



# Hackney's Business Support – Town Centres and High Streets

Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission

19 January 2026

# Introduction



## Part 1

- Economic Development

## Part 2

- Regeneration- Work in town centres and high streets

## Part 3

- Working with Black & Global Majority Business

# Regeneration & Economic Development Service

- Economic Development: Lead the delivery of the Economic Development Plan, borough-wide business support programmes and initiatives (Hackney Impact), Responsible Business Charter, Hackney Business Network, maintain Hackney business data, evidence base and statistics, Hackney Wick and Fish Island Creative Enterprise Zone, affordable workspace focus (Affordable Workspace Provider List, affordable workspace policy & support).
- Regeneration: Leading regeneration and inclusive growth in boroughs 5 priority regeneration areas (Dalston, Hackney Central, Woodberry Down, Shoreditch and Hoxton, and Hackney Wick), work and engage with local residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders to produce area plans and strategies and deliver these via projects & programmes encompassing new homes, affordable workspace, site development, culture, public realm, transport, business support, community space etc.
- Town Centre Growth Manager post (in the Regeneration service):
  - Support town centres & high streets, and businesses in these locations, via business engagement and delivering initiatives to support the economic success of town centres and high streets.
  - Will cover town centres and high streets designated in the Local Plan such as Stoke Newington, Stamford Hill, Clapton, Finsbury Park, Homerton, as well as supporting work in priority regeneration areas.
  - Engage and support local business groups associations

# Economic Development



## Strategic Priorities

### Economic Development Plan 2025-2035: A plan for Inclusive Growth

- Economic development & regeneration maximise the benefits of growth for Hackney's people and places
- Supporting thriving town centres and high streets
- Making Hackney an attractive place for businesses to start up, stay & grow
- Encouraging businesses to be more socially & environmentally responsible
- Ensuring more of the value created in Hackney, stays in Hackney



## Business Support

- £875,671 invested into business support since 2023 using grant funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) (funding due to end in 2026)
- Hackney Impact business support programme (providing business mentoring, coaching, workshops & networking events)
- Continuous evaluation & development of the programme
- 339 businesses supported in phase 1 (covering a range of sectors including retail & food services, with a broad spread of businesses across the borough)
- Phase 2 will support a minimum of 60 businesses



# Hackney Business Network



- Circa 5,000 businesses signed up to the network- information, advice, signposting, events, funding opportunities
- Newsletter & LinkedIn Group
- Love Hackney Shop Local Campaign promoted over 50 different businesses in 2025-26
  - Most recent Christmas campaign generated 191k views/1091 clicks on social media
  - Piloting a town centre/high street focus for Love Hackney Shop Local in 2026



# Hackney Responsible Business charter

- 32 businesses signed up
- Over 180 pledges social and environmental pledges
- Pledge delivery will progress in 2026
- Relaunch with the following considerations:
  - Strengthen the benefits for businesses e.g. stronger alignment with the Love Hackney Shop Local campaigns
  - Increase awareness of the charter & introduce accreditation stickers



## Business Grants



- £2.5m grant fund to support businesses recovering from the pandemic - a large proportion was town centre and high street business focused
- £100k grant programme to creative spaces in the Creative Enterprise Zone
- £100k awarded for Green Energy Grants
- Small grants to Hackney business associations
- £1m in affordable workspace grants
- **Current grant:** £15k new Local Area Activation Fund for town centres/high streets

*\*All business grants use external government funding, and S106 funding in some cases. No direct Council funding.*

# Regeneration- Work in town centres and high streets

# Strategic Priorities



Support and deliver inclusive growth by:

- A holistic area based approach to create and deliver regeneration plans and strategies for places that reflect local priorities, led by very local community engagement.
- Strengthening the economy in, and supporting, town centres and high streets by ensuring growth and development is positive for the place and benefits local businesses and residents.
- Securing inward investment and funding to invest in our high streets and town centres.
- Cross Council and external collaboration to build long lasting area partnerships to deliver positive change, influencing and steering development and regeneration to maximise its local benefits (landowner, developers and business relationships, shaping planning policy and planning applications, using Council land and assets to drive positive change and opportunities).

# Hackney Central



## Hackney Central Town Centre Strategy (adopted April 2023)

10-year plan informed by extensive research & engagement through the *Hackney Central Conversation* with local businesses, communities & stakeholders. Promotes inclusive growth, focuses on tackling key challenges including poverty, housing affordability, support for local businesses, air quality, and the need for greener, healthier, and more accessible public spaces in the town centre. Funding secured: £21m (£19m Government Local Regeneration Fund).

### **Hackney Central Regeneration programme:**

Projects delivery aim to create a safer, more welcoming, and inclusive town centre by strengthening commercial, cultural, and community assets and increasing footfall:

- Transformed town centre routes, streets and spaces- Amhurst Road, Mare Street, Graham Road & Town Hall Square
- Hackney Central Library refurbishment
- New entrance to Hackney Central station
- Work with the Arch Company to bring arches back into use
- 55 Morning Lane site - Community engagement & feasibility/design work.

