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**London Borough of Hackney  
Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission  
Municipal Year 2023/24  
Date of Meeting Monday 19 June 2023**

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

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<b>Chair</b>	<b>Councillor Polly Billington</b>
<b>Councillors in Attendance</b>	<b>Cllr Clare Potter (Vice-Chair), Cllr Jon Narcross, Cllr Fliss Premru, Cllr Jessica Webb, Cllr Joe Walker and Cllr Penny Wrouth</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>Cllr Gilbert Smyth</b>
<b>Officers In Attendance</b>	<b>David Tuitt (Team Leader – Licensing (Policy and Operations)), Samantha Mathys (Late Night Levy Manager), Rickardo Hyatt (Group Director Climate, Homes &amp; Economy), Kevin Keady (Head of Parking and Markets) and Daniel O'Sullivan (Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts &amp; Street Trading)</b>
<b>Other People in Attendance</b>	<b>Councillor Susan Fajana-Thomas (Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services)</b>
<b>Members of the Public</b>	
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	<b>Tracey Anderson</b> ☎ 020 8356 3312 ✉ <a href="mailto:tracey.anderson@hackney.gov.uk">tracey.anderson@hackney.gov.uk</a>

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## **Councillor Polly Billington in the Chair**

- 1 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission for the municipal year 2023/24**
  - 1.1 The first order of business was confirmation of the Chair and Vice Chair for the Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission. The position of Chair and Vice Chair was agreed by Full Council at its Annual Meeting on 17 May 2023.
  - 1.2 The Chair asked Members to note the confirmation of Cllr Polly Billington as Chair and Cllr Clare Potter as Vice-Chair.
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
  - 2.1 Apologies for absence from Cllr Smyth.

- 2.2 Virtually in attendance for the meeting was Cllrs Turbet-Deloff and Cllr Young.
- 2.3 The Chair reminded attendee that although the meeting provided the opportunity for hybrid attendance. In relation to recorded attendance Cllr Turbett-Deloff would not be counted as being in attendance for this meeting.
- 2.4 The Chair asked for this to be formally noted because although the public meetings are accessible via technology (through the pandemic) this is not supported by national government.
- 2.5 It was noted that Cllr Turbet-Delof will participate in the meeting as normal.
- 2.6 Officer apologies were noted from Gerry McCarthy, Head of Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulations.

### **3 Urgent Items / Order of Business**

- 3.1 There was no urgent items or changes to the order of business.

### **4 Declarations of Interest**

- 4.1 In respect of item 5 on the agenda Cllr Wrouth and Cllr Walker declared they were members of the Licensing Committee.

### **5 Sustainability and Licensing (19:05 - 19:50)**

- 5.1 The Chair recapped and informed the Commission that in the last municipal the Commission made enquiries about the Council's approach to exploring the levers for sustainability in relation to single use plastic through the licensing for local businesses.

The Commission received an update last municipal year but wanted to explore further the potential for the Council to use its licensing powers, to prepare and drive behaviour change for local businesses to support the climate action plan objectives and reduce the use of single use plastic.

- 5.1.1 The Chair welcomed to the meeting Cllr Susan Fajana – Thomas, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services; Rickardo Hyatt, Group Director Climate, Homes and Economy; David Tuitt, Business Regulation Team Leader (Licensing & Technical Support) and Samantha Mathys, Late Night Levy Manager.
- 5.2 The Team Leader (Licensing & Technical Support) from LBH commenced the presentation and made the main points below.
  - 5.2.1 The officer highlighted the Licensing Act 2003 is an integrated scheme for the authorised licensing of premises to sell / supply alcohol, provide regulated entertainment, or provide late night refreshments. Also licenses to sell hot food late at night between the hours of 11pm and 5am.

- 5.2.2 The Licensing Act seeks to promote 4 licensing objectives:
- Prevention of crime and disorder
  - Public safety
  - Prevention of public nuisance
  - Protection of children from harm.
- 5.2.3 There are four types of authorisations under the Act they are:
- Premises licences
  - Club premises certificates
  - Temporary event notices
  - Personal licences.
- 5.2.4 The officer explained that as an authority (those who have the powers to make representations) they are limited to making representation or comments and this must be “relevant” to one or more of the licensing objectives.
- 5.2.5 For example, in Section 18 of the Licensing Act (determination of premises licences), this outlines the relevant representation should be to the likely effects of the grant of the premises license on the promotion of the licensing objectives. Under Section 35 for the variation of a license. Any representations or conditions attached to the license should be relevant to the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 5.2.6 In relation to the Council’s Licensing Policy this is a document that set out the principles that will be applied when they consider applications. The revised Licensing Policy is currently out to consultation. This policy is prepared in accordance with the guidance published by the Home Office and must seek to promote the four licensing objectives referenced earlier in the presentation.
- 5.2.7 The Licensing Policy will provide an opportunity for the council to set out its aspirations in the draft policy and makes reference to the climate action plan as well as other council strategies.
- 5.2.8 It was pointed out that the final version of the Licensing Policy could include a reference to the council’s ambition to reduce the use of single use plastics.
- 5.2.9 In reference to the number of businesses in the borough - the Licensing Team have been informed by the Regeneration Team that there are 24405 in the borough and of this total 3852 are food businesses. The total number of licensed premises are 1400 (approximately 6% of total businesses).
- 5.2.10 The officer also pointed out that there is forth coming regulation (announce by the government) there will be a ban on a range of single use plastics from October 2023. The ban will include things like plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers.
- 5.2.11 Although the ban date has been announced the council is awaiting further information. It is anticipated that it will be introduced using similar powers like the charges for carrier bags. This took the form of an amendment to the Climate Change Act 2008 by a Charge Order in 2015.

