

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**

### **COUNCIL MEETING – 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

#### **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

- 1. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Matt Cooper and which was seconded by Councillor Tommy Gale**

This Council notes:

- Insecure work harms living standards, health and family life. Labour's Employment Rights Bill represents the biggest upgrade to workers' rights in a generation - ending exploitative zero-hours practices by creating a duty to offer contracts that reflect regular hours, introducing notice for shifts and compensation for cancellations, delivering day-one rights (including protection from unfair dismissal, parental and bereavement leave, and stronger sick pay), and tackling fire and rehire.
- Camden is already helping residents into good, secure work through Good Work Camden Job Hubs and targeted support such as the Disability Job Hub (including employer training via the Inclusive Business Network), our apprenticeships service, and the new "Camden 100 in 100 - Pave the Way" campaign to unlock jobs, apprenticeships and work experience with local employers.
- In the House of Lords, some peers - including Liberal Democrat spokespeople - have argued against elements of the Bill, particularly the zero-hours measures, seeking to weaken the duty to offer guaranteed hours by replacing it with a weaker right to request.

This Council further notes:

- A stronger national framework for rights, combined with the employment support Camden already provides, will improve job quality and security for residents - especially young people, carers, disabled residents, and those in low-paid sectors.

This Council resolves:

- To back the principles of the Employment Rights Bill and make the case publicly for its core protections for Camden residents - day-one rights, contracts reflecting regular hours, notice and compensation for shifts, and ending fire and rehire.
- To call on opposition peers and MPs to pass the Bill without watering down its protections, including retaining the employer duty to offer guaranteed hours that reflect actual patterns of work and protections for agency and zero-/low-hours workers.
- To support and promote the work Camden already does to help residents into secure, decent work, so residents and employers know how to access these offers.

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

This Council notes the research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition which found that:

- 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
- In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
- There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in poverty.
- Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in.
- Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion, however it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy £39 billion each year.

This Council further notes:

- That in Camden, 4,190 children in 1,140 households are currently affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments.
- That is 10% of all children in the authority area. At the same time 16,066 local children are living in poverty – 39.6% of all children in the borough.
- That the Liberal Democrats have consistently opposed the two-child limit to benefit payments since it was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017 – calling for it to be axed in their 2017, 2019 and 2024 manifestos.
- The stance of the Labour Government who are committed to keeping the two-child limit – going as far as suspending the whip from MPs who rebel against this position.
- The Labour Party's stance is despite their previous view that the two-child limit was, according to Angela Rayner, "inhumane".
- That the latest research from the Resolution Foundation, released last month, concluded that fully scrapping the two-child limit on benefits is essential and that no partial repeal would be sufficient to prevent child poverty from rising. Using the latest data it showed that the number of children that would be lifted out of poverty overnight by scrapping the cap has increased to 330,000.

This Council strongly believes that the two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped. Research from the University of York has shown its introduction has had no positive impacts on employment and earnings. Instead it has dragged thousands of local families into poverty.

This Council resolves to:

- Formally note its opposition to the two child benefit limit.

- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister to indicate Camden Council's strong belief that the two child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped – which would help 4,190 children living in Camden.
- Further write to the MPs for Holborn and St Pancras, and Hampstead and Highgate, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the cruel two child limit to benefit payments.
- Ensure the number of children a family has is considered when a hardship grant is given out by the Council.

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

This Council notes that,

As well as being the responsible local authority it is by far the largest freeholder of the land to the south of Hampstead Heath and as such has the duty and power to control development so as not to negatively impact the Heath itself and views toward London, from the Heath. The 1871 Act of Parliament, enabling the Metropolitan Board of Works to purchase the land of the Heath for the people, included the essential aim that it should not be enclosed.

The current understandable pressures to provide more housing in the country and specifically Camden's response to them, must be considered with due respect of the need to protect irreplaceable heritage.

At present, there are various sites which are either in, or approaching, the process of redevelopment and which form a perimeter around this critical aspect. These comprise directly owned Camden land such as the Wendling, West Kentish Town or Bacton Estates, land in which Camden is effectively a co-developer such as the Yoo Capital Regis Road site and the Murphy's Yard site, where Camden's planning guidance is paramount in influence. This would form a high degree of visual enclosure.

This Council recognises this heavy responsibility and so resolves to instruct Officers to bring a report to Council outlining how it might be possible to create a policy limiting the height of any new building within this arc to below 8 storeys (or 24 metres) tall and that this should not be a blanket level of development but rather an articulated and faceted horizon leaving the un-enclosed feel of the Heath intact, while producing the much needed new housing accommodation.

**ENDS**