

## Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission

LiH Members when considering items for the LiH Commission work programme please note the following information below.

### 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

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

<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Benefit</li> <li>• Housing Needs including temporary accommodation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sustainability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fleet management</li> <li>• Energy Unit</li> </ul>
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#### 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.

#### 2.1 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).

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

## **2.2 Approaches to scrutinising the Community Safety Partnership**

Each year 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.

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) and looking at Stop and Search and Trust and Confidence.

Due to Covid-19 this was delayed and carried out at our LiH meeting in June 2020.

## **3. 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.

### **3.1 Corporate Plan 2018-22**

The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's mission, the way that it will deliver and meet its priorities, objectives and challenges. The full plan is available [here](#).

### **3.2 The Hackney Community Strategy 2018–2028**

The strategy sets out a vision for Hackney in 2028, developed through significant engagement, 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 full strategy and further information is available [here](#).

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

## **4. Previous work by the Commission**

### **2019/20 - highlights**

- **Housing Services support of resident engagement** – explored the work to support the 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.

- **Housing Services support of resident engagement update** - 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.
- **Prevent Programme Update** - 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.
- **Management of asbestos in Council-managed homes** - explored the Council's approach to managing asbestos in its housing stock. This includes the 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.
- **Outcomes of Housing Services' review of Community Halls** - This item was an updated around the outcomes of the Community Halls Review, taking into consideration the points raised the LiH Scrutiny Commission in their letter to the Cabinet Member for Housing .
- **Thames Water Main Burst in the N4 area** – this was a summary of the response by the Council and Thames Water with input from Ofwat (economic regulator of the water sector in England and Wales).
- **Learning from the 2019 Hackney Carnival, and benefits for residents** – explored the 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.
- **A scrutiny review looking partnership working between Hackney Council and the local Housing Associations.**

#### **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 the 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 Lea Bridge** – questioning Thames Water on the causes of a burst and major flood in the Lea Bridge 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.

## **5. Work programme suggestions received**

### **Proposed Standing items**

#### **Cabinet Question Time - relevant Cabinet Members are:**

- Cllr Selman (Her remit also covers Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission)
- Cllr McKenzie
- Cllr Burke (His remit also covers Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission)
- Cllr Nicholson (His remit also covers Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission)
- Cllr Rennison
- Cllr Kennedy (His remit also covers Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission)

**Community Safety Partnership** – this item was taken in June 2020.

#### **5.1 Items to be scheduled in work programme**

- Prevent Update
- homelessness/rough sleeper update planned to be scheduled for update
- Lettings Policy (Due late 2020 or early 2021)
- Resident engagement changing how we do resident engagement. (Update should be ready 2021)
- Outcomes of Housing Services' review of Community Halls (Update should be ready 2021).

#### **5.2 Suggestions from Hackney Council officers and Cabinet Member**

- Financial inclusion for Council Tenants - supporting for rent, benefits, debt management etc.
- Hate Crime & Prevent Update
- Police Stop & Search Annual Update
- Community Safety Partnership Plan annual update
- trust & confidence
- Licensing for private rental sector.

#### **5.3 Suggestions from the Resident Liaison Group**

1. A review of Leasehold Services. There is very little transparency or accountability from this section or forums with leaseholders where updates can be given and questions raised as many of the issues are common to all. There have been some errors of judgement and more recently a serious breach of financial information going out to incorrect addresses. Leaseholders and Freeholders pay for this section and need

to be sure they are getting value for their money which currently is not the case.

2. Asset Strategy procurement and ongoing performance monitoring of major works contractors plus how are residents involved with this.
3. HRA scrutiny of HRA funds contributing to non-HRA services across LBH.
4. Scrutiny of the Housing Management Service.
5. Outcomes of Housing Service's review of Community Halls.
6. Full review - Council's strategy and approach to monitor and measure outcomes of the Council's commitment to being an "Anti-Racist" Council. In the context of the Black Lives Matters protests during 2020 and the Council's commitment to being an anti-racist LA. How will this commitment be monitored and measured, will Service areas be producing KPIs or enhancing KPIs to measure these outcomes?
7. Full review - Improving safeguards to prevent data breaches from Housing Service's - Leasehold Services: Recently there have been two serious data breaches from Housing Service's - Leasehold Services. What are the points of learning for Housing Services from these two breaches. What measures will be put in place to ensure that data breaches do not happen again? Are there implications for other Service areas?
8. Review of the Council's strategy and approach in offering services and support to the most vulnerable residents in the Borough. In view of the extra demands for help and support from the most vulnerable residents and as a result of the Covid19 lockdown. What lessons have all Council Services taken from these unprecedented times? Will the Council be reviewing or developing a new strategy to support the most vulnerable in the Borough?

## Appendix 1 - Community Safety Partnership Membership and Duties<sup>1</sup>

### 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:

- 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

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<sup>1</sup> Sourced from - [www.hackney.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership)