COUNCIL - 3rd MARCH 2025

BUSINESS FROM THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ON 20th JANUARY 2025

Report of the Borough Solicitor

This report relates to the unconsidered motions and the responses to written Council questions from the Council meeting held on 20th January 2025.

1. Background

The Constitution advises that where motions have not been dealt with by the conclusion of the meeting of the Council, they fall without discussion and are passed to the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee Chair whose response is then to be provided to the next meeting of the Council. Also the responses to written questions that were provided for last ordinary Council meeting are to be circulated as part of the next meeting's agenda for information. These responses are then noted at that next meeting without debate.

2. Responses to motions

At the meeting of the Council held on 20th January, there were 2 motions that were not considered due to lack of time. As the Constitution requires, these motions were passed to the relevant Cabinet Members or Committee Chairs, who are required to report back to the next meeting of the Council. A copy of the motions and the responses are attached at Appendix A to this report.

3. Responses to written questions from Councillors

The written questions from Councillors and the responses from Cabinet Members linked to the Council meeting on 20th January 2025 are attached as Appendix B.

4. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

UNCONSIDERED MOTIONS

Appendix A

 To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Steve Adams and which was seconded by Councillor Stephen Stark

The Council notes 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. 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.

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.

RESPONSE BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN

The government has published changes to the standard method for calculating housing need. This increases Camden's nationally set housing target, as noted in the motion.

However, as London has a strategic planning tier, it is the London Plan, rather than the national standard method figures, that set the housing targets for London boroughs for planning purposes.

London's new nationally set target is 88,000 per annum, which is less than the target under the previous method (of around 100,000). The Mayor will apportion this need across the boroughs through the review of the London Plan.

The London Plan targets will take into account the capacity of individual boroughs to deliver homes. This capacity exercise for this is currently ongoing and will be done in partnership with London Boroughs.

Camden's housing target will continue to be the target in the current London Plan (1,038) until this becomes five years old in 2026. The new London Plan, which will set updated borough housing targets, is due for adoption in 2027. For the short

period between the current target becoming out of date and the new target being adopted, the new Local Plan will set a capacity based figure that reflects the availability of deliverable sites in the borough in future years.

2. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Lotis Bautista and which was seconded by Councillor James Slater

This Council notes:

- Labour-run Camden's Community Investment Programme (CIP) has reached a significant milestone, delivering over 1,500 new homes across the borough.
- CIP was established as a bold and innovative response to years of successive Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government funding cuts, aiming to tackle the borough's housing crisis while investing in community infrastructure.
- CIP provides homes that are genuinely affordable, including council homes for social rent, addressing the critical need for housing that Camden residents can afford.
- As of 2025, Camden has delivered 1,723 new homes. An additional 277 homes are currently under construction of which 184 are affordable.
- In addition to new homes, CIP has delivered new schools, community centres, and improved public spaces, creating lasting benefits for residents and fostering a stronger, more inclusive community. Examples of these include the Greenwood Centre in Kentish Town, Edith Neville Primary School in Somers Town and Kingsgate Primary School.

This Council further notes:

- Camden's commitment to building new council homes stands in stark contrast to the failure of the previous Government to adequately address the national housing crisis.
- The new Labour Government, under the leadership of Keir Starmer MP, has
 made bold and necessary commitments to house-building and renters rights.
 This includes pledging over 300,000 new homes each year for the next five
 years (totalling 1.5 million), with a focus on increasing the number of
 genuinely affordable homes and prioritising social housing.
- The success of CIP has been recognised nationally, serving as a model for other councils seeking to deliver housing and community improvements despite funding challenges.
- The achievement of delivering 1,500 new homes marks the first step in a broader commitment. This council has plans to deliver even more affordable homes and further invest in Camden's communities.

This Council resolves:

 To celebrate and support the continued success of the Community Investment Programme as a transformative initiative that prioritises the needs of Camden residents.

