

COUNCIL – 14th OCTOBER 2024

BUSINESS FROM THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS ON 22nd JULY 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 22nd July 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 22nd July 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 22nd July 2024 are attached as Appendix B.

4. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

COUNCIL 22nd JULY 2024

UNCONSIDERED MOTIONS

Appendix A

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

The Council notes that:

In the last year there have been no prosecutions carried out by Camden Council against individuals or organisations for flyposting.

This negative effect on the appearance of the streets of Camden could easily be considerably reduced by taking action against those who repeatedly commit this crime. This is literally an eye-level problem.

From drug dealers to Communist Anarchists; from window cleaners to handymen; from wine sellers to those supporting or denigrating others; the effect of this crime on the borough is becoming too much to accept without action.

The Council Resolves:

That when there is sufficient evidence and it is in the public interest, to embark on publicly prosecuting those responsible for this nuisance with a view to discouraging the burgeoning increase of this blight.

RESPONSE BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

Camden's approach to managing fly-posting continues to focus on prevention, removal and enforcement.

The Council has sought to test a number of preventative options to make it difficult for individuals involved in fly-posting activity (textured paint applied to posts/lamp columns and litterbins with textured coating etc).

Over the last 12 months the Council has received 944 fly-poster removal requests, of which 99% have been removed within the service target timeframes of 24 hours for offensive and 5 working days for non-offensive material.

There are challenges in taking enforcement action as there is a need to obtain specific evidence in order to identify offenders and take action to ensure that they are held to account.

The creation of the Community Safety Enforcement Team was influenced by the Council's commitment to increase the level of environmental enforcement activity (including fly-posting enforcement) to tackle offences which have an adverse impact on local environmental quality.

Camden Community Safety Enforcement Officers can issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to fly-posting offenders. The Council has recently taken action to increase the rate of the fly-posting fixed penalty from £80 to £300 (discounted FPN rate increased from £50 to £150). The discounted early payment rate is outlined within the statutory framework, and is designed to provide offenders with an incentive to pay fixed penalties within a specific period in order to avoid further enforcement/legal action via the local Magistrates courts.

The increase in the FPN level reflects Camden's commitment towards deterring fly-posting activity and maintaining a clean environment.

2. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Lenga and which was seconded by Councillor Filer

This Council notes:

Over the last 14 years, Conservative Governments have wreaked destruction throughout our country. That the last 14 years have been years of waste, mismanagement and chaos, and that this has deeply affected residents across Camden.

This Council further notes:

That the incoming Labour Government will now work to deliver ten years of national renewal through its five missions, these are to:

- Kickstart economic growth
- Make Britain a clean energy superpower
- Take back our streets
- Break down barriers to opportunity
- Build an NHS fit for the future

This Council resolves to:

Work with the Prime Minister and relevant Ministers in the interests of residents across our borough and in pursuit of Camden's four local missions.

Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and the relevant Secretaries of State, congratulating them on their election to Government and offering them our co-operation and support, as well as wishing them all the best in their work to improve the lives of the citizens of the UK and Camden.

RESPONSE BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

I plan to work directly with the Prime Minister and Government Ministers on their missions work to benefit residents of Camden and in pursuit of this, have already written to the Prime Minister and Secretaries of State congratulating them on their appointment to Government and signposting Camden's Mission work and the support we can offer as a high-performing, well-regarded authority.

I vow to be an active partner to central government and share examples of good practice and expertise from relational practice and early help, through to Good Work Camden and missions to support the development of policies that will benefit all residents of Camden.

ENDS

APPENDIX B

RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION 1

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER BETTER HOMES

BY: COUNCILLOR STEVE ADAMS

This Council notes that Housing Ombudsman (HO) receives formal complaints from residents in connection with this essential provision.

Currently the written adjudications of these complaints can only be found by navigating the Housing Ombudsman website and applying the filter for Camden Council. This route to obtaining information that should be available in the public realm is convoluted, and in various cases does not result in cases being easily retrieved or found at all. This includes cases of maladministration and severe maladministration.

