

<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>  Hackney Young Futures Commission “Valuing The Future Through Young Voices”  Key Decision No – N/A	
<b>CABINET MEETING DATE (2020/21)</b>  20 July 2020	<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>  Open  If exempt, the reason will be listed in the main body of this report.
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED</b>  All	
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>  Cllr Anntoinette Bramble Cabinet, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care Deputy Mayor	
<b>KEY DECISION</b> No  <b>REASON</b>	
<b>GROUP DIRECTOR</b>  Polly Cziok - Director of Communications, Culture, and Engagement	

## **1. CABINET MEMBER'S INTRODUCTION**

**1.2.** In the 2018 manifesto, the Mayor of Hackney pledged that: “We want to maximise the voice of young people in the decisions that shape their lives, and ensure they can actively shape the opportunities available to them. To do this we will launch a Mayor of Hackney’s Young Futures Commission into the experiences of young people in Hackney, how they view the borough, respond to its challenges and how they feel about Council services.’

**1.2** The purpose of the Commission was to hear and learn from the lived experience of young people growing up in Hackney, delivered through an extensive engagement programme and for the Commission to make recommendations for the Council and for other agencies to consider that can help improve the life experience and life chances of Hackney’s young people.

**1.3** The ambition for the Commission was that it would reach out to young people across Hackney and give them a space in which their voices could be heard. We did not want to just hear from a sample of young people, or a few focus groups. We wanted to engage thousands of young people, right across the age spectrum, from every background, and in that we have succeeded. The Commission has been the most comprehensive youth engagement exercise the borough has ever seen.

**1.4** The insight gained through the Commission is, of course, just a snapshot in time, a picture of young people’s lives in Hackney in 2019/20. Since most of this work was carried out, the world has changed irrevocably through the Covid-19 pandemic, we are entering an unprecedented economic downturn, the murder of George Floyd in the USA has had a profound impact on our communities, and our young people face greater social, educational, and economic challenges than ever before.

**1.5** As the Council, the Police, our schools, our partners in the NH and our community partners take time to absorb what young people have told us through this piece of work and to consider their recommendations, we must all commit to the most important legacy the Commission can have is that, working together, we find ways to permanently put the voice of young people at the heart of decision making and policy making in Hackney.

## **2. GROUP DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION**

**2.1** In May 2019, a high-profile campaign was launched to engage a wide range of

young people in a variety of ways through a range of channels. The campaign's tone was genuinely open, listening and engaging, not communicating messages 'about the Council' or implying the Council can or should provide solutions. The Commission were open to emotional as well as practical impacts of change. The campaign was targeted at all children and young people, though particular effort was made to reach groups less likely to engage or respond without direct targeted outreach activity, and those less likely to be engaged with local services. These communities and groups included: Orthodox Jewish (Charedi), Vietnamese, Turkish/Kurdish, Gypsy, Roma and Travellers and young people with disabilities.

**2.1** The Commission's aim was to gather evidence of the lived experiences of young people in Hackney aged between 10-25 years and to better understand how they view the borough, what challenges they face and how they feel about local services.

**2.3** Young people were asked to share their ideas on how to make the changes that would improve their lives and if they had the power to influence, what they would prioritise.

**2.4** From the outset, the Commission agreed to adopt co-production principles at the heart of how it would consult with young people; namely; doing things "with children" as opposed to doing things 'to children" or 'for children".

**2.5** The Commission was supported by a Reference Group, a panel of well-regarded young people, community representatives, academic partners and those from the voluntary sector and Councillors, who volunteered their time to help ensure that the methodology was sound, and that the Commission had reached a representative sample of young people.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**3.1** That the Cabinet considers:

1. the recommendations contained within the report and reflect on the findings and consider the "Asks" made by the Commission, (see Appendix 1 in the main report for full, detailed "Asks").
2. how they will feedback to young people in the borough about how Council and its Partners are going to respond to the report in a timely way
3. how they will continue to engage and involve young people in decision-making in the future, post-Commission.

## **4. REASONS FOR DECISION**

**4.1.** Fulfill a commitment within the Mayor of Hackney's 2018 Manifesto.

**4.2** Consider recommendations outlined in the Hackney Young Futures Commission "Valuing The Future Through Young Voices" report.

## **5. BACKGROUND**

**5.1** This report focuses on the feedback from over 2,500 children and young people about their lived Hackney experience: their thoughts, concerns and ideas. The consultation was led by Hackney Young Futures Commission (referred to as the "Commission" for the purposes of this report), which is an independent, youth-led Commission, established in February 2019.

**5.2** The key aim is to link young people with Councillors, Council officers and other stakeholders, so that together we can improve young people's lived experience in Hackney.

**5.3** The Commission heard directly from young people what Hackney is like as a place to live, study, work in and what changes they want to see. The Commission wants young people to be included in the decisions about the issues that affect them.

**5.4** The Council asked the Commission to make recommendations in order to improve the lives and life chances of young people in the borough and enable Members to listen to and learn from young people's experiences of growing up in Hackney. The Commission is asking the Council and its Partners to use the insights to inform current and joint future strategic planning and service delivery.

**5.5** Based on the findings from the consultation, the Commission identified 70 proposed solutions called 'Asks', grouped into 6 main themes, namely; Secure Future, Healthy Future, Active Future, Inclusive Future, Safe Future and Bright Future.

**5.5.1** These solutions have been directly proposed by young people.

**5.5.2** The Commission is asking the Council to reflect on the findings and accept the "Asks" made by the Commission, (see Appendix 1 in the main report for full, detailed "Asks").

## **6. Policy Context**

## **6.2 Equality Impact Assessment**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required

## **6.3 Sustainability**

There would be no new impacts on the physical and social environment from proceeding with the recommendations of this report.

## **6.4 Consultations**

There is no requirement for statutory consultation as the Commission undertook an extensive programme of engagement with young people between the ages of 10-25 years, between March 2019 - April 2020.

## **6.9 Risk Assessment**

Not Applicable

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES**

There are no direct financial implications emanating from the recommendations in this report. The cost of delivering the recommendations will be appraised and considered separately, as necessary.

## **8. VAT Implications on Land & Property Transactions**

Not applicable.

## **9. COMMENTS OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & GOVERNANCE**

**9.1** There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Hackney Young Futures Commission "Valuing The Future Through Young Voices"

### **EXEMPT**

Not applicable.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**In accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) England Regulations 2012 publication of Background Papers used in the preparation of reports is required**

**Description of document (or None)**

None

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