

Overview & Scrutiny

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission: Work Plan July 2019 – April 2020

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

Meeting	Item	Directorate / lead	Comment / purpose of item
15th July 2019 Room 102, Hackney Town Hall Agenda dispatch: 5 th July 2019	Housing Services support of resident engagement	Gilbert Stowe, Head of Tenancy and Leasehold Services, Housing Services	<p>This item will explore current work to support involvement of Council tenants and leaseholders in the management of their housing and in the improvement in quality of life on estates, and any aspects for improvement.</p> <p>It will include exploring any support provided to Tenants and Residents Associations and Tenant Management Organisations, the value, take up and use of the Community Development Fund (a funding stream supporting community development and engagement activities on estates), and the work of Housing Services to communicate this and other funding opportunities to groups on estates.</p> <p>Having it at this point will enable the Commission to hear about the current approach to resident engagement, and to give views on where they see potential improvement. This is prior to a review of these functions which Housing Services is planning for later in the summer.</p> <p>A separate update on the outcomes of this review has been scheduled for the meeting of the 13th November</p>
	Prevent Programme Update	Tracey Thomas, Hackney Prevent Co-ordinator, Community	The Prevent Programme is an initiative to support and divert vulnerable people away from the radicalisation process and is one of four elements of the government's counter-terrorism strategy. Prevent involves encouraging the different local partners to work together to drive action and to learn from each other in promoting integration and challenging

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		Safety	<p>extremism.</p> <p>Local Prevent Coordinators for lead on working with communities, police and other local agencies, to deliver preventative measures against violent extremism.</p> <p>This item has been scheduled for Members to receive an update on the programme.</p>
	Discussion about work programme for 2019/20	Tom Thorn, Overview and Scrutiny Team	For the Commission to agree review topic and one off items for this year.
<p>30th September 2019</p> <p>Room 102, Hackney Town Hall</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 20th September 2019</p>	Item to inform likely review – Context on Registered Providers operating in Hackney	James Goddard, Director, Regeneration	<p>In its July meeting the Commission discussed using its main review for the year to explore a range of areas around housing management. Within this, Members suggested seeking to identify good practice, amongst both Councils and Registered Housing Providers / Housing Associations, possibly shaped around 4 consumer standards set by the Registered Provider of Social Housing which both are required to meet.</p> <p>With the review likely to include consideration of the work of Registered Housing Providers, this item has been scheduled to provide some background context to Members. This is in relation to the numbers and profiles of the Registered Providers / Housing Associations operating in the borough, their stock numbers, the different approaches / models which they may follow, and the ways in which they interact with the Council.</p> <p>James Goddard is the Council's Director for Regeneration, with responsibility for the Council's liaison with Registered Providers. He will</p>

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			<p>be in attendance at the meeting to present and answer questions.</p> <p>The item is intended to help inform a later discussion on how the Commission might approach its review, and the areas it might cover.</p>
	<p>Item to inform likely review – Context setting around Housing Services - stock, budgets, and performance</p>	<p>Ajman Ali, Director of Housing Services</p>	<p>With the Commission considering a review broadly seeking good practice amongst Housing Providers, this item is intended to provide background into Council’s Housing Services Division.</p> <p>The Housing Transformation Service is based in the Housing Division. This service leads on satisfaction monitoring, research and improvement, reviewing and reporting the performance framework, benchmarking, statutory returns to Government, and business and strategic plans.</p> <p>It is intended that this item will be based around these aspects in order to provide Members – particularly those new to the Commission – with a grounding in the service.</p>
	<p>Management of asbestos in Council-managed homes</p>	<p>Ajman Ali, Director of Housing Services</p>	<p>Materials containing asbestos were commonly used for a wide range of construction purposes until 1999, when all use of it was banned. Many buildings still contain asbestos. This includes the majority of Council homes.</p> <p>Where asbestos materials are in good condition and are unlikely to be disturbed they generally do not present a risk. However, when they are in poor condition, or when they are disturbed or damaged, they can cause serious harm.</p> <p>This item has been scheduled for Members to explore the Council’s approach to managing asbestos in its housing stock. This includes the</p>

