, including a well-used community centre and gym, the regeneration has been brought forward in close consultation with WDCO and existing Woodberry Down residents. WDCO plays a key role in the regeneration which is formally recognised in a written partnership agreement between WDCO, Berkeley Homes, the Council, and NHG.
- 7.8 Furthermore, all existing secure tenant and leaseholder residents can remain living in Woodberry Down if they wish - secure tenants can relocate to newly built social rent units whilst leaseholders are offered shared equity properties in line with the Council's Options Document. Further information on this is provided in Chapter 9 of this Statement.

- 7.9 In phases which have already been delivered the majority of the original secure tenants have chosen to remain at Woodberry Down, moving into newly built homes. All of the newly built homes for social rent to date (537) are being lived in by original Woodberry Down residents.
- 7.10 Failure to deliver Phase 4 will mean that the full benefits of Phases 1, 2 and 3 are not realised. The Woodberry Down regeneration has been conceived as a whole and not delivering a phase will leave the area unbalanced in terms of the overall mix of residential, quality of public realm, quality of open space, retail provision and community facilities. It would fail to meet the aspirations of the secure tenants in the next phase who are waiting to be rehoused into the new phase.
- 7.11 The delivery of new housing at Woodberry Down is also a significant part of the Council's commitment to deliver much needed new housing, as set out in its Local Plan (LP33).
- 7.12 Regeneration benefits from Woodberry Down will also be felt further afield. These benefits include opening up the area north of the New River, benefitting residents to the north of Woodberry Down, the employment of local labour, benefitting Hackney residents not only within Woodberry Down, and works to Seven Sisters Road, which will improve air quality and reduce congestion on this strategic route through north London.
- 8 CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**
- 8.1 Consultation is an integral part of the delivery of the Estate's regeneration. Residents, stakeholders and all parties with an interest in the Order Land have been notified of the intention to commence the CPO process for Phase 4.
- 8.2 As part of the wider regeneration programme, Phase 4 has been the subject of regular updates at the WDCO board meeting, Round Table meetings with the regeneration partners, including WDCO, and Chaired formerly by the Mayor of Hackney and currently the Deputy Mayor. In addition, forty Design Committee workshops, attended by all delivery partners together with six nominated WDCO representatives, have been held to oversee the development of the proposals. There have also been numerous consultation events held with residents throughout the regeneration programme.
- 8.3 Since the beginning of the regeneration, WDCO has been involved in all aspects of the regeneration. As part of the strategic steering group during the 2014 master planning process WDCO worked hard to both challenge the design team and to win the support of the wider resident community, resulting in the WDCO Board supporting the 2014 Masterplan. WDCO is equally actively involved in the current masterplan review, through the Design Committee (described in 8.2), a consultation sub-group, and discussion at WDCO Board meetings. Overall WDCO supports the regeneration and initiatives that help maintain the delivery programme and bring forward the delivery of new homes in the area.
- 8.4 In relation to the Order Land, the principle of a CPO has been discussed with WDCO, with regular updates on the proposed CPO provided at WDCO Board and the Round Table.
- 8.5 Residents of all tenures in the affected blocks are updated directly and regularly by the Council, through letters, drop-in and information sessions and by individual contact, as detailed below.
- 8.6 In addition, in November 2022 the booklet "Woodberry Down Rehousing Schedule" was distributed to all residents across the estate, including Phase 4. This booklet set out the (then) programme for when redevelopment was expected to occur, with dates for rehousing, and commencement of redevelopment, on each phase. The booklet included relevant contact details for the Council.
- 8.7 In February 2023 Request for Information and Equalities Impact Assessment packs that were sent to all residents in Phase 4. A detailed letter explaining the proposals and preparation for a CPO was included. Where necessary, Ardent, who has been appointed to carry out the land referencing, has talked residents through the packs and the parts they need to fill in. A weekly

drop-in for the duration of the Request for Information period was offered to residents in case they wished to speak with a member of Council staff. In addition, contact details for the Independent Tenant and Leaseholder Adviser ("the ITLA"), who also hosts a twice-weekly drop-in session, were provided, and contact details for Hackney Council's Housing Advice team.

- 8.8 The principal mechanisms for notifying residents about the CPO process have been through written communications and through ongoing individual rehousing consultations with tenants and purchase negotiations with leaseholders. The Council has emphasised that its objective will always be to reach agreement by negotiation wherever possible and that the Council's CPO powers will only be used as a last resort.
- 8.9 Each of the planning applications submitted in relation to the redevelopment proposals for the Estate have also been the subject of extensive consultation exercises.
- 8.10 In respect of the planning application for Woodberry Phase 4, an inclusive and comprehensive public consultation exercise was undertaken in three rounds; the first in summer 2021 and then summer and November 2022. This included events promoted locally to encourage attendance, leaflets about the proposals, and staff available to discuss the proposals with visitors. During the same period forty workshops with the regeneration Design Committee (including WDCO members, Hackney Council, Berkeley Homes and NHG) were undertaken.
- 8.11 A dedicated project website – woodberrydownregeneration.commonplace.is - was set up to support engagement in both the review to the masterplan and Phase 4 proposals. Covering three periods of consultation in summer 2021 (initial proposals for the masterplan and Phase 4) and summer and autumn 2022 (focussed Phase 4 consultation), the site had seen 7,957 visits with 630 survey responses, 1,505 comments, 543 visitors to events and 346 people signing up to receive email news updates. Commonplace is a consultation platform that displays all feedback online publicly. Each round of consultation and feedback is then archived but available to view.

9 RELOCATION/RE-HOUSING POLICY

- 9.1 The tables below illustrate the position at the start of the re-housing process, and in December 2023 regarding the re-housing of secure tenants and the acquisition of leasehold properties.

Table 1 – No. of secure tenants and leaseholders at the start of the rehousing process (January 2022):

Block/Property	Secure Tenants	Leaseholders	Voids/ Non-secure
Finmere House	6	12	26
Keynsham House	8	8	19
Kilpeck House	1	9	25
Knaresborough House	9	3	22
Leighfield House	5	8	12
Lonsdale House	3	2	20
Total	32	42	124

Table 2 – No. of remaining secure tenants and leaseholders as at 31 December 2023:

Block/Property	Secure Tenants	Leaseholders	Voids/ Non-secure
Finmere House	5	9	31
Keynsham House	7	8	20
Kilpeck House	1	9	25
Knaresborough House	8	2	23
Leighfield House	5	5	15
Lonsdale House	3	2	20
Total	30	35	134

Leaseholders

- 9.2 At Woodberry Down, the original leaseholder and freeholder options document was approved at Cabinet in July 2007. This included a range of options such as leasehold swap, shared equity and shared ownership. This document has been updated a number of times since then to reflect changes in legislation and minor amendments in Council policy, and to reflect improvements in the shared equity offer.
- 9.3 The most recent update of the Council's Leaseholder and Freeholder Options Document was issued in Autumn 2022. The revised document provides a detailed 4 step guide to the buy-back process as well as an explanation of the CPO and related compensation. It offers all resident leaseholders opportunities to remain on the estate through the offer of shared equity in one of the properties newly built as part of the regeneration.
- 9.4 Throughout the regeneration programme, leaseholders in Phase 4 have had the opportunity to participate in consultation events and have been provided with regular updates through community events, WDCO Board meetings, Regeneration meetings involving WDCO representatives (such as the Design Committee and Round Table), and newsletters.
- 9.5 In July 2022 the Council's Cabinet authorised preparation of a CPO, buying back of leaseholder properties and awarding compensation to leaseholders.
- 9.6 Updating correspondence and specific information sessions were scheduled from 2022. In June 2022 a letter was sent to all Phase 4 leaseholders with an update about the likely next steps in relation to a CPO and buying back properties. Further to Cabinet authority to commence these processes, a 'notification letter' was sent in September 2022, to inform leaseholders that the Council was now actively seeking to buy back properties, commence preparation of a CPO, and was able to pay compensation to leaseholders upon completing buy backs. Three information sessions were held during the autumn, with a presentation and opportunity for questions and discussion. The updated Leaseholder and Freeholder Options Document was also provided to all leaseholders.
- 9.7 The shared equity offer was described in all of these initial communications, and further explained in letters in June and July 2023 with information and marketing sessions held in July and August 2023: working with NHG details of the new properties were provided, to enable leaseholders to understand the options available, and next steps.
- 9.8 On 5 October 2023 a further detailed update letter was sent to all leaseholders advising again on timescales and options and explaining the need to engage prior to pursuing the CPO.
- 9.9 Each of the letters sent to leaseholders took the opportunity to include contact details for relevant staff, and promote the services of the ITLA, which as well as being contactable by phone holds twice weekly 4 hour long drop-in sessions. In addition, translation of all materials circulated to leaseholders was offered, and was provided in Turkish as standard, including the

presence of a Turkish translator at all information sessions, due to there being a number of resident leaseholders who are known to be Turkish speaking.

- 9.10 Since the commencement of the buyback process - when the 'notification letter' was sent in September 2022 - the Regeneration Team, working with the ITLA and Acquiring Agent, has made contact with all leaseholders. As of October 2023, 6 properties have been bought back, a further 7 have been agreed and are under legal instruction, and 19 offers have been made. The Regeneration Team and Acquiring Agent are actively and frequently reaching out to individuals as part of the engagement programme.
- 9.11 As described above, in February 2023 all leaseholders received the Request for Information and Equality Impact Assessment pack, including a detailed cover letter providing information specific to this group. The letter of 5 October 2023 noted above also provided an explanation of the Initial Demolition Notice (IDN), which was served on the blocks in November 2023, in addition to the detailed update on the progress of the CPO, options and next steps.

Secure Tenants

- 9.12 Secure tenants in Phase 4 were granted Decant Status in February 2022 following Cabinet approval. Decant Status allows tenants who wish to move away from Woodberry Down to bid for properties off the estate. It also increases their priority for rehousing and entitles them to receive Home Loss and Disturbance payments.
- 9.13 The Woodberry Down Regeneration Team, working with the Council's Decant Team, has undertaken a rigorous and detailed consultation process with secure tenants, with seven drop-in sessions from June 2021, pre-allocation confirmation letters, a secure tenant offer document revised in May 2022 and the phasing document referred to in 8.6 hand delivered in autumn 2022. Secure Tenants are offered a range of re-housing options and assistance with moving, including support and advice from the ITLA. All options have now been agreed with a planned September 2024 move programmed for 30 tenants (3 have left the estate by choice). Each Secure Tenant is allocated to a Decant Officer, who provides a regular point of contact and supports individuals through the allocation and rehousing process.
- 9.14 In February 2023 Secure Tenants received the Request for Information and Equality Impact Assessment pack, with a detailed cover letter providing details specific to this tenure. In autumn 2023 an IDN was delivered to individuals, together with a cover letter explaining the IDN and providing a wider update about the regeneration and CPO.

Non-Secure Tenants and Private Tenants

- 9.15 The Council has engaged in extensive consultation with all residents at Woodberry Down. This has included open meetings and surgeries which have been advertised to, and open to, all residents. The ITLA is available to support and advise all private tenants. As above, the phasing booklet was delivered to all addresses across the estate.
- 9.16 Homeless applicants placed in temporary housing - non-secure tenants - are supported by the Council's Downsizing and Rehousing Team (DART). DART wrote to all homeless residents living in temporary accommodation in Phase 4, in February 2023 to inform them that the Council is progressing with the regeneration, and that they would be required to move. The letter provided contact details, and information about the process of finding a new home. These residents are eligible to bid for a Council property, and where successful will be given a secure tenancy.
- 9.17 In February 2023 residents in temporary accommodation and private tenants also received the Request for Information and Equality Impact Assessment pack, as described above, including detailed cover letters providing information specific to these groups, including contact details for the Council's Housing Advice. In autumn 2023 a further letter to update residents in temporary accommodation about the progress of the CPO and the IDN was provided.

- 9.18 In respect of private tenants, all communications with leaseholders, who let their property, include reference to it being the leaseholder's responsibility to inform private tenant(s) about the CPO and to serve them with the correct notices. Contact details for the Council's Housing Advice team are provided.

10 PLANNING POSITION IN RESPECT OF THE ORDER LAND

Planning permission for the Scheme

- 10.1 An updated planning application for the redevelopment of Phase 4 was submitted on 9th October 2023 and is targeted for consideration at committee In Spring 2024.
- 10.2 The redevelopment of Woodberry Down has a long history which dates back to 1999 and which can be summarised as follows.
- 10.3 In 2007 the Council resolved to approve an outline planning permission for the Estate (2007/0014). This outline application was known as the Masterplan ("2007 Masterplan") and the Council resolved to grant planning permission on 10 September 2007, subject to a Section 106 legal agreement. For a number of reasons, including a delay with the S106, the economic crisis and a need to increase homes, planning permission was never issued.
- 10.4 In July 2009, the 2007 Masterplan was superseded by a revised outline planning application and Masterplan (2008/1050) which granted approval for 4,664 homes (including 41% affordable), with associated car parking at an overall site provision rate of 50%; approximately 38,500 sqm of non-residential buildings and associated car parking, including 5,194 sqm of retail buildings within classes A1-A5, 3,144 sqm of class B1 Business use, 30,000 sqm of class C1, D1 and D2 use including education, health centre, children's centre, community centres, youth centre; provision of new civic space, public parks, open space, landscaping of the edges of the New River and the East and West Reservoirs, construction of bridges across the New River; reduction in the width of Seven Sisters Road from 6 to 4 lanes and related improvements to the public realm; formation of new access points to the new Woodberry Down Neighbourhood; and, the creation of new, and the improvement of existing, cycle and pedestrian routes to and within the estate.
- 10.5 The 2009 outline planning permission (reference no. 2008/1050) identified a "Total Living Environment" that would be home to 10,000 people living in over 4,500 homes with brand new infrastructure and community facilities. The permission included a mix of new, affordable rent, low-cost ownership and open market housing, supported by improved community and commercial facilities and a safer, more attractive environment, including better and more usable open spaces.
- 10.6 A further outline planning permission ("2014 Masterplan") for the redevelopment of the Estate was issued by the Council on 20 August 2014 (reference no. 2013/3223) for demolition of existing buildings and structures at Woodberry Down Estate to provide up to 72,604 sqm floorspace GEA (excluding car parking); comprising up to 3,242 residential units and a maximum of 10,921 sqm non-residential floorspace within Classes A1 (Retail), A2 (Financial Services), A3 (Restaurants and Cafes), A4 (Drinking Establishments), Class B1 (Offices), Class D1 (Non-Residential Institutes and D2 use and energy centres, along with provision of new open space and public realm and associated car parking and highway improvement works to Seven Sisters Road including a narrowing from six carriageways to four carriageways. The permission also granted detailed planning permission for "the redevelopment of the land bounded by Towncourt Path, Kayani Avenue, Green Lanes, West Reservoir/Springpark Drive and Woodberry Down (Phase 2) for the erection of four buildings between 3 and 20 storeys to provide 670 new homes (comprising 30 studios), 310 one bed, 271 two bed and 59 three bed units), 550 sqm of non-residential floorspace GEA within Classes A1 – A4, Class B1, Class D1 and D2 use and new open space and public realm with 241 car parking spaces and 740 cycle spaces at ground and basement level".
- 10.7 An application for reserved matters in respect of Phase 3 pursuant to the 2014 outline planning permission (ref. 2013/3223) was approved on 4 December 2015, subject to

conditions (ref. 2015/2967). This approval permitted the construction of 358 units, 467 sqm non-residential floorspace of flexible use, a new energy centre and a new public park, together with associated car and cycle parking, public realm and landscaping. However the RMA permission was not deliverable and in 2019, in order to deliver the necessary combination of affordable and market housing a standalone scheme which went beyond the parameters of the 2014 Masterplan was submitted (2019/2514) for 584 residential units, together with the other elements described above. This application was granted planning permission on 9 December 2020. This scheme is currently under construction.

- 10.8 The 2014 Masterplan set dates by which the RMA applications for each phase had to be submitted. For Phase 4, this date was not met. Following discussions in 2021 it was agreed between the delivery partners that a new masterplan would be prepared for Woodberry Down. As well as refreshing the delivery timetable, a new masterplan provides an opportunity to respond to significant changes to planning policy and national planning guidance since the 2014 Masterplan, including the Council's updated Local Plan (LP33), and the need to respond to the Climate Emergency. The principles of the 2014 Masterplan will form the framework for the new masterplan, which is anticipated to be submitted in spring 2024.

- 10.9 Initially detailed designs for Phase 4 were to be submitted with the revised masterplan application as a hybrid application: detailed permission for Phase 4 and outline permission for Phases 5 - 8. However, due to programme pressures it was agreed by the delivery partners to submit Phase 4 as a standalone application to enable the regeneration to progress and to continue to deliver much needed new and high quality homes. A planning application for the redevelopment of Phase 4 was submitted on 9 October 2023 and is targeted for consideration at committee on 7 February 2024.

- 10.10 Although the Phase 4 planning application is a standalone application it was developed, in its early stages, alongside the emerging masterplan, and therefore reflects the principles and ambitions of the wider strategic framework. The 2014 Masterplan is also a key material consideration as it sets the development context for the Phase 4 application, including the elements that have already been delivered. This is not atypical of the regeneration, where parts of Phase 1, 2 and all of Phase 3 have been delivered by standalone detailed consents but with reference to the masterplan framework. Crucially, the 2014 Masterplan sets out details of the phasing of the development, both in terms of the parcels of land and the sequence in which they are to be developed. For these reasons the Phase 4 planning application delivers in the spirit of the development principles established by the 2014 Masterplan, but with improvements to the former outline permission, including: responding to new building regulations; additional stair cores; refreshed to LP33 policies; a reorientation of the square to integrate better with other phases; improved sustainability, with the introduction of air source heat pumps; and, an updated 'car light' design with increased pedestrian and cycling routes.

Planning Policy Context

- 10.11 The redevelopment of the Order Land fully accords with all relevant strands of national, regional and local planning policy and guidance aimed at promoting sustainable development.

- 10.12 The following part of the Statement of Reasons sets out the national, regional and local policy framework relevant to the development proposals for the Order Land.

- 10.13 The proposed demolition of existing sub-standard residential properties and the redevelopment of the Order Land to provide new housing that meets the Decent Homes Standard is compliant with the following hierarchy of planning policy documents: the National Planning Policy Framework, the London Plan (2021), and the Hackney Local Plan 2033 (2020).

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 10.14 The NPPF 2023 articulates the Government's vision for sustainable development which is characterised by three overarching objectives which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways:
- 10.14.1 An economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure.
 - 10.14.2 A social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - 10.14.3 An environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
- 10.15 The NPPF states that “to support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed, that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed and that land with permission is developed without unnecessary delay”.
- 10.16 The following summarises some of the key national level policies set out in the Framework:
- 10.16.1 At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which should be pursued in a positive way (Paragraph 10).
 - 10.16.2 Proposals in accordance with development plans should be approved unless “adverse impacts would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits” (Paragraph 11).
 - 10.16.3 Design quality should be considered throughout the evolution and assessment of individual proposals highlighting the benefits of early discussions between applicants and interested parties (Chapter 12).
 - 10.16.4 Paragraph 74 identifies the importance of a Local Authority demonstrating a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites, with the appropriate buffer.
 - 10.16.5 Policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions (Paragraph 119).
 - 10.16.6 Policies and decisions should support development that makes efficient use of land, considering the need for different types of housing/development, availability of land, the capacity of infrastructure, the character and setting of a particular area and the importance of design (Paragraph 124).
 - 10.16.7 The creation of high-quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve (Paragraph 126).
 - 10.16.8 Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments function well and improve the quality of an area over the development lifetime, area visually attractive, sympathetic, focus on a sense of place, optimise sites and create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible (Paragraph 130).

- 10.17 It is considered that the proposals for Phase 4 meet the objectives of the NPPF by delivering high quality and sustainable homes of a range of tenures to meet local housing need and the CPO will support the delivery of new homes without unnecessary delay.

The London Plan

- 10.18 The London Plan (2021) places emphasis on the need to genuinely optimise residential land uses in order to provide the high quality and well-designed homes that London needs. This is set out across Chapter 3, in which the overarching principle is expressed as good growth through design. Policy H1 of the London Plan relates to increasing housing supply and Table 4.1 sets the ten year target for net housing completions that each local planning authority should plan for. Hackney's housing target for the period 2016-2033 is 26,250 with the need to better utilise existing developed brownfield land a priority.
- 10.19 Within the London Plan (2021), Policy H8 concerns the loss of existing housing and estate redevelopment. This policy provides that existing housing, if lost, should be replaced by new housing at existing or higher densities with at least equivalent level of overall floorspace. It cautions that, before considering the demolition and replacement of affordable homes, consideration should be given to alternative options. The potential benefits of demolition and rebuilding of homes should be balanced against wider social and environmental impacts and consideration should be given to the availability of Mayoral funding.
- 10.20 Policy H10 expects residential schemes to comprise a range of unit sizes to meet local housing need, deliver mixed neighbourhoods and to ensure that sites reach their potential without adding to the pressure on existing housing stock.
- 10.21 The following sections lists the London Plan policies relevant to the merits of the Phase 4 proposals.

LONDON PLAN 2021 POLICIES

- GG1 - Building Strong and Inclusive Communities
- GG2 - Making the Best Use of Land
- GG3 - Creating a Healthy City
- GG4 - Delivering the Homes the Londoners Need
- GG5 - Growing a Good Economy
- GG6 - Increasing Efficiency and Resilience
- SD6 - Town Centres and High Streets
- SD7 - Town Centres: Development Principles and Development Plan Documents
- SD8 - Town Centre Network
- SD9 - Town Centres: Local Partnerships and Implementation
- SD10 - Strategic and Local Regeneration
- D1 - London's Form, Character and Capacity for Growth
- D2 - Infrastructure Requirements for Sustainable Densities
- D3 - Optimising Site Capacity Through the Design-led Approach
- D4 - Delivering Good Design
- D5 - Inclusive Design
- D6 - Housing Quality and Standards
- D7 - Accessible Housing
- D8 - Public Realm
- D9 - Tall Buildings
- D11 - Safety, Security and Resilience to Emergency
- D12 - Fire Safety
- D13 - Agent of Change
- D14 - Noise
- H1 - Increasing Housing Supply
- H4 - Delivering Affordable Housing
- H5 - Threshold Approach to Applications
- H6 - Affordable Housing Tenure
- H7 - Monitoring of Affordable Housing

- H8 - Loss of Existing Housing and Estate Regeneration
- H9 - Ensuring the Best Use of Stock
- H10 - Housing Size Mix
- S1 - Developing London's Social Infrastructure
- S2 - Health and Social Care Facilities
- S3 - Education and Childcare Facilities
- S4 - Play and Informal Recreation
- S5 - Sports and Recreation Facilities
- S6 - Public Toilets
- E1 - Offices
- E2 - Providing Suitable Business Space
- E3 - Affordable Workspace
- E8 - Sector Growth Opportunities and Clusters
- E9 - Retail, Markets and Hot Food Takeaways
- E11 - Skills and Opportunities for All
- HC1 - Heritage Conservation and Growth
- HC3 - Strategic and Local Views
- HC4 - London View Management Framework
- HC5 - Supporting London's Culture and Creative Industries
- HC6 - Supporting the Night-time Economy
- HC7 - Protecting Public Houses
- G1 - Green Infrastructure
- G3 - Metropolitan Open Land
- G4 - Open Space
- G5 - Urban Greening
- G6 - Biodiversity and Access to Nature
- G7 - Trees and Woodlands
- G8 - Food Growing
- SI1 - Improving Air Quality
- SI2 - Minimising Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- SI3 - Energy Infrastructure
- SI4 - Managing Heat Risk
- SI5 - Water Infrastructure
- SI6 - Digital Connectivity Infrastructure
- SI7 - Reducing Waste and Supporting the Circular Economy
- SI8 - Waste Capacity and Net Waste Self-sufficiency
- SI10 - Aggregates
- SI12 - Flood Risk Management
- SI13 - Sustainable Drainage
- SI14 - Waterways - Strategic Role
- SI16 - Waterways - Use and Enjoyment
- SI17 - Protecting and Enhancing London's Waterways
- T1 - Strategic Approach to Transport
- T2 - Healthy Streets
- T3 - Transport Capacity, Connectivity and Safeguarding
- T4 - Assessing and Mitigating Transport Impacts
- T5 - Cycling
- T6.1-5 - Car Parking
- T7 - Deliveries, Servicing and Construction
- T9 - Funding Transport Infrastructure Through Planning
- DF1 - Delivery of the Plan and Planning Obligations

10.22 The London Plan is also supported by a number of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents which are relevant to the Phase 4 proposals including:

- Affordable Housing and Viability (2017)
- Housing SPG (2016)
- Shaping Neighbourhoods Accessible London: Achieving an Inclusive Environment SPG (2014)
- Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2014)

- Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation SPG (2012)

The Local Policy Context

- 10.23 The local policy framework is outlined in the LP33 Hackney Local Plan which replaced the suite of development plan documents including the Area Action Plans (AAPs), and supplementary planning documents. The following section sets out how the proposed redevelopment of the Order Land accords with the Council's local policy framework.
- 10.24 The outline planning permission for the redevelopment of the Estate (reference no. 2013/3223) was assessed against relevant Core Strategy policies however this application was determined prior to the adoption of LP33.
- 10.25 The redevelopment of the Order Land is considered to comply with relevant LP33 policies as listed below:

HACKNEY LOCAL PLAN 2033 POLICIES

- PP1 - Public Realm
- PP5 - Enhanced Corridors
- PP9 - Manor House
- LP1 - Design Quality and Local Character
- LP2 - Development and Amenity
- LP3 - Designated Heritage Assets
- LP4 - Non Designated Heritage Assets
- LP5 - Strategic and Local Views
- LP6 - Archaeology
- LP7 - Advertisements
- LP8 - Social and Community Infrastructure
- LP9 - Health and Wellbeing
- LP11 - Utilities and Digital Connectivity Infrastructure
- LP12 - Meeting Housing Needs and Locations for New Homes
- LP13 - Affordable Housing
- LP14 - Dwelling Size Mix
- LP17 - Housing Design
- LP18 - Housing Older and Vulnerable People
- LP24 - Preventing the Loss of Housing
- LP31 - Local Jobs, Skills and Training
- LP37 - Small and Independent Shops
- LP41 - Liveable Neighbourhoods
- LP42 - Walking and Cycling
- LP43 - Transport and Development
- LP44 - Public Transport and Infrastructure
- LP45 - Parking and Car Free Development
- LP46 - Protection and Enhancement of Green Infrastructure
- LP47 - Biodiversity and Sites of Importance of Nature Conservation
- LP48 - New Open Space
- LP49 - Green Chains and Green Corridors
- LP50 - Play Space
- LP51 - Tree Management and Landscaping
- LP52 - Water Spaces, Canals and Residential Moorings
- LP53 - Water and Flooding
- LP54 - Overheating
- LP55 - Mitigating Climate Change
- LP56 - Decentralised Energy Networks (DEN)
- LP57 - Waste
- LP58 - Improving the Environment - Pollution
- MH1 - Woodberry Down, Seven Sisters Road N4 1DH

- Appendix 2 - Cycle Parking Standards

- 10.26 PP9 Manor House includes strategic principles to enhance and intensify Manor House as a local centre to serve residents, and in particular form a local centre to support the Woodberry Down development. Improvements would increase local employment, improve movement to and through the area and strengthen connectivity to Finsbury Park. Three sites within Manor House have been identified for development in support of this. The Woodberry Down regeneration supports the Manor House local centre by bringing more residents as well as enhanced public realm and accessibility in the surrounding area.
- 10.27 LP1 Design Quality and Local Character include a number of principles to guide the design of developments, including key principles such as ensuring development respects local heritage, introducing high quality landscape design that supports biodiversity, being sustainable in development and responding to characteristics in the local area. This policy also guides the development of taller buildings. The proposals for Phase 4 respond to these requirements, with building designs which are informed by the heritage of the Woodberry Down estate, careful design of the taller elements of the scheme, improved accessibility, significantly enhanced public realm and increased open green space and landscaping to support biodiversity.
- 10.28 LP12 Meeting Housing Needs and Locations for New Homes sets out targets for delivery of new homes. Woodberry Down is cited as an area for increase, delivering 3,000 new homes over the lifetime of LP33. The Phase 4 proposals to deliver 511 new homes supports this policy.
- 10.29 LP13 Affordable Housing provides the ratios required for delivery of affordable homes, which must include a mix of social rent and another affordable housing product that the Council considers suitable. The Phase 4 proposals include 43% affordable units, of which 41% are social rent and 59% shared ownership. By floorspace and by habitable room the % of social rent increases (47% and 45% respectively) due to there being some four and five bedroom social rent units in the scheme, in response to the needs of Woodberry Down Council tenants who will be moving into the new homes. The proposals are supported by viability information, as required in the policy.
- 10.30 LP17 Housing Design sets out standards for the expected high quality of design of new homes, including space, accessibility and sustainability standards. All homes in the scheme comply with the required space standards, and the new social rent homes exceed them, designed at Parker Morris +10%. Across the tenures, 90% (460) of the new homes will be wheelchair adaptable and 10% (51) fully wheelchair accessible standards.
- 10.31 LP54 - 56 deal with issues of sustainability, including (respectively) Water and Flooding, Overheating and Adapting to Climate Change and Mitigating Climate Change. The Phase 4 application embeds high standards of sustainability to be compliant with these policies. The scheme provides a SUDS plan with extensive measures to achieve a water run-off rate equivalent to a greenfield site. The scheme embeds high standards of sustainability, to comply with policy, including extensive re-use of existing materials, on-site carbon reduction measures, 80% of the eventual heating for homes being provided by air source heat pumps, and the non-residential space being designed to BREEAM excellent. The scheme will also support an 15.6% improvement in overall biodiversity.
- 10.32 MH1 Woodberry Down is the site allocation policy that identifies Woodberry Down as a regeneration site. This policy includes principles specific to the site, including creating a mixed and balanced community, supporting and enhancing local ecology, improving connectivity, creating high quality public realm and play space, bringing forward new community and retail facilities and improving the quality of the surroundings. The Phase 4 proposal responds to each aspect of this policy.

Sustainable Community Strategy

- 10.33 The Council's Sustainable Community Strategy 2018-28 sets out the Council's 10 year vision. The priorities in the Strategy are a framework for local public services and partners from the business, community and voluntary sectors to guide the Council's work in order to improve the quality of life in the Borough.
- 10.34 The proposals for the Order Land contribute to the achievement of the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy, in particular, Outcome 14, which states "To ensure that our town centres in Dalston and Hackney Central and our areas of growth in Shoreditch, Woodberry Down and Hackney Wick are vibrant places where local people and visitors choose to shop and spend leisure time, and make sure these centres remain attractive places to do business and invest in."
- 10.35 The Phase 4 proposals also help to achieve Priority 5, which is to 'promote mixed communities in well-designed neighbourhoods, where people can access high quality affordable housing' and Outcome 7 - 'promote and maintain mixed sustainable communities in all our neighbourhoods by securing a tenure and dwelling mix, including affordable homes and homes adaptable for people's changing needs.'

Conclusion

- 10.36 The proposals for the redevelopment of the Estate and for Phase 4 in particular accord with relevant national and local planning policies. In view of this, there is no planning impediment to the implementation of the redevelopment proposals that underlie the Order.
- 10.37 The Council has given careful consideration to the need for each parcel of land included in the Order Land. The Council is satisfied that the redevelopment of the Order land will result in an improvement to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of its area, as explained in Section 11 below, and that each parcel of land is required in order to deliver these benefits.

11 PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE USE OF COMPULSORY PURCHASE POWERS

- 11.1 The Council considers that the construction of new homes for existing residents of the Estate coupled with creating an environment that is attractive to people who want to buy new homes, many at affordable prices, will broaden the economic and social mix of the Estate and of this part of the Borough. It will also enhance the area's demographic profile, moving towards a more balanced and socially diverse community that fits with the Mayor of London's strategic policies.
- 11.2 As explained above, Phase 4 is the fourth phase of an eight-phase redevelopment of the Woodberry Down Estate, with Phase 1 and 2 completed and Phase 3 well underway. As such it is a critical part of the overall project which, once complete, will unlock the subsequent four phases of the comprehensive regeneration of the Estate by providing new homes and facilities for local people, and assisting with the rehousing of residents from future phases. The delivery of Phase 4 in its entirety is crucial to securing the successful regeneration of the whole of the Estate, which will in turn deliver a wide range of benefits including:
- 11.2.1 Over 511 new market and affordable houses;
 - 11.2.2 New commercial and community space;
 - 11.2.3 Public realm, including a new public square, landscaping and play space;
 - 11.2.4 Servicing facilities, car and cycle parking, plant space and associated works
- 11.3 In economic terms, the proposed redevelopment will deliver a sustainable mix of high-quality new properties for outright sale, social rent and shared ownership. The Council is committed to ensuring that all secure tenants have the right to remain on the Estate. In addition, the shared ownership opportunities offered should enable existing and local residents to become homeowners for the first time. Shared equity homes will allow existing leaseholders who purchased their current properties under the Right to Buy to acquire a new home and remain

living on the Estate, should they wish to do so, without suffering any financial disadvantage. The construction of the development will offer a number of local employment benefits from apprenticeships to work experience placements. The local employment targets are embedded in the construction contract to ensure the developer provides these much-needed local employment opportunities. Chapter 7 above also outlines further economic benefits such as job creation from end-uses and spending generation.

- 11.4 In social terms, the new development will be of vastly improved design compared to the existing Estate and will deliver a truly mixed and sustainable community. All existing tenants are able to remain living in Woodberry Down and the regeneration is phased to enable this to happen so that tenants move once only, to their new home. In addition existing leaseholders are enabled to remain in Woodberry Down through the offer of shared equity in a new leasehold property. Chapter 9 above gives more detail on the mechanisms used for each interest holder demonstrating the Council's retention commitment to ensure community cohesion. The detailed building designs for the new development will incorporate the knowledge and understanding gained in urban design over the last 30 years to deliver much better housing, which is safe and secure, and which recognises the need for privacy and defensible space. Buildings will be integrated into the streetscape and safer, more accessible open areas, incorporating play and amenity for all age groups, will be provided.
- 11.5 The new public square and commercial/community spaces will provide social spaces and services for existing and new residents, further supporting community cohesion. In environmental terms, the new development will provide a much more effective use of the Order Land than is currently the case. It will deliver high quality, sustainable new housing, using sustainably sourced materials and with a carefully designed public realm, which will replace the existing, poor-quality homes. Whilst the new development will be of a higher density than at present, it provides an opportunity to improve the quality of the estate environment through tree planting, improved landscaping and substantial cycle parking, all of which will increase the biodiversity of the Estate, creating environmental improvements alongside the social and economic benefits described above.
- 11.6 The freehold of the Order Land is in the ownership of the Council. However, through the Right to Buy process 20 former Council properties have been acquired on a leasehold basis at various locations across the Order Land. The Council has notified the owners of all third-party interests of its intention to acquire their interest by negotiation or, as a last resort, by using its compulsory purchase powers.
- 11.7 The Council hopes that it will be possible to acquire all the necessary interests by private agreement within a reasonable timescale. However, should this not be possible, this would impede the delivery of the regeneration proposals and the associated benefits set out above. Section 10 of this Statement sets out the elements of the Phase 4 development that could not be delivered in the event that the Council is unable to acquire the remaining third-party interests.
- 11.8 Therefore, the Council has made the Order so that it can, if necessary, compulsorily acquire the interests required to enable implementation of the proposed development. Negotiations will continue with owners of relevant interests who are willing to dispose of them by private agreement and with those who are willing to be re-housed elsewhere on the Estate or, where that is not possible, within close proximity of it. There is also a need to secure clean title to the Order Land so that there are no impediments to delivering this phase of the Scheme.
- 11.9 The Council has already successfully acquired a number of leasehold and freehold interests across the Estate by negotiation and, in previous phases, by using its compulsory purchase powers. For the reasons outlined above, failure to acquire the remaining interests in Phase 4 would seriously jeopardise the programme and delivery of the regeneration project. Compulsory purchase powers will enable the regeneration to progress in accordance with a managed programme, providing certainty for site assembly and the implementation of the scheme. This will enable the Council's regeneration objectives for the Order Land and the Borough to be achieved. The use of compulsory purchase powers is therefore considered by the Council to be necessary and justifiable in the public interest.

- 11.10 It is the Council's view that there is a compelling case in the public interest to acquire all of the remaining third-party interests in the Order Land.
- 12 **SCHEME VIABILITY AND DELIVERY**
- 12.1 Berkeley and NHG have been selected as the Council's preferred development partners for the regeneration programme.
- 12.2 Berkeley is part of the Berkeley Group, who are one of the UK's most well-known residential developers. The Berkeley Group is publicly owned and listed on the London Stock Exchange as a FTSE 250 company. The Group has the experience and resources to complete the redevelopment of the Order Land and have the necessary funds to carry out the development.
- 12.3 NHG is one of the UK's leading housing associations, managing over 60,000 homes across London and the east of England with a stock portfolio that includes a range of properties - from temporary housing to rented homes, homes for sale, and supported housing. NHG is part of the G15 group, which is made up of London's largest housing associations. Between them, they are responsible for providing homes for around one in ten people living in the capital.
- 12.4 In relation to the acquisition of the remaining third-party interests in Phase 4, these are to be forward funded by the Council with the costs to be recovered from Berkeley once the development of Phase 4 commences.
- 12.5 In relation to the delivery of the Estate regeneration the Council has agreed that it will provide Berkeley with vacant possession of the land within the Estate on a long leasehold basis, to be delivered phase by phase. The Council will remain the freeholder of the land. Berkeley will then deliver the development in accordance with the relevant planning permission. All of the individual properties will then be transferred, either to private purchasers or to NHG on a long leasehold basis. Public parks and roads are to be adopted by the Council, with any private landscaping being managed by either private estate management companies (on behalf of private purchasers), or NHG.
- 12.6 All of the market housing to be delivered on the Estate is to be sold on an open market basis. The arrangements between the parties allow for overage from the open market sale of units in earlier phases of the scheme to be recycled to support delivery of later phases, should this be necessary.
- 12.7 The affordable housing units are to be funded by the revenue receipts generated from the sale of the new open market units on the Estate and will be transferred to NHG.
- 12.8 Berkeley started work on site with Phase 1 of the regeneration programme in March 2009. To date they have delivered 2,317 new homes within Phases 1 and 2, with a further 584 currently under construction in Phase 3, due to complete in two phases in September 2024 and July 2025.
- 12.9 Since 2009, new homes have been delivered consistently despite fluctuating market conditions, including the market downturn at the start of the project, the reaction to the Brexit vote in 2016, the COVID Pandemic and recent economic turmoil. This demonstrates a strong track-record of delivery and successful joint working between the partners.
- 12.10 Berkeley has an established construction and management team which is already present on site carrying out the ongoing build of Phase 3 and is adequately resourced to deliver Phase 4. The team currently constructing Phase 3 will be transferred to Phase 4.
- 12.11 The Council is satisfied that the necessary resources are or will be available to acquire the Order Land within the implementation period for the Order and to deliver the regeneration of the Order Land. There are no financial impediments to the scheme.

13 HUMAN RIGHTS

- 13.1 The CPO Guidance states that "a Compulsory Purchase Order should only be made where there is a compelling case in the public interest. In addition, the Acquiring Authority should be sure that the purposes for which the Compulsory Purchase Order is made justify interfering with the human rights of those with an interest in the land affected. Particular consideration should be given to the provision of Article 1 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, and in the case of a dwelling, Article 8 of the Convention."
- 13.2 The following articles of the European Convention on Human Rights ("the Convention") are engaged in the process of making a Compulsory Purchase Order:
- 13.2.1 Article 1 of Protocol 1 provides that "every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one should be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law. The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a state to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties."
- 13.2.2 Article 6 provides that in determining their civil rights and obligations everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law.
- 13.2.3 Article 8 protects private and family life, home and correspondence. No public authority can interfere with this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interest of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.
- 13.3 These provisions have been enacted into UK law under the Human Rights Act 1998, and that Act also places direct obligations on public bodies (such as the Council) to demonstrate that the use of compulsory purchase powers is in the public interest, and that the use of such powers is proportionate to the ends being pursued.
- 13.4 In this case, any interference with Convention rights is considered to be both justifiably in the public interest and proportionate in order to secure the regeneration of the Order Land.
- 13.5 If the Secretary of State agrees with the Council that there is a compelling case in the public interest, he may confirm the Order. If the Order is confirmed, compensation may be claimed by persons whose interests in the land have been acquired or whose possession of land has been disturbed, in order to compensate them for losses that they incur as a result of the acquisition.
- 13.6 In the circumstances, if the Order is confirmed, it is considered that the compulsory acquisition of the Order Land will not conflict with Article 1 of the First Protocol or Article 8 of the Convention as any interference with the rights will be in accordance with the law, justified and proportionate.
- 13.7 As set out in Section 9, the leaseholders and Council tenants who will be impacted by the regeneration of the Order Land are being offered a range of options as regards their relocation and/or rehousing. Working with the Council's Regeneration, Housing Needs, Decant, and Property Services teams, these residents are given the opportunity to move to a new home on the Estate and to remain living as part of the Estate community.
- 13.8 In respect of Article 6, any owner, lessee or occupier of land included in the Order will be notified and will have the opportunity to make representations to the Secretary of State and to be heard at a Public Inquiry before a decision is made whether or not to confirm the Order,

and would in any event have legal rights under the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 to challenge any Order made on the relevant statutory grounds.

- 13.9 The Council is of the view that there is a compelling case in the public interest for the compulsory purchase of the Order Land, because without it, the regeneration and other substantial public benefits associated with the redevelopment of the Order Land will not be delivered. Furthermore, the Council is satisfied that the use of its powers of compulsory purchase is proportionate as without them, there is no real possibility of all the land necessary to deliver the redevelopment being made available, and as a consequence the benefits of the redevelopment, which are in the public interest, would not be realised.

14 **EQUALITY STATEMENT**

- 14.1 In making the Order, the Council must act in accordance with its Public Sector Equality Duty ("PSED") as laid out in the Equalities Act 2010. The PSED requires that in the exercise of its functions the Council must have due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not, and to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The protected characteristics covered by the Act are:

14.1.1 age;

14.1.2 disability;

14.1.3 gender reassignment;

14.1.4 pregnancy and maternity;

14.1.5 race;

14.1.6 religion or belief;

14.1.7 sex;

14.1.8 sexual orientation; and

14.1.9 marriage and civil partnership (applicable only to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination).

- 14.2 To ensure that the Council complies with its PSED, the Order is subject to an Equality Impact Assessment ("EqIA"). This investigates the impacts of the Order on the different groups of persons affected by it (leaseholders, freeholders, private tenants, secure tenants, and business owners) and assesses whether the Order could produce disadvantage or enhance opportunity for any of the groups or anyone with a protected characteristic. The EqIA then sets out recommendations for how to remove or reduce disadvantage for those affected and outlines relevant mitigation strategies. The EqIA looks at both the effects of the Order and the resultant new development, as well as engagement with the process of making the Order. Whilst the EqIA found that there were a high proportion of remaining residents within the Woodberry Down Phase 4 area who have protected characteristics, the Council's decision to make use of its powers of compulsory purchase in order to ensure the delivery of Woodberry Down Phase 4 is considered overall to have an positive impact on residents with protected characteristics, resulting primarily from the improvements that will be brought about to their living environment and the opportunity it presents for them to move to a new home. The negative equality impacts on residents of the Order Land with Protected Characteristics have been mitigated.

- 14.3 There are potential direct negative equality impacts arising from the need for existing leaseholders to move home as a result of the redevelopment. However, these are considered to have been substantially mitigated by the implementation of the Council's Options

Document, which enables leaseholders to remain on the Estate if they wish, and therefore maintain their community ties, family links, and access to local services. Residents are further supported through access to the Exceptional Cases Panel which can assess the requirement for additional support where necessary and helps to provide a level of parity with individuals without Protected Characteristics for those who may find the process particularly challenging. Finally, the Council is in ongoing discussions with affected individuals regarding the purchase of their homes by mutual agreement prior to the use of its CPO powers, thereby reducing the overall likelihood of these powers being relied upon. Non-resident leaseholders are affected by the CPO, but only in terms of potential loss of income from their rented properties. The CPO process and the Council's policies ensure that a fair price is paid for their property, and that compensation is paid for other losses, and therefore the impact is considered to be adequately mitigated.

15 EASEMENTS, RIGHTS ETC.

15.1 It is intended that a General Vesting Declaration ("GVD") or a number of GVDs will be made by the Council in respect of the Order Land in the event that the Order is confirmed by the Secretary of State. It is also the intention of the Council that all easements, covenants, rights and other interests in the land included in such GVD or GVDs shall be acquired and/or overridden and compensation paid to those who formerly held the benefit of such easements, rights etc.

15.2 Any mortgages or rent charges are to be dealt with in accordance with Sections 14 — 17 and Section 18 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965.

16 ANY SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING THE ORDER LAND

16.1 The Order Land does not include any special category land.

17 COMPULSORY PURCHASE BY NON-MINISTERIAL ACQUIRING AUTHORITIES (INQUIRIES PROCEDURE) RULES 2007

17.1 This Statement is not a Statement under Rule 7 of the Compulsory Purchase by Non-Ministerial Acquiring Authorities (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007, and the Council reserves the right to alter or expand it as necessary for the purposes of Rule 7.

18 OTHER CONSENTS REQUIRED

18.1 No additional consents or related orders are required.

19 VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER AGENCIES

19.1 Pre-planning application meetings were held with the GLA who acknowledged the relocation strategy across the wider masterplan.

19.2 The approach is therefore to assess Phase 4 as a standalone application albeit one that must have reference to key principles of the masterplan including replacement of existing homes across a multi phased regeneration scheme and ensuring residents only have to move once (single decant).

20 CONTACT INFORMATION AND DEPOSIT OF DOCUMENTS

20.1 A copy of the Order, the Order Map and this Statement of Reasons and the documents referred to in it are available and can be inspected from Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 5.00pm at Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, London E8 1BY. They can also be viewed and downloaded from the Council's web site.

20.2 Individuals seeking advice regarding the Order should in the first instance contact the person listed below:

Hermione Brightwell, Project Manager, Woodberry Down Regeneration

Email: hermione.brightwell@hackney.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8356 4121

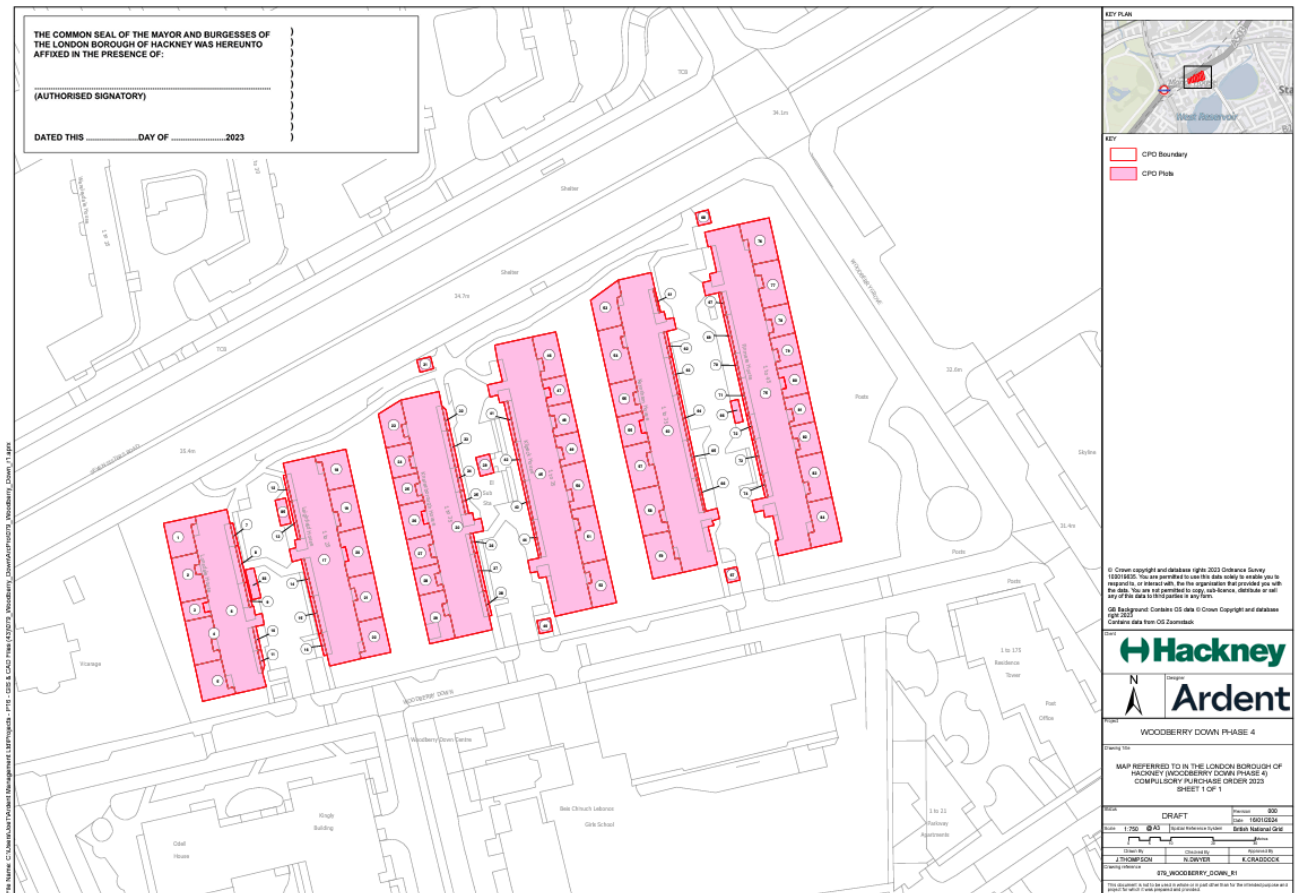
21 RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FOR THE INQUIRY

- 21.1 The Council intends to refer to, or put in evidence, the documents (or relevant extracts from those documents) which are listed below, and which are referred to in this Statement of Reasons.
- 21.2 Should it be necessary to hold a Public Inquiry regarding the confirmation of the Order, the Council may refer to or put in evidence the following documents. It should be noted however that the Council reserve the right to add or to amend the list as necessary.
- 21.3 National Planning Policy Framework
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182995/NPPF_Sept_23.pdf
- 21.4 The London Plan (2021)
<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/london-plan-2021>
- 21.5 Hackney Local Plan LP33 (2020)
<https://hackney.gov.uk/lp33>
- 21.6 Woodberry Down Masterplan (2013/3223)
<https://developmentandhousing.hackney.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=60206>
- 21.7 Woodberry Down Phase 4 (2023/2371)
<https://developmentandhousing.hackney.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=77545>
- 21.8 Hackney Community Strategy (2018-2028)
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ttjks9At3IIWWLD95XhclyYPcycpsbDW/view>
- 21.9 Woodberry Down Secure Tenants Offer Document (2022)
<https://hackney.gov.uk/woodberry-down>
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-FDjA540QiVnGBroDRIR_jw6DEiKUVFs/view
- 21.10 Updated Local Lettings Policy for Woodberry Down
<https://hackney.gov.uk/woodberry-down>
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gWW8aV0SJ03DzQhPAh8abYmBbDrOHAZOHPkhAGsQWG8/edit>
- 21.11 Woodberry Down Leaseholder and Freeholder Offer Document (2022)
<https://hackney.gov.uk/woodberry-down>
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Wl7-H31Ryi6SpNnlx_mC9Z7IzPJ9bZWZ/view
- 21.12 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2023)
- 21.13 Equalities Impact Assessment for Woodberry Down Phase 4 [to be finalised]
- 21.14 Calford Seaden building survey report Autumn 2022
<https://developmentandhousing.hackney.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=77545> Appendix 3

- 21.15 28th February 2022 Cabinet Report – “Phase 4 - Decant Status/IDNs/home loss & disturbance/commence CPO”
<https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g5151/Public%20reports%20pack%20Monday%2014-Mar-2022%2018.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10> Item 14 pages 367-403
- 21.16 18th July 2022 Cabinet Report - “Woodberry Down Principal Development Agreement”
<https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g5466/Public%20reports%20pack%20Monday%2018-Jul-2022%2018.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10> Item 10 pages 79-95

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Order Plan



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Woodberry Down Estate N16 5EB

December 2023

**Equality Impact Assessment for the Redevelopment Woodberry
Down Phase 4 - Compulsory Purchase Order**

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1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report

- 1.1.1 This report provides an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) to support the Statement of Reasons for the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the redevelopment of Woodberry Down Phase 4
- 1.1.2 In making the CPO for Phase 4, the Council must act in accordance with its Public Sector Equality Duty ("the Duty") as laid out in the Equalities Act 2010. The Duty requires that in the exercise of its functions the authority has due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between those with Protected Characteristics and those without, and to foster good relations between those groups. The Protected Characteristics covered by the Act are detailed later in this chapter.
- 1.1.3 The report analyses the potential impacts (both positive and negative) of the CPO on those with Protected Characteristics. Where there are any negative impacts, the report details the steps taken by the Council to reduce or mitigate these impacts. To conclude, the report offers recommendations on actions which could be taken going forward to further the objectives of the Duty.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Woodberry Down is a housing estate in the north-west of the Borough. It comprises approximately 24 hectares of development land, featuring 64 residential blocks, two schools and open space.
- 1.2.2 Woodberry Down is the most extensive scheme within Hackney's Estate Regeneration Programme. A masterplan for Woodberry Down was first adopted in 2007 (with an update in 2009), allowing for a five-phase programme. In 2012 the masterplan was reviewed in consultation with local residents, receiving consent in February 2014 (Ref: 2013/3223). Under the revised masterplan the regeneration was to be delivered in eight phases, to deliver over 5,500 new homes. The masterplan is currently being reviewed, with an application due in Spring 2024. The current proposals for the revised masterplan will follow the same phasing as the 2014 masterplan but seek to increase the numbers of homes as well as provide more public open space.
- 1.2.3 Construction of Phases 1 and 2 commenced under the original masterplan. Phase 1 began in 2007 (Ref 2007/0014), and was completed in 2018. Phase 2 commenced in 2011 (Ref 2008/1050) and was completed in 2022. To date 2,283 homes have been delivered, along with landscaped public space and a number of community facilities. Phase 3 (Ref 2019/2514) of the redevelopment commenced in Autumn 2021, providing a further 584 homes due for completion in two stages, in 2024 and 2025. A full planning application for Phase 4 was submitted in October 2023.
- 1.2.4 The Order Land is associated with Phase 4 of the regeneration. It is located in the centre of the Estate, and comprises 6 residential blocks. At January 2022, there were 200 residential units of which 185 were occupied; by September 2023

the number of void units has increased to 25 ¹ and this will continue to change as Phase 4 progresses.

Table 1 Properties in Phase 4 of Woodberry Down Estate Regeneration

Building	Units	Description
Finmere House	45	5 storey red brick, deck access
Keynsham House	35	5 storey red brick, deck access
Kilpeck House	35	5 storey red brick, deck access
Knaresborough House	35	5 storey red brick, deck access
Leighfield House	25	5 storey red brick, deck access
Lonsdale House	25	5 storey red brick, deck access
Total	200	

Table 2 The status of the occupants are as follows:

Phase 4	SECURE	NON-SECURE	LEASEHOLD	VOID	OTHER	TOTAL
Feb 2022	32	109	42		2	185
Nov 2023	30	106	35	28	1	200

Source : Table 2 at paragraph 4.5 of Woodberry Down Phase 4 - Proposed Serving Of Demolition Notices, Suspension Of Right To Buy And CPO Preparatory Work _ Cabinet Report 28 Feb 2022. Update November 2023

1.2.5 In order to deliver Phase 4 the Council is now seeking to secure vacant possession of all the properties included within the Order Land, in negotiation with existing owners and occupiers.

1.2.6 To ensure the timely development of the site the Council is seeking to exercise its powers of compulsory purchase in respect of any remaining interests in the Order Land.

1.3 The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)

1.3.1 Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) enables a local authority to acquire land compulsorily for planning purposes. Specifically, Section 226(1)(a) of the 1990 Act authorises a local authority to exercise its compulsory purchase powers if it thinks that acquiring the land in question will

¹ Woodberry Down Phase 4 - Proposed Serving Of Demolition Notices, Suspension Of Right To Buy And CPO Preparatory Work _ Cabinet Report 28 Feb 2022

facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment, or improvement on, or in relation to, the land being acquired.

- 1.3.2 The proposed CPO relates to the land identified as Phase 4 of the Woodberry Down Estate redevelopment bounded to the north by Seven Sisters Road, to the west by Woodberry Grove, to the south by Woodberry Down and to the east is St Olave's Church and associated buildings. The lands between the blocks are a combination of green amenity space with mature trees, and tarmac including off street parking. The site is approximately 1.36 hectares.

1.4 Equality Impact Assessments and the Equality Act 2010

- 1.4.1 The Council is committed to improving equality and making the borough a place for everyone. This means ensuring all actions taken by the Council contribute to equality. This report provides an EqlA of the impact of the CPO as set out in the Equality Act 2010.

- 1.4.2 The Equality Act 2010 updates and combines all previous discrimination legislation with the aim of reducing socio-economic inequalities by ensuring that certain groups with Protected Characteristics are supported and protected. Protected Characteristics are:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Gender reassignment;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion or belief;
- Sex;
- Sexual orientation; and
- Marriage and civil partnership (applicable only to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination).

- 1.4.3 The Act also establishes the Public Sector Equality Duty which Hackney, as a public body, is required to follow. The Duty requires that in the exercise of its functions, Hackney has due regard for the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a Protected Characteristic and those who do not; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a Protected Characteristic and those who do not.

- 1.4.4 Having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant Protected Characteristic;
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people who share a relevant Protected Characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it; and

- Encouraging persons who share a Protected Characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which their participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.5 Equality and the CPO process

- 1.5.1 The Government has produced guidance on the application of EqIAs in CPO cases². This guidance states that throughout the compulsory purchase process acquiring authorities must have due regard to the need to: (a) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. In performing their public functions, acquiring authorities must have due regard to the need to meet these three aims of the Equality Act 2010. This will require careful consideration of how to balance specific short term negative impacts with broader, longer term positive impacts and this must be clearly demonstrated. The guidance suggests that in the case of regeneration projects consideration needs to be given to the fact that while low-income is not a Protected Characteristic, it is not uncommon for those with Protected Characteristics (for example, the disabled, ethnic minorities or elderly) to be over represented in low-income groups. It also recommends that consideration is given to addressing particular challenges that might arise in consulting or communicating with these groups.

1.6 Hackney's existing equality policy

- 1.6.1 The key document applying the Equality Act in Hackney is the Single Equality Scheme for Hackney 2018-2022³, and is informed by the Mayor's priorities, Council's vision and work that was done to develop the Community Strategy, including insight from the Hackney A Place for Everyone consultation. The Single Equality Scheme sets out the equality objectives:
- Increase prosperity for all and tackling poverty and socio-economic disadvantage
 - Tackle disadvantage and discrimination that is linked to a protected characteristic
 - Building a cohesive and inclusive borough
- 1.6.2 In addition to this, the Council has adopted an Equality and Cohesion Policy (2018) which provides a clear statement of principles in relation to the Council's vision for an equal and socially inclusive borough, and how implementing good practice on equality and diversity helps deliver its wider and social and economic aims. The policy identifies the following set of key objectives:
- Deliver actions which aim to narrow the gap in outcomes between certain disadvantaged groups and the wider community;
 - Improve the way we listen to our residents and respond to service users' feedback to improve services; and

² *Guidance on Compulsory Purchase Process and The Crichton Down Rules for the disposal of surplus land acquired by, or under the threat of, compulsion.* (DCLG, 2015)

³ The Council is currently (December 2023) consulting on a draft Equality Plan 2023-2026.

- Foster good relations by building a strong sense of community, neighbourliness and pride.

1.6.3 These aims are directly related to the CPO and form part of the assessment framework against which equality impacts have been measured.

1.6.4 Finally, the Council has a Hackney Community Strategy (CS) 2018-2028. This sets out a vision, priorities and a set of outcomes around which the Council must organise its business plans. The CS sets out five key cross-cutting themes:

1. A borough where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life and the whole community can benefit from growth
2. A borough where residents and local businesses fulfil their potential and everyone enjoys the benefits of increased local prosperity and contributes to community life
3. A greener and environmentally sustainable community which is prepared for the future
4. An open, cohesive, safer and supportive community
5. A borough with healthy, active and independent residents

1.6.5 The Council has also produced guidance⁴ and an assessment form designed to help teams actively plan for and achieve equality objectives. The methodology for this EqIA is based on the Council's guidance and as such reflects a comprehensive approach. The adopted methodology has ensured adequate analysis is completed.

1.7 Scope of the EqIA

1.7.1 The scope of the EqIA is to establish the equality impact of the proposed CPO for Woodberry Down Phase 4. It answers two questions:

- What effect does the CPO have on those with Protected Characteristics, and what steps have been taken to minimise disadvantages for protected groups?
- Has Hackney complied with the Duty in promoting the CPO?

1.7.2 In answering these questions, the EqIA analyses the existing situation in terms of equality, the extent of the impact of the CPO on groups with Protected Characteristics, and how the Council has sought to take steps to reduce any potential disadvantages created. This is set out in the following methodology section.

⁴ Building Equality Considerations into your policy and practice (Hackney Council, 2013)

2. Methodology

2.1 EqlA Methodology

2.1.1 This section sets out the methodology and approach for this EqlA. The assessment builds on the core methodology set out in the Council's EqlA assessment form⁵. The steps involved are as follows:

Step 1) Summary of the decision: Provide background to the decision to utilise CPO powers for Woodberry Down Phase 4. This includes a brief discussion of the existing programme for Woodberry Down, the previous phases completed, those under construction and the future programme as it presently stands.

Step 2) Main groups affected by the decision: Establish the Protected Characteristics of groups within the Order Land using baseline equality data at the local, borough and London level and information on existing residents gathered by the Council.

Step 3) Information and consultation leading to the decision: Set out the engagement of Hackney Council with tenants and leaseholders of the Woodberry Down Estate and summarise the ongoing work of the Housing and Estate Regeneration Teams in implementing the Hackney Regeneration Estates Leaseholder and Freeholder Offer Document ("the Offer Document"), the Woodberry Down Local Lettings Policy ("the Local Lettings Policy"), and the Woodberry Down Secure Tenants' Offer Document 2022 ("the Secure Tenants' Offer Document"). This step will also set out the Council's overall policy position.

Step 4) Positive and negative equality impacts of the decision: Assess the equality effects of the development to:

- Identify whether and to what extent the CPO could produce disadvantage, or enhance opportunity for any protected groups; and
- Establish if the potential negative or positive impacts are significant enough to require measures to mitigate or enhance their effects.

Step 5) Analysis of the balance of impacts and actions identified to mitigate negative impacts and enhance positive impacts: Set out the balance of impacts and identify actions which need to be taken.

⁵ London Borough of Hackney Equality Impact Assessment Form

3. Step 1: Summary of the decision

3.1 The Proposed Scheme

- 3.1.1 The CPO for Woodberry Down Phase 4 forms part of the ongoing regeneration of the Woodberry Down Estate. The regeneration of the estate is being undertaken in close partnership with residents through the Woodberry Down Community Organisation (WDCO) and the main partners Berkeley Homes and Notting Hill Genesis (NHG). The three partners have entered into a Legal Agreement, the 'Principal Development Agreement' (PDA), which sets out how the Estate is to be regenerated. The Council is responsible for clearing the sites ready for demolition and onward disposal to the developer, Berkeley Homes. Berkeley Homes is responsible for developing the estate in accordance with the terms of the PDA and will sell all the completed social housing and shared ownership/equity units to NHG as the Registered Social Landlord.
- 3.1.2 The original masterplan for Woodberry Down was adopted in 2007 (with an update in 2009), allowing for a five-phase programme. In 2012 the masterplan was reviewed in consultation with local residents, receiving consent in February 2014 (Ref: 2013/3223). The 2014 Masterplan established that the regeneration would be delivered in eight phases. A review of the 2014 Masterplan is currently underway, as the delivery timescales had become unimplementable; the refresh also allows the masterplan to respond to current policy, including LP33 which wasn't published at the time of the 2014 Masterplan. An outline planning application for the new masterplan is due to be submitted in spring 2024.
- 3.1.3 Phase 1 (under the 2007/9 masterplan) of the project was completed in 2018 and delivered a total of 1,465 new homes, of which 421 are for social rent, 145 for shared ownership, and 867 for private sale, as well as a secondary school (Skinners Academy), the Redmond Community Centre, commercial floorspace on both Seven Sisters Road and Woodberry Grove, landscaping and public open space. The Council made and received confirmation of a CPO for Phase 1 in 2007.
- 3.1.4 Phase 2 of the project completed in 2022, delivering 877 new homes, of which 116 are for social rent, 206 for shared ownership, 17 for shared equity, and 563 for private sale, as well as a community gym. An affordable workspace facility opened in Autumn 2019. Phase 2 also created a significant amount of high quality public open space and extensive environmental improvements. This included a new public park and enhanced public access to the two reservoirs to the south of the Estate. A new pub was also opened in 2019. In order to assemble the land required for scheme delivery, the Council secured the confirmation of a CPO for Phase 2 in January 2014.
- 3.1.5 Phase 3 for 384 new homes commenced in Autumn 2021, in addition to the new homes there is approximately 467sqm of flexible commercial and community space, and a new energy centre. Phase 3 will deliver 117 social rented homes, which will provide more than sufficient accommodation for all council tenants currently living in Phase 4. It also has the capacity to provide homes for the majority of tenants in Phase 5. Phase 3 is due to complete in two stages, in late 2024 - when Council tenants in Phase 4 will be able to move into their new,

pre-allocated home, and Summer 2025. A CPO for Phase 3 was confirmed in August 2019.

- 3.1.6 In order to ensure that the Council secures vacant possession of Phase 4 it is necessary to rehouse tenants living in these homes, and to buy back leasehold properties. To achieve this a number of actions are required, including serving demolition notices, awarding Decant Status, providing compensation payments and preparing a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). Decant status and compensation for Council tenants, and demolition notices was approved by Hackney's Cabinet in February 2022 [Cabinet Report FCR R93 Feb 2022](#) and the buy back of leasehold properties was approved by Cabinet in July 2022, further to the Council entering into an indemnity agreement with Berkeley Homes.
- 3.1.7 Following pre-application discussions (2023/0012/PA), a detailed planning application (2023/2371) for Phase 4 was submitted in October 2023. The proposals are for the *demolition of existing structures and the construction of a residential led, mixed use development comprising 511 residential units and 1215sqm GIA commercial or community floor space (Use Class E(a,b,c) / Use Class F1) in buildings of between 1 and 26 storeys, together with public realm, landscaping, play space, servicing facilities, car and cycle parking, plant space, and associated works.*
- 3.1.8 Demolition of Phase 4 is due to commence in summer 2025. To accomplish this programme the blocks in Phase 4 must be vacant by this time. There are 200 units (see table 3 below) in Phase 4, including 30 Secure Tenants. The Phase 4 residential blocks affected are; Lonsdale, Leighfield, Knaresborough, Kilpeck, Keynsham and Finmere House.
- 3.1.9 All of the Council Tenants from Phase 4 who wish to remain on the estate will move into the completed new homes on Phase 3, where there will also be sufficient new homes to rehouse the majority of Phase 5 tenants who choose to move. Remaining unallocated properties will be offered to tenants in later phases. The Order Land has a total net site area of 1.36 ha. It currently comprises 200 residential units across the following properties:

Table 3 Exiting Residential on Phase 4

Building	Units
Finmere House	45
Keynsham House	35
Kilpeck House	35
Knaresborough House	35
Leighfield House	25
Lonsdale House	25

	200
--	-----

- 3.1.10 The regeneration of the Woodberry Down Estate represents an opportunity to deliver increased numbers of homes and environmental improvements through more efficient use of the land within the Estate. Overall the scheme will replace the 1,980 homes on the original Woodberry Down Estate with over 5,500 new ones, together with new commercial space, a new community centre and energy centre and new, improved amenity space and public realm. The enhancement of homes, amenities and the general living environment will achieve significant equality benefits for those with Protected Characteristics, as well as helping to ensure the future sustainability of the area.
- 3.1.11 Delivery of the Woodberry Down Phase 4 Scheme relies on the Council obtaining vacant possession of the remaining properties within the Order Land. While the Council has an established and ongoing programme to secure vacant possession by negotiation, it intends to use its compulsory purchase powers, albeit as a last resort, to ensure that redevelopment of Woodberry Down Phase 4 goes ahead in a timely and efficient manner.

4. Step 2: Identifying the main groups affected by the decision

4.1 Setting the Equality Baseline

- 4.1.1 In order to gain an understanding of the environment in which this CPO decision is being promoted, a baseline for the local area has been established. This baseline has been analysed by looking in detail at the following indicators:
- Age;
 - Disability;
 - Gender reassignment;
 - Pregnancy and maternity;
 - Race;
 - Religion or belief;
 - Sex;
 - Sexual orientation ;
 - Marriage and civil partnership (applicable only to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination); and
 - Characteristics of protected groups.

4.2 Baseline Analysis for the Local Area

- 4.2.1 This baseline analysis uses the most detailed information available for the site and compares this to Hackney, London, and national (England) data where this is considered useful:
- Local Area data is based on Output Area (OA), and this is the smallest lowest level area for Census data available, with each area being determined by similar population levels. Each OA is made up of between 40 and 250 households and a population between 100 and 625 persons, giving the most

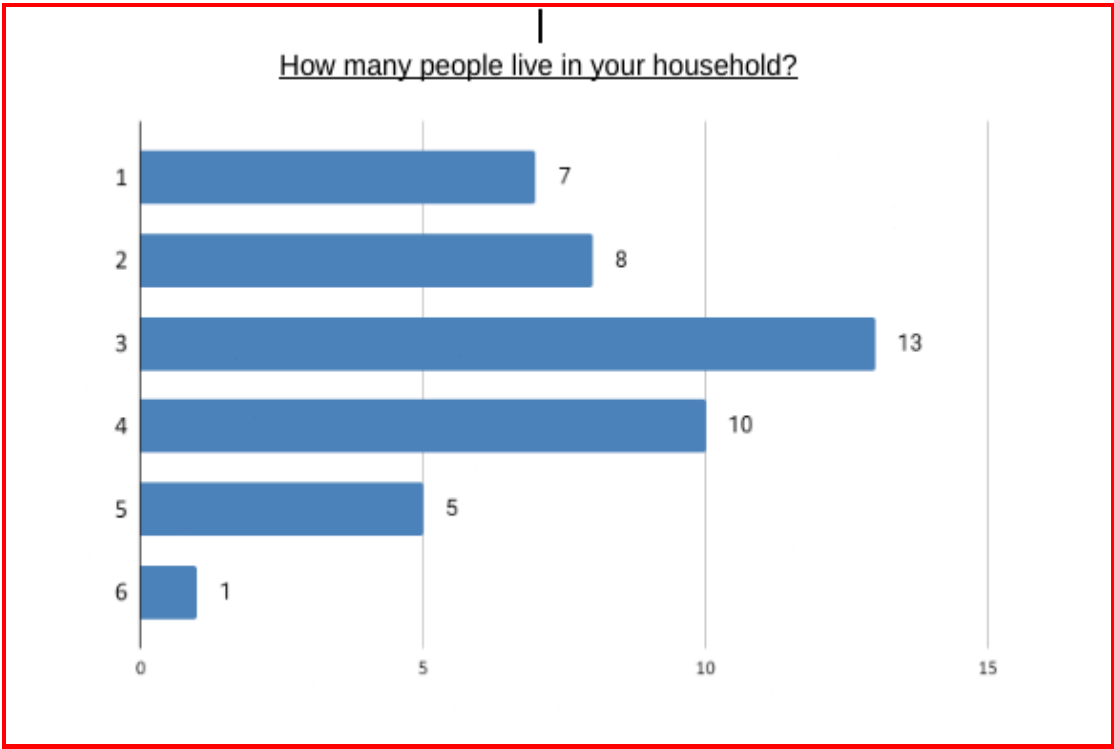
localised snapshot of the area. From the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Census 2021 webpage, most of Phase 4 of Woodberry Down Regeneration can be covered by two OAs. These are OAs ref E0008577 and E0008576 [Phase 4 Output Area](#), and the Census⁶ records a population of 580, up from the 549 in 2011. There is no data available which perfectly matched the boundaries of Phase 4, the two OAs used covered 5 of the 6 blocks (exception being Kilpeck House), and part of the Kingly Building at 18 Woodberry Down and Odell House 16 Woodberry Down (both residential). For the purposes of this report, data from the OAs are used, where this is not available, relevant Census data at the next geographical level, if available, has been used.

- Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are usually made up of 4 or five OAs. they comprise between 1,200 households and a population of between 1,000 - 3,000 persons. At September 2023, 2021 census data at level was not available :
<https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/c481f2d3-91fc-4767-ae10-2efdf6d58996/lower-layer-super-output-areas-lsoas>
- Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOA) are usually made up of 4-5 LOAS. These comprise between 2,000 - 6000 households and have a resident population of between 5,000 - 15,000 people. At this level Phase 4 lies within the Woodberry Down and Manor MSA.
- Hackney data acts as an effective comparator for local conditions;
- London data is used as a broad comparator as statistics are available via the Greater London Authority and are considered to be a more relevant comparator than the UK for the CPO area; and
- Household survey equality data was obtained from 45 households - accounting for around 133 residents - affected by the CPO via a postal questionnaire door-knocking, and availability through Citizen Space between 6 February 2023 and 3 March 2023. Survey data has been considered on face-value based on actual answers provided, i.e. it has been assumed that all residents have answered the questionnaire to the best of their knowledge and belief and the information provided is correct. Not every resident who responded to the survey answered every question and this has been accounted for when stating percentages of respondents with particular characteristics (numbers of respondents to each question are included in the paragraphs below).

⁶ All Census data used will be from the 2021 Census unless stated otherwise.

Household Equality Survey 2023

4.2.2 There were 45 returns comprising 133 residents in the six Phase 4 residential blocks.



Source : Household Equality Survey 2023

4.2.3 The responses received dictates that there were a number of households where there was one adult with a number of younger occupants.

4.2.4 The baseline uses the 2021 Census for analysis of all levels (Local area, Hackney and London) of data unless stated otherwise. Occasionally data relates to other geographies, for example ward level. The Order Land is located within the Woodberry Down ward of Hackney.

4.2.5 It should be noted that the 2021 OA baseline data is unlikely to include temporary accommodation residents who are currently living in the CPO area. It is however fair to assume that the demographic characteristics of the temporary residents are not dramatically different to those of the wider area, so this local area data is still considered to be a good baseline. More specific information about the remaining residents of the Order Land (including those in temporary accommodation) has been collected through the household equality survey to which a total of 45 responses were received.

4.2.6 As of September 2023 the total number of occupied households within Woodberry Down Phase 4 Order Land is approximately 175, in early 2022 it was around 185. This is a relatively small sample size, and means that a balance must be struck between providing detailed statistics which enable a clear evaluation of the Duty and the risk of breaching data protection afforded under

the Data Protection Act 1998⁷, which itself sets out that greater than normal protection should be given to data relating to those with certain Protected Characteristics (ethnicity, religion and health). Therefore data on residents is set out at a necessarily high level in order to protect the identity of individuals.

4.3 Age

- 4.3.1 The 2021 Census shows that 0-14 year olds made up 23.7% (138) of the OA, just above the average for the Woodberry Down ward which has around 21.9% aged between 1-15 years. Both are above the borough average of 17.9%, and London average of 18.1%, while the national (England average) is 17.3%. The 23.7% as a proportion and numerically is up from the 18.76% (103) in 2011⁸. In particular Hackney has proportionally more children aged 4 years and under than London or England, around the same proportion of children aged 5-16, and fewer young people aged 16-19.
- 4.3.2 In the 2021 Census those above 65 years of age in the two OAs was recorded as 4.0% (23), which is significantly below the 7.6% ward, 7.9% for borough and 12% for London whilst the proportion in England is 18.4%. It is also down on the 2011 return which recorded 33 (6.01%) of residents being over 65 years of age.
- 4.3.3 The household equality survey returns shows that 49 of the 130 are 15 years and below which represents around 37%, which is proportionally significantly above the ward, borough and even OAs level. The 6 (4.5%) residents aged 65 years plus is in line with the local area.

4.4 Disability

- 4.4.1 The 2021 Census indicates that 13.52% (78) of residents in the OAs are classed as having a disability under the Equality Act. This would limit their ability to undertake day-to-day activities by a little or a lot. Which is slightly below with the averages in the ward (14.2%), Hackney (14.3%), about the same as London (13.2%), and below the national average of 17.5%. Whilst 4.27% (24) of the population was in bad health or very bad health, in line with the London average of 4.2%, and below the borough (5.1%) and national (5.2%) average.
- 4.4.2 The 2021 returns are also down on the 2011 Census which shows that 19.85% (109) of residents in the OAs have a long term health problem or disability which means that their day-to-day activities are limited.
- 4.4.3 The household equality survey found that 26% (34) had a physical or mental disability / health condition which lasted more than 12 months. In addition 27.6% (36) indicated that their condition or illness limited their ability by a little or a lot to carry out day-to-day activities. The 2011 Census for the OA area showed that 19.85% of residents' activities were adversely affected, while the 2021 Census showed that those who are classified under the Equality Act was at 13.5%. In addition 20.8% (26) of residents provided some level of care /support for someone with a long term disability, or problems related to old age. The

⁷ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/contents>

⁸ 2011 Census recorded 12 individuals at the time who were 15 year olds. This information does not appear to be available for the 2021 returns.

household survey returns indicate that disability illness affected a greater proportion of the population than both the 2021 and 2011 Census would suggest.

4.5 Gender Identity

- 4.5.1 The 2021 Census information around sexual orientation and gender identity is not available at OA or ward levels. Available information shows that out of the residents in Hackney aged 16 or over, 187,007 (89.3%) said their gender was the same as the sex registered at birth, 2,241 (1.1%) said their gender is different to their sex registered at birth. This aligned with the Hackney Profile 2020 which states that The Gender Identity Research and Education Society estimates that there are 650,000 (1% of the population) whose gender identity is incongruent with their assigned gender - this would equate to around 2,700 people in Hackney. According to NHS England, numbers seeking medical support are lower, although they have significantly increased in recent years.
- 4.5.2 The Practical Androgyny website estimates that around 0.4% of the UK population, 1 in 250 people in the UK is non binary. This equates to around 1,200 in Hackney. The Census indicates that Hackney has the highest number and the highest proportion of usual residents⁹ who described a [nonbinary+](#) gender identity out of any of the 34 London boroughs.
- 4.5.3 Statistics on sexual and gender identity should be approached with caution, particularly given that Hackney's identity as a centre for the queer community means that the borough's population of lesbian, gay bisexual and trans people may be higher than other national or regional estimates.
- 4.5.4 The household equality survey returns showed that one person also indicated that the gender that they identified with was not the same as their sex registered at birth. This adult female is in a household with 1 female child.

4.6 Pregnancy and Maternity

- 4.6.1 The general fertility rate (GFR) or birth rate in Hackney in 2021 was 54 per 1000 population, in line with the London overall rate of 56 per 1000. The borough's GFR has been in and around the mid 50s since 2019, having fallen from the high 50s / low 60s previously, including a high of 76 per 1000 in 2010. In the household equality survey 1 person was either pregnant or on maternity leave at the time.

4.7 Race / Ethnicity

- 4.7.1 In 2021 in the OAs 54.9% (318.25) are BAME, another 10.8% (62.81) are classified as 'other ethnic group'¹⁰, 34.3% (199) of the 580 population are white. BAME and other ethnic groups make up a greater proportion of the local population than the average at ward, borough, London and national levels. Black, Black British, Caribbean and African make up 31.2% (180.96) of the local population and 47.5% of the BAME population.

⁹ A usual resident is anyone who on Census Day, 21 March 2021 was in the UK and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or had a permanent UK address

¹⁰ Other ethnic group include Arab, and groups not in the broad Asian, black and mixed / multiple ethnic group

- 4.7.2 133 people were recorded in the household survey of which the ethnicity of 96 was provided. The survey had nineteen categories, and the returns recorded thirteen categories with 'White others' (20) and 'Black others' (15) being the two largest individual groups. White including 2 who identified as gypsy or Irish travellers made up 31% (30), Black 25% (24), Asian 22% (21), Mixed / multiple ethnic and other ethnic groups made up the remaining 22% (21). BAME and other ethnic groups formed 69%, while the 'Whites' grouping constituted 31% of the survey returns, which is broadly in line with the 2021 Census returns for the OAs.
- 4.7.3 The Census shows that 49.38% (286.43) of the local population was born outside the UK, which proportionally is slightly down on the 51.5% (283) on the 2011 Census. It is above the borough (39.7%), London (40.6%), and national (17.4%) 2021 averages.
- 4.7.4 While for those over 3 years old, 6.96% (40.39) cannot speak English or speak it well. This is above the borough (4.8%), London (4.2%) and 1.9% in England. The 2011 Census indicated that 24.77% (54/218) of households do not have English as a first language which is higher than the Hackney average of 14.3% and double the London average rate of 12.7%.

4.8 Religion

- 4.8.1 The 2021 Census showed that 28.57% (165.73) had no religion, and 8.65% (50.18) did not answer the question, which is basically in line with the ward returns of 28.4% and 10.4% respectively. This meant that 62.78% of the local population had a religion which is above the borough (55%) and national (57.3%) averages, but below London (66%). It is also down on the 2011 Census where 77.76% (428) classed themselves as having a religion. The largest religious groups in the OAs are Christian (30.4%) and Muslim (24.6%), the other faiths / denominations make up 7.8%. The proportion that are Christian is on par with the Hackney average (30.7%), slightly less than the ward (32%), and lower than London and national figures which are around 40% and 46% respectively. At the localised level, it is significantly down on the 2011 returns. The proportion of Muslims in 2021 is also down on 29.96% in the 2011 Census.
- 4.8.2 From the household equality survey 89% indicated that they had a religion. Which is higher than the OAs, ward, borough, London and national levels.

4.9 Sex

- 4.9.1 In 2021, females made up the majority 56.13% (325.54) of the local population, and males 43.87% (254.46), reversing the 2011 returns which was 47.18 : 52.82 in favour of males. Boroughwide in 2021 the split was 52.2 : 47.8 in favour of women whilst Londonwide and nationally, the split is around 51:49 with women accounting for more of the population.
- 4.9.2 Of those 132 residents identified from the household equality survey returns, (78) 58% are female and (56) 42% are male. This supports the census returns which showed that the difference between the sexes is significantly higher at the local level than the other levels, including the residents survey for Phase 3 of the Woodberry Down regeneration which showed that 81% of the residents were

female. One person indicated that the gender that they identified with was not the same as their sex registered at birth.

4.10 Sexual Orientation

- 4.10.1 Data release in January 2023 from the 2021 Census indicates for residents aged 16 and above for the Woodberry Down and Manor House MSOA¹¹ 83.33% are straight or heterosexual, 6.4% answered lesbian, gay, bisexual or other orientation (LGB+), and 10.27% did not answer.
- 4.10.2 Boroughwide 79.6% (166,695) identified as straight or heterosexual, 7.8% (16,388) as LGB+, and 13% did not answer the question. This places Hackney in the top 5 of the 34 London Local Authorities for the largest LGB+ population as well as the London Local Authority with the third highest proportion of those not providing an answer to the question.
- 4.10.3 The Sexual Orientation Survey carried out by the ONS in 2018 provided the following results for London and England. People in London were most likely to identify as LGB(2.8%), compared to the North East which was the least likely (1.8%). the higher proportion of people in London may be explained by the younger age structure of the population. The median age of the population in London was 35.3 years in 2018, compared with 41.8 years in the North East of England.

ONS, Sexuality 2018 (Borough Profile 2020)

Sexual Orientation	London	England
Heterosexual / Straight	91.5	94.4
Gay / lesbian	2.1	1.4
Bisexual	0.7	0.9
Other	0.7	0.6
Don't know / refused to say	4.9	2.8

- 4.10.4 The 2020 GP patient survey indicated that, in Hackney and City there were comparatively high numbers of people who identified as gay or lesbian (5%), bisexual (2%), other (2%), a further 10% preferred not to say. The remaining 81% identify as heterosexual or straight.
- 4.10.5 The returns from the Census and the the 2020 GP patient survey indicates that the proportion of the LGB+ population in Hackney is above the London and national average. Even then these figures may be under-represent the size of

¹¹ lowest level of data available for this dataset

the non - heterosexual population, given the problems involved in disclosure of sexual orientation.

- 4.10.6 Of those who answered the sexual orientation question in the household equality survey, all identified as straight / heterosexual. This does not follow the returns for the wider MSAO in the 2021 Census which indicates that around 6.4% of the local population identified as LGB+, as did 9.7% of those answered a similar survey carried out for the CPO for Phase 3 of the Woodberry Down Regeneration in 2018.

4.11 Characteristics of Protected Groups

- 4.11.1 The Duty relates specifically to the Protected Characteristics of individuals, however government guidance¹² indicates that low income should also be considered in EqlAs. While low income is not a Protected Characteristic in itself, it should be acknowledged that groups with Protected Characteristics often share this characteristic. The following section therefore considers several key statistics relating to income.

4.12 Deprivation

- 4.12.1 Indices of deprivation provide a broad based indicator of the levels of deprivation at a local level. In the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation¹³ (IMD) Hackney received an average score that made it the 22nd most deprived authority in England¹⁴. Woodberry Down Ward is amongst the 10% most deprived in the country overall, and the Ward's average IMD score was the highest of the borough's 21 wards. When broken down, the area is mixed, being within the 10% most deprived in respect of income and barriers to housing and services, but within the 30% most deprived in terms of health deprivation and disability. While in terms of education, skills and training the borough's average score places it in the 229 out of 317 local authorities (1 being the most deprived).
- 4.12.2 The Government publishes two additional index outputs from the IMD focusing specifically on younger and older people at the borough level: the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI). These consider a range of indicators to derive specific conclusions about groups with Protected Characteristics. Both indexes place Hackney within the top 10% most deprived nationally¹⁵, the IDAOPI has Hackney at 1, and the IDACI at 23 out of 317 local authorities.
- 4.12.3 The 2021 Census shows that 53.7% of households are deprived in between 1 and 4 dimensions, which is better than the Ward average 56.8%, and borough 55% , but higher than the London (51.9%) and the National average is 51.6%.

¹² See 1.5.1

¹³7 measurements - Income, Employment, Health Deprivation and Disability, Education, Skills Training, Crime, Barriers to Housing and Services and Living Environment .

¹⁴ 317 local authorities districts in England

¹⁵ Rank of proportion of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally (IMD 2019)

The Census considered four dimensions of deprivation; employment, education, health and disability and household overcrowding.

- 4.12.4 The level of households deprivation¹⁶ in the OA area at 53.7% is just above the 52% at London and national level, and lower than the Woodberry Down Ward and borough average (56%).
- 4.12.5 The percentage of children in Hackney living in an 'all out of work benefit claimant household' in May 2017 was 16.5%. The inner London average was 14.9%.

4.13 Housing & Overcrowding

- 4.13.1 Housing is a significant issue within Hackney, with the most recent data indicating that Hackney needs to build approximately 2,514 homes per year¹⁷ to meet the needs of the existing and future population. There is also an overwhelming need for more affordable homes, with median house prices reaching 14.55 times median income in 2022¹⁸.
- 4.13.2 The predominant tenure within the local output area is social rented (47.8%) which is above the borough average of 40.5%, in England the proportion fell down to 17.1%. Private rented account for 37% against the borough 32.4%, and ownership; outright, and mortgages for shared ownership accounted for 15.2% against 27.1.
- 4.13.3 The emerging Hackney Strategic Housing Market Assessment (July 2023) divided Hackney into eight sub areas, Phase 4 lies within the Manor House (covering 9,033 households) sub area, which shows that affordable rent / social rent was the predominant tenure at 41.2% just below the borough average of 43%. Hackney Wick (52%) and Homerton (53.2%) had the highest proportion of social rent, while Stamford Hill (38.8%) and Dalston (34.2%) had the lowest.

4.14 Baseline of existing Phase 4 Woodberry Down residents

- 4.14.1 The Order Land contains a mix of tenants, leaseholders, and freeholders. These are made up of the following:
1. Secure tenants who rent from the Council at social rent levels;
 2. Residents currently housed in temporary accommodation;
 3. Resident leaseholders who own and live in their home;
 4. Non-resident leaseholders who own their home but do not live in it; and
 5. Others including privately renting tenants who live in the properties of non-resident leaseholders; and

¹⁶ Deprivation in terms of 1 to 4 dimensions.

¹⁷ Draft Hackney Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), July 2023

¹⁸ ONS Ratio of House Prices to Earnings, 2022

- 4.14.2 The Council has a separate Equality Impact Assessment for residents currently housed in temporary accommodation (available at [Hackney Temporary Housing Strategy EIA](#)). It is possible that, as homes become vacant as part of the rehousing and buyback process, additional properties will be used for temporary accommodation within Woodberry Down Phase 4, in line with this Strategy, up until the time the Council requires vacant possession of these units.
- 4.14.3 In February and November 2023, the breakdown across units in Phase 4 are as follows:

	SECURE	NON-SECURE	LEASEHOLD RESIDENT	LEASEHOLD NON-RESIDENT	VOIDS	OTHER	TOTAL
Feb 2022	32	108	13	28	16	2	200
Nov 2023	30	106	12	23 (10*)	28	1	200

*figures in bracket where properties are known to be privately tenanted

1. Secure Tenants

- 4.14.4 As at November 2023 there are a total of 30 secure tenants remaining in Phase 4.

2. Residents in Temporary Accommodation

- 4.14.5 As of November 2023 there are 106 units occupied by residents in temporary accommodation.

3. Non-resident and Resident Leaseholders

- 4.14.6 There are 36 leaseholders remaining in Phase 4 in November 2023.
- 4.14.7 The Council holds alternative postal addresses for 23 of these, implying that they may be non-resident; a further 2 are known to be non-resident and the Council communicates with them via their Woodberry Down address. The remaining 13 addresses are therefore likely to be occupied by resident leaseholders. The exact numbers of resident and non-resident leaseholders will be determined as the buy-back process progresses.

4. Private tenants of Non-Resident Leaseholders

- 4.14.8 It is currently unknown exactly how many leasehold properties are rented to private tenants. As of November 2023 23 leaseholders were recorded as having let out their property. However it is not known exactly how many of these are currently occupied, and some are known to be vacant; by contrast others within the 23 may include homes in multiple occupation. On the basis that private tenants have private tenancy agreements there is more often than not very limited information available regarding any Protected Characteristics that they may have.

5. Step 3: Set out the information and consultation leading to the decision

5.1 Consultation and engagement leading to the decision

- 5.1.1 Engagement with residents in Woodberry Down Phase 4 has been an ongoing process as part of the wider Woodberry Down Regeneration programme. The Council has proactively sought to encourage all residents, stakeholders and the wider community to participate in consultation regarding the future of Woodberry Down in order to help shape and influence the redevelopment proposals. Consultation has included steering group meetings, focus groups, workshops, surgeries, resident site visits, road shows and other organised events which have been well attended by residents as outlined below.
- 5.1.2 The representative resident group, the Woodberry Down Community Organisation (WDCO), which is a democratically elected body representing residents and retailers across the whole of the Woodberry Down Estate, has been involved in all aspects of the regeneration since the beginning of the project. The role of WDCO as a partner in the regeneration has been formalised in a Partnership Agreement, signed by the Council, Berkeley Homes, NHG and WDCO in March 2018. This document clarifies the role of WDCO in the regeneration and sets out how the partners will aim to achieve consensus in making decisions that affect the regeneration (within the context of the PDA and masterplan). The principle of the CPO for Phase 4 has been agreed with WDCO.
- 5.1.3 Between February and September 2019 an Understanding Woodberry Down (Feb 2020) study was undertaken by Social Life on behalf on the partners¹⁹. Understanding Woodberry Down (Feb 2020) aimed to explore the experience, attitudes and everyday life of Woodberry Down residents. Residents' perception of the estate, their everyday life and how they feel about their neighbours and their local community.
- 5.1.4 In total there were door to door resident surveys of 438 residents, 12 stakeholder interviews and 46 interviews with young people. The work was centred around five dimensions; Pride of Place, Prosperity, Wellbeing Balanced Community and Empowerment.
- 5.1.5 The research reported stronger neighbourliness, wellbeing, belonging and relationship between people from different backgrounds than people in comparable areas. Also Residents did not identify social integration as an important problem, and that the estate for the most part home to people who are comfortable with their neighbours, in spite of very different life circumstances and experiences.
- 5.1.6 Although younger interviewees were less positive than adults; their satisfaction with the area, sense of belonging, and intentions to remain in the area was longer. They were also negative about relationships between people from different backgrounds.
- 5.1.7 Generally there were some concerns about the possibility of a divided community in the future between newcomers and longer established residents,

¹⁹ Notting Hill Genesis, Berkeley Homes, Hackney Council, Woodberry Down Community Organisation and Manor House Development Trust

sometimes referred to as old estate and new development. Although the report identified that this was much more nuance than simply old versus new. It observed that long-term secure tenants may have moved into the newer developments from the older estate, while some renters in the new private homes could be living on low disposable income after paying high housing costs. Although, there is a greater diversity of social and economic background of the people in the new properties than long standing residents, and more people on higher income have moved into the newer privately owned homes.

- 5.1.8 The affordability and accessibility of spaces where all members of the community feel welcome, including spaces for community meeting and events was expressed as a concern.
- 5.1.9 In addition the research found that people living in Council temporary tenancies are more likely to be lonely, and to be finding it difficult to manage financially than people living in other tenures. In Phase 4 there are 106 residents living in temporary tenancies.
- 5.1.10 The Council has appointed Public Voice CIC, an Independent Tenant and Leaseholder Advisor (ITLA), to provide further support and assistance to residents affected by the regeneration proposals. Both the ITLA and WDCO remain integral to the project's engagement strategy.
- 5.1.11 The principal mechanisms for notifying residents directly about the CPO process have been through written communications, one-to-one consultations with secure tenants about their rehousing options, and one-to-one purchase negotiations with leaseholders. With regard to leaseholders, the Council has emphasised that its objective will always be to reach agreement by negotiation wherever possible and that the Council's powers of compulsory purchase will only be used as a last resort. Regarding secure tenants the Council has been proactive in supporting tenants to bid for and move to new homes, suitable to their needs.

5.2 Specific actions taken to date

1. Wider Woodberry Down consultation and communications

- 5.2.1 The Council convenes a bi-monthly 'Round Table' meeting with all regeneration partners, including WDCO to discuss the strategic direction and key issues of the Woodberry Down Regeneration Programme. The meeting invites updates from all partners and is chaired by the Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Delivery, Inclusive Economy and Regeneration. An update from each of the delivery partners is provided at the meeting, and the CPO for Phase 4 is included in the Hackney update.
- 5.2.2 WDCO run an open monthly Board meeting to which non-Board members of the public are invited to attend. The Council attends the Board meeting and provides

an update, along with updates from NHG and Berkeley Homes. Meeting minutes are published on the WDCO website.

- 5.2.3 In Autumn 2022, a booklet containing information about the phasing of the regeneration was produced and delivered to all residents in Woodberry Down. This set out a revised programme for the regeneration, and included information about re-housing options for residents and relevant contact details for the Council.
- 5.2.4 The Council also publishes a regular Woodberry Down Newsletter. This is delivered door-to-door to all residents and provides information about the regeneration and consultation events.
- 5.2.5 The Council supports two public events each year (the Hidden River Festival and Winterfest) for the residents of Woodberry Down. The events aim to provide entertainment for families as well as providing a platform to promote community cohesion.
- 5.2.6 In 2021 Berkeley Homes began a review of the masterplan. During the summer of 2022 there was extensive consultation, including a number of events, to encourage residents to engage and view information about the proposals.

2. Communications and consultation specific to Phase 4 and the proposed CPO (to date)

- 5.2.7 Throughout 2022 and 2023 there has been correspondence with residents regarding progress and updates about the regeneration, and invitations to information and drop in sessions. Direct correspondence which included delivering documents such as:
 - 1. Leaseholder and Freeholder Offer Document
 - 2. Secure Tenant Offer Document
 - 3. Phasing Booklet
- 5.2.8 There were three Leaseholder Information sessions in September and November 2022 to explain the CPO process and compensation disturbance payment. In addition, three Shared Equity Information sessions were offered in July, August and October 2023 where Council and NHG officers discussed the process and options for Shared Equity with individual leaseholders. Marketing materials for the new units was shared at the drop in sessions.
- 5.2.9 For tenants with secure tenure, there has been 8 drop in sessions for all affected tenants, specifically targeted at Phase 4 tenants, regarding tenants choice options and the regeneration programme. This has included letters to individual tenants who have been allocated units.

5.2.10 All residents living in Phase 4 were sent a detailed letter about the regeneration and CPO process, in February 2023, to accompany the Request for Information forms sent out as part of land referencing. A further update letter was sent in the autumn of 2023, updating residents about the process and next steps. In each case versions of the letter were created to be relevant to the different tenures of residents.

5.2.11 Due to there being a large number of residents in Phase 4 who speak Turkish as a first language, a Turkish translator is present at all of the information sessions noted above.

Leaseholders

5.2.12 All resident and non-resident leaseholders of the Order Land have been informed of the CPO proposals and consulted about the options available to them as set out above.

5.2.13 The Council is seeking to negotiate a settlement with each leaseholder in order that compulsory acquisition can be avoided, and attempts to acquire interests by agreement remain ongoing.

5.2.14 The Council has visited leaseholders individually and held three information sessions. The sessions, which took place between September and November 2022, outlined the purchase process, the options available in the Leaseholder and Freeholder Options Document, and provided an opportunity to ask questions. The Council is offering a number of options to leaseholders, as outlined in Section 5.2 below. All options are compliant with the statutory provisions for compensation relating to compulsory purchase, and many go beyond the minimal requirements in order to offer greater flexibility and a wider choice for leaseholders and freeholders.

5.2.15 Non-resident leaseholders were notified of the February consultation events. They were also sent the further letter, FAQs and Equality Monitoring Form, and this was sent to the leaseholder's alternative postal address where this was known.

5.2.16 In addition to these two information events, leaseholders have been included in all activities described in Section 5.1, including receiving notification of monthly drop-in sessions and direct contact details for the Council's Woodberry Down Regeneration Team and the ITLA.

5.2.17 The Regeneration Phasing Booklet included information for leaseholders and freeholders on the purchase process and their rehousing options. Since the publication of the Booklet, consultation and negotiations with Phase 4 leaseholders has continued, and to date 5 out of a total of 41 properties have been successfully purchased through negotiations.

- 5.2.18 Of the remaining 36 leaseholders, as of November 2023, 8 offers have been agreed and a further 19 offers have been made by the Council.

Secure Tenants

- 5.2.19 Secure tenants in Phase 4 were granted Decant Status in February 2022. Decant Status allows tenants who wish to move away from Woodberry Down to bid for properties off the estate. It also increases their priority for rehousing and entitles them to receive Home Loss and Disturbance payments.
- 5.2.20 The Woodberry Down Regeneration Team has undertaken a rigorous and detailed consultation process, and in conjunction with officers from the Housing Needs team, have endeavoured to offer acceptable re-housing to all secure tenants in Phase 4. Secure tenants are offered a range of re-housing options and assistance with moving, as set out in Section 5.3 below.
- 5.2.21 Secure tenants were included in all of the activities described in 5.1, including being sent the letter about the CPO process in February 2022, FAQs, contact details of both a named Council Officer and the ITLA, notification of drop-in sessions. The Secure Tenant Offer Document was revised in May 2022, and sets out the rehousing options and processes. Between June 2021 and November 2023 there have been 8 secure tenants drop-in sessions where officers and information have been available on tenants choice, housing options and the regeneration programme have been made available.
- 5.2.22 Each block is allocated to a single Decant Officer, who is the point of contact for individual tenants. The Decant Officers are familiar with the circumstances of each individual and provide support for individuals in understanding the process and making choices.
- 5.2.23 When Phase 4 was awarded 'in phase' status there were 33 Secure Tenants. 30 of these tenants have been pre allocated units on Phase 3. The remaining 3 tenants have chosen to move into accommodation away from Woodberry Down, and have successfully bid for and moved into new properties.

Private Tenants of non-resident leaseholders

- 5.2.24 The Council has engaged in extensive consultation with all residents at Woodberry Down as described in 5.1 above. This has included written information, open meetings and drop-in sessions which have been advertised, and open, to all residents. The ITLA is also available to support and advise all residents, including private tenants.
- 5.2.25 The Council will continue to actively engage with the private tenants of non-resident leaseholders. Where a private tenant needs further advice and support, they will be referred to the Council's Housing Needs Team who will provide support and advice on re-housing options as well as assistance with applying for secure tenancies if this is considered appropriate in order to protect their welfare.

Residents housed in Temporary Accommodation

- 5.2.26 The programme for placing homeless people in temporary accommodation at Woodberry Down began in early 2014. When offered temporary accommodation, residents would have been advised of the regeneration, and encouraged to bid for a secure tenancy elsewhere in the borough.
- 5.2.27 Residents in temporary accommodation at Woodberry Down have been included in communications to all residents and to all residents in Phase 4, and therefore have received notifications and information about the CPO set out in 5.1 above, including the letters described in (4) and the 'phasing booklet' in (1), which was sent to all residents in Woodberry Down, regardless of tenure.
- 5.2.28 The Downsizing and Rehousing Team (DART) is in contact with all residents in temporary accommodation in Phase 4. In February 2023 a letter was sent to these residents to update them about the regeneration, the requirement to move, and provide information about the process of bidding for a new property, and the support available from the Council. The Team has since been making contact with individuals to assess housing need, and ensure they are familiar with the process of bidding for a Council property. DART continues to follow up with individuals to support moving and respond to queries or any need of support.
- 5.2.29 Those in temporary accommodation who have not successfully found a council property elsewhere in the borough by September 2024 will be offered alternative temporary accommodation.

5.3 **The Hackney Leaseholder and Freeholder Options Document**

- 5.3.1 The Council's Regeneration Estates Leaseholder and Freeholder Options Document²⁰ (adopted in 2012 and updated in 2016 and 2022) ensures that all resident leaseholders and freeholders have the offer of a suitable new housing option on the Estate. It also sets out the engagement process to be followed, which ensures that all groups, regardless of Protected Characteristics, are supported in making their choice.
- 5.3.2 Resident leaseholders are provided with options which ensure that they have access to appropriate new properties on the regenerated estate. If suitable properties are not available in the current phase then they are given priority in future phases and provided with temporary accommodation.
- 5.3.3 The four options available to resident leaseholders are set out below:
- Open Market Purchase – the Council purchases the existing property and the leaseholder/freeholder makes their own arrangements to find a new home on the open market.
 - Shared Equity Purchase (on Woodberry Down) – Leaseholders are able to purchase an equity share of a newly built property on the Estate. There will be no minimum equity share and they will not pay any rent on the unpurchased portion of the property. The leaseholder must reinvest the full value of their current property as well as their Home Loss payment. NHG will

²⁰ Regeneration Estates Leaseholder and Freeholder Options Document:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Wl7-H31Ryi6SpNnIx_mC9Z7IzPJ9bZWZ/view

retain the unpurchased share of the property. There will be an option for the leaseholder to increase their equity share through future “staircasing”. The offer means that any leaseholder or freeholder who wishes to move into a new home on the Estate on a shared equity basis will be able to do so, without suffering any financial disadvantage.

- Shared Equity purchase (off Woodberry Down)– eligible leaseholders are able to purchase an equity share of a newly built property on another Hackney estate, where regeneration is taking place. The Council would pay the difference through taking an equity share in the property. The property will then be jointly owned by the leaseholder and the Council, according to the percentage each has invested in it. Again the leaseholder will be required to invest their total sales value of their existing property in the new property. The option is subject to the availability of a suitable property.
- Shared Ownership - this is a part-buy, part-rent scheme under which the leaseholder owns a proportion of the property and pays a rent on the unpurchased proportion. If shared ownership is undertaken on Woodberry Down, the unpurchased share will be owned by NHG. This option would enable a leaseholder to not invest the full market value of their current property (or the maximum they can afford) into a new property, and in such circumstances the leaseholder would not be required to invest their full Home Loss payment into the purchase of the new property. After an initial period, the leaseholder will have the right to purchase additional proportions of equity in the property. If a leaseholder increases the proportion of equity they own in the new property, the amount of rent they pay will decrease.

5.3.4 These options enable leaseholders to remain on the Estate, if they wish, recognising that they are a key part of the community. The leases for the new homes contain succession rights for at least one generation, ensuring that the families and children of leaseholders are not negatively impacted.

5.3.5 The Council also has an ‘Exceptional Cases Panel’ which can assess the need for flexibility in providing re-housing options for those considered to be in need of further assistance, including vulnerable leaseholders or those who are less able to safeguard their personal welfare or the welfare of any children in the household, and will be in need of care and attention due to age, infirmity, or chronic illness or mental disorder, or being disabled.

5.3.6 Those taking up any of the rehousing options will be rehoused, wherever possible, in a single move to their new property. If this is not possible they are temporarily housed on the estate for the interim period, rent free, until their new property is completed.

5.3.7 As of November 2023, of the remaining leasehold properties in Phase 4, the Council has carried out 32 valuations and made 32 offers. 6 offers on non-resident leasehold properties have been accepted, and 2 offers on resident leasehold properties have been accepted. Marketing information about Shared Equity has been shared with resident leaseholders, and to date 2 leaseholders are actively considering this option. Residents can reserve a flat for shared

equity purchase, but are not asked to commit until after they have viewed a show flat, which will be ready in spring / summer 2024.

- 5.3.8 Resident and non-resident leaseholders are also entitled to compensation under the Options Document. Resident leaseholders are entitled to 10% of the value of their property as a Home Loss payment, plus a Disturbance payment to cover the costs of selling, buying a new property and moving home. Non-resident leaseholders are entitled to 7.5% of the value of their property as a Home Loss payment, plus a Disturbance payment. The Council's approach to compensation is in line with government guidance on CPO compensation (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compulsory-purchase-and-compensation-booklet-1-procedure>).

5.4 Regeneration Lettings Policy

- 5.4.1 In respect of secure tenants, the Council has acted in accordance its Local Lettings Policy for Estates Approved for a Regeneration Programme, the Woodberry Down Secure Tenants' Offer Document²¹ and Local Letting Policy for Woodberry Down²². Under these documents, the first step is an assessment and one-to-one interview conducted by Officers from the Council's Woodberry Down Decant Team, which is designed to assess the needs of the existing household. This includes an assessment of medical needs and overcrowding, if appropriate. Following assessment, the Decant Team identifies possible options for rehousing, working closely with the tenant with the aim of meeting their needs and aspirations. When suitable housing, agreeable to the tenant, is identified, this is sent to the Council's Housing Needs Team for confirmation.
- 5.4.2 Where a secure tenant is moving off the Estate on a temporary basis whilst their new home is constructed, they retain a Right to Return (unless they have moved to a housing association property when decanted). In practice this Right has never been exercised as wherever possible tenants are offered a single move to a new home in Woodberry Down in the first instance and a move away from the Estate is generally at the request of the tenant.
- 5.4.3 Secure tenants moving into one of the new build homes on the redeveloped Estate may face higher social rent levels. This is because new social rents must be calculated using the most up to date 'Rent Standard Guidance' published by the Homes and Community Agency (dated April 2015). The Council acknowledges that from the perspective of the secure tenant, any rent increase may be viewed as having an adverse impact. However, the Council is obligated to act in accordance with this centrally-imposed guidance, which also sets out that social rents cannot rise above the rent cap level for the appropriate size of property.

²¹ Secure Tenant Offer Document
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-FDjA540QiVnGBroDRIR_jw6DEiKUVFs/view

²² Local Letting Policy for Woodberry Down
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qWW8aV0SJ03DzQhPAh8abYmBbDrOHAZOHPkhAGsQWG8/edit>

6. Step 4: Assessing the positive and negative impact of the decision

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter sets out the assessment of the impact of the CPO on residents with Protected Characteristics.

6.1.2 The CPO will have an impact on the remaining leaseholders as their properties will need to be compulsorily purchased by the Council if a suitable agreement is not reached and they will be required to move out of their homes. The compulsory acquisition of these leasehold properties, if necessary, will unlock the regeneration of Phase 4, which will impact any remaining tenants who will also be required to move out of their homes.

6.1.3 This section therefore considers the impacts of the CPO on groups with Protected Characteristics. It then provides an analysis of whether these impacts are positive or negative, and establishes if these impacts require further mitigation.

6.1.4 The household equality survey in 2023 generated 45 returns (households) comprising around 133 residents. To ensure anonymity and try to generate more response the tenancy of responded was not sought. However, from the returns we are able to ascertain certain protected characteristics specific to the residents of Phase 4 areas. Although it should be noted that the returns on the whole were completed by a single individual in household rather than individuals, not unlike the census.

- The proportion of younger residents (0-15 years) is higher than the OAs, ward and borough levels. Whilst older residents are on par with the OAs, which is lower than the wider area average. National indicators show that Hackney as a borough has a high proportion of elderly and younger people in income deprivation. Although the local area is lower than the borough average.
- The survey respondents indicated that the proportion of residents whose ability to carry out day to day activities is reduced by condition or illness is significantly higher than the census return indicated for the local and wider area.
- The split between female and male from the survey was 56:44 which is larger than the borough (52:48), London (51:49) and national (51:49) split.
- The survey confirms the census which indicates that in the OAs, BAME and other ethnic groups is higher than the Woodberry Down ward average. While the ward in turn is higher than the borough and London average.
- From the household equality survey 89% indicated that they had a religion. Which is higher than the ward, borough, London and national levels.
- A similar household equality impact survey was also carried out in February 2018 for Phase 3 of the estate regeneration. There are some similarities between the returns i.e numerical returns 45 compared to 41, and actual properties in the affected areas (200 for Phase 4 and 265 for Phase 3). However direct comparison between the two phases may not be too helpful as there is quite a bit of difference between the returns results, and around 5 years between the two surveys, during which the estate has been experiencing a major regeneration, including changes in the populations.

6.2 Statistics and Data Protection

- 6.2.1 The relatively small sample size of existing households across Phase 4 means that it is difficult to analyse specific data for the purpose of informing the EqIA whilst also protecting the anonymity of individuals under the Data Protection Act 1998. This is especially important as the legislation gives stronger legal protections to those with certain Protected Characteristics (ethnicity, religious belief and health). Therefore, for the purposes of this EqIA data has been generalised where possible while still providing an effective assessment of the impacts of the CPO.

6.3 Impacts of the CPO process on existing residents

Secure tenants

- 6.3.1 Secure tenants face negative impacts deriving from the CPO process as the implementation of the CPO will unlock the regeneration of Phase 4, which will require them to move out of their homes. Secure tenants will be impacted by the redevelopment, not necessarily the CPO itself, and these impacts are similar to those faced by existing leaseholders, including the potential loss of community and familial links, and the difficulties and complexities of moving to a new home, particularly for those who are disabled, pregnant or those with children. Whilst the CPO may have short term negative impacts on those with Protected Characteristics in terms of the actual moving process, these impacts may be mitigated to an extent by the long term benefits resulting from the CPO, including a much improved living environment after their re-housing has taken place.
- 6.3.2 Negative impacts are mitigated by Hackney's Regeneration Lettings Policy, under which each tenant is allocated a case officer in the Council's Decant Team and is individually engaged with through face to face interviews and home visits. A housing needs assessment is carried out for each tenant to establish their individual needs, and Officers support tenants through on-going visits and contact, and by assisting with them with the bidding process to help them achieve their preferred option for rehousing, whether that be to a new home on Woodberry Down or to a social rented property in another part of Hackney. The bidding process generally allows existing residents to exercise control over the best available options for their needs, while ensuring that homes are also allocated to those with the greatest needs in an equitable manner. Tenants currently on the Woodberry Down Estate, seeking rehousing due to the regeneration by the process described above, are upgraded to 'decant' status on the Housing Register, to increase their chances of a successful bid. Where those tenants have Protected Characteristics, these are also considered in assessing individuals' requirements and as part of the rehousing offer made to them, and in general Officers strive to support tenants in finding new housing that is most suitable to their needs.
- 6.3.3 The rehousing process itself provides a high level of mitigation for those with Protected Characteristics by ensuring that all secure tenants have a Right to Return to a new home on the Woodberry Down Estate, either in the present phase wherever possible (i.e. homes that are already complete and ready to move into), or in a future phase if necessary. In addition, the impact of the potential loss of community connections (significant for BAME groups and for the

elderly, as well as those who are pregnant or who have young children) is mitigated by the rehousing process which attempts wherever possible to ensure that, if a temporary move off of the Estate is required, secure tenants are housed within the local area. Furthermore the equality impacts of the CPO on secure tenants are considered to be limited as they are not directly linked to the CPO process.

- 6.3.4 Therefore, the overall equality impact of the CPO on secure tenants with Protected Characteristics is considered to be low, with any potential negative impacts being mitigated through the established engagement strategy, rehousing process, and the Right to Return policy that forms a fundamental part of the Council's existing approach. Although the process may result in tenants paying slightly increased rents, this is not considered to disproportionately affect social tenants with Protected Characteristics. In addition, tenants on low incomes are able to obtain benefits to assist with rent payments.

Residents housed in Temporary Accommodation

- 6.3.5 The proportion of residents living on the Order Land in temporary accommodation is the largest group comprising 106 tenants.
- 6.3.6 As with secure tenants, those in temporary accommodation are adversely affected by the CPO because the implementation of the CPO will unlock the regeneration of Phase 4, which will require them to move out of their homes.
- 6.3.7 The Council has a legal requirement to ensure that suitable accommodation is available to homeless households accepted as in being in priority need (such as families with children and households that include someone who is vulnerable, for example because of pregnancy, old age, or physical or mental disability), provided they are eligible for assistance and unintentionally homeless. It is therefore to be expected that a majority of residents in temporary accommodation will have Protected Characteristics.
- 6.3.8 There is fluctuation in the number of temporary accommodation residents on the Order Land and it is unknown how long the residents who responded to the equality monitoring survey have been living on the site. It is therefore difficult to assess the extent to which they will be affected by the CPO in terms of, for example, any disruption to social support networks or schooling. If the children of temporary accommodation residents are attending local schools, and have not been successful in finding alternative accommodation before the CPO is implemented, a move away from their current accommodation as a result of the CPO could have negative impacts on their children. Where this is the case, the needs of such households will be taken into account as far as is possible during the re-housing process.
- 6.3.9 However, given that these residents are in temporary accommodation they will be expecting to move. Whilst the move will inevitably cause short term disruption, this will be expected and potentially welcomed if they are successful in moving to more secure accommodation of a higher quality. This will go a long way towards mitigating any negative impacts on residents of temporary accommodation with Protected Characteristics.

- 6.3.10 The Council's Temporary Accommodation Strategy also provides mitigation measures by supporting residents to find alternative, secure, self-contained accommodation. Wherever possible, homeless households are rehoused within the borough, helping them to maintain links with the community and remain close to support networks and schools.
- 6.3.11 In Woodberry Down, when residents were placed in temporary accommodation, Officers explained to these residents that the area was to be regenerated, and that the accommodation could only be short term. Residents were and are therefore encouraged to bid for secure tenancies. Woodberry Down Regeneration Officers have provided contact details and opportunities for all the residents in the Phase 4 CPO area, and wherever a temporary resident requests further information the Housing Needs Team makes contact directly with the resident to discuss their options and provide support in the bidding process.
- 6.3.12 In the months prior to the implementation of the Phase 4 CPO, a Housing Needs Officer dedicated to Woodberry Down will provide further support to temporary accommodation residents and will encourage them to make bids for alternative secure housing. It is therefore hoped that the number of residents in temporary accommodation will be significantly reduced, if not eliminated entirely, by the time the CPO is implemented. If there are residents remaining at this point, Housing Needs Officers will work with them to provide them with alternative temporary accommodation.

Resident Leaseholders

- 6.3.13 If the CPO is implemented it will result in the compulsory purchase of up to 36 leasehold properties, of which the Council is aware that 12 are resident leaseholders. These current occupiers will be required to move out of their homes. If these resident leaseholders have Protected Characteristics they may be disproportionately affected by the CPO as they may experience greater challenges than the rest of the population, such as difficulty with the moving process, a limited supply of suitable alternative accommodation, the loss of community and cultural links, as well as access to schools and other resources for young people.
- 6.3.14 The CPO is considered to have a negative impact on resident leaseholders who will be required to move out of their homes. Those with Protected Characteristics may be disproportionately affected, as outlined above, however mitigation measures are in place as outlined below.
- 6.3.15 Hackney's Options Document provides significant mitigation against the impacts of the CPO on leaseholders with Protected Characteristics by ensuring that resident leaseholders are given the option to move into suitable new accommodation on the Woodberry Down Estate. These properties can be purchased with shared equity or shared ownership, as set out above. In taking up one of these options, those with Protected Characteristics can ensure their continued access to local services, family and community links. They will also gain access to higher quality, more suitable accommodation which can be tailored to their needs. Furthermore, the options contain succession rights, ensuring that those with young children, or the elderly, can maintain a stake in

the local area.

- 6.3.16 On rare occasions leaseholders have had circumstances which Council Officers have reason to believe make their circumstances exceptional from those covered by the Options Document. In such instances it is possible for the Council's Exceptional Cases Panel to make a decision as to whether a resident might be provided with additional assistance over and above the offer in the Options Document. This gives the Council the ability to be flexible with the re-housing options that it can offer, and as such helps prevent those with Protected Characteristics from being discriminated against or disproportionately affected.
- 6.3.17 The overall equality impact on resident leaseholders is considered to be high, but acceptable on balance given the high levels of mitigation provided for in respect of those with Protected Characteristics through Hackney's long term and ongoing engagement with residents, as well as the rehousing provisions in the Options Document. These work to ensure that affected individuals can maintain community and family links, access to local services, and are not placed at a disadvantage relative to those groups without Protected Characteristics in the CPO process.
- 6.3.18 Leaseholders taking up the option of a move to a new build home may be impacted to an extent by a higher service charge required to pay for the management costs and upkeep of the redeveloped Estate. However, Berkeley Homes and NHG have entered into an agreement with the Council to ensure that service charges are maintained at a reasonable level. Furthermore, any increases in service charge costs will be offset to some extent by a reduction in energy bills and running costs for the new homes, as they will be much more energy efficient than the existing blocks.

Non-resident leaseholders

- 6.3.19 The impact on non-resident leaseholders with Protected Characteristics are considered to be lower as a consequence of their absentee status. Even though non-resident leaseholders may face an indirect effect on their income, the negative equality impact of the CPO (for example, needing to find alternative accommodation) is considered to be limited. The CPO process ensures that a fair price is paid for properties and therefore the impact is considered to be adequately mitigated. In addition, and in line with MHCLG guidance, non-resident leaseholders are able to recover the costs of purchasing a replacement investment property.

Private tenants of non-resident leaseholders

- 6.3.20 Private tenants are affected by the CPO because the properties they are living in may need to be compulsorily purchased by the Council and the tenants will be required to move out of their homes. It is not known exactly how many private tenants remain living in the properties affected; as of November 2023 it is believed that between 9 and 13 properties have private tenants.
- 6.3.21 It is not known how long some of these tenants have been living in their homes, however it is considered that someone who has lived in Woodberry Down for a number of years could be more negatively affected by the CPO and the

requirement to move out of their home. Overall, the private tenants of non-resident leaseholders may face considerable short term impacts, which may be greater for those with Protected Characteristics.

- 6.3.22 The Council has an active programme of engagement with private tenants and they are included in all Woodberry Down consultation activity, including receiving communications specific to Phase 4 and the proposed CPO. Where a private tenant needs further advice and support they will be referred to the Council's Housing Needs Team who will provide support and advice on re-housing options as well as assistance with applying for secure tenancies if this is considered appropriate in order to protect their welfare.
- 6.3.23 The nature of private renting, with generally higher turnover rates compared to other tenures, increases the chances of affected private tenants being able to find alternative suitable accommodation options in the local area, possibly of a higher and better quality, which significantly reduces the impact of the CPO on them over the medium to long term. However it is acknowledged that rental prices may be higher.
- 6.3.24 The Council recognises that while the support provided by its Housing Needs Team and the likelihood of private tenants finding suitable alternative accommodation in the local area reduces the short term impact, it does not eliminate it. In order to mitigate this, private tenants, including those with Protected Characteristics, will be provided with appropriate support as part of the Council's approach to engagement with these households. Where a tenant is at risk of homelessness they can be referred to the Council for support in identifying and securing suitable new accommodation in the local area.
- 6.3.25 In conclusion, it is considered that the impact of the CPO is reduced but not removed for groups with Protected Characteristics who are renting from non-resident leaseholders in Phase 4 of Woodberry Down. The Council has, and will continue to take, appropriate steps to support these private tenants to make sure that those with Protected Characteristics are able to find suitable alternative accommodation that fits their need.

6.4 Impact of the CPO for the local area

The Development

- 6.4.1 Overall it is noted that there are a high number of residents with Protected Characteristics living on the Order Land. The redevelopment of the Woodberry Down Estate will deliver a range of positive impacts which will benefit those with Protected Characteristics.
- 6.4.2 Phase 4 will deliver around 473 new homes. This new housing will contribute to helping to overcome the significant housing needs challenges faced by many people in Hackney.
- 6.4.3 These new homes will also be of a higher quality, which will support a range of positive equality impacts. This includes all new social rented homes being designed to Parker Morris +10% standard, all homes being built to the Lifetime

Homes Standard, and a proportion of homes built to wheelchair accessibility standards or being wheelchair adaptable. They will also have better insulation and be more energy efficient, in addition, a number of larger new homes will be provided, which will help to ease significant problems of overcrowding in the local area, especially amongst those who are pregnant or with young children, BAME groups, or others who may have larger family sizes. Better insulated and more accessible homes also mitigate against negative impacts for older people. In this regard, the redevelopment of the existing poor-quality social housing stock is considered especially positive given its high occupancy rate by groups with Protected Characteristics.

- 6.4.4 The regeneration scheme will also deliver improved landscaping and environmental conditions and new community facilities and commercial space. This will support those with Protected Characteristics to have better access to suitable amenities across the Estate.
- 6.4.5 Furthermore, the existing buildings (which contain relatively few secure tenants and resident leaseholders) and their immediate environment are in a poor state of repair, and the CPO and subsequent redevelopment of the area will, overall, lead to a positive improvement in affected residents' lives in terms of their living environment. The Council also hopes that the implementation of the CPO will lead to improved community networks through the provision of more extensive and high quality community facilities on the regenerated Woodberry Down Estate.
- 6.4.6 The regeneration of Phase 4 though will mean that for a period the immediate area will be a construction site, and thus there will be associated disturbance both to existing residents in the affected blocks, and nearby residents and other interested parties. There will also be additional demand on existing and emerging housing stock, as directly affected residents will need to find new homes temporarily or otherwise.
- 6.4.7 Overall the impact of the development of Woodberry Down Phase 4 will provide net benefits to existing residents of the Estate with Protected Characteristics, particularly through the provision of higher quality and more appropriate housing. These benefits will also help to ensure that any disadvantage that is experienced by these residents as a result of the CPO, when compared with the rest of the population, is minimised.

Planning Contributions (S106)

- 6.4.8 In addition, the planning permissions for the redevelopment (including the detailed permission for Phase 4) will have attached to them a set of planning obligations agreed through a series of S106 Agreements. Delivery of these obligations provide further positive impacts for individuals with certain Protected Characteristics.

7. Step 5: Conclusion and Actions to enhance positive and mitigate negative equality impacts arising

- 7.1.1 This section summarises the impacts of the CPO, setting out the balance of equality impacts. Where impacts have been identified it sets out actions to be taken to mitigate or enhance them, to ensure that steps are taken to promote and meet the needs of those with Protected Characteristics.

7.2 Conclusion

- 7.2.1 There are a high proportion of remaining residents within the Woodberry Down Phase 4 area who have protected characteristics.
- 7.2.2 There is impact on existing secure tenants and temporary accommodation residents within the affected blocks as the CPO will unlock the regeneration of Phase 4, which will require these residents to move out of their homes. There are a high proportion of children amongst these groups of residents, who are likely to be impacted negatively by moving home and the associated disruption to their schooling and social networks. These impacts are mitigated by the Council's well-established programme of engagement and its approach to carrying out housing needs assessments, which have identified affected individuals with Protected Characteristics. In addition, negative impacts are mitigated by the Council offering a 'Right to Return' to a new home on the Woodberry Down Estate to secure tenants. The Council also supports secure tenants with a move to a suitable nearby property for a temporary period if necessary, thereby reducing disruption as far as possible. Overall this is considered to provide an acceptable level of mitigation.
- 7.2.3 There are potential negative equality impacts arising from the need for existing leaseholders to move home as a result of the redevelopment. However, these are considered to have been substantially mitigated by the implementation of the Council's Offer Document, which enables leaseholders to remain on the Estate if they wish, and therefore maintain their community ties, family links, and access to local services. Residents are further supported through access to the Exceptional Cases Panel which can assess the requirement for additional support where necessary, and helps to provide a level of parity with individuals without Protected Characteristics for those who may find the process particularly challenging. Finally, the Council is in ongoing discussions with affected individuals regarding the purchase of their homes by mutual agreement prior to the use of its CPO powers, thereby reducing the overall likelihood of these powers being relied upon. Non-resident leaseholders are affected by the CPO, but only in terms of potential loss of income from their rented properties. The CPO process and the Council's policies ensure that a fair price is paid for their property, as well as compensation, and therefore the impact is considered to be adequately mitigated.
- 7.2.4 There are potential negative impacts on private tenants living in the CPO area because if the properties within which they are currently living are compulsorily purchased by the Council, they will be required to move out and find alternative accommodation. Those who have lived on the site for a number of years may be most negatively impacted as these residents will have built up social and

community networks over that time, and there is no statutory requirement for the Council to find alternative accommodation for them. Support and advice will be provided by the Council's Housing Needs Team but essentially residents will need to find their own alternative accommodation. The exact number of residents affected is not known, the Council continues to seek accurate information and data about private tenants.

- 7.2.5 The Council's decision to make use of its powers of compulsory purchase in order to ensure the delivery of Woodberry Down Phase 4 is considered overall to have a positive impact on residents with Protected Characteristics, resulting primarily from the improvements that will be brought about to their living environment and the opportunity it presents for them to move to a new home. The negative equality impacts on residents of the Order Land with Protected Characteristics have been mitigated and additional recommendations are set out to further reduce the impact.
- 7.2.6 The CPO process has been carried out (and will continue to be conducted) in a way which has ensured that all individuals affected have been engaged and consulted. The Council has worked hard to collect the maximum amount of equality data from those affected through the equality monitoring survey. It is considered that overall the Council has met its Public Sector Equality Duty in its decision to make a CPO for Phase 4 of the Woodberry Down Estate.

7.3 Recommendations

- 7.3.1 The following recommendations are made to further enhance positive impacts and further mitigate negative impacts on those with Protected Characteristics. The Council should ensure that:
1. It continues to seek to collect data to understand whether any of the remainder of the residents in Phase 4 have Protected Characteristics, particularly resident leaseholders who are directly affected by the CPO. The Council will continue to assess the potential impact of the CPO on these groups as new information arises and as the process continues. A total of 45 household equality surveys were completed.
 2. It continues to negotiate with existing leaseholders to purchase their properties by mutual agreement to the best of its abilities before engaging its powers of compulsory purchase.
 3. It keeps all affected individuals informed as the CPO process progresses, and maximises opportunities for further engagement.
 4. The benefits of the development are fully realised so as to maximise the positive equality impacts and public benefits of the scheme.
 5. Equality information is handed over to NHG who will own and manage all affordable housing on the site and therefore have responsibility for secure tenants upon completion.

Table 7.1 Recommendation: Mitigations and Actions

Impact	Protected Group(s) affected	Mitigation or actions required	Lead Officer	Timeframe
Positive impact: Creation of a range of high quality new homes to meet need.	All groups with Protected Characteristics.	The Council should take steps to ensure the proposed development has a mix of unit sizes and tenures which fit as closely as possible with the needs of those with Protected Characteristics.	Hermione Brightwell Project Manager (Woodberry Down)	
Positive impact: Creation of new affordable housing.	All groups with Protected Characteristics, particularly those on low incomes which may include the elderly, lone parents (often women), disabled and BAME groups. National indicators show that Hackney as a whole has a high proportion of elderly and younger people in income deprivation. Although the local area is lower than the borough average.	The Council should take steps to ensure the proposed development delivers as much affordable housing as is viable in order to maximise housing opportunities for those with Protected Characteristics who are often on low incomes.	Hermione Brightwell Project Manager (Woodberry Down)	
Positive impact: Creation of new accessible homes.	All groups with Protected Characteristics and in particular older people and those with a disability.	The Council should take steps to ensure the proposed development contains units which are wheelchair accessible or adaptable and on a single level.	Hermione Brightwell Project Manager (Woodberry Down)	

	The household survey indicates that around 27% of people indicated that illness or medical condition limited their day to day activities. About 13.5% of the local people population in the 2021 census were classed as having a disability under the Equality Acts. This is on par with the London average and just below the borough average.			
Positive impact: S106 agreement providing various social and environmental contributions.	All groups with Protected Characteristics and in particular the elderly, young and disabled.	The Council should take steps to ensure that planning obligations look to enhance the participation of groups with Protected Characteristics and promote positive impacts. Particularly useful elements would be more accessible public realm catering for older and disabled people, open space and play-space for young people, good natural surveillance and design to enhance safety.	Hermione Brightwell Project Manager (Woodberry Down)	
Negative impact: Resident leaseholders may need to find temporary alternative accommodation	All groups with Protected Characteristics. The move may be most disruptive for elderly and disabled residents, and finding suitably-sized alternative accommodation may be most	The Council should take steps to ensure that it continues to collect detailed, structured equality information on resident leaseholders and where necessary support	Housing Needs Team/ Hermione Brightwell Project Manager (Woodberry Down)	

	<p>difficult for families with children and BAME groups.</p> <p>The household survey returns indicate that the proportion of younger people under 15 years of age was higher than the OA, ward and borough average.</p>	leaseholders in finding suitable alternative accommodation.		
Negative impact: Private tenants of non-resident leaseholders will need to find alternative accommodation.	All groups with Protected Characteristics. The move may be most disruptive for elderly and disabled residents, and finding suitably-sized alternative accommodation may be most difficult for families with children and BAME groups.	The Council should ensure that the existing programme for supporting private tenants with finding suitable new accommodation takes specific steps to ensure that those with Protected Characteristics are given additional support to find suitable accommodation in the local area. This will require the Council to take steps to ensure that it continues to collect detailed, structured equality information on existing residents, making best use of existing engagement arrangements - for example through Housing Needs Assessments.	Housing Needs Team / Hermione Brightwell Project Manager (Woodberry Down)	
Negative impact: Secure tenants may need to move into temporary accommodation during the construction period.	All groups with Protected Characteristics. The move may be most disruptive for elderly and disabled residents, and finding suitably-sized alternative accommodation may be most	The Council should ensure that the rehousing process takes account of the need to enhance opportunities for groups with Protected Characteristics and consider	Housing Needs Team / Hermione Brightwell Project Manager (Woodberry Down)	

	difficult for families with children and BAME groups.	how this can be done through the bidding process for new accommodation. The Council should take steps to ensure that its engagement process employs the correct tools to proactively engage all groups with Protected Characteristics and enhance their participation. It should also ensure that the re-housing process caters for the needs of groups with Protected Characteristics and ensures that tenants are provided with the best possible accommodation to meet their particular needs.		
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Title of Report	Community Municipal Investment - Green Loan Issuance	
Key Decision No	F S296	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	<p>Cllr Robert Chapman, Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service</p> <p>Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport</p>	
Classification	Open with Exempt Appendix	
Ward(s) Affected	All	
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	6 March 2024	
Group Director	Jackie Moylan, Interim Group Director, Finance	

1. Cabinet Members' Introduction

- 1.1. Climate emergency is one of the key challenges facing our borough, which is why the Council has committed to doing everything within our power to reach our net zero emissions target by 2030. 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.
- 1.2. As we have set out in our Climate Action Plan we want everyone in Hackney to 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.
- 1.3. Our vision includes a commitment to engage with our residents to support our Climate Action Plan and our commitment to explore alternative funding opportunities to deliver our ambitions. The proposal set out in this report to issue a Hackney Community Municipal Investment arranged through a

crowdfunding platform authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority is one of the alternative funding opportunities.

- 1.4. The Community Municipal Investment approach presents a chance for local residents to back initiatives delivered by the Council that empower others in their community to address the climate crisis. Through this method, they are also making an investment in the green economy for the future.
- 1.5. Residents will have the opportunity to receive guaranteed interest payments for an investment as small as £5, and also, throughout the duration of the Community Municipal Investment, they will be assured the return of their initial investment.
- 1.6. We commend this report to Cabinet

2. Interim Group Director's Introduction

- 2.1. The Council's capital programme has a number of schemes and capital projects over the medium term to contribute to delivering our net zero carbon ambitions as set out in the Climate Action Plan. These projects could be taken forward through the financial support of our communities.
- 2.2. We are looking to launch a Community Municipal Investment (CMI) on a platform that enables peer to peer (P2P) lending between the Council, its residents, and other lenders who want to invest in green projects throughout the borough. The CMI will be structured as a green loan and the capital raised will finance green initiatives. As part of the CMI administration we will report periodically to the lenders on how the capital is deployed.
- 2.3. Abundance Investment Ltd will be engaged to assist us in realising this our ambition and will host the platform through which the Hackney CMI will be available. This platform enables the Council to raise funding from residents and other retail investors, through a tried and tested operational model which will provide a robust and effective administration of the investment opportunity.
- 2.4. Abundance created this financial product and have successfully supported the launch of all the UK local authority CMI opportunities to date. They are the market leader for community municipal and local authority security, P2P loan arrangements having acted as the intermediary for several local authority arrangements across the country. Abundance's deep understanding of the market dynamics of renewable energy investments and their commitment to ethical, environmentally beneficial projects makes them experts in this field.
- 2.5. Council is always exploring alternative forms of financing as part of its wider borrowing strategy. This proactive approach ensures a diverse range of funding sources, crucial for effective risk management and financial stability.
- 2.6. The Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) proposed as part of the Budget and Council Tax Setting report to Full Council on 28th February includes the

addition of lending via a peer-to-peer platform as a source of borrowing to paragraph 7.7 of section 7 of the Council's Borrowing Strategy. The Community Municipal Investments (CMI) Green Loan proposed in this report falls under this category of borrowing and therefore will be permissible under our TMS, if approved by Council. The Budget setting report recommended to Full Council is under item 10 of this agenda.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. To approve the launch of the Hackney Community Municipal Investment - Green Loan in May 2024 to finance green initiatives.**
- 3.2. To approve the conditions of the first Hackney Community Municipal Investment launch as set out at paragraph 9.3.5 and to delegate authority to the Interim Group Director Finance, in consultation with the Acting Director, Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services, to enter into any agreements that may be necessary.**

4. Reason(s) for decision

- 4.1. Hackney CMI Green Loan will enable the Council to finance some of its green initiatives, thereby supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy and positively impacting the environment. The CMI benefits from Individual Savings Account status with its associated tax advantages to smaller investors.
- 4.2. The Abundance platform provides access to a community of ethical investors keen to support environmentally friendly projects. By financing environmentally friendly initiatives with a CMI Green Loan, the Council can engage and involve residents in local projects which will contribute to achieving our net zero targets. The interest rate on the CMI Green Loan will be lower than the borrowing rate for PWLB.

5. Details of alternative options considered and rejected.

- 5.1. The Council could choose an alternative source of borrowing to raise £1m to fund the projects in line with our Treasury Management Strategy, such as borrowing through the PWLB. This would result in the projects being funded but the financial impact to the Council would potentially be a slightly higher cost of borrowing as the CMI should match or undercut the PWLB certainty rate. In addition, this would test the opportunity to raise funding from a wider range of sources. This CMI is the Council's chance to engage in a new way of funding work to reduce carbon emissions and increase resident participation.
- 5.2. Council aims to test a range of approaches to increase funding available for wider climate-related projects.

6. Background

Policy Context

- 6.1. The CMI Green Loan initiative is in line with the Council's vision, which includes a commitment to engage with residents to support the net-zero carbon strategy and explore alternative funding opportunities. It will also be a permissible borrowing option included within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy to be considered by Full council on 28th February 2024.

Equality impact assessment

- 6.2. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Sustainability and climate change

- 6.3. The CMI Green Loan initiative represents a step towards addressing sustainability and climate change issues facing the borough. By financing projects that align with our climate action goals through a community led investment product we can work with our residents to actively contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change.
- 6.4. This scheme will see investment in projects that will deliver Carbon emissions reductions for our Borough.

Communications Arrangements

- 6.5. The Council will promote the CMI Green Loan with guidance from Abundance based on their insight of what has worked well in other local authorities and to keep within Financial Conduct Authority rules. The promotion will be designed to incur the minimum cost to the Council so as to maintain the viability of the project. A multi-channel approach will be adopted with consideration to the particular drivers and motivators for such investments across Hackney's different communities. Abundance will provide appropriate and regulatory sign-off on all planned communications.
- 6.6. The Council will lead on a multichannel approach to communications, with guidance from Abundance based on their insight of what has worked in other local authorities and to keep within Financial Conduct Authority rules. Abundance will also provide regulatory sign-off on communications.
- 6.7. Our communications approach will be key to a successful launch. Our strategy will be to target the more affluent sections of the community, who are also motivated by action on climate change, these are likely to be the early adopters. Research indicates that the proposition is attractive to a broad section of the community. However, the broader sections of the community will need to see the model working for a while before they build the confidence to participate. We will also market the product to businesses and corporates to ensure we raise the target amount.

- 6.8. A list of frequently asked questions is attached at Appendix 2.

Legal Implications

- 6.9. Given the specialist nature of the CMI Green Loan product, external legal advice has been secured, via our legal team, who have expertise in this field and have advised a number of other local authorities on these matters. This expert advice will continue through the launch of the scheme.

Risk Assessment

- 6.10. A summary of the schemes risks is set out in the table below;

Risk Category	Mitigation Strategy
Fundraising Risk	<p>There is a risk the Council may not be able to raise the full value during the offer period as the demand could be insufficient.</p> <p>We will work closely with Abundance and the Council's communications teams to ensure that the messaging of the launch of the product is managed effectively drawing on the learning from previous Local Authority loan issues.</p>
Interest Rate Risk	A fixed rate CMI green loan will be issued instead of a variable rate green loan to manage this risk.
Project Performance	Due diligence will be carried out on the proposed green projects to assess their feasibility and risks.
Investors' confidence	Transparent communication and regular updates will be provided to investors.
Inappropriate release of personal data	Abundance has a data privacy policy in place and is registered with the Information Commissioner for data protection purposes.
Reputational Risk	This risk can occur when the project or projects underperform. To mitigate this risk, the council will ensure that the included projects are carefully selected and managed to prevent underperformance. Council will maintain high standards of transparency and communication through Abundance.

7. Comments of the Interim Group Director, Finance

- 7.1. The community municipal investment, a green loan, should be viewed as an alternative means of green borrowing. It will have a duration of up to 5 years, which may require refinancing at the end of that period.
- 7.2. Abundance will act as Council's investment advisors for the CMI and will undertake the duties under paragraph 9.4.5.
- 7.3. The interest rate will be set by the Council, although it will be based on the PWLB certainty rate 24 hours before launch. The rate will need to be competitive relative to other financial instruments with a similarly low risk profile to attract investors. Abundance will provide support when deciding on the final rate.
- 7.4. Savings achieved for other Councils have averaged 0.26bps on the cost of borrowing after Abundance's fee. Abundance will agree a discount (after fees) with the Council based on assessment of the PWLB certainty rate and the retail saving market at the time of launch.
- 7.5. The potential need to refinance at the end of the term does not present any significant interest rate risk as the Council will likely be able to refinance the loan with better rates. Relative to the Council's capital programme and debt profile, the Community Municipal Investment will have a negligible financial impact.

8. Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 8.1. Mayor and Cabinet's approval of the the launch of the Hackney Community Municipal Investment - Green Loan intended for green initiatives will be subject to approval of The Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) addition proposed as part of the Budget and Council Tax Setting report of this meeting of Cabinet and to Full Council on 28 February 2024 .
- 8.2. Under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, the general power of competence, the Council has power to do anything that individuals with full capacity generally may do
- 8.3. More specifically Section 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 ("LGA 2003") gives the Council authority to :

"borrow money for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment or for the purpose of the prudent management of its financial affairs"
- 8.4. The general power is very wide, subject only to two limits (s.2 LGA 2003). The first of these, contained in s.3 LGA 2003, is how much money an authority determines it can afford to borrow ("the affordable borrowing limit"). In this respect the system is self-regulatory in that, provided an authority remains within its affordable borrowing limit, no Government consent is

required for that borrowing. The second limit to the general power is contained in s.4 LGA 2003. The Secretary of State has reserve power to impose limits on borrowing by authorities, by regulations, if the national economic situation requires. The reserve power may be also exercised, by directions, to impose limits on a particular local authority. The Government was keen to emphasise throughout Parliament's consideration of the LGA 2003 that these measures were "long-stop" measures only to be used as "a last resort"

- 8.5 The LGA 2003 provides the statutory power for the Council to enter into the arrangement set out in this report.
- 8.6 Given the specialist nature of the proposals, external legal advice has been sought and that advice is contained in exempt Appendix 1.

9. Hackney Community Municipal Investment - Green Loan Proposal

9.1. Introduction

- 9.1.1. Local Climate Bonds (LCBs), Green Bonds, have the potential to raise millions of pounds for Green projects. They are regulated investment products launched by Councils to access funding for specific projects. The Green Finance Institute, along with Abundance Investment, are the bodies behind the Local Climate Bond campaign, an initiative launched in 2021. These types of bonds are regulated debt instruments and are issued in the form of a Community Municipal Investment (CMI) Loan where money is raised through a regulated ethical investment platform.
- 9.1.2. A CMI provides an opportunity to the Council to directly engage and empower residents, business and investors to make real progress in tackling the aim of achieving net zero, by pooling local investment and represents an opportunity to increase funding available for climate projects by tapping into new sources of investment. A CMI also offers the Council an alternative source of funding to its investment plans and is a way to diversify the funding base available for capital projects.
- 9.1.3. The loans offer local people an opportunity to invest their money into projects that will reduce carbon emissions in the borough in a way similar to crowdfunding and to make a return from doing so. A member of the public can invest as little as £5. The Council will pay guaranteed regular interest payments to investors and in addition, over the life of the CMI, investors will receive the guaranteed return of their original investment.
- 9.1.4. The CMIs are fixed term (typically 2 to 5 years), and the capital is either repaid by the Council at the end of the term (maturity) or in instalments over the life of the investment (annuity). Interest can be paid to investors on a quarterly, half-yearly or annual basis. Investors will earn interest from the day after they invest. An example arrangement is that the first interest period will last approximately 3 months when investors will be paid interest for the number of days they have been invested up until that point. (i.e., the

end of the first interest period). After that, interest will be paid to investors every 6 months until maturity.

- 9.1.5. West Berkshire UA were the first adopter and they raised £1m from 640 investors nationwide, with 23% of total investment coming from West Berkshire residents. Islington and Camden have also introduced schemes. Islington has 661 investors and also raised £1m with a fifth of the investment coming from Islington residents; and Camden has 400 investors. Two other London boroughs have introduced schemes (Westminster and Lewisham) together with five other councils outside London.

9.2. **Rationale for this type of investment offer**

- 9.2.1. This product is referred to as CMI because loans to councils are eligible for Individual Savings Account (ISA) and the ability to put this investment into an ISA should encourage a greater range of investors, including those who may only want to invest a small amount. The loan is used as it is ISA eligible whereas a bond is not and there are tax advantages for the investor. This is the primary rationale for launching this financial product as a CMI.
- 9.2.2. For the Council there are no material differences between a bond and a loan the terms are the same. The return is attractive vs other things people can do with their money. The rate offered might not be the highest investors can find in the market, however it tends to be the best rate for a green or ethical saving account.
- 9.2.3. Also, as well as providing the Council the opportunity to diversify the source of its funding for climate related projects and enabling greater awareness and participation in the Council's net-zero carbon objective; there is also potential in the longer term, after review, to use of this kind of financial instrument to potentially raise larger sums of money.

9.3. **Community Municipal Investment Loans**

- 9.3.1. The CMIs are fixed term (typically 3 to 5 years), and the capital is either repaid by the Council at the end of the term (maturity) or in instalments over the life of the investment (annuity). Interest can be paid to investors on a quarterly, half-yearly or annual basis. Investors will earn interest from the day after they invest. An example arrangement is that the first interest period will last approximately 3 months when investors will be paid interest for the number of days they have been invested up until that point. (i.e., the end of the first interest period). After that, interest will be paid to investors every 6 months until maturity.
- 9.3.2. The TMS, to be presented to Full Council on 28th February 2024 for approval, sets out the Council's approach for ensuring that capital investment plans remain affordable, that the associated financing is properly planned, and any cash held by the Council generates optimum returns in respect of security and liquidity.
- 9.3.3. Any new funding undertaken under this amendment would be a relatively small proportion of the Council's total debt portfolio and would therefore not

exceed the authorised limit as approved by Council under the Prudential Code.

9.3.4. The council sought independent legal advice, to support the development of key legal documents for the implementation of Hackney CMI. Furthermore, independent treasury advice from the council's treasury advisors was obtained, revealing no material concerns.

9.3.5. It is suggested to launch an initial CMI on the following conditions:

- The Council will enter into an agreement with Abundance Investment Limited to launch the project.
- For a total of £5m over 5 years with the first raise of £1m in first year split in two tranches.
- During which interest payments will be made, with the investor's original capital returned by the end of this period.
- At an interest rate that will be set just before the launch date as mentioned above in point 7.3, to enable the Council to receive best value for money, relative to current borrowing rates.
- The intention is to launch the CMI to the public late May 2024.
- The proceeds raised from the CMI will fund an agreed package of programmes (need to develop), which will contribute to the financing of a low-carbon future and a net reduction in carbon emissions in the Borough.

9.3.6. This first launch, as stated above, is to raise a total of £1m. However, repeat issuance and repeated communication over time will build awareness of the model in our community and in time build the community of lenders making it easier and easier to raise larger sums. Abundance has advised that in their experience it takes 3-5 years to gather 5-10 thousand investors. With that many investors it should be possible to raise circa £10m per issue. proceeds raised from the CMI could fund green projects throughout the borough.

9.3.7. Abundance sets the interest rate for the loan in the following way:

- PWLB Certainty Rate – (Any discount on the Certainty Rate) – (amortisation provision for Abundance arrangement fee of 75 basis points) – (Abundance Annual agency fee of 20 basis points)
- Assuming a 5-year loan is being issued, the PWLB Certainty Rate is 4.99% and the agreed discount is 26 bps, the interest rate received by investors on the loan will be:

$$4.99 - 0.26 - (1/5 \times 0.75) - 0.20 = 4.38\%$$

The interest rate paid by the Council will be 4.58%. This allows Abundance to charge its annual management fee.

The Council will pay the arrangement fee upfront (if it is taken off the proceeds transferred to the Council from Abundance).

- 9.3.8. Other projects included in the capital programme, such as community-based projects could potentially be supported by interest donations or subsequent future CMI's.

9.4. Steps in implementing a CMI

- 9.4.1. The first step in issuing a CMI involves appointing an Investment Adviser for the launch. In this case it will be Abundance Investment Limited (registered with the Financial Conduct Authority). Abundance created this financial product and have supported the launch of all UK local authority CMI's to date.
- 9.4.2. Abundance Investment Ltd, established in 2009 in London, specialises in crowdsourced funding for green and social infrastructure and has seen increased interest from UK local authorities in recent years. It is overseen by five directors, with two holding significant roles approved by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The company is subject to FCA regulation, evidenced by its diligent submission of reports including Client Money & Client Assets Reports, and Audited Annual Accounts.
- 9.4.3. Financially, Abundance has a strong track record, having raised over £150m for more than 50 projects since 2012. Abundance has also issued around ten Community Municipal Investment bonds/loans directly for UK local authorities since 2020. The company's adherence to FCA regulations extends to its comprehensive Financial Crime, Know Your Customer, and Anti Money Laundering policies, ensuring all borrower communications and promotions meet stringent standards.
- 9.4.4. Notably, Abundance is recognised as a registered ISA provider and a certified B Corporation, reflecting its commitment to broader stakeholder interests, including environmental considerations. To ensure stability and investor protection, Abundance maintains a Business Continuity Plan and holds substantial insurance coverage, including Professional Indemnity and Cyber Security Insurance. All the contractual documentation, which will underpin the arrangements, has been provided to the Council by Abundance and has been prepared in a reasonably fair manner, as per the legal review.
- 9.4.5. Abundance will administer the scheme and will carry out the following tasks:
 - (a) create and agree with the Council, the investment terms that fit the nature and phase of the project and arrange the issuing of investments. It will administer the scheme, including managing the payments of interest etc. In return Abundance Investment will charge

an arrangement fee and on-going management fee which are estimated to be around 0.2% of principal and on-going management costs of 0.15% of principal plus due diligence costs.

- (b) provide the crowdfunding platform and launch the CMI on behalf of the Council with an initial offer period of three months or until the CMI is fully subscribed.
- (c) work with the council to create local engagement through bespoke local communications and PR, to ensure the key benefits for the local community are promoted.
- (d) administer the onboarding of new investors and provide the first point of contact for customer queries.
- (e) issue regular investor updates including return on investment and other performance metrics.
- (f) work with the Council to make sure any promotional work the council undertakes is compliant with FCA requirements.
- (g) provide dedicated customer care to the investors for the life of the project, including calculating and distributing cash returns for the lifetime of the project. They will also provide an opportunity for investors that wish to sell before the end of the full term – or others to buy into the project after the offer has closed.

9.4.6. The Council will be responsible for:

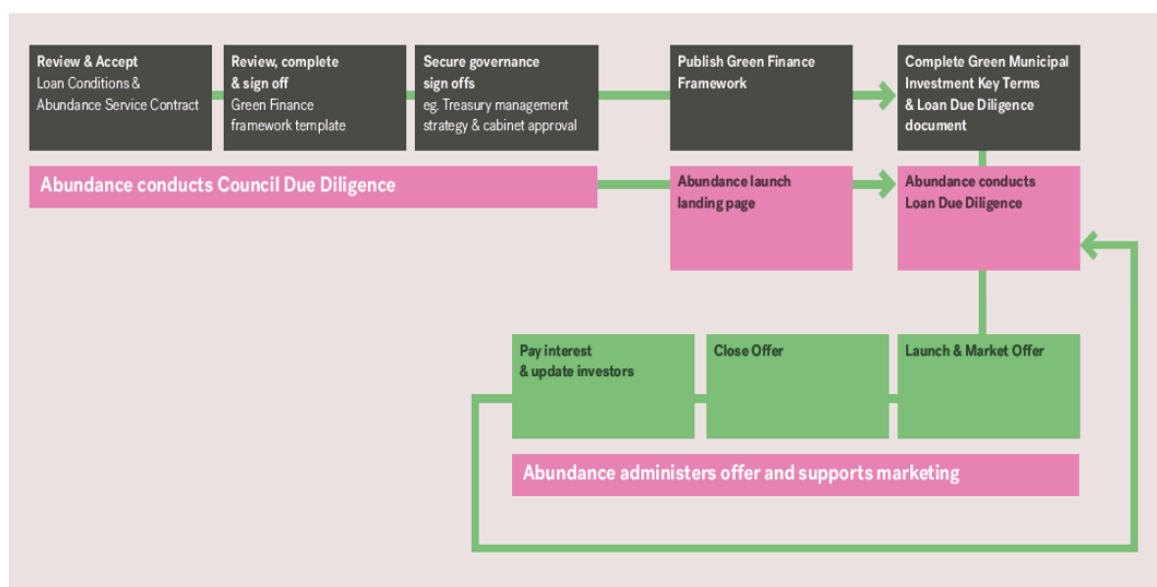
- (a) agreeing the CMI rate and terms, leading on communications with residents to target and raise awareness among potential local investors and local groups, and to encourage participation and investment within the borough.
- (b) working with Abundance to provide regular communication updates to investors during the CMI period.
- (c) delivering the capital projects which will be funded by the CMI within the 5-year term and communicating the progress of projects and the rate of return to investors.
- (d) setting out the specified purpose for each investment funded by the Green Loan and managing and delivering the project. It is a requirement of the CMI that any project it finances must be part of the approved capital investment programme.

9.4.7. A CMI could offer several benefits to investors, such as:

- (a) facilitating the engagement of residents to work collaboratively with the Council to help reduce carbon emissions across the borough.

- (b) feeling a sense of ownership as sustainable projects are delivered in their own areas.
- (c) undertaking a low-risk investment to mitigate the climate crisis.
- (d) ISA eligibility means that investors will not pay any tax on investment returns.

9.4.8. A schematic of the process is shown below:



9.5. Project to be financed by CMI funding

9.5.1. It is intended that the £1m raised is used to fund a package of approved programmes agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, Cllr Coban. An example of the type of projects, taken from the current capital programme is illustrated in the table below. The range of capital schemes shown are those considered attractive to investors due to the range of positive environmental impacts and will align to the Council's Climate Action Plan. We will also ensure that the arrangements for selecting the projects are transparent and that the projects chosen are ambitious and not focused on one part of the borough or one type of investment.

9.5.2. Summary of projects that could be funded or part funded through a CMI.

Projects	Environmental Impact	Capital Budget
Community Energy Fund	Carbon reduction and improved air quality through community led projects	£240,000

Projects	Environmental Impact	Capital Budget
School Streets	Improved air quality due to traffic measures implemented at school locations	£1,135,000
Greens Screens	Carbon reduction and improved air quality.	£500,000
Green initiatives on housing estates	Carbon reduction and improved air quality through projects across our housing estates	£1,555,000
Cycle Facilities on housing estates	Promoting Active Travel	£405,000

- 9.5.3. Other future projects included in the capital programme, such as community based projects could potentially be supported by interest donations or subsequent future CMIs.
- 9.5.4. As part of the launch of the CMI we will take advice from Abundance on the type of projects that will result in a successful launch based on the experience they have seen with other local authorities.

Appendices

Appendix 2 - Frequently asked questions

Exempt Appendix 1- Legal Advice

By virtue of Paragraph 5 using Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 this appendix is exempt because is subject to legal professional privilege and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information . It is considered that the public interest is best served by withholding the exempt information to avoid disclosure of the legal guidance provided in confidence to the Council.

Background documents

None

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**Community Municipal Investment - Green Loan
Frequently asked questions**

Question	Answer
Who is eligible to invest?	Any legal person/entity can be a holder of the debt so long as not a Restricted Person (they must be a UK resident). This means institutions such as schools or other organisations in the borough (and elsewhere) could buy a portion of the CMI and participate.
Is investors' capital at risk?	No, it is backed by the Council. This operates as a loan and the Council is committed to pay interest throughout the CMI period and repay capital back at the end of the CMI period.
What are the tax implications for investors?	This CMI is eligible for inclusion in an Innovative Financing ISA. If included, no tax is paid on investment gains.
Why raise £1m?	All councils that have raised money in this way, to date, have targeted £0.5 to 1m and been able to raise this funding. Two councils have not reached their target, both these councils are intending to launch further raises however.
Can the Council elect to raise more than £1m?	Once the CMI is issued, the value of the amount raised is fixed and cannot be changed under the terms of the loan conditions. If the Council wishes to raise more funding in this way, the recommended approach to increasing the amounts raised would be to issue a follow-on municipal investment (which can be initiated at any time).
What happens if the Council has not raised £1m at the end of the three-month raise period?	The Council can seek to extend the period to raise investment or close the fundraising process and deliver projects on a smaller scale. Alternatively, the Council can supplement the funding from alternative sources.
Does the Council need a credit rating to issue the CMI?	The Council does not need a credit rating to issue the CMI. It is worth noting that the CMI is low value and the risk to investors extremely low as it is backed by the Council. The council also has good prudential indicators and a strong track record, as well as low levels of borrowing relative to the size of our General Fund. If the Council were to issue a larger raise in the future a credit rating could be considered.
Is the model designed to be a	The model is designed to complement traditional

Question	Answer
one-off event?	borrowing sources. Once the framework is set up it is simple to issue follow on tranches. The first time an investment is launched it is likely to attract the early adopters within the community, however through repeat issuance and as viral / word of mouth marketing effects start to take hold the local investor community will grow rapidly.
Can investors donate their interest back to the council?	Yes the Loan Conditions, include a provision, allowing investors to donate interest back to the council on average 10% of interest has been donated back to other councils using the model.
Can the investment be issued in compliance with the Green Loan principles?	Yes the framework has been reviewed by the International Capital Markets Association and it complies with the Green Loan Principles. This is the same framework that underpins the UK Government's Green Gilt.



Title of Report	Consolidation of Historic Smoke Control Orders and Amendment to Include Moored Vessels	
Key Decision No	CHE S221	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	All 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	6 March 2024	
Group Director	Rickardo Hyatt, Group Director - Climate, Homes and Economy	

1. Cabinet Member's introduction

- 1.1. Air pollution is a significant public health issue which can affect everyone. Evidence shows that exposure to high levels of air pollution does not just affect the heart and lungs, it is also linked to other health issues including low birth weights and a decline in cognitive function. Therefore, air pollution can impact people's health at any stage of their lives.
- 1.2. The dates of the historic Smoke Control Orders show that efforts to improve air quality have a long history. Air quality has improved since the Orders were first created, but the revised World Health Organisation guidelines show that health challenges still remain. We know that previous policy measures have been successful in improving air quality, and this is being reflected in the monitoring data. However, we also know that there is more that needs to be done.
- 1.3. The contribution that solid fuel burning makes to concentrations of particulate matter in the local air is significant. Therefore, taking action to reduce emissions from this source is a really important step to improving air quality and helping us to meet the standards needed to protect public health.

- 1.4. Labour's manifesto during the 2022 Local Council elections contains a commitment to tackle the health and air quality impacts associated with solid fuel burning, and this proposal will help us to deliver on this commitment.

2. **Group Director's introduction**

- 2.1. Solid fuel burning is a significant contributor to local air pollution, especially to the smaller particles that can reach further into people's airways and get deposited in the lungs.
- 2.2. Hackney's Air Quality Action Plan was approved by Cabinet in 2021. The Action Plan contains 47 measures that we are working to implement over its 5-year lifetime. This includes a measure to ensure the borough's Smoke Control Areas are enforced, and to raise awareness of the regulatory requirements. This proposal will help officers to enforce by having a single, clear and up-to-date Order, as well as providing them with additional powers to tackle currently uncontrolled emissions arising from solid fuel burning in the borough.
- 2.3. Hackney has also committed to meeting the 2005 World Health Organisation Guidelines which, for particulate matter, are more stringent than the Air Quality Objectives set out in the National Air Quality Strategy. Therefore, taking action to reduce the impacts from solid fuel burning will help to work towards this goal and demonstrates our commitment to meeting the health-based targets.
- 2.4. We know that residents are concerned about air quality and that air pollution features as one of the greatest environmental concerns in Londonwide surveys. Data shows that the contribution to emissions of particulate matter from solid fuel burning is increasing, which may result in a rise in complaints about this issue. Having the powers available to Council Officers is important to enable them to respond to complaints and concerns in the most effective manner.
- 2.5. We also recognise that the cost of living is increasing and fuel costs, in particular, have seen substantial price rises in recent years. We want to ensure that those who are dependent on solid fuel burners for their heating receive support to enable them to continue to heat their home and will look to provide financial assistance where appropriate.

3. **Recommendations**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 3.1. **Approve the proposal to take the relevant steps in order to revoke all existing Smoke Control Orders across the London Borough of Hackney, which will then go to the Secretary of State for confirmation/approval;**
- 3.2. **Approve the proposal to publish, and seek public comment on, a new draft Smoke Control Order which covers the entire borough and which extends the smoke control provisions to include moored vessels (hereafter, Order);**
- 3.3. **Approve a cap of £2,300 per vessel to those who are eligible, for the purpose of upgrading appliances to meet compliance standards should the Order be approved.**

4. **Reason(s) for decision**

- 4.1. The burning of solid fuel is a significant contributor to levels of particulate matter in the ambient air, especially the finer particles (PM_{2.5}). According to the 2019 Clean Air Strategy, it is estimated that 38% of the UK's primary PM_{2.5} emissions arise from wood / coal burning associated with residential heating. In London, this figure is estimated to be less but a recent study for the London Wood Burning Project has reported that domestic wood burning is the second biggest source of PM_{2.5} emissions in London.
- 4.2. Numerous scientific studies have provided evidence of the potential harm to health from exposure to emissions from solid fuel burning, especially the fine particulates which are capable of reaching further into the airways. Pollutants can be dispersed so concentrations will vary over distance. However, the highest concentrations are likely to occur close to the source so the health impacts arising from exposure will also be felt by those burning the solid fuel.
- 4.3. A total of 27 Smoke Control Orders are in place which relate to the London Borough of Hackney. The Smoke Control Orders are accompanied by Schedules which describe the area that is covered. These use features such as railways and canals, as well as roads, to describe the boundaries. As there have been changes since the date of their creation, both in terms of administrative boundaries and new developments changing road layouts, the descriptions are becoming less accurate over time.
- 4.4. The Smoke Control Orders cover almost the entire borough, but apply to fixed properties only. Among the Orders, one exemption has been found. This is a small geographical area that is believed to have been occupied at the time by commercial and industrial premises and which were exempted from the regulatory controls.
- 4.5. The Regulations are contained within the Clean Air Act 1993, which states that 'a Smoke Control Order in England "applies" to a building, fireplace, fixed boiler or industrial plant'. These controls do not apply to boats. The Environment Act 2021 introduced new provisions which allow local

authorities to include moored vessels within a Smoke Control Order. Amending a Smoke Control Order to include moored vessels is optional and the decision whether or not to do so rests with each local authority.

- 4.6. The number of complaints that the Council receives each year about solid fuel burning is relatively low compared to the numbers received about other environmental issues. However, complaints about emissions from moored vessels have been increasing slightly over recent years. The reasons for the increase are unknown. It might be attributed to increased awareness of air pollution's health impacts, leading to more reporting, or possibly due to canalside development reducing the distance between those residing on canals and those in adjacent properties.
- 4.7. The proposal is to have in place a single boroughwide Smoke Control Order. A draft Order is included at Appendix I. This will make it clearer for both residents and enforcement officers. It will also mean that, where enforcement action is taken, it will be less open to challenge on the grounds of the historical details. It is also proposed that moored vessels be included within the new Order, so that the same restrictions which apply to people living in properties will apply to those mooring vessels on the borough's waterways. By doing so, we can help to improve local air quality and better protect public health.
- 4.8. As the existing Smoke Control Orders are dated before 13th November 1980, the decision on their revocation rests with the Secretary of State. The revocation of the existing Orders requires a separate process to the designation of the new Smoke Control Area and, therefore, requires a separate Order. A draft Order for the revocation of existing Orders is included in Appendix II. People who may be affected by the change can raise an objection but this must be directed to the Secretary of State, who will then make a decision on the revocation after the period for raising an objection has closed.
- 4.9. For designating a new Smoke Control Order, including one which extends the controls to include moored vessels, the decision is delegated to the local authority. Therefore, a separate Order and process for allowing objections is required. Anyone wishing to raise an objection to the new Order will need to do so with the local authority.
- 4.10. The processes for the revocation and the designation are similar and can run simultaneously. However, the decision on the designation of a new Order will be dependent on the Secretary of State's decision on the revocation of the existing Orders. The existing Orders will remain in effect and will be enforceable until the date of their revocation. The new Order will not come into effect until the previous historic Orders have been revoked.

5. **Details of alternative options considered and rejected**

- 5.1. **Do Nothing.** Although the Smoke Control Orders continue to be valid and can be used to enforce the provisions, the changes in administrative boundaries and road layouts, etc. which have occurred since they were made make the area covered less clear. As further changes over time are expected, this may result in legal challenges. Also, the Smoke Control Orders that currently exist do not include moored vessels and recent changes to the legislation now allow these to be included within the scope. If no changes are made, it will not help to achieve the targets for particulate matter that Hackney Council has committed to meet by 2030. Therefore, the option to do nothing was rejected.
- 5.2. **Consolidate the existing historical Smoke Control Orders into a single Order without extending the scope to include moored vessels.** To revoke the historical Smoke Control Orders and replace them with a new single boroughwide Order without extending the current provisions was considered. As set out above, the opportunity to include moored vessels within the provisions has recently become available. There is not a requirement for local authorities to adopt these powers and, before doing so, a process of engagement would be required. A decision on whether to include moored vessels within the scope would be made following this process of engagement and would be dependent on the feedback received. It would be more efficient and practical to undertake this process at the same time as consolidating the Orders. Therefore, the option to not include this amendment was rejected.

6. **Background**

Policy Context

- 6.1. The Clean Air Act 1956, later amended by the Clean Air Act 1993, gave local authorities the power to declare Smoke Control Areas within their boundaries. A Smoke Control Area designates an area where special provisions apply to control smoke. Within the designated area, smoke emissions are not permitted from a chimney unless either authorised fuel is being burned or the fuel is being burned in an 'exempt appliance'. The [list of authorised fuels](#) and [exempt appliances](#) are managed by DEFRA. Persons found guilty of breaking the rules could be fined up to £1,000.
- 6.2. From 1958, several Smoke Control Orders which cover parts of the London Borough of Hackney were put in place by the relevant administrative authorities at that time. The first Smoke Control Order was declared by Stoke Newington in March 1958 and covered an area around Green Lanes and Lordship Park.
- 6.3. Prior to 1965, the area which now forms the London Borough of Hackney consisted of several smaller Metropolitan boroughs, namely Hackney, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington. These 3 boroughs were merged to form

the London Borough of Hackney in 1965. Further Smoke Control Orders were issued by the London Borough of Hackney after its creation in 1965.

- 6.4. Most residential premises in the borough are now connected to a gas mains supply and have an energy supply for heating that does not require solid fuel. However, there has been an increase in the popularity of solid fuel burners in recent years. These are typically wood-burning stoves which are used in addition to the main form of heating within the home. Studies have been carried out to try to evaluate the impacts that solid fuel burning is having on local air quality as the number of households using wood-burning stoves continues to grow. This includes a [study by King's College in 2014](#) which, using tracers of wood burning, found indications that the practice is more consistent with discretionary heating rather than a need to heat the home.
- 6.5. London Borough of Hackney commissioned a door-knocking survey which was conducted by the Zero Emission Network in 2020. Through the survey, conversations were held with over 4,000 residents and data was collected on the prevalence of solid fuel burning and residents' awareness of the Regulations. Among the properties visited where a response was received, 10% had an open fireplace and 5% had a wood-burning stove.
- 6.6. The Regulations are designed to reduce the harmful emissions associated with solid fuel burning. Despite authorised fuels often being called 'smokeless', smoke and emissions are not eliminated completely. However, to meet the criteria for use within a smoke control area, the fuel must emit less than 5g per hour when tested to British Standards. Authorised fuel will typically emit only about 20% of the fine particulate matter that is associated with the use of house coal.
- 6.7. The Environment Act 2021 introduced some amendments to the Clean Air Act 1993. Schedule 12 of the Act introduces, for the first time, the option for local authorities to extend the scope of an Order to include vessels moored within a Smoke Control Area.
- 6.8. The Regulations require local authorities to provide financial support to those who may need to upgrade their appliance to one that is compliant with the new provisions. DEFRA has confirmed that this should only apply to those using moored vessels as this group is affected by the changes introduced by the Environment Act 2021. The requirement is to reimburse 70% of the costs of the upgrade in 6 monthly instalments. The opportunity to claim back a contribution to costs will be available only to those who have a vessel moored on the borough's waterways on the date the Order comes into force, and who have a licence to continue to moor in that location for a further six months.
- 6.9. While the eligibility criteria will restrict the number of people able to claim this funding, officers will endeavour to raise awareness of the opportunity so that all those who are eligible are able to receive the support that is on offer. For those who are not eligible because they do not have a mooring licence,

compliance will need to be through upgrading their appliance at their own expense or by using authorised fuel. Through the engagement process, we will try to make boaters aware of this and to have discussions with those affected on any other means by which we can support them.