- To work collaboratively with residents, community groups, and stakeholders to ensure that future developments under CIP meet the highest standards of sustainability, inclusivity, and design.
- To advocate for greater government funding for social housing and infrastructure, recognising the critical role of local authorities in addressing the housing crisis.
- To highlight and promote the achievements of CIP as an example of our Council's values in action, showcasing Camden's leadership in delivering innovative and community-focused solutions.
- To reaffirm its commitment to delivering more affordable homes, improved community facilities, and enhanced public spaces through CIP.

RESPONSE BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEW HOMES AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

The Community Investment Programme (CIP) has been delivering investment for our residents for over a decade. It was conceived out of the need for local authorities to adapt to the austerity measures the last Conservative government implemented, decimating our public services. I'm incredibly proud of what we are achieving through it, having delivered over 1,750 homes, 70% of which are genuinely affordable. These new homes are not only affordable but also safe, sustainable, and designed to meet the diverse needs of our communities. CIP has also delivered significant investment in our schools and delivered new state of the art community facilities. In the last year, CIP completed 169 homes as well as Highgate Newtown Community Centre and the Council's first workspace at Liddell Place.

To date, we have delivered a third of the CIP ambition and we have now identified sites to deliver the full ambition of 4,850 new homes. We remain determined to push forward, despite financial and logistical challenges. We are working hard to ensure that we mitigate the financial challenges, ensuring we work with GLA, Government, and other partners to highlight the benefit of investing in affordable housing to help us secure as much grant funding as possible. Investing in affordable housing is transformative for our communities, helping residents attain better health, lower energy costs, and a real sense of stability and dignity.

I know firsthand the difference that good housing can have because I have lived it. Having moved from old council housing into a new home delivered through the CIP, I have experienced just how transformative this programme can be. The shift from damp, cramped conditions to a warm, well-designed space is more than just a physical move—it's life-changing. It means better health, lower energy costs, and a real sense of stability and dignity. This is why our work through the CIP is so important. We are not just building homes; we are creating opportunities for people to thrive and to lead a healthier and safer life.

As we move forward on this journey to delivering the best for our communities, I will continue working to ensure the programme continues building new homes and community facilities our residents need through meaningful engagement. Through our collective work, we can ensure we build a Camden where everyone has a place to call home, and a brighter future to look forward to.

APPENDIX B

RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION 1

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND A SUSTAINABLE

CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR STEVE ADAMS

After a small but noticeable improvement in the removal of fly-posted stickers around the borough, one offender remains stubbornly determined to litter the borough with rotting plastic-wrapped paper notices.

This of course is Camden itself. Between the planning department and those putting up consultation notices for various purposes, there are far too many left up, out of date and decaying.

Can the Cabinet Member for Planning and a <u>Sustainable</u> Camden please explain why the removal of outdated street notices has not been carried out by the Council over the last few years? And before anyone reaches for the tissue-thin excuses that this is all due to limited resources and 14 years of Tory government, it should be known that many recent and some current notices, sit on street sign-posts alongside those of up to three years of age. Clearly the officers putting up the signs have not been asked to remove old ones.

This poor practice must end.

REPLY

Officers are already asked to remove old site notices which they see whilst out on site visits, but it is true that in some cases notices are left on displayed longer than need be.

While the formal consultation period for planning applications runs for 21 days, our Statement of Community Involvement (2024) states 'comments received after that time will be taken into consideration if no decision has been made on the application'. Removing the site notice immediately after the formal consultation period has ended would reduce the opportunity for residents to make comments after the 21 days, so there are drawbacks to swift removal too.

That said, no one wants to see age-old notices still up so the planning and environment services departments, along with Veolia and on-street officers, will work together more closely on ways to ensure these are removed in a timely manner.

QUESTION 2

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND A SUSTAINABLE

CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR JAMES SLATER

What action Camden Council has taken to enforce against those dumping Christmas trees on streets across Camden that are not in the pre-designated spaces, and for an assessment of how many people have used the drop-off sites this Christmas?