The fact that there is a summary of these adjudications presented annually to Resources & Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee does not ease the retrieval of the reports.

The handling of many of these cases should be publicised more openly and the Council's response to the findings set out for all to appreciate.

Can the Council collect, record and publish all adjudications on its own website within a matrix that would also present the Council's response to the findings and recommendations of the HO report and the further action, to prevent recurrence?

REPLY

This administration continues to be open and transparent by listening to, responding to, and acting on complaints.

As is the agreed practice, at Camden, we publish our annual complaints reports, including Ombudsman determinations, via our established committee structure and adhere to the Housing Ombudsman's Self-Assessment code, which was recently submitted. Members will also know that we are working with the Housing Ombudsman as they conduct a paragraph 49 investigation. The results of this are expected to be available from November 2024, and we have already committed to listening to the Housing Ombudsman regarding changes that could be made to processes and procedures and to increase the visibility of their work.

In the past 12 months, we have created the resident-led Housing Customer Oversight panel that reviews themes and trends from Housing Ombudsman determinations, complaints, other sources of feedback and reviews these with accountable officers. The panel's work is available via our website. Also, members already receive a monthly ward update, which includes complaint volumes and trends, and starting in September, these will be shared with District Management Committee representatives.

QUESTION 2

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

BY: COUNCILLOR REBECCA FILER

Could the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities provide an update to Council on the new integrated enforcement service. What is different about this service and what will it aim to achieve?

REPLY

The newly created integrated Community Safety Enforcement Service aligns with the 'We Make Camden' challenges of ensuring that everyone is safe at home and safe in our communities and that Camden should be green, clean, vibrant and accessible. The new service was established in April this year, with an emphasis on delivering a single multi-disciplinary and highly visible on-street enforcement presence to tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime, which has an adverse impact on the quality of life of Camden residents.

Feedback from local residents continues to highlight the impact of fly-tipping and waste left out on streets incorrectly. The new uniformed Community Safety Enforcement Team will have a highly visible presence in local communities with an increased focus on tackling fly-tipping. The new zero-tolerance approach towards tackling fly-tipping and environmental crime is primarily aimed at improving our enforcement measures. Therefore, this is likely to lead to a significant increase in the number of statutory fixed penalties issued by the Council to those responsible for fly-tipping and other 'enviro-crime' related offences.

We are also taking further measures to enhance our enforcement approach by developing proposals that ensure fly-tipping offenders are held accountable and deter future offences. This may include increased fixed penalty fines and, where appropriate, referring environmental crime offences to the local courts. The new service's enforcement strategy aims to create a stronger deterrent and ensure that offenders face appropriate consequences.

The creation of the Community Safety Enforcement Team also reflects our intention to tackle a broad range of anti-social behaviour which also has an impact on residents. Officers within the new service will have the option to use statutory fixed penalties to tackle a range of anti-social behaviour offences from addressing issues such as unlicensed skips, fly-posting, graffiti and street urination. The team will engage with communities in order to identify issues in local neighbourhoods and develop a pro-active approach towards tackling issues which impact local communities.

Our new Community Safety Enforcement Service will also enhance the Council's approach towards the possible creation of localised Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). These statutory powers provide scope for the Council to create additional measures to prohibit offending behaviour which impacts local areas. Local intelligence data and enforcement activity delivered by the new service may

influence future Council proposals which may well be the subject of public consultation as required by law.

The new team demonstrates the Council's commitment towards tackling key issues raised by Camden residents. The integrated approach and the increased size of the enforcement officer cohort (24 Enforcement Officers) will ensure that the Council can continue to enhance the partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service, and continue to prioritise the delivery of a highly visible patrolling activity in order to promote both community safety and cohesion.

The introduction of the integrated Community Safety Enforcement Team marks an important step towards ensuring that the Council can continue to utilise the full range of statutory powers and enforcement best practice, to tackle issues which too often have an impact on Camden residents.