- 6.10. DEFRA is making funding available to local authorities who extend the scope of the Smoke Control Order to include moored vessels. This funding will cover all of the reimbursement costs which a local authority is required to pay to vessel owners, and an application can be made when the window opens around May 2024. We will look into the possibility of any additional funding being made available to boaters who don't meet the eligibility criteria. In addition, a bid for funding to the Mayor of London has been made with neighbouring boroughs to deliver an awareness-raising project among boaters across the whole project area.
- 6.11. The Council approved Hackney's Air Quality Action Plan in July 2021. The Action Plan includes 47 measures to be delivered between 2021 and 2025 that aim to improve air quality across the borough. Action 15 is to 'Promote and Enforce the Borough's Smoke Control Area'. The proposals to consolidate the historic Smoke Control Orders and to consult on including moored vessels within the scope would contribute to delivering this action.
- 6.12. The proposals are intended to put in place the framework to allow improved enforcement of smoke control regulations. This will help to improve local air quality and, therefore, reduce the harm to health that can arise from exposure to air pollution. This will help to meet the Council's Corporate priority of Reducing Harm and the Mayoral priority of a Greener, Healthier Hackney.

Equality impact assessment

- 6.13. Hackney Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This requires us to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out to assess the impacts from both processes together, that is the revocation of the historic Smoke Control Orders, and the designation of a boroughwide Smoke Control Area with the controls also being applied to moored vessels.
- 6.14. While there are two separate processes, the publication of the Orders, and the period allowed for objections, will be carried out simultaneously. The intended outcome is that the provisions of the new Order will replicate those contained in the historic Smoke Control Orders which are being revoked, but will be extended to include moored vessels. Consequently, there will be one single Order covering the entirety of the borough and this will make it easier to understand and to regulate.
- 6.15. Geographically, the areas that will now be covered by an Order which have not previously been so, are limited. There is a small pocket where

exemptions were previously in place. However, there is also some uncertainty where a border / layout change has affected the description of the boundary. Removing the exemptions and addressing these anomalies will ensure a fair and consistent approach to enforcement.

- 6.16. As most post-war developments have provisions for heating that do not rely solely on solid fuel, the changes are not expected to limit people's ability to heat their homes. It may, however, impact on people who have an open fireplace or a woodburner, which they wish to use as an additional source of heating.
- 6.17. The proposal is to also extend the scope of the smoke control provisions to include moored vessels. As moored vessels have not previously been covered by Smoke Control Regulations, the proposals will impact most on those who moor vessels on Hackney's waterways. The Equality Impact Assessment has used available data on those who use London's waterways to help assess the impacts on equality.
- 6.18. People who live on houseboats will depend almost entirely on solid fuel for their heating. Some of the appliances being used on boats are likely to include those that have been exempted by DEFRA and which are already suitable for use in a Smoke Control Area. The Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020 bans the sale of wet wood and house coal. As a result of this, much of the solid fuel being used is likely to have reduced emissions as that is all that is available to purchase. However, people may still use fuel obtained from other sources, such as foraged wood.
- 6.19. Some of the people using moored vessels will depend on solid fuel as their sole form of heating and will be using an appliance which is non-compliant. Limited data is available on the people using Hackney's waterways for mooring vessels, but a survey of people living on and using boats on London's waterways was carried out by the Canal & River Trust (CRT) in 2016. Data from this survey has been used in the Equality Impact Assessment to ascertain whether the proposal is likely to disproportionately affect any people with a protected characteristic and, if so, how the impacts can be mitigated.
- 6.20. The data from the CRT survey indicates that people using vessels on the waterways tend to be people aged under 35, who live alone or with a partner (without children) and who are white. There is no data to indicate that the proportions of other protected characteristics differ between the boating community and the wider population.
- 6.21. While not a protected characteristic under the Equality Act, Hackney recognises low income as a characteristic requiring consideration in addition to those which are listed in the Act. People living on houseboats may have lower incomes, as 50% of those who responded to the survey said that affordability / financial reasons was a motivation for living on a boat. The support that the local authority is required to provide to help with costs can

help to mitigate the financial impacts on some, but not all of those with lower incomes.

Sustainability and climate change

- 6.22. The proposals aim to tackle emissions from solid fuel burning which impact on local air quality. While solid fuel burning is not being prohibited, the proposals aim to ensure that the fuel is burned in a way that reduces emissions.
- 6.23. In May 2023, Hackney approved a Climate Action Plan for the borough which sets out how everyone in Hackney can tackle climate change and work towards preventing the increase in global temperatures from exceeding the 1.5°C target set in the Paris Agreement. Environmental Quality, which includes air quality, forms one of the chapters within the Action Plan. Actions by residents to reduce the extent of solid fuel burning will play a part in reducing the borough's emissions of particulates and nitrogen dioxide. At the same time, encouraging a shift to more renewable technologies will have benefits for carbon reduction. It is recognised that the cumulative impacts from a range of collective actions is required in order to meet the target.
- 6.24. The use of wood and biomass has previously been promoted as being carbon neutral. However, this is complicated as it requires taking account of the carbon sequestered by the tree while growing. There are also emissions associated with the forestry and transport industries which need to be taken into account in the full life-cycle emissions assessment.
- 6.25. Some other authorised fuels, such as those made from pulverised anthracite, are likely to have higher carbon emissions. The table below provides a comparison of carbon emissions for different types of fuel. For comparison purposes, this shows the amount in grammes of CO₂ emitted for each kilowatt hour of electricity generated and it can be seen that wood and coal are among the highest emitters.

Fuel	Emissions in grammes of CO₂ per kilowatt hour of primary energy	Emissions in grammes of CO₂ per megajoule of primary energy
Lignite	398.7	110.8
Wood	367.6	102.1
Hard Coal	338.2	93.9
Fuel Oil	266.5	74.0
Diesel	266.5	74.0
Crude Oil	263.9	73.3

Kerosene	263.9	73.3
Gasoline	263	73.3
Liquid Petroleum Gas	238.8	66.3
Natural Gas	200.8	55.8

Source: 8billiontrees.com Carbon Footprint of Wood Burning Stoves

- 6.26. As well as reducing emissions during the burning process, the proposals aim to also reduce the prevalence of solid fuel burning. Engagement with the public on the changes to the Smoke Control Orders will run alongside an awareness campaign to highlight the impacts of solid fuel burning on air quality and, therefore, health. Hackney is an Associate Member of a Londonwide project which is running an awareness-raising campaign on the impacts of solid fuel burning during the autumn and winter of 2023/24. Households which currently burn solid fuel in compliance with the regulations may be encouraged to burn less regularly. In this way, the proposals may result in a reduction in carbon emissions, which will have positive impacts for climate change.

Consultations

- 6.27. The consultation process associated with the revocation and declaration of Smoke Control Areas are laid down in the Regulations.
- 6.28. No consultation has yet been undertaken. Approval is being sought to initiate the process which will involve advertising, by means of a Statutory Notice, the intention to revoke the historic Smoke Control Orders. As the Smoke Control Orders were made before 13th November 1980, the process for revoking them is set out in Part 3 of Schedule 5 of the Clean Air Act 1993. This requires the Order to be confirmed by the Secretary of State. At the same time, a Statutory Notice setting out the proposed new Smoke Control Area will be advertised. The information accompanying the Notices will make clear that any objections to the revocation must be raised with the Secretary of State, while any objections about the new Order must be raised with London Borough of Hackney.
- 6.29. The legislation requires the borough to first make an Order setting out the proposed revocations. A separate draft Order designating the proposed new Smoke Control Area will be issued at the same time. The local authority must then publish notices in the London Gazette as well as in a local newspaper for at least once in each of two consecutive weeks. A copy of the Orders, and any map or plan to which they refer, must be made available for inspection by any person free of charge at all reasonable times for no less than six weeks from the date of publication of the notices. The locations where these can be inspected must be included in the notices.

- 6.30. Any person who may be affected by the revocation of the historic Smoke Control Orders can object by writing to the Secretary of State. This will be by writing to DEFRA and an address for correspondence will be provided.
- 6.31. Any person who may be affected by the designation of the new Smoke Control Order can object by writing to the London Borough of Hackney. An address for correspondence will be provided.
- 6.32. Throughout the period of engagement, the Council must keep copies of the notices posted in several locations in the relevant area to help ensure that people who may be affected by the Orders are aware of them.
- 6.33. Guidance issued by DEFRA advises local authorities to make the engagement process as inclusive as possible. The Guidance includes a list of organisations that it recommends should be engaged in order to help ensure that various communities who may be affected by the changes are engaged. Officers will follow the guidance and look to go further in order to engage communities in Hackney while recognising that boaters will be moving along the waterways so that wider engagement is needed.
- 6.34. To raise awareness of the Orders and the opportunity to raise objections, officers within Hackney will:
- Place the required notices in relevant London publications and Hackney Citizen;
 - Make hard copies available to view in public locations (libraries, Town Hall, etc) and advise people where hard copies and maps can be viewed;
 - Send email communications to the organisations recommended by DEFRA;
 - Engage key organisations that represent boat owners and have expertise in solid fuel burning on ways to connect with people likely to be affected;
 - Conduct visits to borough waterways at times when boats are likely to be occupied in order to have face-to-face conversations with people who may be affected;
 - Place notices in locations frequented by boaters and those communities living near the canal;
 - Create and disseminate a leaflet with answers to anticipated questions including details on how to respond to the proposals;
 - Make efforts to identify and contact organisations and communities occupying buildings immediately adjacent to a waterway.
- 6.35. After carrying out the above steps and allowing for a period for objections to be raised, the Council must send the Revocation Order to DEFRA for confirmation, including a copy of the notice and details of the steps undertaken to meet the borough's regulatory requirements.

- 6.36. If any objections are raised and not withdrawn, the Secretary of State may require a local inquiry to be held to consider the objections and make a decision. If the Order is confirmed by the Secretary of State, it will come into effect not less than 6 months after the date of confirmation.
- 6.37. The designation of the new borough-wide Smoke Control Area is dependent on the historic Orders being revoked, which requires a decision being made by the Secretary of State. A date when the historic Orders cease to apply will be set based on the date when the decision is made.
- 6.38. At the same time, the local authority will need to consider any objections raised to the proposed new Smoke Control Area. A decision on the introduction of the new Smoke Control Area will need to be made based on the responses received during the period of engagement and will be dependent on the decision made by the Secretary of State. Should the new Order be approved, the date for the introduction of the new Smoke Control Area will be aligned so that it comes into effect as the others are revoked.

Risk assessment

- 6.39. High level risks, and mitigation measures, associated with the recommended proposals are set out below:

Risk	Mitigation
Objections are made to the Secretary of State and not withdrawn.	We will make people aware that the process to revoke is being run alongside a process to designate a borough-wide Smoke Control Area to ensure people have the correct information and understand how the processes are aligned. We will also work with partners to engage the communities most likely to be affected.
Objections are made to the local authority which are not withdrawn.	Messages to raise awareness of the harmful impacts of solid fuel burning on air quality and health will be scheduled prior to the Order being made and throughout the winter period. To address concerns about the financial impacts, we will bid for funding from DEFRA to provide financial support to those needing to upgrade their appliance and will advertise the opportunity for assistance to encourage uptake. We will also work with partners to engage the communities most likely to be affected.
Financial risks to the Council	The legislation requires that the local authority reimburse 70% of the costs of upgrading an appliance to be compliant to boilers provided that they meet the eligibility criteria. A cap of £2,300 will

	<p>be implemented for the reimbursement costs and this will be included in the engagement material. There is a risk to the Council of having to cover the reimbursement costs which would be a maximum of £690,000. DEFRA is making funding available to local authorities to cover these costs through a non-competitive bid. Provided that an application for funding is made, and is successful, during the available window, all costs associated with providing reimbursements will be covered. The decision on the funding application is likely to be known around the time when the period for raising objections ends.</p> <p>The costs to the Council will primarily be for publishing the Notice and engaging communities to make them aware of the contents of the Order. These costs will be limited to officer time, printing, advertising and administration costs which can be met through existing budgets.</p>
Financial costs for the boating community and effects on community relations	<p>Although up to 70% of the costs of upgrading to achieve compliance can be reimbursed, this is dependent on eligibility criteria and does not cover all of the costs. Therefore, those who have a right to moor their vessel in the borough for 6 months can receive some support but will need to finance the remaining 30% of the costs themselves. There will be no financial support for those who use the borough's waterways but do not have a permanent mooring. To address the risks of negative relations with the boating community, we will actively engage with people who may be affected and help them explore alternative ways to comply with the regulatory changes. We will also be liaising with DEFRA regarding the financial support which they may be able to provide to the local authority to assist with those boaters who are not eligible for reimbursement costs.</p>
Risks of increased expectations about the new regulatory controls.	<p>The number of complaints that the Council receives about smoke arising from vessels on the borough's waterways is relatively low but has been increasing. The Order will require people using vessels to either use authorised fuel or to use an exempt appliance. In doing so, this will reduce emissions but does not eliminate smoke and odour completely. The controls also apply only to fuel used for heating and not to the fuel that is used to power the vessel's movement. Therefore, complaints may be received about</p>

	compliant behaviour with an erroneous expectation that enforcement action be taken. The risks will be mitigated through the awareness-raising campaign that will aim to educate people about the controls and what is, and is not, covered.
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7. **Comments of the Interim Group Director, Finance**

- 7.1. This report requests approval to create a single borough wide Smoke Control Order and extend the provisions to include moored vessels. The council will be required to consult upon the Order.
- 7.2. The report also requests approval to provide funding to moored vessel owners up to a cap of £2,300 per vessel to those who are eligible, for the purpose of upgrading appliances to meet compliance standards should the Order be approved.
- 7.3. DEFRA will fund the costs incurred via the Smoke Control Areas Waterways Air Quality Grant Scheme which will run across 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 7.4. Although as many as 300 boats with permanent moorings might apply for upgrades, eligibility criteria will reduce the number of applicants, with reimbursement costs likely to remain below £690,000. In 2024/25, a funding window opportunity will be available to secure the funding to cover 70% of the costs for eligible boaters. Boaters will be required to fund the remaining 30% of cost from their own resources.
- 7.5. Consequently the Council's costs will be limited to consultation, staff time to implement and enforce the Order and to enable the reimbursement payment to an estimated 300 applicants. The Council's costs will be managed within existing budgets within the Environmental Strategy service within Climate Homes and Economy.
- 7.6. DEFRA will require a breakdown of costs and the reasoning behind the figures, such as: expected number of vessels requiring adaptation; steps to be taken to ensure that boat owners/occupiers meet specific reimbursement conditions; verify the accuracy and appropriateness of adaptation claims and confirmation that adaptations are completed to satisfaction; how to enforce certain mooring and absence requirements; and involve anti-fraud checks.
- 7.7. The Council should be aware that further detail might be necessary, as the anti-fraud process is currently under review by DEFRA.

8. **Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

- 8.1. A smoke control area is an area where people and businesses must not:
 - emit a substantial amount of smoke from a chimney;

- buy or sell unauthorised fuel for use in a smoke control area unless it's used in an 'exempt' appliance (appliances which are approved for use in smoke control areas).
- 8.2. Smoke Control Orders are governed by The Clean Air Act 1993. Amendments to this Act by the Environmental Protection Act 2021 have fundamentally changed how smoke control orders work and how the rules are enforced by local authorities.
- 8.3. Under the amendments, local authorities now have the discretion to extend the scope of their smoke control orders so that their restrictions include moored vessels (i.e. canal boats, although smoke emissions are allowed from fuel used by an engine to move or provide electric power to the vessel).
- 8.4. It is unlawful to emit smoke from a property (including moored vessels) that falls under a smoke control order. Officers of the council can issue a financial penalty of between £175 and £300 where they witness the emission of a 'significant quantity of smoke from a chimney', regardless of the appliance being used or the type of fuel burned. Wood, timber or logs will need to be used in a DEFRA approved stove or smokeless fuel should be used.
- 8.5. Recommendation 3.1 requests Cabinet Approval to initiate the process to revoke all current smoke control orders within the borough. Any comments/objections from the public are to be sent to the Secretary of State, and the final decision as to confirmation of revocation rests with the Secretary of State.
- 8.6. Recommendation 3.2 of this report requests Cabinet approval to seek public comment on a new draft Smoke Control Order (Appendix I) which covers the entire borough and which extends the smoke control provisions to include moored vessels.
- 8.7. Recommendation 3.3 of this report seeks Cabinet approval of a cap of £2,300 per vessel to those who are eligible, for the purpose of upgrading appliances to meet compliance standards, should both the revocation and a new Order be approved.
- 8.8. 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.
- 8.9. The recommendations set out in part 3 of this report fall within the definition of a Key decision under the Council's Constitution.

Appendices

Appendix I - Draft Smoke Control Order 2024

Background documents

ZEN Fuel Burning Engagement Project Final Report

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**APPENDIX I
DRAFT ORDER**

**Clean Air Act 1993
Section 18**

**THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY
SMOKE CONTROL ORDER 2024**

SMOKE CONTROL ORDER 2024

The London Borough of Hackney (“the Council”) in exercise of its powers under section 18 of the Clean Air Act 1993 (as amended), hereby makes the following Order:

1. This order is made by the London Borough of Hackney (the ‘Council’) and shall be known as the The London Borough of Hackney Smoke Control Order 2024 (“the Order”).
2. This Order will come into force not less than six months from the date this Order is confirmed by the London Borough of Hackney.
3. The Council declares the whole of its area to be a Smoke Control Area (‘the Smoke Control Area’). The extent of the Smoke Control Area is shown on the plan listed in Schedule 1 to this Order and labelled **PLAN OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY SMOKE CONTROL AREA 2024**.
4. In the whole of the Smoke Control Area created by this Order (that is, all land within the borough boundary), the operation of section 19D of the Clean Air Act 1993 (Regulation of smoke and fuel in smoke control areas in England) shall be applicable to all buildings and moored vessels.

EFFECT OF ORDER AND PENALTIES

5. The effect of this order is that if, on any day after the Order comes into operation:-
6. Smoke is emitted from a chimney of any building or vessel moored within the administrative area of the Council, the occupier of that building, or moored vessel, is liable a civil financial penalty of between £175 and £300, subject to any objection on the grounds specified by Section 19A of, and Schedule 1A to the Act.

7. any person who: -
- a. acquires any controlled solid fuel for use in a building or fireplace, other than an approved fireplace at the time of acquisition;
 - b. offers controlled solid fuel for sale by retail where the fuel is to be taken away by the purchaser;
 - c. fails to take reasonable steps to notify potential purchasers that it is an offence to acquire controlled solid fuel for any of the uses in 2.a. above;
 - d. sells any controlled solid fuel by retail for delivery to a building covered by the Proposed Order,

will be guilty of a criminal offence and liable on summary conviction to Level 3 fine on the standard scale (£1,000) for the offences under 2.a., or an unlimited fine for the other offences in 2.b., 2.c. or 2.d., subject to the statutory defence set out in Section 19B(6) of the Act in the case of a 2.d. offence.

EXEMPTIONS

8. Other than exemptions made by the Secretary of State under section 19D of the Act, there are no moored vessels, buildings, or classes of buildings, or fireplaces, or classes of fireplaces in the Smoke Control Area that are exempt from the operation of section 19A and Schedule 1A of the Clean Air Act 1993 (Penalty for emission of smoke in a smoke control area in England).

DEFINITIONS

9. In this Order the following words or phrases are defined as follows:

'Approved fireplace' means a fireplace of a type specified in a list published by the Secretary of State.

'Approved fuel' means a solid fuel specified in a list published by the Secretary of State.)

'Controlled solid fuel' means any solid fuel other than an approved fuel.

'The Act' means The Clean Air Act 1993.

THE COMMON SEAL of THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

EXECUTED by affixing the Common Seal of

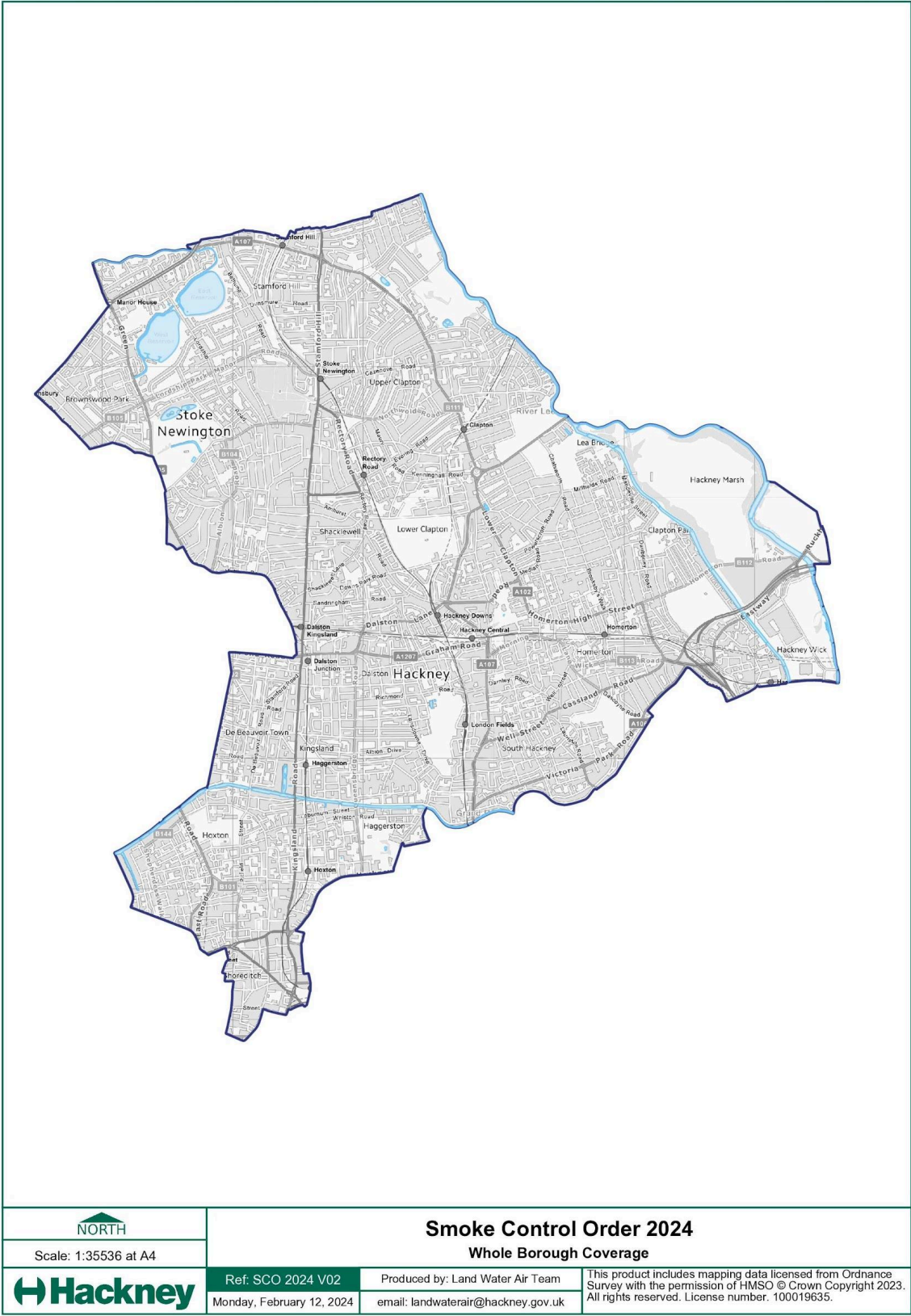
THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

in the presence of:-

.....
Authorised Signatory

SCHEDULE 1

PLAN OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY
SMOKE CONTROL ORDER 2024



**APPENDIX II
DRAFT ORDER**

**Clean Air Act 1993
Section 18**

**THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY
SMOKE CONTROL REVOCATION ORDER 2024**

The London Borough of Hackney (“the Council”) in exercise of its powers under section 18 of the Clean Air Act 1993 (as amended), hereby makes the following Order:

1. This order is made by the London Borough of Hackney (the ‘Council’) and shall be known as the The London Borough of Hackney Smoke Control Revocation Order 2024 (“the Order”). This Order will come into effect not less than six months from the date this Order is confirmed by the Secretary of State.
2. All the existing Smoke Control Orders listed in Schedule 1 to this Order are hereby revoked, insofar as they apply to the area of the London Borough of Hackney from the date that this Order comes into operation.

THE COMMON SEAL of THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

EXECUTED by affixing the Common Seal of

THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY
in the presence of:-

.....
Authorised Signatory

SCHEDULE 1

LIST OF SMOKE CONTROL ORDERS REVOKED

HACKNEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Hackney (No. 1) Smoke Control Order 1958
Hackney (No. 2) Smoke Control Order 1959
Hackney (No. 3) Smoke Control Order 1960
Hackney (No. 4) Smoke Control Order 1961
Hackney (No. 5) Smoke Control Order 1962
Hackney (No. 6) Smoke Control Order 1962
Hackney (No. 7) Smoke Control Order 1963
Hackney (No. 8) Smoke Control Order 1963
Hackney (No. 9) Smoke Control Order 1964

LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

Hackney (No. 10) Smoke Control Order 1965
Hackney (No. 11) Smoke Control Order 1966

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SHOREDITCH

Hyde Road Smoke Control Order, 1958
Shoreditch (Pitfield) Smoke Control Order, 1960
Shoreditch (Wenlock) Smoke Control Order, 1961
Shoreditch (Kingsland and Hoxton) Smoke Control Order, 1962
Shoreditch (Haggerston) Smoke Control Order, 1963
Shoreditch (Moorfields) Smoke Control Order, 1964
Shoreditch (Pitfield) Smoke Control Order, 1960

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STOKE NEWINGTON

The Stoke Newington (No. 1) Smoke Control Order, 1958
The Stoke Newington (No. 2) Smoke Control Order, 1958
The Stoke Newington (No. 3) Smoke Control Order, 1959
The Stoke Newington (No. 4) Smoke Control Order, 1959
The Stoke Newington (No. 5) Smoke Control Order, 1960
The Stoke Newington (No. 6) Smoke Control Order, 1960
The Stoke Newington (No. 7) Smoke Control Order, 1961
The Stoke Newington (No. 8) Smoke Control Order, 1962
The Stoke Newington (No. 9) Smoke Control Order, 1962
The Stoke Newington (No. 10) Smoke Control Order, 1960

**London Borough of Hackney
Equality Impact Assessment Form**

Title of this Equality Impact Assessment:

Smoke Control Order 2024

Purpose of this Equality Impact Assessment:

To assess whether the consolidation of existing multiple Smoke Control Orders into a single boroughwide Order and the inclusion of moored vessels within its scope would have an impact on any protected groups in Hackney.

Officer Responsible: (to be completed by the report author)

Name: Dave Trew	Ext: 4816
Directorate: Climate, Homes & Economy	Department/Division: Land Water Air Team / Climate, Sustainability and Environmental Services


Strategic Director: Rickardo Hyatt

Date: 12 February 2024

Comment: I approve this EIA.

Section 149 of the 2010 Equality Act sets out the three equality needs. The equality need that is most relevant to the proposal 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 EIA sets out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that the risks are managed effectively and that the benefits are maximised.

Signed: 

STEP 1: DEFINING THE ISSUE

1.1. Summarise why you are having to make a new decision

The burning of solid fuel is a significant contributor to levels of particulate matter, especially the finer particles (PM_{2.5}). According to the 2019 Clean Air Strategy, it is estimated that 38% of primary PM_{2.5} emissions in the UK arise from wood / coal burning associated with residential heating. Various scientific studies have provided evidence of the potential harm to health from exposure to emissions from solid fuel burning, especially the fine particulates which are capable of reaching further into the airways.

The prevalence of solid fuel burning within the borough is not known. However, a door-knocking survey commissioned by the Zero Emission Network which was carried out in 2020 revealed that 20% of those who responded had an appliance for burning solid fuel.¹ Of these, 47% burned solid fuel in an open fireplace and 25% in a stove / burner. While the properties visited were mainly houses, the data indicates that around 10% of these properties have an open fireplace and 5% have a stove or burner.

Anecdotally, the popularity of wood burning stoves has been increasing in recent years. At the time that the survey was carried out, 58% of those who burn solid fuel felt that they could reduce the amount of usage time by up to half. However, since this time, the price of gas and electricity supplied by utility companies has increased significantly. These increased costs may make heating a single room with a solid fuel burner more financially attractive than using the central heating.

In order to address the impacts on health and air quality, Smoke Control Orders were put in place during the late 1950s and early 1960s which, together, cover the whole area now occupied by the London Borough of Hackney. At this time, the area which now forms the London Borough of Hackney consisted of several smaller Metropolitan boroughs, namely Hackney, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington. These 3 boroughs were merged to form the London Borough of Hackney in 1965. The first Smoke Control Order was declared by Stoke Newington in March 1958 and covered an area around Green Lanes and Lordship Park. Over the subsequent years, further Smoke Control Areas were declared across all 3 of the Metropolitan boroughs and some were put in place after the creation of the London Borough of Hackney.

The Smoke Control Orders continue to be valid. However, as these Orders were put in place in a piecemeal fashion by different administrative bodies and there have been boundary changes since this time, relying on the information contained within the Schedules to the Orders becomes more difficult. Details of an exemption has also been found which applied to a small area that is believed to have been occupied by commercial premises at the time the Order was made.

Therefore, consolidating the multiple historic Smoke Control Orders into a single boroughwide Order will clarify the area that is covered, and allow for more effective enforcement.

In addition, changes to the legislation brought in by the Environment Act 2021 allows the Smoke Control restrictions to be applied to moored vessels in addition to the fixed chimneys and flues that were previously covered. The process that must be followed by local authorities who want to change a Smoke Control Order to include moored vessels is set out in the legislation and requires a notice to be published followed by a period during which anyone who may be affected can raise objections.

The number of complaints that the Council receives about solid fuel burning is relatively low. However, complaints about emissions from moored vessels have increased over recent years. The reasons for the increase may be a result of increased awareness of the health impacts of air pollution leading to increased reporting. Introducing a new Smoke Control Order which includes moored vessels will provide the Council with extra powers to deal with

¹ [Fuel Burning Engagement Project - Final Report, 2021](#)

smoke emissions from these vessels, and thereby ensure that a more effective response is provided where incidences occur.

The Council approved its Air Quality Action Plan in July 2021. The Action Plan includes 47 measures to be delivered between 2021 and 2025 that aim to improve air quality across the borough. Action 15 is to 'Promote and Enforce the Borough's Smoke Control Area'. The proposals to consolidate the historic Smoke Control Orders, and to consult on including moored vessels within the scope, would contribute to delivering this action.

1.2. Who are the main people that will be affected?

Hackney is home to an estimated 259,200 people² and c23,000 businesses, with the population likely to grow to 291,555 people by 2030³. As the proposal has the potential to improve air quality, it will affect all people spending time in Hackney who will benefit from breathing cleaner air.

The consolidation of the historic Smoke Control Orders is unlikely to impact on many people as the same controls which are already in place with very few exceptions would be put in place by the new boroughwide Order. However, including moored vessels within the scope of the Order would have an effect on those people who moor their boats at pitches within Hackney, as the waterways were not covered by the historic Orders.

The Regulations require the local authority to reimburse 70% of the total costs of upgrading a solid fuel appliance to one which is compliant with the new controls, provided that certain criteria are met. The funding would not be available to the occupant of any residence previously covered by a Smoke Control Order. DEFRA has confirmed that, in England, the reimbursement of costs would only be for those using vessels on the waterways which are covered by a new Order. People with permanent moorings within a Smoke Control Area (SCA) may be entitled to apply for reimbursement from the Council towards the cost of upgrading their solid fuel appliance, subject to certain conditions. These conditions include having the right to moor the vessel at a single mooring place on the day the Smoke Control Order is made which brings vessels into scope, and not having access to a mains electricity or gas supply at the mooring place. Therefore, some of the financial impacts on those affected may be mitigated through funding provided by the Council. However, not all those affected will be eligible to receive the reimbursement costs as many boaters are continuous cruisers and, therefore, do not have a home mooring.

A Census Survey⁴ of boaters was conducted by the Canal & River Trust (CRT) in 2022. This provides data on boaters across England and Wales, although data is broken down by region. Hackney does not have data specifically on the people using its waterways but boaters, particularly the continuous cruisers, will move across borough boundaries and, therefore, boaters from outside of Hackney need to be considered.

² 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](#)

³ [Greater London Authority, 2020](#)

⁴ [Boater Census Survey 2022 Results](#)

A survey of people living on, and using, boats on London's waterways was carried out by the CRT in 2016⁵. The Survey was sent to 3675 boaters who had been identified using the waterways in a 12-month period before the survey and 1323 responses were received. The majority of respondents use the boat as their primary home and most own their home outright. However, 50% of those who responded said that affordability / financial reasons was a motivation for living on a boat.

People who own or reside on vessels, such as narrow boats, are often referred to as bargees and a National Bargee Travellers Association exists to 'represent the interests of all itinerant live aboard boat dwellers'. The CRT survey was carried out among those who used any of London's waterways. However, of those who paid council tax, Hackney had the second highest number of respondents after Hillingdon. The highest number of respondents listed Hackney as the borough where they are registered for voting (11%) and where they are registered with a GP (11.5%).

The following table shows the relevance of the positive or negative impacts of the Smoke Control Order proposal 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	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Low	Low

Table 1: Relevance of the impacts on each of the protected groups

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 32⁶. 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. Only 8% of the population are aged 65 and over, compared to a national average of 19%.

Evidence on the health impacts of exposure to air pollution has shown that all ages are affected but that older and younger people are more vulnerable. Exposure to air pollution has impacts on the respiratory and cardiovascular systems so the health effects will be more pronounced in those whose lung and heart capacity has been weakened with age or which has not yet fully developed. Air pollution is also associated with degeneration in cognitive ability so has been linked to the onset of dementia.

Air pollution impacts on the young as their organs are still in the development phase. Evidence shows that lung development in children suffering long-term exposure to air pollution is reduced and this, therefore, reduces lung capacity throughout their life. Air pollution can also impact on the foetus resulting in lower birth weights in babies compared to those whose mothers were not exposed to long-term air pollution.

⁵ [Who's on London's Boats Survey, 2016](#)

⁶ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 2](#)

Introducing measures that can help to reduce concentrations of air pollution is likely to benefit everyone but is likely to have a more positive impact on the young and the elderly.

Apart from the positive health benefits, the proposals are expected to have financial impacts on those who have not previously been subject to smoke control regulations and this will be almost entirely those who moor vessels on the waterways within Hackney. Data from the survey carried out by CRT showed that 34% of those living on boats are under the age of 35 with the most popular age group being those between 25 and 34. This age breakdown is largely consistent with the age breakdown for Hackney as a whole but differs from the national average.

Most boaters who responded to the survey live on their own or as part of a cohabiting couple. Although children and elderly are among those using boats on London's waterways, these are a small minority. Only 9 respondents listed Hackney as the borough where their children attended school.

b) Disability (*Relevance: Low*)

According to the 2021 Census⁷ 9.6% of the population of Hackney reported that they were disabled or limited a lot, noting that this figure is age standardised. In the Canal and River Trust 2022 Census Survey, the percentage of boaters reporting that their day-to-day activities are limited by a long-term health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months was significantly higher. However, in the 2016 CRT survey of boaters using London's waterways, the figure was 10% which is a similar figure to that among the wider population within Hackney.

The figures on disability and health conditions among the itinerant boat dwellers can be difficult to obtain as the people are moving around and will often, therefore, be moored at a distance from the GP where they are registered. This can also create obstacles in terms of their access to health services.

The health impacts from exposure to air pollution may impact more on people with certain disabilities. Therefore, the benefits of cleaner air are more likely to have a positive impact on those living with a disability. It is unlikely that the proposal to include moored vessels within the scope of the Smoke Control Order will impact disproportionately on those with disabilities.

c) Gender reassignment (*Relevance: Low*)

Out of the 209,467 usual residents in Hackney aged 16 or over, 187,007 (89.3%)⁸ 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.

We do not have data on the numbers of people living on moored vessels within Hackney who have a gender which is different to the sex registered at birth. There are no known differences in the effects of air pollution on different genders so we do not consider that the

⁷ [ONS 2021](#)

⁸ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 7](#)

proposal will have any equality impacts on those who have undergone gender reassignment.

d) Pregnancy and maternity *(Relevance: Low)*

There were 4,377⁹ live 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.

Air pollution can impact the foetus, reducing its growth and development. For the pregnant mothers, changes which occur during pregnancy can place additional stress on the cardiovascular and respiratory systems which can make them more susceptible to the effects of exposure to air pollution.

While there are children and pregnant women among those who live on boats and use the waterways in Hackney, the CRT survey data indicates that the numbers are relatively low. As we do not have data on pregnancy rates among the boating community, the assumption is that these will be similar to those of the wider population.

It is considered that the impacts of the proposal are more likely to have a positive impact on pregnancy and maternity by reducing air pollution in the borough.

e) Marriage and Civil Partnership *(Relevance: Low)*

In 2021, the percentages for various legal partnership statuses were as follows: 60%¹⁰ 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.

Only 43% of respondents to the 2016 survey among boaters using London's waterways stated that they were single, while 42% of those who responded said they were part of a cohabiting couple. This latter figure did not differentiate between those who were married, in a civil partnership or living together as a couple. These figures are considerably different to those from the 2022 Census Survey which indicated that, among the boating community across England and Wales, more than 90% were in a marriage or civil partnership.

The proposals may have financial implications for boaters, particularly the continuous cruisers. Having more than one person who is bringing in an income may help with responding to the financial pressures. Although the proposal is not considered to have a significant impact on people based on marital status, as the figures on relationship status differ between the two surveys, further work will be required to engage those using Hackney's waterways who may be financially affected and direct them to appropriate support mechanisms.

f) Race (refers to ethnicity) *(Relevance: High)*

⁹ [Hackney Council, 2023](#)

¹⁰ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 2](#)

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%¹¹ 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%
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 may be disproportionately impacted by air quality for a variety of reasons. Pre-existing health inequalities mean that some Black and Global Majority residents have health conditions linked to respiratory and cardiovascular disease which means that they are more likely to be impacted negatively by exposure to air pollution.

Communities that have higher levels of deprivation, or a higher proportion of people from a non-white ethnic background, are more likely to be exposed to higher levels of air pollution.

¹² Based on the survey of the boating community, 77% of respondents said that they are white (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British). This figure rises to 89% when 'White Other' is included. This is higher than the percentage of white people within England as a whole. Therefore, based on the data from the 2016 CRT Survey, the proposal to extend the scope of the Smoke Control Order to include moored vessels is more likely to impact those who are white. Once a Notice of the Order is made, there is a period during which objections can be raised. During this time, officers will raise awareness and seek to engage those on vessels in Hackney to provide information that can help to mitigate the impacts.

g) Religion or belief (Relevance: Low)

¹¹ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 5](#)

¹² [Air Pollution and Inequalities in London: 2019 Update, Oct 2021](#)

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%). Hackney has considerably more people of the Jewish faith (6.7%)¹³, 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 survey of people using boats on London's waterways carried out by the Canal and River Trust did not include a question on religion or belief and we do not have data for boaters using Hackney's waterways. However, the proposals have not been identified as having a disproportionate impact on any faith groups.

h) Sex (*Relevance: Low*)

There are proportionally more women living in Hackney than men, 52.2%¹⁴ 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 than males in all age groups over 55 years.

No data has been found to suggest that these proportions differ among the boating community and these statistics were not included in the survey by CRT.

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%)¹⁵ 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)

No data has been found to suggest that these proportions differ among those living on boats and these statistics for boat users were not included in the survey by CRT.

STEP 2: ANALYSING THE ISSUES

2. Information and consultation used to inform decision making.

2.1. DEFRA Guidance

The Environment Act 2021, which received Royal Assent in November 2021, brought in changes which affect the way in which local authorities can control emissions of smoke from solid fuel burning. One of the changes was to allow local authorities to include moored vessels within the scope of a Smoke Control Order for the first time.

As this was a change to existing regulations, DEFRA have since issued guidance for local authorities on the Application of Smoke Control Areas to Moored Vessels¹⁶ and on Creating, Changing, or Cancelling a Smoke Control Order¹⁷. The guidance also sets out recommendations for consulting with groups and details of the eligibility criteria for receiving

¹³ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 5](#)

¹⁴ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 1](#)

¹⁵ [Hackney Census 2021 - Briefing 7](#)

¹⁶ [Guidance on the Application of Smoke Control Areas to Moored Vessels](#)

¹⁷ [Guidance on Creating, Changing, or Cancelling a Smoke Control Order](#)

financial assistance. Reference to this guidance has been made to inform the approach that Hackney is proposing.

2.2. Solid Fuel Burning Working Group

Hackney is one of the London boroughs which is represented on the Solid Fuel Burning Working Group. This is a forum for discussion of the issues, legislation and guidance relating to solid fuel burning and the means for controlling emissions from this source. The Group has also been involved in developing and running campaigns to raise awareness and drive behaviour change on the issue.

The changes to the legislation introduced by the Environment Act 2021 and the subsequent guidance issued by DEFRA have been discussed by members of the group to share knowledge and ideas on its implementation.

2.3. Engagement

As set out in the DEFRA guidance, the changes to the Smoke Control Order require a notice to be advertised and a subsequent period of time then provided during which people can raise an objection. Therefore should approval be granted to proceed with the proposals, a draft Order will be advertised and a process of engagement will be carried out to raise awareness of its contents.

Guidance has been issued by DEFRA which recommends steps to be taken to raise awareness of the changes and the implications for those who may be affected. Where the change is to include moored vessels within the scope of the Smoke Control Order, as is being proposed, particular efforts should be made to reach out to the boating community.

Hackney's Team Manager for Travellers has been consulted as there are ad hoc opportunities for her to engage with people using boats on Hackney's waterways. A joint visit with officers from the Land, Water, Air Team has already been undertaken to help understand the number of vessels using the waterway and to engage in face-to-face conversation with boaters. As many vessels were unoccupied during the daytime, this highlighted the need to carry out visits at various days and times to increase the potential reach.

Officers from the Land Water Air Team have been working with the neighbouring boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Newham as well as the CRT on a campaign to raise awareness of the impacts of solid fuel burning among the boating community. A [leaflet](#) providing advice to boaters on reducing emissions from solid fuel burning has already been developed and is available on the Hackney website. The Land Water Air Team has also established contact with Canals in Hackney Users Group (CHUG) which is a community charity whose members are those who use Hackney's canals.

2.4. Other sources of information

The proposals will have the greatest impact on those who use or live on vessels on Hackney's waterways. In order to assess the equality impacts, research was carried out to gather information on the demographics of the boating community. There is limited data available which relates specifically to this group of people. However, a Census Survey was carried out across England and Wales by CRT in 2022. More specifically for Hackney, a

survey was conducted by CRT in 2016 among people using London's waterways and which contains useful data on age, relationship status, disability and ethnicity.

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?

The proposals are aimed at controlling emissions to air from solid fuel burning which will have benefits for air quality and, therefore, public health. Therefore, the positive impact will be on all people who live, work and visit the London Borough of Hackney. As solid fuel burning also contributes to poor indoor air quality, those who burn solid fuel and are required to make changes to comply, will, themselves, benefit from a healthier indoor environment.

The proposals aim to ensure that the same controls on solid fuel burning apply across the borough and to people who live in both fixed premises and on the waterways.

2.5.2 What negative impact could there be overall, on different equality groups, and on cohesion and good relations?

As the London Borough of Hackney has been a Smoke Control Area for over fifty years, the smoke control regulations have applied to most residences for a long time and people should be familiar with the requirements. The proposals will, however, extend the controls to vessels using the borough's waterways for the first time.

People using the borough's waterways will do so for a variety of reasons and not all will live on the boats. Of those who do live on boats, there is a further distinction between those who have permanent or 'home' moorings and those who do not. Those without a home mooring are continuous cruisers who are only able to moor in the same place for a limited time before continuing their journey. Bargees are not an underrepresented ethnic group and are not defined as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act. However, many bargees are required to keep moving and this nomadic lifestyle means that they can face similar challenges to those faced by Travellers who move around on land. These challenges can include reduced access to healthcare facilities so that data on the health needs of itinerant boat dwellers is more difficult to ascertain. Health conditions and hidden disabilities can, therefore, be overlooked among this group.

Bargees are expected to be those most impacted by the proposals. Those who have a permanent mooring in Hackney will receive financial support but the legislation does not require the local authority to provide financial support to continuous cruisers. The proposals may be perceived to be unfairly targeting those who have chosen to live on the water and, particularly, those who are required to keep moving. While the regulations do not require it, efforts to provide support to this group of boaters should be made.

The data shows that many of the people using vessels on the waterways are under the age of 35. This may be connected to lower incomes and a lack of affordable housing being available. However, the age profile of the boaters is not significantly different from that for the whole of the London Borough of Hackney.

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 implementation of the changes to the borough's Smoke Control Orders 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 impact on all protected characteristics to continue to be considered during the period of consultation following the advertising of the Notice. Additional steps will need to be taken to liaise with the boating community, to make them aware of the implications of the regulatory changes and to listen to their feedback.

The availability of financial support for achieving compliance to be promoted to ensure that anyone who is eligible has access to the funding to which they are entitled. Hackney will look to support campaigns to ensure that itinerant boat dwellers with continuous cruiser licences can access support schemes so that we are championing their needs and ensuring that they are not disproportionately affected.

STEP 4 DELIVERY: MAXIMISING BENEFITS AND MANAGING RISKS

4.1. Equality and Cohesion Action Planning

No	Objective	Actions	Outcomes highlighting how these will be monitored	Timescales / Milestones	Lead Officer
1	Prioritise protected groups likely to be affected	Follow guidance for consultation taking the additional steps recommended for wider engagement.	Range of deliberative engagement methods	Subject to approval, the Notice will be advertised in March 2024. Views and feedback will be gathered for following the final appearance of the Notice in the press. The time period for objections has been extended to 3 months to take account of it coinciding with an election period.	Land, Water, Air Manager
2	Ensure the needs of protected groups are considered	Take steps to actively engage with the boating community. Seek feedback and respond to points raised.	Responses to engagement and take-up rate of reimbursement offered	Engagement and awareness-raising for 13 weeks following the final appearance of the Notice in the press. The Order will come into force 6 months after confirmation by the Secretary of State which is estimated to be at the end of February 2025. Funding will be sought from DEFRA (May 2024) to help the Council with costs. Funding for a project to engage boaters has been submitted to the Mayor of London.	Land, Water, Air Manager
		Take steps to identify additional support and/or funding opportunities for itinerant boat dwellers not eligible to receive the 70% financial contribution	Funding opportunities identified; Take-up rate of financial support and other support mechanisms	Seek funding opportunities and provide these to run alongside the DEFRA funding.	Land, Water, Air Manager



Title of Report	Chalkhill Partners - Temporary Accommodation Acquisition and Lease Project	
Key Decision No	FCR S252	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Rob Chapman Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service Supported by: Cllr Sade Etti, Deputy Cabinet Member for Homelessness, Housing Needs and Rough Sleeping	
Classification	Open with Exempt Appendix	
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards	
Key Decision & Reason	Yes	Result in the Council incurring expenditure or savings which are significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service/function
Implementation Date if Not Called In	6 March 2024	
Group Director	Jackie Moylan, Interim Group Director, Finance	

1. Cabinet Member's introduction

- 1.1. The proposal contained within this report continues the Council's existing strategic efforts to maintain a sustainable portfolio of temporary accommodation that will meet the needs of the growing number of residents who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Our strategic response continues to be based on working to increase the supply of much needed temporary accommodation, through a combination of investing in in-house properties and working with partners to secure long term leases - reducing the Council's exposure to the increasingly costly and volatile market for nightly purchased and bed & breakfast units. The Council also makes every effort to secure temporary accommodation that is within or close to Hackney, to minimise the impact of homelessness on people's support networks, wellbeing, education and employment.
- 1.2. Hackney is at the epicentre of the UK's housing crisis. The scarce and shrinking supply of affordable accommodation within the borough is having a significant impact on the wellbeing of our residents. We have over 8,300 households on the Council's housing register (with severe overcrowding and / or medical needs) and over 3,000 households in Hackney who are homeless and living in temporary accommodation (including more than 3,700 children - enough to fill eight primary schools).
- 1.3. The Council is working hard to tackle this crisis. We are committed to building 1,000 Council homes for social rent and we are delivering hundreds of new homes at dozens of sites across the borough through our in-house direct delivery model, with more than half for council social rent, shared ownership or living rent. But building homes is challenging. It costs on average more than £500,000 to build a new Council home in Hackney, and although our starting point is to build as many homes for social rent as we can, we can't build as many as we'd like to without more direct grant funding and it is getting ever harder to do given the increase in construction costs we face.
- 1.4. The failure by the Government to give councils the powers they need to regulate the private rented sector and the lack of affordable options is driving a significant increase in residents presenting to the Council as homeless and in need of temporary accommodation while we support them in finding sustainable housing solutions for their needs.
- 1.5. In the last year, the situation within Hackney and across London has become critical, with rising demand accompanied by a significant reduction in the amount of temporary accommodation available. This has been driven by the economic turbulence of the cost of living crisis, which is also impacting on landlords and is resulting in rapid increases in rents and landlords withdrawing from the temporary accommodation market, compounded by the impact of competition from central Government departments bidding for the same properties that we need.

- 1.6. This presents serious challenges for the Council, including increasing cost pressures, difficulty securing suitable temporary accommodation, and all too often the need to rehouse homeless families outside of the borough (and often well outside London), impacting on their wellbeing, employment, education and access to support networks.
- 1.7. The Council has been bold and innovative in our work to secure the temporary accommodation that we need. This includes investment in our sector leading portfolio of in-house hostels, refurbishment programmes to raise the quality of hostel accommodation, and entering into long term leases with trusted partners in both the social housing and private sectors.
- 1.8. We have seen important successes through this work, including projects like Cape House and Ivy House, where our partnerships with those landlords are raising the standard of our temporary accommodation and giving the Council longer term certainty in the units we will have available. We are also progressing with opportunities for the Council to directly acquire other properties which will add to our in-house stock.
- 1.9. The challenges that are presented by the current market, however, are clear and are illustrated by other potential deals that have not progressed to delivery, with landlords deciding that they can achieve higher returns elsewhere. This includes potential deals where the Council was in a position to bring in over £200k of Government grant to support refurbishment if the landlord had entered into a lease agreement with the Council and another where the Council was proposing to offer £4.5M for acquisition of hostel accommodation. Neither of these progressed successfully as the landlords determined that alternative options would be more profitable.
- 1.10. This is vital work but despite these efforts, our homelessness service is routinely having to resort to spot purchase arrangements to find urgently needed temporary accommodation, with no control over the location and size of properties that we are able to secure. In many cases the only offers of temporary accommodation that we can secure are outside of the borough, often well outside of London.
- 1.11. In light of the rising demand and shrinking supply of temporary accommodation, we are exploring all possible options to secure long term leases for high quality temporary accommodation so that we can support our homeless residents and keep them within London and as close to Hackney as possible.
- 1.12. The proposed leasing agreement, as set out in this report, will bring in a much needed supply of good quality refurbished temporary accommodation located within a reasonable travel distance of Hackney. This will help to alleviate some of the pressures on homeless residents and the Council in the immediate term. It is also an important part of our wider and sustained work to improve the amount, quality and range of temporary accommodation, all while

we continue work to increase the supply of permanent genuinely affordable homes in Hackney.

- 1.13. Alongside the current work to meet the immediate needs for temporary accommodation (of which this proposal is part), the Council is currently working to refresh our Housing Strategy. This will set out the broader strategic approaches that the Council will take to achieve our ambitions to tackle the housing crisis and make sure that Hackney remains a place for everyone.
- 1.14. This proposal is good for the Council, our local community and most importantly some of our most vulnerable residents in desperate need of this accommodation.

2. Interim Group Director's introduction

- 2.1. The Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping and Temporary Accommodation strategies highlight the lack of affordable accommodation in Hackney, including the pressure on temporary accommodation for homeless residents, and the profound impact that this has on the borough and our residents.
- 2.2. Hackney has seen some of the biggest house price increases in the country, meaning that buying a home is out of reach for most low and even middle income families. Welfare reform also makes it increasingly difficult for residents receiving benefits to afford to live in Hackney. In 2023 the average monthly rent for a two bedroom home is c £2,600 and the maximum housing benefit for the same property is £1,585. The analysis carried out for the Strategic Housing Market Assessment that is being developed to support the Council's Housing Strategy is showing us that residents need a household income of c £75,000 to be able to afford to rent in Hackney (and only 5% of our population have earnings at this level).
- 2.3. The Homeless Reduction Act places a statutory duty on the Council to provide temporary accommodation to relieve homelessness if the Council believes there is a risk of homelessness, whilst enquiries are made to establish statutory homelessness and understand if a main housing duty is owed. Where a main duty is accepted the requirement to provide temporary accommodation remains until the household are offered suitable, affordable accommodation (in either the private rented or social housing sectors).
- 2.4. Levels of homelessness are increasing rapidly, with the number of approaches from households in June 2023 up by 17% when compared to the same period in 2018-19. As a result net expenditure is up from £7.38m in 2017/18 to £12.5m in 2022/23, inclusive of running costs. Without the Council's foresight and existing proactive efforts to secure as much sustainable temporary accommodation as possible this cost pressure would be even higher - as is reflected in other London boroughs who are reporting even larger increases in their costs.

- 2.5. Whilst net expenditure on temporary accommodation has decreased slightly over the past two years this is due to the Covid pandemic and the Council's ongoing strategy to increase our own Temporary Accommodation portfolio through long term lease deals, which is the least expensive option and far better value than the most expensive forms of nightly paid temporary accommodation. To eradicate the usage of expensive nightly let temporary accommodation entirely would trim £3.2m pa from the net expenditure figure. However, this would require a total of 963 properties to be acquired / leased.
- 2.6. It is now a constant struggle to find and retain suitable temporary accommodation for our homeless households. While Hackney has established the largest in-house temporary accommodation hostel stock in London and continues to actively explore opportunities to expand our portfolio, this remains insufficient to meet the level of homelessness demand.
- 2.7. As a result we are forced to make difficult decisions. We know that local support networks are very important to residents, especially at times of stress, and we try to place them within Hackney wherever possible. Increasingly, however, we are only able to offer accommodation outside the borough. In September 2014 we had 293 households placed outside the borough; and as of June 2023 we have 562, with some of these families placed as far away as Peterborough.
- 2.8. The changing market for property and the impact of rising interest rates on landlords is also leading to private landlords leaving the market for supply of temporary accommodation. The Council currently has 197 properties that have been requested back by landlords who have served notices requiring us to vacate the properties. We anticipate that this trend will continue to grow.
- 2.9. The Council has been working strategically for over a decade to increase its portfolio of owned and leased temporary accommodation, working to secure the most cost effective and reliable ways of providing temporary housing to vulnerable residents. This includes adopting a range of innovative approaches and building strong new partnerships to grow our in-borough temporary accommodation portfolio to 900+ units via direct acquisition and leasing deals to keep as many of our vulnerable families as possible safe and close to their support networks.
- 2.10. Other long term lease partnerships with private sector landlords in recent times include the deals for Ivy House (Cabinet 18 November 2019) and Cape House (Cabinet 28 February 2022). A partnership with Local Space (a Registered Provider) was approved by Cabinet on 18 July 2022.
- 2.11. The proposed leasing arrangement set out in this report will help to address the growing gap in supply as other landlords exit the temporary accommodation market. The proposed agreement will add 300 units to our longer term leasing arrangements, providing a mixed portfolio of accommodation options within 75 minutes travel time from Hackney Central

and increase longer term certainty of supply of temporary accommodation. This is critical to fulfilling our statutory homelessness prevention duties, help to mitigate significant risk of unbudgeted cost pressures, and to the greatest extent possible retaining temporary accommodation options within Greater London to maintain local connections and support networks for people in need of temporary accommodation.

- 2.12. The Council proposes to enter into a contractual arrangement with a real estate investment trust (REIT) which will acquire and procure the renovation of 300 properties to an agreed standard (at no upfront cost to the Council) before leasing them to the Council for a term of 10 years less one day (this is the maximum period that a lease can be to qualify for receipt of housing benefit).
- 2.13. This proposed agreement does not involve any up-front capital investment from the Council. It will provide a stream of properties to an agreed standard (including a reasonable travel distance from Hackney) which the Council will lease and sublet to households in housing need on Temporary Accommodation licences. The properties will be managed day to day by an external firm of managing agents, overseen by the Council's Benefits & Homelessness Prevention service.
- 2.14. The proposed agreement will allow the Council to pilot this model of private investment using a REIT, with the potential to use equivalent investment models as part of ensuring sustainable long term supply of good quality temporary accommodation. Given the high levels of demand we will continue to look for further opportunities to use similar or other models so that we can deliver our statutory homelessness prevention duties effectively.
- 2.15. Our financial modelling indicates that the proposed lease agreements will enable cost avoidance of c 60% when compared against the cost of nightly spot purchase accommodation. While the future economic picture remains uncertain, we would expect that there will remain significant financial benefits from longer term agreements, helping to mitigate the impact of the housing crisis on the Council's increasingly pressured finances.
- 2.16. The Council will continue to consider the longer term strategic approach to delivering our housing ambitions through the Housing Strategy that is currently being developed. The proposal in this report will not predetermine any outcomes of the Housing Strategy review, but will help us to meet urgent and immediate demand.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 3.1. Note the strategic context set out in this report, including the increasingly challenging shortages of temporary accommodation,**

growing demand, rising costs, and the need to secure longer term and more sustainable supply of temporary accommodation properties in order to meet the Council's statutory obligation.

- 3.2. Note the principles and structure of the proposed contractual arrangement for the acquisition and letting of properties, together with the reasoning supporting its implementation, both as described in this report;
- 3.3. Give delegated authority to the Director of Strategic Property Services, in consultation with the Interim Group Director, Finance, to:
 - negotiate the detailed terms of an Agreement for Lease (or a broadly equivalent contractual instrument with the same commercial effect) with the REIT (and any necessary ancillary agreements)
 - agree that the Council enters into the Agreement for Lease (or a broadly equivalent contractual instrument with the same commercial effect) with the REIT.
 - Negotiate the detailed terms of the individual leases on each property.
- 3.4. Give delegated authority to the Director of Strategic Property Services, in consultation with the Interim Group Director, Finance, the authority to negotiate the detailed terms of, and the authority to agree that the Council enters into, a management agreement with the appointed managing agents.
- 3.5. Authorise the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic & Electoral Services to prepare, agree, settle and sign the necessary legal documentation to effect the proposals contained in this report and to enter into any other ancillary legal documentation as required.

4. Reasons for Decision

- 4.1. As outlined within the report, there is a significant need to expand the stock of longer term temporary accommodation available to the Council. As set out within Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, the Council has a statutory duty to provide interim temporary accommodation to homeless households to whom it has a duty to provide permanent housing.
- 4.2. As set out in the report, the Council has an acute and growing pressure on supply of the temporary accommodation needed to fulfil our statutory duties. Entering into the proposed agreement for lease of 300 properties will make a significant contribution to the number of Temporary Accommodation units in the Council's long term control and at more affordable levels than comparative short term accommodation options.

- 4.3. Whilst the 300 properties covered by the proposed agreement will only represent an additional 30% to the Council's owned and leased portfolio, the number of properties that become available through other sources is continuing to decline, with particular shortages for family sized accommodation - resulting in homeless residents needing to relocate outside of the borough and often well beyond London.
- 4.4. The proposed leasing scheme will include criteria to ensure that properties are within 75 minutes journey time by foot and public transport to Hackney Central, helping to enable residents to retain local connections.
- 4.5. Discussions with other potential partners as well as Chalkhill have taken place over a number of years however they have been around longer lease commitments typically of 40 + years. Only our discussions with Chalkhill have resulted in a 10 year proposal which limits the exposure of the Council to annual inflation based rent reviews. We also expect that an attempt to take to the market an equivalent proposal would take in the order of 9-12 months and would not be expected to yield improved terms considering current market fundamentals (including recent increases in interest rates). The risks associated with the agreement have been reviewed extensively and are set out in detail in section 6.39. Overall they are not considered unduly onerous considering the experience and current property operations of the service and the mitigation options available to the Council.
- 4.6. In order to secure good quality Temporary Accommodation as close to Hackney as possible, and also to mitigate the significant financial risks presented by dependency on ad hoc spot purchasing in an increasingly challenging housing market, the Council uses longer term 10 year lease agreements as a core component of its Temporary Accommodation supply strategy. The Council has a number of long term lease agreements in place and equivalent investment models adopting REIT structures are likely to play an important role in this part of our supply moving forward. At the current time the only viable option that is in a position to move into delivery is this proposal with Chalkhill. As noted in 5.3 below, the Council will be able to consider other viable options that come forward where those will enable it to further reduce use of ad hoc spot purchasing and continue to move the Temporary Accommodation mix to that of a more sustainable long term supply.

5. Details of Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 5.1. Do nothing and lose this opportunity to increase the number of Temporary Accommodation units in the Council's long term control at more affordable levels than alternative short term accommodation options

This option has been rejected on the grounds that it will:

- continue to leave the Council with significant uncertainty of provision of temporary accommodation
- increase the likelihood that homeless residents will be required to relocate outside of London for temporary accommodation
- increase cost pressures for the Council
- increase the risk of needing to use expensive bed and breakfast and hotel accommodation
- leave the Council at growing risk of legal challenge for failing to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

5.2. Raise the capital through borrowing and purchase an equivalent portfolio directly owned by the Council

This option has been rejected on the grounds that:

- there are significant capital and revenue implications, that are unaffordable in the context of the wider financial pressures on the Council (see finance comments in section 7)
- Officers have reviewed with colleagues in Housing Services the potential option of the service undertaking the management of the 300 properties that will be disbursed throughout London. They have advised that it would be very challenging and expensive for the service to manage a portfolio of this nature given likely distribution of properties and uncertain nature of the stock. Housing Services have also advised that their current priority focus is on improving the delivery of their existing services in preparation for the new Social Housing Regulator.

5.3. Approach other parties operating in the sector to enter negotiations to put together a similar proposal

This option has been rejected on the grounds that:

- the exercise would take in the order of 9-12 months and would not be expected to yield improved terms considering current market fundamentals (including recent increases in interest rates)
- other discussions with potential partners have taken place previously (including with Chalkhill and other providers) but have not identified alternative options that would be viable to be taken forward
- the scale of the proposed agreement, the number of short term and bed & breakfast units currently in the temporary accommodation portfolio (1,228 at the time of writing - see section 6 below), the continued (and accelerating) reduction in supply, and the increasing demand for temporary accommodation mean that this agreement would not prevent the Council from entering into further agreements with other providers, provided equally (or more) favourable terms were offered

6. Background

Policy context

- 6.1. There are significant demands for affordable housing in the Borough; the lack of affordable housing options is driving homelessness and increasing the number of households requiring assistance. Please find in Appendix 1 a report setting out the policy context and associated evidence.

The properties that would be sourced through the proposed agreement

- 6.2. Under the proposed property acquisition and letting structure up to 300 units will be acquired by the REIT, refurbished to the agreed letting standard and delivered in an intended 15 months with a longstop of 24 months.
- 6.3. If the REIT fails to deliver a minimum of 150 units in 15 months the Council has the option to withdraw from the arrangement. There may be the opportunity for further tranches of units if the Council and the REIT agree to extend the arrangement (this would be through a separate contractual arrangement).
- 6.4. The makeup of the units for the proposed agreement is in accordance with the Council's criteria and based on analysis of demand for temporary accommodation. This is:
- 3 Bed: 165 properties
 - 2 Bed: 110 properties
 - 1 Bed: 25 properties
- 6.5. The REIT will acquire properties from the open market within 75 minutes journey time by foot and public transport to Hackney Central.

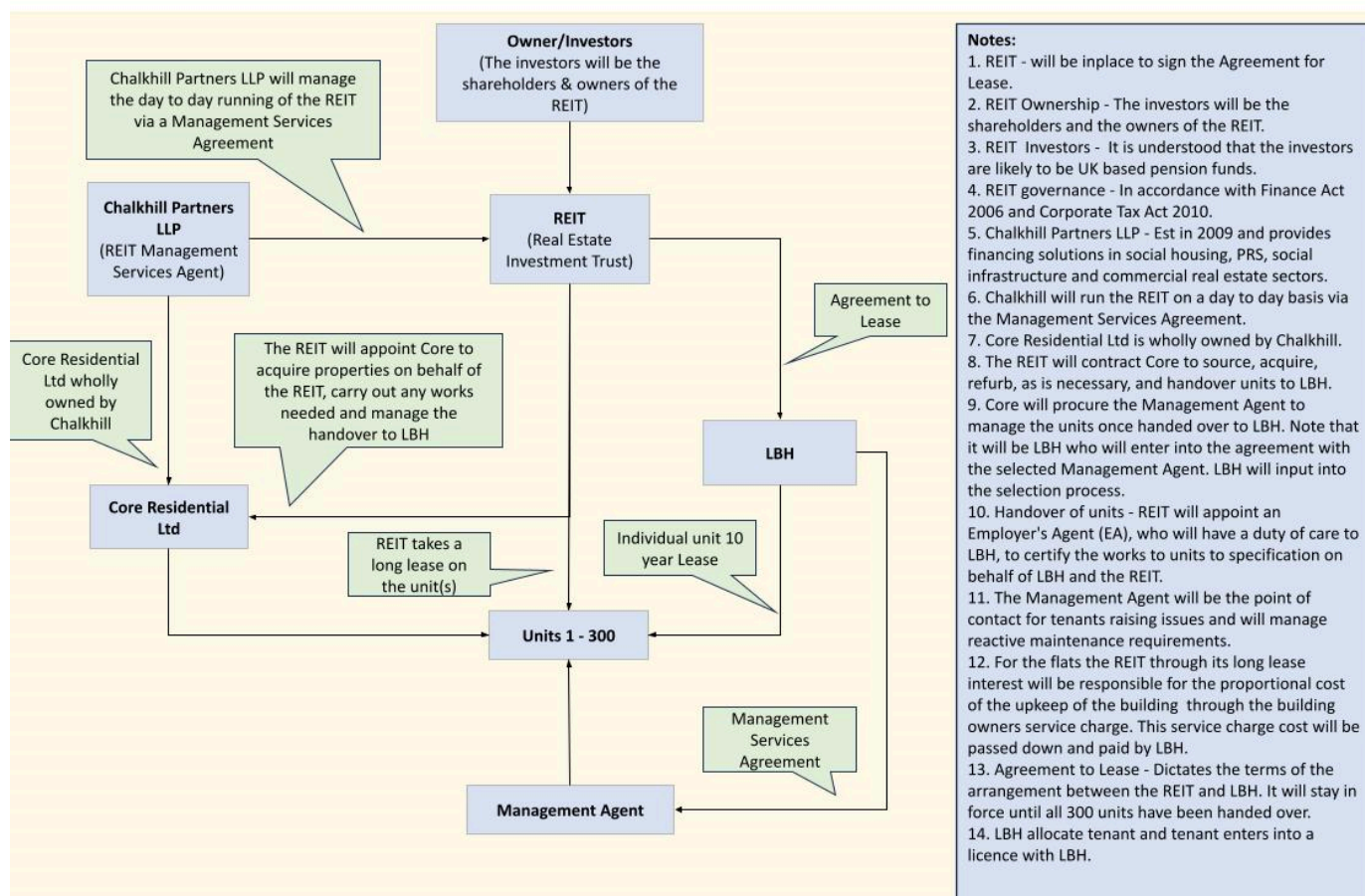
The structure of the proposed agreement for lease of temporary accommodation properties

- 6.6. The Council has been developing this proposal with Chalkhill Partners Limited (Chalkhill), a financial adviser regulated by the FCA. Chalkhill is promoting the transaction and will provide structuring services to the REIT once it has been formed, including administration of payments to the investors. Chalkhill's fees will be paid by the REIT.
- 6.7. The proposal is that the Council enters into an agreement with the REIT for the acquisition and lease of the properties. The Council will have no stake or other liabilities to the REIT, other than the proposed agreement for the lease of 300 properties and the leases for each property once agreed.

- 6.8. The REIT will be a newly established real estate investment trust and will be a UK domiciled entity. Corporate entities of this kind are typically holding vehicles for real estate in general, reflecting their tax benefits which, in turn, lower the cost of capital. It is not envisaged that the REIT will be a listed corporate entity for the foreseeable future.
- 6.9. The REIT is not yet formed and this process will begin once an approval from Cabinet has been obtained in line with the recommendations in this report, therefore the REIT's name is yet to be determined.
- 6.10. Once established, the REIT will form the holding entity for other, similar, affordable housing transactions albeit each transaction will be its own separate deal and portfolio within the REIT.
- 6.11. It is envisaged that the shares in the REIT will be sold to a broad base of investors. Chalkhill has obtained underwriting commitments to fund the entirety of the commercial proposal under discussion with the Council (ie Chalkhill have a high level of confidence that the investments needed to proceed with the 300 properties for the proposed agreement with Hackney are in place).
- 6.12. Chalkhill advise that the likely investors for the REIT will be UK pension fund providers (or asset managers acting on their behalf), with inflation linked liabilities looking to deliver social impact through the investment. The investor funds will likely all be institutional, Sterling denominated and based in the UK (eg. Local Government pension funds). It might be that some of those investors have offshore investment structures, however, the Council's lease will be with a UK based REIT, which will be owned by a UK based partnership.
- 6.13. Investors will be subject to due-diligence as per all applicable legal and regulatory requirements, with processes based on best practice industry guidance such as the ministerially approved JMLSG guidance (<https://www.jmlsg.org.uk/guidance/current-guidance/>). Sanctioned parties will be Prohibited Persons and each investor will be required to present warranties to that effect in their subscription agreement.
- 6.14. The REIT will acquire 300 properties and lease these to the Council within a targeted time frame of 15 months (up to a maximum of 24, assuming a minimum of 150 units are delivered within 15 months). Each property will be subject to an individual lease to reflect the phasing of properties as they become available (each lease will be in payment from the point that the lease begins - so the total costs and cost avoidance benefits will increase as the full 300 properties come on stream). The properties will become part of the Council's temporary accommodation portfolio for 10 years, with the individual leases expiring over an intended 15 month period (up to a maximum of 24 months) and returned to the REIT at the end of the lease (subject to a dilapidations settlement). The current Heads of Terms (which are still in negotiation) are set out in Confidential Appendix 2; LBH/Chalkhill 300 Unit Portfolio - Draft Heads of Terms. The Council's Housing Needs team will fund

any additional resources required to deliver the Council's landlord functions and responsibilities.

6.15. The simplified structure of the arrangement is set out below:



6.16. All capital investment and refurbishment expenditure will be the responsibility of the REIT, and the Council will not be investing in the acquisition or refurbishment of the properties. The Council's relationship with the REIT will be the same as for other privately leased temporary accommodation, with the overall commitment by the Council to lease 300 properties through the agreement. Responsibilities will be set out in the lease agreement for each property and payment of rents will be managed in the same way as is the case for other privately rented temporary accommodation.

6.17. On approval of the works the properties are leased to the Council (in each case for a term of 10 years less one day) pursuant to an Agreement for Lease (or a broadly equivalent contractual instrument with the same commercial effect). Each property will require a separate lease. The starting rent for each lease will be at the April 2020 LHA rate less a fixed sum for the management and maintenance of the properties. Subsequent annual increases in lease charges will be based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There is no cap and collar.

- 6.18. Other boroughs that are currently in talks with Chalkhill include Havering, Newham and Kensington & Chelsea, with Havering having completed the Cabinet stage of their process. The Havering deal is to procure properties that can be let via their housing company as privately rented homes based within Havering, neighbouring boroughs and Essex and Kent (and therefore is not the same profile as the properties that Hackney require).

Management of the properties

- 6.19. The REIT will enter into a contractual arrangement with Core Residential Ltd (Core Residential). Core Residential was specifically set up in 2018 by Chalkhill to manage the process of acquiring and refurbishing properties to be leased to local authorities. Core Residential Ltd has been dormant in the interim, awaiting its first transaction. It has an established panel of approved employer's agents, conveyancing solicitors and refurbishment contractors.
- 6.20. Core Residential will be a counterparty to the REIT as part of the process to acquire and refurbish the properties before they are leased to the Council as described above. Core Residential's contract will be with the REIT and its fees paid by the REIT.
- 6.21. When the Council enters into the Agreement for Lease it will also enter into a Management Agreement with Core Residential to procure the tenant and asset management (TAM) services from the market for an initial 5-year term following a competitive tender. At the 5th year the contract will be retendered. LBH will have oversight of the tender process and marking of the returns. Core Residential's cost for this service will be borne by LBH.
- 6.22. The management of the managing agent and the obligations under the leases, including decisions on repairs above a certain threshold, will sit with the Council's Benefits & Homelessness Prevention service (BHP). BHP will also make decisions regarding the allocation of units to residents in line with the service's operational arrangements and experience of managing the wider temporary accommodation portfolio.
- 6.23. The management costs for the leases includes provision for repairs, to be carried out by the managing agent's sub-contractors. The statutory compliance of the properties will need to be maintained through the period of the leases, and as noted previously BHP will need to make decisions on repairs above threshold.
- 6.24. In addition to the annual costs associated with statutory compliance and maintenance, the Council will have dilapidation obligations and to satisfy those obligations there are likely to be costs that will need to be expended towards the end of the lease. The provisions made for repairs and maintenance over the period of the lease will go some way to mitigate an accumulation of maintenance issues at the end of the lease, the cost is dependent upon the condition of the property at that time and the legal obligations of the Council under statute and case law it is recognised that

some properties will be in better condition than others, an estimate of cost for a property requiring works to the mechanical and electrical installations, kitchens and bathrooms could be in the range of £10-15k, a range of £3m to £4.5m across the 300 properties. Please also see the risk assessment table item 3 Unanticipated costs due to dilapidations.

- 6.25. Consideration will need to be given to the level of resource required within the Benefit and Housing Needs service to manage the managing agents; this is under review with the service and will be informed by the contract with the managing agents. Due account will be taken on the responsible and accountable persons under Health & Safety Law, such as the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and Building Safety Act 2022 in common with all temporary accommodation.

Resident experience

- 6.26. Residents placed in the temporary accommodation properties leased through the proposed agreement will report all repairs to the Managing Agent in line with the Council's standard arrangements for residents in temporary accommodation. Full out of hours emergency repairs coverage is provided.
- 6.27. As is the case for all residents that the Council places in privately leased temporary accommodation, the Benefits & Housing Needs Placement and Resettlement Team will carry out periodic property inspections, liaise with the managing agent, act as an escalation point to manage any repairs disputes, and provide signposting and support for the residents.
- 6.28. Where additional support is required (e.g. from social care, support for families fleeing domestic violence etc), the appropriate specialist Council services will make an assessment of needs and provide support in line with normal service provision.
- 6.29. The proposed approach set out in this report will help the Council to provide temporary accommodation closer to the Borough than is currently the case due to very limited (and reducing) availability of suitable properties.
- 6.30. A local authority must take into account the location of the accommodation offered when assessing suitability for households, including:
- the significance of any disruption to employment, caring responsibilities or education of the person and their household,
 - proximity and accessibility of medical facilities and other support which are currently being provided and are essential to well-being,
 - proximity and accessibility of local services, amenities and transport when the accommodation is located outside the authority's area,
 - the distance from the 'placing' authority
- 6.31. The placement of residents in out of borough temporary accommodation is governed by Section 208 of the Housing Act which requires the Council to

notify other boroughs of these placements within 14 days of the placement. The Government's Code of Guidance also makes these requirements very clear, especially around the placement of families who are subject to a children's care plan and associated vulnerabilities.

Equality impact assessment

- 6.32. There is no foreseeable adverse equalities impact arising from the purchase of these properties. By acquiring these properties and adding them to our portfolio we increase the housing opportunities that the Council can provide and consequently the range of people who could benefit.
- 6.33. The proposed agreement will mean that the Council will be able to offer temporary accommodation within reasonable travel time from Hackney which would otherwise not be possible. This will benefit vulnerable households who are managing to hold down low paid employment, juggle caring responsibilities and retain educational places in Hackney schools for their children who are otherwise increasingly likely to be offered temporary accommodation well outside of London.

Sustainability and climate change

- 6.34. None of the recommendations in this report would have a direct impact on the physical or social environment. It should be noted that the specification for each unit requires a minimum EPC certificate of C.

Consultations

- 6.35. No formal consultations are required as part of this report to lease additional properties for temporary accommodation.

Risk assessment

- 6.36. The Council has carefully considered the potential risks associated with the proposed agreement.
- 6.37. It is likely that the Council's new Housing Strategy which is currently under development will include the use of REITs to provide accommodation for some of the Borough's needs, taking account of the overall supply and demand for housing and options available to meet residents' needs.
- 6.38. While the proposal recommended in this report will be the Council's first private investment deal to procure out of borough accommodation, the arrangements are in many ways similar to existing lease agreements for out of borough accommodation that the Council has with social housing providers such as Local Space. Partnership with private investors has also formed the basis for the Council's expansion and improvement of hostel accommodation in the Borough.

- 6.39. The proposal is for the Council to enter into an agreement to lease properties and the Council would not be making any capital investment in the acquisition or refurbishment of the properties. The Council has extensive experience in hostel settings of an agreement to lease / lease structure with the private sector investing capital to achieve an agreed specification on their held assets. Those risks which are common with this deal will therefore be managed in the same manner; with careful assessment of the lease agreement and property condition carried out by the Council's property team and in-house TA surveyor.
- 6.40. Officers have systematically assessed the risks, and how they are likely to manifest themselves given the best information available. The table below sets out the risks identified and assessed, and shows how each is to be mitigated. It also sets out those aspects of risk that can't be completely mitigated, and remain uncertain. Details can be found below:

Risk	Risk definition	Probability	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Commercial and Financial	Dishonest investors in the REIT and use of 'dirty money'	Low	Investors will be subject to due-diligence as per all applicable legal and regulatory requirements, with processes based on best practice industry guidance such as the ministerially approved JMLSG guidance (https://www.jmlsg.org.uk/guidance/current-guidance/). Sanctioned parties will be Prohibited Persons and each investor will be required to present warranties to that effect in their subscription agreement. This is agreed by lawyers at draft document stage and allows the Council to exit if unhappy prior to signing of the agreement to lease.	Low - investors in the REIT may change but the same due-diligence will apply.
	Unidentified costs arise due to volatility of the financial climate	Medium	<p>The Council will receive revenue from central Government (LHA) and this has been used as the basis for the financial modelling conducted. This funding does not cover the whole cost of each lease. The volatility of the current financial climate increases these risks. This is the case with any temporary accommodation lease deal but the Council will be better able to mitigate these risks than is the case with spot purchased accommodation, due to the longer term stability that the agreement will provide.</p> <p>The Council also has the option to raise revenue by privately letting a proportion or even all the units taking advantage of the 30-40% discount to market rents.</p>	Low - mitigations apply

Risk	Risk definition	Probability	Mitigation	Residual Risk
	Unanticipated costs due to dilapidations	Medium	<p>The individual leases on each unit of accommodation will have a dilapidation liability at lease expiry, as is the case with other privately leased accommodation. This is a standard risk with any lease deal and is factored into negotiations.</p> <p>The management costs for the leases include provision for repairs, which will be carried out by the managing agent's sub-contractors. This will mitigate against the risk of accumulating maintenance issues resulting in dilapidation charges at the end of the lease.</p> <p>The annual costs for each unit that have been built into the financial modelling do include planned capital expenditure in excess of general repairs and maintenance which in the years towards the end of the leases could be deployed towards meeting the Council's dilapidation obligations.</p> <p>There may also be the scope to renew the leases dependent on the parties positions at the time which may also mitigate the obligation.</p> <p>The Council also has the option to raise revenue by privately letting a proportion or even all the units taking advantage of the 30-40% discount to market rents.</p>	Low - mitigations apply however the Council will need to closely monitor the portfolio in order to make informed decisions on timely implementation of mitigation options
	Proposal is financially unviable	Low	The proposals set out the financial implications relating to the leasing and rental management of the	Low - mitigations apply

Risk	Risk definition	Probability	Mitigation	Residual Risk
			<p>properties with detailed analysis. Consideration must also be given to the accounting treatment of the leases, specifically International Financial Reporting Standard 16 (IFRS 16). This will be kept under review throughout the lifetime of the lease as accounting standards change and are often subject to clarification.</p> <p>The Council also has the option to raise revenue by privately letting a proportion or even all the units taking advantage of the 30-40% discount to market rents</p>	
	REIT encounters financial difficulties or fails	Low	<p>The Council is protected by the leases for each property - the lease would continue to be in place with whichever party takes on ownership of the property. The Council will not have any financial stake in the REIT itself, nor will it have made any investment in the acquisition or initial refurbishment of the properties.</p>	Low - mitigation applies
	Difficulty in collecting rent from residents placed outside the borough makes the lease deal financially unviable	Low	<p>The Council currently has c.1000 households placed outside the borough in temporary accommodation. Residents in temporary accommodation receive Housing Benefit due to the level of rents set. Rent accounts are created with a dedicated temporary accommodation income collection team in place in the Benefits & Homelessness Prevention service. The team is responsible for assessing the Housing Benefit and collecting the rent and work closely with the Money Hub team. Collection rate is currently 96.27%</p>	Low - mitigation applies
Legal and	Non compliance with the	Low	Enforcement of the terms of the agreement.	Low - mitigation applies

Risk	Risk definition	Probability	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Governance	terms of the agreement for lease and lease			
Political and reputational	Moving households outside of Hackney away from local support networks	High	<p>Statutory guidance governs the steps needed to ensure the safe placement of households in temporary accommodation outside their responsible borough. This includes the relevant statutory notifications of the movement of homeless families to the host borough to enable the link into relevant support services i.e. children with existing care plans etc. This is in place for all out of borough temporary accommodation placements. Statistical return to DLUCH every quarter.</p> <p>The placements and resettlement team in the Benefits & Homelessness Prevention service has three officers who support people who are moving, in making the necessary arrangements to access the local services for the area they will be moving to. This includes confirming availability of school places ahead of making the placement where these are needed. This team also acts as a point of contact for temporary accommodation residents requiring support in the event of any issues (including accessing local services and any issues with the landlord who has provided the property).</p>	Low - once the units are occupied. But ongoing scope for issues as part of the churn of residents.
	Receiving local authority unhappy with displaced homeless households	Medium	With the growth in out of borough and out of London placements for all London boroughs, this has become more important and extra advance liaison is	Low - once the units are occupied. But ongoing scope for issues as part of the churn of residents.

Risk	Risk definition	Probability	Mitigation	Residual Risk
			undertaken with host boroughs by the Benefits & Homelessness Prevention service.	
	Vulnerable households displaced from home borough	Low	Legislation and DLUCH code of guidance is clear on cohorts of residents that cannot be placed outside of the borough. This is reflected in the Council's published temporary accommodation placement procedure placement-procedure.pdf Statutory reviews process affords residents the right to challenge a placement via judicial review. Statistical return to DLUCH every quarter.	Low - mitigation applies

Risk	Risk definition	Probability	Mitigation	Residual Risk
	Ability to secure good quality accommodation.	Low	<p>An agreed property specification will form part of the leasing arrangement.</p> <p>The Council has considerable experience of ensuring that privately leased properties for temporary accommodation are of a suitable quality and is a signatory of the 'Setting the Standard' inspection vehicle that all London boroughs have committed to in order to ensure that council provided temporary accommodation is of good quality.</p> <p>The employer's agent will oversee the refurbishment and upgrade works to the agreed specification. They will be responsible for managing the contractor(s) and will then sign off the works as completed (practical completion - PC) with joint liability to the REIT (the employer) and Council (contractual party).</p> <p>Properties which do not meet the specifications set out in the agreement will not be accepted by the Council.</p>	Low - mitigation applies however the Council will need to closely monitor the portfolio in order to ensure the units are maintained appropriately once in the Council's control.
	Units purchased in permitted development (PD) schemes	Low	<p>Chalkhill has confirmed that in their modelling of the portfolio they have no PD units.</p> <p>If however PD units were purchased they would still have to meet our agreed specification criteria.</p>	Very Low - mitigation applies
	Properties procured are not maintained properly and results in disrepair	Low	The Council sets out clear expectations for all landlords and managing agents providing properties for temporary accommodation, which includes	Low - mitigation applies The Council will need to closely monitor the

Risk	Risk definition	Probability	Mitigation	Residual Risk
	and damp and mould for residents		<p>expectations relating to the quality of accommodation and repairs.</p> <p>The Benefits & Homelessness Prevention service has a dedicated temporary accommodation surveyor who inspects properties and can escalate issues to the management company if needed.</p> <p>The placement and settlement team explains our expectations to residents in temporary accommodation so that they are aware of what their rights are. Repairs are reported directly to the landlord or managing agent and the team are able to assist and liaise if any issues need to be escalated by residents for resolution.</p>	portfolio and appointed managing agents.

Operational	<p>Demand from homeless households reduces with no requirement for additional temporary accommodation units within the 10 year lease period. The drivers of homelessness are varied and complex and will take a new sympathetic government at least two terms to make a noticeable difference to current demand.</p>	Very Low	<p>Demand for temporary accommodation is variable, but as set out earlier in this report the demand has continued to grow significantly over time. A snapshot of the TA challenge as of 7 August 2023 shows that the Council has 371 households requiring temporary accommodation or moving to alternative temporary accommodation. This comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -45 households requiring TA, including 6 households who are currently in hotels -197 temporary accommodation properties where the landlord has issued notice for handback -25 households in unsuitable TA (with the oldest dating since January 2021) -104 without a suitability review but known to be in unsuitable TA due to medical need, overcrowding etc <p>The Council is currently estimating that in the next 3-6 months it should expect c 290 households of Afghan refugees and asylum seekers to present as homeless due to the Home Office's plans for asylum applications.</p> <p>The Benefits & Homelessness Prevention service is also finding that there is considerable pressure on hotel accommodation, especially if there is an event in London.</p> <p>In the very unlikely event that demand for temporary accommodation falls the Council would initially respond to this by reducing use of other shorter term nightly paid properties that are more expensive. If there was no longer a need for the properties that have been sourced through this proposed agreement,</p>	Very Low - mitigation applies
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Risk	Risk definition	Probability	Mitigation	Residual Risk
			the leases are structured to allow the Council to sublet the properties at market rents.	
	Ability to secure properties within 75 minutes travelling time of Hackney	Low	It is already the case that the Council, along with other London boroughs, is routinely required to make temporary accommodation placements outside of the borough, increasingly well outside of London. The proposals in this report are for the supply of accommodation that is much closer to Hackney than is often the case for placements at the current time in Coventry, Derby, and Leicester. If the properties offered to the Council are further away than 75 minutes travelling time, a decision will be made to either regear the deal to 90 minutes travelling time in line with DLUCH statutory legislation or refuse the properties offered.	Low - mitigation applies
	Ability to deliver the Council's statutory obligations via the offer of suitable temporary accommodation to homeless households.	High	This is a significant and growing challenge affecting the Council and other London boroughs, with substantial increases in the number of people needing temporary accommodation and reducing supply. The proposal set out in this report will provide an important mitigation against this risk.	Low - mitigation applies up to the scope of the 300 units.

6.41. Statutory duties

- 6.41.1. The current challenges in supply of suitable temporary accommodation mean that Council is currently at significant risk of not being able to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Housing Act and Homelessness Reduction Act, presenting risk of legal challenge and adverse Local Government Ombudsman findings.
- 6.41.2. Since April 2023 the Council has experienced a 50% increase in Judicial Reviews regarding the provision and suitability of temporary accommodation and sector trends indicate that Courts and the Ombudsman are increasingly finding against local authorities when claims are lodged.
- 6.41.3. Additionally the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman launched a special report and guidance for Local Authorities in May 2023 regarding temporary accommodation provision stating “this is an important area of our work given the challenges families suffering homelessness face and the increasing use of this type of accommodation by authorities with the difficult job of finding suitable housing for rent”. Financial modelling carried out inline with suggested financial compensation suggested by the LGO show a significant and growing financial risk to the Council due to the uncertainty of a suitable temporary accommodation pipeline.
- 6.41.4. The proposal set out in this report will provide an important mitigation against this risk. The Council will, however, need to continue to explore all other options to secure a sustainable pipeline of properties, as the wider economic context and Government policy mean that the housing crisis is highly likely to continue to worsen.

7. Comments of the Interim Group Director of Finance

- 7.1. As outlined in Section 3, this report seeks the approval for the Council to enter into an Agreement for Lease over a 10 year period (less one day) to provide an additional 300 units of Temporary Accommodation over a 15 month period.
- 7.2. This agreement provides an opportunity for the Council to significantly increase the number of Temporary Accommodation units available at more affordable rates and reduces the reliance on more expensive nightly paid accommodation to respond to demand. In situations where existing families can be relocated to more suitable accommodations from nightly paid accommodation, this will result in a tangible cost reduction for the Council. Similarly, when new families are assigned to these properties, it will prevent the need for them to be placed in more expensive nightly paid accommodations, leading to substantial cost avoidance.
- 7.3. It is anticipated that implementing the proposed recommendation for the provision of 300 units of Temporary Accommodation will result in a discounted net cost of £9 million over a span of 10 years (or an average non discounted net cost of £1.14m per year).

- 7.4. It is important to note that the Council will commence payments for the property once the units have been officially handed over to the Council. These payments will be disbursed through two separate routes - one specifically for the lease of the property, and the other designated for the management of the property.
- 7.5. The recommended option is estimated to be more cost-effective compared to utilising nightly paid accommodation, which would lead to discounted net cost of £23 million (or an average non discounted net cost of £2.94m per year).
- 7.6. The financial modelling assumes:
- The expenses associated with both options have been subject to an annual CPI uplift. The CPI uplift is based on the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) 10 year forecast which averages 2% per annum.
 - The LHA rate (2011) received by the council remains unchanged over the course of the next 10 years.
 - The allowances have been made for costs of management (7%) and maintenance (8%) as well as insurance (0.03%), ground rents (0.1%) and service charges repairs (7%), void costs (5%) across the 300 units. However, there exists a potential risk that these allowances might prove inadequate, leading to further unquantifiable costs that could eventually burden the general fund.
- 7.7. Sensitivity analysis shows the recommended option cost would need to increase by 8.5% per annum (over and above the 2% referred to above) for it to no longer be financially viable against utilising nightly paid accommodation. This assumes no concurrent increase in night paid accommodation which is considered unlikely.
- 7.8. Financial modelling has exclusively focused on feasible options from a delivery standpoint. Should the Council opt for direct delivery, just the initial capital expenditure for procuring 300 homes is estimated to range between £125m - £150m. This will have an impact on the Council's General Fund revenue budget as the Council will need to set aside approximately £2.5m - £3m average annual provision to repay that borrowing (the 'Minimum Revenue Provision') as well as providing for £3.4m - £4m in average annual interest charges calculated based on the current interest rate of 5.4% for the next 50 years. There will also be additional revenue costs for managing the properties. See section five which provides details of alternative options considered and rejected.
- 7.9. This proposal seeks to establish a further stable source of temporary accommodation, acknowledging the prevailing trend of dwindling supply in the market. This trend has been substantiated by recent research conducted jointly by the London School of Economics and the property consultancy,

Savills. Moreover, this situation is exacerbated by projections of a 25% rise in rents over the next four years, as landlords pass on increased costs from more expensive mortgages and stricter regulations, as outlined in a report by broker Hamptons International. London Boroughs are already grappling with substantial temporary accommodation pressures stemming from the scarcity of supply and are relying on commercial hotels, where costs have rapidly increased by far more than the underlying rate of inflation

8. VAT implications on land and property transactions

- 8.1. The Head lease to the Council for the 300 residential properties would be Exempt (i.e. no VAT charged to the Council as these are residential properties).
- 8.2. Since, the proposed acquisition programme is to meet the statutory responsibility of the Council, any cost incurred will relate to the Council non-business activity, the VAT that is incurred on this element will be recoverable in full.

9. Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 9.1 The proposed acquisition of land from a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) as recommended in this Report is permitted under the Council's general power of competence as set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which states that a local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do. Hence Cabinet has the legal powers to approve the recommendations in this Report.
- 9.2 The acquisition of land on a freehold or leasehold basis for a period of over seven (7) years is reserved to the Mayor and Cabinet under the Mayor's Scheme of Delegation. Further, the Financial Procedure Rule (FPR20) require that proposals for the acquisition and disposal of land or buildings, whether freehold or leasehold, shall be referred to the Group Director, Finance and Corporate Resources for recommendation to Cabinet. The proposals in this Report are to take leases for a period of ten years (less one day) and are therefore for a period of over seven years. Therefore Cabinet is permitted to approve the matters in this Report.
- 9.3 It is also proposed to delegate to the Director of Strategic Property Services, in consultation with the Interim Group Director Finance, the authority to agree the details of the agreement for lease and the leases, as well as the award of contract to a managing agent following a compliant procurement process to appoint such managing agent. Paragraph 2.3 of Part 4 of the Cabinet Procedure Rules states that if the Elected Mayor delegates functions to Cabinet, the Cabinet can delegate further to an officer. Therefore, subject to the approval of Cabinet, the Director of Strategic Property Services, in

consultation with the Interim Group Director Finance, is permitted to agree the matters delegated to them.

- 9.4 This Report primarily concerns the acquisition of leases, which are exempt from the procurement regime under Regulation 10(1)(a) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which excludes public service contracts "for the acquisition or rental, by whatever financial means, of land, existing buildings or other immovable property, or which concern interests in or rights over any of them". Nevertheless, this Report also seeks approval in paragraph 3.4 in respect of a delegation to appoint a managing agent. Notwithstanding such delegation, it will still be necessary to follow the Council's procurement processes in respect of approval of business case for such procurement exercise, and ensure that the process is carried out in a compliant manner. In addition, there is a proposal to agree to pay a fee to one of the parties involved in the establishment of the REIT (Core Residential). This fee should be minimal so should not raise any concerns regarding procurement.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Policy Context

Exempt

Appendix 2 - LBH/Chalkhill 300 Unit Portfolio - Draft Heads of Terms.

Background documents

None

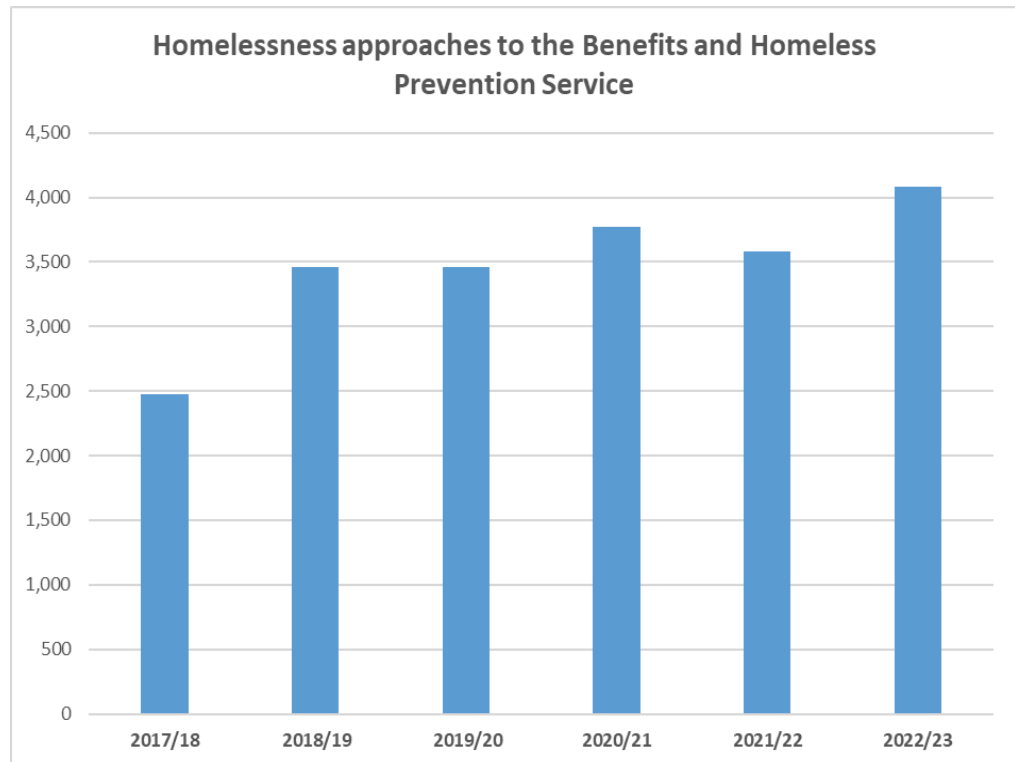
Report Author	David Borrell Senior Asset Manager - Strategic Property Services David.Borrell@Hackney.gov.uk Tel: 0208 356 1621
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1. Background

Policy context

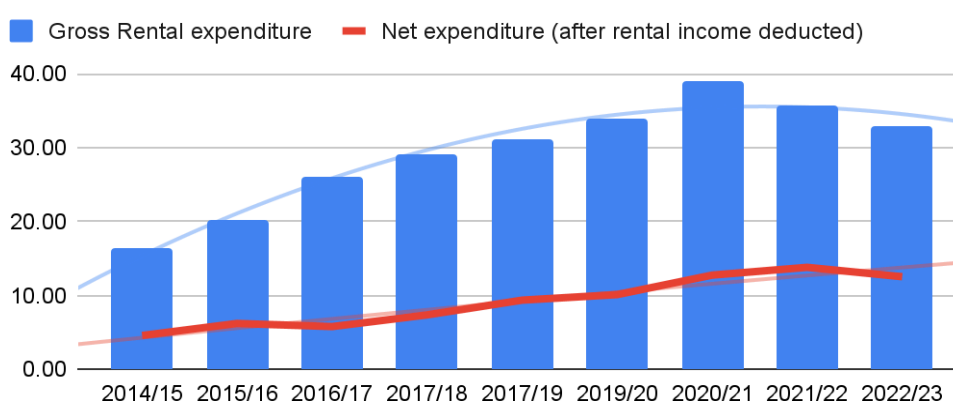
- 1.1. There are significant demands for affordable housing in the borough; the lack of affordable housing options is driving homelessness and increasing the number of households requiring assistance.
- 1.2. The context for the wider housing crisis and pressures on supply of temporary accommodation were explored in detail with the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission in March 2023: <https://hackney.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=119&MId=5540>.
- 1.3. There are over 8,300 households waiting for a home on the Council's Housing Register. By contrast the supply of social housing being made available to let is reducing considerably; only 652 lets were made available during 2020/21, compared to 1,229 in 2016/17.
- 1.4. The Council continues to strive to improve supply of all forms of housing, including an ambitious programme to build additional social properties, but demand vastly exceeds what we can deliver. With options diminishing, a growing number of households need to be placed into temporary accommodation while our team supports them to find a settled solution to their housing needs.
- 1.5. We have seen a significant increase in Hackney residents approaching the service with some level of housing need and/or who are facing potential homelessness. In 2022/23, over 4,085 residents approached the Council seeking help to source alternative accommodation. This represents an increase of 18% on 2018/19, following the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act. The number of approaches in 2022/23 were up by 14% on the previous year, as a consequence of the lifting of the Covid 19 temporary relief measures and the cost of living crisis.



- 1.6. Currently, the Council has responsibility for housing 3,041 households in temporary accommodation. In order to be in a position to discharge our statutory housing duty to these households, we are required to make a reasonable offer of secure, suitable and affordable accommodation. In the current financial climate, the options for placement either within the reducing stock of social housing or into affordable privately rented accommodation are extremely limited and reducing daily.
- 1.7. The growing need for additional suitable temporary accommodation continues to significantly outstrip the available supply. While we make best use of our current temporary accommodation portfolio, including utilising voids in council stock and acquisition of new properties to increase our in-house stock, the temporary accommodation market is subject to the same pressures that are driving the wider housing crisis.
- 1.8. In a highly competitive market, it is only our stock of Council owned hostel accommodation units and those secured under long leases that we can be sure will be part of our portfolio in the long term. The availability of other temporary accommodation is extremely challenging, based on spot purchase of nightly accommodation and subject to the prevailing market and the willingness of external providers to offer properties to the Council.

- 1.9. The challenges of growing demand and reducing supply also have a significant cost impact on the Council. Expenditure on temporary accommodation has been steadily increasing, although this trend was interrupted for 2021/22 as a consequence of the wider impact of the covid emergency and concerted efforts by the service to increase preventative measures and manage costs. The cost trends are set out in the table below:

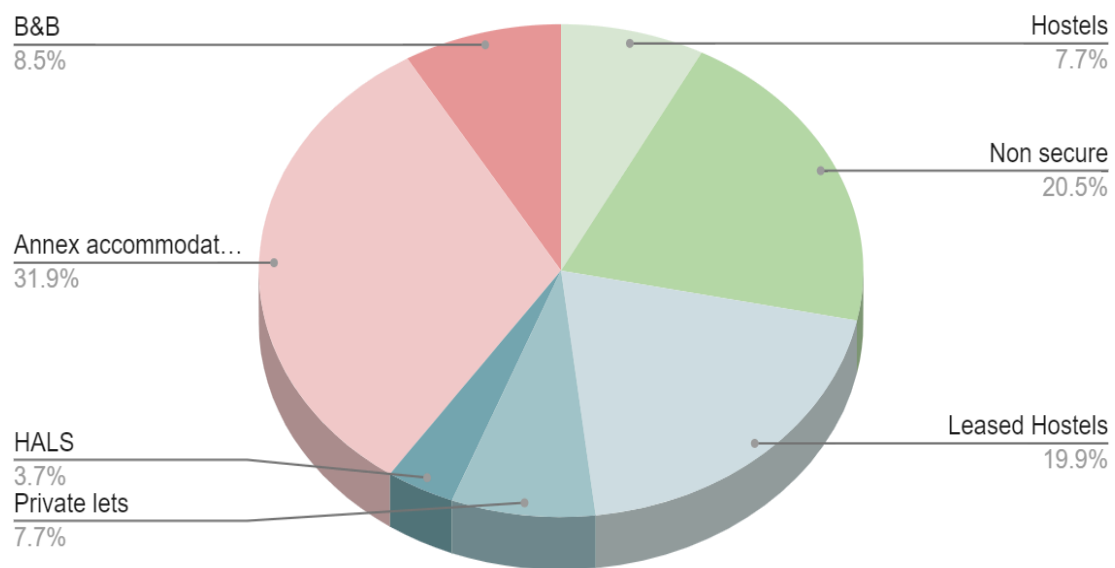
Cost of Temporary Accommodation Provision (£M)



- 1.10. Importantly, we have seen net costs rising faster than gross expenditure, as a consequence of the need for more short term accommodation, which is more expensive. As we are unable to charge higher rents for this type of accommodation the gap between actual costs and revenue is growing.
- 1.11. With landlords achieving a greater return in the wider rental market, committing a property to the council for an extended period is no longer financially attractive. Additionally, there is now increased competition from the Home Office who are procuring the same properties at higher rates for moving asylum seekers out of hotel accommodation, thereby placing an even greater strain on Local Authorities. Those landlords that do choose to remain in the temporary accommodation market are seeking greater returns by offering properties under short term/nightly let arrangements. Others are disengaging completely from the Council, either with a view to let commercially or, given both the high value of property and increasing interest rates, opting to sell.
- 1.12. As a result of these market pressures, we have also seen that the provision of nightly let accommodation is now rapidly reducing. Within the last quarter we have had a worrying and increasing number of units that have been requested back from the Council by managing agents (c 150), putting increasing pressure on our ability to provide an appropriate response and resulting in a growing number of residents in need of temporary accommodation being placed outside of the borough (and increasingly well outside of London).

- 1.13. Most of the households within our temporary accommodation provision are placed in the Council's own stock of temporary accommodation hostels, or units leased by the Council from both private and registered social landlords. However, as highlighted, this stock level is insufficient to meet the level of demand and diversity of need, and the Council is increasingly required to also purchase nightly let accommodation for emergency/interim provision.

Tenure Type June 2023		Number of households placed
Council owned	Hostels	244
	Non secure regeneration: properties used as TA pending redevelopment	624
Long Leased	HALs: Housing Association Leased schemes. Units secured from a registered provider for use as temporary accommodation	111
	Leased Hostels: these are privately owned hostels (mostly single accommodation)	605
	Private Lets: privately owned accommodation secured under private sector lease schemes	234
Short Term and B&B	Annex Accommodation: privately owned accommodation secured on a short term basis with no long term security (often out of borough)	970
	Bed & Breakfast: commercial hotel and B&B accommodation purchased at a nightly rate	258
Total		3,046



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Title of Report	Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2024- 2029	
Key Decision No	AHI S299	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	26th February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Leisure	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	All	
Key Decision & Reason	Yes	Significant impact on all communities of Hackney
Implementation Date if Not Called In	6 March 2024	
Group Director	Helen Woodland, Group Director for Adults, Health and Integration	

1. Cabinet Member's introduction

- 1.1. The 2024-2029 City and Hackney Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy was formally adopted by the Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on the 25th January 2024 and the City HWB on the 2nd February 2024.
- 1.2. The strategy covers the full spectrum of both sexual and reproductive health and is supported by an annually refreshed action plan.
- 1.3. Development of the partnership strategy was undertaken throughout 2023 with a formal 12 week period of consultation undertaken.
- 1.4. The strategy will support the Council's aspirations to improve health, wellbeing, become a fertility friendly borough and increase support for the menopause.

2. Group Director's introduction

- 2.1. Hackney continues to have a very high level of unmet need with significant inequalities in sexual and reproductive health which were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and reduced access to services.
- 2.2. Hackney has a young population, a high proportion of people who identify as gay or bisexual and large global majority communities. Within these

communities there can be a concentration of particular “at risk” sexual behaviours such as frequent partner change, multiple and concurrent sexual partners, stigma and health care seeking behaviours which together lead to higher rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

- 2.3. Increasing health literacy, health promotions and reducing barriers to accessing services are all key to addressing these very high levels of need both to reduce rates of STIs and improve access to contraception. More detail is provided in the Sexual Health Needs Assessment.
- 2.4. A five-year strategy for Hackney and the City (sitting alongside a North East London Strategy) will enable a more joined up and coherent approach to address need and inequalities, bringing together commissioned services and providers, including the NHS and the voluntary sector as well as cross-local authority initiatives, to address the most pressing issues and gaps in provision and uptake of care.

3. **Recommendations**

- 3.1. **To agree to adopt the 2024-2029 City and Hackney Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy.**
- 3.2. **To request an annual update on progress in implementing the strategy**

4. **Reason(s) for decision**

- 4.1. The Strategy will help improve the health and wellbeing of local residents and ensure services are better coordinated to enable improved outcomes and user experience.

5. **Details of alternative options considered and rejected**

- 5.1. To continue to commission and provide for services without an overarching strategy. This would perpetuate current inequalities and poor sexual and reproductive health.
- 5.2. Not to have a local strategy but adopt the North East London Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy. The NEL strategy is still in development and will not have the same level of detail or local control that adopting a specific local City and Hackney strategy will bring.

6. **Background**

Policy Context

- 6.1. The London Borough of Hackney has a statutory responsibility to protect and promote the sexual and reproductive health of our local populations. We invest approximately £8m per year in clinical services as well as services to promote good sexual health from the NHS, local voluntary sector and council insourced services.
- 6.2. Other key services such as fertility, terminations, sexual assault referral services and HIV treatment and care are commissioned and provided by the NHS.
- 6.3. Hackney council adopted motions on both fertility and the menopause and these have been fully reflected in the strategy.

Equality impact assessment

- 6.4. There are significant inequalities in sexual and reproductive health with many of these being concentrated in communities with protected characteristics.
- 6.5. The strategy has a specific section which details how inequalities will be reduced and service provision improved for inclusion groups.
- 6.6. Adopting the strategy will help address inequalities.

Sustainability and climate change

- 6.7. The provision of healthcare has a significant environmental impact. The strategy seeks to strengthen health literacy and take a preventive approach to ill health. This will help reduce the demand for healthcare and so increase sustainability and reduce climate change.
- 6.8. The commissioning of sexual and reproductive health services will continue to have a significant focus on improving sustainability and reducing the climate impact of provision.

Consultations

- 6.9. The draft strategy was approved for consultation by the Hackney and City Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2023.
- 6.10. The formal consultation period was from 1 July to 20 September and consisted of a) an online survey that asked residents and others to provide feedback on the identified priority areas and b) online and in-person engagement sessions. Some of these were theme-based and others were with a specific audience or population group, including for example young people, people with learning disabilities, commissioned providers and other key stakeholders. The last of these sessions was held in November 2023.

- 6.11. There was strong agreement through the consultation with the strategy and more detail is included on the findings in the appendix. Following the consultation process amendments were made to the section on HIV and the sections on fertility services and menopause were expanded.

Risk assessment

- 6.12. Hackney is an area of very high need for sexual and reproductive health services. There have been year on year increases in the need for services to address increasing rates of sexually transmitted infections. Without a strategy that details how sexual and reproductive health education can be improved, services better integrated and health literacy increased there is a significant risk that ill health will continue to worsen.
- 6.13. To implement the strategy a wide range of partners from across the council, NHS, education and voluntary sector will need to work together. The Health and Wellbeing Boards agreed to set up a joint sub group to help ensure the strategy is implemented and where issues arise remedial actions are swiftly implemented.

7. Comments of the Interim Group Director, Finance

- 7.1. The existing proposal does not have immediate resource implications. However, careful scrutiny of resources, encompassing commissioning plans and other financial aspects stemming from the implementation of the strategy, will be undertaken when presented through the Council's governance processes. This ensures a comprehensive evaluation and effective management of the financial considerations associated with the strategy.
- 7.2. The approximate £8m funding mentioned is only for the Public Health (PH) grant. It doesn't cover expenses from other partners like the NHS, which may spend on services like fertility, termination, and sexual assault referrals. This estimate specifically looks at the PH grant and doesn't include the broader spending picture involving other contributors.

8. Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 8.1. In accordance with Part 2, Article 5.2 of the Council's constitution, the Elected Mayor and Cabinet shall carry out all of the Council's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the Council. This includes setting priorities that contribute to the life and development of the Borough. The recommendations as set out at point 3 of this report aim to support and improve the economic and social well being of the Boroughs inhabitants.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Strategy

Appendix 2 - Consultation Report
Appendix 3 - Summary of Consultation

Background documents

[Sexual Health Needs Assessment](#)

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City and Hackney Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy

2024 - 2029

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Executive Summary

The Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) of the City of London Corporation and the London Borough of Hackney work across partner organisations to improve the health and reduce inequalities of their local populations. This includes sexual and reproductive health (SRH), where no one partner can act alone if we are truly to address poor sexual health and high levels of unmet need. This SRH strategy lays out our ambitions across all of our partners and in partnership with our communities to ensure we make the changes over the next five years that will improve health whilst reducing inequalities.

Significant improvements have been achieved in improving SRH in the City and Hackney. However we continue to have high levels of unmet need with significant inequalities, both within communities and compared to other areas in London and across England.

A five-year strategy will ensure a coordinated approach that brings together health promotion and education as well as commissioned services, and explores linkages with other services and providers, including the NHS and the voluntary sector. Each of the local authorities in North East London are undertaking a similar strategic process to enable a coordinated approach across the Integrated Care Partnership so that the most pressing issues and gaps in provision and uptake of care can be addressed.

The strategy is informed by a local needs assessment¹ and Women's Reproductive Health Survey, and will help deliver on national strategies, including the Women's Health Strategy for England (2022), the National HIV Action Plan (2021) and Strategic Direction for Sexual Assault and Abuse Services (2018).

This strategy has four thematic areas which are also reflected in the NEL sexual and reproductive health strategy. We have added an additional theme of "inclusion communities" to ensure we not only provide universal open access services but also better understand and address the needs of communities with increased inequalities in sexual health, or more complex needs.

The five overarching themes are:

- a) Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships**
- b) Good reproductive health across the life course**
- c) STI prevention and treatment**
- d) Living well with HIV and zero new HIV infections**
- e) Inclusion communities and those with complex needs**

For each theme, a brief overview of the local situation is described. Each thematic section then has a set of outcomes and aims that seek to address the key issues identified.

a) Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships

Sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing is a fundamental human right. All of the partners of the HWB have a significant, often mandated, role in improving SRH through commissioning and/or providing services.

We must make available easy to access, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services not just to all residents but also to the "benefit of all people present in the local authority's area". Services must be able to meet the needs of people across the lifecourse

¹<https://cityhackneyhealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/CH-Sexual-Health-Needs-Assessment-May-2023.pdf>

from young people who are still to have their sexual debut as well as more mature people who are embarking on new sexual relationships in middle or older age.

Psycho-sexual support and resources must be available as part of our local service offer so that residents who experience sexual difficulties, whether due to (past) trauma, addiction issues or psychological issues can go on to experience and enjoy fulfilling sex lives.

The Havens provide a specialist sexual assault referral service and offers support for women, men and children who have been raped, sexually assaulted or abused. Access to and awareness of the Havens should be strengthened to ensure that this safe space service can provide crisis care, medical and forensic examinations, emergency contraception and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

Within the City of London and Hackney the highest rates of STIs are in young people and young adults. Supporting young people to adopt healthy sexual behaviours while at the same time ensuring welcoming and appropriate services are available to them is of key importance.

Central to this will be the provision of comprehensive and inclusive sex and relationship education in schools and places of alternative provision, with close collaboration with schools and communities where this is sensitive for cultural or religious reasons.

To achieve more healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships the strategy will focus on achieving the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Young people (YP) in City and Hackney have equitable access to good quality, comprehensive and inclusive relationship and sex education (RSE) in schools and settings of alternative provision.

Outcome 2: Young people have access to appropriate and young people friendly sexual health services

Outcome 3: People have access to clear and appropriate information and resources to help them make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health.

Outcome 4: Increased professional knowledge and skills in sexual health and wellbeing among people working in YP services and in wider sexual health services and along referral pathways

Outcome 5: Psychosexual support and high-risk sex counselling services are an integral and adequately resourced part of sexual health provision

Outcome 6: Sexual assault services pathways are robust, well communicated with easy to access services.

b) Good reproductive health across the life course

Reproductive health comprises much more than just contraception. Many of these services sit outside those that the local authority commissions, e.g. fertility services, terminations, menopause and sexual assault services. To support better reproductive outcomes it is key that commissioning streams, pathways and referral systems between different services are clear with a focus on integration wherever possible.

The provision of contraception is widely recognised not only as a human and legal right but also as a highly cost-effective public health intervention. Contraception reduces the number of

unplanned and unwanted pregnancies that bear high financial costs to individuals, the health service and wider society. Low barrier access to contraception is important because there are inequalities in the use of services and reproductive health outcomes, often linked to ethnicity and age.

In order to offer reproductive choice, the full spectrum of contraceptive options needs to be available: Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), injectables, user-dependent oral and barrier method contraception, support for “natural family planning” or rhythm method, Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC), and termination of pregnancy (TOP) services.

Alongside contraceptives we must also ensure that residents who want to start a family have information that enables healthy conceptions by focusing on preconception health. For residents who have difficulty in conceiving, information, support and access to fertility services must be easily and widely available. Barriers remain for some communities to access assisted fertility services and these should be reviewed and progressively reduced.

The strategy will focus on the following outcomes to ensure good reproductive health across the life course:

Outcome 1: Reproductive health services consider the life course from adolescence to the post-menopausal stage

Outcome 2: Reproductive health services are cognisant of inequalities in service provision and uptake in different ethnic population groups and work to ensure anyone can access services in their preferred setting and equally, to address those inequalities

Outcome 3: The role of all services in providing comprehensive reproductive care and services to residents is clear, promoted and optimised while pathways into and out of non-LA-commissioned services are optimised and integrated, including: fertility services, period poverty; perimenopause/ menopause; community gynaecology; termination of pregnancy; maternity and post-partum care and complications; cervical screening; endometriosis, genital dermatology, incontinence, heavy menstrual bleeding, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and sexual assault services

Outcome 4: Inequalities in access and uptake of services have decreased over time and are not a reflection of socio-economic background

Outcome 5: Assisted fertility services review and reduce barriers to access ('fertility friendly City & Hackney').

c) STI prevention and treatment

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can cause serious health issues beyond the immediate impact of the infection itself, especially as some STIs may not be symptomatic but can still have serious long term impacts, e.g. causing infertility, cancer and sexual dysfunction. The most commonly diagnosed STIs in Hackney and the City of London are chlamydia and gonorrhoea.

Overall, the high incidence of STIs remains a challenge that is associated to having both a young population, as young adults are demographically the age group with highest infection rates, and a large proportion of the population that are gay, bisexual or men who have sex with men (GBMSM) who also demographically tend to have higher rates of infection.

A multi-pronged approach will be required to achieve a reduction in STI infection and reinfection rates, including good quality and inclusive sex and relationship education, appropriate and available information and accessible resources, developed with and alongside those at highest risk. Easy and confidential access to STI testing through various routes (online, pharmacies, GPs and sexual health clinics), along with effective partner notification and treatment are essential. Services need to be non-judgemental and welcoming.

The following outcomes will contribute to STI prevention, testing and treatment.

Young people

Outcome 1: Young people have access to accurate, inclusive and appropriate information and education on sexual health

Outcome 2: Young people know where to source free condoms and STI tests and have no barriers to access and uptake

Outcome 3: Young people have access to appropriate and young people friendly sexual health treatment services

General population

Outcome 4: STI testing is available through multiple pathways so people with different preferences can access them on their own terms and with no barriers

Outcome 5: Better understanding of drivers of risky sexual behaviour in different population groups

Outcome 6: Functioning and efficient partner notification systems are in place within all testing pathways

Outcome 7: Reinfection rates in young people and adults are reduced

Outcome 8: Vaccination coverage has improved

d) Living well with HIV and zero new HIV infections

Both Hackney and the City of London are areas of extremely high prevalence of HIV. Great strides have been made in both prevention and treatment, resulting in fewer new diagnoses every year and people with HIV living longer and healthier lives. However, in order to get to zero HIV, meaning zero new HIV infections by 2030, it is crucial that testing continues at scale to find new cases, especially late diagnosis cases where people are more likely to have worse health outcomes.

Alongside widespread testing, including opt-out testing in both acute and primary care, it is equally important that people are supported to start and maintain effective treatment and re-engage with treatment when lost to care.

Continuing a strong HIV response through prevention, testing, treatment and care is an essential part of the overall sexual and reproductive health work as HIV impacts on people's reproductive lives, is linked to poorer socio-economic outcomes, and is associated with other infections such as Tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis.

In City and Hackney, overall testing rates for HIV have dropped and women are more likely to be diagnosed late. In terms of prevention, the promotion and uptake of Pre-Exposure

Prophylaxis (PrEP) has been very successful amongst older gay and bisexual men (GBMSM) and more needs to be done to ensure other groups who may benefit from PrEP are aware and accessing this service.

The following outcomes will contribute to living well with HIV and getting to zero new HIV infections by 2030:

Outcome 1: People living with HIV no longer experience stigma and discrimination

Outcome 2: All diagnosed people with HIV receive treatment and care to achieve best possible health outcomes and viral suppression.

Outcome 3: All communities who would benefit from HIV prevention interventions including condoms and PrEP are easily able to access services.

Outcome 4: All people with HIV know their status and are linked in to care and treatment.

Outcome 5: The Fast-Track Cities London goals are achieved locally by 2030

e) Inclusion communities and those with complex needs

Sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing are a right like all other human rights but some people have greater difficulty in achieving good SRH outcomes, and require additional or tailored support. This can be for very diverse reasons. The purpose is to reduce inequalities in sexual and reproductive health and ensure people with more complex needs are recognised and met within a proportionately universal service provision.

A key challenge is that both sexual and reproductive health are still stigmatised within some communities and there can be cultural or religious norms that can act as barriers to access to information and services. Some communities with higher complexity or vulnerability can be relatively small in size and limited information is known about their specific needs.

The following outcomes will contribute to achieving better sexual and reproductive health outcomes for inclusion communities and those with complex needs:

Outcome 1: Increased access to services by those with higher or more complex needs

Outcome 2: Improved data collection to inform service delivery

Outcome 3: Transgender and non-binary residents' sexual and reproductive health needs are met

Outcome 4: Information is designed in acceptable and appropriate forms

Implementation

An annual action plan will be developed, published and an update presented to the City and Hackney HWBs which will highlight progress on the strategic outcomes and the next year's priority actions.

To monitor implementation of the strategy, an SRH dashboard will be developed and published by the Public Health Intelligence Team (PHIT) in 2024. The potential to widen this to include reproductive indicators will be explored in collaboration with the ICB for subsequent years.

Subject to adoption of similar strategies by the other places based partnerships in NEL an overarching strategy will be recommended to the Integrated Care Partnership for formal adoption.

[Placeholder for oversight mechanism that is to be agreed]

1 - Introduction

The Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) of the City of London Corporation and the London Borough of Hackney work across partner organisations to improve the health of and reduce inequalities within their local populations. This includes sexual and reproductive health (SRH), where no one partner can act alone if we are truly to address poor sexual health and high levels of unmet need. A broad approach to sexual and reproductive health is not only necessary but essential. This SRH strategy lays out our ambitions across all of our partners and in partnership with our communities to ensure we make the changes over the next five years that will improve health whilst reducing inequalities.

Sexual and reproductive health present a significant burden of disease and cost to the health system related to sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention, testing and treatment, and the need for a range of contraceptive options. Yearly, City and Hackney Local Authorities invest over £8m in clinical services as well as services to promote good sexual health, with currently 12 services directly commissioned. The NHS commissions and provides termination of pregnancy services, gynaecological services, maternity services, fertility services, HIV treatment and sexual assault services, all of which play an important part in improving SRH.

Significant improvements in SRH have been achieved, in partnership with the NHS, education providers, the voluntary sector and local communities e.g. the reduction in teenage pregnancies and reduction in new HIV diagnoses. However, City and Hackney continue to have a high level of unmet need with significant inequalities in sexual and reproductive health, both within communities and compared to the other areas in London and across England. This strategy seeks to forge a coherent and comprehensive direction that will meet the needs of our diverse populations in Hackney and the City of London. It draws upon the findings and analysis of the Sexual Health Needs Assessment², the 2022 City and Hackney Women's Reproductive Health Survey, service reports and user engagement, and mystery shopping exercises of sexual health and pharmacy services.

It is further informed by national strategies in development and already published including the [Women's Health Strategy for England](#), which was published in 2022, the [National HIV Action Plan](#) (2021), the [Fast Track Cities](#) goals of no new HIV infections by 2030 and [Strategic Direction for Sexual Assault and Abuse Services](#).

The strategy has been developed alongside the other local authorities, voluntary sector and clinical services in North East London (NEL) so whilst each place-based strategy responds to local needs, where there are opportunities for joint approaches to identified needs, these are highlighted.

Four of the five key thematic areas of this strategy are broadly reflected in the NEL Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) strategy, ensuring alignment with the priorities of other local authority areas in North East London that have similar types and levels of SRH need within their populations. The five overarching themes are:

- Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships
- Good reproductive health across the life course
- STI prevention and treatment
- Living well with HIV and zero new HIV transmissions
- Inclusion communities and those with complex needs

The ambition is for this strategy to lay the foundation for the reimagining, (re)commissioning and integration of sexual, reproductive health and HIV services that are comprehensive and inclusive,

²https://cityhackneyhealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/CH-Sexual-Health-Needs-Assessment-___-May-2023.pdf

recognising synergies with other services and providers, and contributing to better sexual and reproductive health outcomes for all residents.

It will help us to work in closer partnership with other organisations with legal duties to commission SRH services, such as the North East London Integrated Care Board (NEL ICB), NHS partners, neighbouring local authorities, and other place-based partners within the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). Having a strategy will provide a rationale for decision-making with internal and external stakeholders and, most importantly, help us to better communicate our ambitions around SRH to our residents.

Although the text will often refer to women when talking about reproductive health and contraceptive choices, it is acknowledged that this may also affect and apply to trans men and non-binary people who were born with female reproductive organs but who do not identify as women.

1.1 Vision

The overarching ambition of this strategy is for all residents in Hackney and the City of London to lead healthy and fulfilling lives in which they have knowledge and agency to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and can access high quality services to support them in doing so.

The strategy recognises that there are currently inequalities in need, access and quality of care and it therefore sets out to:

- Improve the quality of care provided to all residents
- Improve outcomes and/or reduce variability in outcomes
- Achieve more efficient and sustainable delivery

As such, the vision is to work collaboratively with residents and partners from across the spectrum of integrated SRH in order to deliver high quality, easy-access and equitable provision across the City of London and Hackney, with the prevention of illness and the promotion of healthy relationships at the core of all activity. Whilst wider determinants of health such as employment, education, housing, immigration status, to name but a few, are also fundamental to improving SRH these are outside of scope of this strategy.

1.2 Core principles

This strategy is underpinned by the following core principles:

- Proportionate universalism (focus and resources proportionate to need) embedded across all actions to ensure equity of outcomes.
- A life-course approach recognising the importance of the wider determinants of health.
- Right care, right time, right place. Making every contact count.
- Co-development of services with ongoing resident/patient and stakeholder participation.
- Safety and safeguarding highest quality offer (for staff and patients) and highest standards in London.
- Whole-system approach: partnership working and system leadership from providers of integrated SRH (e.g. primary care, education, substance misuse, domestic abuse services, sexual assault services, community health and acute health services etc.).
- Commitment to developing sustainable and cost-effective services.
- Innovative, research and evidence based approach that makes the best use of emerging technology.
- Outcomes-focused with an annual action plan, aligned to regional/national strategies and with plans to monitor and evaluate success, as well as system enablers and barriers of further improvement (embedding a learning system).

1.3 Scope

SRH cross cuts across sectors and beyond clinical settings. Not all elements of sexual and especially reproductive health, e.g. fertility, termination of pregnancy services and sexual assault services, are within the commissioning remit of local authorities. It is therefore important to define the scope of each partner within this overarching partnership strategy, noting that some responsibilities overlap or are jointly held.

The local authorities are responsible for:

- Specialist sexual health services, including genitourinary medicine (GUM), sexual wellbeing support and advice, STI testing and treatment, most aspects of contraception (including Long Acting Reversible Contraception, LARC and Emergency Hormonal Contraception, EHC but excluding oral contraception), Hepatitis A and B and HPV vaccinations provided within SRH services and HIV prevention (PrEP)
- Enhanced sexual health services within primary care from both GPs and pharmacies, including STI Screening, LARC and EHC (pharmacy only)
- Online sexual health services including STI testing and EHC
- HIV prevention (excluding the pharmaceutical costs of PrEP)
- HIV social care support
- Condom distribution schemes and sexual health resource provision
- The sexual health elements of psychosexual services and Chemsex support services
- Promoting the wellbeing of children and young people
- Commissioning health visiting and school nursing services
- Commissioning of substance misuse services

The following areas are commissioned by the NHS at either a local, ICB or national level. Joint commissioning can improve outcomes and integrate pathways and as all North East London Local Authorities are seeking to take a similar approach to the development of SRH strategies there will be further opportunities to collaborate on these areas at a North East London ICP footprint:

- Fertility services and assisted conception
- Termination of Pregnancy Services (ToPS)
- Routine oral contraception in primary care and online
- Cervical cytology
- HIV treatment, care and PrEP medications
- HIV, Hepatitis B & C testing emergency departments
- Mental health elements of psychosexual services
- Havens and Sexual Assault Support Services (SARS)
- Maternity services
- Gynaecological services
- Vaccinations

Beyond health and health services, a key partnership is with education. Within primary and secondary schools it is a statutory requirement to teach Relationships Education at key stages 1 and 2 and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at key stages 3 and 4. Partnership work will include collaborating with colleagues and stakeholders in education, including in special educational needs (SEND), people referral units and places of alternative provision.

Out of scope are:

- Actions and/or organisations outside of local authority or health services' sphere of influence.

1.4 Strategic priorities

This strategy is built around five themes that have a number of underlying aims and intended outcomes. These themes represent the fulfilment of the definitions of SRH and address the key challenges in the City of London and Hackney.

1) Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships

People are empowered to have healthy and fulfilling sexual relations:

- People make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health
- People in unhealthy, risky sexual relationships or victims of sexual assault, rape or abuse are supported appropriately

2) Good reproductive health across the life course

People effectively manage their fertility and contraceptive choices, understand what impacts on it and have knowledge of and access to contraceptives:

- Reproductive health inequalities are reduced
- Unwanted pregnancies are reduced
- Knowledge and understanding of contraceptive choices and preconception health are increased
- Barriers to accessing assisted conception are reduced

3) High quality STI testing and treatment

The local burden of STIs is reduced, in particular among those who are disproportionately affected:

- There is equitable, accessible, high-quality testing, treatment, vaccination and partner notification that is appropriate to need
- Transmission of STIs and repeat infections are reduced

4) Living well with HIV and towards zero new HIV infections

The full implementation of the national HIV action plan of zero new HIV transmissions by 2030 focusing on prevention, testing, rapid access to treatment and retention in care whilst improving the quality of life for people living with HIV, and ending HIV related stigma and discrimination.

5) Inclusion communities and those with complex needs

To reduce inequalities in sexual and reproductive health and ensure those people with more complex needs are recognised and met within a proportionately universal service provision, and that information is made available in accessible and appropriate ways.

The following considerations underpin the themes:

- A commitment to tackling and reducing inequalities whilst ensuring services are open and accessible to all
- Service innovation and improvement
- Developing workforce capacity and skills
- Ensuring that services are delivering value-for-money
- Considering the development of technology and technological solutions
- Broader issues, such as antimicrobial resistance, assets and estates, and facilities such as pathology laboratories

- Working in partnership with key stakeholders, including VCS organisations and other commissioning bodies
- Developing and implementing more comprehensive data collection on protected characteristics and inequalities
- To support integration of services such as fertility, termination of pregnancy, HIV care, psychosexual support, Sexual Assault Referral Services at both a local and NEL level.

2 - Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships

2.1 Importance to public health

Good SRH is not just about having clinical treatment and services available and accessible to all. The World Health Organisation (WHO) definition:

Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

This definition goes well beyond clinical health and makes clear that respect, pleasure and consent are key elements of a healthy sexual relationship. It also means people must have agency to choose and make informed decisions about their personal sex life and that those choices should not be detrimental or harmful to any other person.

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) in secondary schools, and Relationship Education (RE) in Primary Schools has been nationally mandated since 2017. Research has shown that good sex education has benefits beyond physical health outcomes, preventing teenage pregnancy or STI infection, but can also reduce harm (including sexual violence), promote gender equitable attitudes, encourage people to speak out and make it more likely that sexual debut is consensual³.

The sexual and reproductive health of younger populations in City & Hackney was reviewed as part of the 2022 0-25 year-olds Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). A small survey among young people aged 14+ who either lived in or attended school in the City and Hackney found that 93% of respondents had received RSE education, but of those only 52% said that the education they received was sufficient (CYP JSNA). Some comments from qualitative data from this JSNA suggested a narrow focus on heterosexual messaging and condom promotion, with a need for broader education and the consideration and inclusion of LGBTQIA+⁴ relations during education programmes.⁵

A recommendation from this assessment was a need for a school health and behaviour survey such as the School Health and Education Unit (SHEU) to verify the actual needs of the school age population.

Encouraging healthy and fulfilling sexual choices is not only relevant for young people. Across the life course, people can be exploited or coerced, may be dealing with past or current traumatic experiences, or have inadequate knowledge, agency or resources to ensure their own or others' sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing. Or people encounter (psychological) issues or the victims of crime that impact on their physiological ability to enjoy or experience fulfilling sex lives.

³<https://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachment/RSE%20The%20Evidence%20-%20SEF%202022.pdf>

⁴ LGBTQIA+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual + any other identity or orientation

⁵ 2022 Children and Young People JSNA made the following recommendations: 1) New PHSE Curriculum implemented in all schools; 2) Schools review their PHSE/ RE/ RSE Curriculum and consulted with Parents/Carers; 3) Ensure RSE is effective by ensuring it is grounded in an understanding of how to act in real life situations; knowledge, skills and personal qualities

It is therefore important to ensure (psycho-sexual) support and resources are available for residents who experience sexual difficulties, have encountered an unsafe relationship, or who have been coerced, sexually assaulted, raped or abused, including for instance through modern slavery or the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). There is also scope to consider the high risk sexual pathway for those who find it difficult to make safe sexual choices, for example due to substance misuse (chemsex). Equally, it is important that services have good safeguarding practices in place and that professionals are equipped to recognise and act upon signs and behaviours linked to modern slavery, harmful sexual health experiences and outcomes.

2.2 Local need and inequalities

As section 4 on STI prevention and treatment will elaborate, young people, young adults and GBMSM in City and Hackney have the highest rate of STI infections within the overall population. This suggests that the greater use of condoms, more frequent STI testing, increased uptake of vaccinations and enhanced partner notification will help reduce the increased burden of disease. Equally, it may require greater openness in talking about sexual health and placing sexual health care within overall health and self care to reduce stigma and shame still associated with sex.

From a life course perspective, it is important to keep in mind that needs and activity can change over time. Increasingly, people in mid or later life are starting new relationships and engaging in sexual activity in a changed environment, without necessarily recognising their risk and vulnerability. A rise in STIs in older people has been observed as a result.

With regards to psychosexual support, this covers many different areas from erectile dysfunction, premature ejaculation, pain during sex, lack of sexual arousal to more complex psychosexual issues perhaps related to past or recent sexual trauma. There has been a sustained increase in demand for services for this highly specialised service in City and Hackney that underscores the importance of provision to support healthy and fulfilling SRH across the lifecourse, including recovery from trauma such as sexual assault and FGM.

Like many services, sexual assault services, known as the Havens, were significantly disrupted during COVID-19. The awareness of services provided as well as access arrangements need to be strengthened in order to ensure both immediate health needs following a sexual assault can be met as well as forensic evidence obtained.

2.3 Aims and outcomes for healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships

The aims and outcomes section will present a number of desired outcomes with underlying aims that contribute towards that outcome. The intended outcomes and aims will be further broken down into outputs and activities in the annual action plan.

Outcome 1: Young people in City and Hackney have equitable access to good quality, comprehensive and inclusive relationship and sex education in schools and settings of alternative provision.

This requires information on current coverage and uptake in schools, and across the local authorities, as well as an assessment of the quality and relevance of the PSHE provided.

Aims

1. All primary and secondary schools provide relationship and sex education that complies with the [statutory guidance](#) and meets the needs of children and young people

2. Schools are supported to develop policies, content and resources that provide children and young people with knowledge that enables them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships whilst building their self-efficacy.
3. Promote and increase uptake of support to all schools through local commissioned services such as Young Hackney's free [Personal Social and Health Education](#) in secondary schools and settings of alternative provision,
4. Engage with schools and other educational institutions where RSE is not deemed appropriate for religious or cultural reasons to support them in delivering the basic requirements of PSHE and RSE as defined by national statutory guidance
5. Develop collaboration between providers of SRH-related outreach where direct delivery is relevant, such as places of alternative provision, SEND, Pupil Referral Units and working with youth justice and social care order to enhance reach and coverage
6. Develop a C&H engagement programme for parents/ guardians to increase awareness and confidence in SRE provision within schools to help reduce withdrawal of children from RSE provision.

Outcome 2: Young people have access to appropriate and young people friendly sexual health services

Aims

1. HSHS clinics are welcoming to young people and offer booked and walk up appointments with evening/weekend clinics.
2. Sexual health clinics offer young people discussion and support around consent, and choosing positive and pleasurable sexual experiences
3. Dedicated young people's services such as youth hubs and/or the 'super youth hub' offer safe spaces for SRH advice, access to condoms and sexual health inreach clinics
4. Pharmacies provide a low barrier range of SRH services including condoms, EHC, chlamydia screening/treatment and gonorrhoea screening, as well as routine oral contraception and are trained to make safeguarding referrals where appropriate
5. Service quality and access information is regularly reported including mystery shopping exercises or surveys, to inform our knowledge about inequalities in access, experience and outcomes
6. Sexual assault and sexual abuse services are welcoming to young people with access arrangements well communicated.

Outcome 3: People have access to clear and appropriate information and resources to help them make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health.

Aims

1. A central online resource for SRH will be developed to provide information, advice and signposting to all relevant SRH services in C&H with booking links where possible (through building on/expanding an existing online resource or portal). Explore potential for London wide or NEL wide approach
2. Development of information materials and/or SRH health promotion campaigns is tailored to and developed through co production with the groups they are aimed at (in particular when at risk of poorer SRH outcomes) Prevention activities are culturally sensitive, appropriately targeted and tailored to those at greatest risk of poor SRH outcomes
3. Key materials and resources will be made available in appropriate non-digital formats to serve those who do not or cannot use online services

4. Provision is made for engagement on sexual and reproductive health with residences and hostels that accommodate care leavers and other young people in supported accommodation circumstances including asylum seeker/refugees in temporary accommodation

Outcome 4: Increased professional knowledge, skills and collaboration in sexual health and wellbeing among people working in YP services and in wider sexual health services and along referral pathways

Aims

1. Ongoing training/CPD of youth workers and health professionals using MECC and safeguarding training to ensure early identification of harmful sexual relationships/coercion and appropriate referral
2. Expand the making every contact count training programme to include sexual and reproductive health with supporting information on services included in the directory of services
3. Co-working between sexual health and contextual safeguarding teams to understand and address specific local risks of harm from Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in context of places, groups and gangs
4. Agree a NEL wide approach to improving identification, immediate harm reduction (e.g. needle exchange, naloxone) and referral pathways between sexual health and substance misuse services

Outcome 5: Psychosexual support and high-risk sex counselling services are an integral and adequately resourced part of sexual health provision

Aim

1. HSHS offers a regular psycho-sexual support clinic and is able to manage referrals with funding agreed between the LA and mental health commissioners (ICB)
2. Adequate pathways and services are in place for more complex cases and people who need longer term support. e.g. linkage with mental health services, substance misuse services, etc.
3. People in unhealthy or risky sexual relationships and those who have experienced domestic violence, sexual exploitation, trauma, sexual assault, abuse and rape are appropriately referred and/or supported
4. Early and targeted support is available for those engaging in higher-risk sexual behaviours, such as chemsex, and people who are experiencing chemsex related health issues are supported to access services to address needs

Outcome 6: Sexual assault services pathways are robust, well communicated with easy to access services.

Aim

1. Access to and awareness of the Havens should be strengthened to ensure that this safe space service can provide crisis care, medical and forensic examinations, emergency contraception and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

2. The services provided by the Havens for children and adults who have experienced sexual assault, rape or abuse are easy to access, well known and trusted.

3 - Good reproductive health across the lifecourse

3.1 Importance to Public Health

Reproductive health implies that people (...) have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. - WHO

Reproductive health is important to the public's health because if and when and how often a pregnancy occurs should be a matter of choice, in line with the WHO definition. Having access to methods and information on not only preventing pregnancy but also on preconception health, conception and assisted conception is important.

Unplanned pregnancies can negatively affect someone's life chances and outcomes, for instance in education or job opportunities. The development of the unplanned pregnancy metric currently being piloted within maternity services is welcomed and has the potential to bring greater focus to how we can support families across the pregnancy and pre-pregnancy lifecourse to increase planned parenthood.

The local authority is responsible for the commissioning of many elements of contraception, with a particular focus on the provision of long acting reversible contraception (LARC) and emergency hormonal contraception (EHC), to support people with prevention of unintended pregnancies during the reproductive stages of their lives. The commissioning and provision of oral contraception is undertaken by the NHS and approaches to widen access across primary care e.g. through the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service are welcome and provide an opportunity to increase access.

The provision of contraception is widely recognised as a highly cost-effective public health intervention, which reduces the number of unplanned pregnancies that bear high financial costs to individuals, the health service, and to the state. For every £1 invested in LARC, £13.42 is saved in averted outcomes. For every £1 invested in contraception generally, £11.09 is saved in averted costs (Public Health England, 2018).⁶

In order to offer contraceptive choice, the full spectrum of options needs to be available: LARC (including intrauterine devices and systems, and implants), injectables, user-dependent oral and barrier method contraception, the 'natural' or rhythm method, EHC and termination of pregnancy (TOP) services. If the uptake of this looks like an inverted pyramid, it suggests contraceptive education and choice is working: the more people use reliable and long acting contraception methods, the fewer people will need EHC or TOP. Educating and providing easy access to information about options, especially to young people, and making access to services as low-barrier as possible is key to laying a solid foundation for reproductive health and wellbeing across the lifecourse.

Low barrier provision of reproductive health services is important because there are inequalities in use of services and reproductive health outcomes, often linked to ethnicity and age. The Sexual Health Needs Assessment (2022) and the Women's Reproductive Health Survey (2022) provide a detailed

6

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/730292/contraception_return_on_investment_report.pdf

overview of these and the strategy will not repeat those analyses but highlight some key trends in the next section.

3.2 Local need and inequalities

In terms of overall use of HSHS, black women are overrepresented in relation to their proportion of the population, while white women and Asian women are underrepresented.⁷ Equally, taking population size into account, black populations recorded the highest use of EHC via pharmacies, while white and Asian populations recorded much lower EHC rates.

Among survey respondents, 22% reported ever having had an abortion (ToP), out of which 36% of black Caribbean respondents reported this, versus 22% of white British and only 8% of South Asian respondents. In as much as EHC and TOP are essential parts of the overall reproductive offer, disproportional high uptake in any group indicates a potential barrier in knowledge of or access to reliable forms of contraception.

The survey also found that women who had a lower education attainment and who had ever had an abortion were almost nine years younger at the birth of their first child, compared with women who had a degree, or equivalent-level education, and who had never had an abortion. This underlines the importance of appropriate, high quality and inclusive sexual and reproductive health education in schools, sixth form colleges and settings of alternative provision to ensure young people have a good understanding of what reproductive health means, the options that are available and where and how they can be accessed.

The survey further found that respondents under 25 and over 45 were more likely to report heavy bleeding, which was a source of discomfort and distress to many. Disabled, unemployed and women with lower educational attainment were more likely to report heavy bleeding. In terms of ethnicity, black Caribbean (47%), black African (48%) and south Asian (48%) respondents were significantly more likely to report heavy bleeding than white (32%) respondents.

For almost 80% of women who accessed EHC through pharmacies in 2022/23, the reason for needing EHC was not using any form of contraception. This suggests more needs to be done around education and promotion of all forms of contraception and ensuring easy access, including for LARC.

For accessing contraception, the survey found that women aged 40 and under preferred to get LARC at a sexual health clinic, while women aged 40 and above preferred to access it at a GP practice. This was backed up by HSHS data that showed that the highest LARC appointment rates at HSHS were recorded among 20-24 year-olds. White women are more likely to opt for primary care while black women are more likely to use HSHS. The survey also found that Asian women were least likely to use LARC, though due to the sample size this was not statistically significant. Black African women were most likely to use LARC in the survey.

Attendance at HSHS by Primary Care Network (PCN) of residence correlates strongly with distance from HSHS clinics. This means people who live closer to the Homerton-provided clinics are more likely to use them. This should not disadvantage those living at greater distance, and makes it even more important that essential face-to-face reproductive services can be accessed at GPs, pharmacies and for example the newly created community gynaecology services, commissioned by the NHS, more commonly known as the Women's Health Hubs⁸. In addition, community pharmacies have been contracted at national level to provide oral contraception. Even if this may take some time to take

⁷ [2022 HSHS Equity Audit](#), Dr Sarah Creighton

⁸ Community Gynaecology service:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ogbl#search/elsdal/GTtVlCzRzDfnTJDsfzQxRpvNvcZsGwjfsFWZIFQmBfKPGxIWdDWWTbZBXWHhnPQBxRWDLRGvKDnQKg?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

shape, it would create a direct opportunity for e.g. women who access EHC to be engaged about and start on routine oral contraception.

3.2.1 Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)

Ensuring increased uptake of LARC (excluding injectable contraception) is a key element of this strategy, especially as uptake of LARC is low compared to the England average, though above the London average. LARC is important because it is long-acting and not user dependent, which means it works continuously and the user does not have to remember to take it.

LARC fittings dropped significantly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but have since seen a strong recovery, though not back to pre-COVID levels. In 2021, the overall prescribing rate for LARC in Hackney was 37.5 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years and for the City of London 20.8 per 1000 women aged 15-44. For comparison, the England rate for 2021 was 41.8, respectively. Reported performance figures from 2022 suggest the upward trajectory is not being sustained with numbers both at HSHS and GPs plateauing or dropping.

In terms of delivery, traditionally, HSHS provide the majority of the LARC fittings, around 65% compared to 35% by GPs. This is different from the national picture, where delivery via GPs is much more common.

Interestingly, the 2022 WRH survey found that LARC was popular and used by 24% of those reporting a method of contraception, though it needs to be taken into account that higher educated white women were overrepresented in the survey. It also reported the highest satisfaction levels, with 83% being satisfied to very satisfied. The survey further reported a match between the preferred and actual place of supply, with those wanting to get it at a SH clinic getting it there, and similarly for GPs. This is backed up by a finding from the Needs Assessment that IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation) of residence has little impact on the route of prescription for LARC.

3.2.2 Fertility and assisted conception services

Approximately one in six heterosexual couples will struggle to conceive and this often has a significant impact on an individual and/or couple's health and wellbeing. However, this number does not include same-sex couples, single or trans people who must also be afforded the right to try for a family. Although often seen as a women's health issue, the reality is that both men and women are just as likely to face fertility problems. Data from the fertility regulator, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, shows that male infertility is the most common reason for a couple to start treatment.

A wide range of treatment and support for infertility is commissioned and provided by the NHS with fertility services provided at both the Homerton and St Barts Hospital. Eligibility and access arrangements for different treatments is dependent on [specific criteria](#) with referral following an initial consultation with a GP or a Consultant. Local NHS fertility services provide a mix of free and self funded treatments with private providers also offering services throughout London. The variability in eligibility and access arrangements to fertility treatments across different areas continues to create inequalities in access. The local implementation of the recommendations in the national Women's Health strategy to remove additional financial barriers to In-Vitro Fertilisation for female same sex couples would remove an additional access barrier.

An annual fertility awareness week will be undertaken across City and Hackney to increase information and options available for those individuals and couples who wish to conceive.

3.3 Aims and outcomes for reproductive health across the life course

Outcome 1: Reproductive health services consider the life course from adolescence to the post-menopausal stage

Aims:

1. Ensure health literacy includes sexual and reproductive health
2. Improve awareness of and access to the full range of contraception including LARC, with a focus on younger women and groups that see relatively high uptake of EHC and TOP and/or low uptake of LARC.
3. Ensure life course access to abortion care locally and in a timely (early) manner, particularly among under-18s, and those aged 40-55.
4. Explore ways to engage and create more support in different settings, e.g. primary care, businesses and workplaces, for women experiencing the (peri)menopause.
5. Identify and share support pathways for girls and women experiencing heavy bleeding or painful periods to improve their access to and quality of care.
6. Alleviate period poverty
7. Ensure clear signposting, referral and reduce barriers to access assisted conception and fertility services
8. Provide information and support on prenatal health, birth spacing and maternal/parental health before, during, and after birth.
9. Enable easy access to contraception throughout the maternity pathway

Outcome 2: Reproductive health services are cognisant of inequalities in service provision and uptake in different ethnic population groups and work to ensure anyone can access services in their preferred setting and equally, to address those inequalities

Aims:

1. Improve understanding of and address barriers to contraception among groups where EHC use is disproportionately high (such as young people, and among black ethnic groups)
2. Assess why mixed (especially white and black Caribbean) and black residents have a disproportionately high uptake of abortion services and work to bridge the gap in reproductive knowledge and uptake of especially LARC to prevent repeat abortions, and explore the link with socio-economic deprivation/poverty
3. Understand why Asian - particularly south Asian - and "other" ethnicities record a lower-than-average LARC appointment rate than other ethnic groups, and ways in which this can be made more equal
4. Ensure that support for reproductive health is accessible to all communities, such as the Charedi Orthodox Jewish community, the Traveller community or the Turkish and Kurdish community, through tailored and religiously/culturally sensitive engagement.

Outcome 3: The role of all services in providing comprehensive reproductive care and services to residents is clear, promoted and optimised while pathways into and out of non-LA-commissioned services are optimised and integrated, including: fertility services, period poverty; perimenopause/menopause; community gynaecology; termination of pregnancy; maternity and post-partum care and complications; cervical screening; endometriosis, genital dermatology, incontinence, heavy menstrual bleeding, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and sexual assault services

Aims:

1. Ensure visibility and high quality delivery of sexual health services in community pharmacies contracted to provide sexual health services (including access to condoms, oral contraception, EHC, STI screening)
2. Ensure that women who need LARC are able to access this in primary care, including inter-practice LARC hubs, Women's Health Hub, sexual health clinic or maternity – regardless of whether this is for contraception, management of perimenopause or heavy menstrual bleeding.
3. Increase (timely) access to the full range of contraception including in maternity settings (post-delivery) and reduce the need for abortions and repeat abortions (especially among under-25s), as well as unplanned/unintended pregnancies
4. Ensure Women's Health Hubs and primary care collaborate with sexual health to offer seamless pathways of care in a way that is mutually supportive
5. Health care professionals and commissioned services have easy to use guidance on pathways and referral processes
6. Collaborative commissioning

Outcome 4: Inequalities in access and uptake of services have decreased over time and are not a reflection of socio-economic background

Aims:

1. Regularly re-run the women's reproductive health survey (without an upper age limit) to track change/progress over time and seek to increase representative sample of the population
2. Increase access to primary care
3. Increase equity of access
4. Monitor progress and increase activity where issues are identified

Outcome 5: Assisted fertility services review and reduce barriers to access ('fertility friendly City & Hackney').

Aims:

1. Residents are aware of support services available and how to access
2. Strengthen community engagement with local fertility services
3. Reduce barriers to accessing fertility services

4 - STI prevention and treatment: access to high quality and innovative testing and treatment services

4.1 Importance to Public Health

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are predominantly spread through sexual contact, including vaginal, anal and oral sex. They can cause serious health issues beyond the immediate impact of the infection itself, especially as some STIs may not be symptomatic but can still have serious long term impacts, e.g. causing infertility. STI testing is important for early detection: reducing the spread and

long-term consequences of STIs. The most commonly diagnosed STIs in the UK are chlamydia and gonorrhoea and this is also the case in Hackney and the City of London.

4.2 Local need and inequalities ⁹

Hackney and the City of London have very high rates of new STI infections; higher than the London and England average. For all newly diagnosed STIs in London in 2021, the City of London and Hackney recorded the third and fourth highest rate with 2,130 and 1,998 per 100,000, respectively¹⁰.

Overall, the high incidence of STIs remains a challenge that is associated to having both a young population, as young adults are demographically the age group with highest infection rates, and a large proportion of the population that are gay, bisexual or men who have sex with men (GBMSM) who also demographically tend to have higher rates of infection.¹¹

In terms of chlamydia, City and Hackney have both high testing rates and high positivity, which is strongly suggestive of high prevalence rates and reinfections. By increasing the number of young people adopting safer sexual behaviours, increased partner notification and treatment, and ensuring information and services are easily accessible we aim to reduce the prevalence of disease not just in City and Hackney but across North East London.

To practically prevent STIs, correct and consistent use of condoms is key, especially when frequently changing partners or in casual relationships.¹² Uptake of free condoms in under-25s condom distribution schemes is proportionally higher among black ethnic groups with underrepresentation from young Asian and white people. This implies either higher need or good awareness about free condom schemes and where to access them among young black adults. Conversely, white and Asian individuals may not know about or make use of these schemes, or source their condoms elsewhere.

Pharmacies play a key role in condom uptake, as 50% of under-25 source their free condoms here. This underscores the important low-barrier access pharmacies offer, and the potential to strengthen this pathway across the sexual and reproductive health spectrum.

4.2.1 Testing

Residents are currently testing for STIs in different places, depending on age, ethnicity, gender and/or sexual orientation. We need to continue to provide and expand testing access and uptake across multiple pathways alongside awareness campaigns to ensure people are testing at intervals commensurate with their sexual behaviours¹³.

We need to better understand if the current testing rates amongst different communities/ populations reflects need or if there are barriers to access that need addressing e.g. through targeted promotions or outreach. The use of regular equity audits and development of annual access uptake plans by local

⁹ Data sources for this chapter are SPLASH, [Fingertips](#), UKHSA [Spotlight on sexually transmitted infections in London: 2021 data](#)

¹⁰ This compared to 1,127 per 100,000 in London and 551 per 100,000 in England.

¹¹ According to the 2020 GP patient survey, 5% of people in Hackney identified as gay or lesbian, 2% as bisexual, 2% as other and a further 10% preferred not to say. This is well above the England (2018) estimates of 1.4% and 0.9% for gay/lesbian and bisexual, respectively. In the reproductive health survey, for example, 54% of respondents identified themselves as exclusively attracted to males, which implies much greater fluidity in sexual attraction than national averages.

¹²

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng68/resources/sexually-transmitted-infections-condom-distribution-schemes-pdf-1837580480197>

¹³ <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng221>

services alongside analysis of infection and reinfection data from UKHSA is key to ensuring services meet local needs.

The online home STI sampling service offered by Sexual Health London (SHL)¹⁴ has increased in popularity especially during Covid-19 and use continues to be an important component of local testing with potential for further expansion and integration into local services.

4.2.2 Infections

Positivity rates and positivity by STI type have large variations between age groups, by gender, sexual orientation and by ethnicity.

Chlamydia is most prevalent among young people under 20, followed by gonorrhoea. People from black ethnic groups recorded the highest positivity rates for chlamydia and gonorrhoea via SHL, and the joint highest positivity rates for HIV with mixed ethnicities.

Gonorrhoea infections have been showing an upward trend since 2017, save a dip in testing and positivity as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and are most commonly diagnosed in the 20-24 and 25-35 year old age groups. Cases of gonorrhoea were almost exclusively seen in men, and men who attended HSHS were twice as likely to have an STI than women.

Data from SHL makes it possible to compare positivity rates across listed gender, although the actual numbers in the gender categories outside of male and female are small. Between 2018 and 2021, the highest positivity rate for chlamydia was recorded among trans people, at 8.3%, and the highest positivity rate for gonorrhoea and syphilis was recorded among trans men, at 7.5% and 9.5% (Preventx).

Where patterns vary by STI type, different approaches are needed to increase equity for each individual STI. This could be achieved by increasing the availability of certain tests through certain testing channels, as different groups access tests through different means.

4.2.3 Reinfection

STI reinfection rates in City and Hackney are well above the national average¹⁵. Young people are more likely to become re-infected with STIs, contributing to infection persistence and health service workload. These high re-infection rates in young people indicate that further work needs to be undertaken on ensuring effective partner notification and treatment.

Initial appointments present an opportunity for providing good SRH advice and (free) provision of condoms. Reinfection could suggest there is no change in sexual behaviour after the first infection, and/or that there is insufficient knowledge or awareness about healthy sexual behaviours, not enough access to free condoms, and/or lack of knowledge about where to source them. Reinfection may also relate to misconceptions about risk, a lack of agency about safe sex choices, or other behavioural practices that warrant further investigation and direct engagement with young people.

¹⁴ <https://www.shl.uk/>

¹⁵ For example, gonorrhoea reinfection within 12 months in Hackney was an estimated 7.7% of women and 16.9% of men, versus an estimated 4.1% of women and 11.2% nationally (2016-2020). In the City of London among 15-19 year olds, an estimated 23.5% of women and 22.4% of men presenting with a new STI at a sexual health clinic (2015-2019) became re-infected with a new STI within 12 months. That is more than one in five, though likely to be based on small numbers due to low population figures.

4.2.4 Treatment and partner notification (PN)

The majority of STI-related treatment accessed by residents of the City of London and Hackney is provided by HSHS, and the remainder by specialist centres in other London NHS services, GPs or pharmacies. Pharmacies can seek accreditation to provide chlamydia treatment to people with a positive diagnosis and their partners. This accreditation process was disrupted by Covid-19 and there has been a delay in reinstating it. It is anticipated that chlamydia screening and treatment via pharmacies will increase in 2023-24.

Partner notification is a key element of STI prevention: by promptly tracing and contacting partners of a positive index case, they can be invited to test and treated if required, preventing any further onward transmission. Where there is no positive test result, it still offers an opportunity to engage people regarding STI prevention and healthy sexual choices. We need to better understand how to increase effective partner notification/ treatment across all services where STIs are diagnosed and in doing so seek to reduce reinfection rates as well as the overall prevalence of infections.

4.3 Aims and outcomes for STI prevention and treatment

City and Hackney have a considerable task ahead to reduce the rate of new infections and reinfections, especially in communities with high burden of disease such as young people and GBMSM, combined with the challenge of increasing distribution and use of condoms. With a large young population, 31% of the Hackney population is under 25¹⁶, having good quality and inclusive sex and relationship education, appropriate and available information and accessible resources, and clear pathways for services are of key importance. The services need to be available, accessible, non-judgemental and welcoming.

The traditionally high uptake of condoms at pharmacies shows this is a popular route for young people, while the increase of SHL tests in young people can encourage a good habit of regular testing. Having multiple avenues to access testing and treatment is key.

The fact that the burden of STIs, e.g. chlamydia is disproportionately affecting black communities whilst gonorrhoea is largely prevalent among GBMSM shows there is still much ground to cover in making sure different groups can access services when and where they prefer to get it. It also reinforces the importance of engaging with those most impacted on prevention and treatment.

4.3.1 Young people

Outcome 1: Young people have access to accurate, inclusive and appropriate information and education on sexual health

Aims:

1. All primary and secondary schools provide relationship and sex education that complies with the statutory guidance and meets the needs of children and young people
2. Dedicated young people's services such as youth hubs and the 'super youth hub' offer safe spaces for sexual health information and advice and inreach of clinical services
3. Young people are engaged in designing or improving pathways, services, promotional materials and/or campaigns to ensure relevance and suitability (coproduction)
4. Provision is made for engagement on sexual health with residences and hostels that accommodate care leavers, youth justice and other young people in supported accommodation circumstances

¹⁶ 2021 ONS Census <https://hackney.gov.uk/population>

*Outcome 2: Young people know where to source **free condoms and STI tests** and have no barriers to access and uptake*

Aims:

1. The Young Hackney free condom distribution scheme is embedded and promoted within wide range of outlets and recognised by young people
2. Pharmacies provide a range of sexual and reproductive health services including condoms, EHC and STI screening (chlamydia and gonorrhoea) and treatment (chlamydia) and are trained to make safeguarding referrals where appropriate
3. SHL is promoted, especially among groups that have shown lower uptake of their testing offer
4. Young people are engaged in designing or improving pathways, services, promotional materials and/or campaigns to ensure relevance and suitability (coproduction)

*Outcome 3: Young people have access to **appropriate and young people friendly sexual health treatment services***

Aims:

1. HSHS clinics are welcoming to young people and offer no appointment, face-to-face walk-in services
2. Chlamydia treatment can be accessed at selected community pharmacies and SHL
3. Dedicated young people's services such as youth hubs and/or the 'super youth hub' offer safe spaces for sexual health advice and treatment through inreach sexual health clinics

4.3.2 General population

Outcome 4: STI testing is available through multiple pathways so people with different preferences can access them on their own terms and with no barriers

Aims:

1. SHL testing is promoted as primary source of STI testing (asymptomatic, uncomplicated, regular testing, including for PrEP)
2. Access to in-person STI testing is improved for those who do not use online services, including in pharmacies and GPs. Face to face appointments/walk in testing services at sexual health clinics are available for under 16s, those who prefer this (e.g. due to difficulty to self test), those who can not access online services, those who are symptomatic, or who have other complexities.
3. Smart STI testing kits (for collection) are available at (selected) community pharmacies with high uptake of sexual health services

Outcome 5: Better understanding of drivers of risky sexual behaviour in different population groups

1. Reduction in STI rates in specific populations e.g. GBMSM, black communities
2. Explore ways to reduce STI rates and encourage uptake of STI testing among heterosexual males, especially those from ethnic groups that have lower testing uptake

Outcome 6: Functioning and efficient partner notification systems are in place within all testing pathways

Partner notification is of key importance to ensure the chain of transmission is stopped. It requires a clear pathway and process, and good communication with the presenting patient.

Aims:

1. Increase effectiveness and outcomes of partner notification

Outcome 7: STI reinfection rates in young people and adults are reduced.

Aims:

1. Improve prevention outcomes from partner notification
2. Reduce reinfection rates
3. Active engagement with communities with highest rates of STIs
4. Respond to changing sexual behaviours amongst residents

Outcome 8: Vaccination coverage has improved

1. Residents are protected from vaccine preventable diseases

5 - Living well with HIV and zero new HIV infections

5.1 Importance to Public Health

Great strides have been made in both prevention and treatment of HIV, resulting in fewer new diagnoses every year and people with HIV living longer and healthier lives. However, in order to get to zero HIV, meaning, zero *new* HIV infections, by 2030 it is crucial that testing continues at scale. This includes opt-out testing in hospital and primary settings to find new cases, especially late diagnosis cases where people are more likely to have worse health outcomes.

Continuing a strong HIV response through prevention, testing, treatment and care, including re-engaging those who have been lost to care is an essential part of the overall sexual and reproductive health work as HIV impacts on people's sexual and reproductive lives, is linked to poorer socio-economic outcomes, and is associated with other infections such as Tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis. Data on people accessing psychosexual counselling and care further suggests that newly diagnosed people, in particular GBMSM, are at higher risk of engaging in problematic Chemsex use, highlighting the need for seamless pathways into care, support and counselling, after a new diagnosis is made.

5.2 Local need and inequalities

Both Hackney and the City of London are considered areas of extremely high prevalence of HIV, with 6.4 and 9.8 (2021 data) per 1,000 people aged 15-59, respectively, with diagnosed HIV. This compares to around 2.3 per 1000 in England.

In numbers, 1,560 residents were known to be living with diagnosed HIV in Hackney and the City of London in 2021, while 1,519 (97%) were accessing antiretroviral treatment. In the London region, the City of London is ranked third highest in terms of people living with HIV, relative to population size, and Hackney is placed 12th among 30 local authorities.

London is a signatory to the Fast-Track Cities initiative, aiming to end the HIV epidemic globally by 2030, through the UNAIDS targets of 95-95-95: 95% of people living with HIV know their HIV status; 95% of people who know their HIV-positive status access treatment; and 95% of people on treatment have suppressed viral loads. In Hackney and City, and London as a whole, these targets have already been met overall, but are falling below in certain vulnerable groups of people with HIV. Stigma against

people living with HIV both within mainstream health/ social care services and in wider society continues to be a barrier to effective services and must be addressed.¹⁷

5.2.1 Prevention

The options for HIV prevention have much improved beyond condom use, which remains the key barrier method to prevent HIV infection, as well as many other STIs.

Testing is an important prevention strategy: through diagnosing cases early, people who test positive can be connected to treatment and care, which will prevent onward transmission. Once people receive treatment and maintain adherence, most will become undetectable, which means they can no longer transmit HIV, which represents the Undetectable=Untransmissible arm of prevention. Lastly, PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a combination of antiretroviral drugs that can prevent HIV from infecting someone, and is taken by someone who is HIV-negative but could potentially be at high risk of contracting HIV.

The testing offer and uptake for HIV in City and Hackney has been traditionally high and above England averages, although there has been a decrease in recent years which may have been due to the COVID-19 pandemic with reduced access to services. HIV testing is especially low among women, and late diagnoses are most frequently made in women and heterosexual men. This suggests that prevention and testing strategies tailored towards GBMSM need to be complimented by other work to serve and include different audiences.

This adjustment also applies to PrEP. Currently, PrEP is available and free within the NHS but levels of awareness and uptake of PrEP has been greatest amongst white ethnicities and residents who identify as gay or bisexual. Access to and uptake of PrEP needs to be improved amongst black and mixed ethnic backgrounds so that the protective benefits are more widely felt across local communities.

Opt-out testing for blood borne viruses (BBV) including HIV was introduced in A&E departments across London in April 2022. This built on work piloted in East London in 2014 and has been very successful in diagnosing HIV, including people that had been lost to care. This is a crucial element of the overall effort to get to zero new HIV infections by 2030 and work needs to be continued to increase those people diagnosed with HIV and/or Hepatitis B and C who are successfully connected to care.

Equally, opt-out testing for HIV for new registrants at GPs needs to be re-encouraged, as this had good uptake in previous years. Including HIV (and potentially other BBVs) opt-out testing in the NHS Health Check would also add significantly to going the last mile in identifying positive cases without adding to stigma and singling out people or groups that are perceived to be at higher risk of contracting HIV.

5.2.2 Diagnosis, treatment and virological suppression

Although most diagnoses of HIV are made in white men who have sex with men, black African communities face the second highest level of HIV burden in the UK. In Hackney in 2021, a third of new infections were in white people, a third in black African people and a third in black Caribbean, Asian and other/people of mixed heritage combined.

In terms of treatment, City and Hackney perform well in getting people on treatment promptly, with 100% and 84.8%, respectively, of residents diagnosed between 2019 and 2021 being prescribed

¹⁷ <https://fasttrackcities.london/our-work/ending-stigma/>

Antiretroviral treatment (ART) within 91 days of diagnosis.¹⁸ However, there are differences in viral suppression by sexual orientation and ethnicity, with 97% of white people and those who identify as GBMSM meeting the criteria for virological success, compared to 92% for heterosexual people and 93% for black African people, for example.

This illustrates that overall, white gay men who have sex with men have better outcomes once diagnosed with HIV and on treatment. This is a clear inequality in outcomes that needs to be addressed to bring all other people living with HIV to the same high levels of viral suppression.

5.3 Aims and outcomes for HIV prevention, access to care and treatment

Outcome 1: People living with HIV no longer experience stigma and discrimination

Aims:

1. City and Hackney sign up to the [HIV confident charter](#) and implement training throughout statutory and voluntary organisations to end stigma and discrimination
2. Encourage sign up to the [HIV ambassadors programme](#) to ensure the voice of people living with HIV is central to the provision of services across City and Hackney

Outcome 2: All diagnosed people with HIV receive treatment and care to achieve best possible health outcomes and viral suppression.

Aims:

1. Support people who are living with HIV to know their status and access appropriate care, including retention within care services and ongoing adherence to antiretroviral treatment (ART), to improve outcomes.
2. Facilitate more joined-up working on HIV between primary and secondary care services locally especially in relation to ageing related comorbidities
3. Ensure immediate connection to holistic care pathways (VCS organisations) after a positive diagnosis (including as a result of the opt-out testing initiatives), especially for people with added vulnerabilities and/or poor mental health and history of trauma
4. Peer support and navigators are embedded into local services to ensure continued connection to care and support for people lost to follow up
5. Increase equity in terms of successfully achieving virological suppression, e.g. among global majority and heterosexual residents, and individuals with complex needs and higher levels of vulnerability
6. Regularly update HIV needs assessment and ensure focus on equity of outcomes

Outcome 3: All communities who would benefit from HIV prevention interventions including condoms and PrEP are easily able to access services.

Aims:

1. Increase awareness and uptake of PrEP among all eligible groups, particularly those with low current take-up.
2. Reduce barriers to access to condoms for young people and other communities
3. Have HIV rapid tests and pilot rapid start PrEP in community settings including community pharmacies and substance misuse services

¹⁸ In comparison to 81% in London and 83.5% in England (SPLASH).

4. Support people who are living with HIV to know their status and access appropriate care, including retention within care services and ongoing adherence to antiretroviral treatment (ART), to improve outcomes.
5. Increase access amongst MSM communities, particularly where individuals are younger and/or from a black, Asian, or ethnic minority background or new arrivals to C&H to NHS PrEP and uptake of free condoms
6. Undertake tailored and appropriate engagement with non-MSM communities at higher risk of acquiring HIV to promote NHS PrEP P
7. Ensure awareness of and access to/delivery of PEPSE (Post-exposure prophylaxis after sexual exposure to HIV) and linking to PrEP pathway

Outcome 4: All people with HIV know their status and are linked in to care and treatment.