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			measures in place to ensure safe and effective removal where this is required due to maintenance and improvement works in our residents homes and in communal areas.
<p>16th December 2019</p> <p>Room 102, Hackney Town Hall</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 5th November 2019</p>	<p>Evidence gathering for review around Housing Associations - Focus on repairs and maintenance</p>	<p>Tom Thorn</p>	<p>In September the Commission received background information around Housing Associations / Registered Housing Providers. This included insight into the number of providers operating in the borough, their stock numbers, the different approaches / models which they may follow, and the extent and nature of their engagement with the Council.</p> <p>Further to this the Commission decided that its main review of the year should seek to compare and contrast approaches of different providers within a range of themes, and their relationships with the Council. It would be intended that this would be delivered alongside hearing from Housing Association tenants and leaseholders around their experiences.</p> <p>This item will help inform the review. A number of providers have been invited to join a discussion on one broad element – repairs and maintenance</p>
	<p>Housing Services support of resident engagement – update on review</p>	<p>Gilbert Stowe, Head of Tenancy and Leasehold Services, Housing Services</p>	<p>In the July meeting the Commission explored the work of Housing Services' Resident Participation Team. This included the history of the function, the activities delivered, the resources in place, recent successes, and areas for potential improvement moving forward.</p> <p>It was timed so that Members could hear about current approaches and give views around possible change, prior to a review of the function taking place over the summer.</p>

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			<p>Following that item the Commission wrote to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services. This set out the findings of the Commission, along with 11 recommendations.</p> <p>This item has been scheduled for Members to be updated on the final outcomes from the review, and the consideration given the recommendations made by the Commission.</p>
	<p>Outcomes of Housing Services' review of Community Halls</p>		<p>During the July discussion on Housing Services' support of resident engagement, Members made a number points around the use and management of the Council's Community Halls.</p> <p>Members noted that a review of the function was underway, amid recognition that that they are currently an underused asset.</p> <p>In a letter sent to the Cabinet Member for Housing Services following the meeting, the Commission recognised the challenges around improving the accessibility of our halls - both in relation to financial pressures and around half of our halls being managed by organisations separate from the Council. However, the letter also asked that the review gave consideration to the specific points below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Community Halls will play a role in the delivery of Council and partnership priorities • How the visibility and accessibility of Community Halls (both those run by the Council and TRAs/TMOs) to community groups and organisations delivering activities will be improved • How the split between Council-run and TRA and TMO-managed

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			<p>Community Halls will be managed to ensure effective use in all cases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any role for the Council in supporting wider use of all Council-owned Community Halls ○ Any measures to ensure equality of access to all Council Community Halls for all residents ○ How the use of all Halls will be evaluated on an ongoing basis <p>This item has been scheduled for the Commission to be updated around the outcomes of the Community Halls Review, including the considerations given to the points above.</p>
	Council and partnership response to escalation in serious violence review - draft report	Tom Thorn	For Member review and agreement.
14th January 2020 Parkwood Primary School, N4 2HQ Agenda dispatch: 6 th January 2020	Thames Water Main Burst in the N4 area - summary of response by the Council	Aled Richards, Director, Public Realm	Homes in the N4 area of the borough were flooded on 8th October 2019, following a mains burst on the Thames Water network. The burst also affected water supply for a wider area. This item will provide a short summary of the response of the Council and its partners to the incident.
	Thames Water Main Burst in the N4 area – evidence from Thames Water	Thames Water staff	Thames Water are responsible for managing and maintaining the water main network across London and the Thames Valley. The Commission previously heard from Thames in January 2017 and November 2018, following major main bursts flooding in the Stoke

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			<p>Newington and Leabridge Wards respectively.</p> <p>Following the most recent major burst and damage caused in the N4 area, Thames Water have been asked to attend and answer questions on the causes of this, its response, and its general management of the network in Hackney.</p>
	<p>Thames Water Main Burst in the N4 area – input from Ofwat (economic regulator of the water sector in England and Wales)</p>	<p>John Russell, Senior Director, Strategy and Planning</p>	<p>Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water sector in England and Wales.</p> <p>In June 2018 Thames Water agreed to pay £65 million to customers as part of a package of payments and penalties worth £120 million. This followed an Ofwat’s investigation finding that Thames Water’s Board did not have sufficient oversight and control of its leakage performance.</p> <p>The £65 million payment to customers was on top of £55 million in automatic penalties incurred by the company for missing commitments it had made to cut leaks.</p> <p>The settlement also saw Thames Water commit to getting its leakage performance back in line with what it had promised it would deliver in 2019-20. It would also publish its performance each month in tackling leaks, appoint an independent monitor to certify the information in its monthly leakage reports, make additional leakage reductions of 15% by 2025 and do more to engage with customers on leakage issues – including at its Board.</p> <p>Thames Water also pledged to provide Ofwat with more detailed evidence to assure that it is meeting its statutory obligations in relation to leakage and improving its management control over the delivery of</p>

