

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden: Annual Report 2023/24	
REPORT OF Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	DATE 13 January 2025
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden provides the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee with his annual report for discussion.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Clarissa Torres Cabinet Officer London Borough of Camden 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG 02079744132 clarissa.torres@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.</p>	

Signed:



Councillor Adam Harrison - Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden

Date: 30 December 2024

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The climate emergency continues to escalate, and Camden is experiencing its effects firsthand. From prolonged heatwaves to increasing risks of flooding, these extreme weather events highlight the urgent need for immediate action. As we confront the ongoing challenges of climate change, we must not only mitigate its impacts but also build resilience against future risks. Sustainability remains at the heart of our efforts as we work to create a borough that can adapt to a changing climate while reducing our environmental footprint. This year, we have continued to address these challenges, making substantial progress toward a greener, more sustainable Camden.
- 1.2. A central focus of the Sustainable Camden portfolio is to reduce the borough's carbon footprint and improve air quality. Camden Council remains fully committed to ensuring that no one in the borough suffers from poor health due to the air they breathe. As the first local authority to adopt the World Health Organization's updated air quality guidelines, Camden continues to lead the charge in tackling air pollution and setting ambitious standards for cleaner, healthier air.
- 1.3. Alongside air quality, we are committed to creating a greener, more inclusive Camden by investing in the enhancement and development of our green spaces. These spaces are designed to be inviting and accessible to all residents. Our current projects include improving landscaping, installing new play equipment, upgrading sports and fitness facilities, and introducing wildlife-friendly, climate-resilient planting. These upgrades aim to not only enhance the enjoyment of our parks but also to improve their accessibility and ease of management for the community. Key priorities include addressing disparities in access to green spaces and amenities, supporting wider council initiatives, and strengthening climate resilience across all our parks and green spaces.
- 1.4. In addition to improving green spaces, Camden has implemented a range of initiatives focused on parking and transport, contributing to our broader vision for a more sustainable borough. These initiatives include debt surgeries to help residents manage parking-related debts, enhanced parking enforcement on housing estates to reduce dangerous parking and ensure emergency access, and the Healthy School Streets programme, which limits vehicle access during school drop-off and pick-up times to improve air quality and reduce road danger. These efforts are aligned with the Camden Transport Strategy (CTS), which seeks to make streets safer, healthier, and more sustainable. Our goal is to ensure that 93% of trips made by Camden

residents are through sustainable modes of transport by 2041. Camden continues to make progress in creating safer, greener streets that benefit public health, the environment, and local businesses.

- 1.5. Environmental Services remain crucial in delivering our "We Make Camden" ambition for a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable borough. By working closely with local communities, we aim to reduce waste, promote the circular economy, and increase recycling, all while minimising the environmental impact of waste management operations. Our key initiatives include investment in street cleansing, tackling flytipping and littering, expanding recycling programmes, and encouraging sustainable practices. Through these actions, Camden empowers residents to take an active role in tackling the climate emergency and contributing to a sustainable future.
- 1.6. This year, I am excited to announce that, in addition to overseeing the Sustainable Camden portfolio, I am now also taking on the responsibility of Planning within the council. By aligning our planning policies with climate action goals, we can ensure that new developments contribute to a greener, more sustainable Camden while enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

2. Climate Emergency and Climate Action Plan

- 2.1. Since the publication of the last Annual Report, the Council has introduced its first Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. Formally adopted in November 2023, this plan outlines a two-year programme aimed at enhancing Camden's resilience to a changing climate. The outcomes of this plan will inform the development of Camden's next Climate Action Plan for 2026-2030, work on which is already under way.
- 2.2. Human-induced climate change is driving extreme weather events across the globe, and Camden is not immune. In 2023, the borough experienced its first-ever recorded temperature of 40°C, highlighting the growing threat of extreme heat. This intense heat poses serious risks to public health and presents significant challenges to both our built and natural environments. In addition to extreme temperatures, Camden continues to face an increasing likelihood of flooding. Following significant rainfall events in July 2021 and August 2022, which caused disruption to public spaces and homes across the borough, the risk of future flood events remains a concern.
- 2.3. As we continue to face the realities of a changing climate, it has become even more urgent to not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Camden but also to build resilience and adaptive capacity for the challenges ahead. This year's report highlights the progress made by the Council and our

community in both mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis and adapting to the increasing risks we face. Together, we are taking meaningful steps towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

Climate Action Plan Review

- 2.4. Camden has published four annual reviews of the Climate Action Plan since its adoption in 2020, with the most recent in November 2024. The Annual Review provides a review of all actions from the original Climate Action Plan, actions introduced in subsequent reviews, as well as new actions for 2024-25. The latest annual review also highlights progress made against the new Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan.
- 2.5. 2025 will mark the final year of the current Climate Action Plan, after which we will focus on developing the next iteration of the plan, taking into account the scale of the challenges that lie ahead.
- 2.6. The key measure of progress for our climate mitigation programme is the level of borough-wide greenhouse gas emissions (hereafter referred to as CO₂). Additionally, the Council measures its own CO₂ emissions across corporate buildings and operations on an annual basis to track organisational progress.
- 2.7. Borough-wide CO₂ emissions have decreased by 48%, while emissions from our own estate and operations (excluding Council housing) are now 63% lower compared to the respective baseline years of 2005 and 2010. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate these reductions in relation to the 2030 zero-carbon trajectory.

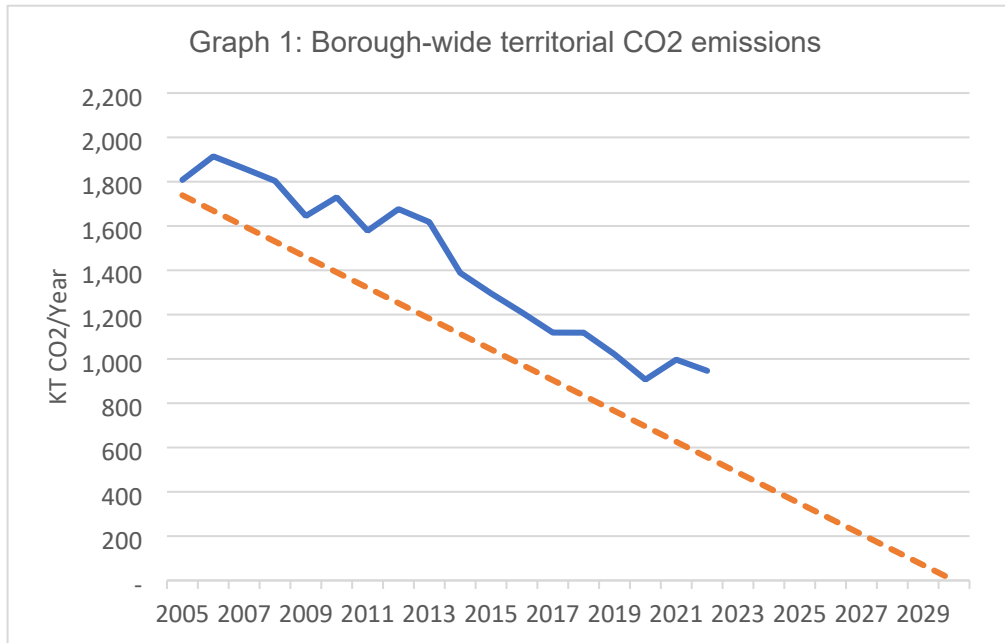


Figure 1 – Borough-wide CO₂ reduction to 2022

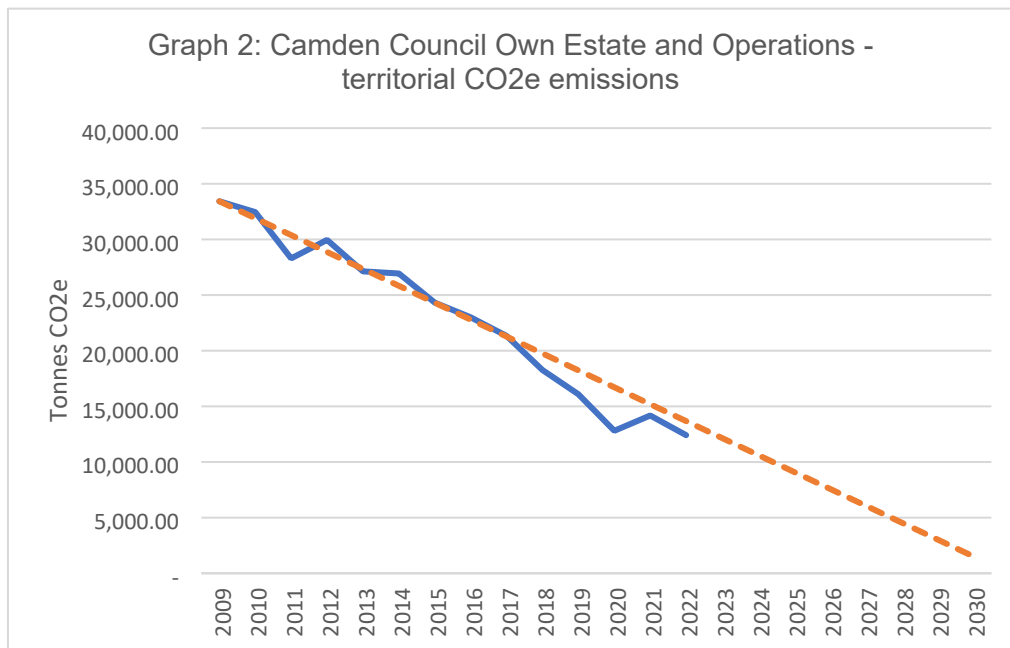


Figure 2 – Corporate estate and operations CO₂ reduction to 2023

2.8. The Annual Review also tracks progress on all 73 active actions in the Climate Action Plan, using an indicator established by the Climate Change Committee. As mentioned above, the 4th Annual Review also includes 55 actions from the new Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, ensuring that all climate-related activities are reported annually through a single framework.

2.9. The vast majority of actions across the two plans have been achieved, are under way, or are partly achieved. Two per cent of actions have not been completed since the Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2020. All Annual Reviews are available at www.camden.gov.uk/climate-crisis. A summary of the progress is provided below:

2023-24 Progress Update – Climate Programme		
Action status	Climate Action Plan	Climate Resilience and Adaption Plan
Action achieved	15	3
Under way (On track)	39	31
Under way (In development)	9	11
Partly achieved	3	8
Not achieved	0	2
New (2023-24 review)	7	0
Total:	73	55

A summary of progress on all actions since the launch of the Climate Action Plan in 2020 is provided below.

Climate Action Plan Progress 2020 – 2024		
Action achieved	55	46%
Under way (On track)	39	32%
Under way (In development)	9	7%
Partly achieved	8	7%
Not achieved	2	2%
New (2023-24 review)	7	6%
Total:	120	

- 2.10. The Camden Climate Action Plan, adopted in the summer of 2020, is organised around the themes of *People, Places, Buildings, and Organisations*. It establishes a framework for action across the borough to support our ambition of achieving a zero-carbon Camden by 2030. The concept of a 'framework for action' is crucial, as the Council has direct influence over only about one-third of Camden's CO₂ emissions. Therefore, progress depends on everyone living and working in Camden playing their part, with the Council enabling and supporting residents and organisations to take action in safeguarding the climate.
- 2.11. Since the 4th Annual Review incorporated progress from the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, adjustments were made to the four thematic reporting areas to ensure that all climate-related activities could be covered in the review. The new thematic areas for reporting are as follows, with the following sections highlighting some key aspects of our work.
- People and Communities
 - Places, Nature, and Environment
 - Buildings, Assets, and Infrastructure
 - Businesses and Organisations

People and Communities

- 2.12. In response to a direct recommendation from the Citizens' Assembly, the Council committed to establishing a Camden Climate Citizen Panel. The first panel was recruited in 2020, and in April 2023, a new panel was formed to help oversee and support Camden's climate programme.
- 2.13. The second Citizen Panel has supported key areas of the climate programme, including the Council's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, support for private sector home retrofitting, Camden's Safe & Healthy Streets programme, and the annual Climate Action Plan review.
- 2.14. In 2023-24, Camden secured an additional £1.3 million to support Phase 3 of the Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods programme. Since 2022, over £6 million has been secured for climate action in Somers Town. A range of sustainability initiatives are under way, including retrofitting homes, greening housing estates, training residents in cycle safety and repairs in partnership with the Your Bike project, and upgrading the Chalton Street market to become a circular economy hub.

