

Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission

13th December 2023

Item 1 - Levelling up Fund

Item 2 - UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Item 1: Levelling Up Fund (LUF)

What we'll cover today

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

Hackney Central - Regeneration



- Major town centre and the civic and cultural heart of the borough with busy high street, heritage assets and evening economy
- Relatively deprived area of the borough, and London (employment, education, health, income, crime, living environment, barriers to housing) *Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019*. Hackney Central is a designated Regeneration Area in the London Plan
- Several underutilised Council owned sites allocated for development of new homes and jobs in the Council's Local Plan alongside area wide policies for Hackney Central.
- Opportunity to link regeneration with a fairer and a more inclusive economy via the creation of new affordable homes, workspace, jobs, transport improvements, community infrastructure and facilities, improved town centre and public realm etc
- A [Town Centre Strategy](#) (adopted in April 2023) sets out how the Council and its partners will address the identified challenges and act on on the opportunities. The strategy was co-designed with residents and stakeholders
- A clear delivery plan for Hackney Central identifying projects and proposals to be taken forward
- Monitoring the impact and outcomes for the area and its residents and businesses

Hackney Central - Engagement



- Hackney Central Conversation (2019-2021)
- Moving Around Hackney Central engagement (2019-2020)
- Town Centre Strategy engagement (2021-2023)
- Libraries Consultation (2021-2022)
- Hackney Central Community Panel (2021-on going)

Hackney Central - Engagement



Hackney Central Conversation (2019-2021)

- 2,000+ of responses; via online portal, 121 conversations and drop-in sessions as well as public events
- Highlighted issues and challenges in Hackney Central (inc. local economy, community safety and transport)
- The Conversation is continuing via the Town Centre Strategy delivery and the Community Panel to deepen our understanding of the challenges faced in the area, and develop shared solutions
- Issues highlighted in the Conversation have formed the basis for direct actions/delivery in the TCS

Moving Around Hackney Central (2019-2020)

- A transport focused offshoot of the wider Hackney Central Conversation
- Highlighted particular local concerns on highway safety, air quality and severance caused by main roads/dangerous junctions

Hackney Central - Engagement



Town Centre Strategy (2021-2023)

- Diverse engagement inputs to ensure that the vision and projects were guided by the views and priorities of stakeholders.
- This included over 1,176 total points of contact over 4 weeks via
 - 1-2-1 conversations,
 - co-delivered neighbourhood events and
 - online surveys

Libraries Consultation (2021-2022)

- An extensive libraries conversation from July 2021 about library services and what improvements could be made. Over 8,500 respondents were engaged via surveys, focus groups, schools workshops and interviews

Hackney Community Panel (2021-on going)

- Diverse membership guides the Council's engagement and regeneration work in HC
- Disseminate information and lessons learned to a wider audience
- Space for new ideas and initiatives to be considered



Hackney Central - Engagement



The following issues and challenges were identified as a result of all of the consultation and engagement:

- Retain heritage and character
- Quality of life and caring about each other
- More greening spaces, trees and planting.
- More amenities for children and young people.
- Addressing sustainability/climate change
- Improve community safety. Drug dealing, anti-social behaviour, street drinking
- Affordability of housing is a key concern
- Highway danger, the narrow pavements, the lack of safe pedestrian crossings, safety concerns for cyclists due to traffic, poor air quality, and the dominance of cars.
- Improved wayfinding and accessibility
- Hackney Central library as an 'unsung hero' and its role in the culture-led regeneration of Hackney Central, the need for space for business start-ups, co-working and meeting space. Addressing inclusion and isolation.



Hackney Central - Engagement



The following issues and challenges were identified:

- ➔ Retaining heritage and character
- ➔ Quality of life and caring about each other
- ➔ Greening spaces, trees and planting.
 - Amenities for children and young people (*being delivered elsewhere inc. investment in greenspace and leisure facilities*)
- ➔ Addressing sustainability/climate change
- ➔ Community safety. Drug dealing, anti-social behaviour, street drinking
 - Affordability of housing (*being delivered elsewhere inc. investment in Council owned land in HC*)
- ➔ Highway danger, the narrow pavements, the lack of safe pedestrian crossings, safety concerns for cyclists due to traffic, poor air quality, and the dominance of cars.
- ➔ Wayfinding
- ➔ Hackney Central library as an 'unsung hero' and its role in the culture-led regeneration of Hackney Central, the need for space for business start-ups, co-working and meeting space. Addressing inclusion and isolation.



