

## **COUNCIL – 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

### **BUSINESS FROM THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS ON 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 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 20<sup>th</sup> November 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 meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, there were 3 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 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 are attached as Appendix B.

#### **4. Recommendation**

That the report be noted.

## **COUNCIL 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

### **UNCONSIDERED MOTIONS**

### **Appendix A**

- 1. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Kirk and which was seconded by Councillor Dixey**

This Council notes:

1. the positive contribution that the Healthy School Streets programme (HSS) makes to reducing air pollution, generally and around schools, and to reducing car use. It therefore contributes to addressing the 4,000 Londoner deaths each year due to air pollution and to combatting the climate crisis.
2. the importance of reducing school-run traffic which gridlocks neighbourhoods. The Council applauds the work of Home Run, Green School Run and other organisations working to help families make better transport choices. Those choices will persist through education and beyond. The Council recognises that HSS contributes here too.
3. that HSS has a substantial impact on all residents, including in their ability to arrange deliveries, arrange taxi travel and welcome visitors. There is a particularly dramatic impact on the elderly and less able who are reliant on cars for transport, care and support.
4. these schemes cause difficulties for blue badge holders who live close to, but not in the HSS areas, who have no option but to drive through them at restricted times. This includes parents of disabled children who have to drive their children to schools across the borough. Many such parents are now having to take long detours to avoid the HSS areas, causing increased stress for themselves and their children, and increased traffic, against the objectives of the HSS scheme. Other Labour-led Boroughs, such as Haringey, have given all blue badge holders exemption from equivalent traffic schemes.
5. its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the positive commitments the council has made to tackle loneliness and for all to have healthy independent lives.
6. that an overambitious programme of new Healthy School Streets projects, originally intended to start in September this year, combined with a badly managed change of personnel involved, has led to catastrophic failure, chaos and confusion. Residents were provided with little or no information on what was happening. Exemption applications were left unprocessed. Very substantial distress was caused to elderly and less able residents unclear on what their position was. The Council notes that these difficulties were most acute in Kingsgate and West Hampstead but were a common feature across all schemes due to be implemented.

7. that even disregarding that temporary difficulty, the exemptions scheme has never matched the promises made for a swift, responsive and easy to use system (for both permanent and ad hoc exemptions).
8. The Council further notes that currently the majority of scheme signage is folded and obscured during school holidays. However, where there are two signs marking the approach to a scheme, the second is obscured but the first is not. The consequence is that there is no clarity for residents or visitors, commercial or personal, as to when the scheme is in operation and when it is not. Further, residents and visitors are encouraged to act in apparent violation of those signs during school holidays which is corrosive of trust and good governance.
9. the difficulty facing families seeking to use the 603 bus for travel to and from school in that, although that service was originally established to service exactly that need, the timetable is such that buses do not arrive in time for the start of school. This then encourages those families to drive to school instead of using public transport.

This Council calls on the Leader and the Cabinet to:

- a. To exempt automatically blue badge holders through all HSS areas.
- b. To review, learn and apply the lessons from the recent round of implementation.
- c. To rebalance the HSS exemptions system so there is a presumption in favour to grant exemptions and that residents requiring exemptions are able to access a dedicated service with a guaranteed response within two hours.
- d. To work more closely with communities affected by HSS schemes, in order to find solutions to the difficulties during scheme hours faced (a) by residents, particularly those with reduced mobility, seeking to access taxi travel and (b) for residents seeking deliveries.
- e. To fold and obscure all scheme signage during school holidays.
- f. To write to the Mayor of London and the Chief Executive of Transport for London, requesting they revise the 603 timetable to better suit its purpose.

## **RESPONSE BY CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN**

The motion is correct to note the positive contribution healthy school streets (HSS) can make to air pollution, road safety and enabling active travel, and to note that school run traffic has a big impact on the borough.

The Council welcomes evidence of the experience of older people and anyone reliant on cars for transport, care and support and welcomes the views of blue badge holders who live close to, but not in the HSS areas. Exemptions are available for vehicles

registered to a property or businesses in the restricted area, those with a Blue Badge who require access to an address in the restricted area, people who have responsibility for a disabled pupil who is unable to walk, cycle or scoot to school, and other exemptions as agreed with the Council.

