



St John The Baptist C of O
VISITORS
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Vice-Chairman
Meeting 10/10/2018

Hackney's communities
stepped up to support each
other like never before

1. STEP UP SUPPORT AND HELP HACKNEY RECOVER

The coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns have been some of the greatest challenges Hackney has faced since the Second World War. It has taken every part of the Council and other public services in the borough to get us through it.

Our frontline services could not have done it alone. Hackney's communities stepped up to support each other **like never before** - checking in on neighbours and friends, setting up mutual aid groups, volunteering with local charities and more.

We are just starting to see the long-term impacts that tackling the pandemic has had on our borough. More people are claiming Universal Credit, food and fuel bills are rising, energy bills are increasing, and people are experiencing a real-terms pay cut as we face record inflation.

Just when people need support the most, **this Conservative government is letting us down** - too busy mopping up from their lockdown parties and political scandals to come up with a plan to help people through the cost-of-living crisis.

So where the Conservatives are stepping back, Hackney's Labour council **will continue to step in and step up to support and help Hackney recover.**

We'll do that by making Hackney fairer and more equal - by helping people on low incomes, tackling poverty, coordinating support across local organisations, and providing good jobs and opportunities for local people.



OUR RECORD

- **Recruited 1,400** volunteers to help people during the pandemic, from supporting frontline services to delivering food and supplies.
- **Provided** food and fuel vouchers as well as emergency grants to help people pay the rent, including food vouchers to **20,000** children.
- **Delivered** over **£40,000** of free fruit and vegetables from our street markets to families in need.
- **Remained** one of the **largest** funders of lunch clubs in London, providing free meals and reducing loneliness amongst our elderly residents.
- **Maintained contact with families and carers** through our children's centres, youth hubs and adventure playgrounds, offering places to play and connect.
- **Increased** funding for local, independent advice services to **£1m** this year.
- **Provided £80,000** of hardship support for migrants who would otherwise be ineligible for support from benefits and public services.
- **Delivered** internships for **40** young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- **Supported 113** young people into a paid *Kickstart* work placement.
- **Recruited 184** apprentices to the Council's award-winning scheme.
- **Enrolled 1,859** adults onto over **200** education and skills courses, including *ESOL* courses to **200** people every year.
- **Welcomed** almost **400** staff and over **£12 million** of contracted services back into the Council, making sure quality public services are run for the public good.
- **Recognised** the value of our **58** parks and green spaces, ensuring residents have had access to places to gain respite and reflect on the events of the last two years.



OUR PLAN

We will do everything we can to stop the squeeze on people's cost of living, making sure that fees and charges provide value for money for residents, and that Council Tax rises are kept as low as possible.

The Conservative government claims to have "ended austerity," but in reality, they have just forced councils to increase unfair taxes to prevent huge cuts. So every time we are forced to increase Council Tax, we will also give low-income households a **bigger discount** on their Council Tax bill, despite no support from the Government for this. We will provide low-income households with a **90%** discount on their Council Tax bill by 2026 and a **full 100%** discount by 2030.

We will recover from the criminal cyber attack, rebuilding trust in our services and ensuring that you can access council services when you need them.

This will go hand-in-hand with the first priority of any Labour council to run **financially stable and well-run services**. Hackney Labour pledges to maintain a **balanced budget** every year, ensuring that residents get value for money from well-performing council services that support the most vulnerable and serve the wider community.

To do that, we will need to transform services - using digital and other tools to improve efficiency, flexibility, and performance. This is particularly true



of our *Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care* services, which together make up the majority of the Council's spending.

Transformed services will help us **tackle poverty and inequality** that the pandemic has highlighted and made worse. We will make sure every council service is focused on this mission and delivers fairness for people with low incomes.

We will become a *Right to Food* Borough - we will continue our work to end holiday hunger in our schools; work together with the *Hackney Food Justice Alliance* and the *Community*

Partnership Network to end hunger in Hackney; deliver on our *Food Poverty Action Plan*; and ensure there is emergency support when needed, while also promoting access to good, nutritious food.

We will build on the principles of our *Here to Help* offer and ensure that the Council delivers or signposts residents to extra support in their community.

We will build community wealth and create the opportunities where residents are the first to benefit as the local economy recovers and reopens - **ensuring more of the jobs, opportunities, growth and money spent in Hackney stays in Hackney.**

That starts with our vision for public services run for the public good and delivering value for money for our residents. We have made significant progress in bringing services back in-house, with almost **400 jobs** brought

We will prioritise community wealth and create the opportunities where residents are the first to benefit

back into the Council from private companies. We will continue with our *Insourcing Policy* that all contracted services should be reviewed for insourcing.