Hackney Central - Town Centre Strategy

Creating Spaces for People to Come Together:

Years 0-2

Town Hall Square Improvements

Residents want public spaces where they feel safe and are protected from the elements. They want spaces that represent and celebrate the wide diversity of Hackney Central, and can play a role in the cultural life of the town, through events like Hackney Carnival or the shared experiences of day to day life. The new public artwork on the Narrow Way and in Town Hall Square, honouring the borough's Windrush communities, is representative of the types of inclusive and transformed public spaces that Hackney residents told us they wanted.

The Town Hall Square is an important part of the Borough's civic heritage. Adjacent to the Grade II Listed Town Hall building, it is the epicentre of Hackney's political representation and home to the Council's administrative offices. The Council is seeking funding for safety, maintenance and environmental improvement works to restore the Town Hall Square as a significant historical and civic asset for the borough. Through working with cultural institutions in Hackney Central, this project will also seek to find more opportunities to use cultural activity to activate the Town Hall Square as a public space for everyone.

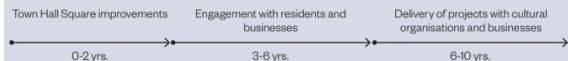


Aldgate public realm by Gillespies
Photo by Gillespies



Windrush sculpture at Hackney Town Hall Sq

Timeline



Town Centre Strategy (2023)

- Mission based approach to regeneration in Hackney Central.
- Sets out key projects for the area as influenced by need, and community input.
- The TCS, and the projects it prioritised, was the basis of the Levelling up Fund application, and was used to support the LUF application.

Levelling Up Fund

- The Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities launched round two of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) in mid 2022.
- The Council made a bid focused on delivering key aspects of the HC TCS, entitled 'Releasing the Potential of Hackney Central'
- [The funder had clear target areas for funding](#), including
 - Regeneration and town centre investment, including action around activation, civic pride and well-being
 - Cultural investment, including in community assets and cultural heritage,
 - Transport investment, including sustainable transport and greening streets.

Hackney Central - Levelling Up Fund proposal

LUF: 'Releasing the Potential of Hackney Central'

The proposed projects will work holistically to create a more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive town centre area that supports and builds on the existing cultural and community offer, increases footfall and delivers safer public spaces for the community to come together.

- Green and Resilient Hackney Central
- Characterful Hackney Central
- Hackney Central Wellbeing

Total scheme of £21m (of which £19.04m from DLUHC, £2.1m match from public and private sources)

Timeline - Projects to be completed by March 2025 (extension to March 2026, subject to agreement with funder)

*LUF funding is 100% capital fund i.e physical spaces and places to be improved, not revenue funding i.e service delivery

Hackney Central - LUF

Green and Resilient Hackney Central - c.£14m

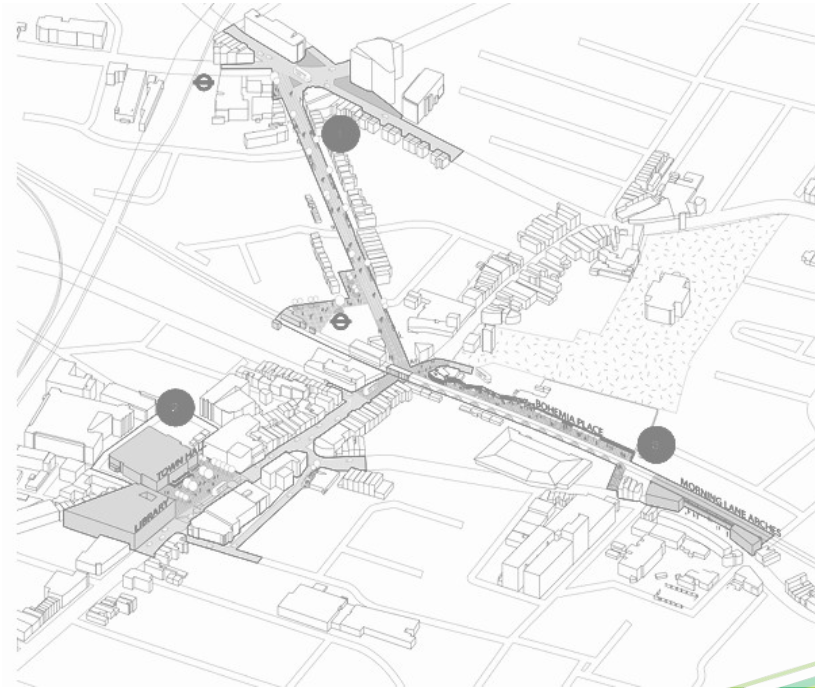
- Focus on delivering **health benefits** through improved air quality and improved highway safety supporting new active travel
- Supporting **environmental resilience** through tree planting and sustainable drainage

