

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

COUNCIL MEETING – 19TH JANUARY 2026

AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS

Amendment to motion 1 proposed by Councillor Camron Aref-Adib and seconded by Councillor Matt Cooper

This Council notes:

- The Labour government ~~has provided the first multi-year funding settlement in seven years. This financial certainty is a huge help for Camden's financial planning, and marks a welcome change from the single year settlements under the Tories, which made long-term financial planning extremely difficult.~~
~~Local Government Financial Settlement for Camden Council freezes the per capita core spending power in cash terms for the next three years~~
- ~~The settlement is based on the assumption of a maximum increase in Council Tax for each of the next three years i.e. 4.99%~~
- ~~This means that the council faces a cut in spending in real terms, depending on levels of inflation (3.2% as of November 2025).~~
- ~~Therefore Camden residents will be asked to pay more tax, but will get less.~~
- In addition to the large boost Camden received last year, this means that compared to when the Labour Government came into power, Camden's core spending power is set to rise by 8.5% in cash terms by 2028/29.

This Council further notes

- Media reports that the Council would face a cash terms hit from the settlement were wide of the mark.
- An effective and significant lobbying effort from the Council has helped lead to important changes to the settlement such as the inclusion of housing costs in the formula that calculated the settlement and significant transitional grant funding support. This highlights the value of having a labour-run council working closely with the national government.
- ~~Members of the Labour administration, past and present, have repeatedly criticised reductions in local government funding and have consistently claimed that a Labour Government would deliver improved financial settlements for councils such as Camden. The current settlement contradicts these claims and fails to protect Camden from real term cuts.~~

~~This Council believes that the real-term cuts to the core spending power over the next three years made by the government will put additional pressure on already stretched key public services. This shows that Labour is failing the people of Camden and that the Prime Minister is letting down his own constituents.~~

~~In addition, this Council notes the continuing pressure on the Housing Revenue Account, including the absence of additional "new burdens" funding from the current Government for policy and regulatory changes such as Awaab's Law. This adds~~

~~pressure on the HRA and is a driver of the council's intended increase to council rents.~~

This Council calls on:

- ~~— The Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister asking him to reconsider and revise the settlement so as not to unfairly disadvantage the people of Camden.~~
- The Leader of the Council to work with other London Councils ~~and the Local Government Association~~ to press for ~~a fairer funding settlement, including revisions to the allocation formulae for London~~ longer term reforms on council tax based on updated assumptions about the size of the council tax base in Camden and other London local authorities.

The amended motion therefore reads:

This Council notes:

- The Labour government has provided the first multi-year funding settlement in seven years. This financial certainty is a huge help for Camden's financial planning, and marks a welcome change from the single year settlements under the Tories, which made long-term financial planning extremely difficult.
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This Council calls on:

- The Leader of the Council to work with other London Councils and the Local Government Association to press for longer term reforms on council tax based on updated assumptions about the size of the council tax base in Camden and other London local authorities.

Amendment to motion 2 proposed by Councillor Rishi Madlani and seconded by Councillor Jonathan Simpson

This council notes the essential value of recycling to Camden and the need to engage all residents and visitors to enthusiastically join in with this effort.

At the December meeting of the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee it was noticed noted that the statistics on recycling in 24/25 have actually fallen by around 5% indicate a slight fall from 29.1% to 27.7% compared to the previous year. This unfortunate reduction may well be linked to the removal of many of the street recycling bins in the borough which has had the effect of encouraging greater use of refuse waste bins for recyclable materials.

However, this council also notes that the same annual report shows total residual waste per household has fallen significantly, from 345kg to 300kg, indicating progress in reducing waste overall.

On questioning about the wisdom of this action, officers responded noted that, as well as the potential for fly-tipping/dumping near these facilities which could be more properly controlled by greater enforcement, there were two main reasons for their decision to remove this service to residents street recycling bins adds to the challenge of these as a solution. However, it is also noted that the Council retains on-street recycling banks where appropriate to the local environment.

The first is simply economic. The cost of street recycling and the level of contamination in the bins is considered unwelcome. The second and disturbing justification is that the council wishes to encourage residents to change their natural habits and move away from buying items which lead to recycling.

While Reducing all types of waste is undeniably good, to do so by removing a service and effectively forcing the behaviour of people rather than enabling and encouraging such steps into the realm of big brother and away from Conservative principles which is why the Council is addressing this through a practical and evidence-led Reduction and Recycling Plan focused on reducing waste, increasing recycling and supporting the circular economy.

The Council, therefore, resolves to: replace the street recycling provision and firmly communicate on all new bins, that casual contamination lets down the great majority of people who support the reduction of waste and that enforcement through prosecution is an option.

In this way Camden will benefit and a sensible service will be resumed.

- Continue targeted work to improve recycling performance, such as the work on Borrowdale estate which reduced contamination and increased the use of recycling facilities, and the ongoing offer of doorstep recycling services;
- Continue to promote clear messaging that contamination damages recycling and increases costs;
- Continue targeted food waste engagement to further existing improvements in food waste tonnage collected and higher participation;
- Continue practical 'reuse and repair' activities, including borough-wide repair events delivered with partners to promote recycling and the circular economy.

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ENDS