

## **THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**

At a meeting of the **CABINET** held on **WEDNESDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 2026** at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE.

### **MEMBERS OF THE CABINET PRESENT**

Councillors Richard Olszewski, Sagal Abdi-Wali, Camron Aref-Adib, Marcus Boyland, Pat Callaghan, Nasrine Djemai, Sabrina Francis, Nadia Shah and Anna Wright

### **MEMBERS OF THE CABINET ABSENT**

Councillor Adam Harrison

**The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Cabinet and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harrison.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STATUTORY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, COMPULSORY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND VOLUNTARY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

#### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being broadcast live and was recorded and later made available on the website. Those addressing the meeting were deemed to be consenting to having their contributions recorded and broadcast.

#### **4. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

**5. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT**

There was no notification.

**6. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**7. MATTERS REFERRED FROM A COUNCIL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no matters referred.

**Please note that there were no alternative options considered or rejected by the Cabinet for the following items, unless indicated, although Cabinet Members duly considered, where applicable, options listed within the reports.**

**8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET AND RENT REVIEW 2026/27 (CS/2026/01)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Better Homes.

The Leader of the Council commented on the funding structure of the Housing Revenue Account and the charges levied on residents to fund the service. The freezing of the heating charges was welcomed and officers were thanked for meeting the challenges of providing the service under difficult financial constraints.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT having considered the views of the District Management Committees (Appendix E), the Housing Scrutiny Committee and the results of the Equalities Impact Assessments (Appendix D) and having due regard to the obligations set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:

- a) THAT the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2026/27 (Appendix A) to ensure a balanced HRA budget for 2026/27, which includes a one-off drawdown from HRA reserves of up to £5m be approved.
- b) i.) THAT the increase of social housing rents by 4.8% (CPI + 1%) from April 2026, subject to recommendation b).ii).(paragraph 3.4) be agreed.
- b) ii.) THAT, subject to the Secretary of State / Regulator permitting further increases for 'rent convergence' from April 2026, that all social housing rents

*Cabinet - Wednesday, 14th January, 2026*

not already at 'formula' rent will increase from April 2026 by the maximum permitted, subject to a maximum of £2 a week (and in addition to the increase in recommendation b)i.) (paragraph 3.7) be agreed.

- c) THAT the increase to rents for temporary accommodation (excluding hostels) held in the Council's Housing Revenue Account to the current Local Housing Allowance rate from April 2026 (paragraph 3.13) be agreed.
- d) THAT the revised tenant service charges for Caretaking, CCTV, Communal Lighting, Communal Mechanical and Electrical Maintenance, Grounds Maintenance and Responsive Housing Patrol (paragraph 3.17) be agreed.
- e) THAT the revised service charges in the HRA hostels and supported housing of 4.8% increase and 6.9% increase for concierge and 3% increase for enhanced management charge for sheltered housing (paragraph 3.20) be agreed.
- f) THAT the freezing of heating and hot water charges at 25/26 levels (paragraph 3.25 and Appendix B) be agreed.
- g) THAT the increase of shared ownership rents by RPI + 0.5% (5.0%) (paragraph 3.8) be agreed.
- h) THAT the increase of resident garage rents from £18/week to £20/week from 2026/27 and commercial garage rents by 11% (paragraph 3.21) be agreed.
- i) THAT the increase to other fees and charges by 3% (private garages, estate parking, sheds, cupboards, allotments, keys and fobs, leaseholder fees). (paragraph 3.22-3.23 and Appendix C) be agreed.
- j) THAT that the decisions (a-i) above be exempted from call in, subject to the agreement of the Chair of Housing Scrutiny Committee, in order to facilitate the notice of rent change being given to tenants within the necessary timescales be agreed.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

**9. REPORT OF CAMDEN'S 2025 CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE  
(CS/2026/04)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Leader of the Council.

Members welcomed the report and in response to questions, the Leader of the Council commented on the report's recognition of the culture of Camden and the qualities of the organisation to be proud of. This included the Council's effective delivery of services during challenging financial circumstances, the commitment of officers, the leadership role of Cabinet Members and how important the voices of Camden's communities had been in shaping the Council.

**RESOLVED –**

- i) THAT Camden Council's Corporate Peer Challenge report be noted.
- ii) THAT the interim steps detailed at paragraph 3.2 be agreed.
- iii) THAT the intention to bring a report that sets out in detail how Camden Council will respond to the recommendations within the report of the Corporate Peer Challenge within six months be noted.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

**10. RESPONSE TO THE CABINET ADVISER REPORT ON RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (SC/2026/15)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Community Safety.

Members thanked Councillor Frondigoun for his Cabinet Adviser report and it was noted as a valuable example of how Councillors outside of the Cabinet had been able to engage with Camden's communities and contribute to the Cabinet process. It was also noted that the report was an indication of how the police and the Council had continued to work together and had provided confidence to residents about the action being taken to deal with antisocial behaviour in the borough.