As seen since the November full Council, this is an emerging rollout whose provisions are under regular review with changes made where necessary and possible.

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

This Council rejects the parking charges proposed in the current consultation. We believe that these decisions are unduly punitive to families, primarily intended to raise income rather than combat climate change or improve air quality. The proposed changes to Resident Permits, Business Permit Fees, Car Clubs, Doctors Permits, Visitor Permits, Paid for Parking, and Motorcycle Permits are particularly concerning.

This Council considers the proposals punitive against families:

1. The restriction of residents to register only one vehicle per permit is punitive, limiting the mobility of families with multiple vehicles.
2. The proposed increase in permit prices places an additional financial burden on families already grappling with various economic challenges.

This Council considers that there is a revenue focus over environmental goals:

1. The introduction of carbon emission-based charges and air quality surcharges appears more geared towards revenue generation than fostering genuine environmental consciousness.
2. The removal of incentives for electric vehicles contradicts efforts to promote cleaner transportation options.

This Council is concerned over the impact on local businesses:

1. The proposed increase in Business Permit fees and the introduction of carbon emission-based charges may adversely affect local businesses, particularly small enterprises already facing economic uncertainties.

In light of the above concerns, this Council believes any set of proposals for changes to parking should:

1. Re-evaluate the restriction on the number of vehicles per Resident Permit to accommodate the needs of families.
2. Ensure that any changes in permit fees are reasonable and considerate of the economic challenges faced by residents and businesses.

3. Consider revising the carbon emission-based charges to encourage the adoption of electric and low-emission vehicles, aligning with broader environmental goals.

As a result of all these points, this Council urges the administration to scrap the current consultation in light of their potential adverse effects on families, businesses, and the environment and re-elaborate proposals with the above guidelines in mind.

### **RESPONSE BY CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN**

The results of the parking consultation will shortly be made available, which will address the points raised in the motion.

### **3. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Harrison and which was seconded by Councillor Hatton**

This Council notes:

That UK Road Safety Week begins on the 19th November.

In 2022, according to the road safety charity Brake, 1,695 people died and a further 29,795 were seriously injured on roads in Britain.

In London, the Mayor of London's Vision Zero plan aims to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries on the capital's roads by 2041.

Camden Council's own Road Safety Action Plan commits the Council to support the Mayor's policy and substantially reduce all road traffic casualties in Camden towards zero killed and seriously injured casualties.

Speed significantly increases the chance of being injured in a collision, and research has shown that the risk of death for pedestrians struck by people driving increases at higher speeds. 20mph speed limits can make a significant contribution to reducing casualties.

The Council welcomes:

Transport for London's introduction of 20mph speed limits on the roads it manages in Camden, such as Finchley Road, Camden Road and Euston Road.

This Council resolves:

To take all steps it can to further improve road safety through its ongoing investment in Camden's road network. Including: maintaining 20mph speed limits, improving pedestrian crossings and building new dedicated crossings, and building segregated infrastructure that enables more residents to cycle safely.

## **RESPONSE BY CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN**

We take all steps we can to further improve road safety through our ongoing investment in Camden's road network. This includes maintaining 20mph speed limits, improving pedestrian crossings and building new dedicated crossings, and building segregated infrastructure that enables more residents to cycle safely.

**ENDS**

## **APPENDIX B**

### **RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### **QUESTION 1**

**TO THE: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**BY: COUNCILLOR ANDREW PARKINSON**

How much officer time is spent on average responding to councillors' written questions submitted in advance of full Council meeting? If an average figure cannot be provided please provide the time spent on each occasion for the last 5 full Council meetings.

Does the Council have any information on how many residents read the written responses to councillors' written questions? In particular, can figures be provided for how many times the written answers have been downloaded from the Council's website?

