

COUNCIL – 26th APRIL 2023

BUSINESS FROM THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS ON 26th APRIL 2023

Report of the Borough Solicitor

This report relates to the unconsidered motions and the responses to written Council questions from the Council meeting held on 26th April 2023.

1. Background

The Constitution advises that where motions have not been dealt with by the conclusion of the meeting of the Council, they fall without discussion and are passed to the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee Chair whose response is then to be provided to the next meeting of the Council. Also the responses to written questions that were provided for last ordinary Council meeting are to be circulated as part of the next meeting's agenda for information. These responses are then noted at that next meeting without debate.

2. Responses to motions

At the meetings of the Council held on 26th April 2023, there were 2 motions that were not considered due to lack of time. As the Constitution requires, these motions were passed to the relevant Cabinet Members or Committee Chairs, who are required to report back to the next meeting of the Council. A copy of the motions and the responses are attached at Appendix A to this report.

3. Responses to written questions from Councillors

The written questions from Councillors and the responses from Cabinet Members linked to the Council meeting on 26th April 2023 are attached as Appendix B.

4. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

COUNCIL 26th APRIL 2023

UNCONSIDERED MOTIONS

Appendix A

To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Gio Spinella and which was seconded by Councillor Matthew Parkinson.

This Council notes that:

- Construction management for every planning application granted can have a severe impact on the amenities and the lives of the residents in the homes and streets adjacent to the construction site.
- That this can be the case for both larger projects but also sites in confined areas or for which access and construction work can be complicated.
- Far too often residents are left to contend with construction firms on their own, even in construction liaison groups with little or no support from the Council.

Therefore moves that construction management plans be submitted in writing as part of the planning application and that they are discussed by the planning committee as part of the approval process.

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEW HOMES, JOBS AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

I agree that construction can have a significant impact on residents if not managed properly. For this reason, Camden Council requires Construction Management Plans (CMP) for any development that has the potential to cause significant disturbance, not just major developments but also smaller ones, this includes basements, sites with poor or limited access or areas with a high number of existing active construction sites.

Whilst I understand the desire for Construction Management Plans to be submitted in writing as part of the planning application process there are very good reasons why the Council does not require this including:

- At this point the developer does not usually have a contractor on board. It is unusual for a developer to appoint a contractor before they know if they have planning permission. Therefore, the CMP at this stage can only be draft, and it is only once permission has been secured and a contractor appointed that the developer can begin the community liaison process to feed into the revised draft CMP and then submit this to the Council for approval. For major developments, and where necessary smaller developments, a construction working group, is usually established in order to discuss, advice and where appropriate make recommendations to the developer preparing the CMP.
- Related to this, it would mean community engagement would be less meaningful as residents would not be liaising with the contractor.
- The planning permission is valid for three years so works may not start on site for

many years and in this time the surrounding environment can change for example changes to the highway network which the CMP will need to take account of.

- In many cases other consents are needed before a CMP can be signed off, these include parking pay suspensions or highway or scaffold licences. It would not be possible to secure these before planning permission.

For these reasons whilst construction management is an important consideration for members and related issues are often discussed and noted in the officer's report and at the Planning Committee, especially where these are the basis of objections, we make clear that final arrangements and measures will be agreed as part of the CMP process which includes community engagement post determination.

Since December 2021, the enforcement team has had a dedicated CMP Planning Site Inspector, who in 2022 inspected 183 sites for compliance with approved CMPs.

Each draft CMP is reviewed by officers who make a detailed assessment of the site and the necessary requirements on a case by case basis. This includes officers from Environmental Health, Air Quality, Transport Planning, Highways and Parking. These officers also form part of the Council's Multi-disciplinary Construction Management Forum (CMF), who meet weekly to discuss and address CMP issues. Where it is considered that the CMP does not adequately mitigate the current/planned works, the Council may request that the CMP be redrafted or additional information is submitted before signing off the document. Again this is only possible once the contractor is on board.

I do not agree that residents are left to fend for themselves. The Council has a dedicated CMP Enforcement Officer to respond to any reported breaches of CMPs. Once an enforcement case has been opened it will remain open until officers are satisfied that the site is compliant. This officer attends several Construction Working Groups for various sites across the borough. Since December 2021, the enforcement team also has a dedicated CMP Planning Site Inspector, who inspects development sites checking compliance with approved CMPs. Should there be any breaches found onsite an enforcement investigation is opened to seek compliance. If the site has a bond, we review whether there should be a drawn down from the secured amount. In 2022 there were 183 proactive inspections. There were only 11 sites that were assessed as non-compliant following a full inspection. The sites were given 7 days to resolve any issues found following which 100% were compliant.