# Dalston



## The Dalston Plan (adopted January 2025)

Developed with Planning & informed by the *Dalston Conversation* (5,000+ comments), sets out a vision and delivery strategy for inclusive growth in the town centre. Key objectives:

- More green and open space
- Sustainable transport and high-quality public realm
- High-quality buildings and affordable homes
- A vibrant town centre. job growth
- Inclusivity and safety
- Cultural, creative, business, and community wellbeing

Regeneration programme:

- **Dalston Square:** 450+ sqm of improved public realm supporting local businesses and social interaction
- **Gillet Square:** 180+ sqm of co-designed public realm, creating space for new traders
- **Ridley Road Market:** public realm, lighting and CCTV upgrades to improve safety and reduce anti-social behaviour
- **Bradbury Works** redevelopment: support of local partner to deliver 640 sqm of new affordable workspace
- **Ridley Shopping Village:** secured the retention of creative businesses and affordable rents
- **10-16 Ashwin Street:** disposal to V22 to protect existing creative affordable workspace
- **Circle Collective:** support local organisation working with young people on Kingsland high street, to deliver employment and skills training programme on customer service

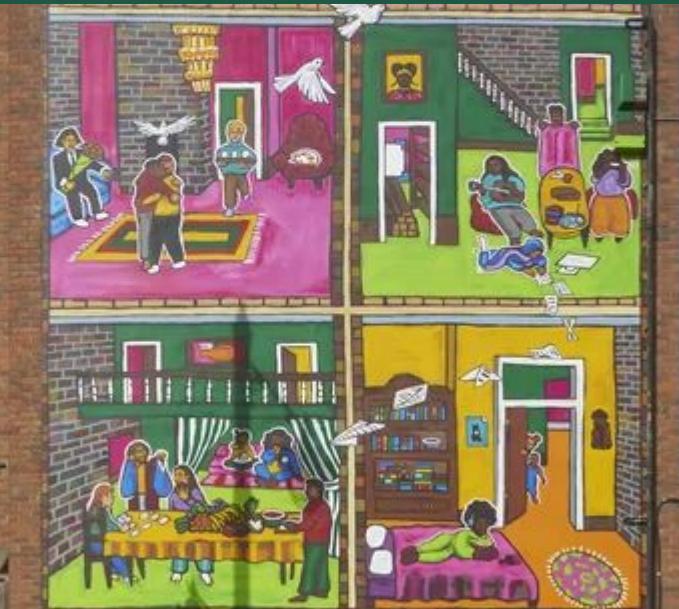
Funding secured for Dalston: Circa. £1m from UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support the above delivery.

# Hackney Wick



- **Hackney Wick Central Masterplan:** Contribution towards preparation & delivery of new homes, commercial space & retention of affordable workspace through the S106 agreement, new neighbourhood centre.
- **Hackney Wick and Fish Island Creative Enterprise Zone:** The zone supports creative and cultural businesses in Hackney Wick and Fish Island to stay and grow in the area. Over 40 innovative start up businesses supported through the SHIFT accelerator programme (24/25), increasing the scale and diversity of jobs, skills & partnerships in the zone.
- **Prince Edward Road:** public realm improvements supporting local businesses, with SUD's & greening, play on the way, and improved seating (LLDC CIL £100k)
- **Wick Workspaces:** Re-purposing the Council owned Old Baths & Trowbridge Centre into thriving affordable workspaces and community facilities.

# Shoreditch and Hoxton



## The Hoxton Regeneration Framework:

Focus on Hoxton Street town centre and around:

- A shared vision for the neighbourhood, co-developed with local residents, businesses, community and cultural organisations.
- A regeneration and delivery plan to steer Hoxton regeneration over the next 10 years
- A collaborative place-based approach across the Council and external organisations.

**GLA Civic Partnership Programme:** £3m investment will deliver more connected and inclusive public spaces, supporting high street regeneration, improved green infrastructure and public space, better access to nature, play, and social spaces for all ages, stronger connections between communities, organisations, and local social infrastructure. Completion: March 2027

**Shoreditch:** Influencing and shaping major planning applications to secure local benefits such as employment and skills, affordable commercial space, public realm, town centre funding (e.g Bishopsgate Goodsyard, Worship Square). Delivering affordable workspace e.g Plexal, Shoreditch

# Working with Black and Global Majority Businesses

# Revisiting the SEG Black and Global Majority Engagement Business Report

## **Summary of 2018 report findings...**

The 2018 report suggested the council uses levers to increase focus & support on Black & Global Majority businesses in Hackney. The report identified need to:

- Increase council engagement with the Black & Global Majority business community & increased understanding of needs
- Improve communication/provide help navigating council opportunities
- Provide business support (including procurement readiness) & business events
- Provide support for affordable workspace
- Fund community projects & improve public realm

# Actions

- Business surveys and engagement informed our business support programme (Hackney Impact) and the the Economic Development Plan
- Sustainable Procurement & Insourcing Strategy adopted
- Focus group with Black and Global Majority founders on the Economic Development Plan & business support requirements
- Hackney Impact business support programme- focused on underrepresented businesses providing:
  - start up and grow programmes
  - mentoring, coaching, workshops & procurement readiness training
  - help with funding & procurement applications including AI tools (useful for those whose first language may not be English)
  - networking events & peer networks
- Continued investment in the Hackney Business Network, Love Hackney Website, Magazine & Love Hackney Shop Local Campaign
- £1m+ invested in affordable workspace and new affordable workspace created
- Investment in the public realm in town centres and high streets.