

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN
COUNCIL MEETING – 3rd MARCH 2025
NOTICE OF MOTIONS

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

The Council notes that Camden staff levels rise yearly and further, that over 10% of employment is through agencies. The cost of this to the borough is over £2.2M per year. In times of financial stricture, it cannot be good practice for this to continue unchecked.

It should also be noted that the use of temporary staff can affect service quality, introduces a burden on Camden through the need for continual, repetitive induction training and can also result in a lower level of corporate commitment. A happy workplace is one where everyone feels both an intrinsic part of the organisation and permanently embedded in its ethos.

The Council resolves to make greater efforts to drive down the non-productive costs of staffing by reducing the reliance on agency hiring towards a level of 5%. This reduction would deliver a £1.1M saving while not reducing staff levels. By more use of existing technology, the Council also commits to a future reduction in total staff numbers through efficiencies.

2. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Patricia Leman and which was seconded by Councillor Tommy Gale

This Council notes that:

- Since 2010, successive coalition and Conservative governments have slashed Camden's core funding, requiring us to deliver savings of more than £220 million. In recent years, councils have been pushed into financial crisis across the country, issuing Section 114 bankruptcy notices and cutting essential services.
- Due to Camden's strong financial management, we are not at risk of bankruptcy. We have balanced our budget while continuing to invest in vital frontline services, public spaces, and support for all residents.
- The new Labour government has inherited a funding system that has left councils struggling, but Camden welcomes the commitment to a multi-year funding settlement from next year.

This Council further notes that:

- Despite the financial pressures of the last 15 years, Camden has continued to invest in making the borough one of the best places to live, work, and visit. This year's budget ensures that Camden remains financially resilient, socially inclusive, and committed to delivering excellent services for all residents.
- For families and children, Camden continues to provide free school meals for all primary school pupils, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, gets a nutritious meal every day. The budget commits further capital investment in children's social care to provide better accommodation for care-experienced young people, while ensuring continued support for youth centres, early years services, after-school programs, and apprenticeship schemes to help young people reach their full potential.
- For working people and local businesses, Camden is expanding business support initiatives through investment in affordable workspaces and local entrepreneurship schemes. The Council continues to back initiatives that create good, well-paid jobs for residents, while ensuring that major projects like HS2 and the Knowledge Quarter provide long-term employment opportunities for local people.
- For all residents, Camden remains committed to high-quality public spaces, culture, and local infrastructure. This year's budget includes:
 - Capital investment in sites like Acland Burghley School Hall to support arts and community use.
 - Ongoing investment in parks, green spaces, street cleaning and high streets, making Camden cleaner, safer, and more welcoming.
 - Investment in walking and cycling infrastructure, improving sustainable transport options across the borough.
- For older and disabled residents, Camden continues to prioritise social care funding, helping meet growing demographic pressures. The Council is investing in new social care accommodation to improve long-term support for vulnerable residents.
- For renters and homeowners alike, the Council's capital investment plan supports social housing improvements, ensuring continued investment in council homes, better conditions for private renters, and efforts to keep Camden a place where people of all backgrounds can afford to live.
- For residents needing more intensive support with housing, the budget increases Camden's investment in homelessness prevention by £0.5 million, expands in-house temporary accommodation through the Temporary Accommodation Purchase Programme and Community Investment Programme, and provides an £8 million budget uplift to meet rising temporary accommodation costs.
- For those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, Camden has confirmed the continuation of its £2 million Cost of Living Fund and £2.1 million Family Crisis Fund, providing vital support for residents facing financial hardship.

This Council resolves to:

- Continue Camden's strong financial stewardship, ensuring we remain financially sustainable and continue delivering excellent services despite national funding pressures.

- Ensure Camden remains a place where people of all backgrounds can afford to live, work, and raise a family. This includes building new affordable homes, protecting private renters, and improving council housing.
- Stand up for residents facing hardship by maintaining generous Council Tax support, and investing in food security programs.
- Deliver high-quality public services that benefit the whole community, from libraries and leisure centres to safer streets and cleaner air.
- Maximise economic and housing opportunities for residents by ensuring major developments create jobs, apprenticeships, and genuinely affordable homes.

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

This Council notes that:

- Carers Trust estimates that there are at least one million young carers aged 17 and under in the UK and over 600,000 young adult carers between the ages of 18 and 25;
- In Camden, 23 young carers are formally identified by the Department for Education, but the true number of young carers in Camden is likely to be far higher;
- Young carers miss an average of 23 school days per year and young adult carers are four times more likely to drop out of college or university;
- Caring responsibilities can affect young carers' readiness to engage fully in school life, adding barriers to punctuality, their capacity to complete homework, and their ability to focus and participate effectively in lessons.

This Council resolves to mark Young Carers Action Day on 13 March 2025 by:

- Signing up to the Young Carers Covenant, published by Carers Trust in March 2024.
- Committing to implement the Carers Trust's 'No Wrong Door' for Young Carers, to improve services between adult and children's social care services, Integrated Care Boards and other key organisations in respect of identification and support for young carers and their families.
- Working alongside all schools and colleges to deliver Young Carer Awareness Training for staff so that they can recognise and address the challenges faced by young carers.
- Encouraging schools and colleges to mark Young Carers Action Day by providing guidance, assembly plans, and awareness-raising materials.

ENDS