Aims:

1. Reduce late diagnosis of HIV
2. Increase uptake of HIV testing in populations where there is low testing and high rates of late diagnosis
3. Improve systematic HIV screening of newly-registered patients to GP practices in the City and Hackney in order to diagnose cases as early as possible
4. Ensure effective connection to care and treatment

Outcome 5: The Fast-Track Cities London goal are achieved locally by 2030

Aims:

1. Zero new HIV infections
2. New migrants living with HIV are supported to access HIV treatment and care without stigma or discrimination
3. No people living with HIV die from a disease that could have been prevented by receiving HIV related treatment and care
4. End HIV related stigma and discrimination

6 - Inclusion communities and those with complex needs

6.1 Importance to Public Health

Poorer sexual and reproductive health is often concentrated in specific communities or subsets thereof, and some people have greater difficulty in achieving good sexual and reproductive health outcomes, and require additional or tailored support. This can be for very diverse reasons. It is essential that those with more complex needs or greater vulnerabilities are not stigmatised but that their additional needs are recognised and met within the overall service provision. To do so, we do need to be explicit about their needs and vulnerabilities.

From the sexual health needs assessment it is clear that for instance some trans people have higher STI infection rates and lower testing uptake. People who are homeless or sleeping rough may lead more chaotic and itinerant lives that are not conducive to healthy sexual choices. People who inject drugs may be at higher risk of contracting blood borne viruses including HIV and Hepatitis.

Women who have had children taken into care may need more intensive and long-term support with their reproductive health. People who use drugs during sex may come to a point where they can no longer safely manage their sexual health and mental wellbeing. There are consistently higher rates of STI infections in gay and bisexual men than in the general population.

Young people who have been in the care system are known to have poorer health outcomes, and this also translates in their sexual health with earlier sexual debut and lower use of condoms or contraception. People with learning disabilities may find it difficult to find resources and information in Easy Read or other appropriate formats. Migrants and asylum seekers may experience language barriers or worry about accessing NHS services for fear of information about their status being shared with other authorities.

It is also important to keep in mind that vulnerability depends on context. Heterosexual males are not the first group we think of when discussing vulnerability. Yet heterosexual men have traditionally low health seeking behaviour, and this is no different in sexual health. Low health seeking behaviour of heterosexual males can make them vulnerable to STI infection, as they are less likely to test and may not consider themselves at risk. Finding ways to increase their STI testing uptake, for example, could prevent onward transmission to women and lead to an overall decrease in new STIs.

As a local partnership and with two health and wellbeing boards, it is our responsibility to ensure everyone has access to the information, services and support they need, and to minimise and mitigate harm and adverse outcomes. Equally, as certain interventions or services are often not solely within the remit of one organisation, it is important to have clear pathways and linkages to other services, whether within the local authority, the NHS, voluntary sector or the larger integrated care partnership (ICP).

6.2 Local need and inequalities

Many of the groups included in this section of the strategy are relatively small in size and limited information is known about their specific needs, yet in their representation at services it becomes clear there is unmet need. This section is not meant to be exclusive of other potentially vulnerable groups, but should be seen as an effort to ensure greater inclusivity in our consideration of the SRH needs of all of our local residents and communities.

As indicated, a key challenge is that we do not always have the best data and information available for some of these groups, and better or more appropriate forms of data collection are needed to address needs. For some groups, the 2021 ONS Census provided much more detailed insight into population numbers, in particular regarding sexual orientation. This can help with planning service models and delivery.

6.2.1 LGBTQI+

Both Hackney and the City of London have a proportionally large LGBTQ+ population. The 2021 ONS Census found that in both areas around 80% of the population identified as heterosexual¹⁹, which was the lowest nationally, while for the City, 7.6% identified as gay -the highest percentage nationally-, and 2.3% as bisexual. For Hackney 4.1% identified as gay and 2.8% as bisexual, and 0.24% as queer, which was the second highest percentage nationally. This in effect means that over 17,000 residents

¹⁹ For Hackney, 12.6% did not answer the question about sexual orientation, for City of London, 10.4% did not answer the question.

in City and Hackney do not identify as heterosexual and may have different needs in terms of their sexual and reproductive health

Men who have sex with men (MSM), for example, have greater engagement with sexual health services for STI testing compared with heterosexual residents and rates of STIs are known to be higher among MSM.

Yet need is not only expressed or measured through STI infection rates. Feedback in the consultation for this strategy found mixed experiences for people in accessing services, with some feeling judged, or uncomfortable, due to their sexual orientation or gender presentation. As such, it is appropriate to ensure all health provision, especially sexual health services, are welcoming and accommodating to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

For trans persons, SHL data (2018-2020) reports the highest positivity rates for chlamydia among trans people, at 8.3%, and highest positivity rates for gonorrhoea and syphilis among trans men, at 7.5% and 9.5%, although it needs to be kept in mind that actual numbers were low, which can skew results. Overall, SHL data suggests that unmet need for STI testing is largely concentrated in males and trans people. Also, while trans people living with HIV experience similar levels of HIV-related care and viral suppression as people living with HIV in the general population, they may have higher or more complex health needs overall. This suggests there could be a need for greater consideration of transgender specific needs within SRH services.

6.2.2 Chemsex and substance users

Chemsex, sexualised drug use, is strongly associated with increased prevalence of STIs and HIV, problematic drug and alcohol use, and poorer mental health outcomes. It is most common among some GBMSM. Patients referred into the chemsex/high-risk sex pathway are likely to have higher and more complex levels of unmet need than the general population. In many cases these needs have been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of referrals made to the chemsex service between April 2020 and March 2021, higher referral rates were seen among people living with HIV (PLHIV), and people from ethnic minority groups, compared with the general population. 99% of referrals were among cisgender populations, despite chemsex being evidenced to affect trans individuals more.

Among those who have reported having used drugs on a recreational basis within the past three months, and who have accessed HSHS, a much larger proportion of activity was for Hepatitis, PrEP, and HPV, and a lower proportion was for HIV and chlamydia, compared to other service users.

Among GBMSM, a recent diagnosis with HIV can increase the likelihood of risky engagement with chemsex, which is why immediate linkage with care and holistic support after a positive HIV diagnosis is important.

The number of referrals for individuals engaging in chemsex made to HSHS decreased after 2019/20 due to instability in provision and Covid-19, rather than lack of need, but averaged close to 100 people per year per service level (peer mentor support and psychological counselling). Based on the size of the local MSM population and the estimated use of Chemsex within that population (approximately 10%), it can be projected that annually, around 700 MSM in City and Hackney might engage in chemsex use, of which a proportion would require support if they are no longer able to do so safely, and/or it compromises their mental and sexual health. It also needs to be considered that chemsex use and users are not static; there is movement within and between NEL boroughs and collaboration

Using alcohol or other substances at levels harmful to health is often associated with increased risk of poorer sexual and reproductive health. For the wider group of people who access substance misuse services for either alcohol or other substances there is also an opportunity to better integrate the provision of the full range of BBV testing, rapid start PrEP and provision of contraception through inreach from the specialist sexual health services, provision of SHL smart kits and strengthened partnership working. Specialist sexual health services should also introduce both alcohol and substance misuse screening and brief intervention alongside needle exchange and naloxone provision for all patients.

The City and Hackney combating drugs partnership has received significant funding to increase uptake of substance misuse services. This provides an opportunity to ensure services not only more effectively meet the needs of chemsex clients but also the wider SRH needs of substance misuse clients by creating a stronger interservice linkage between sexual health and substance misuse services.

6.2.3 Homeless people and rough sleepers, asylum seekers and migrants

STI positivity rates for homeless patients in north east London remained relatively stable between 2017 and 2021, apart from in 2020, which saw a spike in positivity.

No specific sexual or reproductive health data is available for rough sleepers and homeless people in City and Hackney, though service uptake at the Greenhouse Practice, a GP service that provides care to people living in hostels or supported accommodation, rough sleepers, and people who spend a significant amount of time on the streets may act as a proxy indicator of need. These often include refugees or migrants who have an insecure status and are wary of engaging with statutory services. Their vulnerability profile is potentially high, as they may be engaging in sexual activity but unfamiliar with the open access nature of sexual health services and fearful of government interaction, they may forgo testing, and not access treatment when they need it.

The Greenhouse Practice delivers health care, including sexual health screening, to adult single people in two asylum seeker hotels in Hackney and will also support the newly established Rough Sleepers Assessment Centre in the City of London.

6.2.4 Commercial sex workers

Open Doors is a commissioned service that provides holistic support to commercial sex workers (CSW). Between April 2019 and March 2022, 1,510 unique CSWs were supported by the Open Doors service: 1,110 Hackney residents, 65 City residents, and 335 residents from other local authorities. The majority of these were street based female sex workers, though there has been an increase in engagement with off street and male sex workers, especially since COVID-19.

As part of the Open Doors drop in service, a sexual health nurse is available for STI testing, contraception, vaccination and advice on a weekly basis. Service users can also attend HSHS with priority access. The testing undertaken at the drop in continues to find high prevalence of STIs. For example, during one Quarter in 2022-23, 75 individual sex workers engaged with Open Doors, of which 21 were assessed as needing clinical health services. Out of the 21, 18 were tested and a total of 20 STIs were diagnosed.

At the drop in there is also opportunity for service users to engage with substance misuse services (Turning Point). A high percentage of on-street sex workers are substance users, and strong partnership work between substance misuse and sexual health services can help to improve outcomes.

The combination of sex work and substance misuse makes for challenging life circumstances for this vulnerable group and contraception, condom use, PrEP and regular testing and treatment are a key offer, alongside more holistic support to facilitate a move away from substance use and sex work that is detrimental to good health outcomes. It is equally important that this is based within a trauma-informed approach.

6.2.5 People with disabilities (learning and physical)

Between 2017 and 2021 service users who were recorded as having a disability were no more or less likely to receive a positive STI test result than the general population. However, data collection is very poor, e.g. HSHS does not routinely collect data on disability among its attendees. Therefore, lack of data may obscure any potential inequalities in access or outcomes.

In Hackney, the [Right Choice Connect Hackney clinic](#) offered confidential SRH services to people with learning disabilities but attendance was relatively low and the clinic has not reopened since the COVID pandemic.

Relationship and sex education is offered at schools for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

For the purpose of the strategy consultation, an Easy Read version of the survey and summary of the themes of the strategy was prepared to enable participation from people with a learning disability. An in-person consultation session was also held. The participants highlighted that accessibility can take on different forms: physical accessibility and signage for partially sighted people, for example, but also how friendly or welcoming a service is. Although there was strong agreement around the importance of relationship and sex education in schools, including special education, views on other proposed priorities and outcomes diverged, for example with regards to termination of pregnancy (ToP).

6.2.6 PAUSE and STEPS service users

PAUSE and STEPS are programmes delivered by Hackney Council and the City of London via the Public Health team.

PAUSE works to improve the lives of women who have had, or are at risk of having, more than one child removed from their care. Many of the women accessing the service have experienced significant trauma in their lives. The programme aims to support women holistically, while they commit to a 'pause' in pregnancy during the programme. Pause works with local sexual health services to support women to make an informed choice about contraception and understand more about their sexual and reproductive health. Women who participate in PAUSE can benefit from immediate referrals to HSHS but more work needs to be done to ensure pathways are well understood, trauma experiences taken into consideration and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health support is provided.

STEPS offers support for rough sleepers, who are often dealing with added challenges such as substance use and mental ill health.

For the consultation, a brunch club for STEPS and PAUSE service users was attended to seek their views and ask about their experience of services, or awareness and accessibility of services. Some helpful feedback was provided in terms of how information should be designed and communicated, and for services to be available and accessible in the community or within the services they attend.

6.2.7 Young people: Social Care and Youth Justice

Young people in foster care or who are leaving care are known to have worse health outcomes throughout life and an assessment in Wales found that young people in foster care were significantly more likely to report ever having had sexual intercourse and to report an early age of first intercourse. Young people in foster care also had three times higher odds of not reporting condom use at last intercourse and nearly five times higher odds of not reporting contraceptive pill use, compared to those with a different type of living arrangement.²⁰

Young people known to the Youth Justice Service often have added vulnerabilities, with some having special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and speech and language issues. This can potentially put them at higher risk for exploitation or abuse within intimate relationships. This would also apply to young people with SEND who are not involved with the Youth Justice service.

Other young people who may be at increased risk of poorer sexual health outcomes are those who misuse substances, or who are homeless or vulnerable with their housing status. Young people affected by or involved in gangs, especially young women, may also be particularly vulnerable.

Even though teenage pregnancy rates have fallen dramatically over the past few decades, there may be areas with higher teenage pregnancy rates where focused action be warranted.

6.3 Aims and outcomes for inclusion communities and those with complex needs

The key task and challenge will be to ensure services are open and truly accessible to those with increased or complex needs. Co-production with communities on both service provision but also awareness campaigns will remain essential to ensure health inequalities are reduced. Outreach and inreach to non SRH settings is important alongside broadening professional willingness to raise sexual and reproductive health through MECC training and increased awareness of referral pathways into SRH services.

Annual equity audits provide a powerful tool for services to ensure services are meeting the needs of inclusion communities and those with complex needs. The equity audits should then be used to develop and publish specific access plans ideally co-produced with communities where uptake of services needs to be improved. Data collection, surveys and user feedback is key to creating a more comprehensive picture of the needs of and barriers facing those with more complex lives or vulnerabilities.

Outcome 1: Increased access to services by those with higher or more complex needs

Aims:

- 1 - Implement annual equity audit action plans to ensure greater uptake of services amongst those communities with sexual health inequalities and complex needs
- 2 - Improve understanding and functioning of pathways to support those with higher or more complex needs, for providers/services and service users
- 3 - Tailored services for people with learning disabilities (within overall service)
- 4 - Improve visibility/accessibility of services from multiple & intersectional perspectives (physical disability, learning disability, homeless, substance misuse, mental health, LGBTQ+)

²⁰ See Louise Roberts, Sara Jayne Long, Honor Young, Gillian Hewitt, Simon Murphy, Graham F. Moore, [Sexual Health Outcomes for Young People in Care](#) in *Children and Youth Services Review* Volume 89, June 2018, Pages 281-288

5 - Encourage GP registration

6 - Sexual health and primary care services are trauma informed including sexual assault, abuse and rape

Outcome 2: Improved data collection to inform service delivery

Aims:

- 1 - Explore alternative ways of data collection
- 2 - All relevant services collect data on all protected characteristics, implement equality duty
- 4 - Reduce the gradient between the most and least advantaged across a range of defined process and outcome measures.

Outcome 3: Transgender and non-binary residents' sexual and reproductive health needs are met

Aims:

- 1 - Specific, welcoming, knowledgeable and safe clinical spaces for sexual health care, with provision of STI testing and treatment, contraception and cervical cytology, and appropriate harm reduction interventions.
- 2 - Promotion of 'Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People' guidelines in primary care
- 3 - Respond to the consultation on the national Guidelines for schools on gender identity and transition to highlight importance of compliance with the equality duties

Outcome 4: Information is designed in acceptable and appropriate forms

Aim:

- 1 - Coproduction of resources and materials (print and online, as relevant)

7 - Way forward

Having a strategy in place will promote joined up working, integration, providing a more coherent approach to SRH commissioning and foster stronger collaboration with stakeholders and partners. However, if it remains confined to words on paper, it will have been a fruitless exercise.

An annual action plan will be developed that will take the outcomes and aims from this strategy and translate them into workstreams, activities and outputs. The latter will include better communication mechanisms, pathways or signposting. Long awaited changes to the legal requirement to competitively procure health services, the [Provider Section Regime \(PSR\)](#), were finally enacted in 2024. The PSR regulations will apply to the procurement of "health services" but for health promotion, social care and education services the regulations remain unchanged from the existing Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Better integration of plans for both procurement and how services are commissioned across the broad areas of this strategy will help achieve desired outcomes. Plans for commissioning and procurement will be included in the annual action plan.

The **annual action plans** will be jointly prepared by the SRH Forum membership of commissioned services and the Public Health team, in consultation with other system stakeholders and resident participation groups and presented along with an update on progress to the City and Hackney Health and Wellbeing Boards, to ensure that every year, priorities are revisited and agreed gaps or inequalities are addressed.

The first action plan was developed alongside the consultation process for this strategy, so as to engage stakeholders directly and simultaneously on strategic priorities and approaches to implement them.

7.1 Strategy status and updates

The City and Hackney Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy was presented for formal adoption by both the Hackney and City Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) in early 2024 and is envisaged to run until 2029. The strategy was developed and consulted on in 2023 and included a 12 week statutory consultation and engagement with communities and professional stakeholders. The annual action plan update to both HWBs will also provide an opportunity to highlight any areas of the strategy that may need to change to reflect new opportunities or challenges.

7.2 Monitoring

In the first year of the strategy a **sexual health dashboard** will be developed to help with monitoring progress over time and identifying where gaps or inequalities are present.

The dashboard will be created by the Public Health Intelligence team (PHIT) and draw on existing (national) data sources such as GUMCAD, Fingertips and SPLASH; locally used platforms such as Pathway Analytics, Preventx and Pharmoutcomes to reflect activity by Homerton Sexual Health Services, SHL and pharmacies, as well as performance data derived from performance reports submitted by commissioned services. Regular mystery shopping of services and patient experience measures will also be incorporated into the dashboard.

The potential for the scope of the sexual health dashboard to be widened to include the broader objectives around reproductive health will be assessed during the first year. As many of these services are commissioned by the NHS the broadening of the sexual health dashboard to include other services will be dependent on the NEL ICB health intelligence strategy.

Appendix 1: Overview of commissioned services

- Specialist sexual health clinics via the Homerton Sexual Health Services (HSHS)
- Primary care: GP practices (includes Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), STI and HIV testing) and community pharmacies (Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC), condoms, chlamydia screening and treatment)
- Online services via Sexual Health London (SHL) (STI testing, routine oral contraception and EHC)
- Young Hackney (young people: condom distribution, sexual health resources, training, signposting)
- Voluntary and community sector commissioned partners:
 - Positive East: HIV prevention and support services (adults); Project Community (sexual health resources, engagement and PrEP promotion among black and other minoritised communities)
 - Community African Network (CAN) (condom distribution among predominantly black African communities)
 - Body & Soul (HIV support services for families and children)
- Open Doors (commercial sex workers: outreach, holistic support and signposting, clinical sexual health services, substance misuse services)
- Support for Vulnerable Babies (baby milk for mothers with HIV)
- London HIV prevention programme including [Do it London](#)

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City & Hackney Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy Consultation Report (draft)

Report Date: January 2024

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Introduction

This report presents the findings of the consultation on the City and Hackney Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Strategy.

The online survey was hosted on the [Hackney Council consultation web pages](#) and was open from 1 July to 20 September 2023. It was also promoted on the [City of London corporate web pages](#). In total, 102 completed responses were received.

An Easy Read survey was developed to allow people with learning disabilities or other barriers to accessing the online survey to participate. A total of 13 completed Easy Read surveys were received.

Background

The City of London Corporation and London Borough of Hackney have a statutory responsibility to protect and promote the sexual and reproductive health of our local populations. We invest over £8m per year in clinical services as well as services to promote good sexual health.

City and Hackney continue to have a high level of unmet need with significant inequalities in sexual and reproductive health, both within communities and compared to the other areas in London and across England.

A five-year strategy for City and Hackney will ensure a coordinated approach that brings together commissioned services and explores linkages with other services and providers, including the NHS and the voluntary sector as well as cross-local authority initiatives, to highlight and address the most pressing issues and gaps in provision and uptake of care.

Rationale for consultation

- To ensure the right priorities were identified and agreed on
- To ensure a sense of ownership and importance around the subject area
- To receive a mandate for more integrated and joined up working across the system

A [consultation and engagement plan](#) was developed in partnership with the engagement team. In addition, a [communications plan](#) was developed to ensure the consultation was promoted effectively.

Considering the life course needs for sexual and reproductive health, and the variety in need between different population groups and demographics, it was important that the consultation was as inclusive as possible. A number of approaches and channels were used to promote the survey and other consultation elements were added such as online consultation events. This report presents the findings of the online survey and the Easy Read survey.

Promoting the survey

Channels (online/social media)

- Consultation webpage launch promoted on Twitter and Facebook - City and Hackney channels, and Business Healthy (BH)
- Consultation promoted in Hackney e-newsletter and Love Hackney magazine, and staff internal newsletter
- Twitter posts promoting online and in-person sessions on Hackney's Social media channels
- Posts on Hackney Council's instagram stories to target younger audiences
- Posts on City of London social media prompting the consultation
- Coverage in City AM
- Posts on BH twitter, Barbican Library, and City of London X (Twitter) to promote in-person
- Online promotion on Hackney Council's Instagram for a final call to complete the consultation
- Final call to complete the consultation in Hackney Council's newsletter
- E-newsletters (external and internal staff newsletter)

Email

- Community Champions and other community partners
- Community centres
- CVS organisations such as Healthwatch Hackney and Hackney CVS
- Pharmacies (newsletter)
- GP practices (newsletter)
- Youth hubs
- All commissioned services
- Key contacts with wider networks

Meetings

To promote the survey and inform and involve a broad range of stakeholders, e.g.

- Health Inequalities Steering Group

- Healthwatch Hackney: Community Voice LGBTQIA+ Public Forum
- Place Based Partnership Delivery Group
- Hackney CVS Special Interest Group on Sexual Health

Easy Read survey

An Easy Read version of the online survey was created to allow participation by people with learning disabilities and others who may have found the online survey difficult to use. This was available online and in print. This allowed participation by

- Hackney Ark Captains (young people with learning disabilities)
- Open Doors service users (sex workers)

Consultation events

Online and in person engagement

In addition to the survey, people were invited to actively participate in the consultation and action planning by attending online consultation events, which were promoted alongside the survey. There were also a number of in person engagement events.

- Theme-based online consultations around the five themes of the survey. These were promoted alongside the survey with a signup form. Participation by residents/volunteers was compensated with a £20 voucher.
- Audience focused online consultations sessions (voucher compensation provided)
 - Community African Network (CAN) members and volunteers (Black African population groups)
 - Healthwatch Hackney public reps (resident representation)
 - LGBTQ+ representatives (Positive East/LoveTank)
- In person focus group discussions/engagement (voucher compensation provided)
 - Barbican Library, City of London residents/service users
 - Hackney People First (adults with learning disabilities)
 - STEPS brunch drop-in (STEPS service users)
 - Young People
- Workshops with commissioned services and key partners with thematic focus (hybrid of in person and online)
 - Young people and sexual health
 - Contraception and reproductive health

Online consultations were attended by a total of 71 people, in-person consultations had a total of 23 participants, and the workshops with commissioned providers and key stakeholders had 20 participants.

Online and in-person sessions allowed deeper engagement on the themes and the proposed outcomes, and resulted in for example making outcomes more ambitious, or having more concrete or practical suggestions on actions to undertake to achieve proposed outcomes (e.g. a joint online information resource on sexual and reproductive health with booking options and direct links to relevant services).

All of the consultation findings and feedback contributed to the formation of the first year action plan.

Executive summary

A total of 102 responses were received to the online survey, while a further 13 people completed the Easy Read survey.

There was strong agreement on priorities and outcomes across the five themes. For example, 95% of respondents (strongly) agreed with the proposed priority that all young people should have access to high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE). Even higher was the agreement (98%) for the aim that all residents should be able to recognise whether a relationship is abusive or unhealthy. This feedback was echoed in the Easy Read survey.

On average, proposed priorities and outcomes received around 80-90% agreement on importance, indicating 'important' or 'very important'. The lowest agreement was related to reducing reinfection of sexually transmitted infections (72%) and making tailored sexual and reproductive health services available for transgender and non-binary residents (72.5%).

Respondents also had the opportunity to provide written comments which provided an important insight into issues that are important to people, as they often reflected personal experiences. Access to services was an often mentioned barrier, balanced by many comments that the quality of service received was friendly, professional, confidential and non-judgemental.

Below is a summary of the findings.

I am answering this survey as a: (Base 102)

- The majority of respondents stated that they were a Resident of Hackney or City of London (80, **78.43%**)
- Have you ever accessed Sexual Health Services?: (Base 102)
 - The majority of respondents stated that they have accessed local Sexual Health Services in City & Hackney (44, **43.14%**) with another 31 (30.39%) having accessed them elsewhere or in North East London (NEL).

Priority 1: Residents in the City of London & Hackney are able to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health.

- Using the scale below (where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest) please rate how important this priority is for you?: (Base 102)
 - The majority of respondents stated that the above statement was of highest importance (67 - **65.69%**), with a further 21 (20.59%) scoring at 4 (important).

Priority 2: Residents of City of London & Hackney have good reproductive health across the life course.

- Using the scale below (where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest) please rate how important this priority is for you?: (Base 102)
 - The majority of respondents stated that the above statement was of highest importance (54 - **52.94%**) with a further 23 (22.55%) scoring at 4 (important).

Priority 3: Residents of City of London & Hackney have access to high quality and innovative testing and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

- Using the scale below (where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest) please rate how important this priority is for you?: (Base 102)
 - The majority of respondents stated that the above statement was of highest importance (68 - **66.67%**) with a further 17 (16.67%) scoring at 4 (important).

Priority 4: Towards Zero - there will be no new HIV infections in the City of London & Hackney by 2030

- Using the scale below (where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest) please rate how important this priority is for you?: (Base 102)
 - The majority of respondents stated that they “agree” on the importance of no new HIV infections in C&H by 2030 (73 - **71.57%**) with a further 13 (12.75%) scoring at 4 (important).

Priority 5: The sexual and reproductive health needs of vulnerable people and people with complex needs are recognised and met within the overall service provision

- Using the scale below (where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest) please rate how important this priority is for you?: (Base 102)
 - The majority of respondents stated that the above statement was of high importance (64 - **62.75%**) with a further 18 (17.65%) scoring at 4 (important).

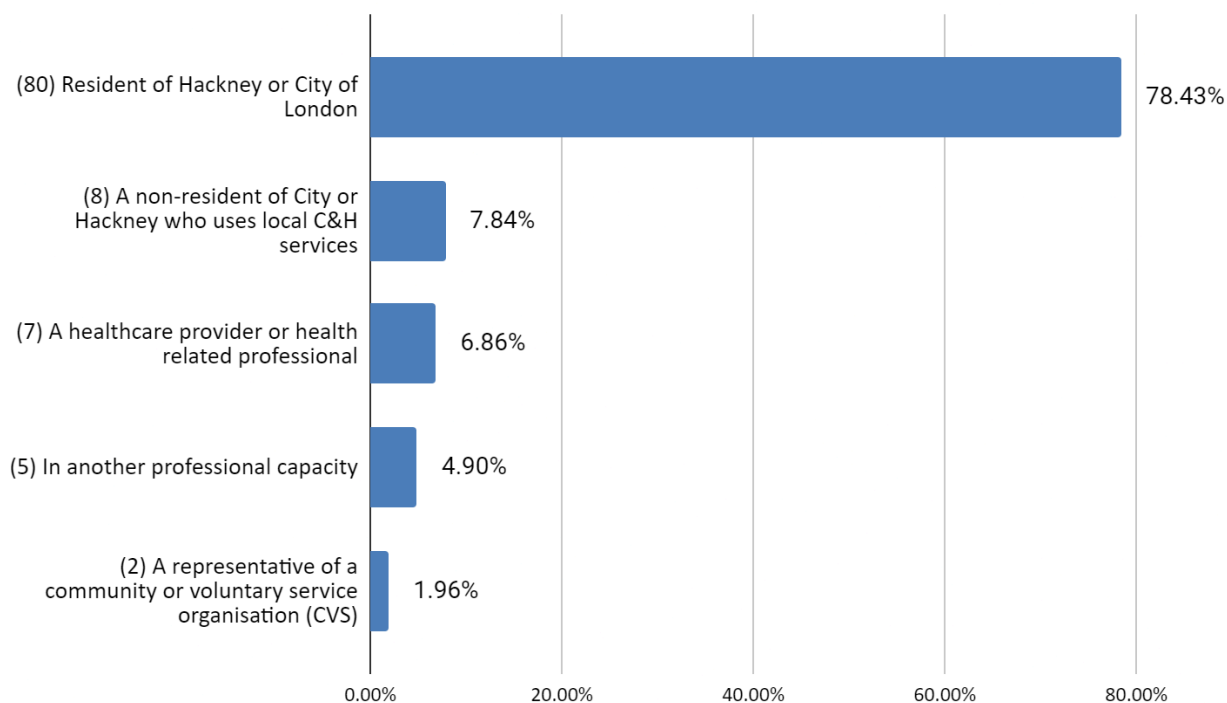
Overview of findings

When analysing the responses, there is always a caveat about how people interpreted the questions. A consultation sets out to present priorities related to *what is to be achieved*, and to what extent residents agree on those priorities. It is possible that some respondents interpreted the questions as a stocktake of the present situation, as if they were asked to comment on the *current state*, and to rate the statements accordingly. Both interpretations would likely lead to different answers.

The online introduction to the survey did explain the purpose of the survey and the priorities presented but it is possible people varied in their understanding of it. This is a lesson learned in terms of wording of a statement (priority or aim) to make it less subject to interpretation. This is underscored by a comment of a respondent: *This survey is confusing. When asking about the aims, are you asking whether we agree those aims are important or agree those aims are being met?*

Question 1: I am answering this survey as a... (Base 102)

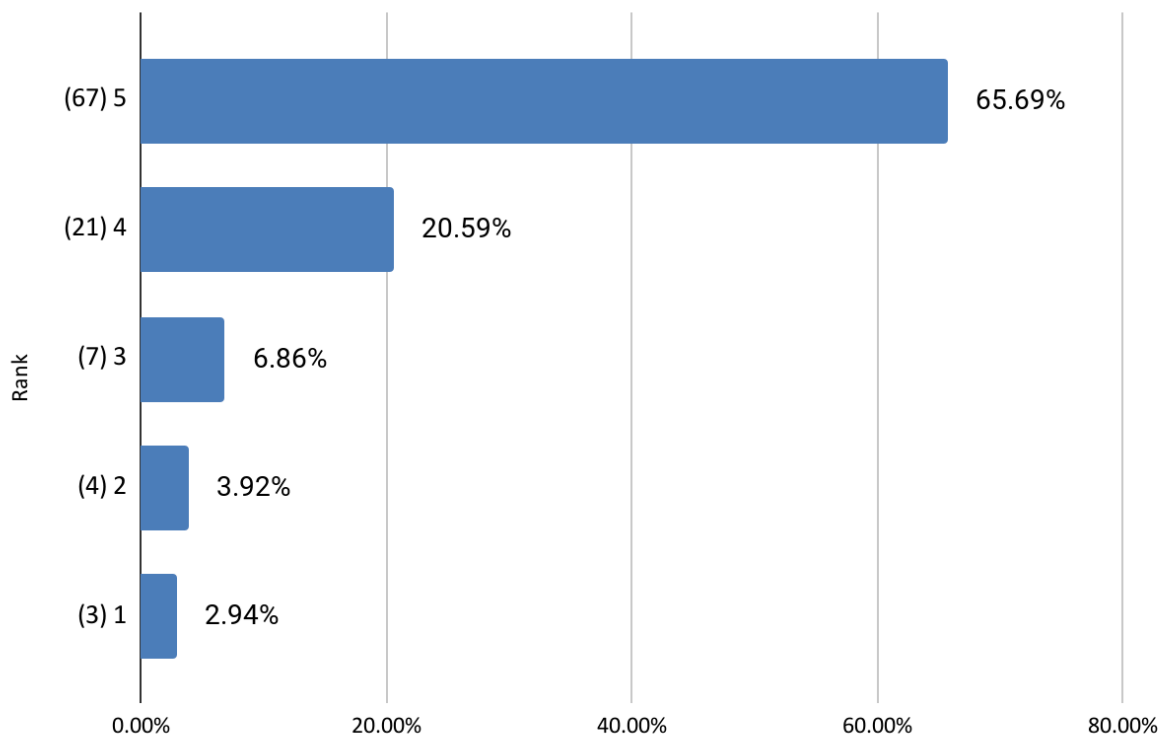
The majority of survey respondents (78%) were City and Hackney residents, with a smaller number identifying as service users or healthcare professionals. No postcode data was requested so it is not feasible to filter out whether someone was a City of Hackney based resident.



Those who selected 'In another professional capacity', said they were:

- Nightlife worker/business owner
- Practitioner within a charity
- CoLC Community Safety Team
- Tax Payer

Question 2: (Priority 1) Residents in the City of London & Hackney are able to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health. (Base 102)

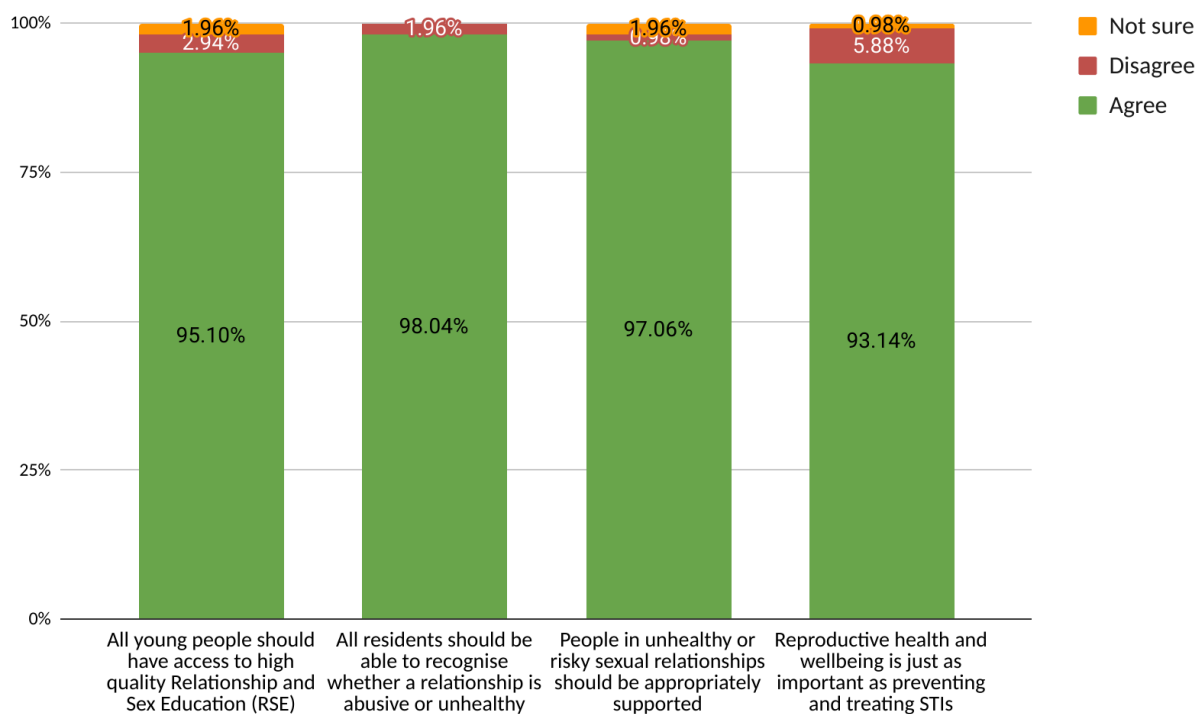


The survey presented five priorities. For each of the priorities respondents were asked to rate them from 1 to 5, with 1 being lowest importance to five being highest importance.

67 (65.69%) respondents ranked the ability to make informed choices as being of the highest importance, while 7 (6.86%) respondents were neutral, and 3 (2.94%) respondents ranked it as of lowest importance.

Within each priority, a number of aims were then presented. Respondents were asked to express their agreement or disagreement with the aims.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following aims we have identified for this priority? (Base 102 across each statement)



2.1 All young people should have access to high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

The majority of respondents (97, 95.10%) stated they agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed aim that all young people should have access to high quality RSE. 3 (2.94%) respondents (strongly) disagreed, and 2 (1.96%) respondents were not sure.

2.2 All residents should be able to recognise whether a relationship is abusive or unhealthy

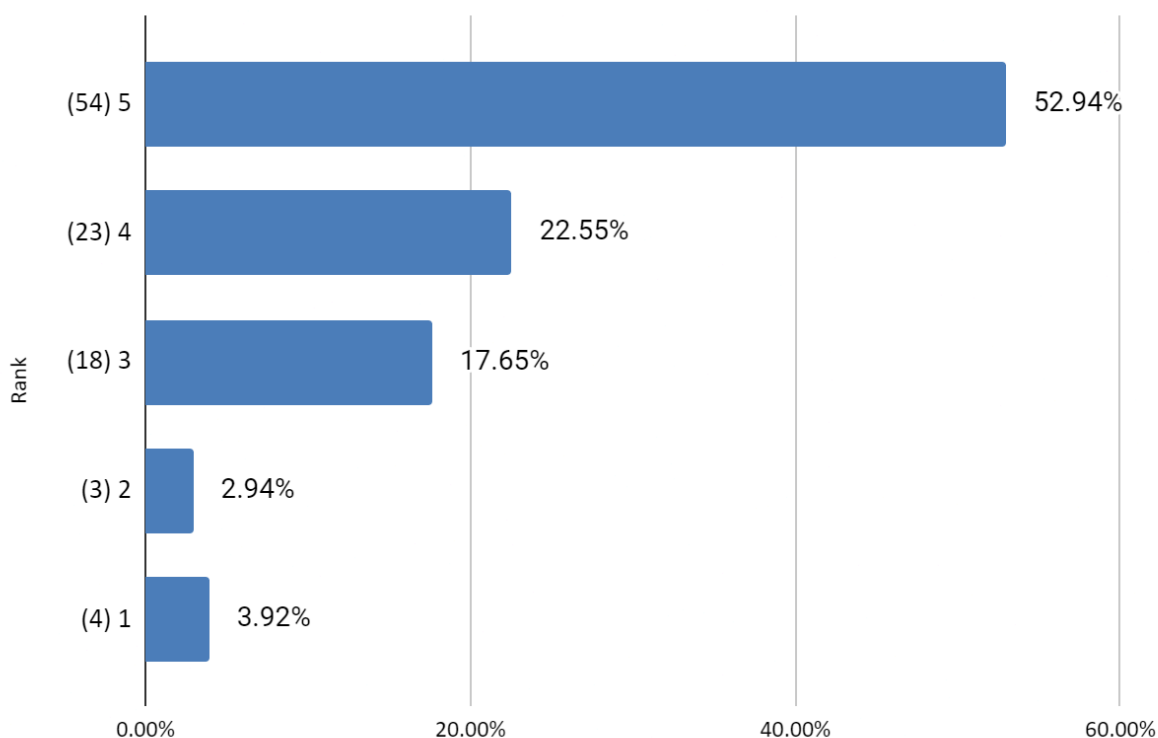
Only 2 (1.96%) respondents did not (strongly) agree that all residents should be able to recognise whether a relationship is abusive or unhealthy, 100 (98.04%) of respondents felt this was (very) important.

2.3 People in unhealthy or risky sexual relationships should be appropriately supported
Equally, a very large majority (99, 97.06%) of respondents agreed it was (very) important that people in unhealthy or risky sexual relationships should be appropriately supported.

2.4 Reproductive health and wellbeing is just as important as preventing and treating STIs

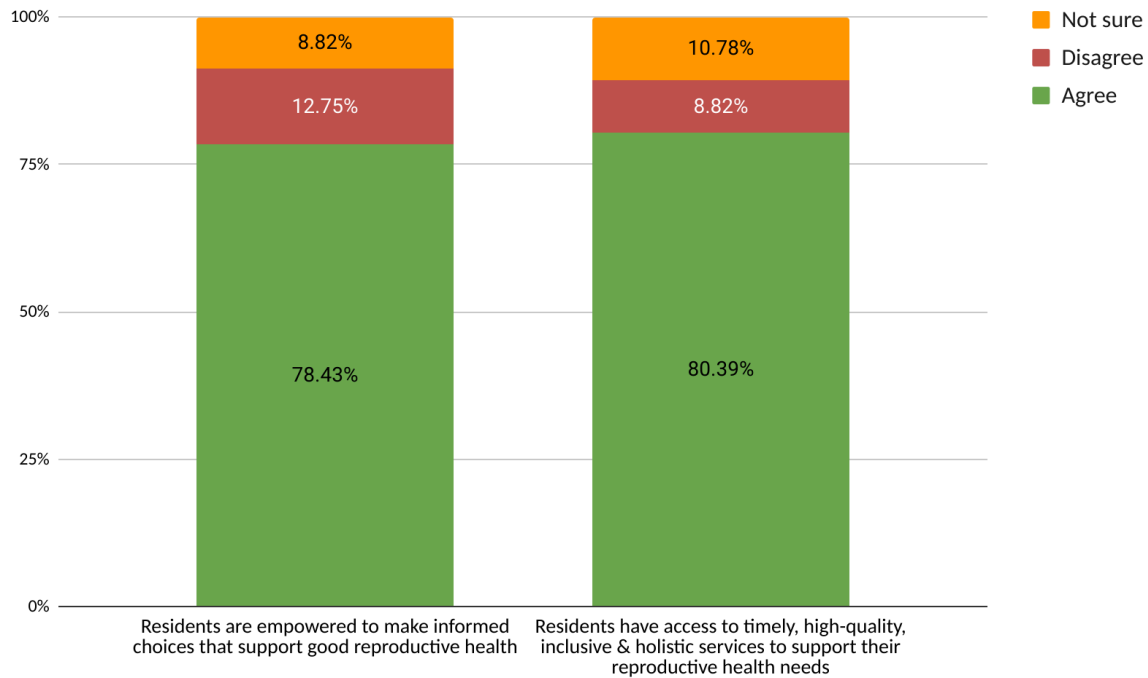
This aim also had strong agreement from 95 (93.14%) respondents, with 6 (5.88%) not agreeing.

Question 3: (Priority 2) Residents of City of London & Hackney have good reproductive health across the life course. (Base 102)



For the proposed priority of all residents having good reproductive health across the life course, 54 (52.94%) respondents ranked it as being of the highest importance, while 18 (17.65%) respondents were neutral, and 4 (3.92%) respondents ranked it as being of the lowest importance.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following aims we have identified for this priority? (Base 102 across each statement)



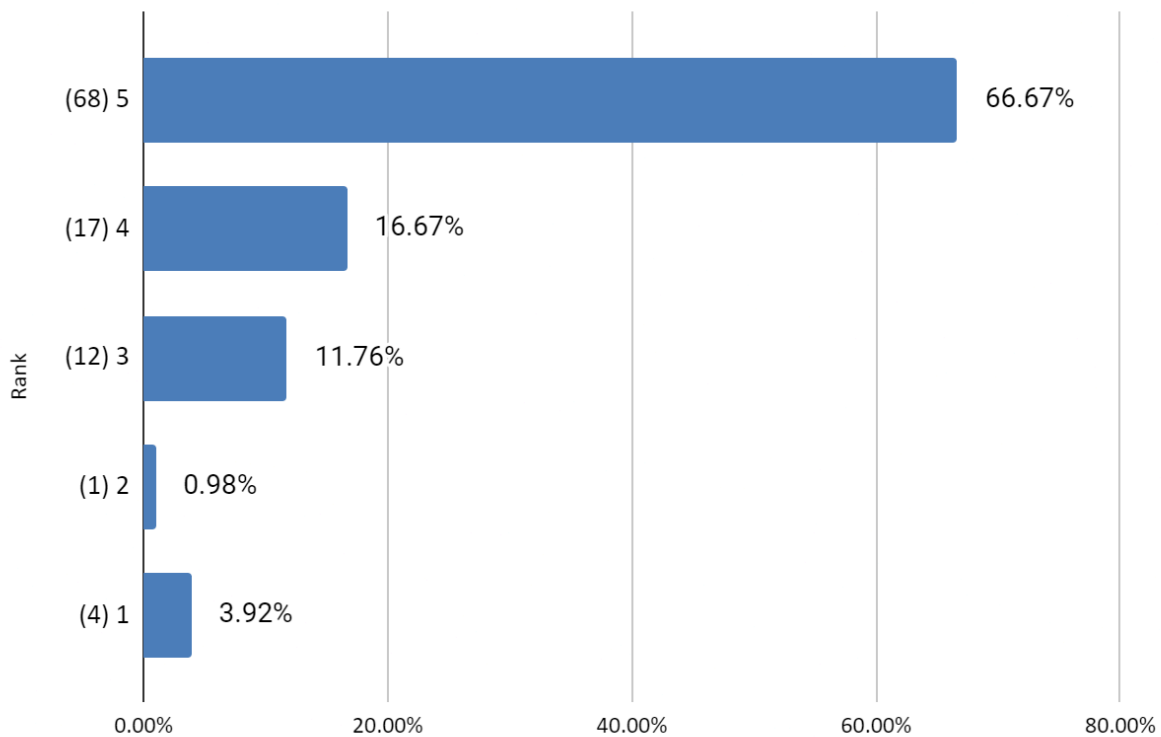
3.1 Residents are empowered to make informed choices that support good reproductive health

80 (78.43%) respondents agreed this was important but 13 (12.7%) (strongly) disagreed with this aim, which is a sizable minority.

3.2 Residents have access to timely, high-quality, inclusive & holistic services to support their reproductive health needs

82 (80.39%) respondents stated their (strong) agreement with this statement, but 9 (8.82%) (strongly) disagreed.

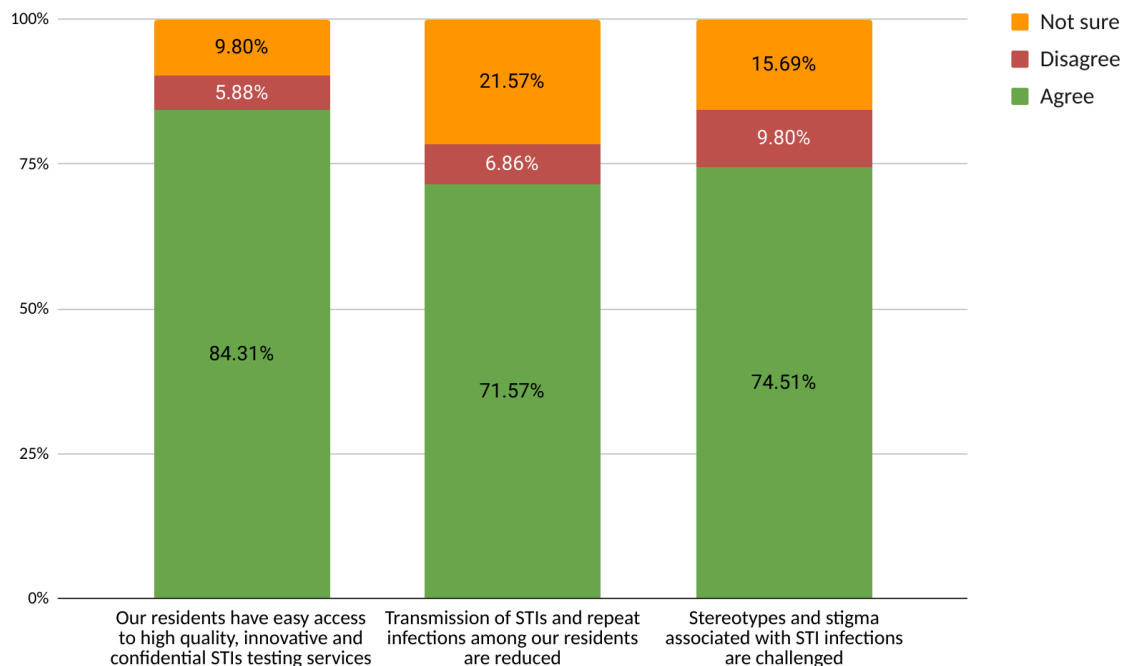
Question 4: (Priority 3): Residents of City of London & Hackney have access to high quality and innovative testing and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). (Base 102)



For the key priorities, respondents were asked to rank them from 1 to 5, with 1 being lowest importance to five being highest importance.

68 (66.67%) respondents ranked this priority as being of high importance, 12 (11.76%) respondents were neutral, and 4 (3.92%) respondents ranked it as low importance.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following aims we have identified for this priority? (Base 102 across each statement)



4.1 Our residents have easy access to high quality, innovative and confidential STIs testing services

86 (84.31%) respondents (strongly) agreed with this aim and 6 (5.88%) respondents (strongly) disagreed, while 10 (9.80%) were not sure.

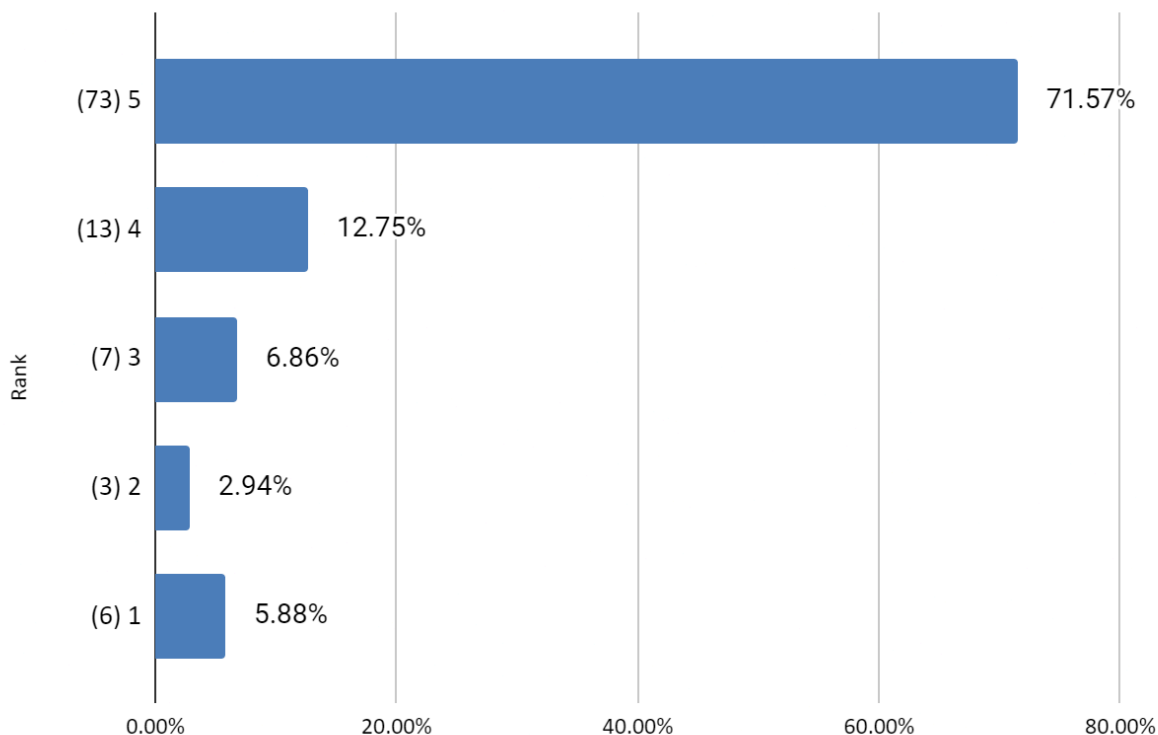
4.2 Transmission of STIs and repeat infections among our residents are reduced

73 (71.57%) respondents (strongly) agreed with this aim, while 7 (6.86%) did not agree.

4.3 Stereotypes and stigma associated with STI infections are challenged

76 (74.51%) of respondents agreed this was important, 10 (9.80%) did not think this was important and 16 (15.69%) were not sure.

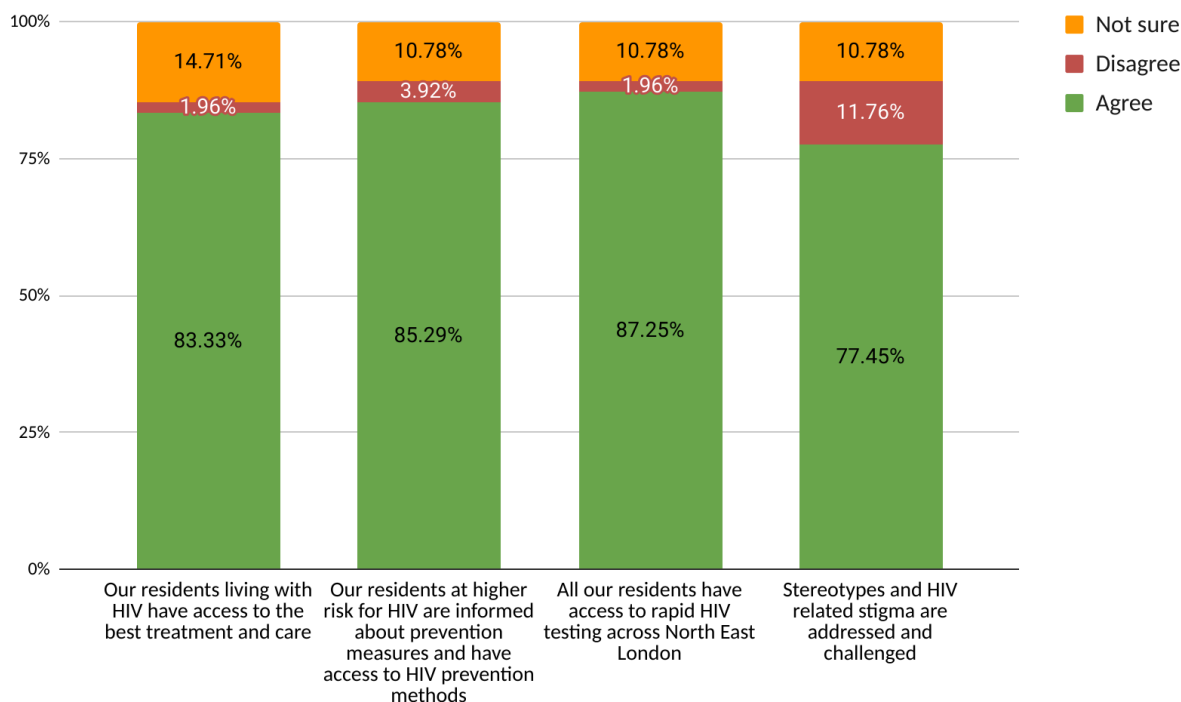
Question 5 (Priority 4): Towards Zero - there will be no new HIV infections in the City of London & Hackney by 2030 (Base 102)



For the key priority questions, respondents were asked to rank them from 1 to 5, with 1 being lowest importance to five being highest importance.

73 (71.57%) respondents ranked the priority of achieving zero new HIV infections as being of the highest importance, while 7 (6.86%) respondents were neutral, and 6 (5.88%) respondents ranked it as the lowest importance.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following aims we have identified for this priority? (Base 102 across each statement)



5.1 Our residents living with HIV have access to the best treatment and care

85 (83.33%) respondents (strongly) agreed that people living with HIV should have access to the best treatment and care. 2 (1.96%) respondents (strongly) disagreed, while 15 (14.71%) were not sure.

5.2 Our residents at higher risk for HIV are informed about prevention measures and have access to HIV prevention methods

Similar to the previous findings, 87 (84.31%) respondents (strongly) agreed on the importance of information about and access to HIV prevention measures for people at higher risk of HIV. 4(3.92%) respondents (strongly) disagreed, while 11 (10.78%) were not sure.

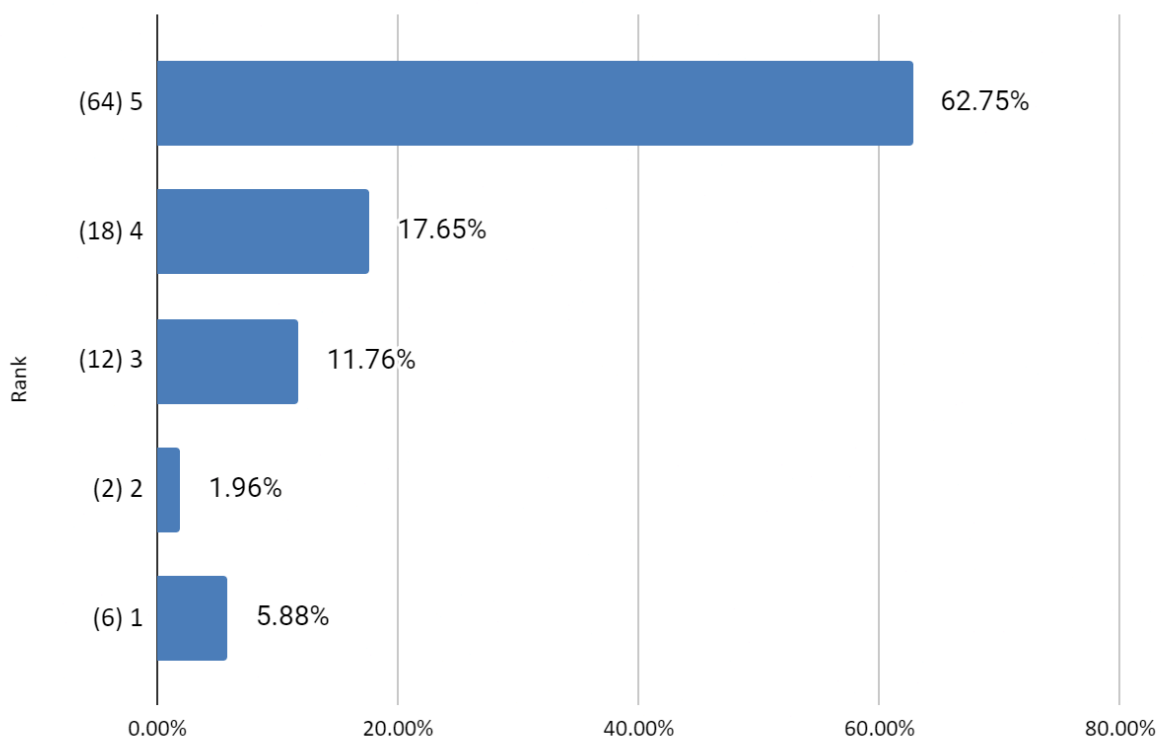
5.3 All our residents have access to rapid HIV testing across North East London

Access to rapid testing was viewed as (very) important by 89 (87.25%) respondents, 2 (1.96%) respondents (strongly) disagreed, while 11 (10.78%) were not sure.

5.4 Stereotypes and HIV related stigma are addressed and challenged

Again when interpreting the responses, the answers in this section give the impression that people answered based on their perception of the current situation, rather than as an aim to work towards: 79 (77.45%) respondents (strongly) agreed with this aim and 12 (11.76%) respondents (strongly) disagreed, while 10 (9.80%) were not sure.

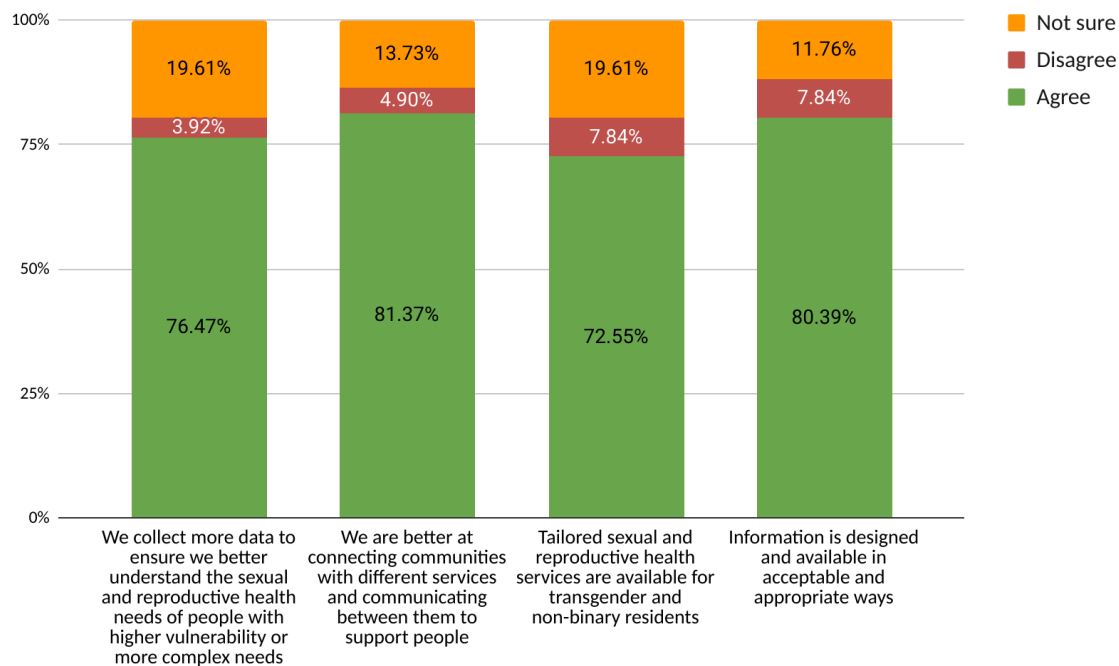
Question 6: (Priority 5): The sexual and reproductive health needs of vulnerable people and people with complex needs are recognised and met within the overall service provision



For the key priority questions, respondents were asked to rank them from 1 to 5, with 1 being lowest importance to five being highest importance.

64 (62.75%) respondents ranked this priority as being of the highest importance, while 12 (11.76%) respondents were neutral, and 6 (5.88%) respondents ranked it as the lowest importance.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following aims we have identified for this priority? (Base 102 across each statement)



6.1 We collect more data to ensure we better understand the sexual and reproductive health needs of people with higher vulnerability or more complex needs

78 (76.47%) respondents (strongly) agreed with this aim and 4(3.92%) respondents (strongly) disagreed, while 20 (19.61%) were not sure.

6.2 We are better at connecting communities with different services and communicating between them to support people

83 (81.37%) respondents (strongly) agreed with this aim and 5 (4.90%) respondents (strongly) disagreed, while 14 (13.73%) were not sure.

6.3 Tailored sexual and reproductive health services are available for transgender and non-binary residents

74 (72.55%) respondents (strongly) agreed with this aim and 8 (7.84%) respondents (strongly) disagreed, while 20 (19.61%) were not sure.

6.4 Information is designed and available in acceptable and appropriate ways

82 (80.39%) respondents (strongly) agreed with this aim and 8 (7.84%) respondents (strongly) disagreed, while 12 (11.76%) were not sure.

Qualitative insights

People were also asked a number of open-ended questions to gather some qualitative insights. The answers to these questions were grouped according to themes that were identified in the answers.

Question 7.1: Have we missed anything? Please outline in the text box below any additional priorities you think we should consider for the sexual and reproductive health strategy.

Forty people (39% of all respondents) answered this question, and the variety of the suggestions and comments was wide. There were 12 responses that related to PSHE and RSE in school, with five asking explicitly for it to be open, inclusive and comprehensive. One other respondent was very adamant that gender ideology is taught in RSE and that the focus should be on biological sex, which cannot be changed. Overall, comments related to trans persons were polarised. For example, one comment specifically asked for SRH services to be actively countering disinformation about trans, and to stop online hatred. In total, five respondents mentioned trans persons or services in their answer - two of them were supportive, one was neutral and two were anti-trans. Four of the five were City or Hackney residents and one (anti-trans response) answered the survey as 'in another professional capacity', which they had specified as taxpayer. Some of their full comments have been included in a text box below.

A range of answers related to people's own experiences in some area of SRH, either testing or removal or coils, or access to services. HIV related work and stigma was mentioned, in terms of training of all healthcare staff and testing for HIV of all health care users. The importance of working with Community based and Voluntary Services organisations (CVS) was also raised, as well as free condoms for all, accessibility of services for people with disabilities, the needs of intersex people, and appropriate support for survivors of rape and sexual assault.

Suggestion	Number
PSHE/SRE including outreach services/funding	7
SRE for all YP, inclusive and comprehensive (reflecting variety of family models, sexual orientation etc.)	5

SRH campaign at community level/work with CVS	2
Condoms for all	2

Verbatim comments question 7.1

All residents need to be able to access appropriate, free, reproductive health services regardless of immigration status. This must include access to fertility, abortion and maternity services.

Sex and relationship education in schools needs to be reflective of the range of different family models and sexualities within Hackney's population. Young people should be given information about a range of services, including sexual health and abortion services.

Helping rape / sexual abused victims appropriately.

Please ensure that men who have sex with men and who engage in Chemsex have access to high quality help and support

Crucial to put the strategy in the context of the importance of good stable relationships particularly marriage and family. Crucial also not to encourage children in any way to be sexually active or expose children to unhelpfully sexualised material.

Education at school- sexual education in all its diversity esp in LBH where STI's amongst 18-25 yo are very high!

I know this will have been considered already, but the vital importance of ensuring that age-appropriate sex and sexual health education happens in all schools and colleges across City & Hackney cannot be stressed enough. I hope this will play a large part in your strategy. There needs also to be consideration given to how to reassure those parents who resist this to understand, overcome their reservations and fears and see the benefits. Many children are excluded from sex education classes because their parents don't want them to take part. We need to respect parental wishes, of course - but it is nevertheless worrying that a whole section of our young population may never hear factual information that they need. How can the new strategy address this?

"I'm extremely concerned about aspects of the sexual health and relationships advice being delivered in many Hackney schools at all levels. The notion that 'gender identity' is real and is more significant than biological sex is a travesty. Teaching that sex is 'assigned at birth' rather than a biological reality is actively lying to children and the notion that they may decide they are really the

I am concerned about the misinformation and prejudice spread about non-binary and transgender issues on social media. I think it has become a kind of cyber war of misinformation where otherwise usually discerning and intelligent [people] are groomed to believe that transgenderism is the new thing to fight against, despite the consequences of their actions

other sex, 'social transitioning', is highly dangerous. No one is 'born in the wrong body' and to suggest that is highly damaging and should be a high-profile safeguarding issue. It supports young people onto a pathway that can lead to a lifetime of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormone treatment as well as potentially devastating surgery. This is highly lucrative for some drug companies and certain medics, which may well explain the powerful lobby funding. In addition, the rigid notions of gender role-stereotypes that underlie extreme trans ideology make it much harder for young people to come out as lesbian or gay - this identity is suppressed by the notion that non-conformity equates to being born in the wrong body.

Of course, it's also vitally important that young people who identify as trans are not subjected to any harassment or discrimination - but that does not mean we have to accept their notion that they are really the other sex (or can flow between the two sexes).

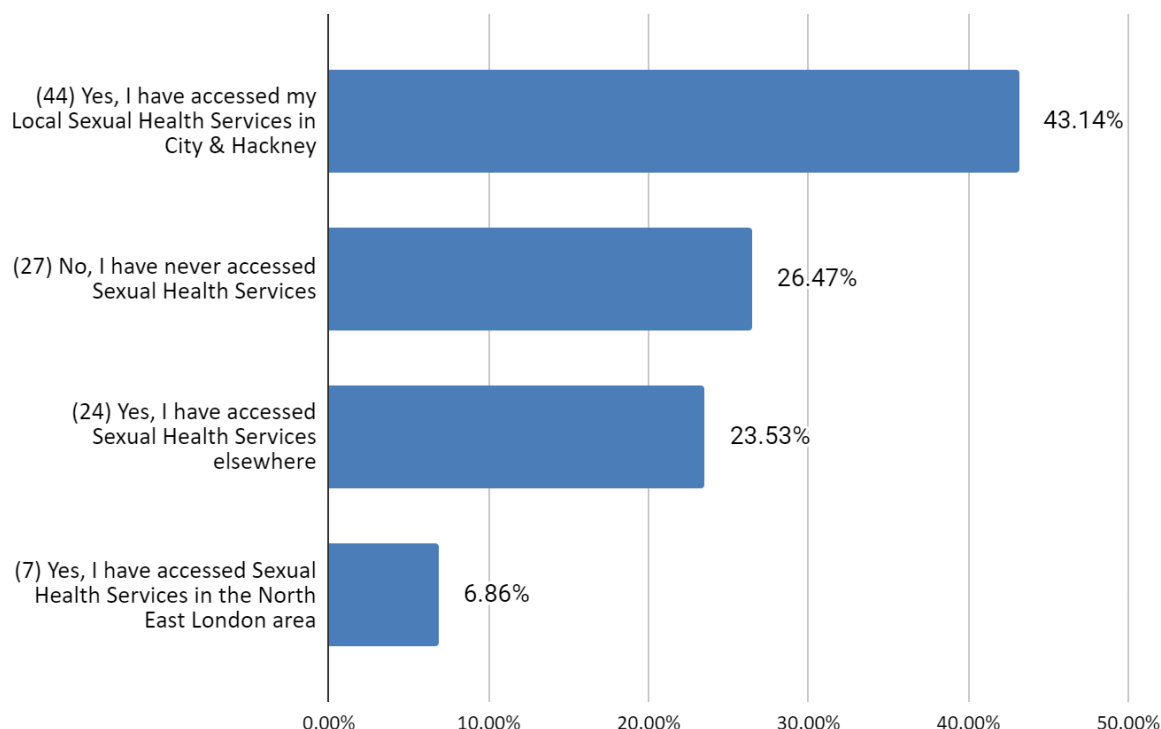
We know that teaching of gender ideology is very prevalent in schools in Hackney, and that much of it is being delivered by external organisations using non-scientific and highly questionable resources. This issue needs to be treated as a safeguarding issue and given very high priority in schools and all services for young people. I'm very concerned that it has been omitted from this questionnaire.

affecting them very little, and the people they are fighting against rather a lot. I would like this to be something that is considered within the service: how will you help turn the tide against this social media driven movement of disinformation and hate directed towards this vulnerable minority of people, particularly young people?

A full list of issues/themes can be found in the appendix.

Question 7.2: Have you ever accessed Sexual Health Services?

This question was useful to see how many of the respondents had actually used our local or other SH services, and quite interestingly, more than a quarter of respondents had *never* accessed sexual health services. Around 43% had accessed SH services within C&H, around 7% had accessed them within NEL and almost a quarter elsewhere. This highlights the open access nature of SH services, and also that views on sexual and reproductive health are relevant to all, not just those who attend and use services.



If people answered yes to having accessed SH services, they were then asked:

Question 7.3 What do you think works well in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Provision that you received?

A total of 74 respondents (73% of all respondents) provided some feedback, though in 17 cases there were inconclusive replies such as not sure or can't remember, or listing a bad experience, while two of those stated they did not think services worked well.

Among the other replies, many mentioned multiple qualities, such as the service being fast, the staff being friendly and/or professional, and the fact that multiple services can be accessed in one place (e.g. testing as well as contraception or cervical

smear). Over a quarter (27%) of people providing feedback committed on the friendly and professional service or staff, and 15% mentioned the services felt safe and/or non-judgemental: *Culturally competent services that are free from judgement and stigma.*

Quality	Number of replies
Friendly/professional service/staff	20
Non judgemental/safe	11
Easy/accessible	8
Online/SHL	8
Fast and effective (tests, services)	9
Confidential/private	7
Timely appointments/easy to book	6
Walk in service (plus: combined walk in and appointments)	5 (2)
Education/advice/info	5

Other comments included: free; choice; good quality of care; LGBTQ+ friendly; culturally competent; one stop shop. A few direct quotes on what works well are posted in the box below for illustration.

Verbatim comments question 7.3

Easy to check in at Reception. Short waiting time. Kind, friendly and reassuring health professionals.

Facilities are available but there is a need for campaigns and sensitization

The staff were great. Supportive and non-judgemental. The biggest hurdle was easily finding clinics that were available and getting seen.

Easy access with online booking and information. Safe and no judgemental sex positive space, tailored care for LGBT+ sexual health away from imposition of religious or straight oppression/frameworks.

Time is given during the appointments to explore current concerns and provide relevant options and advice.

Question 7.4 Is there anything that could be improved in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Provision that you received?

A total of 75 people (74%) provided a response here, though again, many (27, or 36%) did not give any actual feedback, stating n/a, no, or that they had no issues with the service. Some made mention of their positive experience with the Dean Street clinic.

As with the previous question about what worked well, many people provided an example of a personal experience that had been negative, and then advocated for a service or intervention to be introduced or done better (e.g. no penile swabs, get reminder when coil needs replacing, painful to take bloods for self test, inclusion of non-latex condoms).

Often a recommendation was made to seek the betterment of the entire service delivery. Some examples:

- Better treatment for excessive/constant bleeding
- Staff training on gender diversity/LGBTQ
- Joined up services across London - a single website/app where you can access information about STIs, contraception and services; a single point of access for appointments for sexual health services across London
- Test results available in a phone app
- Tailored information for your condition provided through an app
- Joined up ways of informing partners and letting them access appointments
- A mixture of walk-in and appointment services
- Offer of vaccines to heterosexual people (HPV, Hep)

The issues most mentioned as needing improvement are listed in the table below.

Issue	Replies
Access/getting appointments	15
Waiting times	5
Better info provision on clinics/opening times	4
Free condoms for all	4

This shows that access remains a key issue, as raised by 20% of the respondents for this question.

A few direct quotes in the box below, on what can be improved:

Verbatim comments question 7.4

Free condoms for all ages

More and better located physical premises with longer hours of operation shorter wait times more walk in slots 7 days a week

Gender sensitive and inclusive care

Clear path for moving from another area or London borough into the borough re. Sexual health services, especially if you have an ongoing case or condition, eg. How is handover of your file handled and communicated to you?

Maybe longer hours and or more clinics - especially for 'minority groups'

People who answered they had not accessed SH services were asked:

Question 7.5 What stopped you from accessing Sexual Health Services?

In total, 56 people provided some form of answer to this question (55%). The majority (26 out of 56; 46%) stated nothing or they had not needed to use it. Some did add comments to qualify those statements, such as 'not needed because I protect myself', or saying they are 'Confident of leading a good sexual lifestyle absolutely devoid of risks'. Such statements can suggest a level of judgement of those who do use sexual health services. On the more extreme side, some statements were disparaging of people identifying as trans.

Access issues were a factor in 15 of the answers (27% of people who answered this question), mostly to do with making an appointment or opening times. Distance and age restrictions were also mentioned. Staff attitudes and feeling judged can work as a deterrent. In other cases, GPs provided the service.

Issue	Replies
Lack of or difficulty in making appointments	6
Opening times	4
Don't know where to go or where the services are	4
Seen/supported by GP	4
Staff attitude/rudeness	3
Feeling judged/uncomfortable	3

A few comments on what stopped people from accessing sexual health services are included in the box below.

Verbatim comments question 7.5

Lack of appointment availability

Age restrictions on clinics, clinics far-away or no appointments.

I have not yet had any issue in relation to sexual health

Having to wait too long

Not knowing it's there

I didn't have because I was always careful

But I scared for my children because

Now life is very hard

And very sensitive

I don't want nothing happen to my children

I try to teach them every day

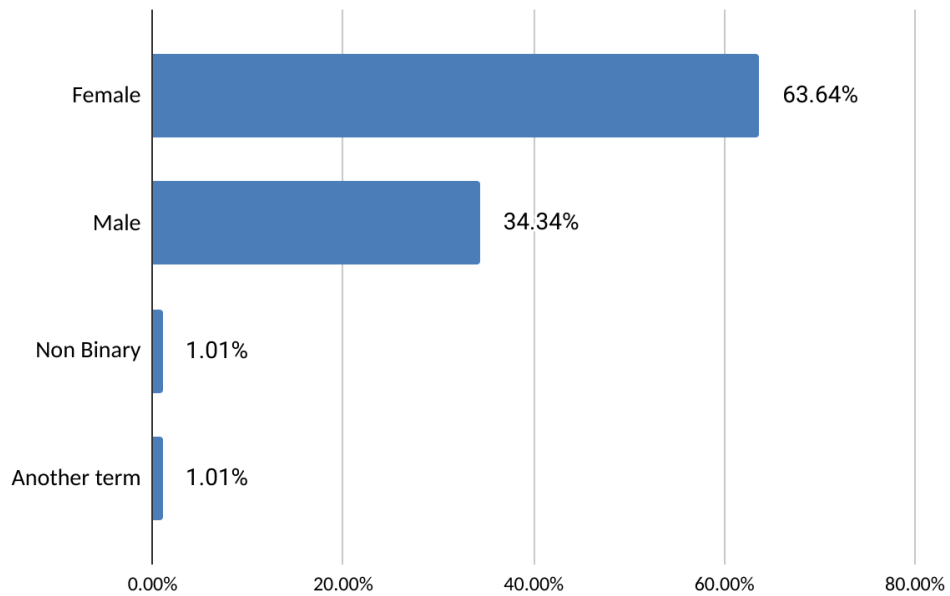
But I don't trust strangers ore who is behind the corner

Lack of confidence about how I would be treated. I got over it and used them but I did find it hard and I worried a lot.

Demographic information (online survey respondents)

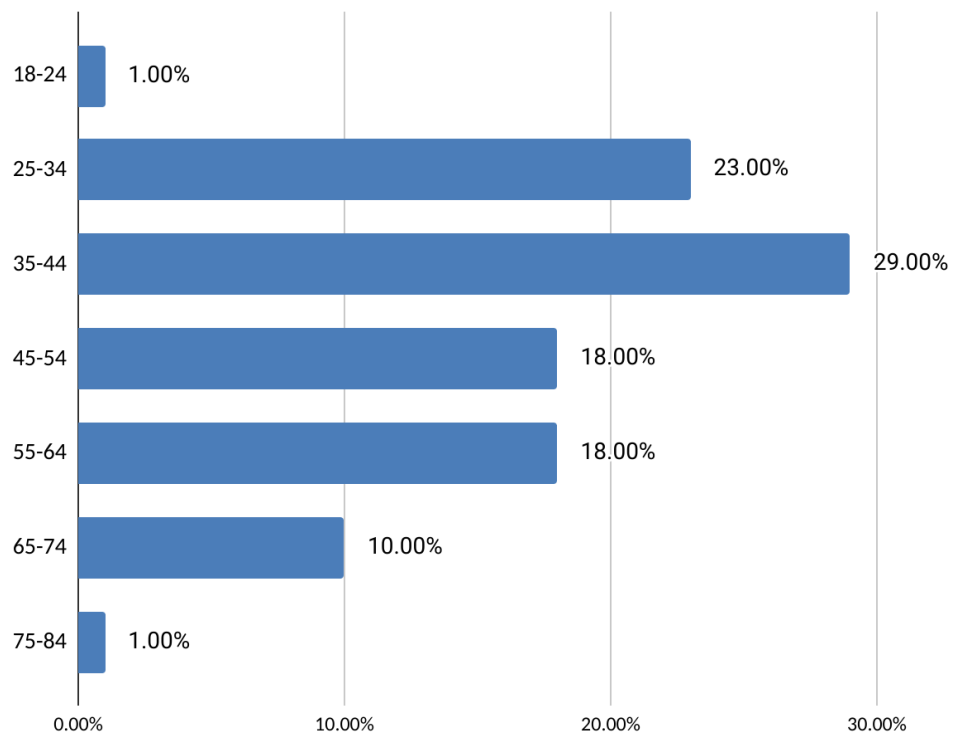
Demographic information on the online survey respondents (102).

Gender



The majority of respondents stated that they were female (63), followed by male (34), another term (1) and non-binary (1)

Age group: Are you... (Base 100)



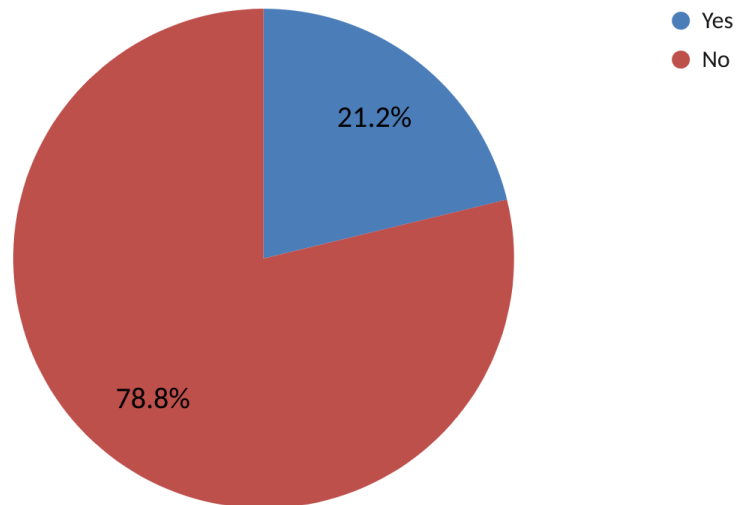
The age group with the highest number of respondents was 35-44 (29), closely

followed by 65-74 (7), 45-54 and 25-34 (4 each), 55-64 (3) and 75-84 (1).

In terms of age, only one young person 24 or under (1%) completed the survey, while 28% of respondents were aged 35-44, with 46% aged 45 or older. Overall, a mature audience that does not fully reflect the demographic make-up of City and Hackney.

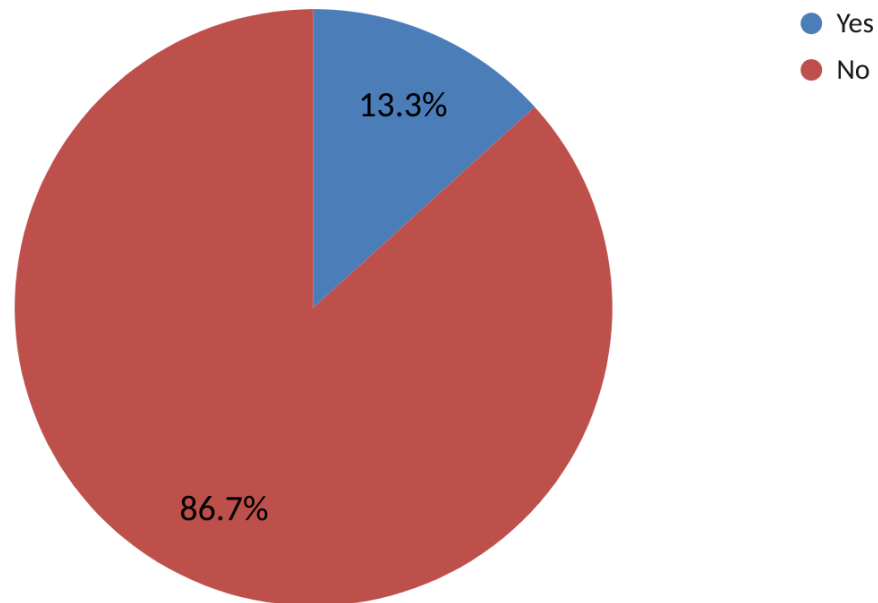
Disability

(Base 99)



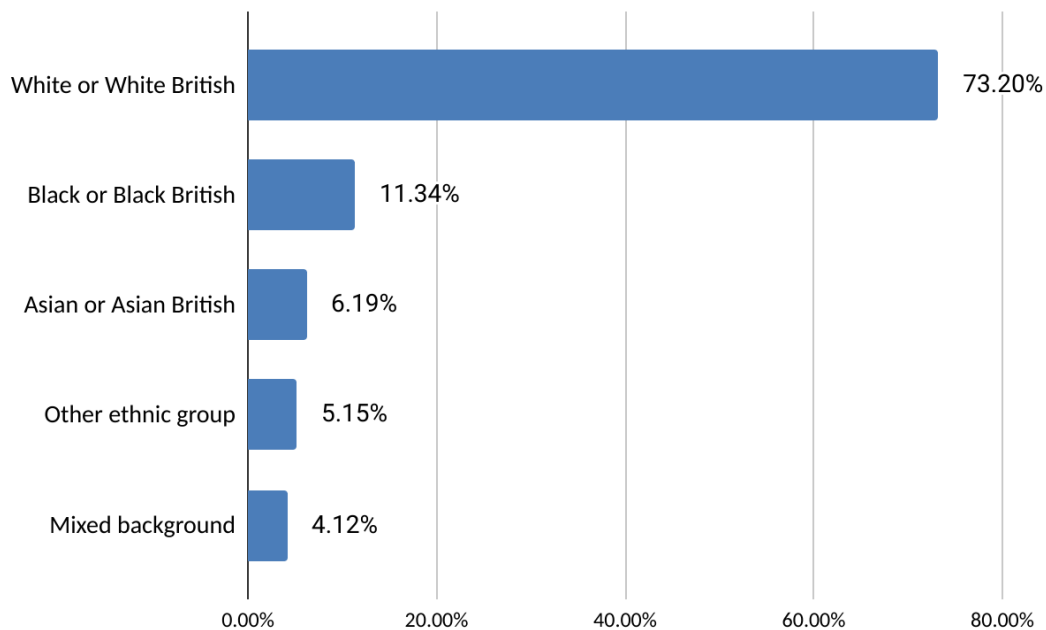
The majority of respondents stated that they did not have a disability (78), with 21 respondents stating that they do. That represents 20.6% of this sample, or one in five respondents.

Caring responsibilities (Base 98)



The majority of respondents stated that they did not have a caring responsibility (85), with 13 respondents stating that they do. This represents almost 13% of the respondents or about one in eight.

Ethnicity (Base 97)



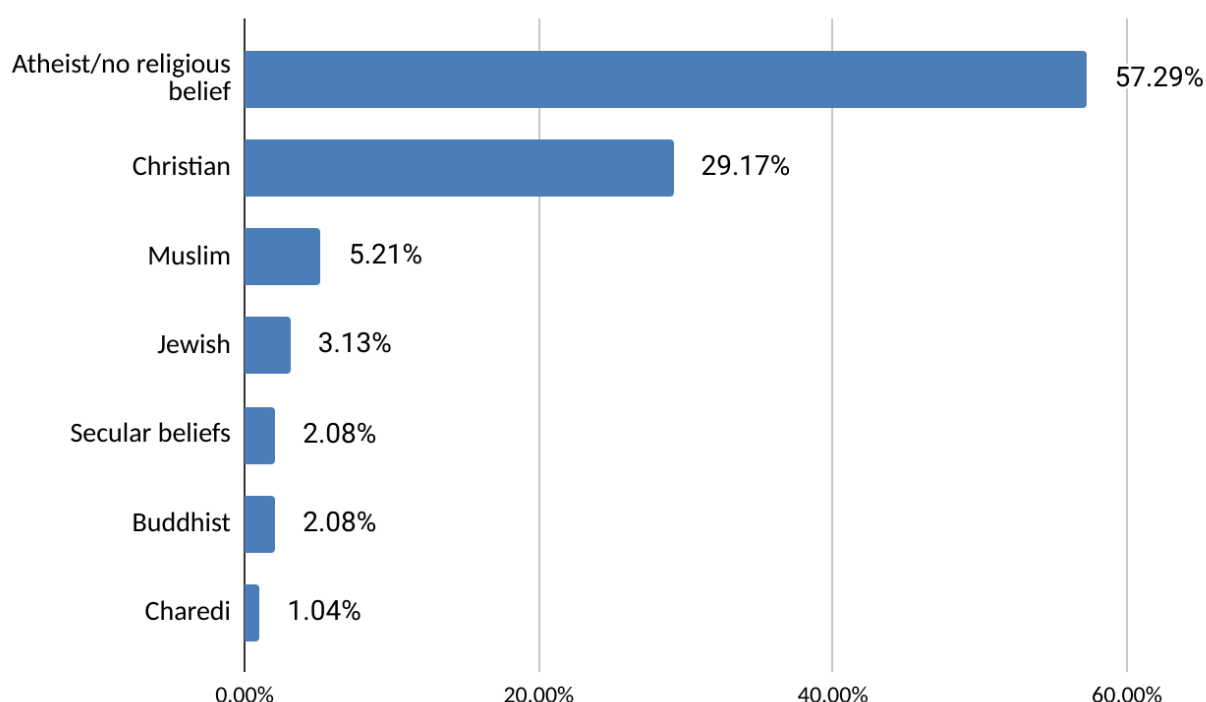
The majority of respondents stated that they were white or white British (71

respondents, or almost 70%). All others accounted for a much smaller number. For example, 11 respondents (11%) stated they were Black or Black British and six stated they were Asian (6%). The demographic makeup of Hackney is 57% white or white British, 20% Black or Black British and 10% Asian, for example, so the survey respondents don't reflect the population's makeup, with white people over-represented. That said, respondents are from both City and Hackney and City has a 69% white population, with 13% Asian and 4% Black residents.

No postcode data was recorded so it is not known what the distribution between City and Hackney residents was.

Religion

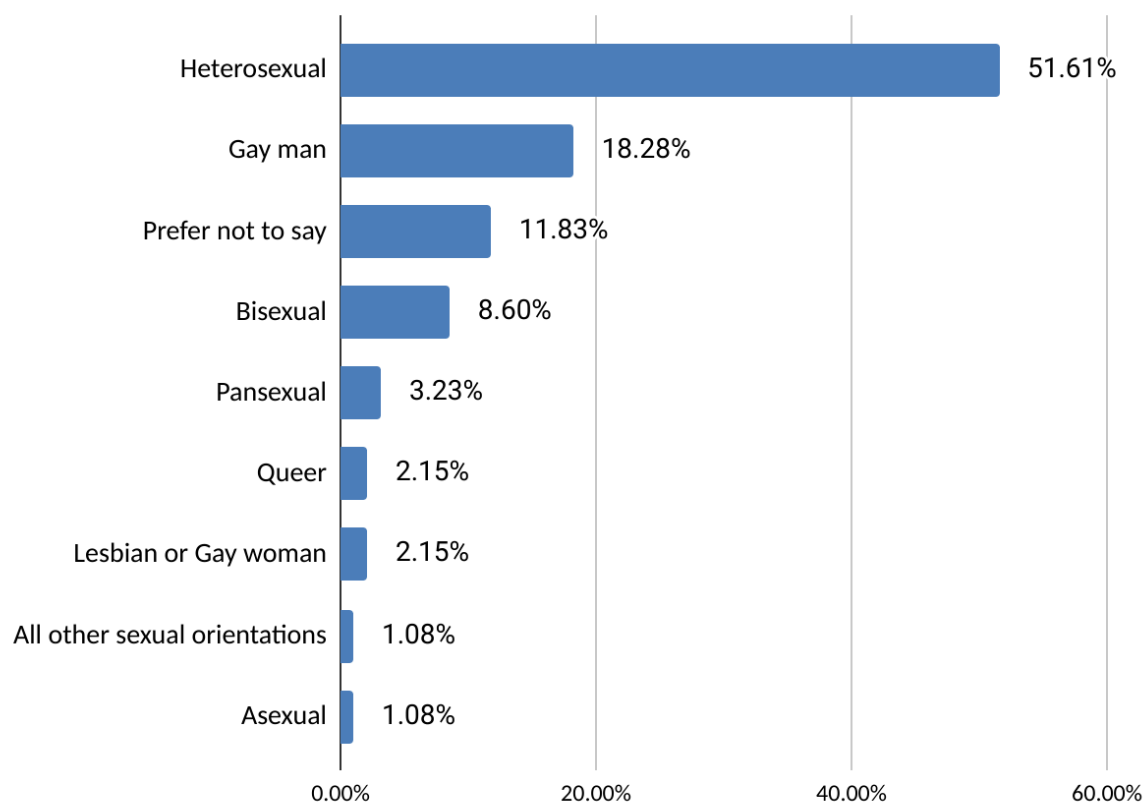
(Base 96)



The majority of respondents stated that they were Atheist/no religious belief (55), followed by Christian (28). Five people stated they were Muslim (5). Fewer than five people stated they were Buddhist, Jewish and/or Charedi.

Sexual orientation

(Base 102)



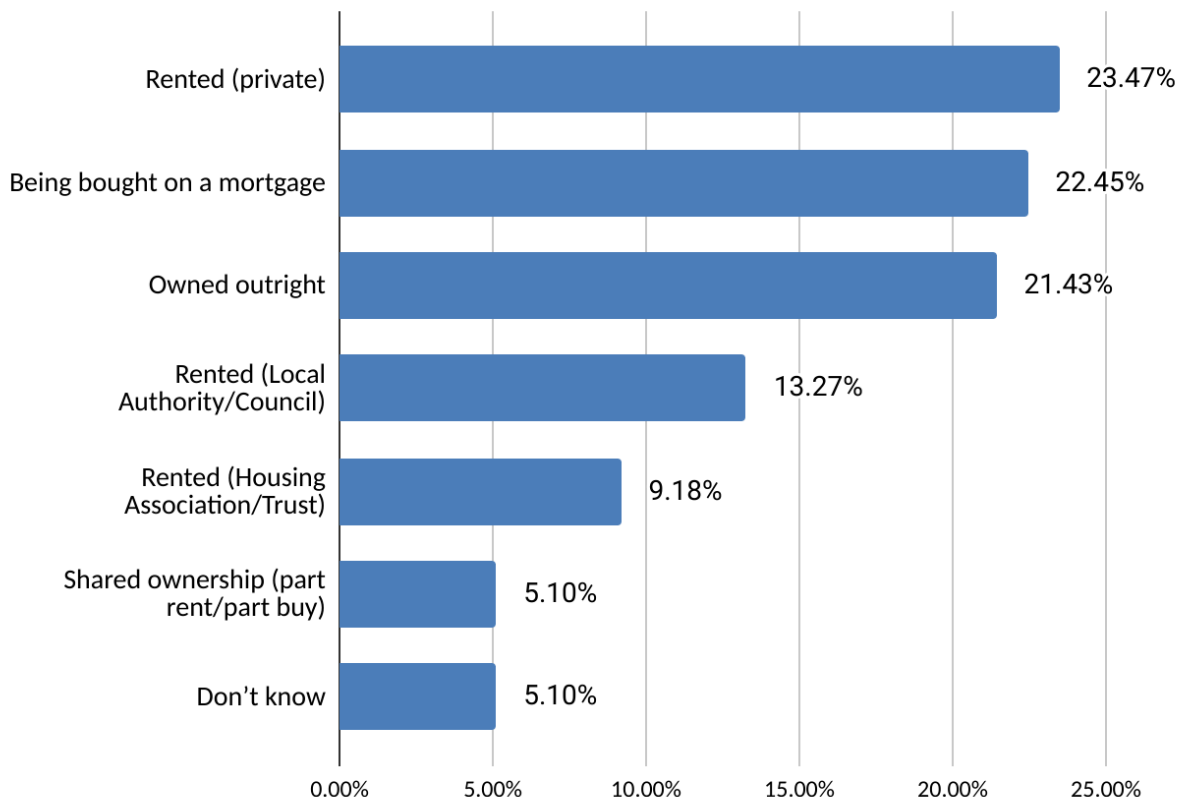
The majority of respondents stated that they were Heterosexual (48), with all others accounting for much smaller numbers.

Even though the majority described themselves as heterosexual, this was less than 50% of all respondents, with gay men making up 16.7% of respondents and 7.8% bisexual. This means together, LGBTQ+ representation made up 33.3% of respondents.

Still, 11 people (10.8%) preferred not to state their sexual orientation and nine people did not answer the question (8.8%).

Even though City & Hackney have a relatively high proportion of the population that identify as LGBTQ+, this is an overrepresentation. This could indicate that many LGBTQ+ people feel very strongly about sexual health and want their voices to be heard, or the focus of the promotion of the survey was in some way skewed towards LGBTQ+ audiences, for instance it may have been amplified through LGBTQ+ networks.

Housing Tenure (Base 98)



The tenure with the highest number of respondents was those who rent privately (23), followed closely by those who are buying on a mortgage (22) and Owned outright (21). Other respondents are renting from the Council (13), a Housing Association/Trust (9). Shared Ownership and don't know (5 each).

Easy Read survey

An image-based Easy Read survey was made available for people with learning disabilities or others who preferred this over a fully word-based survey. A total of 13 responses were collected. The findings are reflected in this section. The questions were in essence the same as in the online survey but the wording had been adapted, while every tick box question had an option for someone to make additional comments. Respondents made use of this option frequently, and their views largely support the views expressed in the online survey.

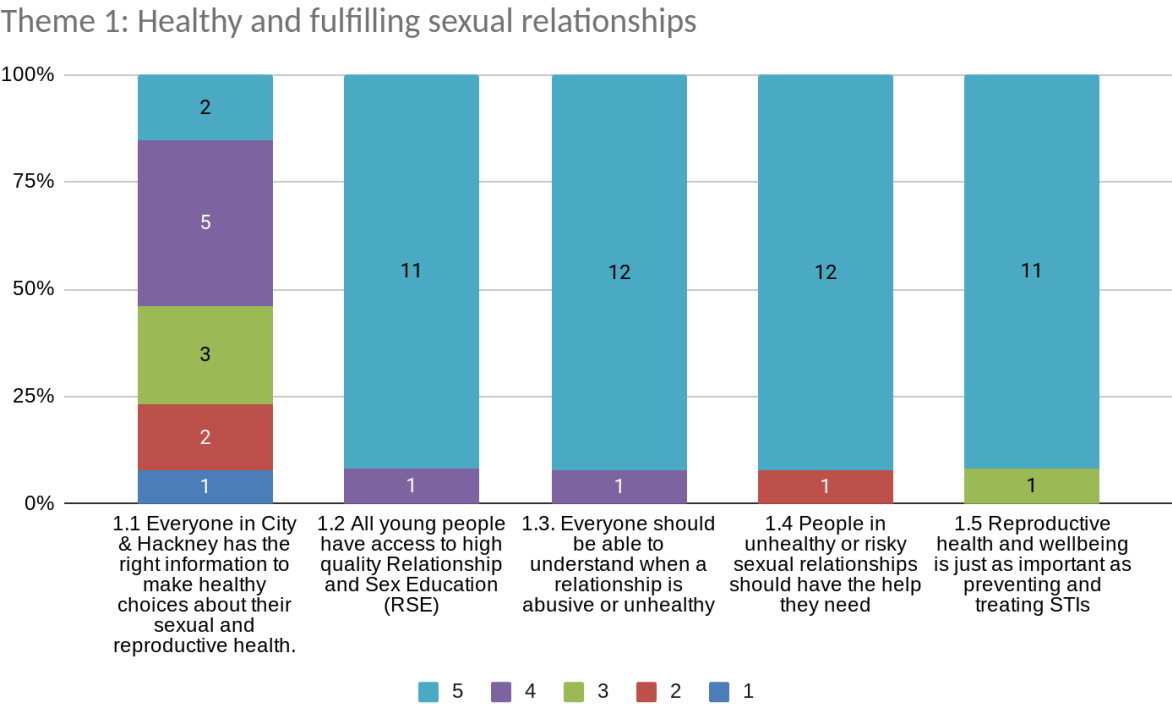
The issue of how questions were framed and interpreted - as a statement of an ideal to be reached or as a reflection of the current situation- was probably more challenging. It is a lesson learnt for future consultations.

Theme 1: Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships

The first set of questions related to theme 1, about healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships. There was very strong agreement on most of these, as per the chart below, except the one about people having the right information. To illustrate the answers, some comments from respondents have been included. Any direct comments have been copied without editing.

The scoring was as follows:

Scoring: Agree a lot=5 Agree a little=4 Don't know=3 Disagree a little=2 Disagree a lot=1



1.1 Everyone in City & Hackney has the right information to make healthy choices about their sexual and reproductive health.

Respondents had very mixed views on this and provided the following feedback, which are similar to comments made in the qualitative section of the online survey. (comments have been copied without editing):

- There should be an app that we can download and be able to go onto and look at our own records and if needed be able to speak to someone face time, if your not sure (about something)?!
- Not everyone knows about their sexual health and don't make healthy choices

- Some people don't have access to online information
- There is a good bit of info if your registered with a GP especially its available in different languages
- They have the information they just don't use it
- I'm not sure if everyone knows there are condoms available within Young Hackney

1.2 All young people have access to high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

This was deemed very important by most.

- Young people should be aware of the problems that come with unsafe sex and about safe sex to!
- Too much domestic violence. Women being killed
- I think teenage boys should know more about the impact of relationships and sexual health
- Schools are talking about it now!
- Sexual health clinics should be in schools or advice about it in schools
- So they can make the right choices

1.3. Everyone should be able to understand when a relationship is abusive or unhealthy

This aim also had very strong agreement, and respondents held very pertinent views.

- It not always obvious if it is going to be an unhappy or an abusive relationship until your halfway through or it might not show at all
- Women being killed every day
- More should be done with young people in education to be able to recognise unhealthy relationships
- People should be able to recognise the red lights, alarm and not think that someone is beating me because they love me. Recognise the alarm bells.
- It has to be taught from a young age what you should not be tolerated. Anyone abusing should be charged right away.

1.4 People in unhealthy or risky sexual relationships should have the help they need

Respondents had observations around holistic support, and that accessing services is not always easy for people.

- From police, hospitals, prisons, probation and services that can help like housing
- More money should be put into young people services to support this work
- I think that people feel uncomfortable talking to professionals
- So that people won't experience trauma as much

1.5 Reproductive health and wellbeing is just as important as preventing and treating STIs

This aim also had strong agreement from respondents.

- People need to understand more about their bodies
- Preventing STIs should include understanding of abusive relationships/coercion/control in sexual relationships

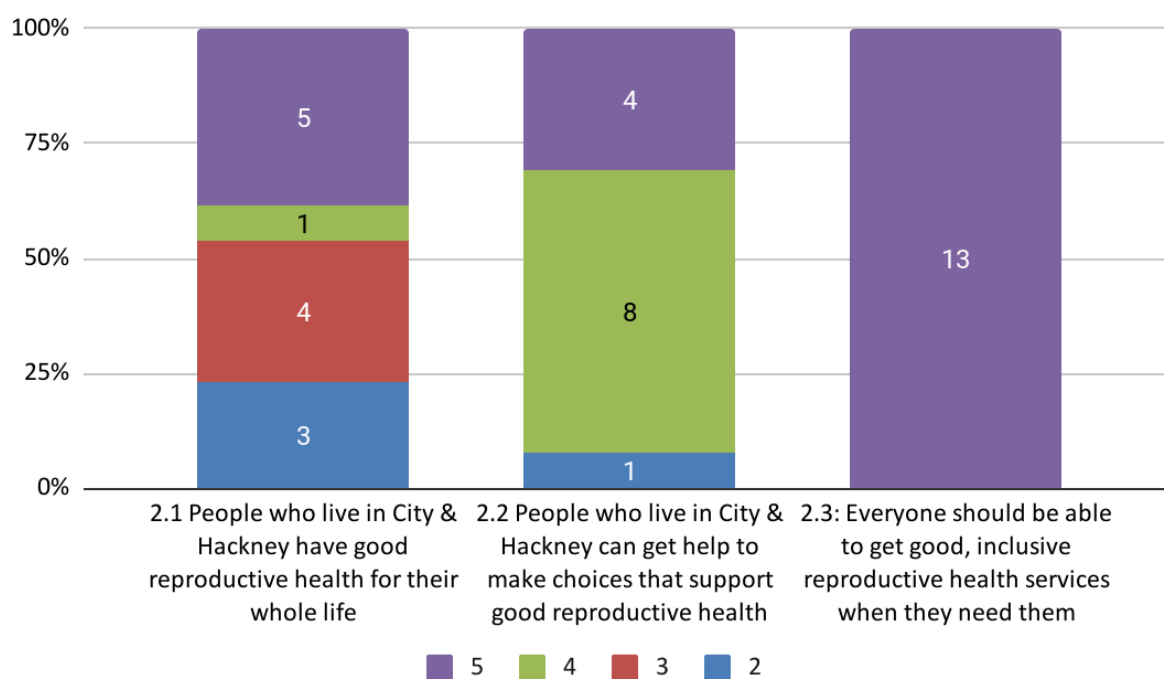
Theme 2: Good reproductive health for your whole life

The scoring was as follows:

Scoring: Agree a lot=5 Agree a little=4 Don't know=3 Disagree a little=2 Disagree a lot=1

Clearly, the respondents were of the same mind in saying that everyone *should* be able to get good, inclusive reproductive health services when they need them. The wording of the other questions show that they were likely interpreted to mean 'at this present moment', as also illustrated by some of the direct comments copied below:

Theme 2: Good reproductive health for your whole life



2.1 People who live in City & Hackney have good reproductive health for their whole life

- Vast majority do, i think
- I agree emencely with that
- Support vulnerble people
- I'm not sure

2.2 People who live in City & Hackney can get help to make choices that support good reproductive health

- Only if u know where to go
- It's knowing where they can get that information and help that meets cultural, educ, knowledge needs in an easy to understand way
- Absolutely
- They can if they know where to look
- I'm not sure

The observations about access and knowing where to look/go echo comments made in the online survey.

2.3: Everyone should be able to get good, inclusive reproductive health services when they need them

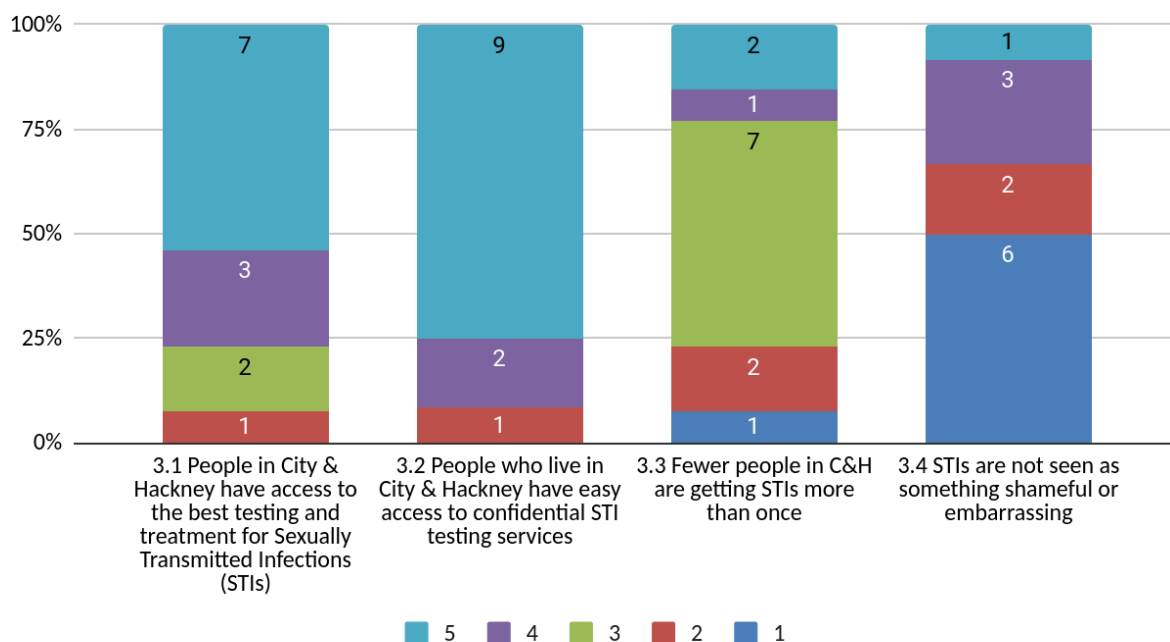
This was strongly agreed on by all.

- Especially to prevent pregnancies
- Absolutely

Theme 3: Preventing and treating sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

In this section it became clear that for many, having an STI is still seen as something to be ashamed or embarrassed about, but also agreement that there is/should be access to good testing and treatment services, with confidentiality especially rated as very important.

Theme 3: Preventing and treating sexually transmitted infections (STIs)



3.1 People in City & Hackney have access to the best testing and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

- Younger generations need something different from adults because they are the most vulnerable

3.2 People who live in City & Hackney have easy access to confidential STI testing services

- I think parents should be informed about sexual health to help them, in schools as well
- I know they have to tell your parents if you're not 18

3.3 Fewer people in City & Hackney are getting STIs more than once

- Not enough information out there for children, they should have sexual health in schools, and a specific class that does it
- I don't know

3.4 STIs are not seen as something shameful or embarrassing

The feedback indicates there is still a lot of work to do around normalising conversations about sexual health and reducing the stigma attached to STIs.

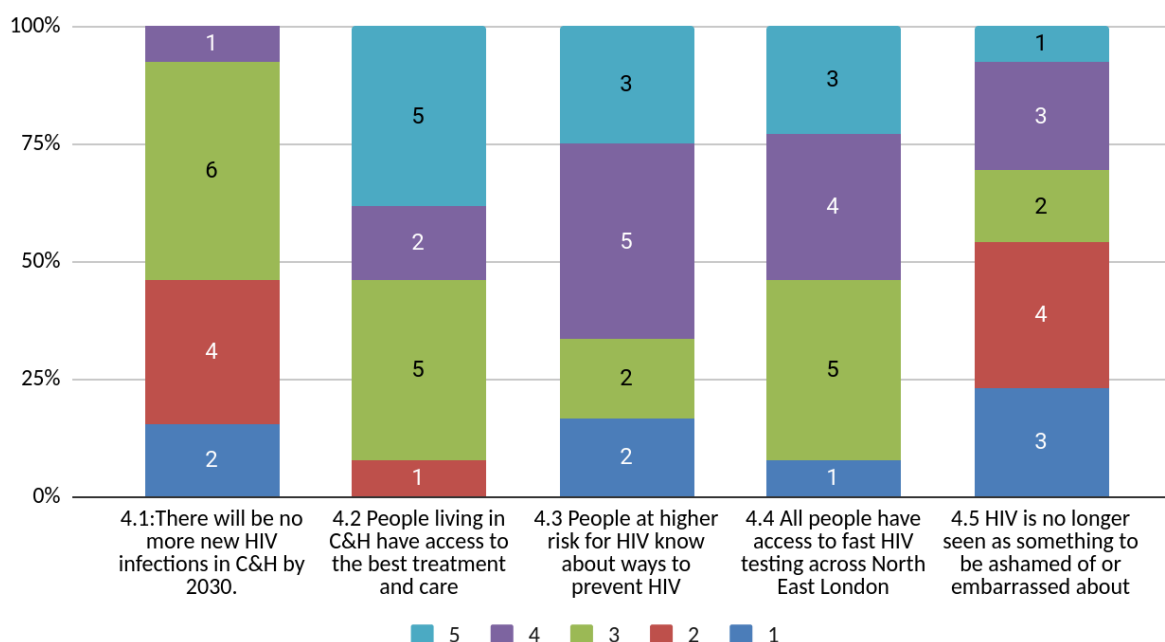
- It is shameful, I wouldn't tell anyone!
- Catch it you catch it!
- Children & young people will be bullied, as there is not enough information for kids
- I wouldn't even say to anyone anything about it
- No one wants to reveal they've had an STI

Overall, there is a concern especially for children and young people to have access to the right information, and for their specific needs to be taken into account.

Theme 4: Getting rid of HIV

What was apparent in this section is that people felt getting to zero new infections or no stigma was unlikely. In fact, people felt having HIV was highly stigmatised. The issue of access (to testing) and clear information was also raised. Overall, the scoring was varied, with quite a few respondents not being sure about their answers.

Theme 4: Getting rid of HIV



4.1 There will be no more new HIV infections in City & Hackney by 2030

- No idea with this one?
- Its here & its here to stay
- You never know
- It seems unlikely. But it's a good goal

4.2 People living in City & Hackney have access to the best treatment and care

- If u go to services at hospital already yes - if not then I am not sure about those people
- Some people do, some people don't

4.3 People at higher risk for HIV know about ways to prevent HIV

- I think they sometimes take condoms more seriously
- Many people don't think it could ever happen to them + don't know how to prevent it
- Not always so - information not always easy to read and understand

4.4 All people have access to fast HIV testing across North East London

- If they can get an appointment
- No, not enough information on it

4.5 HIV is no longer seen as something to be ashamed of or embarrassed about

- There's still a stigma around HIV
- Quite a stigma about it
- If you get it you get it, don't get bitten on the arse

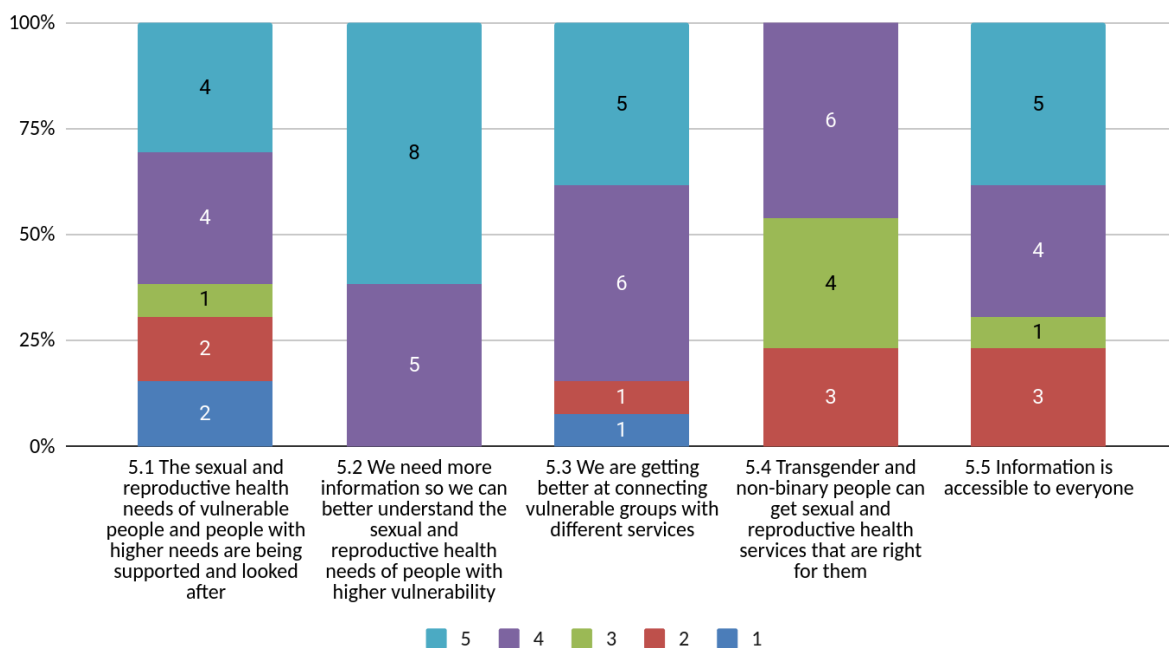
- It is, not everyone is going to think like that. With some people they will see it as shameful. That includes families.
- Yes it is shameful & people that have it are treated badly because of it

The feedback to 4.5 especially, indicates there is still a lot of work to do around dismantling HIV stigma, similarly to the stigma attached to STIs in general.

Theme 5: People who are vulnerable or have higher needs

This theme elicited empathy and a degree of insight that likely comes with lived experience. For example, accessing support is often not as easy as it may seem, and some people need support in order to access support. The feedback also underscores that information cannot just be available in one way or format, and may not be easy to access.

Theme 5: People who are vulnerable or have higher needs



5.1 The sexual and reproductive health needs of vulnerable people and people with higher needs are being supported and looked after

- People need support to access support from services if there is no support they won't go
- More outreach to vulnerable people
- Very hard to access mental health services, if you can't access mental health you can't access nothing because you are all over the place

5.2 We need more information so we can better understand the sexual and reproductive health needs of people with higher vulnerability

- That's true

5.3 We are getting better at connecting vulnerable groups with different services

- More could be done - outreach
- Sometimes, but it's different depending which place or person you are talking to & their knowledge of services
- I wouldn't be 100%. I presume in this day and age.
- I agree emencely
- There is a group of people you can't target, like the homeless.

5.4 Transgender and non-binary people can get sexual and reproductive health services that are right for them

- Services are far and few for these communities
- It's a new world we are in today where its safe - we are in London but what's available outside London
- I think non binary people struggle

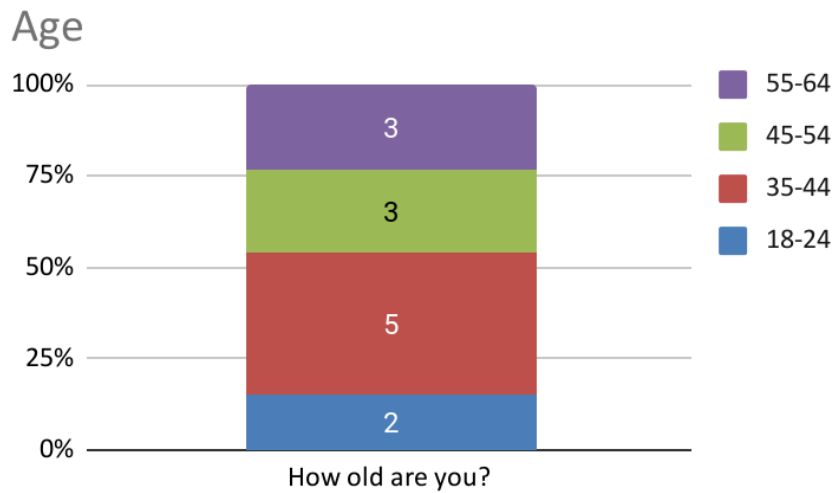
5.5 Information is accessible to everyone

- Information could be better explained and advertised. more information
- Not always, it depends
- Not to those with no access to IT or easy to read information
- It has to start in school
- It is but people don't know where to look for it

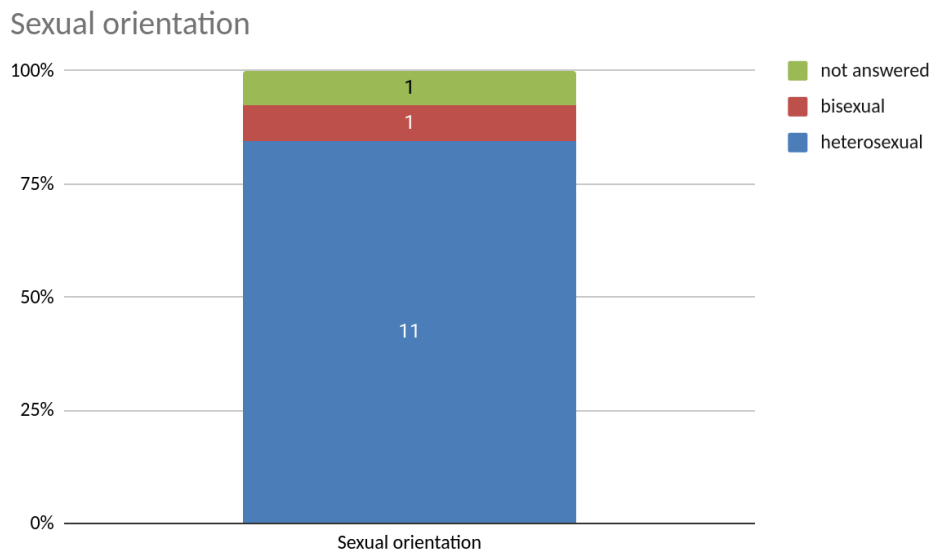
Demographic information

Respondents had a choice to provide demographic information and most did, though this was a very small sample size..

For the Easy Read survey, all 13 respondents were or identified as women, most of whom were in the 35-44 age range, or over 45. There were only two younger respondents. For 12 respondent 5s, a partial postcode was provided which indicated they lived in Hackney.

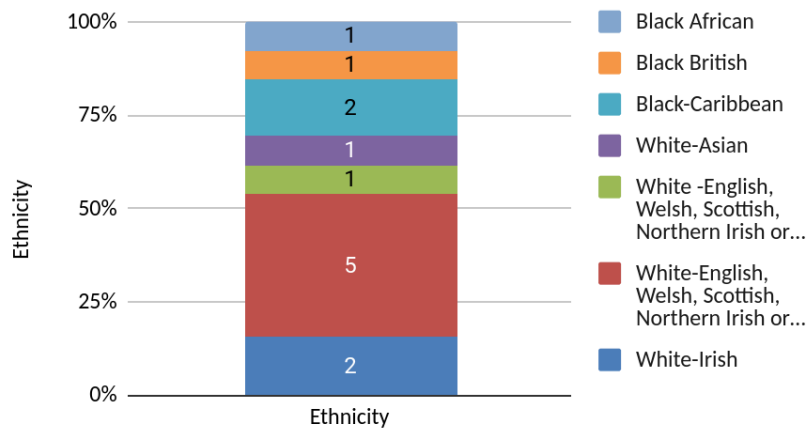


In terms of sexual orientation, the majority identified as heterosexual, with one person stating bisexual and one person not answering the question.

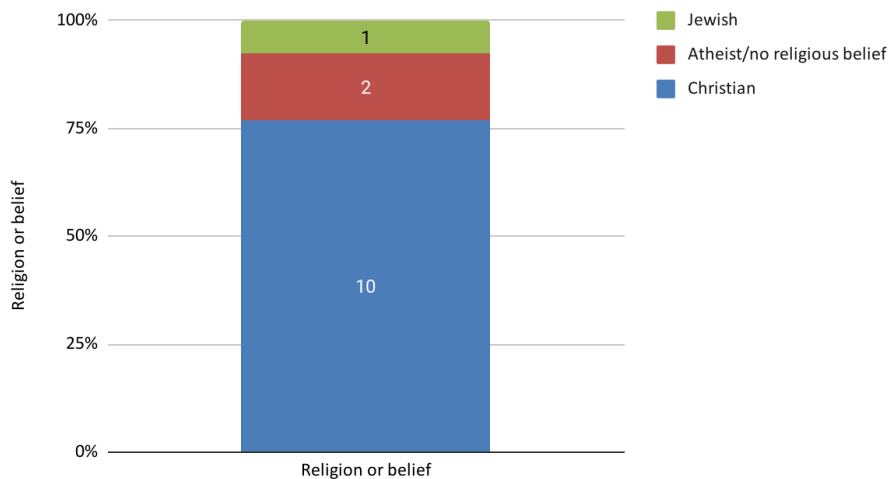


The ethnicity of respondents was fairly mixed and in terms of religion, 10 out of 13 identified as Christian.

Ethnicity



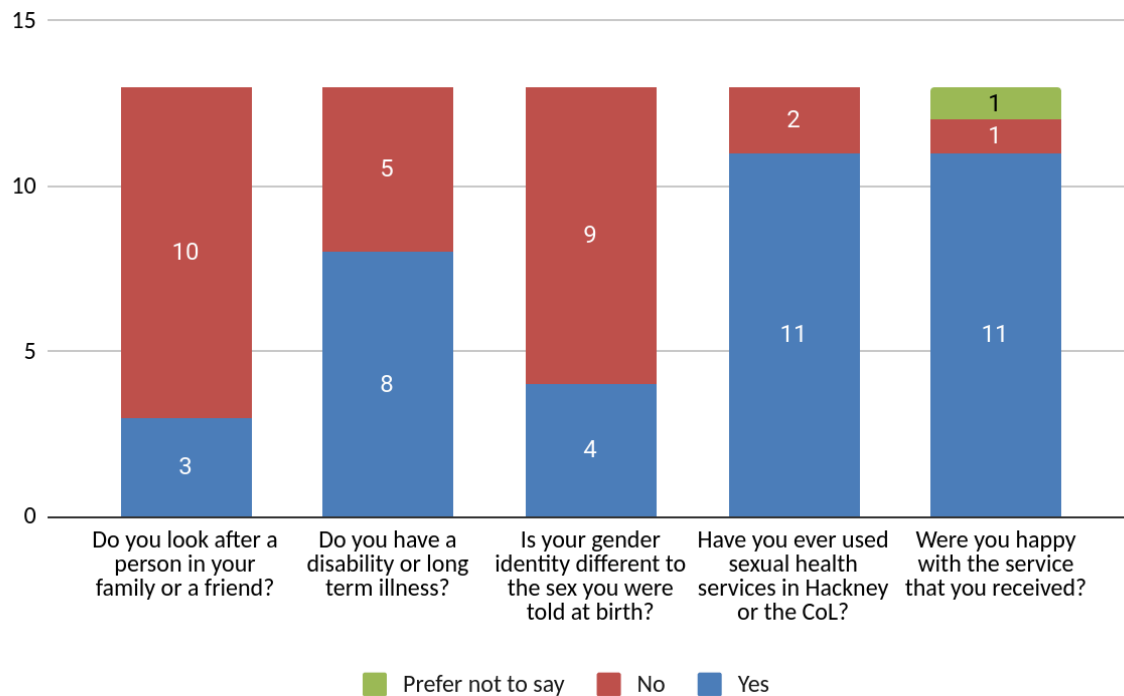
Religion or belief



When asked if people had caring responsibilities, three answered they did, while eight respondents said they had a disability or long term illness. This represents 61.5% of a small sample, but is an indication that the Easy Read survey did provide a platform for people with potentially more complex needs or vulnerabilities.

Four of the respondents indicated their gender identity was different to the sex they had been told at birth. This would indicate 31% of this small sample were trans.

When asked if they had ever used sexual health services in Hackney or the City of London, 11 said they had and 11 respondents also stated they were happy with the service they had received.



When asked if they thought there were things that could be done better done better, the following feedback was provided

- Waiting times, not mixed waiting areas
- Better appointment system. GP services are awful having to phone at 8am in the morning
- I go to Open Doors - speed up the process
- Start teaching at a young age
- Send me free condoms so I don't have to go to the GP for them

Appendix: summary of written feedback in the online survey

Q: Have we missed anything? Please outline any additional priorities you think we should consider for the sexual and reproductive health strategy.

- No clarity on where to go for testing.
- Better signposting
- Access to clinics/opening times
- Free condoms for all
- Appropriate support for rape/sexual abuse survivors
- Space/clinic for trans patients
- PSHE/SRE incl. Outreach services/funding
- YP services/YP with SEND/LD, incl. accessibility
- HIV Stigma
- HIV test for everyone accessing health care services
- Training of healthcare staff on HIV stigma
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Intersex people's needs
- Access needs people with disabilities
- Comms/social media (innovative)
- Languages/information
- Invest in prevention
- SRH campaign at community level/work with CVS
- SH for mature population
- Context of family and stable relationships
- Self-conducted smear test trial
- Painful periods/routine checks for endometriosis and fibroid
- Menopause/perimenopause
- Better coil removal services
- Repro health services free for all and comprehensive (include maternity, fertility etc)
- RSE for all YP reflecting a variety of family models,sexual orientation etc. Inclusive and comprehensive
- Support for chemsex users (MSM)
- Sexual health should be NHS responsibility not LA
- Counter disinformation and hate against trans people
- No teaching of gender ideology in RSE, stick to biological sex

Q: What do you think works well in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Provision that you received?

- Good service
- Walk-in/drop in service

- Combination of walk in and appointments
- Confidential/private
- Friendly/professional service/staff
- Quality of care
- Fast and effective
- Timely appointments/easy to book
- Online/SHL
- LARC
- Non judgemental/safe
- One stop shop (testing, repro health, etc)
- Free
- Choice
- Easy/accessible
- Good communication/supportive
- Education/counselling/info
- Results by text
- LBGTQ+ friendly
- GP
- Culturally competent

Q: Is there anything that could be improved in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Provision that you received?

- Access/getting appointments
- Waiting times
- Longer opening times
- Walk in services
- In person testing for those who have difficulty bleeding for self-test
- Free condoms for all/all ages
- More trained staff
- Better/modern facilities/buildings
- Non-judgemental service and communication
- More clinics/facilities or better located
- Coil fitting reminders (expiry)
- Better phone access
- Joined up services across London (single point of access for appointments, test result etc)
- Tailored info on results/conditions via app
- Mix of walk in and appointments
- Inappropriate of packed waiting area
- Staff attitude/rudeness/impatience/not welcoming
- No penile swabs
- Better info provision on clinics/opening times
- Guidance on clinic visits (what happens during your visit)

- Overall provision of/access to info/guidelines etc
- Gender sensitive/inclusive care
- More 'minority group' clinics
- Stigma
- Offer of vaccines to heterosexual people (HPV, Hep)
- Staff Training on gender diversity/LGBTQ_
- Better info on contraceptive choices
- More resources for reproductive health
- Better menstrual services (heavy, constant bleeding)
- No STI test before psychosexual counselling
- Connection/comms between GPS and SHS
- Increase number of SH service pharmacies
- More condoms per pack, better variety of condoms including non-latex and XL (Skyns)
- Include oral and anal swabs for heterosexual people
- Improve VCS capacity/more innovative
- More services outside of clinical settings
- Better guidance on how to use test kits (urine)

Q: What stopped you from accessing Sexual Health Services?

- Not needed/nothing
- Access/opening times HSHS
- Access/lack of appointments
- Access/distance
- Access/age restrictions
- Access/waiting times
- Services to be culturally aware/sensitive
- Lack of confidence/worried about how I would be treated
- Don't know about the services
- Staff attitudes/judgement
- Text reminders re SRH
- GP service used
- Free condoms for all

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City & Hackney Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy

Overview and consultation presentation

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Froeks Kamminga
City & Hackney Public Health



Overview



- Themes of the strategy
- Process and timeline
- Consultation
- Action planning
- Governance
- Implementation

Themes



1. Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships
2. Good reproductive health across the life course
3. STI prevention and treatment
4. Living well with HIV and zero new HIV infections
5. Inclusion communities and those with complex needs

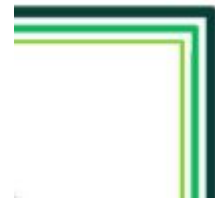
Themes 1-4 align with the priorities of a NEL-wide strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) that is also under development

Process and timeline for strategy and consultation



- June 2023, City HWB & Hackney HWB decide to approve the consultation and action planning process
- Online survey consultation period: 1 July - 20 September
- Online and in person engagement: July - November
- Collate survey and consultation findings and feedback (November)
- Revise strategy and finalise action plan (December)
- Adoption by HWB: January / February 2024
- ICB (NEL strategy)

Consultation promotion



Channels (online/social media)

- Consultation webpage launch promoted on Twitter and Facebook - City and Hackney channels, and Business Healthy (BH)
- Consultation promoted in Hackney e-newsletter and Love Hackney magazine, and staff internal newsletter
- Twitter posts promoting online and in-person sessions on Hackney's Social media channels
- Posts on Hackney Council's instagram stories to target younger audiences
- Posts on City of London social media prompting the consultation
- Coverage in City AM
- Posts on BH twitter, Barbican Library, and City of London X (Twitter) to promote in-person
- Online promotion on Hackney Council's Instagram for a final call to complete the consultation
- Final call to complete the consultation in Hackney Council's newsletter
- E-newsletters (external and internal staff newsletter)

Consultation promotion



Email

- Community Champions and other community partners
- Community centres
- CVS organisations such as Healthwatch Hackney and Hackney CVS
- Pharmacies and GP Practices (newsletter)
- Youth hubs
- All commissioned services
- Key contacts with wider networks

Attending meetings to promote the survey and inform/involve a broad range of stakeholders

- Health Inequalities Steering Group
- Healthwatch Hackney: LGBTQ+ Community Voice in Health & Care Public Forum
- Hackney CVS Special Interest Group on Sexual Health
- Place Based Partnership Delivery Group

Consultation



- Online survey for any resident, service user or partner to complete
- Easy Read version of the online survey
 - Hackney Ark Captains (young people with learning disabilities)
 - Open Doors (service users)

Theme-based online consultations (8 sessions) plus audience focused sessions

- Community African Network (CAN) members and volunteers
- Healthwatch Hackney public reps
- LGBTQ+ representatives

Consultation



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- Face to face focus group discussions/informal engagement
 - Barbican Library, CoL residents/service users
 - Hackney People First (adults with learning disabilities)
 - STEPS brunch drop-in (service users)
 - Young People
- Workshops with commissioned services and key partners with thematic focus (hybrid of in person and online)
 - Young people and sexual health
 - Contraception and reproductive health
- NEL strategy workshops

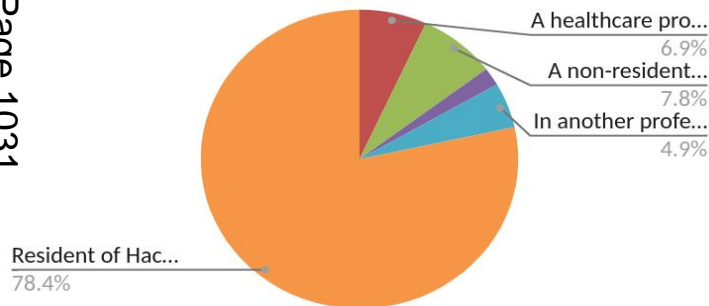
Consultation survey



- 102 responses to online survey
- 13 completed Easy Read surveys and 13 C&H responses to the NEL survey
- Analysis of findings in [consultation report](#)

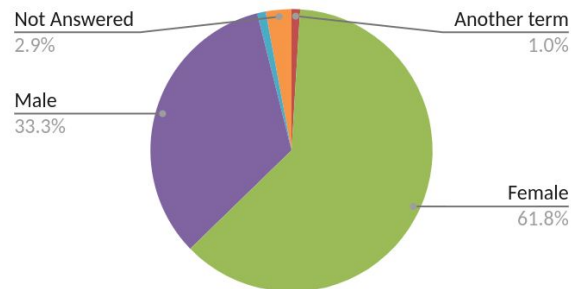
Survey respondents

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A healthcare provider or health related professional: 7
A non-resident of City or Hackney who uses local C&H services: 8
A representative of a community or voluntary service organisation (CVS): 2
In another professional capacity: 5
Resident of Hackney or City of London: 80

Gender

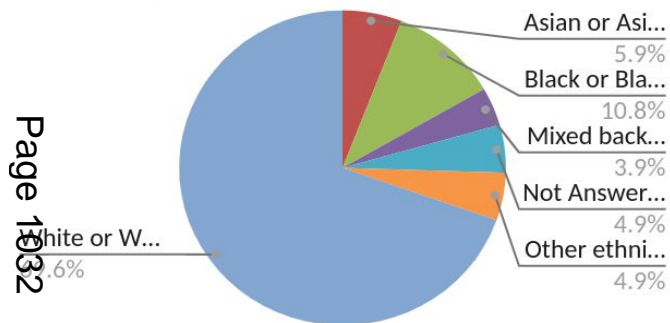


Another term: 1
Female: 63
Male: 34
Non Binary: 1
Not Answered: 3

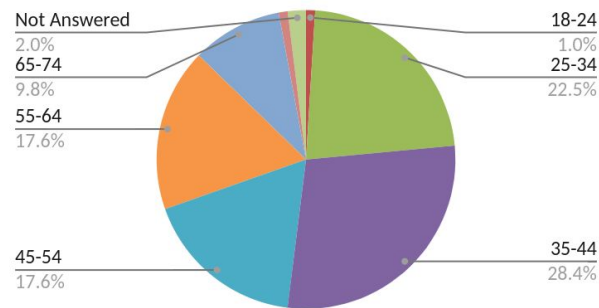
Survey: respondent information



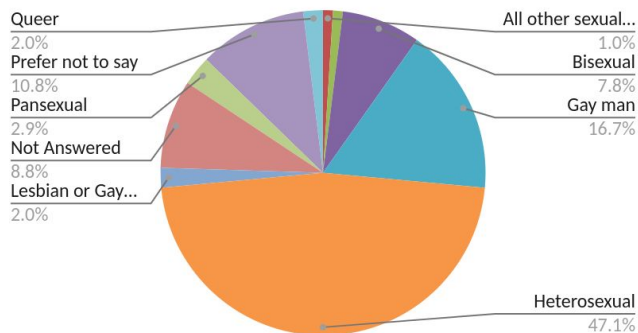
Ethnicity



Age distribution of respondents



Sexual orientation



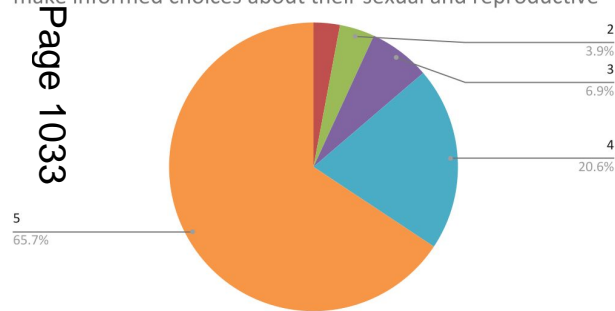
Survey: views on priorities



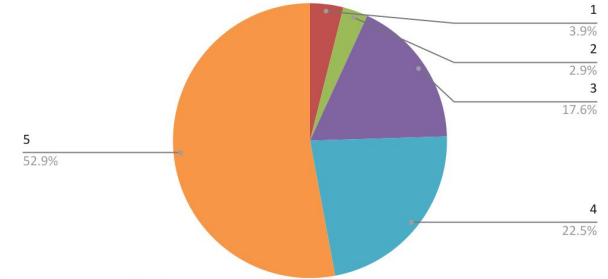
Overall: majority approval of selected themes and priority areas

5=very important 4=important 3=neutral 2=not very important 1=not important at all

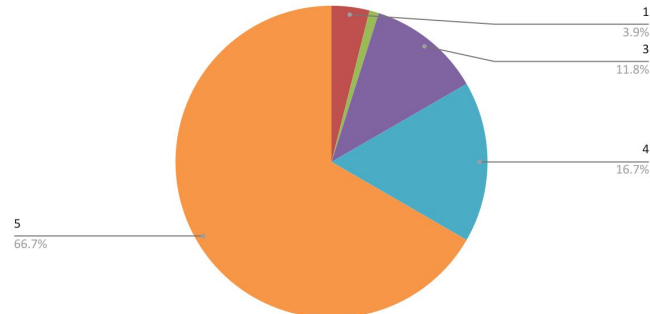
Priority 1: Residents in City of London & Hackney are able to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive



Priority 2: Residents of City of London & Hackney have good reproductive health across the life course



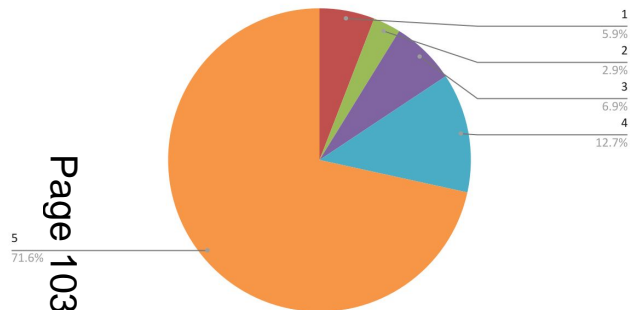
Priority 3: Residents of City of London & Hackney have access to high quality and innovative testing and treatment for Sexually Transmitted



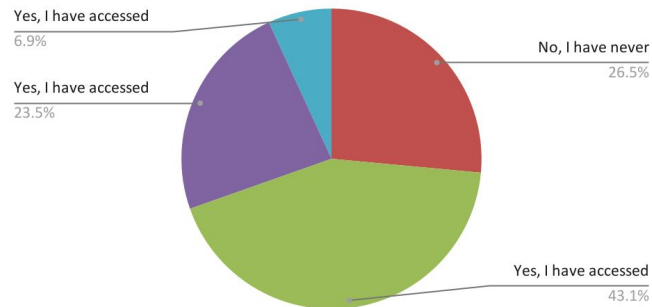
Survey: views on priorities



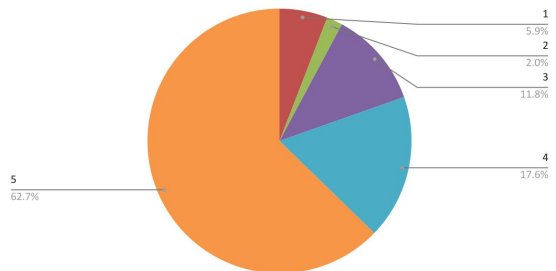
Priority 4: Towards Zero - there will be no new HIV infections in the City of London & Hackney by 2030



Have you ever accessed Sexual Health Services? -
accessed sexual health services



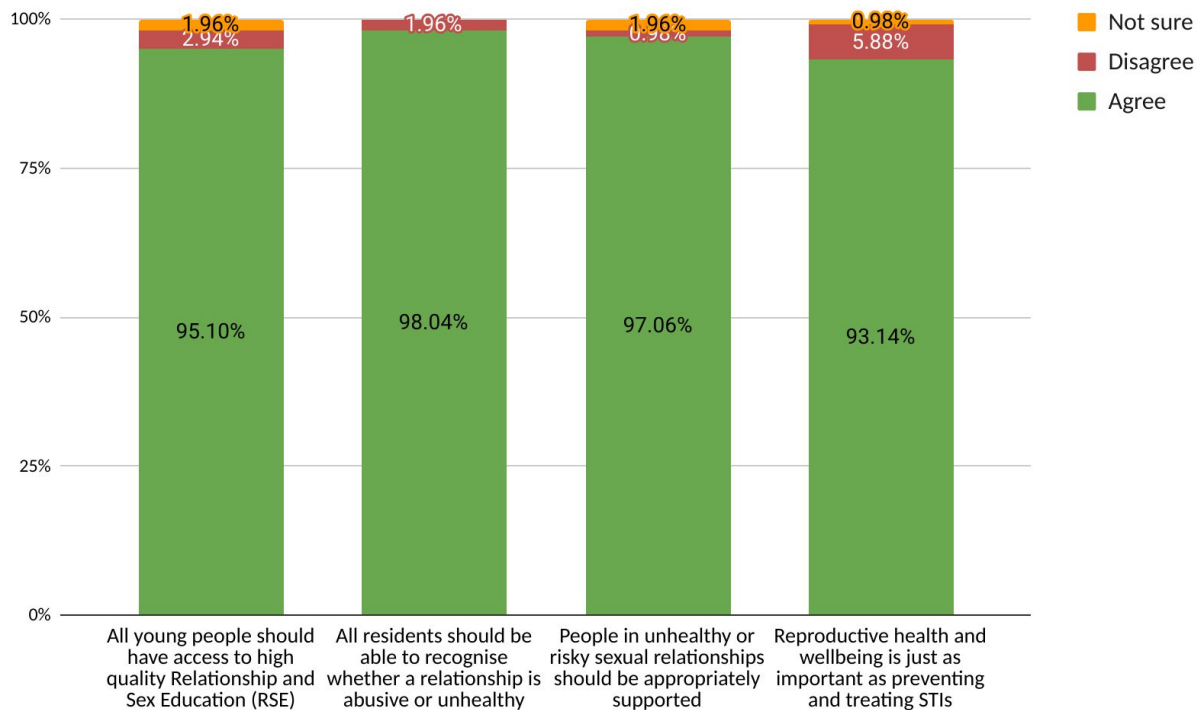
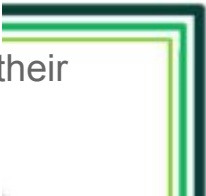
Priority 5: The sexual and reproductive health needs of vulnerable people and people with complex needs are recognised and met



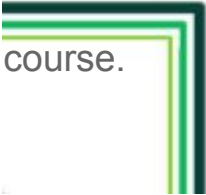
Red=never
Green=in C&H
Purple=elsewhere
Blue= NEL

5=very important 3=neutral 1=not important
at all

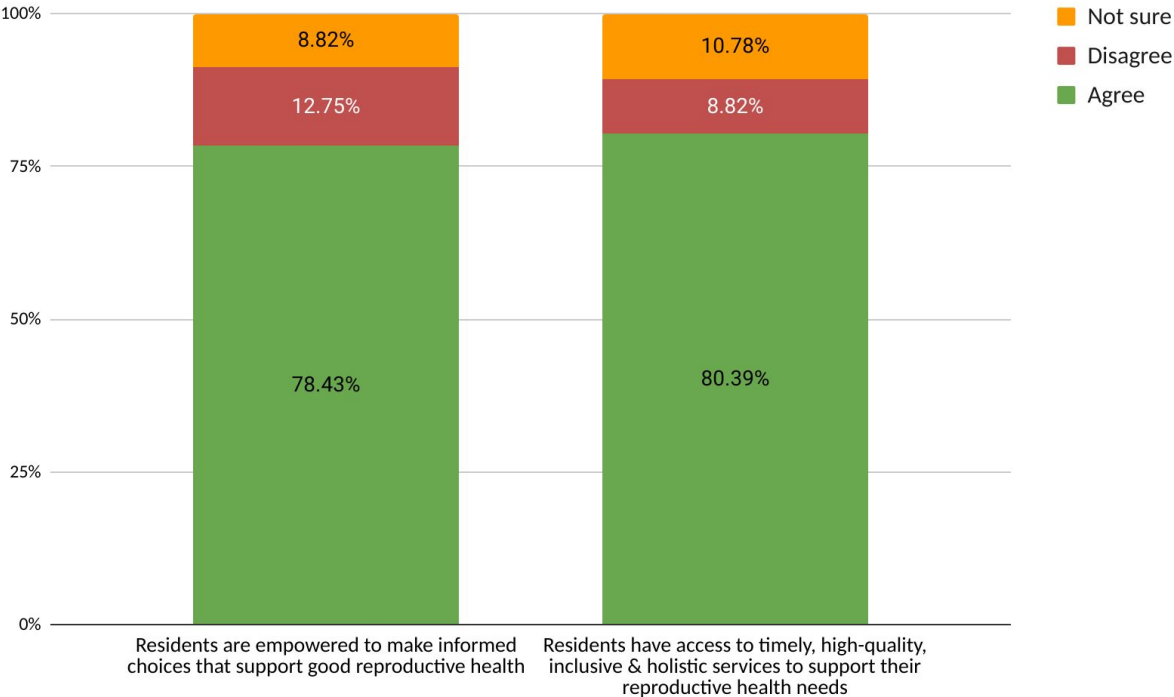
Priority 1: Residents in the City of London & Hackney are able to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health



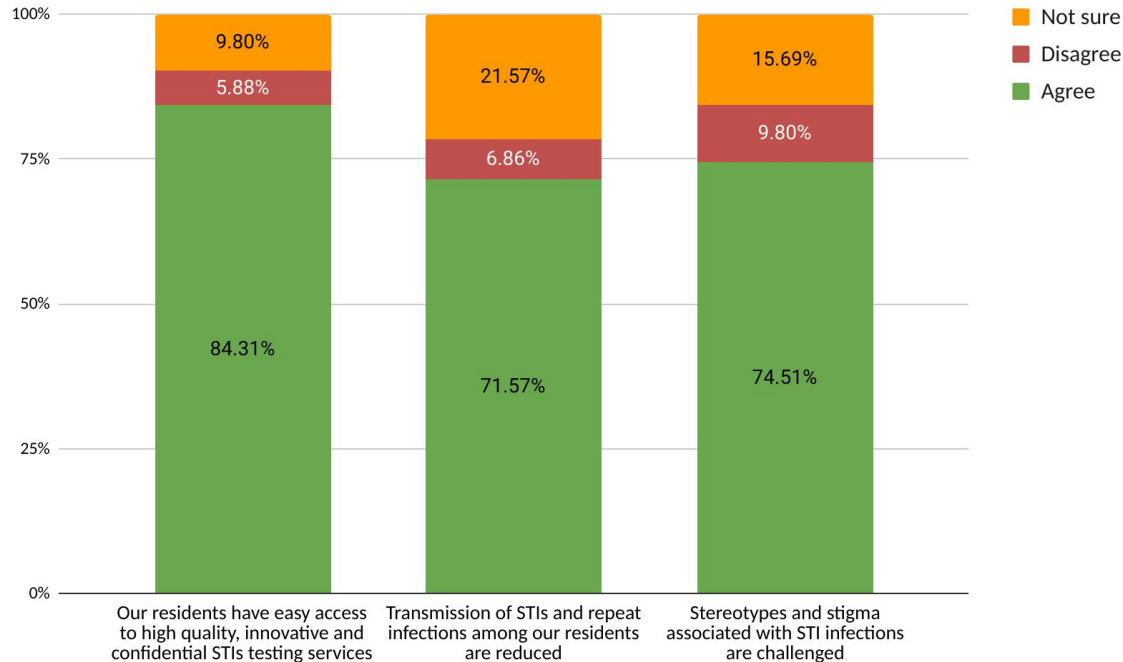
Priority 2: Residents of City of London & Hackney have good reproductive health across the life course.



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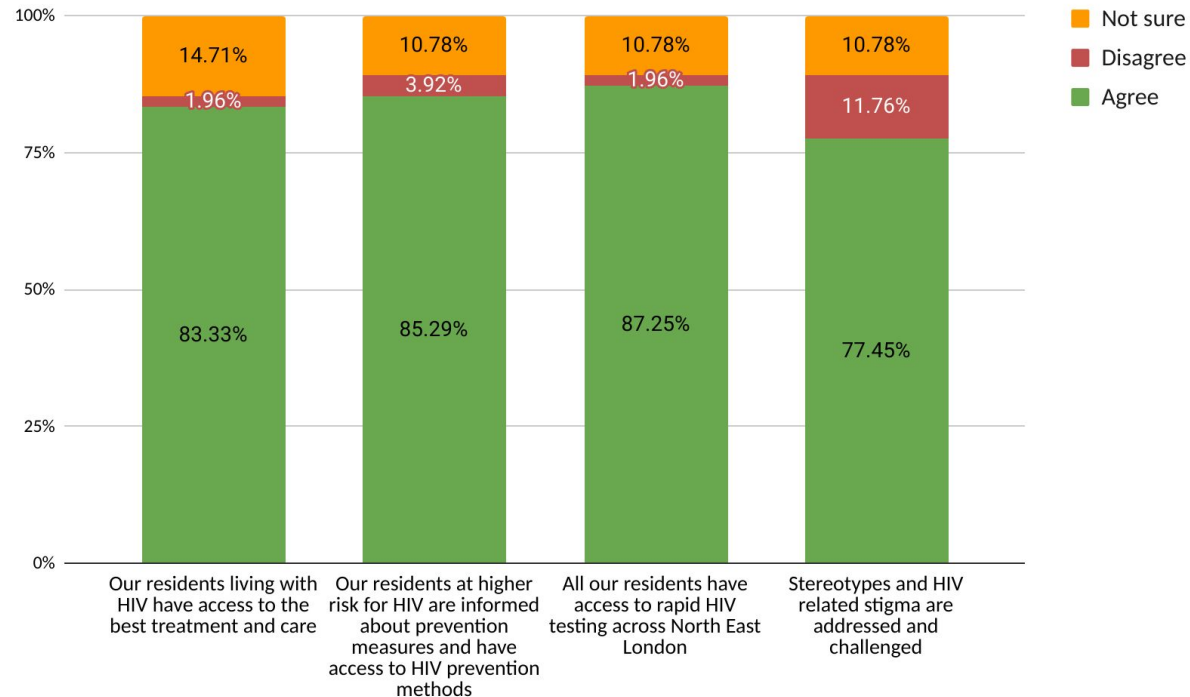


Priority 3: Residents of City of London & Hackney have access to high quality and innovative testing and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

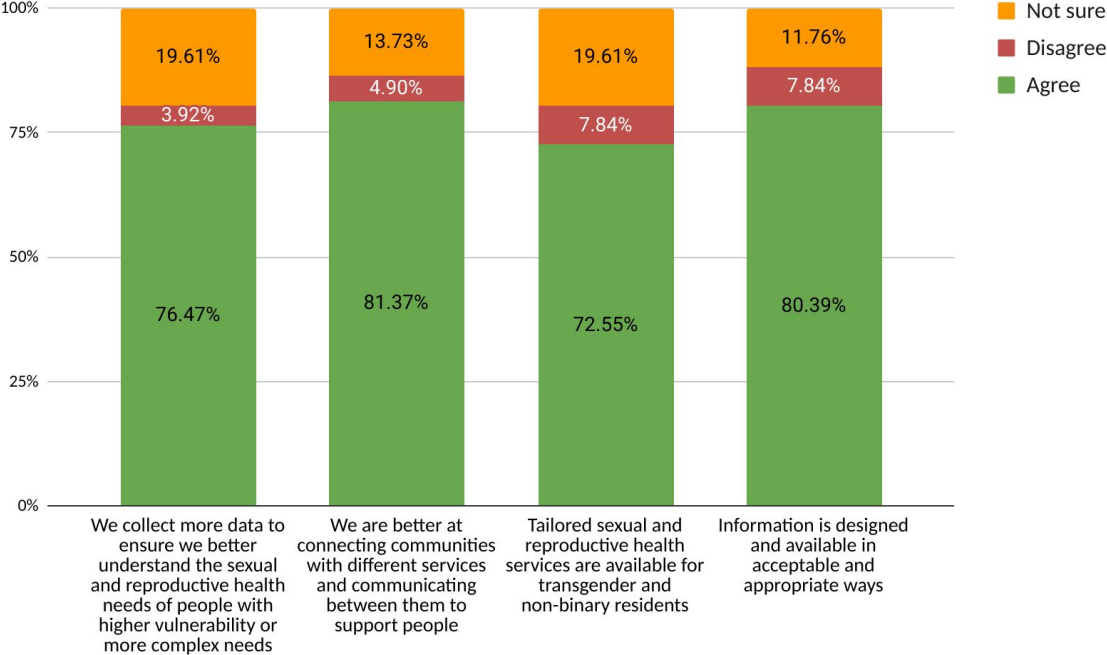


Priority 4: Towards Zero - there will be no new HIV infections in the City of London & Hackney by 2030

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Priority 5: The sexual and reproductive health needs of vulnerable people and people with complex needs are recognised and met within the overall service provision



Easy Read survey - demographics (*small sample*)

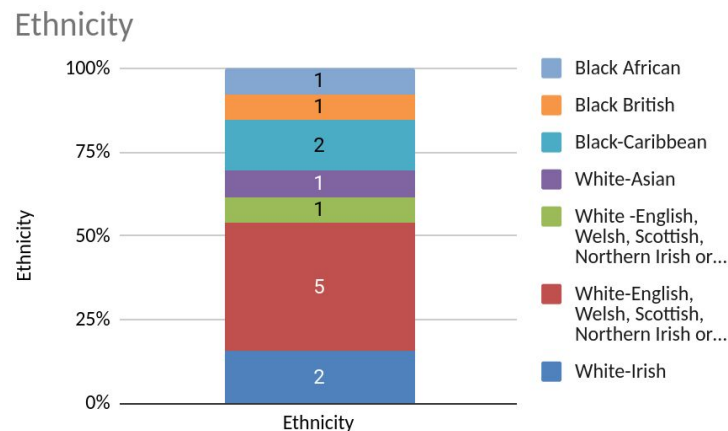


- All respondents were or identified as women, with four indicating they were a different gender than what they were told at birth
- Majority were 35 and over, with two respondents aged 18-25.
- 11 out of 13 identified as heterosexual, with one bisexual and one not providing an answer

Predominantly Christian (10 out of 13)

Ethnically mixed

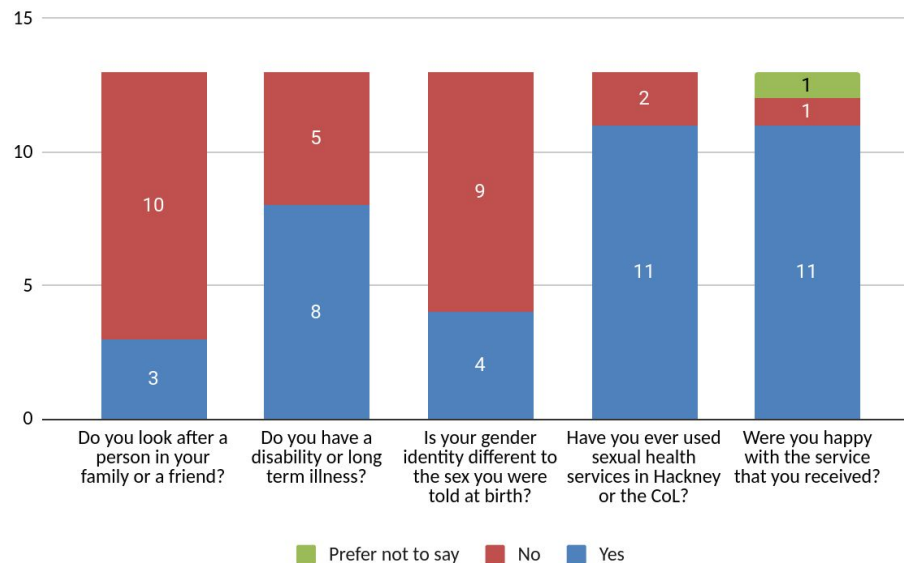
Partial postcode indicated Hackney for 12 respondents
(one not answered)



Easy Read survey - demographics



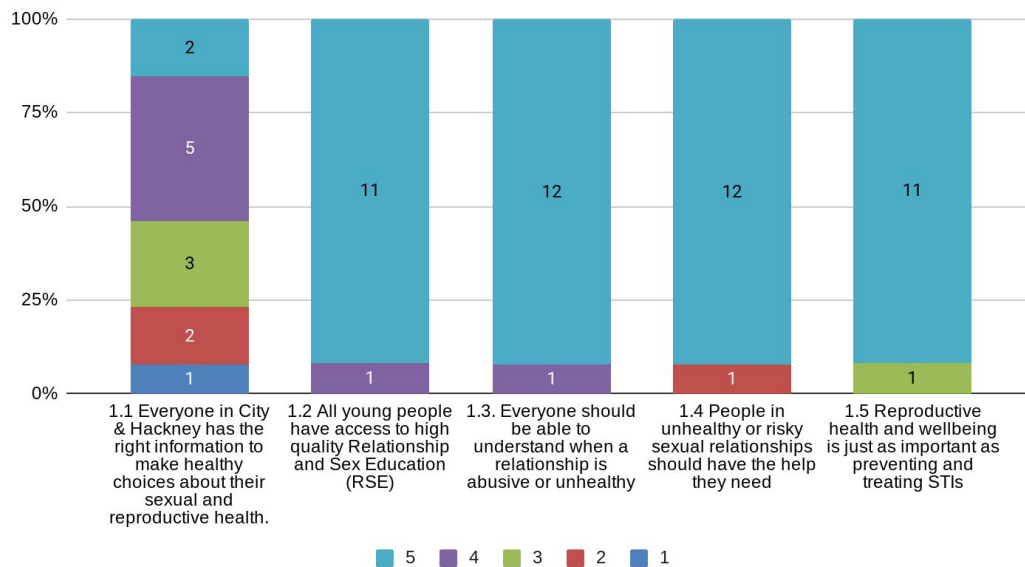
- Majority of respondents had used sexual health services and were happy with services received
- Majority stated to have a disability or long term condition
- Three out of 13 had a caring responsibility



Easy Read survey feedback, Theme 1



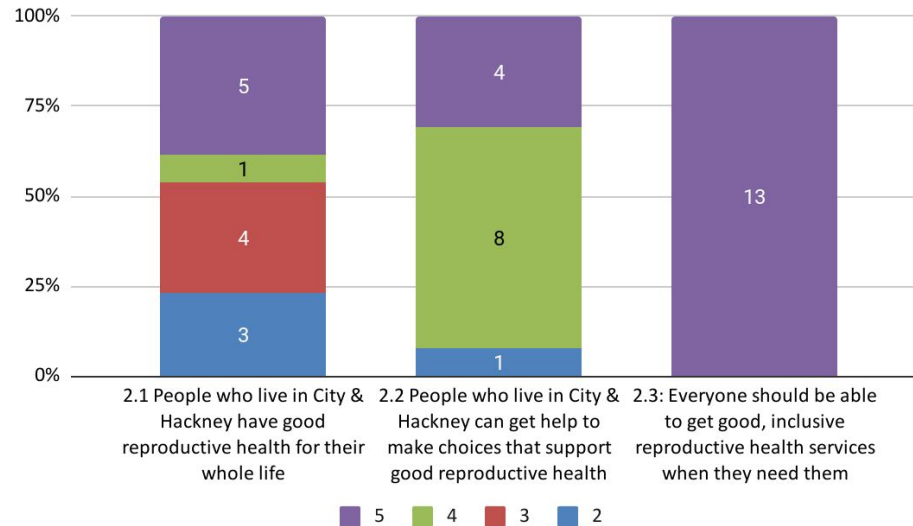
Theme 1: Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships



Easy Read survey feedback, Theme 2



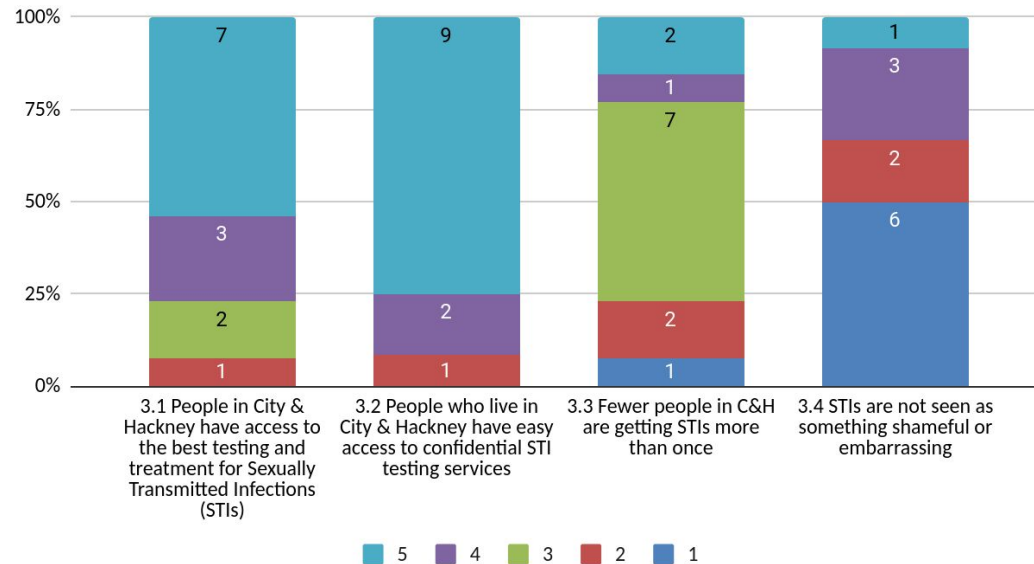
Theme 2: Good reproductive health for your whole life



Easy Read survey feedback, Theme 3



Theme 3: Preventing and treating sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

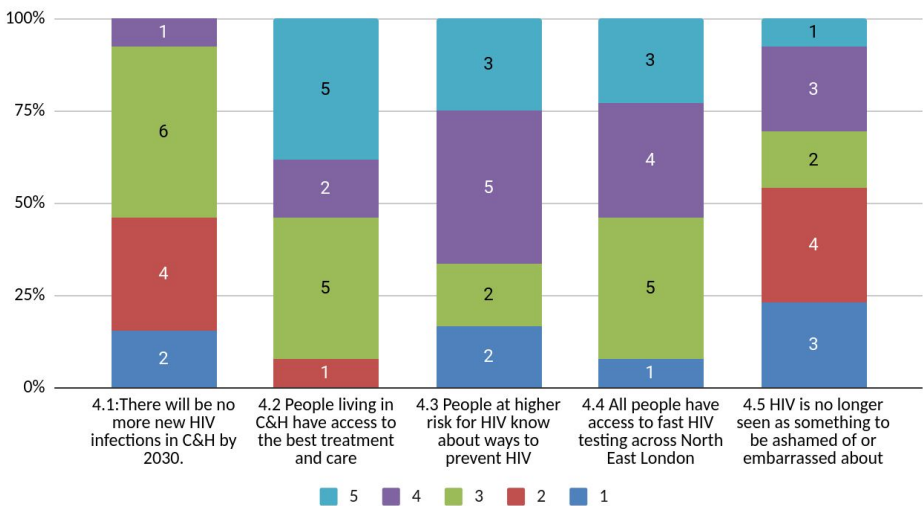


Easy Read survey feedback, Theme 4



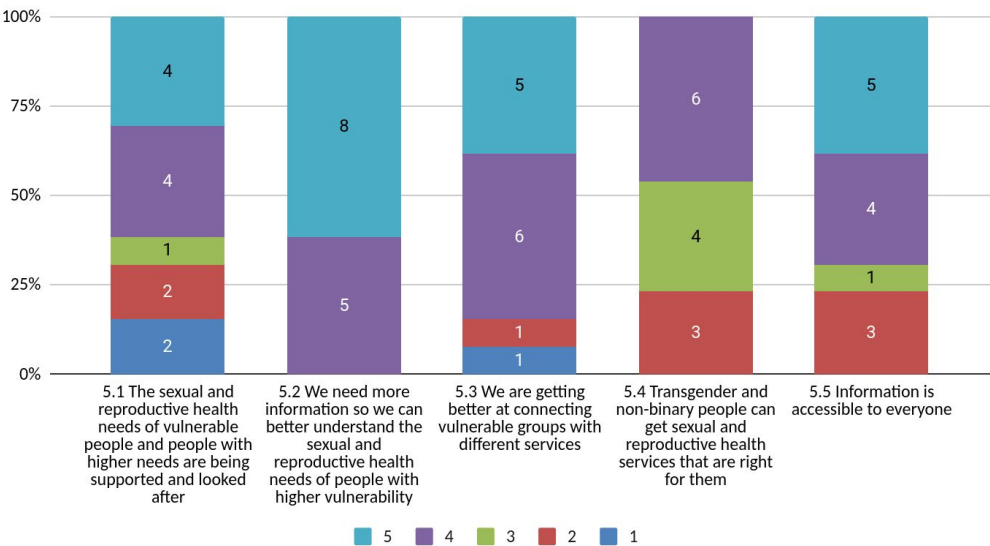
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Theme 4: Getting rid of HIV





Theme 5: People who are vulnerable or have higher needs



Key observations from overall engagement



- Strong agreement on all themes and priorities identified
- Affirmation of the importance of relation and sex education in schools
- Lack of knowledge of and access to services named as key barriers
- Stigma and shame attached to sex and STIs, and HIV, persist
- Services remain fragmented across the wider sexual and -especially- reproductive health pathway, often due to fragmented commissioning responsibilities

Action Plan



The action planning process was informed by

- Survey findings
- Feedback given in all consultation sessions
- Written feedback (strategy)
- Engagement with stakeholders
- NEL wide engagement

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Action planning format:

City and Hackney Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy Action Plan (Year 1: 2024 – 25)

Themes

- 1 - Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships
- 2 - Good reproductive health across the life course
- 3 - STI prevention and treatment
- 4 - Getting to Zero new HIV transmissions
- 5 - Vulnerable populations and those with complex needs

Theme	Outcome	Action	Strategic Lead (name)	Delivery Lead	Partners	Milestones (aim for a date)	Indicators	Priority		
1) Healthy and fulfilling sexual relationships	A) Young people (YP) in City and Hackney have equitable access to good quality, comprehensive and inclusive relationship and sex education (RSE) in schools and settings of alternative provision	Promote and increase uptake of Young Hackney's free Personal Social and Health Education in secondary schools and settings of alternative provision, while respectful dialogue is continually maintained with schools and other educational institutions where RSE is not deemed appropriate and acceptable for religious or cultural reasons Foster collaboration with and between different entities doing SRH-related school outreach, such as Homerton Sexual Health Services, in order to enhance reach and coverage								
1	B) Young people have access to appropriate and specialist sexual health services	HSHS clinics are welcoming to young people and offer booked and walk up appointments with evening/weekend clinics. Dedicated young people's services such as youth hubs and/or the 'super youth hub' offer safe spaces for SRH advice Pharmacies provide a low barrier range of SRH services including condoms, EHC, Chlamydia screening/treatment and Gonorrhoea screening, as well as routine oral contraception (under development) and are trained to make safeguarding referrals								



Process

- Collate all consultation findings (November)
- Rewrite the draft strategy (December)
- Finalise action plan (December)
- Share strategy and action plan with key stakeholders for (final) feedback (December)
- Link outcomes to the sexual health dashboard (2024)

Governance

- Present the finalised strategy and action plan to HWBs for approval: Jan/Feb 2024
- Hackney: Cabinet Decision
- ICB decision for NEL Strategy

Implementation and oversight



- Oversight mechanism - Sexual Health Forum reviews progress of action plan implementation?
- Sexual Health Forum leads on annual action plan refresh?
- Internal oversight within Public Health?
- A sexual health dashboard will support this from a data perspective
- Collaborate on commissioning with the ICB
- Annual progress update to the HWBs
- Annual approval of action plan by the HWBs



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Title of Report:	Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control)	
Key Decision No:	CHE S303	
For Consideration By:	Cabinet	
Meeting Date:	26 February 2024	
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas OBE (Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services)	
Classification:	Open	
Ward(s) Affected:	All	
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:	18 March 2024	
Group Director:	Rickardo Hyatt (Group Director for Climate, Homes and Economy)	

1. Cabinet Member's Introduction

- 1.1. Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are intended to deal with nuisance or problems in a particular area that are detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of the area, which apply to everyone.
- 1.2. PSPOs ensure that Community Safety and Enforcement Officers and Police Officers have the necessary powers to deal with anti-social behaviour (ASB) in a public place.
- 1.3. The Council is therefore proposing to renew and revise the current PSPO (Dog Control), with additional restrictions aimed at ensuring Hackney's public spaces can continue to be enjoyed and protected free from anti-social behaviour and damage.
- 1.4. The Council has considered the consultation responses received in relation to the proposed PSPO (Dog Control) and it is recommending to Cabinet that:
 - (a) Abney Park Cemetery: Residents' concerns about the proposals that would have required dogs to be on leads in all areas of Abney Park Cemetery are acknowledged, and at this stage the revised PSPO (Dog Control), does not include this restriction, to enable further consideration to be given to the Council's specific concerns and the measures required to address them;
 - (b) Assistance Dogs: The Kennel Club's recommendations regarding the exemptions that apply to assistance dogs is now included in the revised PSPO (Dog Control) to provide greater clarification on the expectations for those that rely on assistance dogs;
 - (c) Maximum Number of Dogs: The proposed maximum number of dogs that can be walked / under the control of any one person is now increased from four to six. This is in recognition of the consultation responses from professional bodies, residents and businesses regarding the impact the change would have had on the cost/provision of dog walking and daycare businesses many of whom are small businesses which the Council wants to remain financially viable;
 - (d) Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (QEOP): On the request of the London Legacy Development Corporation, who are responsible for the management of QEOP, a part of the area of QEOP that is within the London Borough of Hackney (Hopkins' Fields) is excluded from the dogs on leads requirement and therefore becomes a dogs off the lead area, which it has been for a number of years; and
 - (e) Sports Playing Pitches: Acknowledging residents' and professional bodies' concerns, the revised PSPO (Dog Control) allows dogs to be off

the lead in Sports Playing Pitch areas when they are not in use for sporting activities.

