

Overview & Scrutiny

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission: Work Plan June 2018 – April 2019

Each agenda will include an updated version of this Scrutiny Commission work programme

Meeting	Item	Directorate / lead	Comment / purpose of item
14th June 2018 Room 102, Hackney Town Hall	Introduction to Director of Housing Services, and priorities for the next year	Neighbourhoods and Housing / Ajman Ali, Director of Housing Services	
Agenda dispatch: 6 th June 2018	Discussion about work programme for 2018/19	Tom Thorn, Overview and Scrutiny Team	For the Commission to agree review topic and one off items for this year.
9th July 2018 Room 103, Hackney Town Hall Agenda dispatch: 28 th June 2018	Cabinet Question Time – Cllr Sem Moema, mayoral Advisor for Private renting and housing affordability		Topic areas for questioning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private rented sector licensing. Progress made towards the planned launch of the wider private rented sector licensing schemes in October 2018. Work to address research finding significant conditions issues with properties already falling within mandatory licensing criteria. Member roles in reporting unlicensed properties. • Housing Association liaison. Engagement with Registered

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			<p>Housing Providers on maintenance and repairs performance. Any work to monitor / influence the lettings policies of Registered Housing Providers operating in Hackney, including any replacement of social rent tenancies with other tenancy types.</p>
	<p>Cabinet Question Time – Cllr Jon Burke, Cabinet Member for Energy, sustainability and community services</p>	<p>Tom Thorn, Overview and Scrutiny Team</p>	<p>Topic areas for questioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the Mayor's manifesto commitment to the delivery of a municipal energy company. Any emerging strategy and programme for delivery, including around renewable energy installations on Housing assets. • Profiles of leisure centre usage and work to engage underrepresented groups • Current waste and recycling collection models and any scope for change.
<p>August Recess – no meetings</p>			
<p>13th September 2018 Room 102, Hackney Town Hall</p>	<p>Healthwatch Hackney report on single homelessness and mental health, Council response, and discussion on</p>	<p>Tom Thorn, Overview and Scrutiny Team</p>	<p>Healthwatch Hackney have been invited to present and answer questions on their report on the experiences of single homeless people with mental health needs living in temporary accommodation.</p> <p>The Housing Needs and Private Sector Housing Services will be in attendance to present the Council's response.</p>

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Agenda dispatch: 5 th September 2018	site visits to hostels		
	Background / fact finding for review – introduction to Hackney’s Integrated Gangs Unit	Maurice Mason, Community Safety Team Manager, Chief Executive’s Directorate	<p>This item is intended to give Members an introduction to Hackney’s Integrated Gangs Unit (IGU).</p> <p>The Unit was establishment in 2010 following the Community Safety Partnership identifying tackling gang violence as a strategic priority and a detailed analysis being carried out of gang violence in the borough to develop a comprehensive understanding of the alliances, disputes and tensions between different gangs.</p> <p>The IGU brings together the police, a range of Council services, and others including Probation Services, the DWP and organisations providing one to one advice, training and support to divert people at risk away from gangs¹. It was the first co-located Integrated Gangs Unit (IGU) in the UK².</p> <p>While designing the Unit the Council and partners drew learning from the approach taken by Glasgow’s Violence Reduction Unit, which has received wide recognition for following what is sometimes defined as a public health approach.</p> <p>After it opened in 2010 gang-flagged violence fell for a number of years. There were 114 gun related crimes in the borough in the year to February 2011, compared to 66 in the year to February 2018. In the 2 years to November 24th 2018 there were no gang-related murders. This was prior to the recent spike in violence both in Hackney and elsewhere.</p>

¹ <https://www.hackney.gov.uk/media/11221/Our-approach-to-violent-crime/pdf/approach-to-violent-crime>