QUESTION 3

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR NANCY JIRIRA

In February this year, Cllr Harrison tweeted that the Council would be speaking with the West Hampstead and Fortune Green community on issues of traffic and transport this year. He said there would be "a thorough engagement and listening project to identify where to improve walking, cycling and bus infrastructure".

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the timeline and scope for this engagement project? Given the reference to bus infrastructure, will the scope also include traffic issues that are the responsibility of the GLA, including Finchley Road?

REPLY

Currently there are a number of Safe and Healthy Streets projects in the West Hampstead and Fortune Green area which are moving forward at various stages. Some of these projects are currently operating in their trial stage, such as the West Hampstead Healthy School Street (off Mill Lane) and the Kingsgate Primary Healthy School street (on Maygrove Road). These schemes were installed at the start of the academic year 2023/24 and we are currently receiving feedback from local communities on the schemes which will be included in consideration of whether or not to make them permanent at the end of the trial.

Over the next year there will be a range of engagement to develop schemes across the West Hampstead and Fortune Green areas to improve walking, cycling and bus infrastructure. These projects include:

- West End Lane Bus Priority scheme
- Road safety measures along Mill Lane - In the wider area, a live consultation on Kilburn High Road which aims to make it easier to walk,

cycle and use public transport in and around the town centre and on roads such as Maygrove Road, provide more space for people to stop and rest, and create a more pleasant experience when visiting and shopping.

We are currently considering the best way to engage communities in the area and I welcome thoughts and ideas on this from ward councillors, WHAT, and others.

QUESTION 4

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND COST OF LIVING

BY: COUNCILLOR NANOUCHE UMEADI

To ask the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living what are the most recent figures for the number of people in Camden, both working age and pensioners, receiving a) maximum Council Tax Support and b) partial Council Tax Support, and if he can show these figures on a ward basis?

RESPONSE:

Due to the number of wards the data set requested covers, the results have been split into the 4 separate tables below.

- Table 1 is the overall caseload details for all wards combined
- Table 2 contains the granular caseload information for the first 7 wards alphabetically.
- Table 3 contains the granular caseload information for the subsequent 7 wards alphabetically.
- Table 4 contains the granular caseload information for the final 6 wards alphabetically

Table 1: Totals - all wards combined

		Full / Partial CTS?	Total for all wards combined
Split of claims between working age and pension age	Working Age	Full	10,774
		Partial	4,566
	Pensioner	Full	5,303
		Partial	1,632
Overall Caseload Summary	Total Claimants receiving Full CTS		16,077
	Total Claimants receiving Partial CTS only		6,198
	Total number of Live Claims combined		22,275

Table 2: Totals for Belsize to Gospel Oak wards only

			Split of caseload by Ward - Belsize to Gospel Oak						
		Full / Partial CTS?	Belsize	Bloomsbury	Camden Square	Camden Town	Fortune Green	Frognal	Gospel Oak
Split of claims between working age and pension age	Working Age	Full	286	438	485	385	554	146	736
		Partial	81	141	201	160	220	67	289
	Pensioner	Full	158	255	186	142	274	77	380
		Partial	35	83	75	57	62	24	123
Overall Caseload Summary	Total Claimants receiving Full CTS		444	693	671	527	828	223	1,116
	Total Claimants receiving Partial CTS only		116	224	276	217	282	91	412
	Total number of Live Claims combined		560	917	947	744	1,110	314	1,528

Table 3: Totals for Hampstead Town to Kilburn wards only

			Split of caseload by Ward - Hampstead Town to Kilburn						
		Full / Partial CTS?	Hampstead Town	Haverstock	Highgate	Holborn	Kentish Town North	Kentish Town South	Kilburn
Split of claims between working age and pension age	Working Age	Full	89	786	512	710	363	580	929
		Partial	36	366	170	292	144	242	479
	Pensioner	Full	93	414	228	302	153	263	558
		Partial	29	112	79	123	47	82	131
Overall Caseload Summary	Total Claimants receiving Full CTS		182	1,200	740	1,012	516	843	1,487
	Total Claimants receiving Partial CTS only		65	478	249	415	191	324	610
	Total number of Live Claims combined		247	1,678	989	1,427	707	1,167	2,097

