

**LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**  
**COUNCIL MEETING – 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024**  
**AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS**

**Amendment to motion 1, proposed by Councillor Izzy Lenga and seconded by Councillor Tommy Gale:-**

The Council notes ~~that~~ the **importance of maintaining and building the** public's faith in the method of Camden Council's consultation on various issues ~~has diminished and seeks to repair this~~.

**Over the years, the council has invested in its participation and engagement work especially to hear the voices of under-represented groups and to create the space and time for residents to deliberate issues. It is vital to open up our decision-making and increase opportunities for citizen action.**

The ~~requirement to embark on~~ Council also carries out engagement with residents on many issues. Engagement differs from ~~cannot be met by the imposition of stilted formal~~ consultations.

The Council resolves to **return** ~~continue to pursue and strive to increase~~ true, open consultation without pre-judgment, without leading questions and with an open mind and the intent of respecting the stated opinions of residents. **It recalls the importance of hearing the** ~~and not selecting to note only those responses~~ views of the widest range of residents possible, which necessarily requires the use of different methods such as citizens' assemblies and residents' panels ~~that suit the designs of the Council~~.

**The amended motion therefore reads:**

The Council notes the importance of maintaining and building the public's faith in the method of Camden Council's consultation on various issues.

Over the years, the council has invested in its participation and engagement work especially to hear the voices of under-represented groups and to create the space and time for residents to deliberate issues. It is vital to open up our decision-making and increase opportunities for citizen action.

The Council also carries out engagement with residents on many issues. Engagement differs from formal consultations.

The Council resolves to continue to pursue and strive to increase true, open consultation without pre-judgment, without leading questions and with an open mind and the intent of respecting the stated opinions of residents. It recalls the importance of hearing the views of the widest range of residents possible, which necessarily requires the use of different methods such as citizens' assemblies and residents' panels.

## **Amendment to motion 2, proposed by Councillor Tom Simon and seconded by Councillor Nancy Jirira:-**

This Council notes:

- That the 2024 General Election result was the least representative ever.
- That the First Past the Post electoral system routinely produces results that are unrepresentative of how the people voted, at national and local level.
- The Labour Party conference in 2022 voted overwhelmingly in favour of introducing PR for General Elections.
- That the Labour manifesto in the 2024 General Election included a commitment to lowering the voting age to 16, but this was not included in the recent King's Speech.
- That the new Labour Government's ~~is~~ **committed** to strengthening our democracy and upholding the integrity of elections across the UK **does not extend to electoral reform**.
- During the 2024 General Election, there were reports of intimidation at polling stations as well as flyposting in the borough. This was followed by misinformation and inappropriate inactivity in the recent by-elections.
- In more transient and younger areas, more eligible voters are unregistered.
- During the pandemic, Camden Council wrote to all registered voters with information about how to sign up for a postal vote, and has since regularly remind voters about this option across all its channels and signposted how this might be done, which has led to an increase in those applying.

This Council believes:

- That electoral reform to introduce proportional representation for national and local elections is essential to ensure that elections are fair and that voting matters.
- That lowering the voting age to 16 is vital to nurturing more active citizens for the future health of our democracy.
- Protecting the right to vote, and the ability for people to do so without intimidation, is central to our democracy.
- The Labour Government is right to review rules around voter ID to expand eligibility and make it easier to vote and address inconsistencies in the system.
- The Government should review the legislation around protecting polling stations from intimidation and interference as part of its work on Defending Democracy.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the new Labour government to introduce proportional representation for national and local elections.
- To call on the new Labour government to lower the voting age to 16.
- To call on the new Labour government to introduce automatic voter registration.

- To send correspondence to all voters in Camden with information about signing up for a postal vote in the next year.
- To write to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to call for a review of the guidance and legislation around conduct outside of polling stations.

**The amended motion therefore reads:**

This Council notes:

- That the 2024 General Election result was the least representative ever.
- That the First Past the Post electoral system routinely produces results that are unrepresentative of how the people voted, at national and local level.
- The Labour Party conference in 2022 voted overwhelmingly in favour of introducing PR for General Elections.
- That the Labour manifesto in the 2024 General Election included a commitment to lowering the voting age to 16, but this was not included in the recent King's Speech.
- That the new Labour Government's commitment to strengthening our democracy and upholding the integrity of elections across the UK does not extend to electoral reform.
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- In more transient and younger areas, more eligible voters are unregistered.
- During the pandemic, Camden Council wrote to all registered voters with information about how to sign up for a postal vote, and has since regularly reminder voters about this option across all its channels and signposted how this might be done, which has led to an increase in those applying.