² <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/31170>

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	Review into Segregated Cycle Lanes – Draft Report	Tom Thorn, Overview and Scrutiny Team	
<p>13th November 2018</p> <p>Room 102, Hackney Town Hall</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 5th November 2018</p>	Progress on implementation of recommendations of Fire Risk Assessments	Ajman Ali, Director of Housing Services	<p>At the June meeting Members received a verbal update from the Director of Housing Services on the progress made in implementing the recommendations arising from the Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) the Council had carried out following the Grenfell Tower tragedy.</p> <p>The Commission was advised that good progress had been made. With work being progressed according to its priority, all critical (highest priority) recommendations had been addressed. Large numbers of the high priority (second highest priority) recommendations had been progressed. However, it was also acknowledged that further progress was needed.</p> <p>The Director of Housing Services has been asked to provide a paper for this item setting out the latest progress against the FRAs. He will be in attendance at the meeting to present the paper and answer questions. With Members having asked to keep progress under review moving forward, a further update will be submitted to the meeting of 11th April.</p>
	Evidence gathering for review - setting the scene - Council and Partnership work to tackle violent crime and high level findings of new Community Safety Partnership Strategic	Tim Shields, Chief Executive supported by Karen Law, Partnership Strategic Analysis & Performance Manager	<p>The carrying out a review looking in broad terms at the response of the Council and its partners to an escalation in levels of the most serious forms of violence. These occurred in a period starting in late 2017. The escalation in Hackney is reflective of increases both regionally and nationally.</p> <p>This item has been scheduled for Members to ask questions about the findings of the relevant elements of the Strategic Assessment.</p> <p>With the Council's Chief Executive - who is also joint Chair of the</p>

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	Assessment		Community Safety Partnership - in attendance, it will also be an opportunity for the Commission to gain further insight into the work of the Partnership to tackle and reduce violent crime over recent years.
	Evidence gathering for review - Council response to spike in serious violence - findings emerging from mapping exercise	Cllr Caroline Selman, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Policy and the Voluntary Sector, supported by Jason Davis, Policy Advisor	<p>The Commission will receive an update on the Council's mapping exercise conducted further to the community reassurance event in April. The Commission will explore its emerging findings and or recommendations, and seek to hold discussions on these with relevant guests from the community and the community and voluntary sector.</p> <p>With the review predominantly focused on young adults, we will seek to look in particular at the findings as they relate to provision for people aged 18 – 25, and their parents and carers. This will include an exploration of how those who have previously been known to be at risk of gang involvement / exploitation, are supported after they become 18.</p>
	Evidence gathering for review - Insight into Victim Support	Dina Sahmanovic, Senior Operations Manager, North and East London Victim Support	Victim Support to give views on findings of mapping exercise (above) and to set out their support offer to those affected by violent crime
	Evidence gathering for review - update on Improving Outcomes for Young Black Men Programme -	Cathal Ryan, Service Manager, Children and Families Service	The Council, its partners, young people and parents come together to form the Improving Outcomes for Young Black Men (YBM) Programme . This programme recognises and seeks to respond to the fact that young black men tend to fare worse than their peers across a wide range of areas.

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	Reducing Harm work strand	and Lead for Reducing Harm Working Group	<p>These inequalities include aspects around serious violence.</p> <p>With the Commission's review looking at the response of the Council to a spike in serious violence, this item has been scheduled to give Members an insight into the role which the YBM Programme will play within this, and the actions needed to help address the disproportionalities in the area.</p>
<p>21st November 2018</p> <p>BSix Sixth Form College, Kenninghall Road, London, E5 8BP</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 13th November 2018</p>	Thames Water Main Burst in the Leabridge Ward - summary of response by the Council	Andy Wells, Manager, London Borough of Hackney Civil Protection Service	
	Thames Water Main Burst in the Leabridge Ward - evidence from Thames Water and question and answer session	Thames Water staff	
<p>10th December 2018</p> <p>Council Chamber, Hackney Town</p>	Evidence gathering for review - Summary of policing resources (local and central) to tackle serious	Chief Superintendent Williams, Central East	The review looking at the response of the Council and its partners to the recent escalation in serious violence considers a number of topics relevant to the Police. These include the use of Stop and Search, the work to improve community confidence, the risks and challenges associated with changes in local policing (in relation to the capacity to