- 1.5. As the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, I am supportive of the proposals contained in this report in relation to renewing/revising the current PSPO (Dog Control), together with the proposed additional restrictions.

2. Group Director's Introduction

- 2.1. PSPOs have been in place since 2017 in relation to Dog Control, with the exception of the period 20 October 2020 to 18 March 2021, when it lapsed due to the focus on the pandemic. The PSPOs commenced when the legislation relating to dog control was replaced. The PSPOs mirror the controls that were in place at that time.
- 2.2. The current PSPO is due to expire at midnight on 17 March 2024, and this Cabinet report outlines proposals to extend the PSPO for a further three years and amend/vary the current PSPO (Dog Control).
- 2.3. The Council has undertaken a detailed consultation in relation to the revised PSPO (Dog Control), which included:
- A 'dog fouling of land' prohibition, which makes it an offence for dog owners not to remove dog faeces from public land in Hackney.
 - A 'dog exclusion' prohibition, which enables the Council to ban dogs from entering areas such as BMX tracks, children's play areas, fenced off dog free areas, multi-use games areas, outdoor gyms, skate parks, small parks, splash pads and children's water features, sports courts, sports playing pitches, and water sports centres and reservoirs.
 - A 'dogs on leads' requirement, which enables the Council to prevent people exercising off-lead dogs in general public areas, on roads and in car parks, churchyards, burial grounds (including Abney Park Cemetery), communal areas on estates and some smaller public parks.
 - A 'dogs on leads by direction' requirement, which gives Officers the power to request that dogs be put on the lead if they are not under the control of their owner, or where they are causing damage or acting aggressively.
 - A 'maximum number of dogs' requirement, a new requirement that would make it an offence for one person to have more than four dogs under their control at any one time anywhere in the borough.
- 2.4. The Council acknowledges the comments raised by residents', professional bodies' and local businesses' via the consultation, and is recommending to Cabinet a number of amendments to the proposed PSPO (Dog Control) that reflect this. Once approved, the PSPO (Dog Control) will expire after a period of three years unless it is varied or extended before the expiry of the three year period.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 3.1. Approves a revised Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) in relation to the renewing and varying of the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control), which would place controls on dog fouling, dog exclusion, dogs on leads, dogs on leads where requested and on the maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person. A copy of the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) is attached to this report as Appendix 1.**

4. Reason(s) for Decision

- 4.1. 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 (Dog Control) should ensure that Hackney has an effective response to ASB in the areas covered by the PSPO.
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. 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.*
- 4.4. 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.

- 4.5. 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.
- 4.6. Prohibitions may apply to all persons, or only to persons in specified categories, or to all persons except those in specified categories.
- 4.7. The PSPO may specify the times at which it applies and the circumstances in which it applies or does not apply.
- 4.8. Unless extended, the PSPO may not have effect for more than 3 years.
- 4.9. The 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).
- 4.10. 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').
- 4.11. 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).
- 4.12. 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.

5. Details of Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 5.1. Not having a PSPO in place regarding dog control will have a detrimental impact on the experience of residents and other users of parks, open spaces, play and other areas across the borough. Furthermore, the ability of Community Safety and Enforcement Officers to enforce dog-related nuisance across the borough would be significantly restricted; leading to increased dog fouling, dogs being a nuisance and not being adequately controlled, dogs entering children's play areas, sports areas and other areas.
- 5.2. Officers can enforce by-laws relating to Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces, which were first made in 1932 and transferred to the Council from The Greater London Council in 1971. The by-laws are outdated and hold a maximum penalty of £20, which is not a sufficient deterrent to those who would breach them.

- 5.3. This option would be contrary to the need for the PSPO and public support for the PSPO.
- 5.4. Renewing the current PSPO without any changes was also considered. However, this option would not have allowed the adding of prohibitions / requirements stipulated in the PSPO, the updating of locations from which dogs are excluded and in which dogs must be kept on a lead. It was therefore rejected.

6. Background

Policy Context

- 6.1. PSPOs are made under Chapter 2 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 6.2. After three years they are treated as transitioned PSPOs for the purposes of enforcement by virtue of s.75(3) of the 2014 Act. Once a further three years has expired (as in October 2020), the orders come to an end because a PSPO may not have effect for a period of more than three years (s.60(1)).
- 6.3. Public Spaces Protection Orders are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are intended to help ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from ASB.
- 6.4. Given that these orders can restrict what people can do and how they behave in public spaces, it is important that the restrictions imposed are focused on specific behaviours and are proportionate to the detrimental effect that the behaviour is causing or can cause, and are necessary to prevent it from continuing, occurring or recurring.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.5. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to assess the potential of an adverse positive or negative impact of the proposed PSPO (Dog Control) on protected groups. A copy of the EIA is attached as Appendix 3 of this report.
- 6.6. In completing the EIA the Council has complied with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty, which was created by the Equality Act 2010.
- 6.7. The equality duty was developed in order to harmonise the equality duties and to extend it across the protected characteristics. It consists of a general equality duty, supported by specific duties which are imposed by secondary legislation. In summary, those subject to the equality duty must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

6.8. The proposed PSPO (Dog Control) sets out a range of powers available to the Council and how these will be legally applied. The PSPO (Dog Control) reflects national legislation and the various powers would have been assessed for their impact on equality as part of the consultation and development process before the legislation was enacted. Its use will be determined by the behaviour occurring rather than any protected group.

6.9. The Council is mindful that when making a Public Spaces Protection Order, regard needs to be given to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly safeguarded by Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights: s.72(1). These rights are very likely to be engaged by any order which restricts liberty and gatherings of groups of people. The Council will carefully consider the need to pursue a legitimate aim to protect all residents from anti-social behaviour in public spaces as a proportionate means of tackling anti-social behaviour.

Sustainability and Climate Change

6.10. A PSPO will expire after a period of three years unless it is varied or extended.

Consultation

6.11. The consultation was published on Hackney's Citizen Space website on 28 August 2023. The information supporting the consultation was updated in mid-October 2023, and the deadline for submitting responses was extended by a month until 15 December 2023. This was in response to comments from residents about providing additional clarity on the proposals. Additionally, some areas were found to be missing from the list of proposed new sites on the consultation pages that would be subject to dog controls, so these were added and the information re-published.

6.12. The Council consulted the following groups during the statutory consultation:

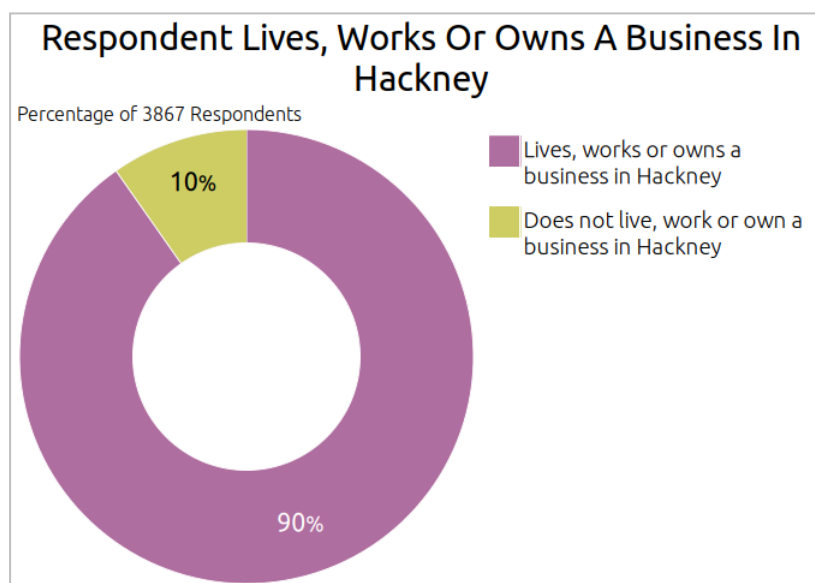
- Residents in Hackney.
- Hackney Parks User Groups.
- The Kennel Club.
- Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- Assistance Dogs UK.
- Veterinary practices.
- Housing Associations.
- Canal and River Trust.

- The local chief officer of police. BCU Commander, Detective Chief Superintendent James Conway.
- The police and crime commissioner, Mayor Sadiq Khan.
- London Borough of Newham.
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- London Borough of Waltham Forest.
- London Borough of Islington.
- Corporation of London.
- London Legacy Development Corporation.

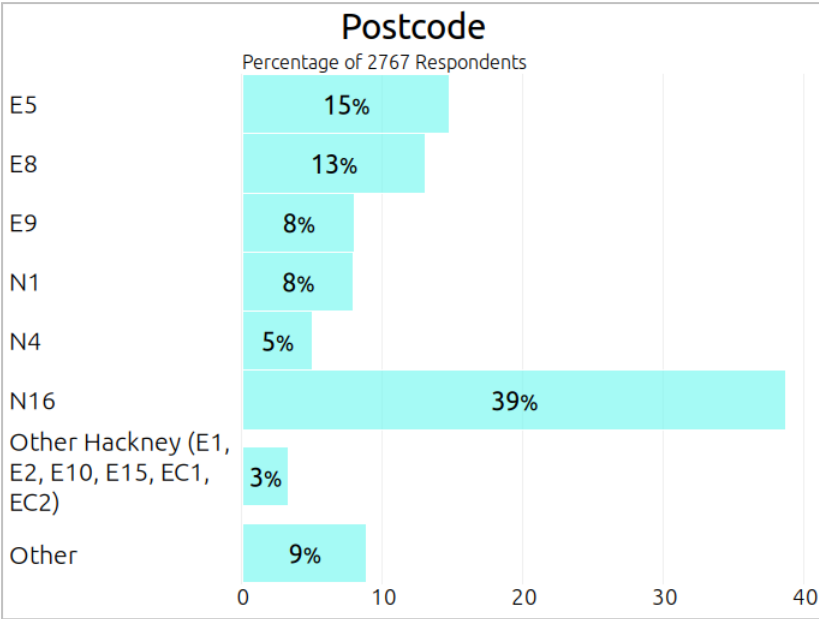
6.13. The consultation closed on 15 December 2023 and 3,888 responses had been submitted online via Citizen Space and a further 101 email responses had been received. The majority of these responses (2,870) were received before the consultation information was updated on the website. In addition, six responses were submitted on behalf of organisations or groups including the Kennel Club, Dogs Trust, RSPCA, London Fields Park User Group, Abney Park Trust and Abney Park Dog Users Group.

6.14. 58% of respondents to the consultation own a dog, whilst 42% do not, and dog ownership is the key factor in respondents' views on the proposals. 75% of respondents who are dog owners have not had any problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last 12 months (neither they nor anyone they know). In contrast, 73% of respondents who do not own dogs say that either they or someone they know have experienced a problem with dog behaviour. 74% of non-dog owning respondents support the updates to the PSPO compared to 10% of respondents who are dog owners.

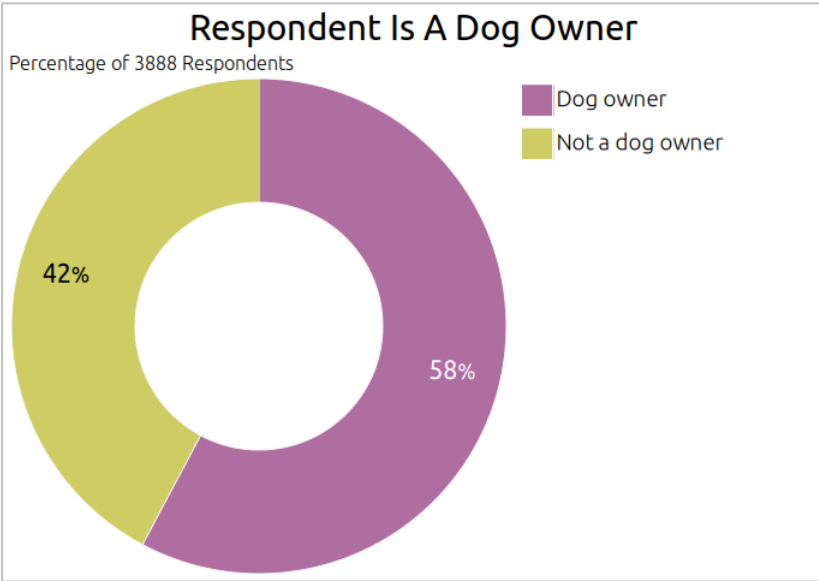
6.15. 90% of respondents either live, work or own a business in Hackney as can be seen from the chart below. 88% of respondents live in Hackney, 58% of respondents own a dog and 2% of respondents are professional dog walkers.



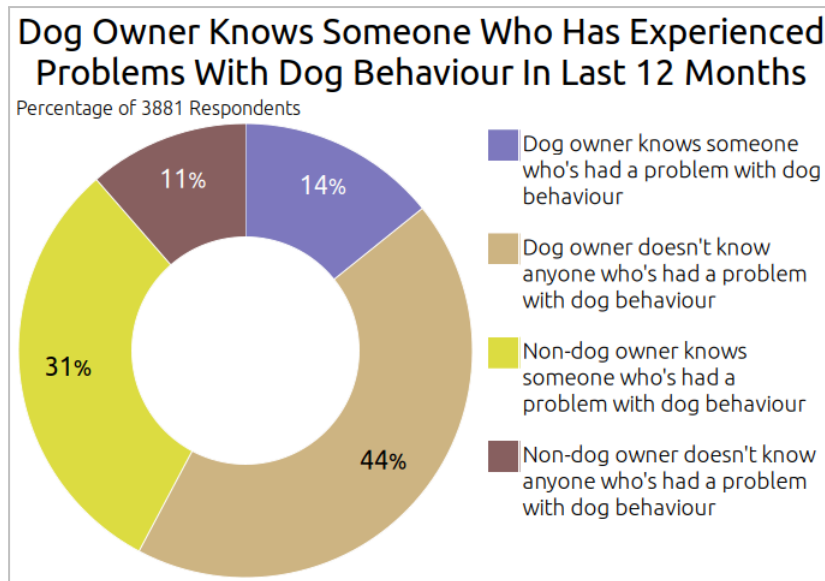
6.16. In relation to the postcode of respondents, this is broken down in the chart below based on 2767 respondents who provided postcode details.



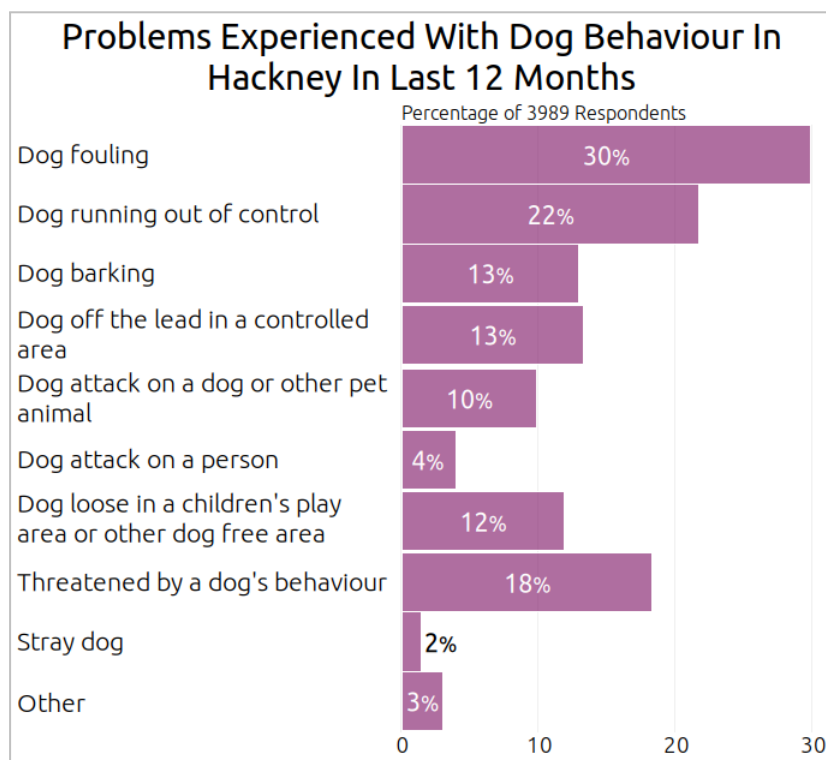
6.17. 58% of respondents are a dog owner with two percent of respondents being a dog owner based on 3,888 responses as is shown in the chart below.



6.18. 45% of respondents or someone they know has experienced problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last twelve months, while 55% have not, and in relation to dog owners knowing someone who has experienced problems with dog behaviour in the last twelve months this is shown in the chart below.



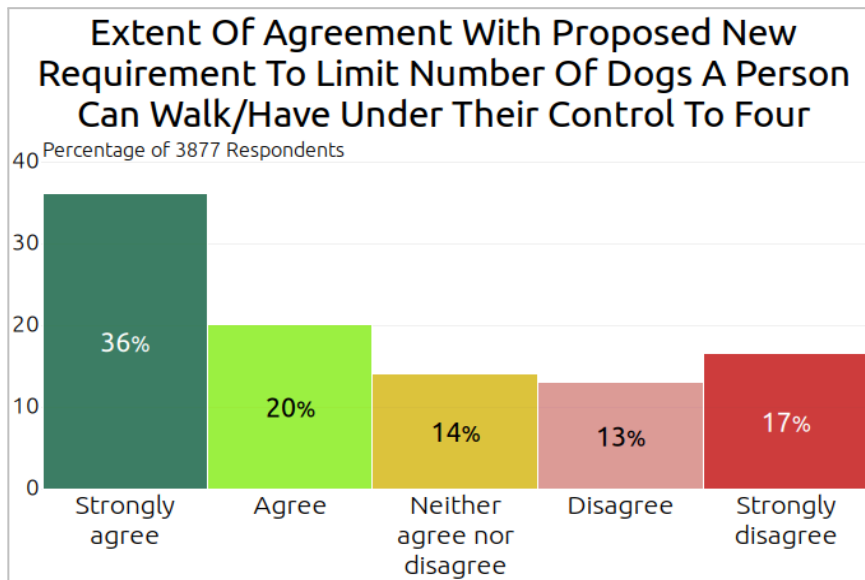
- 6.19. In relation to problems experienced by respondents with dog behaviour, the most significant were dog fouling, dog running out of control, dog barking, dog off the lead in a controlled area and being threatened by a dog's behaviour which is shown in the chart below.



- 6.20. In relation to dog control 43% of respondents either strongly agree or agree that the current PSPO is effective, while 30% either strongly disagree or disagree that the PSPO is effective with 20% remaining neutral. 85% of respondents either strongly agree or agree that it is important to control the way people look after their dogs in public spaces while 36% of respondents

support the updates to the dog control PSPO as outlined in the consultation document with 58% against the updates.

- 6.21. With regard to the proposal to limit the number of dogs a person can walk / have under their control to four, 56% of respondents either strongly agree or agree with the proposal while 30% of respondents either strongly disagreeing or disagree with the proposal with 14% of respondents being neutral and is shown in the chart below.



- 6.22. The Kennel Club responded and is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training. Their submission states the Club *“is the only national organisation named by the UK Government as a body that local authorities should consult prior to introducing restrictions on dog walkers”*. The organisation is in favour of dogs on leads by direction orders, supports controls on dog fouling and is not against dog exclusion zones or dogs on leads orders where appropriate.

- 6.23. However, the Kennel Club does not support the maximum number of dogs restriction stating that *“an arbitrary maximum number of dogs a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control”*. This is because it *“can result in displacement and subsequently intensify problems in other areas”*. Also, the submission says that the number of dogs a walker can control depends on their experience, the dogs themselves and the location. If the proposed measures are being considered due to concerns about commercial dog walkers, the submission considers that a better approach would be to consider accreditation schemes. These *“can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice”*. The full submission from the Kennel Club can be found in Appendix 2 of the Consultation Report (which is included as Appendix 2 to this report).

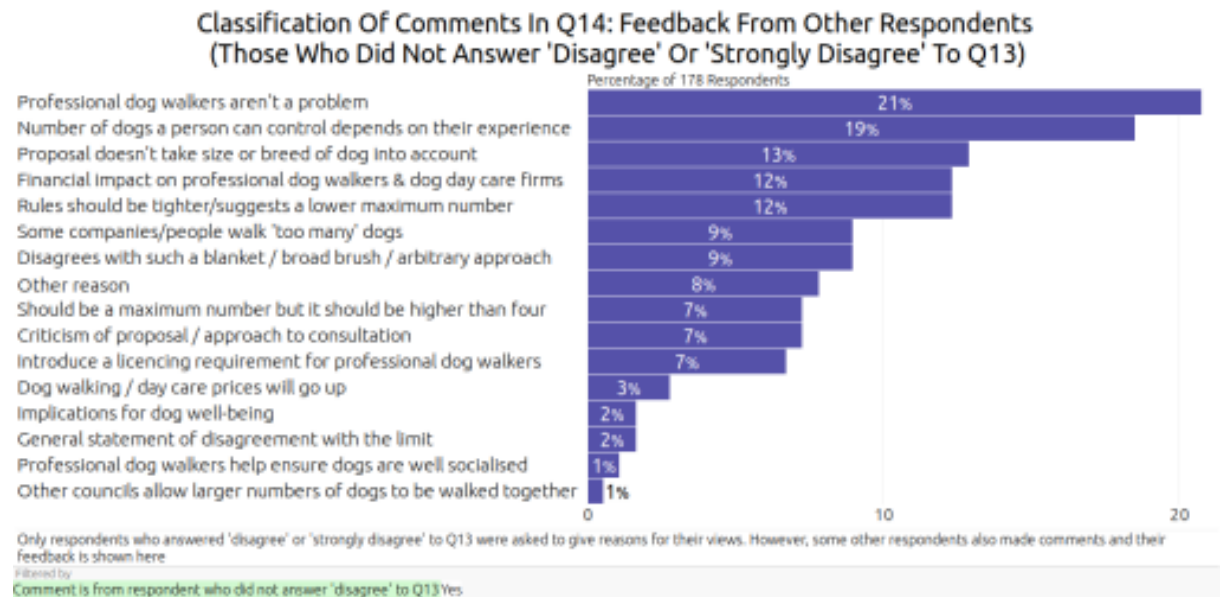
- 6.24. The Dogs Trust is the United Kingdom’s largest dog welfare charity. Its submission references the PDSA’s Paw Report 2018 saying this found that

89% of vets believe dog welfare would suffer if owners were prohibited from walking their pets in public places, such as parks, or if dogs had to be kept on the lead in these places.

- 6.25. The charity supports controls on dog fouling and dogs on lead by direction orders. The submission states the Dogs Trust recommends keeping dog exclusion zones to a minimum, for example including children's playgrounds but not excluding dogs from sports pitches for long periods of the year, as this is *"unnecessary"*. It also makes reference to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 (the 'duty of care') that includes a dog's need to *"exhibit normal behaviour patterns"*. The submission points out that *"this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas"*. The full submission from the Dogs Trust can be found in Appendix 3 of the Consultation Report (which is included as Appendix 2 to this report).
- 6.26. An email submission from the RSPCA confirms its support for responsible dog ownership and encouraging the training of dogs so that everyone can enjoy parks and other public spaces. It refers specifically to the proposals concerning Abney Park and says the charity's position is that *"PSPOs should not unwittingly compromise dog welfare by placing undue restrictions on dogs"* and it also refers to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 saying *"blanket bans on walking dogs off-lead can make it very difficult to provide for this natural behaviour"*. The full submission from the RSPCA can be found in Appendix 4 of the Consultation Report (which is included as Appendix 2 to this report).
- 6.27. One of the major issues that was raised in relation to this issue of the proposal to limit the number of dogs a person can have under their control to four is perceived as being *"targeted at professional dog walkers"*, who many respondents recognise as being the people most able to control their dogs.
- 6.28. The financial impact on professional dog walkers is a concern of respondents, as many respondents who own dogs use professional dog walkers or day care providers to ensure their pets get sufficient exercise. Their comments express concern about the impact the proposals will have on the financial viability of these small businesses, as well as about the resulting increase in costs to themselves, particularly during the cost of living crisis. Respondents also raise concerns about the repercussions for dog well-being if dog walkers go out of business or owners can no longer afford to use them.
- 6.29. In addition, although this was only mentioned by a small proportion of other respondents, 20% of professional dog walkers who disagree with the proposal, point out that they are insured for a certain number of dogs, often six.

- 6.30. The most common theme in the feedback from respondents, who disagree with the proposal to limit the number of dogs to four, is that professional dog walkers do not cause any issues in the area.
- 6.31. The comments from dog owners express concern that the proposed new requirement will result in dog walkers going out of business. Many professional walkers have made similar comments regarding the reduction in income and the increased costs if the proposed changes come into effect.
- 6.32. Many respondents comment that an inexperienced owner may be unable to control one dog, and this might be more dangerous than an experienced professional with five or six dogs.
- 6.33. As well as expressing concerns about the financial viability of dog walking and day care businesses, many dog owners are concerned that the proposed new restriction would result in prices for these services increasing, with many commenting that they would not be able to afford this, especially with the cost of living crisis.
- 6.34. Respondents questioned the rationale behind the four dog limit with many asking where the evidence, data and justification comes from. The comments from many professional dog walkers object that they have not been consulted on the proposed changes prior to the consultation being publicised.
- 6.35. However, 11% of non-dog owners, who disagree with the new requirement, state that they think the rules should be tighter or suggest a lower maximum number. 20% of professional dog walkers, who disagree with the proposed new requirement, point out that they are insured for a maximum number of dogs, typically six. Other respondents also comment that they think there should be a limit but that four seems too low.
- 6.36. Although respondents were only invited to enter comments about the reasons for their views if they answered 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' to question thirteen, some respondents who did not select these response options also made comments about the new requirement to restrict the maximum number of dogs to four. These responses are considered as a percentage of comments made, rather than as a percentage of all respondents who do not disagree with the new requirement. This is because most respondents, who did not select 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', followed the instructions in the questionnaire and did not give feedback, even though they might have wanted to do so.
- 6.37. 21% of these comments state that professional dog walkers are not a problem in the area, whilst 19% suggest that the number of dogs a person can control depends on their experience, and 13% think the proposals do not take the size or breed of dog into account. 12% are concerned about the financial impact on professional dog walkers and day cares, whilst the same

proportion of comments state the rules should be tighter. Full details are shown in the chart below.



- 6.38. Additionally, some disabled respondents express concern about being able to give their dog enough exercise if their access to suitable local areas is restricted. This is an issue highlighted in the responses to the question about the restriction on the maximum number of dogs. Respondents express concern that dogs will get less exercise if the proposed change forces professional dog walkers and day cares out of business or to put up prices. They worry this may result in dogs being left at home for longer affecting their well-being and, potentially, their behaviour when they are taken out for exercise.

"I walk my dog in Hackney's section of the QE Olympic Park. I am a wheelchair user and this part of the park under your domain is the only place where I can walk my dog because of the path. I cannot use the marshes, I cannot go to the flats. My assistance dog is mandated to have two hours off lead every day, it's in her contract. I take her through the park, she is let off onto Hopkins Field – as permitted by the LLDC – and in my wheelchair, I follow the path and circle that field and you are voting to completely remove my ability to do this. You will take all independence from me."

Response to the Consultation

- 6.39. The Council has considered all of the comments and feedback submitted to the consultation on the proposed PSPO (Dog Control). Taking into account the matters raised by residents and other groups, Cabinet is recommended to approve the following changes to the draft PSPO (Dog Control) that was consulted on:
- 6.39.1. Abney Park Cemetery: To help balance the needs of dog walkers, with those of other visitors and the particular character of Abney Park Cemetery, the

Council proposed in the consultation on the PSPO (Dog Control) to add Abney Park Cemetery to the list of sites where dogs must be kept on a lead.

It proposed making this change for a number of reasons:

- Addressing issues relating to the behaviour of dogs in Abney Park Cemetery that have been observed over recent years (including the observed increase in dog numbers);
- Delivering consistency in the PSPO (Dog Control), as all other Council managed closed churchyards and burial grounds in the borough, with the exception of Abney Park Cemetery, require dogs to be on leads currently;
- Helping preserve the historical and cultural significance of Abney Park Cemetery as the borough's most significant burial site;
- Ensuring that activities and behaviours in Abney Park Cemetery are respectful of it being the final resting place for thousands of people and a place of reflection for their families;
- To reduce the incidences of dog fouling, in amongst graves, and other less accessible areas off the main paths of Abney Park Cemetery; and
- Helping preserve Abney Park Cemetery as one of the borough's most significant ecological sites, with valuable habitats and wildlife.

The Council still considers these reasons to be extremely valid and are concerns that need to be addressed moving forwards. However, the Council also acknowledges some residents' concerns about the proposals and feels that the consultation responses raise some valid points that need to be considered in reaching a decision at this time, specifically:

- The potential impact on local residents who use Abney Park Cemetery responsibly to walk their dogs;
- That Abney is different in scale and type of site from the other closed churchyards and burial grounds in the borough; and
- The impact the proposals could have on other parks and green spaces in terms of dog walkers.

Given the concerns raised by residents, and to enable the matter to be given further consideration by the Council, it is recommended that Cabinet continues with the present arrangements in Abney Park Cemetery, and does not implement the requirement that dogs must be kept on a lead at present.

6.39.2. Assistance Dogs: The proposed PSPO (Dog Control) that was consulted on indicated that the following people would be exempt from the PSPO (Dog Control), except the 'dog fouling of land' prohibition:

- people who are registered as blind,
- people who are deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and upon which they rely for assistance,
- People who have a disability which affects their mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a Prescribed Charity and upon which they rely for assistance, and anyone training an assistance dog in an official capacity, and
- a dog used by the police or other agencies permitted by the Council for official purposes.

In their consultation response, the Kennel Club suggested that further consideration should be given to the wording contained within the PSPO (Dog Control), specifically with reference to 'prescribed charity'. The Kennel Club suggests that while a proportion of assistance dogs relied upon by disabled people are trained by charities, many are not and therefore it encouraged the Council to allow for some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person's dog is acting as an assistance dog. The Kennel Club suggests the Council could consider definitions of assistance dogs used by Mole Valley District Council or Northumberland County Council.

Reflecting on this feedback, the proposed PSPO (Dog Control) being recommended to Cabinet for approval will now contain the following changes to definitions to provide more clarity:

- The term "Assistance Dog" shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.
- The expression "disability" shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation.

6.39.3. Maximum Number of Dogs: The PSPO (Dog Control) that was consulted on proposed that the maximum number of dogs that could be walked / under the control of any one person was four. The proposals were put forward to address issues that had been identified in the borough relating to one person walking large numbers of dogs and followed guidance issued by the RSPCA (and endorsed by Canine & Feline Sector Group, the Dogs Trust and the Pet Industry Federation) for professional dog walkers, that was prepared in the best interests of animal welfare.

The proposals in the PSPO (Dog Control) resulted in responses from professional bodies, residents and businesses regarding the impact the change would have had on the cost / provision of dog walking and daycare

businesses; impacting on residents who use these businesses and the business themselves.

Whilst the Council still believes, for safety and dog welfare reasons, that the PSPO (Dog Control) needs to place a cap on the maximum number of dogs that can be walked / under the control of any one person (regardless of whether the person is a resident and / or a professional dog walker), it acknowledges that limiting this to four may have had unintended consequences in the short-term. The PSPO (Dog Control) being recommended to Cabinet for approval therefore proposes that the maximum number of dogs that can be walked / under the control of any one person is increased from four to six.

Six dogs reflects the maximum number of dogs that many professional dog walkers can walk under their own insurance policies and is also consistent with the maximum number of dogs any person can walk / be in control of in the PSPOs (Dog Control) / Byelaws for a number of surrounding boroughs / authorities to Hackney:

- Lee Valley Regional Park Authority: Maximum number of dogs that can be walked / under the control of any one person is five;
- London Borough of Haringey: Maximum number of dogs that can be walked / under the control of any one person is six;
- London Borough of Newham: Maximum number of dogs that can be walked / under the control of any one person is six; and
- London Borough of Waltham Forest: Maximum number of dogs that can be walked / under the control of any one person is six.

6.39.4 Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (QEOP): The London Legacy Development Corporation, who are responsible for the management of QEOP, have requested that a part of the area of QEOP that is within the London Borough of Hackney (Hopkins' Fields) is excluded from the dogs on leads requirement, therefore becoming a dogs off the lead area, which it has been for a number of years. The PSPO (Dog Control) being recommended to Cabinet for approval therefore proposes that Hopkins' Fields is excluded from the dogs on leads requirement in the rest of QEOP that is in the London Borough of Hackney.

6.39.5 Sports Playing Pitches: Acknowledging residents' and professional bodies' concerns that a blanket exclusion for dogs from sports playing pitches at all times is unfair, the PSPO (Dog Control) being recommended to Cabinet for approval proposes that dogs are allowed to be off the lead in Sports Playing Pitch areas (as outlined in the Order) when they are not in use for sporting activities.

6.39.6 New Areas for the PSPO (Dog Control) to Cover: A number of areas were suggested for inclusion in the PSPO (Dog Control) that are not specifically covered in the revised PSPO (Dog Control) at present. The most notable

were two areas of London Fields that the London Fields Park User Group (LFUG) wanted to be designated as 'dog exclusion' areas due to biodiversity / ecology improvements that the User Group had delivered. However, as the areas were not included in the original consultation proposals they cannot be added at this stage - Officers will therefore work with LFUG to discuss options for the protection of these areas.

Risk Assessment

- 6.40. Some users of the public spaces to be covered by the proposed PSPO (Dog Control) may be unhappy with the proposals that are recommended for approval. However, the consultation exercise has provided a better understanding of the balanced approach to managing freedoms for all, with the need to control inappropriate behaviour that infringes the freedoms of the community more widely.
- 6.41. The purpose of the proposed PSPO (Dog Control), and subject to certain restrictions, is to provide a better understanding of the balanced approach to managing freedoms for all with the need to control inappropriate behaviour that infringes the freedoms of the community more widely.

7. Comments of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources

- 7.1. The cost of implementation of the PSPO (Dog Control) is met from the Community Safety and Enforcement Services approved budgets.

8. VAT Implications on Land and Property Transactions

- 8.1. There are no VAT implications in relation to this report.

9. Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 9.1. The recommendation set out in paragraph 3 of this report is for the Cabinet to approve the making of a Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control).
- 9.2. S.72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 states that:
 - '(3) A local authority must carry out the necessary consultation and the necessary publicity, and the necessary notification (if any), before—
 - (a) making a public spaces protection order,
 - (b) extending the period for which a public spaces protection order has effect, or
 - (c) varying or discharging a public spaces protection order.

(4) In subsection (3)—

“the necessary consultation” means consulting with—

- (a) the chief officer of police, and the local policing body, for the police area that includes the restricted area;
- (b) whatever community representatives the local authority thinks it appropriate to consult;
- (c) the owner or occupier of land within the restricted area;’

9.3. A PSPO may be considered to be an appropriate response where Local Authorities have identified a particular local issue. A single PSPO can be used to target a range of different ASB issues. These orders allow Local Authorities to introduce reasonable prohibitions and/or requirements regarding certain behaviours within the specified public area. They may also include prescribed exemptions. Orders can be introduced for a maximum of 3 years, and may be extended beyond this for a further three-year period(s) in circumstances where certain criteria are met.

9.4. There are some limitations set out in legislation regarding behaviours that can be restricted by PSPOs. As a public sector body, the Council must have regard to the freedoms permitted under articles 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act 1998 when drafting, which cover freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association.

9.5. 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.

9.6. The Mayor and Cabinet have the authority to approve the recommendation set out in paragraph 3.1 of this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

Appendix 2 - Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control) Consultation Report

Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)

Background documents

None.

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DRAFT ORDER

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

SECTION 59

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

This order is made by the London Borough of Hackney (the 'Council') and shall be known as the Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) 2024.

PRELIMINARY

1. The Council, in making this Order is satisfied on reasonable grounds that:

The activities identified below have been carried out in public places within the Council's area and have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality,

and that:

the effect, or likely effect, of the activities:

is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,

is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and

justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.
2. The Council is satisfied that the prohibitions imposed by this Order are reasonable to impose in order to prevent the detrimental effect of these activities from continuing, occurring or recurring, or to reduce that detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.
3. The Council has had regard to the rights and freedoms set out in the European Convention on Human Rights. The Council has had particular regard to the rights and freedoms set out in Article 10 (right of freedom of expression) and Article 11 (right of freedom of assembly) of the European Convention on Human Rights and has concluded that the restrictions on such rights and freedoms imposed by this Order are lawful, necessary and proportionate.

THE ACTIVITIES

4. The Activities prohibited by the Order are:
- (i) Failing to remove dog faeces from land within the Restricted Area forthwith,
 - (ii) Allowing dogs to enter or remain on land identified in Schedule 1 of this order (the exclusion areas),
 - (iii) Failing to keep a dog on a lead at all times when on the land identified in Schedule 2 of this order,
 - (iv) Failing to comply with a direction given by an Authorised Officer of the Council to put and keep a dog on a lead,
 - (v) Failing to keep a dog under proper control,
 - (vi) Having more than six dogs under the control of one person within the Restricted Area.

THE PROHIBITION

5. A person shall not engage in any of the Activities anywhere within the Restricted Area as shown shaded on the attached map labelled “The Restricted Area” or, in relation to Article 4(ii) within the land listed in schedule 1 to this order and in relation to Article 4(iii), within the land listed in schedule 2 to this order.
6. This Prohibition is subject to the Exception stated below.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ORDER

7. Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.

THE EXCEPTION

8. Nothing in this order shall apply to a person who –
- (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948;

- (b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance;
 - (c) has a disability in respect of an Assistance Dog and upon which he relies for assistance;
 - (d) a person who is training an assistance dog in an official capacity; or
 - (e) a dog used by the police or other agencies permitted by the Council for official purposes.
9. Nothing in Article 4(ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) shall apply to a person who has been given permission by the owner occupier or other person having control of the land.

DEFINITIONS

10. In this Order the following words or phrases are defined as follows:

‘Assistance Dog’ shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.

‘Authorised Officer’ means an employee or agent of the Authority who is authorised for the purpose of giving directions under this Order.

‘Council’ means the London Borough of Hackney.

‘Disability’ shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation.

‘In charge’ A person who has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog.

‘Lead’ means any rope, cord, leash or similar item which is no more than two metres in length and which used to tether, control or restrain a dog, but does not include any such item which is not actively being used as a means of restraint so that the dog remains under a person’s control. An extendable lead must not be extended beyond two metres.

‘Proper control’ means a dog being on a lead or muzzled if the dog requires it, or otherwise being at heel/close enough to the person in charge that it can be restrained if necessary or respond immediately to voice commands.

‘Removing/removal of dog faeces’ means placing the faeces in a receptacle in the Restricted Area which is provided for the purpose, or the disposal of waste.

‘Restricted Area’ means the whole of the London Borough of Hackney as shown on the map attached to this order and labelled ‘Restricted Area’.

PERIOD FOR WHICH THIS ORDER HAS EFFECT

11. This Order will come into force at midnight on 18th March 2024 and will expire at midnight on 17th March 2027.
12. At any point before the expiry of this three year period the Council can extend the Order by up to three years if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that this is necessary to prevent the activities identified in the Order from occurring or recurring or to prevent an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER?

Section 67 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 says that it is a criminal offence for a person without reasonable excuse –

- (a) to do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order, or
- (b) to fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under a public spaces protection order.

A person guilty of an offence under section 67 is liable on conviction in the Magistrates Court to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

FIXED PENALTY

A Constable, Police Community Support Officer or Council Enforcement Officer may issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he or she believes has committed an offence under section 67 of the Anti- Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act. You will have 14 days to pay the fixed penalty of £100. If you pay the fixed penalty within the 14 days you will not be prosecuted.

APPEALS

Any challenge to this order must be made in the High Court by an interested person within six weeks of it being made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in, or visits the safe zone. This means that only those who are

directly affected by the restrictions have the power to challenge. The right to challenge also exists where an order is varied by the Council.

Interested persons can challenge the validity of this order on two grounds: that the Council did not have power to make the order, or to include particular prohibitions or requirements; or that one of the requirements of the legislation has not been complied with.

When an application is made the High Court can decide to suspend the operation of the order pending the Court's decision, in part or in totality. The High Court has the ability to uphold or quash the order or any of its prohibitions or requirements.

THE COMMON SEAL of THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

EXECUTED by affixing the Common Seal of

THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY

in the presence of:-

.....
Authorised Signatory

Text of Section 67 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

(1) It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse-

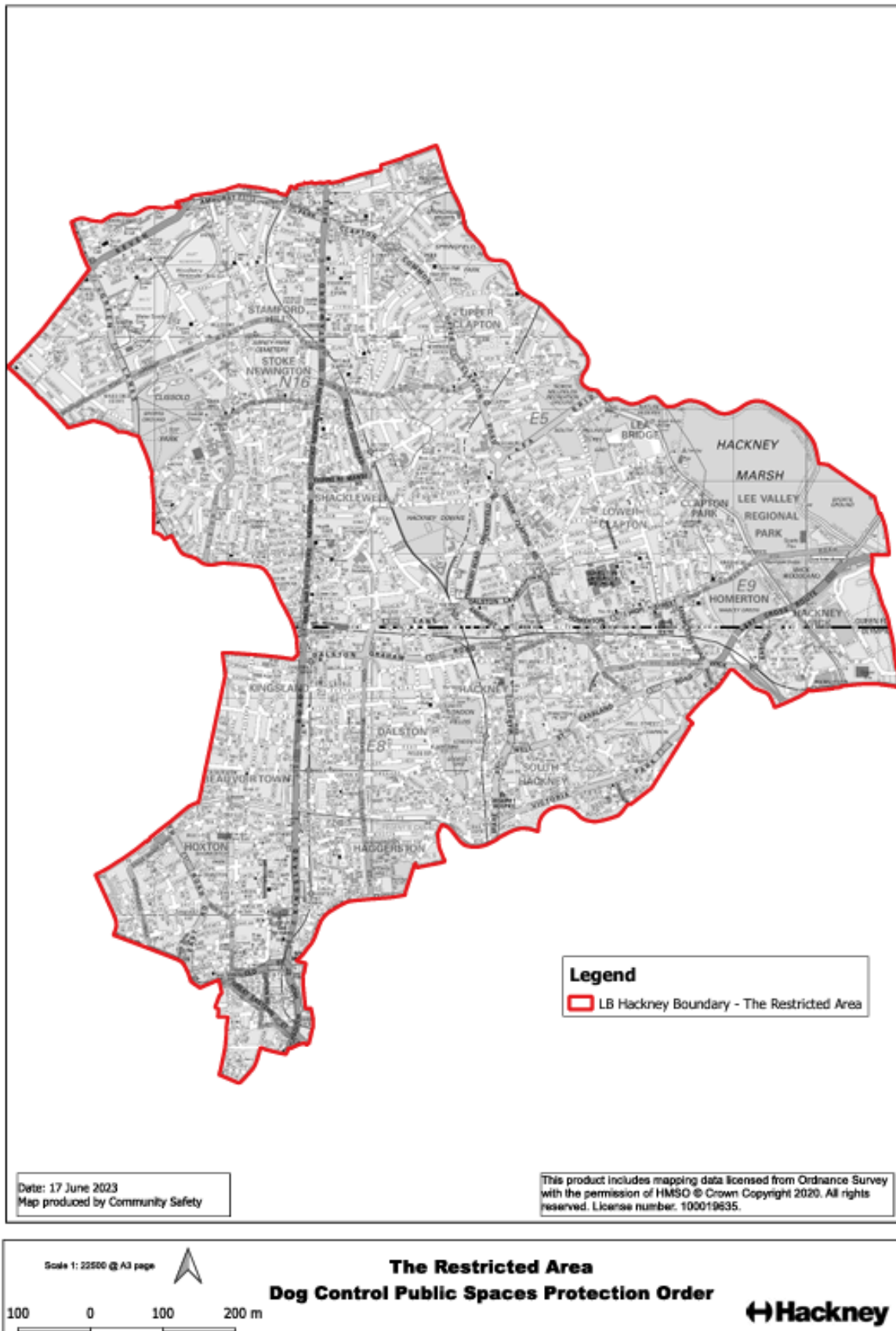
(a) To do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order, or

(b) To fail to comply with a requirement to which a person is subject under a public spaces protection order

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale

(3) A person does not commit an offence under this section by failing to comply with a prohibition or requirement that the local authority did not have power to include in the public spaces protection order

THE RESTRICTED AREA:



SCHEDULES:

Schedule 1:

By virtue of Article 4(ii) of this order, dogs are **excluded** from all bmx tracks, children's play areas, fenced off dog free areas, multi use games areas, outdoor gyms, skate parks, small parks, splash pads and children's water features, sports courts, sports playing pitches (when in use for sporting activities), water sports centres and reservoirs throughout the Restricted Area. This order also applies to all areas designated as a children's play area, fenced off dog free area, multi use games areas, outdoor gyms, skate parks, small parks, splash pads and children's water features, sports courts, sports playing pitches (when in use for sporting activities), water sports centres and reservoirs by the Council from the date this Order comes into effect.

BMX Tracks

HAGGERSTON PARK, E2

Children's Play Areas

ALLENS GARDENS, N16

BROADWAY MARKET GREEN, E8

BUTTERFIELD GREEN, N16

CLAPTON COMMON, E5

CLAPTON POND, E5

CLAPTON SQUARE, E5

CLISSOLD PARK, N16

DAUBENEY FIELDS, E9

DE BEAUVOIR SQUARE, N1

EVERGREEN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, E8

HACKNEY DOWNS, E5

HACKNEY MARSH ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, E9

HAGGERSTON PARK, E2

HOMERTON GROVE ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, E9

KIDS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, E5

KYNASTON GARDENS, N16

LONDON FIELDS, E8

MABLEY GREEN, E9

MILLFIELDS PARK, E5

PEARSON STREET ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, E2

ROWLEY GARDENS, N4

SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, N16

SHEPHERDESS WALK, N1

SHOREDITCH PARK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, N1

SHOREDITCH PARK, N1

SPRING PARK, N4

SPRINGFIELD PARK, E5

ST JOHN'S CHURCHYARD PLAY AREA, E9

STOKE NEWINGTON COMMON, N16

STONEBRIDGE GARDENS, E8

WELL STREET COMMON, E9

WEST HACKNEY RECREATION GROUND, N16

WOODBERRY DOWN PARK, N4

Fenced Off Dog Free Areas

CLISSOLD PARK, N16

HACKNEY DOWNS (OLD BOWLING GREEN AREA), E5

HACKNEY DOWNS PICNIC AREA, E5

MILLFIELDS PARK, E5

SPRINGFIELD PARK (CAFÉ SEATING AREA), E5

SPRINGFIELD PARK (OLD BOWLING GREEN AREA), E5

Multi Use Games Areas

ASKE GARDENS, N1

BUTTERFIELD GREEN, N16

CLISSOLD PARK, N16

HACKNEY DOWNS, E5

HAGGERSTON PARK, E2

LONDON FIELDS, E8

ROWLEY GARDENS, N4

SHEPHERDESS WALK, N1

SHOREDITCH PARK, N1

STONEBRIDGE GARDENS, E8

UFTON GARDENS, N1

Outdoor Gyms

BUTTERFIELD GREEN, N16

HAGGERSTON PARK, E2

LONDON FIELDS, E8

MILLFIELDS PARK, E5

MABLEY GREEN, E9

SHOREDITCH PARK, N1

SPRINGFIELD PARK, E5

WEST HACKNEY RECREATION GROUND, N16

Small Parks

DE BEAUVOIR SQUARE, N1

Skate Parks

CLISSOLD PARK, N16

DAUBENEY FIELDS, E9

Splash Pads and Children's Water Features

CLISSOLD PARK, N16

ST JOHN'S CHURCHYARD, E9

Sports Courts

ASKE GARDENS TENNIS COURT, N1

CLISSOLD PARK TENNIS COURTS, N16

GAINSBOROUGH PLAYING FIELDS, E20

HACKNEY DOWNS BASKETBALL COURTS, E5

HACKNEY DOWNS TENNIS COURTS, E5

LONDON FIELDS PETANQUE COURT, E8

LONDON FIELDS TENNIS COURTS, E8

MILLFIELDS PARK BASKETBALL COURTS, E5

MILLFIELDS PARK TENNIS COURTS, E5

SHOREDITCH PARK BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT, N1

SPRINGFIELD PARK TENNIS COURTS, E5

SPRING HILL RECREATION GROUND TENNIS COURTS, E5

Sports Playing Pitches (when in use for sporting activities)

HACKNEY DOWNS CRICKET AND FOOTBALL PITCHES, E5

HACKNEY MARSHES CRICKET, FOOTBALL AND RUGBY PITCHES, E9

HAGGERSTON PARK ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH, E2

LONDON FIELDS CRICKET PITCH, E8

MABLEY GREEN ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES, E9

MABLEY GREEN FOOTBALL PITCHES, E9

MILLFIELDS PARK CRICKET PITCHES, E5

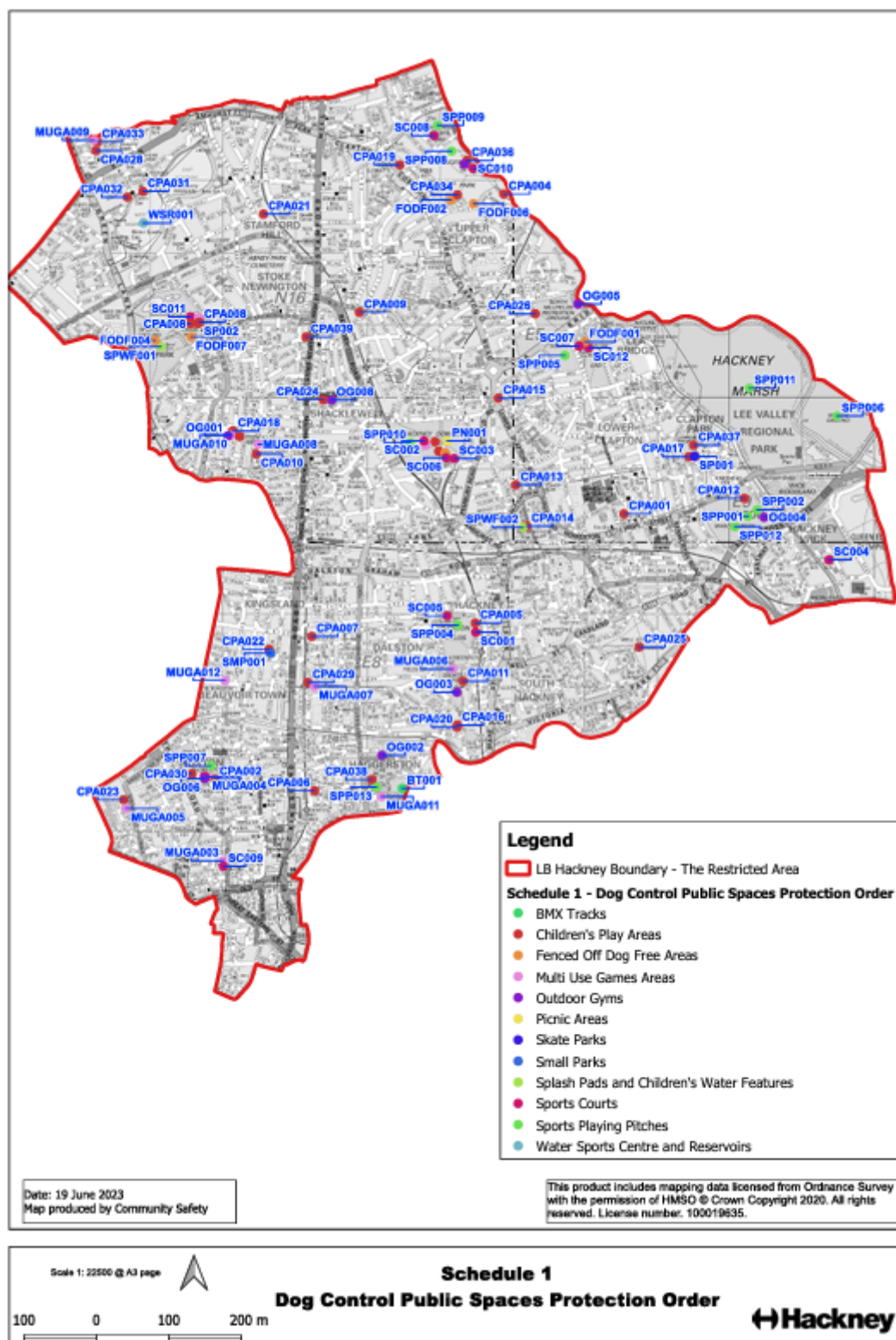
SHOREDITCH PARK SPORTS PITCHES, N1

SPRING HILL RECREATION GROUND RUGBY PITCHES, E5

SPRINGFIELD PARK CRICKET PITCHES, E5

Water Sports Centre and Reservoirs

WEST RESERVOIR, N4



CODE BT	CATEGORY	LOCATION
BT001	BMX Tracks	Haggerston Park, BMX Park

CODE CPA	CATEGORY	LOCATION
CPA001	Children's Play Areas	Homerton Grove Adventure Playground
CPA002	Children's Play Areas	Shoreditch Park Adventure Playground
CPA003	Children's Play Areas	Shakespeare Walk Adventure Playground
CPA004	Children's Play Areas	Kids Adventure Playground
CPA005	Children's Play Areas	London Fields, Play Area
CPA006	Children's Play Areas	Pearson Street Adventure Playground
CPA007	Children's Play Areas	Evergreen Adventure Playground
CPA008	Children's Play Areas	Clissold Park, Play Area
CPA009	Children's Play Areas	Stoke Newington Common, Play Area
CPA010	Children's Play Areas	Butterfield Green, Play Area
CPA011	Children's Play Areas	London Fields, Play Area
CPA012	Children's Play Areas	Mabey Green, Play Area
CPA013	Children's Play Areas	Clapton Square, Play Area
CPA014	Children's Play Areas	St John's Churchyard, Play Area
CPA015	Children's Play Areas	Clapton Pond, Play Area
CPA016	Children's Play Areas	Broadway Market Green, Play Area
CPA017	Children's Play Areas	Daubney Fields, Play Area
CPA018	Children's Play Areas	Butterfield Green, Play Area
CPA019	Children's Play Areas	Clapton Common, Play Area
CPA020	Children's Play Areas	Broadway Market Green, Play Area
CPA021	Children's Play Areas	Allens Gardens, Play Area
CPA022	Children's Play Areas	De Beauvoir Square, Play Area
CPA023	Children's Play Areas	Shepherdess Walk, Play Area
CPA024	Children's Play Areas	West Hackney Recreation Ground
CPA025	Children's Play Areas	Well Street Common, Play Area
CPA026	Children's Play Areas	Millfields Park, Play Area
CPA027	Children's Play Areas	Hackney Downs, Play Area
CPA028	Children's Play Areas	Rowley Gardens, Play Area
CPA029	Children's Play Areas	Stonebridge Gardens, Play Area
CPA030	Children's Play Areas	Shoreditch Park, Play Area
CPA031	Children's Play Areas	Woodberry Down Park, Play Area
CPA032	Children's Play Areas	Spring Park, Play Area
CPA033	Children's Play Areas	Rowley Gardens, Play Area
CPA034	Children's Play Areas	Springfield Park, Play Area
CPA035	Children's Play Areas	Hackney Downs, Play Area
CPA036	Children's Play Areas	Springfield Park, Play Area
CPA037	Children's Play Areas	Hackney Marsh Adventure Playground
CPA038	Children's Play Areas	Haggerston Park, Play Area
CPA039	Children's Play Areas	Kynaston Gardens, Play Area

CODE FODF	CATEGORY	LOCATION
FODF001	Fenced Off Dog Free Areas	Millfields Park, Fenced Off Dog Free Areas
FODF002	Fenced Off Dog Free Areas	Springfield Park, Cafe Seating Area
FODF003	Fenced Off Dog Free Areas	Clissold Park, Dog Free Area
FODF004	Fenced Off Dog Free Areas	Clissold Park, Dipping Pond
FODF005	Fenced Off Dog Free Areas	Hackney Downs, Old Bowling Green Area
FODF006	Fenced Off Dog Free Areas	Springfield Park, Old Bowling Green Area

CODE Pn	CATEGORY	LOCATION
Pn001	Picnic Areas	Hackney Downs, Picnic Area

CODE SMP	CATEGORY	LOCATION
SMP001	Small Parks	De Beauvoir Square

CODE SP	CATEGORY	LOCATION
SP001	Skate Parks	Daubney Fields, Skate Park
SP002	Skate Parks	Clissold Park, Skate Park

Schedule 1 Code Key
Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order



CODE MUGA	CATEGORY	LOCATION
MUGA001	Multi Use Games Areas	Clissold Park, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA002	Multi Use Games Areas	Hackney Downs, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA003	Multi Use Games Areas	Aske Gardens, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA004	Multi Use Games Areas	Shoreditch Park, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA005	Multi Use Games Areas	Shepherdess Walk, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA006	Multi Use Games Areas	London Fields, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA007	Multi Use Games Areas	Stonebridge Gardens, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA008	Multi Use Games Areas	Butterfield Green, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA009	Multi Use Games Areas	Rowley Gardens, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA010	Multi Use Games Areas	Butterfield Green, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA011	Multi Use Games Areas	Haggerston Park, Multi Use Games Area
MUGA012	Multi Use Games Areas	Upton Gardens, Multi Use Games Area

CODE OG	CATEGORY	LOCATION
OG001	Outdoor Gyms	Butterfield Green Outdoor Gym
OG002	Outdoor Gyms	Haggerston Park, Outdoor Gym
OG003	Outdoor Gyms	London Fields, Outdoor Gym
OG004	Outdoor Gyms	Mabley Green, Outdoor Gym
OG005	Outdoor Gyms	Millfields Park, Outdoor Gym
OG006	Outdoor Gyms	Shoreditch Park, Outdoor Gym
OG007	Outdoor Gyms	Springfield Park, Outdoor Gym
OG008	Outdoor Gyms	West Hackney Recreation Ground, Outdoor Gym

CODE SC	CATEGORY	LOCATION
SC001	Sports Courts	London Fields, Petanque Court
SC002	Sports Courts	Hackney Downs, Basketball Courts
SC003	Sports Courts	Hackney Downs, Tennis Courts
SC004	Sports Courts	Gainsborough Playing Fields
SC005	Sports Courts	London Fields, Tennis Courts
SC006	Sports Courts	Hackney Downs, Tennis Courts
SC007	Sports Courts	Millfields Park, Tennis Courts
SC008	Sports Courts	Spring Hill Recreation Ground, Tennis Courts
SC009	Sports Courts	Aske Gardens Tennis Courts
SC010	Sports Courts	Springfield Park, Tennis Courts
SC011	Sports Courts	Clissold Park, Tennis Courts
SC012	Sports Courts	Millfields Park, Basketball Courts
SC013	Sports Courts	Shoreditch Park, Beach Volleyball Court

CODE SPP	CATEGORY	LOCATION
SPP001	Sports Playing Pitches	Mabley Green, Artificial Turf Pitches
SPP002	Sports Playing Pitches	Mabley Green, Artificial Turf Pitches
SPP004	Sports Playing Pitches	London Fields, Cricket Pitch
SPP005	Sports Playing Pitches	Millfields Park, Cricket Pitches
SPP006	Sports Playing Pitches	Hackney Marshes, Football Pitches, East Marsh
SPP007	Sports Playing Pitches	Shoreditch Park, Sports Pitches
SPP008	Sports Playing Pitches	Springfield Park, Cricket Pitch
SPP009	Sports Playing Pitches	Spring Hill Recreation Ground, Rugby Pitches
SPP010	Sports Playing Pitches	Hackney Downs, Cricket and Football Pitches
SPP011	Sports Playing Pitches	Hackney Marshes, Cricket and Football Pitches, Main Marsh
SPP012	Sports Playing Pitches	Mabley Green, Football Pitches
SPP013	Sports Playing Pitches	Haggerston Park, Artificial Turf Pitch

CODE SPWF	CATEGORY	LOCATION
SPWF001	Splash Pads and Children's Water Features	Clissold Park, Splash Pad
SPWF002	Splash Pads and Children's Water Features	St John's Churchyard, Splash Pad

CODE WSR	CATEGORY	LOCATION
WSR001	Water Sports Centre and Reservoirs	West Reservoir and Surrounding Green Area

Schedule 1 Code Key
Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order



Schedule 2

By virtue of Article 4 (iii) of this order **dogs must be kept on a lead** in general public areas (excluding towpaths), on roads and in car parks, churchyards, burial grounds (excluding Abney Park Cemetery), communal areas on estates and public parks including:

ALBION PARADE, N16

ALBION SQUARE GARDENS, E8

ASKE GARDENS, N1

BROADWAY MARKET GREEN, E8

CHARLES SQUARE, N1

CHURCH STREET GARDENS, N16

CLAPTON POND, E5

CLISSOLD PARK ANIMAL ENCLOSURE, N16

FAIRCHILD'S GARDEN, E2

GOLDSMITH'S SQUARE RECREATION GROUND, E2

HOMERTON GROVE, E9

HOXTON SQUARE, N1

KIT CROWLEY GARDENS, E9

KYNASTON GARDENS, N16

LEVY MEMORIAL GROUND, N16

MARK STREET GARDEN, EC2

QUAKER BURIAL GROUND, N16

ROBIN HOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN, E5

SHACKLEWELL GREEN, E8

SHORE GARDENS, E9

ST JOHN AT HACKNEY CHURCHYARD, E8

ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM CHURCHYARD, E9

ST LEONARD'S CHURCHYARD, E1

ST MARY'S OLD CHURCH, N16

ST THOMAS' LONG BURIAL GROUND, E9

ST THOMAS' RECREATION GROUND, E9

ST THOMAS' SQUARE, E9

STONEBRIDGE COMMON, E8

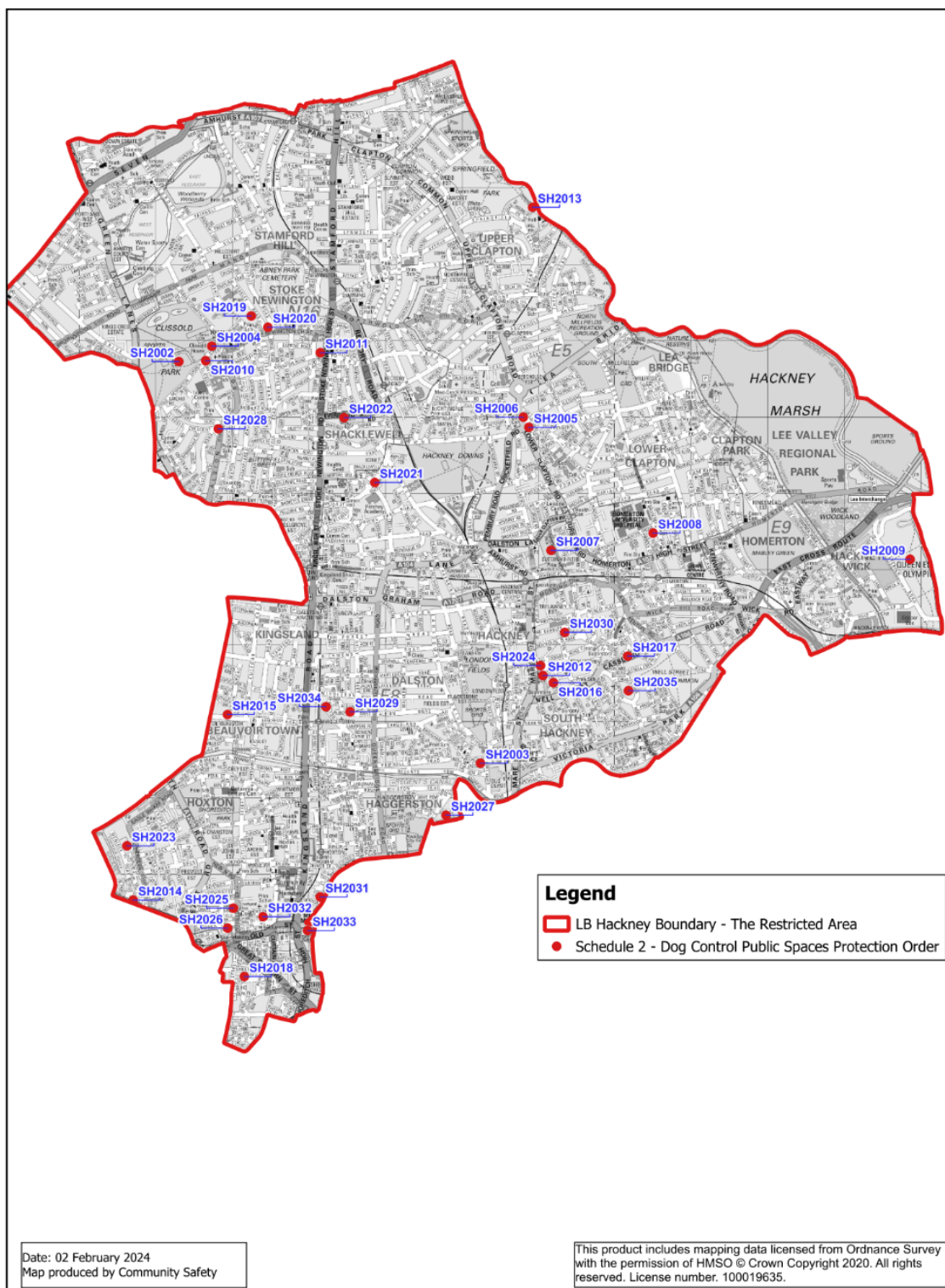
UFTON GARDENS, N1

WEST HACKNEY RECREATION GROUND, N16

WINDSOR TERRACE OPEN SPACE, EC1

SHEPHERDESS WALK, N1 (which is over half a hectare in size)

and QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK (excluding the area known as Hopkins' Fields) (which is over half a hectare in size)



CODE	LOCATION	CATEGORY
SH2002	Clissold Park Animal Enclosure	Schedule 2
SH2003	Broadway Market Green	Schedule 2
SH2004	St Mary's Old Church	Schedule 2
SH2005	Clapton Pond	Schedule 2
SH2006	Clapton Pond Play Area	Schedule 2
SH2007	St John at Hackney Churchyard	Schedule 2
SH2008	Homerton Grove	Schedule 2
SH2009	Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park	Schedule 2
SH2010	Church Street Gardens	Schedule 2
SH2011	Kynaston Gardens	Schedule 2
SH2012	St Thomas' Recreation Ground	Schedule 2
SH2013	Robin Hood Community Garden	Schedule 2
SH2014	Windsor Terrace Open Space	Schedule 2
SH2015	Ufton Gardens	Schedule 2
SH2016	St Thomas' Long Burial Ground	Schedule 2
SH2017	Kit Crowley Garden	Schedule 2
SH2018	Mark Street Gardens	Schedule 2
SH2019	Quaker Burial Ground	Schedule 2
SH2020	Levy Memorial Gardens	Schedule 2
SH2021	Shacklewell Green	Schedule 2
SH2022	West Hackney Recreation Ground	Schedule 2
SH2023	Shepherdess Walk	Schedule 2
SH2024	St Thomas' Square	Schedule 2
SH2025	Aske Gardens	Schedule 2
SH2026	Charles Square	Schedule 2
SH2027	Goldsmith's Square Recreation Ground	Schedule 2
SH2028	Albion Parade	Schedule 2
SH2029	Albion Square Gardens	Schedule 2
SH2030	Shore Gardens	Schedule 2
SH2031	Fairchild's Garden	Schedule 2
SH2032	Hoxton Square	Schedule 2
SH2033	St Leonard's Churchyard	Schedule 2
SH2034	Stonebridge Common	Schedule 2
SH2035	St John of Jerusalem Churchyard	Schedule 2

Schedule 2 Code Key
Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order



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Main Report

Prepared January 2024

Hackney Council

PSPO Dog Control Order Consultation



**Kwest
Research**

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction & Background

Hackney Council currently has a Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in place which includes controls on dog fouling, defines areas where dogs are not permitted – such as playgrounds – and requires dogs to be on leads in some public spaces. The current order is due to expire in March 2024 and the Council is proposing to extend the PSPO by a further three years and to vary it by:

- Adding to the prohibitions/requirements stipulated in the PSPO
- Updating the list of locations from which dogs are excluded
- Updating the list of locations in which dogs must be kept on a lead

The updated PSPO will include:

- A ‘dog fouling of land’ prohibition, which makes it an offence for dog owners not to remove dog faeces from public land in Hackney.
- A ‘dog exclusion’ prohibition, which enables the Council to ban dogs from entering areas such as BMX tracks, children’s play area, fenced off dog free areas, multi-use games areas, outdoor gyms, skate parks, small parks, splash pads and other sports areas.
- A ‘dogs on leads’ requirement, which enables the Council to prevent people exercising off-lead dogs in general public areas, roads, car parks, churchyards, burial grounds (including Abney Park Cemetery), communal areas on estates and some smaller public parks.
- A ‘dogs on leads by direction’ requirement, which gives officers the power to request that dogs are put on the lead if they are not under the control of their owner.
- A ‘maximum number of dogs’ requirement, which is a new rule that makes it an offence for one person to have more than four dogs under their control at any one time anywhere in the borough.

There are exemptions for assistance dogs.

The consultation was published on Hackney’s Citizen Space website on 28th August 2023. The information supporting the consultation was updated in mid-October and the deadline for submitting responses was extended by a month until 15th December. This was in response to comments from residents about providing additional clarity on the proposals. Additionally, some areas were found to be missing from the list of proposed new sites that would be subject to dog controls so these were added and the information re-published.

In September 2023, the Council tendered for an external company to undertake the analysis of the findings from the consultation and Kwest Research was appointed in October.

1.2 Response Rates

By the time the consultation closed on 15th December, 3,888 responses had been submitted online via Citizen Space and a further 101 email responses had been received. The majority of these responses (2,870) were received before the consultation information was updated on the website.

In addition, six responses were submitted on behalf of organisations or groups and these are discussed separately in this report as well as being included, in full, in appendices two to seven.

1.3 Overview Of The Responses

58% of respondents to the consultation own a dog, whilst 42% do not, and dog ownership is the key factor in respondents' views on the proposals:

- 75% of respondents who *are* dog owners have *not* had any problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last 12 months (neither they nor anyone they know).
- In contrast, 73% of respondents who do *not* own dogs say that either they or someone they know *have* experienced a problem with dog behaviour.
- 74% of non-dog owning respondents support the updates to the PSPO compared to 10% of respondents who are dog owners.

The table below outlines the headline results from the consultation, showing the findings for all respondents and the results broken down by dog ownership.

Question	Answer	% of all respondents	% of dog owners	% of non-dog owners
Respondent or someone they know has experienced problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in last 12 months	Yes	45%	25%	73%
	No	55%	75%	27%
Current dog control PSPO is effective	Agree	43%	45%	40%
	Neither	27%	28%	26%
	Disagree	30%	27%	34%
It is important to control the way people look after their dogs in shared public spaces	Agree	85%	80%	93%
	Neither	8%	12%	3%
	Disagree	6%	9%	3%
Supports the updates to the dog control PSPO	Yes	37%	10%	74%
	No	58%	85%	21%
	Don't know	5%	5%	5%
Extent of agreement with proposed new requirement to limit the number of dogs a person can walk / have under their control to four	Agree	56%	40%	78%
	Neither	14%	18%	8%
	Disagree	30%	42%	13%
Current dog control PSPO has had negative impact on respondent	Yes	16%	20%	11%
	No	84%	80%	89%

Table 1 Overview of key questions

1.4 Recurring Themes In The Qualitative Feedback

Over 8,000 comments were submitted across the various qualitative questions in the consultation response document. For each question, the key themes have been identified, and the comments categorised, to provide a further insight into the respondents' feedback. The specific themes for each question are discussed later in this report but there were a number of recurring themes that appeared in the feedback to multiple questions.

The table below shows the key recurring themes appearing in the comments made by all respondents, with findings also broken down by dog owners and non-dog owners.

Theme	% of respondents	% of dog owners	% of non-dog owners
Abney Park Cemetery	34%	45%	15%
Proposals are too restrictive / punish responsible owners	26%	40%	7%
Dogs need exercise / implications for dog well-being	23%	33%	6%
Irresponsible dog owners	22%	27%	14%
Enforcement	21%	20%	24%
Criticism of proposal / council's approach to consultation	17%	25%	5%
Financial impact on professional dog walkers / dog day care	13%	20%	3%
Dog fouling	11%	9%	14%
Humans cause more problems than dogs in parks	10%	15%	3%

Table 2 Recurring themes in the qualitative feedback

1.4.1 Abney Park Cemetery

Across the various qualitative questions or in their emails, 1,364 respondents mentioned Abney Park Cemetery and these comments were further analysed and classified into additional sub-themes. Due to the extensive response on this topic, the findings are discussed in detail in a later section of the report.

31% of all respondents submitted comments disagreeing with the proposed requirement making the cemetery a dogs on lead area, whilst 3% of respondents made comments in support of the change.

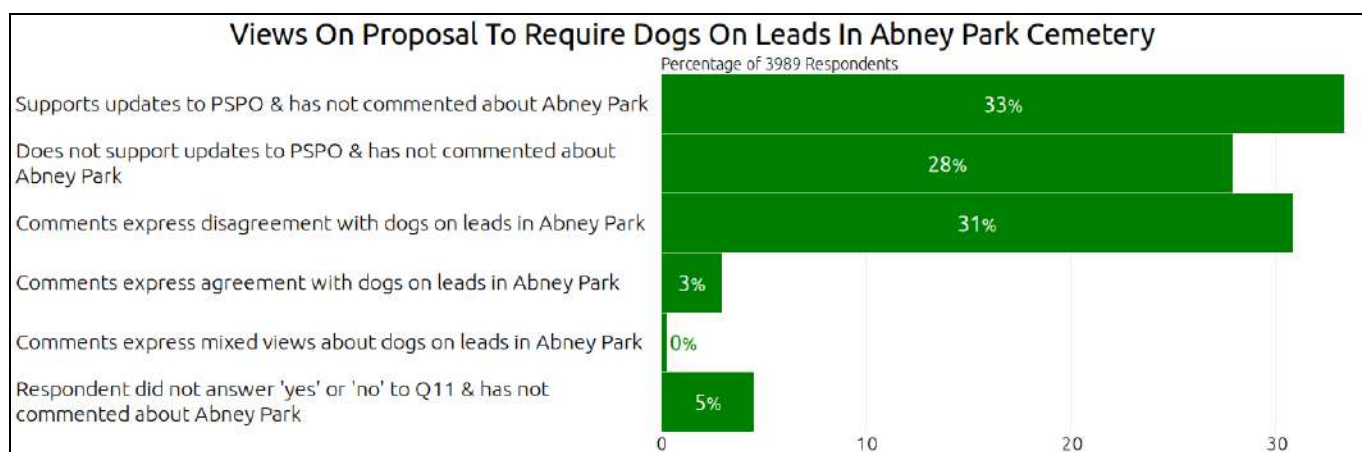


Figure 1.1

The consultation questionnaire did not ask respondents about their use of Hackney parks in general, or specific locations, such as Abney Park, in particular. In their feedback, 393 respondents explicitly mentioned walking a dog in Abney Park, although there were also many further comments where this was unclear. In the section of this report that discusses Abney Park, the themes in the feedback are analysed in a number of ways: 1) as a percentage of all respondents; 2) all dog owners; 3) all respondents who gave an N16 postcode; and 4) those respondents who explicitly mention walking a dog in the cemetery. In all these cases, the most common themes in the comments from respondents are those shown below.

- The cemetery is a particularly suitable area for dogs to be exercised off the lead. Examples of the reasons given in the comments include the trees providing shade and stimulation for dogs; the lower number of other users compared to the more open parks; the types of other park activities – people are typically moving through the cemetery and do not picnic, sunbathe, or play sports there; the enclosed space; the absence of cyclists, electric scooters or skateboarders.
- Dogs are not perceived as a problem in the cemetery. These respondents talk about never seeing problem dog behaviour despite having walked in the cemetery on a daily basis for years. Some support their argument by referring to data released under Freedom of Information requests to the Metropolitan Police and Hackney Council which they say show virtually no record of any issues in the park.

1.4.2 Proposals Are Too Restrictive / Punish Responsible Owners

In answers to several qualitative questions, a common complaint from respondents was that if the proposals come into force they will restrict where responsible owners can exercise their dogs. Many such owners point out that they already follow all the existing rules and do not feel they are the people causing the problem.

1.4.3 Dogs Need Exercise / Implications For Dog Well-Being

Many comments, in response to several questions in the consultation, highlight the importance of exercise for dog well-being. These respondents point out that lack of exercise can result in behavioural problems and many breeds of dog cannot get sufficient exercise from on-lead walking alone. Additionally, some disabled respondents express concern about being able to give their dog enough exercise if their access to suitable local areas is restricted.

This is an issue highlighted in the responses to the question about the restriction on the maximum number of dogs. Respondents express concern that dogs will get less exercise if the proposed change forces professional dog walkers and day cares out of business or to put up prices. They worry this may result in dogs being left at home for longer affecting their well-being and, potentially, their behaviour when they are taken out for exercise.

1.4.4 Irresponsible Dog Owners

There is a perception, amongst some respondents to the consultation, that “the wrong group of people is being targeted here and [this] will not solve the problem of dog related incidents”. These respondents consider “the problem is always the owners, not the dogs”. The comments include concerns about the lack of action taken against owners already known to be irresponsible and a feeling that these owners will continue to ignore the rules. Examples are given of people seen in public training their dogs to attack or with large status dogs off the lead and not under their control.

1.4.5 Enforcement

Enforcement is the most frequent recurring theme in the comments from respondents who do not have dogs. The feedback relates to complaints about the lack of enforcement of the current rules and, often following on from this, doubts that the new rules will be adequately enforced. Respondents mention never seeing any council staff enforcing the rules or being aware of anyone being fined.

Lack of enforcement is the most frequently cited reason why respondents disagree the current PSPO order is effective. Therefore, the comments from many of these respondents question the rationale behind introducing additional rules when the current order is not perceived to be effective because it is not enforced.

1.4.6 Criticism Of Proposal / Council's Approach To Consultation

Criticism of the proposals and the council's approach to the consultation are particularly prevalent in the comments from respondents giving feedback about Abney Park. Comments from these respondents raise concerns that one of the councillors involved in the decision making is also a trustee of Abney Park Trust, who publicly support the ban on off lead dogs, resulting in accusations of “a conflict of interest”.

More generally, respondents raising these issues also object to not being able to comment on individual aspects of the proposals and consider the consultation questions to be leading, biased and negatively framed. They also refer to the lack of data to support the proposals, question the sources of the information that has been provided, and think the situation with dogs should be considered as part of wider anti-social behaviour issues in Hackney's parks.

Furthermore, the feedback identifies issues with the consultation process itself including a lack of publicity and engagement with local residents; changing the scope of the consultation retrospectively; and contradictory information being provided about whether emails sent to councillors would be included in the consultation responses.

The comments from many professional dog walkers make objections that they have not been consulted on the proposed changes, particularly around the number of dogs, prior to the consultation being publicised.

1.4.7 Financial Impact On Professional Dog Walkers / Dog Day Care

Many respondents who own dogs use professional dog walkers or day care providers to ensure their pets get sufficient exercise. The proposal to limit the number of dogs a person can have under their control to four is perceived as being *"targeted at professional dog walkers"*. Respondents are concerned about the impact this will have on the financial viability of these small businesses and the potential repercussions for dog well-being.

Professional walkers and day care providers also made similar comments about the reduction in their income and the increased costs if the proposed changes come into effect or about the additional hours they would have to work to make the same money. Several of these respondents referred to the negative impact the stress associated with worrying about the proposals putting them out of business is having on their mental health. Typically, the feedback suggests many of these respondents walk six dogs, in line with the limitations in their insurance cover.

1.4.8 Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is the most frequently cited problem with dog behaviour respondents have experienced in the last 12 months (question 7 in the consultation). It is also an issue referred to when respondents talk about the lack of enforcement of the existing order. There were no questions in the consultation about the location of this problem to determine whether it is more of an issue on the streets or in parks and green spaces. Some respondents suggest the provision of additional bins, free poo bags and increased signage as a means of addressing the issue.

1.4.9 Humans Cause More Problems Than Dogs In Parks

One of the criticisms of the consultation, discussed above, is respondents' concern that it does not address dog behaviour as part of the wider anti-social behaviour issues and potential conflict between different user groups in Hackney's parks and green spaces. Respondents comment on problems caused by drug users and littering as well as activities with the potential to interrupt other groups' enjoyment of the area, such as people cycling or riding electric scooters through the parks.

Additionally, and particularly with regard to Abney Park, some respondents comment that frequent dog walking keeps parks safe and helps prevent anti-social behaviour.

1.5 Summary Of Consultation Submissions On Behalf Of Groups Of Respondents

Six responses were submitted on behalf of organisations or groups and these are discussed separately later in this report as well as being included, in full, in appendices two to seven. A brief summary of these groups' position on the proposed changes to the PSPO is outlined below.

1.5.1 Kennel Club

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training. The submission states the Club *"is the only national organisation named by the UK Government as a body that local authorities should consult prior to introducing restrictions on dog walkers"*.

The organisation is in favour of dogs on leads by direction orders, supports controls on dog fouling and is not against dog exclusion zones or dogs on leads orders where appropriate.

However, the Kennel Club does not support the maximum number of dogs restriction stating that *"an arbitrary maximum number of dogs a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control"*. This is because it *"can result in displacement and subsequently intensify problems in other areas"*. Also, the submission says that number of dogs a walker can control depends on their experience, the dogs themselves and the location. If the proposed measures are being considered due to concerns about commercial dog walkers, the submission considers that a better approach would be to consider accreditation schemes. These *"can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice"*.

The full submission from the Kennel Club can be found in appendix two.

1.5.2 Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust is the UK's largest dog welfare charity. Its submission references the PDSA's Paw Report 2018 saying this found that 89% of vets believe dog welfare would suffer if owners were prohibited from walking their pets in public places, such as parks, or if dogs had to be kept on the lead in these places.

The charity supports controls on dog fouling and dogs on lead by direction orders. The submission states the Dogs Trust recommends keeping dog exclusion zones to a minimum, for example including children's playgrounds but not excluding dogs from sports pitches for long periods of the year, as this is *"unnecessary"*. It also makes reference to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 (the 'duty of care') that includes a dog's need to *"exhibit normal behaviour patterns"*. The submission points out that *"this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas"*.

The full submission from the Dogs Trust can be found in appendix three.

1.5.3 RSPCA

An email submission from the charity confirms its support for responsible dog ownership and encouraging the training of dogs so that everyone can enjoy parks and other public spaces. It refers specifically to the proposals concerning Abney Park and says the charity's position is that *"PSPOs should not unwittingly compromise dog welfare by placing undue restrictions on dogs"* and it also refers to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 saying *"blanket bans on walking dogs off-lead can make it very difficult to provide for this natural behaviour"*.

The full submission from the RSPCA can be found in appendix four.

1.5.4 London Fields Parks Friends Group

An email submission to the consultation was received from the London Fields Parks Friends Group expressing concern about *“the way that lack of inter-department communication and failure to engage with User Groups has had a detrimental impact on this consultation”*. The London Fields group have received significant funding from GLA to go towards improving biodiversity and to improve the Green Classroom areas. The work is being carried out in conjunction with local schools and the Group wanted these areas to be included in the consultation with a view to excluding dogs from them. However, due to the lack of communication between departments in the Council, these areas were left out of the consultation.

The full submission from the London Fields Parks Friends Group can be found in appendix five.

1.5.5 Abney Park Trust

Abney Park Trust is a volunteer run charity and a long term partner of Hackney Council. The Trust published its initial response to the consultation on its website on 8th September, which it referred to in its subsequent online submission. The online submission states that it *“should be non-controversial to require dogs to be on leads and under control in a cemetery site”* and for that reason alone the Trust supports the proposal. However, they recognise that Abney Park is *“a much more complex and significant site than ‘just a cemetery’”*.

The statement sets out the impact dogs have on wildlife and concludes that *“the joy dogs bring to people and our community can be balanced with the needs of the ecosystem through a sensible and enforced on-leads rule”*.

The Trust’s consultation submission via Citizen Space acknowledges that the evidence quoted in the statement on their website *“has been mocked by some but was always intended to highlight the broad range of issues with off-lead dogs in general”*. Whilst acknowledging that *“there are no Abney-specific studies available”*, the submission contends that there is *“also no reason to believe that the principles which apply to other nature reserves and Magnificent Seven cemeteries are not applicable in Abney’s case”*.

The full submission from Abney Park Trust, both the online statement from its website and the response submitted via Citizen Space, can be found in appendix six.

1.5.6 Abney Park Dog Users Group

A submission was also received from the Abney Park Dog Users Group. The group, comprising over 250 members, all Hackney residents and regular users of the park, was created in direct response to the consultation. Their submission runs to 34 pages and is supported by gate observations and a survey of Park users.

The Users Group acknowledge the Council’s duty and responsibility to address unlawful and irresponsible dog ownership. They support some aspects of the proposed PSPO but strongly oppose the inclusion of Abney Park in the list of places where dogs must be kept on leads.

Their report challenges the Council's rationale for including the cemetery in the new PSPO questioning the lack of evidence. Members of the Users Group submitted Freedom of Information requests to the Council and Met Police. The submission states that these have confirmed that *"just 6 complaints out of 1,230"* received by the Council about dog behaviour in the last three years related to Abney Park. The group also challenges the evidence quoted by Abney Park Trust in their online statement.

Additionally, the report sets out what it considers *"serious legal questions"* raised by the Council's approach to the consultation and the justification offered for including Abney Park in the dogs on leads order.

The Users Group also identifies *"harmful unintended consequences"* of the proposed PSPO, which include an influx of additional dogs to the already crowded Clissold Park and making Abney Park less safe, especially for women. Therefore, the Group argues, *"the effect of the Abney Park PSPO would be indirectly discriminatory"*.

The full submission from Abney Park Dog Users Group, including its survey of park users and gate observations, can be found in appendix seven of this report.

2. Discussion Of The Consultation Findings

The following sections of the report discuss the consultation findings in more detail, starting with a review of the profile of respondents, and then the analysis of the feedback for each of the key questions in the consultation questionnaire.

3. Understanding The Consultation Respondents

Respondents to consultations are naturally self-selecting: people take part because they have an opinion, typically a strong opinion, on the subject matter. In this case, the primary respondents are dog owners, people who actively like dogs even if they don't currently have one, and those who actively dislike dogs. People who are ambivalent about dogs are less likely to be aware of the consultation or to take the time to fill in the questionnaire if they do become aware of it. As a result, responses to the consultation are polarised and the overall results cannot be seen as reflecting the opinions of the wider population of Hackney on these issues.

58% of respondents to the consultation own a dog, whilst 42% do not, and dog ownership is the key factor in respondents' views on the proposals:

- 75% of respondents who *are* dog owners have *not* had any problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last 12 months (neither themselves nor anyone they know).
- In contrast, 73% of respondents who do *not* own dogs say that either they or someone they know *has* experienced a problem with dog behaviour.
- 74% of non-dog owning respondents support the updates to the PSPO compared to 10% of respondents who are dog owners.

Different sub-groups of the population are more likely to own dogs than others and this influences their views on the consultation proposals:

- Older respondents, aged 65+, are less likely to be dog owners (36% compared to 69% of those aged under 35)
- Respondents with caring responsibilities are less likely to own a dog than those without these responsibilities (47% versus 59%)
- Black and Asian respondents are less likely, than those of other ethnic backgrounds, to have a dog (28% and 42% respectively, compared to at least 58% of respondents from other ethnic groups)
- White respondents are more likely to own a dog compared to those from other ethnic backgrounds (59% compared to 52%)
- Muslim respondents are less likely to own a dog than respondents who follow any other religion or belief (15% of Muslim respondents own a dog).
- LGB+ respondents are more likely to own a dog than those who are heterosexual (66% versus 56%)
- Respondents who are buying their home on a mortgage are more likely to have a dog than those in other housing types. (64% compared to no more than 57% of respondents in other housing tenures)

Therefore, where there are sufficient responses to allow for meaningful analysis, this consultation report looks at the findings by sub-group for dog owners and non-dog owners, for example by age and ethnic group.

4. Results Of The Key Consultation Questions

4.1.1 Q6: Have You, Or A Member Of Your Family, Or Someone You Know Had Any Problems Regarding Dog Behaviour In Hackney The Past Year?

55% of respondents answered 'no' to this question, whilst 45% say that they, their family or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in the last 12 months.

Responses to this question are extremely polarised depending on whether the respondent is a dog owner or not: 75% of dog owners answered 'no', whilst 73% of non-dog owners indicated that they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in the last 12 months.

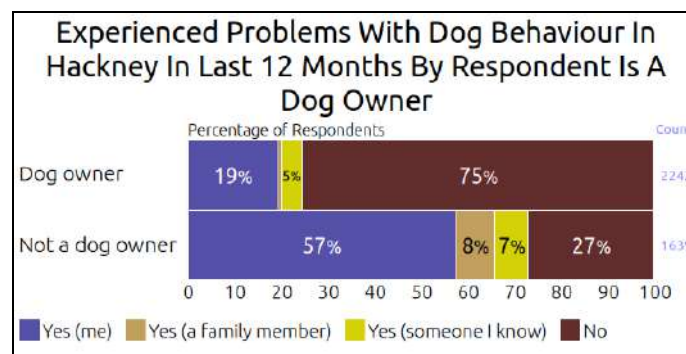


Figure 4.1

4.1.1.1 Further Analysis Of The Findings

When the findings are analysed in more detail, the following points are noted:

- Female respondents are more likely than male respondents to say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour (48% compared to 42%) and this remains true of female dog owners compared to male dog owners (29% versus 19%).
- Respondents aged 65+ are most likely to say they or someone they know has had problems with dog behaviour, followed by those aged 35-44. (58% and 51% respectively) Respondents aged under 35 are least likely to say they or someone they know has had an issue (34%)
- However, when the views of dog owners are analysed by age, the proportion of respondents who say that they or someone they know has had an issue with dogs is broadly in line across all age groups (the results range from 23% to 26%).
- Non-dog owning respondents aged under 35 are less likely than older respondents to say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last 12 months (58% compared to 71% or more for older age groups).
- The difference in views between respondents with a disability and those without is not statistically significant.

- Respondents with caring responsibilities are more likely to say that they or someone they know has had an issue with dogs than those without caring responsibilities (56% compared to 44%). These respondents are less likely to own dogs but there are too few replies from dog owners with caring responsibilities to allow for further analysis on this question.
- Black and Asian respondents are more likely than those of other ethnicities to say that they or someone they know has experienced an issue with dog behaviour (72% and 59% respectively compared to between 44% and 45% of the other ethnic groups). There are only a small number of replies from Black and Asian respondents and these groups are less likely to own dogs, so further analysis of the impact of dog ownership on their views is not possible.
- Respondents from ethnic backgrounds other than White are more likely to say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dogs than those who are White (50% compared to 44%). However, a comparable proportion of dog owners in each of these groups have experienced an issue in the last 12 months (27% versus 25%).
- Muslim respondents are more likely than those with other religions or beliefs to say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dogs in the last 12 months (79% compared to the next highest figure of 49% for those with secular beliefs). There are only a small number of Muslim respondents and very few own dogs so further analysis by dog ownership is not possible.
- Respondents to the consultation have many different sexual orientations but for the purposes of ensuring sufficient group sizes for meaningful comparison, those who are not heterosexual have been analysed as a single group (LGB+). These respondents are less likely, than those who are heterosexual, to say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dogs in the last 12 months (37% compared to 49%) and this is also true of those who own dogs (23% versus 28%).
- Furthermore, LGB+ respondents who do not own a dog are less likely than heterosexual non-dog owners to say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in the last 12 months (63% compared to 76%)
- Respondents renting from the council or a housing association or trust are more likely to say that they or someone they know has experienced problems with dog behaviour in the last 12 months than those with other housing tenures (65% in each case for the social renters compared to 51% or less for other housing tenures). Respondents in social housing are less likely than other tenure groups to own a dog and there are insufficient responses for further analysis of the findings.
- Postcodes E9, E8 and E5 are the areas where the highest proportion of respondents say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dogs. These are also the areas where the lowest proportions of respondents are dog owners. For further analysis, the views of respondents in E5, E8 and E9 were combined and compared with respondents in N1, N4 and N16. A higher proportion of dog owning respondents in these E postcodes say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in the last 12 months than dog owners in the N postcodes (34% compared to 22%). Similarly, a higher proportion of non-dog owners in these E postcodes say they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour compared to non-dog owners in the N postcodes (79% compared to 71%).

4.1.2 Q7: Nature Of Problems With Dog Behaviour

Respondents who answered question six to say that they, someone in their family or someone they knew had had problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last 12 months were asked about the nature of these issues. Question seven included a tick list of options that respondents could select. The table below shows the difference in views between dog owners and non-dog owners.

Problem with dog behaviour	Dog owners	Non-dog owners
Dog fouling	14%	53%
Dog running out of control	8%	41%
Threatened by a dog's behaviour	7%	35%
Dog off the lead in a controlled area	4%	28%
Dog barking	2%	28%
Dog loose in children's play area or other dog free area	2%	26%
Dog attack on a dog or other pet animal	10%	11%
Dog attack on a person	1%	8%
Stray dog	1%	2%
Other	2%	5%

Table 3 Respondents have had problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in last 12 months by dog ownership

The proportion of both dog owners and non-dog owners saying that these issues have been a problem in the last 12 months varies by postcode area. The table below shows the difference in views between respondents in E postcodes and N postcodes, broken down by dog ownership.

Problem with dog behaviour	Dog owners		Non-dog owners	
	E5, E8, E9 postcodes	N1, N4, N16 postcodes	E5, E8, E9 postcodes	N1, N4, N16 postcodes
Dog fouling	20%	13%	56%	52%
Dog running out of control	14%	5%	44%	39%
Threatened by a dog's behaviour	9%	6%	41%	31%
Dog off the lead in a controlled area	5%	3%	28%	28%
Dog barking	5%	2%	30%	24%
Dog loose in children's play area or other dog free area	2%	2%	31%	24%
Dog attack on a dog or other pet animal	13%	9%	12%	9%
Dog attack on a person	2%	1%	9%	7%
Stray dog	2%	<1%	3%	3%
Other	1%	2%	4%	5%

Table 4 Respondents have had problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in last 12 months by dog ownership & postcode area

4.1.2.1 Other Problems With Dog Behaviour

Respondents who said they had experienced 'other' problems with dog behaviour were given the opportunity to provide further details. 5% of all respondents took the opportunity to make further comments about the option(s) they had already selected from the list and 3% of all respondents gave feedback that was more general in nature and this was re-classified as part of question 18 (any other comments) to ensure this feedback was included. The breakdown of themes in the comments about other problems with dog behaviour is shown in the table below.

Other Problem With Dog Behaviour	Dog Owners	Non-Dog Owners
Problem with attitude/behaviour of dog owners	1%	3%
American Bully & similar breeds/dogs trained for fighting	2%	2%
Dogs chasing/jumping up at people	<1%	2%
Dogs snatching food from picnics/children	0%	2%
Professional dog walkers with 'packs' of dogs	<1%	1%
Dogs chasing/attacking wildlife	<1%	1%
Aggressive behaviour from dog that was on the lead	1%	<1%
Dogs attacking trees	<1%	<1%
Other problem with dog behaviour	<1%	1%

Table 5 Other problems with dog behaviour that respondents have had in Hackney in last 12 months

Some examples of comments giving more feedback on the problems respondents have had with dogs in Hackney in the last 12 months are shown below.

4.1.2.2 Comments From Dog Owners

A man with four dogs let them attack my dog. I have reported him to the police numerous times as have other people. No one will do anything about it.

The current issue is the proliferation of aggressive dogs with poor dog owners who do not control and monitor their dogs. The focus of Hackney Council should be on observing and monitoring poor dog ownership with aggressive breeds, which as I read it, the proposed new PSPO makes no reference to look at and provide a series of legal requirements or mitigating steps

In the last three years, as a result of covid lockdown, there has been a vast increase in the numbers of inexperienced dog owners who have little idea about dogs and dog behaviour.

Usually a few issues go together: young people with strong dogs, they are not exercise[d] properly, they don't go outside, they are inside all [day] they [are] barking, when they go outside they are crazy and of course none of them dares to pick up their dog poo.

Dog fouling on the streets rather than parks is a much bigger issue in my opinion. This is on the increase and there appears to be zero enforcement.

[It] wasn't the dog's fault it's too many dogs in a small area due to park renovations.

4.1.2.3 Comments From Non-Dog Owners

Lots of dog faeces on the pavements. Sometimes in bags but thrown back on the street. Sometimes in people's front gardens. I love dogs but there's a lot of them in Hackney and I feel that some of the parks are now no go zones due to [the] amount of dogs running around.

All the time people with large numbers of dogs stand in the middle of green areas and 'exercise' them by just letting them run out of control fouling everywhere, off leads, out of control.

Rude dog owners in London Fields park putting their self assigned "rights" to let their dog do whatever above the safety, welfare and peace of others

Dog fouling seems to be getting worse. There used to be a way to report it from the Hackney Council app but [it] seems to have disappeared. Dogs barking – I don't hear it that often apart from two dogs in two different flats in my block that are often left at home all day alone.

Dogs running loose are a trip hazard for older people like myself.

Some Hackney dog owners are "training" their large dogs (XL Bully type breeds) in small Hackney parks such as Butterfield Green. The dogs are being trained as attack dogs. This is very frightening to see.

4.1.2.4 Feedback From Respondents On The Wording Of These Questions In The Consultation

A recurring theme in the qualitative feedback is criticism of the proposal and the Council's approach to the consultation. Questions six and seven are two of the contentious ones, with some respondents saying they are "*highly leading and negatively framed*" questions and asking why the Council was not interested in asking about "*the 99% of dogs that add a positive impact to the community we live in*".

Several respondents argue that the questions "*are clearly biased and have been drafted to support an objective*" and they complain that there is "*absolutely no attempt to ask open questions about the issues arising regarding the shared use of green spaces and dog ownership*".

Furthermore, some respondents observed that question seven was "*without a follow-up question (in relation to impact)*" and it was not "*viewed in the context of wider concerns around public spaces in Hackney (such as littering or fly-tipping)*", which means, "*it does not create a sufficient understanding of the issues in public spaces*". In addition, some respondents point out that "*we need to remember that people who are nervous of dogs can find a lot of normal and benign dog behaviour as threatening*" and suggest that "*we need to be careful of classing things like 'barking' as problem behaviour*".

4.1.3 Q8: “To What Extent Do You Agree Or Disagree That The Current Dog Control PSPO Is Effective?”

43% of respondents agree that the current dog control PSPO is effective, whilst 30% disagree and the remaining 27% selected ‘neither agree nor disagree’.

Views are less polarised on this measure than for many of the other questions, with 45% of dog owners and 40% of non-dog owners agreeing that it is effective.

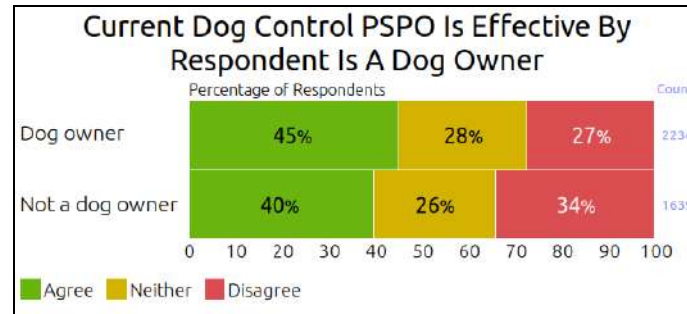


Figure 4.2

Further analysis was carried out, looking at whether the respondent or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in the last 12 months, as well as whether they are a dog owner or not. This found that those respondents, who know someone who has had a problem with dog behaviour, have comparable views on the effectiveness of the current PSPO, regardless of whether they are dog owners or not. Furthermore, those respondents who do not know anyone who has had a problem with dog behaviour in the last 12 months share similar, and more positive, views on the effectiveness of the current PSPO.

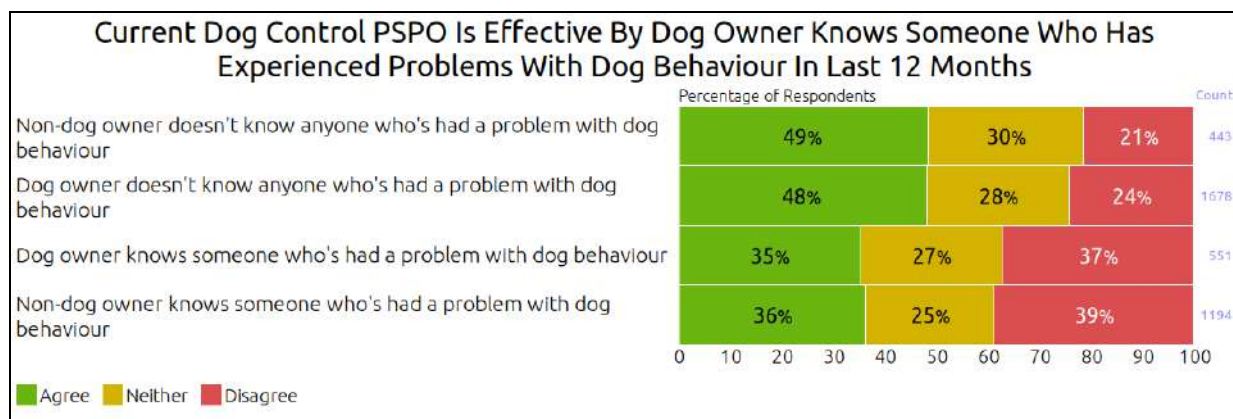


Figure 4.3

When the results to this question are analysed by sub-group, there are only a small number of instances where the difference in views is significant and the results for these groups are outlined below.

- Although the difference between views of male and female respondents overall is not statistically significant, male dog owners are more likely than female dog owners to agree that the current dog control PSPO is effective (49% versus 44%)
- Disabled respondents are less likely to agree the current order is effective than respondents who are not disabled (38% compared to 44%)

4.1.4 Q9: Reasons For Disagreement That Current PSPO Is Effective

Respondents who answered 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' to question eight, were asked to explain why they do not consider the current PSPO is effective. Opinions on the reasons for this vary depending on whether the respondent is a dog owner or not. The percentages quoted below are the proportion of each group who *disagree* that the current order is effective, *not* the percentage of all dog owners and non-dog owners.

- 38% of dog owners who do not consider the current PSPO to be effective made comments that relate to the proposed changes, rather than the current order. Some of the feedback provided implied confusion about what this question was asking. To ensure this feedback was captured and categorised appropriately, these comments were re-classified in question 12 (reasons for not supporting proposed changes to PSPO)
- 15% of dog owners and 48% of respondents who do not have a dog made comments about witnessing the current rules being broken.
- 27% of respondents who have a dog and 36% of those who do not own a dog referred to the lack of enforcement of the current rules.

Full details of the comments made by dog owners and non-dog owners, who disagree that the current order is effective, are shown in the table below.

Reason	% of Dog Owners who disagree current order is effective	% of Non-Dog Owners who disagree current order is effective
Current rules are being broken	15%	48%
Comments are about proposed changes not current PSPO	38%	7%
Lack of enforcement	27%	36%
Irresponsible dog owners	21%	10%
Tighter controls are needed	3%	20%
Dogs need exercise	12%	3%
PSPO controls are unnecessary/punish responsible owners	12%	3%
There should be dog-only fenced areas	4%	3%
Lack of awareness of current rules	2%	4%
There should be more signs/fencing/provision of more bins/poo bags	3%	3%
There should be licensing/regulation of dogs/dog walkers/breeders	2%	1%
Other	2%	1%

Table 6 Reasons for disagreement that current PSPO is effective

Some examples of the comments made by respondents who disagree that the current order is effective are shown below.

4.1.4.1 Comments From Dog Owners Who Disagree The Current PSPO Order Is Effective

The enforcement of rules against dog fouling and against prohibited/aggressive dog breeds and their irresponsible owners should be properly enforced first, to better understand the need for additional complexity/rules in the life of the wider public.

There are known dog owners with dangerous dogs in Hackney with track records of attacking and/or killing other dogs. These tend to be status dogs (large bully breeds). Some of the cases I'm aware of have been reported to authorities, and no action has been taken. These owners are still seen out and about with their dogs. These dogs are either not properly trained and socialised, or are actively trained as attack/guard dogs (at least one of these owners has social media pages showing this training taking place in public areas)

The current PSPO is focused on excluding dogs, rather than providing safe, enclosed outdoor spaces for dogs to be safely off lead and working with residents and trainers to provide guidance on keeping your dog under control. Dogs are dangerous when their needs aren't being met, and the council is removing more and more ways owners can meet their dogs' needs.

I cannot see a day where Hackney council have enough staff to curb bad dog owners' behaviour. Instead, innocent and sensible owners will have restrictions and less enjoyments of wonderful, previously dog friendly, parks.

4.1.4.2 Comments From Non-Dog Owners Who Disagree The Current PSPO Order Is Effective

Children who are scared of dogs should be free to roam in areas such as playgrounds without being scared. Dogs can be annoying and jumpy and get in the way of kids running around. Fouling – not enough is done to prevent this. No one monitors it.

Dog fouling is a persistent problem on the surrounding streets, especially Rendelsham Road. I suspect this is down to the proximity to Hackney Downs (where many people walk their dogs), but I strongly believe the offending owners are local to the neighbourhood. Free dog waste bags have been distributed on lamp posts but this doesn't seem to have worked. I don't believe imposing fines will be effective. How will the council even monitor this?

Dog owners often seem unconcerned about the anti-social behaviour of their animals – particularly around people who may not be comfortable near them. This is particularly true in the borough's parks (such as Clissold Park) where dogs which are left off their lead can be unpleasant for others who are trying to enjoy the area. They can cause a nuisance, particularly when people are trying to eat. The current PSPO is not enforced and dog owners can act with impunity.

Dogs in London Fields are so numerous – and they are not under any control. For our family this has made the use of the space almost impossible since my son has been chased, barked at, jumped on and covered in excrement (on a number of occasions).

4.1.4.3 Comments On Effectiveness Of Current Order From Respondents Who Did Not Answer 'Disagree' To Q8

Although respondents were only invited to enter comments about the reasons for their views if they answered 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' to question eight, some respondents who did not select these response options also made comments about the effectiveness of the current order. These responses are considered as a percentage of comments made, rather than as a percentage of all respondents who do not disagree that the current order is effective. This is because most respondents, who did not select 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', followed the instructions in the questionnaire and did not give feedback, even though they might have wanted to do so.

27% of these comments concern enforcement, whilst 23% related to the proposed changes rather than the current PSPO. 13% of the comments in each case were about the current rules being broken and about irresponsible dog owners. Full details are shown in the graph below.

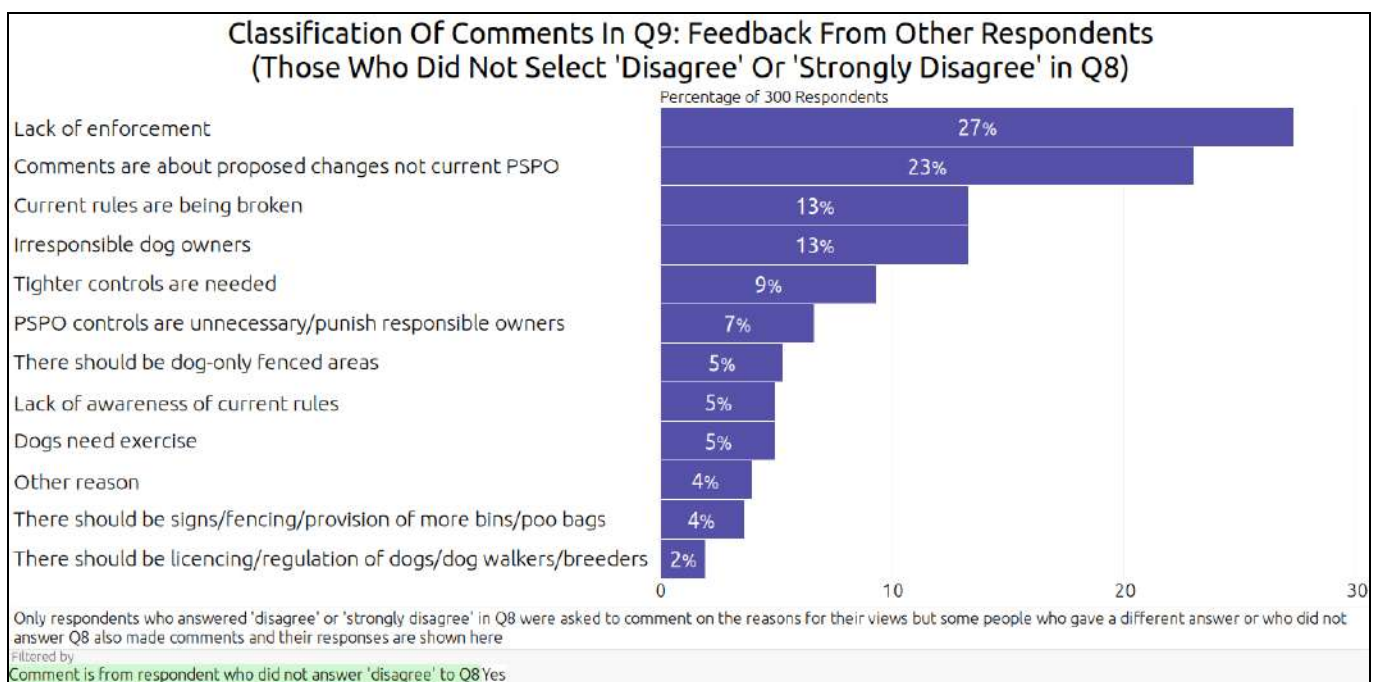


Figure 4.4

Some examples of these comments are shown below.

My sense is that the current Dog Control PSPO is not being effectively implemented in terms of monitoring or policing of breaches of the current controls.

There is no way of knowing what difference the PSPO has made as I can't see where to find any statistics on Hackney Council's website about an increase or decrease in dog problems since the PSPO. What is it meant to be effective against? Who is measuring its effectiveness? Where are the reports on its effectiveness?

To be honest I am confused. I have seen debates online between dog owners and we're unclear on the status of Hackney Marsh. I walk my dog there off lead and have never seen any signs to indicate that I shouldn't. Some people say that dogs must be kept on a lead when matches are in progress, others say they are point blank not allowed around "sports facilities" – what does that mean?

4.1.5 Q10: To What Extent Do You Agree Or Disagree That It Is Important To Control The Way In Which People Look After Their Dogs In Shared Public Spaces?

85% of respondents agree that it is important to control the way in which people look after their dogs in shared public spaces, whilst 6% disagree and 8% selected 'neither agree nor disagree'.

Respondents who do not have a dog are more likely to agree with this statement than dog owners: 93% of non-dog owners agree compared to 80% of dog owners.

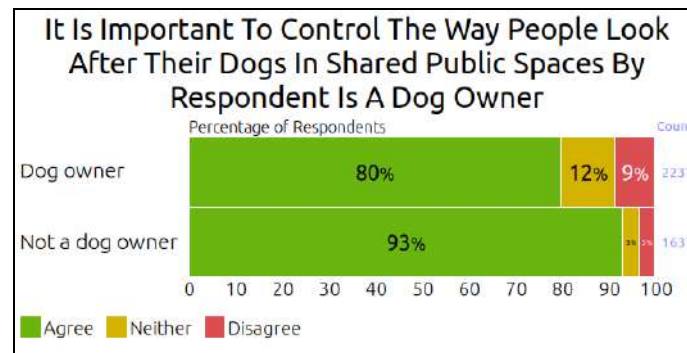


Figure 4.5

Views also vary depending on whether the respondent or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last 12 months. 99% of respondents who do not have a dog and do know someone who has had a problem with dog behaviour agree that it is important to control the way people look after their dogs in shared public spaces. 93% of dog owners who know someone who has had an issue with dog behaviour agree, compared to 77% and 76% respectively of non-dog owners and dog owners who do not know anyone who has had a problem with dog behaviour.

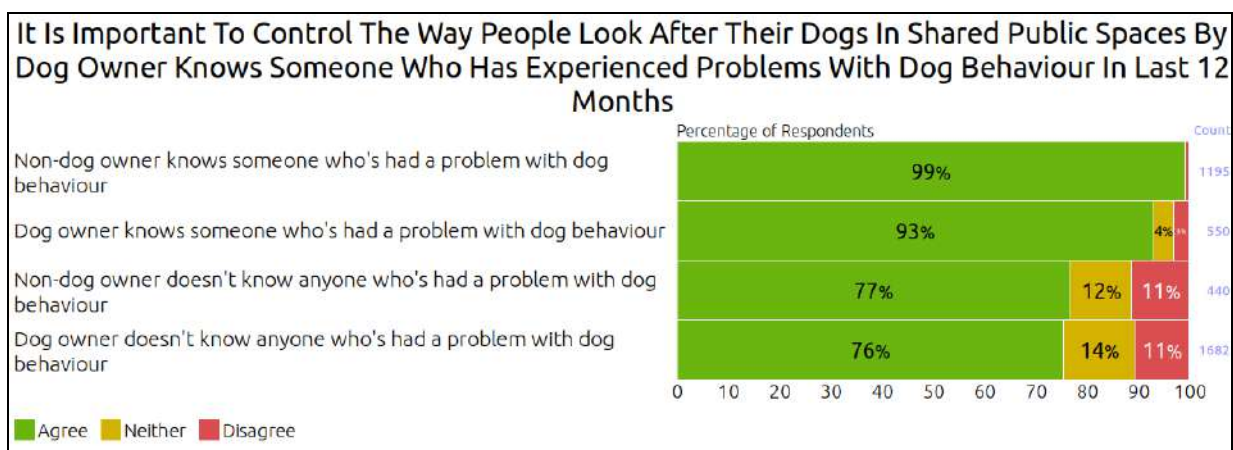


Figure 4.6

4.1.5.1 Respondents' Criticism Of This Question

Some dog owners objected to the wording of this question, suggesting it is “leading” and “manipulative”, and stating that “it is important that dog owners control their dogs in public spaces” (as opposed to “it is important to control the way in which people look after their dogs...”).

4.1.5.2 Further Analysis Of The Findings

Respondents' views on this question were analysed further and, where the difference in opinion between sub-groups is large enough to be significant, the findings are shown below.

- Respondents aged 65+ are more likely than their younger counterparts to agree that it is important to control the way people look after their dogs in shared public spaces. In contrast, respondents aged under 35 are less likely, than any of the older age groups, to agree with this statement. (93% of respondents aged 65+ agree compared to 81% of those aged under 35).
- Dog owners aged 65+ are more likely than those aged under 45 to agree (86% compared to 77% of those aged under 35 and 78% of those aged 35-44)
- Disabled respondents are less likely than those without a disability to agree (80% versus 86%)
- Disabled dog owners are also less likely to agree with the statement compared to dog owners without a disability (73% compared to 81%).
- Views on this issue vary by ethnicity: Black respondents are more likely than White respondents to agree, whilst respondents from a mixed background and other ethnic groups are less likely to agree. (93% of Black respondents agree compared to 87% of White respondents, whilst in contrast, 82% of those from a mixed background and 75% of respondents from other ethnic background agree)
- White respondents are more likely to agree than respondents from all other ethnic backgrounds combined (87% versus 82%) and this is also the case when the results are analysed by dog ownership (82% compared to 74%).
- LGB+ respondents are less likely than those who are heterosexual to agree with the statement (82% compared to 88%).
- Respondents in E postcode areas are more likely to agree than those in N postcode areas (89% compared to 84%) and this is also the case for dog owners (84% versus 77%).

4.1.6 Q11: Do You Support The Updates To The Dog Control PSPO As Outlined In The Consultation Information?

37% of respondents answered 'yes', they support the updates to the Dog Control PSPO, whilst 58% answered 'no' and 5% 'don't know'.

Views are heavily influenced by whether the respondent is a dog owner or not. Indeed, 74% of respondents who do not have a dog support the updates compared to 10% of dog owners.

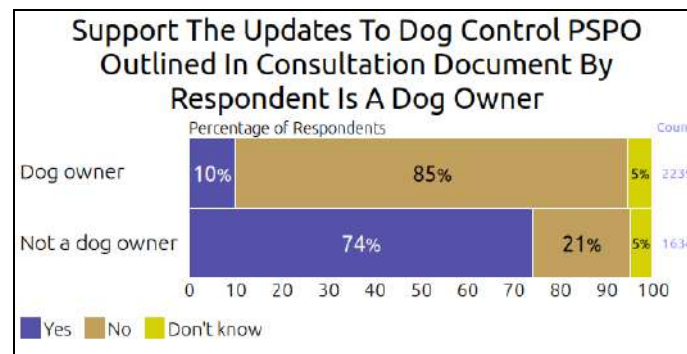


Figure 4.7

Another key influence on respondents' views on this question is whether they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last 12 months. 88% of non-dog owners, who know someone who has had a problem with dog behaviour, support the updates compared to 37% of non-dog owners who do not know anyone who has had a problem with dog behaviour. In comparison, 29% of dog owners, who say they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour, are in favour of the updates to the PSPO compared to 4% of dog owners who do not know anyone who has had a problem with dog behaviour.

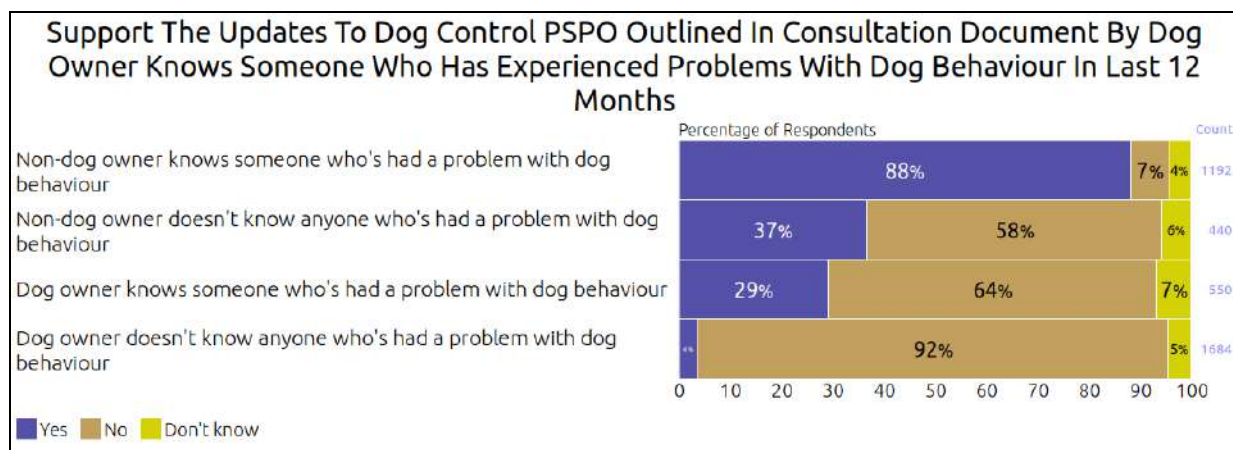


Figure 4.8

4.1.6.1 Further Analysis Of The Findings

Further analysis was undertaken by sub-group and the results are discussed below.

- Older respondents, aged 65+, are the age group most supportive of the updates to the PSPO, with respondents aged under 35 the least supportive (61% and 25% respectively). This is also true for non-dog owners (86% and 61% respectively support the updates).
- However, when the views of dog owners are analysed by age, the difference between their views is not statistically significant.
- Respondents with caring responsibilities are more likely to support the updates to the PSPO than those without caring responsibilities (50% compared to 36%).
- Black and Asian respondents are more supportive of the updates to the dog control PSPO than respondents of other ethnic groups. These respondents are less likely to own dogs and there are insufficient responses for further analysis by dog ownership.
- Muslim respondents are more supportive of the updates than those who follow other religions or beliefs (73% support). Again, this group is less likely to own dogs and there are only a small number of Muslim respondents to the consultation.
- LGB+ respondents are less likely than those who are heterosexual to support the updates (28% compared to 41%). Views of both heterosexual and LGB+ dog owners are comparable on this question (11% and 10%) but LGB+ respondents who do not own dogs are less likely to support the updates than those who are heterosexual (64% versus 80%).
- Respondents renting from the council or other social landlord are more likely to support the updates to the PSPO than those in other housing tenures.
- Respondents in E5, E8 and E9 are more likely than those in N1, N4 and N16 to support the updates (49% versus 36%) and this is also the case for dog owners in these postcode areas (18% versus 8%). In contrast, views of non-dog owners in these postcode areas are very similar (77% and 76% respectively).

4.1.7 Email Responses To The Consultation

101 emails were also received in response to the consultation. The content of these was analysed to determine whether the respondent supports the updates to the PSPO control order. The majority of emails, 88%, were against a specific part of the proposal, mostly, but not exclusively the changes to Abney Park cemetery. The content of the emails against the proposal or part thereof were analysed with the other feedback to question 12 and the content from those in favour were analysed as part of question 18 (additional comments).

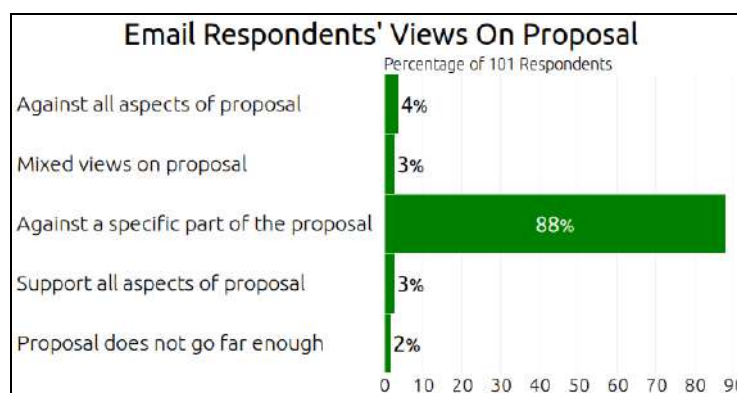


Figure 4.9

4.1.8 Q12: Reasons For Not Supporting Updates To PSPO Control Order

Respondents who answered 'no', they do not support the updates to the PSPO control order, were asked to explain the reasons for their views. The table below shows the main themes in the qualitative feedback. Themes have only been included if they were mentioned by 7% or more of either dog owners or non-dog owners who do not support the updates.

Theme in comments	% of dog owners who do not support updates to PSPO	% of non-dog owners who do not support updates to PSPO
Abney Park Cemetery	50%	42%
Comment focuses on specific changes in PSPO	45%	38%
Too restrictive/proposals punish responsible owners	36%	22%
Dogs need exercise	28%	22%
Council need to target irresponsible dog owners	19%	10%
Criticism of proposal / council's approach to consultation	18%	12%
Comments support some aspects of PSPO but not others	13%	8%
Humans cause more problems than dogs	11%	8%
Proposals don't go far enough	<1%	11%
Disagrees with limiting the number of dogs to four	10%	8%
Issues around enforcement	8%	9%
Hackney Marshes	7%	5%
Will force professional dog walkers out of business / put prices up	7%	3%

Table 7 Reasons for not supporting updates to PSPO control order

Due to the very large number of comments received about Abney Park Cemetery, feedback on the proposed changes to this location will be discussed in a separate section later in this report. Further feedback on the other key themes in the comments is set out below.

4.1.8.1 Comment Focuses On Specific Changes In PSPO

The feedback that many respondents gave to question 12 related to a small number of specific changes in the PSPO. Of these, Abney Park was the most frequently mentioned but respondents focusing on a small part of the proposal also commented on proposals to limit the number of dogs to four or their feedback was concentrated on one or two places they visit regularly, such as Hackney Marshes, Olympic Park and Millfields. Some examples of this feedback are shown below (Abney Park examples are not included as this is discussed in detail later in the report).

I live right by De Beauvoir Square. I never take my dog inside the circular black fence in the square but I do run around the outside with my dog on the pebble path, her on the grass on a lead running outside me. I do this a few times per week to exercise her (and myself). You are going to prevent us using even the grass verges outside the park on that square.

Absolutely outrageous that you are proposing to remove one of the ONLY safe fenced off areas for dogs to be off lead in Millfields Park. You CANNOT only factor in people with children using this part. There is never a problem – if children are in there we do not go in with our dog. And we all clean up after ourselves.

Hackney marshes football pitches – massive open space that is unused for the majority of the week, except for dog walks! Obviously restrict dogs when matches are being played, but not otherwise! Likewise Millfields cricket pitch – obviously the square is fenced off. But otherwise it's just empty green space only used by dog walkers, and small numbers of casual football games.

4.1.8.2 Too Restrictive/Proposals Punish Responsible Owners

A common complaint from respondents was that if the proposals come into force they will restrict where responsible owners can exercise their dogs. Many such owners point out that they already follow all the existing rules and do not feel they are the people causing the problem.

Instead of these strict measures, authorities should focus on education, encouraging responsible ownership, and stricter enforcement against those who don't follow existing laws. Punishing all dog owners is not an effective solution.

Banning dogs from vast open spaces of Hackney, in particular Hackney Marshes, would be a draconian over-reaction, a move to punish the vast number of respectful dog owners who use the space on a daily basis in favour of the idiot minority. And frankly it would be an abuse of my mental and physical health, and that of thousands of others who continue to live in Hackney precisely because of the open spaces it offers.

Current measures are already effective. There are a minority of anti-social dog owners and these should be targeted rather than penalising all dog owners who are considerate and respectful.

4.1.8.3 Dogs Need Exercise

Many comments highlight the importance of exercise for dog well-being. These respondents point out that lack of exercise can result in behavioural problems and many breeds of dog cannot get sufficient exercise from on-lead walking alone. Additionally, some disabled respondents express concern about being able to give their dog enough exercise if their access to suitable local areas is restricted.

I walk my dog in Hackney's section of the QE Olympic Park. I am a wheelchair user and this part of the park under your domain is the only place where I can walk my dog because of the path. I cannot use the marshes, I cannot go to the flats. My assistance dog is mandated to have two hours off lead every day, it's in her contract. I take her through the park, she is let off onto Hopkins Field – as permitted by the LLDC – and in my wheelchair, I follow the path and circle that field and you are voting to completely remove my ability to do this. You will take all independence from me.

It is essential for the wellbeing of dogs that they are permitted to exercise off-lead. Dogs which do not get enough exercise are more likely to have behavioural issues or become over-excited. Walking on-lead is no substitute for walking off lead, and dogs which are kept on-lead are often more excitable and nervous when they encounter other dogs and people than they are when off-lead. The proposed measure would be counter-productive and could actually lead to an increase in problematic dog behaviour.

Dogs need more space to be free not less. I understand the need to keep some dogs away from children but they need exercise and act up when they don't get it. Restricting access to certain parks or issuing on lead orders will not help it will make the issue worse.

4.1.8.4 Council Need To Target Irresponsible Dog Owners

There is a perception, amongst some respondents to the consultation, that “the wrong group of people is being targeted here and [this] will not solve the problem of dog related incidents”. Many respondents consider “the problem is always the owners, not the dogs”. The comments include concerns about the lack of action taken against owners already known to be irresponsible and a feeling that these owners will continue to ignore the rules.

Hackney Council should also be aware of persistent problems caused by a small number of men who regularly train extremely aggressive dogs in public spaces such as Butterfield Green and Ridley Road market, terrorising both people and other dogs.

Unruly and violent dogs around the neighbourhood are ‘rogue’ dogs – poorly trained, poorly socialised and whose ‘responsible humans’ show a disregard for other people and dogs when taken to task about their dog’s behaviour.

Rather than address the real problem, which is what to do about irresponsible dog owners, the easier option is not to address this at all but just restrict the rights of all dog owners to use the parks as they wish. This strikes me as incredibly unjust. The proposed solution here is not in fact aimed at the problem.

4.1.8.5 Criticism Of Proposal / Council's Approach To Consultation

A recurring theme throughout the qualitative questions in the consultation is criticism of the proposal and the Council's approach to the consultation. Respondents raising these issues object to not being able to comment on individual aspects of the proposals and consider the consultation questions to be biased and negatively framed. They also refer to the lack of data to support the proposals and think the situation with dogs should be considered as part of wider anti-social behaviour issues in Hackney's parks.

First of all I disagree with the way you are organising this consultation. The PSPO is a long and complicated set of rules, the great majority of which I agree with. However you have turned this complicated subject into a binary yes/no situation. Where is the nuance?

The questions in this survey are clearly biased and have been drafted to support an objective. There is absolutely no attempt to ask open questions about the issues arising regarding the shared use of green spaces and dog ownership. On judicial review I anticipate a court would find that the survey failed to meet the objectives of an adequate consultative process.

The council seems to be justifying this change in light of increasing complaints received about dogs but after requesting all reported incidents involving dogs as part of the FOA, I receive the data and saw there was scant data to justify these changes. In some of the areas proposed there are no complaints at all.

4.1.8.6 Comments Support Some Aspects Of PSPO But Not Others

Many respondents' views on the updates to the PSPO are nuanced with support for some aspects but not others. For example, when explicitly mentioned in the comments, respondents are generally in favour of banning dogs from children's play areas and fining those who do not pick up faeces. Respondents who say they support aspects of the PSPO often cite Abney Park Cemetery as the sole reason they object to the proposed updates. Feedback on this topic is discussed in a separate section later in this report and other examples of respondents' mixed views on the proposals are shown below.

I agree with all children's play areas/gyms etc. but some of the small parks and cemeteries are the only safe place to a dog off a lead. I would never let my dog off in Clissold Park but I do in small cemeteries as there [is] very often no one in there and it is safe to do so.

It is fine to ban dogs at some areas and to ask them to be on leads in some, but that can only happen where there are other spaces where dogs can run around. At the moment there aren't enough places where I live and limiting the existing ones will mean that I won't have anywhere to exercise my dog within a 30 minute walk.

Whilst I do agree with the penalties for dog fouling, the other parts of the order would result in potentially dangerous situations for both owners and dogs. By removing a large number of spaces where owners can freely exercise dogs you are increasing the concentration of dogs in the remaining areas.

4.1.8.7 Humans Cause More Problems Than Dogs

One of the criticisms of the consultation, discussed above, is respondents' concern that it does not address dog behaviour as part of the wider anti-social behaviour issues in Hackney's parks and green spaces. Respondents comment on problems caused by drug users and littering and also recognise the potential for conflict between people using the parks for different activities: cycling is frequently mentioned in this regard.

It is not dogs who are the danger. It is cyclists / electric scooters / motor bikes and delivery riders. I have personally had too many near misses of being run over whilst walking through Shoreditch Park.

Haggerston Park is the perfect spot for dogs as it is completely walled off. During the winter months you almost exclusively see only people with dogs there. They are a main user of the park. The second highest users of the park are people smoking crack. I would suggest it's more important to focus on drug use than dogs off lead.

I lived in Hackney for 24 years and moved house to E15 in August to escape the antisocial behaviour from intoxicated people in and around London Fields, including people defecating and urinating regularly in public and at times on the fence outside my living room window. I was told that a ban on alcohol, which would have stopped this antisocial nightmare around my home, would have unjustly infringed on the freedom of the majority of responsible park users. Yet Hackney Council is proposing that it's absolutely fine to penalise wholly responsible dog owners?

4.1.8.8 Proposals Don't Go Far Enough

11% of non-dog owners who do not support the updates commented that the proposals do not go far enough and they want to see dogs on leads or banned in more places.

Dogs should be kept on a lead in all parks and open spaces. There should be designated 'leash-free' areas rather than small areas where dogs are not allowed to be off lead.

There should be stricter penalties for dog fouling on pavements. It is almost impossible doing the two minute walk to our children's school without having to weave around dog litter on a daily basis.

I would like stronger rules put in place. Considering how many families and children there are in Hackney, there are not enough parks dedicated as dog free zones. Clissold Park – the amount of dog free space compared to space for dogs is completely unfair.

More stringent measures are required i.e. a local licensing scheme.

4.1.8.9 Disagrees With Limiting The Number Of Dogs To Four

The proposal to limit the number of dogs a person can have under their control to four is perceived as being “targeted at professional dog walkers”, who many respondents recognise as being the people most able to control their dogs.

Limiting dog walkers to four dogs will only increase the problem. Dog walkers are trained and experienced in handling dogs, even groups of dogs larger than four. On the contrary, most dog owners don't know how to handle one single dog.

The restriction on professional dog walkers only having four dogs is excessive. The ability to control dogs is reliant upon the skills of the dog walker and the dogs they choose to look after. It would be more effective to introduce a licensing scheme that required all individuals who are dog walking (whether as a private business or as an employee of a company) to hold a minimal level of training and a maximum of six dogs which reflects accepted good practice for the industry.

Limiting walks to only four dogs does not take into account the huge variety of dogs and their temperaments. I regularly assess each dog to determine how many I can look after safely at one time. For groups of elderly or small well-behaved dogs I am perfectly capable of handling six dogs, as I have done so for years, which I am also of course professionally insured for.

4.1.8.10 Issues Around Enforcement

Lack enforcement of the current rules and concerns around how the new proposals will be enforced are also a common theme in the comments.

The problem is not the rules themselves but with enforcement. The only reason the current PSPO is not effective is because it's not enforced.

Dogs on Leads by Direction: whilst I am not opposed to this order, it is not clear what Hackney is proposing to do in this regard, i.e. are officers going to be adequately trained so that they will have an understanding of dog behaviour and they will be able to fairly assess if a dog is out of control? Also, it is not clear who is an officer with the power to enforce this order: the Police? A park ranger?

All these paper measures are meaningless and divisive if the current level of enforcement stays at the abjectly low level it is today. The council giving itself more powers when it doesn't use those it already has is bad policy.

I have not witnessed problematic behaviour from dogs in Clissold Park but if there have been such issues, there are already measures which can be taken to restrain the relevant behaviour, such as ASBOs and enforcement under the Dangerous Dogs Act and related legislation.

4.1.8.11 Hackney Marshes

Many of the respondents who made comments about Hackney Marshes object to dogs being banned from sports pitches when these are not in use. There also seems to be some confusion in the comments about the extent of the restrictions in this area.

I see that Hackney Marshes has dogs excluded too? I believe that's only when there are games in play, yes? Or on leads when games are in play?

I am really concerned about the 'no dogs allowed' on the HUGE area of open space of Hackney Marshes where the pitches are. So many dog owners rely on this space to exercise their dogs off the lead. It is the whole reason I bought my flat – so my dog could have access to this space for exercise. That area has no fences so you're essentially banning dogs off lead on that whole part of the marshes.

Whilst it is entirely reasonable to keep dogs away from sports areas while they are in use, it is wholly unreasonable to maintain that restriction when those pitches are not being used for organised sports activity. It is difficult to understand the public benefit of maintaining this restriction outside of matches. Players would gain no benefit, as they are not there, and there are pre-existing rules about dog fouling

I do agree that sports areas need to be kept clean, but looking at the proposal for Hackney Marshes for example, I feel dogs are being blamed solely for its problems. I find both dog fouling and litter in public spaces to be repugnant. The area is used for sport for only a fraction of the week, let alone a given day, and the rubbish left behind by sports teams is abhorrent.

4.1.8.12 Financial Impact On Professional Dog Walkers

Many respondents who own dogs use professional dog walkers or day care providers to ensure their pets get sufficient exercise. Their comments express concern about the impact the proposals will have on the financial viability of these small businesses as well as about the resulting increase in costs to themselves, particularly during the cost of living crisis. Respondents also raise concerns about the repercussions for dog well-being if dog walkers go out of business or owners can no longer afford to use them.

Professional dog walkers should also be able to walk more than four dogs. We know four does not make their business viable and many dog owners require a dog walker to ensure their dog is offered a high quality of life. If restrictions are put in place businesses will be forced to shut down, dogs will ultimately suffer. It could lead to a reduced quality of life for the dog and potentially dogs having to be rehomed. This could have a much bigger impact on families, their lives and their mental health.

Dog walking is my dream career and this potential new rule threatens to destroy everything I have carefully and lovingly built.

I do not support the blanket restriction on professional dog walkers to a maximum of four dogs. This should not be done without proper assessment of the impacts on small businesses and the cost of living impacts on residents (both of which would be significant), and you have made no effort to explore alternative arrangements to mitigate those impacts such as licenses.

4.1.9 Q13: To What Extent Do You Agree Or Disagree With The Proposed New Requirement To Limit The Number Of Dogs That A Person Can Have Under Their Control/Walk At Any One Time To Four?

The proposed changes to the PSPO included a new requirement about the 'maximum number of dogs', which would make it an offence for one person to have more than four dogs under their control at any one time. This requirement would apply to the entire borough. The consultation questionnaire asked respondents to indicate whether they agree with this requirement: 56% of respondents agree, whilst 30% disagree and 14% selected 'neither agree nor disagree'.

This is another question where views are very polarised depending on whether respondents own a dog or not. 78% of non-dog owners agree with the new requirement compared to 40% of dog owners.

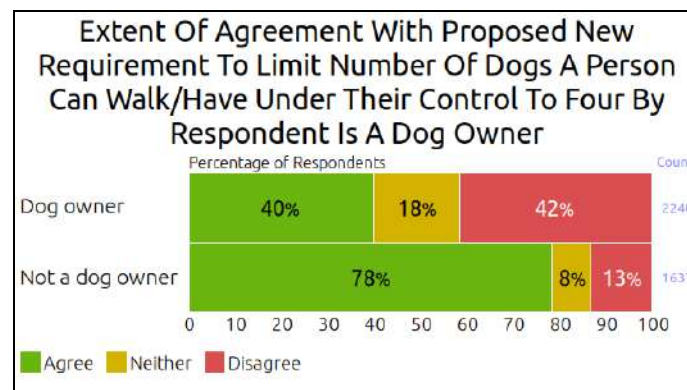


Figure 4.10

The majority of professional dog walkers who responded to the consultation *disagree* with the requirement to limit to four the number of dogs a person has under their control at any one time. 63% disagree, whilst 32% agree with this aspect of the proposals.

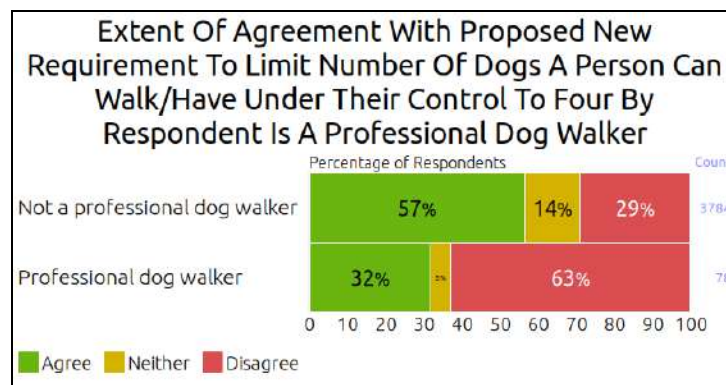


Figure 4.11

4.1.9.1 Further Analysis Of The Findings

Further analysis of respondents' views was undertaken by sub-group and the results are discussed below.

- Respondents aged under 35 are the group least likely to agree with the new requirements, whilst those aged 65+ are most likely to agree (44% and 79% respectively).
- Older dog owners, aged 65+, are also more likely to agree with the new requirements than their younger counterparts (62% compared to 45% or fewer of respondents in other age groups).
- Amongst non-dog owners, those respondents aged under 35 are least likely to agree with the new requirement (63% compared to 77% or more of those in other age groups).
- Respondents with caring responsibilities are more in favour of the new requirement than those without (63% versus 56%).
- Black and Asian respondents are more likely to support the restriction on the number of dogs compared to respondents of other ethnicities. However, there are only a small number of Black and Asian respondents to the consultation.
- Muslim respondents are also more likely than those who follow other religions or beliefs to support the new requirement but, again, there are only a small number of replies from this group.
- LGB+ respondents are less likely than heterosexual respondents to agree with the new requirement (51% compared to 59%) and this is also true of non-dog owning respondents from both groups (72% compared to 83% respectively). However, in contrast, the views of heterosexual dog owners are in line with those of LGB+ dog owners (41% and 40% agree respectively).
- Respondents who live in E5, E8 and E9 are more likely to be in favour of restricting the number of dogs than those in N1, N4 and N16 (62% compared to 56%).
- Although 41% of dog owners in each of these postcode areas agree with the proposal, a higher proportion of those in the E postcodes *disagree* (45% compared to 37% in the N postcode areas).

4.1.10 Q14: Reasons For Disagreement With The Maximum Number Of Dogs

Respondents who 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' with the proposal to limit the maximum number of dogs were asked to explain the reasons for their views. The table below shows the most common themes in the qualitative feedback provided. Themes have only been included if they were mentioned by 7% or more of either dog owners or non-dog owners who do not support the updates. Although they are only a small group of respondents, the views of professional dog walkers are also included for reference.

Theme in comments	% of dog owners who disagree with proposal to limit maximum number of dogs	% of non-dog owners who disagree with proposal to limit maximum number of dogs	% of professional dog walkers who disagree with proposal to limit maximum number of dogs
Professional dog walkers don't cause any problems in the area	39%	23%	31%
Financial impact of proposal on professional dog walkers and dog day care firms	34%	16%	45%
Dog walking / dog day care prices will go up	21%	9%	27%
Number of dogs a person can control depends on their experience	19%	19%	45%
Implications for dog well-being	15%	7%	35%
Criticism of proposal / council's approach to consultation	13%	6%	24%
Proposal doesn't take the breed or size of dog into account	11%	9%	8%
Introduce a licensing requirement for professional walkers	11%	5%	18%
Thinks rules should be tighter / suggests a lower maximum number	1%	11%	0%
Disagrees with such a blanket / broad brush / arbitrary approach	9%	8%	12%
Agrees there should be a maximum number but thinks it should be higher than four	9%	5%	14%
Professional dog walkers help ensure dogs are well socialised	8%	6%	12%

Table 8 Themes in comments about reasons for disagreement with limiting the maximum number of dogs to four

In addition, although this was only mentioned by a small proportion of other respondents, 20% of professional dog walkers who disagree with the proposal, point out that they are insured for a certain number of dogs, often six.

Further feedback on the other key themes in the comments is set out below.

4.1.10.1 Professional Dog Walkers Don't Cause Any Problems In The Area

The most common theme in the feedback from respondents, who disagree with the proposal to limit the number of dogs to four, is that professional dog walkers do not cause any issues in the area.

Most dog handlers are highly experienced and extremely responsible people and teams; many have qualifications as dog trainers, behaviourists, dog first aiders and more, as well as walking dogs. Many have years of experience. All take their job very seriously. On Hackney Marshes, the professional walkers have a WhatsApp group to alert other walkers to any incidents / danger etc; they also have a voluntary Canine Care Code which advocates for responsible dog handling, positive reinforcement, clearing up dog poop; being a guardian of the Marshes and supportive of all other Marsh users. They are not problem dog handlers.

Professional dog walkers do not present any sort of problem. I have used a number of them in Stoke Newington over the years and to effectively ban them or limit the scope of their work is a terrible idea. What problem are you trying to solve? These walkers do not cause problems.

The dog walkers do not want to look after potentially dangerous or disruptive dogs as it would make their job harder and unpleasant. This proposal seems to me like Hackney council is attempting to fix something which isn't broken.

4.1.10.2 Financial Impact Of Proposal On Professional Dog Walkers And Dog Day Care Firms

The comments from dog owners express concern that the proposed new requirement will result in dog walkers going out of business. Many professional walkers have made similar comments worrying that about the reduction in income and the increased costs if the proposed changes come into effect.

*Everything I have built my business on over 8 years will be down the drain in one night and Hackney Council do not give a **** about the people whose lives will be affected by this. You have no idea what this has done to my mental health since the proposal came out. I've been worrying about it so much, I've had so many sleepless nights about how I'm going to keep a roof [over] my head and food in the fridge.*

In a cost of living crisis it's absolutely nonsensical to propose policy that would put people out of a job. This would predominantly affect poorer people, likely women. It would also have a knock on effect on older or disabled people who might rely on dog walkers to exercise their pets.

We do all our Borough-based work on foot so while a vehicle operator could carry ten or more dogs within the rules, while contributing to local traffic, a non-vehicle service is adversely affected by the rules which creates a perverse incentive to drive. Should the number of dogs per walker be capped at four this has a significant cost increase for providers – we need to have more staff to ensure capacity and flexibility.

4.1.10.3 Dog Walking / Dog Day Care Prices Will Go Up

As well as expressing concerns about the financial viability of dog walking and day care businesses, many dog owners are concerned that the proposed new restriction would result in prices for these services increasing, with many commenting that they would not be able to afford this, especially with the cost of living crisis.

Restricting dog walkers to 4 dogs per walker would be ineffective for any kind of existing business – meaning a third more staff would be required to run their businesses and would mean the cost of doggy day care would consequently increase by a third. With the current cost of living – hard working families in Hackney cannot afford this and these local businesses will not survive.

We used to have one dog walk in the middle of the day which equates to around £400 a month. Then the police helicopter presence went through the roof terrifying our dog causing her not to be left at home for most of the day. We're now paying around £600 a month because of this. [...] Reducing the number of dogs [our dog walker] can walk will force the business into raising costs due to raising the number of staff to make the business viable. However this will raise our expenditure again and we will not be able to afford to do this.

The cost of dog care will rise even further (I currently pay £36 to have my dog walked!). More people will not be able to afford this service, which allows them to ensure their dog's welfare is maintained

4.1.10.4 Number Of Dogs A Person Can Control Depends On Their Experience

Many respondents comment that an inexperienced owner may be unable to control one dog and this might be more dangerous than an experienced professional with five or six dogs.

A blanket limit without consideration of who is in charge of the dogs (professional dog walkers etc) nor of the dogs themselves is a blunt instrument. There should at least be the option for people to get an exemption or extension to the limit where they can justify it.

I could be walking my well behaved group of six small dogs I walk every day and meet an inexperienced or new owner/walker with one or two dogs that weigh more than all my dogs combined, who aren't trained properly and are causing chaos. And yes this does happen. I am not the problem. It makes no sense whatsoever.

I use Clissold Park a lot and the best controlled and managed dogs are those that the professional dog walkers are looking after. It is their job and they take it seriously so I don't understand why they are being targeted? It is not necessary – often the most out of control dogs are those on their own off the lead without care or attention of their owner, in fact I've seen dog walkers step in to help on some occasions so it would be detrimental to exclude them from the park.

4.1.10.5 Implications For Dog Well-Being

The qualitative feedback includes concerns that the expected rise in dog walking and day care costs, in response to the proposed new restriction, will have a negative impact on dog well-being due to a reduced number of walks and increasing frequency of being left at home all day.

Dog walkers are important and there is a shortage of dog walkers. We need to make sure dogs get walked as it is crucial exercise and stimulation that is extremely important for the dog's wellbeing and therefore behaviour. Restricting the number effectively means many dogs not being walked or looked after, which will mean less well-behaved dogs. Exercise is the number one rule for better behaviour in dogs.

Reducing the number of dogs that a walker can have will exponentially increase the cost of dog day care as dog walkers will increase prices to achieve a living wage. This will, in turn, mean that many of the borough's loved pet dogs will not get the exercise that they need. A lack of exercise and stimulation and training (which critically forms a key part of day care) is what leads to dogs acting out. Dogs being cooped up in the house too long all day will lead to dogs misbehaving when they do get to go out. Moreover this will lead to cruelty towards dogs if they do have to stay home alone for longer periods. Responsible dog owners invest in day care as a responsible act.

If a dog walker can only walk four dogs it will put up the cost of doggy day care dramatically. This will mean that people will have to give up their dogs to dog shelters that are already over crowded or leave their dogs home alone which might cause stress for the dog and barking noise disturbance for others.

4.1.10.6 Criticism Of Proposal / Council's Approach To Consultation

Respondents question the rationale behind the four dog limit with many asking where the evidence, data and justification comes from. The comments from many professional dog walkers object that they have not been consulted on the proposed changes prior to the consultation being publicised. Some respondents suggest that the council should seek the advice of the Kennel Club about this proposed new restriction. The Kennel Club themselves have also submitted a response to the consultation as a whole including discussion of this part of the proposal, which they do not support. This is discussed in more detail in a later section of this report.

At no point in all the time I have walked dogs in Hackney [has] anyone from Hackney Council approached me or any other walker I know, in the parks or on the Marshes, to talk about the challenges we or the council may be facing or anything else. The reality is that the council is pushing for one outcome, the one they want, the consultation is even written in a way that pushes replies in a certain direction. [...] If there are problems with professional walkers, what has the council done so far? What was the number of reported accidents in the past 24 / 47 months? Where did the number four come from?

You have misquoted the RSPCA who in their briefing document about PSPOs do not mention that there should be a limit on the number of dogs being walked by any one person. [...] If you consult your local Police and Enforcement Officers you will find that there are no records of dog attacks by multiple dogs. They will all be solo dogs. Under Local Government Association guidance for PSPOs you cannot impose rules that are not evidenced and proportionate.

4.1.10.7 **Proposal Doesn't Take The Breed Or Size Of Dog Into Account**

Many respondents observe that the new restriction applies equally to both four XL Bullies and four Dachshunds. The comments also suggest this approach will not address the problem of dangerous dogs.

My question is – how does a limit of four dogs per walker automatically equal better safety? 6 Dachshunds would be very different to 4 Dobermanns. 6 slow elderly dogs is very different to 4 young energetic dogs who have yet to be trained properly. 6 well behaved dogs who have walked together in the group with the same walker for many years would be very different to 4 dogs who have never been on a group walk together and/or with behavioural issues.

It's totally arbitrary. Why four? Is that 4 sausage dogs as well as 4 XL Bully dogs? One XL Bully out of control or with the wrong owner is potentially a major danger. 10 Cockapoos... irritating at worst.

Dog walkers do not walk status dangerous dogs; they walk ordinary Cockapoos, Spaniels, Collies, Poodles etc. The breeds mentioned, even in numbers greater than four, typically do not concern the community. The fact that the council worries about a dog walker having more than four ordinary non-threatening breeds instead of addressing the status dogs problem shows a misplacement of priorities.

4.1.10.8 **Introduce A Licensing Requirement For Professional Walkers**

Some respondents, including professional walkers themselves, suggest that introducing a licensing requirement would be preferable to a blanket restriction on the number of dogs. This would enable all walkers and day care providers to prove they have the skills required to handle the dogs they care for.

A better approach would be to work with dog walkers to ensure higher standards of professional dog handling – requiring a license, which was only obtained on proof of relevant training and/or experience. At minimum anyone who wanted to walk dogs professionally in the Borough could be required to do a Dog First Aid course and pass a simple knowledge test to ensure awareness and adherence to minimum standards of modern handling.

Measures do need to be put in place but [a] blanket ban doesn't seem appropriate. There are many small independent walkers with qualification training and [who are] very selective on what dogs they walk together. Taking time to know dogs and that they will walk well together. Some dog walking licence is more appropriate so there is some measure for ensuring dog professionals have the correct level of qualifications.

Dog walkers need to be adequately assessed as responsible businesses who are DBS checked and insured – which the majority are. Six dogs is an easily manageable number in experienced and responsible hands. What needs to be managed are the small number of dog walkers to take more than six dogs and do not have insurance, DBS, adequate experience or some form of dog training qualification.

4.1.10.9 **Thinks Rules Should Be Tighter / Suggests A Lower Maximum Number**

11% of non-dog owners, who disagree with the new requirement, state that they think the rules should be tighter or suggest a lower maximum number.

I agree with the proposal to limit the number of dogs being walked by one dog walker but I think the reduction to max of four dogs is still too many. In a situation where three dog walkers having four dogs each, in a permitted place, control could be severely undermined. I would suggest a recommendation of two and in exceptional circumstances three as long as the dog walker is experienced.

I think four is too many. On Hackney Marshes I regularly see groups of dog walkers exercising dogs together, so in effect you see packs of ten or fifteen or twenty dogs. It's incredibly irresponsible.

Two dogs should be the maximum. Even well behaved dogs need watching and any more than two would be too many to supervise responsibly. There are far far too many professional dog walkers exercising a string of dogs that are out of control. Walking dogs is a huge cash cow and many irresponsible dog walkers will take on extra dogs even if they can't really manage the pack

4.1.10.10 **Disagrees With Such A Blanket / Broad Brush / Arbitrary Approach**

Many respondents object to the new requirements on the grounds the rule does not allow for flexibility and they feel that four is an arbitrary number without clear justification.

The blanket restriction is ill-conceived and has negative consequences. Discussions with professional dog walkers have highlighted that they may need from time to time have an additional dog – for example in case of staff sickness, to cover an emergency and when collecting and returning dogs. So for example one company may have 5-6 dogs when they are dropping dogs back from base to home. By imposing a four dog limit this means more staff are required (pushing up costs for residents) or makes it preferable to [do] drops by car.

This is a totally arbitrary number. Such a proposal should be accompanied with a proper analysis. Such statistical analysis would attempt to answer questions such as; are dog related incidents more likely to happen in the presence of a dog walker? More likely to happen when the dog walker is in charge or more than four dogs?

I have concerns about the current dog walking situation in Hackney, however I do not feel that the blanket 4-dog rule is the solution. I am worried that the Council has not consulted with any dog walkers or day cares in Hackney, of which there are many who are full of ideas and evidence-based solutions. While I fully agree that there needs to be much stronger regulation of dog walkers, and have had my share of unpleasant encounters with walkers with 8+ dogs they cannot control, I am worried that this one rule fails to get to the heart of the issue and may simply make life more difficult for responsible dog walkers.

4.1.10.11 **Agrees There Should Be A Maximum Number But Thinks It Should Be Higher Than Four**

20% of professional dog walkers, who disagree with the proposed new requirement, point out that they are insured for a maximum number of dogs, typically six. Other respondents also comment that they think there should be a limit but that four seems too low.

Generally I do support the proposal in the PSPO to limit the number of dogs that any professional dog walker can walk, and this is a welcome proposal. [...] However, I think that the limit of four dogs per walker as proposed in the new PSPO is too low, as it will put dog walkers out of business. The limit in Lea Bridge parks is currently five dogs per walker. I consider that to be more appropriate.

I do feel a number needs to be set. I was shocked to find there wasn't. 4 does seem a little low for a professional though. I have talked with many dog owners and some walkers regarding this. It seems no insurance company will allow more than 6 dogs.

[It] should be a max of six dogs per person as this is the maximum amount that most insurance companies will insure professional dog walkers to walk at one time. I think cutting people down to four per person is going to push credible dog walkers out of business meaning you have many uninsured walkers that do not care about the new PSPO and will still walk anyway causing more issues.

4.1.10.12 **Professional Dog Walkers Help Ensure Dogs Are Well Socialised**

Some owners gave testimony about the positive impact 'pack walks' have had on their dog's temperament and stress the importance of socialisation for good dog behaviour.

My dog attends a day care with a policy of having one handler to every six dogs on a walk. The day care carries out a thorough behavioural assessment before accepting a new dog, and any dogs without reliable recall are leashed on walks. My dog's behaviour on walks has greatly improved after he's had the opportunity to learn from other dogs at day care.

I've seen how my dog has become calmer and gentler around other dogs as a result of being in a "pack" with a dog walker. This proposal is counterproductive and harmful.

As a dog owner, I believe professional dog walkers help support responsible dog ownership in the borough. They can help with training, provide safe socialisation for dogs and exercise dogs that would otherwise be left at home, barking and causing a nuisance to neighbours.

Dogs are also social creatures and being able to play with each other is very good for their health and well-being. If they are properly exercised and socialised it means they will ultimately be less likely to display problematic behaviours.

4.1.10.13 Comments On Maximum Number Of Dogs From Respondents Who Did Not Answer 'Disagree' To Q13

Although respondents were only invited to enter comments about the reasons for their views if they answered 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' to question thirteen, some respondents who did not select these response options also made comments about the new requirement to restrict the maximum number of dogs to four. These responses are considered as a percentage of comments made, rather than as a percentage of all respondents who do not disagree with the new requirement. This is because most respondents, who did not select 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', followed the instructions in the questionnaire and did not give feedback, even though they might have wanted to do so.

21% of these comments state that professional dog walkers are not a problem in the area, whilst 19% suggest that the number of dogs a person can control depends on their experience and 13% think the proposals do not take the size or breed of dog into account. 12% are concerned about the financial impact on professional dog walkers and day cares, whilst the same proportion of comments state the rules should be tighter. Full details are shown in the graph below.

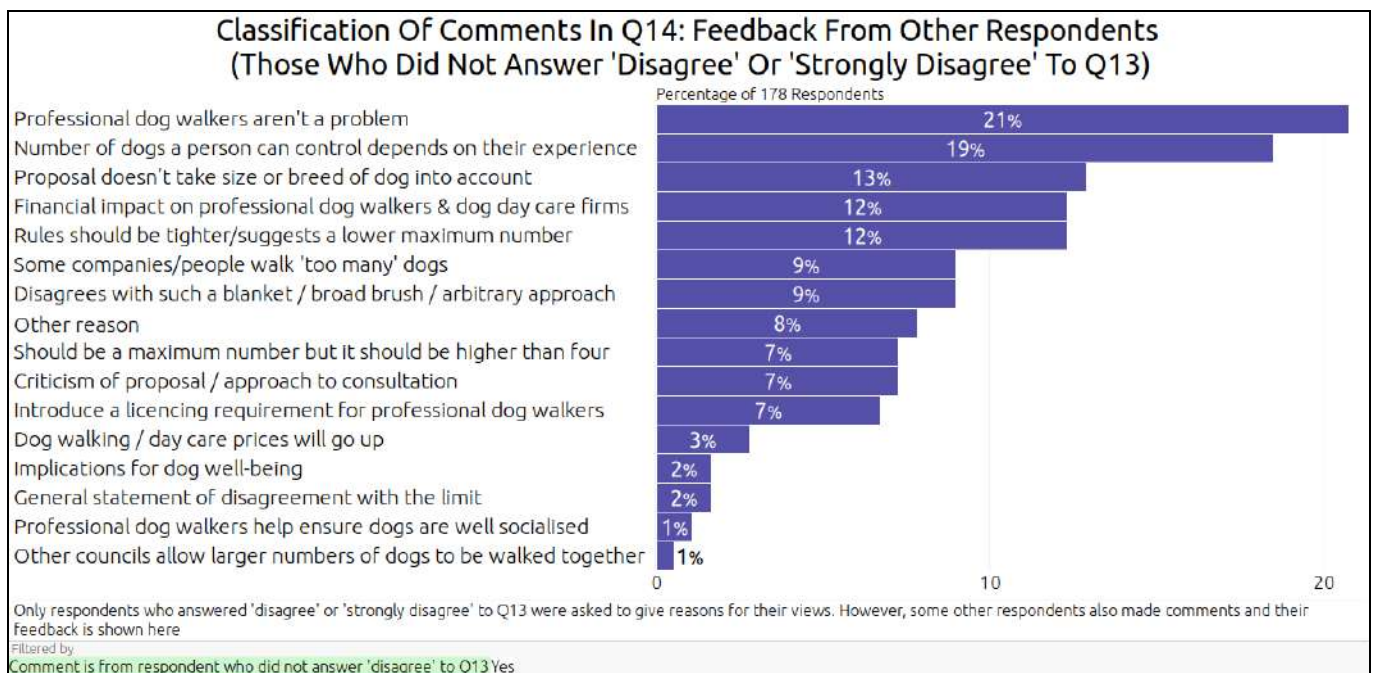


Figure 4.12

4.1.11 Q15: Do You Think There Are Any Other Locations Which Need To Be Covered By The PSPO?

16% of respondents to the consultation clicked on the online map to indicate an additional area they think should be included in the PSPO. However, at least one respondent pointed out that they had *“inadvertently added about 20 sites merely by clicking on the map to view which are the proposed new sites”*. Analysis of the map data is outside the scope of this report.

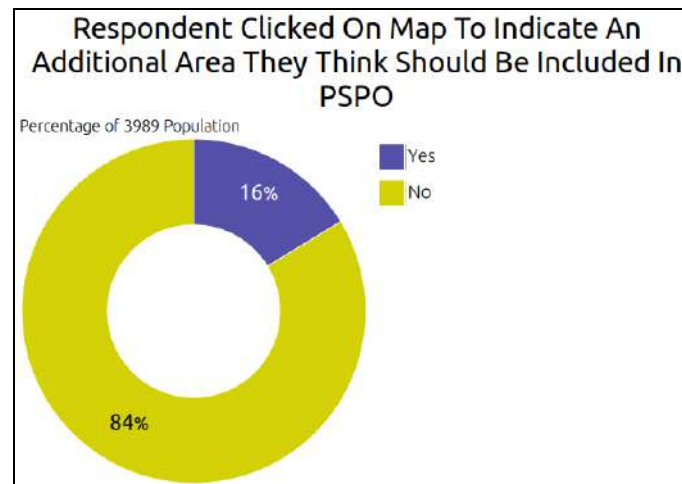


Figure 4.13

4.1.11.1 Respondents' Criticism Of This Question

17% of all respondents criticised the proposal or the Council's approach to the consultation and this was one of the questions that attracted comment. The most frequent criticism of the question in the comments was that it was only possible to *“propose further expansion of zones to include in the order, not contend those that have been proposed”*. Additionally, some respondents pointed out that they found the map *“hard to use”* and others felt the proposals *“unnecessarily obfuscates the map view within the survey until page 3. This should really be available on the consultation website homepage”*.

4.1.12 Consultation Response From London Fields Parks Friends Group

An email submission to the consultation was received from the London Fields Parks Friends Group expressing concern about *“the way that lack of inter-department communication and failure to engage with User Groups has had a detrimental impact on this consultation”*.

The London Fields group have received significant funding from GLA to go towards improving biodiversity and to improve the Green Classroom areas. The work is being carried out in conjunction with local schools and the Group wanted these areas to be included in the consultation with a view to excluding dogs from them.

Therefore, given that Council officers have been involved in the project, the email states the group was *“very surprised and disappointed that the key areas on which we were working hadn't been included”*.

While the consultation was at draft stage, the Group asked to review the documentation, partly because they had “concerns about some of the measures proposed and wanted to see alternatives included in the consultation”. This would also have provided an opportunity to identify areas omitted.

The email states that the Group have been told “*that the best course of action is to raise these issues in the consultation*”. However, they are “*not optimistic that it will be feasible to add areas, especially contentious ones, without them being properly consulted on*”. As a result, they recognise that “*with a PSPO lasting for three years, change has been locked out until the next consultation*”.

Therefore, the email asks “*the Council learns from the execution of this consultation*” so that in future User Groups can give feedback, at an early stage, to inform the shape of the consultation.

A copy of the full submission can be found in appendix five.

4.1.13 Q16: Has The Current Dog Control PSPO Had A Negative Impact On You In Any Way?

Respondents were asked whether the current dog control PSPO has had a negative impact on them and 16% answered ‘yes’, whilst 84% said ‘no’.

Dog owners are more likely than respondents without dogs to say the current order has had a negative impact, with 20% responding affirmatively compared to 11% of non-dog owners.

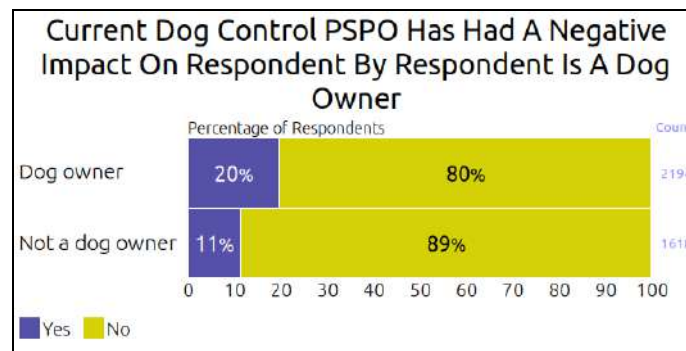


Figure 4.14

4.1.13.1 Further Analysis Of The Findings

The difference between the views of respondents in many sub-groups is not statistically significant. However, where differences in opinion are large enough to be significant, these are discussed below.

- Younger respondents, aged under 35, are the age group most likely to say that the current PSPO has had a negative effect on them (21% compared to between 14% and 16% of respondents in other age groups)
- Disabled respondents are more likely than those who are not disabled to say the current PSPO has had a negative impact on them (25% versus 15%). This is also true for disabled dog owners (32% versus 19%)
- Respondents with caring responsibilities are more likely than those without to say the current PSPO has had a negative impact (21% versus 16%).

- White respondents are less likely than those of other ethnic backgrounds to say that the current PSPO has had a negative impact on them (15% compared to 21%) and this is also true of dog owners from these ethnic backgrounds. (18% versus 27%)
- LGB+ respondents are more likely to say the current PSPO has had a negative effect on them than heterosexual respondents (20% versus 14%) and this is also true for dog owners in these groups (24% compared to 17%).

4.1.14 Q17: Nature Of Negative Impact

Respondents, who said 'yes', the current PSPO control order has had a negative effect on them, were asked to explain the nature of this impact. There appears to have been some confusion around these questions because 22% of all these respondents made comments relating to the proposed *changes* to the PSPO rather than the impact of the existing order.

The table below shows the main themes in the qualitative feedback. Themes have only been included if they were mentioned by 3% or more of either dog owners or non-dog owners who say the PSPO has had a negative impact on them.

Theme in comments	% of dog owners who say the current PSPO has had a negative impact on them	% of non-dog owners who say the current PSPO has had a negative impact on them
Problem dog behaviour happens despite PSPO	11%	68%
Limitations of where & how can walk dogs	32%	9%
Comments relate to changes to PSPO	28%	8%
Penalises responsible dog owners & irresponsible ones won't comply	8%	3%
Encourages negative opinions about dogs	7%	4%
Unfairness of dogs being banned when people cause more issues	7%	2%
Respondent is a responsible dog owner	7%	0%
Criticism of proposal / council's approach to consultation	6%	3%
Lack of safe, fenced areas for exercising / training dogs	6%	2%
Unable to take children and dogs to places at the same time	4%	1%
General comment stating it's had a negative impact	1%	4%

Table 9 Themes in comments about how current PSPO has had a negative impact on respondent

Some examples of comments giving more feedback on the negative impact of the current PSPO on respondents are shown below.

4.1.14.1 Comments From Dog Owners

Dog owners' comments focused primarily on the limitations to where and how they can walk their dogs as well as giving feedback on how the changes to the PSPO would negatively affect them.

Current restrictions in Clissold Park and Springfield Park mean a significant loss of off-lead walking area in the hot summer months when sharing responsibly with other park users. There is a lot of focus on park usage in the summer months – but less respect and value placed on those dog walkers whose constant usage regardless of the weather keeps public spaces safe for all – but who are excluded from park cafes even when they are deserted due to bad weather!

I continually search for somewhere I can exercise my dog where there are no children, you provide no spaces restricting children and families who are loud, unpredictable, spill food and rubbish. There are many spaces for children and picnics which are often empty. Please give us space for our dogs.

If my dog is not allowed on the path along the new river next to the West Reservoir – then this restricts my regular walking route. We walk there 3 times a day with no problem. I bought my house nearby this path because I have mobility issues.

More and more areas are being closed off to dog owners, where walking/exercise with a dog is good for both mental and physical well being for humans and the dogs. Parks close early at sun down in the winter months so other grassed areas should be used for dog walking, not closed off from dogs through the introduction of PSPO.

