

## **COUNCIL – 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**

### **BUSINESS FROM THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS ON 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

#### **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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

#### **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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 are attached as Appendix B.

#### **4. Recommendation**

That the report be noted.

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

### UNCONSIDERED MOTIONS

### Appendix A

#### 1. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Simon and which was seconded by Councillor Dixey

This Council notes:

- The increased use of vaping products by children in the UK. Recent data from the ASH Smokefree GB Youth Survey 2023 found that the prevalence of vaping amongst 11 to 17 year olds is increasing – from 15.8 percent have tried it in 2022 to 20.5% per cent in 2023 – and a significant number of children buy these vaping products directly from newsagents or supermarkets.
- The increased number of local authorities who have recently had to take enforcement activity against shops illegally selling vaping products to youngsters.
- The marketing of certain vaping products – with bright coloured packaging and flavours such as bubble gum – that might appeal to children. More than half of children (53%) are aware of promotion in shops and nearly a third (32%) are aware of online promotion.
- The significant increase in availability of disposable and single-use vaping products which are cheaper and easier for children to access.
- The high volume of single use vapes being disposed of in general waste.
- Increase in fires at UK waste plants due to damaged and highly flammable batteries and the increased costs this causes.

This Council acknowledges the role vaping products may play in aiding adults to stop smoking, and that vaping products carry a small fraction of the risk, and exposure to toxins, that are associated with cigarettes. Research shows that most children who use vapes have never smoked.

Vaping is not risk free. While vaping products do not contain tobacco, most vaping products do contain nicotine. Illicit vapes in the UK market may not be compliant with UK standards and/or may be counterfeit products. They may pose risks to health from unsafe levels of toxic ingredients and/or have nicotine double or more above the legal UK limit.

This Council recognises the Local Government Association has raised concerns about the sale of vaping products to children.

This Council welcomes the actions being taken in Camden, as reported to Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee members in a recent written response to a question raised during the July meeting of that committee:

“A range of Council partners are working together to reduce the availability and use of vapes by under 18s and support them to take informed decisions, whilst continuing to

support adult smokers to quit smoking. This complements the evolving national response on addressing the packaging, promotion, flavours, and free handouts unacceptably used to encourage young people to start and continue vaping, as well as potential for Trading Standards to issue fines to shops selling vapes to under 18s more easily.

1. The most important local actions are being taken by Trading Standards to understand which shops are selling vapes and which venues are in catchments of secondary schools. This evolving intelligence is being used to inform an ongoing and targeted programme of inspection, intel gathering and enforcement action on illegal vapes and underage sales.

2. Trading Standards are also working with retailers to take responsibility for addressing this issue (through the Camden Responsible Retailer programme) and through ongoing communications.

3. Camden's Health & Wellbeing Department, Camden Learning and Breathe (Camden's stop smoking provider) are providing support to schools to understand current issues experienced by them on vaping, to tailor the latest Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) teaching resources, provide PSHE Year 9 lessons about vaping, brief school Heads & Governors, and lead workshops on smoking and vaping.

4. The Health & Wellbeing Department and the Council communications team will start a tailored campaign for children and young people providing support and further information, along with tailored literature for secondary school pupils, and support for parents to have conversations with their children.

5. Environmental services are working with partners including the North London Waste Authority to promote available local recycling options and create a localised message campaign."

This Council calls for:

The Leader of the Council to write to both Victoria Atkins MP and Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Secretary of State for Environment respectively, to express the Council's demand for the greater regulation of vaping, in particular:

- Vaping products to be in plain packaging and kept out of sight behind the counter.
- Mandatory age-of-sale signage on vaping products (this is currently voluntary)
- A ban on free samples of vaping products being given out to children.
- A ban on the sale of single-use vaping products in the UK.

This Council further calls for its own activities to be accelerated, particularly in relation to points 4 and 5 above, which are yet to be implemented. This Council requests that the relevant Cabinet Members report to members on timescales and progress on each of the five action points outlined above.

## **RESPONSE BY THE CABINET MEMBER HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

We acknowledge the role that vaping products can play in aiding adults to stop smoking, as smoking is the leading cause of early deaths and preventable illness. However, we also recognise the importance of the motion given the impact of certain vaping products, specifically on young people.

The Council's population approach towards vaping is focused on reducing the public health impact on young people, with Trading Standards activity focusing on engaging with retailers across the borough and working directly with schools.

In line with the evolving national response on addressing youth vaping in the UK, Trading Standards, Public Health colleagues and other relevant internal partners have worked in partnership to identify key deliverable actions to target the problem of youth vaping in Camden.

Since July 2023, Trading Standards have undertaken work to identify priority venues within the immediate catchments of Camden's 10 secondary schools, youth centres or any other venues with a higher likely footfall of young people, including travel routes to these venues or any schools in nearby boroughs attended by a significant proportion of Camden residents.

The profiling and mapping of these venues provides Camden with a fuller picture and intelligence on the scope of youth vaping and informs enforcement actions. 62 premises have so far been visited and issued with advice and guidance on the legal and responsible sale of vapes, including recycling information, tobacco notices and refusal logs.

