

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Conservation and Retrofit	
REPORT OF: Director of Economy, Regeneration and Investment	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Planning Committee	DATE 22 July 2025
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report provides an update on Camden’s work on conservation and retrofit and how the Planning Service balances the need to address the climate emergency with the significance of listed buildings and conservation area. There are 40 Conservation Areas which cover circa 50% of the Borough and over 5,600 Listed Buildings. The Local Planning Authority is under a statutory duty to preserve/enhance heritage assets.</p> <p>Camden declared a climate emergency in 2019 and the Planning Service recognises the need to adapt buildings within the Borough to ensure they are fit for future generations. The slide-deck outlines how Conservation Officers, Planning Officers and Sustainability Officers work pro-actively with applicants and architects to find way that retrofitting can take place while balancing the statutory duty to preserve the significance of heritage assets. A few case studies are highlighted including the addition of solar panels to the Grade II listed Swiss Cottage Library and the deep retrofitting of a Grade II listed Georgian terrace in Bloomsbury.</p> <p>Camden has produced guidance which encompasses retrofitting and is currently working with London Councils on a London wide Heritage Retrofit Toolkit which, once complete could be used to provide clear guidance to applicants on retrofitting measures. The slide deck also references what other Boroughs are doing and potential future work streams such as Local Listed Building Consent Orders and Local Development Orders.</p> <p>The slide-deck outlines the emerging work that Camden are currently progressing and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging Local Plan, with specific policies which support the proposals to adapt and improve the energy performance of heritage assets. • Article 4 Direction Revisions, which remove the need for owners within certain conservation areas to apply for planning permission to add renewable energy to their buildings. • Camden Climate Fund which includes a fund of up to 50% of the cost to reduce the carbon used in our homes, business and community spaces, supported by free pre-app advice. 	

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information

No documents that require listing were used in the preparation of this report.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The Planning Committee is asked to note the report.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Director of Economy, Regeneration and Investment

Date: 11 July 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Council's work on conservation and retrofit. The presentation attached at appendix 1 provides further information.

2. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 2.1 The update has no financial implications.

3. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 3.1 There are no legal comments or issues arising from this update.

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this update.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Conservation and retrofit slides.

REPORT ENDS