- 5.3 The Late Night Levy Manager continued the presentation and made the main points below.
- 5.3.1 The officer pointed out that she works directly with venues for active engagement and education.
- 5.3.2 The officer pointed out that plastic glasses are widespread in the nighttime economy for the following reasons: safety and cost. The council also ask high-capacity venues to use plastic glasses in public spaces instead of glass.
- 5.3.3 The cost of living crisis, Brexit and covid recovery have also had a significant impact on Hackney businesses. This has put pressure on them to cut costs. Plastic glasses are cheaper than other alternatives. A high number of businesses do not recycle plastic glasses and find it faster to dispose of the plastic glasses instead of using a reusable alternative.
- 5.3.4 The council is using incentives to promote greener practices. The late-night levy currently funds the Hackney Night Projects. This focuses on safety, guidance and training.
- 5.3.5 The new Hackney Night Venue Accreditation scheme was launched post covid as part of a wider recovery plan.
- 5.3.6 Venues with the accreditation benefit from a 30% reduction to their late-night levy fees. This is promoted via the Council's social media channels and publications.
- 5.3.7 An overview of the accreditation scheme was displayed on slide 11. It was also noted that venues that adhere to the accreditation scheme were also asked to pledge to reduce waste and adopt more sustainable policies.
- 5.3.8 Slide 12 outlined examples of the criteria and guidance shared with venues. This is in line with the Council's Climate Action Plan. The officer explained that their sustainability and recycling colleagues put forward suggestions for sustainable foods, sustainable drinks, recycling and composting. These are aimed at making the biggest impact towards the climate action plan. E.g., promoting recycling, setting up recycling of food waste, eliminating single use items (where they can) ; using digital receipts and training staff on proper recycling and composting practices and using suppliers with the same sustainability criteria.

#### 5.4 Questions, Answers and Discussion

- (i) **Members commented that the nighttime economy has grown substantially over the last 15 – 20 years and is a key contributor to Hackney's local economy. Members asked how does the Council's Licensing Policy will protect residents and businesses and if the council had any soft levers to use for mitigation?**

In response the Business Regulation Team Leader (Licensing & Technical Support) replied the policy seeks to protect the licensing objectives. When an application is submitted the council or partner agencies can make representation on the application. For example, in some cases, they use the

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representations to encourage use of non-glass products. But as referenced in the presentation by the Late Night Levy Manager, glass is discouraged because of concerns around safety. So, it can be a challenge for licensing to use those powers.

- (ii) **The Member pointed out that in the draft licensing policy it makes a general reference to the council's aspirations for the Climate Action Plan. Members referred to the comment that the final policy can be more specific. Members asked if there is any learning from other councils who have made specific reference or requirements about single use plastic the particularly glasses?**

In response the Business Regulation Team Leader (Licensing & Technical Support) replied he had seen an extract from the London Borough of Southwark's Licensing Policy. This makes some reference to single use plastics. This is likely to be something the policy refers to on specific licenses in response to specific representations. It is likely to be applied to cases that are relevant if they were to apply a specific condition.

- (iii) **The Chair asked for clarification and enquired if the council was considering aligning what they do in Hackney to the approach Southwark had adopted?**

In response the Business Regulation Team Leader (Licensing & Technical Support) confirmed that Southwark makes reference to their aspirations to reduce single use plastics in their licensing policy. However, the officer could not confirm if this had progressed beyond that reference.

The officer also pointed out that he was informed that they make specific representations on individual applications, but he has not seen any evidence of this.

- (iv) **The Chair asked if this was similar to the recommendations and guidance Hackney currently issues to their businesses and operators in the borough.**

In response Business Regulation Team Leader (Licensing & Technical Support) confirmed that was correct.

- (v) **Members referred to the wider national regulation and the announcement that single use plastics will be banned from October 2023. Members asked for the council's view on how prepared Hackney businesses were for the ban.**

In response the Business Regulation Team Leader (Licensing & Technical Support) replied that it was their colleagues in Trading Standards that would have the powers to enforce the regulations. The officer highlighted that this ban is on the sale of the single use products. So single use plastics will still be in circulation for some time because businesses may have purchased them before the ban came into effect.

The officer was of the view that businesses will be prepared because if a supplier can no longer sell a product they will have to buy an alternative

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product. The officer also pointed out that there has been a gap in the announcement (January 23) to the time the ban comes into effect (October 23). This should give businesses enough time to adapt. The officer pointed out he had seen a reduction in the availability of plastic cutlery.

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services added it was important to recognise that only 6% out of 24,000 businesses in the borough are using disposable tableware within the licensing. The Council is hoping that through Trading Standards' work to raise awareness, businesses will comply with the plastic ban when it comes into effect. This work has already begun and will continue.

The Group Director Climate, Homes and Economy from LBH acknowledged they have witnessed how the ban on plastic bags had been relatively accepted and implemented quickly. However, the area of challenge with the new legislation will be the few exemptions. This presents challenges, risk and some loopholes that some businesses might exploit. It is hoped that there will be some secondary legislation from Government clarifying what aspects of the legislation applies and when it does not. Currently the only information available is published on the government's website.

The Group Director added this is not just seen as an issue for Licensing or Trading Standards. Following his engagement with the Area Regeneration Team (managing the Council's relationship with local businesses) they are thinking about how they can launch an engagement strategy with businesses to ensure they are ready. Particularly the smaller ones.

The lessons learnt from their engagement distributing business grants (related to covid) will help them to prepare businesses for net zero.

The council has specific statistics from the business's engagement with the various programmes and there is an indication that this training did lead to the reduction in carbon output whilst also increasing the level of recycling.

Notwithstanding the council will explore all the tools at their disposal. It is acknowledged that there is a role for licensing and trading standards but there will also be a larger piece of work around education and engagement to identify the opportunities. In addition to promoting those that are leading, the way on this.

- (vi) Members referred to the four principle objectives of the Licensing Act and single use plastic and clarified that this would be reviewed under public safety.**
- (vii) Members asked if the prevention of public nuisance could be included to prevent significant littering as a result of using single use plastic. Members also asked if this would be used in the upcoming strategy too.**
- (viii) Members referred to the accreditation scheme and the points related to green sustainability. Member asked, if a premises was good at managing their venue and noise, if this would give them access to the accreditation scheme even though they had not met all the other green criteria's.**

- (ix) **Members commented there will be a short preparation time from legislation to transition and acknowledged the points made about the difficulties businesses will face. Members asked for examples of where businesses had made the transition and were using different equipment to wash up etc. Members asked how the council could help businesses acknowledging there was already the reduction of 30%.**
- (x) **Members referred to plastic glasses and asked for the life span of a plastic glass? Acknowledging that businesses do not want to wash them and cannot take on the burden of washing them by hand. So what mitigations were being reviewed to stop the increase in land fill waste tonnage taking into consideration the climate action plan policy.**

In response to the question about using public nuisance the Business Regulation Team Leader (Licensing & Technical Support) replied yes, potentially they could use the prevention of public nuisance for single use plastic. However, the caveat of using it in relation to a specific issue was being to evidence it to a particular operation. The officer gave an example of when it could be used e.g. a large scale event. This would be done when the application was being reviewed. But it was pointed out that they would have to evidence that this particular event was resulting in the littering of single use plastic. The officer explained that he would caution against using it as a blanket approach but that they should name the plastic e.g., single use cups / glass, plates etc because this would make it easier to enforce.