Kynaston Gardens has recently become a no dogs allowed green area – I live locally, it's my closest green space as someone with no access to a garden it was invaluable for me and my dog. It's since become no dogs allowed, is now just full of men sitting, eating leaving rubbish and defecating in the park.

4.1.14.2 Non-Dog Owners

The majority of comments from non-dog owners, who say the current PSPO has had a negative impact on them, relate to problem dog behaviour that still happens despite the control order.

By being ineffective in allowing me to move freely and independently around the borough's parks, with a detrimental impact on my health and mental wellbeing. The focus on kids areas is good but they're not the only vulnerable residents – and how do they get to the play parks when there are so many dogs running around in the rest of the park.

Dogs running off leads in public areas chase other animals such as domestic cats and often run to children taking them by surprise and causing panic. The dogs very often have no recall and dog owners/walkers are often on their phones while the dogs are running around. Dogs off leads in parks often chase and kill the wildlife such as ducklings.

It is not properly enforced nor wide enough and I am constantly worried when using the parks in Hackney that my children (or myself) will be injured by dogs. Dog fouling is also an enormous problem and seems to go unpunished.

Out of control off leads in Clissold: my young son was recently jumped on by an Alsatian during school running club. The owner saw but didn't do anything saying the dog "only wanted to play". He and I have both been barked and jumped at more times than I can remember while out running in Clissold.

It hasn't gone far enough. I've been subjected to innumerable instances of dog aggression. I used to go running in Hackney parks but had to give it up because, on an almost daily basis, I was faced with aggressive dogs. This was particularly bad in London Fields and Haggerston Park. Also, local streets, as well as parks, are covered in dog faeces.

4.1.14.3 Comments On Negative Impact Of Current PSPO From Respondents Who Did Not Answer 'Yes' To Q16

Although respondents were only invited to enter comments about the reasons for their views if they answered 'yes' to question sixteen, some respondents who did not select this response option also made comments about the negative impact of the current order. These responses are considered as a percentage of comments made, rather than as a percentage of all respondents who did not answer 'yes' the current order has a negative impact. This is because most respondents, who did not select 'yes', followed the instructions in the questionnaire and did not give feedback, even though they might have wanted to do so.

41% of these comments relate to changes to the PSPO rather than the current order and 21% are about problem dog behaviour that happens despite the PSPO. Full details are shown in the graph below.

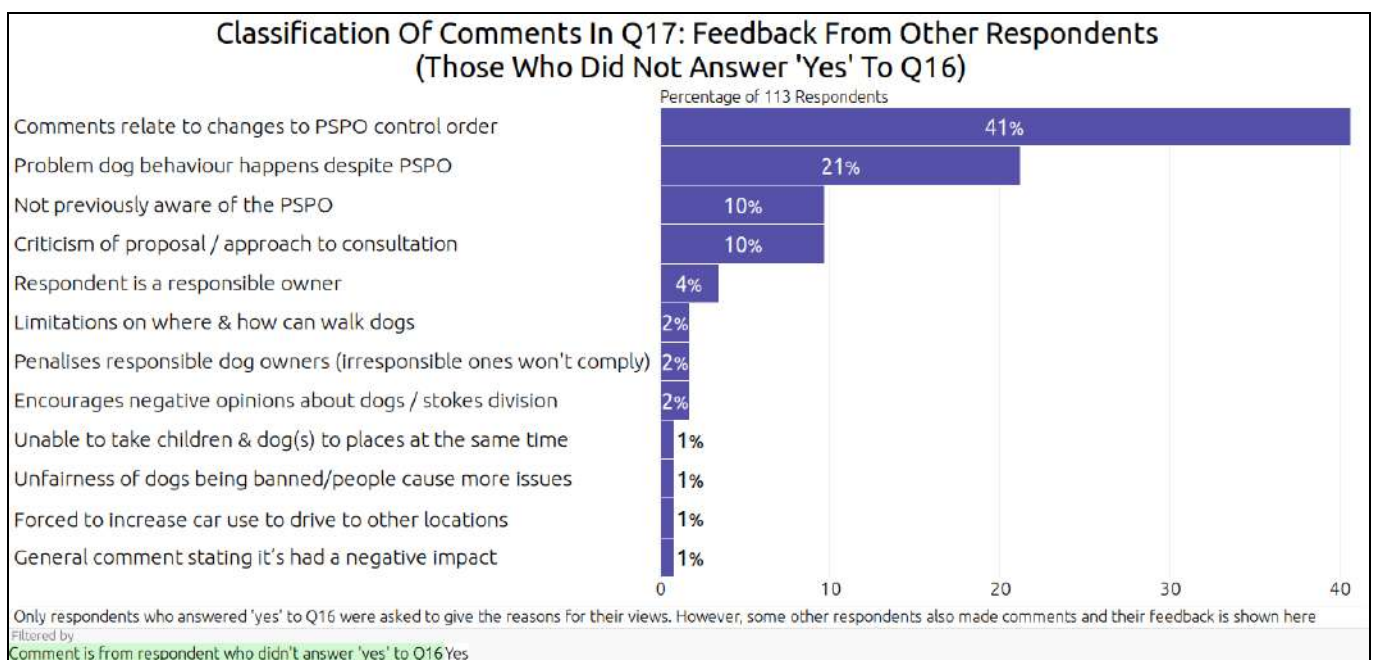


Figure 4.15

4.1.15 Q18: Do You Have Any Other Comments On Dog Control Or The Dog Control PSPO In General?

Towards the end of the consultation questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to add any further comments they wanted to make about dog control or the PSPO in general. In addition, some respondents had made comments in response to question seven that were more wide ranging in nature and did not refer specifically to the question they were being asked at the time. To ensure this feedback was not lost, these comments were re-considered as part of the final qualitative feedback question and were included in the classification and graphs presented and discussed below.

In total, 2,100 respondents made additional comments, 38% of whom support the proposed changes to the PSPO, whilst 61% do not support the updates. 1% of these respondents either did not answer question 11 or said they 'don't know' if they support the updates or not.

In line with other findings throughout these results, the majority of comments from dog owners are from respondents who do not support the updates, whilst the reverse is true of the comments from non-dog owners, as shown below.

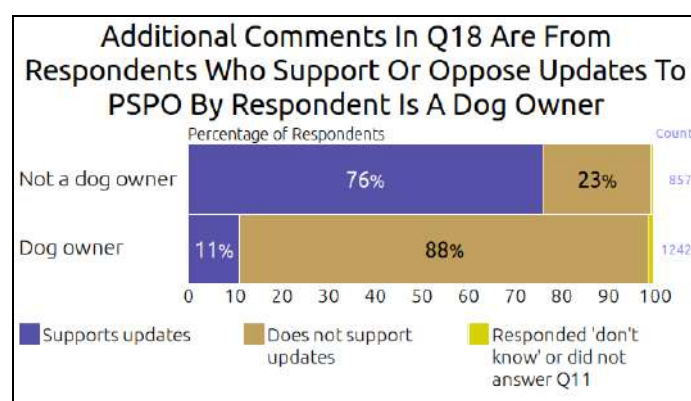


Figure 4.16

The table below shows the main themes in the qualitative feedback. Themes have only been included if they were mentioned by 5% or more of either dog owners or non-dog owners.

Theme in comments	% of dog owners	% of non-dog owners
Punishes responsible owners & the irresponsible won't comply	15%	3%
Issues around enforcement	10%	12%
Abney Park Cemetery	12%	8%
Council needs to target irresponsible owners	12%	7%
Dog fouling	4%	12%
Criticism of proposal / council's approach to consultation	11%	2%
Dogs on leads requirement	2%	8%
Other comment in support of dog control	1%	7%
Dogs need exercise	6%	1%
Dog attacks/dangerous dogs	4%	5%
Humans cause more problems than dogs	5%	1%

Table 10 Themes in the additional comments

4.1.15.1 Analysis By Postcode Area

The response to questions six and seven, which asked about problems with dog behaviour, showed differences in views between respondents who live in E5, E8 and E9 compared to those who live in N1, N4 and N16. Therefore, further analysis of the additional comments has been carried out to look at the difference in views between respondents in these areas. The key differences in opinion are shown below.

- Respondents in N1, N4 and N16 are more likely to make comments about Abney Park than those in E5, E8 and E9 (17% versus 3%). This is presumably due to their proximity to the cemetery.
- Similarly, respondents in these E postcode areas are more likely than those in the N areas to make comments about Hackney Marshes (4% versus 1%).
- There are more comments about dog fouling from respondents in the E postcodes (10% compared to 7% in the N postcodes).
- Similarly, comments about dogs on leads are more frequent from those in E postcodes than N postcodes (7% compared to 4%).
- Respondents in these N postcodes are more likely to be critical of the proposals or the council's approach to the consultation than those in E postcodes (9% versus 5%).

Due to the large number of comments about Abney Park, across all the qualitative questions in the survey, this aspect of the proposals is discussed in a separate section. Some examples of comments on the other key themes in the qualitative feedback are shown below.

4.1.15.2 Punishes Responsible Owners & The Irresponsible Won't Comply

Some respondents are concerned that the updates to the PSPO punish responsible owners and those who are irresponsible will not comply. This is a much more common theme in the feedback from dog owners than those respondents who do not have a dog.

As the majority of dog owners are responsible a targeted approach to any rules/laws is a much more proportionate and appropriate way to deal with irresponsible owners for all issues and I do question whether the PSPO's enforcing blanket bans are appropriate especially as any issues the minority cause can be dealt with under UK laws including: The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996; Animal Welfare Act 2006; The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

There will always be people who don't pick up, but then again there are many people and their families who create a lot of litter. Dogs are beneficial to people's mental health and most people are respectful to their community and neighbours, not going into the proposed spaces anyway.

Dogs provide a great deal of comfort to a large amount of people. Their presence has been linked to reduced blood pressure, stress, and depression in many studies. There are plenty of areas (most notably pretty much every indoor area in this rainy city of ours) where you can go to avoid dogs. Please do not make the life of London dog owners even harder. We just want to exercise our dogs responsibly.

4.1.15.3 Issues Around Enforcement

Enforcement is a key concern of both dog owners and respondents who do not have dogs. The feedback relates to complaints about the lack of enforcement of the current rules and, often following on from this, doubts that the new rules will be adequately enforced.

[There needs to be] an effective enforcement strategy that is evidenced for residents. No large dogs off their leads. An app or reporting platform or website allowing reporting and a follow up to show the reporting person action was taken.

Public Spaces Protection Orders for dog control should strike a balance between public safety and responsible dog ownership. Clear communication, community engagement, and effective enforcement are crucial. Education, alternative solutions, and proportional penalties should be considered. Regular reviews and public awareness campaigns can enhance their effectiveness.

Enforcement is almost impossible because the Council can't afford a special set of employees to this end, and the current park-keepers don't have the skill-set or the inclination to apply restrictions. The police have other things to do. Seeing that it's only Council officers and police who may enforce, it seems daft to apply yet more rules on dog owners when those rules won't be enforced. Far better to engage and enrol the services of responsible dog owners in policing and reporting dog behaviour in Council parks.

4.1.15.4 Council Needs To Target Irresponsible Owners

Some respondents think the Council should be targeting its resources on targeting irresponsible owners, particularly those with status dogs. This is a more prevalent theme in the comments from dog owners, although 7% of non-dog owners do also mention it.

How about you actually take action on dangerous dogs. [...] The fact that there is a dog that attacked an adult and multiple dogs (killing one), still on the streets in my area with an owner who is not allowed to own dogs is shocking. The incident was reported to the police and no action has been taken.

The existing and new additions to the Dog Control PSPO do not give me any reassurance about the nuisance and risk caused by irresponsible dog owners and their dogs. I do not think these measures will do much, if anything, to change such people's behaviour. [...] I would like a bylaw banning people from using public spaces to train their dogs to attack. This happens in Millfields Park North and on Leyton Marsh.

What about some thoughts on a return to dog licences, to return to a registration system that enables people to be held to account for their and their dogs' bad behaviour. It would be an easy thing to have the details added to the dogs' microchip records.

Hackney Council should be doing more public communications on the value of dog training. It could also encourage people to take courses in overcoming fear of dogs. And it could set up a phone line to report owners who train dogs to be aggressive and dangerous.

4.1.15.5 Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is the most frequently cited problem with dog behaviour respondents have experienced in the last 12 months (question 7 in the consultation). The qualitative feedback in the additional comments about this is mostly from non-dog owners.

Dog poo on the streets is out of control, my 18 month old stood in it recently, it gets on pram wheels, it is horrible, incredibly dangerous and nothing is done about.

London Fields should have specific areas where dogs can go off leads and toilet. Currently the children are playing football and doing gymnastics on the grass and getting dog crap on their shoes and hands. This is a health hazard. It is too small a space to have dogs crapping everywhere – the small park is used by a lot of people.

Dog fouling is a really big issue and there is no control. Take Aden Terrace for example, dog owners know they can leave their dog faeces there every single day. Every morning when I pass there are multiple fresh faeces.

*The dog fouling on public footpaths/sidewalks in the Brooke Road/Evering Road area in the last two years has become a really really big issue. Every 5 paces there is a dog sh*t, it feels like no dog owner picks up after their dog any more. It's awful, it ruins a walk... There needs to be more signage, free dog poo bags and on the spot fines to stop the situation escalating.*

4.1.15.6 Criticism Of Proposal / Council's Approach To Consultation

Criticism of the proposal and the council's approach to the consultation is a recurring theme in the qualitative feedback. Those respondents who made comments about this in question eighteen are predominantly dog owners.

The new PSPO is typical of Hackney Council – make new rules without proper consultation (this exercise is NOT proper consultation) with no attempt to really engage with the people affected. There are no statistics on incidents with dogs, reports of problems with dogs etc. Someone has decided this would be a good idea with no basis at all.

This consultation provides leading questions and without meaningful follow up questions (in relation to impact) or viewed in the context of wider concerns around public spaces in Hackney (such as littering and fly-tipping) it does not create a sufficient understanding of the issues in public spaces.

The views of residents associations/groups, park users, park wardens, local vets and, most importantly, professional dog walkers should have been canvassed. Had there been proper consultation it should have been possible to come forward with workable proposals which achieve the Council's objectives by consensus.

Doing these consultations without the full report of complaints and Hackney Council's own actions to investigate and research proper solutions, makes for skewed responses, limited to those who use the internet with ease and are registered to the platform or the newsletter (less than 1,200 out of 250,000).

4.1.15.7 Dogs On Leads Requirement

Comments about the dogs on leads requirement mostly come from non-dog owners and tend to focus on their support for this measure and/or requests to extend the restrictions to more area.

I think there needs to be much greater awareness about the law on walking dogs on lead on pavements – there is an increasing number of people walking dogs off-lead in the street in Hackney. I genuinely wonder if people know this is illegal – some public information would be good as this is so dangerous and unnecessary. I do also believe that in the borough, there is a higher than average proportion of people who are scared of dogs, often for cultural reasons or through lack of exposure. This does mean that sometimes people might feel scared when a dog is entirely under control.

Owners without their dog on a lead have no control over their dog, despite what they may think. Better control of dogs is essential especially for young families who feel nervous when for example a dog runs over to a picnic, as there is no way of knowing how they will react to young children.

Hackney should lead the way on dog control in London – the proposed controls would be a start but don't go far enough. Following the New York style of dog control would be better – dogs must be on leads, especially in public parks, except for dog only 'play areas'.

4.1.15.8 Other Comment In Support Of Dog Control

Most of the other comments in support of dog control come from non-dog owners and relate to fear of dogs, support for the proposals or a desire for additional restrictions.

Out of control dogs of all sizes and varieties are a public nuisance. It happens all too often and it has become normal to ignore the nuisance for fear of 'causing a fuss' or making dog owners angry. Families, elderly, disabled people cannot enjoy public spaces in a way that they are entitled to without fear of being jumped on or just having to listen to a dog that is out of control.

Our parks are no longer safe for children. Dogs are becoming a nuisance and dog owners are even worse. Let's allow our children to be free to explore their natural environment without being licked or frightened by other people's 'fur babies'. It is not only dangerous dogs that are a problem.

The simple practical solution to the increasing number of dog attacks on both people and other dogs is mandatory muzzling in public places.

As an older person I feel personally intimidated by dogs running out of control who bound up to me and whose owners fail to control them. I am frightened of being destabilised or knocked over.

It is unacceptable that people's dogs routinely cause people distress and harm. Any measures that mitigate this are welcome. The culture of acceptance of and tolerance of dogs and their bad behaviour must change. Hopefully these regulations will send a clear message to [people] that imposing your dog's fouling, company, distress and harm on others is not acceptable

4.1.15.9 Dogs Need Exercise

A theme in the comments from dog owners is that dogs need exercise to keep them healthy and that a lack of exercise can lead to behavioural problems.

It is essential for a dog's mental wellbeing and physical health to have time off lead where they can display their natural behaviours. Providing this for a dog in central London is already challenging [...] As a guide dog fosterer part of my foster agreement is to provide the training dog with off lead time, if this becomes increasingly difficult I will have to stop fostering.

Dog walkers provide essential physical exercise for dogs, promoting their overall health and well-being. Regular walks help prevent obesity, improve cardiovascular health, and contribute to a dog's mental stimulation. Dogs thrive on routine and structure. Dog walkers contribute to a consistent schedule, providing dogs with predictability and stability in their daily lives. This can be especially important for dogs that might otherwise spend long hours alone at home. Dogs left alone for extended periods may experience boredom and loneliness.

I fear you are potentially about to cause a far larger and more serious problem. Dogs need proper exercise, care and training, and by enforcing your proposal you are seeking to continue to isolate and ostracise both dogs and their owners; possibly creating dogs [with] less experience around other dogs, adults and children.

4.1.15.10 Dog Attacks/Dangerous Dogs

Both dog owners and respondents who do not own a dog express concern about dog attacks and dangerous dogs in their additional comments. Some of these comments relate to specific, known problem dogs and their owners.

Many people are scared of, or simply dislike dogs and therefore greatly exaggerate when making a complaint. Their definition of 'being attacked by a dog' may just mean a dog running towards them, barking or stepping on their picnic blanket because they smell food. [...] Of course it's a very different story if a dog actually kills or injures somebody including other animals. This is extremely serious and should be dealt with accordingly. But this thankfully is a very rare occurrence.

I would just say that there have been quite a few accidents involving one particular violent dog. It killed another dog on Newington Green Park and nothing was done by the authorities in regards to that dog nor the owner was fined for what happened.

Just why on earth have the two Akitas in Clissold Park not been either removed from their owner or at the very least his elderly father banned from taking them out. They continue to be a menace.

A dog off the lead is a potential threat and means that one has to blindly trust that the owner has responsibly trained the animal. Young children are particularly at risk from dogs as their faces are close to the level of their teeth.

4.1.15.11 Humans Cause More Problems Than Dogs

The additional comments, mostly those from dog owners, also highlight the wider issues in parks such as litter, anti-social behaviour such as drug taking, and recognise the potential for conflict between people using the parks for different activities: cycling is frequently mentioned in this regard.

There are also related issues which are not being addressed within this consultation in relation to (1) general littering such as after having picnics – there was recently a huge amount of litter left in the children’s play area of Butterfield Green after a children’s party. (2) fly-tipping (3) hazardous waste (4) dangerous items such knives etc being left on the ground (5) various types of anti-social behaviour by park users.

Quite often in Hackney Downs we witness antisocial behaviours but they rarely involve dogs in our experience. [...] We see a lot of people consuming drugs every day on benches. (They are so frequent and comfortable that we even say hi these days!)

Have you even thought about the safety of dog walkers over the Marshes that you’re condemning to working longer hours? The majority of us are female and we are already vulnerable to violence from men who lurk in the bushes that run alongside the path and football pitches. Most of us have experienced some kind of negative behaviour over the years including rapists and men masturbating in plain view, and making us drag our days out is increasing our vulnerability to these instances – especially in winter when the daylight hours are minimal.

4.2 Consultation Responses From The Kennel Club, Dogs Trust & RSPCA

In addition to the feedback from individuals, the Kennel Club, Dogs Trust and RSPCA also submitted formal responses to the consultation. This section of the report looks at the key points made by these organisations, whose submissions are included, in full, in appendices two to four.

4.3 Kennel Club Submission

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training. The submission states the Club “*is the only national organisation named by the UK Government as a body that local authorities should consult prior to introducing restrictions on dog walkers*”. As such, the organisation “*would like to highlight the importance of ensuring that PSPOs are necessary and proportionate responses*” to issues caused by dogs and irresponsible owners. The submission also stresses the need to balance the interests of dog owners with those of other user groups. A copy of its submission can be found in appendix two.

In response to the particular aspects of the PSPO, the submission contains several key points.

4.3.1 Dog Fouling

The Kennel Club states that owners should always pick up after their dogs. The submission encourages the Council to also utilise proactive measures such as increasing the number of bins, running responsible dog ownership and training events or using a poster campaign to encourage all owners to pick up after their dog.

4.3.2 Exclusions

The submission confirms that the Kennel Club does not generally oppose Orders to exclude dogs from enclosed recreational areas or playgrounds, as long as there are other places owners can walk their dogs nearby.

4.3.3 Dogs On Leads

The Kennel Club says it can support reasonable 'dogs on leads' Orders *"when used in a proportionate and evidence-based way"*.

4.3.4 Dogs On Leads By Direction

The submission confirms that the Kennel Club *"strongly welcomes"* dogs on lead by direction Orders. However, they recommend that the enforcing office should be familiar with dog behaviour so they can understand whether restraint is necessary. This is because *"there exists the possibility that a dog, through no fault of its own, could be considered a 'nuisance' or 'annoyance' to someone who simply does not like dogs"*.

The Kennel Club also encourages local authorities to adopt the more targeted and flexible options of Acceptable Behavioural Contracts and Community Protection Notices.

4.3.5 Maximum Number Of Dogs A Person Can Walk

The Kennel Club says it considers that *"an arbitrary maximum number of dogs a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control"*. This is because it *"can result in displacement and subsequently intensify problems in other areas"*.

In addition, the submission states that the maximum number of dogs someone can have under their control *"is dependent on a number of other factors relating to the walker, the dogs being walked, whether leads are used, and the location"*. For example, an experienced dog walker may be able to control a large number of dogs but an inexperienced owner may struggle to control a single dog. The size and training of the dogs is also a factor.

Furthermore, the submission points out that such an Order does not prevent people with multiple dogs walking together.

The Kennel Club is also concerned that introducing a limit could *"encourage some commercial dog walkers to leave excess dogs in their vehicles, causing severe animal welfare concerns"*. If the proposed measures are being considered due to concerns about commercial dog walkers, the submission considers that a better approach would be to consider accreditation schemes. These *"can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice"*.

4.3.6 Assistance Dogs

Whilst welcoming the proposed exemptions for assistance dogs, the Kennel Club suggests *“further consideration of the wording contained within the Order, specifically with reference to ‘prescribed charity’”*. The submission makes the point that not all assistance dogs relied upon by disabled people are trained by charities and says it would encourage *“some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person’s dog is acting as an assistance dog”*.

4.3.7 Appropriate Signage

The submission also makes reference to the legal requirement to have signs in place to draw attention to the PSPO. For dogs on lead areas and dog exclusion zones, the signs must clearly state where the restrictions begin and end.

4.4 Submission From Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust is the UK’s largest dog welfare charity. Its submission references the PDSA’s Paw Report 2018 saying this found that 89% of vets believe dog welfare would suffer if owners were prohibited from walking their pets in public places, such as parks, or if dogs had to be kept on the lead in these places. Additionally, it says the PDSA report found that 78% of owners rely on parks and other public spaces to walk their dogs.

As Dogs Trust believes the vast majority of owners are responsible and mostly have well behaved dogs, it recommends local authorities use their existing powers to issue Community Protection Notices to target irresponsible owners and proactively address anti-social behaviours. A copy of the full submission from the charity can be found in appendix three.

With regard to some of the specific aspects of the consultation, the submission makes a number of points.

4.4.1 Dog Fouling

The charity believes it is an integral part of dog ownership to pick up after a pet and fully supports well-implemented orders on fouling. These need to be rigorously enforced and the submission recommends ensuring there are sufficient disposal points and signs in place.

4.4.2 Dog Exclusion Orders

Whilst recognising there are places, such as children’s play areas, where it is desirable for dogs to be excluded, the charity recommends keeping such areas to a minimum.

For enforcement reasons, they recommend limiting such restrictions to enclosed areas and also providing signage to direct owners to alternative places nearby where they can exercise their dogs.

The submission considers that excluding dogs from all sports pitches for long stretches of the year is *“unnecessary”*. Instead, the charity recommends focusing on reducing dog fouling in such areas.

4.4.3 Dogs On Leads

The charity recognises there are some areas where it is beneficial for dogs to be kept on a lead but it argues that the Council should also ensure there are sufficient areas locally where dogs can be exercised off the lead. It also makes reference to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 (the 'duty of care') that includes dogs' need to *"exhibit normal behaviour patterns"*. The submission points out that *"this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas"*.

4.4.4 Dogs On Leads By Direction

Dogs Trust *"enthusiastically"* supports this part of the PSPO and considers it *"by far the most useful, other than the fouling order"* because it allows enforcement officers to target irresponsible owners without restricting all dogs.

4.5 Submission From The RSPCA

The public affairs manager of the RSPCA submitted an email response to the consultation. This specifically referred to the proposals to make Abney Park an on-lead walking area. The email points out that *"rarely do blanket approaches change the behaviour of a minority who act irresponsibly"* and expresses concern that the outcome might be to limit the ability of responsible owners to enjoy public spaces.

The charity supports responsible dog ownership and encourages the training of dogs so that everyone can enjoy parks and other public spaces. Its position is that *"PSPOs should not unwittingly compromise dog welfare by placing undue restrictions on dogs"*. The charity considers this particularly important if there are not adequate dog walking spaces available nearby. In addition, the email expresses concern about introducing restrictions that would *"prohibit the dog from expressing normal behaviour, for example, being able to run free off the lead"*.

The email quotes the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 15 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 December 2017, which states: *"A dog needs regular exercise and regular opportunities to walk, run, explore, play, sniff and investigate."* The RSPCA believe that *"blanket bans on walking dogs off-lead can make it very difficult to provide for this natural behaviour"*.

5. Abney Park Cemetery

The updates to the PSPO control order include the extension of the ‘dogs on leads’ order to include Abney Park Cemetery in Stoke Newington (N16). The Council published its reasons for including this area in the ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ section of the consultation information. The following points make up the rationale given:

- Addressing Issues: the Council state they have *“received correspondence and feedback relating to the behaviour of dogs in Abney Park Cemetery from concerned residents”* and Parks and Green Spaces staff have observed similar issues. Additionally, the consultation proposal states *“some residents are nervous about the number of dogs in Abney Park and the behaviour of some.”*
- Consistency: The current PSPO stipulates that dogs must be kept on leads *“in Council managed closed churchyards and burial grounds in the borough, with the exception of Abney Park Cemetery”*. The Council recognises that Abney Park is larger than these other sites but the proposed changes are designed to bring the area in line with other sites.
- The proposal states that the Council’s approach *“is commensurate with the majority of the other ‘Magnificent Seven’ cemeteries.”*
- Preservation of Historical Significance: The cemetery is Hackney’s most significant burial site and the consultation information states that *“by extending the requirement for dogs to be on leads, the Council aims to show respect for the site and the individuals buried there.”*
- Dog Fouling: The information in the proposal says *“the increasing number of dogs being walked in Abney Park Cemetery off the lead has resulted in increased levels of dog fouling”*, with much of it not being removed, and goes on to add that *“the dog faeces and urine is contributing nutrients to the environment, which could be harming local biodiversity.”*
- Ecological Conservation: Abney Park Cemetery is *“one of the borough’s most significant ecological sites, with valuable habitats and wildlife.”* The proposal goes on to explain that the area is a local nature reserve and a Site of Metropolitan Importance, which means it is important at a London-wide scale. The proposal sets out a number of ways that *“dogs negatively impact wildlife”* including *“physical and temporal displacement”*, causing wildlife to move away; *“disturbance and stress response”*, with a note that *“repeated stress causes long-term impacts on wildlife”*; and *“predation: some dogs chase, attack and/ or kill wildlife”*. Furthermore, the proposal adds *“allowing dogs to run freely in Abney could lead to habitat disruption and damage to plant life”*.

The consultation information points out that the Council has *“not proposed to exclude dogs from Abney Park Cemetery entirely, given the benefits of dog walking for residents”* but is instead *“proposing an integrated management strategy that still allows dogs, but controls them for the benefit of Abney as a whole”*.

There were no questions specifically about Abney Park in the consultation itself but 34% of respondents mentioned the cemetery in at least one of their answers to the qualitative feedback questions in their consultation response. The groups of respondents mostly likely to discuss this aspect of the proposal in their comments are:

- Respondents living in N16 (56%)
- Dog owners (45%)
- Respondents aged 45-64 (44% of 55-64 year olds and 37% of 45-54 year olds)

5.1 Views On Abney Park Cemetery Proposals

The majority of comments received on this topic express disagreement with the proposed 'dogs on leads' requirement for Abney Park Cemetery. 31% of respondents disagree, whilst 3% made comments in support of the proposal. Full details of the views of all respondents on this issue are shown below.

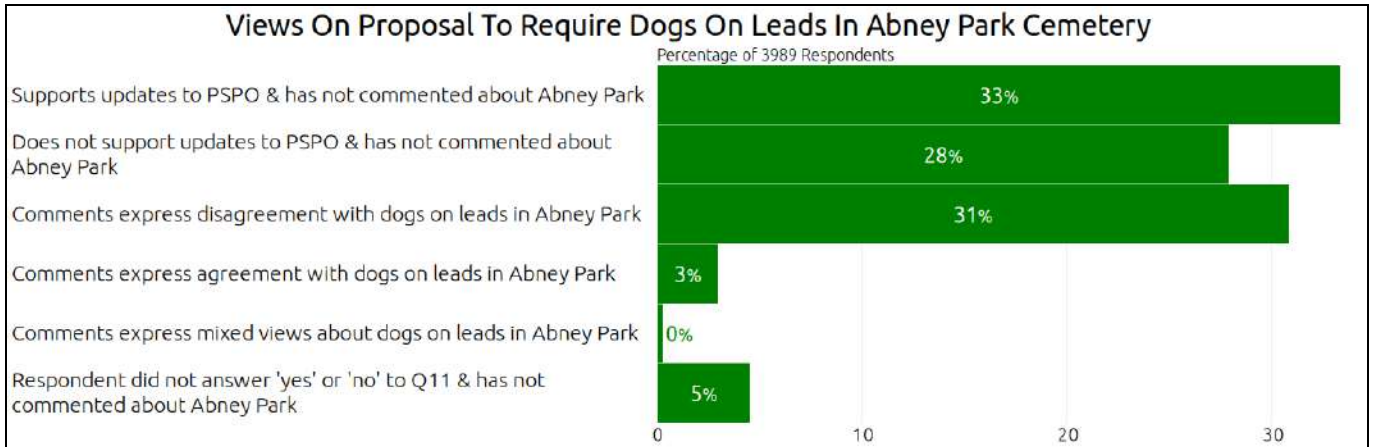


Figure 5.1

5.1.1 Dog Ownership

44% of all dog owning respondents made comments expressing disagreement with the proposal for dogs to be kept on leads in Abney Park, whilst 1% of these respondents made comments in support of the proposal. In contrast, those respondents who do not own dogs are less likely to have made comments about the cemetery: 9% gave feedback expressing disagreement with the proposals for the area, whilst 6% made comments in support of the changes.

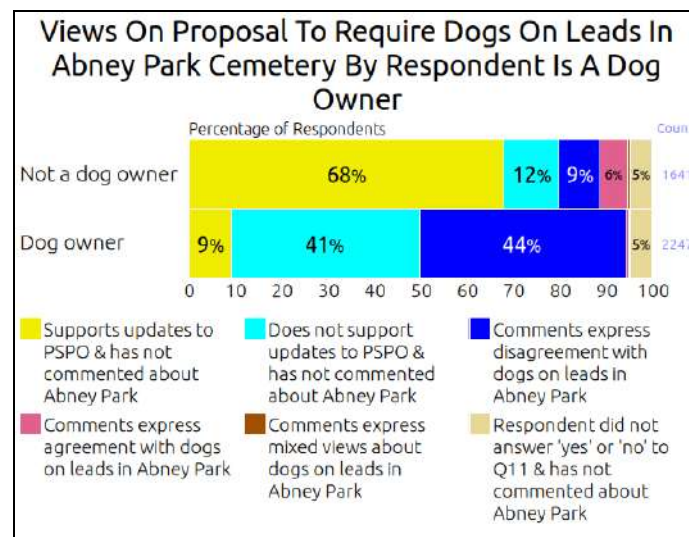


Figure 5.2

5.1.2 Respondents In N16

Abney Park is situated in the centre of the N16 postcode area. 49% of all respondents who gave a N16 postcode in their consultation response made comments expressing disagreement with the proposal to extend the 'dogs on leads' requirement to the cemetery. 6% of these respondents made comments in support of the proposed change.

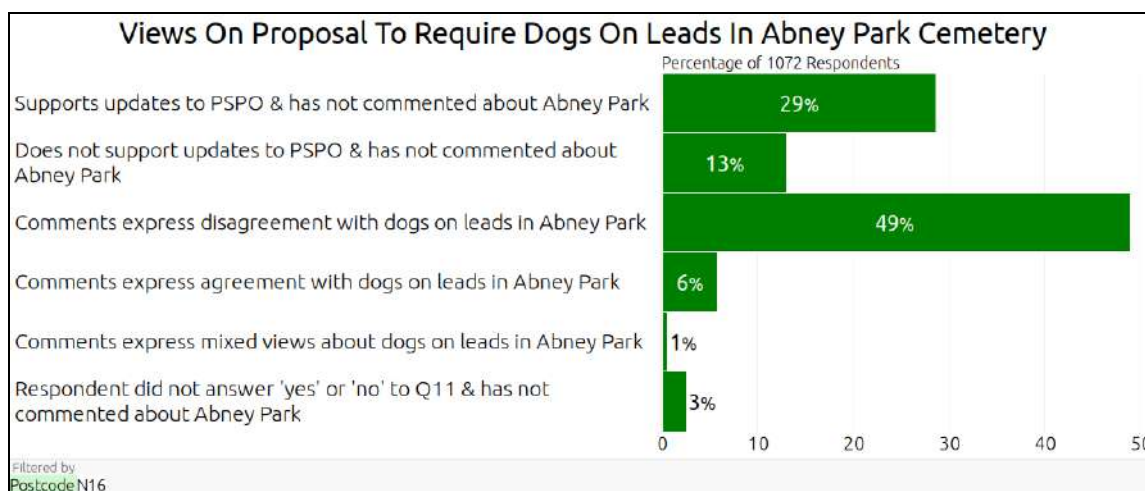


Figure 5.3

Furthermore, 73% of all dog owning respondents in this postcode area made comments disagreeing with the changes. Views of non-dog owning respondents in the area are mixed, with 16% making comments against the changes and 13% in support of the proposals.

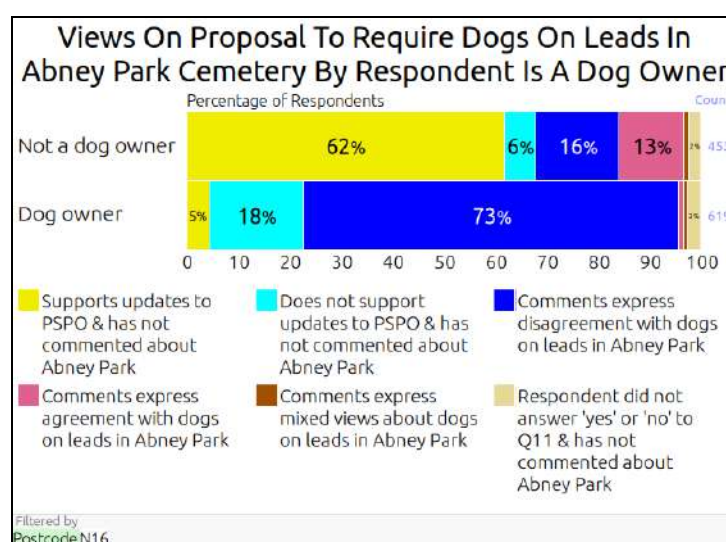


Figure 5.4

There were no questions in the consultation about whether respondents use Hackney parks in general or specific parks in particular. Therefore, it is not possible to look at the views of Abney Park users on the issue. In total, 393 responses were from people who explicitly stated in their qualitative feedback that they walk a dog in the cemetery, although there were many other comments where this may have also been the case but it was not entirely clear. All of these 393 responses contained comments against the proposal that dogs should be on leads in the cemetery.

5.2 Themes In Qualitative Feedback

The table below shows the key themes in the qualitative feedback received about Abney Park Cemetery. This shows the results out of all respondents; all dog owners; all respondents who gave a postcode in N16; and all those who explicitly stated in their comments that they walk a dog in Abney Park. Themes are only included if they are mentioned by 7% or more of at least one of these groups.

Theme	% of all respondents	% of dog owners	% of respondents who gave a N16 postcode	% of respondents who explicitly state they walk a dog in Abney Park
Area is particularly suitable for dogs to be exercised off lead	16%	23%	24%	67%
Dogs aren't an issue in Abney Park	14%	20%	23%	70%
Respondent walks a dog in Abney Park	10%	14%	16%	100%
Criticism of proposal / council's approach to consultation	9%	11%	12%	36%
Commercialisation of the park	7%	10%	12%	31%
Frequent dog walking helps prevent ASB	7%	9%	10%	35%
Will put pressure on other areas	5%	7%	8%	23%
Dogs don't cause problems for wildlife	5%	6%	6%	23%
Dog walkers are main user group in Abney Park	4%	7%	8%	22%
Humans cause more problems than dogs	4%	6%	8%	19%
Dog walkers in Abney Park are a community	4%	5%	6%	22%

Table 11 Themes in qualitative feedback about Abney Park Cemetery

5.2.1 Area Is Particularly Suitable For Dogs To Be Exercised Off Lead

The most common theme in the qualitative feedback about Abney Park cemetery is that it is a particularly suitable place for dogs to be exercised off the lead. Respondents say this is because of the shade provided by the trees as well as the woodland providing stimulation and opportunities for dogs to sniff and explore safely. Additionally, they point out that there are a lower number of other users, compared to more open parks such as Clissold, and that these other users are typically moving, rather than picnicking or playing, so their activity is less easily disrupted by off-lead dogs.

Abney Cemetery is a valuable space for dogs to be off lead. It is a contained environment with only two exits and provides an ideal space for dogs and their owners to exercise, building trust and recall. The natural environment with trees and undergrowth provide the opportunity to sniff around, socialise and explore all vital to helping keep dogs calm and well behaved. Abney Park is an essential space for off lead dog walking as there are less large group activities e.g. children's activities/sports/picnics which dog owners want to avoid.

As a dog owner living in Stoke Newington I walk my dog in Abney Park twice a day. Abney is such an important place for dog walkers in the areas as it gives dogs a great environment to explore off the lead. I have a whippet and as a breed they need to run. Clissold Park has many dog free sections already and during the summer is almost impossible to find any space to allow your dog off the lead with all the picnics and football classes. Abney provides this haven for dogs off the lead. In the summer too it is a safer place for dogs to be off the lead as it's shaded from the sun where Clissold is exposed with little shade.

The nature of Abney's layout of enclosed spaces surrounded by trees and relatively narrow paths makes it ideal for keeping off-lead dogs under close control. Off-lead dogs in Abney Park are much less likely to run across large distances as they would in an open park, minimising disruption to other users, while being free to walk and sniff. Furthermore, the enclosed space makes it an idea place to train the dog in walking off-lead, preparing them for good behaviour in other parks and spaces. The nature in which people use Abney is also vastly different to how they use other parks. They are walking around, rather than picnicking and playing games, therefore are less likely to be negatively impacted by the presence of dogs.

While it is, of course, true that not all dogs require off-lead walks and can be fulfilled without them, I would suggest that Abney is the worst possible environment for long-lines and flexi-leads. I have used one there with my dog a few times when she was injured, and it was a nightmare with the gravestones, branches etc and I stopped as I was so concerned about the lead damaging the stones and getting tangled in them. I also wish to highlight the net positive impact that off-lead walks in Abney have on dogs' wellbeing. Abney is paradise for our city dogs, it is wild, full of scents and pathways and wonderful nature. As owners, it's a safe and enclosed space, with far less litter than any of the other parks in the borough: walking your dog off-lead in most Hackney parks is a constant battle against them eating something dangerous as the litter is so out of control. Many dogs are scared of bikes, and having a space for them to run without that is a joy.

5.2.2 Dogs Aren't An Issue In Abney Park

The second most prevalent theme in the comments about Abney Park is the perception that dogs are not an issue in the cemetery. Respondents talk about never seeing problem dog behaviour despite having walked in the cemetery on a daily basis for years. Some support this argument by referring to data released under Freedom of Information requests to the Metropolitan Police and Hackney Council.

[Does not agree with updates to PSPO] because of Abney Park. I do not believe dogs off leads are a problem there at all – and they definitely make the place feel much safer for those of us who walk alone without dogs. The dog walking community there is friendly and very much improve the environment. Personally I hate dogs – but in this space they are a surprisingly welcome addition. They don't charge about, like they do in open spaces – rather they can explore. I've never seen them conflict with other creatures – there have been off lead dogs for years, and Abney Park is still a richly diverse natural habitat.

What evidence is there of a problem? The Metropolitan police recently released FOI data revealing they have zero records of dog attacks in Abney Park. This further underlines that it's a highly responsibly community of dog owners who take pride in respectful usage of the park – and who want problematic behaviour tackled, but in an effective manner, not a needless blanket manner.

I go there [Abney] regularly and have never encountered a dog out of control there. All owners who I've come into contact with use the park respectfully of the park, other dog owners and their dogs, and other users of the park. If this is a preventative measure to control antisocial/dangerous dogs, it will not be effective. As a vet, I know the importance of exercising dogs appropriately and part of that means allowing them to run off lead.

We've walked our dog there [Abney] for 11 years now. I've never come across any problems with other dogs or owners. Everyone seems to clear up their poo. It's rare to come across any uncleared poo and if you do it's more likely human faeces.

I note that the majority of volunteers, one of whom is the main organiser and also a Trustee, are vehemently in favour of a dogs on leads ban. Their main arguments being about damage to wildlife and dog waste. But I am a volunteer as well and have been for 20 years and I know we've never had any anti-social behaviour from a dog, yes we occasionally step in dog waste but it's just as likely to be human waste behind a grave and the wildlife argument holds absolutely no water as we as volunteers are actively destroying potential wildlife habitats by ripping ivy off the tops of graves and off trees – high bird nesting sites that dogs can't reach.

As Diane Abbott, MP for the Parliamentary constituency in which Abney is to be found has written to a local dog-owner "Most dog-owners are responsible people whose pets are not dangerous and behave sensibly and safely... Considering the high number of dog-owners in the area, and the fact off-lead dog-walking in Abney Park is well established, I think Hackney Council should look again at their proposals for this site..."

5.2.3 Criticism Of Proposal / Council's Approach To Consultation

A recurring theme in the qualitative feedback is criticism of the proposal and of the council's approach to the consultation. In terms of Abney Park, respondents question the justification for extending the PSPO, expressing concerns about the lack of data provided and questioning the sources of information used. Additionally, the comments raise concerns that one of the councillors involved in the decision making is also a trustee of Abney Park Trust, who are arguing in favour of the ban on off lead dogs, resulting in accusations of "a conflict of interest" from respondents. Furthermore, the feedback identifies issues with the consultation process itself including a lack of publicity and engagement with local residents; changing the scope of the consultation retrospectively; the consultation response form including "extremely leading questions" and contradictory information being provided about whether emails sent to councillors would be included in the consultation responses.

Little or no information has been provided about user type of Abney Park Cemetery, nor has a park specific assessment of the ecological impact of dog walkers. Either this data is being unreasonably withheld or it does not exist, leading me to question why this is being introduced without appropriate consideration. The Cabinet Member responsible for the PSPO (Dog Control) and the associated consultation, [Name], has a clear conflict of interest as a Trustee of the Abney Park Trust. The Trust has published their response to the proposed "dogs on leads" requirement in Abney Park Cemetery, which supports the outright ban of dogs on leads Abney Park Cemetery. I believe that this conflict of interest is evident throughout the consultation process.

The Council makes use of the environmental arguments put forward by Abney Park Trust but there is no evidence which specifically relates to Abney Park. In fact most of the studies quoted relate to rural environments, often in other countries, and refer to animals like sheep or elk, which, to my knowledge, have never lived in Abney Park.

Abney Park Trust's response to the consultation, which the Council largely adopted mid-way through the consultation period is a misleading and untenable document. It is alarmist, irrelevant and has damaged local community relations. This has been divisive and ultimately serves no useful productive community purpose. From a local perspective and procedurally, the PSPO consultation has been defective. Serious flaws include a shifting justification, inadequate publicity, conflicting communications from councillors, and an unfairly biased online consultation tool have made local people angry, upset and frustrated.

No evidence of the alleged problems has been offered publicly by the Council. Vague allusions to complaints are not enough – there is no visibility of numbers, the nature of the complaints, whether they were credible or even looked into, and whether any relate to Abney Park. You are therefore putting forward a measure which as matters stand, is completely unsupported by evidence [...]. The legal threshold before the Council may lawfully impose or extend the PSPO includes a requirement, among others, that "the effect or the likely effect of the activities... justifies the restriction imposed by the notice." In short, an unjustified restriction is unlawful. In the absence of any, or any credible evidence of anti-social behaviour in Abney Park, there is no basis for the PSPO to apply to that area. To impose the PSPO requiring dogs on leads in Abney Park would be perverse and irrational, and open to legal challenge on that basis by way of judicial review.

5.2.4 Commercialisation Of The Park

Another theme in the qualitative feedback relates to the commercialisation of the park, with the creation of a new café and the licensing of the chapel for events, including weddings, that can take place until midnight three nights a week. The comments reveal that many respondents think the extensive redevelopment work has already caused disruption to wildlife and the future events will cause more ecological issues than dogs off the lead. Similarly, respondents argue that developing the chapel as an events centre, with an alcohol licence, is at odds with the Council's justification for including Abney Park in the PSPO to show "respect for the site and for individuals buried there". There also are suggestions that this is the "real reason" behind the proposed changes. Some respondents also observe that dog walkers will form a key customer group at the new café but banning off-lead walking is likely to greatly reduce their numbers.

The Abney area especially. Your reasons for introducing leads is non-sensical. Especially when you have placed light towards the church [that] will affect the bats in the cemetery.

You state that there is an ecological concern from having dogs in the cemetery, but again you provide no evidence to support this. Furthermore you are simultaneously advocating and planning to turn the refurbished church in the cemetery into an events space with an alcohol licence. Therefore you clearly have no real concern about the ecological impact as having multiple guests in the cemetery consuming alcohol with music is clearly detrimental to nocturnal wildlife such as bats. You are choosing to ignore the obvious ecological impacts that will result from the events you are planning on hosting and yet targeting dogs and dog owners. Your approach is hypocritical and insulting. In addition for the past year, you have driven heavy machinery through the cemetery for the building work.

Dogs clearly do not fit into your vision of a transformed and lucrative space. The fact that these proposals are being made when your improvement works are coming to a close is not a coincidence. You had no concerns regarding dogs in the previous years when you had left the cemetery in a state of complete neglect.

The new café requires customer support and dog walkers will make up a huge part of potential revenue. Ban dogs off lead and the café will struggle to attract enough customers especially on rainy days when it is only hardy dog walkers out and about.

What is more disruptive to the sanctity and ecology of an area – a well behaved dog getting the exercise it needs on a morning walk, or drunk music revellers roaming around the cemetery at 11:30pm unsupervised?

The claim that the on lead requirement is "... to show respect for the site and the individuals buried there" is disingenuous given that the website for the newly refurbished chapel states "thrilled to bring you Abney Park Chapel as the newest addition to the Hackney Venues portfolio! Set to be one of Hackney's most exclusive & unique wedding and events venues..." [...] and that a late licence is available on request. Up to 70 people drinking or holding away days in the middle of the cemetery does not feel like something that is respectful to the people buried there or to the wildlife the consultation says it is respecting. It is simply about making money and dogs are seen as inconvenient to that aim!

5.2.5 Frequent Dog Walking Helps Prevent ASB

Respondents who say they have lived in Stoke Newington for many years recall that Abney Park used to be “a bit of a no go zone especially for lone women”. These respondents, and others, credit frequent dog walking with making the park safe and deterring anti-social behaviour. A key sub-theme in these comments is the impact the proposed dogs on leads ban will have on safety in the park as fewer people will walk their dogs in Abney if they have to keep them on a lead. This is a particular concern for female respondents who are, in general, more likely to cite the issue in their comments than men. Furthermore, 34% of female respondents, whose comments explicitly mention walking a dog in Abney Park, gave feedback equating the presence of dog walkers with their safety.

Many park users, especially female runners, are voicing fears their safety will be impacted in the absence of dog walkers compelled to go elsewhere so their dogs can be healthily exercised. Is this fair? Furthermore, ask yourselves, could this be possibly discriminatory? Less than a decade ago, in 2014 and 2015, Abney had a reputation as a dangerous place, with problematic users, and with reports of serious sexual assaults. As recently as 2018 Hackney Borough's own survey showed 26.5% of respondents said they felt unsafe in Abney Park.

Enforcing dogs on leads in Abney will deter people walking their dogs there, this will be a huge loss. As a woman, dog walkers are what make Abney feel like a safe place to walk. I imagine it will have a very different feel when it's almost empty and I will not be going there. It will have a real impact on the community.

As a woman walking alone in what can be a very quiet place I have always found it reassuring that there are many dog walkers there, which would be impacted if you were to bring in the off-lead ban and people take their dogs elsewhere. I can remember back far enough to when Abney was a no-go area and can remember assaults and rapes taking place there. I love the way it is now with the community of dog lovers who walk in the cemetery throughout the day. It would be very sad to see this taken to pieces and things to return to the way they were.

As someone who doesn't have a dog [...] I am a 21 year old female and often feel uneasy walking there alone. I am scared of the people having illegal outside sex and taking drugs in that park, which is a much bigger issue than the dogs. I am glad when a dog runs past me off lead and I can see their owner. I know that there are other safe people in the park then. If dogs are not allowed off lead, less dogs will be walked in Abney Park. As a result, the drug use and public sex will increase. Ultimately stopping people like myself from feeling safe to use the park. [...] You would be creating a new issue, from an issue that doesn't exist to begin with!

Being a popular off-lead dog walking area for at least twenty years I've seen improvements. You now see fewer drug dealers, fewer drug addicts, fewer muggers, fewer 'weirdos'. Off lead dog walking has normalised the park for other users such as school trips, mum and babies, the elderly. When I first visited Abney Park in 1994 you couldn't cross the park without either being asked for sex or offered drugs. That simply doesn't happen now and I believe it's due to the space being populated with everyday people looking for space to take their dogs off-lead away from roads, cyclists, joggers, scooters and skateboards etc. My dog will regularly flush out the individuals who defecate in the bushes so even that negative use is being reduced.

5.2.6 Will Put Pressure On Other Areas

Many respondents say they choose to walk their dogs in the cemetery to avoid other park user groups, such as picnickers and sports activities, in more popular locations, such as Clissold, and express concern that they will have to go to such places, where off-lead walking is still permitted, to give their dogs the exercise they need. The comments acknowledge that more dogs in less space increases the risk of conflict between the different user groups, particularly during the summer when the parks are busy.

Have you surveyed Clissold Park users about how they would feel about 100+ extra dogs using Clissold Park every day? If dog poo really is an issue in Abney Park, this problem won't just disappear – it will just be moved to Clissold Park where children play on the grass...

Given that banning dogs off-lead in Abney Park will inevitably displace off-lead walking to other near-by parks, how will you monitor these effects? Abney Park is one of the only places in Hackney where dogs can be exercised without the risk of coming into conflict with other park users – picnics, sunbathing, football, yoga etc. Why are you proposing to create more potential conflict between dog walkers and others elsewhere in the borough?

If they aren't allowed to roam free in Abney Park they will go to Clissold. We have young children and we don't want more dogs in Clissold Park fouling the ungated areas. We know the owners don't always pick up the poo!

Particularly post pandemic, Clissold Park has become extremely well used and busy – not only by other dog owners, but by families, groups of friends, school groups and sports groups. This is to be welcomed and celebrated. However, I am very concerned about the likely impact on Clissold if all the dogs and their owners who currently walk in the cemetery are no longer permitted to do so off lead. If all these dogs and their owners migrate to Clissold, this will undoubtedly make Clissold feel even more full. I am sure this is not what is intended.

In summer Clissold Park can get very crowded with families & children therefore I walk my dog in Abney park for the benefit of park users and my dog. Having to keep her on a lead will not be enjoyable for either of us and will not allow her to express her natural behaviours. If this goes ahead I will have to drive in a polluting car to somewhere like Hampstead Heath of the marshes.

I am very deeply worried this will force dog walkers to leave Abney: making Abney a much less safe space for everyone; causing religious and cultural tensions (many Islamic, Hasidic and other religious groups do not go to Abney for religious reasons) yet this proposal is likely to drive dog owners to green spaces where these groups do go e.g. Springfield.

Many dog owners choose to walk their dogs in Abney, especially in the summer, because Clissold is too crowded with picnickers and sports/cultural activities. The amount of food waste and trash left uncollected in Clissold in the summer is also a hazard to dogs. This initiative will disincentivise dog walkers to use Abney, resulting in more, not fewer, dogs in Clissold, with the attendant issues.

5.2.7 Dogs Don't Cause Problems For Wildlife

Some respondents challenge the ecological justifications given for the proposed extension of the dogs on leads requirement to Abney Park. Their comments recognise that the cemetery is a nature reserve but point out that this has been the case for many years and “nothing has changed”. A small number of respondents also observe that “the Council is giving the misleading impression that these [issues] are even capable of being legal grounds for the PSPO, which they are not”.

The faeces and urine left by the small minority of off-lead dogs that have ventured off Abney's designated paths over the 45 years since the Council took it over from the cemetery company have had little or no negative impact on Abney's ecology. That ecology has thrived, indeed flourished symbiotically alongside off-lead dogs all that time, so much so that the Park has had Local Nature Reserve status for over 30 years, justifying and permitting targeted investment. Happily (and contrary to the Council's suggestion), Abney's ecology isn't disturbed at all by dog faeces and urine because Abney's substrate is neither low-nutrient nor hypersensitive to nitrogen or urea.

I cannot see any justification in your proposals for banning off lead walking under powers designed to deal with antisocial behaviour. Notwithstanding the fact that the powers under PSPO legislation are clearly being misused in this case, the justification cited by Hackney is nonsense. In general terms, none of the issues raised are new issues that require new measures. Abney has been an established dog walking area for a very long time and it has thrived as a nature reserve during that whole period.

Has the Council undertaken an environmental impact analysis of dogs being off lead in Abney Park and is there proof of plant life being damaged? In the absence of this, the statements you have made are pure speculation. Foxes, rats, mice, and cats all run free which also leads to habitat disruption. The building work undertaken by the Council also leads to disruption as will the increased footfall brought about by commercialising the park.

The ground nesting birds at greatest peril in the United Kingdom are the likes of curlew, lapwing and nightjar. Habitats for ground nesting birds are most commonly found in coastal areas, wetlands, heathland, moors and uplands; wonderful though Abney Park Cemetery is – it is none of these things and is – irrevocably – located in central London. I would also point to the fact that the greatest threat to ground nesting birds will be foxes and rats, rather than domestic dogs, who do not have access to the park in the dark / low-light hours.

As for stakeholder objections, Abney Park Trust's official response draws on research conducted in the US and Africa! How does that in any way correspond to an urban park populated by rats, bats, and birds and frequented by foxes and cats.

The vast majority of dogs are well behaved sticking mainly to the paths and only occasionally have I witnessed dogs traversing off paths onto graves which seems to be the issue here. This despite there being no CLEAR information given to people that dogs walking away from paths could cause harm to wildlife habitats. This is given as a reason but does the Council have evidence that a) there has been degradation to wildlife habitats and b) if so this is caused by the behaviour of dogs off lead and what is the level of harm caused? In any case is a requirement of dogs being on lead the only possible solution – perhaps there are other less restrictive measures that could be tried first?

5.2.8 Dog Walkers Are Main User Group In Abney Park

Many respondents comment that dog walkers are the principal users of the cemetery, particularly during the week, early in the morning, and outside of the summer months. Some people suggest it is rare to encounter anyone apart from other dog walkers when they visit the park.

I am writing specifically about Abney Park and the proposal to have dogs on leads at all times. The park is a vital resource for local people and their pets. We take our dog each day between 7-9am and meet other dogs and owners. I rarely see anyone there in these times without a dog. [...] The data states that there has been a huge increase in dogs. Well that gives an insight into the number of local people this ban will affect. I would be very interested to see data that showed how many users of the Park are dog owners and how many aren't. That isn't featured in the argument.

I am not sure where the council proposes dog owners will walk their dogs if they live in the Stoke Newington area. Currently Abney Park is a popular and quieter walking space. At any given time it is pretty much predominantly populated by dog walkers who have supported this space throughout its whole renovation.

Many elderly people walk their dogs and for them to be properly exercised need them to be able to run free as they walk too slowly. Abney provides as worry free area. The majority of people walking there are other dog owners and not picnickers. I think if it had to become an on the lead area the visitor numbers would drastically reduce.

Do walkers make up 80% of Abney Park users, why not consult us genuinely rather than in a borough wide survey designed to give you the answers you want?

5.2.9 Humans Cause More Problems Than Dogs

Although many respondents argue that frequent dog walking helps keep Abney Park safe and reduce anti-social behaviour, there is a recognition in the comments that problems caused by human activity remain and respondents suggest this has a bigger impact on the cemetery than off the lead dogs. In particular, there are frequent references to drug use and people cruising for sex.

Abney Park is more fouled by drunks, by vomit, by people drinking and taking drugs in there at night, than it ever is by early morning dog walkers.

I believe there are other issues within Abney Park that are being overlooked by the council, for example homelessness, human excrement, drug use, littering and cruising which are very apparent having walked the dog there on a daily basis for the past two years. I'd like to understand how these are being tackled please.

I have never felt scared to walk in Abney Park because of dogs, my main fear has been, and will always be sexual assault, so perhaps banning men from the park instead of dogs might be a smarter plan?

If you're doing to ban dog walkers ban all humans too – with their nefarious activities behind gravestones they generate human waste and litter far worse than anything dogs produce (and I see it as a volunteer where path-users wouldn't)

5.2.10 Dog Walkers In Abney Park Are A Community

Many respondents, particularly those who walk dogs in the cemetery, made comments indicating how much they value of the sense of community and the opportunity to meet like-minded people, which they say is beneficial to their mental health and well-being.

Abney cemetery is great for me to walk my dogs off lead – for my mental well being – I'm in there twice a day – it's my sanctuary [...] I have met some really key people in my life through walking and talking with our dogs.

I have lived in Stoke Newington for 20 years and have walked my dog daily in the cemetery for the last 5. Put simply, if this proposal goes through you will rip the heart and soul out of Abney. [...] The dog walking community that's been built up there is vital for people's mental health. Often for the elderly and for those who live alone walking their dogs is the only time they really speak to people. That would be destroyed if dogs are forced onto leads as the vast majority of people would stop coming.

One of the reasons I regularly visit Abney Park is because it's such a special, friendly and inclusive area. I have walked my dog for years in the cemetery and never had an issue with dog walkers or dogs in the area – if anything, allowing dogs to interact lead free creates a sense of community for the dogs, their owners and those enjoying the park.

Permitting off-leash dog walking fosters a stronger sense of community within Hackney. The park becomes a gathering place for dog owners who appreciate the freedom to walk their pets off-leash. This sense of camaraderie can extend to non-dog owners who enjoy the lively atmosphere and interactions with their fellow residents.

5.3 Feedback From Abney Park Trust & Abney Park Dog Users Group

Where feedback on the consultation proposals was submitted on behalf of a group of respondents, the findings have been analysed separately to the individual replies discussed above. For Abney Park, there are two key submissions: one from Abney Park Trust and one from the Abney Park Dog Users Group. The viewpoints represented in these documents are very different and they are discussed separately in the following sections of this report as well as being included, in full, in appendices six and seven.

Abney Park Trust published its initial response to the consultation on its website on 8th September and subsequently also submitted a response via Citizen Space. This latter submission acknowledges that the evidence in the statement on their website *“has been mocked by some but was always intended to highlight the broad range of issues with off-lead dogs in general”*. Whilst acknowledging that *“there are no Abney-specific studies available”*, the submission contends that there is *“also no reason to believe that the principles which apply to other nature reserves and Magnificent Seven cemeteries are not applicable in Abney’s case”*. It also argues that the proposal to ban dogs off leads *“is in line with the Council’s own Green Infrastructure Strategy and Nature Recovery Strategy”*.

The Dog Users Group states that *“the Trust’s response was poorly researched, showed confirmation bias, and is a thoroughly unreliable basis for any decision making by the Council”*. In addition, they express concerns that *“claims by the Trust of the kind set out above are seriously misleading to the public”*. In addition, the Group argues *“Abney Park’s oft-cited expert spokesman Russell Miller does not blame dogs for Abney Park’s biodiversity losses”*. In contrast, they believe his view is that it is the *“loss of linkage to other large habitats, and encroachment from development”*, which are also issues identified in the Nature Recovery Plan. Therefore, the Group argues *“Abney Park’s current richness has arisen and exists in equilibrium with off-lead dogs”*.

The Abney Park Trust published its initial response to the consultation on its website setting out its rationale for banning dogs running off the lead in the cemetery. The consultation submission by the Abney Park Dog Users Group challenges the evidence behind these statements. A comparison of the points made is shown in the table below.

Abney Park Trust Statement	Dog Users Group Submission
<i>"The pandemic lockdowns saw an increase in dog-on-dog attacks: a 700% increase, with 2,264 in London alone"</i>	Freedom of Information requests show that <i>"over the last three years, the Council has recorded 34 complaints about dogs in parks in the borough. Just six of the complaints mentioned Abney Park and just four of them mention dogs being off the lead"</i> . There were 1,230 complaints in total, the majority related to dog fouling elsewhere in the borough. The Metropolitan Police confirmed, in response to a FOI request, that of <i>"the ten reported dog attacks"</i> that took place in the Stoke Newington Safer Neighbourhood Area between January 2018 and October 2023 <i>"none took place in Abney Park"</i> .
<i>"We are currently facing a biodiversity emergency. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in Europe. The Red List of British Mammals found that one quarter of UK mammals are threatened with extinction. 66% of ground-nesting birds are in decline in the UK, compared to 31% of other species. Since the 1970s, it has been shown that 41% of all UK species studied have declined"</i>	<i>"Figures and citations given by the Trust are at best irrelevant, and often sensationalist or even farcical. Using alarmist language such as "biodiversity emergency" and "nature-depleted", the Trust equates the matter of dogs being walked off-lead with an impending nature crisis. Yet, the statement that "since the 1970s it has been shown that 41% of all UK species studied has declined" has no connection whatsoever to dogs, let alone to dogs in Abney Park"</i> .
<i>"A study demonstrates that dog walking caused a 41% reduction in the numbers of individual birds detected and a 35% reduction in species richness – while disturbance from humans walking alone was typically less than half that of dogs"</i>	<i>"A number of the most egregious misrepresentations that Abney Park Trust make concern a report compiled by Lori Hennings for the Portland, Oregon Metro Parks District (USA). The Trust's position on the purported impacts of dogs upon wildlife in Abney Park involves quoting, near verbatim, the findings of this American report"</i>
<i>"Dogs can transmit diseases (such as canine distemper and rabies) to and from wildlife"</i>	<i>"Rabies was eradicated in the UK among all mammals (except for bats) 101 years ago, in 1922. Canine distemper is virtually unheard of among the vaccinated dog population of the UK"</i>
<i>"Dog waste can pollute water and transmit harmful parasites and diseases to people"</i>	<i>"This is entirely irrelevant given that as the Trust itself recognises, there is a "lack of any water source within the cemetery""</i> .
<i>"Loose dogs kill wildlife: the UK cost of dog attacks is up by 50% since pre-pandemic"</i> .	<i>"Several sources invoked by the Trust also make reference to the danger dogs pose to livestock. This is a meaningless argument because no livestock are held in Abney Park. Therefore, Trust's citation [as quoted opposite] is, in context, simply absurd. It is taken from a National Farmers' Union paper on sheep worrying. It has no conceivable application to Abney Park"</i>

Table 12 Comparison of the points made in the Abney Park Trust and Abney Park Dog Users Group submissions

5.4 Consultation Submissions From Abney Park Trust

Abney Park Trust is a volunteer run charity and a long term partner of Hackney Council. The Trust published its initial response to the consultation on its website on 8th September, which it referred to in its subsequent online submission. Both documents are included in appendix six.

The online submission states that it *“should be non-controversial to require dogs to be on leads and under control in a cemetery site”* and for that reason alone the Trust supports the proposal. However, they recognise that Abney Park is *“a much more complex and significant site than ‘just a cemetery’”*.

As well as responding to the consultation in its own right, the Trust states it has sought to encourage responses from all sections of the community. The initial summary response, published on the website, sets out the Trust’s view on the ecological impact of dogs in nature reserves.

This online statement states that *“the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in Europe”*, quoting various statistics demonstrating species decline, including *“66% of ground nesting birds are in decline in the UK compared to 31% of other species”*. In addition, since the 1970s, *“it has been shown that 41% of all UK species studied have declined”* in number.

The statement sets out the impact dogs have on wildlife:

- Physical and temporal displacement – dogs cause wildlife to move away, temporarily or permanently. The website quotes *“experts”* who say *“loose dogs are one of the biggest causes of wildlife disturbance equivalent to the same disruption as low flying aircraft”*. Furthermore, they cite a study by the Nature Institute which *“noted that the evidence that dogs negatively impact wildlife is overwhelming”*.
- Disturbance and stress response – the website cites a study *“which showed that dog walking caused a 41% reduction in the numbers of individual birds detected”* as well as a 35% reduction in species richness – *“while disturbance from humans walking alone was typically less than half that of dogs”*.
- Degradation of habitat – nutrients from dog urine and faeces results in *“over fertilisation which can reach levels that would be illegal on farmland”*. The Trust states that there has been an increase in dog fouling in the cemetery.
- Indirect and direct mortality – the website states that *“dogs can transmit diseases (such as canine distemper and rabies) to and from wildlife”*. It also refers to loose dogs killing wildlife stating that *“the UK cost of dog attacks is up 50% since pre-pandemic”*.
- Human disease – the final bullet point in the list of impacts dogs have on the wildlife of Abney Park states *“dog waste can pollute water and transmit harmful parasites and diseases to people”*

Therefore, the statement on the website concludes that *“the joy dogs bring to people and our community can be balanced with the needs of the ecosystem through a sensible and enforced on-leads rule”*.

The Trust’s consultation submission via Citizen Space reiterates the statistics quoted above as well as re-confirming an additional figure from its original post, that *“the pandemic lockdowns saw an increase in dog-on dog attacks: a 700% increase, with 2,264 in London alone”*.

In addition, the consultation submission refers to *“the human side of this issue”*, recognising that there are *“members of some religious and ethnic groups who are less likely to use the park for lots of reasons”*, not least due to the presence of dogs running off the lead. They support this statement with reference to focus groups carried out in 2019.

The Trust argues that *“an ecologically ideal situation, as recognised on social media by Abney ecology experts and others, might be a full-on ban”*. Therefore, the submission argues that the dogs on leads proposal is *“a possible compromise, a balancing act”*. The Trust recognises the issue has been divisive but reiterates that a decision should be based on *“the whole range of evidence and perspectives and not on who shouts the loudest”*. It also hopes that the Council will *“put the park’s future, and its ecological and inclusivity-related interests, at the heart of the decision”*.

5.5 Consultation Response From Abney Park Dog Users Group

A submission was also received from the Abney Park Dog Users Group. The group, comprising over 250 members, all Hackney residents and regular users of the park, was created in direct response to the consultation. Their submission runs to 34 pages and is supported by gate observations and a survey of Park users. All these documents are presented in full in appendix seven.

The submission also references a petition against the requirement for dogs to be exercised on leads in Abney Park, which, the Group states, has received over 2,000 signatures. In addition, the submission includes a number of quotes from the online survey, carried out by the Group between 9th October and the end of November, which received 429 responses from people who visit Abney Park. This survey found that 79% of all respondents and 96% of dog owners oppose the ban on off-lead dogs in the cemetery.

The Users Group acknowledge the Council’s duty and responsibility to address unlawful and irresponsible dog ownership. They support some aspects of the proposed PSPO including the ‘dog fouling of land’ prohibition; the exclusion of dogs from the specified additional areas such as children’s playgrounds and sports areas, as well as the existing dog-free areas in parks; and the ‘dogs on leads by direction’ requirement. However, they strongly oppose the inclusion of Abney Park in the list of places where dogs must be kept on leads.

The key points outlined in the submission are discussed below.

5.5.1 Lack Of Evidence & The Group’s Response To The Council’s Rationale

The Users Group is concerned that *“no steps”* appear to have been taken to *“establish an evidence base and a clear rationale”* for including the ban on off-lead dogs in Abney Park before the consultation went out.

The members of the Users Group submitted Freedom of Information requests to the Council and Met Police. The submission states that these have confirmed that *“there is no evidence at all of problems with anti-social behaviour by dogs in Abney Park”*. This is discussed in paragraphs 20-26 of the Group’s submission where they conclude that *“just 6 complaints out of 1,230”* received by the Council about dog behaviour in the last three years related to Abney Park. The vast majority concerned dog fouling elsewhere in the borough.

Paragraphs 29-43 of the submission discuss the Council's argument about the *"historical significance"* of the cemetery and conclude the area has been used for dog walking for decades; nothing has changed. In contrast, the Users Group argues that suggestions in the PSPO proposal that the requirement for dogs to be on leads shows respect for the site *"are in real tension with the Council's decision to grant the chapel a licence as an 'exclusive venue'"*, including the service of alcohol and playing of music until midnight. The submission states *"there is genuine anger amongst the community"* about these perceived double standards.

The Users Group argue that there is no evidence of an ecological justification for banning dogs off-lead now when the site has been a nature reserve for decades. This is discussed in paragraphs 44-64 of the submission. The Users Group cites a number of specific concerns about the argument put forward by the Abney Park Trust to justify the proposal to ban off-lead dogs in the cemetery (paragraph 55). The submission argues that *"a number of the most egregious misrepresentations"* that the Trust make concern the use of a report about American wildlife to justify their position on dogs in Abney Park. In addition, the Users Group challenge the Trust's assertion that dogs can transmit rabies by observing that this disease was eradicated from the UK mammals, except bats, over one hundred years ago. After reviewing other sources quoted by the Trust, including those referring to dogs' impact on sheep and water, neither of which occur in the cemetery, the submission concludes *"the Trust's response was poorly researched, showed confirmation bias, and is a thoroughly unreliable basis for any decision making"* (paragraph 56). Furthermore, the submission contends that these claims *"are seriously misleading to the public"*. The Group report that *"most people we have spoken with"* are *"simply incredulous"* at what is perceived as the *"hypocritical"* decision to grant the chapel a late licence on one hand, whilst also arguing that off-lead dogs are a threat to the ecology of the area. Therefore, in the Group's opinion, the Abney Park Trust's response to the consultation is *"alarmist, irrelevant and has damaged community relations"*.

5.5.2 Serious Legal Questions Raised By The Proposed Ban

As the submission contends that the Abney Park measure in the proposed PSPO *"has no basis or justification"* it argues that *"the Council would be acting unlawfully"* if it was to bring the ban into force. Furthermore, the Group believes that justifying anti-social behaviour legislation with reference to wildlife or ecology *"would be a fundamental mistake and a misapplication of the legislation"* with no legal precedent. More detailed comments on this point can be found in paragraphs 65-71 of the submission.

The Group's opinion is that the consultation itself has been procedurally defective due to a changing justification, insufficient publicity, conflicting information from councillors and officers and *"an unfairly biased online consultation tool"*. The justification for these views is set out in paragraphs 72-96 of the submission.

More specific details on the limitations of the consultation questionnaire are outlined in paragraph 89 including concerns about the lack of opportunity to comment on the individual proposals. The Group states that *"it is wrong in principle"* that the consultation should only ask a 'yes/no/don't know' question about support for the PSPO as a whole. The Users Group strongly believes that, as the Council has tried to make a special case for Abney Park, *"people should have been asked specifically"* for their views on this aspect of the proposals. They point to the extension of the consultation and the substantial revision of the supporting documentation six weeks after it was originally launched. The submission suggests that the new wording *"effectively adopted the position of Abney Park Trust"*, as given in its public response to the consultation on 8th September, to justify the reasons for the ban. The Group believe *"this creates a clear impression of bias"*, which is *"unfortunately strengthened"* by *"the fact that the Cabinet member with responsibility for the PSPO is also a trustee of Abney Park Trust"*.

Furthermore, the submission expresses concern that the only means of responding to the consultation was the online form on Citizen Space. Members of the Group emailed councillors directly to make representations about the consultation but were provided with *“contradictory advice”* about whether these emails would be considered. In addition, the submission contends that *“there was very little publicity for the consultation”* in Stoke Newington compared to other areas. The Group states that their survey responses show that *“word-of-mouth was three times greater than any Hackney publicity”* for the consultation.

5.5.3 Impact On The Community & Unintended Consequences

The final key point relates to *“harmful unintended consequences”* identified by the Users Group, which include an influx of additional dogs to the already crowded Clissold Park and making Abney Park less safe, especially for women. Therefore, the Group argues, *“the effect of the Abney Park PSPO would be indirectly discriminatory”*.

The Group monitored the footfall in the Park on two days in October 2023, with similar weather conditions, one mid-week and one at the weekend. These findings reveal that *“lone women visiting with pre-schoolers, jogging or walking dogs, can be over 50% of Abney Park’s users at times”*. The results from these observations are also included in appendix seven.

Paragraph 105 discusses the impact of the off-lead ban on the wider users of the cemetery suggesting that this will result in fewer people using the Park, leaving it *“almost deserted for much of the time”*. The Group express concerns that this *“will have safety implications for solo walkers and runners in Abney Park, particularly for women”*. In light of this, the submission argues that there is a *“significant oversight”* in the Equality Impact Assessment for the consultation which states that the proposed PSPO will have *“no detrimental effect on anyone with any protected characteristic including sex”*. In paragraph 106 of the submission, the Group argues that this statement by the Council is wrong and, they consider, *“unlawfully wrong”*.

Despite questioning the lack of data specific to Hackney, the Group acknowledges the recent increase in dog ownership on a national level. However, in light of this, they consider that *“effectively withdrawing”* the second largest space for dog walking in Stoke Newington *“will cause more problems with the management of a larger dog population”*. The Group’s gate observations suggest that approximately 300 dogs use the Park each day and their online survey results indicate that the vast majority of dog owners would go elsewhere if the off-lead ban comes into effect.

Indeed, the User Group’s online survey results reveal that majority of Park users, 66%, mainly visit the cemetery to walk a dog, either their own or to meet friends with a dog, and 90% of these respondents would use Abney less if the off-lead ban is introduced. Furthermore, 72% of dog owners and their friends would use Clissold Park more often. The submission argues that this area is *“already overcrowded, particularly at weekends”* and even more so in summer. Full details of the responses to this survey are set out in appendix seven.

6. Graphical Overview Of Findings From Consultation

The following section of the report contains the key graphs relating to the points made in the discussion of the findings.

6.1 Understanding The Consultation Respondents

The demographic profile of the respondents to the consultation and the percentage of each group that are dog owners is shown in the graphs below.

6.1.1 Residency In Hackney

The majority of the consultation respondents (90%) either live, work or own a business in Hackney, with non-dog owners being more likely to do so than dog owners. Some respondents to the consultation commented that although they live outside the borough, they walk their dog in Hackney parks.

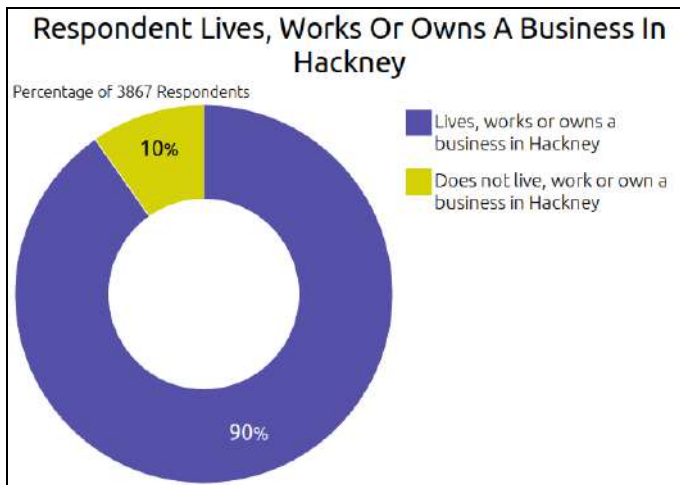


Figure 6.1

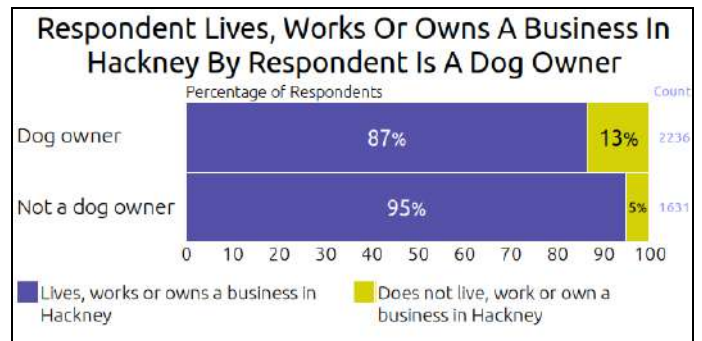


Figure 6.2

Not all respondents gave their postcode but 39% of those that did live in N16. Dog ownership by postcode is also shown below.

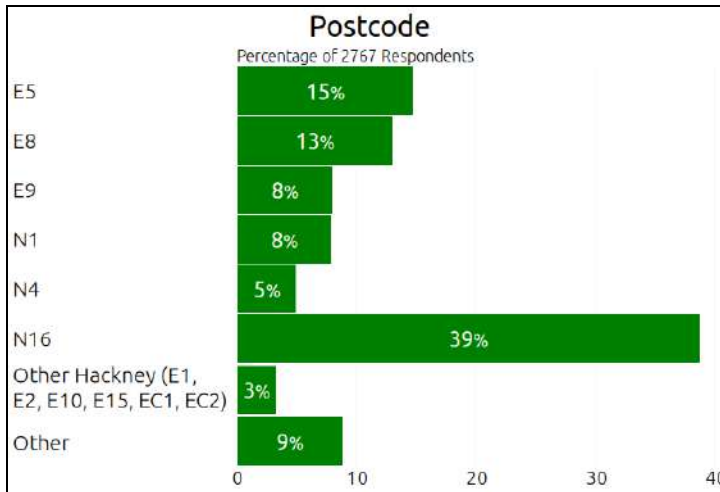


Figure 6.3

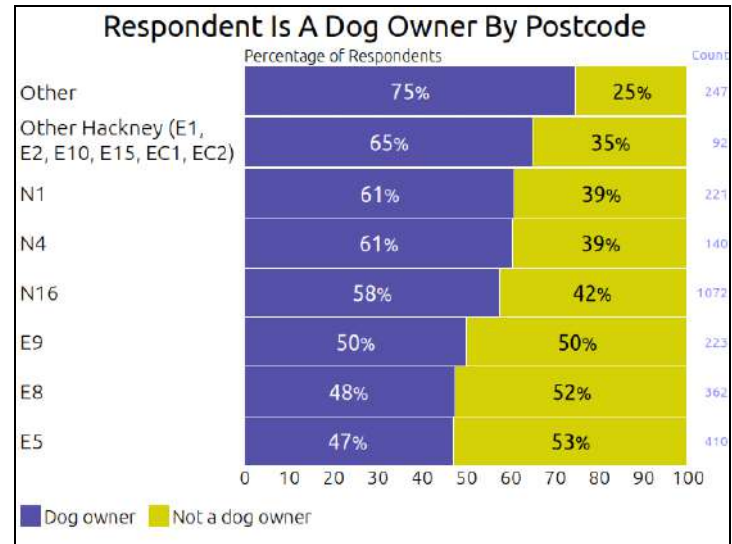


Figure 6.4

6.1.2 Gender

Women were more likely to respond to the consultation than men but dog ownership is comparable by gender.

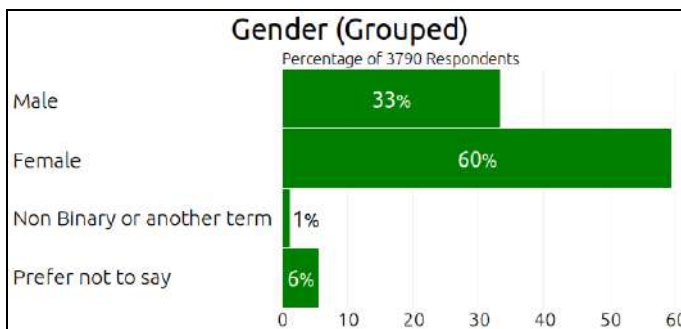


Figure 6.5

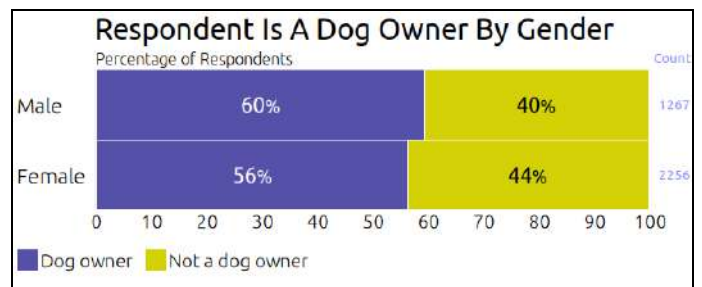


Figure 6.6

6.1.3 Age Group

74% of respondents to the consultation are under the age of 55. Respondents under the age of 35 are most likely to own dogs, with those aged 65+ less likely to do so.

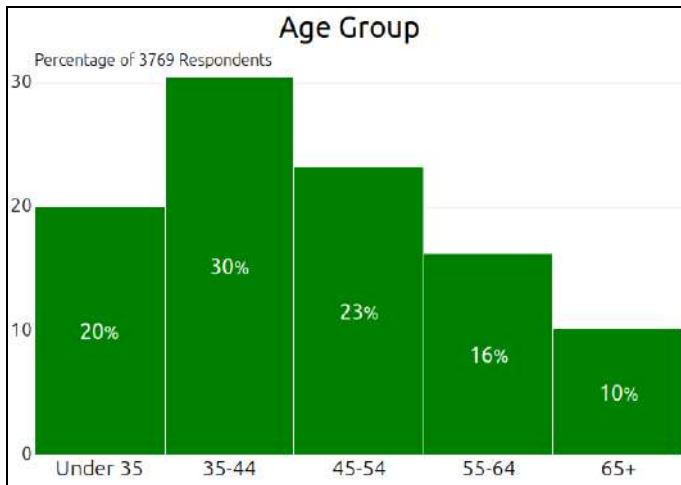


Figure 6.7

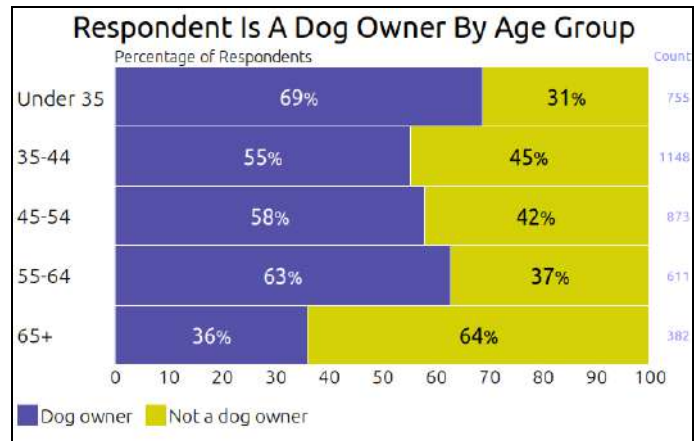


Figure 6.8

6.1.4 Disability

9% of respondents have a disability. Respondents with a disability are as likely to own dogs as those who are not disabled.

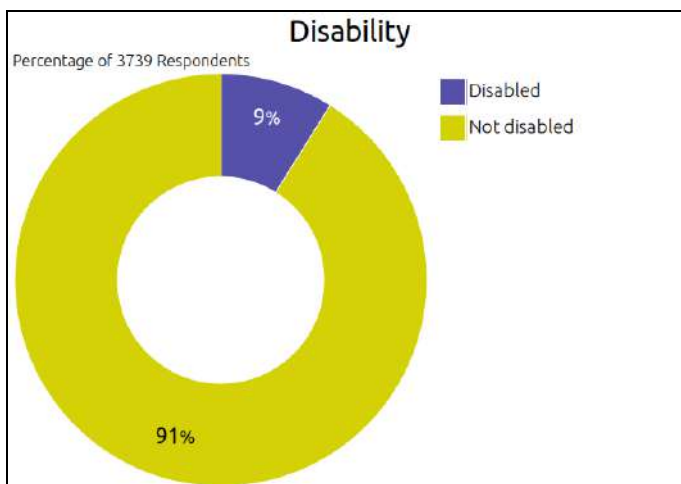


Figure 6.9

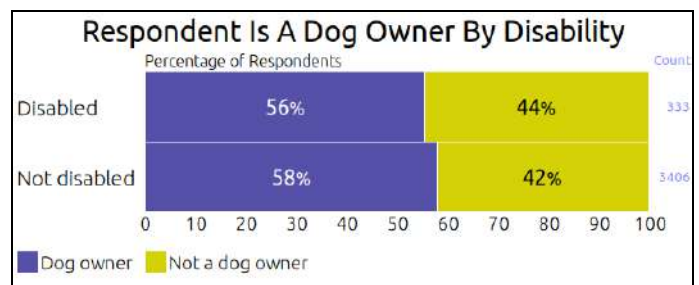


Figure 6.10

6.1.5 Caring Responsibilities

9% of respondents have a caring responsibility and these respondents are less likely to be dog owners than other respondents.

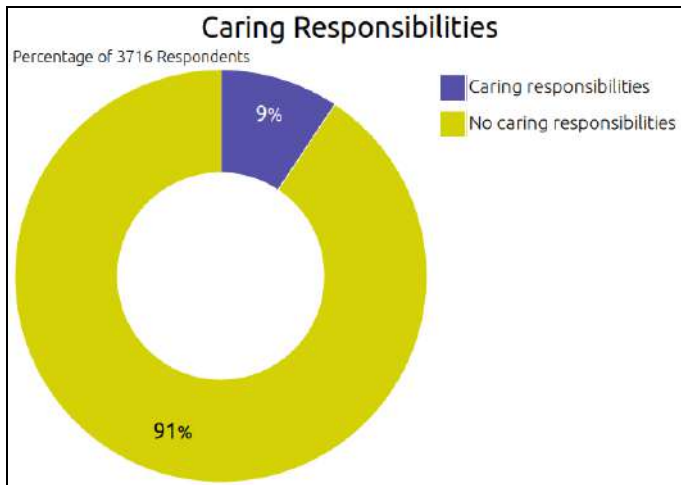


Figure 6.11

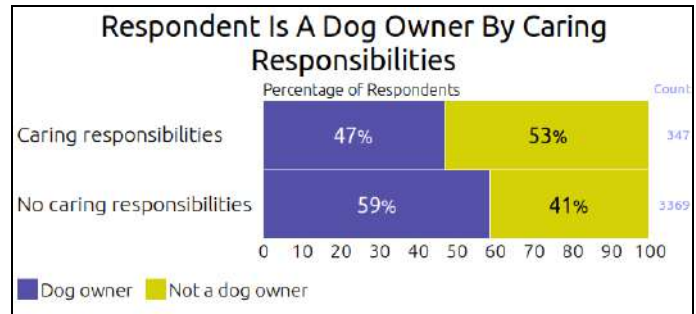


Figure 6.12

6.1.6 Ethnicity

79% of respondents are White or White British, 2% Black and 4% Asian. This contrasts with the latest Hackney census figures, where 53% of the population were White, 21% Black and 10% Asian.¹

It is impossible to know whether the difference in the consultation respondent profile is due to these groups' ambivalence about dogs, lack of awareness of the consultation, unwillingness to engage with the Council or another reason. Asian and Black respondents are less likely, than those from other ethnic groups, to own dogs.

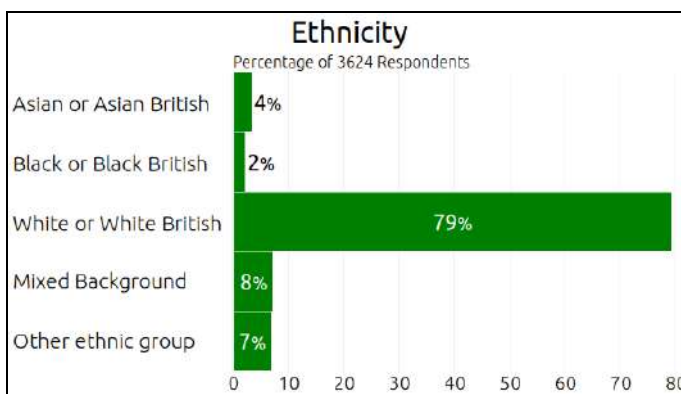


Figure 6.13

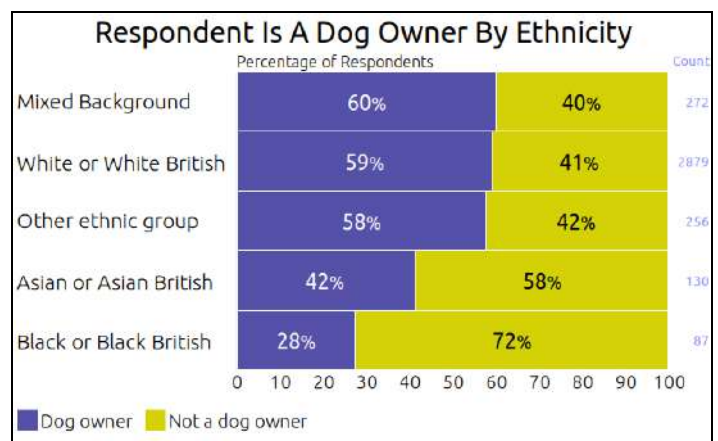


Figure 6.14

¹ The Census 2021 Briefing 5_ Ethnic Group, National Identity, Language and Religion obtained from Hackney Council website states the ethnicity breakdown as 53% White, 21% Black, 10% Asian, 7% Mixed and 9% Other

White or White British respondents are more likely than respondents of other ethnic backgrounds to own a dog.

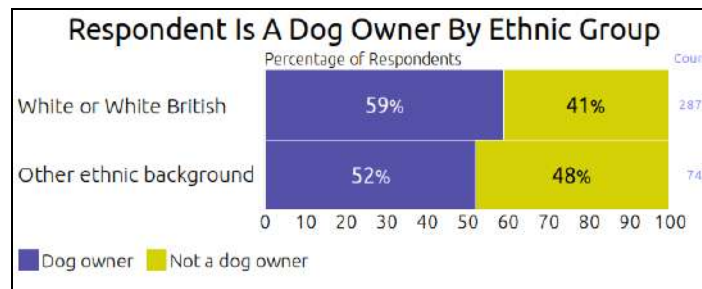


Figure 6.15

6.1.7 Religion Or Belief

The religion or belief profile of the consultation respondents is also different to the latest Hackney census data, with a much higher proportion identifying as atheist or having no religious belief and a lower proportion identifying as Christian. The proportion of Muslims and Charedi or Jewish respondents is also lower than in the 2021 census.²

Muslim respondents are less likely to own dogs than those who follow other religions or beliefs.

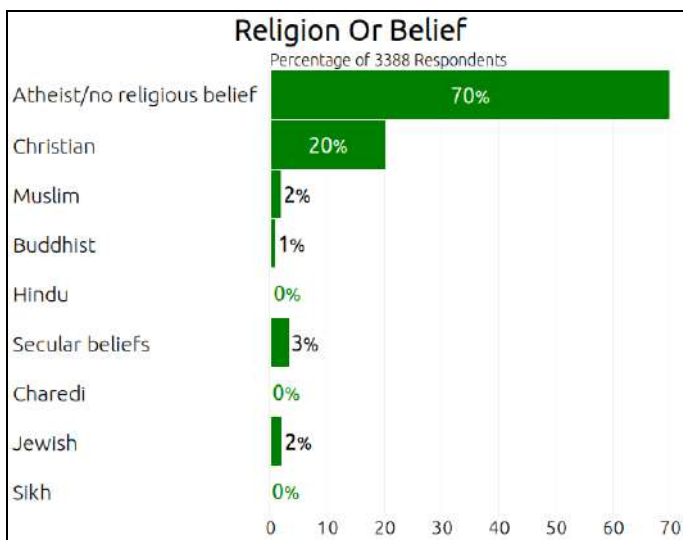


Figure 6.16

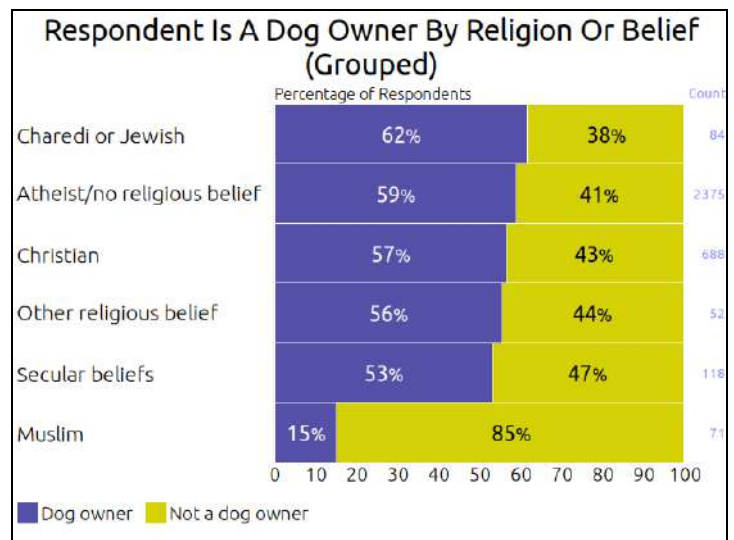


Figure 6.17

² The Census 2021 Briefing 5_ Ethnic Group, National Identity, Language and Religion obtained from Hackney Council website states the religion or belief breakdown as 36% no religion, 31% Christian, 1% Buddhist, 1% Hindu, 7% Jewish, 13% Muslim, 1% Sikh and 2% Other

6.1.8 Sexual Orientation

The sexual orientation of respondents, and the proportion of each group who are dog owners, is shown below.

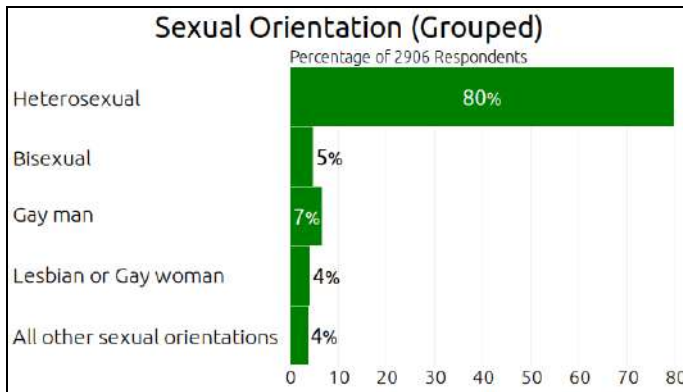


Figure 6.18

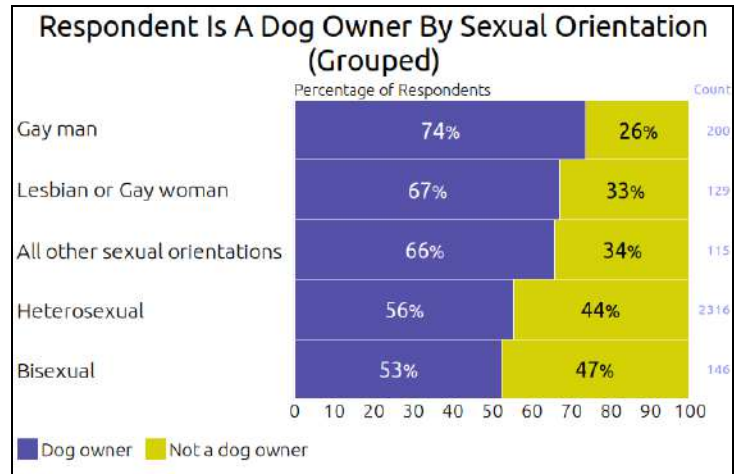


Figure 6.19

Heterosexual respondents are less likely to be dog owners than LGB+ respondents.

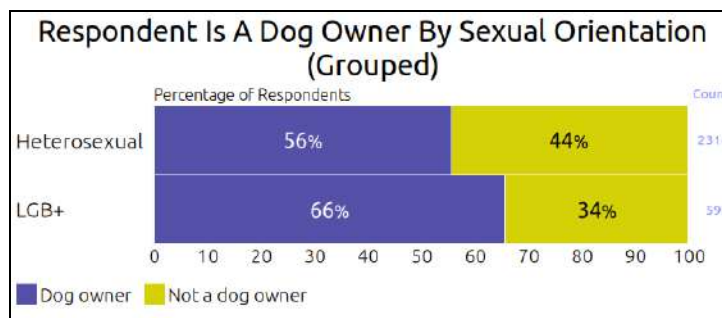


Figure 6.20

6.1.9 Housing Tenure

The majority of respondents either own their home outright (24%) or are buying it on a mortgage (44%). The latter are the group most likely to own a dog.

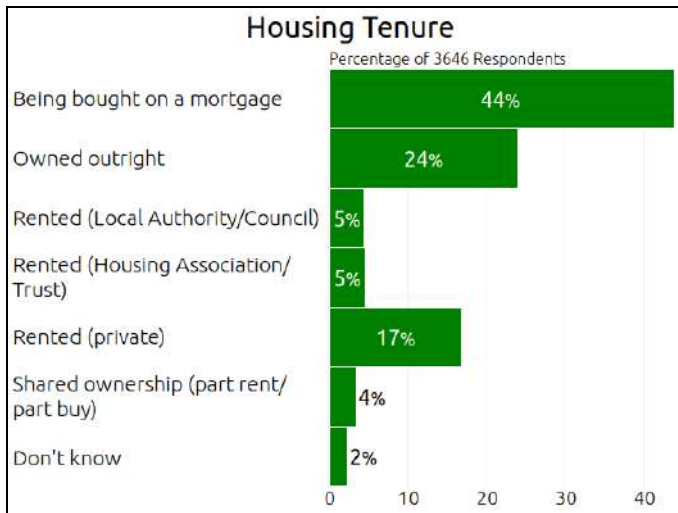


Figure 6.21

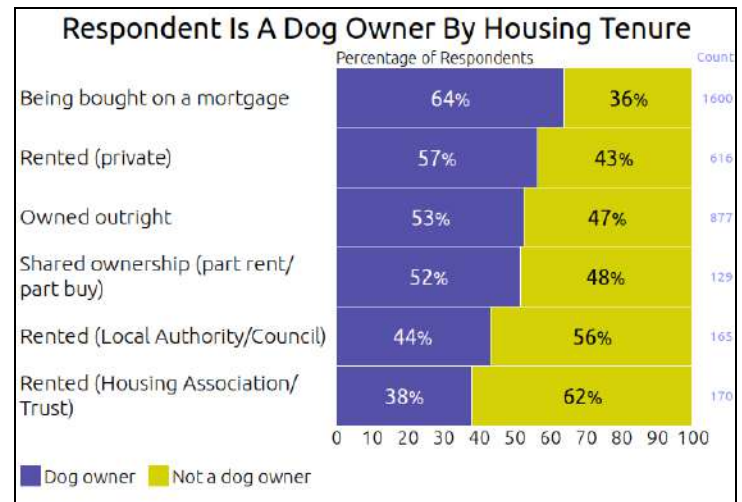


Figure 6.22

6.2 Graphical Overview Of Key Questions In The Consultation Questionnaire

The remainder of this section contains the graphs relating to each of the key questions analysed in the discussion of findings section of this report.

6.2.1 Q6: Have You, Or A Member Of Your Family, Or Someone You Know Had Any Problems Regarding Dog Behaviour In Hackney The Past Year?

6.2.1.1 Gender

48% of all female respondents and 29% of female dog owners to say that they or someone they know has experienced problems with dog behaviour compared to 42% of all male respondents and 19% of male dog owners.

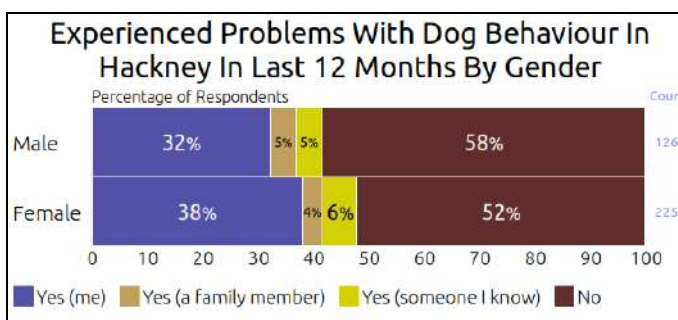


Figure 6.23

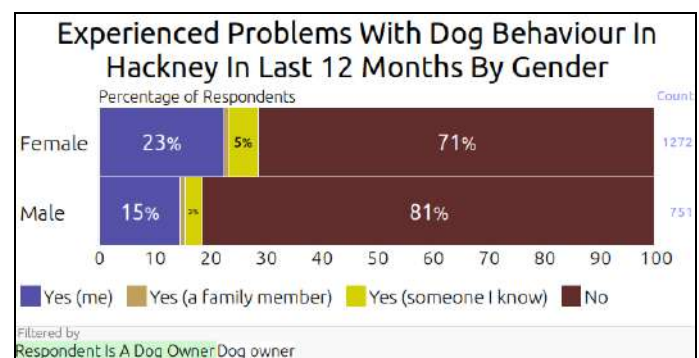


Figure 6.24

6.2.1.2 Age Group

58% of respondents aged 65+ and 51% of those aged 35-44 say that they or someone they know has had problems with dog behaviour compared to 34% of respondents under 35.

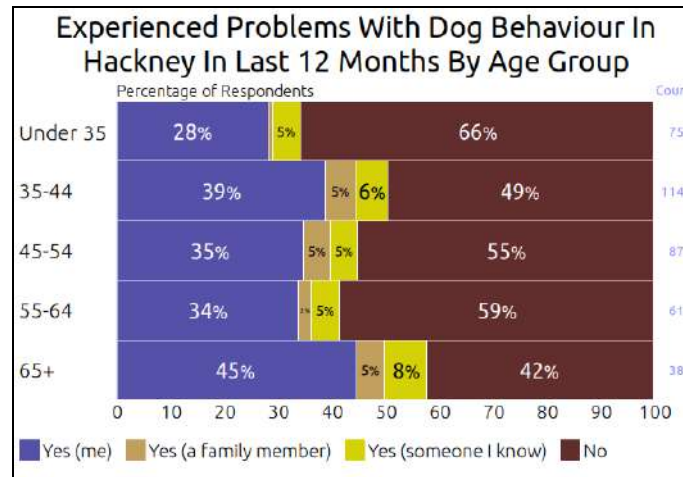


Figure 6.25

However, when the views of dog owners are analysed by age, the proportion of respondents who say that either they or someone they know has had an issue with dogs is broadly in line. For respondents who do not own a dog, those aged under 35 are less likely than older respondents to say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last 12 months.

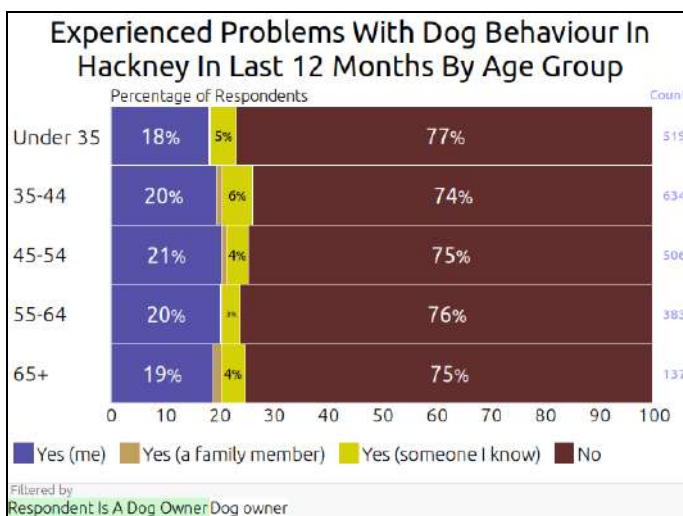


Figure 6.26

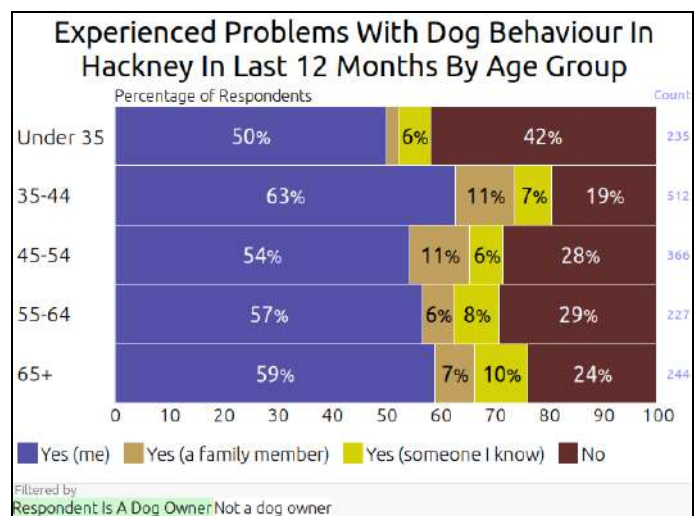


Figure 6.27

6.2.1.3 Disability & Caring Responsibilities

The difference in views between respondents with a disability and those without is not statistically significant.

56% of respondents with caring responsibilities say that they or someone they know has had an issue with dogs compared to 44% of those without caring responsibilities. These respondents are less likely to own dogs but there are too few replies from dog owners with caring responsibilities to allow for further analysis on this question.

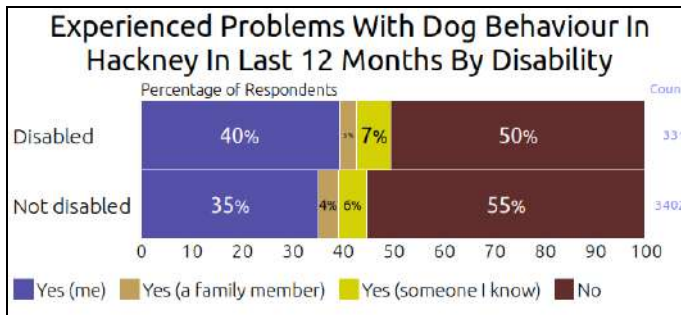


Figure 6.28

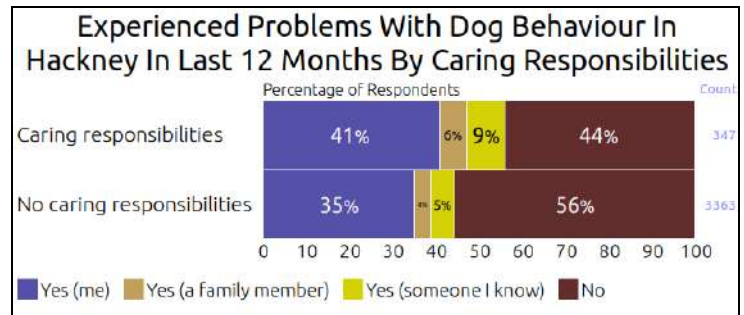


Figure 6.29

6.2.1.4 Ethnicity

72% of Black and 59% of Asian respondents say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour compared to 44% of White or mixed race respondents and 45% of those from another ethnic group. There are only a small number of replies from Black and Asian respondents and these groups are less likely to own dogs, so further analysis of the impact of dog ownership on their views is not possible.

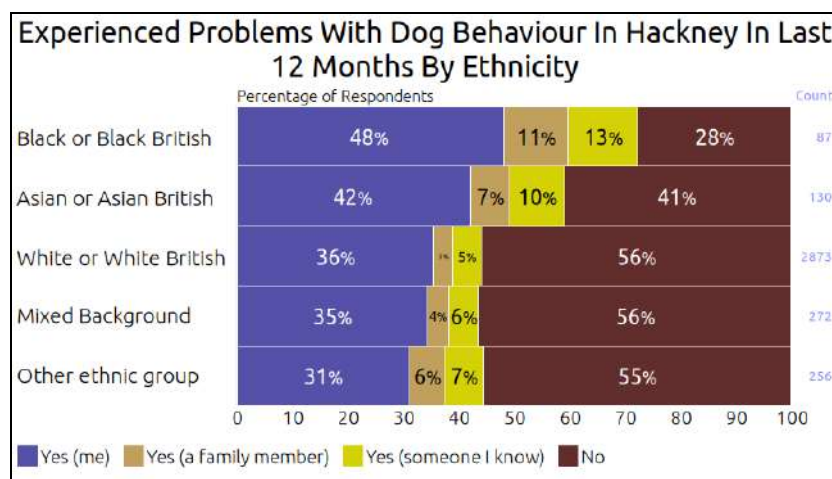


Figure 6.30

Respondents from ethnic backgrounds other than White are more likely to say that they or someone they know has had a problem with dogs than those who are White. However, a comparable proportion of dog owners in each of these groups say they or someone they know has experienced an issue in the last 12 months.

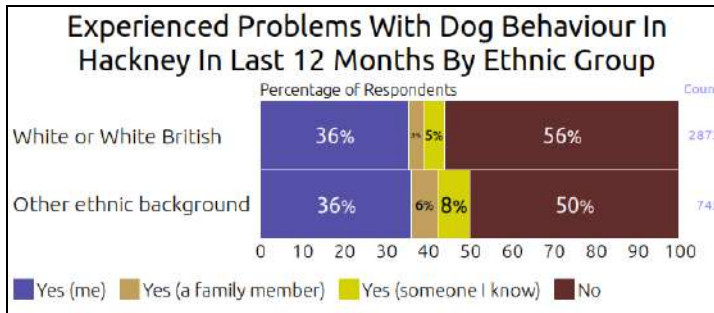


Figure 6.31

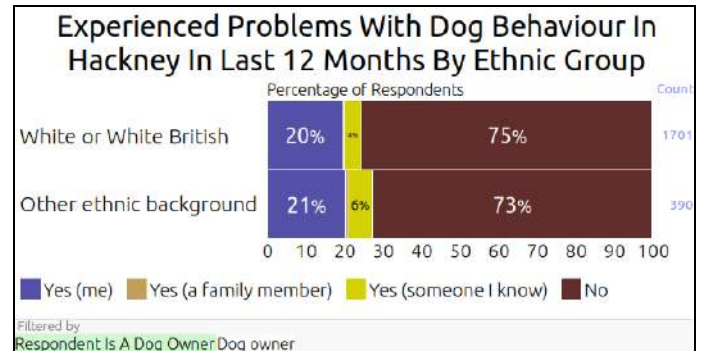


Figure 6.32

6.2.1.5 Religion Or Belief

79% of Muslim respondents say they or someone they know has had a problem with dogs in the last 12 months. There are only a small number of Muslim respondents and very few own dogs so further analysis by dog ownership is not possible.

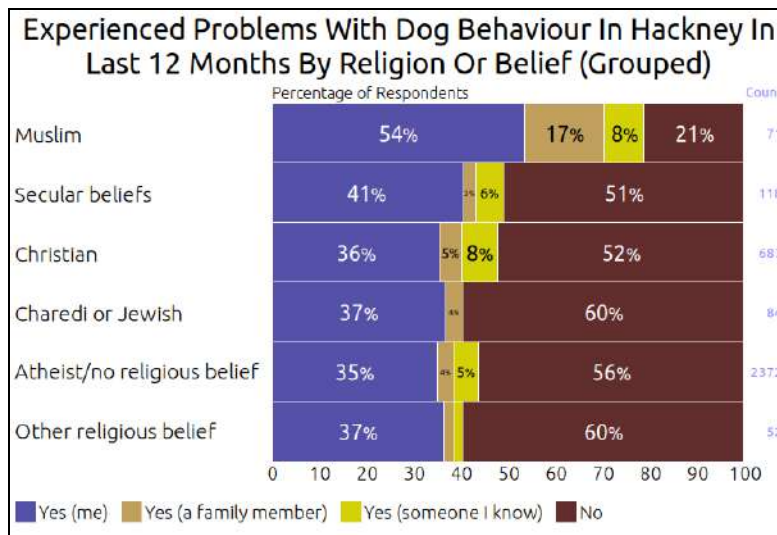


Figure 6.33

6.2.1.6 Sexual Orientation

Respondents to the consultation have many different sexual orientations but for the purposes of ensuring sufficient group sizes for meaningful comparison, those who are not heterosexual have been analysed as a single group (LGB+). These respondents are less likely to say that they or someone they know has had problems with dogs than heterosexual respondents. Indeed, 37% of all LGB+ respondents say they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in the last 12 months compared to 49% of all heterosexual respondents.

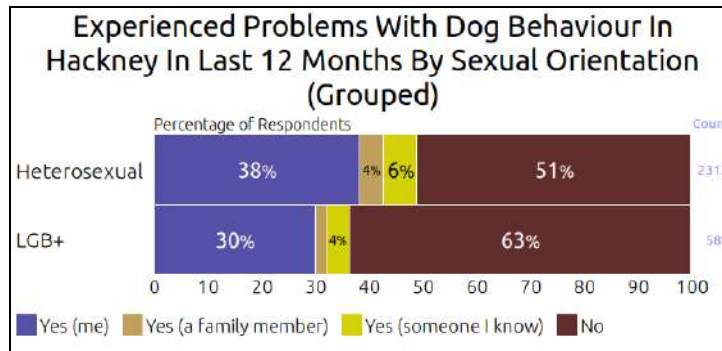


Figure 6.34

23% of LGB+ respondents, who own dogs, say they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour compared to 28% of heterosexual respondents who own dogs. Furthermore, LGB+ respondents who do not have a dog are less likely, than heterosexual non-dog owners, to say they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in the last 12 months.

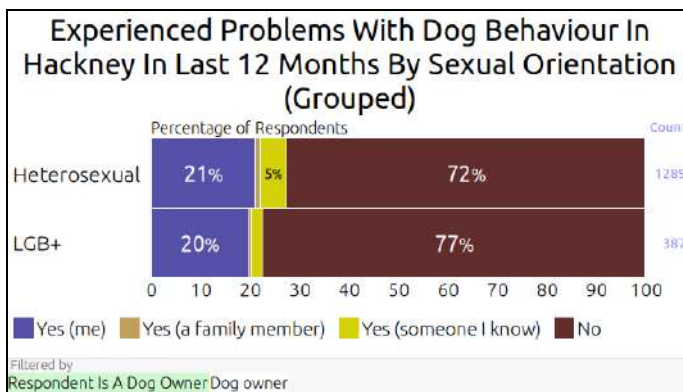


Figure 6.35

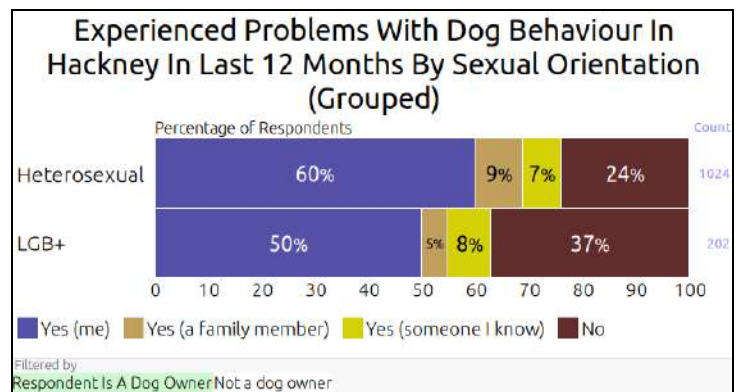


Figure 6.36

6.2.1.7 Housing Tenure

65% in each case of respondents renting from the council, a housing association or trust say they or someone they know has experienced problems with dog behaviour in the last 12 months, compared to 51% or fewer of respondents in other types of housing.

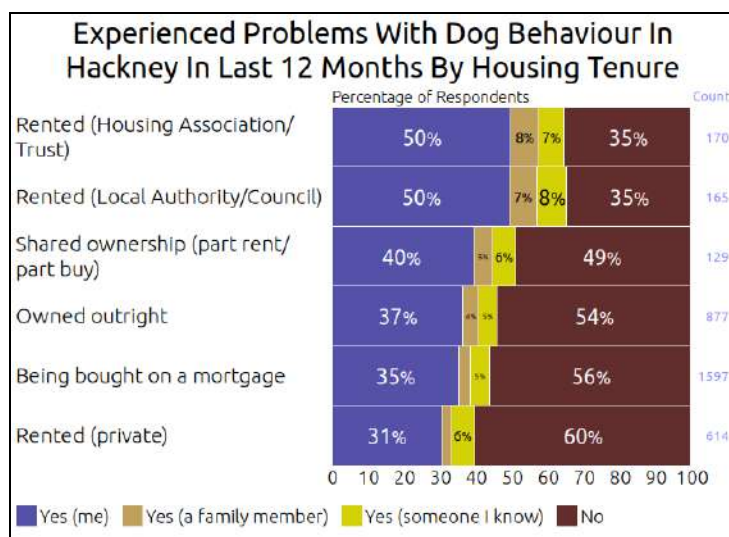


Figure 6.37

6.2.1.8 Postcode Area

Postcodes E9, E8 and E5 are the areas where the highest proportion of respondents say they or someone they know has had a problem with dogs. These are also the areas where the lowest proportions of respondents are dog owners.

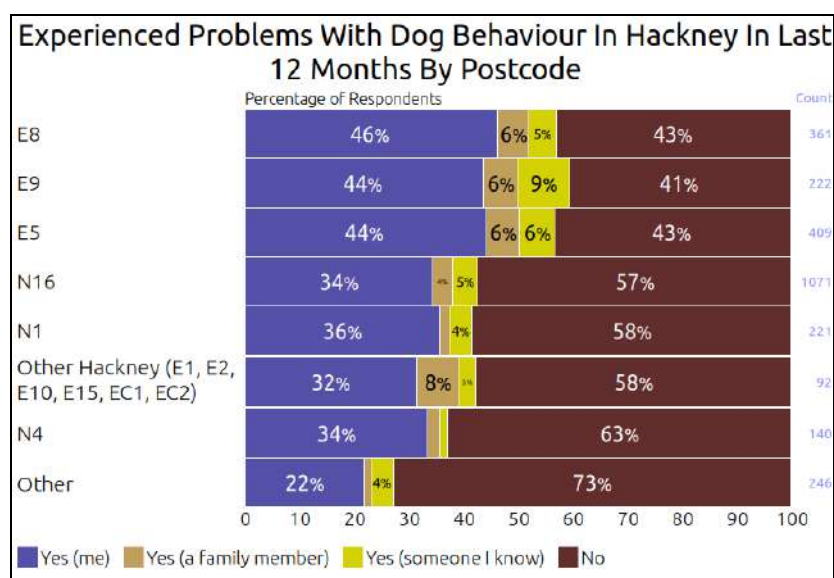


Figure 6.38

For further analysis, the views of respondents in E5, E8 and E9 were combined and compared with respondents in N1, N4 and N16. 34% of dog owning respondents in these E postcodes say they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour in the last 12 months compared to 22% of dog owners in the N postcodes. Similarly, a higher proportion of non-dog owners in these E postcodes say they or someone they know has had a problem with dog behaviour compared to non-dog owners in the N postcodes (79% compared to 71%).

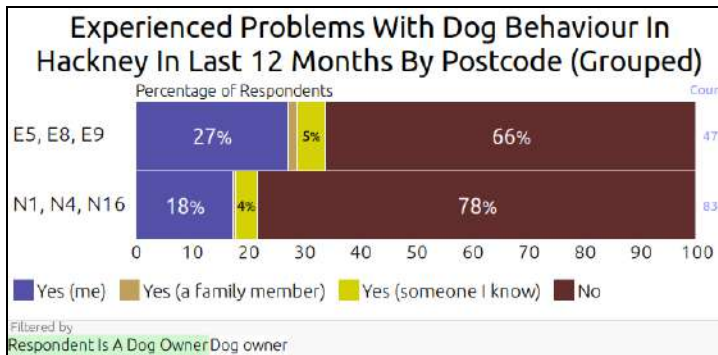


Figure 6.39

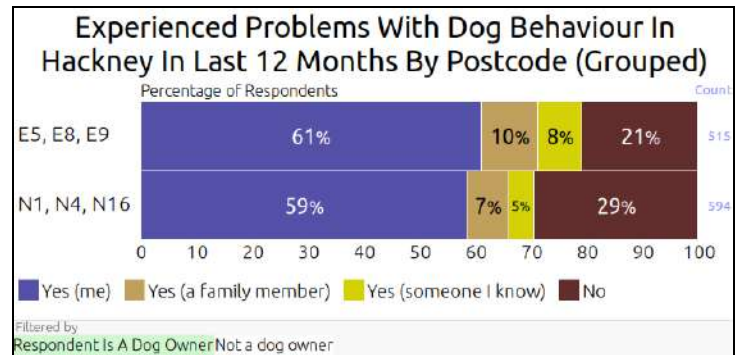


Figure 6.40

6.2.2 Q7: Nature Of Problems With Dog Behaviour

Respondents who said that they, someone in their family or someone they knew had had problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last 12 months were asked about the nature of these issues.

6.2.2.1 Problems Experienced By Dog Owners

14% of dog owners say they or someone they know has had a problem with dog fouling, 10% with a dog attack on a dog or other pet animal, 8% with a dog running out of control and 7% say they or someone they know has been threatened by a dog's behaviour.

Full details are shown in the graph below.

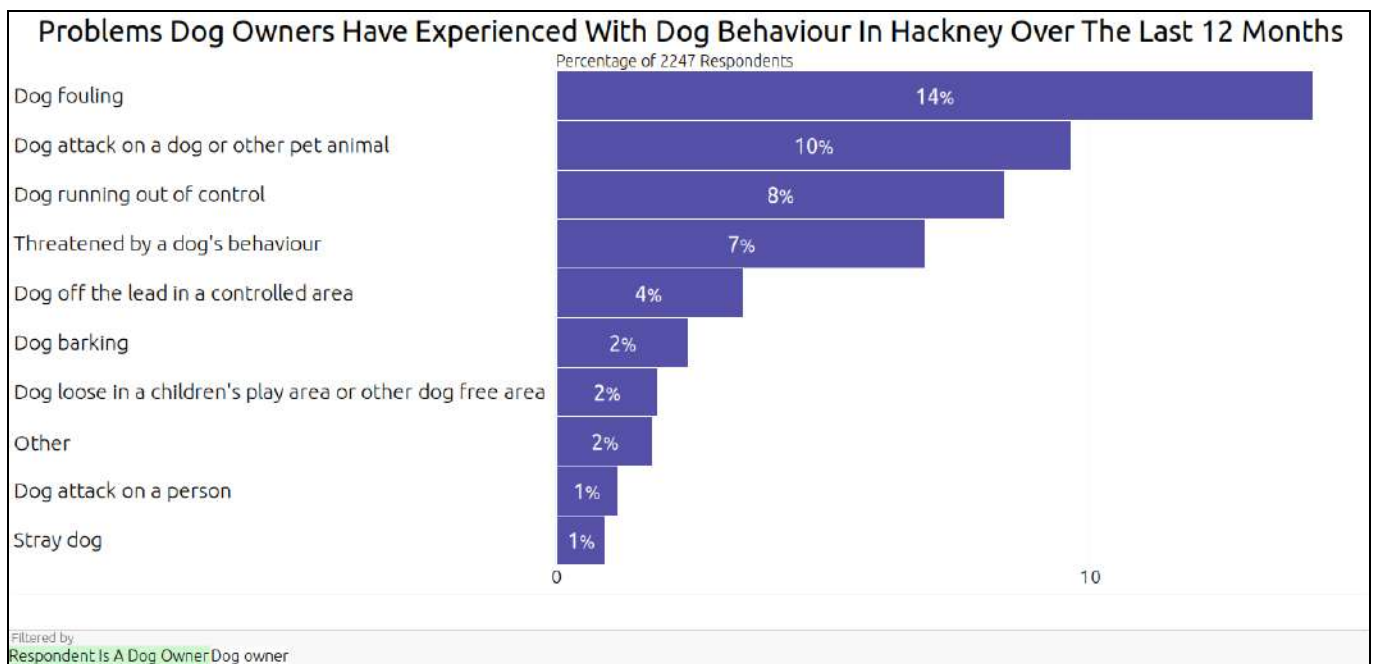


Figure 6.41

6.2.2.2 Problems Experienced By Non-Dog Owners

Perceptions of problem dog behaviour amongst respondents who do not own dogs are very different to those of dog owners. 53% say they or someone they know has had a problem with dog fouling, 41% with a dog running out of control and 35% have felt threatened by a dog's behaviour.

Full details are shown in the graph below.

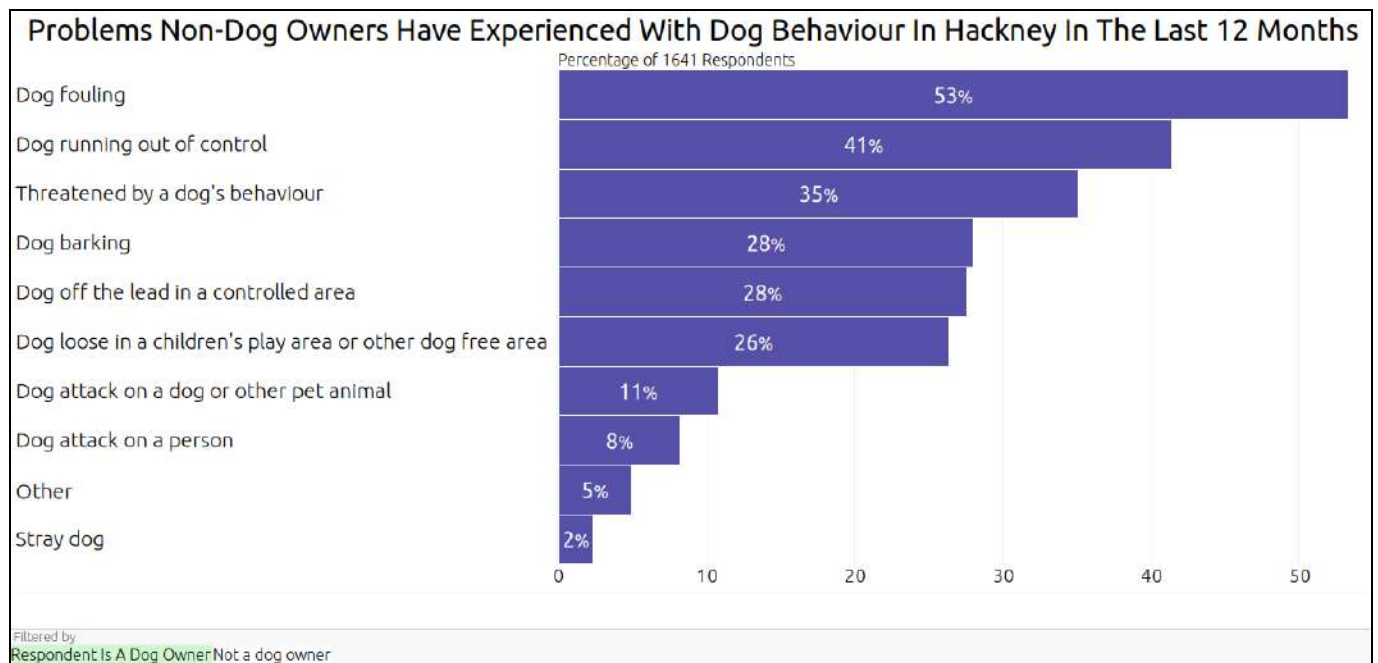


Figure 6.42

6.2.3 Q8: "To What Extent Do You Agree Or Disagree That The Current Dog Control PSPO Is Effective?"

In the majority of cases, the difference in views on this question by sub-group is not statistically significant. However, 49% of male dog owners agree that the current PSPO is effective compared to 44% of female dog owners. Disabled respondents are less likely to agree the current order is effective than respondents who are not disabled (38% compared to 44%)

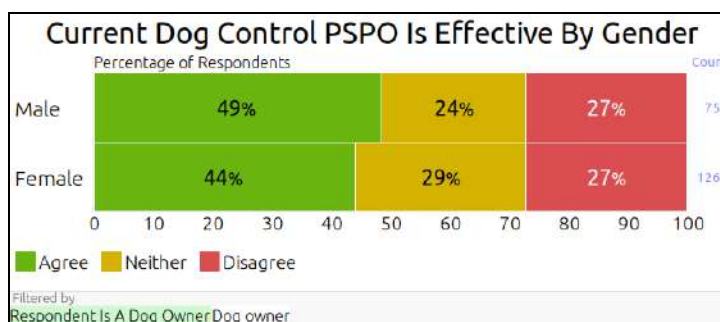


Figure 6.43

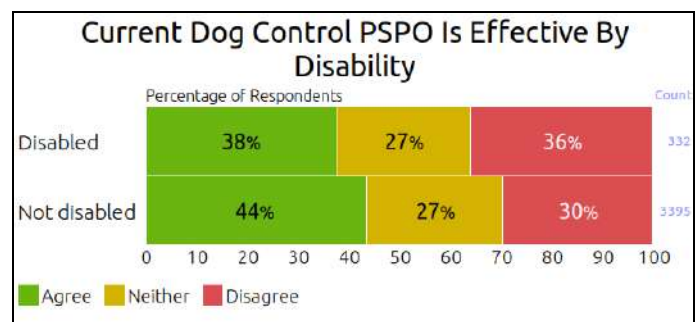


Figure 6.44

6.2.4 Q9: Reasons For Dog Owners' Disagreement That Current Order Is Effective

38% of dog owners, who do not consider the current PSPO to be effective, made comments that relate to the proposed changes, rather than the current order. 27% referred to the lack of enforcement of the current order in their comments and 21% mentioned irresponsible dog owners.

Full details of the themes in the comments from dog owners, who disagree that the current PSPO order is effective, are shown below.

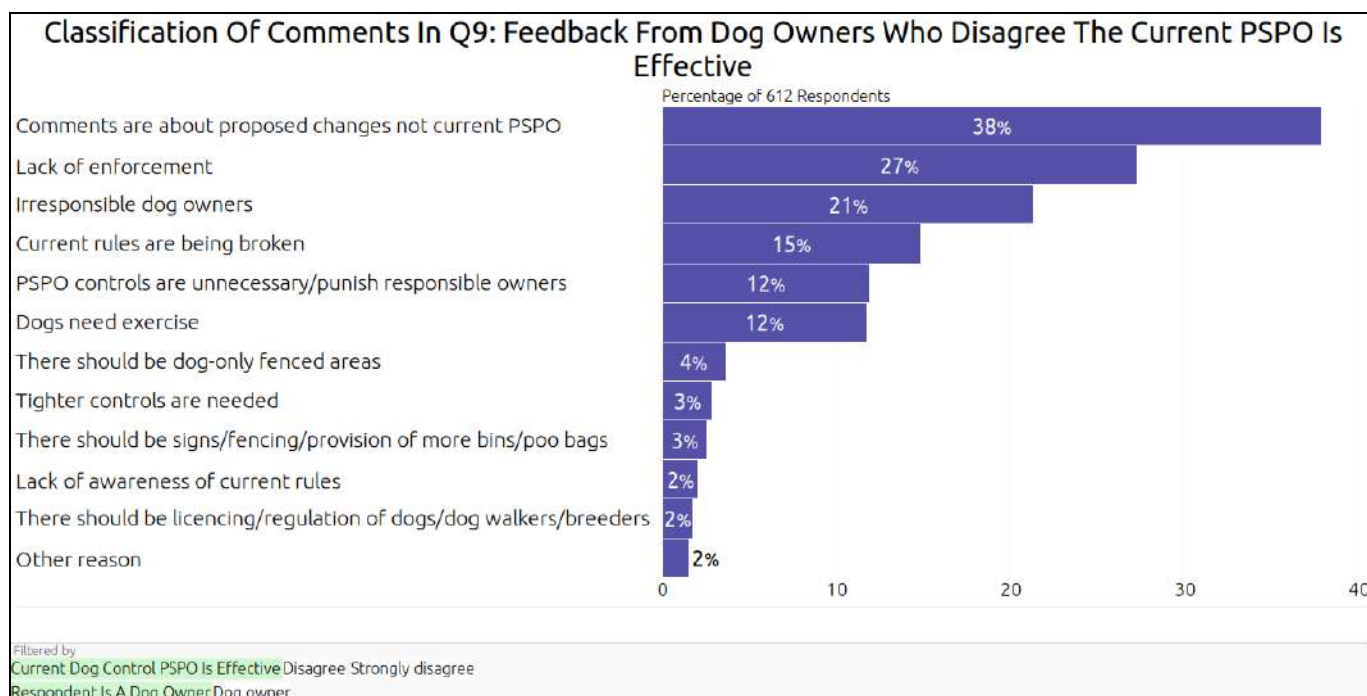


Figure 6.45

6.2.5 Q9: Reasons For Non-Dog Owners' Disagreement That Current Order Is Effective

48% of non-dog owners, who disagree that the current PSPO control order is effective, commented about the existing rules being broken. 36% mentioned a lack of enforcement and 20% think that tighter controls are needed.

Full details are shown in the graph below.

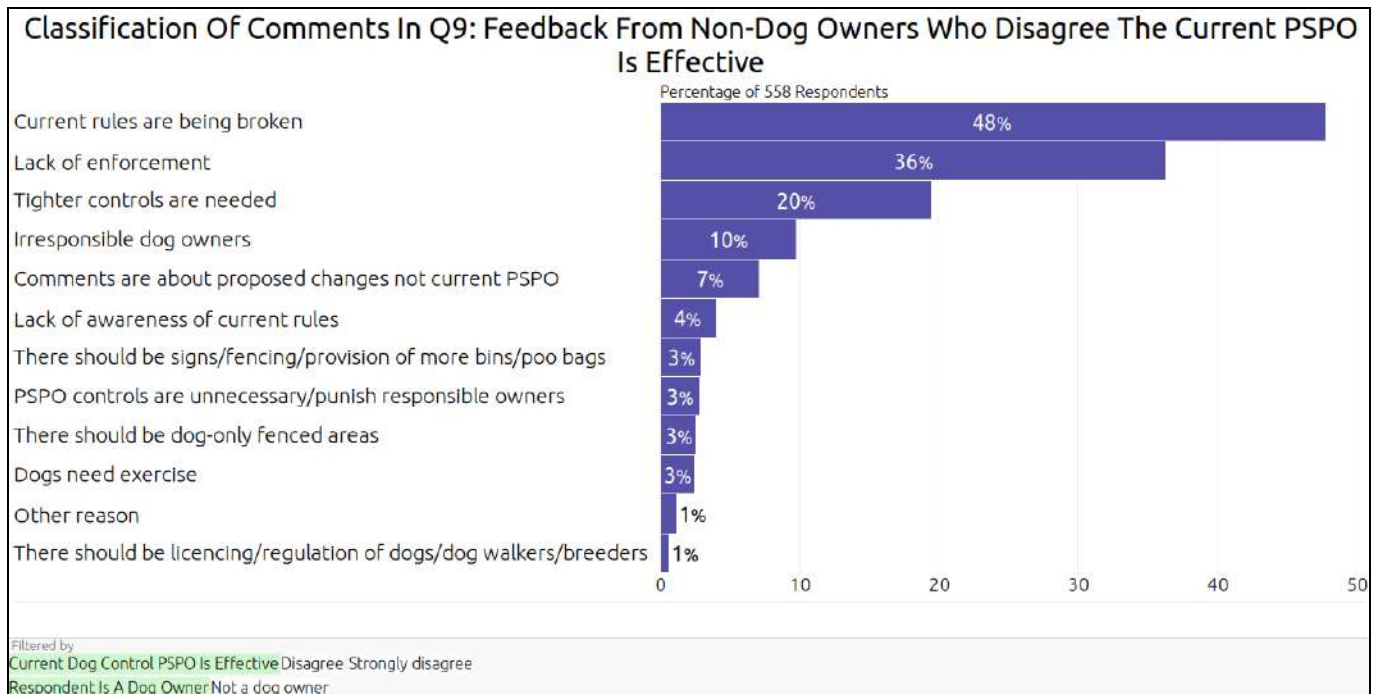


Figure 6.46

6.2.6 Q10: To What Extent Do You Agree Or Disagree That It Is Important To Control The Way In Which People Look After Their Dogs In Shared Public Spaces?

6.2.6.1 Age Group

93% of respondents aged 65+ agree that it is important to control the way people look after their dogs in shared public spaces. In contrast, 81% of respondents aged under 35 agree.

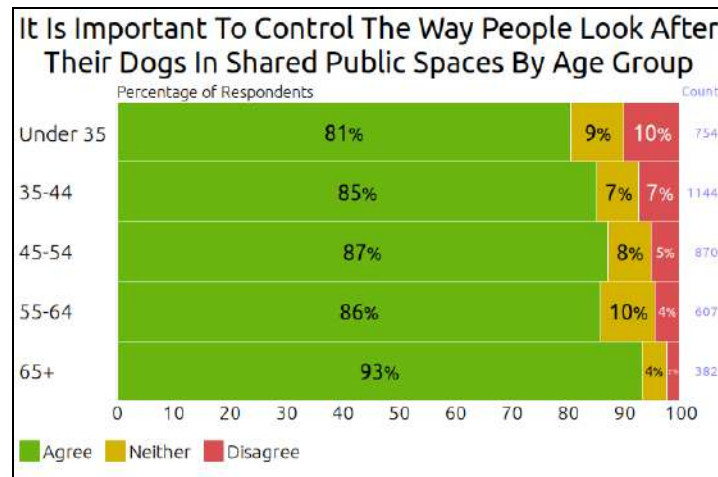


Figure 6.47

86% of dog owners aged 65+ agree compared to 77% of those aged under 35 and 78% of those aged 35-44.

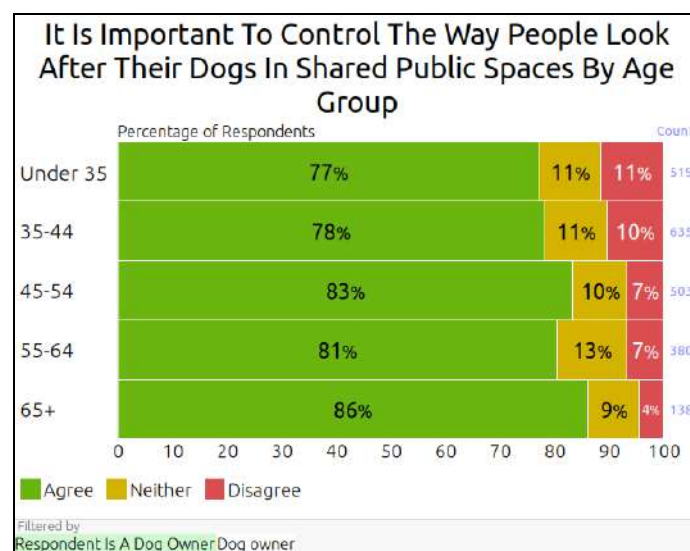


Figure 6.48

6.2.6.2 Disability

80% of disabled respondents agree compared to 86% of respondents without a disability. Disabled dog owners are also less likely to agree with the statement compared to dog owners without a disability (73% compared to 81%).

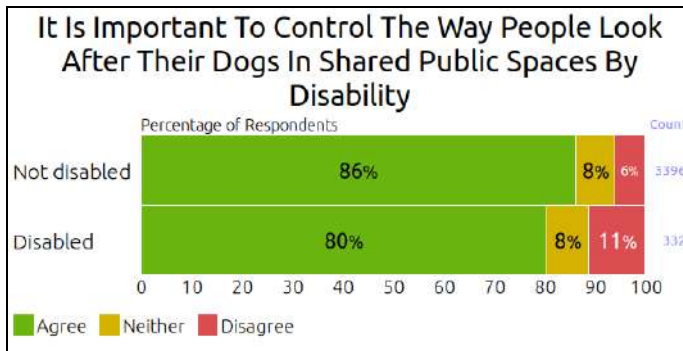


Figure 6.49

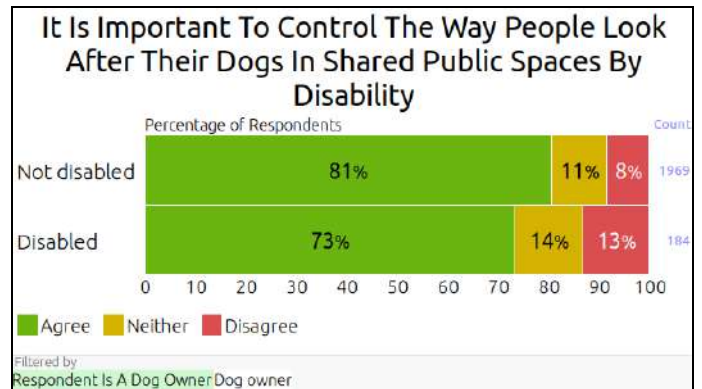


Figure 6.50

6.2.6.3 Ethnicity

Views on this issue vary by ethnicity: Black respondents are more likely than White respondents to agree, whilst respondents from a mixed background and other ethnic groups are less likely to agree.

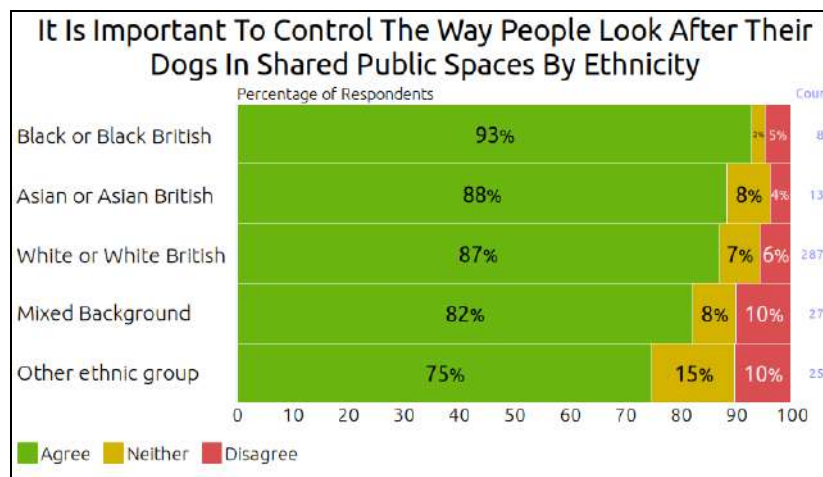


Figure 6.51

87% of all White respondents and 82% of these respondents who own dogs agree, compared to 82% of all respondents from other ethnic backgrounds and 74% of this group who are dog owners.

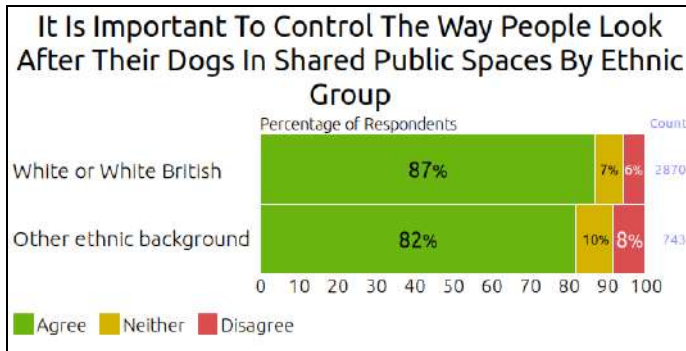


Figure 6.52

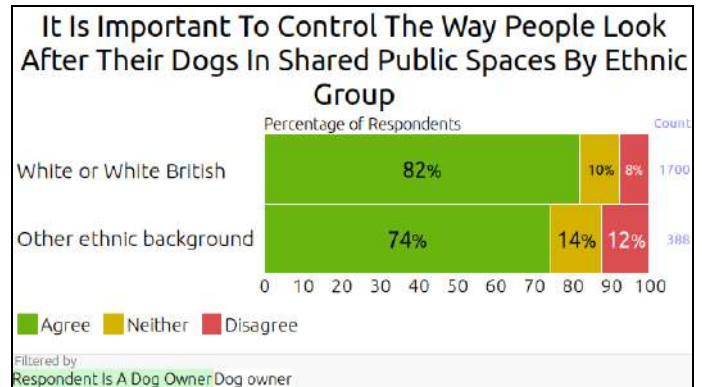


Figure 6.53

6.2.6.4 Sexual Orientation

82% of LGB+ respondents agree with the statement compared to 88% of heterosexual respondents.

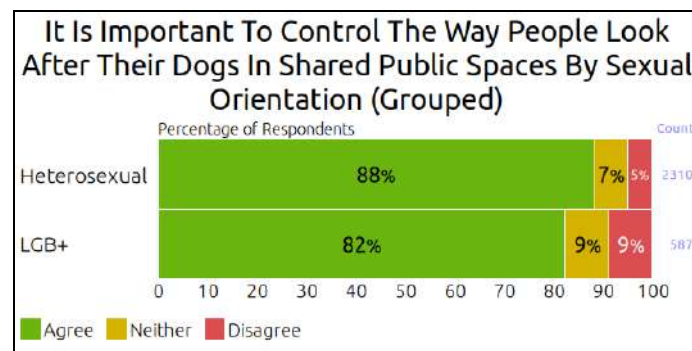


Figure 6.54

6.2.6.5 Postcode Area

Views by postcode area are shown below.

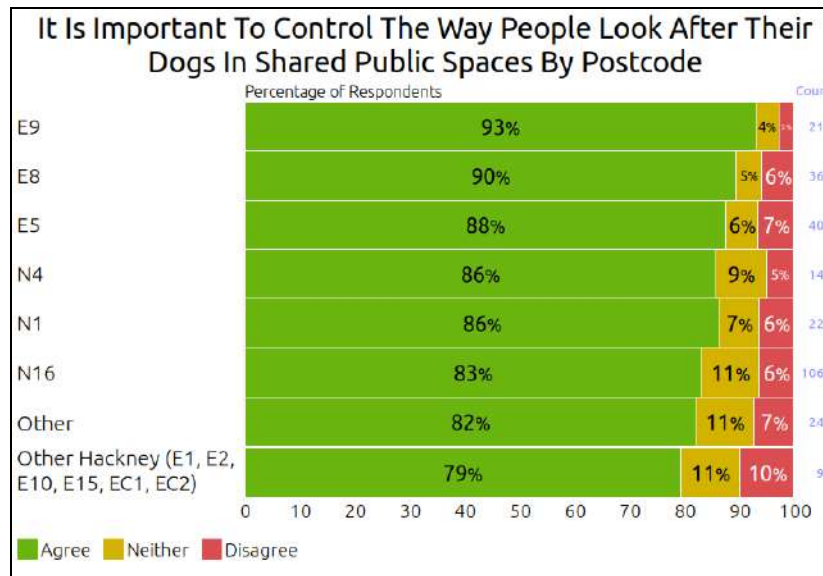


Figure 6.55

When the postcode areas are grouped for further analysis, 89% of respondents in E5, E8 and E9 agree compared to 84% of respondents in N1, N4 and N16. Dog owners in these E postcode areas are also more likely to agree compared to dog owners in these N postcodes (84% compared to 77%). The difference between the views of non-dog owners in these areas is not statistically significant.

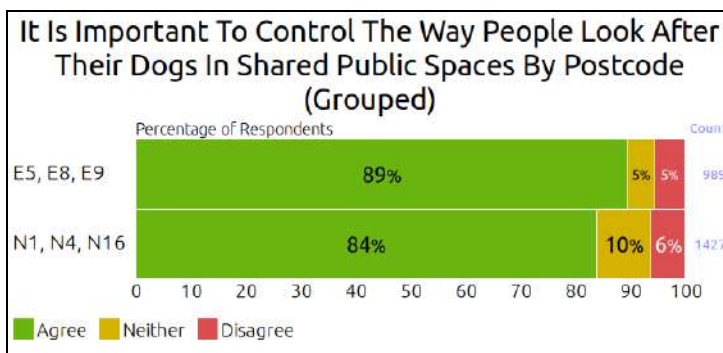


Figure 6.56

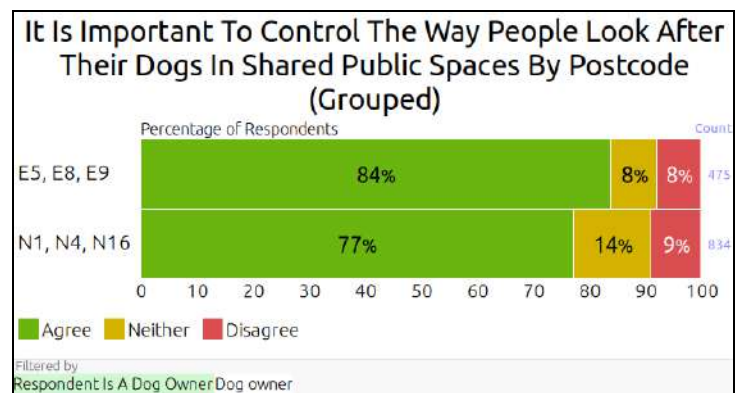


Figure 6.57

6.2.7 Q11: Do You Support The Updates To The Dog Control PSPO As Outlined In The Consultation Information?

6.2.7.1 Age Group

61% of respondents aged 65+ support the updates to the PSPO Control Order. This group is the most supportive of the updates; whilst respondents aged under 35 are least supportive, with 25% in favour. The same pattern of findings can be seen amongst respondents who are not dog owners, with 86% of those aged 65+ supporting the updates compared to 61% of these respondents who are aged under 35.

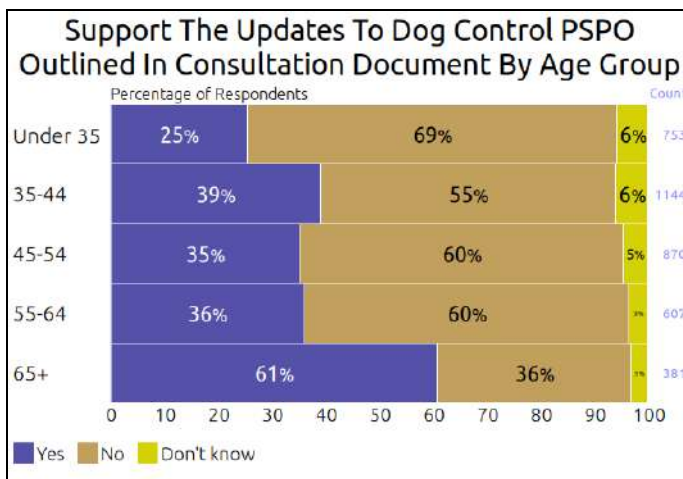


Figure 6.58

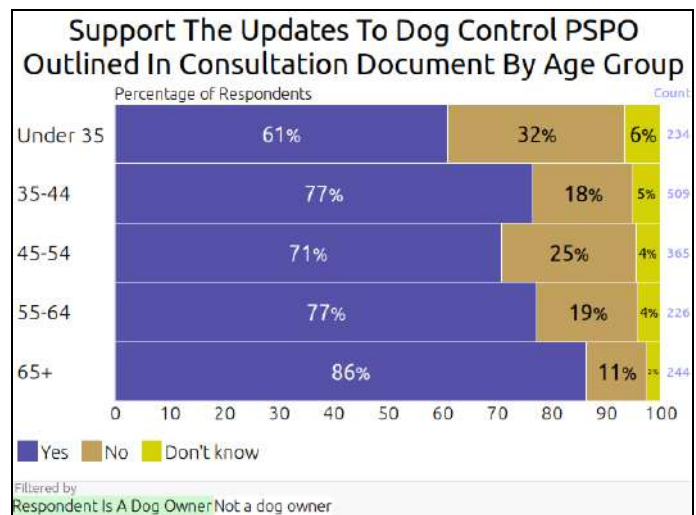


Figure 6.59

In contrast, when the views of dog owners are analysed by age, the difference in their views is not statistically significant.

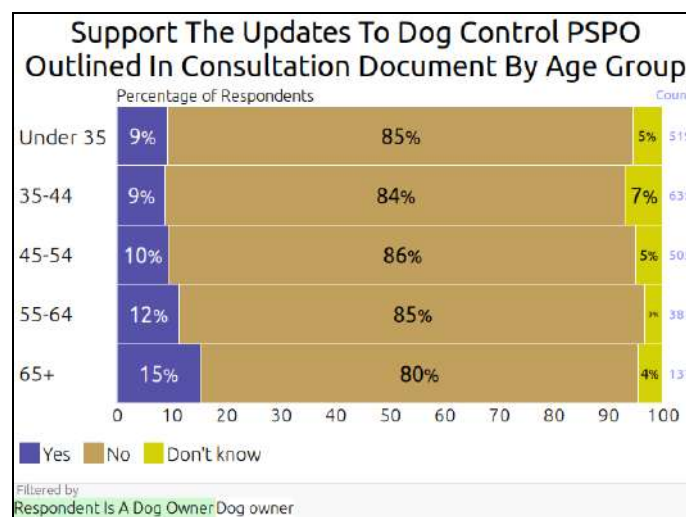


Figure 6.60

6.2.7.2 Caring Responsibilities

50% of respondents with caring responsibilities support the updates to the PSPO compared to 36% of those without these responsibilities.

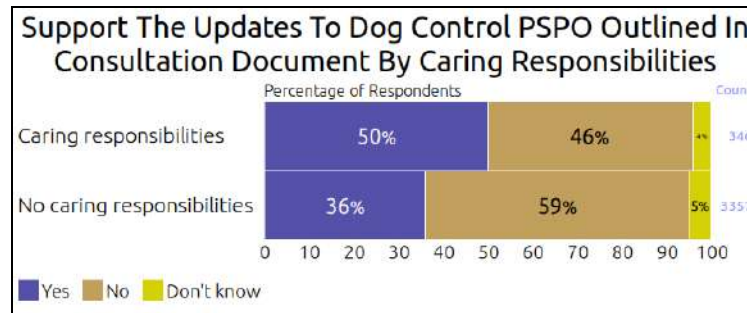


Figure 6.61

6.2.7.3 Ethnicity & Religion

Black and Asian respondents are more supportive of the updates to the dog control PSPO than respondents of other ethnic groups. These respondents are less likely to own dogs and there are insufficient responses for further analysis by dog ownership.

Muslim respondents are more supportive of the updates than those who follow other religions or beliefs (73% support). Again, this group is less likely to own dogs and there are only a small number of Muslim respondents to the consultation.

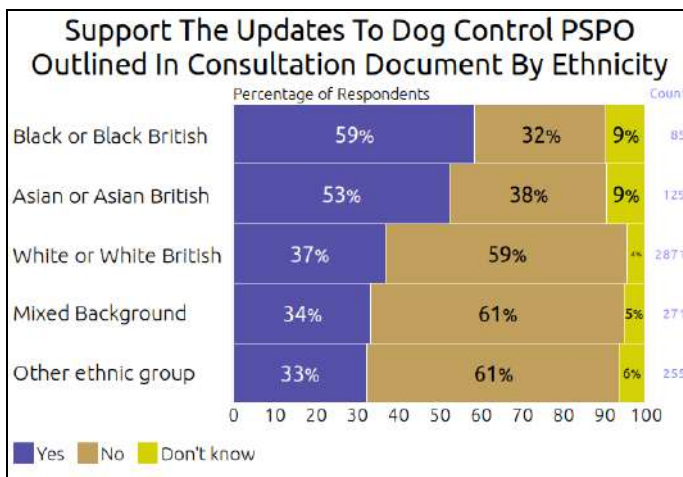


Figure 6.62

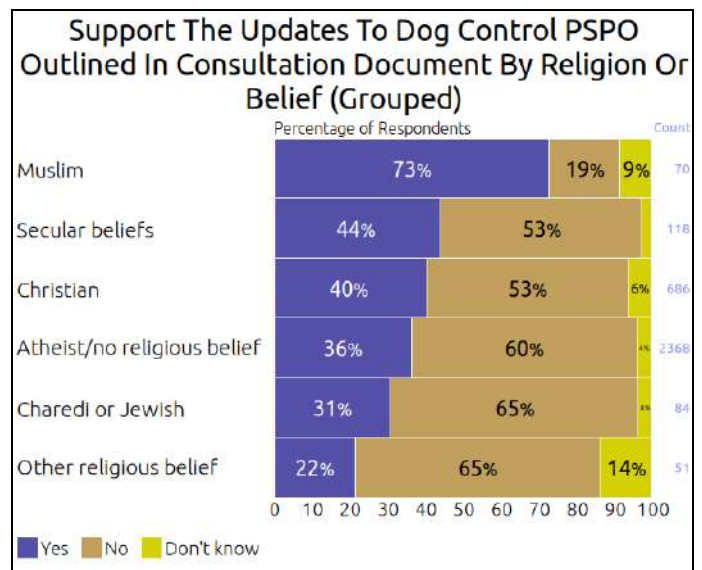


Figure 6.63

6.2.7.4 Sexual Orientation

28% of LGB+ respondents support the updates compared to 41% of heterosexual respondents.

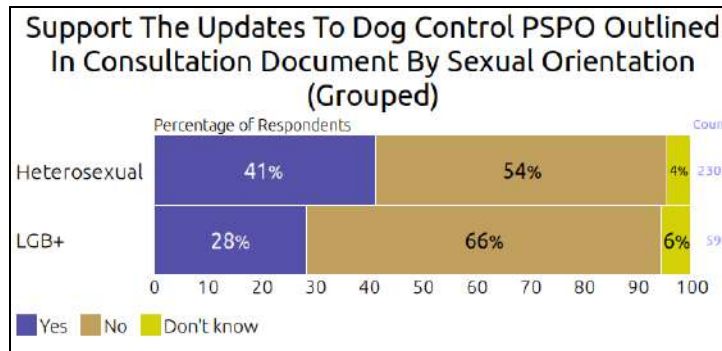


Figure 6.64

Views of heterosexual dog owners are comparable to those of LGB+ dog owners with 11% and 10% respectively supporting the updates. However, there is a difference in views between respondents who do not own dogs: 64% of LGB+ respondents who do not own dogs support the updates compared to 80% of heterosexual respondents who do not have dogs.

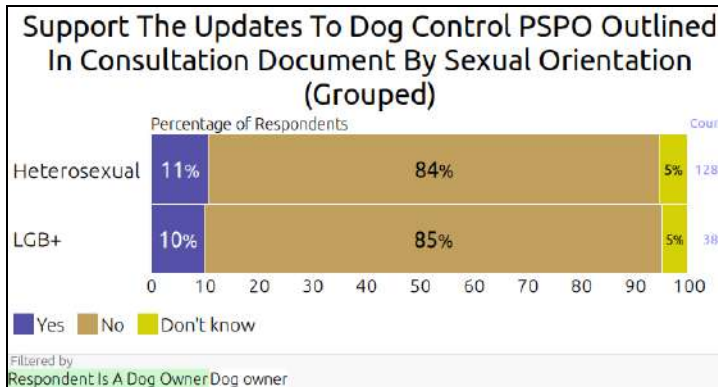


Figure 6.65

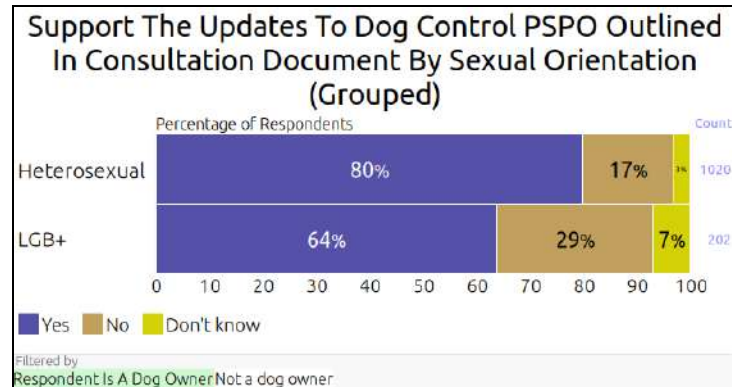


Figure 6.66

6.2.7.5 Housing Tenure

Respondents renting from the council or other social landlord are more likely to support the updates to the PSPO than those in other housing tenures. These are also the groups least likely to own dogs.

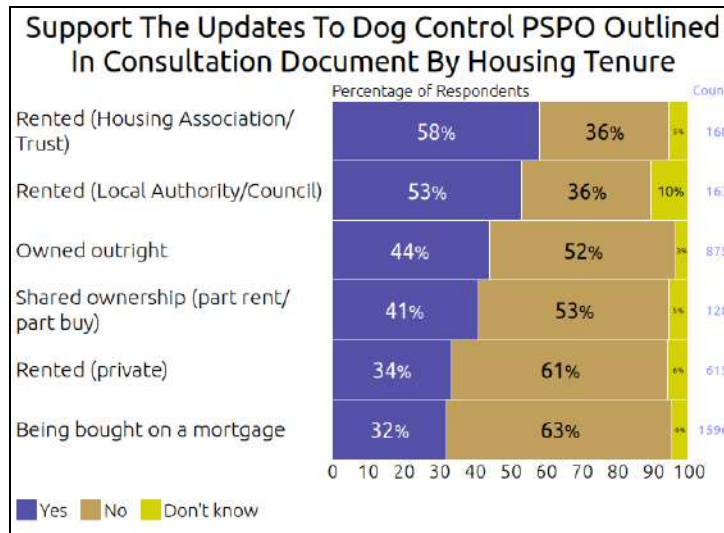


Figure 6.67

6.2.7.6 Postcode Area

49% of respondents in E5, E8 and E9 support the updates compared to 36% of those in N1, N4 and N16. This pattern is also seen in the responses of dog owners in these areas: 18% of those in these E postcodes support the updates compared to 8% in the N postcodes.

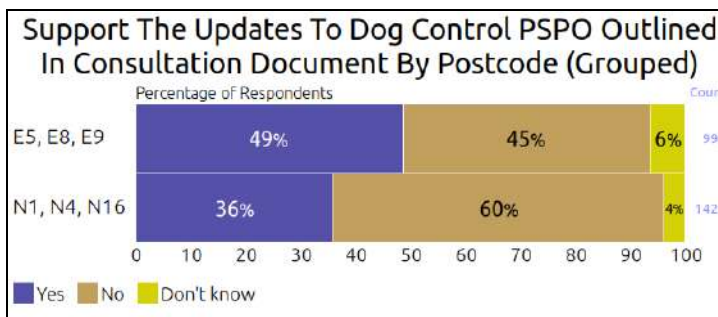


Figure 6.68

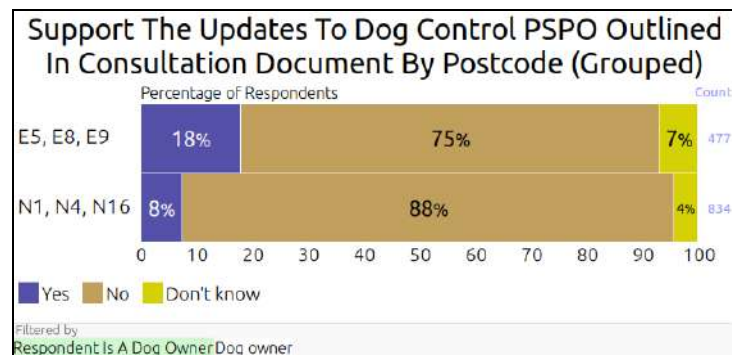


Figure 6.69

In contrast, views of non-dog owners in these postcode areas are very similar (77% and 76% respectively support the updates).

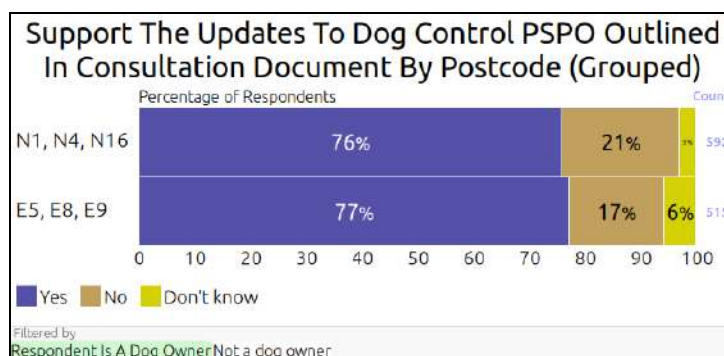


Figure 6.70

6.2.8 Q12: Reasons For Not Supporting Updates To PSPO

6.2.8.1 Dog Owners

The principal reasons given by dog owners for not supporting the updates to the PSPO are Abney Park Cemetery; issues with specific changes in the PSPO; the proposals being too restrictive and punishing responsible owners; and because dogs need exercise. Full details are shown in the graph below.

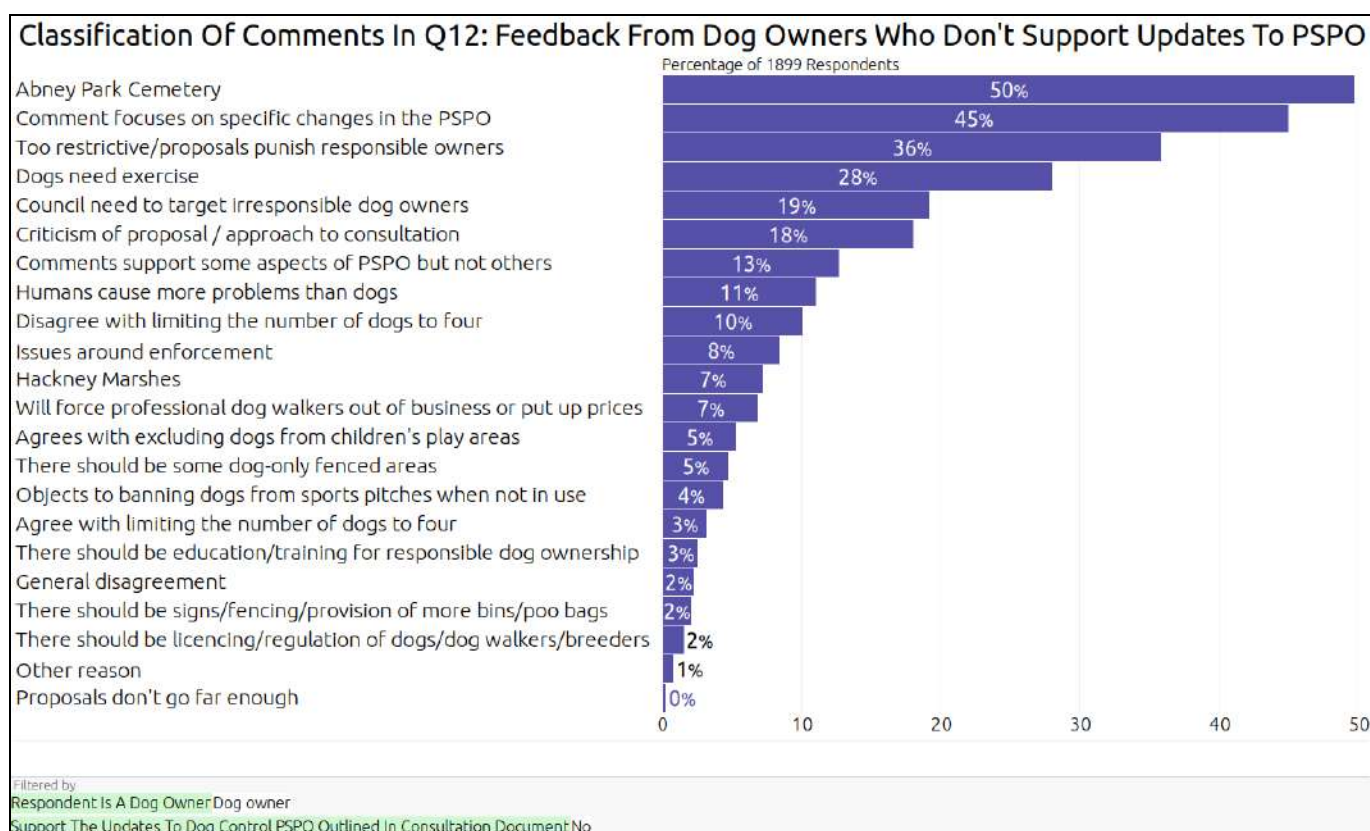


Figure 6.71

6.2.8.2 Non-Dog Owners

The most frequently cited reasons given by non-dog owners for not supporting the updates to the PSPO are also Abney Park Cemetery; issues with specific changes in the PSPO; because dogs need exercise; the proposals being too restrictive and punishing responsible owners.

