

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN
COUNCIL MEETING – 20TH JANUARY 2025
NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Judy Dixey and which was seconded by Councillor Matthew Kirk

In 2022, Age UK Camden called on candidates in local elections to commit themselves to make Camden an Age-Friendly Community and join the growing network, which so far in London includes Lewisham, Islington, Hackney, Barnet, Sutton, Newham, Lambeth.

Camden Council recognises:

- That councils have a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- That the Borough has a substantial number of members of the older generation among its residents, with a variety of needs and aspirations. According to census data, there are nearly 26,000 Camden residents over 65 (11.9%), with more than 3,000 over 85.
- That Camden has the worst statistic for loneliness among London Boroughs; while some are younger people, the majority will be elderly people.
- Camden has the shameful description of being officially the loneliest place in the country, according to statistics published in a report which warns that isolation can result in poor mental and physical health issues and outcomes, adding to NHS chaos.
- a widespread poll of adult residents in Camden found more than one in three (36%) admitted feeling “lonely often or always”.

Camden Council celebrates:

- We Make Camden, where every department is working towards creating the Borough as a community where people of all generations feel listened to, and that their needs are attended to.
- That the Borough has the established policy of working with residents and the voluntary sector to co-produce ideas and projects.
- That the Borough aspires to be a place where people live well and age well (Supporting People Connecting Communities); however, it acknowledges that Adult Social Care is not the only department where the needs of elderly residents should be taken into account.
- That work is being undertaken to create long-term strategies looking to address these issues, through setting up integrated neighbourhoods, local champions, and engaging with the voluntary sector.

Camden Council further recognises:

- That working to long-term strategies can detract from addressing immediate concerns and resolving particular problems.

Accordingly, the Council calls for:

The Leader of the Council to commit to making Camden an Age-Friendly Borough, bringing the Borough into line with the Age-Friendly Communities approach, which gives the opportunity of sharing learning and working collaboratively with other boroughs and the Mayor of London to develop this concept.

This includes taking up and embedding an age-friendly lens, working with residents, Age UK Camden and other parts of the voluntary sector, to develop ideas, plans and proposals in every department, such as:

Incorporating age-friendly design principles, such as better lighting and welcoming places to rest, into all aspects of planning. Age-Friendly design should make public spaces comfortable for older and disabled residents and foster positive connections between people of all ages.

Particular issues which have been raised over the last two and a half years by older residents include:

- communication: there are many people without IT (for a number of reasons), or others, who prefer or need to talk to a person, not a machine. They need the Council to offer access to a simple phone helpline, with trained staff available to respond in a friendly non-patronising manner.
- the scarcity of public toilets: other boroughs have worked with residents to establish roles with the responsibility to audit current provision; negotiate with businesses, retail and leisure to provide facilities where there are none; create a map of what is available and take responsibility for maintenance.
- streets and pavements: a walking audit will prove the problems and difficulties arising from excess street furniture e.g. A-Boards, uneven paving, bad lighting, poor parking, lack of accessible parking, unacceptable, dangerous and illegal cycle and scooter riding on pavements and floating bus-stops.
- community assets disappearing, such as post offices, banks and High Streets: older and/or disabled residents need facilities locally, providing services for a wide range of users. This includes raising with supermarkets the importance of having an adequate supply of staffed tills.
- accessible transport: better monitoring is needed to ensure it is working satisfactorily.
- parking, low traffic neighbourhoods and Healthy Schools Streets schemes: a flexible person-centred approach would help elderly and disabled residents to welcome these projects e.g. retain visitor parking scratch cards, and putting in place an effective system for permitting essential journeys by motor vehicles for residents living inside these schemes.

Putting these schemes into operation and identifying them with kite marks or brands as part of an Age-Friendly Commitment would greatly benefit elderly and disabled residents, as well as fulfilling the Council's aspirations, expressed in We Make Camden.

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

The Council notes that the government has made mandatory the provision of the number of new homes to be delivered each year in the borough at 3,137. The demand is well in excess of what has been achieved in recent years where the target of 1,100 has been undershot so considerably that only an average of 500 have actually materialised.

Of these, under 40% were affordable.

This requirement is considerably higher than had been suggested in earlier consultation and may well be impossible to achieve.

Camden does not have large tracts of borderline green-belt land within it. There are dwindlingly few brownfield sites and the main areas of available land are the Landsec O2 site and the, as yet to be developed, Murphy's yard. The rest of the borough can only really be tweaked by marginal increased density.

The Council resolves to communicate this situation to central government and make clear that, notwithstanding their election promise to deliver 1.5M new homes in the country, no amount of hectoring will make the impossible possible.

3. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Lotis Bautista and which was seconded by Councillor James Slater

This Council notes:

- Labour-run Camden's Community Investment Programme (CIP) has reached a significant milestone, delivering over 1,500 new homes across the borough.
- CIP was established as a bold and innovative response to years of successive Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government funding cuts, aiming to tackle the borough's housing crisis while investing in community infrastructure.
- CIP provides homes that are genuinely affordable, including council homes for social rent, addressing the critical need for housing that Camden residents can afford.
- As of 2025, Camden has delivered 1,723 new homes. An additional 277 homes are currently under construction of which 184 are affordable.
- In addition to new homes, CIP has delivered new schools, community centres, and improved public spaces, creating lasting benefits for residents and fostering a stronger, more inclusive community. Examples of these include the Greenwood Centre in Kentish Town, Edith Neville Primary School in Somers Town and Kingsgate Primary School.

This Council further notes:

- Camden's commitment to building new council homes stands in stark contrast to the failure of the previous Government to adequately address the national housing crisis.
- The new Labour Government, under the leadership of Keir Starmer MP, has made bold and necessary commitments to house-building and renters rights. This includes pledging over 300,000 new homes each year for the next five years (totalling 1.5 million), with a focus on increasing the number of genuinely affordable homes and prioritising social housing.
- The success of CIP has been recognised nationally, serving as a model for other councils seeking to deliver housing and community improvements despite funding challenges.
- The achievement of delivering 1,500 new homes marks the first step in a broader commitment. This council has plans to deliver even more affordable homes and further invest in Camden's communities.

This Council resolves:

- To celebrate and support the continued success of the Community Investment Programme as a transformative initiative that prioritises the needs of Camden residents.
- To work collaboratively with residents, community groups, and stakeholders to ensure that future developments under CIP meet the highest standards of sustainability, inclusivity, and design.
- To advocate for greater government funding for social housing and infrastructure, recognising the critical role of local authorities in addressing the housing crisis.
- To highlight and promote the achievements of CIP as an example of our Council's values in action, showcasing Camden's leadership in delivering innovative and community-focused solutions.
- To reaffirm its commitment to delivering more affordable homes, improved community facilities, and enhanced public spaces through CIP.

ENDS