Council officers have carried out 'test purchases' operations in relation to age restricted sales of vapes at 16 premises. Following a series of enforcement operations, 3268 vapes have been seized from 13 premises. The intelligence gathered through the process will be periodically reviewed and the necessary engagement and enforcement activities will be ongoing.

Trading Standards have developed the Responsible Retailer pack including information about keeping [recycling bins](#). It is envisaged that a pilot programme of interviewing and testing for the effectiveness of the pack with the Health & Wellbeing behavioural insights lead to assess the retailer response and attitudes to the pack. Implementing the measures proposed will be completed by the end of February 2024.

In January 2024 work on the review of the new PSHE materials on vaping began. It is anticipated that this would update session resources and tailor the materials to Camden's needs. New lessons/workshop developed for students in years 7-9 are ongoing using the new resources [campaignresources.phe.gov.uk](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk).

New lessons/workshop developed for students in years 10 and above using the new resources are also ongoing. It is envisaged that the updated session resources and schools surveys will be sent out by end of February 2024.

The Health & Wellbeing Department and the Council communications team have developed a vaping tailored resource for pupils, and for discussion at home with parents. The material has been printed and rolled out for distribution on 8 January 2024.

We submitted a response to the Government consultation on creating a smokefree generation, which closed on 6 December 2023. Our response supported the comprehensive set of regulations being proposed to address vaping and smoking by children and young people.

Our response to the Government consultation also indicated full support for the introduction of new measures to curb the accessibility and appeal of vaping products to children and young people, restricting flavours and their descriptions, removal of enticing branding and packaging and reduce their affordability. We support restrictions on disposable vapes to mitigate environmental risks. We also support new measures to tackle illegal products and proposed enhancement to the legislative framework.

Whilst we support the motion and have already submitted a consultation response on further regulation in December, the Government's recent announcement with regard to the proposed banning of disposable vapes has had a significant impact on the debate.

It is anticipated that the Government will introduce new measures to prevent vapes from being marketed at Children, whilst adult smokers would retain the option of using vapes as an effective way to quit. We will be seeking further detailed information from Government on the proposed measures, along with an outline of the potential timescales with regard to their implementation.

Our response to the problem of youth vaping will continue to be delivered at pace utilising our partnership approach. The full implementation of the measures outlined in this response, locally, would strike a balance between vaping remaining an attractive option for adult smokers seeking to give up smoking by using an effective quitting aid, whilst not being attractive or accessible to children.

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

This Council notes that Camden has the second highest number of fly-tipping incidents in England with almost 35,000 incidents reported between 2021 and 2023. Only Brent Council has more incidents.

This Council notes that the increase in fly-tipping has been steady since the introduction of the current regime of rubbish collection the administration brought in, in 2017.

Fly-tipping is a form of anti-social behaviour and its perpetrators should be fined when caught. However fly-tipping is also a result of the lack of alternatives for many people, including those who live in small spaces and can't store their refuse for the days or even weeks until the collection is due.

This Council calls on the administration as a first step to restore weekly bin collection and as a follow-up, to map out the fly-tipping hotspots and further improve the service provision in those areas.

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

The introduction of the Love Clean Streets App and improved web site in 2017 was very successful for reporting and recording information. This resulted in a rise in the number of reported fly tips especially through the app, and therefore the total number to DEFRA. The methods used by local authorities to report and record fly tip data varies significantly making direct comparisons inaccurate.

Veolia is required to clear a reported fly-tip within one working day of notification, and on average they clear 99% of reported fly tips within one working day. Street cleansing standards in Camden are independently measured by Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) and their reports show that the rise in reports is not reflected in a decrease in standards.

Flats above shops bins have been trialled in West Hampstead and Belsize to improve waste presentation. Investment in this alongside increased enforcement against those caught littering and fly tipping will continue to improve clean streets. Data from the app also allows targeting of hot spot areas, enforcement and beautification projects to redesign areas.

All properties receive a weekly collection of food waste and recycling. We know that over 80% of an average waste bin in Camden is recyclable. We would encourage everyone to look at what they are throwing away to see if they can recycle more. We offer a kerbside bulky waste collection service and those who are over 65 or receive 100% Council Tax Support may also be eligible for 2 free collection each year.

**ENDS**

## **APPENDIX B**

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

#### **QUESTION 1**

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

**BY: COUNCILLOR LINDA CHUNG**

Hampstead resident Red Szell, who is blind, brought a deputation to Council on 17 July last year, to ask the Council for action against the blight of A Boards, and how they should be banned.

This was shortly after the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden had himself experienced, at the behest of the Sight Loss Council, with a blindfold over his eyes, the difficulty of negotiating cluttered streets when you have no, or poor sight, and limited mobility.

Red told us that he was a writer, amongst many things, and though he was robust and had an active outdoor life, including climbing mountains, he feared coming out of his house because of the proliferation of A Boards. They made his life a misery as he stumbled or fell over them, or cut his hands on their sharp edges when he was trying to feel what was in his way.

Council members showed great sympathy and to his credit, the Cabinet Member met Red and agreed action had to be taken. After that the only action taken by Camden was for officers to ask some shop keepers to move them. This was ineffective, with A Boards returning as soon as Camden officers turned their backs.