The Council will continue to review its CMP processes and requirements and I welcome any further views on this,

To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Awale Olad and which was seconded by Councillor Sagal Abdi-Wali

This Council notes:

- The damning findings of the March 2023 Casey Review, which showed a persistent and endemic culture of racism, misogyny, homophobia and violence against women within London's Metropolitan Police force.
- That whilst the Casey Review was shocking, it will not be surprising to many in our communities who have been failed by the Metropolitan Police. Rather, the report further exposed an institution that has been known for systemic failures since before the murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993.
- The persistent failure of leadership at all levels of the Metropolitan Police to act decisively and remove dangerous officers from their posts, despite multiple reports showing their propensity for serious harm prior to the violence and destruction they subsequently caused to dozens of lives.
- That the murder of Sarah Everard by Wayne Couzens, the dehumanising treatment of Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, the Stephen Port murders, and the 48 rape offenses committed by David Carrick might have been prevented if swift and effective action had been taken at the time.

This Council further notes:

- Camden Council's efforts to address Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) through the establishment of a new VAWG board, a series of public awareness campaigns demonstrating solidarity against VAWG, and an improved joint-up strategy across the Council to address VAWG.
- Camden Council's work to address systemic racial injustice through our Building Equal Foundations work including training for staff in anti-racist practice, and work with schools and other partner institutions to diversify leadership in our borough as part of our equalities mission.
- The Council's investment in approaches to address perpetrators, provide trauma informed support to victims of crime and investment in early intervention and prevention of community violence and harm - local government across London has approaches and best practice that is of value to the Metropolitan Police in its transformation.
- The introduction of a new LGBT+ Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for Camden and Islington to improve relationships and trust between the LGBTQ+ Community and the Police.
- Whilst it recognises the good work done by many local police officers, including our own here in Camden, it is clear that there is significant work still to be done to change a culture that has enabled these horrifying injustices to take place.

- As highlighted by Baroness Casey, it is not enough for the Metropolitan Police to “reflect” on what needs to change, but that it needs a complete overhaul in order to take firm and decisive action against racism, misogyny and homophobia.
- The work of the Independent Scrutiny and Oversight Board, which has highlighted the reluctance of the Metropolitan Police so far to make any significant change.

This Council resolves:

- That the Metropolitan Police should make concrete efforts to rebuild the trust lost by adopting and implementing all of the 16 recommendations of the Casey Review. This includes:
 - Adopting a new, independent, multidisciplinary team of police officers and staff who will reform how the Metropolitan Police deals with misconduct cases, with a particular focus on how it handles sexual misconduct, domestic abuse and discrimination.
 - Overhauling the recruitment and vetting system to ensure that new recruits are not drawn to the job for the wrong reasons; and revoking special qualifications where officers’ standards fall short of public expectations.
 - Providing the Police Commissioner new powers that ensure that they can take strong and decisive action when the sanctions and consequences for misconduct are inadequate.
 - A dedicated Women’s Protection Service which specialist units who focus on rape and serious and sexual offences and the creation of a children's strategy to focus resources on safeguarding and child protection.
- To build an improved borough-based approach that will rebuild trust in policing across communities by investing in frontline policing - including safer communities and public protection - and ensuring victims of crimes such as domestic violence and sexual assault have appropriate, compassionate, and effective support and resources.
- That the Metropolitan Police commit to an overhaul of stop and search powers and accountability for the use of force in our communities.
- That the Metropolitan Police work closely with London local government as part of boosting local accountability and scrutiny of police powers, including working closely with those communities most impacted by police activity and communities and individuals subject to the disproportionality highlighted in the Casey report.

RESPONSE BY CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Council Leadership accepts and fully endorses this extremely important motion, which reflects the level of concern held amongst citizens and communities across Camden.

The Policing by consent model demands an open and transparent approach which reflects the importance of the Metropolitan Police Service's ability to engage with local communities in order to build levels of public trust and confidence.

We recognise the vital importance of the work delivered by the Metropolitan Police in ensuring that those who live, work, study and visit Camden feel safe and secure. However, it remains abundantly clear that the failings and cultural issues outlined within the Casey Review require a radical approach towards systemic organisational change across the Metropolitan Police Service.

