

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN
COUNCIL MEETING – 20TH JANUARY 2025
AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS

Amendment to motion 1, proposed by Councillor Anna Wright and seconded by Councillor Lorraine Revah:-

~~In 2022, Age UK Camden called on candidates in local elections to commit themselves to make Camden an Age-Friendly Community and join the growing network, which so far in London includes Lewisham, Islington, Hackney, Barnet, Sutton, Newham, Lambeth.~~

Camden Council ~~recognises~~ notes:

- That councils have a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- That the Borough has a substantial number of ~~residents and visitors who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons. These reasons can include age, disability, loneliness, caring responsibilities, and poor mental health among others. members of the older generation among its residents, with a variety of needs and aspirations. According to census data, there are nearly 26,000 Camden residents over 65 (11.9%), with more than 3,000 over 85.~~
- ~~That Camden has the worst statistic for loneliness among London Boroughs; while some are younger people, the majority will be elderly people.~~
- That according to public health data, Camden is ~~has the shameful description of being~~ officially the loneliest place in the country and we know that ~~, according to statistics published in a report which warns that social~~ isolation can result in poor mental and physical health ~~issues and outcomes, adding to NHS chaos.~~
- ~~a widespread poll of adult residents in Camden found more than one in three (36%) admitted feeling “lonely often or always”. In 2022, Age ~UK Camden called on candidates in local elections to commit themselves to make Camden an Age-Friendly Community and join the growing network, which so far in London includes Lewisham, Islington, Hackney, Barnet, Sutton, Newham, Lambeth.~~

Camden Council celebrates:

- We Make Camden, where every department is working towards creating the Borough as a community where people of all generations feel listened to, and that their needs are attended to.
- That the Borough has the established policy of working with residents and the voluntary sector to co-produce ideas and projects.
- That the Borough aspires to be a place where people **start well**, live well and age well ~~and recognises that supporting vulnerable residents should be everybody's business. (Supporting People Connecting Communities);~~
- That addressing inequalities must lie at the heart of everything we do ~~however, it acknowledges that Adult Social Care is not the only department where the needs of elderly residents should be taken into account.~~

- That work is being undertaken to create long-term strategies looking to address these issues, through setting up integrated neighbourhoods, local champions, and engaging with the voluntary sector.

Camden Council further recognises:

- That working to long-term strategies **must sit alongside work to** ~~can detract from~~ addressing immediate concerns and resolving particular problems.

Accordingly, the Council **resolves** ~~calls for~~:

~~The Leader of the Council To~~ commit to making Camden an friendly and accessible Age-Friendly Borough, ~~building on bringing the Borough into line with the World Health Organisation Age-Friendly Communities approach,~~ an approach that focuses on making the built environment accessible to all and one which encourages participation, fosters positive connections between people of all ages and supports health and wellbeing, ~~which gives the opportunity of sharing learning and working collaboratively with other boroughs and the Mayor of London to develop this concept.~~

The Council further commits to extend these principles to embrace a more widely inclusive vision, further refining the accessible Camden framework developed by Age UK Camden and informed by the social model of disability. ~~This includes taking up and embedding an age-friendly lens, working with residents, Age UK Camden and other parts of the voluntary sector, to develop ideas, plans and proposals in every department, such as:~~

~~Incorporating age-friendly design principles, such as better lighting and welcoming places to rest, into all aspects of planning. Age-Friendly design should make public spaces comfortable for older and disabled residents and foster positive connections between people of all ages.~~

Adopting accessible and friendly principles will involve working to address a range of ~~Particular~~ issues which have been raised over ~~the last two and a half~~ recent years by ~~older~~ residents including:

- Planning: incorporating accessible and friendly design principles, such as better lighting and welcoming places to rest, should make public spaces comfortable for residents and foster positive connections between people of all ages.
- eCommunication: ensuring communication is accessible and that no one is excluded from accessing the information or services they need as a result of digital barriers. ~~there are many people without IT (for a number of reasons), or others, who prefer or need to talk to a person, not a machine. They need the Council to offer access to a simple phone helpline, with trained staff available to respond in a friendly non-patronising manner.~~
- ~~the scarcity of p~~Public toilets: anxiety around the availability of toilets is known to be a factor in deterring people from leaving home and can therefore contribute to exclusion and social isolation. ~~other boroughs have worked with residents to establish roles with the responsibility to audit current provision; negotiate with businesses, retail and leisure to provide facilities where there are none; create a map of what is available and take responsibility for maintenance.~~

- ~~s~~Streets and pavements: ~~a walking audit will prove the problems and some people face~~ difficulties arising from ~~street and pavement obstacles including excess~~ street furniture (e.g. A-Boards), uneven paving, bad lighting, poor parking, lack of accessible parking, unacceptable, dangerous and illegal cycle and scooter riding on pavements and floating bus-stops.
- ~~e~~Community assets: ~~disappearing, such as~~ post offices, banks, ~~small shops and High Streets, and supermarkets with staffed tills are all valued assets, particularly for people who are more vulnerable. ∴ older and/or disabled residents need facilities locally, providing services for a wide range of users. This includes raising with supermarkets the importance of having an adequate supply of staffed tills.~~
- ~~a~~Accessible transport: a range of accessible transport options must be available, affordable and working efficiently. ~~better monitoring is needed to ensure it is working satisfactorily.~~
- ~~p~~Parking, low traffic neighbourhoods and Healthy Schools Streets schemes: efforts to reduce traffic congestion should aim to also better facilitate ~~a flexible person-centred approach would help elderly and disabled residents to welcome these projects e.g. retain visitor parking scratch cards, and putting in place an effective system for permitting~~ essential journeys by motor vehicles for residents for whom walking or cycling are not possible or practical options ~~living inside these schemes.~~

~~Putting these schemes into operation~~ Progressing work in these areas and, where appropriate, identifying them with kite marks or brands as part of an ~~Friendly and Accessible Camden commitment~~ **Age-Friendly Commitment** would greatly benefit all those who, irrespective of label or identity, feel excluded from living a good life in Camden and would contribute to ~~elderly and disabled residents, as well as~~ fulfilling the Council's aspirations, ~~as~~ expressed in We Make Camden.

The amended motion therefore reads:

Camden Council notes:

- That councils have a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- That the Borough has a substantial number of residents and visitors who are vulnerable for a variety of reasons. These reasons can include age, disability, loneliness, caring responsibilities, and poor mental health among others.
- That according to public health data, Camden is officially the loneliest place in the country and we know that social isolation can result in poor mental and physical health..
- In 2022, Age UK Camden called on candidates in local elections to commit themselves to make Camden an Age-Friendly Community and join the growing network, which so far in London includes Lewisham, Islington, Hackney, Barnet, Sutton, Newham, Lambeth.

Camden Council celebrates:

- We Make Camden, where every department is working towards creating the Borough as a community where people of all generations feel listened to, and that their needs are attended to.

- That the Borough has the established policy of working with residents and the voluntary sector to co-produce ideas and projects.
- That the Borough aspires to be a place where people start well, live well and age well and recognises that supporting vulnerable residents should be everybody's business.
- That addressing inequalities must lie at the heart of everything we do.
- That work is being undertaken to create long-term strategies looking to address these issues, through setting up integrated neighbourhoods, local champions, and engaging with the voluntary sector.

Camden Council further recognises:

- That working to long-term strategies must sit alongside work to address immediate concerns and resolve particular problems.

Accordingly, the Council resolves:

To commit to making Camden a friendly and accessible Borough, building on the World Health Organisation Age-Friendly Communities approach, an approach that focuses on making the built environment accessible to all and one which encourages participation, fosters positive connections between people of all ages and supports health and wellbeing.

The Council further commits to extend these principles to embrace a more widely inclusive vision, further refining the accessible Camden framework developed by Age-UK Camden and informed by the social model of disability.