**RESOLVED –**

- i) THAT the Cabinet Adviser's report on Resident Engagement on Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Safety be noted.
- ii) THAT the actions and responses to be taken in response to Councillor Frondigoun's report as summarised at section 4.V be agreed.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

**11. PROPOSAL FOR A BOROUGH-WIDE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL (SC/2026/11)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the draft Public Spaces Protection Order, as set out in section 3 and in the form of the draft order attached at appendix A, be approved for consultation.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

**12. AWARD OF GRANT FOR DELIVERY OF THE CAMDEN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME 2026-2029 (AH/2026/01)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families.

The Cabinet Member thanked officers, especially the Young Camden Foundation and the voluntary and community sector, for the work to support the Camden Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

**RESOLVED –**

- i) THAT the proposal to continue delivery of the Camden Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and the related award of a grant over 3 years to the Young Camden Foundation (YCF) to be the HAF coordination and quality assurance partner for the project be approved.
- ii) THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Health and Wellbeing, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families, to release the grant to YCF annually until 2028/2029, in line with Department for Education allocation levels and subject to performance.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

**13. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR CARE AND SUPPORT AT HOME  
(AH/2025/14)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care.

Members noted the importance of the strategy, and the local engagement that had helped to inform the implementation of this work and shape how it would benefit Camden's communities.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT, having considered the results of the equalities impact assessment at Appendix 2, and having due regard to the obligations set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:

- i) THAT the procurement strategy, which includes a price/quality split of 40:60 and contract term of 84 months including break clauses at the end of year 3 and year 5, at the sole discretion of the Council, for an estimated aggregate value including extensions of £217.2 million for homecare and £16.8 million for reablement be agreed.
- ii) THAT authority be delegated to the Executive Director Adults and Health to make any modifications or refinements to the procurement procedure detailed in this Cabinet report, provided that such changes fall within the allowable parameters under the Competitive Flexible Procedure of the Procurement Act 2023.
- iii) THAT the Contract Award Decision be delegated to the authority of the Executive Director Adults and Health following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care.
- iv) THAT waivers to implement extensions to each of the 8 current contracts, for up to a maximum of 4 months, in order to enable the safe transition of residents and staff to any new contract that cannot safely commence on 1 October 2026 at a total cost of £6,718,325 be agreed.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

**14. APPROVAL OF RESOURCE BASE FOR COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES (CS/2026/02)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living.

**RESOLVED –**

THAT the following be recommended to full Council:

1. THAT the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the year 2026/2027 as set out in appendix 1 be approved.
2. THAT in accordance with Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by the London Borough of Camden as its Council Tax Base for the year 2025/2026 shall be 97,486 as shown in appendix 1.
3. THAT the tax base for the three Garden Squares as shown in appendix 2 shall be as follows:

Gordon Square	23.62
Fitzroy Square	66.06
Mecklenburgh Square	115.27

4. THAT having due regard to the contents of Appendix A, the review of the impact of the levy charges in the body of this report and the alternative taxbase presented were they to be revoked, to agree and recommend the Council to agree:
  - i) THAT the Long-Term Empty Homes Premium of 100% for properties empty for 1 year or more is chargeable for 2026/27.
  - ii) THAT that the Long-Term Empty Homes Premium of 200% for properties empty for 5 years or more is chargeable for 2026/27.
  - iii) THAT the Long-Term Empty Homes Premium of 300% for properties empty for 10 years or more is chargeable for 2026/27.
  - iv) THAT the Second Home Premium of 100% for properties meeting the Council Tax definition of second homes is chargeable for 2026/27
  - v) THAT empty and unfurnished properties continue to receive a 100% discount for the first month and standard council tax charge for the next 11 months (prior to the Long-Term Empty Homes Premium of 100% being applicable thereafter) for 2026/27

*Cabinet - Wednesday, 14th January, 2026*

- vi) THAT the 25% discount for homes that are uninhabitable or undergoing major works is still applicable for 2026/27
5. THAT the approach and assumptions for the calculation of the Council's business rates yield as set out in appendix 3 be approved.
6. THAT, in accordance with the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013, the amount calculated by the London Borough of Camden as its Business Rates yield for the year 2026/2027 shall be c£760 million as shown in line 16 of Appendix 3.
7. THAT authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living, to make any adjustments to the calculation of the estimated Business Rates yield for year 2026/2027. This is to reflect any technical amendments to the calculations or late regulatory changes made by the Treasury.
8. THAT authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer to submit the notification of the calculation of the estimated Non-Domestic Rates income to the Secretary of State and the Greater London Authority by 31 January 2026 via the formal NDR1 return process.

Reasons

For the reasons set out in the report.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm.

**CHAIR**

**Contact Officer: Donna Alexander-Morrison**

**Telephone No: 020 7974 5319**

**E-Mail: donna.alexander-morrison@camden.gov.uk**

**MINUTES END**