It is imperative that the Casey Review serves as a watershed moment in the history of the Metropolitan Police Service. Communities have been raising concerns for many years, we've seen a number commissioned reviews, initiatives and action plans over the years, none of which have addressed the systemic and cultural issues that remain prevalent within the Metropolitan Police service today.

I know that all Members will be acutely aware of the significant challenge that the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley now faces in establishing and fully embedding a new set of organisational values. It is vital that he provides the strong leadership required to oversee the response to the broad ranging findings and recommendations outlined within the Casey Review.

The change process must be open, transparent and community led, the process must in my view also focus on the views and concerns of communities which have for so long felt marginalised by the Metropolitan Police.

As Baroness Casey states, "this is a Police Force that needs not just a series of changes that have been called for numerous times in the past, or even a set of reforms to meet its responsibilities to Londoners, but a complete overhaul to restore trust and confidence and earn back consent from women, black communities, and the rest of Londoners".

I understand Sir Mark Rowley's intention to highlight the importance of recognising the positive work delivered by Metropolitan Police Officers. However, I remain concerned that the inability to publicly acknowledge the Casey Review's findings with regard to the institutional nature of the challenges may well have had a further adverse impact on levels of public confidence.

It is imperative that the Metropolitan Police Service takes on board all of the findings within the Casey Review and takes urgent action to drive widespread and sustained cultural and organisational change.

The Council supports Baroness Casey's extremely important view that a piecemeal approach to these issues is unlikely to work. Radical and wholesale reform of the service needs to be at the heart of the Metropolitan Police Turnaround Plan.

The policing by consent model is built on the premise of transparency, integrity and accountability of police officers when exercising their powers. The concept of policing by consent refers to the power of the police coming from the common consent of the public, as opposed to the power of the state.

The Casey Review and the development of the Metropolitan Police Turnaround plan provides an extremely important opportunity for the Police service to demonstrate a commitment towards re-engaging and connecting with our communities across Camden.

Camden Council will continue to engage with the Borough Commander Chief Supt Andy Carter in order to re-emphasize the need for the Metropolitan Police Service to develop a community led approach, which fully recognises the vital importance of the citizen voice in shaping and informing the future delivery of policing in Camden and across London as a whole.

ENDS

APPENDIX B

RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION 1

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR NEW HOMES, JOBS AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

BY: COUNCILLOR STEPHEN STARK

Can the cabinet member guarantee that in the preparation of the construction management plan for the O2 development, no heavy construction traffic will be allowed to pass into the residential roads of South Hampstead, West Hampstead and Frognal wards?

REPLY

The designated construction traffic routes and the measures to ensure they are adhered too will be confirmed in the Construction Management Plans (CMP) for each of the three phases of the development.

Due to the location of the site construction traffic should not need to use residential roads. As a result, the Outline Construction Logistics Plan provided with the planning application makes clear that construction traffic will use the strategic road network with majority of traffic being via Finchley Road to Blackburn Road with some deliveries via West End Lane for Phase 2b.

Each CMP would involve significant input from Council officers, Transport for London, local residents and other stakeholders before being approved.

Long-term, as this development involves the replacement of a large car park and vehicle dominant uses with new homes, workplaces and green spaces, as part of a car free development, this will mean a reduction in pressure and vehicle movements on local road networks in the area too.

QUESTION 2

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR MATT COOPER

What positive effects have been measured from the introduction of a healthy school street on Princess Road in my ward, and what measures will be taken in the future to improve air quality outside Primrose Hill Primary School?

REPLY

Healthy School Streets are an important part of Camden's work to improve air quality and create safer environments around our schools. Monitoring data collected for the Primrose Hill Primary Healthy School Street scheme during its trial phase showed that the scheme had a positive impact on several metrics. The data shows that the scheme maintained low traffic levels on Princess Road during the restriction times, that average traffic speeds had reduced by 1-2 mph and levels of cycling had tripled during the morning and almost doubled during the afternoon following the implementation of the scheme.