- 2.15. As part of the Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods, we have also collaborated with the community to open a sustainable, community-run café, the Cholo Kha'i Café. The café serves affordable vegan and vegetarian food and is run by a group of local women every Thursday.
- 2.16. Camden also partnered with the community energy group Power Up North London to install a solar array on Regent High School. Completed during the 2024 summer holidays, the project provides low-carbon, affordable energy to the school.
- 2.17. Schools have also benefited from a partnership with Think and Do, which hosted the Council's second Dragon's Den event. This event brought together students from 12 schools, allowing them to pitch their environmental project ideas to Camden businesses. It raised £5,900 to support tree planting, recycling, and food waste initiatives across Camden's primary schools.
- 2.18. In 2023-24, we awarded £27,308 in grants through the Camden Climate Fund to voluntary and community sector organisations supporting community projects aimed at tackling the climate crisis. The fund supported environmental volunteering, bike upcycling initiatives, and campaigns promoting energy-saving behaviour. Among the funded projects was the Calthorpe Community Garden, which received funding to deliver workshops for residents to enhance their green skills and understanding of waste reduction.
- 2.19. We have also been working closely with residents in South End Green, who formed the South End Greening Group to address flood risk issues in the area following the 2021 and 2022 floods. This collaboration has resulted in several flood risk mitigation projects, including the Parliament Hill Sustainable Urban Drainage rain gardens and improvements to gully capacity near Hampstead Heath Mildmay line station. These projects, which are part of our Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, enhance the area's resilience to climate hazards.
- 2.20. In March 2024, Camden hosted its first Community Climate Action Day, attended by over 90 residents. The event aimed to promote and celebrate local climate action, featuring talks from groups such as Retrofit Kentish Town and repair and reuse workshops led by the Fixing Factory. Now in its third year at Queen's Crescent, the Fixing Factory offers training and support for repairing electrical items to be reused.

Places, Nature, and Environment

- 2.21. Camden published its Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan in November 2023. This interim two-year plan will help us deepen our understanding of the climate risks facing our community, both now and in the future. Starting in 2026, adaptation and resilience will be integrated into the new five-year Climate Action Plan. Camden also contributed to the publication of the London Climate Resilience Review, which was released in July 2024.
- 2.22. In 2024, we completed greening improvements at Levita House, transforming impermeable tarmac into green spaces with the installation of rain gardens to reduce flood risk. The new planting will enhance surface water drainage and mitigate the effects of high temperatures.
- 2.23. The Parliament Hill Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) project was completed in late 2023, featuring the installation of two rain gardens to help manage flood risk in South End Green. In June 2024, the project was recognised by the Chartered Institute for Highways and Transportation, who commended it for supporting the "Dig Once" approach, as it was installed in parallel with gas mains works undertaken by Cadent.
- 2.24. In 2024, Camden rehomed an RHS Chelsea Flower Show Garden at the Regent's Park Estate – see 4.47. The garden features drought-tolerant plants, grasses, and native wildflowers, all planted in crushed concrete and sand salvaged from demolished buildings. This project demonstrates how circular economy and climate resilience design principles can be applied to Camden projects.
- 2.25. The Somers Town Energy district energy network now serves over 550 homes, a school, community facilities, Brill Place Tower, and the Francis Crick Institute. In 2024, we connected Somers Town Energy to additional housing in the area, developed under the Council's Community Investment Programme.
- 2.26. Sharing Spaces continue to be rolled out across Camden. In January 2024, Think and Do launched a pop-up Sharing Space at the British Library for three months. A variety of participants, including poets, musicians, and crafters, shared their knowledge. The pop-up now occurs every second Tuesday of the month. In partnership with Ashden, Think and Do is expanding Sharing Spaces to six other London boroughs and has developed a toolkit to help other community groups establish their own Sharing Spaces. Monthly workshops are being held to facilitate the sharing of learnings.

- 2.27. The Council has also seen the “Fixing Factory” on Queen’s Crescent, co-located with the Gospel Oak Job Hub, go from strength to strength. Between June 2023 and June 2024, the Fixing Factory delivered three rounds of our hands-on laptop repair and maintenance course, enrolling 22 young people aged 16-24 from a diverse range of backgrounds and levels of experience. They have also created a pathway for beginners to progress to intermediate fixers by attending regular 'Future Fixers' workshops and repair sessions. We host weekly community fixing sessions at our Queen’s Crescent Fixing Factory during Thursday market, maximising local engagement and visibility. Over 80% of beneficiaries live within a few minutes' walk.

Buildings, Assets, and Infrastructure

- 2.28. Camden housing stock accounts for around 8% of the borough's total emissions. To achieve net-zero emissions, an investment of approximately £706m has been identified for retrofitting Council housing. In response, we have launched a comprehensive retrofit programme, supported by the Government’s Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). The programme kicked off with two key pilot projects at Belsize Grove and Brooks Court, where 86 homes were successfully upgraded to an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) B rating, marking a significant step toward reducing the carbon footprint of our housing stock.
- 2.29. A further 139 homes are now in the detailed design stage prior to tender, and a sheltered housing block, Henderson Court, is in the process of having a solar array installed, which will provide direct power to residents, reducing both energy bills and carbon emissions.
- 2.30. Retrofit at scale is also being tested through a new “comfort charge” model, where energy savings from solar power will be used to cover decarbonisation costs across 3,000 homes.
- 2.31. Heating system energy efficiency improvements are also under way at West End Lane, Rothay Court, and Holly Lodge estates.
- 2.32. Energy efficiency improvements are also planned for the following locations: Mayford, Spedan Close, Lymington Road, Denton, St Silas, and Coopers Lane.
- 2.33. Our corporate and schools estate accounts for approximately 1.2% of Camden’s total emissions. Enhancing the energy efficiency of these buildings not only supports our climate goals but also delivers significant financial savings. Building on the success of the Carbon Management Plan, which has achieved a 63% reduction in CO₂ emissions, we have developed a new seven-year programme. This plan outlines the need for an estimated investment of £55-£69 million for our corporate estate and £115 million for our schools’ estate by 2030 to transition both to zero carbon.

- 2.34. The current approach to investment across our corporate estate combines available national grant funding through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) with the necessary match funding (typically covering 60-70% of the cost), secured through Council investment.
- 2.35. This approach has been successfully tested with the £3.7 million retrofit of Swiss Cottage Library, funded in part by £1.4 million of secured PSDS funding. In November 2024, significant energy efficiency improvements were completed at Highgate Library.
- 2.36. We have also collaborated closely with the local community energy group, Power Up North London, to raise community share investment, complementing funding from the Council and the Mayor of London. This has supported the installation of two major solar arrays at Regent High and Parliament Hill schools, with the installations completed over the summer of 2024.
- 2.37. Further projects are underway at West Hampstead Library, the Netherwood Day Centre, and the Waterlow Park Visitor Centre. In 2024, the Council secured an additional £831,000 from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to support retrofit projects at Talacre Sports Centre, the Spectrum Centre, and Primrose Hill school.
- 2.38. We have also been transparent about the scale of the challenge ahead, publishing our first Climate Budget as part of our 2024/25 Council Tax setting report. The Climate Budget outlines the cost of decarbonising the Council's estate, the availability of funding, and the financial gap we need to address, which currently stands at over £160 million. Our second Climate Budget will be published in February-March 2025.
- 2.39. From August 2023 to July 2024, we provided written consultation responses on air quality, energy, and sustainability for 47 major planning applications. This work has helped reduce carbon emissions by incorporating renewable energy, mitigating the risk of overheating, considering the whole life carbon of developments (particularly where substantial demolition is proposed), and supporting the circular economy through 95% reuse, recycling, or recovery of waste during construction. We have also ensured that all developments are air quality neutral. To further support these efforts, training and guidance have been developed for planning case officers and planning committee members to assess the environmental impact of all planning applications.

Businesses and Organisations

- 2.40. The commercial sector, including universities and hospitals, is responsible for 59% of Camden's direct emissions. To address this, during 2023-24, the

Camden Climate Alliance (CCA) continued to deliver two core programmes aimed at reducing emissions from commercial buildings and fostering local climate action in collaboration with community groups: the Camden and Brent Business Climate Challenge (BCC) and the third phase of Climate Connectors.

- 2.41. The need for these workstreams was underscored by the CCA's 2023 Annual Report, published in June 2024. The report collated energy data for the 2022-23 period from CCA members and revealed that, while 84% of reporting members had reduced their emissions, the average reduction rate had slowed year on year. The report also provided an update on the impact of the Mayor of London's BCC 2022-23 programme. Analysis conducted in early 2024, after a full year of data collection, showed that a significant proportion of Camden businesses participating in the programme had increased rather than decreased their energy usage.
- 2.42. Of the 22 Camden businesses with a full 12 months of comparable data, only 9 managed to reduce their energy consumption. Of these, 5 businesses exceeded the programme's energy reduction target of 10%, with the top performer achieving a 29% reduction in energy use. The increase in energy use can be partly attributed to the phased return-to-work after the COVID-19 pandemic. More importantly, it highlighted that businesses cannot reduce energy use unless they measure it. The programme has played a key role in helping businesses understand, access, and manage their energy data, enabling them to make informed decisions about targeted energy reduction measures.
- 2.43. In May 2023, the CCA successfully secured funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), based on the Mayor of London's BCC model. The joint project with the London Borough of Brent and The Fitzrovia Partnership was awarded £640,879 to continue providing energy efficiency support to businesses. Launched in December 2023 as the Camden and Brent BCC, the programme has already helped over 80 businesses receive energy audits and tailored recommendation reports to guide them toward achieving operational net zero. The programme is set to conclude in March 2025, but businesses will be directed to the CCF for funding opportunities to implement the recommended measures. Two businesses from this programme have already received grants for LED lighting upgrades.
- 2.44. Also in June 2024, leveraging the UKSPF funding, the Camden Climate Alliance launched the Business Sustainability Series, a series of training events designed to drive emissions reductions in the commercial sector. Open to all Camden businesses, four training sessions have taken place so far, focusing on energy management best practices, behaviour change and staff engagement, energy-saving technologies and funding, and Carbon Literacy training accredited by The Carbon Literacy Project. Two additional training sessions are scheduled before March 2025 on B-Corp certification and effective communication of business sustainability journeys.

- 2.45. Phase 3 of the Climate Connectors programme, running from September 2023 to June 2024, remains the CCA's most popular and impactful programme. In this phase, delivery partners Think and Do and London Clean Air completed 41 local projects, generating additional value totalling £98,237 through funding from businesses, pro bono support, and corporate volunteering. Compared to Phase 2, this phase saw a significant shift from funding contributions to corporate volunteering, with a total of 1,382 volunteer hours. The table below highlights how the programme has evolved since its launch in 2022.

Iteration	Delivery Partner(s)	Value	Impact
<i>Pilot</i> – Phase 1 funded through CCF Climate Action Grant early 2022	Think and Do	£5,000	7 local climate action projects delivered
Phase 2 - Climate Connectors 2022-23	Think and Do	£15,000	20+ projects £30,000 value 256 volunteer hours
Phase 3 - Climate Connectors 2023-24	Think and Do	£10,000	41 projects
	London Clear Air (formerly Camden Clean Air)	£10,000	£98,237 value committed 1,382 volunteer hours

- 2.46. Due to its success, Phase 4 of Climate Connectors has been renewed for 2024-2025, with partners Think and Do Camden and London Clean Air. Key deliverables for the next phase include a Youth Climate Summit, bringing together secondary school students to help inform the development of the CAP 2026-2030, the annual Green Dragon's Den event, a Green Futures career fair for students in Years 11-13, as well as greening and corporate volunteering projects.

3. Air Quality

- 3.1. Camden Council remains committed to ensuring that no one in the borough experiences poor health due to the air they breathe. As the first local authority to adopt the World Health Organization's updated air quality guidelines, Camden continues to lead the charge in reducing air pollution sources. In 2023, Camden launched its Clean Air Action Plan 2023-2026, which sets out an ambitious roadmap for improving air quality across the borough. The plan focuses on tackling local sources of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM), increasing public awareness, and advocating for stronger national policies to address pollution beyond Camden's boundaries. Additionally, Camden has expanded its air quality monitoring efforts and launched an updated online data portal to improve access to real-time information.

Performance on Emission Levels

- 3.2. From 2022 to 2023, the average NO₂ levels across all automatic monitoring sites in Camden decreased by 5%. In 2023, the annual legal NO₂ limit was exceeded at 20 out of 327 diffusion tube monitoring sites. While this indicates ongoing challenges, it marks significant progress compared to 2019, when 96 sites exceeded the legal limit.
- 3.3. The WHO air quality targets are stricter than UK legal limits, and to track Camden's progress toward meeting these healthier levels by 2034, the council has established interim targets for 2026 and 2030. As part of this journey, Camden reports that 230 (70%) of the 327 diffusion tube monitoring sites met the 2026 target of 30µg/m³ for NO₂, and 33 (10%) sites achieved the 2030 target of 20µg/m³.
- 3.4. The second key type of air pollution measured is fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). This pollutant decreased at all four automatic monitoring sites in Camden from 2022 to 2023, with an average reduction of 18%.
- 3.5. Despite the ongoing challenge of addressing national PM_{2.5} emissions, all four of Camden's automatic monitoring sites met the council's 2030 interim target of 10µg/m³ in 2023.
- 3.6. The ultimate goal is to meet the WHO guideline of 5µg/m³ by 2034. Achieving this will require sustained efforts on multiple fronts—tackling local emissions, leading by example, and advocating for national and international action to transition to cleaner transport, industry, agriculture, and buildings.