In response to the question about the accreditation scheme, the Late Night Levy Manager from LBH informed the Commission in the scheme the sustainability element asked the operator to make a pledge. The criteria points were guidance meaning they pledged to adopt more sustainable and greener practices. This was in development, and they are working closely with the sustainability and recycling teams. A key criteria they were encouraging businesses to do was recycle plastic glasses where necessary and advising them on how to be a greener businesses. The business would work with the sustainability team directly. Although the licensing team could make introductions.

In response to the question about transition by licensed venues and premises the Late Night Levy Manager informed that a lot of licensed premises have made the transition working directly with the sustainability and recycling team in the council. To get information about examples the officer advised she would need to be in contact with the team to find out how they have transitioned.

The Chair asked the Late Night Levy Manager to pull together some examples of transition for the Commission so they could understand what is viable and possible. This would enable them to could ascertain what support the council could provide and what could be rolled out in the future.

<b>ACTION</b>	The Late Night Levy Manager to collate examples of business transitions in relation to question (viii) above. To enable the Commission to ascertain what support would be possible for the
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	council to provide now and in the future.
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In response to the question about the life expectancy of a plastic glass the Late Night Levy Manager acknowledged that if they do not reuse them then they become a single use plastic. However, the officer pointed out that this was a complex picture because they need to consider things like compostable versus plastic etc. The licensing team informed that the best use of plastic is the recyclable plastic to ensure they go back into the reusable cycle.

- (xi) **The Members referred to the officer's report and presentation that it indicated that businesses did not want to wash the reuseable glasses because they were not able to put them in the industrial dish washer machines. The Chair enquired about the development of the technology for these machines to enable businesses to use reusable plastic tableware etc.**

In response the Late Night Levy Manager replied from the information collated from businesses about the technology they have confirmed that the equipment and technology does exist. This is an added cost and currently they are focused on recovery from the economic climate. Although they conscious about this, a lot of businesses are choosing the cheaper alternative.

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services from LBH pointed out there needs to be more around legislation which was introduced in the 2003 when Climate Emergency Act.

The Cabinet Members agreed that using public nuisance to address littering would be difficult to enforce unless the premises had a logo on their disposables. If an unmarked plastic cups are found this could be from premises A or B.

The Cabinet Member suggested it might be prudent to target the washing regime for this product; setting objectives for the manufacturers. The Cabinet Member was of the view for tableware the legislation should target manufacturers to address the products on the market. The question should be how they could be campaigning to bring changes to the objectives so that for licensing there are specific areas for climate emergency included. Instead of trying to include it under another objective like public safety.

The Group Director Climate, Homes and Economy from LBH added the scale of the challenge for businesses to recover post pandemic should not be underestimated. The cost of doing business has been escalating and this was in addition to other inflationary cost pressures.

The added context and challenge for Hackney is that over 90% of their businesses are SMEs or micro businesses. From the council's engagement with businesses in the borough it has been noted that they are willing but the natural ask from them is what financial incentives or support can the council offer. The Group Director pointed out this is currently a perfect storm in terms of financial ask, education to influence and behaviour change. This is in addition to the challenges around safety.



The Council is hoping that the market will bring alternatives materials that businesses can purchase and use but currently the market is not quite ready with a response.

The Group Director reiterated the council will use all the tools at their disposal when they look at the Council's licensing policy. The Group Director also pointed out that the Licensing Policy and Climate Action Plan will be reviewed for alignment with their business engagement practices. Following further work to develop their engagement the Group Director offered to come back to outline the outcomes from that work.

- (xii) Members asked for the Group Director to give his opinion on the request to use incentives to promote green practices. Members also asked if the council had encountered any resistance from businesses given the current economic climate? Members also asked if there were other incentives the council would consider or put in place; taking into consideration the ambitious targets the council has in the climate action plan.**

In response the Group Director Climate, Homes and Economy from LBH replied the good news was in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund there was a strand associated with working with businesses to transition to net zero. The council is exploring how to influence and shape this fund in preparation for businesses bidding for funding. It was highlighted that there is a capital element that business can bid for too to change a kitchen or acquire new plant equipment (as mentioned earlier in the discussion). Although there are funds available the Group Director pointed out only £150k was ring fenced for Hackney out of the pot.

Across London the GLA is expected to allocate £30 million but only a 1 fifth of this pot will be allocated to supporting businesses to transition to net zero. This is estimated to be just under £6 million.

It was recognised that a lot of businesses will ask that commercial question of how to survive operationally long term.

As a council they are thinking about how they can promote the accreditation scheme and do something a bit more specific around climate action and climate change using their soft powers; in conjunction with promoting the businesses that are successfully transitioning. In reference to the Commission asking for examples, it is important to promote these, but the Director wanted clarified that it will come back to the commercial question when they are engaging with small businesses that hire 1-2 people or sole traders. Although these issues / questions are unique to Hackney they are applicable across London's economy too.

- (xiii) Members referred to large licensed temporary events in parks and asked if the businesses were required to sign up to some form of returnable deposit scheme for cups. Members referred to the Match Maker Scheme supported by the GLA for London and asked if the council could encourage businesses to sign up to the scheme? Members pointed out**

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that economies of scale is important and this action would send the message that businesses need the infrastructure for different materials.

- (xiv) **Members referred to the ban coming into force in October, which did not mention single use plastic cups. Members commented that this reflected the challenge officers referenced earlier about enforcement.**
- (xv) **Members commended the work of the Licensing Team's Night Time Accreditation Scheme in relation to sustainable food. Members asked if the council had a similar offer to businesses that operated during the day time hours to encourage them too?**

In response the Business Regulation Team Leader (Licensing & Technical Support) replied they have nothing at present in relation to sustainable food for daytime businesses.

- (xvi) **To follow up on the response above Members queried if this was recognised as a gap?**

In response the Group Director Climate, Homes and Economy from LBH replied they can explore options further.