In each case, these issues are mentioned by a smaller proportion of non-dog owners than dog owners who do not support the changes to the PSPO.

Full details are shown in the graph below.

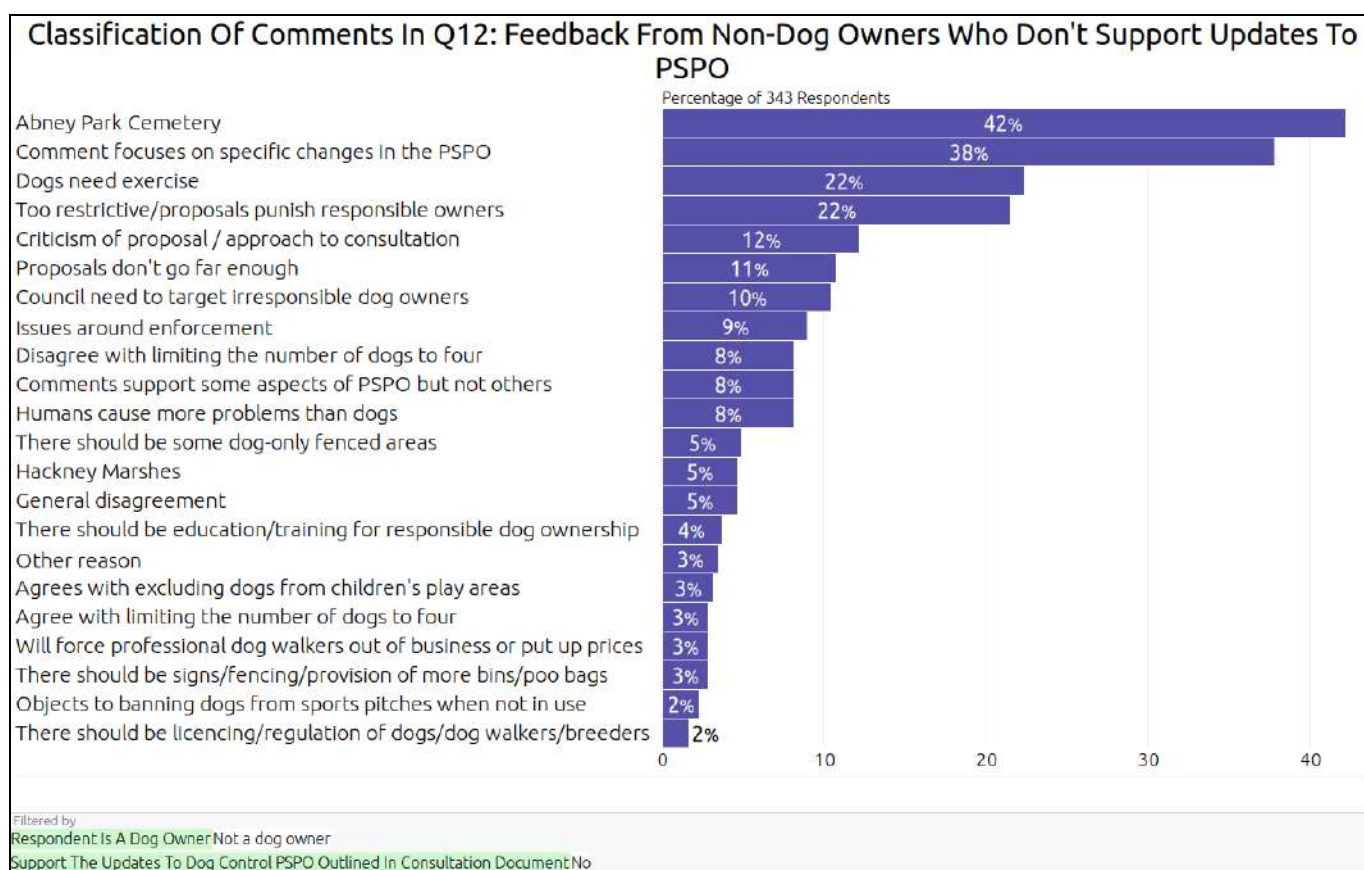


Figure 6.72

6.2.9 Q13: To What Extent Do You Agree Or Disagree With The Proposed New Requirement To Limit The Number Of Dogs That A Person Can Have Under Their Control/Walk At Any One Time To Four?

6.2.9.1 Age Group

44% of respondents aged under 35 agree with the new requirements compared to 79% of respondents aged 65+. Older dog owners are also more likely to agree with the new requirements than their younger counterparts.

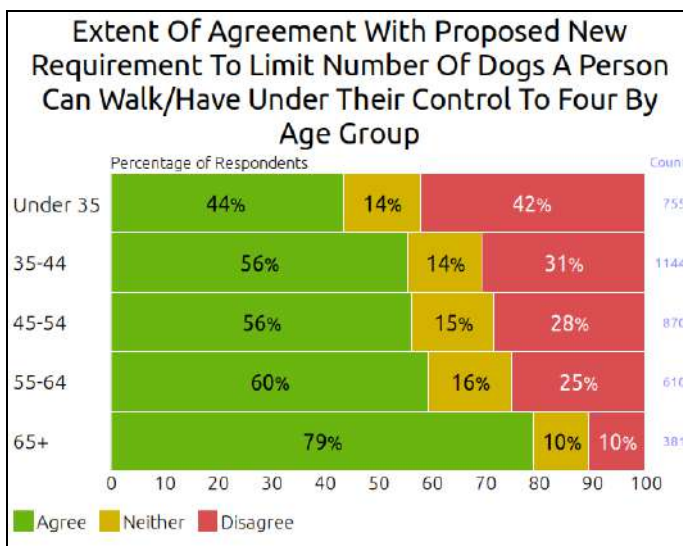


Figure 6.73

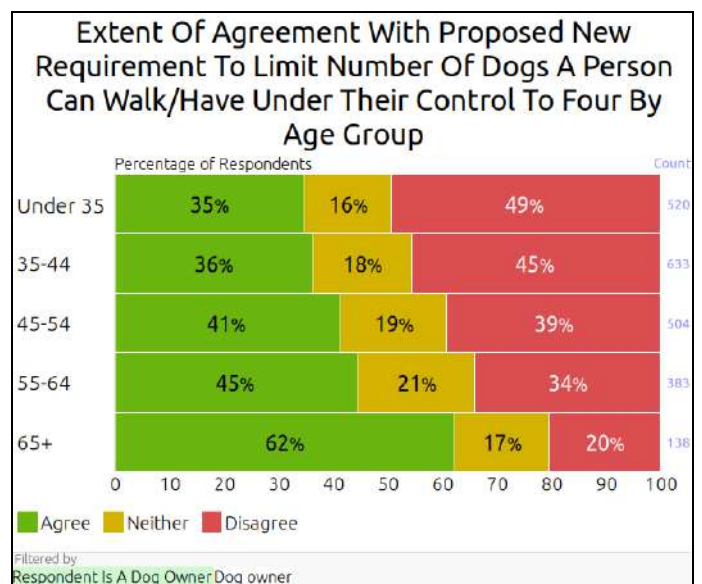


Figure 6.74

Among non-dog owners, those aged under 35 are also least likely to agree with the new requirements.

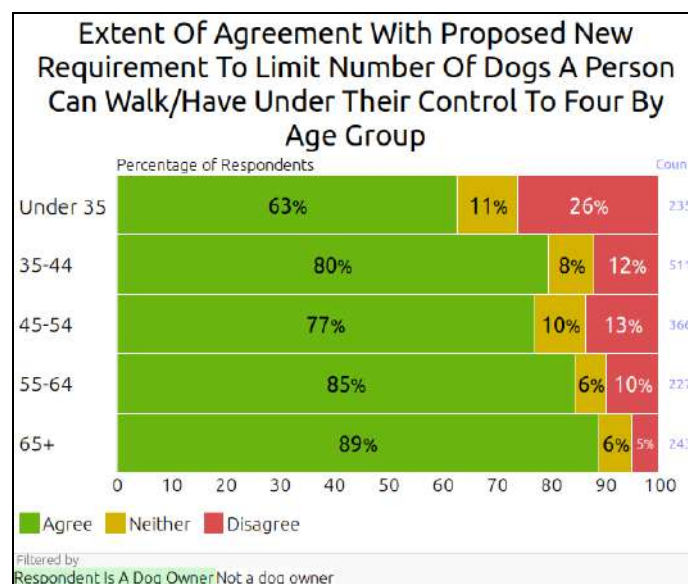


Figure 6.75

6.2.9.2 Caring Responsibilities

63% of respondents with caring responsibilities agree with limiting the number of dogs to four compared to 56% of respondents without such responsibilities.

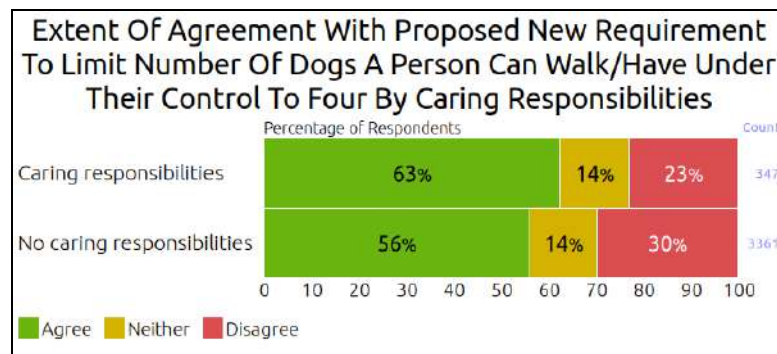


Figure 6.76

6.2.9.3 Ethnicity & Religion

Black and Asian respondents are more likely to support the restriction on the number of dogs compared to respondents of other ethnicities. However, there are only a small number of Black and Asian respondents to the consultation.

Muslim respondents are also more likely than those who follow other religions or beliefs to support the new requirement but, again, there are only a small number of replies from this group.

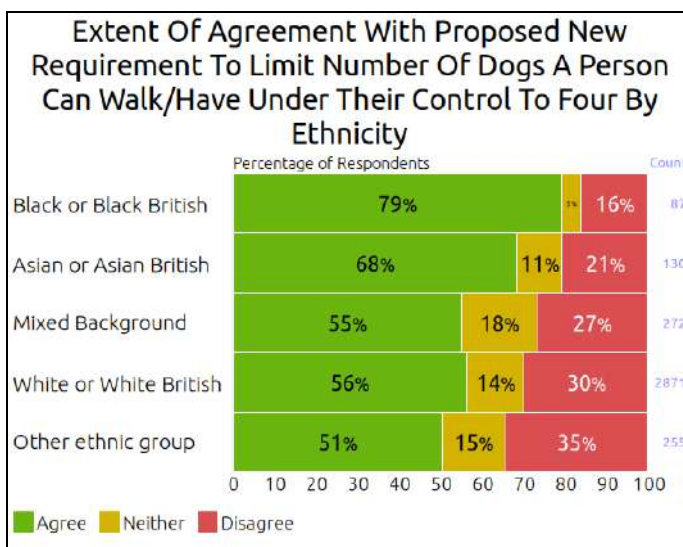


Figure 6.77

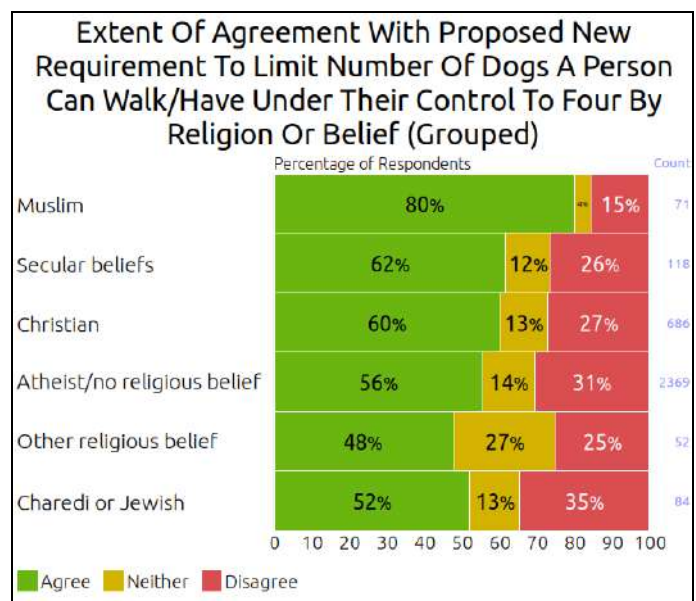


Figure 6.78

6.2.9.4 Sexual Orientation

51% of LGB+ respondents agree with the new requirement compared to 59% of heterosexual respondents. This pattern can also be seen in the views of non-dog owners, with 72% of these LGB+ respondents agreeing with the requirements compared to 83% of heterosexual respondents who do not own a dog.

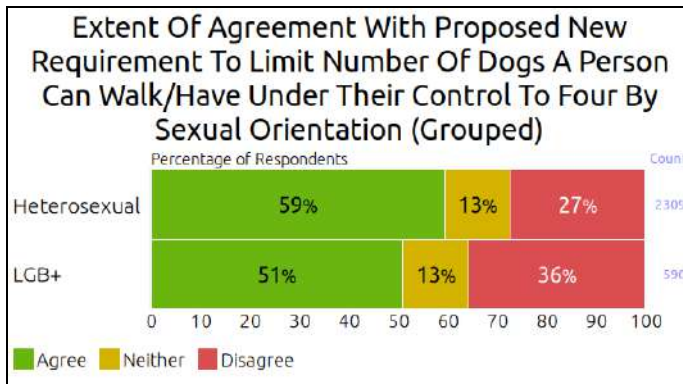


Figure 6.79

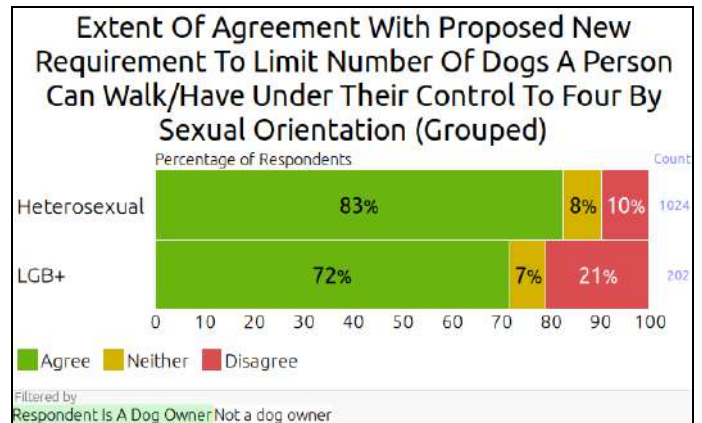


Figure 6.80

However, in contrast, the views of heterosexual dog owners are in line with those of LGB+ dog owners.

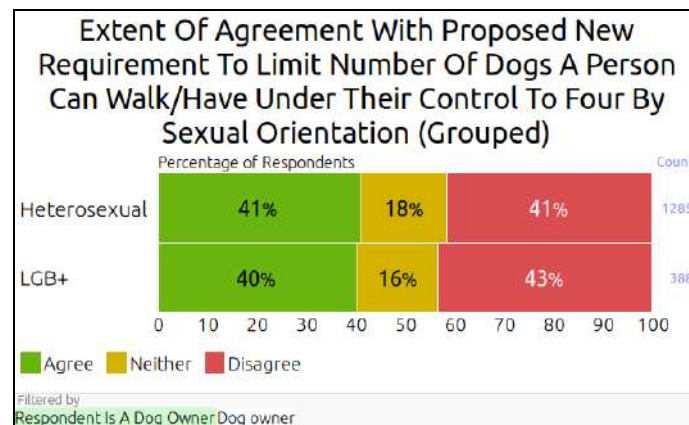


Figure 6.81

6.2.9.5 Postcode Area

62% of respondents who live in E5, E8 and E9 postcode areas agree with the new restriction on the maximum number of dogs compared to 56% of those who live in N1, N4 and N16.

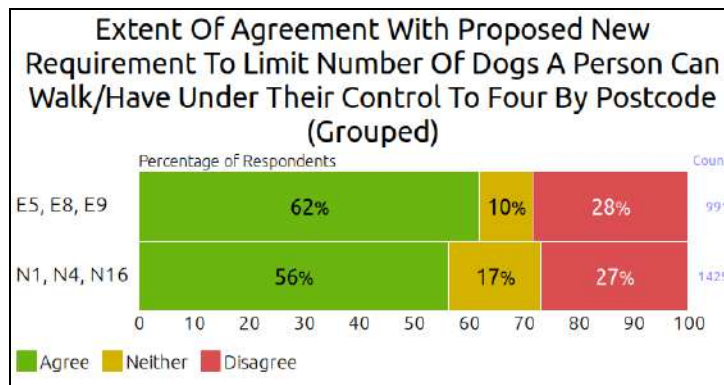


Figure 6.82

Although 41% of dog owners in each of these postcode areas agree with the proposal, a higher proportion of those in the E postcodes *disagree*. The difference in views of non-dog owners in these areas is not statistically significant.

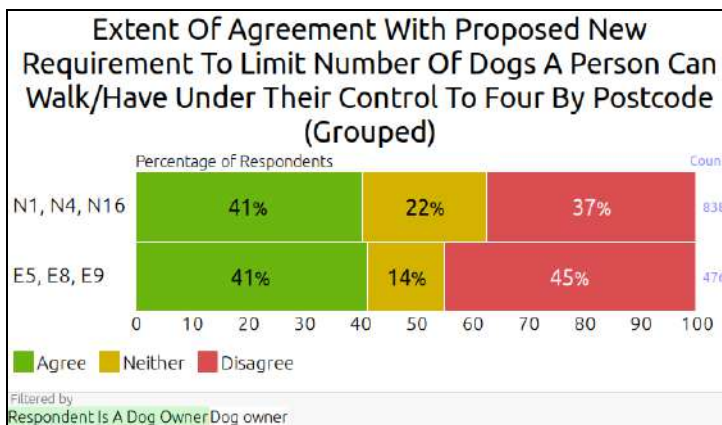


Figure 6.83

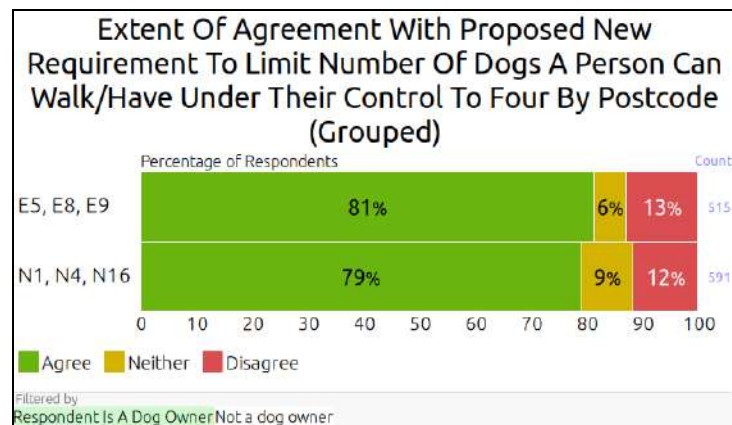


Figure 6.84

6.2.10 Q14: Reasons For Disagreement With The Maximum Number Of Dogs

Respondents who 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' with the proposal to limit the maximum number of dogs were asked to explain the reasons for their views.

6.2.10.1 Dog Owners

The most common themes in the comments from dog owners who disagree with restricting the maximum number of dogs to four are that professional dog walkers do not cause any problems in the area along with concerns about the financial impact on professional walkers and dog day care businesses.

Full details of these respondents' views can be found in the graph below.

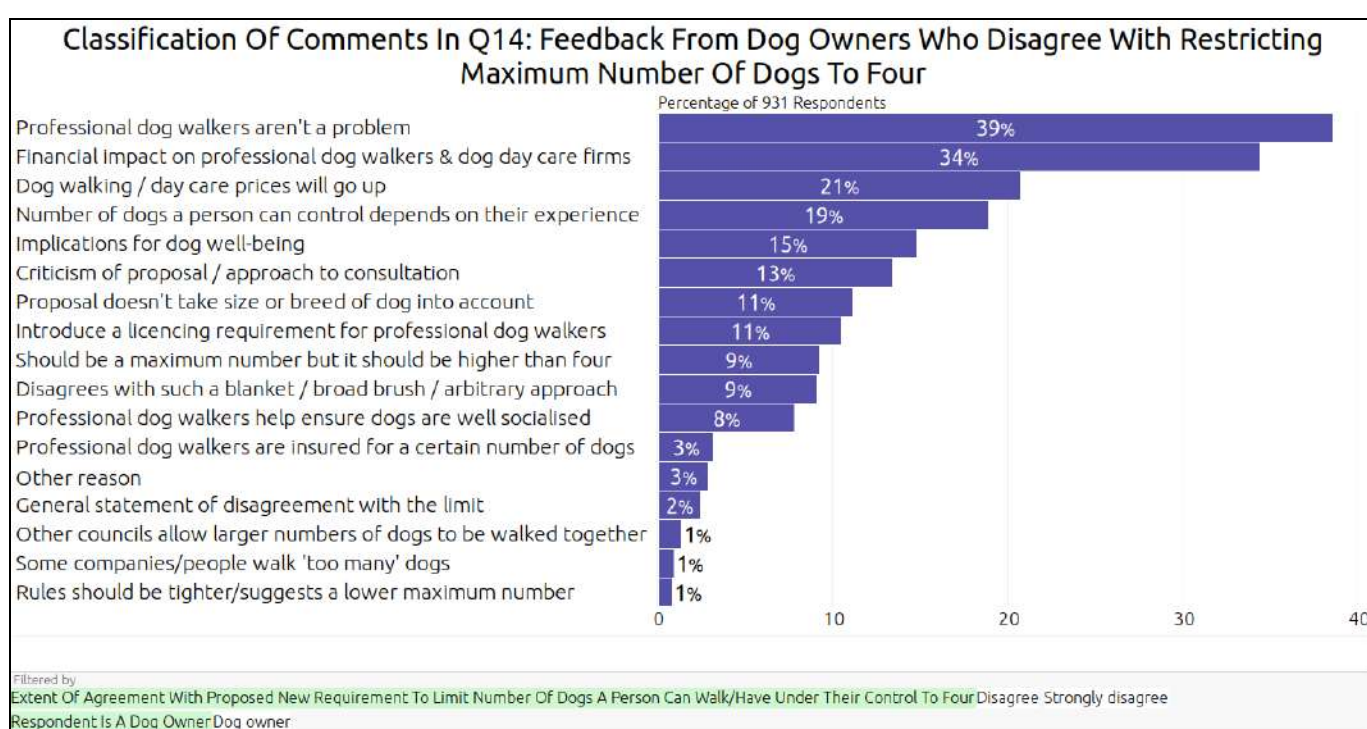


Figure 6.85

6.2.10.2 Non-Dog Owners

Non-dog owners who disagree with limiting the maximum number of dogs also say that professional walkers do not cause an issue in their area. The second most frequent theme in these respondents' comments is that the number of dogs a person can control depends on their experience.

Full details are shown in the graph below.

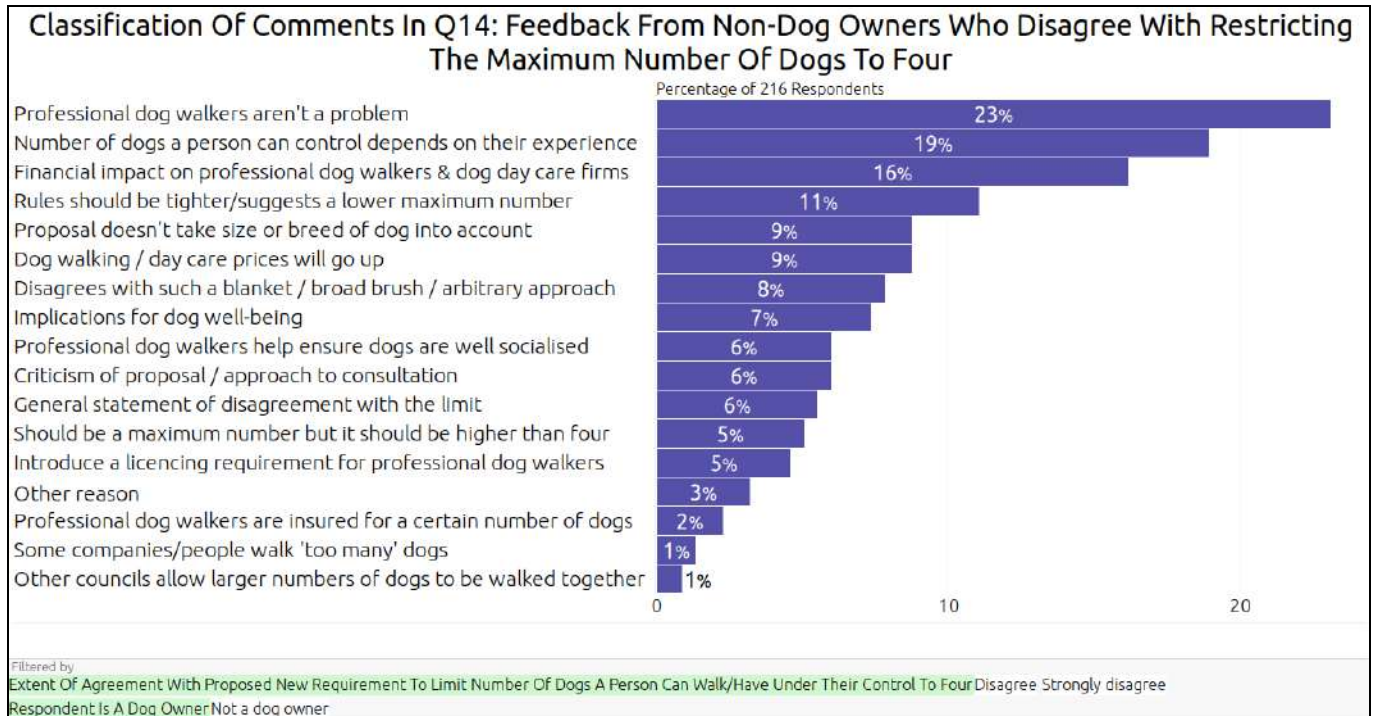


Figure 6.86

6.2.10.3 Professional Dog Walkers

Almost half of professional dog walkers who disagree with the proposed limit on the number of dogs they can walk mention the financial impact of this decision on their business. The same proportion also stress that the number of dogs a person can control depends on their experience.

Full details of the views of professional dog walkers are shown in the graph below.

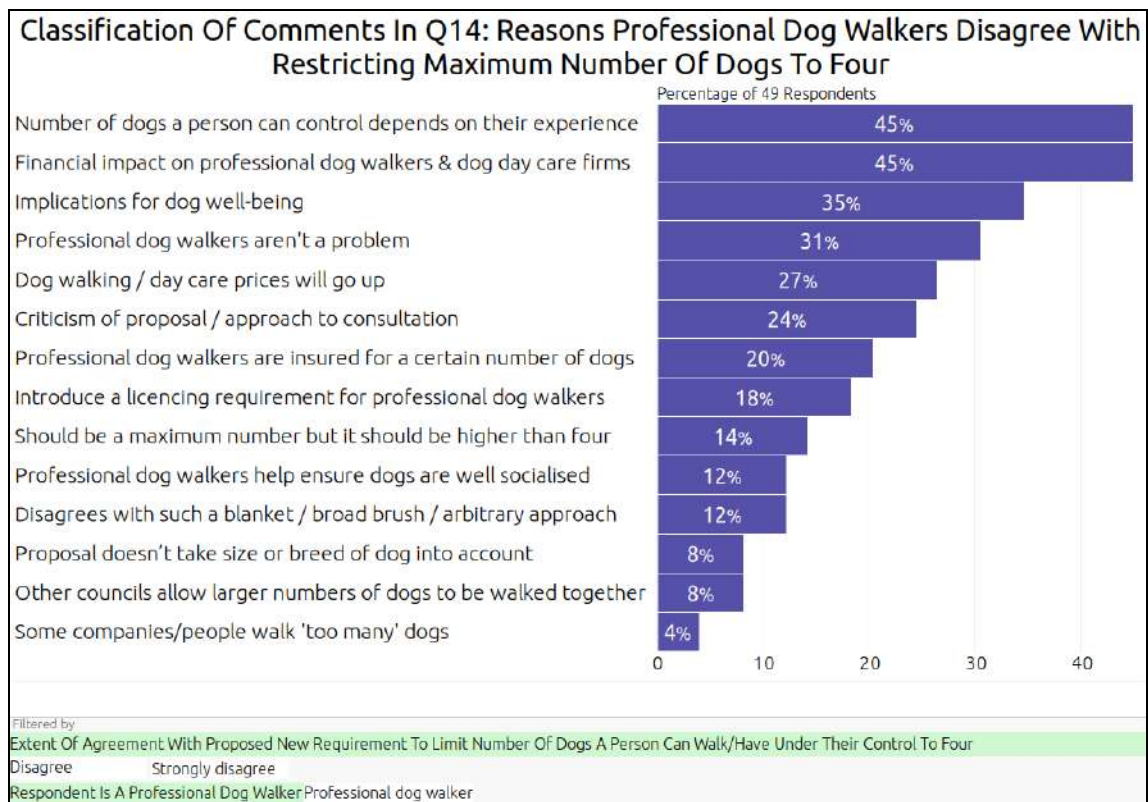


Figure 6.87

6.2.11 Q16: Has The Current Dog Control PSPO Had A Negative Impact On You In Any Way?

6.2.11.1 Age Group

21% of respondents aged under 35 say that the current PSPO has had a negative impact on them.

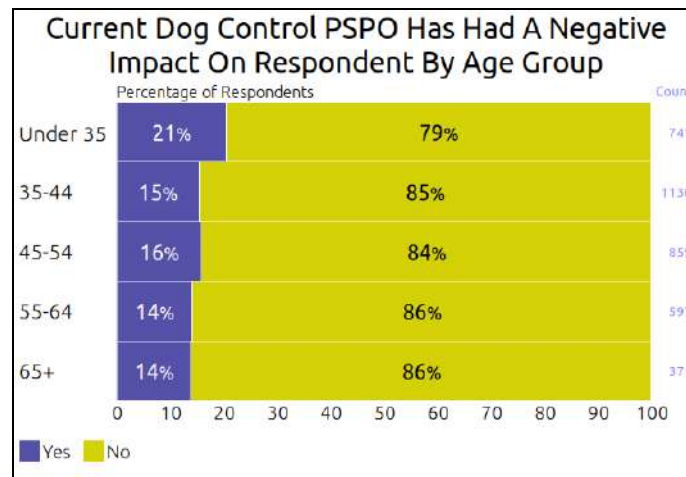


Figure 6.88

6.2.11.2 Disability

25% of disabled respondents say the current control order has had a negative impact on them compared to 15% of respondents who are not disabled. This difference in opinion is also true for disabled dog owners: 32% report a negative impact compared to 19% of dog owners without a disability.

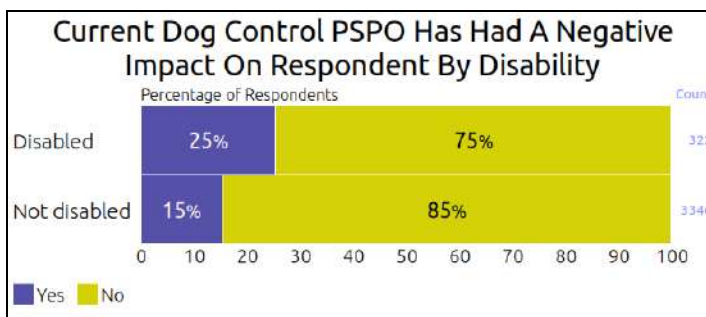


Figure 6.89

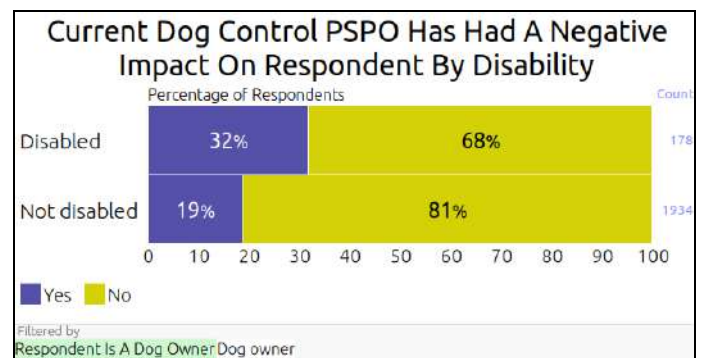


Figure 6.90

6.2.11.3 Caring Responsibilities

21% of respondents with caring responsibilities say the current PSPO has had a negative effect on them compared to 16% of respondents without these responsibilities.

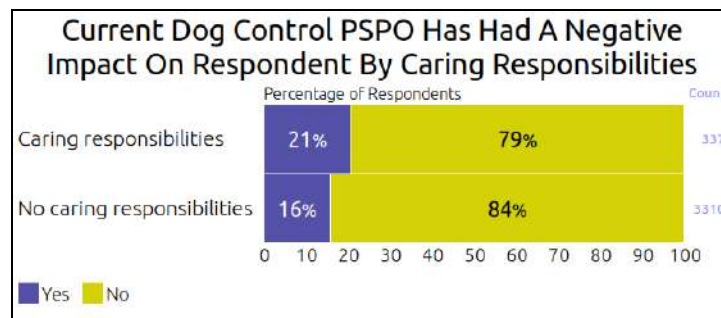


Figure 6.91

6.2.11.4 Ethnicity

15% of White respondents say that the current PSPO has had a negative impact on them compared to 21% of respondents from other ethnic backgrounds. The same is true for White dog owners: 18% say the current order has had a negative effect on them compared to 27% of dog owners from other ethnic backgrounds.

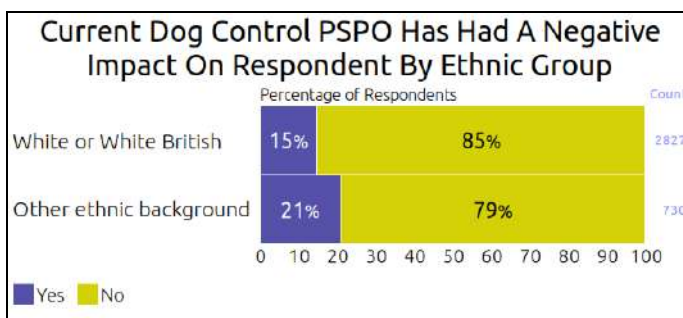


Figure 6.92

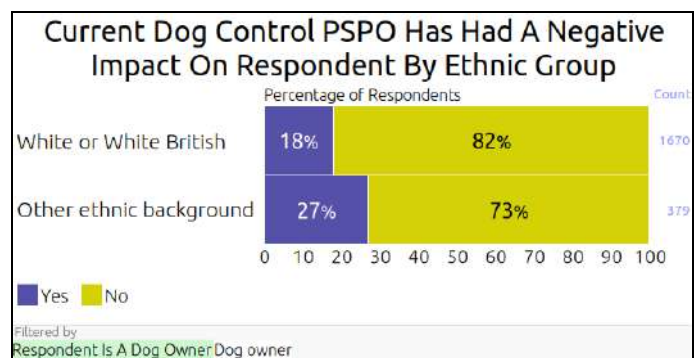


Figure 6.93

6.2.11.5 Sexual Orientation

20% of LGB+ respondents believe that the current PSPO has had a negative effect on them compared to 14% of heterosexual respondents. This is also the same for LGB+ respondents who are dog owners: 24% consider the current order to have had a negative impact compared to 17% of heterosexual respondents.

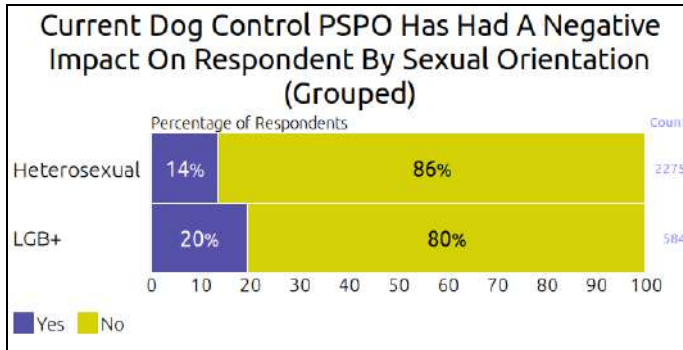


Figure 6.94

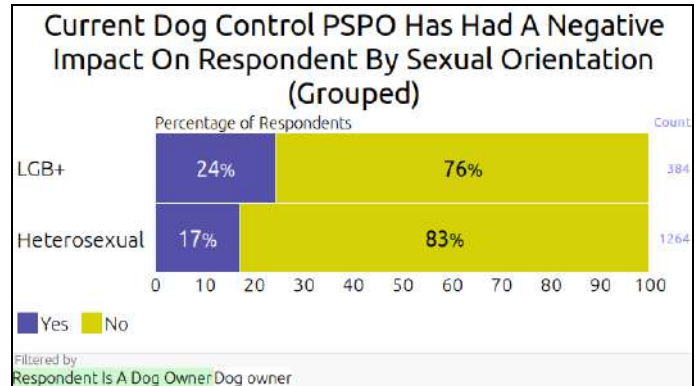


Figure 6.95

6.2.12 Q17: Reasons Current PSPO Control Order Has Had A Negative Impact

Respondents, who said 'yes', the current PSPO control order has had a negative effect on them, were asked to explain the nature of this impact. There appears to have been some confusion around these questions because 22% of all these respondents made comments relating to the proposed *changes* to the PSPO rather than the impact of the existing order.

6.2.12.1 Dog Owners

Dog owners' comments focused primarily on the limitations to where and how they can walk their dogs as well as giving feedback on how the changes to the PSPO would negatively affect them.

Full details are shown in the graph below.

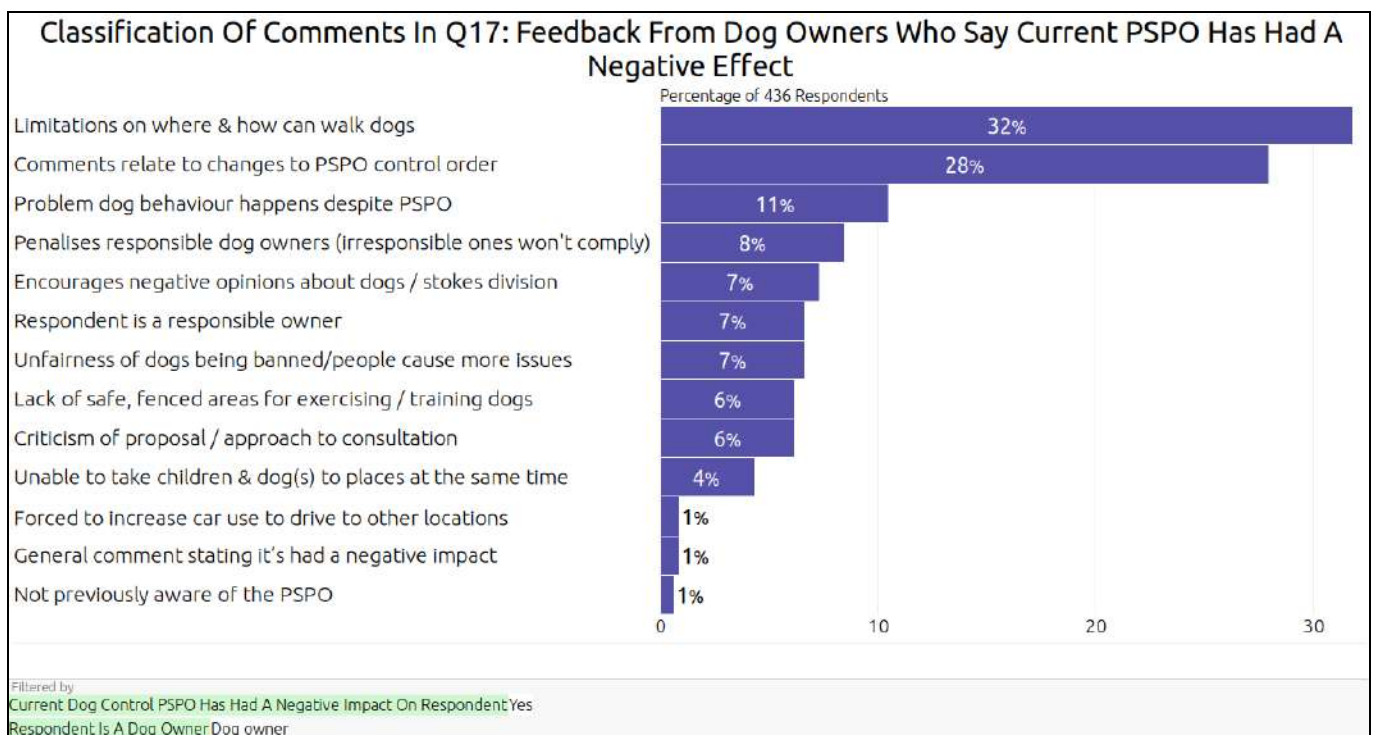


Figure 6.96

6.2.12.2 Non-Dog Owners

The majority of comments from non-dog owners, who say the current PSPO has had a negative impact on them, relate to problem dog behaviour that still happens despite the control order.

Full details are shown below.

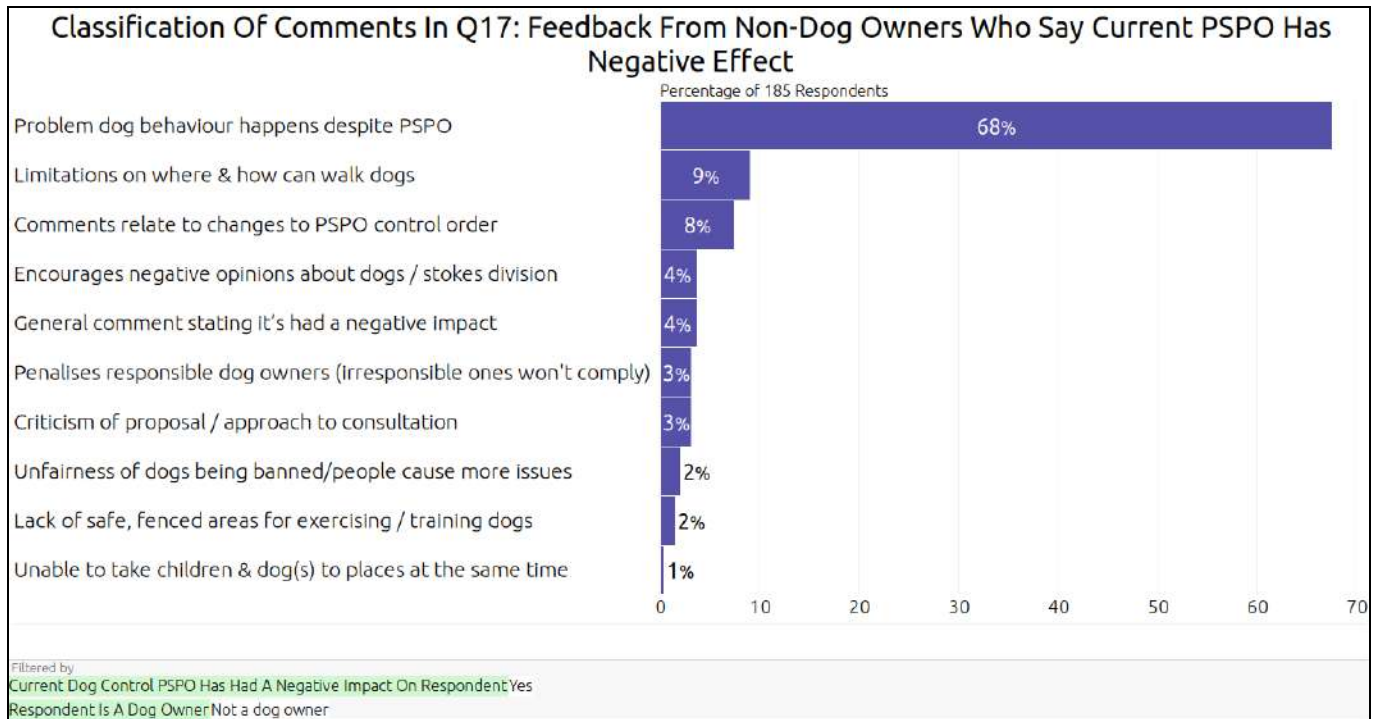


Figure 6.97

6.2.13 Q18: Do You Have Any Other Comments On Dog Control Or The Dog Control PSPO In General?

6.2.13.1 Dog Owners

The most common themes in the additional comments from dog owners are:

- that the proposal punishes responsible owners;
- Abney Park Cemetery;
- that the Council needs to target irresponsible owners;
- criticism of the proposal and council's approach to the consultation;
- and issues around enforcement.

Full details of all the themes in these comments are shown in the graph below.

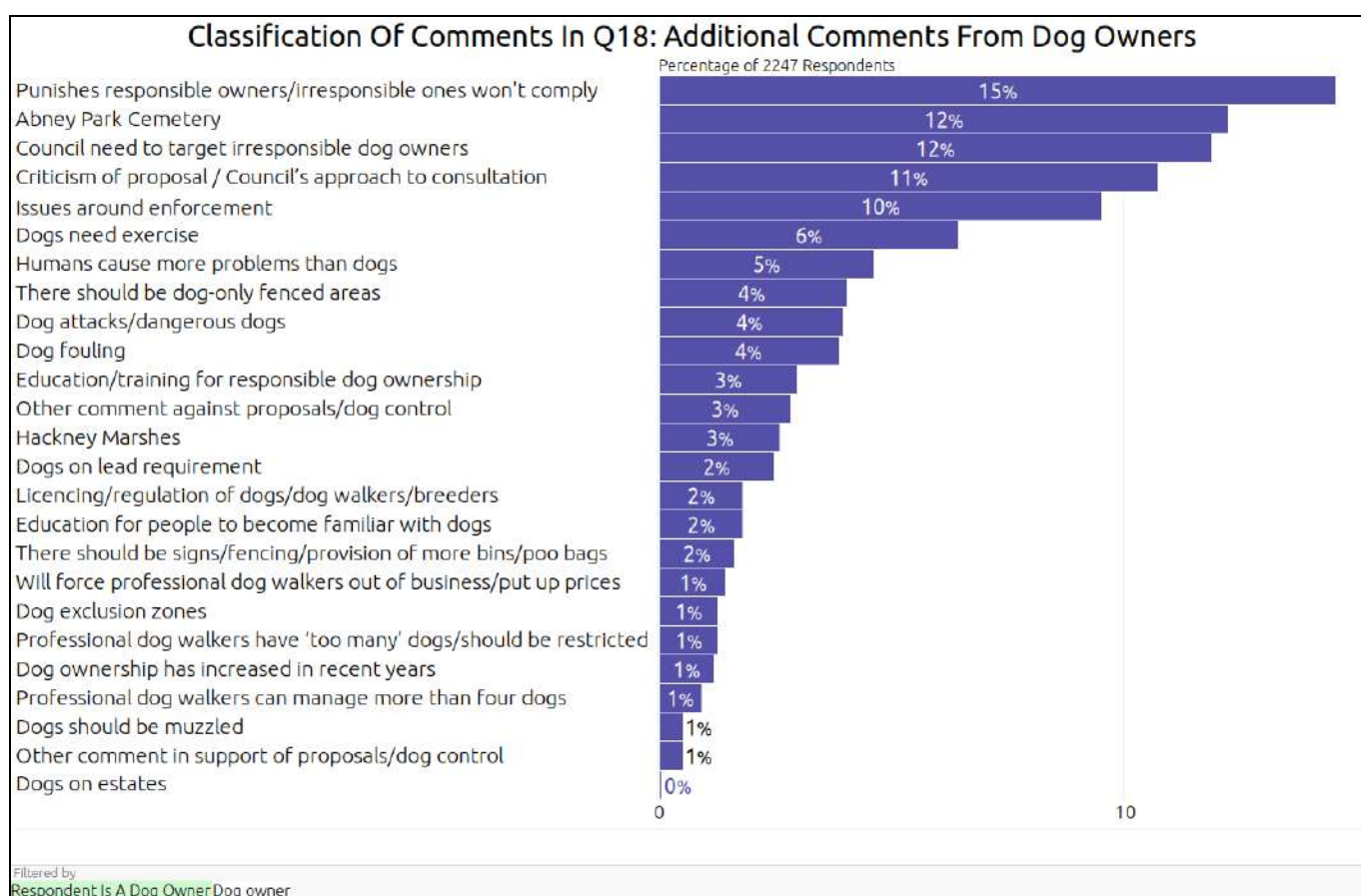


Figure 6.98

6.2.13.2 Non-Dog Owners

For respondents who do not own dogs, the most frequent themes in the qualitative feedback are:

- issues around enforcement;
- dog fouling;
- the dogs on leads requirement;
- Abney Park Cemetery;
- that the Council need to tackle irresponsible owners;
- and other comments in support of dog control.

The graph below shows all the themes in the additional comments from non-dog owners.

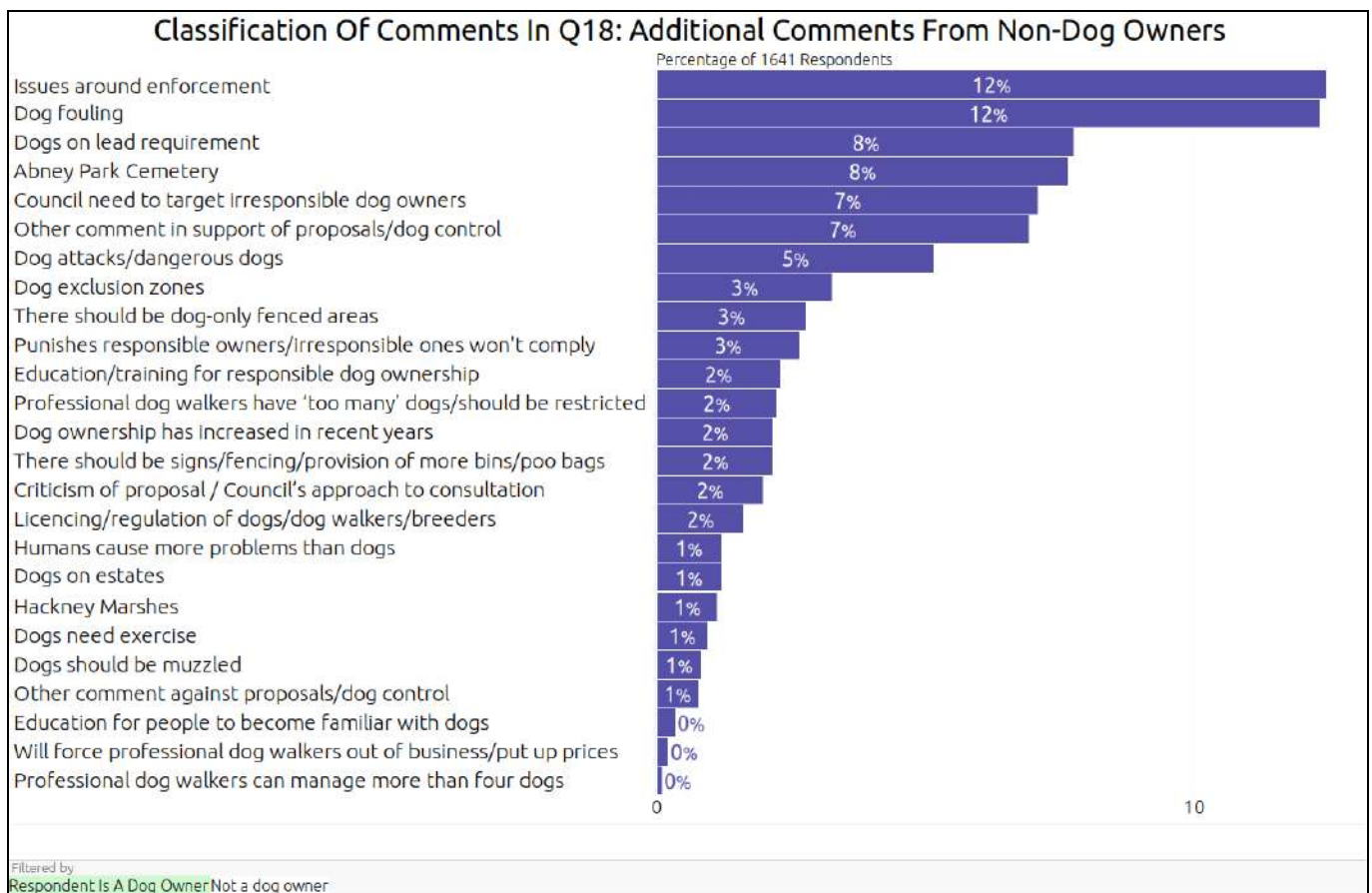


Figure 6.99

6.3 Abney Park Cemetery

The following graphs showing the proportion of respondents from different groups mentioning Abney Park in their comments.

6.3.1 Dog Owners

45% of dog owners made comments that included reference to Abney Park compared to 15% of respondents who do not own a dog.

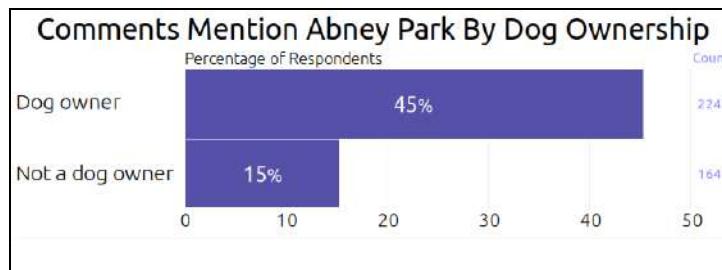


Figure 6.100

6.3.2 Respondents From N16

56% of respondents in N16 mentioned Abney Park in at least one of the qualitative feedback questions in the consultation.

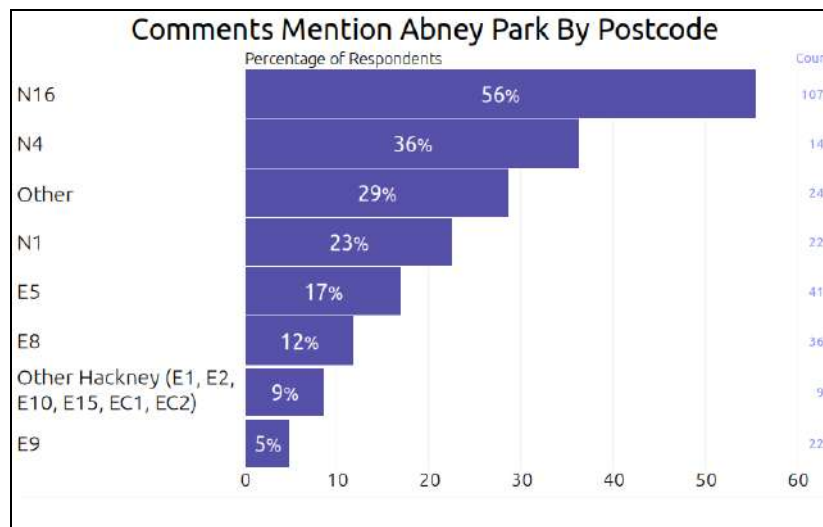


Figure 6.101

6.3.3 Age Group

44% of 55-64 year olds and 37% of 45-54 year olds commented on Abney Park in their response to the consultation.

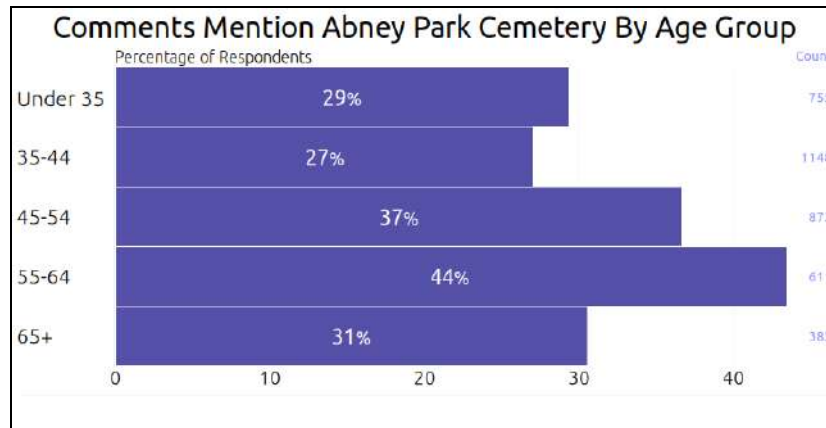


Figure 6.102

6.4 Classification Of Comments About Abney Park

6.4.1 All Respondents

16% of all respondents to the consultation made comments about Abney Park being a particularly suitable area for dogs to be exercised off the lead, whilst 14% said that they do not consider dogs to be an issue in the cemetery. 10% of all respondents explicitly stated that they walk a dog in Abney Park and 9% were critical of the proposal or the council's approach to the consultation in connection with Abney Park.

Full details of the themes in the comments from all respondents are shown in the graph below.

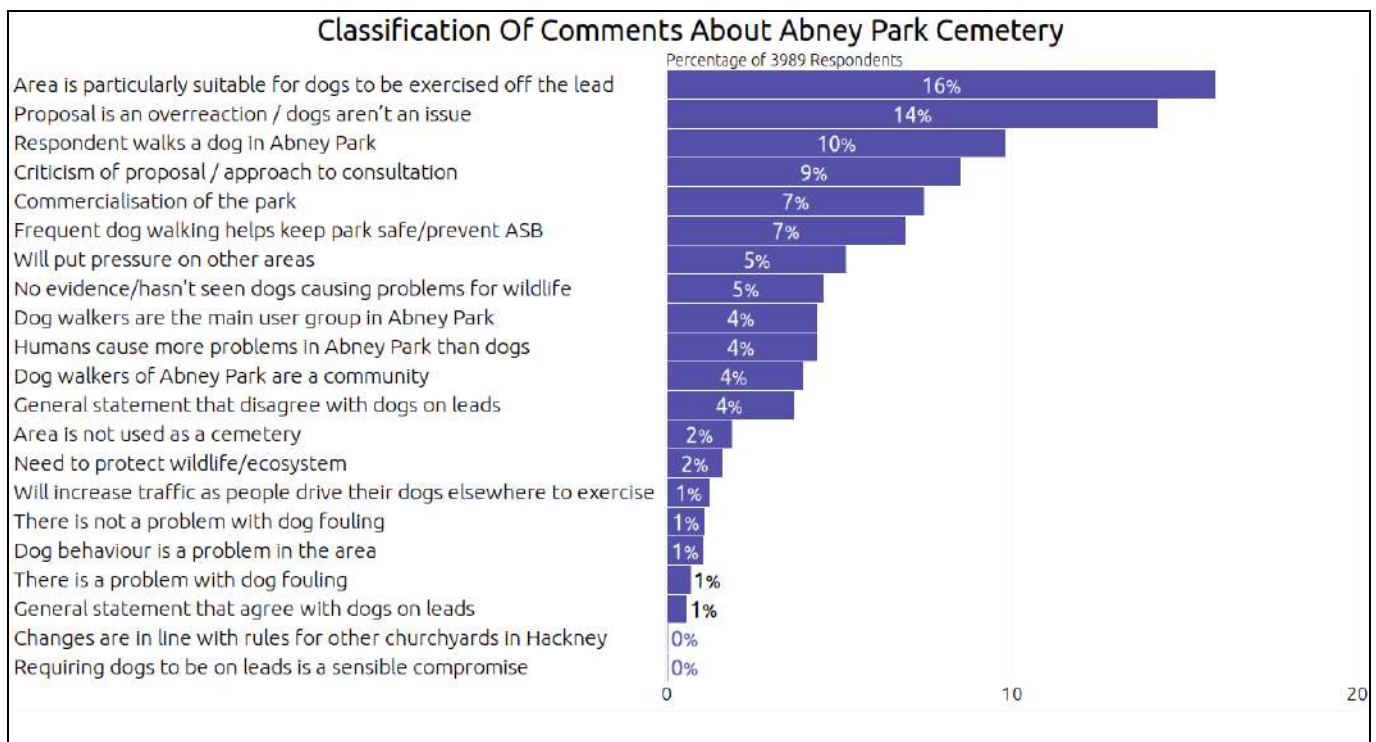


Figure 6.103

6.4.2 Dog Owners

23% of dog owners responding to the consultation made comments about Abney Park being a particularly suitable location for off-lead exercise, whilst 20% do not consider dogs to be an issue in the cemetery. In the feedback provided, 14% of dog owners made it clear that they walk a dog in Abney Park. 11% are critical of the proposal to require dogs on leads in the area or the approach the council has taken to the consultation, 10% made comments about the commercialisation of the park, and 9% stated their belief that frequent dog walking keeps the area safe and helps prevent anti-social behaviour.

Full details of all the themes in the qualitative feedback about Abney Park are shown in the graph below.

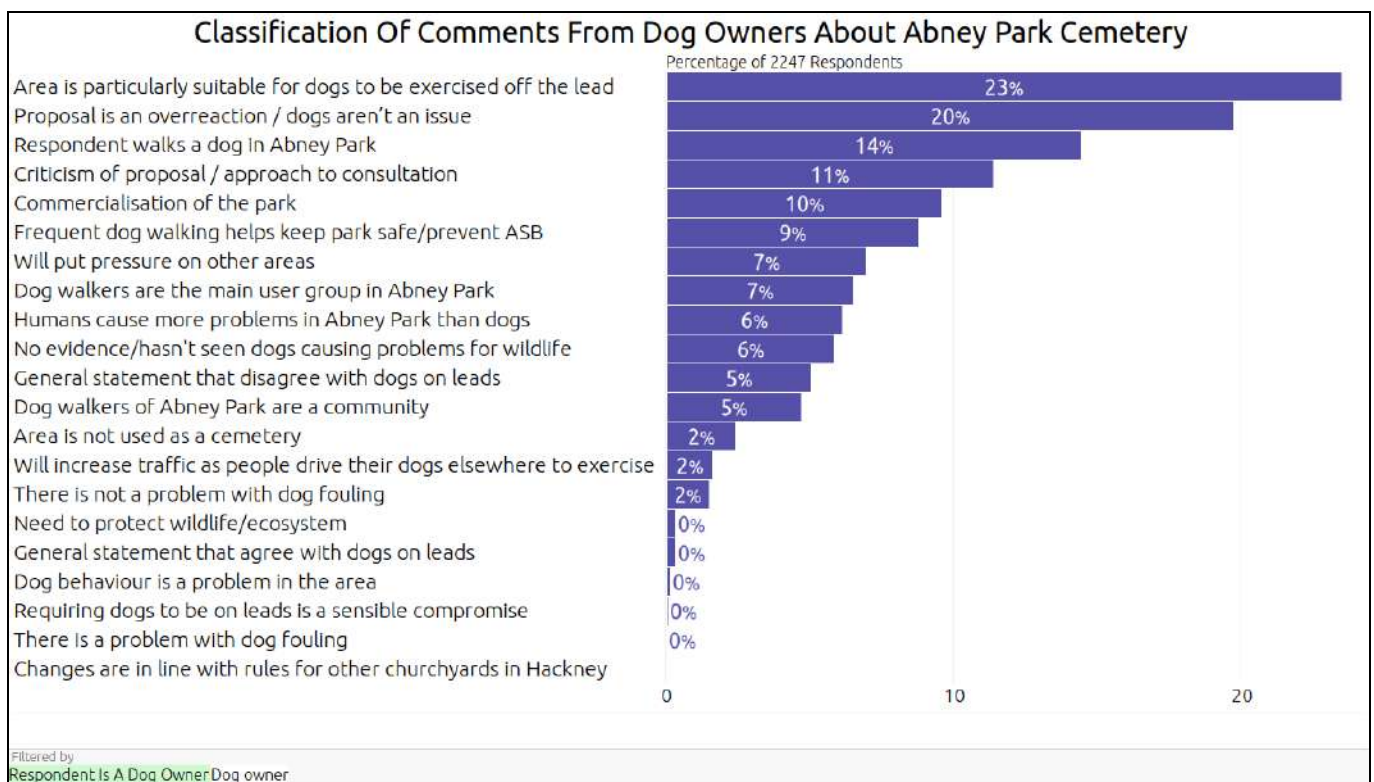


Figure 6.104

6.4.3 Respondents In N16 Postcode Area

24% of all those who gave a N16 postcode when responding to the consultation, made comments about Abney Park being a particularly suitable location for dogs to be exercised off the lead, whilst 23% do not consider dogs to be an issue in the cemetery. 16% of all these respondents made it clear in their comments that they walk a dog in Abney Park. 12% are critical of the proposal to require dogs on leads in the area or the approach the council has taken to the consultation, 12% made comments about the commercialisation of the park, whilst 10% stated their belief that frequent dog walking keeps the area safe and helps prevent anti-social behaviour.

Full details of all the themes in the qualitative feedback from these respondents that relates to Abney Park are shown in the graph below.

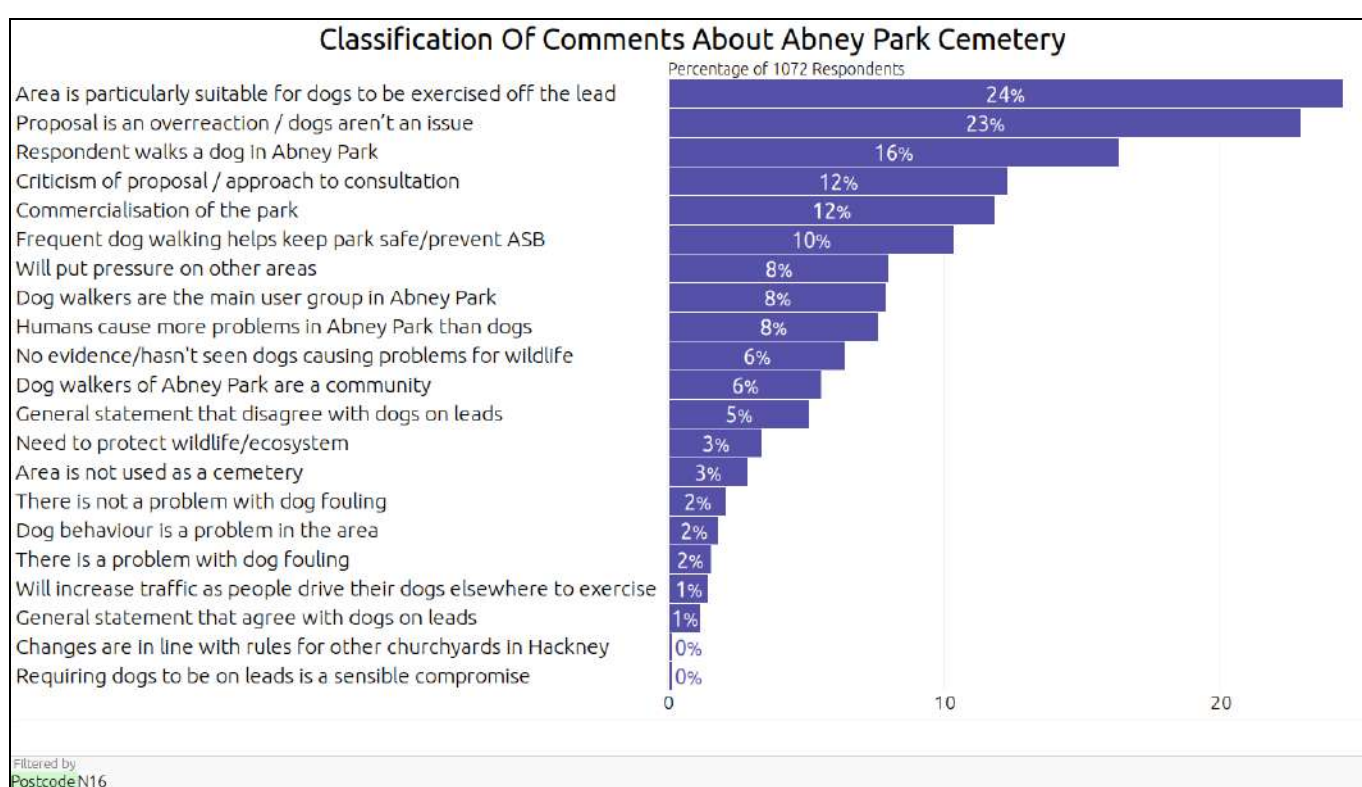


Figure 6.105

6.4.4 Respondents Who Explicitly State They Walk A Dog In Abney Park

Those respondents who made it clear in their comments that they walk a dog in Abney Park are all against the proposed update to the PSPO. The majority (70%) do not consider dogs to be a problem in the area, whilst 67% made comments about the cemetery being particularly suitable for off-lead dog walking. 36% of these respondents expressed criticism of the council's approach to the consultation or the proposal itself, whilst 31% made reference to the commercialisation of the park. 35% stated their belief that frequent dog walking helps keep the cemetery safe and prevent anti-social behaviour.

Full details of the themes in the qualitative feedback from these respondents is shown in the graph below.

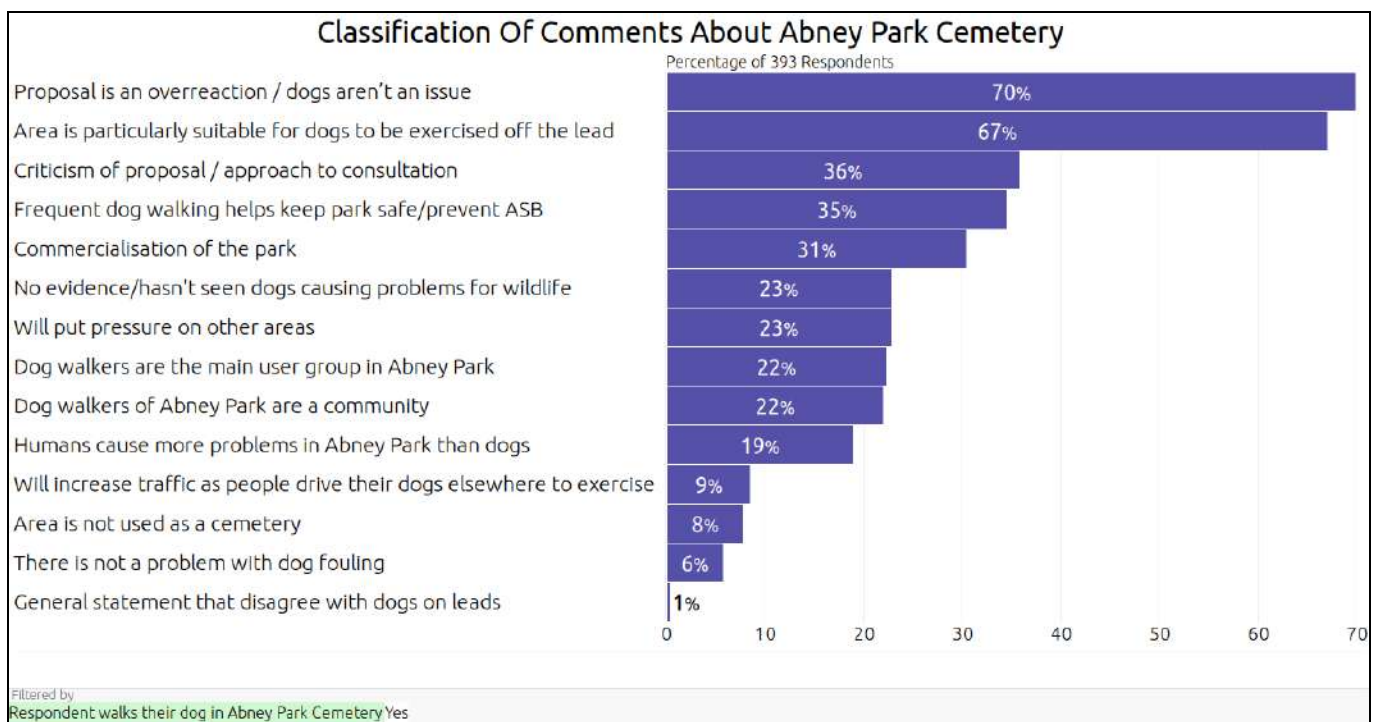


Figure 6.106

Appendix 1 – Consultation Information



Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Deadline for responses, 15 December 2023

We are extending this consultation in response to comments from residents about providing additional clarity on the proposals. In addition, on the consultation page, some areas were missing from the list of proposed new sites that would be subject to dog controls, so we have added these and attached a copy of the draft PSPO.

All existing and new comments received in the consultation will be analysed and used to inform any recommendations by Council officers to Cabinet on the content of the revised dog control PSPO. No decision will be made on the proposals until after the consultation has closed.

The consultation will now close on 15 December 2023.

Overview

Hackney Council currently has a Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in place. The purpose of this PSPO is to control several issues that arise as a result of people failing to exercise proper control of dogs in public places.

The PSPO includes controls on dog fouling, defining areas where dogs are not permitted – such as playgrounds – and requiring dogs to be on leads in some public spaces.

The current PSPO is due to expire on 17 March 2024 and can be viewed at: hackney.gov.uk/dog-control-orders

We are proposing to:

- Extend the PSPO for a further three years, and
- vary the PSPO by:
 1. adding to the prohibitions/requirements stipulated in the PSPO,
 2. updating the list of locations from which dogs are excluded, and
 3. updating the list of locations in which dogs must be kept on a lead.

Why is a Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) needed?

PSPOs are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour. They are not about stopping the responsible use of public spaces, but they do provide councils with a tool to tackle persistent issues that are damaging their communities.

Over the past eighteen months, we have received a large amount of correspondence relating to the behaviour of dogs in the borough. Many residents are nervous about the large numbers of dogs in Hackney's parks and green spaces.

In addition, there are increasing numbers of professional dog walkers using Hackney's larger parks and green spaces. It is very difficult for professional dog walkers to be in control of high numbers of dogs at any one time.

This PSPO has been designed to be as clear as possible, outlining expectations of dog owners. Well-behaved dogs can be walked or exercised freely off-lead in most large parks. This promotes healthy exercise for dogs and takes into consideration the needs of the borough's dog owners and the welfare of dogs.

The aim of the public consultation is to invite views from all Hackney residents and interested groups about a variety of dog control related issues and potential amendments to the current PSPO. Additionally, the consultation aims to enhance comprehension of residents' firsthand encounters with dog control in parks and public spaces.

What does the draft Dog Control PSPO include?

The updated PSPO will include:

1. A 'dog fouling of land' prohibition, which makes it an offence if dog owners do not remove their dog's faeces from land within Hackney that is open to the air and accessible to the public. This prohibition applies to all land in Hackney.

2. A 'dog exclusion' prohibition, which enables the Council to stop dogs from entering certain areas including BMX tracks, children's play areas, fenced off dog free areas, multi use games areas, outdoor gyms, skate parks, small parks, splash pads and children's water features, sports courts, sports playing pitches, and water sports centres and reservoirs.
3. A 'dogs on leads' requirement, which enables the Council to stop people from exercising dogs off-leads in general public areas, on roads and in car parks, churchyards, burial grounds (including Abney Park), communal areas on estates and some smaller public parks. This requirement excludes canal towpaths, as these areas are managed by the Canal & River Trust rather than the Council.
4. A 'dogs on leads by direction' requirement, which gives officers the power to request that dogs be put on leads where they are not under the appropriate control of their owner, or where they are causing damage or acting aggressively. This requirement applies to the entire borough.

And a new requirement:

5. A 'maximum number of dogs' requirement, which makes it an offence for one person to have more than four dogs under their control at any one time. This requirement applies to the entire borough.

Are there any exemptions?

The following would be exempt from the Dog Control PSPO:

- people who are registered as blind,
- people who are deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and upon which they rely for assistance,
- People who have a disability which affects their mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a Prescribed Charity and upon which they rely for assistance, and anyone training an assistance dog in an official capacity, and

- a dog used by the police or other agencies permitted by the Council for official purposes.

The following would be exempt from all provisions of the Dog Control PSPO, except the 'dog fouling of land' prohibition:

- anyone who has been given permission by the owner, occupier or person in charge of the land, not to comply with the order.

How will the PSPO be enforced?

If the person in charge of a dog fails to comply with the requirements of an order, they will be issued with a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice and taken to court if the Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the specified timeframe. A person guilty of an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1,000) unless:

- they have the consent from the owner, occupier or person in charge of the land, not to comply with the order, or
- they have a reasonable excuse for failing to comply, or
- they fall within one of the other exemptions within the order, such as the exemptions in the order for persons who are registered disabled and persons who have a registered assistance dog.

How long will the PSPO last?

We are proposing that the PSPO lasts for three years, until March 2027, at which point we would decide whether to renew it in consultation with residents.

Which locations will dogs be excluded from?

You can find a map showing the details and locations of the prohibitions/requirements in the Online Survey.

Dogs would be excluded from the list of locations on the following pages.

Proposed new locations are underlined and in bold green:

BMX Tracks	HAGGERSTON PARK, E2
-------------------	---------------------

Children's Play Areas			
ALLENS GARDENS, N16	EVERGREEN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, E8	MILLFIELDS PARK, E5	ST JOHN'S CHURCHYARD PLAY AREA, E9
BROADWAY MARKET GREEN, E8	HACKNEY DOWNS, E5	PEARSON STREET ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, E2	STOKE NEWINGTON COMMON, N16
BUTTERFIELD GREEN, N16	HACKNEY MARSH ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, E9	<u>ROWLEY GARDENS, N4</u>	STONEBRIDGE GARDENS, E8
CLAPTON COMMON, E5	HAGGERSTON PARK, E2	SHAKESPEARE WALK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, N16	WELL STREET COMMON, E9
<u>CLAPTON POND, E5</u>	HOMERTON GROVE ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, E9	SHEPHERDESS WALK, N1	<u>WEST HACKNEY RECREATION GROUND, N16</u>
CLAPTON SQUARE, E5	KIDS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, E5	SHOREDITCH PARK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND, N1	<u>WOODBERRY DOWN PARK, N4</u>
CLISSOLD PARK, N16	<u>KYNASTON GARDENS, N16</u>	SHOREDITCH PARK, N1	
DAUBENEY FIELDS, E9	LONDON FIELDS, E8	<u>SPRING PARK, N4</u>	
DE BEAUVOIR SQUARE, N1	<u>MABLEY GREEN, E9</u>	<u>SPRINGFIELD PARK, E5</u>	

Fenced Off Dog Free Areas		
<u>CLISSOLD PARK, N16</u> <u>((dog free area and surrounds of Clissold House/ Rose Garden)</u>	<u>HACKNEY DOWNS PICNIC AREA, E5</u>	<u>SPRINGFIELD PARK (CAFÉ SEATING AREA)</u>
<u>HACKNEY DOWNS (OLD BOWLING GREEN AREA), E5</u>	<u>MILLFIELDS PARK, E5</u>	<u>SPRINGFIELD PARK (OLD BOWLING GREEN AREA), E5</u>

Multi Use Games Areas		
ASKE GARDENS, N1	<u>HAGGERSTON PARK, E2</u>	<u>SHOREDITCH PARK, N1</u>
<u>BUTTERFIELD GREEN, N16</u>	<u>LONDON FIELDS, E8</u>	<u>STONEBRIDGE GARDENS, E8</u>
CLISSOLD PARK, N16	<u>ROWLEY GARDENS, N4</u>	UFTON GARDENS, N1
HACKNEY DOWNS, E5	SHEPHERDESS WALK, N1	

Outdoor Gyms		
<u>BUTTERFIELD GREEN, N16</u>	<u>MILLFIELDS PARK, E5</u>	<u>SPRINGFIELD PARK, E5</u>
<u>HAGGERSTON PARK, E2</u>	MABLEY GREEN, E9	<u>WEST HACKNEY RECREATION GROUND, N16</u>
<u>LONDON FIELDS, E8</u>	<u>SHOREDITCH PARK, N1</u>	

Small Parks	DE BEAUVOIR SQUARE
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Splash Pads and Children's Water Features	
<u>CLISSOLD PARK, N16</u>	<u>ST JOHN'S CHURCHYARD, E9</u>

Sports Courts		
<u>ASKE GARDENS TENNIS COURT, N1</u>	HACKNEY DOWNS TENNIS COURTS, E5	MILLFIELDS PARK TENNIS COURTS, E5
CLISSOLD PARK TENNIS COURTS, N16	<u>LONDON FIELDS PETANQUE COURT, E8</u>	SHOREDITCH PARK BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT, N1
<u>GAINSBOROUGH PLAYING FIELDS, E20</u>	LONDON FIELDS TENNIS COURTS, E8	SPRINGFIELD PARK TENNIS COURTS, E5
HACKNEY DOWNS BASKETBALL COURTS, E5	MILLFIELDS PARK BASKETBALL COURTS, E5	SPRING HILL RECREATION GROUND TENNIS COURTS, E5

Water Sports Centre and Reservoirs	<u>WEST RESERVOIR, N4</u>
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Sports Playing Pitches		
HACKNEY DOWNS CRICKET AND FOOTBALL PITCHES, E5	MABLEY GREEN ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES, E9	SPRING HILL RECREATION GROUND RUGBY PITCHES, E5
HACKNEY MARSHES CRICKET, FOOTBALL AND RUGBY PITCHES, E9	MABLEY GREEN FOOTBALL PITCHES, E9	SPRINGFIELD PARK CRICKET PITCHES, E5
HAGGERSTON PARK ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH, E2	MILLFIELDS PARK CRICKET PITCHES, E5	
LONDON FIELDS CRICKET PITCH, E8	SHOREDITCH PARK SPORTS PITCHES, N1	

Where would dogs have to be kept on a lead?

You can find a map showing the details and locations of the prohibitions/requirements in the Online Survey.

Dogs would need to be on leads in the following locations.

Proposed new locations are underlined and highlighted in bold green:

<u>ABNEY PARK CEMETERY, N16</u>	HOXTON SQUARE, N1	ST LEONARD'S CHURCHYARD, E1
ALBION PARADE, N16	KIT CROWLEY GARDENS, E9	ST MARY'S OLD CHURCH, N16
ALBION SQUARE GARDENS, E8	KYNASTON GARDENS, N16	ST THOMAS' LONG BURIAL GROUND, E9
ASKE GARDENS, N1	LEVY MEMORIAL GROUND, N16	<u>ST THOMAS' RECREATION GROUND, E9</u>
<u>BROADWAY MARKET GREEN, E8</u>	MARK STREET GARDEN, EC2	ST THOMAS' SQUARE, E9
CHARLES SQUARE, N1	QUAKER BURIAL GROUND, N16	<u>STONEBRIDGE COMMON, E8</u>
CHURCH STREET GARDENS, N16	<u>ROBIN HOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN, E5</u>	UFTON GARDENS, N1
<u>CLISSOLD PARK ANIMAL ENCLOSURE, N16</u>	SHACKLEWELL GREEN, E8	WEST HACKNEY RECREATION GROUND, N16
FAIRCHILD'S GARDEN, E2	SHORE GARDENS, E9	<u>WINDSOR TERRACE, EC1</u>
GOLDSMITH'S SQUARE RECREATION GROUND, E2	ST JOHN AT HACKNEY CHURCHYARD, E8	SHEPHERDESS WALK, N1 (which is over half a hectare in size)
<u>HOMERTON GROVE, E9</u>	ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM CHURCHYARD, E9	QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK (which is over half a hectare in size)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What amendments have you made to the Dog Control PSPO consultation page:

- We have added a link to the draft PSPO itself to provide more clarity for residents that are interested
- We have amended some of the text on the consultation page so it provides more clarity for residents
- We have updated the tables on the consultation page to ensure all sites are clearly listed in the tables. The changes include adding:
 - Children's Play Areas: Broadway Market Green
- We have updated the tables on the consultation page to ensure all the sites that are proposed as new locations for dogs to be excluded from in the draft PSPO are highlighted in bold / underlined. The changes include the following sites being highlighted in bold / underlined:
 - Children's Play Areas: Clapton Pond, Mabley Green and Springfield Park;
 - Dog Free Areas: Clissold Park (surrounds of Clissold House), Springfield Park (Cafe Seating Area) and Springfield Park (Old Bowling Green Area);
 - MUGAs: Butterfield Green, Haggerston Park, London Fields, Shoreditch Park and Stonebridge Gardens;
 - Outdoor Gyms: Butterfield Green, Haggerston Park, London Fields, Millfields Park, Shoreditch Park and Springfield Park;
 - Small Parks: De Beauvoir Square;
 - Skate Parks: Clissold Park and Daubeney Fields.
- We have also updated the tables on the consultation page to ensure that a number of sites that are existing or proposed as new locations for dogs to be on leads, and had been missed from the previous list on the consultation page, are highlighted in bold / underlined.

- These include:
 - Broadway Market Green, Clapton Pond, Homerton Grove, Kynaston Gardens, Robin Hood Community Garden, St Thomas' Recreation Ground, Stonebridge Common and Windsor Terrace.
- We have added to and updated the Frequently Asked Questions section to address some of the points being raised by residents.

2. Has a decision already been made on what will be included in the Dog Control PSPO?

No. We welcome all views and comments on the consultation proposals. All existing and new comments received in the consultation will be analysed and used to inform any recommendations by Council officers to Cabinet on the content of the revised Dog Control PSPO. No decision will be made on the proposals until after the consultation has closed.

3. Why aren't you responding to comments raised in the consultation?

We have updated the Frequently Asked Questions on the consultation page to answer a number of questions that have been raised frequently. This however, is a consultation on draft proposals to get the views and comments of residents on the proposals. It would therefore not be practical to respond directly to all the individual comments that have been made in the consultation at this stage. However, the comments will be addressed when the Council makes a decision on the draft PSPO.

4. Why are you proposing to add new sites in the draft PSPO that dogs are excluded from?

The existing Dog Control Public Space Protection Order already excludes dogs from BMX tracks, children's play areas, courts, multi use games areas, outdoor gyms, fenced off picnic areas, sports grounds and skate parks.

The proposed additional sites that dogs are excluded from reflects an updating of the list from 2021 for these types of facilities.

In addition, a number of areas that are fenced off and have traditionally been dog free are proposed to be formalised.

5. What areas of Clissold Park are you proposing to be dog free in the draft PSPO?

In the current PSPO, the following areas are designated as dogs free in Clissold Park:

- Clissold Park Basketball Court
- Clissold Park Dog Free Area
- Clissold Park MUGA
- Clissold Park Play Area
- Clissold Park Tennis Courts

The draft PSPO still includes these areas and also proposes the inclusion of the following areas:

- Clissold Park Animal Enclosure (dogs on leads)
- Clissold Park (surrounds of Clissold House) (dogs free)
- Clissold Park Splash Pad (dogs free)

6. Why are you proposing that dogs be kept on leads in Abney Park Cemetery in the draft PSPO?

The Council recognises the benefits of dog walking, particularly as a healthy and social activity that encourages physical and mental wellbeing.

However, to help balance the needs of dog walkers with those of other visitors and the particular character of Abney Park Cemetery, the Council is proposing to add Abney Park Cemetery to the list of sites where dogs must be kept on a lead.

The Council is proposing to make this change now for a number of reasons:

- Addressing Issues: Over the last few years, we have received correspondence and feedback relating to the behaviour of dogs in Abney Park Cemetery from concerned residents - this behaviour has also been observed by Parks and

Green Spaces staff. In addition, some residents are nervous about the number of dogs in Abney Park and the behaviour of some.

- Consistency: The existing Dog Control Public Space Protection Order already requires dogs to be kept on leads in Council managed closed churchyards and burial grounds in the borough, with the exception of Abney Park Cemetery. The proposed changes are intended to bring Abney in line with these other sites, although it is acknowledged that Abney is a larger site than the other closed churchyards and burial grounds in the borough.
- It is also worth noting that Abney Park Cemetery is one of the 'Magnificent Seven' garden cemeteries of London. Three of these sites exclude dogs, two require dogs to be on leads and only one (Tower Hamlets) allows well behaved dogs off the lead. So our approach is commensurate with the majority of the other 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries.
- Preservation of Historical Significance: Abney Park Cemetery is Hackney's most significant burial site with historical and cultural significance. It has always been a place of reflection, remembrance and the final resting place for thousands of people. It is therefore important that we ensure behaviour or activities in the Cemetery are respectful. By extending the requirement for dogs to be on leads, the Council aims to show respect for the site and the individuals buried there. Keeping dogs on leads helps prevent them from running and doing other things amongst the graves, a mark of respect for the deceased and their families.
- Dog Fouling: The increasing number of dogs being walked in Abney Park Cemetery off the lead has resulted in increased levels of dog fouling, in amongst graves, and other less accessible areas off the main paths of the Cemetery. Not only is this unacceptable behaviour, as much of the dog faeces is not removed, but the dog faeces and urine is contributing nutrients to the environment, which could be harming local biodiversity.
- Ecological Conservation: The UK's wildlife is continuing to decline. The most at-risk groups include birds, amphibians

and reptiles, fungi and lichen and land mammals. In addition, plant species are also declining.

As a borough we have to respond to this and continue to take measures to address the ongoing decline. The recently adopted Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Plan set out how parks, rivers, wetlands, street trees, gardens, rain gardens, green roofs and walls across Hackney can all help combat climate change and tackle biodiversity loss.

The documents also identify the need to continue working to protect and enhance the existing Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation network to promote biodiversity within the borough, as well as providing space for new and enhanced habitat.

Within this context, Abney Park Cemetery is one of the borough's most significant ecological sites, with valuable habitats and wildlife. It represents an urban example of a naturally regenerated woodland. The 13 hectares of woodland is home to around 200 'old' trees including exotics that were planted as part of the original layout of the Cemetery in 1840, but the bulk of the woodland is secondary woodland established after the Cemetery ceased to operate in the 1970s.

It has a remarkable population of breeding birds for an inner-London borough – including tawny owl, sparrowhawk, stock dove, goldcrest, and coal tit. The large number of old trees makes the woodland particularly important for invertebrates that favour decaying wood including a number of rare beetles and the hoverfly *Pocata personata*, which is reliant on rot holes in old trees.

Other invertebrates include the longhorn beetle *Phytoecia cylindrica*, which favours the sunlit rides through the woodland and white-letter hairstreak butterfly which feeds on elm in its larval stage.

Abney is a:

- Local Nature Reserve (LNR): which is a

statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by principal local authorities for places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally; and

- A Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): which are areas designated for their importance for wildlife. In London, there are 3 grades of SINC:
 - Sites of Metropolitan Importance: important at a London-wide scale, sites which contain the best examples of London's habitats, have particularly rare species or have particular significance in heavily built-up areas;
 - Sites of Borough Importance: important on a borough perspective, divided into two grades on the basis of their quality; and
 - Sites of Local Importance: of particular value to people nearby, such as residents or schools.

Abney Park Cemetery is designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance, the highest grade of site.

Dogs negatively impact wildlife in a number of ways, some of which are easily observable by watching. Impacts can take a number of forms, including:

- Physical and temporal displacement - the presence of dogs causes wildlife to move away, temporarily or permanently (e.g. a Blackbird feeding on the ground will fly away)
- Disturbance and stress response - animals are alarmed and cease their routine activities. (e.g. a bank vole feeding on the ground will run away)
- Repeated stress causes long-term impacts on wildlife
- Predation: some dogs chase, attack and/or kill wildlife

In the context of Abney the above apply particularly to ground feeding birds like Blackbirds, Robins, Wrens, Song Thrush, Jays, etc. and small mammals like wood mice and bank voles.

In addition, allowing dogs to run freely in Abney could lead to habitat disruption and damage to plant life (e.g. toadstools [fungal fruiting bodies] can be trampled. The impact of dogs off leads exceeds that of dogs kept on leads, so requiring dogs to be on leads helps protect this precious ecological site and maintains the balance of its delicate ecosystem.

We have not proposed to exclude dogs from Abney Park Cemetery entirely, given the benefits of dog walking for residents, and instead are proposing an integrated management strategy that still allows dogs, but controls them for the benefit of Abney as a whole. Abney Park Cemetery is a unique environment and we have a responsibility to protect and manage the Cemetery to balance the needs of people and wildlife, so that both continue to flourish.

The measures we are proposing to introduce aims to strike a balance between responsible dog ownership and the protection of this unique and valuable site.

7. Did you consider other options to address some of the challenges at Abney Park Cemetery, instead of the proposed requirement for dogs to be on leads?

We did think about other options at an early stage, including excluding dogs from the site (with the exception of those exempt from the PSPO) and possibly 'zoning' the site to allow dogs to be off the lead in certain areas.

We discounted the idea of excluding dogs from Abney Park Cemetery at a very early stage as we didn't consider it to be proportional or fair, given the benefits of dog walking for residents in Abney. We also didn't think that 'zoning' was a particularly practical option and would not specifically address a number of the reasons why we are proposing the requirement for dogs to be on the lead in Abney.

Instead we are proposing an integrated management strategy that still allows dogs, but controls them for the benefit of Abney as a whole.

8. What happens if there are other areas that people think should be included in terms of dogs being excluded from or dogs must be kept on leads in? Can these be included in this draft Public Space Protection Order?

We welcome all views and comments on the consultation proposals. All comments received in the consultation will be analysed and a report written, enabling the Council to make a decision on what should be included in the Public Space Protection Order.

9. Why are you proposing to add new sites in the draft PSPO that dogs must be kept on leads in?

We are updating the list of sites that dogs must be kept on a lead in, for three main reasons:

- To ensure consistency of approach for similar sites across the borough
- To add sites that weren't included in the last order, have been developed or will be transferred to the Council since the existing PSPO was adopted
- To address concerns or issues raised

10. Are the new proposals in the draft PSPO that dogs be kept on leads in Abney Park Cemetery linked to the creation of a new venue in Abney Park Chapel?

No. The proposals have nothing to do with the creation of the new venue, which will have its own separate management arrangements in place to ensure events are appropriately managed.

11. Won't the events that are proposed to be held in Abney Park Chapel have as much of an impact on the biodiversity and ecology of Abney as dogs?

No. Any events that will be held in the new venue will be self-contained, have limited impact on the wider Park and will be carefully managed by the Council's Venues Team

according to a management plan, as they do currently for similar venues in Clissold Park and Springfield Park. In addition, restrictions have been placed on the new venue by the Licensing Committee to ensure a balance with Abney's status.

12. Will this draft PSPO stop me from exercising my dog off of a lead?

No - dogs will still be able to be exercised off the lead in many parks and green spaces in the borough, with the exception of those areas and sites they would be excluded from, and those that they must remain on a lead within.

13. Does this draft PSPO apply to professional dog walkers?

Yes.

We are also proposing a 'maximum number of dogs' requirement that applies to everyone. This would make it a breach of the PSPO for a person to have more than four dogs under their control at any one time.

14. Why are you proposing the maximum number of dogs for a person to have is four in the draft PSPO?

Guidance issued by the RSPCA (and endorsed by Canine & Feline Sector Group, the Dogs Trust and the Pet Industry Federation) for professional dog walkers, and prepared in the best interests of animal welfare, recommends that no more than four dogs are walked by one person at any one time. This guidance is supported by a number of other organisations associated with professional dog walking.

15. Have you thought about a licensing scheme for professional dog walkers?

Yes, we have considered this. However, based on best practice guidance, we believe the maximum number of dogs that one individual can control is four - regardless of whether the person is a member of the public or professional dog walker. We therefore don't consider a licensing scheme necessary.

Why your views matter

The vast majority of dog owners act responsibly, keeping their dogs under control and clearing up their dog's waste. However, the Council continues to receive complaints about dog-related negative behaviour and irresponsible dog owners.

In response to this, we have made some proposed variations to the Dog Control PSPO and are consulting with residents to ask their opinions about a variety of dog control-related issues. The feedback from this consultation will help to shape and inform the final Dog Control PSPO.

We would like to hear your views on any aspects of the proposed Dog Control PSPO. Please complete the survey and provide us with your feedback.

The consultation has been extended to ensure everyone has the opportunity to let us know what they think and now closes on 15 December 2023.



If you need any of this information in a different format please email consultation@hackney.gov.uk We'll consider your request and get back to you within 5 working days.

Further information

The draft Dog Control PSPO and the areas it covers can be viewed here:

hackney.gov.uk/dog-control-orders

Questionnaire

Please read the consultation summary before completing the questionnaire. You can also complete the questionnaire online at consultation.hackney.gov.uk

1. Do you live in Hackney? (Required):

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. Do you work or own a business in Hackney?

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. What is your postcode? (Required)

Dog control

4. Are you a dog owner? (Required)

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. Are you a professional dog walker?

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Have you, or a member of your family, or someone you know had any problems regarding dog behaviour in Hackney the past year? (please select one)

☐ Yes (me)

☐ Yes (a family member)

☐ Yes (someone I know)

☐ No

7. If you answered 'Yes', was this related to any of the following? (please select all that apply)

☐ Dog fouling

☐ Dog running out of control

☐ Dog barking

☐ Dog off lead in a controlled area

☐ Dog attack on a dog or other pet animal

☐ Dog attack on a person

☐ Dog loose in children's play area or other dog free area

☐ Threatened by a dog's behaviour

☐ Stray dog

☐ Other (please specify):

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the current Dog Control PSPO is effective?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

9. If you disagree, please tell us why:

10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that it is important to control the way in which people look after their dogs in shared public spaces?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

11. Do you support the updates to the Dog Control PSPO as outlined in the consultation information?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

12. If you answered 'No', please tell us why:

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed new requirement to limit the number of dogs that a person can have under their control/walk at any one time to four?

☐ Strongly agree

☐ Agree

☐ Neither agree nor disagree

☐ Disagree

☐ Strongly disagree

14. If you disagree, please tell us why:

Suggested PSPO locations

15. Do you think there are any other locations which need to be covered by the PSPO? If yes, please tell us where and why by adding the location in the box below.

16. Has the current Dog Control PSPO had a negative impact on you in any way?

☐ Yes

☐ No

17. If so, how?

18. Do you have any other comments on dog control or the Dog Control PSPO in general?

About you

This information will help us to understand our service users and residents, allowing us to establish if the response to the questionnaire is representative of the borough. All information is used under the strict controls of the 1998 Data Protection Act and the 2016 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

This information is optional and will not be used in a way that identifies you.

19. Gender: Are you...

☐ Male

☐ Non Binary

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ Female

☐ Another term

If you prefer to use your own term please provide this here:

20. Age: what is your age group?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75-84 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 85+ |

21. Disability: Under the Equality Act you are disabled if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

22. Caring responsibilities: A carer is someone who spends a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support to a family member, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems. Do you regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

23. Ethnicity: Are you...

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White or White British | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British | |

Other (please state if you wish):

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atheist/no religious belief | <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian | <input type="checkbox"/> Secular beliefs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim | <input type="checkbox"/> Charedi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish |

☐ Sikh

Other (please state if you wish):

25. Sexual orientation: Are you...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Pansexual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay man | <input type="checkbox"/> Queer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian or Gay woman | <input type="checkbox"/> All other sexual orientations |

☐ Prefer not to say

Other (please state if you wish):

26. Housing Tenure: Which of the following best describes the ownership of your home?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being bought on a mortgage | <input type="checkbox"/> Rented (private) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Owned outright | <input type="checkbox"/> Shared ownership (part rent/part buy) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rented (Local Authority/Council) | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rented (Housing Association/Trust) | |

Accessibility statement

If you require this document in a different format, please email consultation@hackney.gov.uk

We will consider your request and get back to you in the next five working days.

If you would like to find out what this document says please tick the appropriate box, put your name, address and phone number at the bottom of this page and return it to the address below.

এই দলিলে কি লেখা আছে সে সম্পর্কে যদি আপনি জানতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে উপযুক্ত বাক্সে টিক দিন, এই পাতার নীচে আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর লিখুন এবং এটি নীচের ঠিকানায় ফেরত পাঠান। (Bengali)

如果你想知道這分文件的詳細內容，請在方框內打鉤，在本頁下面寫下你的名字、地址和電話號碼並寄到下面的地址。 (Chinese)

Si vous désirez connaître le contenu de ce document, veuillez cocher la case appropriée et indiquer votre nom, adresse et numéro de téléphone au bas de cette page et la renvoyer à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessous. (French)

Ger hun dixwazin bizanibin ku ev dokument çi dibêje, ji kerema xwe qutika minasib îşaret bikin, nav, navnîşan û hejmara telefona xwe li jêrê rûpel binivîsin û wê ji navnîşana jêrîn re bişînin. (Kurdish)

Jeśli chcesz dowiedzieć się, jaka jest treść tego dokumentu, zaznacz odpowiednie pole, wpisz swoje nazwisko, adres i nr telefonu w dolnej części niniejszej strony i przeslij na poniższy adres. (Polish)

Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in aad ogaato waxa dokumeentigani sheegayo faclan calaamadi godka ku haboon, ku qor magacaaga, cinwaanka iyo telefoon lambarkaaga boggan dhankiisa hoose ka dibna ku celi cinwaanka hoose. (Somali)

Si desea saber de lo que trata este documento, marque la casilla correspondiente, escriba su nombre, dirección y número de teléfono al final de esta página y envíela a la siguiente dirección. (Spanish)

Bu dokümanda ne anlatıldığını öğrenmek istiyorsanız, lütfen uygun kutuyu işaretleyerek, adınızı, adresinizi ve telefon numaranızı bu sayfanın alt kısmına yazıp, aşağıdaki adrese gönderin. (Turkish)

(Urdu) اگر آپ یہ جاننا چاہتے ہیں کہ دستاویز میں کیا لکھا ہے تو ازراہ کرم مناسب باکس میں صحیح کا نشان لگائیے اور اپنا نام، پتہ اور فون نمبر اس صفحہ کے نیچے لکھئے اور اسے نیچے دیئے گئے پتہ پر واپس بھیج دیجئے۔
Nếu bạn muốn biết tài liệu này nói gì hãy đánh dấu vào hộp thích hợp, điền tên, địa chỉ và số điện thoại của bạn vào cuối trang này và gửi lại theo địa chỉ dưới đây. (Vietnamese)

If you would like this document in any of the following formats or in another language not listed above, please complete and send the form to the address below.

In large print ☐ In Braille ☐ On Disk ☐ On audio tape ☐ In another language, please state:

Name:	
Address	
Telephone:	

Return to: Dog Control PSPO Consultation, Consultation Team, London Borough of Hackney, Hackney Town Hall,
Mare Street, E8 1EA

Appendix 2 – Kennel Club Submission

Formal Response to Hackney Council's Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation

Submitted on 7th December 2023 by: The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB, email: kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare, and training. Our objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners. We campaign for and advocate on behalf of dogs and their owners and, as part of our external affairs activities, engage with local authorities on issues such as Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs).

The Kennel Club is the only national organisation named by the UK Government as a body that local authorities should consult prior to introducing restrictions on dog walkers and is considered the leading canine authority on dog access. As such, we would like to highlight the importance of ensuring that PSPOs are necessary and proportionate responses to problems caused by dogs and irresponsible owners. We also believe that it is essential for authorities to balance the interests of dog owners with the interests of other access users.

Response to proposed measures

Dog fouling

The Kennel Club strongly promotes responsible dog ownership, and believes that dog owners should always pick up after their dogs wherever they are, including fields and woods in the wider countryside, and especially where farm animals graze to reduce the risk of passing Neospora and Sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage the local authority to employ further proactive measures to help promote responsible dog ownership throughout the local area in addition to introducing Orders in this respect.

These proactive measures can include: increasing the number of bins available for dog owners to use; communicating to local dog owners that bagged dog faeces can be disposed of in normal litter bins; running responsible ownership and training events; or using poster campaigns to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog.

Exclusions

The Kennel Club does not typically oppose Orders to exclude dogs from playgrounds or enclosed recreational grounds, such as skate parks or tennis courts, as long as alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity. Children and dogs should be able to socialise together quite safely under adult supervision, with having a child in the home the biggest predictor for a family owning a dog.

On lead

We can support reasonable 'dogs on lead' Orders which can, when used in a proportionate and evidence-based way, include areas such as cemeteries, picnic areas, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic.

On lead by direction

The Kennel Club strongly welcomes 'On lead by direction' Orders. These allow responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control, whilst simultaneously giving the local authority powers to restrict dogs not under control.

We recommend that the authorised officer enforcing the Order is familiar with dog behaviour in order to determine whether restraint is necessary. There exists the possibility that a dog, through no fault of its own, could be considered a 'nuisance' or 'annoyance' to someone who simply does not like dogs.

We encourage local authorities to make use of more flexible and targeted measures at their disposal, including Acceptable Behavioural Contracts and Community Protection Notices. Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Clubs and our accredited trainers can assist owners whose dogs run out of control due to them not having the ability to train a reliable recall.

Maximum number of dogs a person can walk

We feel that an arbitrary maximum number of dogs a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control that can result in displacement and subsequently intensify problems in other areas. The maximum number of dogs a person can walk in a controlled manner is dependent on a number of other factors relating to the walker, the dogs being walked, whether leads are used, and the location where the walking is taking place.

An arbitrary maximum number can also legitimise and encourage people to walk dogs up to the specified limit, even if at a given time or circumstance they cannot control that number of dogs.

We thus suggest instead that defined outcomes are used to influence people walking one or more dogs – domestically or commercially – such as dogs always being under control or on lead in certain areas. An experienced dog walker, for example, may be able to keep a large number of dogs under control during a walk whilst an inexperienced private dog owner may struggle to keep one dog under control. Equally, the size and training of dogs are key factors, hence why an arbitrary maximum number is inappropriate. The Kennel Club would recommend the local authority instead uses the 'dogs on lead by direction' measures and other targeted approaches – including Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Community Protection Orders – to address those who do not have control of the dogs that they are walking.

A further limitation of this proposed measure is that it does not prevent people with multiple dogs walking together at a given time, while not exceeding the maximum number of dogs per person. Limits may also encourage some commercial dog walkers to leave excess dogs in their vehicles, causing severe animal welfare concerns.

If the proposed measure is being considered as a result of issues arising from commercial dog walkers, we suggest councils instead look at accreditation schemes that have worked successfully in places like East Lothian. These can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice rather than simply curbing the excesses of just one aspect of dog walking. Accreditation can also ensure dog walkers are properly insured and act as advocates for good behaviour by other dog owners.

Assistance dogs

The Kennel Club welcomes the exemptions proposed in this Order for assistance dogs. We urge the Council to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance for businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs. The guidance can be viewed here:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf>

However, we would suggest further consideration of the wording contained within the Order, specifically with reference to 'prescribed charity'. While a proportion of assistance dogs relied upon by disabled people are trained by charities, many are not. A number of reputable assistance dog providers are members of Assistance Dogs UK. This umbrella group currently has eight member organisations, which can be viewed here:

<http://www.assistedogs.org.uk/>. It is important to note that the membership of Assistance Dogs UK is not a definitive list of all UK assistance dog organisations and may change during the currency of the PSPO. It also does not provide for owner trained assistance dogs.

We would therefore encourage the Council to allow for some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person's dog is acting as an assistance dog. The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs used by Mole Valley District Council, which can be found here:

https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/media/pdf/1/b/83072_-_Completed_PSPO.pdf

or that of Northumberland County Council:

"(4) The term "Assistance Dog" shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.

(5) The expression "disability" shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation".

Appropriate signage

It is important to note that in relation to PSPOs, The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 makes it a legal requirement for local authorities to –

"cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to -

- (i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be); and
- (ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be)."

Regarding dog access restrictions, such as a 'Dogs on Lead' Order, on-site signage should clearly state where such restrictions begin and end. This can be achieved with signs that say



on one side, for example, 'You are entering [type of area]' and 'You are leaving [type of area]' on the reverse.

While all dog walkers should be aware of their requirement to pick up after their dog, signage must be erected for the PSPO to be compliant with the legislation.

Appendix 3 – Dogs Trust Submission



5 October 2023

Dear Hackney Council,

Dogs Trust has been made aware that Hackney Council is currently consulting on the proposed extension and variation of its series of Public Space Protection Orders.

As the UK's largest dog welfare charity, we would like to make some comments for consideration.

Dogs Trust's Comments

1. Re; Fouling of Land by Dogs Order:

- Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance, we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place.
- We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce.

2. Re; Dog Exclusion Order:

- Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
- Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs.

3. Re; Dog Exclusion and sport pitches

- Excluding dogs from areas that are not enclosed could pose enforcement problems - we would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
- We feel that exclusion zones should be kept to a minimum, and that excluding dogs from all sports pitches for long stretches of the year is unnecessary. In some cases sports pitches may account for a large part of the open space available in a public park, and therefore excluding dogs could significantly reduce available dog walking space for owners.
- We would urge the Council to consider focusing its efforts on reducing dog fouling in these areas, rather than excluding dogs entirely, with adequate provision of bins and provision of free disposal bags

4. Re; Dogs on Leads Order:

- Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead.

Dogs Trust

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- Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.
- The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.

5. Re; Dogs on Lead by Direction Order:

- Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).
- We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

6. Re; Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto a land:

- The behaviour of the dogs and the competency of the handler need to be taken into consideration if considering this order. Research from 2010 shows that 95% of dog owners have up to 3 dogs. Therefore the number of dogs taken out on to land by one individual would not normally be expected to exceed four dogs.

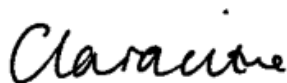
The PDSA's ['Paw Report 2018'](#) found that 89% of veterinary professionals believe that the welfare of dogs will suffer if owners are banned from walking their dogs in public spaces such as parks and beaches, or if dogs are required to be kept on leads in these spaces. Their report also states that 78% of owners rely on these types of spaces to walk their dog.

We believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, and that the majority of dogs are well behaved. In recognition of this, we would encourage local authorities to exercise its power to issue Community Protection Notices, targeting irresponsible owners and proactively addressing anti-social behaviours.

Dogs Trust works with local authorities across the UK to help promote responsible dog ownership. Please do not hesitate to contact should you wish to discuss this matter.

We would be very grateful if you could inform us of the consultation outcome and subsequent decisions made in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.

Yours faithfully,



Clara Citro
Community Engagement

Appendix 4 – RSPCA Submission

Dear Ms Carter-McDonald,

I am writing in reference to the open consultation on Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO), which is open until mid-December and relates to proposals to extend and vary the existing PSPO arrangements.

I am writing about the intention to vary the Orders and specifically concerning the proposed changes at Abney Park to restrict dog walking to 'on-lead only'.

I would ask you to carefully consider the benefits of responsible off-lead walking to dogs and their owners and the evidence base on which this change of approach is being proposed. Rarely do blanket approaches change the behaviour of a minority who act irresponsibly (in any field), and instead may only reduce the ability of those behaving responsibly to enjoy public spaces.

You will be aware that both the Dogs Trust and the Kennel Club actively oppose these kinds of restrictions:

- www.dogstrust.org.uk/how-we-help/the-future/dog-restrictions-public-spaces
- www.thekennelclub.org.uk/about-us/campaigns/access-for-owners-and-dogs/advice-for-dog-owners-facing-restrictions/

At the RSPCA we believe in responsible dog ownership, including while walking, and emphasise the need for appropriate training of dogs so that everyone can enjoy public spaces. Our position is that PSPOs should not unwittingly compromise dog welfare by placing undue restrictions on dogs. This is especially pertinent if adequate dog walking spaces nearby are not available, and the introduction of certain provisions would prohibit the dog from expressing normal behaviour, for example, being able to run free off the lead.

The Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 15 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 December 2017 states: "A dog needs regular exercise and regular opportunities to walk, run, explore, play, sniff and investigate." Blanket bans on walking dogs off-lead can make it very difficult to provide for this natural behaviour.

I look forward to responding to the consultation and the outcome, which I hope will be positive for the welfare of animals. I hope you will consider the points set out above.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Gingell

Public Affairs Manager (Local Government)

RSPCA

Appendix 5 – London Fields Parks Friends Group Submission

I have been in touch with various Council Officers including Ian Holland and Ben (ccd in this) but I wanted to highlight the way that lack of inter-department communication and failure to engage with User Groups has had a detrimental impact on this consultation.

We received significant funding from the GLA to help improve biodiversity on London Fields and improve the Green Classroom areas. This has been undertaken in conjunction with local schools.

Council officers have been included in each stage including site plans, discussions and minutes from meetings.

These made clear, inter alia our intention to plant hedging to demark areas currently fenced and a desire to see consultation with a view to restricting dogs in the key area.

These discussions were documented and as such should have informed the Dog Consultation.

Ahead of the dog consultation I wrote to both Parks and Enforcement suggesting that while the consultation was at draft stage it would be useful to get input from Parks Friends Group. This was partly as we had concerns about some of the measures proposed and wanted to see alternatives included in the consultation. But it would have given us an opportunity to see things that had been omitted.

When the Consultation was launched we were very surprised and disappointed that the key areas on which we were working hadn't been included. This includes the existing Green Classroom area and the new fenced area beside Lansdowne Drive.

We feel we had done everything we could to ensure that these areas would be included and the impression that we were given by Parks Officers was this would be the case. It hasn't happened.

I've had various reasons and excuses for this but it really boils down to a breakdown in communication. Enforcement were leading on the Consultation and have no knowledge of developments that may be taking place in Parks. Senior Parks officers weren't aware of these plans because they hadn't been informed by Parks Development officers. By rejecting the offer engaging with us before the consultation was launched, the last opportunity to rectify these lacunae was missed.

I've been told now that the best course of action is to raise these issues in the consultation but I am not optimistic that it will be feasible to add areas, especially contentious ones, without them being properly consulted on.

This means that, with a PSPO lasting for three years, change has been locked out until the next consultation.

It's very disappointing for the school groups and it significantly undermines both the rewilding that we are doing and the sense that groups such as Parks Friends groups have any real function.

These are exactly the kind of situations where we should be able to give early input to shape consultations – and ensure the council “gets it right” but by cutting us out important areas were omitted.

I think, sadly, it is too late for these areas of London Fields on this occasion but I would ask that the Council learns from the execution of this consultation so that next time groups can input to inform the shape of the consultation.

As Cllr Woodley heard from stakeholders today the disappointment amongst the schools is significant and we are all very frustrated that this has happened.

Appendix 6 – Abney Park Trust Submission



**Abney Park is open. The current closing time is 4pm.
The Stoke Newington High St entrance is closed for essential construction
works.
Please use the Church St entrance during this time.**



Abney Park Trust's response to Hackney Council's "dogs on leads" consultation

As many of you will be aware, there is a proposal by Hackney Council to require dogs to be kept on leads in Abney Park as part of a borough wide [consultation](#). Hackney Council are consulting on the renewal and extension of Hackney's Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). The consultation opened on 28th August 2023 and closes on 19th November 2023.

This is a summary note from Abney Park Trust on the issues, challenges and potential solutions – and sets out our view on what should happen. The Abney Park Trust is responding to the consultation in its own right, and is also encouraging everyone who has a view – in either direction – to respond to the consultation.

Abney Park

Abney Park was created in 1840 on the land once occupied by Abney House. One of the original "Magnificent Seven" cemeteries, it was also an arboretum planted by the world famous Loddiges Nursery with rare, specimen trees, of international importance (of which a number remain).



Abney Park is first and foremost a cemetery with 200,000 burials in 60,000 marked plots. Occasional burials take place. And other family events such as memorial services, ashes interments and grave tending happen on a regular basis. We receive regular representations from friends and families about the need to maintain the respect for the cemetery and its purpose and these events.

As well as being the burial place for nearly 200,000 bodies, it is also the first Local Nature Reserve (LNR) to be designated in Hackney (in 1993). It is a Metropolitan Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and the most important woodland area in Hackney (almost a third of the woodland habitat in the borough). It is also a Grade II listed registered park and garden.

Like all the Magnificent Seven it provides a tranquil place in the heart of the city. Of its 13 hectares approximately 11 hectares are woodland supporting a diverse range of trees which in turn support a wide range of birds, invertebrates and fungi.

It is owned and managed by Hackney Council. The Abney Park Trust plays a key role in maximising the benefits it delivers to the community which includes its historic, cultural, educational, recreational and biodiversity value.

The Trust's view

We support the proposal for dogs to be on leads at all times.

We've reached this view after careful consideration: we've spoken to park users about it over many years, looked at ecological knowledge and evidence, and explored how other nature reserves handle this question.

Abney Park Trust is a volunteer-led charity which puts in hundreds of volunteer hours a year caring for the park and speaking to those who use and cherish it. The volunteers who run the Trust are a mixture of dog owners and non-dog owners, and our board of trustees contains professionals working in ecology, community infrastructure, local government and more.

We know that dogs are a big part of some people's lives: they bring some people companionship, joy, meaning and beauty. Dogs are very welcome in Abney. We at the Trust have run fun social media competitions seeking to crown the best of all the



#DogsOfAbney, and there's always a free dog biscuit and bowl of water available at our volunteer-led community stalls.

However, the rapid increase in dog ownership presents challenges to some people, communities and ecosystems. Abney Park has always had to try to strike a balance between human users' needs and its ecological importance. We know that there are many reasons why park users come: walking within 11 hectares of an inner city woodland offers many pleasures. Some enjoy tranquillity, others are interested in the spiritual aspects of the park, while many come for the listed monuments and the historical interest of the Park's famous and not yet famous residents. Families come searching for their ancestors.

The value of the park for nature has been recognised by its LNR and SINC status and provides an important resource for scientists, natural history education, health and recreation and artists. To ensure that the park continues to be able to provide this wide array of ecosystem services to the community, continuous maintenance is required.

The challenge

Dogs are very welcome in Abney Park but the rapid increase in dog ownership presents a challenge for such a delicate ecosystem. The Kennel Club reported a 25 per cent rise in pet registrations during lockdown. Figures now stand at 12 million dogs in the UK. This has also led to an increase in dog-on-dog attacks, a 700% increase, with 2,264 in London alone. This increase in dog numbers has been particularly marked in Abney Park, as it is within a densely populated area, in the heart of the city.

We are currently facing a biodiversity emergency. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in Europe. The Red List of British Mammals found that one quarter of UK mammals are threatened with extinction. 66% of ground-nesting birds are in decline in the UK, compared to 31% of other species. Since the 1970s, it has been shown that 41% of all UK species studied have declined. The government has committed to halting the decline in biodiversity by 2030.

The impacts



The impacts dogs have on wildlife include forcing wildlife to move away from the park, reducing their space to feed and breed. It also increases levels of disturbance and stress response, degradation of habitat through urine and faeces, and transmission of disease.

- Physical and temporal displacement – The presence of dogs causes wildlife to move away, temporarily or permanently reducing the amount of available habitat in which to feed, breed and rest. Animals become less active during the day to avoid dog interactions. Furthermore, the scent of dogs repels wildlife and the effects remain after the dogs are gone. Experts say loose dogs are one of the biggest causes of wildlife disturbance equivalent to the same disruption as low flying aircraft. An important study by the Nature Institute noted that the evidence that dogs negatively impact wildlife is overwhelming.
- Disturbance and stress response – Animals are alarmed and cease their routine activities. This increases the amount of energy they use, while simultaneously reducing their opportunities to feed. Repeated stress causes long-term impacts on wildlife including reduced reproduction and growth, suppressed immune systems and increased vulnerability to disease and parasites. There is a study which showed that dog walking caused a 41% reduction in the numbers of individual birds detected and a 35% reduction in species richness – while disturbance from humans walking alone was typically less than half that of dogs. Nature is particularly vulnerable in the spring and summer months when most breeding behaviour occurs.
- Degradation of habitat – Dogs can degrade habitats by nutrients from urine as well as faeces, which reduces the overall floral biodiversity by over fertilisation which can reach levels that would be illegal on farmland. In Abney Park there has been an increase in dog fouling both on and off the paths. Physical disturbance from trampling and digging also damages delicate plants and fungal mycelium and can lead to soil erosion and root damage.
- Indirect and direct mortality – Dogs can transmit diseases (such as canine distemper and rabies) to and from wildlife.



Loose dogs kill wildlife: the UK cost of dog attacks is up by 50% since pre-pandemic.

- Human disease - Dog waste can pollute water and transmit harmful parasites and diseases to people.

In conclusion

It's our view that the joy dogs bring to people and our community can be balanced with the needs of the ecosystem through a sensible and enforced on-leads rule. This is done in other comparable cemetery environments: two other Magnificent Seven cemeteries (West Norwood and Highgate) go further than this, and only allow guide dogs. In Brompton Cemetery, dogs must be on leads. London Wildlife Trust also prohibit dogs in local sites like Woodberry Wetlands.

In Abney, there are many positive steps that can be undertaken. Having dogs on the lead is the most effective means of reducing the negative impact on wildlife. There are options of seasonal lead enforcements, when wildlife is most vulnerable, during the breeding season, and/or temporal enforcements, restricting access to certain areas via fencing. Of course, this may be confusing and more difficult to enforce than a clear all areas lead enforcement. For that reason, we support this as the best course of action.

We hope that this summary is helpful, and we encourage users to contribute to the consultation. Please respond by 19th November 2023 at [Dog Control Public Space Protection Order \(PSP0\) - Hackney Council - Citizen Space](#).

Our sources:

[**Dog Control Public Space Protection Order \(PSP0\) - Hackney Council - Citizen Space**](#)

[**\(PDF\) The Trees and Woodland of Abney Park Cemetery \(researchgate.net\)**](#)

[**1 in 4 admit impulse buying a pandemic puppy | Kennel Club \(thekennelclub.org.uk\)**](#)



[**UK Pet Food releases its annual pet population data - Veterinary Practice \(veterinary-practice.com\)**](#)

[**Animal Welfare \(Responsibility for Dog Attacks\) - Hansard - UK Parliament**](#)

[**Red List of British Mammals**](#)

[**Pet owners urged to help keep wildlife and livestock safe this spring | The Wildlife Trusts**](#)

[**The state of nature: 41 percent of UK species have declined since 1970s | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)**](#)

[**Managing dogs and nature conservation - Inside Ecology**](#)

[**The-impact-of-dogs-on-wildlife.pdf \(thenatureinstitute.org\)**](#)

[**Managing dogs and nature conservation - Inside Ecology**](#)

[**Taking the lead: dog owners urged to keep their pets in check in the countryside | Dogs | The Guardian**](#)

[**Nutrient fertilization by dogs in peri-urban ecosystems - De Frenne - 2022 - Ecological Solutions and Evidence - Wiley Online Library**](#)

[**Managing dogs and nature conservation - Inside Ecology**](#)

[**UK cost of dog attacks rises by 50%, causing needless suffering of sheep \(nfumutual.co.uk\)**](#)



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ABNEY PARK TRUST RESPONSE TO PSPO CONSULTATION

We support the Council's proposals to introduce dog controls in Abney Park Cemetery, a cemetery which is home to 200,000 burials and is a designated Local Nature Reserve and SINCR.

It should be non controversial to require dogs to be on leads and under control in a cemetery site and for that reason alone we support the proposal.

But Abney Park is a much more complex and significant site than 'just a cemetery'.

We at the Trust are long-standing partners of Hackney Council and have been for decades. We have long supported the restoration project, and we're now preparing to enter a new period as partners on the NLHF Activity Plan and the park's re-opening. Our response to this consultation is in the same spirit as the rest of our partnership: as organisations with the same goals for the park, as critical friends where needed, and as partners to help each other in complementary ways.

Our response to the consultation has been two-fold: firstly, to encourage responses from all members of the community, and secondly, to respond to the consultation in our own right. We published a summary note earlier in the year in which we shared our first thoughts on the impact of dogs in precious nature reserves like this one: <https://abneypark.org/news/2023/9/dogs-on-leads>.

Our view on the ecological impact of off-lead dogs is outlined in the post above. We reached our perspective after careful consideration: we've spoken to park users about it over many years, looked at ecological knowledge and evidence, and explored how other nature reserves and cemeteries handle this question. We recognise that there is limited specific evidence and we highlighted a range of resources.

Abney Park was, of course, the first statutory Local Nature Reserve to be designated in Hackney, decades ago. And the evidence of dog ownership in such a context is clear: while dogs play a huge role in the lives of many people, the effect of their off-lead presence on nature reserves is noticeable and negative. There are no Abney-specific studies available, in part because of a historic failure to capture the relevant data. But there's also no reason to believe that the principles which apply to other nature reserves and Magnificent Seven cemeteries are not applicable in Abney's case.

The proposal to require dogs on leads is in line with the Council's own Green Infrastructure Strategy and Nature Recover Strategy which are published <https://news.hackney.gov.uk/seven-year-plan-to-green-the-grey/>.

Two other Magnificent Seven cemeteries (West Norwood and Highgate) go further than this, and only allow guide dogs. In Brompton Cemetery, dogs must be on leads. London Wildlife Trust also prohibits dogs in local sites like Woodberry Wetlands. The Wildlife Trust website includes material from members/officers on how they balance this issue <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/blog/tom-hibbert/paws-thought>. It is an issue that is not unique to Abney Park. This evidence has been mocked by some but was always intended to highlight the broad range of issues with off-lead dogs in general.

The figures for nature reserves in general are stark. A study demonstrates that dog walking caused a 41% reduction in the numbers of individual birds detected and a 35% reduction in species richness – while disturbance from humans walking alone was typically less than half that of dogs. And recent socio-cultural changes have exacerbated problems in this area. Loose dogs kill wildlife: the UK cost of dog attacks is up by 50% since pre-pandemic. The pandemic lockdowns saw an increase in dog-on-dog attacks: a 700% increase, with 2,264 in London alone.

We at the Trust also see the human side of this issue. As the park's community volunteers, we work with groups from all across Hackney's diverse range of backgrounds and groups. We know from this that there are people who are fearful of off-lead dogs, and others who are not fearful but are reluctant to use the park regularly because of the risk of off-lead dogs jumping up at them. We receive correspondence from families who are concerned at the fact that off-lead dogs jump on their relatives' graves, or leave mess.

We also know that there are some members of some religious and ethnic groups who are less likely to use the park for lots of reasons, not least because there are off-lead dogs present. Back in July 2019, the research appendices for the Lottery funded Activity Plan that is about to begin were illuminating on this topic (carried out by independent consultants Julia Holberry Associates). One focus group composed of parents who weren't park users (one of whom was white British and the rest of whom were either black British or Muslim British); group members were quoted as saying that if there were activities like "dog yoga" and "dog movies" then it would be less attractive for them to come. In another group of adults over 55, one of whom was Nigerian British and another was Caribbean British, there was a sense among some that they did not like the dogs in the park – and some even felt that dogs shouldn't be allowed in. While this does not claim to be in any way representative, it does illustrate the complexities of the question.

It's important to note that, in our view, the question is not whether dogs should be prohibited to solve these problems. Instead, we ask: what does the spectrum of options look like, and where should the compromise fall? Non-exhaustively, that spectrum might look like this: a prohibition/ban at one end; then an on-leads rule or behaviour change signage or another compromise in the middle; then the status quo at the other. An ecologically ideal situation, as recognised on social media by Abney ecology experts and others, might be a full-on ban; we mention it to emphasise that the dogs on leads proposal is – and was intended to be – a possible compromise, a balancing act.

We recognise that this issue has been a divisive one, a fact which is no doubt reflected in the post bag the council will have received for this consultation.

In the end, the council – as our community's elected representatives – will balance the views and contributions and make a decision that is right for the park and those who love it. We support that, and we will support it whether it's a yes to the proposal, the status quo, or a compromise. Our partnership is robust and for the long-term although work to protect and preserve Abney's ecology must be enhanced in all cases.

It is important that a decision that is based on the whole range of evidence and perspectives and not on who shouts the loudest, and that you put the park's future, and its ecological and inclusivity-related interests, at the heart of the decision. It should also be carefully monitored in terms of footfall and paw-fall together with environmental studies to create up to date baseline information. Signage should also draw attention to the unique ecology and status of Abney Park.

Background: A further selection of the wider evidence base we have drawn on is below.

- Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) - Hackney Council - Citizen Space
- 1 in 4 admit impulse buying a pandemic puppy | Kennel Club (thekennelclub.org.uk)
- UK Pet Food releases its annual pet population data - Veterinary Practice (veterinary-practice.com)
- Animal Welfare (Responsibility for Dog Attacks) - Hansard - UK Parliament

- [Red List of British Mammals](#)
- [Pet owners urged to help keep wildlife and livestock safe this spring | The Wildlife Trusts](#)
- [The state of nature: 41 percent of UK species have declined since 1970s | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](#)
- [Managing dogs and nature conservation - Inside Ecology](#)
- [The-impact-of-dogs-on-wildlife.pdf \(thenatureinstitute.org\)](#)
- [Managing dogs and nature conservation - Inside Ecology](#)
- [Taking the lead: dog owners urged to keep their pets in check in the countryside | Dogs | The Guardian](#)
- [Nutrient fertilization by dogs in peri-urban ecosystems - De Frenne - 2022 - Ecological Solutions and Evidence - Wiley Online Library](#)
- [Managing dogs and nature conservation - Inside Ecology](#)
- [UK cost of dog attacks rises by 50%, causing needless suffering of sheep \(nfumutual.co.uk\)](#)
- [The-impact-of-dogs-on-wildlife.pdf \(thenatureinstitute.org\)](#)

Appendix 7 – Abney Park Trust Dog Users Group Submission

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

**DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) –
RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION AND SUBMISSION TO COUNCILLORS**

1. We write to set out the reasons for our **opposition to the proposed ban of off-lead dogs in Abney Park cemetery** and to ask you to reconsider this aspect of the proposed PSPO extension.
2. This submission is made on behalf of a group of over 250 local residents and dog-owners who have come together in response to this particular aspect of the consultation launched by the Council in August. However, opposition to the proposed ban in Abney Park is even wider than this; a petition on Change.org to stop this aspect of the PSPO currently has **over 2,015 signatures**, and counting. <https://www.change.org/p/stop-hackney-councils-proposed-dogs-on-leads-pspo-in-abney-park>.
3. We are all regular users of Abney Park, and love and value the park as a place that we have used for many years. Some of us also have family members buried in the cemetery. **We love living in Hackney**, some of us having been here all our lives, and welcome everything the Council and councillors have done to build a **welcoming, inclusive and green borough**.
4. We acknowledge that the Council has a duty and responsibility to address unlawful and irresponsible behaviour that has an impact on the well-being of local people and their quality of life, and we support it in its efforts to do so. Problems associated with irresponsible dog ownership affect responsible dog owners as much as those without dogs. We **support** the following parts of the proposed PSPO:
 - the borough-wide 'dog fouling of land' prohibition;
 - the dog exclusion prohibition from specified additional areas such as children's playgrounds and sports areas, and existing dog-free areas in parks;
 - the borough-wide 'dogs on leads by direction' requirement, where a dog is not under the control of the owner, is causing damage or acting aggressively.
5. In the document that follows, we explain our position in three sections:
 - **Section 1**: our **response to the rationale** council officers have given for the ban on off-lead dogs in Abney Park;
 - **Section 2**: our views on the serious **legal questions** raised by the proposed ban;
 - **Section 3**: the **impact on the community** and **unintended consequences** of the ban.

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

6. The central points which we will explain and demonstrate in this document include, but are not limited to, the following:

- There is **no evidence at all of problems with anti-social behaviour by dogs in Abney Park**. This has been confirmed by Freedom of Information Act ("FOI") responses from the Council and the Met Police.
- There is **no evidence or justification** for banning dogs off-lead by reference to Abney Park's status as a **historical site**. It has been an established dog walking area for decades without problems. **Nothing has changed**.
- Similarly, there is no **evidence or justification** for banning dogs off-lead by reference to **ecological or conservation arguments**. Abney Park has been a nature reserve for decades. **Nothing has changed**.
- **Abney Park Trust's response** to the consultation, which the Council largely adopted mid-way through the consultation period, is a **misleading and untenable document**. It is alarmist, irrelevant and has damaged local community relations. We will systematically explain its flaws in detail below.
- Because the proposed Abney Park measure within the PSPO has no basis or justification, **the Council would be acting unlawfully**, in excess of its powers, if it introduced the ban.
- Further, the use of anti-social behaviour legislation for the purported protection of wildlife or ecology would be a fundamental mistake and a **misapplication of the legislation**. **There is no legal precedent for it**.
- That issue is compounded by the **multiple failures of council officers** to follow, or even acknowledge, **applicable legal guidance** governing the process that should precede any potential PSPO.
- **Procedurally, the PSPO consultation has been defective**. Serious flaws include a shifting justification, inadequate publicity, conflicting communications from councillors and officers, and an unfairly biased online consultation tool.
- Our survey evidence demonstrates that **the Abney Park ban would have harmful unintended consequences for Abney Park, for other local spaces, and for Hackney residents**, whilst achieving no benefits to weigh against this damage.

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

- Key harms would be (i) an influx of **additional dogs to Clissold Park**, which is already a crowded space; and (ii) **making Abney Park less safe, particularly for women. The effect of the Abney Park PSPO would be indirectly discriminatory.**
7. This document is the end product of over three months of canvassing local views, carrying out research, collating extensive survey and monitoring data from Abney Park, and bringing together the information and arguments. We acknowledge this submission is detailed, and **we thank councillors in advance for their time** in reading through it. We will be happy to discuss any aspect of the findings and submissions presented in this document with you.
 8. We are not aware of any specific data that indicates what increase in dog ownership there has been since the pandemic in Hackney specifically. In general terms, we appreciate that there has been an increase in dog ownership nationally and that thought needs to be given as to how this increase should be accommodated. However, as we will explain in depth below, what is clear is that effectively withdrawing the second largest space that is currently used in Stoke Newington to exercise dogs will in fact **cause more problems** with the management of a larger dog population and will not solve or improve anything.
 9. We hope that it is accepted that only a very small minority of dog owners in Hackney, as elsewhere, are irresponsible and that problems caused by them should not be permitted to dominate and drive this discussion. There is sometimes a misunderstanding among people who do not have dogs about normal dog behaviour. Letting well-behaved dogs off the lead does not mean they are out of control, and even off-lead dogs usually stay close to their owners on the paths in Abney Park. The **overwhelming majority of dog walks take place without incident** and responsible dog owners dispose of their dogs' waste properly.
 10. We believe that the increased powers in the proposed PSPO listed in para 4 above, coupled with existing powers to police unlawful behaviour, are sufficient to meet any reasonable concerns concerning the dogs in Abney Park.¹ As we explain below, although the Council's responses to our **FOI requests have confirmed in clear terms that there is no evidence of poor behaviour by dogs in Abney Park**, we would nevertheless support a rigorous use of these powers to ensure that all dog owners behave responsibly throughout Hackney, including in Abney Park.

¹ A full range of the measures available to tackle problematic dog-related behaviour is set out in the DEFRA guide 'Dealing with irresponsible dog ownership – Practitioner's manual' https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/697953/pb13333-cop-dogs-091204.pdf

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

11. It is not clear where the idea of adding Abney Park to the PSPO for the extension of the Order in March 2024 originated from, though our understanding is this idea may have come from council officers. We are aware from **direct discussions with councillors** that many of them feel that the Abney Park proposal should have been discussed with them before it was put out for public consultation. The phrase “**blind-sided**” is one we have heard many times.
12. In any event, we are concerned that council officers appear to have taken the need for an off-lead ban in Abney Park as a starting point in the **absence of any evidence** to support this. No steps seem to have been taken to establish an evidence base and a clear rationale for the Abney Park extension to the PSPO before it was introduced, notwithstanding the comprehensive guidance that exists to support this process (we address this guidance further below).
13. We all believe that in developing policy, council officers should have engaged directly with the constituents it would impact, and we urge councillors and officers to engage with park users now. We have talked to and carried out an **extensive survey of 429 Abney Park users**, both dog owners and non-dog owners, and we present key findings from that exercise throughout this document. We have appended a report of all findings from the survey in the form of a PowerPoint slide deck, ('Abney Park Survey') and we will present key highlights throughout this document as 'Survey Snapshots', in ***bold blue italics***. Where we cite percentages, those are percentage responses to our survey. For example:
 - ***Survey Snapshot: The overwhelming response to Hackney's PSPO proposal that dogs must be on leads in Abney is negative. 79% of the total survey population, and 96% of dog owners, oppose the ban.***
14. We also conducted monitoring over two days in October 2023 to establish actual behaviour patterns and usage of Abney Park by those with and without dogs. A summary of our findings is also appended ('Abney Park Gate Observations').
15. We are hopeful that this submission paves the way for a **measured discussion** about this issue, starting with an objective assessment of dog behaviour and any problems that are found to exist. We have recently received a letter of support from Diane Abbott MP, which adopts the same sensible and conciliatory approach:

*"I recognise ... that most dog owners are responsible people whose pets are not dangerous and behave sensibly and safely. Our public spaces in Hackney must be able to accommodate space for dogs to get much needed exercise as well as some dog free areas where appropriate. **Considering the high number of dog owners in this area, and the fact that off-lead dog walking in Abney Park is well established, I think Hackney Council should look against at their proposals for this site and***

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revisit alternatives that might provide an effective and fair compromise.”

The Rt. Hon. Diane Abbott MP; 5 December 2023

16. We would much **prefer to be allies** of the Council, not to be pitched against it by this **deeply divisive policy**. We will support any policy that proactively encourages responsible dog ownership throughout the borough, and many of us will actively engage in promoting this. We would like to build bridges between the Council, Abney Park Trust and dog owners, and hope you will help facilitate this and consult with us directly as to any future plans.

THANK YOU

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

QUESTIONS WHICH WE BELIEVE CABINET NEEDS TO ASK ITSELF:

- What is the problem that the ban on off-lead dogs in Abney Park seeks to address?
- Where is the evidence of dog-related anti-social behaviour in Abney Park and where is the evidence that the off-lead ban would mitigate or prevent such behaviour?
- What is it about Abney Park being a historical site and a graveyard now, compared to three years ago when the existing PSPO was made, that justifies the change of policy?
- Similarly, what is it about Abney Park being a nature reserve now, compared to three years ago, that justifies the change of policy?
- What proper evidence is there that off-lead dogs have a detrimental effect on the ecology and wildlife of Abney Park?
- Can the Council be satisfied that the consultation process has been a meaningful exercise in informing itself of the extent of dog-related problems and the experiences and views of residents?
- Can the Council be confident that the proposal for an off-lead ban in Abney Park, and its prior consultation and publicity, meets the requirements of the Anti-social Behaviour and Crime Act 2014 and associated legal guidance and that it would be a lawful use of its powers?
- Has the Council considered the impact on other parks in Hackney and whether these are acceptable alternatives?
- Does the Council's assessment of the impact of the Abney Park ban adequately address the likely effect of it upon all sectors of the community, particularly those who are disadvantaged?
- Has the Council made any assessment of the safety implications of fewer people using Abney Park having regard to safety issues, specifically combatting violence against women and anti-social behaviour?
- Wouldn't the proposals in the PSPO for the borough-wide 'dog fouling of land' prohibition and the borough-wide dogs on lead *direction*, together with proper use of existing powers, be sufficient to meet any perceived problem with dogs in Abney Park, and a good compromise that would be acceptable to everyone?

SECTION ONE**HACKNEY COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL AND EXPLANATIONS GIVEN FOR THE PSPO**

17. From our conversations with Abney Park users at the gates, most were shocked to hear about the proposed ban on off-lead dogs there. Although most of us use it almost every day, we are unaware of any effort to talk to park users in advance. We are a very easy-to-reach group (as demonstrated by the ease with which this campaign was set up, and our survey conducted). If there was a problem with dogs in Abney Park, we would of course have welcomed the opportunity to discuss it with council officers and work together to find solutions. We are people who love and value the park.

What is the problem that this ban seeks to address?

18. To date, we have not been able to establish why the Council is proposing the ban on off-lead dogs in Abney Park.
19. Mid-way through the consultation period, the Council extended the period of the consultation and radically overhauled the reasons given for the Abney Park ban on its website. We address the procedural implications of this in section 2.

Anti-social behaviour

20. Since its launch, the Council's consultation webpage has included the following statement:

*"Over the past eighteen months, we have received a large amount of correspondence relating to the behaviour of dogs in the borough. Many residents are nervous about the large numbers of dogs in Hackney's parks and green spaces."*²

21. That is a statement about Hackney as a borough, and not Abney Park specifically.
22. Anecdotally, with our collective experience of walking our dogs in Abney Park for very many years, there does not appear to be a problem with dog-related behaviour in Abney Park, which feels safer now than it has ever been. We believe that the high proportion of **dog owners in Abney Park has made it an increasingly safe place for all users**, although we are aware of other, non-dog related, types of anti-social behaviour that are still causes for concern (these

² <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/communications-engagement/dog-control-public-space-protection-order/>

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include the use of the park for sexual activity, drug use and as a toilet).

23. If there was a problem with dog-related anti-social behaviour in Abney Park, we would hope that the Council would set out the evidence of such behaviour and identify potential remedies. Instead, it has proposed a total ban on dogs off-lead **without presenting any explanation of what anti-social behaviour problem** this aims to address. The Council needs to engage meaningfully with park users so we can better understand any concerns and work together to find practical solutions, should problems be found to exist.

■ ***Survey Snapshot: Dog fouling on the streets (not in Abney) is the single overwhelming issue (38% of all respondents have personally witnessed it). Abney is notable for having the least anti-social behaviours by dogs, on all counts (versus the streets or other parks).***

24. We have asked council officers if they can provide information on the number of complaints they have received about Abney Park and dog-related anti-social behaviour. Members of our campaign made a number of proportionate and appropriately formulated **FOI requests**. Only some of them have been responded to, either within the statutory period, or at all. ³

25. However, the data given in the FOI requests that have been responded to presents a very clear picture. **Over the last three years**, the Council has recorded 34 complaints about dogs in parks in the borough. Just **six** of the complaints mention Abney Park and **just four** of them mention dogs being off the lead. Those are:

- a complaint about dogs off-lead, disrespectful people, and the park being overgrown and gravestones falling over (2023)
- a complaint about dogs off-lead (2023)
- a complaint about dogs off-lead (2022)
- a complaint about the number of dogs pooing at what will be the entrance to the new café area and suggesting owners should be encouraged to not just let dogs poo at the entrance (2021)
- a complaint about the number of people meeting up in Abney Park while walking dogs during lockdown. Wants a limit on total number of dogs allowed in at any time and them on leads (2021)
- out of control dog complaint made by a dog trainer who said they offered the owner advice (2020)

³ For example, FOIs with references 1036041, 1036039, 1036036, 1036035 and 1036031 have received no response. These were all filed on 9 October 2023, posing single questions, concerning the alleged evidence of dog-related behaviour in Abney Park.

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

26. We suggest that **perspective on these tiny numbers is vital:**

- there have been **376 complaints about dog fouling on Streets Data**. The Cleaner Estates Team had **544 complaints about dog fouling**;
- the Housing Team have had **58 complaints** about dogs, mostly noise-related or other forms of anti-social behaviour within estate buildings;
- the Community Safety and Enforcement Team recorded **252 incidents** involving dogs. 23 were dog control incidents and mostly involved anti-social behaviour and were referred to the police. Just six specifically mention a park, but none mention Abney: Millfields (3), Shepherdess Walk (1), Milton Gardens (1), Hackney Downs (1);
- all the remaining, **over 200 of the 252, are again about dog fouling**. The FOI did not record locations for the Enforcement Team's investigations of dog fouling.

27. In addition, on 8th December 2023, the Metropolitan Police confirmed, in response to FOI Request FOI/23/033788, that of the ten reported dog attacks that took place in the Hackney Council: Stoke Newington Safer Neighbourhood Area between January 2018 and October 2023, **none took place in Abney Park**.

28. There are two inescapable conclusions from these data:

- (i) of the complaints about dog behaviour which the Council has received in the last 3 years, **just 6 complaints out of 1230 related to Abney Park: 0.49%**.
- (ii) a ban on off-lead dogs in Abney Park **would do nothing to address the issues that exist in other areas in relation to dog control and/or fouling**.

■ **Survey Snapshot: We asked: Have you ever witnessed a dog-on-person attack in Abney Park (leading to any injury)? Response: 0% out of 429 had ever seen such an incident.**

We invite Councillors to ask critically: where is the evidence of dog-related anti-social behaviour in Abney Park? Where is the evidence that the off-lead ban would mitigate or prevent such behaviour?

Historical site and a graveyard

29. One of the reasons the consultation document gives as a reason for the Abney proposal is the fact that Abney Park is a historical site and a graveyard. Both are true. But **it has always been a burial site**, albeit not a working cemetery since the 1970s.

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

30. We recognise that as a burial site which has graves that are still tended and memorials to historical figures, Abney Park has a different status from other local parks like Clissold Park. However, **Abney Park has a well-established status in the community, over several decades, as amenity woodland.** The management of Abney Park for its veteran trees (core to its biodiversity value) is itself in tension with the burials; the growth of the trees leads to major, permanent damage to memorials, unless they are tended graves or significant burials (in which case a different management regime is applied in the immediate area).

31. **Burial sites can be and are used as public amenity or even recreation spaces.**

This issue is one which is clearly manageable with care and community input. We note the following claim on the Council's consultation website:

"By extending the requirement for dogs to be on leads, the Council aims to show respect for the site and the individuals buried there. Keeping dogs on leads helps prevent them from running and doing other things amongst the graves, a mark of respect for the deceased and their families."

32. In our survey, we asked respondents whether they personally had relatives buried in Abney Park, and if so, how they felt about the Abney PSPO. In response:

■ ***Survey Snapshot: Over 70% of those who actually have relatives buried in Abney Park oppose the off-lead ban.***

33. Moreover, it is, unfortunately, necessary for us to raise that the claimed concerns of showing respect for the dead are in real tension with the Council's decision to grant the chapel a licence as an 'exclusive venue' with a capacity for at least 70 guests, permitting alcohol and music up to 93 decibels up to midnight three times a week. **There is genuine anger amongst the community** at the assertion, on the one hand, that dogs and/or their owners are disrespectful of the dead, whilst at the same time the Council is – and there is no debate about this – offering the chapel out as a party venue for hire. This is perceived by our members as **unfair to local residents with dogs, and showing double standards.**

34. Whatever anyone's views about the chapel becoming a private hire venue, it is a fact that Abney Park's status and usage have not changed at all in the three years since the Council last considered the PSPO in 2020, when it chose to take the diametrically opposite position to the one proposed today. **It previously chose not to apply any PSPO measures to Abney Park.**

35. It is **unclear why council officers have changed their minds about this.** If it were possible to articulate what the problem off-lead dogs are causing now to the historical site, that they were not causing three years ago, then we could all work

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together to find solutions. Dog walkers and owners are the most frequent users of the site, and we want to preserve it for future generations.

- ***Survey Snapshot: Dog owners & their accompanied friends come to Abney Park significantly more often than other respondents (67% visit daily or several times a week)***

36. We also made the following FOI request relating to the supposed impact of dogs off-lead upon Abney as a historical site and graveyard, and received the following response on 3rd November 2023:

Request: "What reports, surveys or other documents does the Council possess which address whether dogs off-the-lead pose a risk of damage to graves or other monuments in Abney Park? Please provide a copy or identify where any such reports are publicly available (including online)"

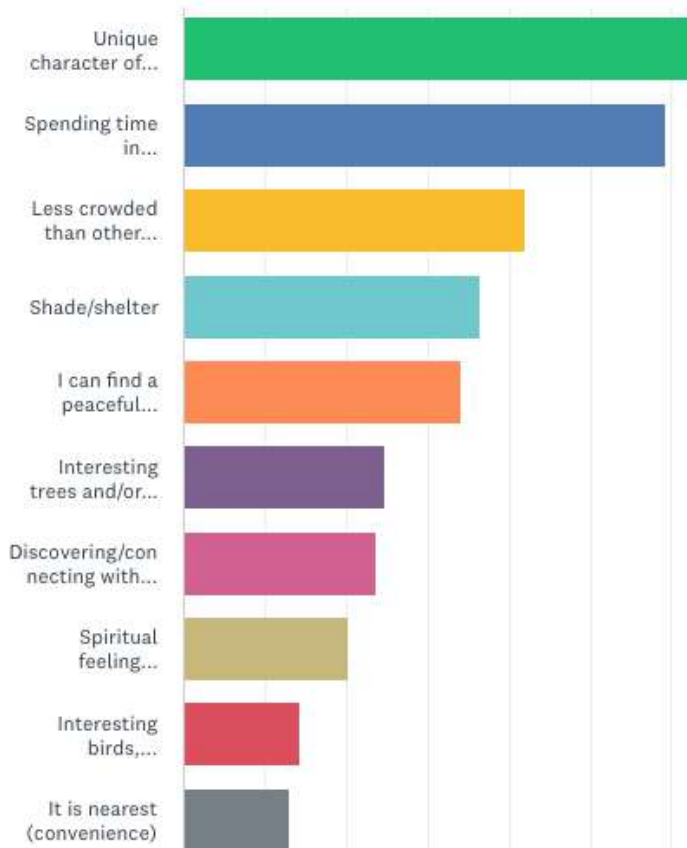
*Response: "**There are no reports, surveys or other documents related specifically to Abney Park Cemetery.** The Council is proposing to make the change at Abney now for a number of reasons. The reasons for this are outlined here: <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/communications-engagement/dog-control-public-space-protection-order/> (FAQs Question 6)"*

37. This confirms that there is no documented or researched evidence to support any alleged negative impact that off-lead dogs have upon Abney Park as a historical site and graveyard.
38. Finally, we note that the Council's consultation website suggests that the Abney Park PSPO would achieve "*consistency*" across the borough. We respectfully disagree.
39. The consultation webpage notes that "*it is acknowledged that Abney is a larger site than the other closed churchyards and burial grounds in the borough.*" However, it states that the existing PSPO "*requires dogs to be kept on leads in Council managed closed churchyards and burial grounds in the borough*", with the exception of Abney Park Cemetery.
40. The obvious response to that: **Abney Park is an exception for very good and well-established reasons.** Other churchyards and burial grounds are just that, whereas Abney Park is a 30-acre wooded area that people visit to walk in, to commune with nature, to get respite from the city, and to take exercise themselves or exercise their dogs. **Few, if any, of those considerations apply to a typical churchyard or burial ground.** It is not merely that Abney Park is larger site than the other closed churchyards and burial grounds: it is that **Abney Park is well established as a fundamentally different type of amenity space for the**

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community and has been for many decades.

■ *Survey Snapshot: We asked respondents what they most valued about Abney Park*



41. Finally under this heading, the consultation webpage notes that Abney Park Cemetery is one of the '**Magnificent Seven**' garden cemeteries of London. Far from there being "consistency" as to the presence of dogs in those cemeteries, **there is in fact a wide spread of approaches taken**, depending upon the particular characteristics of the various sites. Hence:

- 3 of 7 exclude dogs (42%)
- 2 of 7 (Abney Park and Tower Hamlets cemetery) allow well-behaved dogs off the lead (28%)
- 2 of 7 require dogs to be on leads (28%)

42. The statement that a dogs-on-leads policy would be "*commensurate with the majority of the other 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries*" is therefore **quite simply wrong**. At present, **an equal number of the Magnificent Seven allow dogs off the lead as those which require dogs to be on the lead**.

43. Moreover, we suggest it is a thoroughly unconvincing basis for making policy

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decisions to simply point to other boroughs doing things one way or another. Each of the Magnificent Seven is its own unique space with its own particular physical and spatial character, and its own role within the community around it. The relevant question for councillors is **what is right for this borough, for Abney Park, and for the Hackney community**, which includes dog owners and their dogs, as well as those without dogs.

We invite Councillors to ask critically: what is it about Abney being a historical site and a graveyard now, compared to three years ago when the existing PSPO was made, that justifies the change of mind and change of policy?

Ecological site

44. The second argument made in the consultation proposal is that Abney Park is an ecological site. In the present context, it is important to be clear about what is meant by this term, in order to then consider the claimed impact of off-lead dogs upon that ecology.
45. Abney Park is a **precious and much-loved place for local residents**. Many of us visit it daily, in all weathers and throughout the year. **We support** the work of the Council and the Trust to maintain the park and its unique nature and special qualities. In fact, we would welcome opportunities to become more involved in that.
46. We emphasise that, as Abney Park Trust's own website points out, Abney Park was designated as a Local Nature Reserve in 1993 due "*to its value for **people and wildlife***" (our emphasis). It is also important to recognise that the wide diversity of wildlife that Abney Park is known and celebrated for appears to be thriving, notwithstanding the presence of off-lead dogs there for decades.
47. Abney Park is an important green space within Hackney and one of the borough's richer sites in biodiversity terms. As such, it features prominently in **Hackney's nature recovery plan 'Hackney Richer in Wildlife' (2021)**. The key actions set out in this plan relate to establishing linkages between green sites and enhancing the strengths of each site. Actions relating to Abney Park are identified as continuing tree management to maintain important deadwood habitat, planting trees and shrubs in council-owned space around Abney Park's margins and increasing linkages to Clissold Park and Woodberry Wetlands.
48. **At no point in Hackney's nature recovery plan** – or in fact in any report we have found in our research - **are dogs mentioned as a significant threat to Abney Park**, or a priority problem to solve to benefit biodiversity.
49. Ecological survey work is piecemeal and driven to a large degree by the

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enthusiasms of volunteer experts. Each such survey provides a snapshot of what has been seen in Abney Park over perhaps 20 years, but **no systematic surveys exist** which can pull those together in a baseline or evidence trends on the site. No full ecological survey has been done on Abney Park since the one that was submitted with the planning application in 2018, and **that ecological report contains no date references later than 2012.**

50. On the same theme, we asked the following FOI request relating to this, and received the following response on 3rd November 2023:

Request: "What reports, surveys or other documents does the Council possess which address whether dogs off-the-lead pose a risk to the habitat or other wildlife in Abney Park? Please provide a copy or identify where any such reports are publicly available (including online)"

*Response: "**There are no reports, surveys or other documents related specifically to Abney Park Cemetery.** The Council is proposing to make the change at Abney now for a number of reasons. The reasons for this are outlined here: <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/communications-engagement/dog-control-public-space-protection-order/> (FAQs Question 6)".*

51. Despite the absence of systemic, cohesive ecological survey evidence, some valuable 'snapshot' data exists. In an online talk, Abney Park enthusiast and ecologist Russell Miller notes that:

- Abney Park is a very unusual urban site and, due to its history as an arboretum planted with exotics, and a cemetery, botanically "*unnatural*". To put that another way, **this is not a slice of pristine natural environment** comparable to a coastal heathland or ancient woodland.
- the key quality which makes Abney Park's biodiversity special is the dead wood habitat, and the fact that it has been a feature for several decades - some very rare **dead wood fungi and invertebrate species** which are indicative of "*ecological continuity*" are found there.
- analysing the imperfect snapshot data by "*species quality index*" (i.e. how many of the species found there are rare shows that Abney Park scores highest for deadwood and decaying wood species, followed by **arboreal species: those living in trees**. Again, the species referred to are **overwhelmingly fungi and invertebrates**.

52. Crucially, it should be obvious that these, the most important habitats and species in Abney Park in biodiversity terms, are **not remotely threatened by the presence of off-lead dogs.**

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53. Against this backdrop, we must address **the position adopted by the Abney Park Trust.**

54. Abney Park Trust published its response to the consultation on its website on 8th September 2023, shortly after the consultation opened. Its response purported to justify the ban on off-lead dogs in Abney Park on what many feel are **erroneous and spurious** grounds, based on **arguments and research that are largely irrelevant.**

55. Regrettably, **there are numerous glaring examples of this:**

- A number of the most egregious misrepresentations that Abney Park Trust make concern a report compiled by Lori Hennings for the Portland, Oregon Metro Parks District (USA), dated April 2016. The Trust's position on the purported impacts of dogs upon wildlife in Abney Park involves **quoting, near verbatim, the findings of this American report.**
- As an important preliminary, the report by Ms. Hennings is a literature review. It is **not a scientific study.**
- From that source, the Trust addresses the supposed dangers that dogs pose to other animals by "*indirect mortality*". The Trust argues that "*dogs can transmit diseases (such as canine distemper and rabies) to and from wildlife*".
- In relation to Abney Park, this is arrant nonsense. **Rabies was eradicated in the UK** from all mammals (except for bats) 101 years ago, in 1922. **Canine distemper is virtually unheard of** among the vaccinated dog population of the UK.
- From the same source, the Trust also argues that "*dog waste can pollute water and transmit harmful parasites and diseases to people*". This is **entirely irrelevant** given that as the Trust itself recognizes, there is a "*lack of any water source within the cemetery*".
- Figures and citations given by the Trust are at best irrelevant, and often **sensationalist or even farcical.** Using alarmist language such as "*biodiversity emergency*" and "*nature-depleted*", the Trust equates the matter of dogs being walked off-lead with an impending nature crisis. Yet the statement that "*since the 1970s it has been shown that 41% of all UK species studied have declined*" has **no connection whatsoever to dogs**, let alone to dogs in Abney Park
- Moreover, that statement is a citation from a Natural History Museum article which, the Trust notably fail to mention, cites "*agriculture, urbanisation, pollution, hydrological degradation and climate change*" as the biggest drivers of species decline. **Domesticated dogs are not mentioned at all.**
- Several sources invoked by the Trust also make reference to the danger dogs pose to livestock. This is a meaningless argument because **no**

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livestock are held in Abney Park. Therefore, the Trust's citation that "*loose dogs kill wildlife – the UK cost of dog attacks is up by 50% since pre-pandemic*" is, in context, **simply absurd**. It is taken from a National Farmers' Union paper on sheep worrying. It has no conceivable application to Abney Park.

- The Trust cites a Guardian article as a reason for increased dog control,⁴ but in fact **that article does not mention keeping dogs on leads**. It does refer to dog owners "*being asked to clean up waste and, where possible, stop dogs jumping in ponds*"; there are no ponds in Abney Park, and the existing PSPO already applies to dog fouling (though the FOI responses and our survey show there is no real evidence of a dog fouling problem in Abney Park either).
- The Trust's response notes a decline in nesting birds. From the list of Abney Park bird life found on the Trust's website, only woodcocks are true ground-nesting birds. These are migratory in Abney Park, and as such they can be expected only in small numbers. Habitats for ground nesting birds are most commonly found in coastal areas, wetlands, heathlands, moors and uplands: not urban cemeteries. In any event, in such a setting, **the greatest threat to any ground nesting birds would be foxes and rats**, rather than domestic dogs, who do not have access to the park in the dark / low-light hours.
- More generally, almost all the Trust's sources relate to the UK-wide natural habitat. **Abney Park cannot**, by virtue of its location in Zone 2 of the country's largest city, **be considered a normal or representative example of rural England**. It is surrounded by urban development on all sides; and of course, the thousands of headstones are not a natural or rural feature.
- A further example of this is the Trust citing the Red List of British Mammals. They alarmingly refer to the fact that this list has found that one quarter of UK mammals are threatened with extinction. There is no comprehensive record of the mammal population in Abney Park; but the suggestion that dogs being on-lead in Abney Park will have any meaningful effect on these national trends or populations for any of the mammals on that is not credible. The endangered animals include things like bats (nocturnal, not ground nesting), **wildcats, beavers and wild boar**.
- The Trust's **methodological approach to its source material is also woeful**. Referencing is used incorrectly; there are no footnotes to take readers to the sources from which claims are made; and there are no links to actual studies.

56. Taken as a whole, the Trust's response was **poorly researched, showed confirmation bias, and is a thoroughly unreliable basis for any decision-**

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/18/nature-reserves-urge-dog-owners-control-keep-pets-in-check-aoe>

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making by the Council. The only safe course is to disregard it in favour of more serious evidence and argument.

57. Claims by the Trust of the kind set out above are **seriously misleading to the public**. We are concerned that their publication of this material on their website shortly after the launch of the consultation will have unfairly influenced local residents, many of whom are rightly concerned about ecological issues generally.

■ ***Survey Snapshot: There is evidence that these ill-informed, unjustified claims about the impact of dogs upon ecology have influenced some respondents. A sample quotation:***

"If Hackney Council has determined that dogs off lead are disrupting that nature then I respect that view. I'd certainly put the needs of our very precious creatures (birds, small mammals) over the needs of dogs, of which there's an ecology-distorting overabundance".

58. It is detrimental to the Trust's standing that its argument was so poorly constructed and so unscientific. As we have explained above, Abney Park's oft-cited expert spokesman **Russell Miller does not blame dogs for Abney Park's biodiversity losses** - he blames the loss of linkage to other large habitats, and encroachment from development at Abney Park's margins. Those are the same issues identified by and addressed in the Nature Recovery Plan, which we repeat, does not mention dogs at all. **The true position is that Abney Park's current richness has arisen and exists in equilibrium with off-lead dogs.**

59. When considered dispassionately and sensibly, the available material underscores that:

- there is **no evidence** of biodiversity trends relating specifically to Abney Park at all; and
- there is **no evidence** that any detrimental biodiversity impacts arise due to the presence of off-lead dogs.

60. We again refer to the uncomfortable issues relating to the chapel. **A tension exists** between, on the one hand, the Council's consultation argument that Abney Park is a vulnerable ecological site which dogs allegedly threaten, and on the other hand, the Council's decision to grant an events licence which permits parties and other gatherings up to three times a week, up until midnight, with loud music up to 93 decibels and with alcohol being served.

61. We ask rhetorically: what will be the consequences of such disturbing late-night behaviour upon the ecology of Abney Park, when the trees have for decades stood

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in peaceful quiet each night? ⁵

62. We do not exaggerate when we say that most people we have spoken with during the campaign **are simply incredulous at this**. It is one of the issues that **arouses the strongest anger**: the suggestion that off-lead dogs are a threat to habitat, whilst at the same time the Council is allowing these new and invasive activities, is one that people describe as perverse, unfair, and – a word that has come up time and time again – hypocritical.
63. It is very unfortunate for any policy to be so divisive as to generate such strong sentiment. It is even more unfortunate that the Trust's arguments and so-called 'evidence' plainly had a **significant influence upon the Council's revised justification** of the Abney off-leads ban, which it published in mid-October 2023. The adoption of the Trust's unsound arguments has, perhaps unintentionally, placed the Council in a position where it, too, has endorsed misleading and unevidenced claims on its consultation website.
64. Standing back: the Council has asserted in the consultation that ecology is a ground for the PSPO, but it does not appear to have anything to support this and has not explained what problem it is trying to solve. The FOI Response above confirms that the Council possesses no reports, surveys or other documents related specifically to Abney Park Cemetery.

We invite Councillors to ask critically:

- **under the existing PSPO, made just three years ago, Abney Park was specifically excluded from any restrictions upon dogs, and it has been a nature reserve for 30 years. What has changed in the last three years that would justify the ban now?**
- **what action have council officers taken to verify the ecological claims made by Abney Park Trust to ensure that residents taking part in the consultation have a balanced view of the ecological arguments concerning dogs in Abney Park? What proper evidence is there of the effect of off-lead dogs upon the ecology and wildlife of Abney Park?**

⁵ In a similar vein, in 2016, the chapel was celebrated as a roosting site for the rare soprano pipistrelle bat; this will obviously have been displaced by the extensive building works that have been carried out in preparation for the chapel's use as an events space.

SECTION TWO THE LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

65. The power to make a PSPO is set out in s 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“**the 2014 Act**”). It is a **criminal offence** to breach the terms of a PSPO without reasonable cause. This means that the proposal to ban off-lead dogs will **criminalise** an activity that hundreds of local people and their dogs have enjoyed week in and week out without incident in Abney Park for decades.
66. The 2014 Act provides that a local authority may only make a PSPO if it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that there are **activities** carried on in a public place which have had a **detrimental effect** on the **quality of life** of those in the locality, and that the effect of these **justifies the imposition** of restrictions.⁶ Those activities have to be identified in the PSPO, and any prohibitions or restrictions imposed must be **reasonable and proportionate**.
67. A PSPO cannot, therefore, be lawfully used to impose an off-lead ban in Abney Park in the absence of clearly identified, actual dog-related anti-social behaviour there, which would be prevented or reduced by having dogs on leads.
68. Evidence of specified activities that are having a detrimental effect is the **first legal pre-requisite** for any PSPO. **The second legal pre-requisite** for any PSPO is that *where those activities exist*, restrictions can be imposed if they are **justified** in preventing or reducing those activities.
69. **The Council’s own FOI responses confirm in clear terms that there is no evidence of such problem behaviour.** As no behaviour has been identified which would be prevented or reduced by having dogs on leads, it follows that neither of the legal prerequisites for the imposition of the ban on off-lead dogs under the PSPO are made out.
70. We have addressed at length above the Council’s arguments for singling out Abney Park for an off-lead ban on the grounds that it is a site of historical significance and ecological importance. Whilst we agree that these are important issues generally, **these are not a lawful basis for the making of a PSPO.** They are outside the scope of the legislation which is concerned with anti-social behaviour, as distinct from cultural, heritage or ecological conservation.
71. For these reasons we believe that it would be **a misuse of the Council’s powers, and unlawful**, for the Abney Park ban to be included in the PSPO. Such a misuse

⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/section/59>

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is subject to statutory appeal, and there is recent legal precedent for the High Court overturning aspects of a broader PSPO that were found to have been unlawfully introduced by another local authority.⁷ To impose the ban on off-lead dogs in Abney Park under the PSPO would, on any considered view, involve serious legal risk for the Council.

72. Moreover, beyond the basic lack of a lawful basis for the measure, it does not appear that the Council has had regard to many of the legal requirements and guidance on the making of PSPOs as set out in:

- Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers Statutory guidance for frontline professionals (**“the Statutory Guidance”**),⁸ and
- The Public Spaces Protection Orders Guidance for Councils (**“the Local Government Guidance”**).⁹

73. In the first instance, the Council’s focus should have been on identifying problem behaviour. The Local Government Guidance states:

“Local areas will, of course, need to satisfy themselves that the legislative requirements are met before an Order can be introduced, and obtaining clear evidence to support this is important.”

74. It goes on to state the need for:

“a solid evidence base and rationale that sets out how the statutory criteria for each of the proposed restrictions have been met [to demonstrate] a direct link between the anti-social behaviour and the PSPO being proposed in response.”

75. The Local Government Guidance also provides that to be effective, a consultation should:

“Provide an overview of what the local issues are, set out why a PSPO is being proposed, and what its impact would be. Publishing details of the extent of the problem behaviour can assist respondents to understand why a PSPO is being considered and help inform views on whether it would therefore be an appropriate response.”

76. The Council’s consultation has failed to do this. Its ‘overview of local issues’

⁷ Summers v LB Richmond Upon Thames <https://www.2tg.co.uk/summers-v-lb-richmond-upon-thames-2018-ewhc-782-admin/>

⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1146322/2023_Update_ASB_Statutory_Guidance_-_FINAL_1_.pdf

⁹ https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.21%20PSPO%20guidance_06_1.pdf

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consists of the following statements:

- in relation to Hackney generally: *“over the past eighteen months, we have received a large amount of correspondence relating to the behaviour of dogs in the borough. Many residents are nervous about the large numbers of dogs in Hackney’s parks and green spaces”*;
- in relation to Abney Park: *“[o]ver the last few years, we have received correspondence and feedback relating to the behaviour of dogs in Abney Park Cemetery from concerned residents - this behaviour has also been observed by Parks and Green Spaces staff. In addition, some residents are nervous about the number of dogs in Abney Park and the behaviour of some.”*
- In relation to dog fouling: *[t]he increasing number of dogs being walked in Abney Park Cemetery off the lead has resulted in increased levels of dog fouling, in amongst graves, and other less accessible areas off the main paths of the Cemetery much of the dog faeces is not removed’.*¹⁰

77. No data or actual figures relating to the volume of correspondence or number of complaints was provided. On 9 October 2023, we submitted FOI 1036041, asking:

“How many items of correspondence has the council received relating to a large number of dogs in the council in the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 year-to-date? How do the council determine what constitutes a ‘large number’ of dogs?”

78. In breach of its legal obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Council failed to respond to that FOI (and to several others).