#### **REPLY**

The process of written questions enables Members to challenge and scrutinise the wide range of activities within Council and hold the relevant Cabinet Member to account in both a transparent and democratic way. Experience shows us that the tone and focus of the questions can vary considerably and they can vary in length and complexity. At times, the response can include quantitative data such as financial information, the take up of benefits or wider information about public spaces. At other times, the responses may be more qualitative in nature and focus on our local responses to global events or emerging policy positions.

Given the breadth of these questions and their variability, the Council neither monitors nor records actual or 'average' officer time spent on preparing responses to written council questions. If we were to do so, this would be a time-consuming and resource-intensive task and an outlier in terms of our wider approach to the way in which we work, which is outcome rather than process focused.

Written answers to councillor's questions are published on the democracy website as a pdf document. We're unable to track the number of times a pdf has been downloaded from the democracy website at present, but the 'Council Meetings and Decisions' section has had 1,668 visits between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## **QUESTION 2**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

**BY: COUNCILLOR JONATHAN SIMPSON**

We are approaching World AIDS Day on December 1st. The Terrence Higgins Trust, the national charity on HIV, is campaigning to end new infections by 2030. What strides are our colleagues in public health making to prevent new infections and are services available locally without long waiting times?

## **REPLY**

Integrated sexual health services for Camden are provided by Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL). CNWL is commissioned to deliver sexual health services across North Central London and is focusing on testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and HIV and improving access to PrEP within communities with high rates of HIV infections.

Whilst services are available locally, sexual health services are direct access services meaning that residents can access support from any sexual health service provider in England making access to support much more choice based for residents.

The core CNWL sexual health service is supported by a community-based health promotion outreach service for communities not in contact with mainstream services, and a dedicated PrEP Programme to increase uptake. Features of the CNWL service include:

- A new initiative to increase the uptake of STI and HIV screening, including testing women for HIV.
- Development of a new PrEP online service for patients that prioritises access for NCL residents.
- New screening tool on the CNWL website for men who have sex with men to quickly book an appropriate appointment for STI/HIV testing and PrEP.
- Rapid access to appointments in dedicated PrEP clinics at the Mortimer Market Centre in Camden and the Archway Center in Islington; the service has streamlined pathways and clinic processes and has increased the number of PrEP appointments available to residents.
- The number of PrEP patients in CNWL's services has increased significantly over the last 12 months and at Quarter 2 (2023-24) there has been an 87% increase in the number of patients on PrEP.
- A Health Promotion outreach service across Camden and Islington providing community-based STI/HIV screening to groups not in contact with clinic services and with high rates of sexual ill health (BAME, men who have sex with men,



homeless, sex workers). The team also facilitate rapid access to CNWL's core sexual health services.

- An innovative community PrEP outreach service, working jointly with the Health Promotion Team, delivering community sessions where patients can either start PrEP immediately ('Clinic in a Box') or use rapid referral pathways to the service's dedicated PrEP clinics.
- HSJ award winning Community PrEP Awareness Programme targeting those underrepresented in the uptake of PrEP (young gay, bisexual and men-who-have-sex-with-men under 25, including those from a BAME background and Black African heterosexuals).
- A service-wide review of all new HIV infections to evaluate current practice, and identify service improvement in relation to better identification of those who should be offered PrEP and improved support to those already on PrEP.
- Rollout nationally of the CNWL developed PrEP pill badge to facilitate community discussion and peer promotion of PrEP. This is part of a media campaign that uses online social media and dating Apps, supported by information resources co-produced with patients (Quick Guide to PrEP).
- In response to UKHSA data showing the burden of new HIV transmissions is shifting to heterosexual populations, CNWL are targeting work with Black African communities (community outreach/testing, PrEP peer champion/educators workshops). CNWL is working jointly with Umoja Health Forum and Embrace UK to deliver this intervention which will include HIV testing in community settings, signposting to local services and co-production of new HIV prevention resources.
- Opt Out HIV testing in ED is going well and CNWL has a referral pathway from ED at UCLH to the HIV Treatment and Care service at the Mortimer Market Centre for patients with a reactive/indeterminate HIV test. CNWL has a similar referral pathway for patients diagnosed in other UCLH Departments. CNWL aim to see patients within two days of diagnosis for follow-up care.
- The service will be promoting World AIDS Day (1 December 2023) and PrEP Awareness Week (28 November to 4 December 2023) across all its services and on outreach in bars and clubs, community centres, sports centres and in educational settings (colleges and universities).