The Chair closed with the following comments. The Commission acknowledges that licensed businesses only represent 6% of the businesses in Hackney's economy and the pressure those businesses are facing. However, the Chair pointed out following this discussion the Commission may wish to make any recommendations about improvements to the Council's offer for licensed premises. Highlighting that the council had a duty to ensure they were supported to be able to act too.

**The Chair thanked all attendees for their contribution and attendance.**

## **6 Hackney Markets (19:50 - 20:50)**

- 6.1 The Chair introduced the item and explained the purpose of this item was to understand the work and actions taken by Hackney Council to maintain and sustain the Borough's markets during and post pandemic.
- 6.2 The information presented covered the performance of Hackney's markets pre pandemic, during the pandemic and post pandemic. The data would cover the impact of lockdowns on consumers and cashless transactions.
- 6.3 The Chair welcomed to the meeting Cllr Fajana – Thomas, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services; Rickardo Hyatt, Group Director Climate, Homes and Economy; Kevin Keady, Head of Parking and Markets and Daniel O'Sullivan, Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading.
- 6.4 The Head of Parking and Markets commenced the presentation and made the main points below.

- 6.4.1 The Markets Service was restructured in 2016 following the approval of a new Market's Strategy for Hackney.
- 6.4.2 Previously the Markets Service operated primarily as a licensing and regulatory function of the council, and they struggled to break even financially which resulted in income shortfalls. The income shortfalls were funded by the Council's general fund. The largest deficit was £1.1 million.
- 6.4.3 To commence the service transformation, they rebuilt the team to have the right skills, knowledge and experience to deliver exceptional customer service; build meaningful relationships with stakeholders; simplify internal processes and implement sound financial management practices.
- 6.4.4 This transformation led to a successful service delivering the objectives set out in the 2016-2021 Markets Strategy.
- 6.4.5 The performance of the service achieved the financial objectives and they have won numerous industry awards. The Markets Service now operates and identifies as a business and following up in growth opportunities.
- 6.4.6 This service transformation has benefited market traders with increased customer footfall and sales; in addition to protecting Hackney's much-loved markets as community assets.
- 6.4.7 The Markets Service navigated the pandemic by maintaining great relationships with traders to help keep them afloat. Having the agility within the team to keep abreast of the changes in government restrictions and finding solutions to help keep the market open has been an achievement.
- 6.4.8 This allowed Hackney to rapidly recover and continue growing. This put the Markets Service in a very strong position to deliver the new Market Strategy that is scheduled for public consultation.
- 6.4.9 The Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading from LBH continued the presentation and made the following main points.
- 6.4.10 The service employs 51 officers and operatives. The officers manage 10 outdoor markets, 1 indoor market, 32 street trading sites across the borough and 507 shop front trading sites.
- 6.4.11 In relation to performance Pre pandemic the service had a consistent incline for growth from 2017/18 of approximately 3%. In 2018/19 this increased to 15%. However, the pandemic had a significant impact resulting in a -72% across 2020 -and 2021.
- 6.4.12 During this period the team was able to analyse legislation and prioritised community needs across the borough and focused efforts across key sites.
- 6.4.13 Open air markets were able to open and maintain safe social distancing. At that time this provided opportunities for local people to purchase products that were in short supply in the supermarkets and provided a place to shop where they felt safer.

- 6.4.14 The service entered into the recovery phase 2021-2022 with a 176% growth. This was followed up in 2022/23 with another double-digit growth of 21%.
- 6.4.15 Overall Hackney has had one of the strongest post pandemic recovery compared to colleagues in other London Boroughs.
- 6.4.16 The Markets Service is assessing the opportunities for business growth through the types of licenses (permanent and temporary).
- 6.4.17 In 2019/2020 69% of license holders were temporary of which 31% were permanent licenses. At the end of 2022/2023 this had shifted to 51% temporary and 49% permanent licenses. This year that trend has continued. There are over 50% permanent licenses in the borough now.
- 6.4.18 An indication that businesses are confident that Hackney is a place for their business to thrive and prosper is the number of permanent licenses. Being over 50% is a positive trend.
- 6.4.19 A study of footfall for Ridley Road market in 2019 they recorded 2.1 million visitors and Saturdays was identified as 70-90% busier than any another day of the week. This also highlighted that within Dalston over 60% of all footfall and economic spend was located in that street. During covid the footfall dropped to approximately 236k in that same location.
- 6.4.20 Hackney was the only London borough to keep a 6 day a week market open during that period.
- 6.4.21 When considering the strength of the economy during covid it showed that 45% of the 236k that attended the market spent £10 or more with every visit. This demonstrated that while footfall was impacted, the volume of spend was not.
- 6.4.22 Post Covid the indicative footfall at the end of 2022/2023 showed 2.15 million visitors in Ridley Road. This is an increase of 2.31% compared to 2019/20 and an increase of 810% compared to 2020/2021. In comparison to other London Boroughs this is bucking the trend. Other London markets are not seeing a growth in footfall for their pre pandemic levels.
- 6.4.23 In relation to annual turnover for the Markets Service this was a consistent incline pre pandemic. During the pandemic the income fell. Post pandemic the annual income increased and has continued on that trend. The service area has attributed their income resilience to their innovative practices.
- 6.4.24 Since the pandemic they have supported 201 businesses. The officer showcased pictures of local residents who had grown their business and started out in Ridley Road.
- 6.4.25 The Markets Service has made a commitment to young people through their trading places programme where they are taught business skills, brand management, customer service and soft sales skills. The young people were taught core business skills and then given a free place at one of the markets across the borough to be able to execute the skills learnt and derive an income.