Despite Cllr De Ayala Parker stepping up to offer help, and numerous questions to the Cabinet Member, including through the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee, there has been no action whatsoever and the boards continue to proliferate, continuing to cause mental distress to the unfortunate.

The RNIB supports a complete ban on A-Boards. To quote:

*“This would enable many people to walk along their local streets without fear of colliding with heavy, painful obstructions. Currently there is no evidence which suggests that a complete ban will have an adverse economic impact on traders. We believe a complete ban places all traders on the same footing regardless of the width of pavement outside their premises.”*

Section 130(1) of the Highway Act 1980 imposes a duty on the Highways to assert and protect the right of the public to use and enjoy the highway. This general duty is reinforced by S130 (3) which states that the highway authority have a duty to prevent obstructions to the highway.

Other councils, including Edinburgh, and the City of London, have banned A-Boards, with great success and show clutter free streets.

When is Camden going to do the same?

## **REPLY**

I would like to thank Red and Linda for their time in Hampstead last year. Over the coming months, building on the evidence provided by Red and others, we are planning to undertake a 'clutter-free' street trial in selected high footfall areas with businesses and seeking to draw on the expertise of the RNIB. This will capture evidence-based data and people's experience on our current A-Board management process. This trial will help inform decisions about future policy on this important question.

For background, the current situation is that Camden officers receive around 60 complaints a year relating to obstructing A-Boards on the street. Officers visit and talk to reported businesses, ask that any obstructing A-Board is moved back to the building line, and explain the reasoning behind the request. Officers periodically monitor these sites to ensure continued compliance and issue notices under the Highways Act 1980 to repeat offenders. On the whole businesses cooperate with the requests and work with the council.

Clear and uncluttered streets are crucial to ensure that all pedestrians have access throughout the public realm, particularly people with mobility issues and visual impairments. Advertising boards are one of many items that can obstruct pavements, and the council works with the community and businesses to improve the accessibility of our streets. A recent report by the Centre for London highlighted the issues caused by street clutter and recommended that the government should grant local authorities adequate powers and the resources to reduce clutter.

## **QUESTION 2**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND COST OF LIVING**

**BY: COUNCILLOR STEPHEN STARK**

What are the post-pandemic levels of staffing in Camden Council compared to pre-pandemic: how many vacancies are there in Camden and specifically what are the staff allocations- pre- and post- pandemic for the planning departments, environmental services and community safety?



## REPLY

Camden's staffing levels in 2019/20 were 4267, in January 2022/23 they were 4356, having peaked at 4,418 in 2020/21. Camden's FTE in 2019/2020 were 3865.79, having peaked at 4181.21 in 2021/22. This is represented in table below.

Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Headcount	4267	4418	4366	4356
FTE	3865.79	4175.51	4181.21	3986.81

Vacancies in Camden Council for September to November 2023 were 104. It should be noted that vacancies for reporting purposes are measured in terms of the number of roles advertised.

The table below sets out the staff allocations pre- and post- pandemic for the planning departments, environmental services and community safety. It is important to note that the community safety team has been redesigned since 2019 with Camden Safety Net and homelessness services transferred into other areas of the Council. Therefore, these figures are not on a like-for-like basis.

Headcount, total vacancies and vacant posts to which we are recruiting make up these staff allocations numbers.						
	Nov 2019			Nov 2023		
	Total headcount	Total vacancies	Total number of roles advertised	Total headcount	Total vacancies	Total number of roles advertised
<b>Planning</b>	59	8	0	55 (Or 60 including non-core funded posts in addition to establishment )	7	7
<b>Environmental Services</b>	37	7	0	37	7	0
<b>Community Safety</b>	56	18	1	39	2	0

### **QUESTION 3**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR A VOLUNTARY SECTOR, EQUALITIES AND COHESION**

**BY: COUNCILLOR EDMUND FRONDIGOUN**

Could you please provide an update on the work of the Camden Food Poverty Alliance in 2023?

### **REPLY**

The Camden Food Partnership (formerly Camden Food Poverty Alliance) first assembled in July 2020, and exists to find collaborative solutions to tackle food poverty and improve food security for people who live in Camden. It is primarily made up of local voluntary and community sector groups and Camden Council, along with other individuals and organisations who are working to tackle food poverty.

The Camden Food Partnership regularly hosts open discussions, forums and workshop events to collaborate on their action plan and present progress. Online open discussion meetings take place every 6 weeks and Steering Group members are invited to bi-monthly meetings to discuss the Partnership's action plan and progress.

Camden Food Partners are listed on the Plinth 'Find Food' platform and referrals for food support are centrally received through the same referral portal. Over the last year the Community Partnerships team have developed the referral options to now include support for Advice and internal support teams including Housing benefit to increase wrap around support options for residents seeking food support.

Since hosting the Camden Food Summit in February 2023, The Camden Food Partnership have:

- Secured funding for a Camden Food Partnership Coordinator and co-designed the Camden Good Food Principles with partners
- Supported the community food sector with funding over the winter through the Cost-of-Living Crisis Response
- Secured £1million funding per annum to support organisations unlock a lot of opportunity to build on and develop their food provision (more on this below)
- Achieved recognition for our leadership in moving council and community support "Beyond the food bank"
- Enabled greater accessibility to community food provision through increased warm welcome spaces and improved referral pathways
- Increased the amount of food co-ops in the borough from 8 to 13
- Introduced auto enrolment for free school meals
- Embedded free school breakfast provision and worked to support and influence the boroughs approach to schools and food.