Where we cannot insource services, we will make sure that the Council looks to our local businesses, social enterprises and co-operatives first. This will include each part of the Council setting up at least one new co-op to challenge market failure in areas like social care, affordable child care, and community energy.

We will ensure that goods and services are **procured locally and sustainably**, securing good jobs and opportunities for local people. We will also link this with our ambition to create green jobs for Hackney residents, and we will refresh the *Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy* to include principles such as an end to *Fire and Rehire*, promotion of the *London Living Wage*, a focus on tackling climate change and enabling local people to access future net zero jobs.

We will maintain **constructive relationships** with the local trade unions, and mark *International Workers Memorial Day* to pay our respects to local key workers who gave their lives in service to the Borough during the pandemic.

We will also help all those in Hackney who have been most



impacted by under-employment and unemployment.

This means continuing to invest in our **award-winning apprenticeship programme**, which has no upper age limit, and ensuring paid work experience for young people and those in later life who change careers or return to the jobs market.

Linking to our plan for a bright future for every young person, we will continue to build on the highly successful employment pathways programme, adding volunteering to apprenticeships, advice, skills courses, and routes into good jobs.

We will build on the success of the Council's award-winning apprenticeship programme, maximising the benefits from our

apprenticeship levy via the *Hackney Apprenticeship Network* by creating high-quality opportunities through the Council's supply chain and regeneration programmes, building a highly-skilled local economy. We will ensure adults and older workers returning to the labour market have equal access and benefit from the employment pathways programme.

Building on the successes of *Project Search*, we will develop plans for a self-sustaining programme so that young people and adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can develop the skills they need to achieve paid employment at the Council and across Hackney.

We will continue to build on our programmes, such as our supported



internship programme, to support adults who face significant labour market disadvantages, so that those seeking employment can access good quality work, no matter their background.

We will make sure there are **opportunities for lifelong learning** with excellent skills courses, providing qualifications and routes into good quality jobs. Our lifelong learning pledge will provide opportunities for everyone that will meet the skills gaps created by Brexit, work with local universities' and take advantage of the growth in green jobs, technology and social care economies.

Our *Green New Deal* will support the doubling in size of our local green economy, helping existing local businesses to transition to become low-carbon businesses, creating more green jobs for local people. We will create a *Green Skills and*

Circular Economy Commission to shape this plan, mapping the green skills gaps and the new opportunities in Hackney's economy.

We will work to end digital exclusion in Hackney, building on our work to increase accessible and affordable high-speed fibre-optic broadband across the borough, including promoting affordably priced packages.

We will ensure the Council works with the voluntary sector, local businesses, and internet providers to **expand free or affordable access** to digital services and ensure that free public wi-fi can be found in public spaces and all council buildings, including our libraries.

We will develop our *Digital Buddies* programme and use Hackney's libraries, schools, and colleges to support all residents to gain the skills to use the internet and to access services. ■

We will ensure that goods and services are procured locally and sustainably



the co-operative party
CHARTER AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY
Our council pledges to

1. Train our responsible procurement team to understand modern slavery through the CPD on the Global Procurement and Trade
2. Keep our contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act (MSA) and ensure it applies and covers all procurement of a good or service for our completion.
3. Challenge any abnormally low cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor profiting modern slavery.
4. Highlight or support any contracted workers who have taken a false wage and are entitled to request authority for being going home.
5. Publish an annual slavery statement to the staff to ensure they are fully informed on any instances or signs of modern slavery.
6. Assess our procurement policy to avoid a conflict of interest or other matters, such as a conflict of interest or an inappropriate relationship of business.
7. Monitor our supply chain regularly to ensure that we are not inadvertently supporting modern slavery.
8. Sign up to the Modern Slavery Statement and ensure we are fully informed on any instances or signs of modern slavery.
9. Apply for a supply chain certification to ensure we are fully informed on any instances or signs of modern slavery.
10. Report any concerns to the relevant authorities and ensure we are fully informed on any instances or signs of modern slavery.

Signed
Alice Clark
Diana White

Signed
Alice Clark
Diana White
LAUREN COUNCIL
RATES COUNCIL
10. Report public procurement annually.
9. Referr contract concern
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contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publish our whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.