79. However, in relation to the claimed concerns about Abney Park, we have set out above that the FOI responses which were responded to have since established that **only 0.49 % of total complaints** to the Council, according to Hackney’s own data, relate to Abney Park; we refer again to the data from the Metropolitan Police in para 27 above which states that none of the reported dog attacks in Stoke Newington between January 2018 and October 2023 took place in Abney Park. **There is no credible to support the claim that “residents are nervous about the number of dogs in Abney Park and the behaviour of some”.**

80. Furthermore, our own survey responses confirmed that dog fouling **on the streets** was the single overwhelming issue (38% of all respondents had personally witnessed it).

■ **Survey Snapshot: Abney Park is notable for having the least anti-social**

¹⁰ <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/communications-engagement/dog-control-public-space-protection-order/>

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behaviours by dogs on all counts. 0% had seen a dog-on-person attack in Abney; 0.9% had seen a dog-on-dog attack in Abney; and just 8% said they had seen dog poo not picked up in Abney.

81. Notwithstanding the serious absence of evidence to justify the consultation's claims, the **consultation webpage presupposes a problem** with dog behaviour, and presents the PSPO as the only possible solution. This too is incorrect and contrary to legal guidance.

- The Statutory Guidance states that *where problematic behaviour has been identified* (we dispute this is the case for Abney Park), councils should also **consider whether there are alternative options to a PSPO**, as set out in the **DEFRA guidance**, which may be more appropriate. A full range of the measures available to tackle problematic dog-related behaviour is set out in the DEFRA guide "*Dealing with irresponsible dog ownership – Practitioner's manual*";¹¹
- Furthermore, the Local Government Guidance notes that some issues "*may be adequately addressed using other tools. For instance, awareness-raising campaigns about the effects of certain activities on others.*"

82. There is **no evidence that the Council have considered any other measures** to meet any perceived dog-related problem in Abney Park (or elsewhere in Hackney). Obvious measures to tackle the problem of dog-fouling throughout the borough would, we would say, include an awareness campaign and punitive measures to target specific offenders.

83. In its response to Hackney's consultation on 7th December 2023, **the Kennel Club** (approached by this campaign group) have said "we encourage local authorities to make use of more flexible and targeted measures at their disposal, including Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Community Protection Notices" and suggest the use of Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Clubs and accredited trainers in this.

84. The belief that the Abney PSPO is **not reasonable or proportionate** was also resoundingly borne out in our survey:

Survey Snapshot: The number one reason (72% of responses) why the ban is opposed is that local people feel it is a disproportionate measure and that it is not a reasonable response to any evidenced issue.

85. We also have significant concerns about the extent of consultation undertaken and the **failure to consult appropriate groups and bodies**. The Local Government

¹¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/697953/pb13333-cop-dogs-091204.pdf

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Guidance states that as well as consulting the police, councils should consult with community representatives: ***“those who will be directly affected by the Order or groups representing their interests should be directly approached”***. The last survey of Abney Park users by the Council was published in January 2018, and contains **no** complaints or comments about the presence of dogs or dog behaviour in Abney Park (although it did highlight safety concerns).¹²

86. The Council have not surveyed Abney Park users in the period preceding the current consultation, or during it, and no approach has been made to this group which, as the Council is aware, was set up in early September 2023 specifically in response to the Abney Park ban. **We are not aware of any consultation with any other community or interest groups.**
87. The Statutory Guidance also reminds the Council of its **obligation to consult dog law and welfare experts** *before* seeking to impose restrictions and advises councils to consider consulting the Kennel Club. It is not known whether the Council have done so.
88. The Local Government Guidance recommends that ‘councils should use a range of means to reach out to potential respondents’ and sets out **eleven different forms of consultation methods** that councils should consider engaging in. Hackney’s consultation process appears to be limited to the online survey. **We are not aware of any** (i) face-to-face surveys, (ii) drop-in sessions, (ii) public meetings, or (iv) any other method of consulting people. In fact, we understand that the organisers of a Clissold Park User Group meeting on 14th October 2023 tried to secure the attendance of a council officer to answer questions about the PSPO, but no one was available to attend.
89. The Local Government Guidance further suggests that **expert advice should be sought in drafting questions and undertaking consultations to ‘ensure that questions are appropriately phrased, clear and objective’**. We believe that the online survey questions fall a long way short of this, demonstrate a clear bias, and fail to give respondents adequate opportunity to express their views. For example:
 - Rather than people being asked to comment on individual proposals, respondents have been expected to give a blanket response. Q 11 simply asks *“do you support the updates to the Dog Control PSPO as outlined?”*, inviting respondents to reply ‘Yes/No/Don’t know’ to the whole range of proposals.
 - In consequence, it is very likely the case that there have been respondents who never use Abney Park and have no views about dogs there, who have

¹² <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/leisure-parks-green-spaces/abney-park-improvements/results/abneyparkuserssurveyreport.pdf>

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responded to say that they *are* in agreement with the PSPO on the basis they approve of some of the other measures that affect them.

- It is **wrong in principle** that people should be asked whether they agree or disagree with the PSPO as a whole, when it consists of a raft of different measures across the entire borough, **unless a proper opportunity is provided to reply fully**.
- The Local Government Guidance also states that consultations should provide sufficient means for respondents to oppose the proposals and provide views on alternative approaches. **This has not been done**.
- Since the Council has sought to make out a special case for Abney Park, using different arguments to those elsewhere, it is strongly felt that people should have been asked **specifically** about the Abney Park ban. If people have wanted to respond to this proposal specifically, the only way to do this has been to use an 'any other comments' box. Drop-down menus and other ways of responding to a range of options should have been provided.
- Because of the way the questions have been put, the consultation survey will fail to find out about specific problems people are experiencing with dogs in Hackney; Q7 for example asks about the *type* of incident respondents have witnessed and are concerned about but **fails to ask for any details** such as where and when dog attacks occurred. Without specific data, resources cannot be targeted appropriately. This is a missed opportunity.

90. Due to the limitations of the consultation survey, many members of this campaign group have emailed councillors direct in order to make proper representations. **Contradictory advice has been provided** concerning these emails to councillors; initially, we were told that they would be considered alongside the consultation responses, but more recently it has been said that they will not be; more recently still officers have said only some emails will be counted. This is clearly very unsatisfactory and has caused anger among residents.

91. **Six weeks after the consultation was launched, the consultation document was substantially revised, and the consultation period extended.** The reason provided for this was that some of the proposed new sites and the draft PSPO had been missed off from the original consultation page; it was also to 'provide additional clarity'. We surmise that council officers took this opportunity to address the opposition that people had already voiced to councillors by overhauling the consultation webpage. Whereas the **original consultation webpage had only contained brief reference to the reasons for the ban on off-lead dogs in Abney Park**, the revised one devotes **substantial** sections to justifying it on the grounds of ecology and it being a historical site. In doing this, the Council effectively **adopted the position of Abney Park Trust** as set out in its response to the consultation on 8th September, in some places verbatim, to expand upon the reasons for the ban. In addition, some replies to members of this group from one

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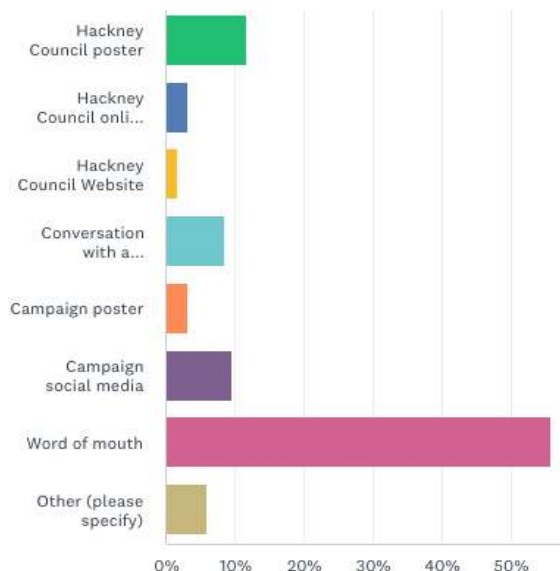
of the councillors go so far as to incorporate some of the Trust's wording to justify the ban. All of this creates a clear impression of bias and does not sit comfortably with the Council's assertion that no decision will be made on the PSPO until after the consultation period. The fact that the Cabinet member with responsibility for the PSPO is also a trustee of Abney Park Trust has unfortunately strengthened that perception. It is right to say that this has generated a lot of concern and anger at local level and has led to a questioning of the accountability of our elected representatives and the transparency of local government.

92. **There was very little publicity** for consultation in the area that will be most affected by the Abney ban. The Council posted very few notices about the PSPO and the consultation in Stoke Newington, and where these have been put up they are not prominently displayed, in marked contrast to other areas in the borough, such as around Springfield Park. For most of the consultation period, there has only been only one A4-sized notice about the consultation posted in the general vicinity of the Abney Park gate. For much of the time, this has been on the inside of the railings and would not be visible on entering, and only if exiting from a particular direction. Similarly, there has been only one small notice near each gate in Clissold Park. In neither case have notices been placed in noticeboards. Our survey showed that **fewer** people who use Abney Park for dog-walking knew about the PSPO than other respondents.

93. Although most (95%) of the respondents to our survey had, perhaps predictably, heard about the PSPO, 56 % of these said that this was through word of mouth, and a further 21% specifically through this campaign. Only 17% said that they heard about through the Council's publicity.

- ***Survey Snapshot: 95% of respondents had heard about the PSPO but this goes down to 87% of those who visit Abney Park for dog walking reasons. But importantly, word-of-mouth was 3 x greater than any Hackney publicity.***

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94. Right up until the end of the consultation period – i.e. over three months since it opened – whilst leafletting at the Abney Park gate, **we still came across users who did not know about the proposed ban**. If the Council had genuinely wished to engage with residents and Abney Park users, clear notices should have been put on the gates of Abney Park highlighting the proposed ban and directing people to the online consultation.

95. We are not aware of any social media advertising the Abney Park ban. The social media advertising that the Council has done, however, has been very leading, in keeping with the structure of the consultation survey form. For example: *'Dogs should not be allowed in certain places. Do you agree?'* with a picture of a dog standing on children's play equipment in a playground.

96. In summary, therefore, as well as the integrity of the consultation being seriously compromised by the catalogue of shortcomings listed above, the Council has failed to gather, and does not have, evidence to justify the part of the PSPO that purports to deal with the off-lead ban in Abney Park PSPO, and is unable to make out the legal basis for this.

We invite Councillors to ask critically:

- can the Council be satisfied that the consultation process has been a meaningful exercise in collating evidence of (i) problematic behaviour that needs addressing, and (ii) the experiences and views of residents?
- can the Council be confident that the proposal for an off-lead ban in Abney Park, and its prior consultation and publicity, meets the requirements of the Anti-social Behaviour and Crime and associated legal guidance and will be a lawful use of its powers?

SECTION THREE

THE IMPACT OF THE BAN ON OFF-LEAD DOGS IN ABNEY PARK ON THE COMMUNITY AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

97. This campaign group has conducted **two pieces of research** aiming to inform the discussion; (i) a '**gate watch**' on two separate days (giving full visibility of usage of Abney on an exemplar weekend day, and a comparable weekday), and (ii) **the public survey** from which we have quoted regularly, which the group shared widely online and which achieved 429 completed responses. Reports on both pieces of work are appended.

98. The starting point is that **a very high proportion of the daily usage of Abney Park is by dog owners and walkers, or is connected with dogs:**

- Our survey found that 49% of respondents were dog owners, yet 66% of respondents mainly visit Abney Park to walk a dog – for example, meeting a friend to walk with them and their dog.
- Our gate watch data, collected in October, confirms that people or groups with dogs comprise **over half (53%) of groups** entering Abney Park on weekdays.
- The gate watch data also evidences a steady pattern of use by dog walkers. Non-dog-walker usage fluctuates heavily with the weather and between weekdays and weekends; whereas dog walkers maintain a **steady presence** - dogs need walking whatever the weather, every day.
- Based on numbers and walk duration, for much of the week there will be around 10-12 dogs in Abney's 31 acres at any given moment – and up to **20-23 during the morning peak**.¹³

99. We suspect that many local people will have acquired their dogs specifically intending to use Abney Park to exercise them, in the knowledge that there is somewhere close by that is safe, and conducive to undisturbed, peaceful dog walking.

100. The next key data concerns the probable **effect of the off-lead ban** upon the behaviour of this population.

¹³ As the weather becomes colder and wetter, the proportions of those using Abney Park will change further. In the true winter months, the daily reality is that dog owners and walkers are the great majority of the park's visitors – sometimes the only visitors.

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101. The context here is that the Animal Welfare Act 2006 places a legal requirement upon those responsible for dogs to provide them with “*suitable exercise*”, which means regular opportunities to walk and run off lead.¹⁴ The Kennel Club states that “*blanket “dogs on lead” restrictions can prevent dog owners and their dogs from getting their appropriate daily exercise, including ‘regular opportunities to walk and run’ – which in most cases, will be off the lead while still under control*”.¹⁵

102. Emma Slawinski, the Director of Policy at the RSPCA has responded to Hackney’s current consultation and the proposal to ban off-lead dogs in Abney Park, and urges the Council to:

“carefully consider the benefits of responsible off-lead walking to dogs and their owners and the evidence base on which this change of approach is being proposed. Rarely do blanket approaches change the behaviour of a minority who act irresponsibly (in any field), and instead may only reduce the ability of those behaving responsibly to enjoy public spaces”.

She also quotes from the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs: ‘a dog needs regular exercise and regular opportunities to walk, run, explore, play, sniff and investigate’, and points out that ‘blanket bans on walking dogs off-lead can make it very difficult to provide for this natural behaviour’.

103. The results we received from our survey were entirely as expected, given the above context:

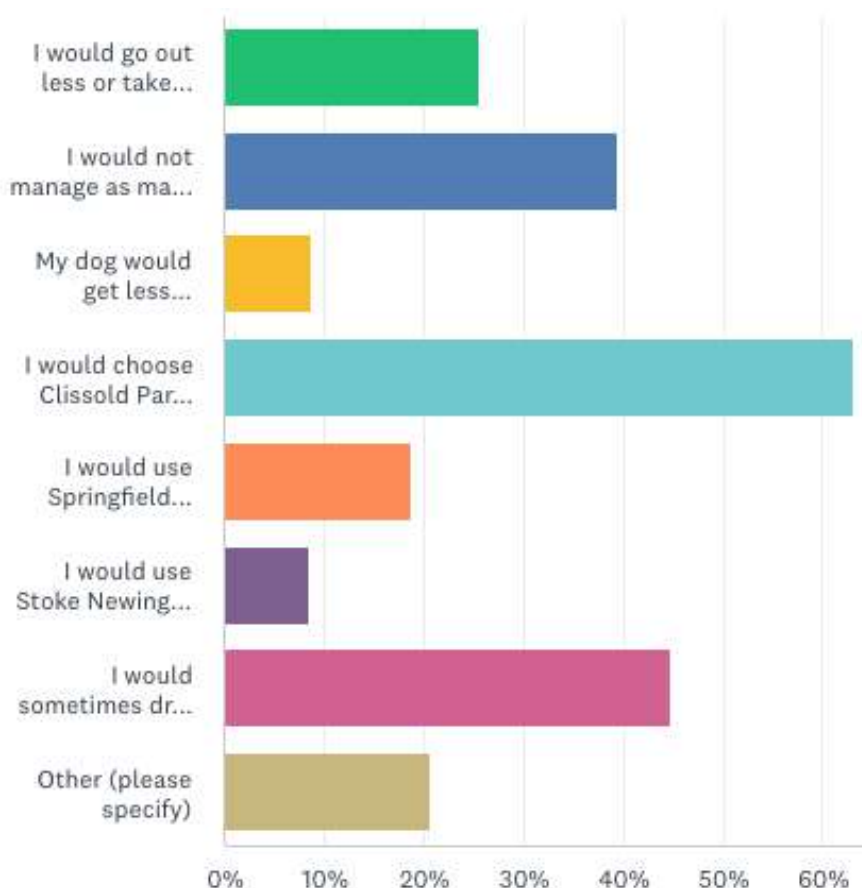
- In our survey, over **90% of dog owners and friends would use Abney less if the off-lead ban were introduced**, needing to take their dog elsewhere for off-lead exercise more often.
- **72%** would use **Clissold Park** more often.
- **24%** would increase their visits to **Springfield Park**.
- **56%** would increase the occasions on which they chose to **drive farther** afield (eg Epping or Highgate) to replicate what they had lost at Abney.
- These results are shown in tabular and graphic form below:

¹⁴ DEFRA Code of Practice for the welfare of dogs introduced pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 – a guide for dog owners
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/697953/pb13333-cop-dogs-091204.pdf

¹⁵ <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/3760/kc-dog-report-out-of-order-the-impact-of-access-restrictions-on-dogs-and-their-owners.pdf>

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▼ I would go out less or take shorter walks as the walks would be lower quality	28.37%	59
▼ I would not manage as many off lead walks as I could not often walk to another suitable park in the time I have available	43.75%	91
▼ My dog would get less exercise as my mobility issues force me to continue to use Abney but they could not be off lead	9.62%	20
▼ I would choose Clissold Park more frequently for off-lead exercise of my dog	72.12%	150
▼ I would use Springfield Park more frequently for off-lead exercise of my dog	24.04%	50
▼ I would use Stoke Newington Common more frequently for off-lead exercise of my dog	10.10%	21
▼ I would sometimes drive to e.g. Epping or Highgate to replicate the off-lead experience I have lost	56.25%	117



104. The next key question is to consider the wider **effects of that displacement upon other local spaces**:

- **Clissold Park** is a wonderful, family-oriented space, but it is already overcrowded, particularly at weekends when it is full of people playing sports, and even more so in in summer months when it becomes crowded with families, sunbathers and picnickers. It is also very busy in peak times of the day throughout the year, when there are many runners and cyclists on the paths; this causes problems with dogs which tend to get in the way of them (and vice versa) because neither can anticipate the speeds of the other.
- **Hackney Downs** is some distance from Abney Park and will not be a walkable distance for many. It is also not a viable option for many people to

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exercise dogs because it is open to roads; it is also perceived to be unsafe because of the prevalence of criminal and anti-social behaviour there.

- The indicated displacement of dogs to **Springfield Park** is likely to be unwelcome as it is principally used as a family green space by those local to it.
- Spaces farther afield (such as **Hampstead Heath, Epping Forrest**) would involve at least some people driving from their homes rather than using crowded public transport, which would have a detrimental effect on traffic congestion and air pollution. Moreover, it should not be necessary to leave the Borough of Hackney to find good open space for dogs to exercise.

105. Equally important, if not even more important, is the question of the wider **effects of displacement upon other groups, and on Abney Park itself.**

- **Abney is not an open park** like Clissold, Springfield or Hackney Downs, and in fact cannot really be described as a ‘park’ in the usual sense. It is a **sheltered, densely wooded and often very empty place, with limited visibility, many quiet corners and narrow, isolated paths.** There are only two entrances, and once inside, visitors frequently have difficulty locating the exits.
- Our survey data confirms the likely effect of the off-lead ban will be a decrease in the steady, civilising population of dog walkers on Abney Park’s pathways. The percentages we have obtained show it is very likely that **both absolute usage of Abney Park, and walk duration, would drop.**
- In the absence of people walking dogs, our data indicates that Abney Park will become almost deserted for much of the time. This will have safety implications for solo walkers and runners in Abney Park, **particularly for women.**
- **These are significant issues of safety for lone women in particular.** Our gate watch data shows that lone women visiting with pre-schoolers, jogging, or walking dogs, can be over 50% of Abney Park’s users at times.¹⁶

Survey Snapshot: Example sentiment of one of our respondents:

“It would make Abney less safe due to reduction in human traffic. Drug and homeless activity would increase”.

¹⁶ We note that In the Council’s own 2018 survey, 26.7 of respondents said they felt unsafe in Abney Park.

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

- Concern over safety is something that has been **repeatedly** commented upon to us, including by female runners who do not have dogs. We would describe this as **the number one concern about the wider impact of the ban**. Even a small reduction in the number of people walking dogs will quickly impact the density of people in Abney Park, and reduce the ‘dog walker round every corner’ factor which is so crucial for perceptions of safety.
- Not so long ago, Abney Park was considered by many people to be a ‘no go’ area, well known for drug-taking and other illegal and anti-social activities, including several extremely serious sexual assaults. We believe that an unintended consequence of the ban would, over a period of time, be a reversion to that, and that Abney Park will no longer be considered a safe place to visit, particularly for women.

106. In view of the above, the ban would have an unjustified, disproportionate effect on women, and is therefore indirectly discriminatory (a further legal concern). **The council should be standing up for women**, as it does in so many other facets of policy-making; it should not be introducing measures that will make women (but also, for example, the elderly) feel less safe in a valued public space. This is a **significant oversight in the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) prepared for this consultation**, which asserts that the PSPO will have no detrimental effect on anyone with any protected characteristic including sex. That statement is wrong, and we consider, unlawfully wrong.

107. Whilst commenting on the EIA, we note that the Council has assessed the impact of the PSPO upon people suffering social and economic deprivation as “*unclear*”; it states that such people “*may have limited access to private transport [which] may restrict the ability to travel further to exercise a dog. It may be that this group may lack the ability to meet the needs of dogs...*”. The impact on the elderly is assessed as negative in relation to “*restraining a dog on its lead or having to travel further to exercise their dog or by vehicle*” (and positive in relation to other aspects).

108. It is not known what, if any, surveys or monitoring the Council have conducted to ascertain how many people in these and other categories will be adversely affected by the Abney Park ban. **The conclusions stated in relation to those other groups appear to be entirely suppositional and not evidence based.** However what **is** clear is that the **Council has quite simply misjudged the impact of the off-lead ban upon women**; the EIA is seriously deficient in its assessment of the gender-equality effects of the ban.

109. It is important to reiterate that among the Abney Park users we surveyed, the substantial majority of those without dogs were **still against the off-lead ban**. The Council needs to listen to those voices: people without dogs share our concerns **about the unintended consequences of the off-lead ban**:

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

- *Survey Snapshot: 58% of those who visit Abney without dogs are either against the ban or happy with the status quo*

We invite councillors to ask critically:

- has the Council considered the impact on other parks in Hackney and whether these are acceptable alternatives?
- does the Council's assessment of the impact of the Abney Park ban adequately address the likely effect if it upon all sectors of the community, particularly those who are disadvantaged?
- has the Council made any assessment of the safety implications of fewer people using Abney Park having regard to safety issues, specifically combatting violence against women and anti-social behaviour?

IN CONCLUSION

110. We restate here the central arguments which we have presented and justified:

- There is **no evidence at all of problems with anti-social behaviour by dogs in Abney Park**. This has been confirmed by FOI responses from the Council and the Met Police.
- There is **no evidence or justification** for banning dogs off-lead by reference to Abney's status as a **historical site**. It has been an established dog walking area for decades without problems. **Nothing has changed**.
- Similarly, there is no **evidence or justification** for banning dogs off-lead by reference to **ecological or conservation arguments**. Abney has been a nature reserve for decades. **Nothing has changed**.

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

- **Abney Park Trust's response** to the consultation, which the Council largely adopted mid-way through the consultation period, is a **misleading and untenable document**. It is alarmist, irrelevant and has damaged local community relations. We will systematically explain its flaws in detail below.
- Because the proposed Abney measure within the PSPO has no basis or justification, **the Council would be acting unlawfully**, in excess of its powers, if it introduces the ban.
- Further, the use of anti-social behaviour legislation for the purported protection of wildlife or ecology would be a fundamental mistake and a **misapplication of the legislation**. **There is no legal precedent for it**.
- That issue is compounded by the **multiple failures of council officers** to follow, or even acknowledge, **applicable legal guidance** governing the process that should precede any potential PSPO.
- **Procedurally, the PSPO consultation has been defective**. Serious flaws include a shifting justification inadequate publicity; conflicting communications from councillors and officers; and an unfairly biased online consultation tool.
- Our survey evidence demonstrates that **the Abney ban would have harmful unintended consequences for Abney, for other local spaces, and for Hackney residents**, whilst achieving no benefits to weigh against this damage.
- Key harms would be (i) an influx of **additional dogs to Clissold Park**, which is already a crowded space; and (ii) **making Abney less safe, particularly for women**. **The effect of the Abney PSPO would be indirectly discriminatory**.

111. As we stated at the outset of this document, we accept that it is sometimes necessary to have measures in place to control dogs in public places. We welcome the proposal in the PSPO for the **borough-wide dog fouling prohibition**, and we hope that the Council puts in appropriate measures to enforce this.

112. We are also fully supportive of the proposed **borough-wide dogs on lead direction** where dogs appear to be out of control. In its response to Hackney's consultation, the Kennel Club states that it:

"strongly welcomes 'on lead by direction' Orders. These allow responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control, whilst simultaneously giving the local authority powers to restrict dogs not under control."

From the Abney Park Dogs Users Group

113. We believe that these new powers (together with a proper enforcement of existing powers) will meet any perceived concerns about dog behaviour in Abney Park without the need for an off lead ban, and will prove a sensible compromise that all parties will find acceptable. This will be reassuring to those who have concerns about dog behaviour in Abney Park, whether or not this is justified, and will allow the law-abiding majority of responsible dog owners to continue to use Abney Park, and help preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

The Abney Park Dogs Users Group

13th December 2023

ABNEY PARK USERS PSPO QUESTIONNAIRE

Summary of Findings

30 November 2023



Executive Summary

The overwhelming response to Hackney's PSPO proposal that dogs must be on leads in Abney is negative. The total respondents and 96% of dog owners oppose the ban.

58% of those who visit Abney without dogs are either against the ban or happy with the status quo.

The reasons why the ban is opposed are clear – it is a disproportionate response with a lack of evidence, irresponsible dog owners are the issue (not dogs off leads) and people are worried about the impact on 72% of dog owners would go to Clissold Park instead, 24 % to Springfield, and 56% would use their cars further afield like Epping if the ban is approved.

95% had heard about the PSPO but importantly, word-of-mouth is 3 x greater than any Hackney publicity. Dog fouling on the streets is the single overwhelming issue (38% of all respondents have personally witnessed it). Abney is notable for having the least anti-social behaviors by dogs on all counts (versus the streets and parks).

Of the 12 respondents with relatives buried in AP over 70% also oppose the ban of dogs off leads.

Most worrying, those who have been persuaded have been done so by ill-informed or lack of evidenced arguments

Objectives of the Survey

- To establish a better understanding of Abney Park's user profile, user patterns, attitudes and opinions of the park.
- To assess opinions regarding the proposed PSPO by user groups.
- To gather data on witnessed anti-social behaviour by dogs or dog owners in Abney, Clissold, Springfield and Hackney streets.
- To evaluate the likely impact of the dogs on leads ban on Abney and other green spaces.

Sample & Methodology

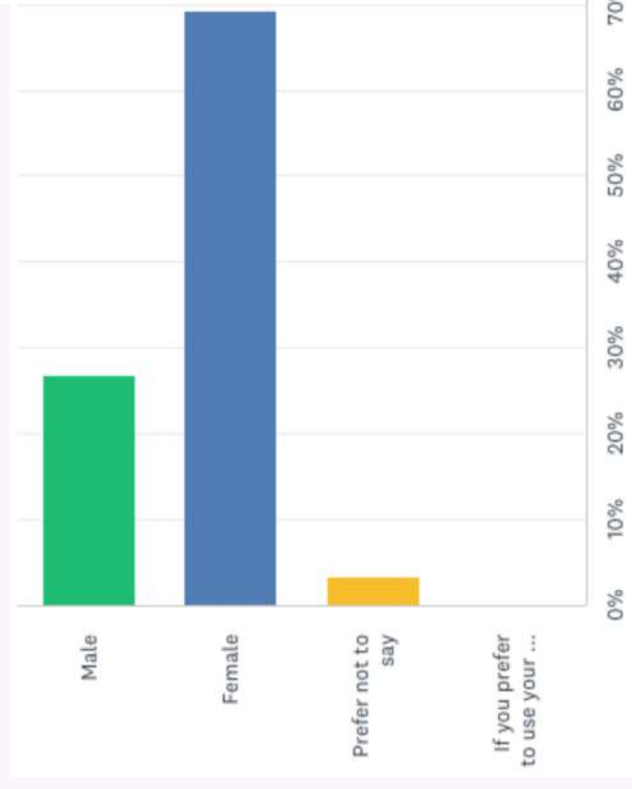
This was an on-line quantitative research study conducted with Survey Monkey

Fieldwork was conducted between 9 October & end November 2023

Total sample: 429 completed responses

- 80% were residents of N16
- 9% were residents of another part of Hackney
- 7% were residents of Islington
- 49% were dog owners
- 12% were parents of primary or pre-school kids
- 2.5% were relatives of someone buried in Abney
- 4.5% were visitors to the area
- Under 0.5% were Abney Trust members

NB. This sample would appear to be very representative of Abney's users. (Our Gate Watching data indicated 53% were walking dogs on average)



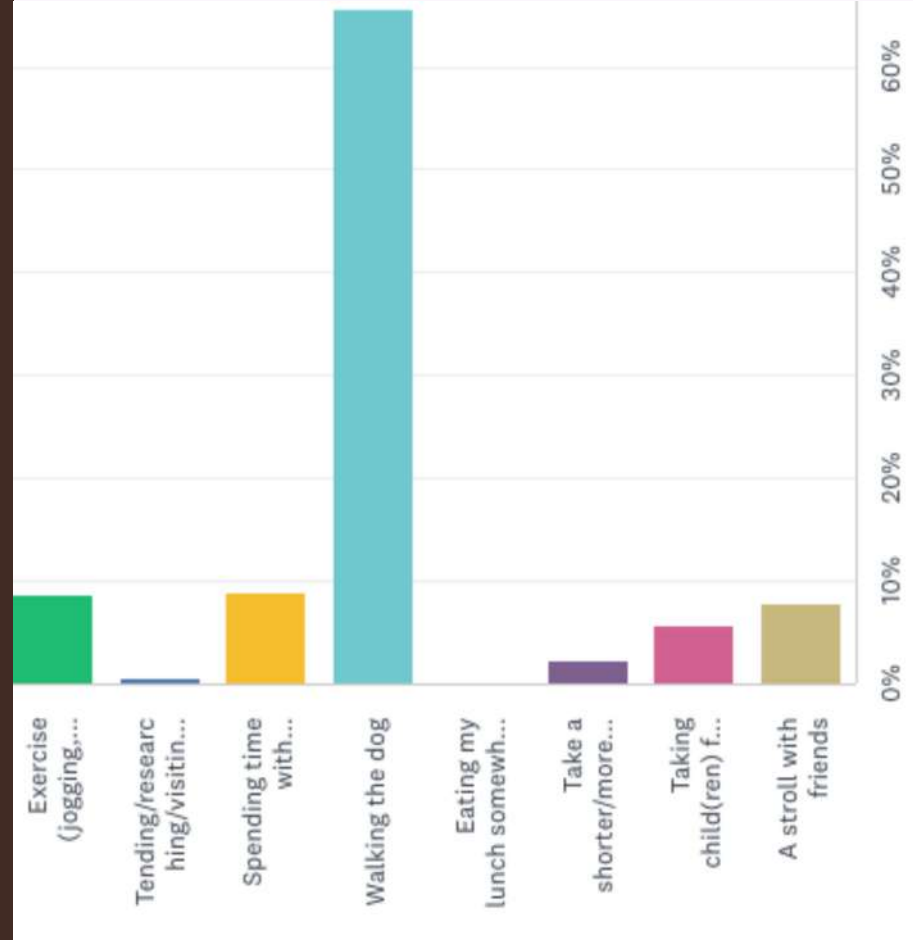
KEY FINDINGS

Analysis approach

We have reported on the total sample (429 respondents) but also compared the data by 2 key cohorts:

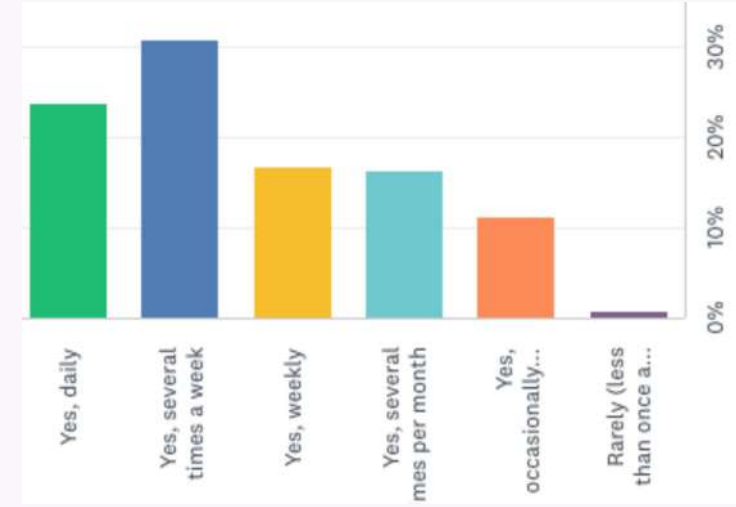
- The 49% of dog owners plus those who claim they walk in APV a dog bringing the total to 66% of respondents (thus likely to pre-disposed to be anti the proposed ban)
- Those who neither own a dog, nor walk with a dog.

66% of respondents go to AP to walk the dog – 17% more than just dog owners suggesting an important community wellness issue

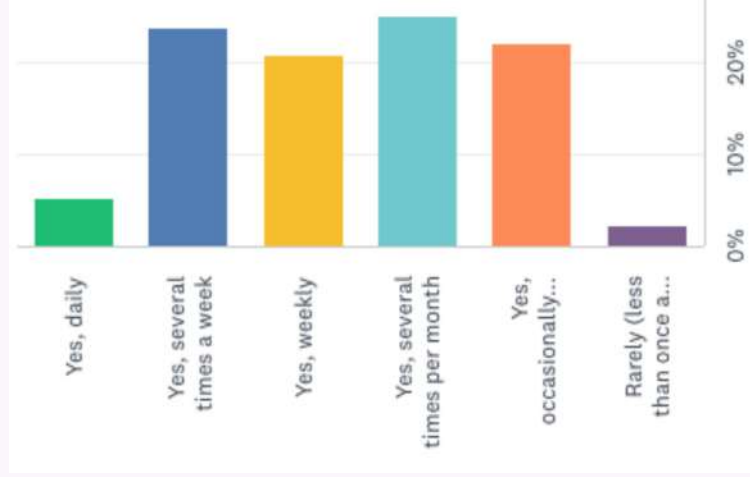


Question: What is your MAIN reason for visiting Abney Park?

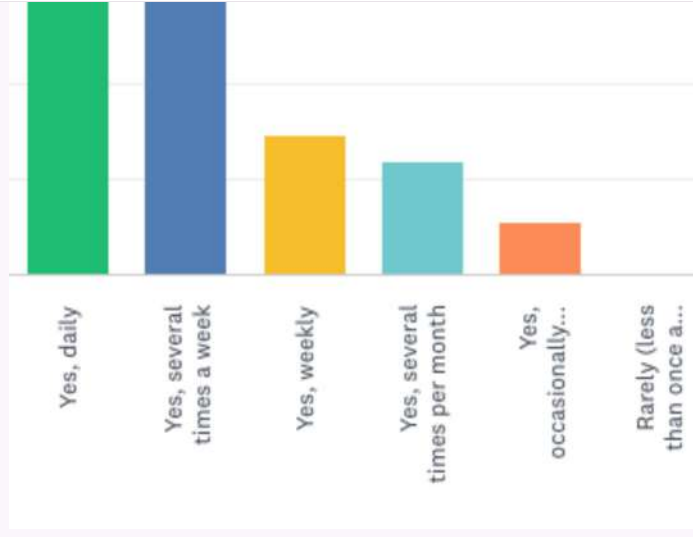
Unsurprisingly, dog owners & their accompanied friends come to AP significantly more often (67% daily and several times a week)



Total Sample



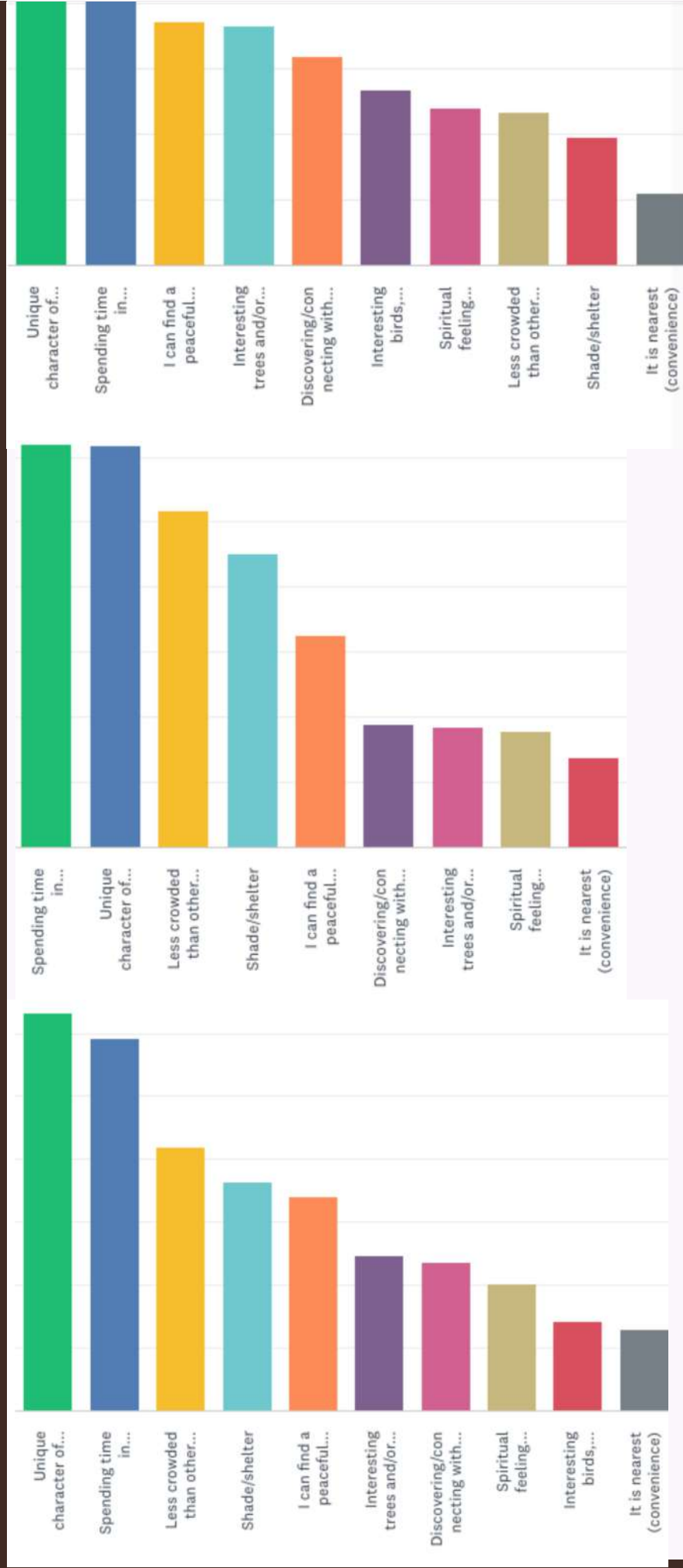
Visitors without dogs



Dog owners & friends

Question: Are you a regular user of Abney Park?

Marginal differences in what the users value (non are statistically significant). They all really love AP for its unique, natural character



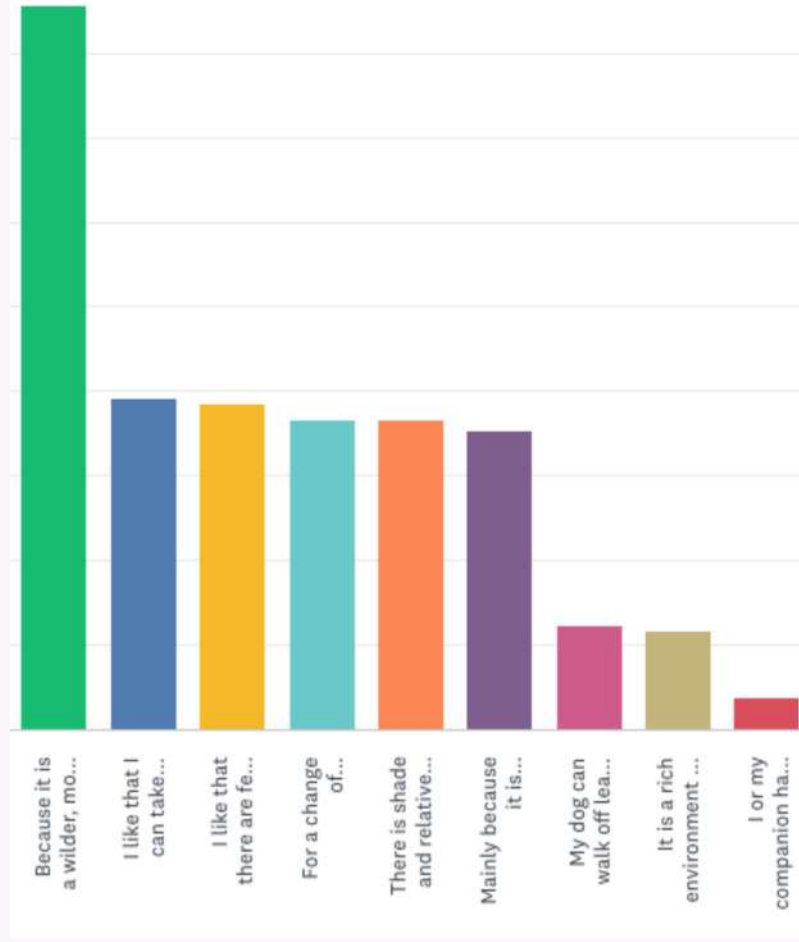
Total Sample

Visitors without dogs

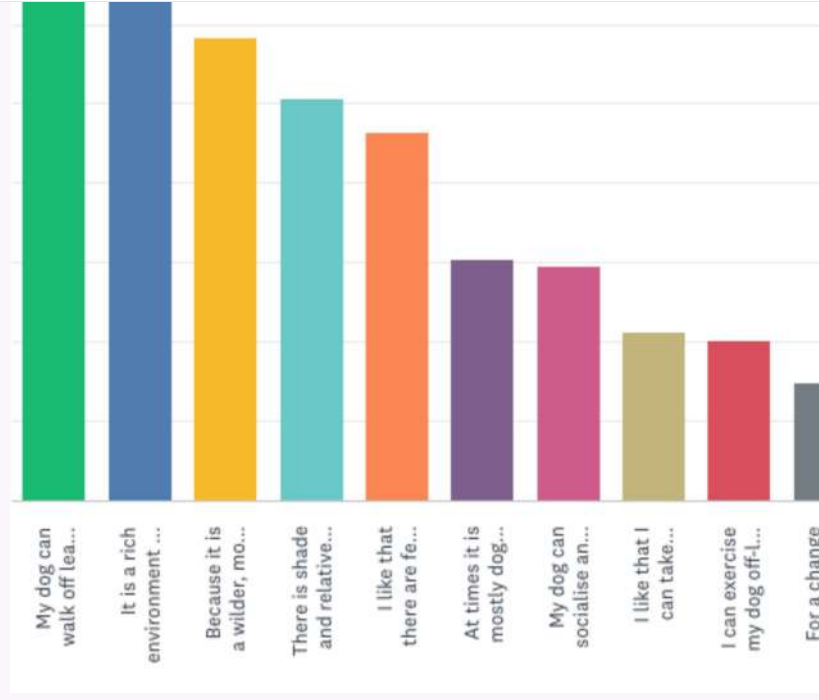
Dog owners & friends

Question: Setting aside the dogs on/off lead question for now, what do you particularly value about Abney Park? (please tick up to 4)

Compared to other spaces, it is clear that all respondents are un-
in seeing AP as unique. Marginal differences, as expected, in do-
owners prioritizing their love of AP for their dogs.



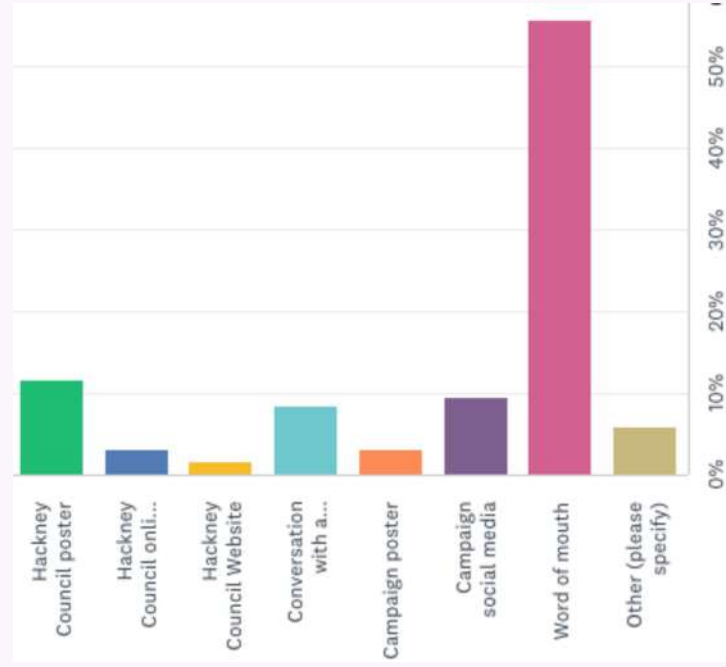
Visitors without dogs



Dog owners & friends

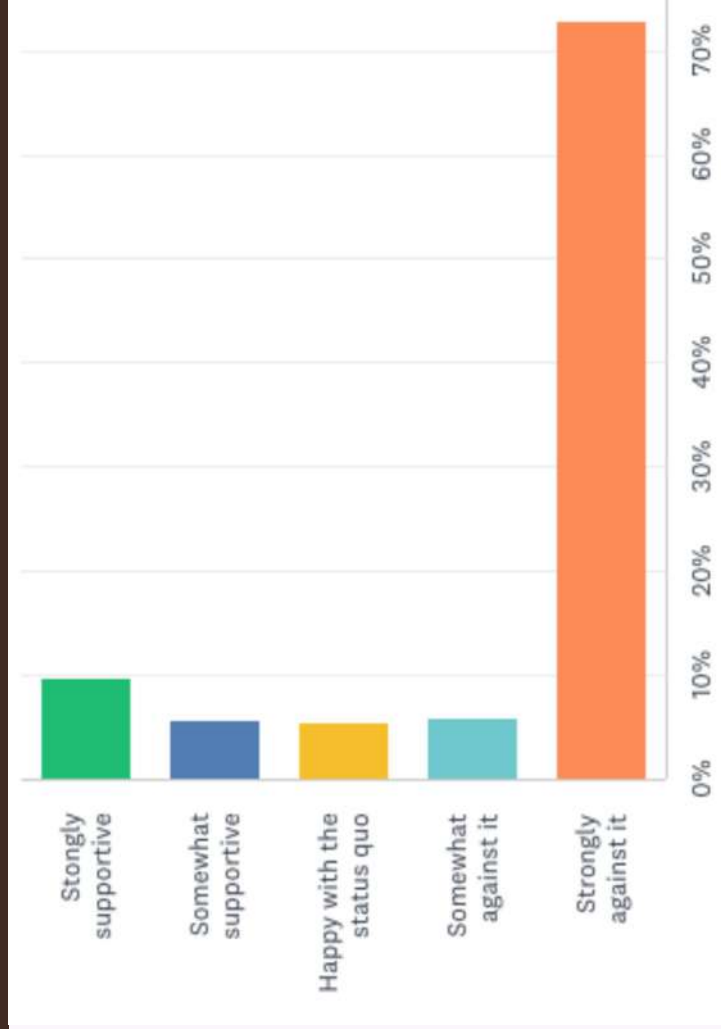
Question: Can you tell us more about why do you choose to visit Abney on a given day, rather than another local space? Select up to five that are the most

95% had heard about the PSPO but this goes down to 87% of those who visit AP for dog walking reasons. But importantly, word-of-mouth publicity is greater than any Hackney publicity.



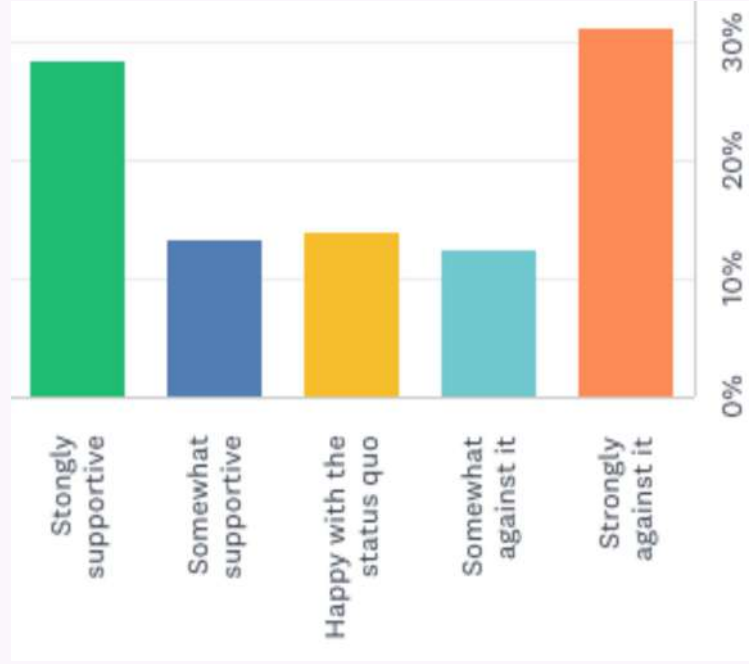
Question: Have you heard about Hackney Council's proposed Public Space Protection Order aiming to ban dogs off-lead in Abney from March 2024? If yes, how did you first hear about this?

The overwhelming response to Hackney's PSPO proposal that dogs must be on leads in Abney is negative. 79% of the total population and 96% of dog owners oppose the ban.



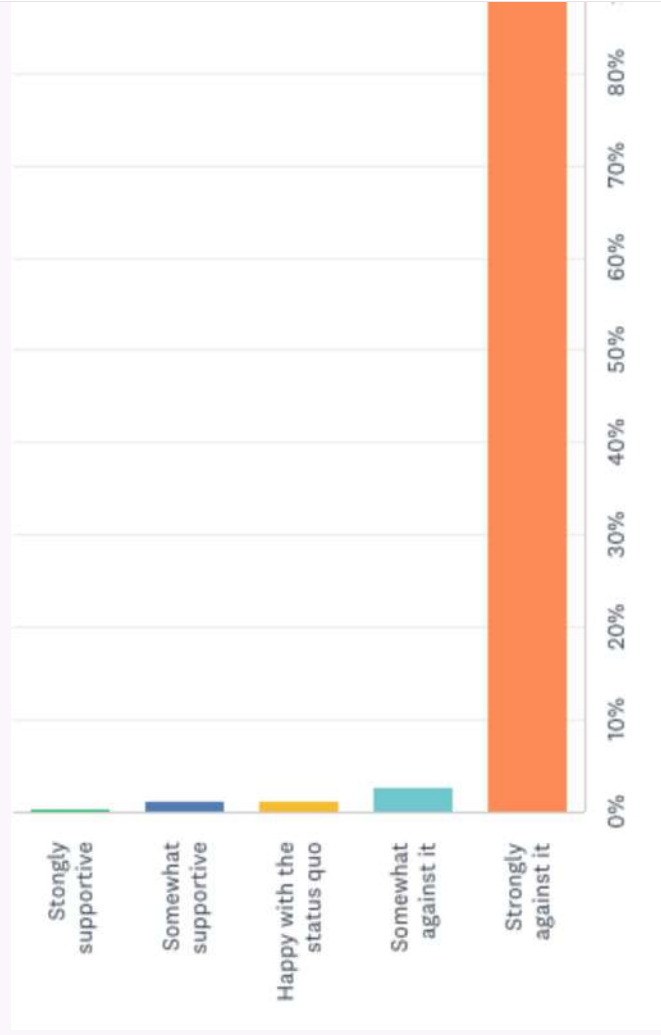
Question: Hackney's published reasoning is: "The proposal to keep dogs on leads in Abney aligns with the existing regulations for churchyards and is motivated by a desire to preserve both its historical significance and ecological importance." If the person in charge of a dog fails to comply with the requirements of an order, they will be issued with a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice and taken to court if the fine is not paid within the specified time. **would you describe your feelings about the proposal that dogs must be on leads at all times in Abney?**

58% of those who visit Abney without dogs are either against the ban or happy with the status quo.



Visitors without dogs

Question: How would you describe your feelings about the proposal that dogs must be on leads at all times in Abney?



Dog owners & friends

Sentiments of the supporters of the ban (15 of respondents)

“Dogs are dangerous and unpleasant animals. They cause pollution and harm wildlife. There should be plenty of green spaces in Hackney where dogs are banned. The on leash proposal for Abney is a step in the right direction”.

“Sick of so many dogs _ barking, dog shit all over the place. I grew up with 3 dogs in the countryside now the locality is overrun with dogs. I have personally seen a dog terrify a song thrush. Anybody who knows anything about wildlife & birds, knows that dogs frighten birds & can disturb them from nests bringing up a vulnerable brood. It is not supposed to be a dog walk circuit. It is supposed to be a haven for peace for the departed & those who mourn them & one of the few woodland areas left in Hackney which can act as a protected area for rare fungi, trees, plants and birds”.

“I fully support the Council making dogs on lead rules and wish they would do it in every space and prioritize people over dogs”.

Sentiments of those against the ban (96% of dog owners, 79% of all respondents)

"The fact this is coinciding with the opening of the party venue in Abney makes me feel this proposed ban has other underlying motivations. The vast majority of people I see in Abney are dog owners and I have never seen any dog aggression etc".

"This has come about very out of the blue and the reasons given are very weak. Protecting wildlife and caring for graves could be better managed in other ways - this seems like a lazy 'solution' that blames dogs with no evidence".

"I am not a dog owner but believe it is not a problem for dogs to be off lead and they need the exercise and freedom. This is a non problem".

"I am unclear why this has been introduced now and the explanations for the changes are unconvincing when there has been freedom for dogs to be off lead for so many years. The change if implemented would fundamentally change the nature of Abney, making it less welcoming and less safe".

"It would make Abney less safe due to reduction in human traffic. Drug and homeless activity would increase".

Most worrying, those who have been persuaded have been done so by ill-informed or lack of evidenced arguments

“I’ve spoken to a dog-trainer about this and they assured me that dogs needing to off leads for socialisation is a fallacy”.

“If Hackney Council has determined that dogs off lead are disrupting that nature respect that view. I'd certainly put the needs of our very precious creatures (bird small mammals) over the needs of dogs, of which there's an ecology-distorting overabundance”.

The reasons why the ban is opposed are clear – it is a disproportionate response with a lack of evidence, irresponsible dog owners are the issue (dogs off leads) and people are worried about the impact on Clissold.

▼ The reduction in quality of life for responsible owners and their dogs is out of all proportion to any evidenced issue	72.
▼ The problem Hackney-wide is irresponsible dog owners not dogs off lead in Abney	50.
▼ A ban would force all off-lead activity to other parks e.g. Clissold where people who dislike dogs, and stressors for my dog, are more common	49.
▼ Clissold or Springfield are poor alternatives in summer due to lack of shade and overcrowding	41.
▼ A ban would reduce the quality/quantity of exercise I can give my dog and so affect animal welfare	33.
▼ Hackney Council could achieve what they say they want by policing powers they already have	25.
▼ Dogs on lead can find it hard to avoid stressful situations and this can increase conflict	15.
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 4.5

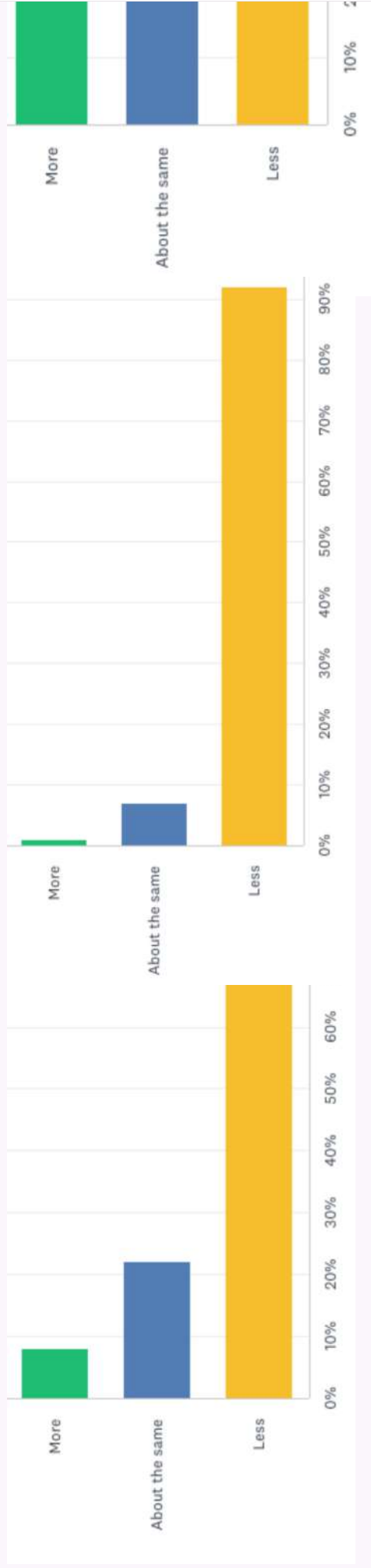
Question: Tell us more (tick all that apply)

Dog fouling on the streets is the single overwhelming issue (38% of all respondents have personally witnessed it). Abney is notable for having least anti-social behaviors by dogs on all counts.

	On Street	Abney	Other Parks
‣ Dog poo not picked up	38	8	23
‣ Dog on dog attack (leading to an injury)	0.3	0.9	0.9
‣ Dog on person attack (leading to an injury)	0.3	0	0.5
‣ Dogs causing actual physical damage to property (digging/chewing etc)	0.9	1.3	4.6
‣ Dogs causing actual damage or injury to wildlife (destroying plants/catching or killing)	1.5	1.3	1.4

Question: Finally, have you ever personally witnessed any of the following anti-social behavior by dogs or their owners?

The likely impact on visits to Abney of the ban is very significant (92% of dog owners & friends will visit less often)



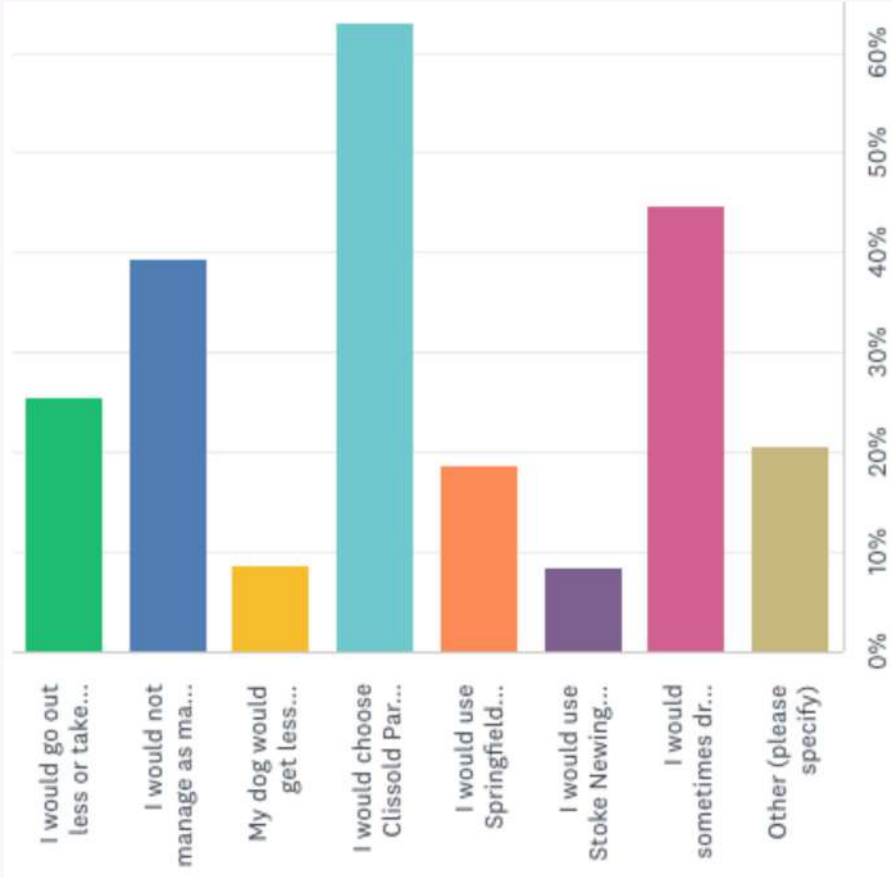
Total Sample

Dog owners & friends

Visitors with

Question: If Hackney Council bans dogs off lead in Abney, will you personally use Abney Park more or less?

Clissold Park will be the key recipient of the dogs needing a new space to have dogs off leads



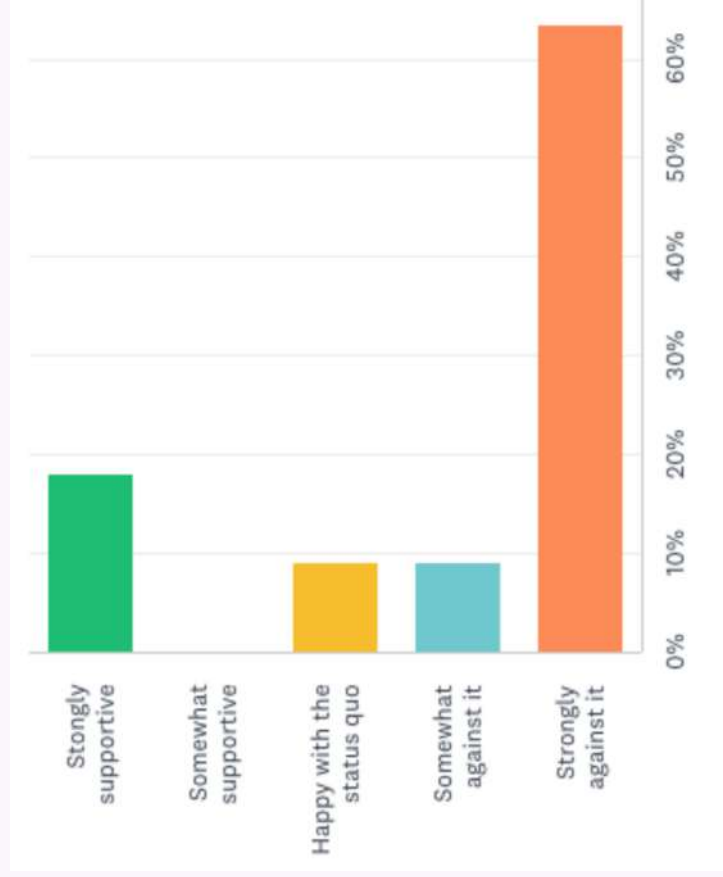
Question: Tell us more (tick all that apply)

72% of dog owners would go to Clissold Park, 24 % to Springfield 56% would use their cars to go further like Epping

▼	I would go out less or take shorter walks as the walks would be lower quality
▼	I would not manage as many off lead walks as I could not often walk to another suitable park in the time I have available
▼	My dog would get less exercise as my mobility issues force me to continue to use Abney but they could not be off lead
▼	I would choose Clissold Park more frequently for off-lead exercise of my dog
▼	I would use Springfield Park more frequently for off-lead exercise of my dog
▼	I would use Stoke Newington Common more frequently for off-lead exercise of my dog
▼	I would sometimes drive to e.g. Epping or Highgate to replicate the off-lead experience I have lost

Question: Tell us more (tick all that apply)

Over 70% of relatives of someone buried in AP also oppose the ban



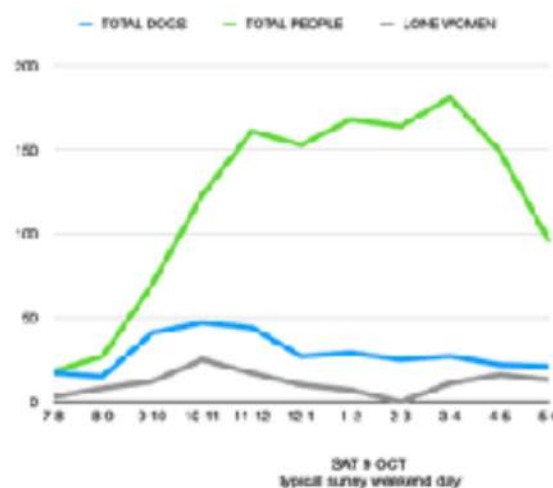
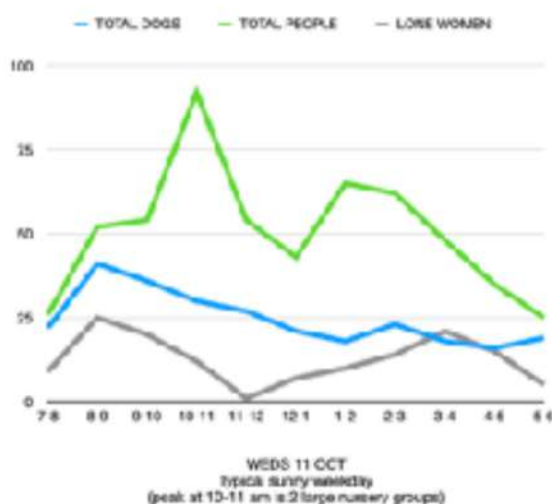
Question: How would you describe your feelings about the proposal that dogs must be on leads at all times in Abney?

We observed the Church Street Gate for two complete days to gauge usage, and to contrast a weekend day with a weekday. Saturday 7th October was sunny, warm and dry all day. Wednesday 11th was similar, growing more overcast, with drizzle from late afternoon. These days were typical of current usage with one gate open, in good weather - at the busier end of the spectrum.

Observers used a record sheet to note down the entry time of every group entering Abney. They recorded group size (no. of humans, dogs, young children), and whether the group had a buggy, bike/scooter, or constituted a jogger or a lone female. Distinctive dogs or clothing were noted so as to recognise a proportion of users on exit. About one third of exit times were captured, allowing us to estimate visit duration.

Date	Total groups	% groups with dog	Total dogs	Average Dog walk length (min)	Total humans	Average non-dog walk length	% lone females
Saturday	773	36.4	315	25.6	1309	19.6	15.8
Wednesday	428	53	271	24.2	556	19.7	32.5

DATA MAPPED BY HOUR



OBSERVATIONS

- People without dogs greatly outnumber dogs, by a factor of 3 at weekends. Dogs usually come with one person; people visit with friends or family in groups of, usually, 2-6 for a stroll or picnic (a noticeable proportion entering with coffee, ice cream or takeout bag). These visits start in earnest from around 10.30-11am*.
- Absolute dog numbers are fairly consistent between weekends and weekdays (approx 300, give or take). There is a morning peak (40-45 dogs per hour) and then the level settles at around 20-25 per hour for the rest of the day. Given lower numbers of visitors without dogs midweek, the proportion of groups entering with a dog rises from over one third at weekends to over half midweek.
- Average walk durations are very consistent between weekends and weekdays, with dog walkers visiting on average for almost 25 minutes, and those without dogs visiting on average for almost 20.**
- Lone females represent a significant proportion of park users, predominantly walking their dog, bringing pre-schoolers to visit, or as joggers. At one point we show there were more lone women in Abney than dogs, and they can be over half the park's users in the mornings.†

CONCLUSIONS/ANALYSIS

- We note that the dog walking peak does not coincide with the leisure visitor peak. This suggests that dog walkers seek out quieter times and that the majority of dog usage is unlikely to generate conflict.
- Circumstantially, observations support dog walkers' experience of ongoing human antisocial usage of Abney as a toilet or for sexual activity, with lone males visiting at times and for durations that seem consistent with these behaviours.
- Preliminary analysis of visits-per-hour combined with visit durations suggests that at peak dog times, there are about 20-23 dogs in Abney's 31 acres. For most of the week, there are up to around 10-12 dogs in Abney at any one time, a

consistent low-level presence which contributes to the 'dog walker just around the corner' atmosphere commented on by numerous lone females as relevant to their feelings of safety in the space.

- A small reduction in average dog walk duration or number of dog walkers (if displaced to other parks) would evidently impact this atmosphere. Lone females (jogging/visiting with children) and nursery users represent significant groups using Abney who would likely be among the first to change their visit habits if their feelings of security were affected by a rise in human antisocial behaviour.
- On a sunny weekend afternoon there will be over 50 leisure visitors at any one time (170-180 per hour) resulting in a peak of litter bin usage that does not seemingly coincide with the council's servicing of Abney. This contributes to rat and fox populations with knock on predation risk for small birds, invertebrates and small mammals.

FOOTNOTES

* Visitation will change when the High St gate re-opens, likely to lead to significant usage as a cut-through between High St and Church St, and altered patterns for both dog and non-dog visits. The current single-gate scenario offers a 'control' dataset evidencing baseline dog usage and 'See you in Stokey' type leisure usage with a high level of confidence.

** Observers typically worked in one-hour shifts with a few longer shifts or overlaps. While a significant quantity (over 1/3) of exit times were captured, this pattern likely under-counted the small proportion of visits over one hour in length and so average durations may in reality be slightly longer.

✚ For two observation slots, lone females were not counted. This means that lone females were definitely UNDER counted in this analysis.



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Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) - Equality Impact Assessment

Question 1: Why are you making this decision?:

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) concerning Dog Control have been in place since 2017, except from 20 October 2020 to 18 March 2021, when it lapsed due to the focus on the pandemic. The PSPOs commenced when the legislation relating to dog control was replaced. The PSPOs mirror the controls that were in place at that time.

The current PSPO (Dog Control) is due to expire on 17 March 2024 and the Council is now considering extending the PSPO (Dog Control) for a further three years and, if so, whether to make any variations to it.

The Council is proposing to extend the PSPO by a further three years and to vary it by:

- Adding to the prohibitions/requirements stipulated in the PSPO (Dog Control).
- Updating the list of locations from which dogs are excluded.
- Updating the list of locations in which dogs must be kept on a lead.

The updated PSPO will include:

- A 'dog fouling of land' prohibition, which makes it an offence for dog owners not to remove dog faeces from public land in Hackney.
- A 'dog exclusion' prohibition, which enables the Council to ban dogs from entering areas such as BMX tracks, children's play areas, fenced off dog free areas, multi-use games areas, outdoor gyms, skate parks, small parks, splash pads and other sports areas.
- A 'dogs on leads' requirement, which enables the Council to prevent people exercising off lead dogs in general public areas, roads, car parks, churchyards, burial grounds (excluding Abney Park Cemetery), communal areas on estates and some smaller public parks.
- A 'dogs on leads by direction' requirement, which gives officers the power to request that dogs are put on the lead if they are not under the control of their owner.
- A 'maximum number of dogs' requirement, which is a new rule that makes it an offence for one person to have more than six dogs under their control at any one time anywhere in the borough.

There are exemptions for assistance dogs.

Hackney Council has received considerable correspondence concerning dogs' behaviour in the borough. Many residents are nervous about the large numbers of dogs in Hackney's parks and green spaces. Some are requesting more dog-free areas, some request more dogs on lead orders, and many dog owners are calling for fenced-off areas to exercise their dogs in.

In addition, increasing numbers of professional dog walkers use Hackney's parks and green spaces with high numbers of dogs, particularly in Hackney Marshes and the borough's other larger parks. It is challenging for professional dog walkers to be in control of many dogs at any one time.

The consultation was published on Hackney's Citizen Space website on 28 August 2023. The information supporting the consultation was updated in mid-October, and the deadline for submitting responses was extended by a month until 15 December 2023.

This was in response to comments from residents about providing additional clarity on the proposals. The amendments were made to the PSPO (Dog Control) consultation were:

- A link was added to the draft PSPO (Dog Control) itself to provide more clarity for residents that were interested;
- Some text on the consultation page was amended so it provided more clarity for residents;
- The tables on the consultation page were updated to ensure all sites were clearly listed in the tables;
- The tables on the consultation page were updated to ensure all the sites that were proposed as new locations for dogs to be excluded from in the draft PSPO (Dog Control) were highlighted in bold / underlined; and
- The tables on the consultation page were updated to ensure that a number of sites that are existing or proposed as new locations for dogs to be on leads, and had been missed from the previous list on the consultation page, were highlighted in bold / underlined.

The Consultation Report prepared by Kwest Research in January 2024 can be found as Appendix 2 to the Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) Cabinet Report.

The draft Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) can be found at Appendix 1 to the Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) Cabinet Report.

The breach of the PSPO (Dog Control) is a criminal offence subject to up to a level three fine on prosecution (up to £1,000). A Fixed Penalty Notice can be issued for £100. Payment of the Fixed Penalty Notice discharges liability to conviction for the offence. The Police will work in partnership with the Council to ensure the effective enforcement of the PSPO (Dog Control).

The PSPO (Dog Control) will assist the Council and the Police in tackling anti-social behaviour, reducing individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour such as that arising from dog owners failing to exercise proper control of dogs in public places.

The Council proposes that the PSPO (Dog Control) lasts for three years, until 17 March 2027, when it decides whether to renew it following a consultation.

The Council is committed to improving equality and making the borough a place for everyone. This means ensuring all actions taken by the Council contribute to equality.

Question 2: Who are the main groups affected?

The proposed PSPO (Dog Control) will deal with a particular nuisance or problem in the prescribed area with a persistent or continuing detrimental effect on the local community's quality of life. It will impose conditions on the use of that area that apply to everyone and is designed to ensure people can use and enjoy public spaces safe from anti-social behaviour.

Nothing in the Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) shall apply to a person who:

- is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948;
- is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance;
- has a disability in respect of an Assistance Dog and upon which he relies for assistance;
- a person who is training an assistance dog in an official capacity; or
- a dog used by the police or other agencies permitted by the Council for official purposes.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) defines an assistance dog as a dog trained to help people with hearing difficulties, epilepsy, diabetes, physical mobility problems and more. Assistance dogs carry out a variety of practical tasks for people and support their

independence and confidence. Assistance dogs are not pets and are treated as 'auxiliary aids'. Assistance dogs are highly trained, which means they:

- will not wander freely around the premises;
- will sit or lie quietly on the floor next to their owner ; and
- are unlikely to foul in a public place.

Most are instantly recognisable by a harness or jacket. However, the law does not require the dog to wear a harness or jacket to identify it as an assistance dog.

Some, but not all, assistance dog users will carry an ID book giving information about the assistance dog and the training organisation, together with other useful information.

Again, this is not a legal requirement and assistance dog users should not be refused a service simply because they do not possess an ID book. Assistance dogs can also be owner-trained and the owner selects their own dog to fit their own requirements.

Source: [Assistance Dogs: a guide for all businesses, EHRC; 2018.](#)

Assistance dogs are usually qualified by one of the charitable organisations registered as members of Assistance Dogs UK. As such, an assistance dog is legally permitted to accompany its client, owner, or partner at all times and in all places within the United Kingdom.

Source: [Assistance Dogs UK](#)

The most impacted protected characteristics are age and disability, with some impact likely for race and ethnicity. Those suffering social and economic deprivation attitudes towards dogs and dog ownership can often be polarised. The Council's actions need to balance public health and safety and the benefits to owners, especially those with key protected characteristics who may rely upon their dogs for assistance in their everyday lives.

Hackney takes a graduated approach to enforcement, but a small minority of offenders can cause disproportionate nuisance and expense. In some cases, prosecution or the threat of prosecution will be necessary.

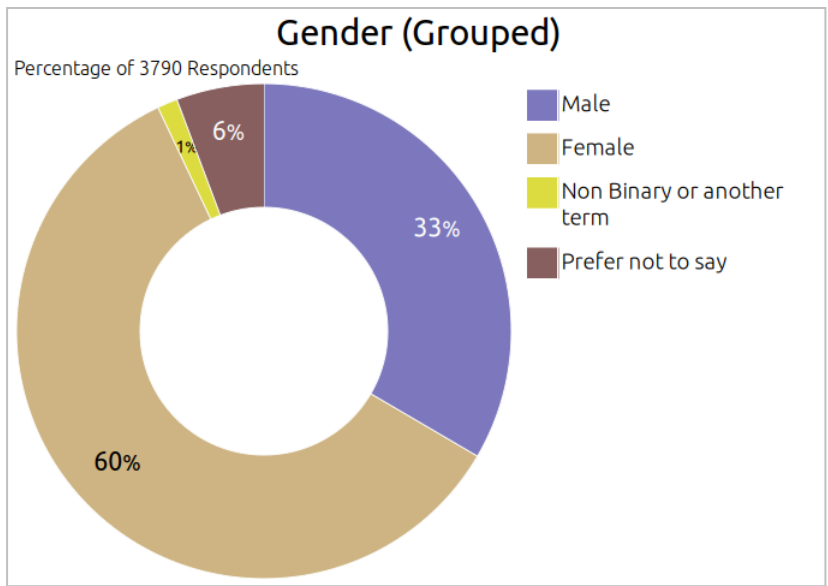
The proposed PSPO (Dog Control) aims to promote a consistent, effective and fair approach to enforcement to protect the environment for the benefit of the community and provide a safe place to live, work and visit.

The people most affected by the activities occurring across the borough are those who have witnessed the behaviours described above; these include other members of the public and those who live nearby. Some people have been deterred from using our public spaces because of the anti-social behaviour witnessed.

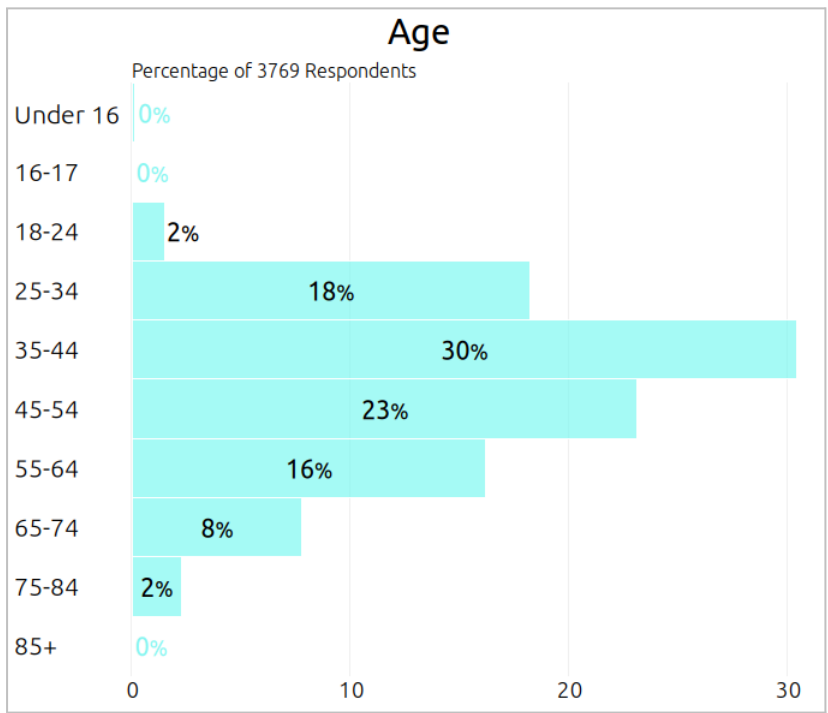
The people most affected by the PSPO (Dog Control), which restricts the activities occurring in our open spaces, are all people engaging in the above mentioned activities. It is hoped that it will result in a decrease or even a cessation of the nuisance, annoyance and disturbance occurring.

Most of the consultation respondents (90%) either live, work or own a business in Hackney, with non-dog owners being more likely to do so than dog owners. Some respondents to the consultation commented that although they live outside the borough, they walk their dogs in Hackney's parks and green spaces. Not all respondents gave their postcode, but 39% of those that did live in N16.

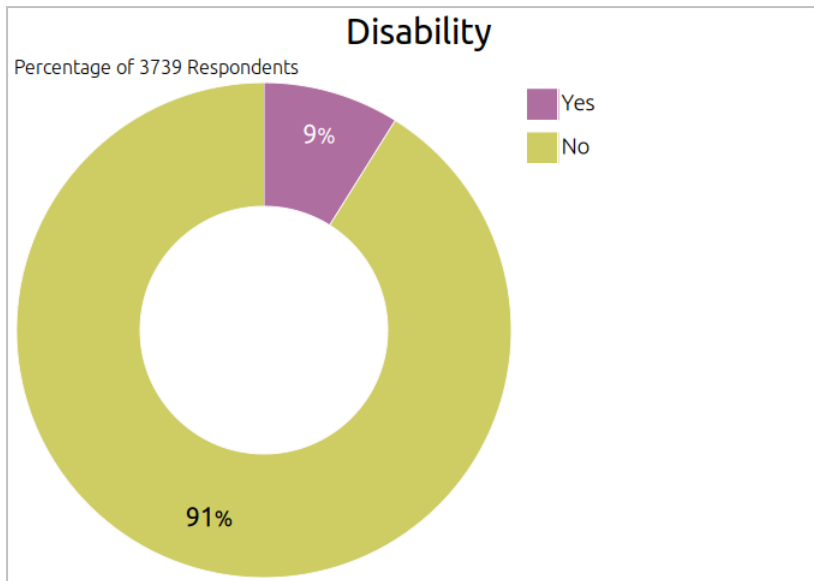
Women were more likely to respond to the consultation than men, but dog ownership is comparable by gender.



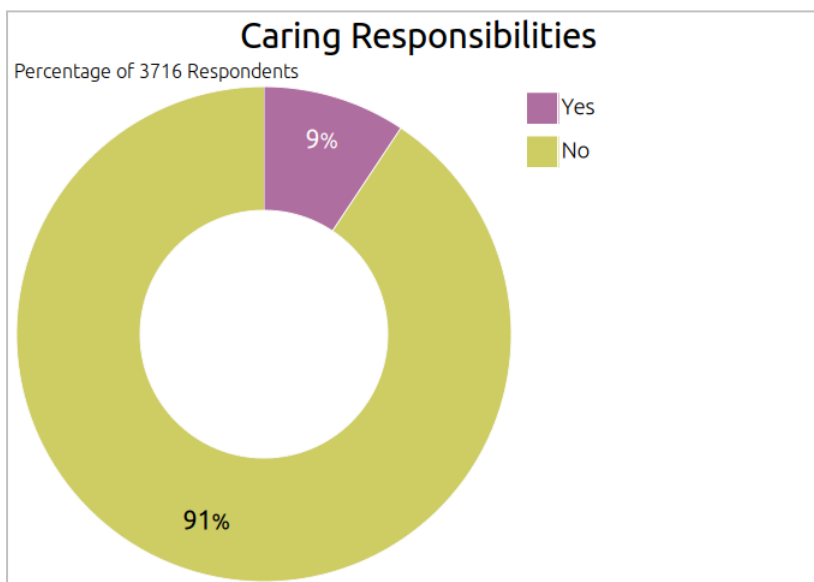
74% of respondents to the consultation are under the age of 55. Respondents under 35 are likely to own dogs, with those aged 65+ less likely to do so.



9% of respondents have a disability. Respondents with a disability are as likely to own dogs as those who are not disabled.

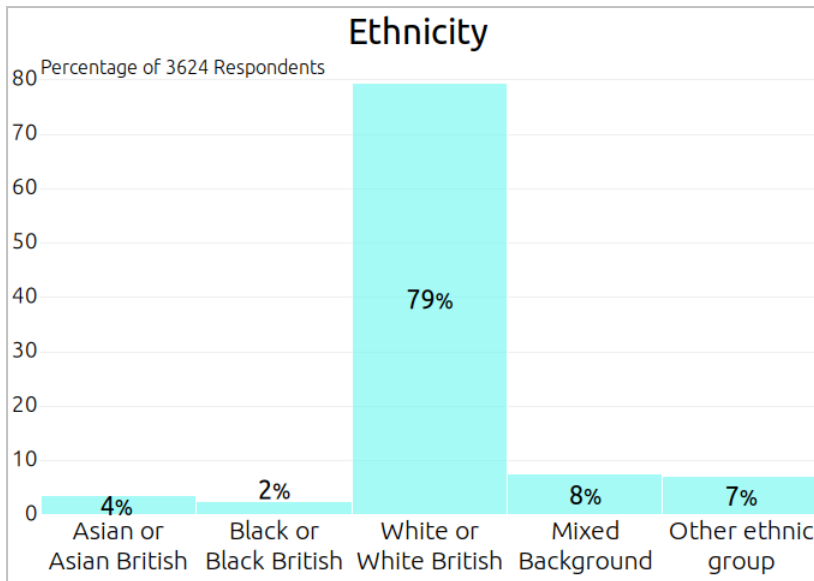


9% of respondents have a caring responsibility and are less likely to be dog owners than others.



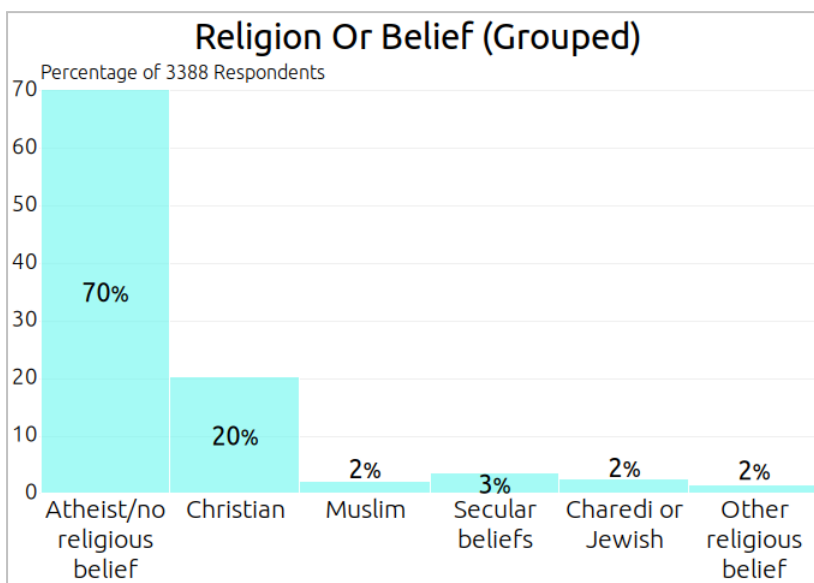
79% of respondents are White or White British, 2% Black and 4% Asian. This contrasts with the latest Hackney census figures, where 53% of the population were White, 21% Black and 10% Asian.

It is impossible to know whether the difference in the consultation respondent profile is due to these groups' ambivalence about dogs, lack of awareness of the consultation, unwillingness to engage with the Council or another reason. Asian and Black respondents are less likely than those from other ethnic groups to own dogs.

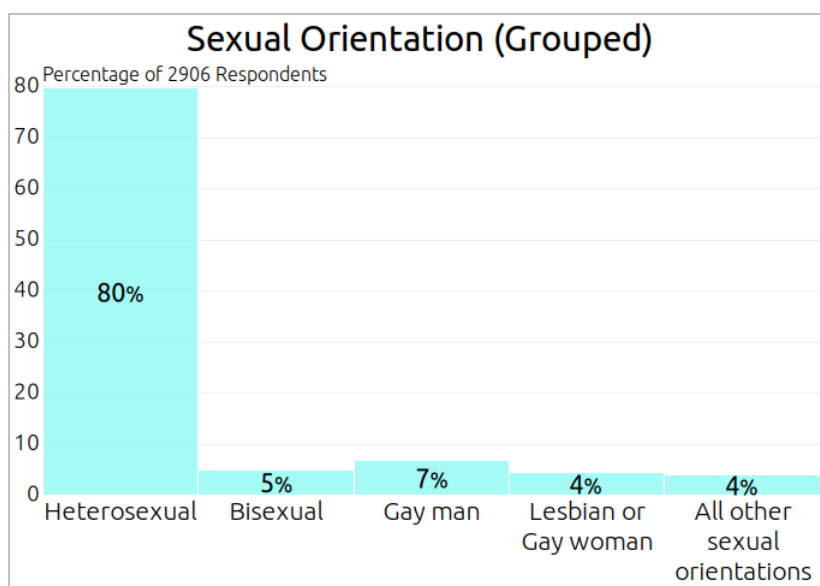


The religion or belief profile of the consultation respondents is also different to the latest Hackney census data, with a much higher proportion identifying as atheist or having no religious belief and a lower proportion identifying as Christian.

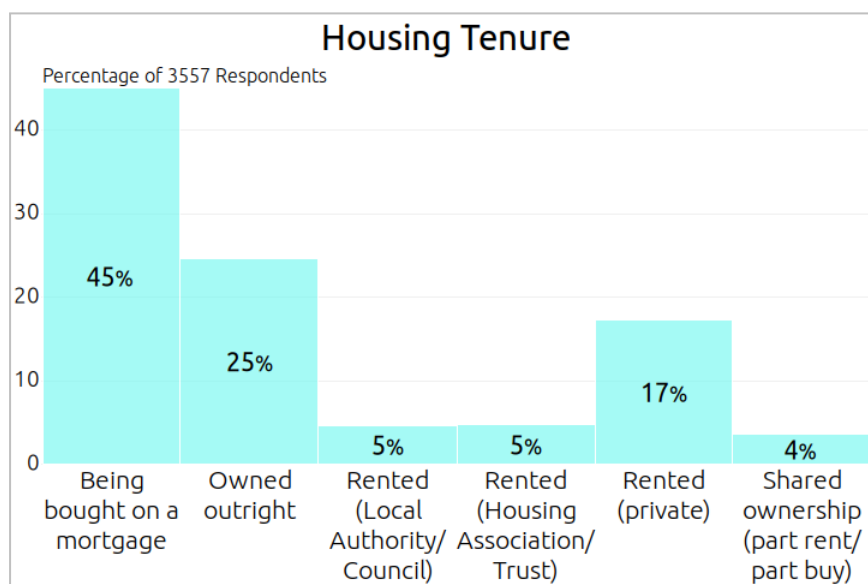
The proportion of Muslims, Charedi, or Jewish respondents is also lower than in the 2021 census. Muslim respondents are less likely to own dogs than those who follow other religions or beliefs.



The sexual orientation of respondents and the proportion of each group of dog owners is shown below.



The majority of respondents either own their home outright (24%) or buy it on a mortgage (44%). The latter are the group most likely to own a dog.



Question 3: What information or evidence have you used to make your decision?

The consultation on the proposed PSPO (Dog Control) invited views from all Hackney residents and interested groups, regarding dog control-related issues and potential amendments to the current PSPO (Dog Control). It is also for the Council to consider what else it could include and better understand residents' experience of dog control in parks and public spaces.

The consultation closed on 15 December 2023, and 3,888 responses were submitted online via Citizen Space. A further 101 email responses were received. Most of these responses (2,870) were received before the consultation information was updated on the webpage. In addition, six responses were submitted by organisations or groups, including the Kennel Club, Dogs Trust, RSPCA, London Fields User Group, Abney Park Trust and Abney Users Group.

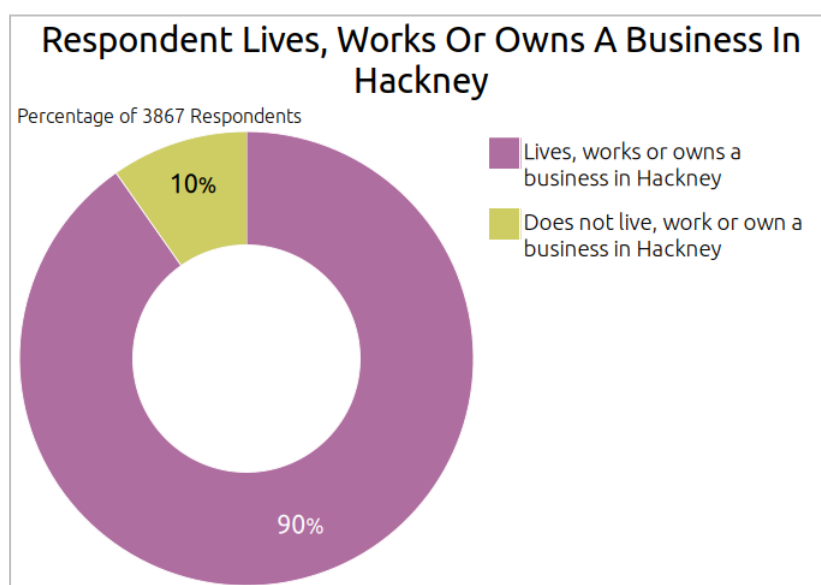
The Council consulted the following groups during the statutory consultation;

- Residents in Hackney.
- Hackney Parks User Groups.
- The Kennel Club.
- Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- Assistance Dogs UK.
- Veterinary practices
- Housing Associations.
- Canal and River Trust.
- The local chief officer of police. BCU Commander, Detective Chief Superintendent James Conway.
- The police and crime commissioner, Mayor Sadiq Khan.
- London Borough of Newham.
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- London Borough of Waltham Forest.
- London Borough of Islington.
- Corporation of London.
- London Legacy Development Corporation.

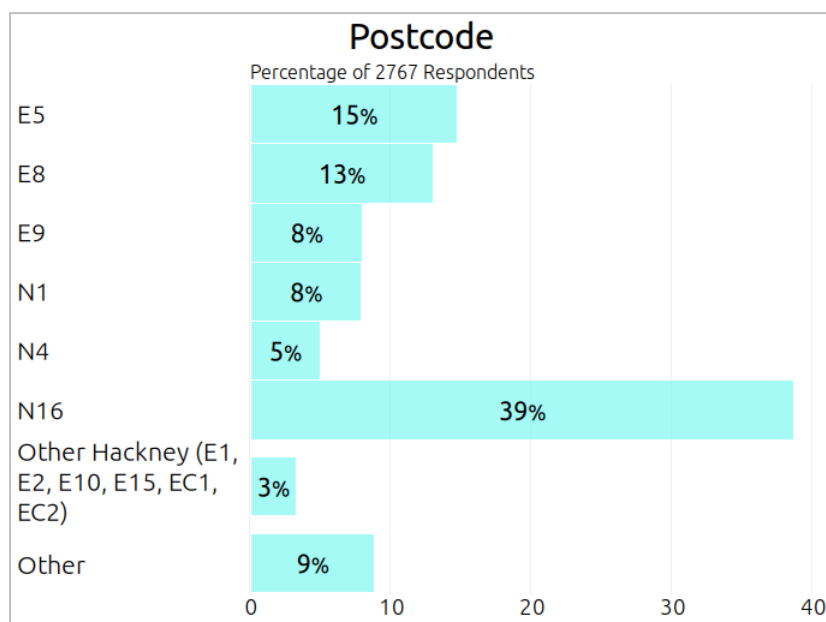
58% of respondents to the consultation own a dog, whilst 42% do not, and dog ownership is the crucial factor in respondents' views on the proposals. 75% of respondents who are dog owners have not had any problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last 12 months (neither they nor anyone they know). In contrast, 73% of respondents who do not own dogs say that they or someone they know have experienced a problem with dog behaviour.

74% of non-dog-owning respondents support the updates to the PSPO (Dog Control), compared to 10% of respondents who are dog owners.

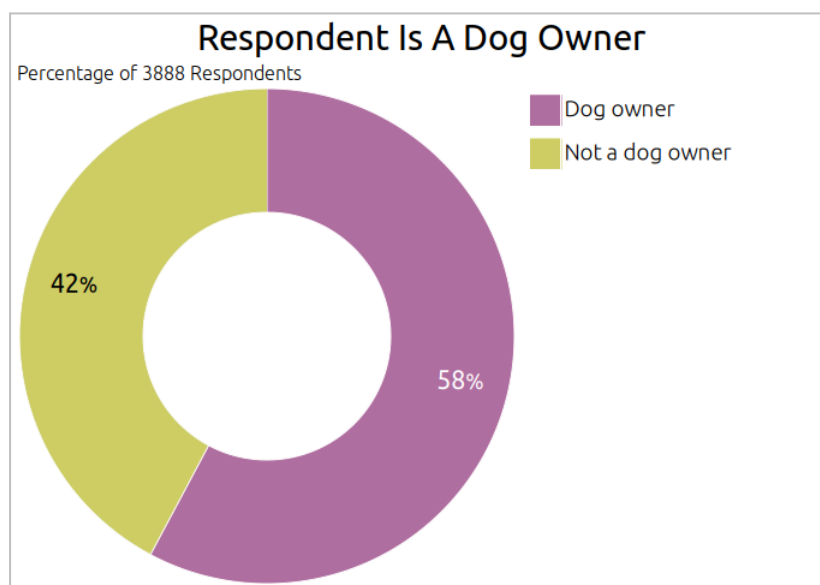
90% of respondents either live, work or own a business in Hackney, as can be seen from the chart below. 88% of respondents live in Hackney, 58% of respondents own a dog, and 2% of respondents are professional dog walkers.



Concerning the postcode of respondents, this is broken down in the chart below based on 2,767 respondents who provided postcode details.



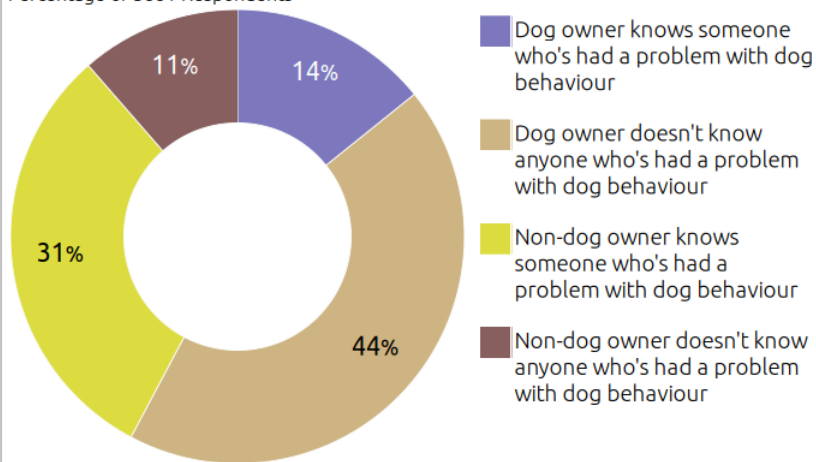
58% of respondents are a dog owner, with two percent of respondents being a dog owner based on 3,888 responses, as is shown in the chart below.



45% of respondents or someone they know has experienced problems with dog behaviour in Hackney in the last twelve months, while 55% have not. In relation to dog owners knowing someone who has experienced problems with dog behaviour in the last twelve months, this is shown in the chart below.

Dog Owner Knows Someone Who Has Experienced Problems With Dog Behaviour In Last 12 Months

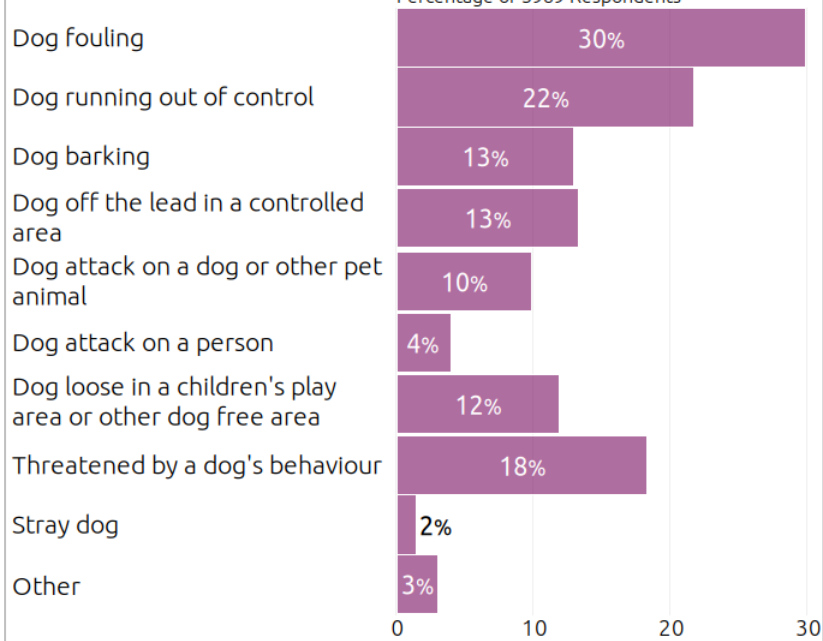
Percentage of 3881 Respondents



In relation to problems experienced by respondents with dog behaviour, the most significant were dog fouling, dog running out of control, dog barking, dog off the lead in a controlled area and being threatened by a dog's behaviour, which is shown in the chart below.

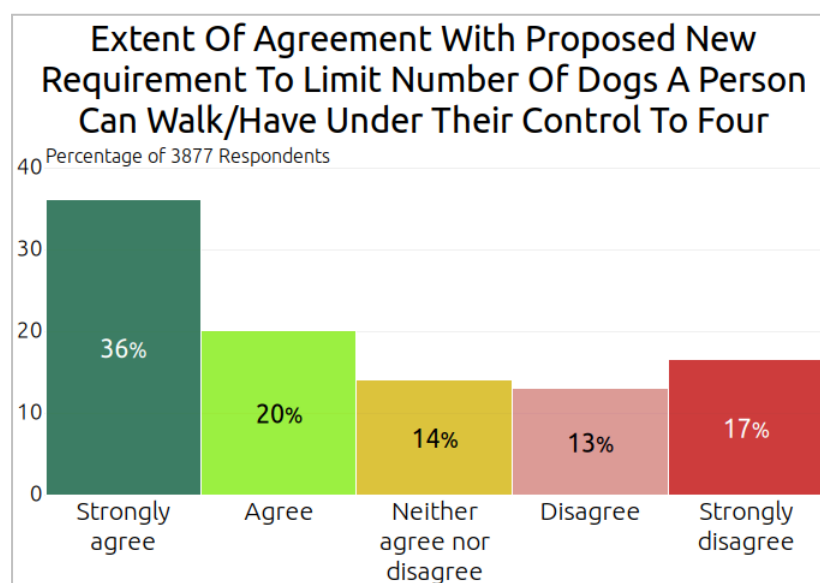
Problems Experienced With Dog Behaviour In Hackney In Last 12 Months

Percentage of 3989 Respondents



In relation to dog control, 43% of respondents either strongly agree or agree that the current PSPO (Dog Control) is effective while 30% either strongly disagree or disagree that the PSPO is effective, with 20% remaining neutral. 85 % of respondents either strongly agree or agree that it is important to control the way people look after their dogs in public spaces while 36% of respondents support the updates to the dog control PSPO as outlined in the consultation document with 58% against the updates.

With regard to the proposal to limit the number of dogs a person can walk / have under their control to four, 56% of respondents either strongly agree or agree with the proposal while 30% of respondents either strongly disagreeing or disagree with the proposal with 14% of respondents being neutral and is shown in the chart below.



The Kennel Club responded and is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training. Their submission states the Club “is the only national organisation named by the UK Government as a body that local authorities should consult prior to introducing restrictions on dog walkers”. The organisation is in favour of dogs on leads by direction orders, supports controls on dog fouling and is not against dog exclusion zones or dogs on leads orders where appropriate.

However, the Kennel Club does not support the maximum number of dogs restriction stating that “an arbitrary maximum number of dogs a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control”. This is because it “can result in displacement and subsequently intensify problems in other areas”. Also, the submission says that the number of dogs a walker can control depends on their experience, the dogs themselves and the location. If the proposed measures are being considered due to concerns about commercial dog walkers, the submission considers that a better approach would be to consider accreditation schemes. These “can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice”. The full submission from the Kennel Club can be found in Appendix 2 of the consultation report.

The Dogs Trust is the United Kingdom's largest dog welfare charity. Its submission references the PDSA's Paw Report 2018 saying this found that 89% of vets believe dog welfare would suffer if owners were prohibited from walking their pets in public places, such as parks, or if dogs had to be kept on the lead in these places.

The charity supports controls on dog fouling and dogs on lead by direction orders. The submission states the Dogs Trust recommends keeping dog exclusion zones to a minimum, for example including children's playgrounds but not excluding dogs from sports pitches for long periods of the year, as this is “unnecessary”. It also makes reference to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 (the ‘duty of care’) that includes a dog's need to “exhibit normal behaviour patterns”. The submission points out that “this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas”. The full submission from the Dogs Trust can be found in Appendix 3 of the consultation report.

An email submission from the RSPCA confirms its support for responsible dog ownership and encouraging the training of dogs so that everyone can enjoy parks and other public spaces. It refers specifically to the proposals concerning Abney Park and says the charity's position is that "PSPOs should not unwittingly compromise dog welfare by placing undue restrictions on dogs" and it also refers to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 saying "blanket bans on walking dogs off-lead can make it very difficult to provide for this natural behaviour". The full submission from the RSPCA can be found in Appendix 4 of the consultation report.

One of the major issues that was raised in relation to this issue of the proposal to limit the number of dogs a person can have under their control to four is perceived as being "targeted at professional dog walkers", who many respondents recognise as being the people most able to control their dogs.

The financial impact on professional dog walkers is a concern of respondents, as many respondents who own dogs use professional dog walkers or day care providers to ensure their pets get sufficient exercise. Their comments express concern about the impact the proposals will have on the financial viability of these small businesses as well as about the resulting increase in costs to themselves, particularly during the cost of living crisis. Respondents also raise concerns about the repercussions for dog well-being if dog walkers go out of business or owners can no longer afford to use them.

In addition, although this was only mentioned by a small proportion of other respondents, 20% of professional dog walkers who disagree with the proposal, point out that they are insured for a certain number of dogs, often six.

The most common theme in the feedback from respondents, who disagree with the proposal to limit the number of dogs to four, is that professional dog walkers do not cause any issues in the area.

The comments from dog owners express concern that the proposed new requirement will result in dog walkers going out of business. Many professional walkers have made similar comments regarding the reduction in income and the increased costs if the proposed changes come into effect.

Many respondents comment that an inexperienced owner may be unable to control one dog and this might be more dangerous than an experienced professional with five or six dogs.

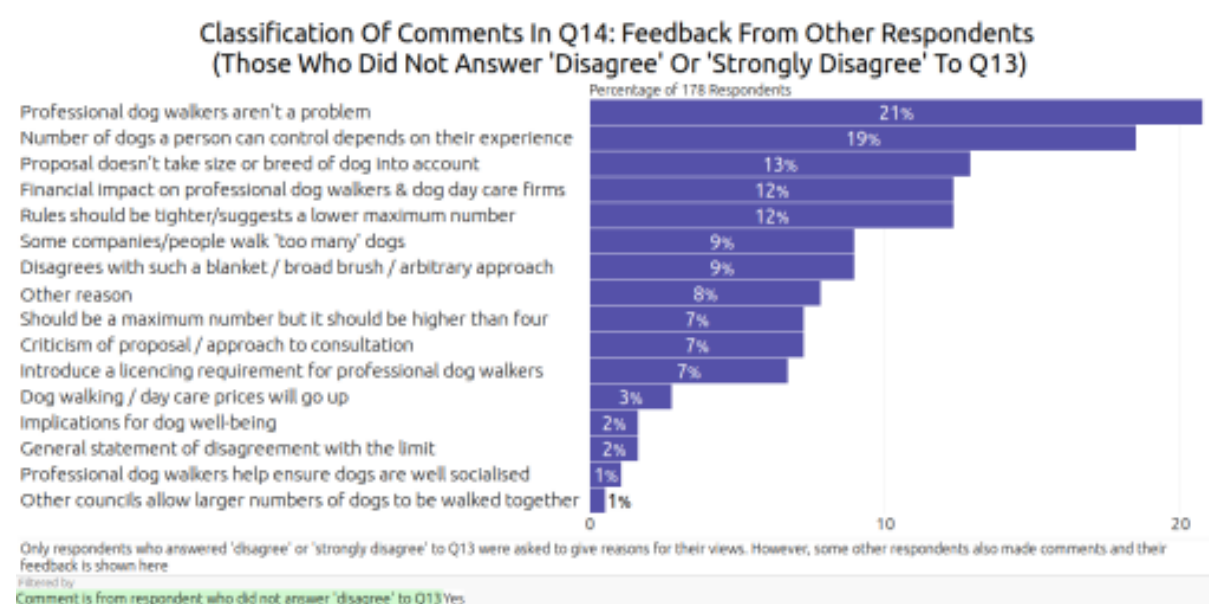
As well as expressing concerns about the financial viability of dog walking and day care businesses, many dog owners are concerned that the proposed new restriction would result in prices for these services increasing, with many commenting that they would not be able to afford this, especially with the cost of living crisis.

Respondents question the rationale behind the four dog limit with many asking where the evidence, data and justification comes from. The comments from many professional dog walkers object that they have not been consulted on the proposed changes prior to the consultation being publicised.

However, 11% of non-dog owners, who disagree with the new requirement, state that they think the rules should be tighter or suggest a lower maximum number. 20% of professional dog walkers, who disagree with the proposed new requirement, point out that they are insured for a maximum number of dogs, typically six. Other respondents also comment that they think there should be a limit but that four seems too low.

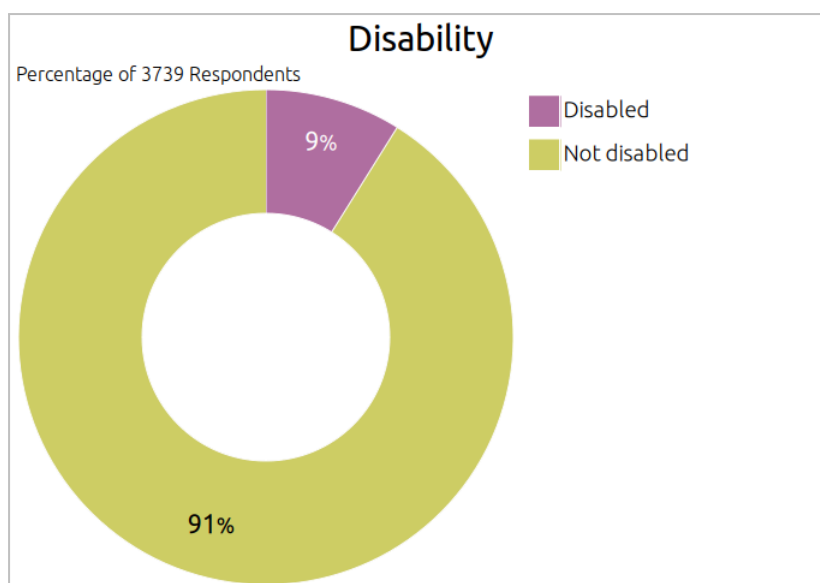
Although respondents were only invited to enter comments about the reasons for their views if they answered 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' to question thirteen, some respondents who did not select these response options also made comments about the new requirement to restrict the maximum number of dogs to four. These responses are considered as a percentage of comments made, rather than as a percentage of all respondents who do not disagree with the new requirement. This is because most respondents, who did not select 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree', followed the instructions in the questionnaire and did not give feedback, even though they might have wanted to do so.

21% of these comments state that professional dog walkers are not a problem in the area, whilst 19% suggest that the number of dogs a person can control depends on their experience and 13% think the proposals do not take the size or breed of dog into account. 12% are concerned about the financial impact on professional dog walkers and day cares, whilst the same proportion of comments state the rules should be tighter. Full details are shown in the chart below.



The Council has considered all of these comments and taking into account the issues raised by the comments it is recommended to Cabinet that the proposed restriction on the number of dogs that can be walked / under the control of one person be set at six dogs.

9% of respondents have a disability. Respondents with a disability are as likely to own dogs as those who are not disabled.



Additionally, some disabled respondents express concern about being able to give their dog enough exercise if their access to suitable local areas is restricted. This is an issue highlighted in the responses to the question about the restriction on the maximum number of dogs. Respondents express concern that dogs will get less exercise if the proposed change forces professional dog walkers and day cares out of business or to put up prices. They worry this may result in dogs being left at home for longer affecting their well-being and, potentially, their behaviour when they are taken out for exercise.

“I walk my dog in Hackney’s section of the QE Olympic Park. I am a wheelchair user and this part of the park under your domain is the only place where I can walk my dog because of the path. I cannot use the marshes, I cannot go to the flats. My assistance dog is mandated to have two hours off lead every day, it’s in her contract. I take her through the park, she is let off onto Hopkins Field – as permitted by the LLDC – and in my wheelchair, I follow the path and circle that field and you are voting to completely remove my ability to do this. You will take all independence from me.”

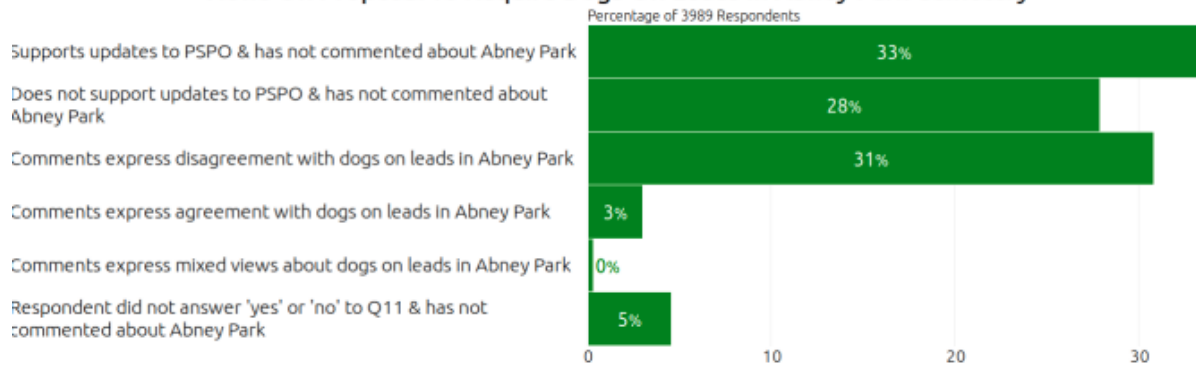
The Kennel Club Submission draws the Council's attention to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance for businesses, service providers, and Assistance Dogs UK.

The submission encourages the Council to allow flexibility when considering whether a disabled person's dog acts as an assistance dog. The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs used by Mole Valley District Council or Northumberland County Council.

The Council has considered all of these comments and taking into account the issue raised by the comments it is recommended to Cabinet that the proposed order be approved with amendments in line with The Kennel Club submission.

Across the various qualitative questions or in their emails, 1,364 respondents mentioned Abney Park Cemetery, and these comments were further analysed and classified into additional subthemes. 31% of all respondents submitted comments disagreeing with the proposed requirement making the Cemetery dogs on lead area, whilst 3% of respondents made comments in support of the change.

Views On Proposal To Require Dogs On Leads In Abney Park Cemetery



The consultation questionnaire did not ask respondents about their use of Hackney parks and green spaces in general, or specific locations, such as Abney Park, in particular. In their feedback, 393 respondents explicitly mentioned walking a dog in Abney Park, although there were also many further comments where this was unclear.

It was mentioned that the Cemetery is a particularly suitable area for dogs to be exercised off the lead. Examples of the reasons given in the comments include the trees providing shade and stimulation for dogs; the lower number of other users compared to the more open parks; the types of other park activities – people are typically moving through the cemetery and do not picnic, sunbathe, or play sports there; the enclosed space; the absence of cyclists, electric scooters or skateboarders.

Dogs are not perceived as a problem in the Cemetery. These respondents talk about never seeing problem dog behaviour despite having walked in the cemetery on a daily basis for years. Some support their argument by referring to data released under Freedom of Information requests to the Metropolitan Police and Hackney Council which they say show virtually no record of any issues in the park.

Criticism of the proposals and the Council's approach to the consultation are particularly prevalent in the comments from respondents giving feedback about Abney Park. Comments from these respondents raise concerns that one of the councillors involved in the decision making is also a trustee of Abney Park Trust, who publicly support the ban on off-lead dogs, resulting in accusations of "a conflict of interest".

More generally, respondents raising these issues also object to not being able to comment on individual aspects of the proposals and consider the consultation questions to be leading, biased and negatively framed. They also refer to the lack of data to support the proposals, question the sources of the information that has been provided, and think the situation with dogs should be considered as part of wider anti-social behaviour issues in Hackney's parks. Furthermore, the feedback identifies issues with the consultation process itself including a lack of publicity and engagement with local residents; changing the scope of the consultation retrospectively; and contradictory information being provided about whether emails sent to councillors would be included in the consultation responses.

The Abney Park Dog Users Group also identifies "harmful unintended consequences" of the proposed PSPO, which include an influx of additional dogs to the already crowded Clissold Park and making Abney Park less safe, especially for women. Therefore, the Group argues, "the effect of the Abney Park PSPO would be indirectly discriminatory". The full submission from Abney Park Dog Users Group, including its survey of park users and gate observations, can be found in appendix seven of the report.

In relation the proposal regarding restriction on dogs off the lead in Abney Park, the Council has again acknowledged the issues raised by dog walkers on the requirement set out in the consultation for all dogs to be on lead in the Park and again in response to this it is not planning to implement this at the present time.

To better understand the nature of the problem, Impact Statements have been obtained from residents, user groups and interested parties outlining the detrimental impact these actions have had on the local community and environment. Data from the MPS & Council's Intelligence Hub has been obtained and reviewed through the Council's Partnership Tasking Meeting.

The evidence pack can be found [here](#).

In coordination with key stakeholders, Council Officers have taken several actions in response, including.

Proactive and reactive patrolling: The Police and Council officers, where resourcing allows, have proactively patrolled the locations identified in this report. Enforcement Officers are uniformed, highly visible, and have high enforcement powers. They wear body cameras that record video and audio for evidential purposes. The Enforcement Officers are not designed as a "blue-light response" team. They are tasked using an intelligence-led approach, i.e. assigned according to crime and ASB hotspots as identified through information and intelligence through weekly Partnership Tasking and joint briefings with Police SNT. There is a small capacity for response work; however, Officers engage with residents and stakeholders wherever possible and distribute bags to remove faeces and leaflets around the dog control.

Park infrastructure: Hackney's Leisure, Parks and Green Spaces Service have installed signs across the borough to reinforce PSPO rules for dog control. These emphasise where dogs are not permitted or may need to be placed on a lead. Hackney no longer has dedicated dog waste bins, as dog waste can now be placed in any ordinary park bin. The service also regularly engages with park user groups to emphasise the rules relating to dogs and has previously promoted changes to the rules with dedicated public campaigns.

Behaviour Change around Dog Control: The Council's Animal Welfare Services provides Hackney residents free microchipping and pet tagging services and low-cost neutering available with the Dogs Trust to those receiving a means-tested benefit if the dog is one of the listed breeds. In addition to the above, We promote responsible pet ownership and offer behavioural advice.

Bylaws: Hackney's [bylaws](#) for its parks, gardens and open spaces were approved by the Secretary of State in 1932 - they are now largely outdated, difficult to enforce and not fit for purpose. Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Warning Forms have been issued for breach of bylaws. These forms are used when Enforcement Officers encounter incidents of ASB, not exclusive to rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour. They are not a replacement for Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), and when an offence is committed, the relevant FPN should be given. ASB notices can be issued alongside FPNs and other Formal Notices. Accredited Officers can require people's names and addresses who are causing antisocial behaviour. Although all officers can use the books, refusing to provide details is only an offence when Enforcement Officers are Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) accredited.

Community Protection Notices: Community Protection Notices and Community Protection Notices Warnings have been issued to individuals engaged in anti-social behaviour concerning dog control.

PSPO: The Dog Control PSPO has been in place since 2017, except for the period 20th October 2020 to 18th March 2021. The PSPOs commenced when the legislation relating to dog control was replaced. The PSPOs mirror the controls that were in place at that time. The current PSPO is due to expire on 17th March 2024, and the Cabinet must now consider whether to implement the proposed PSPO for a further three years and, if so, whether to make any amendments to it.

Question 4: What positive impacts will this decision have?

A PSPO is a tool implemented under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to ensure the law-abiding majority can use public spaces safely and free from anti-social behaviour. The proposed PSPO will be imposed to ensure that Hackney has an effective response to tackle ASB in the prescribed area allowing the space to be used as intended.

PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in an area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life by imposing conditions on the use of that area that applies to everyone. They are designed to ensure people can use and enjoy public spaces safe from anti-social behaviour.

Implementing the PSPO and balancing the wider community's needs against those using the space and causing anti-social behaviour is likely to have a positive impact across all equality groups. The legitimate aims of the PSPO are to ensure that people are free to use this public space free from anti-social behaviour. This would contribute to the health and well-being of citizens in an urban environment.

The change is unlikely to be discriminatory for people with any protected characteristics; age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, marriage, or civil partnership. The propensity to commit anti-social behaviour offences is not a protected characteristic, nor is any person with a protected characteristic likelier to commit an anti-social behaviour offence.

The Council recognises that nothing in the Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control) shall apply to a person who –

- is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948;
- is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance;
- has a disability in respect of an Assistance Dog and upon which he relies for assistance;
- a person who is training an assistance dog in an official capacity; or
- a dog used by the police or other agencies permitted by the Council for official purposes.

Therefore, the above persons are and will be exempt from prosecution if found to be in breach of the outlined Dog control PSPO.

Therefore, the proposed PSPO (Dog Control) would prevent the area from being misused and provide immediate relief to the residents, improving their safety and quality of life and deterring those who are participating in and organising gatherings which are causing severe nuisance and antisocial behaviour, increasing the fear of crime and perception of safety within the community.

Protected Characteristics	Effect	Comments
Age	Positive and Negative	<p>Positive - The impact on the community, including the elderly, young people, and children, has been considered, not least the impact on young people who live in the borough who have felt increasingly excluded from accessing and enjoying open spaces. To avoid doubt, this does not just refer to young children whose parents have felt unable to allow them to play in open spaces due to the impact of anti-social behaviour but also older young people. Safety is a concern for all age groups; therefore, the PSPO should positively impact all ages. All ages will benefit from improved cleanliness. We wish to safeguard children by restricting the exercise of dogs in children's play parks. These restrictions have been in place for many years, and we are just looking to legally extend them for three years to maintain our high levels of safeguarding. It can be assumed that young children who are more likely to be playing on the ground are most likely to benefit from the reduction of dog fouling and will have less potential to be harmed by un-cleared faeces or distressed by coming into contact with it. It could also be noted that accidental trips from uncontrolled dogs may be reduced.</p> <p>Negative - Some residents may experience difficulty in removing dog fouling due to their age or ability. This may also apply to the ability to restrain a dog on its lead or having to travel further to exercise their dog on foot or by vehicle.</p>
Disability	Positive and Negative	<p>Positive - It is recognised that people with mobility problems or visual impairments may find it more challenging to comply with the Dog Control PSPOs; therefore, there are exemptions included in the order. The proposed PSPO is believed to impact this protected group positively.</p> <p>Negative - It is recognised that this group may be less able than others to use alternative places due to a potentially restricted ability to reach other public spaces. This group may be unable to remove dog fouling due to a physical impairment. This group may have to travel further to exercise their dog. This group may have reduced the ability to restrain a dog on its lead. This group may have reduced the ability to know about the restrictions or have reduced the ability to understand the restrictions. This group may have difficulty accessing land where exercise can be undertaken; this may be due to steps, rough or soft ground, camber or gradient.</p>
Gender Reassignment	Neutral	The proposed PSPOs are expected to have a neutral effect on this group.
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	The proposed PSPOs are expected to have a neutral effect on this group.

Pregnancy and maternity	Unclear	Any heavily pregnant individuals may be less able to remove dog fouling and travel further to exercise their dogs.
Race	Positive and Negative	The proposed PSPOs will encourage more responsible use of our open spaces. The proposals are believed to impact those with this protected characteristic positively. There are no known equality issues regarding dog control related to race and ethnicity. Where Hackney Enforcement Officers believe that understanding of written or spoken English language, Officers will endeavour to use translation where required to ensure the recipient of a Fixed Penalty Notice understands the content.
Religion or Belief	Neutral	The proposed PSPO is expected to have a neutral effect on this group.
Sex	Unclear	The proposed PSPO intends to make residents feel safer by tackling anti-social behaviour and having a clean borough. This will apply to residents regardless of sex. There are no known equality issues concerning dog control and sex.
Carers	Positive	With the controls in some public open spaces, caring for an individual may be easier.
Sexual Orientation	Neutral	The proposed PSPO is expected to have a neutral effect on this group.
Social and economic deprivation	Unclear	It is recognised that this group may have limited access to private transport and may restrict the ability to travel further to exercise a dog. It may be the case that this group may lack the ability to meet the needs of dogs, including but not limited to veterinary requirements and vaccinations or owning a suitable lead.

Question 5: What possible negative impacts could there be?

The proposed PSPO (Dog Control) sets out a range of powers available to the Council and how these will be legally applied. Its use will be determined by the behaviour occurring and is not directed at any protected group.

Regarding the rights protected by the Human Rights Act 1988, the 2014 Act requires the Council to have *particular* regard for Article 10 (freedom of expression) and Article 11 (freedom of assembly/association). The proposed PSPO does not interfere with Article 10. The possible right that might be engaged in Article 11.

The proposed Borough-wide restrictions restrict *how* people can use our parks and open spaces, not their ability to use or gather there.

As such, the PSPO (Dog Control) does not interfere with Article 11 rights to assemble and associate with others. However, even if Article 11 were interfered with, the interference would be justified as being prescribed by law and in pursuance of a legitimate aim (namely, in the interests of public safety, the protection of public health, the prevention of crime and disorder, and the protection of the rights and freedoms of others). The terms of the proposed PSPO are proportionate and necessary.

The proposal is unlikely to have a negative impact on equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics as it only restricts the committing of anti-social behaviour offences.

Enforcement is the most frequent recurring theme in the comments from respondents who do not have dogs. The feedback relates to complaints about the lack of enforcement of the current rules and, often following on from this, doubts that the new rules will be adequately enforced. 27% of respondents who have a dog and 36% of those who do not own a dog referred to the lack of enforcement of the current rules.

Respondents mention never seeing any Council staff enforcing the rules or being aware of anyone being fined. Lack of enforcement is the most frequently cited reason why respondents disagree the current PSPO (Dog Control) is effective. Therefore, the comments from many of these respondents question the rationale behind introducing additional rules when the current order is not perceived to be effective because it is not enforced.

The proposal looks to restrict anti-social behaviour so that residents and others in the borough can freely enjoy public spaces such as parks without fear of anti-social behaviour.

Identifying any emerging or actual hotspots and the tasking of Police and Enforcement resources remains a standing agenda item of the monthly Partnership Tasking Group chaired by the Community Safety Partnership Manager. There is also more granular activity through the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Panels meetings, which address singularly impacted issues at the individual level with specific agencies, particularly Housing.

Hackney Enforcement Officers are tasked weekly at the internal weekly tasking meeting co-ordinated by the Intelligence Hub, the purpose of which is to:

- Coordinate deployment of staff using an evidence-based approach to provide targeted action and patrols, including planning for upcoming events and seasonal peaks of activity that require action on a cyclical basis
- Highlight emerging patterns and trends and plan targeted early intervention and activities.
- Provide a staff briefing.
- Enable a more joined-up and efficient use of Service provision in Hackney.
- Provide a transparent and auditable decision-making process that will stand up to scrutiny and justify how / why decisions have been reached. Provide a full list of all actions/taskings completed and actions taken to resolve issues.

Partnership Tasking occurs monthly and is aligned more closely with the Police tasking process. The Intelligence Hub raises issues with the Police (as a by-product of the weekly tasking). Any requests to or from the Police for assistance will be discussed at this meeting if a multi-agency problem-solving approach is better suited.

As outlined above, the proposed PSPO (Dog Control) operation will be under review at tasking meetings. The advice, warnings and enforcement of the proposed PSPO (Dog Control) will be logged in the pocket notebooks of Officers and on Council and Police databases.

The Authorised Officers will enforce the proposed PSPO (Dog Control). They will continue to consider the individuals' needs and circumstances to make an informed and balanced decision on the appropriateness of action. Officers will continue to receive training on equality and diversity.

The performance of the proposed PSPO will be reported to the Corporate Committee annually to ensure a balance between proportionate enforcement and acceptable behaviour in the borough.

Question 6: Describe the recommended decision

The introduction of the proposed PSPO (Dog Control) will impact the lives of people who live, work and visit Hackney. The proposed restrictions will positively impact people whose protective characteristics are impacted by the anti-social behaviour the proposed order is designed to address, and a detailed consultation exercise has been undertaken before a decision is made. The recommendation is to approve the proposed PSPO (Dog Control).

Please list specific actions which set out how you will address equality and cohesion issues identified by this assessment.

I can confirm that the Council has had due regard to the public sector equality duty found in s.149 of the Equality Act 2010. The proposed PSPO will positively impact people's ability to use public spaces safely and without fear of nuisance, annoyance or other anti-social behaviour.

Any abuse of discretion when enforcing the proposed PSPO will be dealt with swiftly using internal procedures, which could include additional training or management action.

A person issued with Fixed Penalty Notices for a breach of the proposed PSPO may make representation or lodge a corporate complaint, which would be investigated and responded to by a Senior Manager who had no involvement with issuing the Fixed Penalty Notice.

It is important to note that no formal grounds exist for an appeal against a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). It is an invitation for an individual to discharge their liability to prosecution. In essence, this means that whilst this is not an admission of an individual's guilt, it is an agreement that the individuals accept that an offence has been committed and that by paying the sum of money specified, no further action will be taken by, or on behalf of the Council. This method of dealing with offences saves time for everyone involved in prosecuting cases at court, and the cost associated with an FPN is likely to be substantially lower than any fine imposed by the courts.

Approval: Approved

Signature:



Name: Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney

Date: 12.02.2024

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Title of Report	Equality Plan - Final Draft	
Key Decision No	CED S272	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	All	
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	N/A	
Group Director	Dawn Carter McDonald, Interim Chief Executive	

1. Cabinet Member's introduction

- 1.1. In November 2022, Hackney Council adopted a new Strategic Plan. This presented the Council's ambitions for the next four years. It also described the key challenges. The plan set out how we responded to these challenges, working with residents and partners. The plan included commitments for how the Council maximised its own resources - jobs, contracts, and making best use of our spaces and assets. The plan was drafted at a time when we were seeing deep inequalities in society, and in our borough, after over a decade of austerity from national government cuts and after the pandemic which hit Hackney residents hard. The Strategic Plan outlined draft Equality Objectives, to be developed further in an equality plan.
- 1.2. The draft Equality Objectives and a summary equality plan were then developed further between January 2023 and July 2023, to set out how we meet our legal duties under the Equality Act and progress the commitment to fairer outcomes in the Strategic Plan.
- 1.3. Alongside this, commitments had already been made in the last Single Equality Scheme to draft an LGBTQIA Strategic Framework.

- 1.4. In July 2020, a motion was passed to work towards being an anti-racist organisation. The Anti-Racism Framework was then developed, building on existing work, and strengthening the Council's resolve to change as an institution.
- 1.5. Both the LGBTQIA Strategic Framework and Anti-Racism Framework are presented in these papers, along with the Equality Plan. Both frameworks have helped us to develop the final Equality Plan, applying the lessons of both to our overall approach to equality. They have helped us consider what is needed to tackle inequality and eliminate discrimination and engage differently with residents. They are discrete documents within the wider Equality Plan. In appending these frameworks, we are not diluting these issues, but situating the actions needed in a wider frame and justification.
- 1.6. In July 2023, all three documents were approved by Cabinet for consultation.
- 1.7. Consultation and engagement took place between 20th November 2023 and 21st January 2024. The consultation helped finalise the overall objectives for the Equality Plan. The engagement activity helped shape the commitments that sit below this plan. Over 790 staff, partners and residents were involved.
- 1.8. The final plan objectives have been shaped by this feedback, and as we develop a more detailed action plan, the feedback we have collected and analysed will continue to be invaluable.
- 1.9. Over the last few years, the Council has adopted motions that champion the needs and rights of groups. This Equality Plan considers how we can include these motions. The motions cover:
- anti-racism
 - supporting trans rights
 - considering the impact of perimenopause and menopause
 - understanding the needs of single parents
 - tackling islamophobia and anti-semitism
 - becoming age friendly and dementia friendly
 - being committed to the "right to food."

How we meet our legal duties

- 1.10. The Equality Plan will set out how we meet our legal duties under the Equality Act. The Equality Act identifies "protected characteristics." Public bodies must take action to tackle discrimination and disadvantage when it relates to a protected characteristic. We have to think about how we foster good relations between all groups.

- 1.11. Public Bodies are also expected to publish draft objectives and consult on them. This Equality Plan presents the final objectives following consultation.

Other groups we want to consider as part of this Equality Plan

- 1.12. As well as thinking about protected characteristics, there are other groups we are considering in this Plan. We understand these groups are not protected under law. By identifying these groups, we are able to consider a wider set of needs that we need to consider in order to focus on fairer outcomes for residents.
- 1.13. The original draft of the Equality Act contained a "socio-economic duty." The Duty did not become law but Hackney adopted it on a voluntary basis. This is because there is a strong link between socio-economic disadvantage and inequality. We therefore need to consider how someone could be more disadvantaged because of their socio-economic status, or we might be missing a key driver of inequality. We have considered this in our plans in 2013 and again in 2018.
- 1.14. Socio-economic disadvantage could be about education, occupation, income, locality, housing or social class. There is no singular way to measure "social class."
- 1.15. The new plan also focuses on those who are vulnerable because of life experiences, based on borough needs. During consultation and engagement, we heard about other groups who we needed to consider for this reason. These groups are detailed later in this report.
- 1.16. The plan seeks to address needs and issues under these proposed equality objectives:
Community facing:
 1. Eradicate inequality at every life stage by taking protective, preventative positive action
 2. Building opportunity and well-being
 3. Celebrate and serve diverse communities and value the contribution they make
Underpinning organisational objectives:
 4. Embed equality into service plans and practice across the council and the borough
 5. Change as an institution to ensure internal and systemic change
- 1.17. This plan is written at a time of global conflict. This impacts the council and residents of Hackney, directly and indirectly. We are a diverse borough and our residents will have friends and family caught up in conflict. It impacts how safe residents feel as we have seen an increase

over the last few weeks of Islamophobia and anti-semitism in Hackney, London, and across the world.

- 1.18. In the context of this global conflict and of societal change, and greater inequality, it has been very important to take time to reset our approach to equality in Hackney. The resident insight we received has shifted the way we frame our objectives, and these changes are detailed in this report. In the interests of transparency and accountability I will bring a full action plan, with measures of success back to Cabinet later this year. This will build on the high Equality Plan presented today.

2. Group Director's introduction

- 2.1. In November 2022 Hackney adopted a new Strategic Plan at Cabinet and Council, Working Together for a Better Hackney. The New Strategic Plan sets out the ambitions for the Council for the next four years, as well as the challenges we face.
- 2.2. A final Equality Plan has been drafted to help us consider these ambitions through an equality prism. The New Equality Plan will replace the existing Single Equality Scheme 2018-2022.
- 2.3. To develop the plan, we reviewed progress against the last plan, considered new needs, drivers and insights and took account of the direction of travel for wider plans and strategies and commitments in the strategic plan and manifesto commitments.
- 2.4. In July 2023, all three documents were approved by Cabinet for consultation.
- 2.5. Consultation and engagement took place between 20th November 2023 and 21st January 2024. The consultation helped finalise the overall objectives for the Equality Plan. The engagement activity helped shape the commitments that sit below this plan. Over 790 staff, partners and residents were involved.
- 2.6. The final plan objectives have been shaped by this feedback, and as we develop a more detailed action plan the feedback we have collected and analysed will continue to be invaluable.

- 2.7. LGBTQIA Strategic Framework and Anti-Racism Framework are presented in these papers, along with the Equality Plan. They are discrete documents within the wider Equality Plan.
- 2.8. Now we have got the framing and priorities right, we need to develop a detailed action plan. Feedback from the consultation and engagement will also help us finalise this more detailed plan. We only have a duty to publish Equality Objectives. Residents have, however, been clear that they want us to be more open and transparent about what we do and how we measure success. In the interests of transparency and accountability, we will also bring back a more detailed equality action plan to Cabinet later this year. We will be developing a full refreshed equality needs assessment, informed by the insight from the consultation and engagement phase.
- 2.9. The Council has an Equality and Cohesion Policy which summarises Hackney's understanding of 'equality, diversity and cohesion.' This Policy will need to be updated in the light of the new objectives and this will also be brought to Cabinet later this year.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. **To recommend to Full Council that the Equality Plan be adopted, along with the anti-racism framework and LGBTQIA framework:**
- **Appendix 1: Equality Plan**
 - **Appendix 2: the anti-racism framework**
 - **Appendix 3: the LGBTQIA framework**
- 3.2. **To agree that a full action plan for the Equality Plan will be brought to Cabinet later this year**
- 3.3. **To agree that the Equality and Cohesion Policy is also brought to Cabinet later this year, so it can reflect the new objectives**

4. Reason(s) for decision

- 4.1. In November 2022 Hackney adopted a new Strategic Plan at Cabinet and Council. An equality plan is needed to support the ambitions of the strategic plan and political priorities and consider these ambitions through an equality prism. The new Equality Plan will replace the existing Single Equality Scheme 2018-2022 and so we are at a key point of change in policy which requires consultation and engagement. It is a statutory duty to publish equality objectives, and consult on them. In the interests of transparency, we published and consulted on a summary plan, rather than just the objectives. Consultation and engagement on the Draft Equality Plan took place between 20th November 2023 and 21st January 2024. This has informed the final draft of the equality plan.
- 4.2. The last Equality Scheme included a commitment to developing a refreshed LGBTQIA plan. In July 2020, a motion was passed to work towards being an anti-racist organisation. This helped strengthen the focus on what we need to change within institutions. Both the LGBTQIA Strategic Framework and Anti-Racism Framework are presented in these papers, along with the Equality Plan. They are discrete documents within the wider Equality Plan. In appending these frameworks, we are not diluting these documents but situating these plans in a wider frame and justification.

5. Details of alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. We could have done what is statutorily required and only published draft objectives, without developing the more detailed plans that flow from these objectives. In the early consideration of the Equality Plan this option was rejected by corporate leadership so that sufficient attention could be given to the positive actions needed to tackle inequality of outcomes, build opportunity and celebrate diversity and to address the challenges for us as an institution, and for statutory partners.
- 5.2. We could have incorporated objectives into the wider Strategic Plan. An equality plan was considered to be needed in order to consider the Strategic Plan ambitions for fairer outcomes through an equality prism.

6. Background

- 6.1. The new Equality Plan will replace the existing Single Equality Scheme 2018-2022 and so we are at a key point of change in policy which requires consultation and engagement. It is, furthermore, a statutory duty to publish equality objectives, and consult on them.
- 6.2. The [Single Equality Scheme 2018-2022](#) was developed to identify the proactive work needed, informed by a [detailed analysis of demographics and of inequality](#).

- 6.3. The pandemic revealed the stark racial inequality faced by some groups and, in response, the Council adopted a further commitment to anti-racism in July 2020. In July 2020, the Council passed a motion to work towards becoming an anti-racist organisation. This helped strengthen the focus on what we need to change within institutions. We have now developed an anti-racism action plan.
- 6.4. In the Single Equality Scheme, we committed to developing a new LGBTQIA plan. In response, we have developed the LGBTQIA strategic framework.
- 6.5. Both the LGBTQIA Strategic Framework and Anti-Racism Framework are presented in these papers, along with the Equality Plan. Both frameworks have helped us to develop the final Equality Plan, applying the lessons of both to our overall approach to equality. They have helped us consider what is needed to tackle inequality and eliminate discrimination and engage differently with residents. They are discrete documents within the wider Equality Plan. In appending these frameworks, we are not diluting these issues but situating these plans in a wider frame and justification.
- 6.6. In March 2020, a [Community Impact Assessment](#) was established, so that the likely direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic in the short, medium and long term, could at least be understood, in advance of the official data.
- 6.7. We have drawn on data from this Community Impact Assessment and analysis of impacts from the cost of living crisis and worsening poverty. We combined this with data we hold internally and data from the 2021 Census, bearing in mind that this was a snapshot of a time when we were in lockdown and that the picture may change. We have noted that the way we collect and use data around equalities needs improving and this forms part of the plan.
- 6.8. Formal consultation and engagement on the plan involved over 790 staff, residents and stakeholders. The key changes that have been made are summarised in the Consultation section of this report.
- 6.9. *How we meet our legal duties*
- 6.10. The Equality Plan will set out how we meet our legal duties under the Equality Act. The Equality Act identifies “protected characteristics” which are listed below. It is illegal to discriminate against someone because of their:
- age
 - disability (this includes carers of all ages)
 - gender reassignment
 - marriage and civil partnership
 - pregnancy and maternity
 - race
 - religion or belief

- sex
 - sexual orientation
- 6.11. Public bodies are required to work really proactively to tackle discrimination and disadvantage that is related to a protected characteristic. We have to think about how we foster good relations between all groups. This is called “Due Regard.” Marriage and civil partnership is only a protected characteristic when we are thinking about discrimination.
- 6.12. Public Bodies are also expected to publish draft objectives and consult on them. This Equality Plan presents a set of draft objectives for consultation. We are also asked to publish data about communities and workforce, which is also being updated as part of the development of this Equality Plan.
- 6.13. As well as thinking about protected characteristics, there are other groups we are considering in this Plan. We understand these groups are not protected under law. By identifying these groups, we are able to consider a wider set of needs that we need to consider in order to focus on fairer outcomes for residents. The original draft of the Equality Act contained a “socio-economic duty.” The Duty did not become law, but Hackney adopted it on a voluntary basis. This is because there is a strong link between socio-economic disadvantage and inequality. We therefore need to consider how someone could be more disadvantaged because of their socio-economic status, or we might be missing a key driver of inequality. We also try to consider how someone could be more disadvantaged because of their socio-economic status. We have considered this in our plans in 2013 and again in 2018.
- 6.14. Socio-economic disadvantage could be about education, occupation, income, locality, housing or social class. There is no singular way to measure “social class.” Hackney’s approach considers income inequality and poverty, housing, skills levels and occupation. As there is no national measurement, we have to draw on academic research and qualitative insight. In this new plan, we want to focus in particular on:
- 20% of households living in poverty which rises to 36% of households after housing costs are taken into account
 - 48% of children who live in poverty
 - People on low incomes in the private rented sector
- 6.15. The new plan also focuses on those who are vulnerable because of life experiences. This is so we ensure we are considering need through different lens when we undertake service planning and delivery and engage with residents. During consultation and engagement, we heard compelling reasons to include other groups. This is not an exhaustive list:
- Looked after children, care experienced people and care leavers
 - Single parents and teen parents
 - People with insecure immigration status
 - Ex Armed Forces

- People with multiple interconnected challenges (“complex needs”) including those who fall below statutory thresholds
- People experiencing perimenopause and menopause
- People in insecure private rented accommodation, at risk of homelessness or living in precarious conditions (eg sofa surfing) and people in temporary accommodation
- Domestic abuse victims and survivors
- People with an offending history

6.16. *Objectives*

Working with communities to:		
1.Eradicate inequality at every life stage by taking protective, preventative positive action	2. Building opportunity and well-being	3. Celebrate and serve diverse communities and value the contribution they make
<i>Rationale</i>		

<p>Some groups are more likely to face inequality and experience poor outcomes and to live in poverty. This is because they have experienced structural disadvantage that is rooted in prejudice and discrimination. This is both historical and current and deeply embedded into societal structures, including public institutions.</p> <p>There is proven bias and prejudice in the system that impacts on life chances and outcomes. This can include access to early help.</p> <p>We can have the greatest impact on life chances in early years. We need to recognise that inequality usually gets worse as people get older.</p>	<p>Poverty and socio-economic disadvantage are the main causes of inequality.</p> <p>Poverty in London and in Hackney is largely driven by market forces - housing costs, the stagnation of wages and greater job insecurity.</p> <p>For people who were already in poverty, it is getting worse. Other groups are falling into difficulty. Many more people are living in more insecure and precarious situations and in work poverty. This is leading to growing inequalities. This affects the whole community.</p> <p>This is then leading to a “hollowing out” of London and growing inequality, with middle income households and those with children leaving the city.</p>	<p>Hackney’s diverse, dynamic and changing population is what makes Hackney feel unique. It gives different areas their unique sense of identity.</p> <p>The borough is a cohesive borough where people from different backgrounds generally get on with each other.</p> <p>There is, however, a risk that the very communities that helped create a sense of place are excluded and marginalised in a changing borough.</p> <p>Community and community organisations are under strain and there are lines of tensions in communities. This is not helped by the current national sentiment which is hostile to the very communities that need support and advocacy, including refugees and asylum seekers and trans people. Other groups have been positioned as a “burden on the state”- including children with special educational needs.</p> <p>Although there is a high level of trust in the population overall, this is much lower for Black and Global majority residents and social housing tenants.</p>
<p><i>Our response</i></p>		

<p>We will take protective, preventative and positive action at every life stage from maternity to old age, working with communities and across the system:</p> <p>to address the root causes of inequality and dismantle structural disadvantages so that we see equity of outcomes at every life stage: Pregnancy, School readiness, Key Stage 4 (GCSE), Leaving school, Employment, Parenthood, Caring and Old age This work needs to be specific and intersectional.</p> <p>the Council will need to: work preventatively with partners to expose and eliminate bias and prejudice in the system.</p> <p>Examples include- Assessment of additional needs, Exclusions, Entering the criminal justice system, Unemployment, Eviction, Debt and Illness.</p> <p>we will create fair access to early help and support for residents experiencing difficulties, recognising the community and informal support that residents need.</p>	<p>Work with partners to create a safety net for those in poverty.</p> <p>We will support people to thrive and access opportunity and shape the local economy and growth so that it benefits residents.</p> <p>We will do what we can to tackle the market forces that drive poverty - housing costs, the stagnation of wages and greater job insecurity.</p> <p>We need, however, to see national policy changes to bring about a benefits system that makes work pay, a national economic strategy that brings better paid, secure jobs and major interventions to tackle the housing crisis. This needs to include improving standards in private rented housing.</p> <p>We will make Hackney a more inclusive and accessible place and promote wellbeing.</p>	<p>We need to put residents and communities first, thinking about underserved communities.</p> <p>Residents will be involved in shaping plans through effective engagement and collaboration.</p> <p>We will develop partnerships with communities and community organisations. They can help us support communities and build trust and confidence in the state.</p> <p>We will celebrate all our diverse communities and stand up for groups who face hostility.</p> <p>We will break down barriers that limit our reach, like language and digital barriers.</p> <p>We will develop a segmented, targeted and intersectional approach to community needs.</p> <p>We will review how well communities are getting on with each other and refresh our approach to how we bring different communities together.</p>
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Underpinning organisational objectives
4. Embed equality into service plans and practice across the council and the borough
<p>Inequality is deeply embedded into societal structures and institutions. We need to change as an institution in order for this plan to have an impact. We need to embed an inclusive, humble, anti-discriminatory, anti-racist approach into service planning and practice.</p>
<p>Service planning and design and decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop new service planning and design guidance in line with these objectives, improving the way we use service and population data to develop a more consistent method for understanding inequality • We will review and refresh guidance on monitoring / information collection of all equality groups • We will develop our approach to impact assessments- strength based, systemic, trauma informed, anti-discriminatory and bringing in a community impact assessment • We will update our commissioning and procurement guidance • We will focus on disability equality and access in service planning <p>Language and communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will refresh the current Inclusive Language guide and develop a consistent approach to accessible communications • We will adopt guidance and resources on tackling language barriers <p>Participation and engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop consistent engagement and co-production principles that encourage ongoing collaboration with residents on long lasting solutions • We will establish more collaborative ways to engage residents on equality issues <p>Developing our understanding of communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop our understanding of different communities, identifying gaps in our understanding • We will refresh our approach to reaching diverse communities
5. Change as an institution to ensure internal and systemic change
<p><i>Rationale:</i></p> <p>Inequality is deeply embedded into societal structures and institutions. We need to change as an institution in order for this plan to have an impact.</p> <p>We need to develop an inclusive, humble, anti-discriminatory, anti-racist workforce that reflects the diversity of Hackney at all levels, and is confident working with communities from a trauma informed perspective.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will take action to develop the leadership and management culture and ensure that there is workforce diversity at all levels. • We need a workforce that:

- understands what being inclusive, humble, anti-discriminatory and anti-racist means
- is trauma informed
- leads / works as a system- from a resident / borough not service perspective
- understands Hackney's diverse communities and is aware of the impact of poverty
- reflects the diversity of Hackney, at all levels
- can collaborate with communities

- 6.17. We will need to set up the right oversight to ensure that we are:
- Working together towards a common set of outcomes and intermediate outcomes.
 - Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion into service design, delivery and practice.
 - Developing an inclusive, open and humble and anti-racist leadership style
 - Progressing action to ensure that the workforce reflects the diversity of Hackney's population at all levels.
 - Tracking progress against intermediate outcomes and regularly assessing if these are making a difference on our long term outcomes.
- 6.18. Residents have told us that we need to be open and self-critical about past shortcomings and set out measures to avoid repeating these patterns of failure. They want to see the involvement of residents and community partners, including the voluntary and community sector, in holding the Council to account, as well as frontline workers. There are existing examples of working with the community that the Council leads or has helped shape that could be learned from.
- 6.19. There need to be anonymous feedback loops for both residents and staff to share their experiences about equality in Hackney. There is a call for brave and courageous leadership that is able to listen and be more creative and open in order to move further forward.
- 6.20. The Council will use this feedback to establish final governance arrangements, based on the following components:
- An ongoing way to gather community feedback on an ongoing and dynamic way
 - A delivery group representing all involved in progressing this plan
 - A thematic exploration of progress and impact led by the lead Cabinet Member for Equality
 - Oversight of progress by the Council's Corporate Leadership and Cabinet will jointly consider progress on a six monthly basis.
 - An annual report on progress against this plan that is resident facing and in an accessible form
- 6.21. We will ask formal partnerships and partners to commit to working towards

a shared approach to tackling key inequalities. This work builds on extensive collaboration with partners in recent years. This will be formalised and will start with a focus on anti-racism. From this, we have identified the shared areas we will want to progress together.

- Outcomes and data and insight / lived experience
- Service design
- Developing leadership culture and workforce
- Accountability
- Resident engagement and collaboration

6.22. Anti-racism Framework Objectives

The anti-racism framework objectives reflect the Equality Plan objectives. They were developed first and influence the wider objectives.

1. Identify and eradicate racism and racial inequality at every life stage by taking protective, preventative and positive action (as well as an equitable approach)
2. Build opportunity and wellbeing; ensuring a focus on racial equity
3. Celebrate and serve diverse communities and value the contribution they make
4. Embed anti-racism into service plans and practice across the council and the borough.
5. Change as an institution: the leadership and management culture and diversity of leadership; to ensure internal and systemic change.

6.23. LGBTQIA Framework thematic areas set out shared goals for the Council to work towards to become inclusive of LGBTQIA staff and residents and to eradicate inequalities. It has also influenced the emphasis in the wider Equality Plan on how we need to change as an institution and specifically the Underpinning Organisational Objectives.

- Accessibility & Service Provision
- Intersectionality
- Demographics & Data
- Informed Allyship
- Participation & Engagement
- Community Resilience & Belonging

6.24. *Equality Impact Assessment*

6.25. The Equality Plan is intended to have a positive impact on residents. By adopting a plan we can ensure that in Hackney we are focused on residents who are most likely to be discriminated against or disadvantaged because of a protected characteristic or because they are socio-economically disadvantaged or belong to one of the groups we have identified as being more likely to be vulnerable. This will include residents who the Council struggles to reach through universal or traditional methods including those who are digitally excluded, have been excluded underserved by Council services and excluded by existing systems and structures making it harder for their voices to be heard or for them to “take

up the space.” These groups will inevitably have higher levels of distrust in the state.

- 6.26. The Equality Plan also considers staff who are more likely to be discriminated against or disadvantaged because of a protected characteristic or because they are socio-economically disadvantaged or belong to one of the groups we have identified as being more likely to be vulnerable. This will include staff who are non office based staff.
- 6.27. These very groups are also the groups who are most likely to face disadvantages in being heard and influencing the Equality Plan.
- 6.28. At the outset, in the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) that went to Cabinet in July, we identified who we wanted to hear from, and have reviewed how successful we have been. We have learnt a lot from the consultation and engagement. There are some groups we did not succeed in engaging, and this assessment is detailed in the consultation report and Equality Plan. However the data suggests that the main gaps are Turkish and Kurdish communities, as well as Asian and South East Asia communities. Young people under 20 and people who are Trans or have a Trans history.
- 6.29. This has helped us to identify the priority groups who we now want to focus on as we develop the more detailed action plan and we will use a full refreshed EqIA to help us develop this plan.
- 6.30. *Sustainability and climate change*
- 6.31. The Equality Plan sets out how we tackle inequality which is a key way we can achieve social sustainability.
- 6.32. *Consultations*
- 6.33. Consultation and engagement focused on all staff, partners and residents, as all are potentially affected. We focused more on residents and staff who are more likely to be impacted by the plan because they are more likely to be discriminated against or disadvantaged because of a protected characteristic or because they are socio-economically disadvantaged or belong to one of the groups we have identified as being more likely to be vulnerable.
- 6.34. We identified the groups who we most wanted to hear from and offered a range of ways to engage with the Equality Plan:
- Online consultation - promoted directly and by signposting
 - Convening focus groups
 - Collaborating with partners to go to meetings or groups that were already happening
 - Inviting a call for evidence and insight
- 6.35. We received 90 online responses, but engaged engagement activity involved a further 701 people: 355 staff, 239 partners and 107 residents

(of which 53 completed monitoring information).

- 6.36. We have also drawn on the insight from the 65 events that happened during the Council's anti-racist summit in October and November 2023.
- 6.37. From the Consultation and Engagement, it was clear that residents wanted to see the detailed actions below this high level plan. We will bring a full action plan back to Cabinet which draws on all the rich data and insight gathered.
- 6.38. We were asked to show how we were building on previous learning and work. The outline plan sets out how the objectives will build on existing work and also provides a summary of progress made through the last Single Equality Scheme (an update was published as part of the Corporate Plan Update in February 2022). We will also look at sharing progress in an equality hub, similar to the anti-racism hub published in 2022.
- 6.39. We received feedback that our objectives were too soft and reactive. We have used bolder and more positive language.
- 6.40. Prosperity jarred. We have amended the second objective to talk about opportunity and wellbeing.
- 6.41. There were strong views that we needed to celebrate and stand up for communities who are seen as a "problem" in society. We were urged to see community tensions and strengthen efforts to build good relations. We have strengthened the focus on this, including actions to review cohesion and how communities get on with each other.
- 6.42. There was wide support for the existing focus on institutional change and on the need for the Council to serve residents better. There was a strong ask for us to be trauma informed and to find ways to collaborate with communities in an ongoing way.
- 6.43. There was a need for more of a focus on groups who were in precarious housing situations and temporary accommodation, more comprehensive work looking at disability equality and carers, including children with special educational needs. We also needed to look at gender and sex based inequality and discrimination. We have added these are new priorities in the high level Equality Plan.
- 6.44. *Risk Assessment*
- 6.45. The main risk of adopting an Equality Plan is that it will only become more difficult to meet the commitments in the plan because the operating context becomes even more challenging with a worsening economy and increased demand on services. The main way that this risk is being managed is to be upfront in this plan about these challenges and how we need to respond.

- 6.46. On balance, there are more strategic and reputational risks from not adopting an Equality Plan. As the operating context continues to be challenging, unpredictable and complex, we need to be very purposeful and planned and informed by the best understanding of key inequalities. This will help us avoid reactive responses to issues or concerns raised by residents or equality groups about equality impacts.

7. Comments of the Interim Group Director, Finance

- 7.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report. Financial implications as a result of adopting the Equality Plan or the associated frameworks will be addressed via the normal council budget setting and resource allocation processes and will need to be met within existing resources.

8. Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 8.1. Part 2, Article 4.8(c) of the Constitution states that the Equalities Statement (now Equality Plan) is a Discretionary (as decided by Full Council) part of the Policy Framework. Part 2, Article 4.7(b) of the Constitution states that approving or adopting the policy framework is a function of Full Council only.
- 8.2. In addition, Part 4, Section C (Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules), paragraph 2.1 sets out the process for developing the framework. The information in this Report is presented pursuant to such process and therefore Cabinet is authorised to approve the approach proposed and the matters in paragraph 3.1 of this Report
- 8.3. The approval of all corporate policies and strategies and all formal service strategies is reserved to the Mayor and Cabinet under the Mayor's Scheme of Delegation and therefore Cabinet will be authorised to approve the full action plan for the Equality Plan and the Equality and Cohesion Policy when brought to Cabinet later this year as described in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of this Report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Equality Plan

Appendix 2: the anti-racism Framework

Appendix 3: the LGBTQIA framework.

Appendix 4: [Consultation and Engagement Report](#)

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Hackney Council Equality Plan 2024-2026

1. Why we need a plan

In 2022, Hackney Council adopted a new Strategic Plan. This presented the Council's ambitions for the next four years. It also described the key challenges. The plan sets out how we will need to respond, working with residents and partners. The plan includes commitments for how the Council maximises its own resources - jobs, contracts and making best use of our spaces and assets.

We are in one of the most difficult times in post war memory, with deep inequalities in society, and in our borough. The UK faces the most severe cost-of-living crisis in 40 years. Hackney residents are really struggling with this latest crisis. This comes after over a decade of austerity from national government cuts. It comes after the pandemic.

This means that demand for support is increasing. Council budgets cannot keep up with the level of demand. We expect this situation to become even worse and we expect government cuts over the next few years. This is a very challenging context. An equality plan will help focus on achieving fair outcomes for Hackney residents.

We will have to make very difficult decisions about budgets and services over the next few years. The equality plan will help us understand the context for these decisions. It will help us to consider what we can do, if anything, to mitigate these actions. Inequality of outcomes has a huge cost on residents' lives and affects the whole community. It leads to wasted talent and increased costs to the state. This plan recognises that bias and discrimination can be deeply embedded into our processes and cultures. When we fail our residents, we make unfair decisions, waste our resources and create wider problems. By focusing on institutional change, the Equality Plan can support us to be more efficient and high performing.

2. What the plan covers

The final plan identifies the key objectives that will frame and guide our approach to equality, by seeking to eradicate inequality at every life stage, building opportunity, and well-being and celebrating and serving diverse communities and valuing the contribution they make. The plan is clear that to have an impact on these objectives, we need to change as an institution to better meet residents' needs. This means embedding equality into everyday service design and practice. It also means that we need to change our leadership and management culture and to see a Council workforce that reflects the diversity of Hackney communities at all levels. We want this change to happen across the system that residents come into contact with. So this is not just about the Council. It is about statutory partners, the voluntary and community sector, local businesses and employers. It is about representative and participatory structures and boards and committees.

There is good practice in progress across the system. We will lead by example and bring partners together to support change.

Some residents feel that Council communication does not resonate with their experience of life in the borough. They feel we are too defensive when presented with new ideas or challenges. Although trust in the Council is high for the whole population, it is much lower for Black and Global majority residents and social housing tenants. In response, we need to develop a culture that is comfortable with hearing uncomfortable truths. We need to be more open and confident about working with residents as part of the solutions. We must pay attention to residents who we are least likely to hear from. We have to remain agile and adaptive to meeting new needs that we identify through this dialogue.

In the last Equality Scheme, we committed to developing a new LGBTQIA plan. In response, we have developed the LGBTQIA strategic framework. In July 2020, the Council passed a motion to work towards becoming an anti-racist organisation. This helped strengthen the focus on what we need to change within institutions. We have now developed an anti-racism action plan. We are sharing both these plans alongside the Equality Plan and inviting engagement.

Over the last few years, the Council has adopted motions that champion the needs and rights of groups. This Equality Plan considers how we can include these motions.

The motions cover:

- anti-racism
- supporting trans rights
- considering the impact of perimenopause and menopause
- understanding the needs of single parents
- tackling islamophobia and anti-semitism
- becoming age friendly and dementia friendly
- being committed to the “right to food.”

3. How we have developed the plan

The plan and approach builds on past work and learning. It has been developed through reviewing progress on our existing work including a full review of the last single equality scheme, which was summarised in the Corporate Plan Update 2022.

In March 2020, a [Community Impact Assessment](#) was established, so that the likely direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic in the short, medium and long term, could at least be understood, in advance of the official data. We have drawn on data from this Community Impact Assessment and analysis of impacts from the cost of living crisis and worsening poverty. We combined this with data we hold internally and data from the 2021 Census, bearing in mind that this was a snapshot of a time when we were in lockdown and that the picture may change. We have noted that the way we collect and use data around equalities needs improving and this forms part of the plan.

We have also developed this plan in tandem with looking at the budget for 24/25 and implications of savings.

We received 90 online responses, but engagement activity involved a further 701 people: 355 staff, 239 partners and 107 residents (of which 53 completed monitoring information). We have also drawn on the insight from the 65 events that happened during the Council's anti-racist summit in October and November 2023.

A breakdown of who we reached can be found in the Consultation and Engagement Report.

The online consultation was designed to check if we have got the objectives right and if we are explaining them in an accessible and relevant way. The resident engagement was designed to gather new insight about what is driving inequality, understand what is working and is valued and develop specific thematic areas of work. It has also helped us to develop richer deeper links into communities with insights, actions and to develop ideas for how we involve partners and residents in working with us to help us tackle inequality and provide critical challenge and accountability.

From the Consultation and Engagement, it was clear that residents wanted to see the detailed actions below this high level plan. We will bring a full action plan back to Cabinet which draws on all the rich data and insight gathered.

We were asked to show how we were building on previous learning and work. The outline plan sets out how the objectives will build on existing work and also provides a summary of progress made through the last Single Equality Scheme (an update was published as part of the Corporate Plan Update in February 2022). We will also look at sharing progress in an equality hub, similar to the anti-racism hub published in 2022.

We received feedback that our objectives were too soft and reactive. We have used bolder and more positive language.

Prosperity jarred. We have amended the second objective to talk about opportunity and wellbeing.

There were strong views that we needed to celebrate and stand up for communities who are seen as a "problem" in society. We were urged to see community tensions and strengthen efforts to build good relations. We have strengthened the focus on this, and including actions to review cohesion and how communities get on with each other.

There was wide support for the existing focus on institutional change and on the need for the Council to serve residents better. There was a strong demand for us to be trauma informed and to find ways to collaborate with communities in an ongoing way.

There was a need for more of a focus on groups who were in precarious housing situations and temporary accommodation, more comprehensive work looking at disability equality and carers, including children with special educational needs. We also needed to look at gender and sex based inequality and discrimination. We have added these as new priorities in the high level Equality Plan.

4. Which groups are considered in the plan?

How we meet our legal duties

The Equality Plan will set out how we meet our legal duties under the Equality Act. The Equality Act identifies “protected characteristics” which are listed below. It is illegal to discriminate against someone because of their:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

Public bodies are required to work really proactively to tackle discrimination and disadvantage that is related to a protected characteristic. We have to think about how we foster good relations between all groups. This is called “Due Regard.”

Marriage and civil partnership is only a protected characteristic when we are thinking about discrimination.

Public Bodies are also expected to publish draft objectives and consult on them. This Equality Plan presents a set of draft objectives for consultation. We are also asked to publish data about communities and workforce, which is also being updated as part of the development of this Equality Plan.

Other groups considered as part of this Equality Plan

As well as thinking about protected characteristics, there are other groups we are considering in this Plan. We understand these groups are not protected under law. By identifying these groups, we are able to consider a wider set of needs that we need to consider in order to focus on fairer outcomes for residents. The original draft of the Equality Act contained a “socio-economic duty.” The Duty did not become law but Hackney adopted it on a voluntary basis. This means that the Council tries to tackle inequality that we know will lead to socio-economic disadvantage. We also try to consider how someone could be more disadvantaged because of their socio-economic status. We have considered this in our plans in 2013 and again in 2018.

Socio-economic disadvantage could be about education, occupation, income, locality, housing or social class. There is no singular way to measure “social class.” Hackney’s approach considers income inequality and poverty, housing, skills levels and occupation. As there is no national measurement, we have to draw on academic research and qualitative insight. In this new plan, we want to focus in particular on:

- 20% of households living in poverty which rises to 36% of households after housing costs are taken into account
- 48% of children who live in poverty
- People on low incomes in the private rented sector

The new plan also focuses on those who are vulnerable because of life experiences. During consultation and engagement, we heard about other groups who we needed to consider for this reason. This is not an exhaustive list:

- Looked after children, care experienced people and care leavers
- Single parents and teen parents
- People with insecure immigration status
- Ex Armed Forces
- People with multiple interconnected challenges (“complex needs”) including those who fall below statutory thresholds
- People experiencing perimenopause and menopause
- People in insecure private rented accommodation, at risk of homelessness or living in precarious conditions (eg sofa surfing) and people in temporary accommodation
- Domestic abuse victims and survivors
- People with an offending history

5. Financial context

Inequality of outcomes has a huge cost on residents’ lives and affects the whole community. It leads to wasted talent and increased costs to the state. This plan recognises that bias and discrimination can be deeply embedded into our processes and cultures. When we fail our residents, we make unfair decisions, waste our resources and create wider problems. By focusing on institutional change, the Equality Plan can support us to be more efficient and high performing.

The Equality Plan is, however, being drafted at a time when the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan presents an indicative budget gap of £22.5m in 2025-26. The indicative cumulative budget gaps in the following two years are £34.6m and £52.3m respectively. We face these challenges off the back of a sustained period of funding cuts where we have seen a reduction of £156m in real terms (40%) in our spending power (excluding council tax) since 2010-11. The Council is seeking to deliver as large a proportion of the budget reductions required through transforming the way the Council delivers some of our services, but are inevitably some difficult choices to make. In this very challenging context, an equality plan will help us keep focused on equality, diversity and inclusion.

It will help us continue to consider the cumulative impacts on our residents of savings and how these will be managed. A Cumulative Equality Impact Assessment has been developed iteratively as the budget for 2024/25 has been developed. The assessment will be kept under review to support future budget setting, the implementation of savings and to help shape transformation and inform corporate planning. The assessment has been done at the same time as we have been developing this new Equality Plan for Hackney for 2024-26. The plan has been informed by the cumulative impact assessment in the following ways:

Savings proposals will seek to move to more positive, enabling and empowering model of public service delivery and to move resources “upstream” to be more preventative.

- We will ensure that we are able to understand if these intended outcomes are achieved, and to feed this learning into the wider work relating to prevention under the Equality Plan.
- Having ongoing resident check and challenge, as is proposed in the Equality Plan should help us to capture resident insight into how these changes are being felt in communities.
- The Equality Plan can also help create the right conditions for early help and prevention across the system, which will be reliant on partnerships focused on tackling inequality and developing solutions with partners.

Savings may have an impact on place and on community tensions

The Equality Plan will have a priority to review cohesion and actions needed to strengthen communities.

Savings may impact on staff

The Equality Plan should help us focus on understanding differential impacts and mitigations needed, and should support change being delivered in an inclusive way, as part of wider workforce strategy.