REPLY

Dumped Christmas trees are a blight on our streets, obstructing the pavement for everyone. It is a shame that this practice continues given that the Council provides a range of ways to recycle Christmas trees, including 13 Christmas Tree recycling points, within a subscribed residential garden waste collection, at Regis Road Recycling Centre or in a paid for bulky waste collection.

Indeed, it is illegal to dump Christmas trees on the street and anyone caught fly tipping a Christmas tree will receive a fly tipping FPN (Fixed Penalty Notice) of £1000, reduced to £500 if paid early. This year one offender has been caught and fined. Unfortunately, unless an offender is caught in the act of fly tipping their tree it is very difficult to determine where the tree has come from to progress an enforcement action.

Provisional numbers show that residents dropped off 8,002 trees at collection points – equating to over 51 tonnes. These are then recycled in chippings, mulch or compost material.

QUESTION 3

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BETTER HOMES

BY: COUNCILLOR NANCY JIRIRA

What is the current and projected overspend for temporary accommodation placements in this financial year?

How does it compare to each year from 2021-22? Please set this out in a table.

How much does it currently cost the Council, on average, to place a resident or family needing temporary accommodation in a hotel or B&B for a month? If it is not possible to give a precise answer, please provide an approximate one.

Financial Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (as per Q3 forecast)
Overspend on cost to provide temporary accommodation in pursuance of the council's statutory duty	£990,331.66	£3,212,545.98	£8,876,859.74	£13,088,767.00

The net average cost to the Council to provide Temporary Accommodation per month per household is currently £1,314.24

According to survey data from the end of September 2024, Camden's forecast overspend on temporary accommodation in 2024/25 is the joint 7th highest of the 31 London Boroughs that responded.

QUESTION 4

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

BY: COUNCILLOR MATT COOPER

Camden's parks and green spaces are vital to all our residents, and we should be proud of the investment the Council has maintained in them over the years, including creating more park space. They can be undermined by antisocial behaviour, however. Could the cabinet member share how many crime and antisocial behaviour incidents have taken place in Camden-managed parks and green spaces in recent years? What more can the Council do to tackle this, and can new powers for councils contained in the new devolution plans shared by the Government help?

REPLY

Camden's parks and green spaces are some of our greatest assets, providing invaluable benefits to everyone who lives, works, studies or visits our borough. Ensuring Camden remains clean, vibrant, and safe is central to our We Make Camden ambitions, and as the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, I am committed to preserving these spaces as hubs for health, wellbeing and community connection. I am proud of the sustained investment we've made in expanding and improving our parks, but I also acknowledge the ongoing responsibility to ensure they remain safe, welcoming, and accessible for all. Between January 2023 and December 2024 there were 3,470 reports of crime and anti-social behaviour in Camden's green spaces, split as:

Year (Calendar)	Number of reports		
2023	930		
2024	2,540		

In Camden, we take a comprehensive approach to addressing anti-social behaviour in our parks and green spaces, combining robust reporting mechanisms, patrols, enforcement tools and community engagement. Reporting is at the heart of this effort, which is why we have streamlined the process to make it easier for residents to report incidents. This ensures we can effectively direct our resources to where they are needed most.

Our Community Safety and parks teams have a strong working relationship upheld by effective information sharing. We also have enhanced enforcement powers, such as Fixed Penalty Notices for offences like littering and dog fouling. We utilise our Public Space Protection Order to manage the persistent problem of dog control, while also leveraging other tools such as byelaws and Community Protection Notices.

In response to the heightened number of incidents in the last year we are reviewing what additional opportunities we have to tackle these issues, such as updating the Parks Byelaws.

I am positive about the announcement of the government's Plan for Change, particularly its mission of safer streets. Camden will support the government in delivering this mission, which has a focus on cracking down on anti-social behaviour. The Plan for Change marks the next-phase of a mission-led government, with clear ambitions to support local authorities, and other agencies, in securing better outcomes for the people they serve. I also welcome the government's renewed commitment to devolving more powers and funding to local authorities across London, which presents a great opportunity for Camden.