- Co-convened with Advice and Health partners to increase wrapround support and awareness
- Increased our Good Food for All Londoners overall leadership score from 53% to 74%

In Summer 2023 the Council's Community Partnership Team attended 35 Camden food organisations to understand the provision of support and pathways across the system. Insights indicate the following:

- Approximately 60% have a food bank provision
- Approximately 60% offer community meals
- Approximately 40% facilitate cooking sessions
- Approximately 30% manage a food growing function
- Approximately 40% offer advice support
- Approximately 80% are rung 2 on the 'Food Ladder'
- Approximately 40% are Strategic Partner Funded

Through this outreach, the Partnership works to mitigate the challenges and risks facing providers within the food eco-system in Camden, including the following:

- Sustainability and supply of food provision
- Increase in demand resulting from Cost of Living crisis with seasonal spikes
- Recruitment, retention and training of volunteers
- Complexity of resident support
- Movement away from a food bank model to an affordable food hub
- Operational challenges of moving to a strength-based approach i.e., moving up food ladder

### **Access to Healthy and nutritious food in Camden**

There are various examples of healthy cooking classes taking place throughout the borough, primarily through community centres and charities funded by Camden. Our lead partner, FEAST With Us, provides a healthy, nutritious and accredited cooking and eating on a budget programme. VCS Partners host multiple and varied healthy cooking classes, examples include:

- Community Gardening and cooking at Castlehaven
- Healthy and culturally appropriate community meals at Queens Crescent Community Association
- Youth led food redistribution at Fitzrovia Youth in Action in combination with a community kitchen with the Regents Park champions

### **We Make Camden Kit and Camden Giving**

Over the last 2 years approximately 20 resident-led food initiatives have been set up via Camden Giving and the We Make Camden Kit. A few examples are listed below:

- The Sherriff Centre set up a Growth Project which aims to reduce food poverty and food waste
- Bengali Men's Project Lunch Club provide freshly cooked meals once a week
- Somali Community Centre supports single family households in managing income efficiently including minimising waste and they also hosted a Community Eid al-Adha celebration
- Healthy Beginnings set up a community kitchen to educate and inform residents around budgeting and batch cooking
- A resident on Bourne Estate developed a project focused on Food for the homeless and prepares and distributes hot meals in collaboration with the Bourne Estate TRA

### **Food Supply in Camden**

Camden's Food Partnership works closely with several food surplus and food waste distribution charities, in particular, The Felix Project and City Harvest. Between the two organisations, they distribute food to over 38 Camden based organisations ranging from food banks, co-ops, community centres, hostels, schools and hospitals. This equates to roughly 30,000 meals a week for Camden residents worth £1.4million and saving 1.2 million kilograms of carbon. The Felix Project are members of Camden's Food Partnership Steering Group, which put them in a strong position to support on the delivery of the strategic ambitions of the Camden Food Partnership. Moreover, Camden VCS organisations also work closely with a range of big and local business which can vary from local restaurants providing hot food, to supermarkets making regular donations. This enables the provision of 1000's of additional food items and community meals for Camden residents.

### **Raising Awareness**

The Camden Food Partnership regularly promote the following help and support with food as part of their ongoing cost of living crisis campaign:

- 'Find Food' website, which lists local organisations that can help residents access food
- Food co-ops and encouraging residents to sign up for a low-cost way to access food
- Free school meals and additional support with food for children who receive free school meals through breakfast clubs and food vouchers
- NHS Healthy Start Scheme
- Holiday Activities and Food Programme to help children access free healthy food during the school holidays
- Food initiatives led by local community groups

We promote and raise awareness of the support across wide-reaching channels and via targeted, translated and accessible communications, including:

- Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, NextDoor

- The cost-of-living crisis hub
- Fortnightly all-resident e-bulletin
- A cost-of-living crisis advice and support booklet that was delivered to all homes in the borough and translated into community languages
- An Easy Read wiki for residents with a learning disability
- Camden magazine
- Sharing content with local partners and community leaders - e.g., faith leaders, VCS organisations, schools, with an ask for them to help us promote it via local networks and WhatsApp groups
- Letters, emails and e-bulletins targeted at specific groups of residents - e.g. writing to parents and carers about free school meals or food vouchers
- Community and case study-led stories on our We Make Camden website
- Content in the local press

#### **QUESTION 4**

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

**BY: COUNCILLOR IZZY LENGA**

Could you provide an update on work to support residents with skills and apprenticeships in the construction industry, including the work of the construction skills centre?

#### **REPLY**

The Council has operated a construction skills centre (CSC) in partnership with developers, training providers and construction contractors since 2005. Until this January (2024), the CSC was located on the Kings Cross Central Estate but has now moved to a new, purpose-built facility in Euston at the site of the former Maria Fidelis school, funded by HS2. The new centre will provide a fantastic resource to help residents gain skills and experience in readiness for progression into employment and an opportunity to broaden the range of activities we deliver. The new facility also provides an opportunity to pilot the co-location of the service with the Regents Park Job Hub, and a venue to deliver a range of adult education programmes. A formal launch event is being scheduled for February 2024 during National Apprenticeship Week.

