

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: Kilburn
REPORT TITLE Adoption of Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan (SC/2026/13)	
REPORT OF Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Cabinet Council	DATE 25 February 2026 2 March 2026
STRATEGIC CONTEXT We Make Camden is our joint vision for the borough, developed in partnership with our community. Neighbourhood planning accords with the ambitions set out in We Make Camden, in particular those relating to safe, strong and open communities and Camden being a green, clean and sustainable place where everyone is empowered to contribute to tackling the climate emergency. The Way We Work is the Council’s response to We Make Camden. The proposals set out in this report contribute to the commitments and ambitions in the way the Council works to supports its citizens as designation allows neighbourhood forums to play an active role in planning for their community and local area through producing a Neighbourhood Plan.	
SUMMARY OF REPORT This report seeks the ‘making’ (that is, adoption) of the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan, following a successful local referendum. The Neighbourhood Plan, prepared by the Kilburn Neighbourhood Forum, relates to a cross boundary area (with Camden and Brent Council) covering the Kilburn wards in both boroughs, including Kilburn High Road. The Neighbourhood Plan will be used alongside the Council’s own documents to decide planning applications in the neighbourhood planning area. The report is being taken to Cabinet because the Council’s Constitution requires all of the Council’s development plan documents (which includes Neighbourhood Plans) to be agreed by Cabinet, recommending them to full Council for approval where appropriate. Functions of the full Council in the Constitution include adopting the policy framework, which includes the development plan. The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 requires development plan documents to be adopted by full Council. Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information No documents that require listing were used in the preparation of this report.	

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet

That the Cabinet, having due regard to the equality impact assessment in Appendix 3 and having due regard to the obligations set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, recommend the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan set out in Appendix 2 to this report to full Council for a formal resolution to make the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan.

Council

The Council is recommended to make the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in Appendix 2 to this report, and approve the adoption statement set out in Appendix 4.



Signed:

Date: 12th February 2026

1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. This report seeks authority to make (adopt) the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan following a local referendum.
- 1.2. Communities can prepare neighbourhood plans to influence the future of their areas. These are statutory planning documents which can establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood. Neighbourhood plans must be prepared by the community through designated neighbourhood forums, and once prepared, are subject to public consultation, independent examination and a local referendum.
- 1.3. The Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan relates to the whole of Kilburn ward in both Camden and Brent. A map of the Kilburn Neighbourhood Area is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.4. The overarching Vision of the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan is *“Kilburn will remain a distinctive and important part of London, an area that stitches together a community divided by an administrative boundary. The character of Kilburn shall be strengthened, reflecting its rich legacy of architectural quality, vibrant social and commercial life and cultural identity.”* The Plan is structured around four main objectives – To enhance the experience of the High Road for all; To promote high levels of design which respond to local character; To preserve, enhance and promote the distinct identity and heritage of Kilburn; and To present a coordinated voice.
- 1.5. Key elements of the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan are:
 - Improving the public realm along the High Road
 - Supporting Mobility hubs
 - Incorporating Sustainable Drainage systems and other measures to mitigate water run off
 - Providing a design code for developments within the town centre boundary along Kilburn High Road, Willesden Lane and Belsize Road
 - Supporting streets for people
 - Supporting entertainment and leisure uses along the High Road (the ‘music mile’), but not betting shops / bookmakers. adult gaming or casinos
 - Supporting creative industries and appropriate new market and street stalls.
- 1.6. Two stages of public consultation were undertaken on the draft Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan (see Section 5). During the second consultation, the Councils appointed an independent Examiner, Mr Derek Stebbing, to assess the Plan against statutory requirements. Camden and Brent Councils submitted a joint representation on the ‘submission draft’ Neighbourhood Plan in its role as the local planning authorities. In general, this expressed support for the proposed Neighbourhood Plan but identified a number of areas where its clarity could be improved in the wording of policies.

- 1.7. The Examiner issued his report in September 2025. The Examiner's report found that, subject to a number of modifications, the Plan met the 'Basic Conditions' - the statutory tests which neighbourhood plans are expected to meet - and could proceed to a local referendum.
- 1.8. The Council published its statutory 'Decision Statement' on 23 October 2025 setting out a formal response to the Examiner's recommended changes to the Plan and confirming that the Council would take the Plan forward to a referendum in the Neighbourhood Area. Brent Council also issued a Decision Statement.
- 1.9. The referendum was held on 11 December 2025. This asked those who live in the area if they would support the Councils using the Neighbourhood Plan when making decisions on planning applications in their area. A majority of those who voted supported the use of the Plan (see paragraph 2.3 below).

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 Under section 38 (3B) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 a neighbourhood plan forms part of a council's statutory development plan from the point of the neighbourhood plan has been approved at local referendum. This means that, even though the Council is yet to formally 'make' the plan, it has acquired full weight in planning decisions within the Neighbourhood Area. There is nevertheless a statutory requirement for the Council to 'make' (adopt) a neighbourhood plan that has been approved at referendum. The Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan is, therefore already being treated by the Councils as part of the development plan, when making planning decisions in the Kilburn Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.2 Neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic planning policies of the development plan for the neighbourhood area, and should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. The examination found that this requirement had been satisfied, taking into account the representations made by Camden and Brent Councils.
- 2.3 9% of electors in the neighbourhood area voted in the referendum on 11 December 2025, with a majority in favour of the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the Plan area. The results of the referendum were:

Response	Votes	Percent of total
Yes	1164	88
No	164	12

- 2.4 The Council's Constitution requires all of the Council's development plan documents (which includes Neighbourhood Plans) to be agreed by Cabinet, recommending them to full Council for approval where appropriate. Functions of the full Council in the Constitution include adopting the policy framework, which includes the development plan. The Local Authorities (Functions and

Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 requires development plan documents to be adopted by full Council.

