

Working together for a better Hackney

Highlights 2022-26



2022-23

May – Prioritising resident safety with launch of Hackney Nights initiative

June – First round of new Community Energy Fund opens

August – Children enjoy new Splash Pad at Clissold Park

August – New cycle lane linking Lea Bridge and Clapton opens

September – Hackney Windrush Art Commission sculptures win Turner Prize

October – New Britannia Leisure Centre welcomes its one millionth visitor



2023-24

May – Ambitious new Climate Action Plan agreed

August – Hackney Mayor’s Fund invests £300k to tackle food poverty in schools

August – The Hackney School of Food Year 3 programme reached 2,500 pupils, teaching food growing and cooking skills

September – First of four new Children and Family Hubs opens

November – Council Tax discount for low income households increases to 90 %

January – Launch of ‘Welcome Hackney’ service to support migrants



2024-25

May – Hackney’s first ever climate citizens’ jury makes recommendations

May – New £1m Hackney Affordable Workspace Fund announced

August – New Council homes in Clapton win RIBA Award 2024

August – Restoration of Abney Park Chapel and Cemetery completes

September – Two new GP surgeries opened: Lower Clapton Group Practice and Spring Hill Practice

November – 1,000th cycle hangar installed

November – Clapton Park community safety initiative wins praise

December – Innovative residential solar scheme launches on social housing estates

December – Purchase of Ridley Villas Hostel for improved Temporary Accommodation

March – Secured 300 additional school places for children with SEND



2025-26

April – VCS advice partnerships delivered over £18million in financial benefits

May – Plans for Hackney Central Library and Museum revamp announced

August – Hackney's awarded the highest number of Green Flag parks in London

August – Hackney's Year 6 pupils receive best SATs scores in the country

January – Transformation of Kings Hall Leisure Centre begins

February – Expanded landlord licensing scheme launches

February – Council approved the publication of our Borough of Sanctuary Framework





Hackney is London's best borough. That's why I made it my home many years ago, raised my son here, and in 2023 took up the huge honour of becoming Mayor of Hackney.

I inherited an ambitious plan to work together for a better Hackney – one that is fairer and safer, greener and healthier, and works for every child.

Since then, my mission has been to deliver on those promises, ensuring the strong groundwork set out in our strategic plan becomes real benefits for people in our borough.

That means using every tool we have to continue fixing the housing crisis that denies too many people in Hackney a safe, secure and affordable home.





It means striving to reverse the poverty and inequality that remains far too stark in our borough. We do this by strengthening Hackney's support system through investment in income maximisation, early help, advice partnerships, emergency support and food programmes.

...And it means continuing to lead the way in future-proofing our borough against climate change. Ensuring a just transition that reduces inequality, protects those most vulnerable to climate impacts, and shares the benefits of climate action fairly across communities, residents and businesses.





Hackney is an incredible borough with incredible people, and I am so proud to lead an organisation where the innovation, commitment and hard work of our teams delivers day in day out for our communities.

But we also face big challenges, from an ongoing cost of living crisis and entrenched poverty and inequality to a severe housing shortage and big shifts in our population.

We are right to acknowledge and celebrate our strong record of delivery over the last four years, which has seen us make Hackney fairer, safer, greener and healthier in spite of these obstacles.

Dawn Carter-McDonald
Chief Executive

Borough Profile

89 main
languages
spoken

20%
of residents identify as disabled.

25% increase in the
number of businesses in
the borough since 2018

500

fewer reception pupils between 2021 and 2025

**Median age 7 years below
England average**

85%

of people feel they
belong locally

40%

of households in
social housing

40%

of population living in income
deprived households

**Second highest
proportion
of children
and older
people living
in income
deprivation**

**WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR A
FAIRER
HACKNEY**

Hackney remains a borough of sharp contrasts. Many residents have benefitted from new job opportunities, improved transport, and continued regeneration, yet for a significant proportion of households the rising cost of living, especially housing, has eroded financial security.



Despite this, the Council has continued to deliver significant improvements, expand the supply of new homes, raise housing standards and strengthen the support for residents.

Over this time, we've pulled together and built a wide range of support for people facing financial hardship working closely with the voluntary, community and faith sectors.

