



Philip Glanville
Mayor of
Hackney

Dear resident,

These are very challenging times for public finances across the UK. Councils like Hackney, which serve populations with high levels of need, have been hit particularly hard during the austerity years. Since 2010, we have had to save £152 million from our annual budget, due to cuts to the grants we receive from central Government, and rising cost pressures.

As I prepare to propose my first budget as your new Mayor of Hackney, I'm proud of the fact that we have managed this huge challenge, whilst protecting local services. I'm also proud of the fact that Hackney froze its Council Tax for 10 years in a row up to 2015, the only council in the country to ever achieve this. The cost of living in London is a challenge for many of our residents, and we are still committed to keeping Council Tax as low as we can.

However, we need to strike the balance between that, and protecting the services that local people value and rely on. That's why we're proposing a Council Tax increase of 3% this year. 2% is the extra amount the Government is allowing us to raise to go towards the costs of social care for older and disabled people. 1% will go towards other council services. In total, a band D property will see a rise of about 60p a week. We are planning similar rises in 2018/19 and 2019/20, though that will be reviewed each year and will be subject to any decisions central Government make about our funding.

The budget for 2017/18 sees us making another £13.8 million in savings. Where possible we have found those savings through income generation, through efficiencies, and by reducing the costs of management and delivery of services. For example, by bringing our housing service back in-house, and integrating the teams that clean council estates with the teams that clean streets, we have saved £840,000 a year, keeping charges low and improving services for our leaseholders and 23,000 tenants.

We have had to make changes to the way some services are commissioned and delivered, such as our housing support service,

continued overleaf

Introduction from Mayor Philip Glanville *continued*

which provides assistance to tenants with mental health problems and those in temporary accommodation. Across the Council, we will need to provide more services online or on the telephone, rather than face to face. We will need to start charging for some services, that up to now we have been able to provide for free. An example is Telecare, for which most councils have been charging for years. Our proposals will only effect those who do not receive a social care package from the Council, and I am committed to keeping charges low. However this alone will help to raise around £360,000 of the £611,000 cost of providing the service.

I know that some of these decisions will not be popular. But they are decisions we have had to take to protect those services we all value, such as our youth services, parks maintenance and street cleaning, as well as those which serve the most vulnerable, such as children's social care, supporting our older and disabled residents and providing temporary accommodation for our homeless residents.

Although we have to make significant savings from our revenue budgets – that's the money we receive and spend every year – we are continuing to invest wisely from our capital budgets to make sure that Hackney continues to have some of the best public facilities in London. Schools, leisure centres, parks, new council housing, streets and pavements, our much loved listed buildings and town centres; all need investment, and we are finding new ways to raise that money, such as building

and selling private housing, making sure that the profits from new homes in Hackney go into public infrastructure rather than the pockets of developers. We're also investing in land to create new income streams to protect services in the future. Next year will be investing £398m in all these things and more.

Continued reductions in our Government grant mean that we will need to continue to make substantial savings up to 2020 at least. However, if we are to keep Hackney as a place for everyone, a place to be proud of, we cannot afford to let our ambitions shrink with our budget. I don't want to lead a Council that just manages decline, instead we need to stay optimistic about the future of the borough and keep our aspirations and expectations high. There will be changes, but I am committed to involving and engaging residents and service users with those changes, to listening to people's ideas and to making the very best of what we have, for the benefit of everyone who lives here.



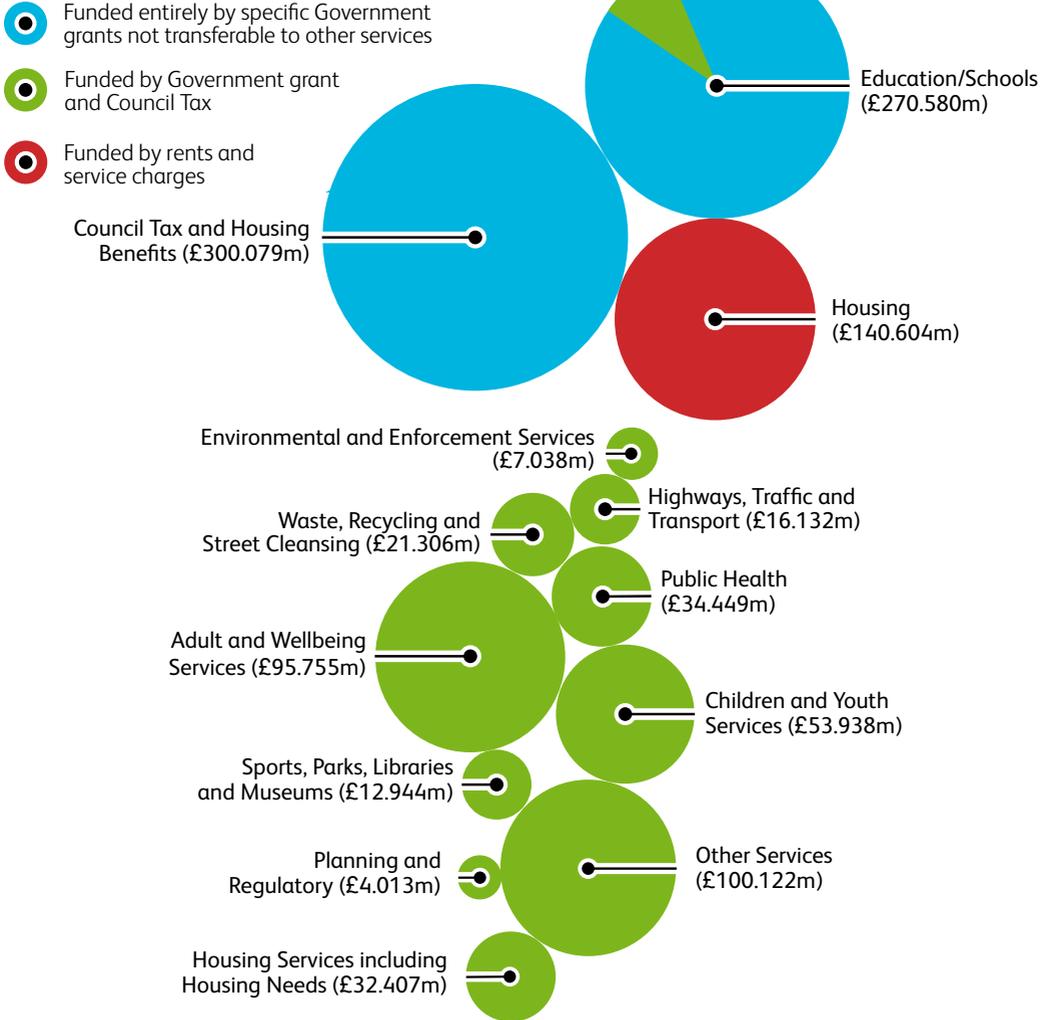
Mayor of Hackney



Our Government grant has been cut every year since 2010

What the Council spends on services for you

Government funding to Hackney Council has been cut again this financial year. Despite this we will continue to deliver the same level of frontline services for Hackney residents in 2017/18.



Where to find more information



For more information about the Council's budget, the Adult Social Care Precept and what the Council spends on services visit www.hackney.gov.uk/budget or write to: **Council Tax, Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, London, E8 1DY**

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- Businesses can pay and manage a Business Rate account
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