

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

1. High level remit as per constitution

Quality of life in local communities covering neighbourhoods, place, wellbeing, amenities and the formal crime and disorder partnership function.

2. Areas of the Council falling into remit, by Directorate

Neighbourhoods and Housing

Community Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antisocial Behaviour• Violent Crime• Strategic Analysis• Prevent• Emergency Planning	Public Realm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Streets and Streetscene• Environment• Leisure• Parks• Waste and recycling• Regulatory	Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance, repairs and estate environment• Ongoing improvement (transformation)• Asset Management• Services for tenants and leaseholders• Housing Policy• New housing and estate regeneration• Private rented sector
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Finance and Resources

Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing Benefit• Housing Needs including temporary accommodation	Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fleet management• Energy Unit
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3. Statutory function of Living in Hackney Commission – Scrutiny of Hackney’s Community Safety Partnership

All local authorities are required to have a crime and disorder scrutiny committee in place, with the power to review and scrutinise decisions made and action taken by the local Community Safety Partnership. Living in Hackney fulfils this function, in addition to holding the areas above in its general remit.

3.1 Hackney’s Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership has a wide ranging membership.

A Statutory Officers Group operates within the partnership, made up of representatives from the Council, Police, Health, Fire and Rescue and Probation. The Statutory Officers Group has responsibility for the statutory duties of the wider partnership (which are listed in [Appendix 1](#)).

Duties include the production of a Strategic Assessment; a detailed overview of crime, disorder and community safety in the area, and a three-yearly Partnership Plan (the Community Safety Partnership Plan).

3.2 Hackney Community Safety Partnership Plan 2019 – 2022

Following a refresh of the Strategic Assessment, the Partnership is producing a new Community Safety Partnership Plan for the period 2019 to 2022.

This summarises the actions and activities that members of the Community Safety Partnership have pledged to address over the next three years to reduce crime, disorder and other community safety related problems.

Based on the evidence, the Plan prioritises the following themes for the next three years. Each of these will be progressed by a set of objectives, in turn supported by a range of planned activities with lead partners for each.

- Serious Violence and Gang Crime
- Alcohol Related Crime & Disorder (Licensing and Safer Socialising)
- On Street Drug Markets and Substance Misuse
- Domestic abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

3.3 Approaches to scrutinising the Community Safety Partnership

The Commission is invited to consider how it will perform its role of reviewing and scrutinising decisions made and action taken by the community safety partnership, within the time it has available.

This might be through exploring the contribution of a specific partner(s) to progressing particular elements of the plan and or by taking an objective and asking the various lead partners around progress on this being met.

In previous years relevant items and reviews have included exploring the police's response as lead partner on a rise in moped enabled crime (2017/18), the response of the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company for London to a critical inspection report (2017/18), and exploring the Partnership's response to an escalation in serious violence (2018/19).

4. Key relevant Council Strategies and Plans

Extracts of a number of policy documents relevant to the Commission's remit are appended to this paper. The sections selected are intended to help best inform discussions on where the Commission's focus might be best placed over the next year. Links to the fuller versions are also given below, when these were available at the time of publication.

4.1 Corporate Plan 2018-22

The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's mission, and the the way that it will deliver and meet its priorities, objectives and challenges. The extract on **pages 25-32** covers the challenges (Financial, Workforce, Skills, Policy and Service Related), and the responses to these. The full plan is available [here](#).

4.2 The Hackney Community Strategy 2018–2028

The strategy sets outs a vision for Hackney in 2028, developed through significant consultation and analysis. It breaks this down into key five themes, each with a vision for that specific area. For each theme there are sets of actions the Council will do, what it will ask of local stakeholders, and what is required by Government.

The extract on **pages 33-58** covers the three themes which are perhaps most relevant to the Commission's remit. The full strategy and further information is available [here](#).

4.3 Hackney Housing Strategy 2017-22

The Housing Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners aim to meet the Council's housing-related ambitions. Each year the Council produces an annual report on progress already made against the actions in the strategy, and next steps. The performance report from March 2019 is appended on pages **59-74**.