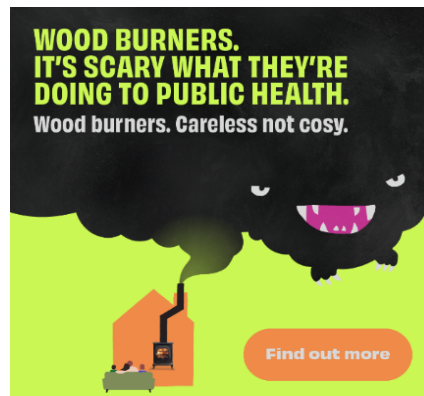
Behaviour Change and Projects

- 3.7. Camden's air quality programme includes several grant-funded projects to support the implementation of the Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP).
- 3.8. In 2023, electrical power supplies were installed at four popular ice cream van trading locations as part of Camden's 'Ice Cream Project' funded by the

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). This initiative aims to reduce the emission of harmful particulate matter from the diesel engines used for refrigeration. Additional installations are planned for the coming years, with the goal of expanding the project to address air pollution from vehicles and generators at street markets.

- 3.9. The Council also secured new Defra air quality grant funding in 2023 for the 'Year of Clean Air for Camden Schools' project. This initiative will include assemblies, workshops, and other activities to educate children about healthy environments and the importance of clean air for their health, both at school and while travelling in the borough. The project also seeks to better integrate sustainability into the curriculum in Camden schools.
- 3.10. Clean Air for Schools will foster collaboration across various teams and service areas within the Council, supporting our collective efforts to realise the 'We Make Camden' ambitions for a borough where every child has the best start in life, communities support good health and wellbeing, and everyone is empowered to contribute to a clean and sustainable environment. Further funding opportunities will be explored to ensure the long-term delivery of this project, providing support for successive school cohorts and implementing practical measures to reduce emissions and exposure to air pollutants in Camden's schools and learning environments.
- 3.11. In early 2024, Camden submitted five successful grant funding applications to the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund (MAQF), securing a total of £416,000. Three of these projects will involve consortia led by Camden in partnership with other boroughs, while two will be exclusive to Camden.
- 3.12. Camden and Hounslow will lead a fourth phase of the highly successful MAQF-funded 'Idling Action London' project. This phase will focus on reducing air pollution from vehicle engine idling, specifically targeting driving-intensive businesses, fleet operators, and driving schools. The project aims to enhance enforcement effectiveness and drive further reductions in avoidable pollution.
- 3.13. Camden and Islington will also lead a second phase of the 'London Wood Burning Project' (LWBP) with MAQF funding. This phase builds on the Defra-funded first phase, which included a public survey revealing low awareness of the air pollution and health risks associated with wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Findings from a health impact evaluation showed that wood and solid fuel burning costs London £197 million annually in health and economic costs. Additionally, an air pollution research project found that all types of solid fuel-burning appliances, even those approved by Defra, can cause pollution spikes near homes where they are used.
- 3.14. The findings from the survey, health impact evaluation, and air pollution measurement project formed the foundation for the LWBP's 'Burny' public

awareness campaign, which was featured in outdoor, online, and radio media formats. The second phase of the LWBP, funded by MAQF, will continue the Burny campaign and provide training and guidance to support London boroughs in more effectively enforcing laws against illegal chimney smoke, while also discouraging the unnecessary and avoidable use of wood heating across the city.



- 3.15. Camden, Hackney, and Newham will collaborate on a MAQF-funded project to raise awareness of air pollution within London's boating community, with 11 other boroughs also participating. The 'Healthy Waterways' project will develop a strategy to identify long-term opportunities for local authorities, government agencies, and other organisations to support boaters in reducing emissions and exposure to air pollution, benefiting everyone living, working, and learning along London's inland waterways.
- 3.16. Camden successfully secured MAQF funding for a project aimed at reducing air pollution from filming in the borough. On-location filming heavily relies on diesel generators to power lighting, welfare facilities, and other equipment. The 'Cleaner Filming for Camden' project, delivered in collaboration with FilmFixer, will include audits of film sets, enhance data collection, and raise awareness within the film industry about the importance and opportunities for reducing air pollution.
- 3.17. We also received MAQF funding for a community awareness project. The 'Clean Air for Camden – Citizen Science and Community Air Quality Champions' initiative will expand our popular indoor air quality sensor loan scheme, enabling more Camden households to visualise and understand the importance of indoor air quality and ways to improve it. The project will strengthen partnerships with primary care providers and our commissioned health outreach services, focusing on vulnerable communities, with the aim of reducing the impact of air pollution on public health.

Monitoring and Public Air Quality Data

- 3.18. By the end of 2023, Camden's diffusion tube NO₂ monitoring network expanded to include 263 sites, marking an 83% increase compared to January 2019, before the launch of the first Clean Air Action Plan 2019-2022. This ongoing expansion reflects our commitment to raising awareness about the public health impacts of air pollution on our communities, as well as our evidence-based approach to project and policy development. Additionally, HS2 Ltd. operates 64 diffusion tube monitoring sites in Camden. The data collected from these sites is also published and contributes to improving our assessment of air quality across the borough.
- 3.19. Throughout 2023, we continued to maintain our reference-standard automatic air quality monitoring network, which includes five sites. NO₂ is measured at four sites, and PM_{2.5} is monitored at four sites. Three of these monitoring sites - Euston Road, Russell Square (Bloomsbury), and Swiss Cottage (Finchley Road) - measure both NO₂ and PM_{2.5}.

Public Health, Awareness Raising, and National Health Service (NHS) Partnership Collaboration

- 3.20. Throughout 2023, we have continued to foster a productive partnership with the borough's hospitals, the North Central London Integrated Care System (NCL ICS), and the NHS's Healthy London Partnership. This collaboration has supported a range of awareness-raising projects on air pollution and its associated health risks. This year, we launched a partnership project with Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) to create concise, effective video resources, helping healthcare professionals introduce the topic of air pollution sensitively during patient consultations and visits.
- 3.21. Camden remains closely engaged with Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), University College London Hospital (UCLH), and Royal Free Hospitals to share best practices and knowledge on air quality, climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.
- 3.22. Through our representation at the Healthy London Partnership's 'London Asthma Leadership and Implementation Group' (LALIG), Camden has been able to advise and shape the group's policy recommendations, ensuring that air quality is a key consideration in the development of London NHS plans to improve asthma care.

4. Green Spaces

Parks for Health

- 4.1. Parks and green spaces are vital to our communities, and our Parks for Health Programme has demonstrated their value, showing that each visit provides £7 in physical health benefits and £13 in mental health benefits—equivalent to an £11.58 return on investment for every pound spent.

- 4.2. To ensure our parks and green spaces continue to serve as health assets, we have partnered with Voluntary Action Camden to promote green social prescribing and support local groups in organising activities that encourage people to use parks for improving their health.
- 4.3. We were pleased to host Holborn Community Association's *Active for Life* Qi Gong and YMCA's yoga sessions in Brunswick Square over the summer. Additionally, the wellbeing walks around Bloomsbury parks, which have been running since the pandemic, have grown increasingly popular, with total attendance rising from 305 in 2023 to 493 this year.
- 4.4. In 2024, we conducted a site analysis and feasibility study to identify a suitable location for a padel court in one of Camden's parks. Padel tennis, a fast-growing, fun, and inclusive sport, is in high demand, but there are very few padel courts in North London. Canteloves Gardens was shortlisted, and an engagement project is under way to determine the most appropriate model and arrangements for the padel court at this site.
- 4.5. We continue to explore new ways to engage with and reach communities to ensure our parks remain inclusive, welcoming, and healthy. A variety of community-led activities help bring Camden's parks to life, including gardening activities at 20 of our 75 parks, walks between sites (such as the popular Bloomsbury wellbeing walks), and community events hosted by Friends Groups and local organisations and businesses.

Working with Communities

- 4.6. Camden has around 20 Friends of Parks Groups. In response to insights from the Parks for Health programme, we are encouraging these groups to strengthen their memberships, attract new and diverse volunteers, and connect with other local community organisations, with guidance and support from Voluntary Action Camden. In 2024, two new groups were established: Friends of Oakley Square and Friends of Crabtree Fields.
- 4.7. These groups funded and organised a range of events throughout the year, including:
 - St George's Gardens Summer Party
 - Waterlow Park Summer Concerts
 - Two new dog events at Waterlow Park and Fortune Green, which were very successful in engaging dog owners and promoting responsible dog behaviour
 - Fortune Green Film Showing
 - Community litter picks



Friends of St George's Summer Party Show



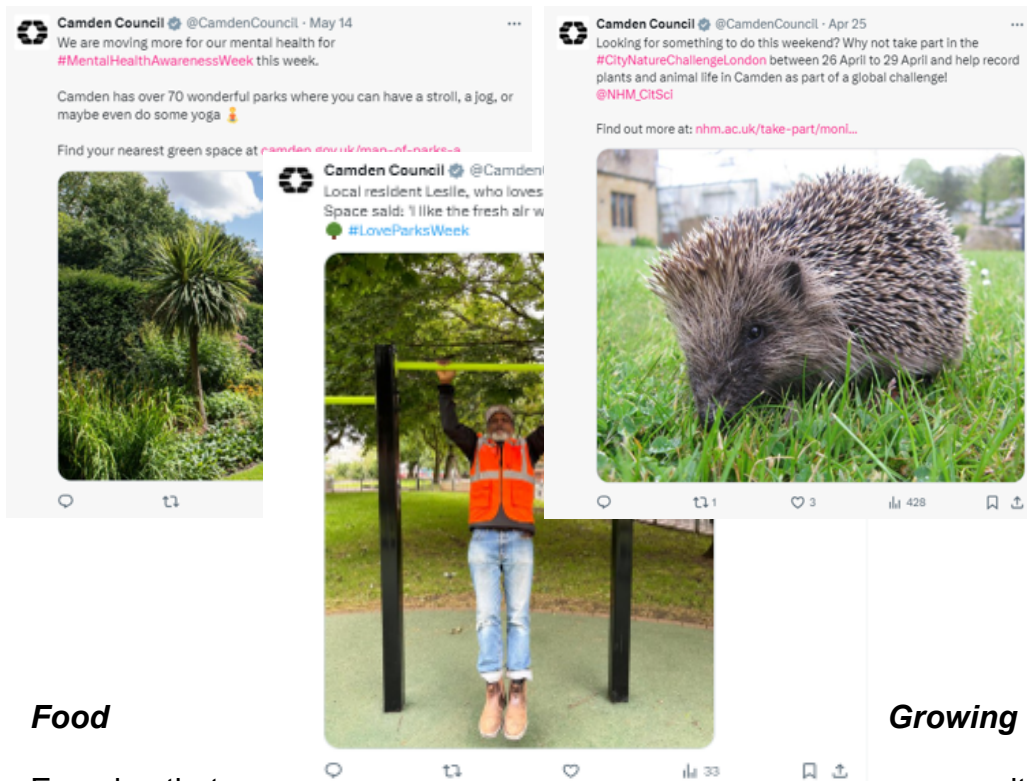
Waterlow Park Dog Show

- 4.8. Green Space Partnership Officers facilitated a trial of the 'Girls in the Garden' programme in Bloomsbury Squares. The programme, funded through park friends groups and delivered by The Wild Remedy, aimed to provide a safe outdoor environment and activities for girls, promoting their wellbeing in green spaces while fostering a sense of belonging and connection to the beautiful parks in south Camden. This initiative aligns with national and London-wide efforts to enhance the offerings of parks for girls and gender-diverse individuals. We are planning to develop a similar programme with community partners for 2025.



Girls in Camden Programme

- 4.9. We have continued our efforts to promote parks as health assets by developing communications for Mental Health Awareness Week, Love Parks Week, the City Nature Challenge, Camden in Bloom, and National Tree Week.



Food

Growing

- 4.10. Ensuring that communities have access to sustainable fresh food is central to our food mission, and finding space for this activity is a priority for us. This year, we appointed a dedicated officer in our green space team to connect communities and promote best practices for food growing across the borough.
- 4.11. Over the next two years, Camden has allocated capital funding to explore innovative ways of creating new food-growing spaces. This includes mapping potential sites with residents, co-designing spaces, and developing new management structures for these areas.
- 4.12. Pilot projects are being launched in the Kentish Town West area to develop a resident-led vision for food growing in the region. In particular, a potential site at Halstow Open Space has been identified for conversion into a food-growing space. Additionally, discussions have started with the Westcroft Estate Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) regarding a potential food-growing site to meet residents' demand for gardening activities. This would complement the work being done by Think and Do to plant an orchard on the estate.
- 4.13. We continue to collaborate with residents to establish 25 food-growing gardens. The photo below showcases the work completed with the Sidney Boyd TRA, where our dedicated residents have transformed the space.



Food growing at Sidney Boyd Estate

Managing and Maintaining Safe and Sustainable Spaces

- 4.14. Camden has a dedicated grounds maintenance team and contractor, *idverde*, who ensure our parks and green spaces are safe, sustainable, and attractive for all residents to enjoy.
- 4.15. A range of internal and external inspections are carried out across 489 core sites and a total of 597 Camden greenspaces, including playgrounds and sports facilities, to ensure safety. These include daily park checks and weekly playground inspections conducted by *idverde*'s trained playground inspectors. An annual independent playground inspection is also carried out across all play assets.
- 4.16. Camden's in-house officers complete 100% monitoring of specific tasks, as well as ad-hoc enquiries and internal system-led inspections. These inspections and associated works have ensured that Camden's green spaces remain open and safe for use. Currently, 96% of the 257 playgrounds are open and safe to use.