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Hall Agenda dispatch: 30 th November 2018	violence	(Hackney and Tower Hamlets) BCU Commander	tackle serious violence). This item has been scheduled for the Commission to receive context at an early point around the different sections of the Metropolitan Police (both those managed and operated locally and others which are managed centrally but which will be deployed in Hackney at various times).
	Evidence gathering for review - local policing changes and associated opportunities and risks in relation to tackling serious violence	Chief Superintendent Williams, Central East (Hackney and Tower Hamlets) BCU Commander	Local policing is undergoing significant change. This is in relation to the establishment of 12 Basic Command Units to replace the 32 borough model, with local boroughs merging with others. The announcement was made alongside an acknowledgement of significant financial challenge, with the Met required to make savings of £325m by 2021/22, and expected continued reductions in officer numbers. This builds on significant reductions in funding already imposed. The Council's own Foot the Bill lobbying campaign has highlighted the impact of £600 million in Met Police funding reductions since 2010, with Hackney having seen a reduction from 770 Officers to 584 in the 7 years to October 2017, the most severe cut in London. Within the new Basic Command Unit structure, Hackney has joined with Tower Hamlets to form a Central East Command Unit. This item will explore the implications of these changes on the capacity of the police to respond effectively, and any work of the Safer Neighbourhood Board to gather assurance around this.

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			<p>It will seek to involve community groups in discussions on policing in their areas, and their views on any impact of changes already made. Plans on this will be further developed.</p>
	Evidence gathering for review - Work and approach of the Integrated Gangs Unit		<p>The review sets out to explore how the Integrated Gangs Unit is working to tackle serious violence, and the benefits and any disbenefits of its approaches.</p> <p>This item will explore the approaches taken by the IGU. We hope to hear from staff from the range of agencies operating in the unit, including police and probation officers, DWP staff and Council Officers. We also wish to hear from some of the organisations commissioned for prevention and diversion work such as Mentivation and St Giles Trust.</p> <p>The item is intended to help answer the questions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What approach is the Integrated Gangs Unit taking to tackle gang related violence? • What tools does it use? • How is the Metropolitan Police's Gangs Matrix used by unit partners and what are its benefits and risks?
31st January 2019 Room 102	Evidence gathering for review - trends in Stop and Search (and Section 60 notice)	Sue Williams, Central East Commander,	This item is set in a context of announcements at a London wide level by both the Mayor of London and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner around a stepping up of 'targeted and intelligence led' stop and searches as one of the tools to tackle escalations in violence ³ .

³ <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/sadiq-khan-reveals-police-will-significantly-increase-stop-and-search-to-tackle-knife-crime-a3736501.html> and <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/942469/London-news-met-police-knife-gun-crime-stop-and-search-powers>

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Hackney Town Hall Agenda dispatch: 23 rd January 2019	activity - numbers, outcomes and profiles	Metropolitan Police Service (or other Police representative)	<p>We are also aware of a re-emergence in the use of Section 60 orders, including those covering the whole borough. Section 60 orders allow for searches to be carried out without suspicion. Hackney was subject to nine borough-wide Section 60 orders in the year up to the 15th May, the third highest in London⁴.</p> <p>This item will explore the numbers of and outcomes from stop and search in Hackney.</p>
	How is the community being kept informed, and how are good quality interactions with the public during the deployment of Stop and Search being best achieved?	Sue Williams, Central East Commander, Metropolitan Police Service (or other Police representative) Central Police Units (to be confirmed)	<p>We note differing views from different quarters around greater use of stop and search powers – including Section 60s - within the wider response to the escalations in violence.</p> <p>A recent report from the Centre for Social Justice⁵ has called for increased stop and search activity as a means of tackling violence, and is critical of how <i>'proactive policing in the form of stop and search has been under sustained attack for years'</i>.</p> <p>On the other side of the debate, one of the major concerns around stop and search is the disproportionality in terms of those who are being searched. For many years evidence has shown that stop and search is used disproportionately on those from (BAME) groups – in particular young black men - and young people⁶.</p> <p>This disproportionality is commonly linked with the lower levels of confidence that these groups have in the police and the criminal justice</p>

⁴ http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_298652

⁵ <http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/core/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/CSJJ6499-Gangs-Report-180824-FINAL-WEB.pdf>

⁶ It should be noted that the Centre for Social Justice report challenges the basis for this finding.