- 2.5 As soon as reasonably practicable after a neighbourhood plan is made, the Council must publish the Plan together with an 'Adoption Statement', setting out where, and at what times, the Plan can be viewed. A draft adoption statement is attached in Appendix 4.
- 2.6 The Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan will help enable the delivery of 'We Make Camden' ambitions particularly around ensuring that neighbourhoods in Camden are green, clean, vibrant, accessible and sustainable. The Plan contains objectives around other local priorities such as maintaining vibrant and healthy Kilburn High Road, promoting alternatives to motor vehicle traffic through public realm improvements, and seeking strong social connections.

3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to 'make' or adopt the Neighbourhood Plan. This is to confirm that the Council is satisfied that a neighbourhood plan meets all the statutory requirements. The alternative would be that Council decides not to make ('adopt') the Plan. This is not the recommended option. This would mean that the Neighbourhood Plan ceases to be part of the development plan for the area (the status it acquired on being approved at the local referendum).
- 3.2 Officers are satisfied that the making of the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan would not breach, nor would otherwise be incompatible with, any legal obligations.

4. WHAT ARE THE KEY IMPACTS / RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?

- 4.1 The key impact is that the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan will be used alongside the Council's own adopted planning policies to make decisions on planning applications in the area. The 'making' of the Plan confirms the agreement of the Council that the Plan meets all statutory obligations.
- 4.2 The Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by the Kilburn Neighbourhood Forum, with the support and advice of Council officers from Camden and Brent. This helped to ensure that the Plan was prepared in line with statutory requirements. Draft versions of the Neighbourhood Plan were reviewed by relevant Council services to ensure that any issues relating to the Plan's impact on other Council strategies and duties could be identified and addressed.
- 4.3 During the Independent Examination the Neighbourhood Plan was found to be in general conformity with the Council's adopted strategic planning policies set out in the Camden Local Plan.
- 4.4 The Council undertook an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan to assess the Plan's impact on 'protected groups' and

how the policies might impact on equality. The findings were shared with the Neighbourhood Forum to inform the plan as necessary. The assessment found that all of the draft Plan's policies were likely to have positive or neutral effects on people with protected characteristics and other characteristics assessed through the Council's EqIA attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

5. CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 Consultation has occurred throughout the preparation of the Plan. Details of the consultation methods used and how the community was engaged, including hard to reach groups, are set out in the Plan's 'Consultation Statement' – one of the supporting documents submitted alongside the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Forum undertook consultation on a full draft Plan commencing in January 2024 (Regulation 14). The Forum then made changes to the Plan taking into account the comments received.
- 5.2 This was followed by a further consultation on the submission draft version of the Plan during May to July 2025, undertaken by Camden and Brent Councils in accordance with statutory requirements. The Plan was publicised for eight weeks and representations invited. The responses received were passed to the examiner for consideration as part of the examination.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Borough Solicitor's comments are included in the text of this report.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report seeks the approval of Cabinet member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden for the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan.
- 7.2 There are no cost implications associated with the making (adoption) of the plan for the council. However, Camden (lead authority) receives a neighbourhood planning grant to cover consultation, examination and referendum costs
- 7.3 A grant of £20,000 is paid for a new plan. As this is a joint Neighbourhood Plan, the grant will be shared with Brent council.
- 7.4 The grant will be claimed in 2025/26 and the expenditure incurred by Camden (examination and referendum) will be deducted from the grant. The remaining balance will be shared 50/50 with Brent council.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The vision of Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan includes "highly visible street improvements", improved drainage and a programme of street greening instigated along the High Road and extending into green corridors'.

- 8.2 Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development (one of the Basic Conditions tested at examination). The Plan incorporates a development policy which sets out the expectations around the High Road public realm including supporting biodiversity and helping deliver rain gardens to help manage surface water run off.

TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 9.1 As set out in paragraph 2.1 of this report, the Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan has acquired full statutory weight having been approved at the local referendum. It is used by the Council to determine planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 9.2 As soon as reasonably practicable after a neighbourhood plan is made, the Council must publish the Plan together with an 'Adoption Statement', setting out where, and at what times, the Plan can be viewed. A copy of the document must also be sent to the Secretary for State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. A draft 'Adoption Statement' is set out in Appendix 4 of this report.
- 9.3 Adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan concludes the plan-making process and confirms that the Council is satisfied that all of the relevant statutory requirements have been met. Following adoption, the Council will continue using the Plan in planning decisions in the Kilburn neighbourhood area.
- 9.4 It will be for the Forum to decide whether it wishes to update its neighbourhood plan policies or prepare a replacement plan in the future.

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 - Designated Kilburn Neighbourhood Area
Appendix 2 - Kilburn Neighbourhood Plan made version
Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 4 - Adoption Statement

REPORT ENDS