Playgrounds

- 4.17. Over £350k in improvements have been made to Camden's public playgrounds, including the installation of new assets. This is in addition to the contracted maintenance of the playgrounds mentioned earlier. A further £800k worth of works are planned for housing playgrounds in the coming financial year.



Playground improvement at Westcroft Way

- 4.18. Several nursery playgrounds were renovated with new play assets and designs, with the work totalling over £200k, funded by the Early Years team. The refreshed playgrounds look fantastic and have been well received by the local communities.



Improvements at Hampden Nursery

Outdoor Gyms

- 4.19. New outdoor gym equipment and safety surfacing were installed at Polygon Open Space. This space, along with several others, is maintained separately from the core outdoor gyms. All gyms in Camden's parks have been well-maintained and remain open for use year-round.

Heritage Works

- 4.20. Bloomsbury Square has undergone over £60k in repairs and maintenance this year to preserve its heritage assets and enhance the overall aesthetics of the square. The central York stone hardstanding was repointed using heritage-coloured mortar, and the perimeter was prepped, cleaned, and repainted. New heritage-style bins with lids were installed to replace the existing open cast iron bins, addressing numerous complaints about crows spreading rubbish from the bins. The new bin design has been well received and has helped resolve the litter issues.

- 4.21. At Waterlow Park, the urns were restored, and sundial repairs were completed this year. These projects have been complex, but the results are outstanding.



Restored Urns at Waterlow Park

Biodiversity and Climate-led Operations

- 4.22. Camden declared a climate and ecological emergency, and as a result, we have adopted a conservation- and biodiversity-led approach to our green space operations wherever possible.
- 4.23. For example, the meadow on the roof of Gamages was restocked with high-impact, sustainable plants, and a new central feature bed was installed and planted with Buddleia species. The restocking and the meadow's first couple of years of establishment have resulted in a vibrant display of flowers, which has been well received by the surrounding community.



Meadow on the roof at Gamages

- 4.24. The West End Project now has full-time gardeners, and we have successfully planted the Capper Street pocket park and filled gaps at other sites.

Grounds Maintenance Contract Renewal

- 4.25. Camden's grounds team has continued to manage the *idverde* grounds contract across 489 core sites, bringing the total to 597 sites, including ad-hoc locations. This includes managing standards, as well as improvements and ad-hoc work to address a range of issues, from anti-social behaviour to climate-related incidents.
- 4.26. Following internal and external engagement processes, a detailed specification has been developed, which will commence in April 2026. As part of this project, a community-focused team has been identified to be remodelled and insourced. This will result in the creation of an in-house neighbourhood gardener team that will foster ownership and collaborate with residents and stakeholders to improve their green spaces.

Tree Management

- 4.27. Camden Council manages 29,000 trees, with an additional 10,000 to 15,000 trees located in woodland sites. The total tree canopy cover in the borough is 22.9%, which is 2.9% above the recommended canopy cover set by the Urban Forestry & Woodland Advisory Committee Network for inland towns and cities.
- 4.28. The service publishes information about the trees we maintain on the Council's open data portal. Specific maps are also available for newly planted trees and those scheduled for removal. Camden has now been awarded the 'Tree Cities of the World' designation five times (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023), a programme run by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- 4.29. External organisations, including the Forestry Commission (National Tree Champion Sir William Worsley), the London Tree Officers Association (LTOA), and the Greater London Authority, have also recognised Camden for its innovative and holistic approach. We have participated in several academic studies, including one with University College London (UCL) on measuring carbon capture in trees.
- 4.30. A new tree term contractor, Treehab Ltd, was appointed on 1st November 2022, following the voluntary liquidation of City Suburban Tree Surgeons Ltd. Treehab Ltd is a local firm based in the western part of the borough and

employs local people. They are responsible for our tree maintenance and replacement tree planting.

- 4.31. The Hardy tree in St. Pancras Gardens fell on Boxing Day 2022 in an area that had been fenced off to protect the public. The tree had been suffering from decay since 2014 and had undergone periodic works and monitoring to address any risk to park users. The news of the tree's fall was reported internationally, including in the New York Times. A replacement tree, a beech tree mentioned in Thomas Hardy's Under the Greenwood Tree, was planted near the mound and fallen trunk on 12 April 2024, with members of the community and the Thomas Hardy Society in attendance.
- 4.32. Camden's Tree Planting strategy 2020-2025, is progressing well and has so far planted 2,336 trees.

Year	Replacement Trees	New Trees	Total
2020/21	362	217	579
2021/22	171	368	539
2022/23	209	391	600
2023/24	324	294	618

Total tree planting: replacement and new trees

2023/24 planting by ward	Replacement	New
Belsize	4	0
Bloomsbury	4	46
Camden Square	11	0
Camden Town	18	0
Fortune Green	20	6
Frognal	5	79
Gospel Oak	34	8
Hampstead Town	7	12
Haverstock	21	12
Highgate	12	10
Holborn and Covent Garden	19	12
Kentish Town North	19	0
Kentish Town South	33	9
Kilburn	20	49
Kings Cross	12	27
Out of Borough	0	0
Primrose Hill	11	7
Regents Park	15	0
South Hampstead	5	11
St Pancras and Somers Town	34	6

West Hampstead	20	0
Total	324	294

Tree planting by ward

- 4.33. Capital funding of £1.94 million (including £61,000 from the Urban Tree Grant) was allocated in 2021/22 for the programme, which will fund the planting of 3,000 trees and provide three years of watering over a four-year period. In addition, we have successfully secured funding from other streams:

Additional funding secured (from start of tree planting strategy)	Funding
Urban Tree Challenge Fund	£119,333.34
West End Project	£20,862.00
Clear Channel funding	£60,000.00
Central District Alliance	£8,809.00
Highways projects – internal contribution	£20,646.00

- 4.34. During the summer of 2024, the tree team ran an iTree Eco project in collaboration with Treeconomics to estimate the benefits provided by Camden’s urban forest. This initiative involved volunteers from the community and the Council, who surveyed plots across the borough and recorded the vegetation present. The data collection phase of the project is now complete, and the results will be available in the new year.
- 4.35. In the autumn of 2024, *Fix My Street* was integrated with the tree asset maintenance database, Confirm Arboriculture. This integration will enhance our service by providing automatic updates for customer enquiries.
- 4.36. During the 2023/24 planting season, Communi-tree and residents from Abbey and Mortimer Estates created an orchard of 82 fruit trees. Since 2022, they have planted a total of 170 trees across 10 Camden estates. To further support fruit tree planting, they have partnered with UCL to create a soil map of Camden. Environmental science students will collect and test soil samples at future orchard planting sites, contributing to the development of a comprehensive soil map for the borough.

Green Space Investment Programme

- 4.37. Over the past year, £1.5 million in projects have been delivered through the Green Space Investment Programme, along with £765k in additional capital investment and renewal works.
- 4.38. The following projects have been completed in the last year:
- Antrim Gardens
 - Hilgrove Estate
 - Broadfield Estate

- Kingsland Estate
- Kilburn Grange MUGA
- Goldhurst Terrace
- Bedford Row
- Parliament Hill SuDS
- George Mews
- Churchway Estate
- Starcross Yard
- Cumberland Market
- Ampthill Estate

4.39. Funding updates include:

- £3.3 million will be invested in landscape works across the Central Somers Town area over the next year, including improvements to Purchase Street Open Space and Polygon Road Open Space.
- The Levelling Up project at Kentish Town has commenced, which includes £250,000 funding for Talacre Town Green (confirmed January 2023).
- An additional £60,000 has been secured through the Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme to deliver Phase 3 projects.
- We are exploring the potential for a bid to the Football Foundation Playzones programme to improve access to multi-sport pitches, diversify usage, and address inequalities. An initial consortium meeting has been held, and the specification requirements for investment are being investigated.
- A successful funding bid from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been secured for the delivery of the Kilburn Grange high road entrance proposals, which are due for completion before March 2025.

4.40. The new 5-year Green Space Investment Programme (GSIP) strategy for 2025-2030 is currently in development. This process involves reviewing the methodology for allocating funding towards projects, as well as producing a public-facing document to engage the community in the work we are delivering.

4.41. We are continuing to identify projects for the next phase of GSIP delivery in 2025, as several long-term projects near completion. The following projects are currently in the early planning stages and have already received approval:

- Leighton Crescent and Montpelier Gardens – A combined project that will include a site review and renewal.
- Argyle Square Gardens – This will include improvements to the surrounding public realm associated with the Belgrove House development.
- Maygrove Peace Park – The project has commenced, with designers now appointed.
- St Andrew's Gardens – A site-wide refurbishment to improve materials and asset replacement.

- Canteloves Gardens – An asset replacement project, which may include a padel court (subject to planning consent).
- Talacre Town Green – Funding has been secured for the site-wide masterplan development, in addition to levelling-up funding for the sports centre.

4.42. We incorporate output metrics from completed projects into the GSIP programme for annual review, including the surface area depaved, the number of trees planted, the number of new play items, and the number of new health activities created.

4.43. Data is input into the GSIP programme throughout the year, with our annual figures below:

- More than 7,986m² green space improved
- 2,760m² of new open space/green space created
- More than 2,111m² depaved
- Accessibility improvement have been delivered on at least 6 spaces (including resurfacing, new gates, and step removals)
- At least 4 projects have incorporated reused or recycled materials (including recovered kerbing, fencing, and furniture)

Greening the Public Realm

4.44. The Camden Green Space Development Team continues to support the delivery of new green infrastructure as part of the Transport Programme. This work includes the creation of numerous new rain gardens and street trees across the borough, as well as major transformation projects such as the Phoenix Road and Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood schemes.



Clarkson Row highways rain gardens scheme



Phoenix Road planters as part of trial



Goldhurst Terrace rain gardens works



Dumpton Place greening

Highways Greening Accelerator Programme

- 4.45. The Highways Greening Accelerator is part of the ambitious Future Parks Accelerator (now evolved into Nature Towns and Cities). It is designed to broaden and enrich understanding while providing practical skills for the planning, design, delivery, and maintenance of green infrastructure within local authorities, as well as other statutory bodies like Transport for London (TfL), Greater London Authority (GLA), and wider highways authorities across England.
- 4.46. The externally funded two-year partnership project concluded in July 2024 with a launch event at Camley Street Natural Park and the publication of a suite of guidance documents. This project has provided the Council with a platform to celebrate the progress made in the borough, share our learnings with organisations across the country, and plan our approach to new green infrastructure more effectively. Going forward, a new dedicated project officer will work exclusively on highways greening projects, ensuring the adoption of the guidance and facilitating the smooth handover of completed projects into business operations.



Highways Greening Accelerator programme – Best Practice and Lessons Learnt document



Local Government Association Annual Conference 2024 – Presenting the HGA project to senior leaders from across the country

HS2 Mitigation around Euston

- 4.47. In August 2024, work was completed to install a garden from this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show at Compton Close, located in the heart of the Regents Park Estate. The Compton Close Garden was created using elements from past show gardens. Materials were selected to highlight sustainable options, and drought-tolerant plants were chosen to demonstrate how to enhance biodiversity. This project was funded through HS2 funds secured by the Council.



• **This garden was displayed at the 2024 Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show.**

• It has been designed by award winning garden and horticultural writer Barry Moore of Cityscapes.

It was named 'Chelsea Repurposed' and is created using elements from past show gardens. Materials have been chosen to highlight sustainable options and drought-tolerant plants demonstrate how to increase biodiversity.

Greening Compton Close 2024

Some of the key features include landscape designer Tom Massie's Islamic inspired fountain and concrete benches from his 2018 The Lemon Tree Trust Garden, which provide a focal point and places to rest.

The recycling continues with drought-tolerant species, including grasses and native wildflowers, all planted in crushed concrete and sand salvaged from demolished buildings.

The planting features:

- 3 large Acer trees
- different grasses
- ornamental sage
- bearded iris
- and perennial daisies.

• This garden will help make Compton Close a greener, more sustainable and resilient space within the heart of Regents Park Estate.

• Camden

- 4.48. The 18-month traffic trial at Phoenix Road is ongoing. In November 2024, Urban Movement was appointed to work on the final designs for the permanent changes to Phoenix Road. These changes will be based on all feedback received to ensure that future modifications address local needs and priorities.
- 4.49. Two car-free days have been organised with London Play to complement the activities in the parklet along Phoenix Road. The first event took place on 22nd September 2024, and the second on 8th December 2024. Various activities were held at both events, providing an opportunity for the community to come together and for officers to continue gathering feedback.



