

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

COUNCIL MEETING – 17th NOVEMBER 2025

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Amendment to motion 2 proposed by Councillor Slater and seconded by Councillor Aref-Adib

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.~~
- That the root causes of rising relative child poverty in the UK was the adoption of severe austerity policies, instituted under the Liberal Democrat/Conservative Government of 2010, where Government reforms between 2010 and 2015 including freezes or caps on working-age benefits and tax credits, directly reduced the income of low-income families with children and further stigmatising parents who were not working while completely ignoring low pay for those already in work.
- That this Labour Government was elected on a pledge to reduce child poverty, and has so far, extended eligibility for free school meals, introduced free breakfast clubs, created Best Start Family Hubs, and reduced the cost of school uniforms.
- ~~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 **Conservative** two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped **as soon as possible**. 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. **The Council also notes that the interaction between the two-child limit and the benefit cap, introduced by the Conservative Liberal Democrat coalition, is critical when assessing the impact of welfare changes. The Council believes that scraping the two-child limit should serve as a first step in terms of broader national welfare reform to tackle child poverty, including changes to the benefit cap and the unfreezing of local housing allowance.**

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.~~
- Support the work of the Labour Government's Child Poverty Taskforce, aimed at confronting the wide-ranging and deep rooted causes of child poverty, echoing the work of the last Labour Government where child poverty saw a substantial and sustained reduction.
- 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 Government should look to scrap the two child limit to benefit payments at the earliest opportunity, and look at other welfare reforms, including the Coalition's benefit cap and unfreezing local housing allowance.
- Continue the Council's work in considering the number of children a family has when a hardship grant is given out by the Council.

The amended motion therefore reads:

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 root causes of rising relative child poverty in the UK was the adoption of severe austerity policies, instituted under the Liberal Democrat/Conservative Government of 2010, where Government reforms between 2010 and 2015 including freezes or caps on working-age benefits and tax credits, directly reduced the income of low-income families with children and further stigmatising parents who were not working while completely ignoring low pay for those already in work.
- That this Labour Government was elected on a pledge to reduce child poverty, and has so far, extended eligibility for free school meals, introduced free breakfast clubs, created Best Start Family Hubs, and reduced the cost of school uniforms.

This Council strongly believes that the Conservative two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped as soon as possible. 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. The Council also notes that the interaction between the two-child limit and the benefit cap, introduced by the Conservative Liberal Democrat coalition, is critical when assessing the impact of welfare changes. The Council believes that scrapping the two-child limit should serve as a first step in terms of broader national welfare reform to tackle child poverty, including changes to the benefit cap and the unfreezing of local housing allowance.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the work of the Labour Government's Child Poverty Taskforce, aimed at confronting the wide-ranging and deep rooted causes of child poverty, echoing the work of the last Labour Government where child poverty saw a substantial and sustained reduction.
- 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 Government should look to scrap the two child limit to benefit payments at the

earliest opportunity, and look at other welfare reforms, including the Coalition's benefit cap and unfreezing local housing allowance.

- Continue the Council's work in considering the number of children a family has when a hardship grant is given out by the Council.

Amendment to motion 3 proposed by Councillor Frondigoun and seconded by Councillor Martin-Lane.

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.

This Council further notes that there is already a significant policy framework in place to ensure this heritage is respected, including:

- The Mayor of London's London Views Management Framework, forming part of the London Plan (2021), which exists to guide our consideration of strategic views including views from the Heath and to manage impacts. The London Plan is clear that development proposals should not harm, and should not seek to make a positive contribution to, the characteristics and composition of Strategic Views and their landmark elements.
- Alongside this, the Heath is designated in the London Plan as Metropolitan Open Land, which has the same level of protection as greenbelt in planning terms from inappropriate development on it.
- The draft Local Plan sets out an approach to tall buildings to ensure conformity with the London Plan and identifies potentially appropriate height ranges for relevant sites reflecting the findings of the Camden Building Heights Study. The Plan was approved by full Council in April 2025 and was recently submitted to the Planning Inspectorate following extensive consultation.
- All schemes which are over 30m in height must be referred to the GLA who have an overarching strategic role and who consider the impact of new development on strategic views alongside the local planning authority.

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.~~

~~To continue to take seriously the importance of preserving the heritage of the Heath by complying with the relevant policies and frameworks outlined above, and by continuing to bring forwards the draft Local Plan, including its specific wording to “preserve and enhance Hampstead Heath through....taking into account the impact on the Heath when considering relevant planning applications, including any impacts on views to and from the Heath”~~

The amended motion therefore reads:

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.

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ENDS