- 6.4.26 In 2019 the teenage market group of young people (*pictured in the presentation*) won the National Market Traders Federation Young Trader of the Year award.
- 6.4.27 Over the last few years, the service has won a number of awards outlined on slide 21. From 2019 with the Market award, scheme of the year, service of the year and for specific contributions in the pandemic.
- 6.4.28 The Markets Service works with a number of local authorities and other organisations. Leading in policy change at a national level with government and at a regional level through the GLA and Mayor of London.
- 6.4.29 During the pandemic the Markets Service provided support to the local community and families with a £10,000 charity vouchers via Alexandra Rose.
- 6.4.30 Hackney Borough has been the first to make it mandatory through their licencing scheme for traders to accept the vouchers if they wanted to trade in the borough. Traders who accepted these vouchers received wide recognition from the charity and other support services for meeting the need of low income and vulnerable families.
- 6.4.31 At the request of the Mayor of London the Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading from LBH sits on the London Markets Board. This is following the Markets Service work in the pandemic. At the request of Government, the Markets Service is advising on how the licensing framework can continue nationally to support local authorities and other organisations to improve service delivery.
- 6.4.32 During the pandemic the Markets Service promoted several frameworks via social media. These were brand identity and growing their brand digitally. The Markets Service also hosted several events and social media activities.
- 6.4.33 During the pandemic the Markets Service moved traders who could trade to online to online platforms. This enabled them to continue selling their goods and services. In addition, they celebrated cultural awareness and held events online that they would normally be held on site.
- 6.4.34 The Markets Service uses videos to promote shopping at markets as a better alternative to shopping in bricks and mortar supermarkets. By highlighting the benefits of being able to shop and socialise in the open air whilst supporting the small and local businesses.
- 6.4.35 The Market Service also runs several digital campaigns to attract more traders. Utilising the different social media platforms to support micro businesses to build awareness of their business and identity within the community and beyond.
- 6.4.36 During the pandemic there were different support services and grant mechanisms available through the Council and the Markets Services Team. (*Full details of the different grants and support is outlined in slides 39-43*).

- 6.4.37 Being aware of inflationary increase, to support small micro businesses they offer a day rate for a pitch in Ridley Road Market for £10. This offer is not available in any other market in London.
- 6.4.38 The Markets Strategy for 2023-2028 was out for consultation.
- 6.4.39 The Markets Team offer low costs, low risk with high value opportunities for small micro businesses. Supporting them to continue to grow and operate their business in the borough.
- 6.4.40 Later this year the Markets Service will be launching the Ridley Road indoor market. This has taken a dilapidated building and turn it into a thriving indoor market.
- 6.4.41 In relation to sustainability and packaging the Markets Service introduced no single use plastics condition on their licenses as well as a smoke free shop front licenses. This work continues with small businesses to move away from single use and adopt more sustainable packaging and merchandising.
- 6.4.42 The Markets Service also created a digital application and this is attracting a different type of trader and trader profile. This trader is more nimble, brand aware, younger and more diverse in the use of their approach to commodity. They are more aware of sustainable products and how to run their business.
- 6.4.43 The Markets Services hold data about how they are reaching those traders ahead of other boroughs in London. Demonstrating the success in Hackney by setting up incubation hubs for small businesses pre, post and during the pandemic.

## 6.5 Questions answers and discussions

- (i) **Members referenced the innovative marketing, number of micro businesses involved in market trading and the previous fame of Well Street Market (the start of the Tesco's empire). Members asked what has happened to Well Street Market and how this market fits into the future plans for Markets?**
- (ii) **Members referred to the local view that traders in some markets are not local residents and local residents do not shop in markets like Broadway and Chatsworth Road Market. Members asked about the residential status of market traders and visitors to the market. Members also asked if this data was not available if the council had plans to collate the data in respect of the accessibility of the borough's markets across the communities?**
- (iii) **Members referred to the offer to enter markets being a low-risk way of residents starting a business. Members asked if the council was monitoring the number of residents who held pitches in the various markets across the borough and if there was diversity?**

In response to the question about Well Street market the Head of Parking and Markets informed the Commission that the council had tried to generate a successful market in Well Street. The Council assumed that if it put enough

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backing into the market it would be successful and turn into a thriving market. The Council tried to make this market successful, but they experience some barriers to making this happen. This was largely attributed to costs.

One of the cost barriers was the bus route change. Initially TfL agreed to waive the charge (for a period of time) but when the council wanted to make it permanent they insisted on charging approximately £200,000 for a permanent bus diversion. However, the main barrier to the markets success was the lack of support from the local bricks and mortar business in Well Street. There were many businesses in Well Street that valued parking in preference to traders.

Despite all the work the council did with traders, young people and startup businesses the other businesses were not interested in having a street market. The council used the promotion of free pitches for the first 2 months but this did not work either. This was a significant cost to the council in addition to not being able to get traders to stick with the market. The officer also pointed out that the footfall did not support market trading on a Saturday too.

Well Street has been identified as not viable for a stand-alone market, but it is still recognised as a dedicated market street. The council does and will run events in that location (e.g., black history, international women's day etc.) with support from the local community. The council will continue with these type events but currently there is no indication that they will be able to have a regular full time market in that location.

The lesson learnt from the lack of success from Well Street market regeneration were applied to Chatsworth Road market before making any commitments. The Council spent a long-time consulting informally and building relationships with the bricks and mortar businesses to understand their needs and to identify if they would be supportive of a street market in Chatsworth Road. After working through their anxieties and overcoming them the council was able to regenerate Chatsworth Road Market which was successful and there are future plans for this market.

The officer recapped that the lack of success for Well Street market was largely due to the lack of support from businesses in the location. Therefore, despite spending money on promotions, local advertising and having events such as the Mayor of London and the Speaker of Hackney - in attempts to drive footfall to the street. The Council found that on event days it worked but as soon as there was no event the footfall died, and businesses were not happy because they wanted the parking space and not market stalls.

In response to the question about Broadway Market the Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading referred to the engagement report in the presentation. Advising that this was carried out on Broadway Market before implementing the additional trading day. This report is a myth buster that local residents do not shop at Broadway and that its only young people with pets. The study revealed that over 80% were local residents and the core customer base that shops at Broadway Market was primarily 25-34 at approximately 50%, then 35-44 were approximately 23% and 45-54 were approximately 10%. The shoppers do tend to have higher disposable income.

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Over the last three years the council has worked to ensure that for every type of commodity sold in the market covers a price range (clothing, food or other non food products) having low, medium and high. For example you can still buy a £1 bowl of fruit and the fully organic fruits too with focus on sustainability so costs a little more.

The Markets Service prides itself on having market sites across the borough to suit everyone. The officer encouraged Members to read the report because it dispels preconceptions about the market.

The Council is proud of Broadway Market and the officer highlighted that during the pandemic they launched a second trading day. The additional trading day has enabled the market to become one of the standout premier markets. Broadway and Borough Markets are considered to be the top 2 markets in London.

The officer informed that Broadway Market will be hosting the National Market Traders Federation for Young Traders regional finals for London.

In response to the question about diversity. The Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading from LBH pointed to the data they have collated about residents since April 2020/21 showing how they have been supported them to start their own business within the borough.