Camden remains committed to maintaining our parks and green spaces, so they continue to be safe, welcoming and enjoyable for all. We will continue to work in strong partnership with the police and Council services to effectively address concerns of anti-social behaviour.

QUESTION 5

TO THE: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

BY: COUNCILLOR HEATHER JOHNSON

To ask the Leader of the Council what benefits the Council hopes to see from HS2 coming to Euston, particularly in terms of jobs, homes, open spaces, and community enhancements?

Camden's long-standing vision for Euston remains the creation of a vibrant, thriving area that seamlessly integrates plans for HS2, Network Rail, and the Underground station. This vision is centred on supporting the existing community and enhancing the local area while delivering much-needed new homes and jobs for our residents. I therefore welcome the Chancellor's announcement in the Budget statement on 30th October confirming that HS2 will proceed to Euston. This decision marks a crucial step towards ending the prolonged uncertainty and blight caused by the previous government's mishandling of the project.

We are committed to transforming the five hectares of land that have been marred by delays and uncertainty, particularly for residents in the Regent's Park and Somers Town areas. Completion of the project will also enable the restoration of lost green spaces and provide the opportunity to develop essential community facilities for our residents.

Through our active role on the Euston Partnership Board, we have consistently advocated for an integrated station alongside the delivery of new homes, jobs, and open spaces. We welcome the chance to collaborate with the government and the newly established Euston Housing Delivery Group. Camden is ready to play a leading role in ensuring that this regeneration fulfils a vision that prioritises creating a great place to live for our residents, keeping their best interests at its heart.

The project is expected to deliver up to 2,500 new homes, including 1,200 affordable homes. Additionally, it has the potential to create between 15,000 to 21,000 on-site jobs and up to 34,000 jobs upon completion—many of which will benefit the wider community. We are already working closely with HS2 and its construction partners in Euston to provide local residents with fast-track pathways to gain the skills and qualifications needed to secure quality jobs in the construction industry and on the HS2 site.

Last year, we commissioned the Euston Economic Impact Assessment to better understand the area's economic potential. The report revealed that the regeneration of Euston Station could contribute £41 billion to the UK economy by 2053, positioning Euston as a significant economic powerhouse. Our priority is to ensure that this economic growth directly benefits our residents.

QUESTION 6

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR NEW HOMES AND COMMUNITY

INVESTMENT

BY: COUNCILLOR NANOUCHE UMEADI

Could the Cabinet Member for New Homes and Community Investment please outline the Community Investment Programmes process with relation to any defects in newly built properties during the 1 year settling in period, and how residents more generally are supported during this time?

Good-quality housing is essential to the quality of life for our residents. Everyone deserves a safe and secure place they can call home. The Council, through the Community Investment Programme, is committed to increasing the number of modern, energy-efficient homes as quickly as possible and has so far built over 1,700 new homes of which 70% have been genuinely affordable.

Our residents want, need and deserve new housing that is well designed, secure, warm and affordable. Moving homes can be stressful and we want to make sure that all the residents have a positive experience and are supported throughout the process.

New buildings are complex, and whilst the Council takes steps to minimise defects, these can arise. The Council ensures however that when a defect is discovered there are robust systems in place to tackle them. To do this we focus on ensuring quality in the earliest design phases using a bespoke design guide to produce outstanding designs for high quality homes. We listen to feedback from residents from completed developments to proactively avoid future defects and ensure a constant improvement in the quality of our homes.

During construction, a team of specialists, including a Clerk of Works, routinely inspect the works to ensure that a high standard has been met. After the homes are handed over from the building contractor to Camden, there is a 12 or 24 month settling in period for residents where the contractor is responsible for addressing defects which occur.