Table 4: Totals for Kings Cross to West Hampstead wards only

			Split of caseload by Ward - Holborn to West Hampstead					
		Full / Partial CTS?	Kings Cross	Primrose Hill	Regents Park	South Hampstead	St Pancras & Somers Town	West Hampstead
Split of claims between working age and pension age	Working Age	Full	646	459	750	454	922	544
		Partial	278	177	359	203	482	179
	Pensioner	Full	272	355	325	186	414	268
		Partial	93	101	123	56	132	65
Overall Caseload Summary	Total Claimants receiving Full CTS		918	814	1,075	640	1,336	812
	Total Claimants receiving Partial CTS only		371	278	482	259	614	244
	Total number of Live Claims combined		1,289	1,092	1,557	899	1,950	1,056

QUESTION 5

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND COST OF LIVING

BY: COUNCILLOR LIAM MARTIN-LANE

To ask the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living what the total amount distributed in Cost of Living Crisis fund awards was, and if he will give a breakdown of the number of residents in each ward who have received awards?

REPLY

Camden's Cost of Living fund was launched in September 2022, combining Household Support Fund monies from Central Government with a £2m per year top up from Camden's own budgets.

Since then, the Council has disbursed £5.1million in direct awards.

This represents 13,310 awards – an average of £383 per award.

87% of completed applications have been approved.

Of those applicants who chose to share their demographic details:

- 41% of applicants state they have a disability
- 67% of applicants are women
- 57% of applicants are from Black, Asian and Other ethnic communities
- The table below shows how this funding breaks down by ward, with the highest number of awards going to residents in St Pancras and Somers Town, Haverstock, Kilburn and Gospel Oak.

Totals	13,310	100.0%
St Pancras and Somers Town	1,539	11.6%
Haverstock	1,277	9.6%
Kilburn	1,127	8.5%
Gospel Oak	1,073	8.1%
Regents Park	969	7.3%
Kentish Town South	834	6.3%
Kings Cross	785	5.9%
Holborn and Covent Garden	702	5.3%
Camden Square	594	4.5%
Camden Town	551	4.1%
Highgate	534	4.0%
South Hampstead	486	3.7%
Primrose Hill	481	3.6%
Fortune Green	453	3.4%
West Hampstead	417	3.1%
Kentish Town North	391	2.9%
Bloomsbury	376	2.8%
Belsize	231	1.7%
Frognal	163	1.2%
Hampstead Town	89	0.7%

QUESTION 6

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR JAMES SLATER

To ask the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden that since the 2022 local elections, there has been great progress on installing more cycle hangars and planting more trees across the borough. Please could I have an update on the number of new cycle hangars and trees since May 2022, and if possible to have a breakdown by ward.

REPLY

Camden continues to provide facilities across the borough to support resident cycle ownership and enable the shift to more active travel. Since May 2022 Camden has installed 129 Cycle Hangars. The amount for each Ward is as follows:

Belsize 6, Bloomsbury 6, Camden Square 6, Camden Town 3, Fortune Green 6, Gospel Oak 2, Hampstead Town 2, Haverstock 6, Highgate 7, Holborn and Covent Gardens 9, Kentish Town North 2, Kentish Town South 5, Kilburn 9, King's Cross 4, Primrose Hill 9, Regent's Park 3, South Hampstead 19, St. Pancras & Somers Town 13 and West Hampstead 12.

This brings the total number of cycle hangars installed in the borough to 323 which includes 16 on our housing estates. A further 43 hangars that have been approved for implementation following consultation and will be installed over the coming months and approx. 40 more hangars are planned for consultation in September.

