

Report to Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board

Item No:		Date:	21st June 2017
Subject:	Hackney Community Strategy, 2018-28		
Report From:	Sonia Khan, Head of Policy and Partnerships London Borough of Hackney		
Summary:	Update on the process of developing a new Community Strategy for the borough, including details on the draft themes for the strategy and the public consultation planned for summer 2017.		
Recommendations:	The Board are requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note the progress in developing the Community Strategy to date• comment on the crosscutting themes of the strategy• consider the role of the Board in supporting delivery of the strategy over the coming years• note that formal public consultation will take place between mid-July and mid-September and are invited to submit comments on the full draft of the strategy through this process		
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1 Background and context

- 1.1 Hackney's new Community Strategy will set out the Council's overarching vision for Hackney as it grows and changes over the next decade. It will provide a backdrop for all of our decision making throughout this period and a focus for working in partnership with residents, businesses, the voluntary and community sector, and statutory agencies.
- 1.2 Although we are no longer required to have a strategy of this kind, the Council feels that it is important for us to have a clear, collective vision of how we want our borough to develop, based on what residents have told us and the evidence we have about how Hackney is likely to change over the coming years.

2 Developing the strategy

- 2.1 The resident insight which underpins this strategy was gathered through a year-long conversation with residents. In 2015, the Council carried out a major engagement exercise, 'Hackney: A Place for Everyone', and heard from over 4,500 local residents and businesses

on their views of how the borough has changed and the challenges and opportunities this presents to their day to day lives in Hackney.

- 2.2 The ideas and issues that emerged as the evidence base was developed, were tested with key internal stakeholders through a leadership scenario planning exercise with Hackney's Management Team and Cabinet, in winter 2016. The event was held in early November and gave participants the opportunity to consider some of the drivers for growth and the pressures which may face our borough over the next ten years by considering some carefully developed scenarios which incorporated the emerging key themes.
- 2.3 Following this session, a draft vision for Hackney in 2028 was created and 5 broad, crosscutting themes suggested both of which were used for a process of co-production and discussion across Council departments. The vision and themes have been developed over the last three months through consultation with Cabinet Members and Council officers and a final draft, including commitments on the Council's role in delivering the collective and ambitious vision for Hackney over the next decade, is due to be agreed internally by the end of June.
- 2.4 The process for developing the Community Strategy has been closely aligned to both the drafting of Hackney's new Housing Strategy and the refresh of the borough's Local Plan and overseen by a group of local academics who have provided critical challenge and oversight of the evidence review and process for developing the strategy.

3 Consulting on the draft strategy

- 3.1 Feedback from residents has played a major part in the development of the Community Strategy to date and residents, the Voluntary and Community Sector and local businesses will all get another chance to help shape the strategy throughout the consultation phase during the summer of 2017. A public consultation will launch in mid-July and run until mid-September during which time, the public will be invited to review and comment on the strategy.
- 3.2 This will be complimented by some focus group discussions with a representative sample of our Hackney Matters citizen's panel, a discussion at a strategic partnership event and a Mayor's Question Time session in September. The consultation feedback will be incorporated into a final version of the Community Strategy for consideration and adoption by Cabinet and Full Council in October 2017.
- 3.3 Timeline to adoption of the Community Strategy:

Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17
10th July - 10th September: 8 week online public consultation			Adoption by Cabinet
Focus group discussions on the Community Strategy	Ward Forums invited to consider the Community Strategy	Voluntary sector engagement through VCS Grants Launch and development of VCS Strategy	Adoption by Full Council
Mayor's Question Time to discuss Strategy			Publish strategy
First meeting of Community Strategy Partnership Board to consider implementation of the strategy			
Incorporate consultation feedback and secure internal sign-off for final draft			