- 4.50. Funding was secured to build on the successful greening improvements already completed within Regent's Park Estate. The goal was to identify additional sites in collaboration with the community and design improvements that enhance the public realm as a vital community resource. These improvements aim to support community cohesion and wellbeing, provide climate-resilient spaces, and increase access to and availability of green space across the estate.
- 4.51. Assessment of 11 sites led to deliverable set of designs for 5 sites:
- Prince of Wales Passage (PoWP)
 - Swallowfields

- Stanhope Street
 - Bucklebury Podium
 - Compton Close/Robert Street
- 4.52. Once additional funding is secured, next steps include:
- *Phase 1* – develop ideas and solve outstanding issues for Bucklebury podium and Prince of Wales Passage (PoWP)
 - *Phase 2* – three other sites (Compton Close, Swallowfields, and Stanhope Street) interact with longer term Regent’s Park Estate masterplan
- 4.53. The Old Diorama Centre (ODAC) has been granted funding from the Signage and Wayfinding HS2 assurance to develop a community-led trail through Regent’s Park Estate. The Story Trail project consists of a series of 10 artistic installations that communicate local ecology, culture, and heritage. These installations will provide points of interest and information throughout the trail. The stories and information shared through the installations have been co-collected and curated by ‘community curators’ working with researchers, artists, and academics from across the Euston area and Knowledge Quarter.
- 4.54. The artistic installations have been co-created by local artists and designers in collaboration with the community. Installations include murals, signage, lighting, and sculptural structures. In addition to informing the physical installations and signage, the 'stories' will also be shared via digital touchpoints (such as QR codes) that provide access to film and audio content, which can be viewed on smartphones and other digital devices.
- 4.55. The first installation, a mural on Pangbourne, has been completed. Once all installations are finished, ODAC plans to host a celebration event in early 2025.



Pangbourne Mural

- 4.56. Plans have also been developed to green the pedestrianised section of North Gower Street. These plans were publicly consulted on in November, and include installing a series of rain gardens, improving lighting, adding living walls, and reinstating a community mural. The plans are now being finalised, with implementation scheduled for early 2025 if agreed.



Visualisation of proposed changes to North Gower Street

Creating Space for Nature

- 4.57. In 2023/24, Camden Green Gym, delivered by The Conservation Volunteers on behalf of the Council, provided 5,277 hours of volunteering. The value of this labour is equivalent to nearly £60,000, although this figure does not account for the health and wellbeing benefits to the volunteers, which is the primary objective of the contract, alongside nature conservation. The table below summarises the main activities undertaken by Camden Green Gym across the borough's nature reserves, parks, and other green spaces.

Ponds: Number of ponds worked on or constructed	6
Trees: Number of trees planted	555
Paths: Length of path improved, repaired, maintained, built, etc. - includes steps, boardwalks, bridges, etc. (metres)	311
Woodland: Area of forest / woodland managed (sq metres)	1,200
Wildflowers: Number of wildflower plugs / bulbs planted	415
Meadows: Areas of meadow managed, maintained, or sown (sq metres)	1,366
Hedges: Length of hedgerow laid or planted (metres)	110
Homes for Nature: Number of nest boxes, stag beetle loggeries, habitat boxes / walls, etc. built and installed (number)	7
Invasive species: Area removed. Japanese knotweed, rhododendron, Himalayan balsam, floating pennywort, etc. (sq metres)	10
Bays of litter/waste: estimated number of standard size bin bags used or the equivalent for larger items (number)	49

Other Environmental impacts: 45 metres of dead hedge rebuilt or restored, 39 metres of hedgerow maintenance, 5 metres of new dead hedge built. New orchard of 10 apple trees planted.

- 4.58. The Greater London Authority (GLA) is developing a London-wide Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), as required by the Environment Act. The Council is a Supporting Authority for this initiative, and the Nature Conservation Officer has been attending workshops, contributing elements from the Council's Biodiversity Strategy and the Camden Nature Recovery Network, which is being developed concurrently.
- 4.59. The Nature Conservation Officer has also collaborated with the Planning Policy Officer to strengthen biodiversity policies in the review of the Local Plan. This includes ensuring that indirect impacts on biodiversity from development are considered and that any enhancements support local habitat and species priorities.
- 4.60. Building on the work with Butterfly Conservation last year, the Nature Conservation Officer has continued to enhance biological recording for moths and has organised occasional public events.



Promotion of a council wildlife event

- 4.61. The improved signage for the Local Nature Reserves, which was in draft form at the time of the last report, was installed at these sites in Spring 2024.

5. **Parking**

Debt Clinics

- 5.1. In 2024, Parking Operations, in collaboration with our contracted Enforcement Agents (formerly Bailiffs), organised 11 monthly Debt Surgeries at the Crowndale Centre. These sessions provided debtors with the opportunity to discuss their parking and traffic penalty-related debts, as well as other financial issues with Council employees.
- 5.2. Each session saw an average of five visitors, resulting in various outcomes. Council officers were able to cancel debts when it was not in the Council's interest to pursue them, revert debts from Enforcement Agents to avoid additional fees, offer discounts, arrange payment plans, and refer debtors to the welfare department of the Enforcement Agents managing their debts.
- 5.3. These surgeries allowed officers to hear directly from individuals about issues that, in some instances, were quite complex. They also enabled the Council to provide debt and money advice through the specialist teams of our Enforcement Agent partners.

Estate Services Parking

- 5.4. The project to roll out improved parking enforcement across several housing estates in the borough is ongoing. Nine estates will benefit from Parking Operations taking over the enforcement of parking. This will ultimately reduce dangerous parking, ensure access for essential services that regularly use the estates, keep roads clear for emergency vehicles, and increase safety.
- 5.5. Additionally, there will be the added benefit of increased uptake of resident parking permits for those who need to park on the estates where they live. The new enforcement model will be replicated across more estates in the coming year.

Healthy School Streets

- 5.6. Many schools face issues caused by busy streets nearby, including problems with parking, traffic congestion, road safety, and air quality. The Healthy School Streets programme seeks to address these challenges by restricting traffic during school drop-off and pick-up times.
- 5.7. We assess streets outside schools to identify those that can reasonably be restricted to motor vehicles without causing traffic displacement. When a Healthy School Street is introduced, streets are closed to vehicles for a limited time during school days, with enforcement through signs and either bollards or cameras equipped with license plate recognition.
- 5.8. Several of these schemes were rolled out this year, aiming to change vehicle use and driver behaviour around schools across the borough. Managed and

enforced by the Parking Operations service via CCTV, these schemes continue to improve air quality and enhance safety for our youngest citizens.

6. Transport

Review of the Camden Transport Strategy

- 6.1. The Camden Transport Strategy (CTS), adopted in April 2019, outlines the policy priorities, objectives, and targets aimed at making transport and streets in the borough safer, healthier, and more sustainable. The CTS aligns with the central goal of the Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS), which seeks to ensure that, by 2041, 80 percent of all journeys in London are made using sustainable modes—walking, cycling, and public transport. In line with this London-wide objective, Camden's local target is to have 93 percent of all trips made by Camden residents using sustainable modes by 2041.
- 6.2. Transport plays a crucial role in the lives and wellbeing of Camden residents, as well as those who visit, work, and study in the borough. Creating healthier, greener, and safer streets and travel options enhances public health, benefits the environment, and supports local businesses, contributing to a strong, sustainable, and inclusive economy. While significant challenges remain, we have made considerable progress in delivering safer, healthier streets and travel options in Camden since the adoption of the Camden Transport Strategy (CTS) in 2019. Camden is currently ranked 4th among all London boroughs in the independent "Healthy Streets Scorecard" assessment.
- 6.3. In February 2024, an update was provided to the Culture & Environment Scrutiny Committee on Camden's progress during the 2023 calendar year. This update highlighted the extent of progress Camden has made towards the targets outlined in the Camden Transport Strategy (CTS), including both the borough-level targets set by Transport for London (TfL) in alignment with the Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS) and our own locally set targets.
- 6.4. The review also summarises progress and challenges in delivering the Plan during 2023, highlighting key activities planned for 2024. It also includes an assessment of how well the Council is meeting both strategic and local targets set out in the Camden Transport Strategy (CTS), as well as the risks and mitigations to future progress.
- 6.5. In 2024, a number of schemes and policies have either been fully rolled out or further developed (e.g., to the consultation stage). These measures are categorised into "infrastructure" and "policy/behaviour change," as outlined below:

Infrastructure Updates

6.6. A variety of transformational “Safe & Healthy Street” schemes have been implemented throughout 2024, with several key initiatives showcasing significant progress, such as:

6.7. **Tavistock Place/ Torrington Place** - In 2024, the upgrade of the key east-west Cycleway through the West End/Bloomsbury was completed. Several junctions along the corridor, including Tavistock Place/Woburn Place, Tavistock Place/Bedford Way, and Tavistock Place/Judd Street/Hunter Street, were improved with enhanced separation for cyclists, reducing the risk of interactions with motor vehicles. Pedestrian facilities were also upgraded, including the full opening of a new zebra crossing near Herbrand Street, and the replacement of temporary “orcas” with chamfered kerbs on the cycle tracks.



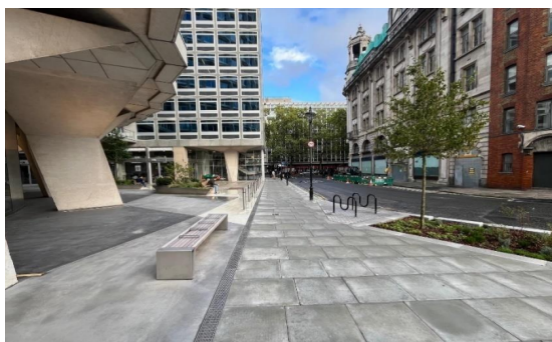
Improved junction – Tavistock/Torrington Improved “links” – Tavistock/Torrington

6.8. **Drake Street / Procter Street** - In late summer 2024, transformational changes to Drake Street/Procter Street and the section of High Holborn between Procter Street and Kingsway were completed. These changes introduced, for the first time in the area, a segregated southbound cycle track on Drake Street/Procter Street, along with “in-time” separation for cyclists heading west towards the Holborn Underground station junction. This area has witnessed several tragic fatalities of people cycling over the last decade, and the scheme aims to create a safer environment for all vulnerable road users. In addition to the road safety improvements, a southbound bus lane on Drake Street/Procter Street has been maintained, alongside new areas of planting and Sustainable Urban Drainage systems.



Drake Street/Procter Street cycle track and new planting areas

- 6.9. **Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood** - The works in the Drake Street/Procter Street area form an early deliverable within the wider Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood programme. In February of this year, we carried out the next phase of stakeholder engagement to gather the views of our communities, residents, businesses, and visitors as we continue to shape the plans. Over five weeks, a variety of engagement activities were conducted using both in-person and online methods, including four large events, pop-ups, focus groups, and an online survey via Commonplace.
- 6.10. The engagement programme employed multiple strategies to capture diverse voices, with particular attention given to historically low-participation groups. The various activities reached over 1,000 people (both online and in person), and feedback is now being analysed to help inform the next steps. We have also continued to develop more “STARter” projects, including consulting on proposals to create new pedestrianised areas and extend existing ones on Red Lion Street and Keeley Street. Additionally, we have completed a footway extension, urban realm, and greening project on Kemble Street as part of the opening of the Space House development.



Kemble Street pavement improvements and urban

- 6.11. **Permanent Cycleways construction** - Throughout 2024, work has continued at pace to convert trial cycleways (mostly implemented since the Covid-19 pandemic) into permanent measures, following a scheme-by-scheme consultation and decision-making process. This includes the construction, in 2024, of permanent, segregated cycle corridor improvements on Chalk Farm Road, York Way, and, most recently, St Pancras Way. These schemes also include a mix of junction safety improvements, pedestrian enhancements, and new or improved urban greening and public realm. Additionally, a consultation has taken place to upgrade the temporary cycle track materials on Goods Way, along with the creation of a new shared mobility hub. Improvements to the existing cycle track on Kemble Street, including pavement upgrades and urban greening, are also part of this work. The cycle track on Pancras Road is set to be extended west onto Crowndale Road in autumn/early winter 2024, following consultation.



York Way permanent scheme under construction (Autumn '24)



Goods Way proposals



Crowndale Road (construction Autumn '24)

6.12. **Arlington Road area** - This calendar year (2024) has seen the construction of the final permanent elements of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood project. Large sections of the carriageway on Clarkson Row have been narrowed, slowing vehicle speeds and providing space for extensive new greening, planting, and Sustainable Urban Drainage systems. In addition, the junctions of Clarkson Row and Mornington Place, and Albert Terrace/Mornington Place, have been completed with improved public realm to complement the motor vehicle restrictions. A new pedestrian crossing on the eastern arm of the Parkway/Arlington Road junction, along with widened footways and new planting areas, has also been implemented.