Young People's Sexual Health services are delivered locally by Brook. The young people's sexual health service plays a pivotal role in reducing stigma associated with HIV and the prevention and early diagnosis of HIV.

Services have been running a successful 'opt out' option for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) testing, meaning that all young people will receive a test no matter what they have attended the service for.

There have been no new HIV diagnosis in young people's services in 2023/24.

The service also works with other young people's services to ensure maximum reach into youth communities and support work in schools where HIV and stigma has now been included as an RSE topic.

For those residents diagnosed with HIV, Camden commissioned a network of support services. The co-designed candiNETWORK has the primary aim of supporting those living with and affected by HIV through therapeutic, employment and health related support delivered by a network of six providers.

In addition to this support, the service also aims to reduce stigma associated with having HIV.

Support is offered through therapeutic interventions such as counselling and life coaching to support with psychological aspects of HIV, such as coming to terms with your diagnosis and support to tell loved ones.

These services regularly work in the community, and attended a number of intensive resident engagement events in Camden in the last quarter to promote the service and encourage conversations about HIV.

In addition to sexual health service provision, Change Grow Live (CGL) who are currently a provider of local adults' drug and alcohol services and street outreach were delivering services commissioned via Fast Track Cities. This service ran from 2020 – November 2023 and had an ambition of supporting 120 individuals living with HIV and co-existing substance use across Ealing, Bromley, Camden, Waltham Forest, Newham, Tower Hamlets to engage in and adhere to HIV treatment in the next 12 months, supporting them towards achieving an undetectable viral load. The work delivered by this service included:

- Delivery of specialist support for service users who are living with HIV and who also have a substance/alcohol use related treatment need.
- Enhanced/personalised support for people to engage/re-engage with HIV treatment.
- Onward signposting/referral to a range of support services including those that address stigma/self-stigma, trauma and couples work.
- Support for the service to encourage uptake of testing and promoting harm reduction to work towards 0% new transmissions.
- Specialist support for people who are newly diagnosed or living with HIV to successfully engage with and adhere to HIV treatment to support them to reach undetectable viral loads, working in close partnership with NHS HIV treatment clinics.
- Brief intervention advice to any individuals not currently registered with Change Grow Live, who we interact with via satellite work at external clinics.
- Delivering outreach sessions for service users who are living in hostels or need home visits (jointly with their Recovery Coordinator).
- Upskilling workforce via regular HIV training for teams.
- Utilising and building on the strong partnerships forged by the Fast Track Cities Project, to ensure Camden service users have access to a broad range of emotional and physical wellbeing support in addition to ARV medication.

### **QUESTION 3**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN**

**BY: COUNCILLOR LINDA CHUNG**

Residents were grateful that the Cabinet Member agreed that the junction where Flask Walk, New End Square, Well Walk, Willow Road, and Gayton Road meet is very dangerous and needs attention. Considerable evidence of speeding and dangerous driver behaviour was provided by residents of Willow Road and other streets.

It had been noted that the Willow Road puppet theatre was due to be opened in early spring 2024 and designs for improvement to that area had been drawn up. It is essential for that junction to be safe as it is predicted that the theatre will be a considerable attraction to families and children.

So far the promised action has not materialised. Could residents know the timescales for this important piece of work?

### **REPLY**

I would like to thank residents for raising the issues at this location, where it is clear we have the opportunity to create a much better environment for pedestrians. Enabling walking is the top priority in our transport strategy and addressing this enable us to do things like widen pavements, create greening and public seating opportunities, and improve crossings - all of which ultimately benefits the whole community. Undertaking a scheme that will also benefit a new cultural venue is also a big positive. This location is of course a busy walking route between Hampstead High Street and the Heath.

For these reasons, we have taken the decision to include a scheme for the junction of Flask Walk, New End Square, Well Walk, Willow Road and Gayton Road in our Walking and Accessibility programme. Feasibility work on this scheme is currently under way, and this is expected to be concluded in early 2024 with a consultation to follow after.