Camden has an ambitious Tree Planting Strategy that seeks to improve the overall canopy cover in the borough by a minimum of 3.7%pts, whilst targeting planting in those areas where the biggest gains can be made. More information on the Tree Planting Strategy is available at www.camden.gov.uk/trees

Ward	New Trees 2022-23	Replacement Trees 2022-23	Total Trees 2022-23	New Trees 2023-24	Replacement Trees 2023-24	Total Trees 2023-24	TOTAL TREES
Belsize	1	5	6	0	4	4	10
Bloomsbury	40	8	48	46	4	50	98
Camden Square	4	13	17	0	11	11	28
Camden Town	4	7	11	0	18	18	29
Fortune Green	79	23	102	6	20	26	128
Frognaal	7	7	14	79	5	84	98
Gospel Oak	44	4	48	8	34	42	90

Ward	New Trees 2022-23	Replacement Trees 2022-23	Total Trees 2022-23	New Trees 2023-24	Replacement Trees 2023-24	Total Trees 2023-24	TOTAL TREES
Hampstead Town	1	16	17	12	7	19	36
Haverstock	35	1	36	12	21	33	69
Highgate	12	9	21	10	12	22	43
Holborn and Covent Garden	16	21	37	12	19	31	68
Kentish Town North	52	9	61	0	19	19	80
Kentish Town South	18	8	26	9	33	42	68
Kilburn	0	10	10	49	20	69	79
Kings Cross	0	12	12	27	12	39	51
Primrose Hill	8	1	9	7	11	18	27
Regents Park	24	19	43	0	15	15	58
South Hampstead	0	1	1	11	5	16	17
St Pancras and Somers	46	14	60	6	34	40	100
West Hampstead	0	21	21	0	20	20	41
Grand Total	391	209	600	294	324	618	1,218

A replacement tree is a tree that has been planted to replace one that has been removed.

A new tree is a tree that has been planted in a location that previously did not have a tree.

QUESTION 7

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR JENNY MULHOLLAND

To ask the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden about an issue I previously raised regarding concerns about safety for road users at the corner of Royal College Street and Baynes Street. Could the cabinet member outline the work done since that time to improve safety at this location for cyclists and others?

REPLY

Thank you to Cllr Mulholland and members of the public for raising concerns about this location directly with me - which led to the following project.

In May 2024 the Council took the decision to agree plans to address road safety issue at the corner of Royal College Street and Baynes Street. This work will take place later this year and comprises: installing more prominent road markings/signs; raised areas to slow down emerging traffic, and; new 'light up' signs to make drivers more aware of cyclists travelling southbound on Royal College Street.

There will also be a short section of contraflow cycle lane on Baynes Street for better access by bike to the canal. The scheme will also improve the signage and road markings just to the south at Georgiana Street to make drivers more aware of those cycling through the area.

QUESTION 8

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR SHARON HARDWICK

Parking enforcement services play a vital role in ensuring people park correctly and safely. Too often we have examples of people ignoring the rules and parking on double yellow lines or even on the pavement itself. This can be particularly prevalent in the evening and night-time. What more can the Council do to address this problem?

REPLY

Over the past few years Camden has invested heavily in improving the road network to encourage increases in walking and cycling. The aims of this are to improve the health and well-being of our citizens as well as reclaiming portions of the highway for other community uses.

This has required a change in many of the types of parking restrictions in place as well as the times they operate. It is true that we have started to see an increase in the number of evening and night-time parking contraventions taking place across that period. In order to meet these challenges, we have developed, with our enforcement partners, a dedicated night-time enforcement team. This team will be concentrating their efforts on problem parking hot spots where vehicles are being reported as parking on the footway, double yellow lines and in bays dedicated to specific users or uses.

Over the summer we will launch these trial changes and seek to use the intelligence gathered to shape how we further develop our parking enforcement to protect against these particular issues.

QUESTION 9

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BETTER HOMES

BY: COUNCILLOR MATT COOPER

We are facing a national housing crisis and we see evidence of it every day in Camden on our streets, in our councillor surgeries and inboxes, and in local media reports, what is the council doing to tackle the housing crisis?

REPLY

The Council has seen a significant increase in housing demand in recent years with almost 7,900 households registered on the Council's housing waiting list. This coincides with year-on-year reductions in funding for local government made by the previous Conservative Government.