The permanent scheme, which was approved following consultation, is currently being installed, and includes a widened pavement outside the school and a raised crossing at the junction of Princess Road and Chalcot Road which will create space for tree planting or other greening and bike parking. These changes, in addition to the motor vehicle restriction, are designed to provide an improved environment for people walking, scooting or cycling and reduce the number of parents that drive to the school with associated positive impacts on local air quality. Officers will continue to work with the school to support them to maintain their 'Gold' status in the TfL STARS Programme, which provides schools with an accreditation based on their commitment to active travel and sets targets for changing to more sustainable, less polluting modes of travel. Air quality monitoring data continues to be collected outside the school and will be analysed later this year to help understand the impacts of the changes.

QUESTION 3

TO THE: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

BY: COUNCILLOR JUDY DIXEY

The motion passed by this Council at its meeting of 21st November 2022 called on the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet to:

- Investigate and emulate the Milan Food Waste Hub project;
- Investigate setting up a Free School Uniform Bank scheme, as set up by Sutton Council;
- Review and identify ways of reducing the Council's own energy use, in collaboration with all staff, to reduce our carbon footprint and our overheads, freeing up funding to support those in need. Particular attention should be paid to unnecessary lighting and heating;
- Investigate whether and how the Council could enable and encourage the installation of solar panels on a street-by-street basis.

What progress has been made on each of these commitments?

REPLY

The Council at March Budget Council announced a £1.3 million fund to be used to support families experiencing hardship as a result of the cost of living crisis.

The Council's Future Neighbourhoods programme is supporting Lifeafterhummus, a Community Benefit Society in Somers Town. Lifeafterhummus leads a food distribution network including community volunteers, businesses, and food-producing groups and redistributes approximately five tonnes of surplus food per month with an estimated value of £15,000. In line with the Milan Food Waste Hub project, Future Neighbourhoods is also funding Lifeafterhummus to carry out a food waste feasibility study to support a local hub model for the Somers Town area which will consider how more surplus food can be redistributed locally and via Chalton Street market.

Additionally, the Council has committed support to the Camden Food Poverty Alliance of over 30 partner organisations and funds a post with Feast With Us, a community food organisation, to co-ordinate and provide strategic direction to the network to further our ambitious Food Mission. The collective power of the Food Alliance already reduces food waste by influencing local business and sharing surplus where there is need in the community. The Alliance came together for their annual summit at JW3 in February 2023 where they collectively committed to a set of Good Food Standards which prioritise the move from crisis food provision like food banks towards more sustainable models such as food Co-ops and Pantry models.

The Council has set up a project team to work with schools to support existing programmes operating within schools helping families with uniform provision, including school uniform swaps. The project is looking at ways to implement a borough wide programme for relevant schools that is reflective of other London initiatives, that may also support in reducing carbon impact. As part of the wider commitment to the cost-of-living crisis this group is also investigating, and will be making recommendations, about additional support that can be provided for families experiencing hardship in relation to the provision of school uniform.

The Council has a strong carbon management plan for our own estate and operations which has delivered a 61% carbon reduction since 2010. Recently completed projects include the £3.2m energy efficiency retrofit of Swiss Cottage Library. Further carbon reduction projects are planned at York Way depot, Highgate Library and three other sites with funding secured from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

The Council has installed solar on our corporate buildings and schools. Installations include Swiss Cottage Library, Holmes Road, the York Way depot, Regis Road and the refurbished Town Hall. A further installation is planned for Talacre Leisure Centre. Across the schools' estate, all Camden secondary schools apart from La Sainte Union and almost one-third of primary schools have solar installed.

Across our housing portfolio, all new Community Investment Programme developments incorporate solar, and the new Camden Municipal Investment offer has raised £200,000 for further solar installations across Camden's housing estate.

Residents are also supported to install solar through the Mayor of London's bulk solar purchasing scheme, Solar Together, which provides low-cost solar panels. The Council has supported three rounds of Solar Together with over 100 residents taking part. The Council also offers Camden Eco Grants to support solar installations by residents.

The Council's ambition goes beyond solar on residential properties to their full energy efficiency retrofit. The Council has recently secured over £3m from Government to retrofit a further 280 homes, with over 100 retrofits currently on-site. The Council is also leading the development of a new delivery model to finance the retrofit of a further 3,625 homes.

QUESTION 4

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND CULTURE

BY: COUNCILLOR LOTIS BAUTISTA

What are the Council's plans for highlighting and celebrating the contributions of Camden's diverse communities, in preparation for the upcoming anniversary of the Windrush arrival?

