

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HACKNEY PROCUREMENT BOARD

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2026

Officers Present: Rotimi Ajilore Assistant Director Procurement and Energy, in the Chair

Jessica Feeney, Governance Officer;
Gallal Muflahi, Employer Engagement Officer
Rosangela Rhodes, Acting Strategic Procurement Manager
Leila Gillespie, Procurement Category Lead (Corporate Services)
Maria Zazovskaya, Strategic Commissioning Manager
Laura Oni, Commissioning and Contracts Officer

Apologies: Merle Ferguson, Procurement Lead
Anish Pillai, Programme Manager Employer Engagement

1 Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Merle Ferguson and Anish Pillai.

2 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of 13 January 2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4 Review of Action Tracker

It was noted that the revised risk register requested under Item 8 at the previous meeting had been circulated by David Von Ackerman.

5 HCE S681 Re-Commissioning of the London Accommodation Pathfinder

- 5.1 The report was introduced by Maria Zazovskaya and Laura Oni, who presented the business case for re-commissioning the London Accommodation Pathfinder (LAP), a pan London initiative providing an alternative to custody for Black and global majority boys who are disproportionately represented in the youth justice system.

- 5.2 The Hackney Procurement Board noted that the original programme, commissioned in 2021 across five North London boroughs, would expand to a partnership of ten boroughs. The procurement would be led by the London Borough of Camden, acting as the lead authority, for a contract term of up to five years with a maximum value of £1.3 million excluding VAT.
- 5.3 The recommissioning secures access to five places within a North London home in Barnet, shared across partner boroughs in order to reduce void costs and maximise occupancy.
- 5.4 During discussion, the following points were raised:
- The Chair welcomed the favourable cost comparison for Hackney against the London average.
 - Maria Zazovskaya clarified that the £1.3 million maximum value stated in the report is exclusive of VAT and confirmed this would be formally recorded.
 - The Procurement officers had been more actively involved in the specification development and quality question sign-off than in the previous procurement; however, Camden led the procurement process and Hackney was not represented on the evaluation panel.
 - The Chair queried whether a single provider would be sufficient for a ten-borough partnership. Officers advised that the revised model focuses on five places, with a phased expansion through an additional work package subject to demand and safe staffing levels.
 - The expansion to a wider geographical partnership, including boroughs such as Richmond and Greenwich, was noted as beneficial in mitigating safeguarding risks associated with placing young people from neighbouring boroughs together.
 - The Board noted that the expanded partnership would reduce void risk through shared liability and increased referral flow.
 - The Chair emphasised Hackney's strong commitment to sustainable procurement and social value. Maria Zazovskaya confirmed that social value was embedded in the tender process and that Hackney's commitments would be mapped with the social value team once procurement concluded.
 - The recommissioning removes previous offence restrictions (including sexual offences, murder and attempted murder), addressing prior barriers for Hackney children accessing the service.
- 5.5 It was noted that the Contract Award Report is anticipated to return to the Board in April 2026, subject to all boroughs signing the collaboration agreement.

RESOLVED:

- **That Hackney's participation in the re-procurement of the London Accommodation Pathfinder block contract, be approved.**
- **That the contract will be procured by the London Borough of Camden, as lead local authority, for a period of up to 5 (3+2) years to commence on or around 1st April 2026. Hackney's total contribution will be a maximum of £1.3 million over the life of the contract, which will provide access to five (5) places in the North London Home.**

6 HCE S689 Vehicle Removals and Car Pound Services

- 6.1 The report was introduced by Kam Sandhu-Shinger, who presented the business case to commence procurement for vehicle removal and car pound services, a statutory requirement.
- 6.2 It was noted that the current arrangement, relying on a third-party compound located outside the borough, results in an annual deficit of approximately £520,000 and operational inefficiencies, including extended travel times for removals.
- 6.3 The proposal seeks to repurpose the Bentley Road car park into a dedicated in-borough compound, delivering projected net annual savings of £250,000, improving customer access, strengthening enforcement capability, and aligning with carbon neutrality objectives.
- 6.4 It was noted that up to £1.225 million in capital funding was approved in October 2025 to support construction and setup, with a forecast of £1.1 million in additional income generated through increased enforcement activity and new fees.
- 6.5 Approval was sought to commence a competitive procurement structured into two lots:
- Lot 1: Compound setup and operation (subject to planning permission).
- Lot 2: Vehicle removal and scrapping services, including provision of three removal trucks and qualified drivers.
- 6.6 During discussion, the following points were raised:
- The Chair queried the status of planning permission for Bentley Road. Officers advised that consultation with external planners is underway, with a determination expected within 8–12 weeks, subject to objections. The procurement and planning processes would run in parallel.
 - It was clarified that the Contract Award Report for Lot 1 cannot proceed to CPIC without planning permission in place, and that award would be made expressly subject to such approval.
 - Gallal Muflahi emphasised the need for robust and measurable social value commitments, including London Living Wage compliance, local recruitment, and apprenticeship pathways, rather than narrative-only commitments.
 - Kam Sandhu-Shinger confirmed that engagement with the social value team would take place before finalising the Invitation to Tender (ITT).
 - The Chair stressed the urgency of embedding social value requirements prior to going to market.
 - The Chair raised concerns regarding the decision not to fully insource the operational service (Lot 2), particularly given the insourcing of parking enforcement in 2022.
 - Officers advised that the current proposal represents a phased approach focused on cost recovery and service stabilisation.
- 6.7 The Chair requested a detailed briefing outlining the robust consideration of fully insourcing the operational service (Lot 2), including rationale and financial modelling, to be appended to the Contract Award Report for member

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transparency. Officers confirmed that the Lead Member and Cabinet had approved the overall project and associated savings targets.

Action 1:

Kam Sandhu-Shinger to provide a detailed briefing on the consideration of insourcing Lot 2 (operational vehicle removal service), to be appended to the Contract Award Report.

Action 2:

Kam Sandhu-Shinger and Gallal Muflahi to engage with the social value team to structure clear, measurable social value requirements for inclusion in the ITT prior to procurement commencement.

RESOLVED:

That the commencement of a competitive procurement process to award contracts for the provision of vehicle removal services and works and services to set up and operate a car pound, structured as two separate lots:

- **2.1 Lot 1: Car Pound Setup and Operation. HPB or Low Risk Business Case Report Template (Procurement Act 2023) 2025**
- **2.2 Lot 2: Vehicle Removal and Scrapping Service (including specialist equipment and drivers).**

7 HCE S671 PSS & Optical Fibre Cable Installation and Maintenance Contract

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

8 HPB Timetable for 2025-2026

The HPB Timetable was noted.

Duration of the meeting: 2.00 - 2.45 pm