Camden's CSC provides specialist construction-related training, information, advice, and guidance and supports candidates with interview skills, CV development, job search and confidence building. Every year, the service supports around 140 people into construction jobs and 130 residents into apprenticeships. Through our partnership with the College of North West London, over 100 students per year access Level 1 and Level 2 diploma programmes in the following subjects:

- Multi Skills Level 1
- Carpentry and Joinery Level 1 and 2
- Plumbing Level 1 and 2
- Electrical Installation Level 2

The skills centre is also an accredited test centre for the delivery of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS). This provides candidates with the requisite qualification to work safely on site. In conjunction with the CSCS, the centre delivers weekly Level 1 Construction in the Built Environment training to enable candidates to get their five-year CSCS card.

The skills centre works with a range of employers to support them with their recruitment needs and to deliver the training and employment obligations the Council secures via the planning process. We have worked closely with HS2 and their supply chain partners to deliver a tunnelling pre-employment course, resulting in several residents securing jobs and apprenticeships. Work continues with HS2 to understand the opportunities arising from works and how these can best be secured by residents.

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, KXCSC hosted a Girls in STEAM challenge where sixty Year 10 and 11 students from across Camden schools came together. The girls enjoyed workshops led by various architectural and construction companies and got to grips with bridge building, workspace modelling, city planning, and virtual reality architecture. The students worked in teams and had the opportunity to talk to experts in the construction profession. The new facility in Euston is well placed to enable us to deliver more school engagement programming of this kind.

Camden, in partnership with our training partner, the College of North West London, successfully secured a grant of £150,000 from the GLA to pay for Green Skills equipment. This equipment, including Air Source Heat Pumps, Solar Thermal, Solar Photovoltaic, and Electric Vehicle Charging, has been installed in the centre. It will be used to support the delivery of Green Skills training to students and apprentices, as well as for upskilling local staff. Camden aims to develop its training offer around Green Skills, creating a Green Skills Hub at Euston. This will provide a platform to support the upskilling and training of local people to benefit from future opportunities arising from this and retrofit works across the borough.

## **QUESTION 5**

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

**BY: COUNCILLOR LLOYD HATTON**

Could you provide an update on the Council's work to support the One Kilburn project to work with the community to improve Kilburn High Road and the surrounding area?

## REPLY

The Council's Area Regeneration Team is supporting a range of activity and investment in the Kilburn Neighbourhood.

The Camden Future High Streets Programme in partnership with the Greater London Authority's (GLA) 'High Streets for All Challenge' and the London borough of Brent brought a focus to Kilburn. This enabled the seed funding of a number of initial small-scale projects. Camden was also one of two areas successful in securing additional GLA funding to pilot England's first 'Community Improvement District' (CID) which has developed in to 'One Kilburn'.

One Kilburn is a co-produced partnership that convenes residents, community organisations, businesses and institutions to enable collaboration and co-ordination at the neighbourhood level, with a view to enabling community-led projects to improve Kilburn High Road and the wider neighbourhood.

From the outset, a range of dedicated, passionate contributors – including residents, local groups, businesses and institutions - have given their time, energy and ideas to develop One Kilburn. So far 114 organisations and over 200 people have been engaged along with London boroughs Brent and Westminster.

Since May 2022, Camden Council and One Kilburn partners have:

- Designed and delivered projects to create a buzz and visual impact, whilst providing opportunities for participation. This includes –
  - Camden Black Creatives' creative meanwhile use within a vacant premises in Maygrove Road
  - Co-producing mural designs for Brondesbury Bridge, led by commissioned artists from Wood Street Walls and Lin Kam Arts (aimed for delivery in spring 2024)
  - Introducing a Library of Things kiosk in Kilburn Library
- Supported a series of walkabouts, led by a local resident and historian, to convene and connect local people
- Facilitated the co-production of One Kilburn's mission and principles with partners
- Supported the development of the One Kilburn website and One Kilburn branding, created by three Kilburn-based artists which brings together all the different projects, ideas and activities in one online space to share learnings and support conversations on how together ideas can be turned into action <https://onekilburn.commonplace.is/>
- Funded and collaborated with South Hampstead and Kilburn (SHAK) to recruit three local residents to train as 'Community Activators', working to connect with

other local people and encourage them to share their experiences of, and ideas to improve, their neighbourhood – and participate in One Kilburn

- Convened and facilitated regular ‘One Kilburn Planning Group’ meetings to provide space for conversation and collaboration, further developing and establishing the partnership
- Facilitated a series of ‘One Kilburn Sub-Groups’ focused on a range of themes, including transport, greening and public toilets
- Funded the refurbishment of the ‘play hut’ within Kilburn Grange Park for ‘meanwhile’ community activities led by local partner Kilburn State of Mind.
- Working with the High Streets Taskforce, who’s experts have run three workshops to support the local authorities and local people to work collaboratively to improve Kilburn High Road
- Funded and facilitated the co-production of a ‘One Kilburn Community Fund’ that is testing a new community-led approach to identifying and funding project ideas from within the community, culminating in 23 project proposals (of which up to an initial two will be funded) from local people focused on a range of themes, including:
  - Greening
  - Street markets
  - Photography and documentary
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Food
- Supported and spotlighted projects led by One Kilburn partners, including Kilburn Older Voices’ ‘Loos for Kilburn’ project and the ‘Kilburn Lab’ project

The Council developed and submitted a funding bid to Central Government’s Levelling Up Fund, round 2, seeking funding for a package of projects including public realm enhancement of the town centre, which was unfortunately unsuccessful.