Clarkson Row urban greening

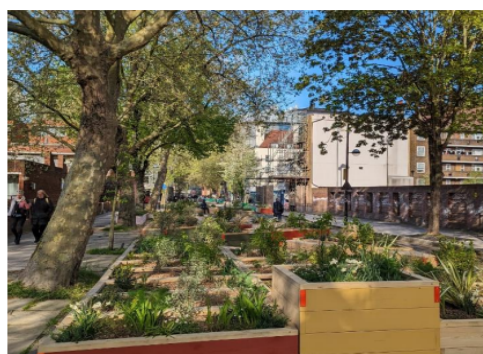


Clarkson Row / Mornington Place

- 6.13. **Healthy School Streets** - In 2024, we continued to roll out our programme of Healthy School Streets, with around 35 schools in the borough now covered by timed motor vehicle restrictions. Camera enforcement of the trial schemes in the Maygrove Road area (Kingsgate Primary School), Dornfell Street area (West Hampstead Primary School), and Belsize Lane area (St Christopher's School and Maria Montessori School) has been implemented. Monitoring data is being collected, alongside further feedback from stakeholders, to help inform decisions about whether to amend, remove, or adjust these schemes at the end of the trial period.
- 6.14. In 2024, two additional schemes, covering a total of six schools, were made permanent following initial trials. These included five schools in the Somers Town area and Christ Church Primary School on Redhill Street in the Regent's Park area, where further post-trial interventions to improve road safety and the public realm are also proposed. Consultations also took place on proposals for new schemes around St Luke's Church of England School and St Margaret's School in Frognal, as well as Christ Church Primary School in Hampstead, which included wider road safety, pedestrian, and public realm enhancements in the surrounding area. Finally, consultation on a proposal for a Healthy School Street for Our Lady's Catholic Primary School was carried out in Summer 2024 as part of a broader set of measures to reduce through-traffic in an area south of Camden Road.
- 6.15. **Greening Phoenix Road** - In Spring 2024, the trial closure of Phoenix Road to motor vehicles and the creation of a new pedestrian/cycle-only space were opened. This included the establishment of a temporary seating area and public realm for the trial period. Feedback is currently being invited from the community on the arrangements implemented so far and on ideas for potentially making the space permanent. As part of the scheme, the junction of Ossulston Street and Phoenix Road was also closed to motor vehicles, enhancing pedestrian safety and further improving an important north/south cycle route via Purchase Street and Ossulston Street.



Phoenix Road – before



Phoenix Road – trial scheme

- 6.16. **Camden Road crossings** - Work was carried out with TfL over several years to upgrade two existing pedestrian-only signalised crossings on Camden Road (near Canteloves Road and Rochester Road) to "Toucan"

crossings (for both pedestrians and cyclists). Both crossings are now complete, providing enhanced east-west connections for cyclists between Kentish Town and Camden Square, and onwards to Islington.

- 6.17. **Gordon Square** - In 2024, the Gordon Square pedestrianisation scheme was completed, permanently closing the road to motor vehicles between Taviton Street and Gordon Street. The scheme includes new planting areas, seating, and a cycle track to maintain cycle access.



Gordon Square – pedestrianisation scheme (Summer '24)

- 6.18. **Other Safe & Healthy Streets consultations** - A variety of other schemes progressed to the consultation stage in 2024. In some cases, decisions were made to move forward with implementation, while decision reports are still being prepared for others. Examples include new cycling, pedestrian, road safety, and public realm improvements on Clerkenwell Road; bus priority improvements on Parkway/Kentish Town Road; major upgrades to Camden High Street (north) and Kilburn, where the first phase of pavement renewals and other enhancements has recently been completed; and proposals to reduce through-traffic on residential streets south of Camden Road. Most recently, proposals for new cycle lanes on Shaftesbury Avenue, along with a wide-ranging set of improvements on streets north of that corridor, have been consulted on.
- 6.19. Measures to significantly enhance the public realm, including new greening, wider pavements, and road safety initiatives, were approved following consultations in the Fitzrovia area as part of the 100 Tottenham Court Road development, in the Bucknall Street area as part of the Castlewood House development, and in the Adeline Place area. All three schemes are now moving forward to the statutory traffic order and construction phases. Additionally, a new Santander Cycle Hire Docking (SCHD) station was built on Camley Street, expanding the network further into the borough. Another SCHD, on St Pancras Way, went to consultation in October 2024.

Policy/Behaviour Change Updates

- 6.20. Throughout 2024, a variety of policy and behaviour change initiatives have also been implemented or further developed, including:
- 6.21. A review of the Borough's **School Crossing Patrol service** was conducted, resulting in the relocation of one School Crossing Patrol Officer (SCPO) to Hawley Primary School on Hawley Road. Additional relocations may occur in the future based on local circumstances and site assessments.
- 6.22. Our extensive **cycle training programme** continued to expand, with 1,514 cycle training sessions for adults and children conducted during the 2023/24 financial year.
- 6.23. In March 2024, we consulted on a new **Freight & Servicing Action Plan (FSAP)** for the Borough, which was adopted following the consultation in the summer. The actions in the plan outline how we can work with businesses, organisations, residents, and the freight and servicing industry to ensure that goods and services are delivered on time, but in safer, more efficient, and sustainable ways.
- 6.24. The hours of operation for several **Controlled Parking Zones** in the Borough have been extended, either as permanent measures or trials, to further reduce unnecessary motor vehicle use and protect parking availability for local residents and businesses. In 2024, the hours of control for the (former sub-zone) CA-L inner in Kentish Town were permanently extended to match those of the (former sub-zone) CA-L outer. The hours of control in CA-X and CA-F(n) have also been extended on an initial trial basis under Experimental Traffic Orders, with CA-G (east) set to be extended using ETOs later in 2024 or early 2025.
- 6.25. Multiple changes are being made to **parking fees, charges, and terms/conditions** as part of our Cleaner, Fairer Parking proposals. In autumn 2024, the first phase of changes was introduced, including a new air quality surcharge, carbon-emissions-based charging on most parking products, the merging of two paid parking tariff areas in the north/west of the Borough into one, and a restriction on the number of vehicles that can be added to a parking permit. Phase 2 of the proposals will be subject to a separate Traffic Management Order, introducing a variety of changes to motorcycle parking and visitor scratch cards.

Impact and Change

- 6.26. The changes noted above, along with those made in the four years since the adoption of the Camden Transport Strategy (CTS) in 2019, continue to have a significant impact on transport, travel, and the public realm in Camden. As outlined in the report to the Culture & Environment Scrutiny Committee in February 2024, key borough-wide outcomes to date include the following:

- Cycle mode share among Camden residents has increased from 3.6% in 2017 to 6.7% in 2022 (latest TfL data).
- Walking mode share among Camden residents has increased from 42% in 2017 to 50% in 2022 (latest TfL data).
- Motor traffic volumes on Camden's streets have dropped by 15% between 2019 and 2023 (Camden Screenline data).
- The number of cars owned in the borough has decreased by 22% between 2016 and 2022, the largest such reduction anywhere in London.
- NOx emissions from road transport in Camden have halved since 2013, CO₂ levels have dropped by 15%, and PM₁₀ levels by 27%.
- Other indicators (such as the percentage of schools with Travel Plans and the percentage of streets with through-traffic restrictions) are not on track with targets, and further work is required.

6.27. Delivering the changes outlined above has required significant adjustments to our kerbside management. Over the past five years, nearly 2,000 parking spaces previously allocated for private motor vehicles have been repurposed for other uses, including cycle lanes, new pavements/public spaces, cycle parking, electric vehicle charging stations, and more.

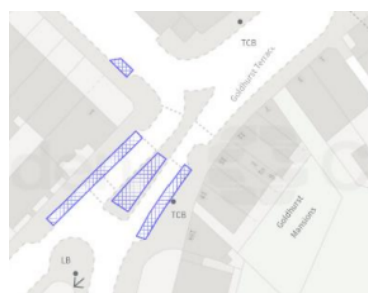
6.28. This is in line with Policy 1c of the CTS, which states that we *“will change how road space is allocated, including reducing kerbside space for parking/loading provision and reallocating carriageway space to active, sustainable travel modes, if necessary, to enable and encourage people to walk and cycle, improve road safety, and deliver enhancements in the public realm.”*

6.29. In accordance with this policy, kerbside changes over the five years since the adoption of the CTS include:

- A 13% reduction in the availability of paid parking spaces in Camden, with nearly 500 such spaces converted to more sustainable kerbside uses
- Over 1,000 resident permit spaces repurposed for other uses
- Creation of more than 50 dedicated/general Blue Badge parking bays for disabled users

6.30. Looking ahead to the proposed 3-year plan, significant additional changes to our kerbside are likely to be necessary to continue meeting various CTS objectives, as well as related environmental, public realm, and safety goals.

6.31. Over the past five years, through the reallocation of kerbside spaces and the repurposing of other hard-standing areas, we have created the equivalent of half a football pitch in new green space and Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS) systems. For example, new urban greening and SuDS have been implemented on Goldhurst Terrace (off Finchley Road), as shown below.



2024 SuDS scheme in Goldhurst Terrace

6.32. Finally, while there are areas for improvement and some targets that have not yet been met (as noted in previous reports), the proposed 3-year plan for 2025/26 to 2027/28 aims to address these gaps. In 2024, Camden has once again been recognised for its extensive delivery of transport and streetspace schemes. This calendar year, we have:

- Been ranked 4th by the independent Healthy Streets Scorecard (3rd when excluding the City of London), with particular recognition for our work in rolling out segregated cycle lanes, controlled parking zones (CPZs), 20mph zones, and more. The Scorecard also highlights Camden as the top-performing inner London borough for "delivering beyond its expected score when adjusted for density compared to other inner London boroughs," where we scored first under this metric.
- Been recognised through shortlisting and/or winning in various transport and public realm award ceremonies, including:
 - Winner of the "Public Space" category at the Pineapple Awards for the West End Project, and Best Borough-led Project at the Building London Planning Awards for the same initiative.
 - Shortlisted in the "Creating Better Places" category at the CIHT Awards for our Micromobility Parking Hubs.
 - Winner of "The Marston Holdings Traffic Management Award" and shortlisted in multiple categories, including "City of the Year" and "Transport Education & Advocacy" at the CiTTi Awards.

7. Environment Services

- 7.1. The delivery of Environment Services significantly contributes to our "We Make Camden" ambition to create a green, clean, vibrant, accessible, and sustainable place, where everyone is empowered to help tackle the climate emergency. This will be achieved by working closely with our communities to reduce waste, promote the circular economy, and increase recycling, all while minimising the environmental impact of Camden's waste management operations.

Environment Services Contract

- 7.2. In 2017/18, Camden entered into an 8-year Environment Services contract with Veolia Environment Services, delivering the £5 million savings target set out in Camden's Financial Strategy (2015-18). The contract is centred around four outcomes, each focusing on Camden's needs. These are monitored and managed through a number of annual targets and key performance measures. The outcomes are:
- Managing Camden's local environmental quality to an agreed standard
 - Minimising waste and maximising participation in reuse and recycling
 - Generating additional surplus from business recycling and waste services
 - Increasing local employment opportunities and promoting local economic development
- 7.3. The contract is managed through twenty-four key outcome targets that measure performance against agreed standards using live dashboards and data sets. The contract also includes a process for an annual service report and improvement plan. These documents assess service performance for the previous year in relation to the contract targets and outline an improvement plan for the forthcoming year. Annual reports and contract documents are available on Camden's website.
- 7.4. During 2023/24, Year 7 of the contract, a performance review was conducted along with benchmarking against six other local authorities as part of the contract renewal process. This review showed that the service is performing well overall, with both strengths and areas for improvement identified. The current contract runs until 31 March 2025. In February 2024, following an options appraisal, Cabinet approved an extension of the existing contract with Veolia for 8 years, starting on 1 April 2025. The cabinet also agreed an investment of an additional £1 million in street cleansing.
- 7.5. The contract extension negotiations included the introduction of 14 new electric waste/recycling collection vehicles at the start of the contract, with the goal of electrifying all possible vehicles by the end of the contract, aligning with Camden's clean air ambitions for 2025 and the Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2023-26.

Key Challenges

- 7.6. Over the past seven years, Camden and Veolia have used the flexibility built into the contract to adapt to challenges such as extreme weather, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the shortage of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) drivers. Key challenges in Year 7 of the contract included:
- 7.7. Driver Shortages - Veolia continued to face driver shortages during 2023/24, which led to fluctuations in missed collections mid-year. However, performance remained within the contract threshold. To address this, Veolia implemented a successful loader-to-driver training programme, with four trainees completing the programme by April 2024.
- 7.8. Vehicle Reliability - Collection efficiency was also impacted by increased vehicle breakdowns, which is common towards the end of waste contracts. This issue will be addressed through the replacement of vehicles as part of the contract extension.
- 7.9. Legislation Change - The Environment Agency implemented Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) legislation in January 2023, requiring that all waste upholstered domestic seating be collected separately and disposed of by incineration. This legislation primarily affects Camden's domestic bulky waste collections, meaning that loads containing POPs must be taken to Edmonton for incineration, and recyclable materials cannot be separated from these loads. A dedicated POPs cage vehicle was introduced to cover both kerbside and estates, ensuring Camden's compliance with the new requirements.

Street Cleansing Investment

- 7.10. Over the summer of 2023, Camden engaged with residents and stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the Environment Services contract, as well as how we could adapt and invest in services to meet the priorities and ambitions of residents and councillors. Cleaner streets is a key priority, leading to a £1 million investment in street cleansing services, which will be delivered from 2024/25 onwards. This investment includes:
- Additional barrow street sweeping beats
 - New cargo bikes to support street cleansing operations
 - Three new night cleansing cage vehicles for night economy hotspots
 - Introduction of new time-banded areas
 - One new jet washing vehicle
 - Beautification initiatives to reduce graffiti and fly-tipping, including community skip events



Maintaining and Improving Cleanliness in Public Spaces

7.11. Street cleansing standards in Camden are independently assessed by Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) three times a year. The results, as shown in the Table below, indicate a decrease in litter to 5.6% in 2023/24, while graffiti increased to 12.2%. Improving standards for both litter and graffiti remains a priority for Veolia.