Characterful Hackney Central - c.£6m

- Focus on addressing **access to culture**, addressing issues of **digital exclusion and isolation** especially in HC's older population
- Investment in public realm, including Town Hall Square, to deliver public spaces that are **more welcoming and representative** of Hackney Central's communities.

Hackney Central Wellbeing - c.£1m

- Focus on **crime and ASB** and supporting the high street, including investment in **vacant and underutilised spaces** in the **town centre**.



Hackney Central - LUF

Green and Resilient Hackney Central - c.£14m

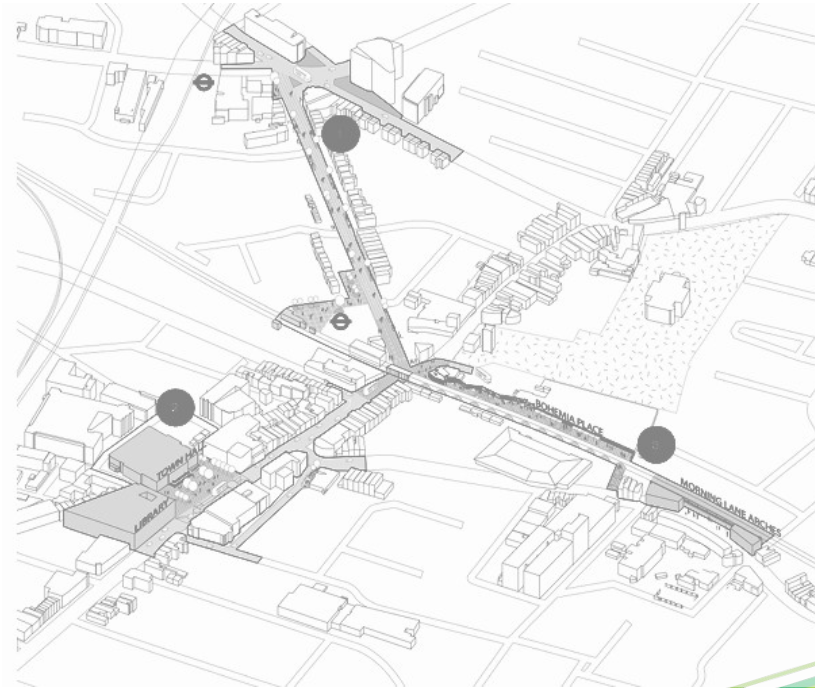
- Green Corridor on Pembury Junction, Amhurst Road and Mare Street
- Hackney Central Station car park sustainable transport hub and greening
- Marvin Street greening

Characterful Hackney Central - c.£6m

- A transformed Town Hall Square
- Investment in Hackney Central Library (inc. digital access)

Hackney Central Wellbeing - c.£1m

- Town centre improvements (inc. safety improvements, wayfinding and activation of underused spaces)