Adopting accessible and friendly principles will involve working to address a range of issues which have been raised over recent years by residents including:

- Planning: incorporating accessible and friendly design principles, such as better lighting and welcoming places to rest, should make public spaces comfortable for residents and foster positive connections between people of all ages.
- Communication: ensuring communication is accessible and that no one is excluded from accessing the information or services they need as a result of digital barriers.
- Public toilets: anxiety around the availability of toilets is known to be a factor in deterring people from leaving home and can therefore contribute to exclusion and social isolation.
- Streets and pavements: some people face difficulties arising from street and pavement obstacles including street furniture (e.g. A-Boards), uneven paving, bad lighting, poor parking, lack of accessible parking, unacceptable, dangerous and illegal cycle and scooter riding on pavements and floating bus-stops.
- Community assets: post offices, banks, small shops and High Streets, and supermarkets with staffed tills are all valued assets, particularly for people who are more vulnerable.
- Accessible transport: a range of accessible transport options must be available, affordable and working efficiently.
- Parking, low traffic neighbourhoods and Healthy Schools Streets schemes: efforts to reduce traffic congestion should aim to also better facilitate essential

journeys by motor vehicles for residents for whom walking and cycling are not possible or practical options.

Progressing work in these areas and, where appropriate, identifying them with kite marks or brands as part of a Friendly and Accessible Camden commitment would greatly benefit all those who, irrespective of label or identity, feel excluded from living a good life in Camden and would contribute to fulfilling the Council's aspirations as expressed in We Make Camden.

Amendment to motion 2, proposed by Councillor Edmund Frondigoun and seconded by Councillor Liam Martin-Lane:-

This Council notes:

- The need for new, affordable housing within the borough and across the country.
- The Government's welcome decision to reinstate mandatory housing targets, following the previous Government's decision to declare them non-binding and notes that these require that the government has made mandatory the provision of the number of new homes to be delivered each year in the borough at 3,137.
- That this high number is necessary in order to respond to the national housing crisis which affects a significant number of residents across Camden.

~~The demand is well in excess of what has been achieved in recent years where the target of 1,100 has been undershot so considerably that only an average of 500 have actually materialised.~~

This Council further notes:

- The scale of this target, given the challenging circumstances facing the housing industry, including but not limited to high inflation and labour shortages.
- In spite of these challenges, over 1,700 new homes have been delivered in the Borough, with over 1,200 of these being genuinely affordable.
- Camden has also been able to use this process to deliver a significant amount of new social value for residents including improved schools, childcare facilities, community space and tens of millions of pounds in employment and training opportunities for local residents and Community Infrastructure Levy grants.
- A proactive approach is required in meeting these targets as Camden does not have available greenfield land within it and there are significant challenges in redeveloping relevant areas of brownfield land, in such way that they deliver not just new homes but also social value for existing and new residents.

The Council additionally notes:

- The success in redeveloping existing areas of brownfield land such as in Kings Cross.
- That despite Camden being limited in greenbelt sites, the Council is doing all it can through our brownfield sites such as Chester Road and Camden Road and small sites programme to play our part in delivering much needed new homes.

This Council resolves:

- That in the face of these challenging circumstances, to use this pioneering local government approach to meet the challenge set by national government, not just to deliver the new homes desperately needed to combat the acute housing crisis in London and the United Kingdom, but also to ensure that all of Camden's residents, future and current can fully benefit.

~~Of these, under 40% were affordable.~~

~~This requirement is considerably higher than had been suggested in earlier consultation and may well be impossible to achieve.~~

~~Camden does not have large tracts of borderline green-belt land within it. There are dwindlingly few brownfield sites and the main areas of available land are the Landsec O2 site and the, as yet to be developed, Murphy's yard. The rest of the borough can only really be tweaked by marginal increased density.~~

~~The Council resolves to communicate this situation to central government and make clear that, notwithstanding their election promise to deliver 1.5M new homes in the country, no amount of hectoring will make the impossible possible.~~

The amended motion therefore reads:

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ENDS