Year	Litter	Detritus	Fly-posting	Graffiti	Fly Tipping	Leaf/ Blossom Fall
2017/18	5.7%	5.0%	4.8%	7.2%	5%	6%
2018/19	3.8%	6.3%	2.1%	6.2%	1%	8%
2019/20	5.3%	5.3%	3.4%	7.9%	3%	5%
2020/21	4.0%	4.3%	4.2%	14.1%	4%	4%
2021/22	4.5%	5.5%	3.5%	11.7%	3%	8%
2022/23	7.3%	5.0%	5.6%	11.8%	2%	9%
2023/24	5.6%	1.7%	5.8%	12.2%	4.5%	1.8%
Contract target	6.0%	5.0%	1.0%	3.0%	n/a	n/a

KBT street cleansing scores 2027-2024

7.12. The number of reported fly-tips increased in 2023/24, as outlined in the Table below. Camden actively encourages the reporting of all fly-tips and has made it easy for residents, officers, and Veolia to report them through the app, website, and back-office systems since 2017/18. The KBT survey results show that the percentage of fly-tips present in surveyed areas increased to 4.5% in 2023/24.

Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total reported fly tips	25,765	34,465	34,870	29,804	31,457	33,961
KBT survey results	0.93%	2.50%	3.94%	3.24%	2.36%	4.5%

Reported fly tips 2018/19 – 2023/24

7.13. In February 2023, Kingdom was awarded a 2-year contract to work alongside Camden’s Education and Enforcement officers to reduce fly-tips and the amount of time waste remains on our streets. In partnership, the teams are driving up compliance by increasing the number of fixed penalty notices issued to those caught littering and fly-tipping. Education and

Enforcement were transferred from Environment Services to Community Safety in April 2024.

- 7.14. Through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, a full-time officer has been allocated to focus on improving the street environment in the West Hampstead area by implementing a range of projects and innovations. These include working with businesses to clean up graffiti, increasing compliance, improving waste management for flats above shops, enhancing waste presentation along West End Lane, and using high-visibility stencils and CCTV in fly-tip hotspots.
- 7.15. A successful pop-up community skip event was held in the West Hampstead area in July, allowing residents to responsibly dispose of waste. The event attracted 32 attendees, who disposed of a variety of items, including electrical, bulky, and garden waste. Four community skip events will be held across the Borough each year as part of the new street cleansing investment.

Reducing Waste, Increasing Recycling, and the Circular Economy

- 7.16. Following a drop in 2019/20, Camden’s recycling rate has steadily increased to 29.1% in 2023/24, as highlighted in the Table below.

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
31.1%	25.9%	28.6%	28.2%	27.5%	29.1%

Camden Recycling Rates 2018-2024

- 7.17. In April 2023, the Mayor of London ratified Camden’s 2023-25 Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP), which outlines a roadmap for how Camden will reduce waste, increase recycling, and support the transition to a more circular economy. The RRP details key initiatives designed to help achieve the targets set out in the Mayor’s 2018 London Environment Strategy.



- 7.18. EcoPoints, previously known as Recycling Rewards, continues to provide information and incentives to residents for reducing, reusing, and recycling. Engagement remains high, with 16,312 residents signed up for the scheme by 31 March 2024. EcoPoints was expanded in 2023/24 to include sustainable transport actions.
- 7.19. To promote reuse and support waste reduction across our street markets, Camden established a partnership with Raze to replace single-use plastics

with reusable bags, which traders distribute to customers. Customers earn points each time they use the bags, which are logged on the Raze app and can be redeemed at a range of approved sustainable businesses.

- 7.20. Phase 2 of the Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods circular economy market project, funded by the Mayor of London, delivered six circular economy events at Chalton Street market. In collaboration with local partners and the community, a range of circular-themed workshops and initiatives, such as sharing spaces and upskilling local residents, were also held.
- 7.21. In partnership with Veolia, Fixing Factory, and Think and Do, four successful 'Fix and Do' events have taken place across the borough, enabling residents to recycle, repair, and share their electrical items. The events aimed to encourage the reuse of electrical items and promote the circular economy across Camden. A total of 54 devices were fixed during the events, with 85 attendees.



- 7.22. Refill Station Camden supported the establishment of the Fair Well e-vehicle trading at Queen's Crescent Market, offering residents low-to-no-waste, ethically sourced household products. Additionally, a dried herbs, spices, and teas refill wall was set up at the Flori Canto shop on Chalton Street.
- 7.23. Continuing to support residents living in flats above shops, following the successful trial of on-street residual waste storage containers in Belsize Village, the provision was extended to West End Lane in September 2023, covering around 250 properties. Feedback from residents, members, and businesses has been very positive to date, and the service will be rolled out to the remaining flats above shops, where practicable, throughout 2024/25.



Public Toilets

- 7.24. A survey of the existing facilities was undertaken in July 2023 to determine the essential repair work required to maintain them over the next 10 years. The survey included an assessment of the built fabric, structural issues, electrical, mechanical, and alluvial requirements. The report estimated £1 million for a 3-year programme. This funding was agreed upon, with further structural and heritage/historical surveys planned before the works proceed. This work is ongoing alongside the procurement of the cleaning and maintenance contract.
- 7.25. The works are due to commence in 2024/25, alongside the reopening of Camden Gents facilities. Development of a long-term public toilet strategy has commenced, with the goal of determining an affordable approach that meets the needs of Camden's residents, businesses, and visitors.

8. Planning Policy and Implementation

- 8.1. The Planning Policy and Implementation section of the Planning Service is responsible for preparing and updating the Council's key planning policy documents, particularly the Local Plan. This includes collecting the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for both Camden and the Mayor of London, monitoring and processing Section 106 legal agreements, and collecting Section 106 funds. The team also works closely with other Council services and ward councillors to allocate funds collected for local infrastructure, supports local communities with neighbourhood planning, and introduces Article 4 Directions. Additionally, it manages Assets of Community Value (ACVs), monitors development, and responds to planning consultations.

Camden Local Plan

- 8.2. The Council is in the process of reviewing and updating the Camden Local Plan 2017, its main planning document, which provides the framework for managing development in the borough. Through the review, we are updating our planning policies to ensure they are as effective as possible in achieving Camden's priorities and addressing the issues we face and changes since the current Plan was adopted in 2017. These include the publication of 'We Make Camden', the Council's declaration of a climate and ecological emergency, changes to national planning policy and legislation, and the adoption of a new London Plan.
- 8.3. The review will ensure that Camden continues to have robust and up-to-date planning policies that align with our priorities and will allow us to make planning decisions that contribute towards addressing the borough's need for homes, jobs and infrastructure. It will ensure that development is delivered in a way that is socially and economically inclusive, responds to the climate and ecological emergency and brings benefits to Camden and its residents.
- 8.4. The draft new Camden Local Plan sets out the Council's vision for future development in Camden over the next 15 years and includes the planning

policies and site allocations to help achieve this. The draft Local Plan was approved by Cabinet in December 2023 and published for consultation and engagement from 17 January to 13 March 2024, enabling residents, businesses, community groups, landowners, and other key stakeholders to share their views on the Plan's policies and approach.

- 8.5. In total, we received approximately 2,400 comments from 245 respondents. 125 respondents commented through the Commonplace online platform, and 120 did so by email. During the consultation period, there were over 5,000 visits to the Commonplace site.
- 8.6. Officers are currently in the process of updating the Plan, taking into account the responses received, with the aim of presenting the Proposed Submission Local Plan to Cabinet and Full Council in Spring 2025. The Plan will then be published for comment before being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for public examination.
- 8.7. The emerging draft plan is a relevant matter ('material consideration') in planning decisions. Although the weight it can be given at this stage in the preparation process is limited, as a statement of the Council's emerging approach, it can begin to influence planning proposals.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 8.8. Camden has seven adopted Neighbourhood Plans - the most in London, along with Westminster. In 2024, Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum became the first forum in Camden and London to bring forward an update to their neighbourhood plan. The Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan 2025-2040 is currently being considered by an Independent Examiner, who assesses whether the plan meets the statutory 'basic conditions' and other legal requirements. Subject to passing the examination and a local referendum (if the Examiner considers one is needed), the updated Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted by the Council and will replace the current plan in decisions on planning applications in the Hampstead area.
- 8.9. The Kilburn Neighbourhood Forum, which covers parts of Camden and Brent, is expected to submit Neighbourhood Plan to the boroughs in the first part of 2025. The boroughs will then arrange consultation on the draft Plan before it is submitted for independent examination.
- 8.10. The Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum was redesignated in November 2024. Consultation on an application to redesignate the Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum took place in Autumn 2024, and a Single Member Decision on the application is scheduled for early January 2025. Consultation on the redesignation of the Kentish Town Neighbourhood Forum began in December 2024, and a decision on the application is expected in Spring 2025.

- 8.11. The Council continues to provide support and advice to the borough's neighbourhood forums on all aspects of neighbourhood plan work, including on designation applications, plan content, and statutory procedures.

Assets of Community Value (ACVs)

- 8.12. Community groups can nominate land or a building to be designated as an asset of community value. The Council designates an asset if its main use furthers (or has recently furthered) the social well-being or social interests of the local community and could do so in the future. Since the last annual report, the Council has designated nine Assets of Community Value (ACVs). Two of these are new designations while the others relate to properties that were previously designated as ACVs but where the listing had expired: The Old White Bear pub, Hampstead; The World Peace Gardens, Hampstead; The Lion & Unicorn pub and theatre, Kentish Town; The Cock Tavern, Somers Town; The Magdala, Hampstead; Mortimer Terrace Nature Reserve, Dartmouth Park; and The Horse Hospital arts venue, Bloomsbury.
- 8.13. There are currently 33 ACVs on Camden's register of assets, the majority of which (17) are pubs. ACV designation provides for a moratorium when the asset is being sold, allowing the community to prepare a bid to buy the asset. One 'Notice of Disposal' was received for The Calthorpe Arms, Mount Pleasant. Designation as an ACV is also a material consideration in planning decisions. ACV designations run for a period of five years. After this, assets can be renominated and designated for a further five years.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 8.14. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge collected from developments, used to fund a range of physical and social infrastructure. The Council collected £10.2 million in CIL during the financial year 2023-24. Of this, £4 million was spent on footway and carriageway improvements across the borough, £880k on transport strategy, £676k on regeneration, and £240k on the Council's Estates Mission. Additionally, £1 million was allocated to the arts and culture programme.
- 8.15. 25% of Camden's CIL is spent locally, with funds allocated through a ward-based, Member-led system. In 2023/24, we collected £2.5 million in local CIL, and £2.4 million of local CIL funds were spent over the same period on more than 80 community projects sponsored by ward Councillors. Larger projects included the Primrose Hill Library, refurbishing a building in Gospel Oak for use by the Women and Health charity, funding for cost-of-living projects, and improvements to the Pirate's Castle in Camden Town.

Section 106 (S106) Contributions

- 8.16. Section 106 legal agreements are used to mitigate the impact of development in line with agreed policies. They can either cover the direct provision of infrastructure onsite or consist of financial contributions towards off-site infrastructure provision. The Council collected £23 million in Section 106 payments during the financial year 2023-24. This included £9.4 million for affordable housing, £3.2 million for projects to offset carbon generated by new development, £2.4 million for environmental and public realm improvements, £1.4 million for highways, and £870,000 for employment and training initiatives.
- 8.17. To address concerns about the impacts of construction, we also collected £359,000 for Construction Management Plan implementation, which supports staff and resources to monitor and manage construction impacts.
- 8.18. In 2023-24, 108 Section 106 agreements were signed between developers and the Council. These agreements had a combined value of £32.1million, including £11.5 million for station and transport works associated with the O2 centre development, £6.9 million for affordable housing, £3.6 million for public realm and environmental improvements, £2.9 million for carbon dioxide offset measures, £1.8 million for economic development / training initiatives, and £1.7million for highways.

9. Design and Place

- 9.1. Design and Place, a multidisciplinary team of planners, architects, and urban designers, leads transformation programmes across the Borough including a suite of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) that will help shape Camden's growth areas. Engagement with our communities is a fundamental part of this work that will deliver a significant number of affordable homes, jobs, and new open spaces. An update on progress since the last annual report is provided below.

West End Lane to Finchley Road

- 9.2. The West End Lane to Finchley Road Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted in September 2021 and is now a material consideration in the determination of planning applications within the area. In December 2023, planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the O2 centre, car park, Homebase store, car showrooms, and Builders Depot at 14 Blackburn Road. The application was submitted by Landsec U&I, but not all the land within the application boundary is owned or controlled by them. As a result, they have requested that the Council consider using its powers related to compulsory purchase and land appropriation. The potential need for these powers is referenced in the adopted SPD, and a report to Cabinet in early 2025 will consider their use to ensure the timely delivery of this important scheme, which will provide much-needed homes and affordable housing.
- 9.3. The S106 agreement related to the planning approval requires Landsec to pay £10 million towards improvements to West Hampstead Underground

Station to increase capacity and provide step-free access. It also requires the establishment of a Station Task Force, including TfL, Landsec, and Camden, which has met several times in 2024. Concept design is now well underway, with a scheme (and cost estimate) anticipated in spring 2025.