In total approximately 59% of the license holders reside in the borough of Hackney. This is a significant proportion compared to other London boroughs.

Through the licensing process the Markets Service meticulously identify the commodity needs and commodity mixes. This is based on what the community tells them they need, want and desire. The Markets Service regular engage using this insight their own commercial experience.

The Markets Service proactively goes out with the metrics to attract the desired businesses into the borough if they are not already trading into the borough.

Hackney borough has the most diverse mix of markets and offer across the portfolio of London local authorities. On average the Markets Service meets with 5-7 businesses per day to test products. This can include testing the sustainability of the product. The aim is to ensure the offer in markets represents value for money for the business and the communities.

The Cabinet Members for Community Safety and Regulatory from LBH empathised with the loss of Well Street Market and commented that she would be speaking to the team further about Well Street.

In response to the question about diversity the Cabinet Member added when walking through Ridley Road Market you can see the diversity of the market traders.

The Cabinet Member emphasized that another important point was the creation of jobs for local people. The Cabinet Member pointed out that Broadway Market has 107 permanent businesses on Saturdays and employs



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approximately 115 people. On Sundays they have another 41 traders and 53 micro businesses employing approximately 64 people.

It was highlighted that 66% of the businesses are local to Hackney and over 70% of employees that work in Broadway Market on Saturday and Sundays are Hackney residents.

- (iv) Members commended the report and all the awards and achievements by the Markets Service. Members referred to the data on the percentage of traders staying or leaving various markets across the borough. Members asked if the movement represented moving from one market to the other or transitioning into a shop?**
- (v) Members noticed that in the Ridley Road market there were less shops on the streets and asked if there was an explanation for this?**
- (vi) Members queried if there was a growing issue related to card payments. Members has noticed some business owners were going into another shop to get the help of a card reader. Members asked if there was support for businesses in the Ridley Road Market in relation to card readers because some shops do not take card payments. This could result in the loss of business if a person was in a hurry and could not wait.**
- (vii) Members commented they welcomed the new market in Clissold Town Hall on a Sunday. Members acknowledged there are different types of markets catering for different residents across the borough. Members recognised the importance of local jobs and the low income offer Ridley Road market provides.**
- (viii) Members welcomed the trend toward permanent licenses. Members asked if this the same for Ridley Road Market? Members also highlighted that there is some concern about the increase in rent over the next three years related to affordability.**
- (ix) Members asked about the support for digital. Members referred to the cash welcome here campaign and that it was important to insist that market traders take both payment methods to ensure they were accessible.**

In response the Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading from LBH advised in regard to the data on traders moving from site to site and from street trading into bricks and mortar. The officer informed he did not have that data at the meeting but would be happy to provide this after the meeting. The officer confirmed they do monitor this and work closely with businesses.

In response to the question about the card payments, the officer pointed out during the pandemic the council subsidised the move from taking cash and utilising card payments. They worked with a number of different operators and secured the best market rate for the traders. In regard to payments for card readers in the deal with Barclays and Barclaycard they provided traders with a free card reader and agreed to a number of free business training courses. The courses were open to all their licensed traders in the pandemic with a

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focus on Ridley Road in Dalston and Hoxton. These primarily have a high cash turnover.

As a licensing framework what they will not do is mandate that they have to provide that electronic source. There is a balance between the regulatory and licensing framework being attractive and mandating what a business can and cannot do. Therefore, they would not mandate that every business has to provide that platform. Similarly, there are advantages for businesses to take cash.

The council is actively encouraging businesses and approximately 60% of all their licensed businesses in Ridley Road do take electronic payments. There is a core of around 40% who are quite resistant. The council will continue to work with them, offer and support them to be able to access a number of different operators within the field. The officer informed the Council has very good relationships with different operators that provide electronic sources of payment. The council is willing to make introductions and support traders with training in how to use the mobile app.

The officer pointed out in Broadway and Chatworth Road 100% of the traders take electronic payments.

During the pandemic the Council introduced free Wi-Fi so traders could use it to access the electronic payment methods. Although they are not 100% on all sites this is a slow process for certain parts of the borough. The officer pointed out this is a process that will take time to change. Every year more and more are transitioning.

In response to the question about Ridley Road traders raising concerns about the rent increases the Head of Parking and Markets reiterated that the service is proud of the fact that their license fee increases have been below inflation.

The officer explained that the cost-of-living had been a bit of a sliver lining for market traders particularly those in Ridley Road. With inflation at the pace, it is having an effect on customers choosing not to go into supermarkets. This is driving people into markets because of the perception that they will get more for their money. More and more people are visiting markets looking for value for money.

The council keeps a very close eye on their costs, but this is challenging. As the Markets Service has grown it has focused on an inclusive economy and is looking for opportunities to launch new markets, expand existing one and understand customers and traders needs. To curate each market in a way that meets needs. Markets Service want businesses to be successful in making money to give them a good livelihood and the opportunity to develop into bricks and mortar businesses (the indoor street market).

The Head of Markets and Parking acknowledged that it is an expensive service that requires some careful management to breakeven each year so, they are not reliant on the council's general fund to subsidise the service. Notwithstanding they will always seek to ensure (where possible) their license fees are very competitive. But traders will always look for ways to keep costs at a minimum.

The officer informed the Commission they benchmark Hackney's fees and charges against other London boroughs. At the last check was in 2019 Hackney was in the bottom quartile for license fee charges. The officer reiterated that the cost of trading in Ridley Road Market was £10. This gives traders access to market support services on how to trade. There is no additional fee to access support services. The council also routinely promotes this benefit to traders. The officer reiterated that traders will benefit from access to a 2.1 million footfall.

The officer also pointed out that investment from the Good Growth Fund enabled access to free Wi-Fi, a redesign of the whole street (Ridley Road) and the purchase of new market stalls. The officer pointed out the Markets Service worked with the traders to transform the look and feel of the market. It was redesigned to be more attractive and draw more people into the market.

The Head of Markets and Parking from LBH highlighted that an important indicator was the split between permanent and temporary trader license holders. Reiterating that previously the Markets Service was set up purely as a licensing and regulatory function. After a restructure of the service, they started promoting to traders the benefits of adopting a permanent license. The officer explained that there are benefits to having a permanent license such as: not needing to queue to get in, having a set location (so people know where to find you) or not needing to make a payment to the council before setting up.