Construction of a scheme would be subject to that consultation and subsequent decision-making process (including any relevant statutory traffic management orders). Whilst the scheme may therefore not be ready for the opening of the Puppet Theatre, a clear timeframe would be provided within the consultation materials noted above. I look forward to working with councillors and residents on this.

### **QUESTION 4**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BEST START FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**BY: COUNCILLOR JAMES SLATER**

What impact has the Government's revised calculations for the National Funding Formula had on Camden's schools budgets for the 2024/25 year? How has this affected our individual schools?

**REPLY**

1. The ESFA have informed all schools of a funding error made by the ESFA/DfE in individual letters sent Friday 7 October.
2. The reported funding error equates to a 0.8% reduction in funding to Camden schools, reducing the previously reported increase anticipated for the financial year from 2.7% to 1.9% per pupil. This results in a reduction of approximately -£881k to the Camden schools' block funding figure.
3. In terms of Budget planning - The ESFA state "that Schools have not yet received their 2024 to 2025 funding – so the correction of this error does not mean adjusting any funding that schools have already received. Likewise, the error will not impact on the publication of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) in December, or when schools will receive their final allocations for 2024 to 2025."
4. The EFSA have attached below a table indicating calculations of the effect of this adjustment across all London Boroughs for information. The Councils' finance officers will be working on the notional implications for individual schools that will be sent to schools and the Schools Forum in December.

**Table – Estimated effect of ESFA s 2024/25 adjustment across all London Boroughs schools' block**

LA name	Sum of Provisional funding reductions in 2024-25 (excluding growth factor)
<b>Camden</b>	<b>-880,919.52</b>
Hackney	-51,454.15
Hammersmith and Fulham	-498,051.30
Islington	-1,291,529.08
Kensington and Chelsea	-487,733.28
Lambeth	-715,371.87
Lewisham	-1,349,308.75
Southwark	-192,244.78
Tower Hamlets	-39,983.92
Wandsworth	-1,307,219.72
Westminster	-940,192.36
Haringey	-412,256.83
Newham	-548,921.72
	<b>-8,715,187.29</b>

**QUESTION 5**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BETTER HOMES**

**BY: COUNCILLOR LIAM MARTIN-LANE**

Can the Cabinet member provide an update on the rollout of new CCTV cameras on estates in King's Cross? From the start of the rollout, how many estates will have new CCTV cameras by the end of the calendar year?

**REPLY**

In the Kings Cross Ward, there are 7 locations included in the housing CCTV upgrade programme. These locations are, Birkenhead, Bramber, Cromer Street, Hastings House, Sidmouth Street, St Peters Court and Tonbridge House.

We have completed the technical surveys on 6 of the 7 estates and are due to visit Bramber before the end of December 2023 to carry out their survey.

The installation at Cromer Street is due to start imminently and the remainder are scheduled to start in the following quarter (January – March 2024).

While the overall programme has progressed well, there have been delays with component deliveries and contractor resourcing. Officers are monitoring this closely and working with the contractor to mitigate programme delays.

**QUESTION 6**

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

**BY: COUNCILLOR NASRINE DJEMAI**

What more can we do to encourage night time venues to work with us to come up with more innovative ways to ensure that venues are safer for women and young girls?

**REPLY**

Promoting women's safety in evening and night-time venues remains a key priority for Camden Council and the Camden Community Safety Partnership.

The Women's Safety Working Group maintains strategic oversight of a range of measures designed to reduce violence against women and girls in licensed venues. The communication strategy includes specific emphasis on campaigns which focus on safety. It will also create opportunities to work closely with licensed venues on initiatives that include insight from young people, women with lived experience and the Licensing Police Team.

The Women's Safety Working Group will explore pro-active targeted approaches to strengthen communication with licensed venues whilst also providing advice and guidance through "pub watch" sessions with Licensing Police. The development, ongoing engagement and communication through this platform will create opportunities to identify innovative ways of partnership working, strengthen relationships and improve data sharing on current initiatives designed to ensure that venues are safer.