REPLY

The Council plans to celebrate Windrush 75 with a programme of public events and activities across the borough. These include the following:

Sunday 4 June - British Museum Windrush Takeover

Partnership event with the British Museum which will see a celebration of Caribbean culture throughout the day.

Monday 19 June 7pm - Launch of Pitt Lecture at British Library

Launching the annual Pitt Lecture in recognition of David Pitt, Baron of Hampstead. Hosted by Councillor Sabrina Francis - Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture, David Olusuga will deliver the keynote speech reflecting on David Pitt's achievement, how it has changed society and how we take this legacy into the future.

Thursday 22 June (time tbc) - Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) - RPO

Musicians and a Windrush Generation composer delivering a performance and workshops to under 5s at Kentish Town Library.

Sunday 25 June 12-6pm - Windrush Day Celebration Event at Talacre Town Green 12 -6pm

A one-day free event to celebrates the borough's Windrush story and showcase Camden's Caribbean heritage, culture and communities. The programme will include, live music featuring some of Camden's established and emerging homegrown talent, carnival and history of sound system workshops, sports activities and Caribbean catering, arts and crafts stalls.

Podcasts - In partnership with Camden Black British History Group, we are commissioning a podcast of three episodes to provide a space for the community to influence the conversation on the impact and legacies of Windrush in the borough.

Sound System Future – Commissioning Kilburn artist Lin Kam Art who will curate and deliver an educational programme across selected schools in Camden, to educate young people on the contribution of the Windrush Generation through sound system culture. Progression routes include an opportunity to perform on one of the iconic static sound systems at the Notting Hill Carnival in August 2023, developing the next generation of creatives.

Details of the above will be released in May.

QUESTION 5

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR SHARON HARDWICK

Could the cabinet member please update the Council on what progress was made with Keep Britain Tidy during the recent 'beatification' project? What impacts did the different interventions round the borough, from Iverson Road in West Hampstead, to Northington Street in Holborn, make on fly-tipping at known problem spots?

REPLY

Fly-tipping and the dumping of waste spoil environments and the Council is focussed on dealing with the issues through a range of services and approaches, including area improvements of fly-tipping hotspots. Working with Keep Britain Tidy, the 'Beautification Project' worked at 7 sites selected by local communities and designed and implemented resident-lead approaches to reduce local fly tipping. Each of the 7 projects were surveyed pre and post intervention, to determine their impact. Overall, the project had positive effects on fly-tipping at each site with positive feedback from surveyed residents. This is an approach that we will continue to use with communities to reduce fly-tipping in hotspots across the borough.

The table below provides information on the outcome of each site:

Location	Intervention	Pre survey summary	Post survey summary
Iverson Road, West Hampstead	Planters at large pavement junction	Single black bags and small items fly tipped	No fly tips found – Successful outcome
Kenton Street, Bloomsbury	Planters around tree pit	Very large fly tip including commercial waste, pallets and multiple bagged waste	Incredible transformation, - no fly tips found
Ludham and Waxham estate and Lismore Circus	Bedding area for plants outside entrance	Not a lot found pre intervention, mainly litter. Is used as a collection point for waste	No fly tips found and positive feedback on improvement to area
Mary Green NW8 0BP - Between the lifts	Planters and decorating around an outbuilding including bird feeders.	Not much found but is known to be a dumping location next to the estate communal bins	No dumping found post intervention
Northington Street (junction with King's Mews), Holborn	Large plant pots at road junction near signpost.	Several large loads of commercial waste plus black bagged waste	No fly tips found post intervention – successful outcome
NW1 3EE Everton Mews/Prince of Wales Passage	Painted/redesign of passage including clear up.	Heavily fly tipped with several piles of black bagged waste ranging from a few to van loads	Some bagged waste was found but amount was greatly reduced.
Wicklow street	Planters along fenced area	Mainly a few black bags of residential waste	Fly-tipping was still found at location but at reduced amounts.

QUESTION 6

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND COST OF LIVING

BY: COUNCILLOR LIAM MARTIN-LANE

Could the cabinet member provide a summary of who have applied for, and received, the Council's Cost of Living Crisis grant payment? How is the Council working with local

community groups to publicise the grant, and encourage those who need support to apply?

REPLY

The first element to the Council's Cost of Living Crisis Scheme is a crisis payment for those facing imminent financial hardship and unable to afford the essentials to eat well and/or stay warm.