Hackney Central - LUF

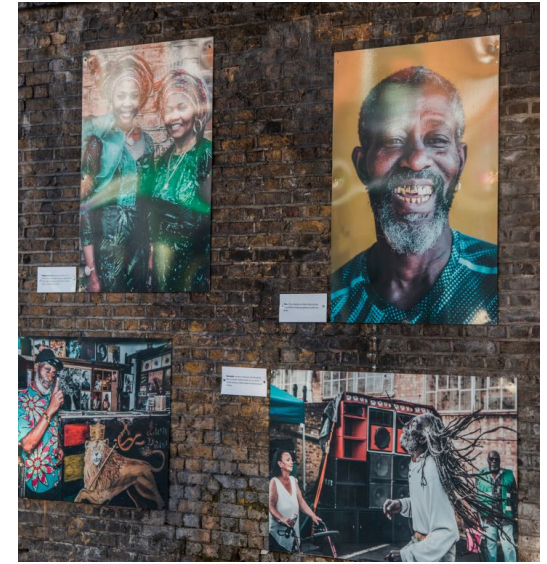
Headline Outputs:

The combined interventions will deliver

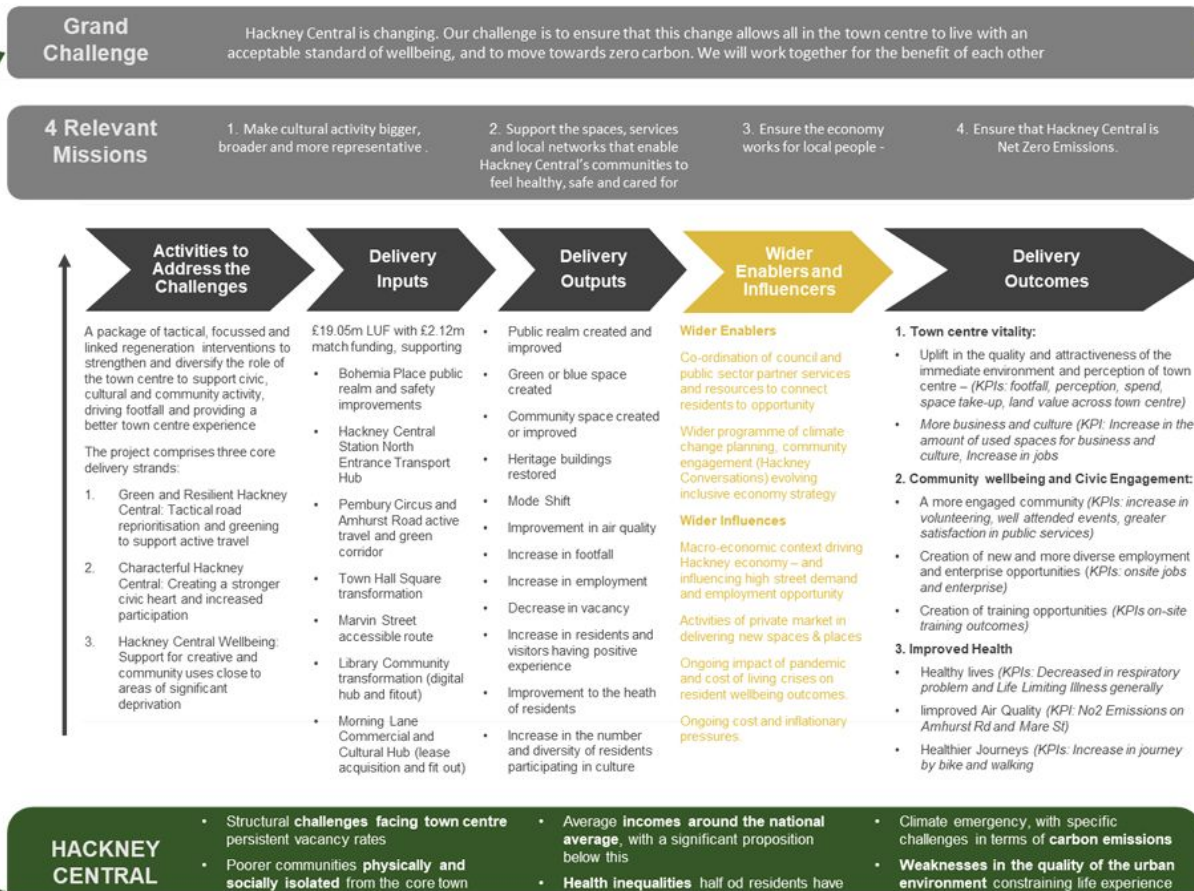
- over 20,000 sqm of improved public realm including the iconic Town Hall Square,
- over 1,600sqm new creative/commercial workspace, and
- transform resident's access to digital inclusion through investment in Hackney Central Library.