Looking ahead, Camden Council is committed to continuing to invest in Kilburn and support the development of One Kilburn. Highlights for 2024 are expected to include:

- The Light Up Kilburn festival, planned for February 2024 (led by Arts & Culture)
- Arts Council England’s Libraries Improvement Fund bid submitted by the Libraries Service, for funding to improve Kilburn Library (outcome expected March 2024).
- Delivery of the successful One Kilburn Community Fund project(s)
- Continued activation of the Play Hut in Kilburn Grange Park.
- Working with One Kilburn partners to shape and deliver improvements to the Kilburn High Road entrance to Kilburn Grange Park
- Developing proposals for the re-activation of 107 Kingsgate Road as a Neighbourhood Hub.
- Further building the One Kilburn network with an emphasis on business and landlord participation.



- Continuing to facilitate and support the development of One Kilburn as a vehicle for social change and local action at neighbourhood level.

## **QUESTION 6**

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

**BY: COUNCILLOR LOTIS BAUTISTA**

Could you provide an overview of what work Camden Council is undertaking to make the borough as family-friendly as possible, particularly in relation to local services that already have a family focus?

## **REPLY**

Camden are committed to making the borough family-friendly for residents. There is a range of work across services to support families in Camden and go above the national offer:

- Camden supplements the national childcare entitlements with a local scheme of additional hours for vulnerable 3-and 4-year-olds, and have commissioned the Isos Partnership, a leading education policy organisation, to undertake research to further understand the implications of government changes to the national entitlements.
- Camden's children's centres and Family Hubs are piloting weekend service delivery and new services for dads based on the research showing the importance of dads on promoting good outcomes for children.
- Camden have 5 Family Hubs across the borough and are working to develop Family Hub Networks, bringing together voluntary and community sector (VCS) partners to ensure families in Camden have access to support from a range of services.
- Family Hubs offer healthy start vitamins and healthy start vouchers for disadvantaged families and free period products for Camden women.
- Camden's infant feeding support service achieved Gold Standard accreditation as 'baby friendly' from UNICEF last year.
- The borough is offering an enhanced offer for new parents, with additional universal contacts with a Health visitor in a child's first year.
- Camden have committed to universal free school meals in primary schools and further work to understand how to increase uptake in secondary schools. Through the Food Mission as part of We Make Camden, Camden's vision is that by 2030 everyone eats well every day with nutritious, affordable and sustainable food.
- Camden have commissioned Young Camden Foundation to deliver the holiday activities and food programme in 2023/2024, which provides holiday activities

and food for those entitled to Free School Meals. Camden invested a further £100k to expand the reach of the programme and doubled the number of specialist SEND places for children during the summer 2023 break.

- Camden has a vibrant VCS and Youth Offer, supported by the Council, for families to access.
- Camden has a generous Cost of Living Crisis support offer, with crisis payments available to residents of up to £500. Those eligible get two payments in a 12-month period.
- Camden also offer Warm Spaces, which our Children's Centres, Family Hubs and all of our Camden Libraries are part of, to help with the cost-of-living crisis and winter weather.
- Camden also a wide-ranging support offer for families experiencing domestic abuse – the in-house Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate service supports domestic abuse survivors and their children with a range of support, including counselling and independent legal advice.
- Our community health services for children with special educational needs and disabilities and for children with mental health services are delivered out of children's centres, schools and voluntary sector settings, making them easier to access for families.
- The Council and NHS provide and commission a wealth of training and advice for early year's teams, teachers and other school staff to help them support children to be physically and mentally healthy.
- We have a strong early intervention offer of mental health support for young people, aiming to pick up emerging needs early and support young people's emotional wellbeing through things like peer support programmes, creative and art therapies, voluntary sector therapy services, etc.
- Our NHS CAMHS services are well integrated with social care and early help teams, which helps families with children needing some extra help to get the right support from the right services.
- Our 'Hive' Centre for 16- to 25-year-olds offers mental health, employment/learning skills and social opportunities on one site and through outreach, helping connect young people with support.

## **QUESTION 7**

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

**BY: COUNCILLOR IZZY LENGA**

Could you provide an update on the work of Good Work Camden and the roll out of neighbourhood job hubs across Camden?

## REPLY

Camden Council directly delivers employment support to residents under the umbrella of Good Work Camden, the Council's flagship employment and business support programme. Good Work Camden's approach is relational, tailored to the individual and open to all Camden residents looking to improve their employment situation. Within this generalist service, some bespoke approaches and partnerships have been developed which support particular cohorts. These include specialisms around young people, Disabled people and people with health conditions, parents, refugees and homelessness.