London has seen increasing numbers of homelessness presentations, year-on-year with 1,246 (17.4%) more in January 2024 compared to a year earlier, based on data from 27 councils. Locally, in Camden we saw a 38% increase in homelessness approaches for the year 2023/24 compared with 2022/23

The increase in homelessness has led to a steady rise in numbers of households living in Temporary Accommodation, including Bed & Breakfast (B&B) accommodation. 26 authorities reported 1,914 families living in B&B accommodation in January 2024, up 70% on a year earlier. Over the same period 27 authorities reported 1,481 families living in B&Bs beyond the six-week limit, an increase of 131% from 641 the year before (an additional 840 families). This has resulted in an annual spend of £14.465m and we are currently forecasting a further financial pressure of £13m for the current financial year.

Private rented sector (PRS) landlords are an important source of temporary accommodation and homelessness prevention. However, the private rented sector in London has constricted by 15% and with reduced supply, rents have increased by 20% since pre-covid levels, leaving only 2.5% of the market supply affordable to benefit capped households. In Camden, we have seen a significant reduction (68%) in placements into the PRS from 292 in 2020-21 to 93 in 2023-24.

Overcrowding is the number one reason for joining the waiting list with almost one in ten households in Camden living in overcrowded conditions. To help address this, we have launched the family friendly housing purchase programme. We have embarked on our plan to purchase 280 family sized homes over the next five years, funded by the disposal of small or unsuitable properties that do not meet housing needs or provide good quality homes.

We have also committed to supporting families with purchasing space saving furniture as well as with arranging storage solutions. We also encourage households to consider 'mutual exchange' where those living in under-occupied properties can swap homes with those who are overcrowded. There have been 28 mutual exchange requests approved so far this year.

The Council is currently reviewing its Local Plan which confirms permanent self-contained housing as the priority land-use. The plan has an ambitious target to deliver 11,550 new homes by 2041 and aims to maximise the supply of affordable housing and ensure that all affordable housing in Camden is genuinely affordable by prioritising social rents and intermediate rents.

The Council is addressing the housing supply by taking direct action and delivering through the Community Investment Programme (CIP). Since its inception, CIP's focus has been on building high-quality new homes and investing in new social infrastructure, as well as delivering a range of temporary accommodation and specialist accommodation. Since 2011, CIP has delivered over 1,650 homes, 1,200 of which are affordable homes. In addition, there are over 180 new affordable homes currently being built, with over 500 more affordable homes expected to be started in the next 5 years. Over the lifetime of the programme, we expect that CIP will deliver 4,850 homes with a total investment of £2.3bn. The Council's unique delivery approach through CIP ensures that we deliver as much affordable housing as possible, helping to tackle the housing crisis.

To focus on preventing homelessness, we are strengthening our partnership approach and specialist provision focussing on Accommodation for Ex-Offenders (AfEO), housing support for hospital discharge, advice at the JobCentre Plus (JCP) and with a proposal to establish two new tenancy sustainment officers in our housing redesign to focus on preventing homelessness in the private rented sector (PRS).

The Council commits £3.6m to rough sleeping services including supported accommodation, multi-disciplinary outreach and the rough sleeping hub and £10 million on delivering the adult pathway, which is comprised of support services and nearly 700 supported housing beds for single homeless people. This increased in 2023/24 with a new hostel, North Villas, delivered with funding from the Greater London Authority (GLA)'s Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) funding. Off-the-street accommodation for people rough sleeping will also increase later this year due to a successful bid for GLA funding, which will extend Camden's Housing First offer to multiple-disadvantaged people rough sleeping so they can access their own tenancies with intensive support.

To meet the growing demand for housing, the Council is taking steps to support its residents and meet its statutory duty to provide emergency and temporary accommodation, exploring every opportunity to increase the supply of suitable temporary accommodation.

The Council has successfully secured £20m grant funding from central government to fund the purchase of 57 units of family size accommodation which is now in progress. This latest round of funding is in addition to previous successes which secured grant funding to aid the delivery of 133 units through the Temporary Accommodation Property Procurement (1 & 2) schemes.

A new development on Chester and Camden Road planned for 2025 will deliver a further 89 family size hostel units which will enable us to better support our residents through a housing crisis.

