

<b>Skills Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission</b> <b>13<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b> <b>Item 4 – Levelling Up</b>	Item No <b>4</b>
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## **Outline**

### **Background**

The Levelling Up Fund was announced in November 2020 as part of the [2020 Spending Review](#). The purpose of this funding was to invest in “local infrastructure that has a visible impact on people and their communities and will support economic recovery.” The Fund is worth £4.8 billion. Levelling up’ is a government-wide approach to reduce geographical inequality in a broad range of economic and social measures across the UK.

The first two funding rounds have focused on three investment themes – transport projects, town centre and high street regeneration and cultural investment. The areas funded were determined by an index ranking local authorities on a scale of 1 to 3, with those ranked 1 considered most in need. The ranking system was based on three criteria:

- need for economic recovery and growth.
- need for improved transport connectivity.
- need for regeneration.

The second round of the Levelling Up Fund was announced in the [2022 Spring Statement](#). 529 bids were submitted, of which 111 were successful, with a total value of £2.1 billion.

In relation to the 2 rounds of funding a total of 834 bids were submitted, of which 216 were successful. 156 awards were made to local authorities in England, with a value of £3.0 billion, 78% of all funding awarded. Awards made to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland across both rounds have a combined value of £798 million.

Local authorities were eligible to submit at least one bid, up to a value of £20 million. In round 2 Hackney successfully secured a bid for just over £19 million for renovating public spaces in Hackney Central e.g., Town Hall Square, new creative workspace and Hackney Central Library.

### **Purpose**

This item is to review the Council’s plans for the £19 million funding / investment and spend for Hackney Central (HC).

The information will cover:

1. Hackney Central regeneration
2. Community engagement- identified challenges and priorities in Hackney Central
3. The LUF programme - aims, outputs and outcomes
4. Community involvement in the LUF programme and LUF project delivery.

**Report in the agenda:**

To support this discussion the following presentation was provided for background information.

- Presentation Levelling Up Fund.

**Invited Attendees****London Borough of Hackney**

- **Councillor Guy Nicholson** Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Delivery, Inclusive Economy & Regeneration
- **Suzanne Johnson**, Assistant Director - Regeneration and Economic Development
- **Robert Offord**, Area Regeneration Manager.

**Action**

The Commission is asked to note the presentations and ask questions.