The first Job Hub (Gospel Oak) began operating in 2020. Since then, programme highlights to date include:

- Three job hubs which are strongly networked in their neighbourhoods – Gospel Oak, Regent's Park, and Kilburn.
- A new Disability Job Hub established in March 2023
- More than 1,000 people supported to develop action plans to find and stay in good work
- Around 520 Job Hub clients supported into work and 360 into education or training
- In the same period (April 2020 – December 2023), 570 people have started apprenticeships and 465 began careers in construction through the Kings Cross Construction and Skills Centre

### Neighbourhood Job Hubs

The **Gospel Oak Job Hub**, located on Queen's Crescent and co-locating with the Fixing Factory, has become well-established within the local community. In addition to providing one-to-one support, the Hub now offers English conversation classes and maths sessions and residents can also schedule appointments with Good Work Camden's Welfare and Benefits Adviser. The Hub is establishing connections with the housing team in Holmes Road and works closely with local schools to support parents interested in going back into work. The Gospel Oak team collaborates with colleagues in the Tackling Poverty team, offering support to residents with cost-of-living applications.

The **Regent's Park Job Hub** organises regular Neighbourhood Cafés at Old Diorama, recently introducing drop-in CV sessions and interview practice. The Regent's Park Job Hub will soon share space at the new Euston Skills Centre at Starcross Yard.

The **Kilburn Job Hub** is currently delivered from various trusted community settings and is working towards trialling a dedicated space at Kilburn Library. The Job Hub delivers employability workshops and is also working closely with NHS partners who deliver information sessions about employment opportunities in the health sector.

The Council collaborated with residents and Camden Disability Action to devise a new employment support approach for disabled individuals, deaf residents, and those with long-term health conditions. The **Disability Job Hub service** commenced in March 2023, co-locating at the Greenwood Centre once a week. To date, 30 disabled residents have been onboarded, with 7 successfully placed in jobs or paid work placements and 5 in training. The Disability Job Hub has initiated paid work experience placements lasting up to 6 months, often starting part-time and progressing to full-time hours. The key priorities for the Disability Job Hub include establishing governance for the project incorporating lived experience and developing training for employers and employment practitioners designed and delivered by disabled people.

The Good Work Camden team organise an annual Jobs and Skills Event. In May 2023 this was held at Regent's Place and attracted 350+ residents and 57 employers and training providers.

In support of Camden Council's Refugee Response Programme, Good Work Camden continues to spearhead efforts to assist Camden's refugee community in securing good and sustainable employment, training, and education. Central to this approach is collaboration with training, education, and employment support providers, including World Jewish Relief, Job Centre Plus, Groundwork, Hopscotch, local colleges, and other partners. As a result, Good Work Camden, in conjunction with its partners, has assisted over 140 refugees, with 105 undergoing support for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or training and 36 securing jobs.

### **Employment and Skills Network**

Camden has a significant number of local employment and skills partners that are collectively known as the Camden Employment & Skills Network. Good Work Camden convenes these partners with the aim of delivering better coordination and driving up quality through a programme of capability and capacity building. The capability programme is designed according to feedback from members about support and training that would be useful to them – the programme has included equality and diversity training, promoting flexible working, disability awareness and welfare rights and cost of living advice. Future sessions include supporting residents experiencing homelessness, improving resident confidence and maximising income. We are also working on delivering 'spotlight' events, which members will lead on, allowing them to introduce their service/opportunities to the wider network.

### **Inclusive Business Network (IBN)**

The IBN aims to create a community of practice around improving recruitment and employment standards. Members conduct a self-assessment according to a set of key strands around inclusive recruitment, flexibility, progression, and job security. The network has increased its membership over the last year and now has thirty one cross-sector local employers signed up. Members can access a host of resources and a bespoke HR support offer is in place for SMEs who want individualised support in developing their inclusive practices. Network members also have access to a Mindtools

online toolkit with access to over 2700 resources that are all professionally researched, and evidence led. Over the next year we will refine the objectives of the Network, providing clarity on its purpose and impact.

## **QUESTION 8**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES**

**BY: COUNCILLOR LLOYD HATTON**

With hate crime becoming more frequent in the borough and across London in recent months, can you tell us what Camden Council are doing to promote community cohesion, and can you summarise our partnership with the police to combat such incidents?

## **REPLY**

The Council has delivered a number of initiatives in response to the tragic recent events in Palestine/Israel. This activity reflects the vital importance that the Council continues to attach to the promotion and strengthening of community cohesion.

The Council has significantly increased the level of high visibility presence patrolling and engagement with faith communities over recent months in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service. Council employees have been reassigned to support the Council's Community Presence Team, this approach has meant that an increased cohort of 24 officers have routinely been carrying out high visibility patrols with a focus on providing reassurance to synagogues, mosques and other priority locations/venues. The increased engagement and reassurance activity has been positively received by faith communities and has highlighted the Council's commitment towards ensuring that Camden retains a strong sense of community cohesion and togetherness during this extremely difficult period.

Camden Members from across the political spectrum have played an important role in connecting communities and providing local intelligence to support the ongoing delivery of the community reassurance activity.

