

Jules PIPE

Mayor of Hackney

rest of the UK, and there are still high levels of poverty and deprivation across the borough.

Small to medium sized businesses can have a huge role to play in tackling this inequality by employing local people, providing local services and offering opportunity for young people. Successful entrepreneurs can also act as fantastic role models to other people in their communities who can be inspired by them to succeed in their own right.

Supporting small businesses is very important to me. That is why I backed the creation of the Hackney Enterprise Network, funded by Hackney Council to provide support, advice and grants to businesses in the borough. Last year saw the first Mayor of Hackney's Business Awards which gave me an opportunity to recognise the excellence that businesses in this borough have to offer. I was joined at the awards ceremony by Hackney's most famous entrepreneur Sir Alan Sugar who, like me, is proud of the creativity and diversity coming out of Hackney's small business sector. There were lots of entries for the awards and next year I would like to see even more, especially from Turkish speaking business people who make up such a significant part of our entrepreneurial sector.

Hackney's economic future is looking bright. The Olympics are coming to East London in 2012, and with almost a third of the Olympic park in our borough, we have an unprecedented opportunity to regenerate the parts of Hackney that most need it. The Olympics will bring hundreds of new jobs, as well as business opportunities, and I want to make sure that Hackney

people and Hackney employers benefit directly from this. Probably the most significant legacy the Games will offer is an improved transport infrastructure, particularly the East London Line Extension and upgraded North London Line, both of which will run straight into Dalston, the heart of Hackney's Turkish speaking community. The new Tube and improved overland service will bring thousands of extra visitors to the area, and encourage external investment and new jobs.

It is up to all of us in Hackney to make sure that the borough gets the very best from the exciting opportunities that the next 5 years will offer us. The Olympics and the Tube will really put Hackney on the map and local businesses are in a great position to make the most of this.



The Turkish speaking communities of Hackney make a huge contribution to the economic vibrancy and well being of the borough. All across Hackney, there are hundreds of Turkish and Kurdish owned businesses, providing jobs, generating wealth and adding vibrancy to our high streets. That is why, as Hackney's first directly elected Mayor, I was delighted to be asked to contribute to this Turkish Business Directory, and pay tribute to the efforts of Turkish speaking entrepreneurs across the borough.

Hackney has a dynamic creative economy, and a booming property market. Many local businesses are benefiting from the growth in the local economy, but there are still far too many people in the borough who are not. Levels of unemployment in Hackney are still high compared to the