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			<p>core operational functions.</p> <p>Members have requested that Ofwat provide an overview of the role and work of the regulator in regards to Thames Water, and of the extent of any improvement following the penalties applied in 2018.</p>
<p>20th January 2020</p> <p>Room 102, Hackney Town Hall</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 10th January 2020</p>	<p>Learning from the 2019 Hackney Carnival, and benefits for residents</p>	<p>Polly Cziok, Director, Communications, Culture and Engagement</p>	<p>Due to the large numbers expected to attend, the Hackney Carnival for 2019 followed a different route and arrangement in 2019. A review was planned for after carnival on the location and best format for the event.</p> <p>This item is for the Commission to explore learning from the 2019 event, the costs, the benefits of the Carnival and events like it for Hackney residents, and any advantages and disadvantages of delivering the event directly. Members also want to explore the work of the Council and partners to secure a wide range of involvement including by schools and alternative education providers, and residents living on estates.</p>
<p>19th February 2020</p> <p>Room 102, Hackney Town Hall</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 11th February 2020</p>	<p>An overarching item on the Hackney Community Safety Plan</p>	<p>Tim Shields, Hackney Council Chief Executive and Co-Chair, Hackney Community Safety Partnership</p>	<p>The Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission fulfils the statutory role of the authority's crime and disorder committee. This involves reviewing and scrutinising decisions made and action taken by the local Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>Hackney's Community Safety Partnership is made up of the Council, the Police, Probation, Health, Fire and Rescue, and other partners. A Statutory Officers Group operates within the partnership, and is responsible for meeting the partnership's statutory duties.</p> <p>One of these duties is the production of a Strategic Assessment; a detailed overview of crime, disorder and community safety in the area.</p>

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			<p>Another is the production and publication of a Community Safety Partnership Plan – informed by the Strategic Assessment - summarising the actions and activities which members of the Partnership will take to reduce crime, disorder and other community safety related problems. Plans must be produced every three years.</p> <p>The Community Safety Partnership produced a new Strategic Assessment in 2018. This helped to inform the development of a new Community Safety Partnership Plan, for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22.</p> <p>The Plan prioritises the following themes. 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) <p>This item has been scheduled at a point where the Plan is close to one year in. This is in order for the Commission to receive updates on the progress made in the different areas above, against those planned.</p>
<p>23rd March 2020 Room 102, Hackney Town Hall</p>	<p>Trust and confidence, and police's community engagement</p>	<p>Marcus Barnett Commander, Central East Basic Command Unit (BCU), Metropolitan</p>	<p>As part of its substantive review last year, the Commission held an item on the work of the police and partners in response to levels of trust and confidence in the police – on some measures - to be relatively low in Hackney.</p> <p>The item – in January 2019 – heard about a range of activities (including a dedicated board being set up on Trust and Confidence,</p>

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Agenda dispatch: 13 th March 2020		Police Service	<p>question and answer sessions in venues around the borough, funding for and engagement with a Youth Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to help develop the relationship and understandings between the police and the community, participation in the Trading Places initiative, and the piloting of a programme where psychologist-supported training was being provided around body language, and in preventing escalations of situations.</p> <p>A number of Community Groups – including the Youth IAG were involved with the discussion, the record of which is available here. The March item would be for the police to provide an update on this general engagement work, and for community partners to feed in also.</p>
	Stop and Search Stop & Search and Use of Force Monitoring (including tasers) item	Detective Chief Superintendent Marcus Barnett Commander, Central East Basic Command Unit (BCU), Met Police and Co-Chair, Hackney Community Safety Partnership	This item will provide an update on Stop and Search and Section 60 activity further to the last update received in January 2019. That item included exploring trend activity data, and work by the Police, Stop and Search Monitoring Groups and others, to better achieve good quality interactions on the deployment of stop and search. The record of the January 2019 item is available here . It is intended that this item follows a similar format.
	Partnership response to street based drug dealing and	Detective Chief Superintendent Marcus Barnett	<p>The Community Safety Partnership Plan sets 'On Street Drug Markets and Substance Misuse' as one of its priority areas.</p> <p>This is a wide ranging area covering preventative and diversionary work</p>

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	associated ASB	Commander, Central East Basic Command Unit (BCU), Met Police and Co-Chair, Hackney Community Safety Partnership	<p>and input from a number of areas of the Council and partner services including Public Health, Health Services, Children and Families, and Probation.</p> <p>In order to achieve focus in what will be a single discussion, this item will focus on the immediate response of the Police, Council and other partners to street based drug dealing and drug taking, and anti-social behaviour related to this. The police themselves suggested that this be an area of focus for the Commission.</p> <p>The Police have been asked to lead this item. In addition, Members hope to hear from Council services including Community Safety Enforcement, Business Regulation and Housing Services, and from Registered Providers.</p> <p>The Commission also hopes to hear from residents on their views and experiences of street based drug activity, and the response of partners to this one year onto the life of the Plan.</p>
<p>30th April 2020 Council Chamber, Hackney Town Hall</p> <p>Agenda dispatch: 22nd April 2020</p>	Progress on implementation of recommendations of Fire Risk Assessments	Ajman Ali, Director of Housing Services	This is further to the previous update of April 2019.