The second element is resettlement grants aimed at supporting those moving into new tenancies following homelessness without the household essentials such as beds and bedding, kitchen equipment or white goods.

The budget for the crisis payments was £2m and this was launched in September 2022. The budget for the resettlement grants was £250,000 and this was available throughout the year. The Housing Revenue Account contributed £250,000 to the Cost-of-Living Crisis Scheme.

As at 27 March 2023, a total of £2,235,219 had been awarded to Camden's residents, £298,909 for resettlement grants and £1,936,310 for crisis payments. The Council also used our Household Support Funding to make additional hardship awards. Including these additional awards, the value of crisis payments increases to £2,298,023 and the top-level data is set out below.

7026 applications/referrals were received

6946 payments were paid

822 were rejected

80 were in process (these have all now been processed)

The breakdown of applicants shows the following:

- Residents in every ward in Camden received help with the highest numbers in St Pancras and Somerstown (814), Haverstock (748), Gospel Oak (631), Kilburn (580) and Regents Park (563)
- 71% of awards went to Council tenants, 13% to social tenants and 5% to private tenants
- 69% of applicants were female and 51% had children under 18
- 27% were disabled and 14% pensioners aged over 65
- 59% were Black, Asian or Other Ethnic and 32% white
- Over 90% of awards were cash payments

Table breakdown by ward:

Recipient's Ward	Applications Received	% of Total	Rejections	Rejection % Rate	Approvals
	7,026	100.0%	822	12.1%	5,965
St Pancras and Somers Town	814	11.6%	90	11.5%	692
Hampstead Town	30	0.4%	3	11.1%	24
Haverstock	748	10.6%	93	12.8%	632
Gospel Oak	631	9.0%	82	13.4%	528
Kilburn	580	8.3%	60	10.7%	501
Regents Park	563	8.0%	58	10.7%	486
Kentish Town South	545	7.8%	83	15.9%	439
Kings Cross	352	5.0%	38	11.1%	305
Holborn and Covent Garden	345	4.9%	52	15.5%	283
Highgate	312	4.4%	31	10.1%	275
Camden Square	285	4.1%	24	8.8%	248
Camden Town	281	4.0%	25	9.1%	251
Primrose Hill	257	3.7%	24	9.8%	220
South Hampstead	238	3.4%	28	12.0%	206
Kentish Town North	229	3.3%	20	9.3%	196
Fortune Green	209	3.0%	19	9.3%	185
West Hampstead	188	2.7%	28	15.2%	156
Bloomsbury	151	2.1%	16	10.9%	131
Belsize	109	1.6%	18	17.0%	88
Frognaal	66	0.9%	11	17.2%	53

The Council has set up over 400 referrers across the Council, partner organisations and the voluntary and community sector to refer people for awards. This ensures that residents had a choice of routes depending upon who they trust including advice partners, community associations, NHS services, Council services or schools.

Over 55% of referrals (3975) came from council officers ranging from neighbourhood housing, Contact Camden, adults and children's social workers, homeless prevention and early help services. Twelve schools signed up and collectively referred 488 families. The highest volume of referrals from community organisations were Camden CAB (631), Age UK Camden (506), The Living Centre (157), West Hampstead Women's Centre (156), Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre (140), British Somali Community Centre (129), Kentish Town Community Centre (101), London Irish Centre (94), Somerstown Community Centre (89) and Camden Carers (87).

In addition, the Council held 12 cost of living drop-in sessions across the borough to provide face-to-face access to support. These were delivered in partnership with Camden CAB and the Mary Ward Centre and were often co-located with warm welcome spaces. Over 1000 residents attended the sessions with those not able to be seen on the day receiving call backs.

A wide range of communication activity took place to publicise the scheme including adverts in local newspapers and housing newsletters, publicity on street, social media and through key venues, booklets and flyers were sent directly to residents (including specific campaigns to private renters), an easy read booklet and translated materials were available on the website alongside scripts for faith and community leaders to use to promote the help available.

The cost-of-living crisis scheme is continuing into 2023/24 with continued efforts to extend reach and awareness and to further enhance the application and referral process.

QUESTION 7

TO THE: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

BY: COUNCILLOR LLOYD HATTON

What are the Council's plans for further raising public awareness of new voter ID laws ahead of a future local by-election this year?