The traders do, go to the office first thing in the morning and do payments with the councils. This also guarantees them a specific location in the market too. This is beneficial for a business because they get repeat trade because people know their location.

The Markets Service lead by the Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading from LBH spent a long time promoting this. This has led to more permanent licenses and they have traders that are committed to a year.

The Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading from LBH added out of the 136 licenses traders in Ridley Road, 80% hold a permanent license. The aim is to have 100% by the end of the next financial year. If they achieve this that would be the first time in decades.

In response to the question about the Market Services ability to react to issues. The officer referred to the recent supply issues for fresh produce and pointed out that in the pandemic when it became difficult to find fresh produce like tomatoes, cucumbers etc in the supermarkets and the whole sale prices increased significantly. The Markets Service was monitoring this and implemented a rent relief of 25% off their daily licensing fees with those produce. This help businesses to purchase the products and keep their profits margin. Ensuring that there was high quality low cost fruit and veg available in all the street markets and street site when it was not available in the local / regional supermarkets.

The officer pointed out that it's the council's ability to work with businesses, react and be nimble that enables them to make these types of decisions and

implement pace to stay ahead of their competitors (other markets or bricks and mortar premises).

- (x) **Members referred to the ambition to achieve 100% permanent licenses and asked if it would create a risk if Ridley Road Market was full. Members queried where new market traders, innovators, entrepreneurs etc. (new types of traders) would fit in.**

In response the Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading from LBH pointed out every business has natural attrition every year. Some businesses grow and move out of street trading into bricks and mortar, other change the operation of their business model and come out of street trading or move to a different location. So every year there will always be that overall churn and change.

Equally the Markets Service need to be aware of the current trends, changes or needs of the communities. Creating and updating the commodity mix. This relies on regular engagement and sharing data to enable everyone to make data driven decisions. For example, Monday – Saturday Ridley Road operates from 6.30-6pm. The officer pointed out that this area has a roaring nighttime trade but no trade after 6pm and currently the footfall from the market on a Sunday goes untapped. As mentioned previously approximately 60% of economic spend goes through Ridley Road but on a Sunday there is no operation apart from a few bricks and mortar premises. This presents an opportunity for new licenses. The officer explained this would start as temporary licenses (as per the licensing framework) but after 6 months this can be established, and they can apply for a license through the licensing panel for approval before going for a permanent license. This would create the opportunity for fresh ideas and to trail different and innovative commodities. This would allow the businesses operating on that day to access other opportunities to trade between Monday - Saturday especially if there is a gap for that commodity or operation.

The Markets Service monitors this monthly, reviewing sites, current trends, spaces etc. This enables them to make decisions based on evidence and data.

The Head of Markets and Parking from LBH added he wanted to emphasize that the commodity mix is important. For example, they will not just fill the market with a lot of mobile phone accessories stalls so may have a long list of mobile phone traders wanting a stall. Whereas there are some high demand commodities where it is difficult to find traders to trade in certain locations such as a florist / Horticulturalist. If they have traders that want to trade at Ridley Road market, and they are full. They would offer a different site and work them through the temporary trading process. Once they have been through this due diligence process and if an opening came up at Ridley Road market then they can bring that commodity in to fill the gap.

- (xi) **Members referred to the Alexander Rose Voucher scheme, commended the work of the Markets Service and commented that this has supported families with children below the age of 5 years. Members enquired if there were any other voucher schemes for other low-income groups that could be consider and if the voucher scheme was a cost to traders.**

- (xii) Members referred to Markets Service's work marketing licenses and banning single use plastics. Members asked if this was a complete ban?**
- (xiii) Members asked if there was any learning for the Nighttime Economy Team from the challenges the Markets Service has faced with this area of work and if they have collated any feedback from businesses etc.**
- (xiv) Members referred to the new night market opening on Kingsland Road. Members asked about the engagement undertaken with local residents who will be impacted by the opening of the night market. Members also asked about the mitigations being put in place to guard against issues such as ASB etc.**
- (xv) Members asked if the Markets Service had engaged with the Nighttime Economy Team around how to manage night markets with the assumption that they are likely to attract people from the night time economy who will be coming from or going to the bars and clubs in the area.**

In response the Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading from LBH explained that in relation to other voucher schemes there are not many charitable organisation that work with street trading local authorities. The officer pointed out there is a Sure Start Scheme that works with some local authorities across London. The officer informed the Commission that they are open to working with other charities.

The officer informed that the street traders at the Clifton Street site give any left-over food to a local food bank. This gets picked up and redistributed. The officer also advised that other charities work with a few of the fruit and veg traders to take away their waste at the end of the day and use it for composting. The officer highlighted that they are proactive with this work and open to working with other schemes, organisations and partnerships.

In relation to the question about single use plastic the officer confirmed they have been working over the last 2 years with their traders towards zero single use plastics. Many of the sites do not have any but there are still some at sites like Hoxton and Ridley Road that have plastic bags. However, this is because there are still millions in supply.

As mentioned previously in earlier discussions there are some loopholes in the new legislation for plastic bags and the use of them. This will require a review of the legislation to manage it. However, the Markets Service is working with organisations and other business to supply paper bags to test with traders. Although it is recognised that this will come at a cost. The Council is working with suppliers to buy in bulk to see how low they can get the purchase process compared to cheap plastic bags. The ambition is for all sites to be plastic free by the end of this financial year. This is mandated within the terms and conditions of the license and supported by stringent enforcement action.

In response to the questions about the night market the Markets Service have been working with the Nighttime Economy Team identifying potential locations. In relation to the Kingsland Road site this grew organically out of the pandemic. A designated market trades there on a Saturday and is a licensed

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market street under the legislation. Therefore, it has the ability to trade 7 days a week.

During the pandemic some traders wanted to trade food there. The trading started with 1 trader and increased to 2. Over time this has gradually increased to 4. Earlier this year they identified a demand to trade in this location because the 4 traders were doing very well. However under the under the legislation traders of 4 or less is considered street trading and has a different license process. Once this increases to 5 or more it is considered to a market. This has a different license, terms and conditions and is managed differently too. The officer pointed out the proposals for Kingsland Road market developed organically and has been meeting demand.