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			<p>system, and (despite the stated focus of stop and search on tackling serious violence) their greater likelihood of being penalised for more minor crimes.</p> <p>Critics of the use of Section 60 powers - such as Liberty – argue that they are overly broad.</p> <p>There is concern that Section 60s and stop and search activity generally - often regarded as ‘coercive tactics’ - can bring negative impacts on police relationships with the communities they serve⁷.</p> <p>There have also been historical concerns around the quality of interactions between the police and the community, and the further impact that these can have on trust and confidence⁸.</p> <p>This item will gauge the action being taken to reassure the community, to keep them informed and to achieve good quality interactions with the public during its deployment.</p>
	<p>How is the Community Safety Partnership working to ensure effective relationships with the community?</p>	<p>Sue Williams, Central East Commander, Metropolitan Police Service (or other Police representative)</p>	<p>Data for Hackney suggests that the trust and confidence aspect should be an area of focus. MOPAC’s Public Attitudes Survey shows there have been quite significant reductions in the proportions of Hackney residents reporting positive perceptions of the police, across a range of measures. The scale of these reductions have not generally been replicated at a London level.</p> <p>More positively, Hackney residents are among the most likely in London</p>

⁷ <http://criminaljusticealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/No-Respect-290617-1.pdf> and <https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/human-rights/justice-and-fair-trials/stop-and-search> and <http://www.stop-watch.org/uploads/documents/StopAndAccountConsultation.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/metropolitan-police-service-stop-and-search.pdf>

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		Central Police Units (to be confirmed)	<p>to feel that the police can be relied on to be there when needed.</p> <p>However, they are significantly less likely to likely to feel well informed about local police activities, to feel that the police are dealing with the things that matter to the community, and to believe that the police are doing a good job in the local area. Perhaps most concerning is the fall in the proportion of residents feeling that the police treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are. This places Hackney in bottom place of all London boroughs on this measure.</p> <p>Hackney's Safer Neighbourhood Board is the primary borough-level mechanism for local engagement in policing. It also oversees the Independent Advisory Group which works to encourage positive interactions between the police and community. We will seek to hear from these groups around their work and findings. In addition – and given the falls in confidence levels – we hope to hear from the police directly.</p>
<p>4th March 2019 Room 102 Hackney Town Hall Agenda dispatch: 22nd February 2019</p>	<p>Thames Water Main Burst in the Leabridge Ward – follow up on session 21st November 2018</p>	<p>Thames Water staff</p>	<p>Thames Water attended a specially convened Commission meeting on the 21st November 2018. This was to discuss their response to the trunk main burst which had caused significant flooding in the Leabridge Ward the previous month.</p> <p>At that meeting and in response to questions from residents, local organisations and Commission Members, Thames Water advised that investigations on the cause of the event and its response still being carried out and that insurance, compensation arrangements were being worked through, and that the latest burst would help inform future improvement programmes. This item has been scheduled to receive</p>

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			updates on these elements and others.
	Cabinet Question Time – Cllr Rebecca Rennison, Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing Needs		<p>Topic areas for questioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough sleeping – work by the Council and partners to tackle and alleviate over winter period, and any learning for 2019/20. • Other topic areas to be confirmed.
	Presentation by William Hodgson on research into Micro-sites in Hoxton		<p>As part of a PhD, William Hodgson has been seeking to answer the following questions:</p> <p>Can sites be identified, which are not currently considered suitable or whose ownership is not clear, where self-building offers a solution to their development? What kind of engagement process is required to ensure such projects are acceptable to local communities?</p> <p>With the Commission having an interest in the area of housing availability and affordability, William Hodgson has been invited to present his findings.</p>
	Update on discretionary private rented sector licensing	Kevin Thompson, Head of Private Sector Housing	<p>In the July 2018 Commission meeting the Mayoral Adviser for Private Renting and Housing Affordability answered questions on the Council's preparations for the launch of wider private rented sector licensing schemes planned for October 2018. These schemes would bring more private rented properties than those already covered by the mandatory scheme for larger HMOs, into a licensing framework.</p> <p>This item included discussions around the extent of inspection activity which would take place in the schemes and the costs which landlords would incur.</p>