Residents receive support when they move into their new homes, the Council's New Homes Customer Care team (NHCCT) supports residents so they understand how the facilities in their new homes work. This includes providing bespoke home demonstrations, providing home user guides and home user videos. The NHCCT also provides refresher training whenever needed as well as signposting residents to other Council services where necessary.

The NHCCT acts as a point of contact for residents to report defects as well as being 'resident champions', working with contractors to help resolve defects within the timeframes set out in the contract. The NHCCT will proactively visit properties and contact residents to update them on the progress of any issues and to make sure they are satisfied that a defect has been resolved.

In rare cases some hidden defects come to light after the settling in period. The Council has a dedicated Complex Repairs Team that investigate and resolve these types of defects.

We are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide the best housing possible for our residents, in collaboration with our communities, and address any defects as necessary if they arise.

QUESTION 7

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR, EQUALLITIES

AND COHESION

BY: COUNCILLOR ROBERT THOMPSON

In Camden we are proud to be a borough of enormous social, ethnic, faith, gender and sexuality diversity with a high degree of social cohesion.

With the rise of hate crime across the UK and London - including communities in our borough, could the cabinet member outline what actions that we are taking or planning to take to address hate and promote cohesion?

REPLY

Camden is committed to taking proactive steps to address hate crime and promote social cohesion. We recognise the importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of all our residents, and as such, we have developed a range of initiatives specifically designed to further strengthen the bonds within our diverse communities.

The Camden Interfaith Network continues to play an important role in building cross-faith understanding. A number of events took place during the recent Interfaith week (November 2024) including an online panel on the importance of faith during turbulent times, a social action evening, and a guided walk highlighting the significant role faith organisations have played in supporting refugees.

We've also launched Brave Cafés in partnership with Leeds City Council, which focuses on addressing issues such as LGBTQ+ safety, intercultural racism, and issues such as domestic abuse and the treatment of refugees.

Our Cohesion Fund provides grants of up to £2,000 to faith and voluntary groups, supporting projects that bring communities together, whether through interfaith visits, social action events, or religious festival celebrations. The Camden Inclusion Calendar ensures that we celebrate key dates like Black History Month, Disability History Month, LGBTQ+ History Month, and Islamophobia Awareness Month. We work closely with community groups to promote these events and ensure they are inclusive and representative of Camden's diverse population.

The Camden Tension Monitoring Group meets on a weekly basis in order to assess current trends in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, and pro-actively respond to issues which may have an impact on community cohesion. The recently developed Camden Hate Crime Prevention Advocates initiative aims to establish a network of community organisations that can raise awareness and help people impacted by hate crime to navigate reporting process.

We at Camden recognise the significant impact that hate crime can have on community cohesion. Our approach continues to prioritise ongoing engagement to reinforce our strong message that Camden is no place for hate. We remain

committed to creating a safe, inclusive environment where every resident feels valued and supported.

QUESTION 8

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND A SUSTAINABLE

CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR IZZY LENGA

Like all activities, business operations in the borough contribute to carbon emissions. What is their impact in Camden and what progress have businesses made in recent years to reduce their emissions? What is your view about their contribution and do they need to go further and faster?

REPLY

The most recent greenhouse gas emissions data for the UK shows that the commercial and industrial sector in Camden accounts for approximately 60% of the borough's carbon dioxide emissions. The impact of the business community on the climate crisis is therefore significant.

The Council's role with businesses in reducing their carbon emissions is one of supporting and influencing businesses to reduce their environmental impact, which we do through our Camden Climate Alliance (CCA) business network. The CCA's 2023 Annual Report published in June 2024 showed that while 84 per cent of reporting members reduced their emissions, the average percentage has slowed year on year. Over the last two years the Council has therefore tried to accelerate support for businesses through our Business Climate Challenge programme. The Business Climate Challenge is funded by the Mayor of London and UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and offers businesses in Camden and Brent, building level energy audits, while signposting participants to our Camden Climate Fund to help finance decarbonisation plans. The programme launched in December 2023 and to date has supported over 80 businesses to develop operational net zero plans for their workplaces. The funding for the programme ends in March 2025. The business community has a huge role to play in helping to tackle the climate crisis and its effects in Camden and could do more. This year, the Council will be starting to develop its next 5-year Climate Action Plan and as part of this process, the Council will holding a Business Summit on the climate crisis, with a view to