Camden's commitment to reaching the overarching target for licensed premises enrolled in the "Ask for Angela" scheme is substantiated by Council data. To accomplish this, Camden is strategically directing efforts toward areas with a high concentration of evening and night-time economy venues. The next locations for tailored outreach are Tottenham Court Road and Bloomsbury. Various Council departments are synergizing their efforts to champion campaigns that heighten awareness about the benefits of the "Ask for Angela" initiative, thereby fostering increased participation from venues.

The Council is committed to expanding the promotion of the scheme in all areas by disseminating information through letters, posters, and regular community engagement. This will also include sharing real-life case studies to showcase the benefits of the scheme to potential venues.

The Council recognises it is crucial to measure activity relating to improving the safety of women and girls and will work to strengthen communication and validate adopted initiatives to accurately assess efforts made by venues.

This initiative aims to sustain efforts in promoting women's safety by providing support to licensed premises in enhancing their safety measures. It also endeavours to encourage venues to prominently display signposts directing individuals to the Safety Hub, promote the upcoming launch of the mobile safety feature in December, and fortify communication and collaboration with venues to further enhance overall safety standards.

Camden Council is also developing an Evening & Night Time Strategy that will take a holistic view of how Camden is experienced by different groups of people and communities between 6pm and 6am. The experience of women and girls and promoting women's safety in venues is a priority to address within the strategy, and the Women's Safety Working Group have been engaged in the development of the strategy.

The Evening & Night Time Strategy will clearly articulate through its vision and core themes what is important and needed between 6pm and 6am for our residents, workers and businesses, and those who visit Camden. The strategy will seek to deliver change via joined up, distributed leadership with the communities and businesses at the heart of our Evening & Night Time 'hotspots', balancing competing needs and working in tandem with our refreshed Licensing policy.

An expected action from the strategy will be the creation of, alongside the refresh of Licensing Policy, either a licensing charter, or a comparable mechanism to broaden the

priorities and expectations of licensees beyond the legislative requirements by introducing a structure of incentives linked to licensing and good business practice to increase the engagement on key objectives such as “Ask for Angela”.

A significant amount of engagement has been carried out in the development of an Evening & Night Time Strategy for Camden. An initial series of area based workshops were held and targeted engagement with business networks, landowners and key user groups – disabled people, LGBTQ groups, older people and youth groups. The output of lived experience and user needs identified in these sessions established an initial vision and framework for the strategy. This was then deliberated on and refined by an Evening and Night Time Citizens’ Assembly to create a vision and core principles for the development of the strategy.

## **QUESTION 7**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN**

**BY: COUNCILLOR LLOYD HATTON**

The Council has recently published its Climate Action Plan annual review. Could the cabinet member please share what progress Camden is making to cut carbon emissions within the borough and play our part in achieving net zero?

## **REPLY**

Camden held the UK’s first Citizens’ Assembly on the climate crisis in 2019 and the recommendations of the Assembly helped to shape our Climate Action Plan 2020-2025. The Climate Action Plan acknowledges that the Council only has influence over approximately one third of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in Camden and therefore sets a framework for climate action across our communities, businesses and own estate and operations.

Camden has published three annual reviews of the Climate Action Plan since its adoption in 2020, the most recent in November 2023. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Review highlights that 97% of actions within the Climate Action Plan are either completed or in delivery, and that borough wide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have fallen by 45% and emissions from our own estate and operations (excluding Council housing) are now 59% below the respective base-line years of 2005 and 2010.

Carbon reductions across our own estate have been supported by projects such as the £3.7m energy efficiency retrofit of Swiss Cottage Library; the community funded solar array at Talacre Leisure Centre, which was delivered in partnership with Power Up North London; and the installation of air source heat pumps at Acland Burghley School. Further Government funding has recently been secured to improve the energy efficiency of Highgate Library, Waterlow Park Centre and Netherwood Centre.

Progress on carbon reduction is also supported through transport related activity in the Climate Action Plan, with a 14% increase in the length of segregated cycle lanes up to 29km and a 70% increase in electric vehicle charging points to 560 across Camden in 2022/23.