It was pointed out that any new site for the daytime or nighttime economy will have a lengthy and ongoing engagement process, that enables residents, businesses, elected Members and visitors to feed in their views. In tandem a business survey is conducted to understand the impact on bricks and mortar businesses and to assess how successful the street businesses have been. All this data is collated to produce an engagement report. Following engagement, the best options are reviewed and a decision is made based on the data. Then this information is made publicly available.

In relation to mitigation they have identified that food night markets (in other boroughs) tend to bring a reduction in ASB behaviour because it helps to soak up the alcohol that people are consuming from venue to venue. It also breaks up their traveling from one licensed premises to the other. They are also a key lever in driving the night time economy.

The officer explained that historically Hackney has not had night markets so there is no historic data to draw on. The Markets Service is collating this new data, and they will use it to identify the most appropriate locations.

In relation to the Kingsland Road street trading there have been zero complaints from residents to the current evening street trading. The evening trade has been operational for the last 18 months.

The Cabinet Members for Community Safety and Regulatory services added in response to the licensing regime for premises selling alcohol, this is different to the market license regime. It was pointed out that the premises licensing regime is quite restrictive. At the start before they get to the four licensing objectives, they consider crime and disorder, tourism, entertainment or preventing alcohol misuse. This is why they have the option of TENs.

The Cabinet Member also added that the new legislation is about plastic bags, it does not cover other issues such as single use plastic tableware. Pointing out they are 2 different issues.

- (xvi) Members acknowledged the work with traders to take card payments and its success. Members queried if some markets had tipped too far with all the traders in Chatsworth Road and Bradway Market taking card payment. Members asked if they all take cash too; highlighting that it was important to have both payment options available.**

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In response the Service Area Manager Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading from LBH confirmed they all take cash that cash will always be their preferred choice of payment.

The Chair closed the item and thanked the officers for their attendance, presentation and responses.

## **7 Minutes of Previous Meeting (20:50 - 20:55)**

- 7.1 The Chair referred to the minutes in the agenda for the previous meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and asked Members to agree the minutes.

Members agreed the minutes.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	The minutes for on 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 were approved.
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## **8 Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24 (20:55 - 21:05)**

- 8.1 The Chair referred to the work programme documents on pages 133-138 of the agenda. The Chair informed the Commission that the remit report in the agenda had incorrect information about:
- a) The work the commission had carried out last year
  - b) The cabinet question time session topics.
  - c) The remit areas of the Commission.
- 8.2 The Chair reminded Members that an amended report was circulated to the Commission on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and that the updated version would be published in the next agenda under matters arising.
- 8.3 The Chair informed the Commission that the discussion items for the next 2 meetings were already scheduled. These would be:
1. Voluntary and Community Sector, in July
  2. Climate Action Plan – the engagement with local businesses, in July.
- 8.4 The Chair pointed out that from September onward the Commission needed to added discussion items to the work programme. These would be in addition to their standing items such as Cabinet Question Time. The Chair recapped on the remit areas of the Cabinet Members relevant to SEG.
- 8.5 The Chair referred to the list in the report of the work they covered last year and read it out. (*This is on pages 135-137 of the agenda*). The Chair explained to the Commission that they may make suggestions that builds on their previous work or choose to suggest a new topic area.

- 8.6 The Chair also informed the Commission that there has been a slight amendment to the remit of the commission. The Commission had acquired the remit of energy and sustainability.
- 8.7 The Chair also informed the Commission that there was an open public consultation survey with residents. To date 88 responses had been received. The Chair informed the Commission that they would take the public suggestions into consideration before finalising the work program at their next meeting.
- 8.8 In the discussions with the commission Members and previous discussion held by the Chair and Vice Chair with stakeholders the following suggestions was noted.
- 1) AI and the accompanying regulation. To look at how AI might impact on businesses and how they can upskill to respond to AI in the future.
  - 2) Levelling up Fund linked to Hackney Central. A look at the council's plans for spend and the plans to acquire match funding.
  - 3) UK Shared Prosperity Fund. A look at how this links to skills and employability. A look at the GLA's funding pot and how the council would maximise access to this funding pot for local businesses or the council.
  - 4) Hackney Wick Fish Island. A look at this creative enterprise zone and its future.
  - 5) The Re-London report on the circular economy and jobs. A presentation about their work.
  - 6) Planning policy, Climate Action Plan (CAP) and heritage buildings. A look at the planning levers and controls of the council in relation what they can and should do taking into consideration the Council's commitments in the CAP and Executive's manifesto.
  - 7) Hackney Light and Power. A review of how it is working, structure, model and success. Members also suggested inviting Stokey Energy to talk about the work that they are doing with the council.
  - 8) Update on LTNs by the Cabinet Member as previously agreed at the last cabinet question time session.
  - 9) Corporate property services. A look at the development of community assets in the borough through the pending school closures. Also, how the council was renovating its own assets in relation to meeting the council's CAP targets.
  - 10) Library of Things. A report on how that service is working.
  - 11) Update on Library Service restructure and new staffing levels implemented.
  - 12) Update on the London Living Wage campaign and the fire, rehire initiative in the borough. Information about the response from businesses to find out if employers had adhered to this or not.
  - 13) Electric bike hire, affordability and storage. Looking at electric bike hire contract and the council making Lime Bikes free of charge to young people in the summer.
- 8.9 In response to bullet point 9 the Chair referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to confirm if this was within their remit.



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The Overview and Scrutiny Officer informed she would check if school properties came under school estates (education services) or the Council's Corporate Property services.

<b>ACTION</b>	The Overview and Scrutiny Officer to check if closed school buildings are managed by corporate property services.
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- 8.10 The Chair talked about the work programme having themed discussions which could link topic areas e.g., topics like libraries and the circular economy being integrated so the council could see how the private sector could be supported to achieve net zero.
- 8.11 The Chair referred to bullet point 13 and commented this might be a joint session with Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission because this covers issues about accessibility and the use of public space by people. The reason for raising the issue of public space is that the currently the bikes are parked anywhere on public footpaths in the borough.
- 8.12 The Chair highlighted that the work programme was light on the topic area of employment and skills. Given their concern about the ongoing skills gap in the workforce the Chair asked if they wished to consider including this in the cabinet question time session.
- 8.13 In relation to the next SEG meeting Members asked who was invited for the VCS items in July 2023.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer confirmed the umbrella organisation HCVS was invited, and one other VCS organisation would be invited to talk about how they work differently with the council.

## **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 None.

**Duration of the meeting:** 7.00 - 9.10 pm