REPLY

The Council's Communications Service in liaison with Electoral Services have prepared a multi-channel campaign to support Electoral Services' delivery of the South Hampstead by-election which is due to take place on the 1st June 2023 and to raise awareness among all residents of new legislation that requires electors to present photographic ID when voting in person. Given that the election is taking place in South Hampstead ward only, this will, to avoid confusion be aimed at that ward only.

The key objective is to increase awareness and understanding of ID requirements for voting in person. We are also, as we always do, aiming to drive voter registration together with applications for Voter Authority Certificates. We will publicise key by-election dates and information, and direct residents to Electoral Services and support available from the Council.

Communications will utilise its data set to target residents using available channels including local media, targeted posting and paid for social media advertising, direct mail and, where available, on street media space.

The communications service will manage press enquiries, press accreditation for the by-election count, and will monitor the Council's social media channels to answer queries from residents, monitor feedback and issues, and correct misinformation - particularly with regard to the ID requirements.

As local elections are taking place elsewhere in the Country on the 4th May, any lessons learnt from those will as far as possible be applied to this by election.

The current by election communications plan will be rolled out in the coming days. This work will then be further developed and expanded, adopting a high energy, innovative, participative approach, ahead of future elections to ensure high voter awareness and turnout.

QUESTION 8

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR NEW HOMES, JOBS AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

BY: COUNCILLOR JONATHAN SIMPSON

Please could you provide an update on the council's efforts to protect our employment spaces from the government's damaging permitted rights, which threaten thousands of jobs in the borough?

REPLY

The Council has been using its planning powers to remove the government's harmful permitted development rights and protect our employment spaces and high streets.

The rights allow commercial, business and service use (which includes offices, light industry, retail, restaurants, cafes, and other high street uses) to change to residential use without the need for planning permission. This risks the loss of valuable business spaces, and with them existing jobs and future employment opportunities; presents a significant threat to our valued town centres and high streets; and would produce low-quality, poorly located housing.

In response the Council has successfully introduced 'Article 4 Directions' covering clusters of offices and light industrial uses, and our town centres and neighbourhood centres. This means that, in these locations, proposals for changes to residential again need a planning application and will be assessed against our local planning policies. This keeps local communities involved in the planning process and ensures the Council can give full consideration to the supply of employment and high street premises, and for Camden's businesses, services, jobs and centres to be protected.

The Directions we have introduced remove the permitted development right for the vast majority of high street and employment premises in the borough. Although the government modified the Directions to reduce the size of the area covered (as they also did with other councils), officers provided robust evidence to ensure that the substantial majority of the businesses and high streets that we set out to protect - several thousand premises - remain covered by the Directions.

QUESTION 9

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR NEW HOMES, JOBS AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

BY: COUNCILLOR REBECCA FILER

What is the Council doing to address and tackle youth unemployment for people aged 16-25?

REPLY

Youth Mission

- The Youth Mission is one of four missions outlined in We Make Camden - it states that **“Every young person has access to economic opportunity that enables them to be safe and secure by 2025”**.

Youth employment guarantee

- In November [Cabinet approved an overall approach to the youth mission](#) which confirmed that the platform for delivery is a network of strategies and initiatives focused on increasing the opportunities and life chances for our young people. Cabinet also approved an ‘Employment Opportunity Entitlement’ now called the **Camden Young Talent Guarantee** for young people as follows;
 - Unemployed young people in Camden will be supported into a training place, an apprenticeship or job.
 - Camden’s young people will be supported at key milestones in their lives to make informed choices about long-term employment prospects.
 - Camden’s young people will take part in an employer-led Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) experience whilst at school and be offered work experience through their post 16 education setting.
 - Camden’s young people will be able to access one to one, long-term career support with a trusted Advisor in their local area.
 - Camden’s young people will be able to access help with accessing benefits, mental health, housing and financial advice.

- Officers are working to develop a communications campaign to raise awareness of the entitlement amongst young people, their families and carers and to issue a call to action to Camden's employers to support the delivery of the entitlement. The employer facing campaign will focus on key asks around engagement with STEAM, apprenticeships and supported opportunities for care leavers.