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			<p>Members also noted that the research carried out to help shape the proposals had identified high numbers of HMOs which were subject to mandatory licensing but which did not have a license in place, and that health and safety hazards were in evidence in many of these properties.</p> <p>This item has been scheduled for Members to receive updates on the introduction of discretionary licensing schemes, the Council's work to target properties which should be licensed but are not, and that health and safety in these properties are rectified.</p>
	Update on establishment and activity of Housing Company	John Lumley, Director of Housing Regeneration	<p>In the question time session with the Mayoral Adviser for Private Renting and Housing Affordability in July 2018, the Commission was advised that a new Housing Company was being set up by the Council.</p> <p>Members were advised that around 40 Councils had already moved to set up similar arrangements in their areas. Approaches and aims differed; some provided and managed temporary accommodation units, some built homes directly, and others delivered housing management.</p> <p>Members were advised that plans for Hackney would – if enacted further to substantial consultation – see a Housing Company procure some of the open market homes being delivered (alongside those for social rent and shared ownership) through the Council's Housing Regeneration and Housing Supply Programmes.</p> <p>Members were advised that units would be rented as Living Rent Homes by the Housing Company, within the initiative announced by the Mayor of London. Living Rent charged a rent of a third of the median income levels in a Ward. This would typically see a rent for a two bedroom</p>

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			<p>property of between £900 and £1,100.</p> <p>Members were advised that a key benefit of taking the approach of creating a Housing Company separate of the Council was that units procured would not at a later point be lost to right to buy, enabling the Council to provide affordable and long term rented accommodation to more residents.</p> <p>This item has been scheduled for the Commission to receive an update on the development of the Housing Company, timescales, and the approach that it will take.</p>
<p>11th April 2019 Room 102 Hackney Town Hall Agenda dispatch: 3rd April 2019</p>	<p>Progress on implementation of recommendations of Fire Risk Assessments</p>	<p>Ajman Ali, Director of Housing Services</p>	<p>This is further to the previous update of November 2018.</p>
	<p>Housing Services' development of an Asset Management Strategy</p>	<p>Ajman Ali, Director of Housing Services</p>	<p>In the meeting of 14th June 2018 the Commission heard that the Council was developing an Asset Management Strategy setting out the investment requirements over the next five years.</p> <p>The strategy would be informed by the undertaking of detailed stock condition surveys, and would help shape the revision of the 30 year HRA Business Plan. Ensuring strong governance was in place and that the service best utilised opportunities offered by the coming to an end of a number of major contracts, would enable investment to be delivered effectively.</p>

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			<p>Fire Safety would be likely to be a key element of planned work.</p> <p>This item has been scheduled for the Commission to receive and discuss the finalised strategy and to explore how it might gauge progress against it moving forward.</p>
	<p>Findings of investigations into contract management Cabinet Member for Housing Services – Discussion with Cabinet Member for Housing Services</p>	<p>Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cabinet Member for Housing Services</p>	<p>During the last 18 months the Commission held a number of items relating to the management of contracts by the Council's Housing Services. These saw it receiving regular updates on the performance and management of one specific major contract - that for Specialist Electrical Works with Morgan Sindall - and holding a more general discussion item focusing the benefits, risks and issues with some of Housing Services' larger 'partnering' contracts.</p> <p>In July 2018 a detailed set of findings from this work were handed over to the Scrutiny Panel. With the Scrutiny Panel planning to contribute to the Council's planned development of a Sustainable Procurement Strategy which it is understood will include defining an approach to outsourcing and insourcing of services, this was in order that the findings could help inform this.</p> <p>In addition, the Commission wrote to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services asking for his attendance at a Commission meeting.</p> <p>This is in order that he can respond to three issues with specific regards to Housing Services which the work identified. The letter set out in detail the findings of the Commission in these areas. It explained that questioning on the evening would be focused on these. The areas are:</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cabinet Member for Housing Services') view around the need to achieve sustainable in house Clerks of Works and Quantity Surveying functions and to ensure their effective deployment, and any plans to support this. • Resident liaison functions within contracts - any work by Housing Services to enable the in-house delivery of resident liaison functions, within both existing partnering contracts and any future large housing contracts. • Any update on work to tackle issues around underpricing at tender stage
	<p>Cabinet Question Time – Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cabinet Member for Housing Services</p>	<p>Cllr Clayeon McKenzie, Cabinet Member for Housing Services</p>	<p>Topic areas for questioning:</p> <p>Finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest position on the HRA • Emerging views of budgets for 2020/21 and onwards, • Envisaged priority areas for spending.