Headline Outcomes:

- Increase in in cycle/pedestrian movement in the town centre
- Increased air quality
- Decrease in vacancy rates in the town centre
- Increased number of cultural events, visitors/audience members to cultural venues and total visitor spend at cultural venues
- Increase in resident satisfaction with their local area as a place to live
- Increased climate resilience
- Reduced management cost of public realm



Hackney Central - LUF Theory of Change



LUF- Community engagement and involvement

Objectives for community engagement and involvement in LUF:

- **Build on existing knowledge**, respect the time and ideas people have already shared.
- **Gain a deeper understanding of lived experience** in Hackney Central from multiple perspectives to enable projects to address locally identified issues.
- **Lower barriers to engagement**, through coordinated action.
- **Target seldom heard voices** in Hackney Central, including those less likely to engage with online or other engagement forums. We are working with the Hackney Central Community Panel to expand our reach of engagement.
- **Be honest and transparent**, about scope for engagement and adaptation
- **Continuously reflect, learn and improve.**

LUF- Community engagement and involvement

Communications, engagement, awareness raising and reach:

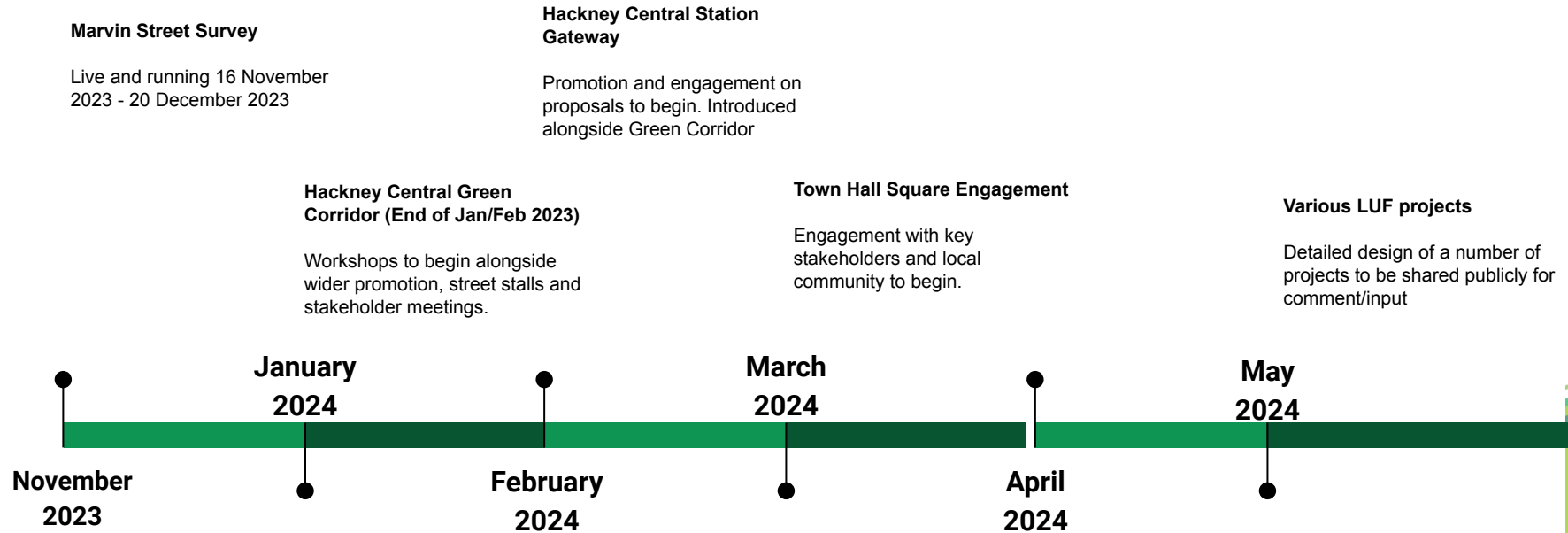
- [Webpage](#) and [project page \(example\)](#)
- Public event in Town Hall Square- September 2023
- Winter warmer event- 7th December 2023
- [Social media campaign](#)