The full Housing Strategy and supporting information is [available here](#).

5. Recent work by the Commission

2018/19 - highlights

- **Reviewing the response of the Community Safety Partnership to an increase in levels of serious violence** – a review exploring a range of topics including the approach of Hackney's Integrated Gangs Unit, the Police's use of Stop and Search and its work to improve trust and confidence, and the views of leaders from communities disproportionately affected by the issue.
- **Investigation of contract management by Housing Services** – discussion with Cabinet Member for Housing further to Commission's findings on the performance and management of major housing contracts.
- **Exploring Healthwatch Hackney report on single homelessness and mental health, with a focus on housing conditions** – sites visits to a range of Council run and private hostel provision in the borough, and a discussion item on the Healthwatch Hackney report and the responses of the Housing Needs and Private Sector Housing services
- **Thames Water mains burst in Leabridge** – questioning Thames Water on the causes of a burst and major flood in the Leabridge Ward and its management of the aftermath.
- **Update on discretionary private rented sector licensing** – update further to go live of additional and selective licensing schemes, including levels of compliance against that forecast and next steps.
- **Fire Safety** – update on the progress made on implementation of Fire Risk Assessment Recommendations.

2017/18 - highlights

- **Response of the Council to the Grenfell Tower tragedy** – items exploring the Council's immediate and medium term responses, and its readiness to deal with emergency events.
- **Segregated cycle lanes** – an investigation looking at the circumstances in which the Council will consider the delivery of protected space for cyclists, and the views of a wide range of stakeholders into benefits, disbenefits, and design principles.
- **Council Lettings Policy and homelessness** – evidence gathering around aspects of other borough's lettings policies. The ones of interest to the

Commission used banding / pointing systems to incentivise households at risk of homelessness to engage with the Council and to prevent a need for entry into (and/or to end a need for) temporary accommodation.

- **Wider private rented sector licensing - response to the Council's proposals** – Following a discussion item the Commission gave support to the proposals but a detailed response also challenged the Council to address poor conditions in already licensable properties which research had identified.
- **Crime and Disorder Committee function** – hearing from the police and the Council on their work to tackle moped enabled crime, and from the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company for London on improvements further to a critical inspection report in December 2016.

2016/17 - highlights

- **Air Quality** – a detailed review focusing largely on transport, exploring action on a local and London level. Assessment of the benefits and disbenefits of schemes closing roads to through motor traffic (filtered permeability), and the case for borough wide parking controls. Also explored the processes through which the Council ensures air pollution considerations play a part in planning decisions.
- **Aftermath of flooding caused by Thames Water** – following burst water mains in Islington and Hackney, Scrutiny Commissions in both boroughs jointly challenged Thames Water on their levels of investment in their pipes and other infrastructure, their approach to maintenance, how they might better identify and deal with small leaks before they escalate, and whether emergencies such as these could be responded to more effectively. Living in Hackney also facilitated a meeting directly between Thames Water and affected Hackney residents.

Appendix 1 - Community Safety Partnership Membership and Duties¹

Membership:

- Cabinet members/non-exec members of partners
- Greater London Authority
- senior leaders from responsible authorities
- chief officers
- service heads/managers
- housing representatives
- voluntary and community sector
- community representatives (including faith groups)
- Learning Trust and further education college representation

Key Statutory Responsibilities to be met:

¹ Sourced from - www.hackney.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership

- a strategy group to be made up of senior representatives from the responsible authorities
- prepare, implement and performance manage an evidence-led annual strategic assessment and three-yearly partnership plan for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area
- consult the community on the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse and on matters that need to be prioritised by the partnership
- reduce re-offending
- coordinate domestic violence homicide reviews
- share information among the responsible authorities within the CSP
- have a crime and disorder scrutiny committee with the power to review and scrutinise decisions made and action taken by the community safety partnership
- assess value for money of partnership activities