The Camden Inter-Faith Network is an integral platform for inter faith dialogue, supporting community engagement and further enhancing community cohesion. Members of the network met weekly and fortnightly following the Hamas attacks in October to discuss the impact on Camden communities and how people could be supported to feel safe. These emergency meetings have been paused, but we have held a community conversation with the Jewish community in January and will be holding a community conversation with the Muslim community in the next few weeks.

The Council led Community Tension Monitoring Group has also played an important role in informing the response to local community concerns. The weekly forum delivered in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service has proved to be extremely effective in collating information from a wide range of community organisations and residents in order to inform the partnership response to localised issues.

The available data indicates an increase in reported Camden hate crime in October and November last year in line with the regional/national trends. However, the most recent data indicates that reported hate crime levels have returned to pre-October 2023 levels. Whilst this appears to be positive news, the Council fully recognises that it remains imperative that we remain vigilant and continue to promote a zero-tolerance approach towards hate crime.

The Council has consistently re-stated its commitment to being a 'No Place for Hate' borough, we will therefore continue to prioritise the need to engage with our communities to continuously develop new ways to tackle hate crime. Working with VCS organisations to deliver No Place for Hate Surgeries to raise awareness of and increase reporting of hate crime. Council officers have been supporting and advising in terms of organisations to connect with.

The Community Partnership Team works with a range of VCS and faith organisations in the borough to promote and support community cohesion. For example, we co-designed and hosted an event with Henna Asian Women's Group to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report during National Hate Crime Awareness week.

We have hosted a number of events to bring faith and community representatives together to support cohesion, such as the Camden Interfaith Network reception at the Mayor's Parlour and an interfaith tree planting event at Kilburn Grange Park.

### **Safer and Stronger Together Campaign**

Camden Council has launched a community campaign that we're building and that we'd love you to be a part of.

In Camden, our diversity is our strength. We know this is a really difficult time and the conflict in Israel/Palestine is having a huge impact on many of us across Camden – but we also know we're at our strongest when we stand together, united against hate.

The Council is working closely with partners in our communities to make sure everyone in Camden feels safe, reassured and supported during this challenging time. We also want to send a positive, strong message out to our communities about what makes Camden so special. Our campaign **Safe and strong, together** will loudly and proudly celebrate our diverse communities and our strength when we work together, support each other and stand against hate.

## **QUESTION 9**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES**

**BY: COUNCILLOR JAMES SLATER**

Could you update us on the progress of recruiting an Anti-Social Behaviour Task Force in Camden?

## **REPLY**

The Council recognises the adverse impact that anti-social behaviour can have on the quality life of local residents, and the need to further develop systems designed to address the root causes of anti-social behaviour.

As the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, I have worked alongside my cabinet colleagues, the Cabinet Members for Better Homes and Health, Wellbeing, and Adult Social Care, to oversee a broad ranging review into the Council's approach towards tackling anti-social behaviour.

The review has highlighted the need to develop a balanced approach which includes an increased emphasis on anti-social behaviour prevention. The Council provides a wide range of universal and targeted support services to address some of the underlying causes of antisocial behaviour. However, the review has made some important recommendations to further strengthen this approach and outline the need to revise and update ASB policies and procedures designed to improve the level of case management activity.

An Anti-Social Behaviour Taskforce has been established for an initial pilot period until June 2024. During this trial phase, four dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Officers will collaborate closely with key council services, communities and council partners to address anti-social behaviour in twelve Housing Estates disproportionately impacted by anti-social behaviour.

During the pilot period the ASB Taskforce will test the development of a revised ASB case management framework to assess the impact of a range of interventions. The impact of a revised multi-agency approach towards addressing anti-social behaviour will also be assessed during the trial period to oversee the ongoing development of a balanced, proportionate, and consistent approach, particularly in relation to the management of complex and challenging anti-social behaviour related cases.

At the end of the pilot period a further review will evaluate the effectiveness of the programme and make recommendations to inform our longer term approach.

I'm confident that this important piece of work will provide an opportunity to further enhance the Council's approach towards anti-social behaviour which remains a priority Safer Communities portfolio issue.

## **QUESTION 10**

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER BETTER HOMES**

**BY: COUNCILLOR LORNA JANE RUSSELL**

In the last five years, how many repair jobs relating to heating and hot water issues have been raised across all council estates with a communal heating system? Please can the number of repair jobs be broken down per estate and per year?

## **REPLY**

The attached table sets out the information requested by calendar year.

Please note the data includes duplicate orders, whereby multiple calls or messages are received from a number of residents for one incidence of heating or hot water being affected on a network.

This is helpful as we then know which properties to check once the heating or hot water is restored within the plant room.

The Council has a large capital programme and is in the process of renewing a number of its larger heating networks such as the Alexandra Road Estate (including Rowley Way), Mayford and Maiden Lane.

Works are in progress at Weedington Road (listed here as 1-44 Ashdown Crescent) and the works at St Silas have very recently been completed.

Works to renew the boiler plant at Holly Lodge are currently being procured.

Understandably, larger estates will receive a higher volume of call outs as many calls are logged each time the plant is offline or a leak occurs.

**ENDS**