(Example Project) **Marvin Street: a first step to a greener Hackney Central** (November-December 2023)

- [Love Hackney feature](#) (120,000 distribution)
- [Social media](#) (18,852 reach)
- [Enewsletter](#), 1,056 subscribers, 60% opens, 10% clicks.
- Direct mailing and physical signage

LUF - Community engagement and involvement

Next 6 months:



LUF- Community engagement and involvement

Project specific engagement plan (example):

- Healthy Streets Community Surveys
- In-person workshops (January - February 2024)
 - Co-design workshops to be run in early 2024 to discuss the detail of the public realm enhancements etc.
- Direct Reach Out to Key Groups
 - Personal outreach to key groups
 - Participation in key meetings (TRA meetings, community group meetings) to discuss the outcomes of the workshops
- Market Stall:
 - A central information hub with displays and project materials.
- Urban Gardening Workshops:
 - Specialised workshops in areas on the fringe of the Green Corridor.
- Community Events:
 - Participation in or creation of local events.
- On-Street Signage:
 - Banners and posters to visually showcase the project's potential changes and invite further feedback.

Item 2: UK SPF

What we'll cover today

1. Background to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
2. LB Hackney allocations for each theme
3. What we will deliver:
 - a. Supporting Local Businesses
 - b. Communities and Place
4. Approach to the Business Support Programme
5. London-wide UK SPF funding plans

UK Shared prosperity Fund

Background to UK SPF

- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) was launched in April 2022. Post-Brexit it replaces EU Structural and Investment funds (ESIF) in the UK focussing on national priorities.
- UK SPF aims to reduce inequalities between communities within the government's levelling up agenda.
- London was allocated a total of £185m UK SPF for 2022-25 - this was lower than equivalent ESIF allocations that averaged £90m a year. The GLA, as the regional body, manage the allocation.
- The GLA decided to allocate £78m directly to London boroughs to deliver on their thematic priorities of:
 - Supporting Local Businesses: To enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.
 - Community and Place: To enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood level.
 - People and Skills: Employment support for the economically inactive, NEETs and for those needing basic life/career skills
- The GLA held back the remainder of the funding so they could continue to fund a number of existing GLA entities and programmes such as London and Partners, the Business Hub and Wayfinder (now Grow Local London) plus their own £30m pan-London business support programme

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

What this meant for us in Hackney

- We had to define and now deliver our local UK SPF programme based on our £1.8m direct allocation:
 - Supporting Local Businesses: £441k
 - Communities & Place: £1.36m
 - People and Skills: £870k (managed separately for spend in 2024-25 and still being finalised)
- We need(ed) to influence sub-regional bids to the £30m GLA managed business support programme then support the outreach and comms for delivery of these two programmes that were successful:
 - £1.4m for supporting social business in the broad health and life sciences sector (delivery across seven CLF boroughs)
 - £1.4m future industries demonstrator hosted by SHIFT on the Olympic Park (delivery across the four Olympic boroughs)
- Contact and influence the local outreach of the organisations delivering the 20 other successful programmes (managed by the GLA with circa £22m value) that could benefit Hackney businesses
- We need to proactively engage at a senior officer and political level with the GLA to influence their thinking and planning for the next round of UK SPF which is due to go live on 1st April 2025

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

GLA Funding requirements for Supporting Local Businesses

- In line with GLA guidance, their priorities and local priorities we proposed and agreed the following

Workstream (UKSPF: SLB)		Outputs (Businesses receiving min 3hrs support)	Original funding guideline
1	Resilience support and advice on surviving the "cost crisis": - one general workstream - one workstream targeting hospitality, arts, creative, retail and manufacturing sectors.	60	£63k
2	Pump-priming and capacity building - for local organisations that represent/support local social and/or independent businesses.	20	£71k
3	Start-up and scale-up advice and training - for founders/ owners of socially focussed businesses that are rooted in local communities.	25	£158k
4	Local level support and advice on transitioning to net zero - including planning alternatives and reduced energy consumption.	80	£121k
5	Creation of self-sustaining business peer support networks - a legacy of the targeted local business support provided	35	£28k
UKSPF SLB SUB-TOTAL		220	£442k
Workstream (UKSPF: C&P)		(Number of energy audits completed)	
5	Community level cost crisis	175	£150k
UKSPF C&P SUB-TOTAL		175	£150k