4 The draft, crosscutting themes of the strategy

- 4.1 The crosscutting themes are still draft at this point but are the result of a long period of discussion – although the titles and groupings of the themes are subject to change until they are agreed ahead of consultation, the core issues that they consider are rooted in a clear evidence base and will definitely feature in the final draft of the strategy.
- 4.2 A borough where there is a good quality of life and the whole community can benefit from growth – Hackney has seen considerable growth and change over the last decade as well as considerable improvements in Council run services and the borough continues to be an attractive and popular place to live. Although there are some residents who feel Hackney is already too densely populated, given London’s projected growth over the next decade, trying to control growth and stop development is not really an option. This theme actively considers what growth means for Hackney and the best way of managing it so we have the opportunity to shape the change that is coming to maximise the benefits for everyone and address the key challenges. It is important that there is investment in sustainable infrastructure from genuinely affordable housing to schools and health centres, to protect the existing population from growing demand and cater for those people who make Hackney their home over the next decade, ensuring a good quality of life for all residents.
- 4.3 A borough with residents who are ambitious and engaging and want to contribute to community life - Hackney has a distinctive identity and one that we know residents really value. Hackney is known as a borough with a well-established arts community and active local networks, exciting nightlife and an emerging tech sector. Supporting high levels of attainment, business growth, entrepreneurship and collaboration are key to sustaining this identity over the next decade. This theme considers how Hackney’s education offer needs to develop, what new approaches to inclusive growth and local economic development are required and how a new model of citizen engagement can help shape the borough to 2028.
- 4.4 A green and sustainable borough - Hackney is the third most densely populated area in the country and this can put pressure on the availability of green space that residents use for leisure, relaxation and sports, all of which contributes to good emotional and physical wellbeing and opportunities for social interaction. This theme considers how best we can enshrine sustainable practices into all aspects of public policy making including developing to the highest standards of sustainable urban design, innovative transport policy to reduce reliance on car journeys and improve air quality, protecting our parks and green spaces and providing green infrastructure to link up our green spaces by creating attractive and safe pedestrian and cycling routes to encourage greater physical activity amongst residents and visitors to the borough.
- 4.5 An open, cohesive and supportive community - Hackney has a reputation as an open and inclusive borough at the forefront of social movements to promote equality and tolerance. Although residents have noted the emergence of some social segregation between different communities there also seems to be a strong desire to take action which might build bridges with other residents, thus helping to protect Hackney’s community spirit. If the borough is to work for everyone, we need to ensure that the most vulnerable feel safe and protected, especially as some people have lost the informal social networks which would have relied on in the past, such as friends, family, a neighbour or a local business. This theme suggests various actions including working with voluntary and community sector groups to develop approaches to maintaining and enhancing the places and spaces that allow the different

communities in Hackney to connect with each other; and supporting the efforts of local safeguarding boards to deliver engagement activities and campaigns to ensure every resident and business considers their role in making the borough safer for vulnerable adults and children.

- 4.6 A borough with healthy, active and independent residents - Individual behaviour is a significant driver of how healthy we are, from our eating habits and how much exercise we do to whether we smoke. However, these behaviours are often not free choices, but shaped by the local environment in which we live and work for example, access to affordable healthy food options or streets which are conducive to walking and cycling. Local government does have some key levers it can use to shape the built environment and influence the health of the local population such as planning and licensing. These offer key opportunities, especially when it comes to the development of new housing and open spaces, transforming community facilities and how our town centres develop, to have an impact on people's lives across the spectrum from infants to older people. This theme consider a range of actions including working with local partners and providers to integrate health and social care, shaping, designing and delivering services based in the City and Hackney, tailored to meet local residents' needs, and linking in to wider place based preventative strategies; co-ordinating the work of planning, housing and public realm to create healthy and safe streets and neighbourhoods and supporting people with long-term health problems and disabled people to find, stay in and return to quality work as quickly as possible.
- 4.7 We would welcome feedback from the Board on the crosscutting themes and also invite the Board to feedback on the full detail of the strategy during the public consultation taking place between mid-July to mid-September.

5 The role of partners in helping deliver the strategy

- 5.1 The full draft of the strategy includes actions which the Council wants to work to deliver jointly with residents, businesses, other public sector agencies and all of our voluntary and community sector organisations. We are confident that this collaboration will be possible because of the excellent partnership working that is already so embedded in Hackney's culture and the ambition that exists across the borough to protect and enhance Hackney as a place to live and work.
- 5.2 The Community Strategy itself will be monitored by a new dynamic partnership board which will be focussed on setting the vision and direction for Hackney as a place over the coming years and agreeing collective goals that will help us achieve our ambitions. The new Community Strategy Board will meet annually and will bring key officers together from local partnership boards as well as businesses and the voluntary and community sector and will keep the Community Strategy under review, considering progress and identifying new shared goals and how we can work collectively to deliver them.

6 Financial Considerations

- 6.1 There are no financial considerations at this stage as this is just an update on the development of a strategy document.

7 Legal Considerations

- 7.1 There are no financial considerations at this stage as this is just an update on the development of a strategy document.

8 Equality Impact Assessment

- 8.1 Understanding inequality and the activity required to drive down inequality across all aspects of quality of life, have been at the heart of the development of the new Community Strategy. In addition, an equality impact assessment will be completed in summer 2017.

9 Attachments

None

Officer Responsible:

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