Dear business owner,

This booklet provides information on business rates and business support in Hackney for 2019/20.

Business rates are set annually by Central Government and Hackney Council collects these from local businesses on their behalf. Not all these rates are returned to the borough, but we do use them to fund services like environmental health, trading standards, street cleaning and licensing - all essential services that support our business community.

Local businesses are at the heart of Hackney’s growing economy, and we know that times are tough, so we want to do everything we can to support you.

The national revaluation of business of the ‘rateable value’ carried out by Central Government has, as anticipated, hit the borough hard with many of you experiencing a significant increase to your business rates bill. We campaigned against revaluation before it was introduced in 2017 and had some success in securing new reliefs for businesses most affected, but we will continue to call on the Government to provide further support for businesses.

In 2018/19 we made over 11,000 rate relief awards, worth over £27m, with many businesses being eligible for multiple reliefs, but there are still businesses who may be eligible and haven’t applied for the financial support on offer. Some reliefs can be automatically applied to your bill, but others, such as Small Business Rate Relief, require the business to submit a claim. I urge businesses who have not looked into the reliefs that are available to visit our website www.hackney.gov.uk/businessrates or, if in doubt, contact the Business Rates Team on 020 8356 3466.

The Council has been working hard to address and support the needs of our Small to Medium Enterprises. We believe that our borough is, and should remain, an environment where startups, growing and established businesses that have given so much to the borough thrive and provide opportunities and services for our residents.

We’ve expanded our engagement with businesses through our Hackney Business Network, having rolled out new or renewed business forums in all areas of the borough. The forums are a chance for business owners to talk directly with members of the Council, find out about free support programmes, funding, legislation updates and they are also an excellent opportunity for you to forge new relationships with other businesses in the area.

In 2018, 1,500 people attended Hackney Business Network events and 300 businesses received free business development training and advice through the network.

This year we’re introducing a better online experience for businesses using our services through our website. This has come about as a direct result of consultation and feedback from
Where to find more information

For more information about the Council’s budget and what the Council spends on services, visit [www.hackney.gov.uk/budget](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/budget)

To find out about the services Council offers to support businesses, visit [www.hackney.gov.uk/business](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/business)

For queries about Business Rates email [business.rates@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:business.rates@hackney.gov.uk) or call [020 8356 3466](tel:02083563466)

For more information about the Crossrail BRS contact [020 7983 4100](tel:02079834100) e-mail [crossrail-brs@london.gov.uk](mailto:crossrail-brs@london.gov.uk) visit [www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs](http://www.london.gov.uk/crossrail-brs) or write to: [Finance, GLA, City Hall, London, SE1 2AA](mailto:Finance, GLA, City Hall, London, SE1 2AA)
Small business rate relief is just what it says; it helps small businesses with a rateable value under £15,000 by giving them a reduction on their bill.

Apply today - it’s easy
Check out your rateable value on your new bill - you’ll find it next to the property address - then contact us for an application form. We may even be able to backdate your discount.

Phone: 020 8356 3466
Email: business.rates@hackney.gov.uk
Or fill out our online application form at www.hackney.gov.uk/business-rates-ex#small

If you occupy more than one business property you may not be eligible for relief. Empty properties and ratepayers in receipt of charity relief are not eligible. Those who already receive small business relief need not apply, your discount will simply be carried over each year.