6. Equality Plan Objectives

Working with communities to:		
1. Eradicate inequality at every life stage by taking protective, preventative positive action	2. Building opportunity and well-being	3. Celebrate and serve diverse communities and value the contribution they make
<i>Rationale</i>		

<p>Some groups are more likely to face inequality and experience poor outcomes and to live in poverty. This is because they have experienced structural disadvantages that are rooted in prejudice and discrimination. This is both historical and current and deeply embedded into societal structures, including public institutions.</p> <p>There is proven bias and prejudice in the system that impacts on life chances and outcomes. This can include access to early help.</p> <p>We can have the greatest impact on life chances in early years. We need to recognise that inequality usually gets worse as people get older.</p>	<p>Poverty and socio-economic disadvantage are the main causes of inequality.</p> <p>Poverty in London and in Hackney is largely driven by market forces - housing costs, the stagnation of wages and greater job insecurity.</p> <p>For people who were already in poverty, it is getting worse. Other groups are falling into difficulty. Many more people are living in more insecure and precarious situations and in work poverty. This is leading to growing inequalities. This affects the whole community.</p> <p>This is then leading to a “hollowing out” of London and growing inequality, with middle income households and those with children leaving the city.</p>	<p>Hackney’s diverse, dynamic and changing population is what makes Hackney feel unique. It gives different areas their unique sense of identity.</p> <p>The borough is a cohesive borough where people from different backgrounds generally get on with each other.</p> <p>There is, however, a risk that the very communities that helped create a sense of place are excluded and marginalised in a changing borough.</p> <p>Community and community organisations are under strain and there are lines of tensions in communities. This is not helped by the current national sentiment which is hostile to the very communities that need support and advocacy, including refugees and asylum seekers and trans people. Other groups have been positioned as a “burden on the state”- including children with special educational needs.</p> <p>Although there is a high level of trust in the population overall, this is much lower for Black and Global majority residents and social housing tenants.</p>
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<i>Our response</i>		
<p>We will take protective, preventative and positive action at every life stage from maternity to old age, working with communities and across the system:</p> <p>to address the root causes of inequality and dismantle structural disadvantages so that we see equity of outcomes at every life stage: Pregnancy, School readiness, Key Stage 4 (GCSE), Leaving school, Employment, Parenthood, Caring and Old age This work needs to be specific and intersectional.</p> <p>the Council will need to: work preventatively with partners to expose and eliminate bias and prejudice in the system.</p> <p>Examples include- Assessment of additional needs, Exclusions, Entering the criminal justice system, Unemployment, Eviction, Debt and Illness.</p> <p>We will create fair access to early help and support for residents experiencing difficulties, recognising the community and informal support that residents need.</p>	<p>Work with partners to create a safety net for those in poverty.</p> <p>We will support people to thrive and access opportunity and shape the local economy and growth so that it benefits residents.</p> <p>We will do what we can to tackle the market forces that drive poverty - housing costs, the stagnation of wages and greater job insecurity.</p> <p>We need, however, to see national policy changes to bring about a benefits system that makes work pay, a national economic strategy that brings better paid, secure jobs and major interventions to tackle the housing crisis. This needs to include improving standards in private rented housing.</p> <p>We will make Hackney a more inclusive and accessible place and promote wellbeing.</p>	<p>We need to put residents and communities first, thinking about underserved communities.</p> <p>Residents will be involved in shaping plans through effective engagement and collaboration.</p> <p>We will develop partnerships with communities and community organisations. They can help us support communities and build trust and confidence in the state.</p> <p>We will celebrate all our diverse communities and stand up for groups who face hostility.</p> <p>We will break down barriers that limit our reach, like language and digital barriers.</p> <p>We will develop a segmented, targeted and intersectional approach to community needs.</p> <p>We will review how well communities are getting on with each other and refresh our approach to how we bring different communities together.</p>

Underpinning organisational objectives
4. Embed equality into service plans and practice across the council and the borough
<p>Inequality is deeply embedded into societal structures and institutions. We need to change as an institution in order for this plan to have an impact. We need to embed an inclusive, humble, anti-discriminatory, anti-racist approach into service planning and practice.</p>
<p>Service planning and design and decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop new service planning and design guidance in line with these objectives, improving the way we use service and population data to develop a more consistent method for understanding inequality • We will review and refresh guidance on monitoring / information collection of all equality groups • We will develop our approach to impact assessments- strength based, systemic, trauma informed, anti-discriminatory and bringing in a community impact assessment • We will update our commissioning and procurement guidance • We will focus on disability equality and access in service planning <p>Language and communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will refresh the current Inclusive Language guide and develop a consistent approach to accessible communications • We will adopt guidance and resources on tackling language barriers <p>Participation and engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop consistent engagement and co-production principles that encourage ongoing collaboration with residents on long lasting solutions • We will establish more collaborative ways to engage residents on equality issues <p>Developing our understanding of communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop our understanding of different communities, identifying gaps in our understanding • We will refresh our approach to reaching diverse communities
5. Change as an institution to ensure internal and systemic change
<p><i>Rationale:</i></p> <p>Inequality is deeply embedded into societal structures and institutions. We need to change as an institution in order for this plan to have an impact.</p> <p>We need to develop an inclusive, humble, anti-discriminatory, anti-racist workforce that reflects the diversity of Hackney at all levels, and is confident working with communities from a trauma informed perspective.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will take action to develop the leadership and management culture and ensure that there is workforce diversity at all levels. • We need a workforce that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ understands what being inclusive, humble, anti-discriminatory and anti-racist means

- is trauma informed
- leads / works as a system- from a resident / borough not service perspective
- understands Hackney's diverse communities and is aware of the impact of poverty
- reflects the diversity of Hackney, at all levels
- can collaborate with communities

Anti-racism Framework Objectives

The anti-racism framework objectives reflect the Equality Plan objectives. They were developed first and influenced the wider objectives.

1. Identify and eradicate racism and racial inequality at every life stage by taking protective, preventative and positive action (as well as an equitable approach).
2. Build opportunity and wellbeing; ensuring a focus on racial equity
3. Celebrate and serve diverse communities and value the contribution they make.
4. Embed anti-racism into service plans and practice across the council and the borough.
5. Change as an institution: the leadership and management culture and diversity of leadership; to ensure internal and systemic change.

LGBTQIA Framework

LGBTQIA Framework thematic areas set out shared goals for the Council to work towards to become inclusive of LGBTQIA staff and residents and to eradicate inequalities. It has also influenced the emphasis in the wider Equality Plan on how we need to change as an institution and specifically the Underpinning Organisational Objectives.

1. Accessibility & Service Provision
2. Intersectionality
3. Demographics & Data
4. Informed Allyship
5. Participation & Engagement
6. Community Resilience & Belonging

7. Accounting for the impact of the plan

We will need to set up the right oversight to ensure that we are:

- Working together towards a common set of outcomes and intermediate outcomes.
- Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion into service design, delivery and practice.
- Developing an inclusive, open and humble and anti-racist leadership style
- Progressing action to ensure that the workforce reflects the diversity of Hackney's population at all levels.

- Tracking progress against intermediate outcomes and regularly assessing if these are making a difference on our long term outcomes.

Residents have told us that we need to be open and self-critical about past shortcomings and set out measures to avoid repeating these patterns of failure. They want to see the involvement of residents and community partners, including the voluntary and community sector, in holding the Council to account, as well as frontline workers. There are existing examples of working with the community that the Council leads or has helped shape that could be learned from.

There need to be anonymous feedback loops for both residents and staff to share their experiences about equality in Hackney. There is a call for brave and courageous leadership that is able to listen and be more creative and open in order to move further forward.

The Council will use this feedback to establish final governance arrangements, based on the following components:

- We will draw on the feedback from consultation and engagement to establish final governance arrangements which will identify how we gather community feedback on an ongoing and dynamic way that helps hold us to account, act as critical friends for new and current work, as well as mapping the journey travelled
- A delivery group representing all involved in progressing this plan
- A thematic exploration of progress and impact led by the lead Cabinet Member for Equality
- Oversight of progress by the Council's Corporate Leadership and Cabinet will jointly consider progress on a six monthly basis.
- An annual report on progress against this plan that is resident facing and in an accessible form

We will ask formal partnerships and partners to commit to working towards a shared approach to tackling key inequalities. This work builds on extensive collaboration with partners in recent years. This will be formalised and will start with a focus on anti-racism. From this, we have identified the shared areas we will want to progress together.

- Outcomes and data and insight / lived experience
- Service design
- Developing leadership culture and workforce
- Accountability
- Resident engagement and collaboration

7. Outline plan

These priority areas build on what is in the [Strategic Plan](#).

1.Eradicate inequality at every life stage by taking protective, preventative positive action

Rationale:

Some groups are more likely to face inequality and experience poor outcomes and to live in poverty. This is because they have experienced structural disadvantages that are rooted in prejudice and discrimination. This is both historical and current and deeply embedded into societal structures, including public institutions.

There is proven bias and prejudice in the system that impacts on life chances and outcomes. This can include access to early help.

We can have the greatest impact on life chances in early years. We need to recognise that inequality usually gets worse as people get older.

Our response:

We will need to:

- **address the root causes of inequality and dismantle structural disadvantages so that we see equity of outcomes at every life stage: Pregnancy, School readiness, Key Stage 4 (GCSE), Leaving school, Employment, Parenthood, Caring and Old age. This work needs to be specific and intersectional.**
- **work preventatively with partners to expose and eliminate bias and prejudice in the system. Examples include- Assessment of additional needs, Exclusions, Entering the criminal justice system, Unemployment, Eviction, Debt and Illness.**

Existing priorities:

Children

- The City and Hackney Place Based Partnership has a strong focus on giving children the best start in life with ambitions to reduce infant and neonatal mortality, increase immunisation, improve early childhood development, improve healthy weight, reduce mental health crisis and reduce unplanned pregnancy. Supporting children and young people's emotional wellbeing is key to early help and prevention and since the pandemic, we have seen an increased demand for support.
- Supporting first time young parents - Enhanced Health Visiting Service
- Developing integrated family support services to meet families' social care, education, mental and physical health needs through the Children and Family Hub
- Provide an excellent, inclusive and equitable local experience for all Hackney children and young people with SEND
- Improve the life chances of every child, young person and learner in Hackney, where schools, settings and partners provide an exciting environment which

ensures safety, inclusion and success for everyone through Schools Improvement

- Work across the system to Improve Outcomes for Black Children and Families and progress work under Hackney's Anti-Racism Framework

Health inequalities

- Ageing Well: making Hackney a place where residents can age well, making the place and services more age friendly and dementia friendly valuing the contribution of older people to life in the borough.
- Improve health and wellbeing in Hackney whilst also reducing health inequalities - the avoidable and unfair differences in health between different groups and communities:
 - Support the priorities of the City and Hackney Health and Care Board (the local Place Based Partnership of the ICS) focus on children, mental wellbeing and long term conditions.
 - Support the Health and Wellbeing strategy priorities for 2022-2026 which has a specific focus on mental wellbeing, social connection and financial security.
 - Ensure that the Population Health Hub (PHH) is a resource for all partners to draw on to improve population health and reduce health inequality.
 - Co-produce a new Integrated Mental Health Network and establish a commission to ensure that local mental health services are meeting the needs of all residents and tackling inequality of outcomes.
 - Continued partnership action to through Hackney Healthy Weight Strategic Partnership
 - Deliver actions across the whole system to support people to stop smoking, that will be led by the recently re-launched Hackney Tobacco Control Alliance and local strategic priorities to reduce alcohol-related harms
 - Commit to ensuring there are no new HIV infections by the year 2030

Carers

- Develop Carers Strategy -to set out the Council's approach to supporting carers and those who need them, especially unpaid carers.

New priorities:

- Through continued work under Hackney's Anti-Racism Framework, work with statutory and community partners and residents to review and address root causes of inequality for:
 - Turkish Kurdish communities (including Alevi community)
 - Charedi (Orthodox Jewish Community)
 - smaller populations - beginning with Gypsy Roma Traveller. Insight has previously been shared about the needs of South and Central American, Chinese community and Somali residents.

As part of this work, we will seek to improve our understanding of the population, because we know Census data can give us an inaccurate picture of populations that do not fit into the traditional equality monitoring categories.

- Review sex and gender equality and identify actions needed, with statutory and community partners and residents

- Review disability equality and identify actions needed, with statutory and community partners and residents

Create fair access to early help and support for residents experiencing difficulties, recognising the community and informal support that residents need

Existing work:

- Fairer Help work between Council, health partners and community partners: Equip workers with knowledge, skills, relationships, confidence, resilience and connectivity to strengthen the quality of community based help for residents who may be experiencing hard times and may go on to experience multiple and complex needs and further disadvantage.

Key strategies:

- [Ageing Well Strategy](#)
- [Hackney Young Futures Commission](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)
- [Integrated Care System Place Based Plan](#)
- [Poverty Reduction Framework](#)
- [Schools Improvement Plan](#)
- [SEND Strategy](#)

2. Building opportunity and well-being

Rationale:

Poverty and socio-economic disadvantage are the main causes of inequality.

Poverty in London and in Hackney is largely driven by market forces - housing costs, the stagnation of wages and greater job insecurity. For people who were already in poverty, it is getting worse. Other groups are falling into difficulty. Many more people are living in more insecure and precarious situations and in work poverty. This is leading to growing inequalities. This affects the whole community. This is then leading to a “hollowing out” of London and growing inequality, with middle income households and those with children leaving the city.

We will do what we can but we need to see national policy changes to bring about a benefits system that makes work pay, a national economic strategy that brings better paid, secure jobs and major interventions to tackle the housing crisis. This needs to include improving standards in private rented housing.

Our response:

Work with partners to create a safety net for those in poverty.

Existing work:

- Work with partners to improve crisis support, making the connection between crisis support and early help, including action to support the right to food

We will support people to thrive and access opportunity and shape the local economy and growth so that it benefits residents.

Existing work:

Access opportunity

- Work together with our schools and settings to tackle the attainment gap so great results do not depend on a child's background or where they live.
- Focus employment support activity on priority groups including over 50's, disabled residents, young people and care leavers.
- Provide lifelong learning opportunities to address skills gaps and take advantage of the growth in green jobs, technology and social care sectors.

Shape local economy and growth

- Progress actions to increase diversity in the tech with employers
- Works closely with local employers to encourage them to become LLW employers. Hackney is a London Living Wage (LLW) Accredited employer and expects our contractors also to pay LLW.
- Ensure regeneration creates better places, a more inclusive economy, and the facilities that local communities need.
- Develop and implement a more targeted approach to supporting local suppliers to be contract ready then win relevant public sector contracts
- Support a just transition from carbon-intensive jobs and businesses.

We will do what we can to tackle the market forces that drive poverty - housing costs, the stagnation of wages and greater job insecurity.

Existing work:

- Deliver 300 new social rented homes as part of our commitment to deliver 1,000 social rent homes between now and 2026.
- We are developing a new five year housing strategy that builds on a new Strategic Housing Market Needs Assessment and Housing Needs Survey.
- We have adopted a new [Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy](#) which responds to a steep and rapid increase in overall homelessness and rough sleeping, particularly young people, an increase in the number of homeless people with multiple needs, a shrinking private rented sector and increasing competition for accommodation.
- Hackney continues to push for high standards for temporary accommodation with 87% of placements made into registered buildings with the Pan London inspectorate.

- We work as preventatively as we can. Staff supporting homeless people are trained in mediation and trauma informed practice and a new team to assist residents with searching for affordable privately rented homes has been established.
- We have continued to campaign to improve standards in the private rented sector through our Better Renting Campaign, and offer support to residents who face the risk of eviction.
- We are helping those in the private rented sector secure the repairs needed to ensure their homes are safe and free from damp and mould.
- Hackney's Affordable Childcare Commission identified actions in late 2023 which the Council will respond to later this year.

We need, however, to see national policy changes to bring about a benefits system that makes work pay, a national economic strategy that brings better paid, secure jobs and major interventions to tackle the housing crisis. This needs to include improving standards in private rented housing.

We will make Hackney a more inclusive and accessible place and promote wellbeing

Existing work

Accessible borough

- We will build on the principles we have already established through the Child Friendly Borough planning guidance, the Ageing Well Strategy, and our Hackney an Accessible Place for Everyone and co-produce a new design guide with disabled and older people to ensure that our streets, parks, estates, public buildings, high streets and public spaces are inclusive and accessible for all.
- Promote the Healthy Streets Approach which improves air quality, reduces congestion and helps make areas greener, healthier and more attractive places, to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport
- Continue to support Play Streets and School Streets and the principles as set out in the Child Friendly Places planning document to encourage doorstep play, 'play on the way' and opportunities to connect with nature

Digital access and inclusion

- We are refreshing our understanding of Digital Inclusion provision to provide a comprehensive picture of the current landscape and opportunities to improve impact.

Community space

- Through 'SpaceBank,' we are looking at how we can ensure that council owned buildings support local businesses, social enterprises, voluntary, community and third sector tenants.

Wellbeing

- Proactively encourage walking and physical activity, including continuing to deliver the Sport England funded Kings Park Moving Together project and apply these lessons more widely

- Continue to improve leisure centres and parks and invest in a network of new, free, outdoor gym facilities in our parks and green spaces
- Progress work to make Hackney a place where residents can age well, progressing Hackney's Ageing Well Strategy, making the place and services more age friendly and dementia friendly valuing the contribution of older people to life in the borough.

People with care needs

- Through our [Learning Disabilities Strategy](#) we will ensure that learning disabled adults are active and valued in a community which is accessible and enabling
- Our [Autism Strategy](#) help the Council and its partners to work together to make services and the community friendly to autistic residents
- Review our day services provision for residents who are eligible for care and support from the Council, to improve choice and personalisation.
- Improve how we track outcomes in adult social care, with a focus on strength based practice and an understanding of intersectionality (the multiple ways people can be discriminated or disadvantaged because of who they are- e.g. by gender, ethnicity and class)

Refugees and migrants

- Hackney is already committed to being as welcoming and inclusive as possible for migrants and refugees with a cross cutting team leading on Refugee, Migrant & Asylum Seeker support.

New priority:

- Hackney has now signed [a motion](#) to become a borough of sanctuary that signals that Hackney is a welcoming place of safety for all. This is a formally recognised position. We are now identifying actions to formally be recognised as a borough of sanctuary. This is an opportunity to develop our wider work across the system including community partners, raise visibility of work, and leverage support from the local community.

[Ageing Well Strategy](#)

[Autism Strategy](#)

[Child Friendly SPD](#)

[Draft Housing Strategy](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)

[Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy](#)

[Inclusive Economy Strategy](#)

[Learning Disabilities Strategy](#)

[Poverty Reduction Framework](#)

3. Celebrate and serve diverse communities and value the contribution they make

Rationale:

Hackney's diverse, dynamic and changing population is what makes Hackney feel unique. It gives different areas their unique sense of identity. The borough is a cohesive borough where people from different backgrounds generally get on with each other. There is, however, a risk that the very communities that helped create a sense of place are excluded and marginalised in a changing borough. Community and community organisations are under strain and there are lines of tensions in communities. This is not helped by the current national sentiment which is hostile to the very communities that need support and advocacy, including refugees and asylum seekers and trans people. Other groups have been positioned as a "burden on the state"- including children with special educational needs. Although there is a high level of trust in the population overall, this is much lower for Black and Global majority residents and social housing tenants. We need to put residents and communities first, thinking about underserved communities.

Our response

Residents will be involved in shaping plans through effective engagement and collaboration.

Existing work:

Young Futures

- The [Valuing the Future Through Young Voices](#) report was published in November 2020. To support progress and the embedding of the findings and legacy, we created a Young Futures Legacy programme, which employed young people for 5 hours a week to help progress work between 2021 and 2024. As [reported to Cabinet in 2023](#), fifty of the 73 recommendations have now been embedded into the Council's business as usual commitments.

New priorities:

- Developing a consistent cross Council approach to co-production and engagement.

We will develop partnerships with communities and community organisations. They can help us support communities and build trust and confidence in the state.

Existing work:

- A key part of maintaining the current levels of trust and confidence and building trust where it is low, is about improving services, where needed, and this also recognises that those most reliant on Council services will be most greatly impacted by poor services.

- We have developed community partnerships and strengthened collaboration on poverty reduction
- We work with residents, artists, practitioners, creatives and performers to help them shape the cultural life of the borough, strengthen our communities, and enhance the quality of life for everyone.
- We have worked hard to respond to the Cyber attack in 2020, Black Lives Matter and the review into the treatment of Child Q in 2022, as these presented key risks to trust and confidence. Progressing work towards the Council becoming more inclusive, humble and anti-racist, including future planned work such as implementing the Social Care Workforce Race Equality Standards, is also going to be critical to us rebuilding trust and confidence.
- Improving trust and confidence in policing remains a key focus of work. The Council has worked closely with the Police and community partners to develop a new trust and confidence in police action plan and also to progress a pilot with the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime, (MOPAC) to establish a new approach to community-led scrutiny of police powers.

We will celebrate all our diverse communities and stand up for groups who face hostility.

Existing work:

Tackling Hate Crime

- Hackney is committed to offering better support to those affected by a hate crime or incident and to give witnesses the confidence to come forward and report. This includes reducing anti-semitism working closely with Shomrim and key stakeholders from the Charedi communities.

We will break down barriers that limit our reach, like language and digital barriers.

Existing work:

- We are identifying actions to improve residents' experience of translation and interpretation as a tool for accessing services. This will include recommendations for a new contract with translation and interpretation services, wider guidance and support for using translation and interpretation services and other solutions that can be introduced in parallel to having translation and interpretation support.
- We are refreshing our understanding of Digital Inclusion provision to provide a comprehensive picture of the current landscape and opportunities to improve impact. This may identify changes for the Council.

New priorities:

- We will undertake a review of how we can make communications more accessible

We will develop a segmented, targeted and intersectional approach to community needs

New priorities:

- We will improve our engagement with residents, taking a more sophisticated and nuanced approach, recognising that communities are not homogenous. This will include faith groups, youth groups, and more transient populations. As part of this work we are committed to developing our approach to engaging with members of the Charedi and Muslim communities, recognising both form significant sections of Hackney's population, and that there is a great deal of diversity in communities.

We will review how well communities are getting on with each other and refresh our approach to how we bring different communities together.

New priorities:

We will undertake a review of community cohesion to understand how well communities are getting on with each other, refresh our approach to how we bring different communities together and identify new actions needed.

Key strategies:

[Culture Strategy](#)

Culture Strategy

[No Place for Hate](#)

[Young Futures](#)

[Voluntary Sector Strategy](#)

Underpinning organisational objectives

4. [Embed equality into service plans and practice across the council and the borough](#)

Inequality is deeply embedded into societal structures and institutions. We need to change as an institution in order for this plan to have an impact. We need to embed an inclusive, humble, anti-discriminatory, anti-racist approach into service planning and practice.

Our response:

Data and insight

We are developing a full equality needs analysis to build on high level data about key inequalities and informing performance management metrics. This seeks to go beyond traditional public sector analysis which concentrates on individual and community barriers and factors:

- Cultural and community
- Individual and family factors

This will help us understand drivers of inequality in the wider societal context:

- Poverty and socio-economic inequality
- Institutional, societal and systemic discrimination
- Lack of trust between the community and state
- The impact of trauma

To do this effectively and meaningfully, we need to think forensically about what is driving inequality and the experiences and status of different groups rather than generalise issues.

We understand that census data is unlikely to accurately represent all communities. The 2021 census was taken during the COVID pandemic, where home life for many was different than usual. In 2021, researchers from De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) found that men, people from lower income brackets, young people, and those living in rented accommodations were less likely to fill out census data. Additionally, people lacking trust in the process are less likely to want to complete the census. This can lead to the misrepresentation of certain groups and communities, which is crucial as it can lead to policies and prioritisation of needs aligned with the communities we serve. We are concerned for examples about an undercount in Charedi Jewish communities, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and Turkish Kurdish communities.

This shows that the census data is not truly representative of all communities. To understand the makeup of our communities in Hackney and across London, we need to use multiple sources of information; and diverse and less traditional forms of gathering data. Additionally, it is essential to understand that some ways we obtain data/information about communities can traumatise communities.

Equality data collection

These actions help us take forward part of the LGBTQIA framework, which can be applied to all equality work. We will ensure that:

- Review the Council's data collection strategy and guidance, and ensure personal information data collection is trauma informed and consistently applied across the council

Intersectionality

These actions help us take forward part of the LGBTQIA framework, which can be applied to all equality work. We will ensure that:

- An understanding of intersectionality is embedded into all relevant training
- Equality Impact Assessments have a section designed to draw out potentially intersectional impacts
- Intersecting needs are considered during grant making and commissioning processes
- Equality of outcomes are represented across all council strategies and plans, with clear links and signposting to relevant cross-service work

The new plan identifies groups who are vulnerable because of life experiences. We will ensure that services are taking account of the needs of these groups in policy and practice.

- Looked after children, care experienced people and care leavers
- Single parents and teen parents
- People with insecure immigration status
- Ex Armed Forces
- People with multiple interconnected challenges (“complex needs”) including those who fall below statutory thresholds
- People experiencing perimenopause and menopause
- People in insecure private rented accommodation, at risk of homelessness or living in precarious conditions (eg sofa surfing) and people in temporary accommodation
- Domestic abuse victims and survivors
- People with an offending history

We will do this by;

- including data and an analysis of need in our refreshed equality profile
- developing our understanding of needs through sharing lived experience of inequalities and of council services
- we will identify specific proactive actions that are also needed through this needs assessment

Service planning and design and decision making

- We will develop new service planning and design guidance in line with these objectives, improving the way we use service and population data to develop a more consistent method for understanding inequality
- We will review and refresh guidance on monitoring / information collection of all equality groups
- We will develop our approach to impact assessments- strength based, systemic, trauma informed, anti-discriminatory and bringing in a community impact assessment
- We will update our commissioning and procurement guidance
- We will focus on disability equality and access in service planning

Language and communication

- We will refresh the current Inclusive Language guide and develop a consistent approach to accessible communications
- We will adopt guidance and resources on tackling language barriers

Participation and engagement

- We will develop consistent engagement and co-production principles that encourage ongoing collaboration with residents on long lasting solutions
- We will establish more collaborative ways to engage residents on equality issues

Developing our understanding of communities

- We will develop our understanding of different communities, identifying gaps in our understanding including:
 - Gypsy Roma
 - Insecure Immigration status
 - Dementia awareness
 - Disability equality

5. Change as an institution to ensure internal and systemic change

Rationale:

Some groups are more likely to face inequality and experience poor outcomes and to live in poverty. Groups do not happen to be more disadvantaged by chance. Structural disadvantage is rooted in prejudice and discrimination that is both historical and current and deeply embedded into societal structures, including public institutions.

Our response:

As well as taking action to tackle key inequalities and disadvantages in communities:

- We will take action to develop the leadership and management culture and ensure workforce diversity at all levels.
- We need to work with other institutions across the system- public, private and voluntary and community sector and embed a more inclusive, humble, anti-discriminatory mindset into culture, service planning, practice and accountability.

We need a leadership and workforce that:

- **Can work across the system-** as a Council, we need to be more outward facing and collaborative, to find the right sustainable solutions. This will require leaders to work across boundaries with a greater degree of flexibility and openness to change than they have perhaps been used to.
- **Puts trauma informed, anti-racist and poverty informed understanding and ways of working into practice**
- **Is inclusive, humble, anti-discriminatory and anti-racist and reflects the diversity of Hackney at all levels**
- **Takes a strength based approach** - understanding Hackney's diverse communities and has the skills to collaborate with communities, co-designing long lasting solutions

8. Building on the progress made 2018-2022

The [Single Equality Scheme 2018-2022](#) was developed to identify the proactive work needed, informed by a [detailed analysis of demographics and of inequality](#). The pandemic revealed the stark racial inequality faced by some groups and, in response, the Council adopted a further commitment to anti-racism in July 2020. In March 2020, a [Community Impact Assessment](#) was established, so that the likely direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic in the short, medium and long term, could at least be understood, in advance of the official data. This has been informed by national, regional and local intelligence, both quantitative and qualitative and has helped us understand likely impacts and actions needed. A full update is provided on the Single Equality Scheme was provided as part of the update on the corporate plan 2018-2022 which is published [here](#).

A significant part of progressing work under the last scheme was focused on poverty reduction and shaping a more inclusive economy. The commitment to anti-racism, adopted in July 2020, was an important public statement that responded to the impacts of the pandemic, the death of George Floyd and the growing Black Lives Matter movement. It was built on the groundwork of Hackney's Improving Outcomes for Young Black Men Programme. Being an anti-racist organisation is about tackling much more than conscious hatred and grappling with racism that is far more embedded in society.

9. Summary of Data considered to develop this plan

This is a summary of the data that has been drawn on. Further work will be undertaken to develop a full equality needs analysis.

The plan has also been informed by census analysis published here: <https://hackney.gov.uk/population>


<u>Group</u>	Demographics	Insight
<u>age</u>	Ageing Well Strategy 2020 includes data on outcomes for older people 0-18 health needs assessment March 2022 includes maternity	Ageing Well Strategy 2020 Young Futures
<u>disability</u>	Disability and Health 2021 Census data Draft initial needs assessment	

	(unpublished as yet)	
gender reassignment	LGBTQIA data digest	LGBTQIA data digest also includes insight
pregnancy and maternity	0-18 health needs assessment March 2022 includes maternity	Insights from Bump Buddies and Homerton (unpublished)
race	<p>Anti-racism action plan summarises key inequalities</p> <p>Inequalities for black children and young people: this data digest drills down into data about inequalities for black boys and young men work.</p> <p>Inequalities in the Turkish Kurdish community: this unpublished review will help frame new cross cutting work</p>	Understanding the needs of vulnerable migrants - helped scope out cross cutting work to support vulnerable migrants
religion or belief	<p>Ethnic Group, National Identity, Language and Religion</p> <p>Profiling the needs of faith communities -2011 data needs updating</p>	Visits to Jewish community partners and issues raised (unpublished)
sex	Needs of women and girls - 2011 data needs updating and to look at key inequalities for men	
sexual orientation	LGBTQIA data digest	LGBTQIA data digest includes insight
Socio-economic	Poverty Reduction Framework 2023 -sets out key inequalities and cumulative impacts	Food Poverty Insight 2019- needs of those in food poverty

	Hackney Economic Profile Indices of multiple deprivation Housing Strategy (not published)	Food poverty workshop insight (MATCH equity work) Case studies about the impact that Household Support Fund is having on residents - case studies.
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Insight into barriers

<u>Barriers</u>	Demographic differences	Insight
<u>Languages</u>	Ethnic Group, National Identity, Language and Religion	Thematic insights from recent workshop on English Language barriers 2023 Translation and Interpretation Review Report
<u>Digital</u>	Digital exclusion - key groups and barriers 2021	Survey of organisations working with digitally excluded residents (unpublished)
<u>Disability</u>	<p>Work was undertaken to scope out work to improve access to face to face, telephone and online front door (customer services) for disabled people. Made a number of recommendations but not yet implemented.</p> <p>Hackney Access for Everyone looked at how we can make the public realm more accessible to promote mobility and greater independence.</p> <p>ASC is developing a carers strategy and will have insights from them</p>	

<u>Trust and confidence in council</u>	Residents' survey	Young Futures Ageing Well Improving outcomes Poverty Reduction Framework LGBTQIA data and insight Child Q review related work KPMT insight
<u>Physical activity</u>	Community Insight Report 1 Community Insight Report 2	KPMT insight
<u>Access and inclusion review of leisure centres</u>	 Access and Inclusion Revi...	

10. Glossary

Term	Explanation
Complex Need	An individual with complex needs is facing multiple interconnected challenges that significantly impact their wellbeing and social function. This could include, for example, poor health, housing instability or homelessness, debt, poverty, disability, substance addiction etc.
Co-design	Co-design is a participatory method in which community members are treated as equal collaborators in the design process. Stakeholders and end users are actively involved in the design of a product or service from the earliest stage.
Equality & Equity	<p>Equality is where individuals or groups of people are able to access the same resources or opportunities. This does not necessarily lead to an equal outcome.</p> <p>Equity is where individuals or groups of people are able to reach an equal outcome. This may require delivering different resources or opportunities depending on the circumstances of the individual or groups in question.</p>

Intersectional	<p>Intersectionality is the concept that where people experience discrimination in more than one dimension, the experience is unique due to the overlap. For example, Black women don't just experience sexism (as women) and racism (as Black people), but their experiences are unique from white women or black men due to the intersection of the two.</p>
Protected characteristic	<p>A "protected characteristic" is an attribute that is protected from discrimination by law.</p> <p>There are 9 protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010: Age, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Ethnicity, Gender Reassignment, Religion or Philosophical Belief, Pregnancy and Maternity, Marriage or Civil Partnership.</p> <p>A person must not be discriminated against for having - or being perceived to have - a protected characteristic.</p>
Socio-economic	<p>"of, relating to, or involving a combination of social and economic factors" (Merriam-Webster)</p> <p>"Socio-economic status" is a way of describing the relationship between groups of people relating to their social class and financial situation</p>

Hackney's Anti-Racism Framework

2024-2026

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Introduction

Over the last five years, Hackney has taken action towards eradicating racial inequality for individuals, communities, systems, and societies. However, we are not anti-racist yet, we still have a long way to go, and we cannot do this on our own.

Hackney residents are also impacted by other Councils and institutions outside of Hackney. We want to ensure residents' experience of the council and other institutions is fair. Therefore, it is important to build a shared understanding and commitment to anti-racism across the system. We need to understand that there are discriminatory and oppressive structures and practices which lead to inequality and harm. Therefore, it is everyone's responsibility to be anti-racist and work together to dismantle these structures.

The anti-racism framework is crucial to support us in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty. This is the duty of public authorities to think about how their policies and decisions affect people who are protected under the Equality Act, to tackle discrimination and disadvantage, and to promote equality. Additionally, if public authorities do not do this, they can be challenged in court.

The anti-racism framework has been developed as part of the wider Equality Plan and has helped us develop the broader set of equality objectives. The plan has discrete accountability and governance; however, by locating the work within a wider assessment of needs and priorities, Hackney Council is very clear about the urgent need to be anti-racist. It also helps us to take an intersectional approach and consider how racism and racial inequality intersect with other forms of discrimination and disadvantage that our residents may experience.

Hackney's work on Improving Outcomes for Young Black Men and now for Black Children and Young People started in 2015. The work drew on insight from our residents' lived experience and working with community partners to codesign new approaches, to improve council services and improve outcomes for our Black children and young people. [This work](#) has informed the need for an anti-racism to underpin and guide all work and the contents of this framework.

In July 2020, Hackney Council adopted [a motion](#) to work towards being an anti-racist organisation. This has helped strengthen the focus and commitment to anti-racism. The motion specifically discussed what we need to change within institutions to make them anti-racist. Later, in May 2022, the Council held the first Anti-Racist Praxis Conference led by the Children and Education Directorate.

Early in 2023, we published the progress we had made online on our [anti-racism hub](#). This highlights the journey towards becoming an Anti-racist borough; but also shows good practice and evidence of progress and impact, but also shows we have much more work to do.

In October 2023, we held our first whole Council staff Anti-Racist Summit focused on culture, behaviour and practice. There were 65 events over a two month period.

Each directorate also made a set of commitments based on staff needs and wishes to become more anti-racist. We have drawn on the insight from these events to help shape the final draft of the anti-racism plan.

From 20th November 2023 to Jan 21st 2023, we invited staff, residents, community and statutory partners to help us shape the equality plan, LGBTQIA+ strategic framework, and the Anti-racist framework. Additionally, previous reports, data and research, and consultation with staff, communities and organisations have been used to inform this Anti-Racist Framework. In total, we received 90 online responses, and engagement activity involved a further 701 people: 355 staff, 239 partners and 107 residents (of which 53 completed monitoring information).

Hackney as a borough has a long-standing history of working to eradicate all inequalities; however, this has yet to be a completely joined-up approach. To have an impact, we need to make sure everyone in the system is starting from the same understanding of what racism and anti-racism is. We need to adopt a consistent approach within and outside the Council to develop a common approach and set of actions towards anti-racism. This means working with residents, statutory partners (like health and police), voluntary and community organisations and businesses. These are the best ways to sustain the work in the long term and avoid repeating patterns of bias and discrimination deeply embedded in society that the council also perpetuates.

At Hackney, we are committed to calling ourselves and others out on the harm and structural discrimination; and dismantle the system that allows this; and working with staff, residents and community partners to make changes to this.

Defining Racism and Anti-Racism

Race is social construct defined as your skin colour, caste, nationality or/and ethnic or national origins; it also covers ethnic and racial groups (groups of people with the same protected characteristic of race or ethnicity). It is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. Racism is also a social construct; created to oppress and marginalise individuals and groups based on the colour of their skin, ethnicity, nationality and citizenship in order to exploit them; which can be seen in forms of hatred, prejudice and discrimination. Hackney is also clear that Anti-Semitism (fear, prejudice or discrimination against Jews) and Islamophobia (fear, prejudice or discrimination against Muslims) is racism.

However, our understanding of racism goes beyond overt acts, and it is seen both structurally and institutionally. This is created by the social structures that disadvantage and racialise some people and groups more than others, now and historically. which favour White people. However, these privileges are more complex and White groups can and have been racialized as well - we see this for Jewish communities, Irish, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. We need to work together to dismantle these ways of working to eradicate inequalities that people face, which cause tremendous harm.

Racism also intersects with other forms of discrimination, including disability, class, gender, religion, age and sexuality. Crenshaw defines intersectionality as

‘understanding the ways that multiple forms of inequality or disadvantage sometimes compound themselves and create obstacles that often are not understood among conventional ways of thinking.’ These intersections are essential to understand as they are embedded in our structures and day-to-day lives, which cause an increased combination of discrimination, inequality, and harm to some individuals and groups of people.

This is important as our plans and framework to support specific protected characteristics and communities all link together in our equality plan. This also includes key work streams such as Improving Outcomes for Black Children and Young People, Hackney Young Futures and Ageing Well.

Hackney took a lead role in the shaping of the London Council's Anti-Racist Statement to ensure a consistent commitment to anti-racism across all Councils in London. In 2023, we were also one of the first Councils to take part in a benchmarking exercise to review our work against the [London Councils Anti-Racist Self Assessment Standard](#). This learning has informed this framework.

The London Councils Anti-Racist Statement

Local authorities in London are committed to achieving racial equality because we recognise that persistent racial inequalities are unacceptable and adversely affect all Londoners. We know that certain groups are more likely to face inequality, experience poor outcomes and to live in poverty than others. Often these outcomes are used as an excuse not to acknowledge racial inequality, but groups are not more disadvantaged by chance. Structural disadvantage is rooted in racism and discrimination that is both historical and current.

We do have legislation to protect against overt racism, negative attitudes and treatment, but many of the systems that discriminate do so because of more subtle and covert unchecked “prejudice, assumptions, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping.” This wording draws on the Macpherson Report 1999 definition of institutional racism which is still relevant today. This is a dehumanising process that is unacceptable and communities are tired of being treated this way. We cannot let another generation down by not actively responding to what remains a clear and compelling articulation of what needs to change.

All local authorities should be committed to taking an anti-racist approach because the most damaging aspects of inequality and racism are embedded in society. It is not enough to “not be racist” or to focus on tackling conscious hatred, like racial abuse.

It is everyone’s responsibility to proactively and continuously:

- Unpack and reset beliefs, assumptions and values;
- Take action when we observe racism come into play, in beliefs, assumptions and values and the decisions and actions that follow, however subtle;
- Be humble and educate ourselves in what we don’t know about racial inequalities and racism that exists, rather than putting the onus on others to educate us.

Our collective commitment to achieve racial equality focuses on what London councils can do together to have a positive impact on life outcomes at all stages, including in relation to health and wellbeing, employment and education. This is about social justice and promoting equality because all Londoners should be able to reach their potential in all spheres.

What does Anti-Racism look like

Racism was designed to gain and keep power, control and privilege, and to legitimise and justify colonialism and imperialism. Anti-racism is the deconstruction of this power and control. It is being active instead of passive in the fight to dismantle racial inequality. This does not mean always treating everyone equally; it is about designing and delivering equitable solutions, where some people need more support because they are more disadvantaged.

Being able to disconnect from the painful reality of racism is a privilege. It is a white privilege, although there are groups who are White who have been racialized and also experienced racism. Racism causes public service failure, economic failure, wasted talent and opportunities and this impacts the entire community and society. Anti-racism is therefore about creating a fairer society and world for everyone, where racial identity is no longer a factor that leads to disadvantage and inequality.

Social Justice is therefore at the core of anti-racist and anti-discriminatory work. Social justice has been defined as justice in relation to a fairness in the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society where individuals' rights are recognized and protected. This includes giving access to healthcare, economic opportunity, uplifting and empowering residential voices and enterprise and standing up for the communities we serve by providing care, resources and space for them to be seen and thrive.

Many Black and Global Majority people, especially women, carry the burden of anti-racist work in historically rooted structural oppression. This plan makes clear that anti-racism is the responsibility of everyone in Hackney Council. We have also developed an anti-racism continuum to help services understand where racism shows up and what it looks like. The aim of the continuum is to encourage learning, reflection, understanding and action to support embedding anti-racism into our practice and decision making across the council.

Hackney's Diversity

According to the 2021 census

- 53.1% of Hackney residents identified their ethnicity within the 'White' category. The second most common ethnic group category in Hackney after "White" 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 for both London and England.

- 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%). Census data does not give us an accurate estimate for the Turkish population, and we will do more work to develop an accurate estimate. 2% of the population wrote in Turkish as an identity, 3.3% gave Turkey as their place of birth. Others will have identified themselves under other categories, such as Other White.

Hackney is also home to distinct ethno-religious groups:

- According to the Anti-discrimination (Amendment) Act 1994, an ethnoreligious group is defined as a group with a charged history, religion, culturally traditional, common geographical organising, common languages, literature- and previous definition did not include race, politics or culture. This change led to Sikhs and Jews being included under ethno-religious groups.
 - According to the 2021 Census people of the Jewish faith makeup 6.7% of the population in Hackney which is much higher than London (1.7%) and England, (0.5%). Jewish communities in Hackney are largely made up of Orthodox, or Charedi Jewish people living in the North of the borough as well as wider Jewish communities across the borough. We recognise this is likely to be an underrepresentation of the current population and are working with partners to develop a more accurate estimate.
 - Many Kurdish people from Turkey live in Hackney and Haringey. The majority of Turkish-speaking residents belong to the Sunni sect of Islam, while a large number of Kurds are Alevi who make up about 1% of Hackney's population. There are also a small number of Kurdish Christians in Hackney.

Religion and belief

- In the 2021 Census 36.3% in Hackney stated they had 'no religion'. This was 9.2% above the London average but around the same as for England as a whole.
- Just under a third of Hackney residents identify as Christian (30.7%), 10% lower than for London, and 15.6% lower than in England as a whole.
- 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%).
- Hackney has considerably more people of the Jewish faith (6.7%), 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 Haredi Jewish people who mainly live in the North East of the borough. As described above, this is likely to be an undercount and we need to work with the Charedi community to address this. The Census did not distinguish between Orthodox, and Non-Orthodox Jewish people so all are categorised as 'Jewish' in the Census.

Languages

- An estimated 89 languages are spoken in Hackney. The top 10 preferred languages in Hackney are: English (80.1%), Turkish (3.2%), Spanish (2%), French (1.3%), Portuguese (1.3%) Yiddish (1.3%), Italian (1.2%), Polish (0.9%), Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya) (0.8%) and Gujarati (0.6%).
- However, there are many more languages that are spoken in Hackney.

The census data may not accurately represent all communities who are in Hackney in 2024. The 2021 census was taken during the COVID pandemic, where home life for many was different than usual. [In 2021, researchers from De Montfort University Leicester \(DMU\)](#) found that men, people from lower income brackets, young people, and those living in rented accommodations were less likely to fill out census data. Additionally, people lacking trust in the process are less likely to want to complete the census. This can lead to the misrepresentation of certain groups and communities, which is crucial as it can lead to policies and prioritisation of needs aligned with the communities we serve.

For example, Charedi Jewish communities in Hackney noted that the Census data was mostly filled out via paper, which only allowed for 5 household members to be noted per household, which significantly un-represent their households as they traditionally have larger families. [According to a demographic report by the Institute of Jewish Public Research](#), which used DfE school census and Charedi birth records found that “Charedi children have been undercounted in the Census, by as much as 35%. aged 0-16 are 30% of the Borough’s child population and those aged 0-5 are 40% of the 0-5 population. 90% of the council’s services do not reach 30% of its child population. The growth rate within this cohort is also something that council leaders need to understand and engage with.”

The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community in Hackney do not believe that the census data represented them as a distinct ethnic group, only allowing for them to register under the ‘White’ category. This community spans across those who define themselves as Gypsies (including English Gypsies, Scottish Gypsies or Travellers, Welsh Gypsies and other Romany people); Irish Travellers (who have specific Irish roots). Roma is understood to be more recent migrants from Central and Eastern Europe. Also the term Traveller can also encompass groups that travel. This includes, but is not limited to, New Travellers, Boaters, Bargees and Showpeople.

Standard ethnic categorisations also makes it difficult to accurately capture the Turkish and Kurdish population, leading to potential under representation.

This shows that certain communities do not believe that the ethnic categories and census data is truly representative of all communities. To understand the makeup of our communities in Hackney and across London, we need to use multiple sources of information; and diverse and less traditional forms of gathering data. Additionally, it is essential to understand that some ways we obtain data/information about communities can traumatise communities.

Groups facing key inequalities

- Black Caribbean, Black African, Other Black groups, and Turkish Kurdish groups face key inequalities in education, health, income, and employment. We also see these inequalities in the Charedi community.
- Within the Muslim community - there are many different cultural groups. They will have specific needs that will not be catered for by one generic approach to engagement.
- Hackney is home to smaller communities who face significant inequalities. This includes: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, South American, Vietnamese, Chinese (including Hong Kong Chinese), Somali and West Central African communities.
- In considering how we tackle racial inequality, we need to consider communities who are oppressed or marginalised by a wider majority group, for example, a minority religious group.

The Anti-Racism Framework

This Framework and its objectives have been developed using both current and historical research and insight, as well as input from the staff and public consultation of the Equality Plan that ended on the 21st January 2024.

Based on this consultation, we are now calling this the Anti-Racism Framework rather than an action plan. This is because it broadens our scope to think not only about specific actions but also organisational culture and ways of working; and ensuring this change is embedded across all areas of the council and Hackney as a whole.

The Objectives

Working together with partners and communities to:
Identify and eradicate racial inequality at every life stage by taking protective, preventative and positive action (as well as an equitable approach)
Build opportunity and wellbeing; ensuring a focus on racial equity
Celebrate and serve diverse communities and value the contribution they make
Embed anti-racism into service plans and practice across the council and the borough.
Change as an institution: leadership and management culture, diversity of leadership; to ensure internal and systemic change.

Accountability: Embedding Anti-racism into mindset- Culture, Behaviours and Practice

It is important to have robust accountability and governance for the Anti-Racism Framework, to ensure that we are meeting the commitments made and meeting the expectations of residents and staff. We need to be open and transparent as a council, on past and current failures to ensure that we avoid repeating the same mistakes and perpetuating systemic racism and discrimination.

To ensure accountability:

- We will be tracking progress against intermediate outcomes across the system, and regularly assessing if these are making a difference in our long-term outcomes.

We will also ensure that there is accountability to track the actions we are taking, specifically:

- We are taking action to embed equality, diversity and inclusion into service design, delivery and practice; through wider plans like our Equality Plan.
- Each directorate has made a list of commitments, after the 2023 Anti-racist summit, which will be measured and held accountable; which is an important part of embedding the Anti-Racism Framework across the council.
- We are taking action to ensure open, humble and anti-racist leadership styles.
- We are taking action to ensure that the workforce reflects the ethnic diversity of Hackney's populations at all levels and works towards a common set of measures of success.
- We are tracking progress against these measures of success, and our workforce is becoming more reflective of the diversity of the community at all levels. We are using data from multiple sources (quantitative and qualitative), service planning and outcomes measured, and measures the conditions for anti-racism to be met.
- We will listen to residents and staff, for feedback during the lifespan of the framework, and ensure we make any changes needed in response.

To support the plan and ensure objectives are met; we are establishing clear governance, which will include

- A delivery group of officers (senior, desk and non-desk facing, working in policy, working directly with communities) across all the directorates, who will review if Hackney is meeting their objectives
- Sessions will be led by lead Cabinet member, Cllr Williams; Cabinet leads and senior officers who will review progress and impact of the Anti-racist Framework.
- The Council's Corporate Leadership and Cabinet will jointly consider progress on a six-monthly basis (as a minimum)
- We will draw on the feedback from consultation and engagement to establish final governance arrangements which will identify how we gather community

feedback in an ongoing and dynamic way that helps hold us to account, act as critical friends for new and current work, as well as mapping the journey travelled.

- Hackney Council will take part in peer reviews, where other local councils scrutinise our services, and tell us where we need to do better for our residents.

Objective 1: Identify and eradicate racial inequality at every life stage by taking protective, preventative and positive action (as well as an equitable approach)

We see racial inequality at every life stage in Hackney, as well as in wider society: Pregnancy, School readiness, Key Stage 4 (GCSE), Leaving school, Employment, Parenthood, Caring and Old age.

Nationally, there is a disproportionately high level of black children in care ([Nuffield, 2023](#)) and black caribbean boys who are excluded ([GOV, 2024](#)), the rate of black women who die in childbirth in the UK is four times higher than the population ([House of Commons, 2023](#)). Jewish communities face difficulty accessing statutory services that understand them and can meet their needs. Many Black and Global Majority families are within overcrowded, temporary accommodation and unsuitable housing. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities also experience multiple complex levels of racism which leads to marginalisation, poor outcomes and services that do not understand or meet their needs.

When people face socio-economic difficulty they can also experience inequality or unfair treatment that can lead to crisis points: School Exclusions, Entering the criminal justice system, Unemployment, Eviction, Debt and Illness. We also understand that our services in the council can perpetuate these inequalities. There is proven bias in the system that leads to unfair and unequal outcomes. We need to take preventative action against racism at every life stage, working across the whole system. We need to be specific to the needs of our residents and intersectional in the way we work.

Objective 1: Identify and eradicate racism and racial inequality at every life stage by taking protective, preventative and positive action (as well as an equitable approach)

Develop our understanding of the root causes of racism at every life stage by:

Develop an outcomes framework that can be adopted by all:

Identify the Solutions needed

<p>Working closely with Hackney's population health hub to:</p> <p>Refresh existing equality evidence base for the whole population.</p> <p>Look at national population data, on outcomes, service take up, service outcomes and qualitative insight.</p> <p>Identify precisely who is facing inequality and who is missing from the data sets -avoiding blanket categories and ensuring analysis is intersectional, and is informed by the communities experiencing inequalities.</p> <p>Review progress and impact of work so far.</p> <p>Build on existing priorities in the single equality scheme 2018-22 and the Improving Outcomes for Black children and Young People workstream.</p>	<p>Clearly identifies agreed interventions and work streams</p> <p>Sets out how these will deliver agreed outcomes</p> <p>Identifies key measures, milestones and review points for all workstreams.</p> <p>Sets timescales for change.</p> <p>Considers evidence about how realistic these plans are, including benchmarking data</p> <p>Involves residents throughout in providing critical challenges.</p> <p>Communicate progress made and the resulting impact to residents and staff</p>	<p>We will identify whether the right conditions are in place to have an impact by listening to residents and staff</p> <p>Work closely with residents and partners across the system towards co-design creative and innovative solutions that eradicate racial inequalities Eg working in partnership with parents and community partners to reduce the number of Black children excluded from school and the number of Black children in looked after services.</p> <p>Agree cross-cutting positive, protective, preventative work; that seeks to tackle root causes, building on existing priorities in the single equality scheme and proactive work already underway through health partners.</p> <p>Work with community and statutory partners (ex. Education, health, police) to share resources and hold each other to account when racism shows up in our systems.</p>
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This objective will build on existing work:

- The joint Children and Education Action Plan, and their practice standards, seek to tackle the overrepresentation of Black and Global Majority children in exclusions and children's social care. It will ensure that early years, education and early help are inclusive and anti-racist and can have an impact on outcomes across the life course.
- [Improving outcomes for black children and young people](#) have developed 4 work streams and commissioned work/progress in education, mental health and wellbeing, reducing harm and employment. Black children and young people have been involved in the co-production of these working streams; which are accountability boards and measurable outcomes.

- Work of [Population Health Hub](#) which leads specific projects to influence and support partners across the system to be more aware of their role in improving population health and reducing health inequalities.

Objective 2: Build opportunity and wellbeing; ensuring a focus on racial equity

Objective 2: Build opportunity and wellbeing; ensuring a focus on racial equity	
Develop our understanding:	Identify the Solutions needed
<p>Plans that aim to eradicate poverty and help people thrive need to be looked at through an anti-racist lens. This is to ensure that Black and Global Majority communities benefit and are not disadvantaged by our policies and work.</p> <p>Regeneration can support Black and Global Majority people into employment and business opportunities and improve health outcomes. It can also lead to greater inequality through gentrification (this is defined as the process by which a place, especially part of a city, changes from being a poor area to a richer one, where people from a higher social class live), displacing local businesses and families due to increase in house prices.</p> <p>Hackney has worked with other local authorities to develop its approach to an inclusive economy, which seeks to ensure that residents benefit from regeneration and growth. This goes beyond traditional economic development metrics. We will build on this work and seek to embed this understanding across planning, housing and regeneration strategy.</p> <p>Although Hackney has a high proportion of social housing, we are in a housing crisis and private housing is completely unaffordable for the average</p>	<p>We will continue to work with teams in Employment and Skills; Area Regeneration, Economic Development, Housing (house building, housing strategy, housing management and housing needs), Planning, Health and Wellbeing and Poverty reduction to identify where racism is showing up in the system and make changes.</p> <p>Focus on embedding anti-racist practice standards into planning, economic development and housing strategy.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with academics to support embedding anti-racism into these wider plans.</p> <p>Embed more rounded understanding of prosperity and wellbeing measures into plans and strategies building on London Prosperity Index and Health Inequalities equity toolkit.</p>

household. Families from low income households, many of which are from Black and Global Majority backgrounds, have left the borough over the last two decades. The housing strategy team is developing their new strategy and anti-racism will be embedded into this, in order to correct and reduce inequalities experienced by those groups.	
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Existing work to build on

- The Employment and Skills Team have developed programmes and projects to specifically support young Black and Global Majority people and graduates to access diverse employment opportunities; as data shows that they have less opportunities than their White counterparts.
- Anti-racism sessions have taken place with senior managers in the teams that lead on Employment and Skills, Area Regeneration, Housing Strategy, Housing needs and Planning. These facilitated sessions developed an understanding of racism and where it shows up and how it dictates their decision making. In order to better understand and support the communities they serve.
- Anti-racism is an explicit commitment in the local Integrated Care System plans. It is a specific focus for the Health Inequalities Steering Group. This group develops proactive work to tackle inequality, reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Poverty Reduction Framework was adopted in March 2022. It explicitly includes actions that embed anti-racist practice and promote a diverse community partnership. These actions are now being progressed. For example the Council is seeking to embed anti-racism into sustainable food actions.
- We are working creatively with community partners to give them power and autonomy to serve communities based on local insight and expertise. The response during the pandemic, for example, was developed away from a universal commissioning approach, toward enabling networks of smaller community organisations to form local partnerships to design culturally appropriate responses serving specific local needs. Residents were involved throughout as stakeholders and services were able to pivot quickly in response to evolving resident needs.
- The Refugee, Migrant & Asylum Seeker Team has been recently established to support their needs. It is also being restructured with an anti-racist lens to

support all refugees and asylum seekers rather than only certain ethnic groups. The team has partnered with community organisations who represent and serve the communities who use the services. This is due to their experiences and shared languages to better support those communities.

Objective 3: Celebrate and serve diverse communities and value the contribution they make

Hackney's diverse, dynamic and changing population is what makes Hackney feel unique. It gives different areas of the borough their unique sense of identity. There is, however, a risk that the very communities that create a sense of place are excluded and marginalised. Additionally, in our understanding of diverse cultures and communities, we need to recognise that communities are not homogenous, and people in these communities should be treated and respected as individuals.

We understand that not all communities are represented within traditional data and feedback on services, as they do not always have the trust and confidence to use our services. There is a lack of trust for the council in Black and Global Majority residents, and social housing tenants. Some residents feel that the council's communication does not resonate with their experience of life in the borough. They feel that we are too defensive when presented with new ideas or challenges. This lack of trust that many residents have is also exacerbated by unmet needs, COVID, the current housing crisis, displacement, austerity, impact of cost of living and increased poverty. Therefore it is important to build trust with these communities and ensure their needs are represented, so they are enabled to use services and feel heard.

Only a small proportion of Hackney residents have so far engaged with this work through consultation and engagement on this plan. Some residents have not felt that the council has represented their experience and expectations in response to global conflict and therefore have not felt able to engage with this public consultation. We plan to continue this engagement and consultation, using more creative and diverse methods to involve a larger number of people in the consultation and co-production of services. This consultation has taken place during very difficult times across Hackney and the wider world. The public consultation of the equality plan revealed that some people have strong beliefs that racism does not exist; and believe that some groups have more support than others which is not deserved. We have developed this work at a time when there are polarising views on equality and human rights. We have to find ways to engage with these polarised views and help build a shared understanding of what racism is and why we need to take action.

Additionally it is important to understand that for many communities, the consultation felt tiring as they have shown up to share their experiences of racism previously but they believe nothing has changed for the better. Therefore we need to be careful and trauma-informed about not perpetuating consultation abuse, and ensure that all information we receive informs policy and practice.

We need to develop a culture that is comfortable with hearing residents tell us uncomfortable truths about how racism is playing out. We need to be more open and confident about working with residents to be part of the solutions. We must pay attention to residents whose voices we are least likely to hear. We have to remain agile and adaptive to meeting new needs that we identify through this dialogue.

Objective 3: Celebrate and serve diverse communities and value the contribution they make

Develop our understanding

Adopt a Council wide definition and method of community engagement and co-production, based on an understanding that resident insight and ideas are key to understanding drivers of racial inequality and getting to right solutions.

Identify the Solutions needed

Develop support and advice for services on community engagement and co-production.

Work with communities to establish consistent ways to gather insight and co-produce solutions as part of this framework.

Develop intergenerational dialogue between communities.

Involve communities in partnerships and governance to help check that actions are tackling root causes.

Reset existing community accountability to ensure community feedback and challenge to this plan.

Ensure communications strategy is underpinned by understanding of where trust and confidence in communities is lower.

Existing work on to build on:

- [‘Hackney No Place for Hate’ 2023-2026 Strategy](#) was established to support residents who have experienced discrimination to support them. Hackney invited residents to join the borough’s hate crime champions help and advise victims and witnesses of a hate crime or incident
- Hackney CVS, in partnership with the Council and health partners on developing ways to engage with young black people, parents and the wider community. We are working with Hackney CVS on how this resource can support the anti-racism work we need to do across the system.

- The Police Action Plan in Trust and Confidence and the community accountability board we have helped establish with MOPAC to ensure that police meet the needs of Hackney's diverse communities.
- Through our poverty reduction work, we have developed new ways of working with community partners that seek to build a more relational way of working so we can learn from each other about how best serve and meet the needs of diverse communities in Hackney.
- The [Young Futures programme](#) that was co-produced and developed with young people across Hackney; to better understand their needs, lived experience in Hackney.

Objective 4: Embed anti-racism into service plans and practice across the council and the borough.

Some people are more likely to experience inequality, negative outcomes and live in poverty; but this disadvantage does not happen by chance.

The origins of structural and systemic disadvantage are related to discrimination which are both seen historically and in the current climate. For example the hostile environment towards asylum seekers and refugees, the deportation of the Windrush generation and high exclusion rate of black children. These are only some of the consequences of structural and systemic discrimination; which is embedded into public institutions, like the central government, local councils, police, and education systems.

If we are working towards eradicating racial inequalities and disadvantages in Black and Global Majority communities, we need to work with all institutions across the systems to embed the following ways of working:

- Inclusive, humble, trauma-informed and anti-racist approaches and practices
- A whole system approach that sees issues from a resident/borough rather than using a siloed service perspective. As residents experience the council as a whole rather than by individual departments.
- Understand and serve Hackney's diverse communities and is aware of the impact of inequalities and poverty.
- Collaborate with communities, in co-production and co-design of services, policies with long lasting solutions and accountability that has a positive impact on their lives.
- Decolonisation and Social Justice at the core of service plans and practice.

These ways of working need to be embedded in culture, service plan, practice and accountability. For this to happen it must be supported corporately and the most senior of leaders; first understanding what racism means, and working with communities to take actions to develop anti-racist services and practice.

Unchecked bias, prejudice, ignorance, stereotyping is unfair treatment, which can have a devastating impact on people's lives. It is a waste of lives and the potential of

many people and communities that do not get the opportunities and the chance to thrive. This is an example of public service failure.

Decolonising is about “deconstructing or dismantling colonial ideologies and challenging the superiority of western thought and approaches.” It digs into thought patterns, biases, policies, values, and more. By decolonising the way we think about standard practice and accountability, we ensure racism does not show up in the methods we hold ourselves to account. The council cannot therefore come up with its own methods of self accountability and be accountable solely to itself. The consultation has been a very important process that has informed the plan and approach to accountability. Community organisations and residents outside the council need to continue to be involved in all of the processes.

We also need to think about how the council's policies and accountability measures perpetuate the cycles of inequality and disadvantages. How can a system built to uphold disadvantage and disparity work to support and heal people from their oppression. Where does the term accountability come from? Who is allowed to decide the measures that the council is accountable to?

Objective 4: Embed anti-racism into service plans and practice across the council and the borough.	
Develop our understanding	Identify the Solutions needed
<p>We have developed a tool, called Anti-racist continuum to help us understand where racism shows up in the council, what it looks like. It helps us look at our systems and decision making, and audit our practice and processes.</p> <p>The tool looks at organisational narrative and approach. It looks at the willingness to work in an anti-racist way, intersectionality and with complexity and to support proactive work. The aim of the continuum is to encourage learning, understanding and reflection and then action.</p>	<p>Engage with services to identify next steps needed to embed anti-racist practice.</p> <p>Develop a resource pack, workshops and training sessions; and work with HR and OD to ensure it is embedded across all directorates in the council.</p> <p>Develop systemic service planning guidance across all directorates; to be able to compare services, measure outcomes, hold services to account. This consistent service plan; create a golden thread of equality plan, anti-racist plan, and LGBTQIA+ strategic framework; collaborating across departments, measurable objectives, as well accountability being consistent across the council</p> <p>Engage with the Population Health Hub to integrate these tools into wider work.</p> <p>Develop consistent and creative methods to collect data within and outside the council; ensure that they are developed with residents and staff for them; consider their needs and intersectionalities.</p>

	<p>Additional ensure that the true intersectional representation of staff and residents, is co-creation to support embedding their experiences and needs into practice and policy.</p> <p>Develop pathways to support residents to make complaints about discrimination experienced by officers in the council.</p>
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Existing work to build on

This will build on the practical work that is already underway to embed anti-racism into service design, delivery and practice:

- The Children and Education Practice Model is embedding anti-racism into all areas of practice and all roles. They have developed the STAR model; which stands for systemic, trauma-informed and anti-racist approach to working with children and families. Adult social care are also developing their own practice model and standards which are similar.
- Work is under development to embed anti-racist practice into Neighbourhoods work. They are working with residents, academics to build their understanding of racism and anti-racist practice to use this to develop anti-racist practice standards and policies that meet the needs of the communities they serve. This is about ensuring that this early preventative work is inclusive and anti-racist. This is key to ensuring that people receive appropriate support and work is being evaluated.
- Tackling Racism and Inequality Programme. This is a London wide health inequality work -led by the Association of Directors of Public Health London. The action plan has five themes for area development; to diversify the workforce and encourage systems leadership, coproduction with communities, trust and cohesion, improve ethnic data collection and research and embed public health into social and economic policy
- Council Wide- Each directorate has published measurable and actionable commitments (as a result of Hackney's 2023 Anti-Racism Summit) to work towards being Anti-racist and reducing racial inequality.

Objective 5: Change as an institution: the leadership and management culture and diversity of leadership; to ensure internal and systemic change.

We need supportive and brave leaders that are able to stand up for social justice and work in anti-racist ways. They need to be able to work creatively against the

systematic racism that is embedded in our public institutions. We need a leadership and management culture that is diverse and representative (in thought and community) and understands the communities they serve.

Without this, we will not meet our objectives and will continue to follow the status quo; which perpetuates inequalities and unfair treatment to many staff and residents.

Diversity is not only about representation in the workforce; but also its important to have diversity in our processes, ensuring that there is appropriate supervision of staff, therapeutic support for diverse communities and cultures, safe reporting systems for staff and residents who experience discrimination by staff and members of the council.

As mentioned above, for us to be able to start to work in anti-racist way we need support corporately and from the most senior of leaders. As well working with staff, residents and community organisations to ensure all voices are heard. First starting with what racism means, how it shows up in services; and working with communities to take actions to develop anti-racist services and practices.

Objective 5: Change as an institution: the leadership and management culture and diversity of leadership; to ensure internal and systemic change.	
Develop our understanding	Identify the Solutions needed
<p>The main focus of the staff summit was on culture, behaviour, and practice.</p> <p>The summit feedback and staff consultation was very consistent with the themes identified in the consultation draft of this framework. These were informed by previous work and benchmarking against the London Councils Tackling Racial Inequality Benchmarking Tool. They have helped to strengthen our understanding of what is needed.</p> <p>Institutional change is key. It is clear that we need to develop trust within the system and workforce, and support people to achieve their potential. Many staff believe the council is resistant to change, and that this is needed to ensure more inclusive communication</p>	<p>Embed ongoing business case for workforce diversity, inclusive leadership and specifically an anti-racist culture within a wider workforce strategy- linked to tackling inequality, building trust and confidence in communities, staff wellbeing and productivity and building an inclusive local economy. Use continuum of anti-racist practice to help reset this work.</p> <p>Develop shared commitment and understanding of racism and anti-racism across strategic partners like police, health, education. Work together with them to share resources, and hold each other to account for becoming anti-racism.</p> <p>Refresh director level plans and data. Work closely with Employment and Skills to advise on positive actions and employment pathways programmes such as apprentice roles and supported internships.</p> <p>Establish ongoing support recognising that Black and Global Majority staff may feel more marginalised and targeted as a result of anti-racism work.</p>

<p>and engagement with the communities that we serve.</p> <p>We also need to work to empower staff, decentralise decision-making, develop and distribute ways people can get support, and ensure that our work on anti-racism is measurable and tracked.</p> <p>When you synthesise the summit with existing learning, there are a consistent set of themes:</p> <p>Build on intersectional workforce data</p> <p>Leadership: Senior leaders need to better monitor and model desired behaviours, and have a culture of inclusivity in communication and ensure diverse recruiting, career opportunities and progression for diverse cultures and communities in Hackney. The public and staff consultations revealed that we also need to understand what we do not do well and learn to make positive changes in the future.</p> <p>Feedback and safe spaces: People wanted more opportunities to talk about racism, anti-racism and inequalities, provide feedback and self reflection</p> <p>Understand diverse and intersectional communities.</p> <p>Consistent approaches across the services and partners.</p> <p>Embed anti-racism into policy</p> <p>Benchmarking, monitoring and accountability</p>	<p>Develop training tools for staff to better understand the diverse communities and cultures within Hackney. As well the history of the borough of Hackney and its relationship with these communities.</p> <p>Develop our understanding of racism and where it shows up and how it dictates their decision making. This is in order to better understand and support the communities they serve. Progress work to develop more ways for staff to give feedback and raise race related issues beyond the formal grievance process.</p> <p>Formalise existing staff equality networks as groups that can influence workforce strategy and build an inclusive leadership culture</p> <p>Adopt workforce strategy and directorate service plans that articulate workforce challenges in tackling inequality and actions needed.</p> <p>Inclusive communication- to develop internal campaigns that value diversity and promote inclusion</p> <p>Value the importance of lived experience within services, and ensure that staff are representative of the population they serve.</p> <p>Ensure cross departmental collaboration, and there are more spaces and learn , challenge and report racism.</p> <p>Develop consistent accountability measures, and data collected across the council</p> <p>Develop work to build an understanding of anti-racism in training for senior leaders and staff; use HR and OD to embed this across the council</p> <p>Develop a Community of practice - working across and outside the council staff and community partners to develop and share good practice of anti-racism</p>
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The work we have led on tackling inequality in Hackney continually comes back with urgency to the reality that structures and systems do not work for all.

We need a workforce that:

- understands what being inclusive, humble, anti-discriminatory, anti-racist and trauma informed means.
- is confident working with communities
- can operate in a no blame culture, but also knows that racism will not be tolerated.
- leads and works as a system- from a resident / borough not service perspective
- understands Hackney's diverse communities and is aware of the impact of poverty
- reflects the diversity of Hackney, at all levels
- can collaborate with communities, co-designing long lasting solutions

Work to build on:

- Some directorates like adult social care, and climates home and economy- have released and reported on racial inequality in employment using the data to developed equitable approaches to support Black and Global Majority staff
- From 2018-2021, there was a focus on increasing diversity at senior leadership. The progress made has been reported in Corporate Plan updates and this Ethnic Pay Gap report. An Inclusive Management Toolkit was developed to continue to help identify opportunities to make the employee journey more inclusive. In 2023, we were also one of the first Councils to take part in a benchmarking exercise to review our work against the [London Councils Anti-Racist Self Assessment Standard](#). This learning has informed this framework.
- Hackney's anti-racist approach has been proactively embedded into new policies e.g. bullying and micro-aggression and into new training.
- We have piloted Peer Support sessions for black staff. This is to see how this support better supports the wellbeing of staff impacted by everyday racism. We need to develop ways these sessions can inform the wider work of OD and HR; and the wider council.
- We have developed our Employment Assistance to bring in more diverse practitioners with an understanding of anti-racism
- We developed a training tool on exploring racism for senior leaders within the council. These facilitated sessions developed an understanding of racism, and where it shows up and how it dictates their decision making.
- Since 2022, we have included a range of specific questions about equality, diversity and inclusion and racism in the residents survey which provides a

more specific baseline on perceptions of the Council with regards to racism. These will also be used with staff.

- Adult Social care has completed the Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES); used to gather and collect data of the workforce and racial inequality; in order to better understand and create a plan with staff to make changes. Adult social care is also using this to ensure that employees from Black and Global Majority backgrounds have equal access to career opportunities and receive fair treatment at work. Adult social care are committed to continue to report to the WRES every year and be accountable to the results and commitment to making changes.
- We have developed an anti-racism continuum (auditing different directorates to see where racism shows up)
- The Policy and Strategic Delivery Service has started to embed anti-racism across how we develop strategy, support decision making and develop community partners and invest through grants.

Good Practice: Case Studies

There are some examples of anti-racist practice seen in the council, and with community and strategic partners. These are important to start to develop our understanding and work towards being anti-racist.

As mentioned previously, we need to work together and collaborate in order to eradicate racial inequality and dismantle our systems that oppress certain residents.

Children Social Care- They have appointed dedicated staff members to work on the anti-racism plan and practice standards; as well as working groups to work across the directorate to develop their anti-racist objectives. They have delivered compulsory anti-racism training to all staff; and developed practice standards. They also have developed Speak up, Speak out; which was developed after staff asked for an additional pathway to report witnessing and experiencing incidents of racism. Volunteers have training to assist colleagues to get the appropriate support.

Neighbourhoods- They have worked with resident advisors to co-produce new ways of working that represent the communities needs and involve them in the process. Developing anti-racism training for staff and using this to develop anti-racist practice standards/handbook.

Public Health- Working with HCVS to pilot the anti-racist commissioning principles through health inequalities/ MATCH project. The objectives are to put the community in the lead to determine how they are commissioned. Developing data and evidence for alternate ways of commissioning community needs. Improving outcomes on a local health inequality that the community prioritises in a way that the community wants. The focus on Young Black men's mental health support was put forward by City and Hackney communities.

Working with Strategic Partners- we are working with statutory and community partners from across the system to start to develop a joint anti-racism commitment and framework towards. We also started to think about how we can work together to share resources to support Hackney residents. This work will continue to develop as we are all committed to this work.

During the Consultation, staff and residents gave suggestions about solutions to embed Anti-Racist Practice. We will be working with staff and residents to see how we can listen and incorporate these ideas into our practice, process and service plans. Some of these suggestions include:

- Ensure that when speaking about racism and the experiences of the diverse communities in Hackney we include the intersectional experiences of across all ethnicities in Hackney.
- We need to be able to hold institutions like police, education, and health to account when we see racism and racial inequality; and call them out to make changes. As well as ourselves within the council.
- We need to think about how we make spaces and places for the existing communities; and the impact of regeneration and gentrification on them. Thinking about developing services delivered by communities and in their languages
- Develop a community department that works to develop trust and relationships with diverse communities.
- Develop community scrutiny panel for diverse residents to be part of holding the council to account; criticise, develop and co-produce new and old policies and practices. We need more creative and better ways to engage, consult, hear their voice, to build stronger relationships with communities.
- The council needs to fund, and work with community centres that encourage unity and cohesion. As well as communities organisations and consortiums of community partners like REP and the 16+ network; which work together to support young people.
- We need to ensure that these plans are accessible to all the communities we serve; in terms of disability and diverse languages, as well as our understanding of the digital divide. For example its readability, accessibility to different languages, and easy reading.
- We need to ensure that the basic council services meet the needs of communities they serve; for example quality of council housing and the repair of damp and black mould.

- Councillors and Senior Leaders need to develop their relationships with residents and the wider community so that they better understand their issues and how they feel about the Council and Hackney. Residents felt that they were not always well represented.
- We need to find ways to protect existing businesses from gentrification in the area.
- There should be something specific about listening and acknowledging views of people from often marginalised communities, as part of working with them. Include acknowledgement of the intersectionality of climate change and inequality, with the poorest and Black and Global Majority likely to be most affected while richer people likely to be responsible for more of the carbon emissions that are causing climate change.
- We need consistency in their definition for racism and anti-racism across the council and statutory partners.
- We need to better understand current issues which cause trauma and distress to your communities and the council needs to stand up for human rights. If you can't do it, those celebrations are lip service
- We need to understand who is missing from data and not accessing our service, to understand how to meet their intersectional and specific needs of the community
- The Communication team needs to improve and develop the ways it connects with diverse communities; what services they need and how to best reach them here they are.
- We need to better map the statutory and voluntary sector services that Hackney has to offer and increase their visibility and accessibility for the communities that need them most.

Barriers and Challenges to Implementing Anti-Racism

It is important to understand the context and geopolitical climate that we are in today as a society and council in order to work to reduce them to work towards being Anti-racist.

Some of the barriers and challenges of implementing Anti-racism include:

- Traditional processes, practices and policies within the council contribute to systemic racism and discrimination which are upheld by the wider society; causing harm to many of the communities we serve.
- Hackney Council, like many other councils, has less central government funding every year; and are forced to make cuts to public funding in times which are already difficult for many families.

- There is a lack of consistent definitions, understanding and priorities in relation to Anti-racism, equality, intersectionality etc.
- Lack of accountability and governance; leadership to support the Anti-racism agenda.
- Limited spaces for Black and Global Majority staff and residents to feel safe to receive therapeutic support
- Siloed working across the council, and funding is also siloed making it easier for directorates not to work together.
- Many staff and residents are experiencing consultation fatigue and trauma due to consistent corporate plans to make changes, and many feel like no actions or being taken and words are just being said.
- Housing crisis/emergency (with low housing stock) and the impact of cost living, gentrification means that many families are experiencing inequalities and being displaced.
- Lack of inclusion and poor co-production for residents and staff across the council to be involved in practice and policy change and development.
- Lack of data and evidence being gathered against staff and residents' protected characteristics
- The public consultation of the equality plan revealed that many people in Hackney have strong beliefs that racism does not exist, and hold racist beliefs and views which are harmful to many of the communities we serve.
- It is also to understand the political climate that exists right now, where many people believe that racism does not exist. Additionally, there is a hostile environment, an anti-migrant/asylum framework, racist central government policies and a lack of support for migrants and refugees.

The wider Equality Plan; and as seen above this Anti-Racism Framework is working to better understand and eradicate these barriers; in order to work to embed Anti-Racist practice.

Appendix

Glossary

Anti-Racism

The London Local Government Anti-Racism Statement, which Hackney helped to develop, has been signed by all local authorities and should be committed to taking an anti-racist approach because the most damaging aspects of inequality and racism are embedded in society. It is not enough to “not be racist” or to focus on tackling conscious hatred, like racial abuse. It is everyone’s responsibility to proactively and continuously:

- Unpack and reset beliefs, assumptions and values;
- Take action when we observe racism come into play in beliefs, assumptions and values and the decisions and actions that follow, however subtle;
- Be humble and educate ourselves in what we don’t know about racial inequalities and racism that exists, rather than putting the onus on others to educate us.

Decolonising

- Decolonisation itself refers to the undoing of colonial rule over subordinate countries but has taken on a wider meaning as the ‘freeing of minds from colonial ideology’ in particular by addressing the ingrained idea that to be colonised was to be inferior. Decolonisation then offers a powerful metaphor for those wanting to critique positions of power and dominant culture.
- This is the process in which we rethink, reframe and reconstruct a society that preserves the Europe-centred and colonial lens. This should not be mistaken for diversity, which still exists within Western bias; Decolonisation goes deeper in challenging the institutional hierarchy and Western ownership of knowledge.

Equality

- refers to providing equal opportunities to everyone and protecting people from being discriminated against.

Equity

- Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome.
- “The route to achieving equity will not be accomplished through treating everyone equally. It will be achieved by treating everyone equitably, or justly according to their circumstances.”

Institutional Racism

- 'The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which

amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racial stereotyping.'

- Macpherson Report 1999

Intersectionality

- "Intersectionality is a metaphor for understanding the ways that multiple forms of inequality or disadvantage sometimes compound themselves and create obstacles that often are not understood among conventional ways of thinking."
- Kimberlé Crenshaw

Oppression

- a situation in which people are governed in an unfair and cruel way and prevented from having opportunities and freedom.
- The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture defines oppression as "a combination of prejudice and institutional power that creates a system that regularly and severely discriminates against some groups and benefits other groups...A person of a non-dominant group can experience oppression in the form of limitations, disadvantages, or disapproval. They may even suffer abuse from individuals, institutions, or cultural practices."

Racism

- Under the Equality Act 2010 (section 9), race is a protected characteristic. Race includes your colour, caste, nationality or/and ethnic or national origins; it also covers ethnic and racial groups (groups of people with the same protected characteristic of race or ethnicity). Therefore, racism, under the Equality Act 2010, is being discriminated against due to your race.

Structural Racial Inequality

- By structural racial inequality, we mean the inequality that is created by the social structures that disadvantage some groups more than others, now and historically. We need to continue to work with partners proactively to redress this balance. This does not mean always treating everyone equally, it means that sometimes people need more support or focus because they are more disadvantaged.

Whiteness

- Green, Sonn and Matsebula (2007) conceptualise Whiteness as the production and reproduction of the dominance, and privileges of people racialised as White. Others have suggested that Whiteness is the cause of enduring racial inequality, injustice and power differentials between various racial groups and the source of specific patterns of social relations within particular spatial contexts (Neely and Samura, 2011). Whiteness holds its power by the ways in which it has become woven into the fabric of 'western'

(and former colonised) societies, so that all aspects of 'our' culture, norms, and values centre and privilege White people. In the absence of disconfirming information, Whiteness is the assumption. It is the standard against which all other cultures, groups, and individuals are measured and usually found to be inferior, deficient or pathological (Dyer, 1997).

- Whiteness is not consciously known to White people who generally are not socialised to see it nor to understand they are racialized beings, let alone how their being is experienced by non-White groups and individuals. This unknowing or blindness, naturally serves to keep the status-quo undisturbed. As a result, conversations on Whiteness are usually fraught. They often lead to collective denial of the very existence of the structure. To anger. To silence. And, sometimes to violence. Despite this, at times of actual or perceived threat, attempts to reassert the dominance of Whiteness can be observed so that its silent (and denied) configurations can become manifest.

Black and Global Majority

- Black and Global Majority is a collective term for non-White people of Indigenous, African, Asian, and Latin American descent who constitute approximately 85% of the global population. It is a term used as an alternative to terms to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups.
- However, it is important to understand that best practice is to describe people the way that they wish to be, in terms of race and ethnicity, rather than using terms or names that are similar to minorities and others. Additionally, people are not homogenous groups that are all the same due to their ethnic background.
- Some communities like the Jewish communities in Hackney, do not believe this term represents them in definition.

LGBTQIA+ Strategic Framework

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Background

Hackney's Single Equalities Scheme 2018-2022¹ identified the need for an LGBT+ Action Plan and a Trans, Nonbinary, Intersex and Gender Non-conforming (collectively known as "Gender Diversity") inclusion strategy.

A Gender Diversity inclusion review² of existing services was completed in early 2020 which made broad recommendations for service improvements, however further work was delayed due to the global pandemic. The review has been incorporated into the underpinning evidence base in development of this strategy, which brings together both the LGBT+ action plan and Gender Diversity Inclusion Strategy into a framework which looks to set aspirations for Hackney to become a borough in which LGBTQIA+ people can thrive, and lay out a plan for how we may reach those aspirations.

Development


The work began with a substantial research piece - a "Data and Insight Synthesis"³ - drawing on all the local information available and incorporating national data and insight, to identify key features that underpin LGBTQIA+ wellbeing and what supports genuine transformation. Through this research work, six key themes were identified which form the basis of the aspirations. These aspirations were then tested on a small scale with people who live, work or study in Hackney to see whether they were worded in a way which made sense and to explore what achieving those aspirations might look like.


The small scale testing involved three methods;


- Two community-based group conversations⁴, one with LGBTQIA+ Volunteers aged 25-50 and one with young people aged 15-21.
- An online portal using Google Sites for LGBTQIA+ individuals to provide detailed feedback anonymously
- A topic on "Hackney Matters"⁵ - this was open to all panel members, whether they were LGBTQIA+ or not


The feedback was largely positive, with the aspirational framework approach well received. There were two negative responses on Hackney Matters which challenged usage of the word "queer" and "intersex" and raised concerns about the safety of women and girls. Some challenging responses of this type may be expected, given the current media climate which has magnified unevidenced fears around trans inclusion. Such responses should not prevent the work moving forward, and should be seen within the context of the need for the work to be both sensitively tackled and rooted in the evidence base.

The community conversations were limited by needing organisations and individuals to give up their time without recompense, with limited resources, however the feedback gained was entirely consistent with Hackney's previous focus groups with Trans and Nonbinary residents and so it is with confidence we can state that the issues that matter to our gender diverse residents have not changed.

¹  single-equality-scheme-2018-2022.pdf

²  Report on Trans Inclusion in Hackney

³  Synthesis of insight and data LGBTQIA+ people in Hackney [internal] (public version also available)

⁴  LGBTQIA+ Strategy Update (Community Conversations)

⁵ https://www.hackneymatters.org.uk/about_us

As specific initiatives, projects and transformation work is carried out across directorates, it may be that further community engagement will be required. It is strongly recommended that residents and organisations which participate in these are recompensed in some way for their time, in order to avoid an issue of power imbalance often cited by these groups whereby Hackney uses the labour of marginalised people without rewarding it.

In November 2023 the LGBTQIA+ framework went out to public consultation alongside the Equality plan and the Anti-Racism Action plan. High level insight from the consultation has been included in this framework. There will be a more detailed action plan produced in autumn 2024

The Aspirational Framework

An “Aspirational Framework” is one that sets aims for Hackney to work towards which promote transformative work rather than nonperformative⁶ statements, single project workstreams or “tick box” activities. It frames our goals as part of a learning journey in line with the principles of systems change.

The framework is designed to be iterative, collaborative and flexible. In place of providing a list of recommendations for directorates to action, the framework outlines the shared goals for the Council to work towards and encourages services to consider what can be actioned to achieve those aims.

Within an aspirational framework, we look at what the desired outcome is, and work backwards to identify what actions we can undertake which will enable change towards the goal. This will likely take the form of both individual projects/initiatives as well as work that promotes long term systems change, and indeed both will need to take place concurrently.

Overview of the themes and aspirations

Theme	Hackney Council Aspires to...
Accessibility & Service Provision	ensure LGBTQIA+ people are able to access services that meet their needs where they are listened to, understood, and taken seriously without judgement
Intersectionality	recognise and celebrate the diversity of our LGBTQIA+ communities, paying attention to those who are often least heard and represented
Demographics & Data	improve our knowledge of our LGBTQIA+ communities through responsible data collection and use this information when planning services
Informed Allyship	be visible allies, open to learning and reflection, working in coalition with residents and organisations to promote LGBTQIA+ rights

⁶ Ahmed, S., 2006. [The nonperformativity of antiracism](#). Meridians, 7(1), pp.104-126.

<u>Participation & Engagement</u>	empower LGBTQIA+ people in Hackney to be able to influence the council on matters and policy that affect their communities
<u>Community Resilience & Belonging</u>	be a place where LGBTQIA+ people feel free and safe to express themselves with opportunities to connect with others

Accessibility & Service Provision

“Hackney aspires to ensure LGBTQIA+ people are able to access services that meet their needs where they are listened to, understood, and taken seriously without judgement”

According to the research⁷, the biggest factor in whether LGBTQIA+ people feel they've had a good service is when they're listened to, taken seriously and that they are not judged. The research suggests that this is more important to people than having their problem solved - so they clearly matter a great deal.

Understanding what makes people feel heard and taken seriously will help us develop training and resources for our front line staff. It's useful to know what it might look like if you were accessing a service and you felt like the person you spoke to really showed they understood what you were telling them.

The consultation responses also highlighted the importance of understanding the lens through which we see the world and recognising and challenging cis and heteronormative thinking. As well as thinking about accessibility and service decision, needs should be considered during service design and decision making


Actions to now develop:

- Ensuring any database that holds resident information is able to accurately reflect their personal data, including options to add gender neutral titles (e.g. Mx) and pronouns, and that this information is secure and used appropriately.
- Ensure LGBTQIA+ specific services are included in wider directories of services, so residents can be referred to specialist services, and that staff and residents are aware that these services can be searched for.
- Develop understanding for all staff who come into contact with the public on LGBTQIA+ identities and issues. This should include guidance on intersectional needs and experiences (see below) of LGBTQIA+ communities, as they are not homogenous.
- Develop an inclusive understanding of non traditional families, especially in reference to housing
- Embed consideration of needs into service design as well as delivery. This means that listening has taken place through every stage. This will be taken forward as part of the wider actions in the Equality Plan.

Intersectionality

“Hackney aspires to recognise and celebrate the diversity and complexity of our LGBTQIA+ communities, paying attention to those who are often least heard and represented”

This theme showed up in the research in a number of ways -

⁷  Synthesis of insight and data LGBTQIA+ people in Hackney [internal] (public version also available)

1. The need to understand how LGBTQIA+ people may have different needs or experience discrimination in very different ways due to other Protected Characteristics - for example their race or religion - or other life experiences such as their immigration status, socio-economic situation or long term health or mental health challenges.
2. This is especially important when thinking about safety and how intersectionality, for example around race or disability will impact that
3. The consultation response highlighted impact on LGBTQIA+ carers such as, accessing services, especially health and wellbeing ones, the reluctance in accessing GP appointments due to patchy staff training, resulting in people being misgendered and exacerbated sense of loneliness and isolation
4. There are multiple LGBTQIA+ communities; Lesbians, Gay men, Bisexuals, Trans people, Queer folk, Intersex or people with variations of sexual characteristics, Asexual and others can and do have distinct needs and a "one size fits all" approach for may not always work or be the most effective course of action.

Actions to now develop:

- An understanding of intersectionality is embedded into all relevant training
- Equality Impact Assessments have a section designed to draw out potentially intersectional impacts
- Intersecting needs are considered during grant making and commissioning processes
- Equality of outcomes are represented across all council strategies and plans, with clear links and signposting to relevant cross-service work

These actions will be taken forward as part of the wider actions under Objective 4 of the Equality Plan.

Demographics & Data

“improve our knowledge of our LGBTQIA+ communities through responsible data collection and use this information when planning services”

Without good data, it's hard to target funding and resources where they're needed most and to ensure our services are reaching those who are in need of them.

While the 2021 Census asked a question about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity for the first time since the census began has provided data about our communities as a starting point to understand who may be in need of services, it remains difficult to collect identity data about those using - or unintentionally being excluded from - our services as it is very personal and private information, which not everyone feels comfortable or safe to share. We need to think about how we can make people feel confident to share their personal data with us, and that it will be secure and safe. The safer people feel to give us this information, the better our data will be.

There was some evidence during the census 2021 that some organisations view SOGI data as purely for equalities monitoring purposes. In order to improve services for LGBTQIA+ people, we need to commit to actively using this data in service planning as we would with other demographic information. There needs to be a consistent approach to

collecting LGBTQIA+ data across the organisation so that we can understand who is accessing services and how they feel about those services; as well as understand who is not accessing our services, and explore why. Our systems and databases need to be able to accurately and respectfully record information about people's gender identity.

The consultation highlighted the need to think about how we collect data in relation to staff as well as residents

Actions to now develop:

- Review the Council's data collection strategy to ensure personal information data collection is trauma informed and consistently applied across the council
- Ensure that Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity is used in service development and commissioning.
- Ensure when collecting data about service user experiences that SOGI data captured in order to include this as a factor when determining user satisfaction
- Work with staff networks to improve staff disclosure on HR systems and during staff surveys

Informed Allyship

“be visible allies, open to learning and reflection, working in coalition with residents and organisations to promote LGBTQIA+ rights”

Many organisations are starting to have rainbow lanyard schemes, support Pride marches or have pronoun badges or pronouns in their emails, which is great for visibility and can help people feel seen; however if these gestures aren't backed up by the organisations actively working to make LGBTQIA+ people's lives better, it can be harmful. If an organisation is displaying pride flags when a service user experiences LGBTQIA+phobia or a lack of understanding about the impact of their identity on their need for the service, it may give the impression that organisation isn't serious about their commitment to LGBTQIA+ Equality, and could potentially backfire and decrease trust in the organisation. Therefore it's important to go beyond visual allyship, and back it up with ensuring our services are culturally humble, well informed and ready to listen and learn when we don't get it right.

Hackney has launched a new Rainbow Lanyard scheme in 2022 - this needs to be underpinned by a coherent learning and knowledge building programme to equip all staff, particularly public facing staff, with the confidence and awareness to be visible allies.

Actions to now develop:

- A communications and dissemination plan for initiatives that support LGBTQIA+ communities (internal and external)
- A varied package of guidance and materials for staff to understand the key needs and issues for LGBTQIA+ service users, building on the Gender Diversity FAQ
- Engage with LGBTQIA+ residents and organisations to understand what they would like to see from community activity.

Participation & Engagement

“empower LGBTQIA+ people in Hackney to be able to influence the council on matters and policy that affect their communities”

“It’s great to have pride and LGBT+ history month but it needs to be every day”

Events, projects and services should not only include LGBTQIA+ communities but should actively involve communities at the development and planning stage. We need to make sure that where funding is available we're putting it into events and initiatives that genuinely make a difference. Identifying different and creative ways to allow people to participate is important, as formal focus groups are not always the best way to talk to communities with experience of discrimination or not being listened to. As a council we need to make sure we're making the effort to reach out to parts of the LGBTQIA+ community who are often less heard (one of the reasons good data collection is so important) and that we're seeking out lived experience expertise within our communities.

Actions to now develop:

- Development of an ongoing way to gather feedback, challenge and ideas from the LGBTQIA+ community with appropriate recompense. This will be taken forward as part of wider plans to develop community engagement in the Equality Plan. Ensuring diverse representation from the LGBTQIA community will be key to reaching a range of communities.
- As part of wider plans to develop a consistent approach to co-production ensure that LGBTQIA+ panel residents are involved in council consultation and engagement, e.g. on policy matters, funding decisions, public safety
- Develop our existing approaches to supporting and funding local grassroots initiatives and safe community spaces

Community Resilience & Belonging

“be a place where LGBTQIA+ people feel free and safe to express themselves with opportunities to connect with others”

A key priority for LGBTQIA+ communities is to have safe access to daytime spaces and events which are not built around nightlife or alcohol. Many of the LGBTQIA+ venues in London have closed over the last few years, and while there are some great late-night bars and clubs in Hackney, we have fewer sober spaces or places to go to during the day. There are challenges with current LGBTQIA+ social spaces, such as loud environments. We also know that LGBTQIA+ people were significantly impacted by feelings of isolation and loneliness during the pandemic. We've been told that our public spaces don't always feel safe, and that people want more opportunities to be able to meet together in Hackney spaces. Research suggests that not all LGBTQIA+ people feel safe reporting to the police, and that there need to be better ways at dealing with hate crimes and harassment and how people are supported, as well as work to prevent it happening in the first place through looking at public space improvements.

Feedback from the consultation calls for a stronger stance on transphobia and to push back on misinformation. This was in the context of the Council supporting and protecting the equality and human rights of residents and workers in the borough to help make Hackney a better, safer place in the future.

“While the framework talks about supporting trans rights this is different from ‘tackling transphobia’ and both are needed”

Actions to now develop:

- Through ‘SpaceBank,’ we are looking at how we can ensure that council owned buildings support local businesses, social enterprises, voluntary, community and third sector tenants. We will look at how this work can be inclusive of the LGBTQIA community usage.
- Explore how to ensure representation of LGBTQIA+ run local businesses and venues in wider business engagement activity
- Explore how preventative and transformative justice approaches might lead to a reduced reliance on the criminal justice system.

Approaches

There are two approaches to this work based on where the council has the most opportunity to effect change. While the two approaches may in some cases take place concurrently, there is some foundational work the council needs to carry out before the influencing stage can be genuinely effective. There is also the possibility of partnership, with other agencies adopting the framework for their own strategy.

Direct change

Where we implement transformation within the council through, for example

- training,
- onboarding,
- knowledge production and sharing,
- policy review,
- incorporation of equalities actions unilaterally across different strategies and work plans

Some change can, and should, be made as soon as possible, some is already underway. Other work is the slow, complex work of systems change. Both short term and long term work is necessary, as any short term initiatives needs to be backed up by work that seeks to shift the entrenched, structural LGBTQIA+phobia within the system. This approach both mirrors and supports the Anti-racist strategy, with which there is much in common; not least that LGBTQIA+ people of colour experience compounded marginalisation by being at the intersection of gender, sexuality and race. As the Council develops its competency in dealing with the impacts of structural discrimination, linking up such strategies will become easier.

Work that needs to be delivered in the short term takes three main forms - “quick wins” which meet community demand while being relatively simple to initiate; “priorities” which are those most pressing to LGBTQIA+ people in Hackney; and “foundational”; work which needs to take place in order for the long term work to be successful.

Influence

As the council builds our internal competencies we can use our experience to influence partners to implement change within their own organisations through for example

- partnership working
- supplier policy
- commissioning policy
- shared training & peer learning opportunities

The influencing approach will need to be **relational**, consisting of utilising existing positive networks and relationships alongside a proactive strategy of reaching out to organisations and communities representing gaps, cold spots, seldom heard voices, small populations and those with multiple intersecting ways of being marginalised.

Identifying who owns this work, how it is coordinated and systematised will need to be explored during the direct work.

Partnership

Due to the iterative, collaborative and flexible nature of the framework, it is adaptable for other partners and organisations to adopt for their own transformation work. Our partners can adopt this framework in partnership with Hackney Council which will support alignment of goals and promote collaborative and co-productive approaches.

Discussions are underway with both CAMHS and local NHS partners to adopt the framework as a shared approach.

Accountability & Measurement

Hackney LGBTQIA+ Community Engagement and Representation

We need to develop an ongoing way to gather feedback, challenge and ideas from the LGBTQIA+ community. This will be taken forward as part of wider plans to develop community engagement in the Equality Plan. Ensuring diverse representation from the LGBTQIA community will be key to reaching a range of communities. Appropriate recognition and recompense would be needed. This work will help:

- Hold the Council to account in working towards the six aspirations
- Act as a critical friend for new guidelines, policies and initiatives
- Measure the journey travelled towards the aims

The LGBTQIA+ community panel would be actively engaged, and this engagement would be reflected in all development work, not just within Equality Impact Assessments.

Responsibility for the Community Panel would require a strong lead with cross-cutting reach.

Success Measures

Improvement in Workforce activities will be linked to Stonewall benchmarking e.g. Hackney achieving Silver or higher in the Stonewall Workforce Equality Index


Individual workflows within this framework would have measurement determined at initiation and tested with residents.

For example - a workstream initiated to produce a joined up and consistent approach to collecting equalities data across the council would be measured through:

- seeing lower rates of “prefer not to say” - this would indicate that residents feel safer in providing us with their details and understand why we are collecting this information.
- Data being available via ICT’s data lake on LGBTQIA+ residents in Hackney
- Services actively include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as core demographic information along with Ethnicity, Religion, Disability etc.

Overarching measures of success of this programme would be:

- Hackney develops robust data on our LGBTQIA+ population, and this data is actively used to understand the experiences of LGBTQIA+ people in Hackney and their satisfaction with services. Collecting and utilising this data will allow us to measure, for example.
 - Experiences of LGBTQIA+ people with Housing services and the number of LGBTQIA+ people in Hackney who experience insecure housing
 - Complaints raised by LGBTQIA+ residents, and where they felt their identity impacted on the service they were provided.

Open as PDF:  LGBTQIA+ Strategic Framework_2023-06-27_16-12-20.pdf

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Equality Plan

Report Date: January 2024

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Introduction

This report presents the findings of the consultation on the Equality Plan.

The online survey was hosted on the Hackney Council consultation hub and was open from 20th November 2023 to 21 January 2024. It was also promoted in the Council's magazine; Love Hackney. In total, 90 completed responses were received.

Alongside this, face to face engagement was conducted around Hackney to allow people with barriers to accessing the online survey to participate.

This engagement involved a further 690 people: 355 staff, 239 partners and 96 residents, of which 50 took part in focus groups. The analysis of this engagement is detailed in the Engagement section of this report.

Background

In November 2022 Hackney adopted a new Strategic Plan at Cabinet and Council, Working Together for a Better Hackney. The New Strategic Plan sets out the ambitions for the Council for the next four years, as well as the challenges we face.

An Equality Plan is now being drafted which will help us consider these ambitions through an equality prism to understand:

- Key inequalities in outcomes and what is driving this
- The strengths and diversity in communities that we need collectively to value
- The lived experience of residents - trends, insights and feelings about the borough and the Council

This work will help us identify:

- Proactive actions needed to tackle inequality of outcomes, build prosperity and celebrate diversity
- What needs to be embedded into service design, delivery and practice models - the "DNA of the organisation."
- How we need to change as institutions - our culture, workforce, leadership

The New Equality Plan will replace the existing Single Equality Scheme 2018-2022 and so we are at a key point of change in policy which requires consultation and engagement, as we did in 2018. It is, furthermore, a statutory duty to publish equality objectives, and consult on them. The new Plan includes key plans and frameworks and raises new issues that have, to date, generated a lot of community interest and further engagement has been promised at different points.

Promoting the survey

Channels (online/ social media)

- Consultation webpage launch promoted on X (Twitter) and Facebook - Hackney channels,
- Consultation promoted in Hackney e-newsletter and Love Hackney magazine, and staff internal newsletter
- Online promotion on Hackney Council's social media for a final call to complete the consultation
- Final call to complete the consultation in Hackney Council's newsletter
- E-newsletters (external and internal staff newsletter)

Email

- Community Champions and other community partners
- CVS organisations such as Healthwatch Hackney and Hackney CVS
- Key contacts with wider networks

Consultation & Engagement Approach

A consultation and engagement plan was developed in partnership with the engagement team. In addition, a communications plan was developed to ensure the consultation was promoted effectively. Engagement on the draft Equality Plan was split into two parts, consultation and face- to- face engagement.

Consultation:

- Sense check if we have got the objectives right and if we are explaining them in an accessible and relevant way.
- Test if priorities are the right ones and understand what is missing?
- Share the groups we are planning to focus on and identify if any groups are missing.

Face - to - face engagement:

- Share the context for this work, the challenges and constraints and role of the Council, partners and residents
- Gather new insight about what is driving inequality, that helps us develop a shared understanding of inequality
- Take a strength based approach to understand what is working and is valued in tackling inequality and identify new ideas and solutions
- Develop specific thematic areas of work with those who face inequality or discrimination
- Help us develop richer deeper links into communities with insights, actions and ideas to share

- Help us develop more ongoing ways to involve partners and residents in working with us to help us tackle inequality and provide critical challenge and accountability - learning from existing approaches

The consultation was created and published on Citizen Space, the Council's survey platform, and was live from 20 November 2023 until 21 January 2024.

Communications were sent out via the following channels:

- Social media - Twitter, Facebook
- Love Hackney
- Newsletter - Corporate newsletter and community champions

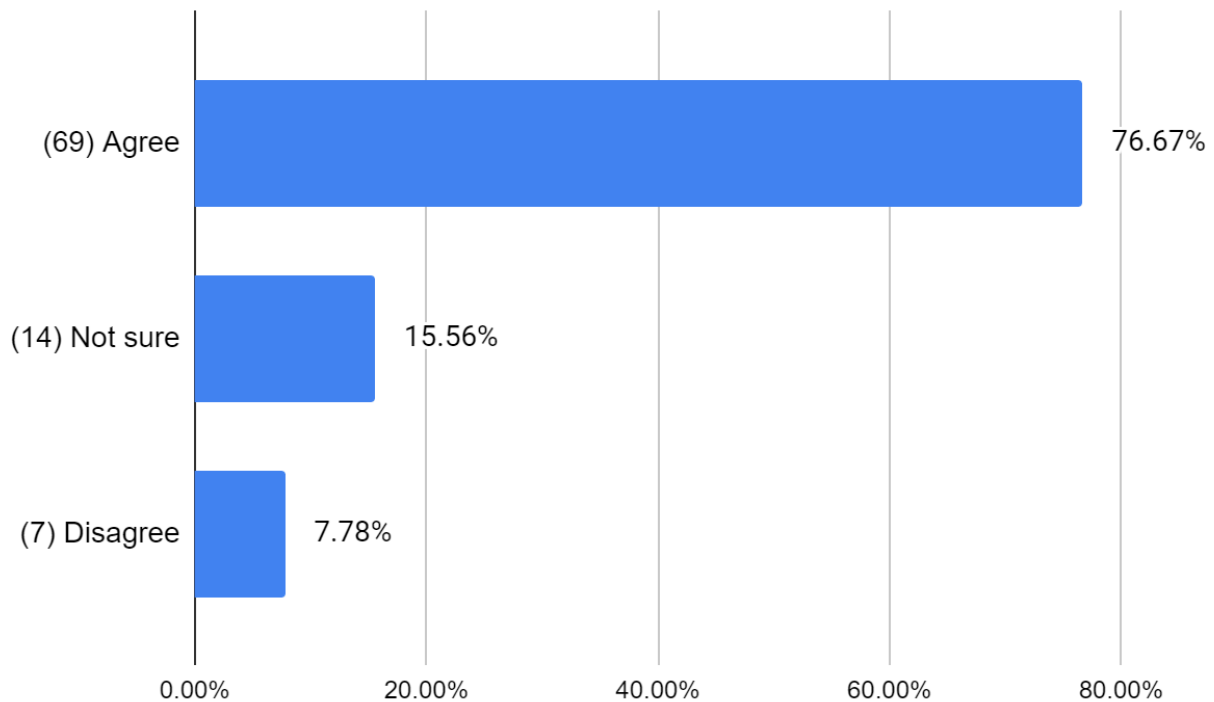
Response rate

A total of 90 respondents took part in the online consultation. Engagement activity involved a further 701 people: 355 staff, 239 partners and 107 residents (of which 53 completed monitoring information)

Overview of results- Online consultation (90 people)

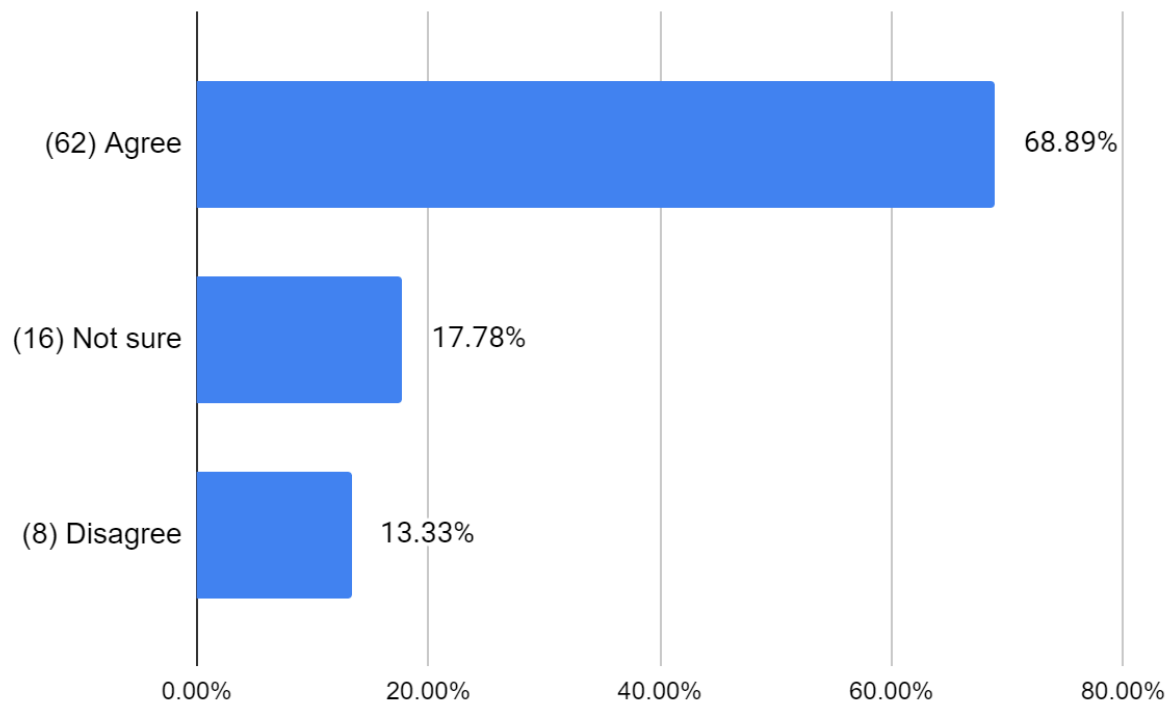
Equality Plan- Objective 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

“I think this objective will help us tackle inequality” (90 responses)



The majority of respondents, just under 77% stated that they agree with the statement “I think this objective will help us tackle inequality” (69 respondents). This is followed by just under 16% of respondents who stated that they were not sure (16 respondents). Just under 8% of respondents disagreed with the statement (12 respondents).

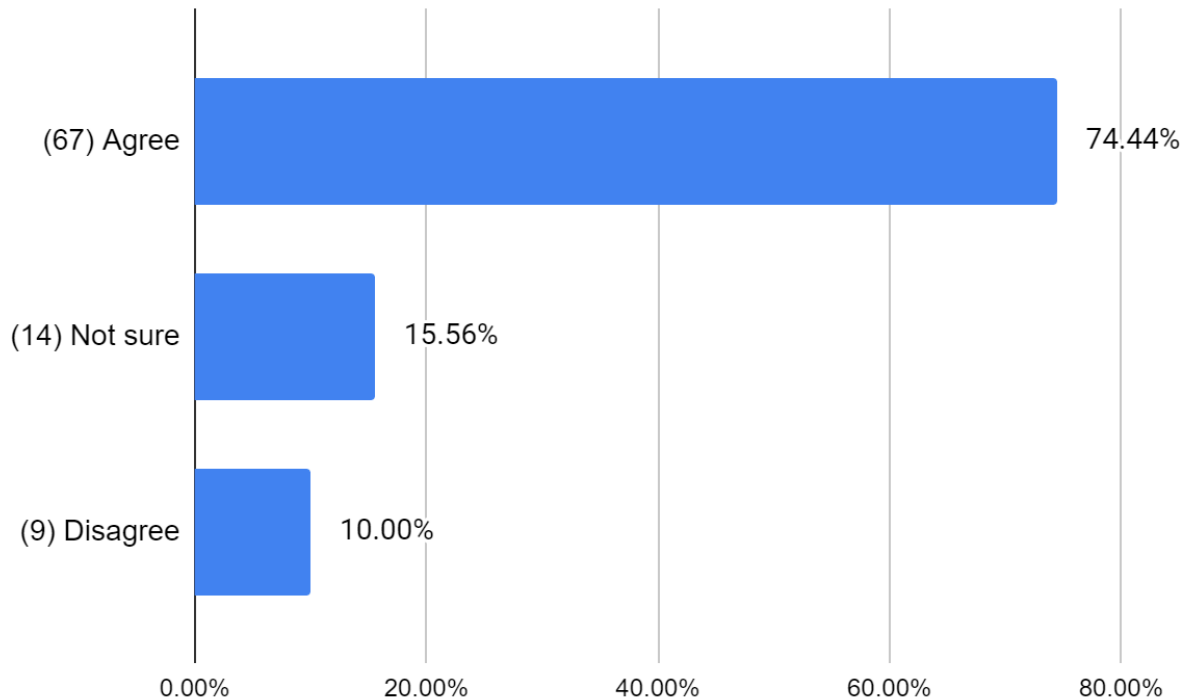
“I think the proposed activities will help achieve these objectives” (90 responses)



The majority of respondents, just under 69%, stated that they agree with the statement “I think the proposed activities will help achieve these objectives” (62 respondents). Just under 18% stated that they were not sure (16) and just over 13% stated that they disagree (12).

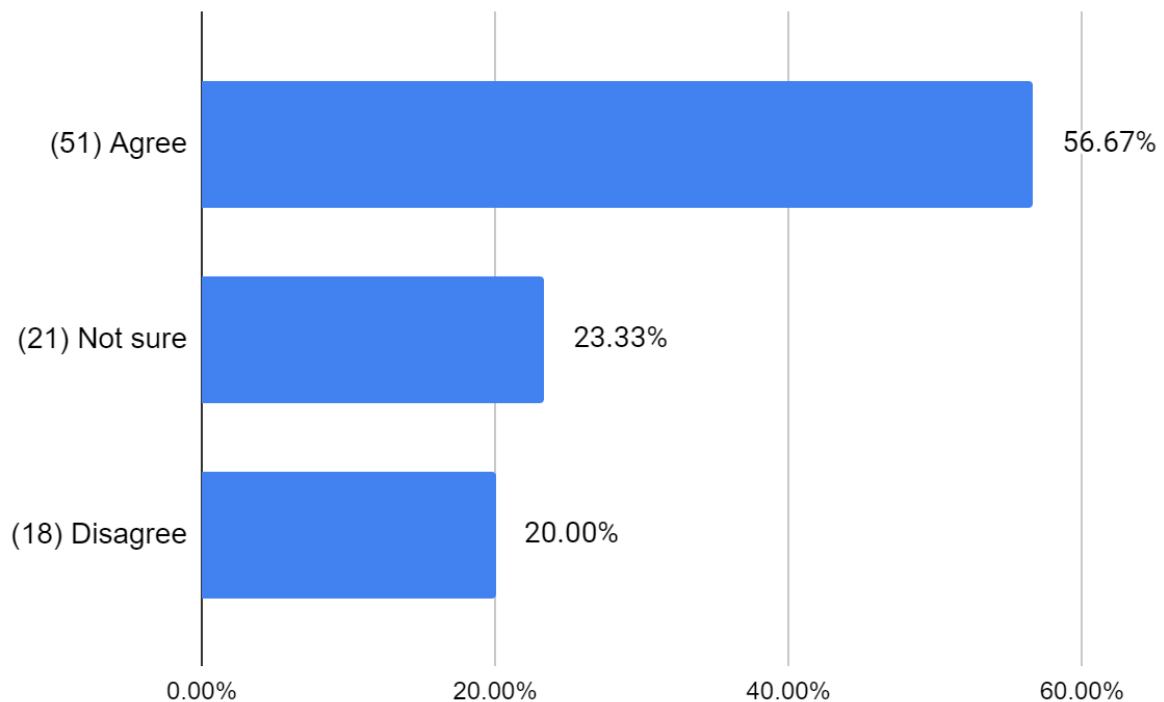
Equality Plan- Objective 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

“I think this objective will help us tackle inequality” (90 responses)



The majority of respondents, just over 74%, stated that they agree with the statement “I think this objective will help us tackle inequality” (67 respondents). This is followed by just under 16% of respondents who stated that they were not sure (14). 10% of respondents stated that they disagreed with the statement (9).

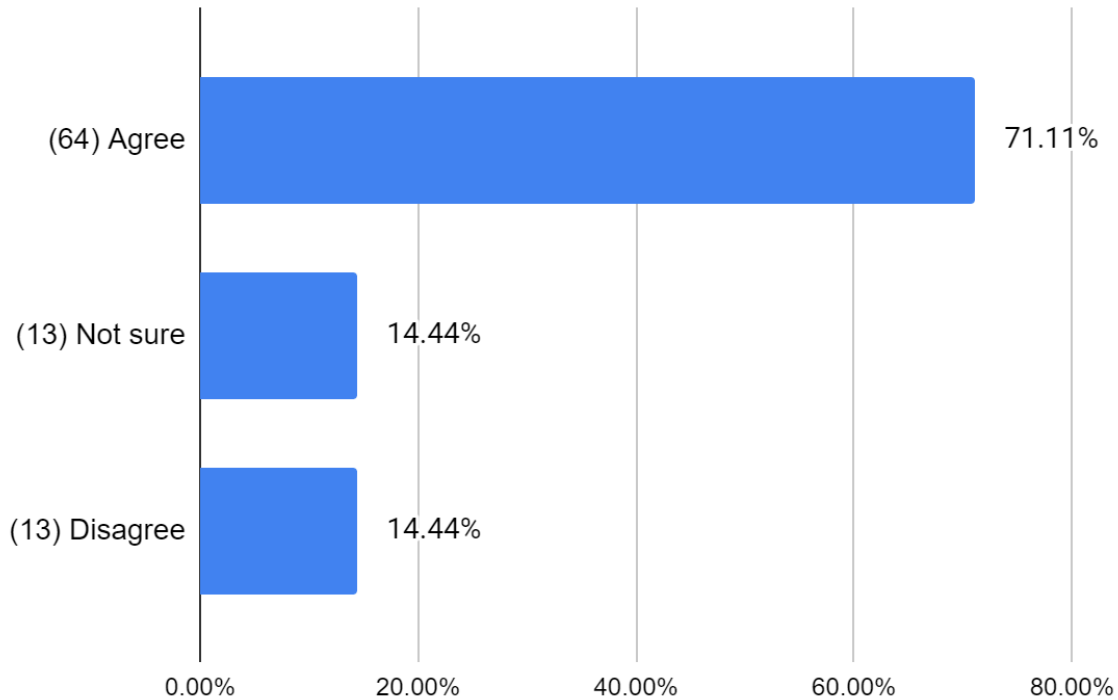
“I think the proposed activities will help achieve these objectives” (90 respondents)



Just over half of respondents, just under 57%, stated that they agree with the statement “I think the proposed activities will help achieve these objectives” (51 respondents.) Just over 23% of respondents stated that they were not sure (21). 20% of respondents stated that they disagree (18).

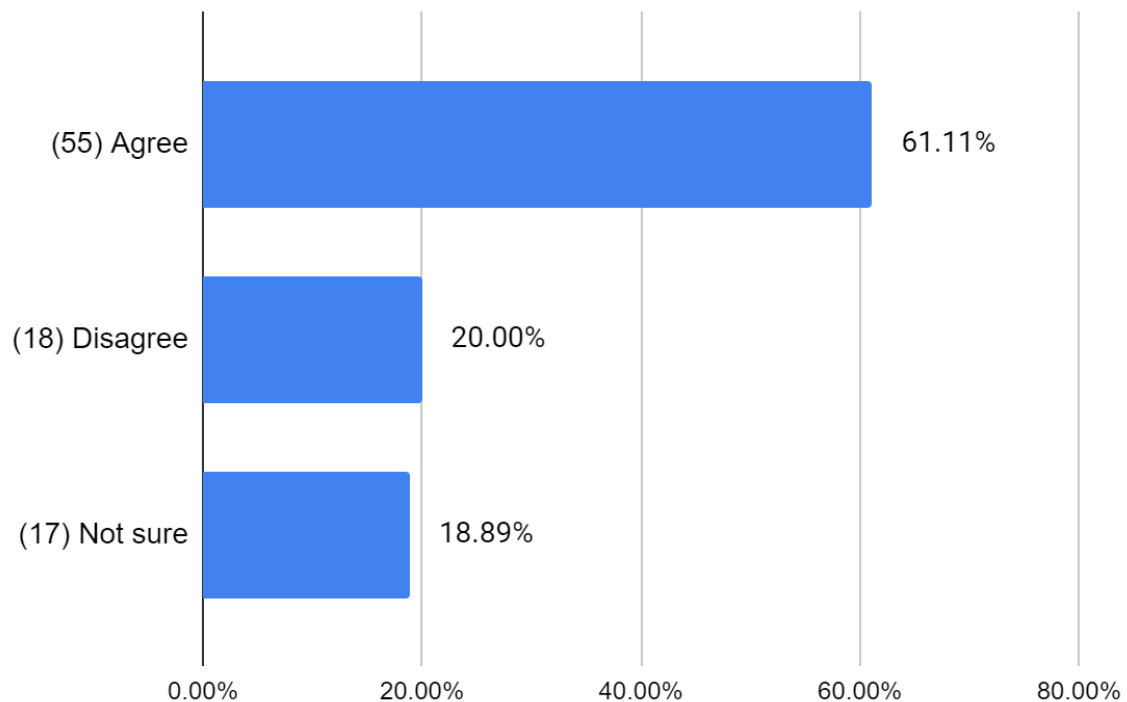
Equality Plan- Objective 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

“I think this objective will help us tackle inequality” (90 responses)



The majority of respondents, just over 71%, stated that they agree with the statement “I think this objective will help us tackle inequality” (64 respondents). An equal percentage of respondents, just over 14%, stated that they were not sure and that they disagree with the statement (13 respondents for each response).

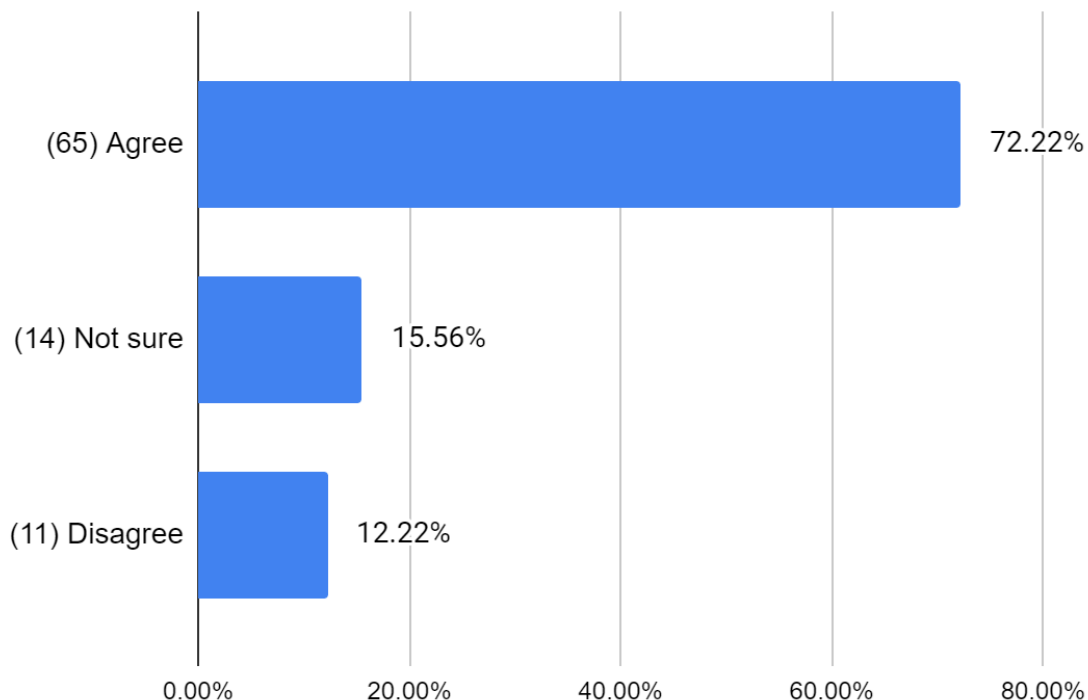
“I think the proposed activities will help achieve these objectives” (90 respondents)



The majority of respondents, just over 61%, stated that they agree with the statement “I think the proposed activities will help achieve these objectives” (55 respondents.) 20% of respondents stated that they were not sure whether they agree or disagree with the statement (18) and just under 19% of respondents stated that they disagree with the statement (17).

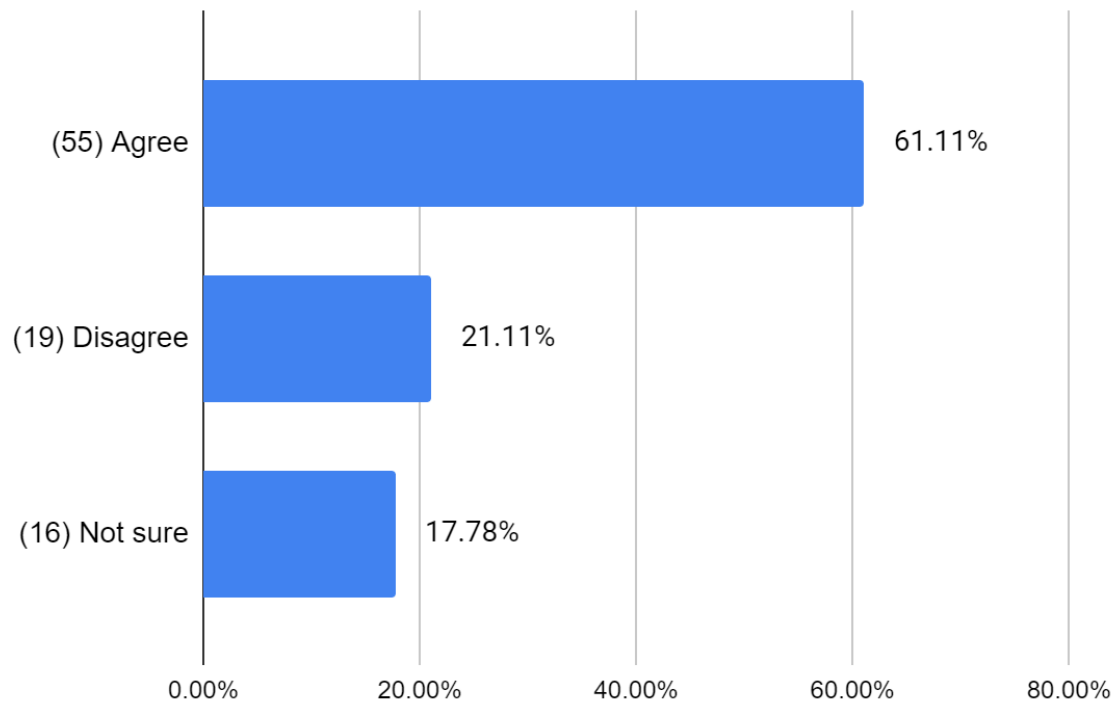
Equality Plan- Objective 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

“I think this objective will help us tackle inequality” (90 responses)



The majority of respondents, just over 72%, stated that they agree with the statement “I think this objective will help us tackle inequality” (65 respondents). Just under 16% stated that they were not sure if they agree or disagree with the statement (14). Just over 12% stated that they disagree with the statement (11).

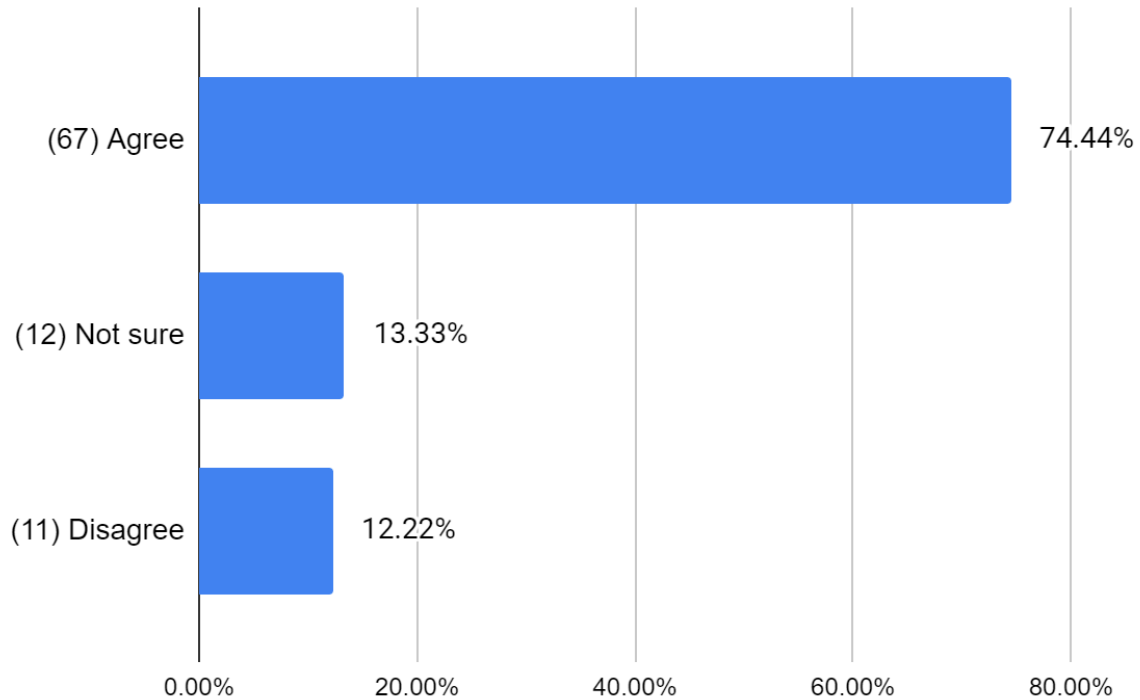
“I think the proposed activities will help achieve these objectives” (90 respondents)



The majority of respondents, just over 61%, stated that they agree with the statement “I think the proposed activities will help achieve these objectives” (55 respondents.) Just over 21% of respondents stated that they disagree with the statement (19). Just under 18% of respondents stated that they were not sure (16.)

Anti- Racism Plan

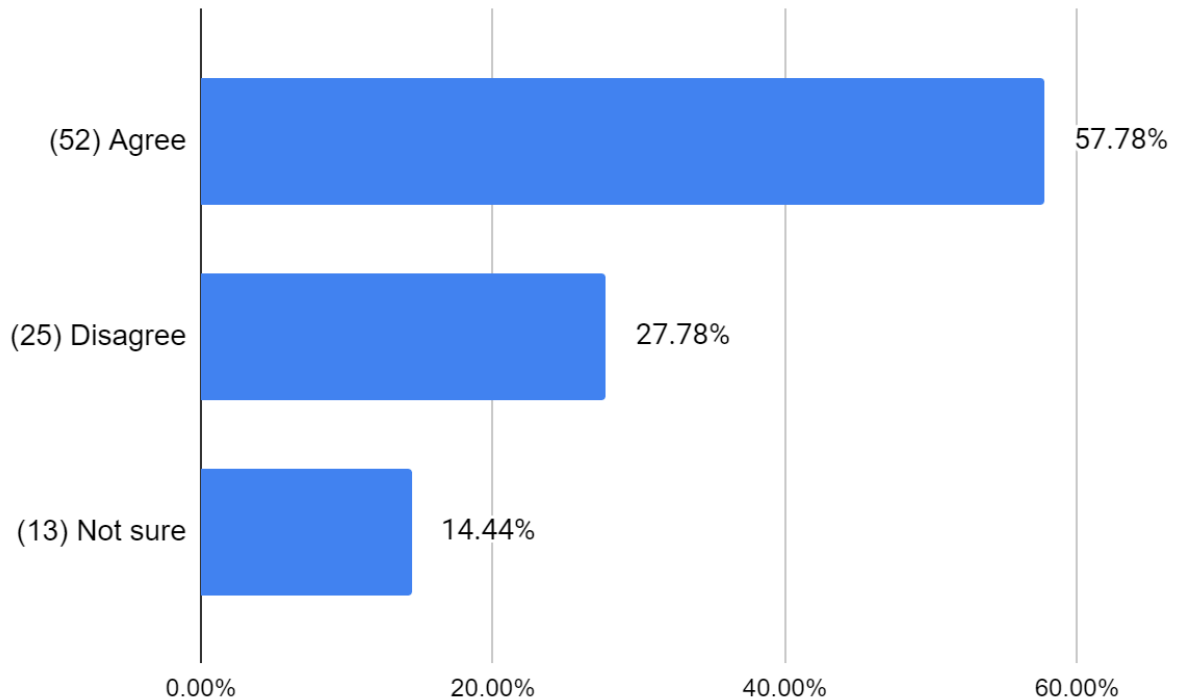
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the objectives above will help Hackney become an anti-racist borough? (90 responses)



The majority of respondents, just over 74%, stated that they agree that the Anti-Racism Plan objectives will help Hackney become an anti-racist borough (67 respondents.) This is followed by just over 13% of respondents who stated that they were unsure (12). Just over 12% of respondents stated that they disagree that Anti-Racism Plan objectives will help Hackney become an anti-racist borough (11).

LGBTQIA+ Strategy

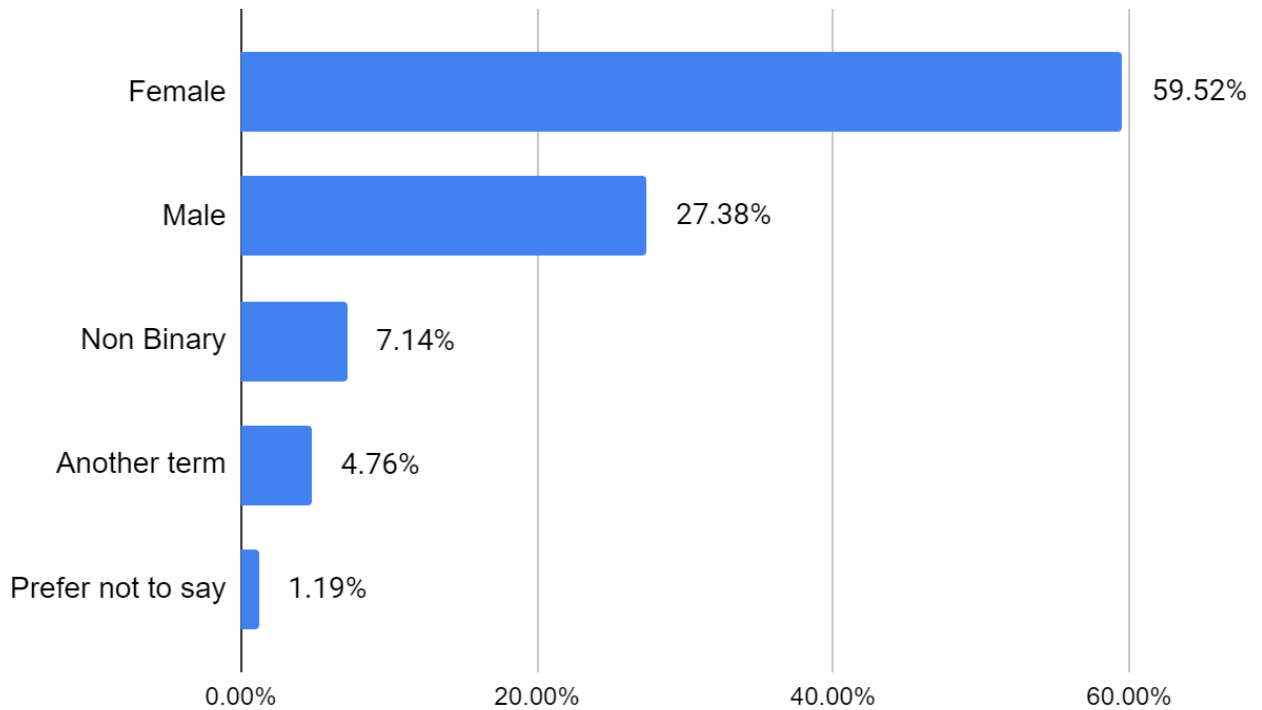
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the aspirations set out above are clear and understandable? (90 responses)



Just over half of respondents, just under 58%, stated that they agree that the aspirations set out above are clear and understandable (52 respondents). Just under 28% of respondents disagreed with the statement (25). Just over 14% of respondents stated that they were not sure (13).

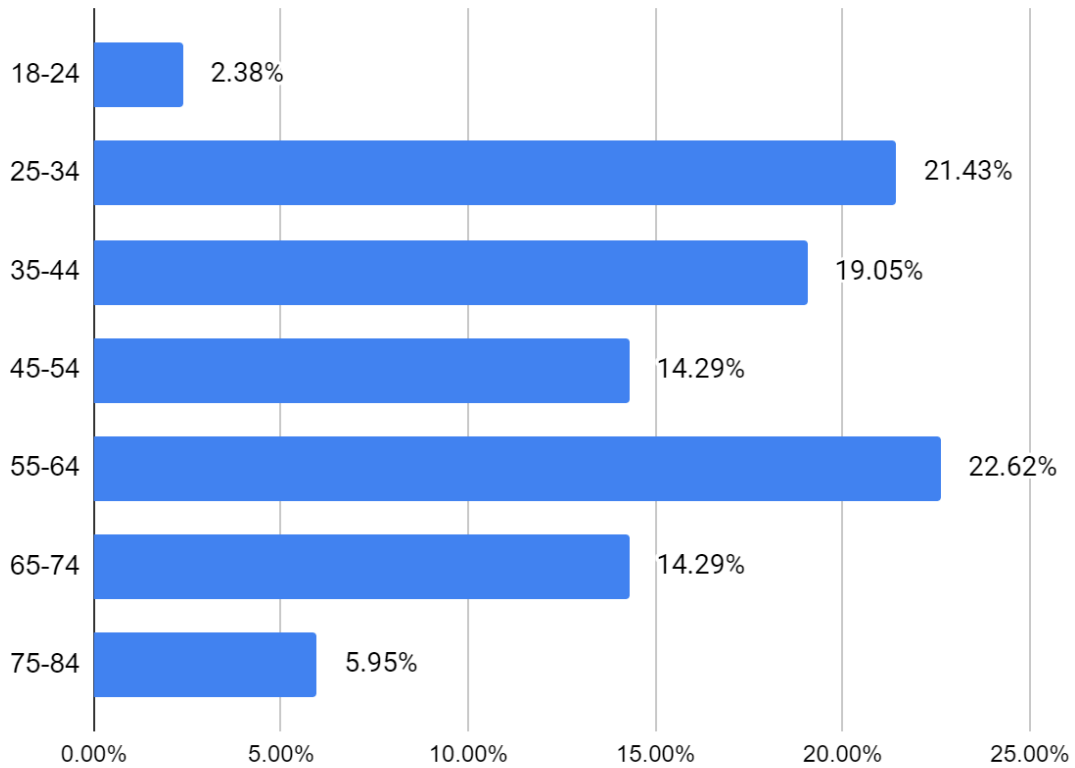
About you

Gender: Are you... (Base 84)



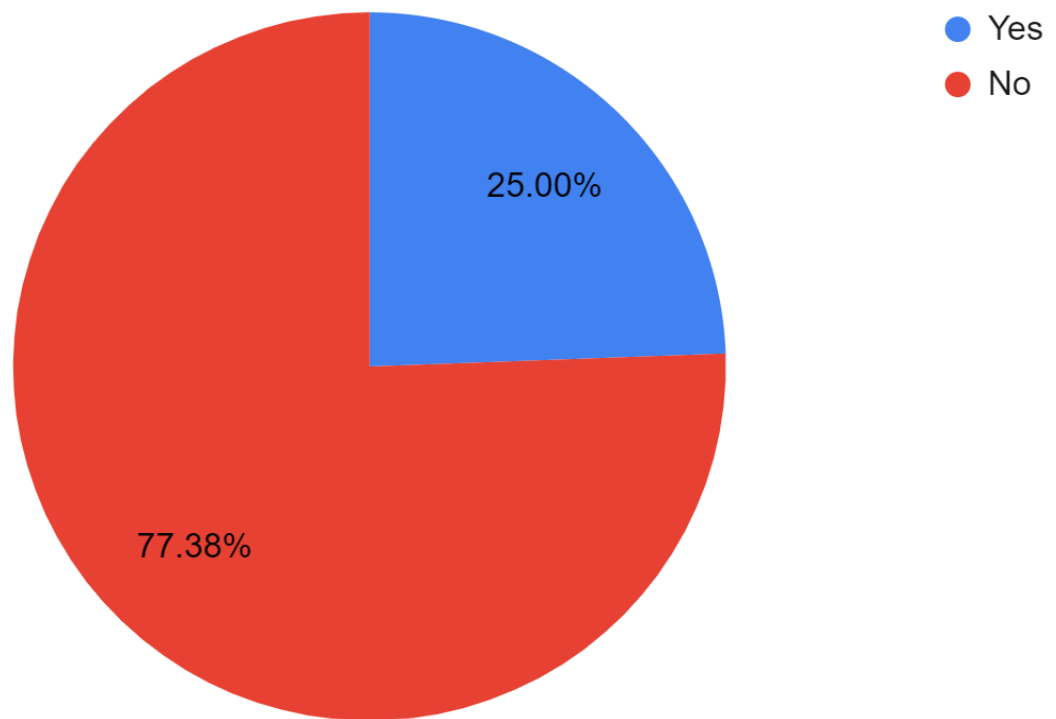
The majority of respondents, just under 60%, stated that they are female (50 respondents.) This is followed by who stated that they are male (23) and non-binary (6). Four respondents use another term, one stated that they prefer not to say.

Age: what is your age group? (Base 84)



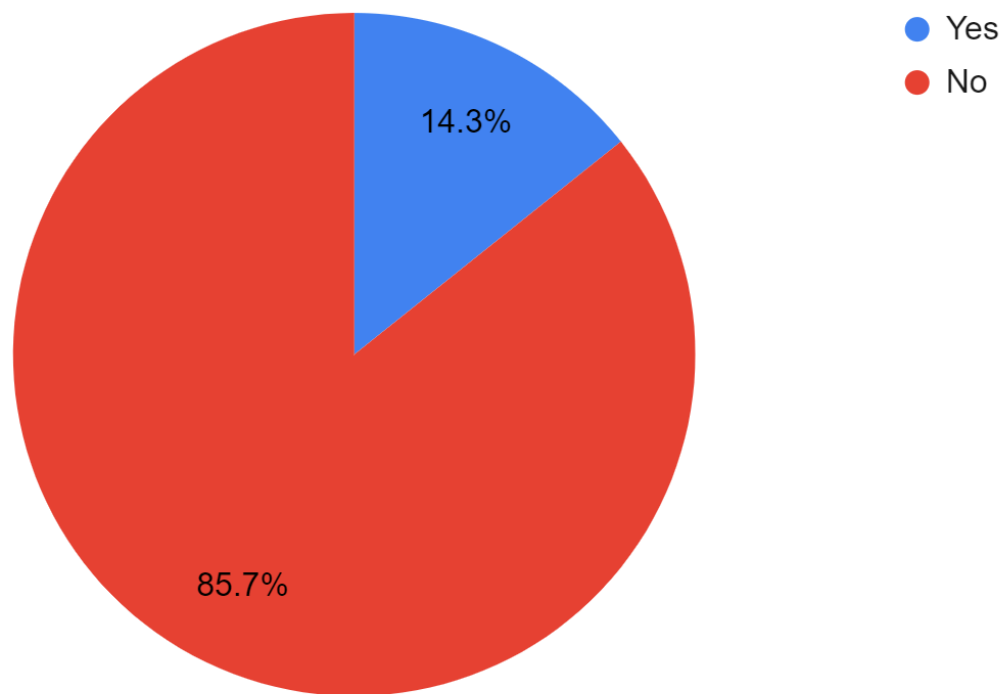
The highest percentage of respondents, just under 23%, stated they are aged 55-64 (19). This is followed by 25-34 (18), 35-44 (16), 45-54 and 65-74 (both 12), 75-84 (5) and 18-24 (2).

Do you consider yourself to be disabled? (Base 86)



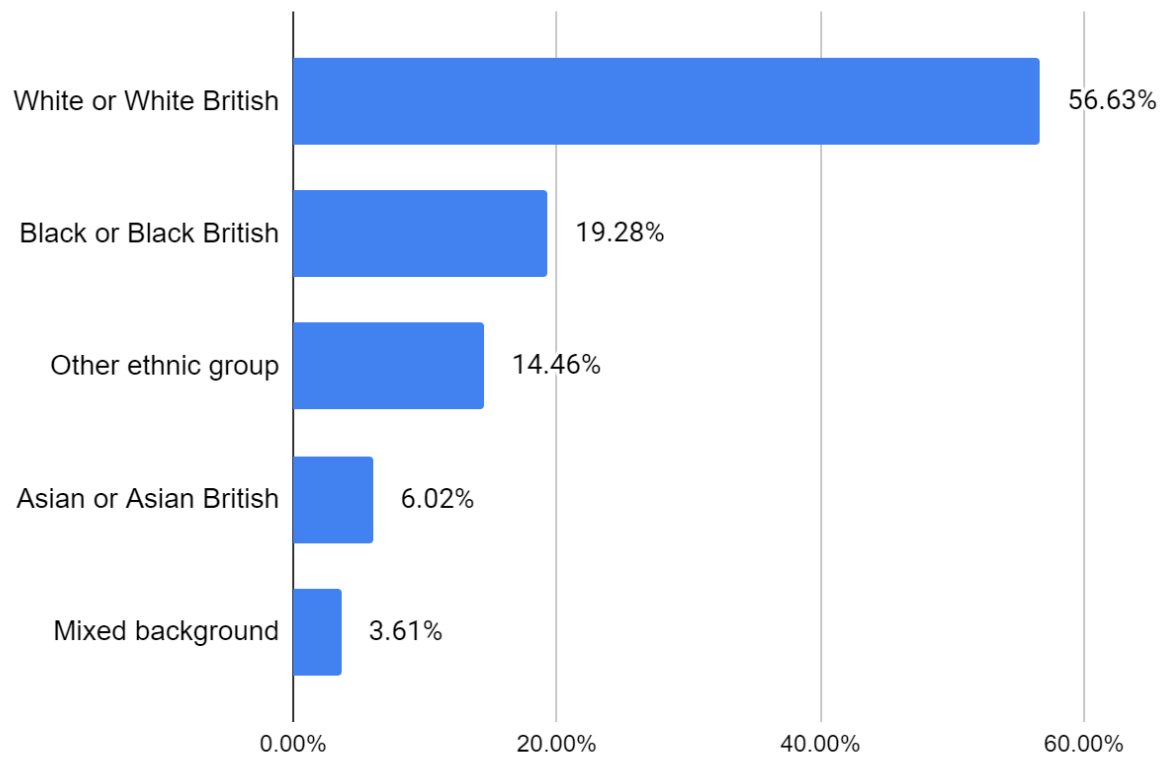
The majority of respondents, just over 77%, stated that they do not have a disability (65). 25% of respondents state that they have a disability (21).

Do you regularly provide unpaid support caring for someone? (Base 84)



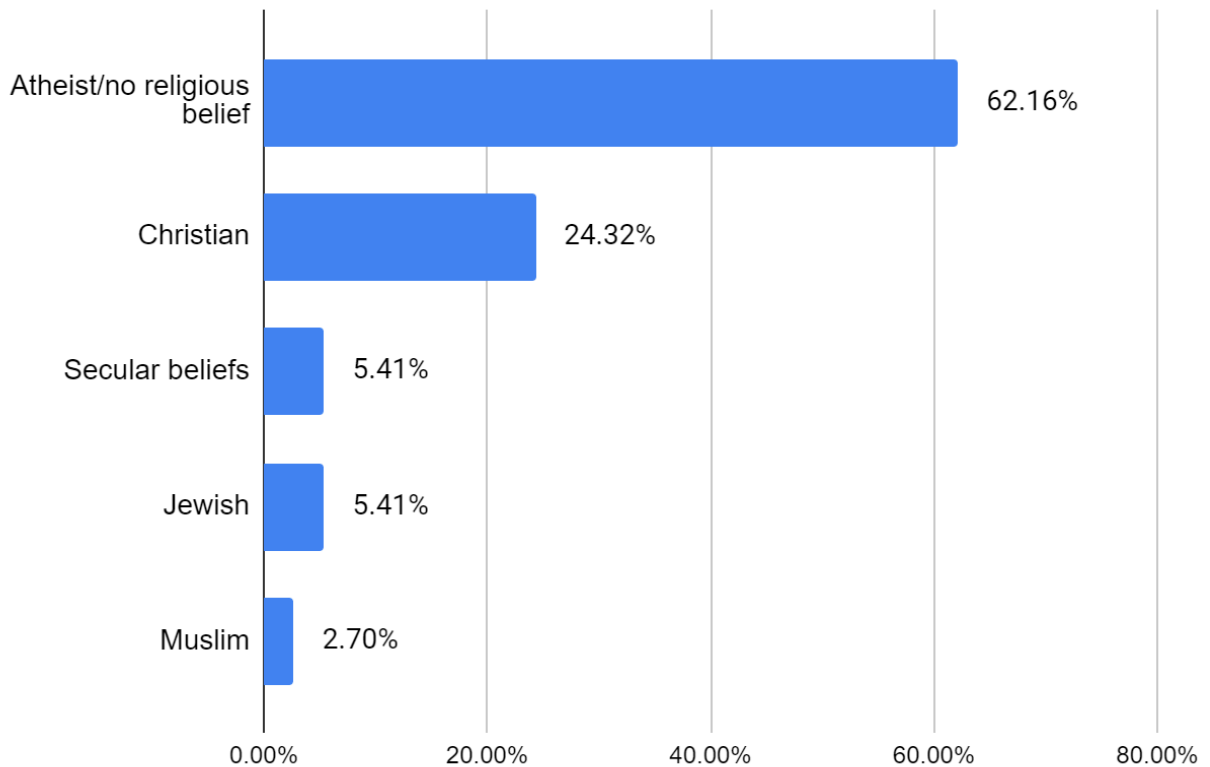
The majority of respondents, just under 86%, stated that they do not regularly provide unpaid caring support (72). 14.3% of respondents stated that they do provide unpaid caring support (12.)

Ethnicity: Are you... (Base 83)



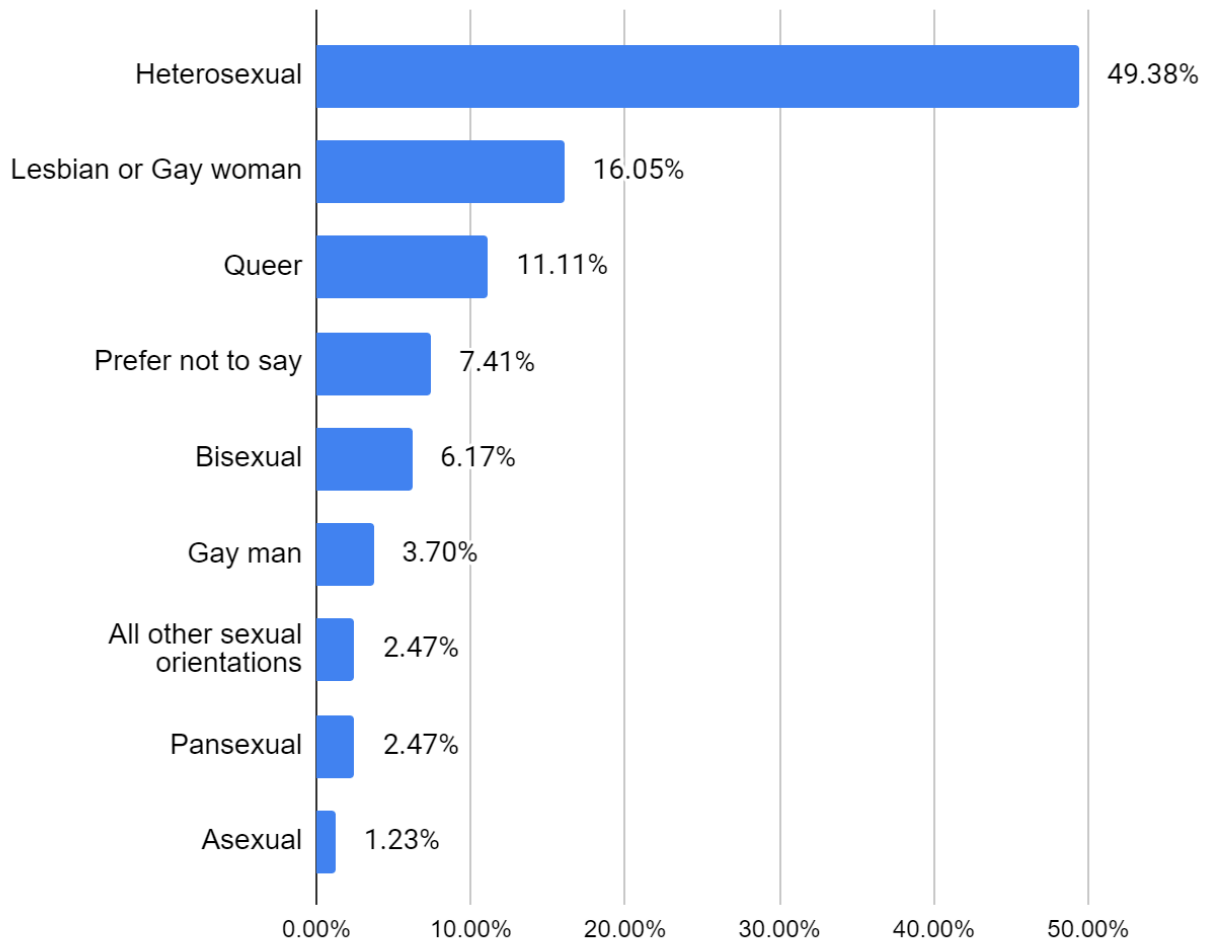
The majority of respondents, just under 54%, stated they are white or white British (47). This is followed by respondents who state they are Black or Black British (16), other ethnic group (12), Asian or Asian British (5), and mixed background (3).

Religion or belief: Are you or do you have... (Base 80)



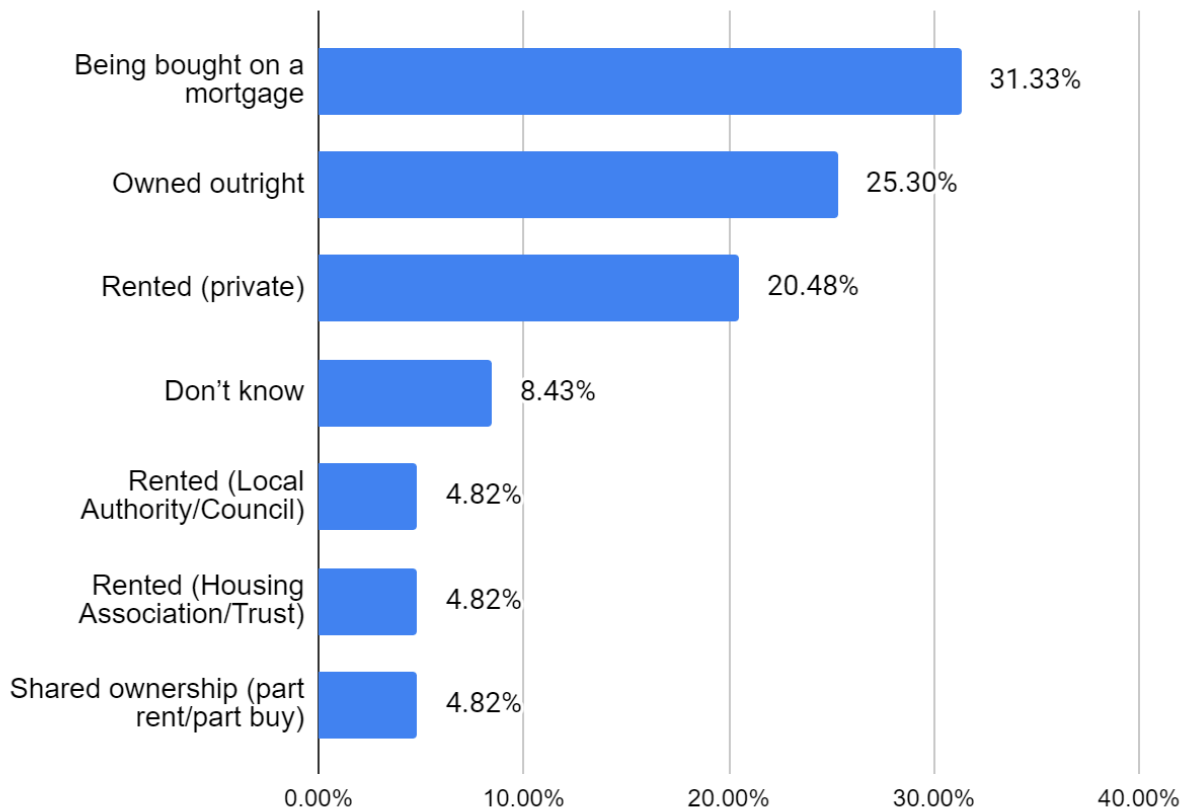
The majority of respondents, just over 62%, stated they are atheist/no religious belief (46). This is followed by respondents who stated they are Christian (18), have secular beliefs (4), Jewish (4), and Muslim (2).

Sexual orientation: Are you... (Base 84)



The highest percentage of respondents, just over 49%, stated that they are heterosexual (40). This is followed by respondents who stated they are lesbian or gay woman (13), queer (9), prefer not to say (6), bisexual (5), gay man (3), all other sexual orientations (2), pansexual (2), and asexual (1).

Housing Tenure: Which of the following best describes the ownership of your home? (Base 83)



The majority of respondents stated that their house is being bought on a mortgage (26). This is followed by respondents who stated that they owned outright (21), rented (private) (17), don't know (7), rented (local authority/Council) (4), rented (housing association/trust) (4), and shared ownership (part rent/part buy) (4).

Other engagement work

Engagement activity involved a further 701 people: 355 staff, 239 partners and 107 residents (of which 53 completed monitoring information)

	Residents events and focus groups	
Age	Hackney Circle Christmas Party (older residents)	30
Disability	Autism Experts by Experience Focus group with adults with learning disabilities Disabled Residents Focus Group <i>HPF Speak Up Group</i> <i>Deaf Plus</i> <i>Healthwatch Hackney Mental Health</i>	30
Gender reassignment	Healthwatch LGBTQIA+ Forum LGBTQIA+ Sig (update only) LGBGTQIA+ Residents Focus Group	14
Pregnancy and maternity		
Race	<i>Connecting All Communities Focus Group</i> Daymer-Turkish and Kurdish community organisation (evidence submission)	19
Religion and Belief	Hackney Faith Forum <i>Interlink Foundation Focus Group</i>	11
Sex		
Sexual orientation	Healthwatch LGBTQIA+ Forum LGBTQIA+ Sig (update only) LGBGTQIA+ Residents Focus Group	4
Other groups	Armed forces breakfast Care Leavers Council Focus group	(not recorded) 3

53 people residents completed a diversity monitoring form. The equality information is below. The form was designed in part to help us improve our equalities data collection by expanding our understanding of the different terms people might use to describe themselves.

	Focus groups
Age	The highest percentage of respondents, just over 35%, stated they are aged 30-39. This is followed by 40-49(31.5%), 50-59 (14.8%), 60-69 (11.1) 70-90 (6.9%) and 20-29 (1.9%).
Disability	The majority of respondents, just over 83%, stated that they do not have a disability . 14.8% of respondents states that they have a disability
Do you consider yourself to be trans or as having a trans history?	The majority of respondents, over 96% said no, 3.8% said prefer not to say
Ethnicity	<p>15.3% White British, 9.5% Black British, 7.5% Somali, 3.8% british Somali</p> <p>Due to the diversity in Hackney as well as free text there are a lot of single count responses listed below</p> <p>Single count responses</p> <p>African</p> <p>African (Eritrean)</p> <p>African (Somali) x2</p> <p>African (Sierra Leone)</p> <p>Bengali British</p> <p>Black African</p> <p>Black Caribbean British</p> <p>British Asian</p> <p>British Jewish</p> <p>Charedi</p> <p>Dual Heritage White European an Caribbean</p> <p>East African (Eritrean)</p> <p>East African (Sudanese)</p> <p>Iraqi</p>

	<p>Jewish</p> <p>Latin American</p> <p>Mixed</p> <p>Orthodox Jewish</p> <p>Turkish</p> <p>White</p> <p>White Irish</p> <p>White other -Jewish</p> <p>Black British</p> <p>N.irish</p> <p>Western European</p>
How would you describe your religion faith or belief	<p>The majority of respondents, nearly 33% stated they were Muslim, followed by Christian, 17%, Jewish (10%), atheist/no religious belief (10), Catholic (5.8%), followed by Pagan, Science, Buddhist, Spiritual, humanity and secular all at (1.9%)</p>
How would you describe your gender	<p>The majority of respondents, just over 72%, stated that they are female. This is followed by 13.2 who said they were male. Followed by 3.8% non-binary and then CIS male, cisgender woman, woman all at 1.9%</p>
How would you describe your sexual or romantic orientation	<p>The majority of respondents, nearly 79% stated they were heterosexual/straight, followed by Bisexual, 9.8%, Gay, 7.8%, Queer, 5.9%, Lesbian and Pansexual both at 2%. 2% of people used a different term that was not listed</p>
What is your relationship status	<p>The majority of respondents, over 44% said they were married, followed by 24.1% who are single, 20.4% who have one partner, 11.1% divorced, 5.6% widowed and 1.9% in a civil partnership</p>
Are you Intesex/have Variations of Sex Characteristics	<p>The majority of respondents, 98.15 said no, with 1 person preferring not to say</p>

Do you consider yourself to be neurodiverse	The majority of respondents, 73.6% said no, 24.5% said yes and 1.9% prefer not to say
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This form asked more detailed questions about how protected characteristics contributed to them experiencing inequality or discrimination as can be seen in the table below.

Age	13%
Disability	15%
Sex	48%
Gender reassignment	0%
Sexual orientation	15%
Marriage or Civil Partnership	0%
Pregnancy or Maternity	6%
Race	59%
Religion or belief	42%
None of the above	7%

The form also asked if any of the following characteristics contribute to them experiencing inequality or discrimination. The responses reflect the need to include the socio economic duty as well as the additional groups included in the plan who are vulnerable because of life experiences

Providing unpaid care for a disabled, chronically ill older neighbour or friend	32%
Being a looked after child, care leaver or other experience of the care system	0%
Immigration status	32%
Being in receipt of benefits	45%

Housing or living situation	50%
Socio-economic background or class	42%
Substance misuse or addiction difficulties	0%
Mental ill health	13%
Chronic health difficulties which don't amount to a disability	18%
Experiencing menopause (including perimenopause)	8%
Having been a member of the armed forces	0%
Other reasons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the Police and when shopping (racial profiling and stereotyping) • Sexism at work (in the past) impacting career progression • Being the parent of neurodivergent children • Having a learning disability • Coming from a non-commonwealth country • Being a single parent • Immigration status of my partner 	13%

Staff -355

RP, TMOs and Communities Service Awayday

SEND Development Day All Send teams - Jo Wilson & Helen Walker

City & Hackney Partnership Autism Summit - Sarah Darcy

Disabled Staff Focus Group

Bump Buddies

Proud Hackney Focus Group In Person

Hackney Nights Focus Group Hybrid

Parking full SMT

Show & Tell - Equality Plan

Show & Tell - Anti Racist Plan

Show & Tell - LGBTQIA+ Strategy

Social workers

Council senior managers

Regeneration and Economic Development Management Meeting

Staff Focus Group - open to all staff

Anti-racism peer support group - Black and Global majority staff

Children's Services Leadership Team

Equality Plan Climate, Sustainability & Environmental Services Team Meeting

ESO Team Meeting

Hackney Education - Outcomes, Business Intelligence and Strategy, Strategy & Governance

Parking full Senior Management Team
All Library Staff Development Day

Partners - 239

Anti Racist Partnerships Day
SEND local partnership board
SENCO Induction - Ed Chiltern
Temporary accommodation action group meeting

Main gaps

Unfortunately we do not hold the numbers for all of the focus groups and do not hold demographic information from the show and tells (see below) and staff meetings. We have been clear in the Anti-racism action plan that it is important to be specific about different communities when working with residents and in decision making and service design. However the ethnicity data collected as part of the online consultation was in broad categories so it is difficult to identify gaps. The monitoring information from the focus groups is much more detailed but it is difficult to draw conclusions from small numbers.

The focus groups targeted groups who the Council does not always hear from, such as disabled people, people with insecure immigration status and LGBTQIA+ staff and residents

However the data suggests that the main gaps are Turkish and Kurdish communities, as well as Asian and South East Asia communities. Young people under 20 and people who are Trans or have a Trans history.

Conclusions

Online consultation

The online consultation was designed to sense check if we have got the objectives right and if we are explaining them in an accessible and relevant way.

Synthesis of online and engagement responses

The resident engagement was designed to gather new insight about what is driving inequality, understand what is working and is valued, develop specific thematic areas of work, develop richer deeper links into communities with insights, actions and ideas to share, develop ideas for how we involve partners and residents in working with us to help us tackle inequality and provide critical challenge and accountability.

We have reviewed and analysed all the qualitative responses and identified key themes and issues.

This is a summary of the key changes that have been made to the Equality Objectives and outline priorities. We will, however, be returning to the rich analysis and insight as we develop the full action plan.

Overall

From the online consultation, we can conclude that the objectives overall are supported for the Equality Plan. Support was strongest for the first objective.

There was also support for the objectives in the Anti-Racism Framework with 74% agreeing that the objectives would help tackle inequality. There were more mixed views on the LGBTQIA Framework with 58% agreeing and 28% disagreeing. Some of the reasons for this are provided in the open text responses and this needs to be explored further as we take forward the work on this framework. This needs to be explored further, but we also need to acknowledge that the [LGBTQIA population](#) in Hackney is around 9% of the population. The general population is less likely to understand the benefits of a LGBTQIA framework.

From the online consultation, there were more negative views on whether the activities would help achieve the objectives. This could be because we did not share the full range of activities and priorities and this will have affected views. From the Consultation and Engagement, **it also was clear that residents wanted to see the detailed actions below this high level plan.** We have added more detail on priority activities to the Equality Plan. We will bring a full action plan back to Cabinet which draws on all the rich data and insight gathered.

We were asked to show how we were building on previous learning and work. The outline plan sets out how the objectives will build on existing work and also provides a summary of progress made through the last Single Equality Scheme (an update was published as part of the Corporate Plan Update in February 2022). We will also look at

sharing progress in an equality hub, similar to the anti-racism hub published in 2022.

We were asked to **reference the difficult financial context that the Council is in**, and have added a section to the Equality Plan on this and the implications for the plan.

Residents have told us that we need to be open and self-critical about past shortcomings and set out measures to avoid repeating these patterns of failure. They want to see the involvement of residents and community partners, including the voluntary and community sector, in holding the Council to account, as well as frontline workers. There are existing examples of working with the community that the Council leads or has helped shape that could be learned from. There need to be anonymous feedback loops for both residents and staff to share their experiences about equality in Hackney. There is a call for brave and courageous leadership that is able to listen and be more creative and open in order to move further forward. The Council will use this feedback to establish final governance arrangements which will involve resident feedback, challenge and contribution.

The equality data from the engagement sessions suggests that the main gaps are Turkish and Kurdish communities, as well as Asian and South East Asia communities. Young people under 20 and people who are Trans or have a Trans history. We will look at how we can improve engagement with these groups through taking forward the work of the Equality Plan.

Objective 1

We received feedback was that this objective was too soft and reactive. We have used bolder and more positive language.

The majority of respondents to the online survey (just under 77%) agreed that the objective will help us tackle inequality. 8% of respondents disagreed.

There were suggestions about more of a focus on early intervention and root causes and emotional wellbeing for children, noting the impact of the pandemic. We have strengthened the objective and added more detail under priorities.

Objective 2

Prosperity as a concept jarred. We have amended the second objective to talk about opportunity and wellbeing.

There were strong views that there needed to be more of a focus on how Hackney and the Council could be more inclusive and accessible. We have strengthen commitments to digital inclusion, shaping and accessible borough and inclusive communication under this objective and objective 4.

The feedback was that the objective needed to be strengthened to cover more fully health inequalities and wellbeing. We have done this, and added more detail under priorities.

The majority of respondents to the online survey (just under 74%) agreed that the objective will help us tackle inequality. 10% of respondents disagreed.

Objective 3

There were strong views that we needed to celebrate and stand up for communities who are seen as a “problem” in society. We were urged to see community tensions and strengthen efforts to build good relations. We have strengthened the focus on this and been specific about the groups we need to stand up for- trans people, refugees and migrants, children with SEND. We have included a priority to undertake a review of cohesion and how communities get on with each other.

The majority of respondents to the online survey (just over 71%) agreed that the objective will help us tackle inequality. 14% of respondents disagreed.

Feedback called for more effort to see intersectionality and diversity in communities and not see communities as homogenous or generalise what residents from a community might want. This included Muslim communities, the Turkish Kurdish community and Charedi community. We have strengthened commitments to improving engagement under both this objective, and in the guidance we provide under objective 4.

Objective 4

There was wide support for the existing focus on institutional change and on the need for the Council to serve residents better. In order to strengthen the emphasis on this, we have split this objective in two:

- Embed equality into service plans and practice across the council and the borough
- Change as an institution to ensure internal and systemic change

There was a strong ask for us to be trauma informed and to find ways to collaborate with communities in an ongoing way. We have added more detail on this being a priority under the new objective which is about embedding equality.

The majority of respondents to the online survey (just over 72%) agreed that the objective will help us tackle inequality. 14% of respondents disagreed.

Groups missing

From the synthesis of the online consultation and consultation and engagement insight, we have identified the need for more of a focus on groups who were in **precarious housing situations and temporary accommodation, more comprehensive work looking at disability equality and carers, including children with special educational needs and neurodiversity. We also needed to look at gender and sex based inequality and discrimination.** We have either strengthened explanations of what we are already doing or added these new priorities in the high level Equality Plan.

The new plan also focuses on those who are vulnerable because of life experiences. This is so we ensure we are considering need through different lens when we undertake service planning and delivery and engage with residents. **During consultation and**

engagement, we heard compelling reasons to include other groups. The groups added are indicated in bold in the table below- teen parents. Those who fall below statutory thresholds, people in insecure private rented accommodation, at risk of homelessness or living in precarious conditions (eg sofa surfing) and people in temporary accommodation, domestic abuse victims and survivors and people with an offending history. Other groups such as young black men and carers were also suggested- but these groups are already covered by protected characteristics. Carers are a protected group, associated with disability.

This is the final list, but is not intended to be an exhaustive list:

- Looked after children, care experienced people and care leavers
- Single parents **and teen parents**
- People with insecure immigration status
- Ex Armed Forces
- People with multiple interconnected challenges (“complex needs”) including **those who fall below statutory thresholds**
- People experiencing perimenopause and menopause
- People in **insecure private rented accommodation, at risk of homelessness or living in precarious conditions (eg sofa surfing) and people in temporary accommodation**
- **Domestic abuse victims and survivors**
- **People with an offending history**

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Title of Report	Nominations to Outside Bodies and Updated Executive Committee Membership	
Key Decision No	Non Key Decision	
For Consideration By	Cabinet	
Meeting Date	26 February 2024	
Cabinet Member	Mayor Caroline Woodley	
Classification	Open	
Ward(s) Affected	N/A	
Key Decision & Reason	No	N/A
Implementation Date if Not Called In	N/A	
Group Director	Dawn Carter-McDonald, Interim Chief Executive	

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Council appoints or nominates people to represent it on various Outside Bodies. The Council's arrangements for the appointment or nomination of its representatives to Outside Bodies differ depending on the type of nomination or appointment being made. The Mayor and/or Cabinet have delegated responsibility for executive nominations or appointments. Full Council is responsible for non-executive appointments.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **Cabinet to;**
 1. **approve the nominations of Councillors to Outside Bodies, on behalf of the Council, as set out in Appendix 1**
 2. **note the change in Cabinet Procurement Insourcing Committee membership, as set out in Appendix 1;**

3. Comments of the Interim Director of Finance

- 3.1 Any costs associated with appointment or nomination of Councillors to Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council are likely to be small and are provided for within existing budgets

4. **Comments of the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

- 4.1 Council has power to appoint or nominate Councillors and other people from the community to represent it on outside bodies to which it appoints or nominates representatives. Executive appointments are delegated to the Cabinet and Elected Mayor. In addition, the Elected Mayor has authority to appoint to Executive Committees.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Appointment to Outside Bodies and CPIC Membership

Background documents

None

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Comments for the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services	Louise Humphreys Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services Tel: 0208 356 4817 louise.humphreys@hackney.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Appointment to Outside Bodies and CPIC Membership

Appointments by Cabinet

Outside Body	Nominee	Term of Office	Ends
East London NHS Foundation Trust	Cllr Sade Etti	3 Years	2027
Abney Park Trust	Cllr Mete Coban	1 Year	2024

Membership of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee (CPIC)

- Mayor Caroline Woodley
- Cllr Robert Chapman (Chair)
- Cllr Christopher Kennedy
- Cllr Carole Williams

NB: Cllr Coban stepped down to be replaced by Cllr Williams

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Agenda Item 23

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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