

**LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**  
**COUNCIL MEETING – 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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

This Council notes that proposals are being presented to change the current licensing policy to extend framework hours to 2am and to remove the automatic presumption to refuse in Special Policy areas such as Camden Town and Seven Dials.

This Council notes that such radical changes in policy will make it difficult to achieve the licensing objectives of prevention of crime, anti-social behaviour, public nuisance and harm to children.

This Council notes that high streets right next to residential areas such as West End Lane, Belsize Village, Heath Street, Hampstead High Street, Kilburn High Street, Kentish Town Road and more will now have venues with licensable activities open until very late at night, with all the potential for anti-social behaviour and public nuisance.

This Council notes that Camden Town and Seven Dials will be subjected to even more cumulative impact of restaurants, bars and clubs.

This Council notes that as of the time of this motion, no evidence, no raw data has been presented to justify these proposed changes, no formal consultation has been undertaken and police and residents' associations have raised numerous objections to the proposed changes.

This Council also notes that a number of residents have claimed they have been excluded from the process of coming up with the new proposed policy and allegedly have been excluded from any Citizens' Assembly. This Council also notes that a Citizens' Assembly cannot be a replacement for a proper statutory consultation.

This Council therefore resolves to reconsider its proposals in light of the objections raised by the numerous responsible authorities and interested parties, to publish its data and to present a new night-time economy strategy that is not raised to the detriment of Camden's residents.

**2. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Aref-Adib and which was seconded by Councillor Olszewski**

This Council notes that:

Since 2010, Camden Council's core funding from national government has been slashed by 48% in real terms by successive Conservative governments.

Nationally, local authorities are facing a record cash shortfall in the coming year, according to data compiled by Unison. Many local authorities have once again been forced to make extremely difficult funding decisions that will impact frontline services and communities.

Across the country, local authorities have taken a big financial hit, in large part due to the economic incompetence of successive Conservative governments, with numerous local authorities being pushed into bankruptcy and issued 'Section 114' notices.

This Council further notes that:

Camden has taken a responsible approach to managing its finances, meaning the Council is not at risk of a 'Section 114' bankruptcy notice, and is able to provide support for residents and deliver good quality local services.

Despite budget constraints, Camden has supported residents through the cost of living crisis by investing in a Cost of Living Fund, delivering a generous Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and rolling out free school meals for all primary school pupils on a permanent basis.

The final local government finance settlement for 2024-25 is too little, too late for many local authorities. It follows 14 years of drastic cuts to core funding, which has had a devastating impact on the delivery of key local services that all communities rely upon.

This Council resolves to:

Take all necessary steps to ensure the Council continues to operate on a sound financial footing in the medium and long term.

Regularly assess additional ways we can offer financial support to residents throughout the cost of living crisis and deliver good quality local services.

Lobby national government to deliver a sustainable and fairer funding settlement for local government, especially as the demands facing local services grow and become increasingly more complex. Also, lobby national government to urgently deliver a fairer settlement for the Household Support Fund.

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

This Council notes that:

1. More and more councils are struggling to balance their budgets due to the soaring costs of social care with a shortfall of funding across London of nearly £600 million.

2. Despite a 27 per cent real-terms reduction in core spending power for councils since 2010/11, children's social care budgets increased by £1.5 billion in the last year alone as councils fight to ensure children's wellbeing.
3. In his first speech as Prime Minister in 2019, Boris Johnson stated that the Government would "fix the crisis in social care once and for all" but that promise has been broken. Since the General Election in 2019 there have been five Secretaries of State for Health and Social Care, none of whom have kept that promise.
4. The gross spend on nursing care has increased by 29% over the past 18 months and residential care has increased by 17%. Camden spends £2m a week on adult social care.
5. Children's Social Care in Camden is having to spend £6m beyond its budget. This is driven by cost inflation in care placements for looked after children.
6. A recent Carers Trust survey noted that one-in-eight unpaid carers are caring for an extra 50 hours a week or more over the past year.
7. NHS organisations and charities have warned that the Government's newly-announced ban on migrant care workers bringing dependents with them to the UK risks deepening the care sector's recruitment and retention crisis.

This Council believes that:

- The proper provision of social care for children and adults is the hallmark of a civilised society and should be placed on an equal footing with NHS care and funded accordingly.
- The role of unpaid carers should be financially recognised and valued for the work that they do.
- A shift towards preventative social care is essential, ensuring individuals can remain in their homes longer and children and families receive early support tailored to their needs.

This Council calls on the government:

- To properly fund social care via national taxation rather than the regressive council tax which unfairly penalises people on lower incomes.
- To provide additional funding for children's services, reducing demand, stabilising placements, and enhancing outcomes for children and families.
- To urgently reform carers allowance and to provide a package of support for unpaid carers.
- To reject any proposals to restrict visa rules for health and care workers.

This Council calls on the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet to:

- Work with other London boroughs to lobby for new investment in adult social care to bring down waiting lists for care assessments, address the recruitment and retention challenges within the workforce and provide more stability to the provider sector.

**ENDS**