972

new homes for social rent currently being delivered

£6.4m

in crisis support through Here to Help scheme

Over **750,000** library visits a year

Damp and mould cases in council homes reduced by **60%**

WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR A
FAIRER
SAFER
HACKNEY

970+

residents supported into employment and apprenticeships each year

16,000

holiday food vouchers annually

£7m

previously unclaimed benefits now claimed through the Here to Help scheme

**WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR A
SAFER
HACKNEY**

Over the last four years, the Hackney Community Safety Partnership has worked with residents and partners to make Hackney safer and reduce the impact of violence, antisocial behaviour and exploitation.



The Council is coordinating a whole-system response with Police, health partners, schools and the voluntary sector to reduce violent crime, build trust and support victims. This has included visible reassurance patrols, joint enforcement in hotspots, and sustained prevention work to protect young people most at risk. Together, this work demonstrates the borough's commitment to reducing harm and creating safer neighbourhoods.

51

nightlife venues
become Hackney
Nights accredited

Over **£1.5 million** in
capital investment
has improved
libraries, cultural
spaces and creative
infrastructure

£150,000

of illegal tobacco and
£220,000 of illegal vapes
seized from shops

2,500

nighttime
economy staff
in vulnerability
awareness
and bystander
intervention

WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR A
FAIRER
SAFER
HACKNEY

1049

migrants supported
by welcome hub

Hate crime
awareness
training to **200**
professionals
and **community**
partners

**WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR A
GREEN  R
HACKNEY**

The climate crisis is already affecting Hackney, through hotter summers, heavier rainfall, worsening air pollution and growing pressure on our infrastructure, homes and health. We've made climate action a core priority, focusing on reducing emissions, improving air quality, lowering household costs, and creating greener, healthier neighbourhoods.



Hackney continues to lead nationally on climate and environmental performance. We have maintained high standards for street cleanliness, reduced chemical use, driven down nitrogen dioxide levels and expanded sustainable transport, recycling and reuse. Our work has been recognised in national assessments, including a top-five ranking in the CEUK climate scorecard for single-tier local authorities, and we are recognised as national leaders in community energy and clean residential solar.

4,000

solar panels on 27 housing blocks, helping cut electricity bills for around 800 tenants and leaseholders

Upgrading

35

council buildings with heat pumps

Free cycle training to 750 adults and 4,230 children

5000

Street trees planted

Removed over

2.6 million

single-use plastic items

50km

of walkable and cycleable low-traffic roads, including 6 km of protected cycle lanes and 45 km of low-traffic streets

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREENER HEALTHIER HACKNEY

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER HACKNEY

Hackney continues to face deep and persistent health inequalities. The 2025 Indices of Multiple Deprivation ranked the borough 43rd most deprived for health and 32nd for average health outcomes, with inequities closely linked to income, housing and wider social determinants. Black and Global Majority communities and lower-income households remain disproportionately affected by preventable illness, long-term conditions and poorer access to care.



Despite this context, Hackney has delivered significant improvements in prevention, access to services, community wellbeing and targeted support over the past four years. We've strengthened mental health provision, expanded physical activity, reduced smoking, addressed obesity, tackled substance misuse and made major progress in HIV prevention. These achievements reflect strong partnership working across the NHS, VCS, communities and the Council.

33

Green Flag Awards

Almost **90%**

of journeys in Hackney are now made by walking, cycling, or public transport

Healthier Together Hackney helped

6,000
adults with long-term conditions

Over **12,500**
people were supported to quit smoking through Smokefree Hackney

Active play in seven adventure playgrounds

13 newly refurbished play areas

WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR A
GREENER
HEALTHIER
HACKNEY

**WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR EVERY
CHILD
IN HACKNEY**

Over the past four years, Hackney has delivered strong and consistent outcomes for children, young people and families despite unprecedented financial pressures, increasing need and significant operational challenges.



Our focus on prevention, partnership and high-quality practice has ensured that children continue to receive timely support, earlier intervention and better outcomes. Hackney has also continued to invest in the conditions for long-term success: a stable and skilled workforce, a strong early-help offer, improved SEND pathways and a more inclusive, trauma-informed and anti-racist system.

98% of schools and
100% of children's
centres rated **Good or
better**

84% of schools
with school
streets

13,338
individuals and **6,351** families supported
at Children and Family Hubs

300

additional SEND places created,
strengthening in-borough support

WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR EVERY
CHILD
IN HACKNEY

Two new in-borough children's homes approved

**Supported internships delivering successful
outcomes for 57 residents with SEND**

384 children
have learnt to swim with
Sports England lessons at
Better Leisure Centre pools