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

GLA Funding requirements

- Supporting Local Business- Funding outputs and outcomes set by GLA and Government:

Table 2: Monitoring Outputs & Outcomes	2023/2024				2024/2025				TOTAL
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
UKSPF Supporting Local Businesses Outputs									
E23: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	0	0	25	40	50	45	45	40	245
E23: Number of enterprises receiving grants (numerical value)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E23: Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be enterprise ready (numerical value)	0	0	0	10	0	5	5	0	20
UKSPF Communities & Place Outputs									
E9: Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value)			1		1				1
E13: Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (numerical value)			22	22	22	40	40	29	176
UKSPF Supporting Local Businesses Outcomes									
E23: Jobs created (numerical value)	0	0	0	1	5	6	8	8	28
E23: Jobs safeguarded (numerical value)	0	0	0	0	13	16	17	15	61
E23: Number of new enterprises created (numerical value)	0	0	0	0	5	7	6	6	24
E23: Number of enterprises adopting new or improved products or services (numerical value)	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	3	10
UKSPF Communities & Place Outcomes									
E9: Improved engagement numbers (numerical value)			22	22	22	40	40	29	175
E13: Increased take up of energy efficiency measures (numerical value)							30	33	63

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

GLA Funding requirements for Communities & Place:

- LB Hackney allocated £1.36m (£910k capital and £440k revenue)
- Mainly capital funding focused on investment that enhances physical, social and cultural infrastructure and access to amenities.
- Projects identified based on their link with above investment objectives, community engagement has identified a need for the project, an identified need for funding, and deliverability (i.e we need to ensure we can spend the funding by 31st March 2025)

Hackney direct allocations for Communities & Place	Delivery timescale	UK SPF Capital	UK SPF Revenue	Total budget
Dalston streets and spaces programme (including Gillett and Dalston squares)	Jun-23 to Mar-25	£430k	£190k	£620k
Hoxton Street upgrade	Jun-23 to Jul-24	£200k	£0k	£468k
Fairchilds Garden open space upgrade	Jun-23 to Sept-23	£290k	£0k	£842k
Woodberry Down cultural strategy and programming	Nov-22 to Mar-25	£0k	£100k	£100k
Community level (businesses) cost crisis support programme (energy efficiency and savings)	Jun-23 to Sept-24	£0k	£150k	£150k

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The Communities & Place Projects

Summary of Communities and Place Projects	
1	Dalston streets and spaces programme (Gillet and Dalston Square) - Improve public realm, replace street furniture and sustainable drainage - A series of cultural and themed events to activate the square
2	Hoxton Street upgrade - Improve wayfinding, pedestrian flows, cycling infrastructure and green space
3	Fairchilds Garden open space upgrade - Improve the entrance and five historic elements within the park - Install a new kiosk style cafe for visitors
4	Woodberry Down cultural strategy and programming - Local engagement, planning and delivery of a series of local cultural events
5	Community level (businesses) cost crisis support programme (energy efficiency) - Delivering on-site environmental audits to businesses to assess opportunities for energy reduction and savings

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

GLA Funding requirements for Communities & Place

- Outputs and outcomes from government guidance

Intervention	OUTPUTS	TOTAL outputs target
E1	E1: Number of commercial buildings completed or improved (numerical value)	1
	E1: Amount of commercial completed or improved (m2)	16
	E1: Amount of public realm created or improved (m2)	4960
E3	E3: Amount of green or blue space created or improved (m2)	3396
	E3: Number of trees planted (numerical value)	30
E4	E4: Number of Tourism, Culture or heritage assets created or improved (numerical value)	1
E6	E6: Number of local events or activities supported (numerical value)	25
	E6: Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value)	50
E9	E9: Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value)	72
E13	E13: Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	176
	E13: Number of households receiving support (numerical value)	

Intervention	OUTCOMES
E1	E1: Jobs created (numerical value)
	E1: Jobs safeguarded (numerical value)
E3	E3: Increased visitor numbers (numerical value)
	E3: Increased use of cycleways or paths (numerical value)
E4	E4: Improved perceived/ experienced accessibility (numerical value)
	E4: Improved perception of facilities/amenities (numerical value)
E6	E6: Increased footfall (numerical value)
E9	E9: Improved engagement numbers (numerical value)
E13	E13: Increased take up of energy efficiency measures (numerical value)