## **QUESTION 8**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BEST START FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**BY: COUNCILLOR LOTIS BAUTISTA**

Please could the Cabinet member provide an update on how Camden schools are closing the achievement gap, particularly regarding Attainment 8 and our KS4 and KS5 results?

## **REPLY**

Although broadly similar or narrower (at KS2) to the gap nationally, it is recognised that there is a clear performance between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils in Camden at all key stages.

Following the publication of unvalidated pupil outcomes each summer, Camden schools receive a data update that analyses the relative performance of pupil groups in relation to local and national averages as well as each other. This update highlights disadvantaged groups as well as trends over time. Data analysis is used by Camden schools to interrogate where the curriculum is having the most and least impact on disadvantaged pupils. This process is supported via an annual standards based meeting with the schools Camden Professional Partner at a joint meeting with the Chair of Governors. The performance of disadvantaged pupils is specifically reported on at this, and subsequent termly meetings.

Schools also use internal data and assessments to track the performance of pupil groups, including disadvantaged groups, holding structured pupil progress meeting at which provision is reviewed and interventions agreed where appropriate. Some interventions and support are provided through additional pupil premium funding received by all schools, who have a statutory duty to report on its use and impact. In recent years additional national tutor funding has also been used to specifically support those pupils who have been most impacted by the pandemic. Seating plans that incorporate key pupil information are commonly used by Secondary schools to enable class teachers to identify pre-existing need and offer additional support. Critical to the success of disadvantaged pupils is a skilled workforce of teachers who can identify and support gaps in knowledge and learning. All Camden schools provide regular training for staff, engaging in the Camden Learning offer of a wide range of development opportunities for class teachers. This includes an enhanced programme of



support for early career teachers as well as curriculum, SEND networks and leadership development. Schools track and monitor the effectiveness of teaching through both pupil outcomes and structured lesson visits.

The relatively lower school attendance of disadvantaged pupils also impacts on academic success. Schools have systems to track and challenge poor attendance and are supported to do so. The Camden Learning Attendance service offer schools additional support and guidance where pupils are persistently absent. A framework of support has recently been updated, outlining stronger links with wider agencies. The attendance team has recently increased in number to further facilitate support.

## **QUESTION 9**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN**

**BY: COUNCILLOR IZZY LENGA**

Parklets can make a real difference to a local area, as shown with parklets installed, working with the community and local business and institutions, on Antrim Grove/England's Lane, in Somers Town, and on Great Ormond Street and more.

What can the Council do to further encourage the reallocation of road space to on-street greening and seating, supporting opportunities to bring the community together, to garden, or just to provide a place to stop and rest for those who need it?

## **REPLY**

In 2020, the Camden Climate Action Plan committed the Council to develop a pilot Parklet programme. In meeting this commitment, we learned valuable lessons on how resident groups, business groups and organisations could champion the installation of Parklets and how the Council could best facilitate their implementation to make sure they are well-maintained by local people over the coming years. Beginning in 2024-25, we will be establishing a new programme that will support the implementation of 5-6 Parklets a year focussing on locations that make the most of enthusiastic communities to cherish and maintain local Parklets.

Moreover, many existing established programmes contribute to the reallocation of road space to on-street greening and seating, particularly in the implementation of Healthy Schools Streets and our wider Safe & Healthy Streets measure. These schemes actively seek opportunities to plant new trees, install new seating and introduce sustainable urban drainage plant beds, to create a more people-centric and climate resilient environment. Through the development of key cycling and walking corridors, benches are often installed at regular intervals to make the streets more accessible to anyone that requires places to stop and rest.

In recognition of the importance of greening our streets to creating healthy and sustainable communities, Camden has also developed a Highways Greening Accelerator programme, which secured funding from the National Trust and Heritage Fund in partnership with Islington Council. This programme is developing new skills and ways of working across the Council, and using data in new ways, to help us develop and deliver ambitious and impactful future highway greening projects. This work will build on successful projects to date, such as the award-winning transformation of Alfred Place Gardens and Camley Street rain gardens, to create new successful green spaces where they are needed most.

**ENDS**