Sketch of potential new station entrance by Gort Scott Architects

Holborn Vision

- 9.4. Consultation on the draft Holborn Vision took place between February and April 2024, alongside the Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood project. A permanent display was hosted for six weeks at Holborn Library, complemented by four street pop-ups, four exhibition event days, focused meetings, and a bespoke Commonplace website that engaged nearly 800 people. The comments received have been fully analysed, and a consultation report has been produced. The Vision has been updated to reflect the feedback received, and the Cabinet Member will be asked to approve the final document as a Supplementary Planning Document in January 2025. Following approval, it will become a material consideration in the determination of all planning applications within its boundary.



Sketch for New Oxford Street by LDA Design from Holborn Vision

Bloomsbury Vision

- 9.5. Work has begun immediately to the north of the Holborn Vision boundary, in collaboration with key landowners (University of London, UCL, Birkbeck, and the British Museum), to develop a Bloomsbury Vision. This initiative builds

on the Bloomsbury Green Corridor proposal, aiming to create a pedestrian-friendly network and green links between open spaces, institutions, and transport hubs, connecting Euston to the River Thames. The goal is to make Bloomsbury a greener, cleaner, vibrant, accessible, and sustainable place. The focus will be on enhancing the public realm, both in public and private ownership. Given its emphasis on the public realm, the Bloomsbury Vision is not expected to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), but it will serve as a public realm strategy shared by the landowners. Despite not being an SPD, the Bloomsbury Vision will need to closely align with the Holborn Vision, and consultation on the draft document is anticipated in early 2025.

Regis Road Area Guidance

- 9.6. The Kentish Town Planning Framework was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in July 2020. It highlighted the complex land ownership situation within the Regis Road Growth Area, which is covered by the Framework, and emphasised the need for comprehensive development to ensure cohesion and the coordinated, proportionate, and timely provision of infrastructure.
- 9.7. In 2022, Camden approved a Regeneration Strategy for Regis Road and subsequently decided to sell its land at Regis Road and Holmes Road to Yoo Capital, subject to the reprovision of Camden facilities. Yoo Capital conducted its own consultation for the Camden Film Quarter in April 2024, and in November and December 2024, Camden held a consultation on the draft Regis Road Area Guidance. This guidance updates and builds on the recommendations in the Kentish Town Planning Framework and is expected to be adopted as an addendum to the Framework and SPD in early spring 2025.

10. Development Management and Enforcement

Strategic Sites

- 10.1. Although the planning service has seen a reduction in the number of major applications submitted in 2024, requests for pre-application advice and the pipeline of applications for the coming year are looking very promising.
- 10.2. The planning service has successfully negotiated a wide range of strategic applications, which, once delivered, will contribute to the provision of much-needed affordable homes and key infrastructure that will facilitate a shift to a more sustainable community. Additionally, these schemes will offer employment, training, and educational opportunities for local residents. They will also generate significant amounts of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 contributions, which, as explained earlier in this report, will help deliver a range of Camden priorities and projects.

- 10.3. Although there have been redevelopment proposals this year, there has been a notably stronger emphasis on retrofitting and reusing buildings, as well as making better use of vacant or underdeveloped sites, which is welcomed.
- 10.4. The planning committee considered an application for Highgate Studios, which will deliver approximately 16,000 sqm of new commercial floorspace through alterations and extensions to existing buildings and on currently vacant or underused parcels of land. Waterhouse Square is set to be remodelled to provide additional and improved commercial space in Hatton Garden. The residential schemes coming forward have been smaller in scale than those submitted in 2023, with new homes proposed on former car parks or low-density, vacant employment sites, such as Harrington Square and 160 Malden Road. There have also been more proposals for new homes on the roofs of existing blocks of flats, such as those at Darwin Court. Vacant and underused underground car parking spaces are also being repurposed, with new hotel accommodation gaining committee support beneath the Brunswick Centre and at Travelodge Drury Lane.
- 10.5. The theme of repurposing below-ground spaces has not been limited to providing visitor accommodation, but also includes visitor attractions. An application to repurpose the former BT tunnels as a visitor and cultural attraction received committee support in July 2024.
- 10.6. The most significant-scale scheme to come before the planning committee has been a mixed-use redevelopment proposal from Regal Homes at 100 Chalk Farm Road. In this proposal, a tired and unsuitable office building will be demolished to make way for the construction of buildings ranging from 6 to 12 storeys. The development will provide 264 student homes, 30 affordable homes, 852 sqm of commercial floorspace, and new areas of public realm. The planning committee also supported the first scheme to come through a Commercial Land Trust in Camden: a residential scheme for 14 homes, with 50% affordable housing, in Daleham Gardens.
- 10.7. The pipeline of emerging projects that the planning service has been advising on this year has been extensive, encompassing a number of much larger development sites. The Regis Road Growth Area will provide a mixed-use development, including new homes, 50% affordable housing, and a film quarter. It is hoped that this project may also serve as a catalyst for revisiting the options for the adjacent site at Murphy's Yard, which has the potential to deliver significant employment space and new homes.
- 10.8. The remaining portion of St Pancras Hospital is also being masterplanned for a mix of uses, including employment space linked to the Knowledge Quarter, new homes, and medical facilities. Camley Street is moving forward as a mixed-use residential and life sciences scheme. Key residential-led schemes progressing through pre-application and due for submission next year include proposals for West Kentish Town Estate and Bacton Estate, which, if approved, will deliver hundreds of new homes and affordable housing for the borough.

- 10.9. Other notable projects include the Mecca Bingo/Odeon Parkway, where future uses under consideration include affordable homes, student housing, and a new leisure offering. We have also provided advice to important institutions such as UCL, University of London, and the British Museum on their plans, including guidance on the British Museum masterplan, their energy infrastructure works, and the visitor welcome programme.
- 10.10. Several projects that the planning service has been advising on were submitted as applications before the end of the year. These include 125 Shaftesbury Avenue and 1 Alfred Place, both of which are commercial developments involving the extension and remodelling of existing buildings. It is hoped that these will be reported to the planning committee in early 2025. Additionally, proposals to redevelop the former Jamestown Road depot have been submitted. These plans aim to provide 187 student rooms and 27 affordable homes. Finally, revised proposals for the Euston Tower are expected to be submitted before the end of the calendar year and will be reported to the planning committee by the end of the financial year.
- 10.11. The planning service continues to take a positive and active role in supporting proposals after planning approval to ensure that schemes progress on site. Moorfields Eye Hospital reached its topping-out stage in December 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2025. The project at the former Castlewood House was completed this year, and The Earnshaw is now home to pharmaceutical company GSK. Officers have worked with the new owners of 100 Avenue Road to shape revised proposals for the site, which are expected to be submitted next year, allowing building works to recommence and enabling the delivery of affordable homes and new community space for The Winch. Work to progress the delivery of new homes at Camden Goods Yard and the O2 Masterplan site on Finchley Road is ongoing. The latter, a scheme that will deliver approximately 1,800 homes, commenced work on site in 2024.
- 10.12. Finally, the planning service has robustly defended legal challenges against the decision for the redevelopment of Selkirk House. Both the High Court and Court of Appeal declined the applications for judicial review, and the development is anticipated to start on site in February 2025.

Enforcement

- 10.13. The team received 924 new reports of breaches of planning control in 2024 and closed 993 enforcement investigations up to 10th December 2024. The most effective way to resolve breaches is through informal action, where enforcement officers secure the resolution of a breach by threatening formal action. Informal action is often quicker, avoiding the substantial time and associated costs of appeals if notices are served. In 2024, 34% of all cases were closed following informal action. Where there is sufficient harm and efforts to resolve the breach have not been successful, formal enforcement action will be taken. In 2024, 97 formal notices were served. Camden ranked 9th among all planning authorities in England for the highest number of enforcement notices served in the year to March 2024.

- 10.14. The enforcement team continues to address the rise of short-term let accommodation, which contributes to the loss of permanent homes. In London, it is permitted to rent an entire property as a short-term let for up to 90 nights a year. The team's findings indicate that the majority of short-term lets are operated as full-time businesses, with residents renting out their property while away on holiday being the exception.
- 10.15. In Camden, we estimate that at least 6,000 entire properties are being used for short-term letting. The previous government released a ministerial statement outlining proposals to automatically designate existing short-term lets into a new use class. The Council expressed concern in two letters, stating that this would have a devastating impact on Camden, leading to a loss equivalent to the housing the borough is expected to deliver over the next six years, as well as a financial loss of £9,235,020 per year in Council Tax income. Officers met with the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government in 2024 to share our concerns about the impact that the rise in short-term lets is having on the availability of permanent homes.
- 10.16. The team successfully defended an enforcement notice following the conversion of three residential units into hotel use at 267 Eversholt Street (15 units). We are also awaiting an appeal decision related to short-term serviced accommodation at 254-256 Belsize Road and 258 Belsize Road, London, NW6 (55 units).
- 10.17. The Enforcement Team continues to lead the way in using planning powers to address the removal of older phone kiosks cluttering the borough's high streets. This follows the removal of 19 kiosks on Tottenham Court Road in 2023, after Breach of Condition Notices were served. The kiosks were in poor condition, underused, and no longer required for telecommunications purposes, thus breaching the conditions attached to their original permissions under the General Permitted Development Order.
- 10.18. The team has also secured the removal of two unused and unmaintained kiosks in Princes Circus, located in the middle of a new open space that forms part of the award-winning West End Project. Additionally, the team facilitated the removal of seven kiosks on Kilburn High Road. These kiosks were in poor condition, poorly located, and hubs for anti-social behaviour. As with the Tottenham Court Road case, their removal has contributed to improvements in the area. A kiosk was also removed outside Holborn Station following a Breach of Condition Notice served on 23rd July.
- 10.19. Camden's approach to construction management plan (CMP) enforcement includes both proactive and reactive elements. The CMP Planning Site Inspector conducts inspections of CMP sites to ensure compliance, while the CMP Enforcement Officer addresses non-compliant sites and handles complaints about CMP sites from local residents, Councillors, or businesses. The Enforcement Officer takes action to secure compliance, serves as a direct contact for local residents, and frequently attends Construction Working Groups. Both officers are part of the Council-wide Construction

Management Forum, which includes representatives from highways, parking, air quality, environmental health, and planning obligations.

- 10.20. In 2024, 201 visits were completed, with 83% of sites being compliant at the time of inspection. For non-compliant sites, the issues were resolved within seven days of the inspection.
- 10.21. There were 81 appeal decisions in 2024, with 74% of appeals dismissed, supporting the Council's decision to refuse planning permission or issue an enforcement notice. Additionally, there were 5 hearings and 2 public inquiries.

Land Charges

- 10.22. The number of searches has remained consistently high, similar to the levels seen in recent years, with an average of just over 1,030 searches received per quarter. His Majesty's Land Registry continues to progress the land charges migration project, which involves migrating local land charges data to a centralised system. The team has completed a substantial portion of the pre-migration work and is now entering the final phase of data improvement to ensure it is standardised. The full migration of the Local Land Charges Register to HM Land Registry is expected to be completed in 2025.

Trees

- 10.23. The team processed 1,375 tree applications in 2024. They have also served 28 new Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). Examples of TPOs include:
- A TPO was served on a Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) at 32 Bartholomew Villas. It is very rare to see such a tree of this size in an urban environment. Initially permission was sought to remove the tree but as a result of the TPO the owner is looking to make repairs to the fence and keep the tree.
 - A TPO was served on a Magnolia at 9 Ellerdale Road following a Section 211 notification. The proposed works would have completely destroyed the very high visual amenity value that it adds to this part of the conservation area.

11. Single Member Decisions

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
Contract Award for Dense Numbers of Electric Vehicle Charge Points Along Single Streets and Clusters of Streets	10/09/2024
South End Green Safe and Healthy Streets Scheme	08/08/2024
Fitzrovia Area Safe and Healthy Street Scheme- Phase 1	29/07/2024

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
Camden Town Area Bus Priority and Pedestrian Safety Improvements	17/07/2024
Clerkenwell Road Safe and Healthy Streets	17/07/2024
Increase of Fixed Penalty Notices for Fly Tipping Offences, Littering and Graffiti	10/07/2024
Micromobility Rental Services in London	10/07/2024
The Camden Freight and Servicing Action Plan	01/07/2024
Procurement Strategy for Arboricultural Services	16/04/2024
Procurement Strategy for the Environmental Services Enforcement Contract ref	16/04/2024
Cycle Hangar Contract Procurement Strategy	19/03/2024

12. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

The Executive Director of Corporate Services has been consulted and has no comment to add.

13. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

This report provides an update on the Council's response to legal and policy updates. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

14. Environmental Implications

All the programmes and work outlined in this report have positive environmental implications for Camden and are built from, or strongly aligned with, the Camden Climate Action Plan, Biodiversity Strategy, and Clean Air Action Plan.

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