Good Work Camden inc. Camden Apprenticeships

- The Good Work Camden (GWC) programme is led by the Council and seeks to support residents to access good quality work. It is a universal service but focused on those furthest from the labour market.
- Good Work Camden employment advisors are increasingly **co-locating in trusted youth settings**, with pilots at Roundhouse and Coram's Fields. Most recently we are exploring a partnership with Bloomsbury Football.
- The Council also convenes the **Camden Young Talent Network** – bringing together providers of employment interventions for young people, improving the visibility, consistency and quality of the experience of young people and their families in navigating the support available in Camden.
- We have held **two enterprise events with our partners at the Rebel Business School**, held at the Kings Cross Construction Skills Centre/Samsung's KX space and at Swiss Cottage School. The latter was specifically for young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.
- Under the Good Work Camden umbrella, the **Camden Apprenticeship Service**, which includes the **Kings Cross Construction Skills Centre**, supports primarily young people into apprenticeships and jobs in construction and other sectors and the **Youth Pathways Finder Project (YFPF)** provides an individualised programme of learning and employment, targeting young adult Camden residents aged 19-25, in danger of becoming victims or perpetrators of violent crime, or vulnerable to being at risk of exploitation.
- In 2022/23 Good Work Camden supported more than 400 young people aged 16-24 into work, an apprenticeship or training.

Camden STEAM

- The Camden STEAM programme brings opportunities in the digital, scientific and creative industries to life for Camden's young people. The programme works with children and young people aged 4 to 18 years old working closely with Camden Learning to reach schools in the borough.
- The STEAM Board has 15 key partners including Google, Ted Baker and Francis Crick Institute. 67 employers have signed the STEAM Pledge. These employers have committed over 150 trained STEAM Ambassadors supporting curriculum and careers activities in schools.
- STEAM delivers an annual, borough-wide STEAM Work Experience week each July, with employers welcoming teams of Year 12 students from Camden schools. Student recruitment includes a focus on young people from underrepresented backgrounds.

- We have delivered 500 placements since 2020. This year, 95% students feel more confident about entering the world of work after their STEAM placement and 95% felt they learned new skills they would not have learned in school.

Camden Careers and Connexions

- The Camden Careers and Connexions service supports young Camden residents and students aged 13-19 by delivering Careers guidance in schools. Community Careers advisers work within youth hubs and specialist services. The Careers advisers track and monitor the participation of all young people within this age range and pro-actively contact and deliver support to those young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). We have specialist careers advisers working with young people with special educational needs or disabilities up to the age of 25. The service works closely with schools to support the improvement of their career's education programme through the Camden Careers forum.
- Currently for this age group the numbers of young people who are NEET or whose participation is unknown is low. Camden currently (March 2023) have 58 young people who are known to be NEET, all these young people have an allocated Careers adviser.

QUESTION 10

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BETTER HOMES

BY: COUNCILLOR SIAN BERRY

I am aware of a number of recent missed appointments in my ward for repairs to Council homes. Do you track the number of appointments that are missed because Council teams or contractors fail to attend, and if so could you provide data for each ward on the number of repair appointments in the past two years a) made with residents, and b) missed because of non-attendance?

REPLY

The Council tracks all missed appointments and cases of no access. The Council is acutely aware that any missed appointment can be a significant inconvenience to residents. We have provided below the data for the last two financial years (2021/22, 2022/23).

It shows that out of 219,150 works orders there were 1,471 recorded missed appointments. The data also shows that the incidents of missed appointments are not evenly spread and this is leading to changes whereby we are organising our resources by trade (e.g. carpentry, plumbing) and not by geographical area. These changes will be implemented Summer 2023.

2021 - 2023

Ward Name	Missed appointment due to operative	No access, resident not present	Grand Total
Belsize Ward	3	179	3,119
Bloomsbury Ward	244	425	7,877
Camden Square ward	20	676	9,648
Camden Town ward	12	347	4,215
Fortune Green Ward	11	331	6,230
Frognaal ward	4	63	1,803
Gospel Oak Ward	26	923	19,746
Hampstead Ward	4	160	3,252
Haverstock Ward	40	961	19,447
Highgate Ward	33	810	12,642
Holborn and Covent Garden Ward	357	605	13,139
Kentish Town North ward	20	766	8,299
Kentish Town South ward	22	1,295	16,693
Kilburn Ward	24	937	16,537
Kings Cross Ward	231	396	8,499
Primrose Hill ward	19	386	7,924
Regents Park Ward	157	855	16,842
South Hampstead ward	11	296	8,011
St Pancras & Somers Town Ward	217	1,391	23,397
West Hampstead Ward	10	715	7,806
Grand Total	1,465	12,517	215,126

ENDS