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- The Labour Government is right to review rules around voter ID to expand eligibility and make it easier to vote and address inconsistencies in the system.
- The Government should review the legislation around protecting polling stations from intimidation and interference as part of its work on Defending Democracy.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the new Labour government to introduce proportional representation for national and local elections.
- To call on the new Labour government to lower the voting age to 16.
- To call on the new Labour government to introduce automatic voter registration.

- To send correspondence to all voters in Camden with information about signing up for a postal vote in the next year.
- To write to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to call for a review of the guidance and legislation around conduct outside of polling stations.

**Amendment to motion 3, proposed by Councillor Matt Cooper and seconded by Councillor Nanouche Umeadi:-**

This Council believes:

That housing in Camden, and across our nation, has been worsened by 14 years of reduced public funding for local government by Conservative governments, whom for over a third of that time were propped up by the Liberal Democrats.

This Council notes:

- The increase in Stage One Complaints about the housing repairs service from 728 in 2021-22 to 1150 in 2022-23 to 1564 in 2023-24.
- The failure to respond to even half of those complaints within the Housing Ombudsman's recommended timescale.
- The high and growing number of Member's Enquiries about housing repairs.
- The findings of maladministration against the council by the Housing Ombudsman.
- The inaugural Tenant Satisfaction Measures survey which shows satisfaction with housing repairs at around the London average, in a field with some terrible performances.
- Constant stories in the local press about poor quality service.

This Council believes:

That a high-quality housing and repairs service is essential for the wellbeing of the Council's tenants and leaseholders.

The Labour administration's frequent claims over the last 14 years to be improving this service have failed to address the fundamental problems of poor communication, missed appointments, poor quality work and damp & mould issues.

That Camden Council should have the ambition to have the best housing repairs service in the UK.

This Council notes:

That there are many factors that have led to the increasing challenge across the housing sector, but by far one of the most crucial is the financing and the precariousness of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) position - austerity-driven policy changes, including cuts to housing benefit, bedroom tax, Universal Credit, Right to Buy, and many more, have led to more than £150 million lost in annual revenue for Camden to spend on the improvement of social housing.

That emerging crises around fire safety and damp and mould in particular, compounded by Camden's aging housing stock, have led to a vast unanticipated increase in spend that has been unaccounted for.

The Council has spent £207m of its' own resources on fire and building safety works since 2017, with little additional financial support from the previous governments, as well as £10million over the past two years on ensuring residents live in properties without damp or mould.

That the demand for social housing has only increased, fuelled by the depletion in affordable private rental properties and poor private rental conditions. Homeless presentations at the Council have risen sharply and are on track to have increased by almost 61% at the start of this year compared to 2022.

Within this difficult climate, and while there is still much to improve, the Council has taken learnings from the Housing Ombudsman's case reviews to implement changes and raise the standard of the housing service through resident engagement, establishing the Housing Resident's Panel and Complaint's Panel, where residents are able to hold the council to account and help shape policies and procedures.

This council calls on:

The Cabinet Member for Better Homes to continue focussing on delivering the ambitious, cross-council, resident-centered Housing Transformation Programme, which aims to make our services more relational, accessible and responsive to residents' needs, while achieving the compliance and financial viability to ensure Camden is a leading social landlord ~~set out the administration's plans to realise that ambition.~~

**The amended motion therefore reads:**

This Council believes:

That housing in Camden, and across our nation, has been worsened by 14 years of reduced public funding for local government by Conservative governments, whom for over a third of that time were propped up by the Liberal Democrats.

That a high-quality housing and repairs service is essential for the wellbeing of the Council's tenants and leaseholders.

This Council notes:

That there are many factors that have led to the increasing challenge across the housing sector, but by far one of the most crucial is the financing and the precariousness of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) position - austerity-driven policy changes, including cuts to housing benefit, bedroom tax, Universal Credit, Right to Buy, and many more, have led to more than £150 million lost in annual revenue for Camden to spend on the improvement of social housing.

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Within this difficult climate, and while there is still much to improve, the Council has taken learnings from the Housing Ombudsman's case reviews to implement changes and raise the standard of the housing service through resident engagement, establishing the Housing Resident's Panel and Complaint's Panel, where residents are able to hold the council to account and help shape policies and procedures.

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**ENDS**