QUESTION 9

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND A SUSTAINABLE

encouraging businesses to take more leadership on the agenda across Camden

CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR REBECCA FILER

Disused telephone boxes remain a blight on many of Camden's streets, like the one by Chalk Farm Station which attracts anti-social behaviour. Please outline the Council's powers over these, and update councillors on steps the Council has taken to persuade the new Government to strengthen local authorities' powers in this regard.

REPLY

Disused phone boxes create unnecessary clutter in the public realm and attract antisocial behaviour, as you have stated. Camden's Planning Enforcement team have had some success using planning powers to seek the removal of redundant phone boxes which were installed under the permitted development rights.

The approach has been to take formal action on the basis that there is a breach of condition A.2 (2) of Part 24 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended). Condition A.2 (2) requires that phone kiosks are removed when they are no longer required for electronic communications purposes. Essentially the planning team have had to demonstrate that the phone kiosks are unmaintained, unusable (not able or fit to be used) or unused and to then serve a Breach of Condition Notice on the basis that they are no longer required for electronic communication purposes. In 2023, this approach secured the removal of 19 phone kiosks in Tottenham Court Road and more recently it has led to the removal of 2 kiosks in Princes Circus and 7 in Kilburn High Road.

Whilst the work done to date is positive, the challenge is that it is resource-intensive and the extent of the problem vast. In our response to the recent NPPF consultation, Camden requested more powers to enforce the removal of redundant telephone kiosks. However, what is ultimately required alongside this is more active management of them by the Code Operators who are responsible for them. We will continue to press for stronger powers in this area.

QUESTION 10

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND A SUSTAINABLE

CAMDEN

BY: COUNCILLOR LORNA JANE RUSSELL

- 1. How many tonnes of residual waste, recycling, food waste and garden waste have been generated across Camden in this last five years? Please break this down per year and per ward, as well as by household and business waste.
- 2. What proportion of this waste has ended up being recycled, sent to landfill, or incinerated? Please break this down based on the figures provided in 1, so per year and per ward, as well as by household and business waste.
- 3. What the overall recycling rates are for each ward and across Camden, for each year over the last five years, for both household and business rates?

Camden provides a comprehensive set of recycling and waste collection services to households across the borough. All businesses are under a duty to ensure that their waste is collected by a registered waste carrier, but this does not have to be through the Council's services. The Council offers a range of recycling and waste collection services for businesses within the borough. The Council, therefore, does not hold recycling and waste tonnages for all Camden businesses.

Table 1 below shows the breakdown of residential recycling and waste tonnages for the last 5 years, along with the corresponding recycling rate. 'Compostable waste' includes food and garden waste, and all dry recycling and compostable waste is recycled. We do not collect this recycling tonnage data at a ward level.

Table 1. Tonnage data and recycling rate by financial year

	2019/20 (tonnes)	2020/21 (tonnes)	2021/22 (tonnes)	2022/23 (tonnes)	2023/24 (tonnes)
Refuse	43638	37332	45352	40312	39106
Dry recycling	11266	10640	13221	10570	11073
Composting Tonnage	4016	4229	4571	4602	4950
Total Household	58920	52268	63144	55213	55144
Recycling rate	25.9%	28.6%	28.2%	27.5%	29.1%

The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) provides recycling processing and waste disposal services for Camden, alongside 6 other north London boroughs. Recycling and waste material delivered to the NLWA is managed as a whole for all 7 boroughs. All recyclable material sent to NLWA is recycled. In 2022-23, the percentage of non-recyclable waste material that went to landfill was 0.6% and 0% in 2023/24.

ENDS