Hackney business support programme



- Assembled £628k (not just UKSPF) for the Hackney business support programme-known as Impact
- October 2023 to March 2025
- Will deliver/provide advisory support for 220+ businesses over 18 months
- Deliver three cycles of business support that build on learning from each cycle
- One round of small grants for business to purchase low energy items to help decarbonise
- Continue support for socially orientated businesses
- Improve the business support ecosystem- link to associated research
- Use the local delivery organisations to extend outreach
- Use learning from our programme to influence partners on future programmes

UK Shared Prosperity Fund



Hackney business support programme (October 2023 to March 2025)

- Issues:
 - Hospitality and retail still struggling due to double impact of higher costs and lower consumer spend
 - Businesses mostly want grants but often they mean subsidy or a cash injection
 - In many cases is little awareness of, and commitment to, the climate change agenda from small businesses
 - Our local business support ecosystem needs strengthening
 - Our business demographic is predominately “mini-micros” (80% have fewer than five staff)
 - Encouraging more responsible business practices to achieve our wider aims e.g climate change, social give back etc
- Constraints:
 - We have assembled a total of £628k for the 18 month programme but this is still relatively small (we had £2.5m for a similar 18-month programme post-covid)
 - Monitoring guidance inherited from the government guidance- could be more outcomes focussed
 - The GLA approach to running its own £30m scheme (29 programmes) across London continues the fragmented nature of business support provision. Can be difficult to keep track of and navigate.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund



Hackney business support programme (October 2023 to March 2025)

- Opportunities:
 - Good learning from the previous business support programme - build on this
 - Maintaining a flexible approach on how the delivery organisations meet the programme targets
 - Frontloaded activity - including local delivery organisations into a consortium approach to delivering business support
 - Using local delivery organisations should help improve outreach
 - Delivery organisations have made commitment to gather learning from delivery
 - Able to use this funding to help deliver our local priorities on supporting social businesses and test approaches to businesses transitioning to net zero
- Risks:
 - Consortium organisations and delivery organisations working together and meeting prescribed outputs
 - The need to ensure programmes are accessed by a wider range of businesses representing the business community in the borough, and the boroughs diversity
 - There could be low levels of interest given limited grants are available to businesses
 - Wider impact will be limited as grants are not pump-priming local supply chain activity

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The sub-regional business support picture (October 2023 to March 2025):

- LB Hackney have had input into three bids into the GLA's £30m open call. Two succeeded.
- These two programmes operate sub-regionally and are:
 - Supporting social businesses/organisations in the public health and life sciences sector (£1.4m across seven boroughs).
 - Future industries demonstrator district (the QEOP) (£1.4 across four boroughs but also pump-priming SHIFT as an organisation).
- Both are taking the challenge and response based approach with applicants invited to submit a response to the challenge. The responses are then assessed and those businesses/VCS orgs/individuals progress to the receiving the first stage of business support then potentially a grant to trial their solution.
- Our role is to promote the opportunities locally to maximise applications from Hackney based businesses and organisations.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

London-wide business support picture (October 2023 to March 2025):

- The GLA managed £30m scheme consists of 29 programmes - many include some grant funding
- 20 programmes at circa £22m total value could be accessible to Hackney based businesses:
 - Four of those 20 include an element of transition to net zero with another two having a specific circular economy focus
 - Four of the 20 have a specific focus on socially focussed business
 - Four of the 20 have a broad innovation focus
 - Three of the 20 are about support elements of the digital economy or to support businesses improve how they use digital technology
 - Four of the 20 cover either supplier of investment readiness with the aim of supporting businesses to scale with two of those targeting support at diverse owners/founders
 - Seven of the 20 feature some element of targeted support for diverse owners
- The GLA's new business "front door" called Grow London Local will provide outreach to and triage local businesses onto those programmes. This is a new approach and as yet untested.
- Separately engaged with some of the business support providers to explore options for local outreach and collaboration in this funding.

Questions and discussion