The service is actively inspecting void properties located on regeneration sites in the borough to assess feasibility to relet as temporary accommodation on a short-term let basis.

Other measures to address the pressures to meet the demand for accommodation include renegotiating with current hotel room providers to reduce nightly rates, and increase the placement terms to secure longer term bookings to minimise the disruption to households; secure additional large scale hotel premises to provide exclusive use and longer term stable emergency placements at a reduced cost to the council; increase the number of suppliers of self-contained accommodation; and appoint dedicated contractors to improve the time to turnaround void properties.

Finally, as part of our housing transformation programme, we are currently consulting on a proposal to redesign the housing service to change how we deliver our services and diversify our existing property portfolio to meet future homelessness demand.

QUESTION 10

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR LORNA JANE RUSSELL

Could the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden please provide a breakdown of the number of trees felled, per ward, in Camden in 2024 (to date), 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018?

REPLY

Camden Council only fells trees if they are:

- dead or dying
- dangerous
- involved in tree related subsidence claims, but only as a last resort
- to facilitate agreed development

Due to the change in wards over the period set out, the below is set out in current (as from 2022) wards.

2022 Wards	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-2022		2022-23		2023-24		2024 - present		TOTAL	
	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted*	Removed	Planted
Belsize	3	9	15	17	1	15	4	7	10	16	11	6	10	4	1	0	55	74
Bloomsbury	9	14	19	23	20	79	5	29	6	14	4	48	7	50	0	0	70	257
Camden Square	25	4	8	11	19	13	5	33	0	21	11	17	31	11	1	0	100	110
Camden Town	13	21	6	9	6	42	11	16	5	3	3	11	17	18	0	0	61	120
Fortune Green	22	16	60	41	23	24	16	56	15	55	40	102	29	26	1	0	206	320
Frognal	17	2	26	11	6	6	8	10	9	14	21	14	13	84	6	0	106	141
Gospel Oak	65	60	15	12	26	49	51	56	23	21	11	48	52	42	5	0	248	288
Hampstead Town	12	15	13	10	5	12	14	16	12	14	12	17	28	19	4	0	100	103
Haverstock	53	48	10	15	8	45	48	32	10	17	8	36	48	33	2	0	187	226
Highgate	60	21	22	13	45	19	50	31	19	36	22	21	34	22	0	0	252	163
Holborn and Covent Garden	14	22	20	21	16	47	5	49	11	43	21	37	12	31	0	0	99	250
Kentish Town North	25	16	29	10	29	23	22	18	4	4	8	61	30	19	3	0	150	151

2022 Wards	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-2022		2022-23		2023-24		2024 - present		TOTAL	
	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted	Removed	Planted*	Removed	Planted
Kentish Town South	40	39	29	20	32	39	44	41	14	27	23	26	59	42	0	0	241	234
Kilburn	12	11	53	51	9	35	26	47	30	96	18	10	25	69	0	0	173	319
Kings Cross	11	16	11	9	19	48	11	38	21	49	12	12	8	39	3	0	96	211
Primrose Hill	8	22	22	5	16	18	12	14	9	11	4	9	15	18	1	0	87	97
Regents Park	6	28	17	26	25	37	5	12	8	8	11	43	13	15	1	0	86	169
South Hampstead	4	4	11	3	11	11	9	12	19	25	5	1	4	16	0	0	63	72
St Pancras and Somers Town	15	82	19	28	61	63	7	31	10	11	19	60	19	40	2	0	152	315
West Hampstead	7	4	19	15	12	10	25	28	8	54	29	21	21	20	1	0	122	152
Out of Borough^	6	0	10	3	3	2	1	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	24	8
Grand Total	427	454	434	353	392	637	379	579	247	539	293	600	476	618	31	0	2,678	3,780

^ Out of borough trees are those in Camden Council managed spaces outside of the borough boundary, such as housing estates and cemeteries.

* Please note, no trees have been recorded as being planted in 2024-present because trees are planted in the winter months.

ENDS