

COUNCIL – 2nd MARCH 2026

BUSINESS FROM THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ON 19th JANUARY 2026

Report of the Borough Solicitor

This report relates to the unconsidered motions and the responses to written Council questions from the Council meeting held on 19th January 2026.

1. Background

The Constitution advises that where motions have not been dealt with at the conclusion of the meeting of the Council, they fall without discussion and are passed onto the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee Chair whose response is then to be provided to the next meeting of the Council. Also, the responses to written questions that were provided for last ordinary Council meeting are to be circulated as part of the next meeting's agenda for information. These responses are then noted at that next meeting without debate.

2. Responses to motions

At the meeting of the Council held on 19th January 2026, there were two motions that were not considered due to lack of time. As the Constitution requires, these motions were passed to the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee Chair, who is required to report back to the next meeting of the Council. A copy of the motions and the responses are attached at Appendix A to this report.

3. Responses to written questions from Councillors

The written questions from Councillors and the responses from Cabinet Members linked to the Council meeting on 19th January 2026 are attached as Appendix B.

4. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

UNCONSIDERED MOTIONS

Appendix A

- 1. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Steve Adams and which was seconded by Councillor Andrew Parkinson**

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 that the statistics on recycling in 24/25 have actually fallen by around 5% from 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.

On questioning about the wisdom of this action, officers responded that, as well as the potential for fly-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.

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.

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.

RESPONSE BY CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND A SUSTAINABLE CAMDEN

Camden provides a full range of recycling services to residents across the borough and are introducing additional provision to ensure we are in line with the Government's Simpler Recycling requirements to standardise recycling across England, with collection of food waste, paper, card, glass, metal and plastic (bottles, tubs, pots & trays) for all households.

Camden faces specific challenges dealing with waste due to its central / inner London location. A key issue is the composition of our housing stock, 83% of which is flats, and a significant number of properties without gardens. This means many

homes have limited space for storing recycling containers and reduced opportunities for composting. Camden also has a relatively high percentage of deprived households, a low percentage of household ownership, and high levels of transiency owing to the private rental market (34% of all households) and prominent student population, all of which are negatively correlated with household recycling rates.

Camden does offer on-street recycling banks in certain parts of the borough. However, where recycling banks regularly attract waste dumping their recycling gets contaminated and so, following actions, the last resort can result in removal and support for local community to engage in their local kerbside collections. Contaminated recycling is both expensive and wasteful, costing North London around £3.4m last year.

We will continue to carry out targeted communications to raise awareness of contamination on the most affected collection rounds, with face-to-face engagement in neighbourhoods and circulating local communications materials. We will also work with the North London Waste Authority to deliver doorstepping campaigns to reduce contamination and boost recycling participation, focusing on educating residents at their doorstep to eliminate the most common contaminants found in the recycling stream.

The Council recognises that recycling rates and tonnages tend to fluctuate due to a number of factors such as seasonal, operational, and social change. Half of the inner London authority recycling rates reduced in 2023/24 compared to the previous year, including Camden.

The Council will continue to lobby for a change in the way that recycling performance is measured, to ensure that we work towards a low waste, low carbon borough. Recycling rates are weight-based which are useful for measuring performance but do not reflect the environmental impact of waste recycled. This can lead to a focus on collecting heavier materials such as garden waste rather than those that have a higher carbon impact such as food and textiles. Moving to carbon-based metrics would better support ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and align with transition to a circular economy.

2. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Sagal Abdi-Wali and which was seconded by Councillor Marcus Boyland

This council notes:

- That since the last local elections, Camden Labour has listened to what residents told us they needed most and we have delivered real, visible improvements as a result. Our approach is rooted in security and dignity in everyday life, investing in the foundations that make Camden work, widening opportunity in a diverse borough, and building pride in place for the future.

This council further notes:

- Residents told us they want safer neighbourhoods and the confidence that problems will be dealt with. Camden Labour has delivered an ASB Review (including a single reporting route and dedicated ASB officers), backed by visible enforcement (more than 1,300 fixed penalty notices and 650 statutory notices between 2024-25 alone) and the Camden Safety Bus (with over 1,500 engagements in 2025).
- Residents told us they want safe, warm, well-maintained council homes: the foundation of security for thousands of our families. Camden Labour has delivered major investment and building safety at scale, including approving a £670m Housing Investment Strategy covering fire safety, retrofit and major works, and improving repairs and resident experience (with independent surveys now showing an average of 85% satisfaction with day-to-day repairs).
- Residents told us we must tackle overcrowding and homelessness so more families can live and thrive in Camden. Camden Labour has delivered new homes through the Community Investment Programme (including hitting the halfway milestone of 1,500 homes), secured £20m for the Temporary Accommodation Purchase Programme, delivered over 200 larger family-sized properties via the Family Friendly Housing Purchase programme, and is delivering new family hostels while driving the number of families in unsuitable B&Bs for over six weeks down from 70 to 0, and in Premier Inn and Travelodge from 180 to 0.
- Residents told us they want high-quality care and support people can rely on. Camden Labour has delivered an Outstanding CQC rating for Adult Social Care (the first local authority in the country to receive this under the new system), launched a Carers Action Plan with unpaid carers, supported over 1,300 residents to get active with physical activity programmes, and expanded indoor air quality monitoring prioritising vulnerable households.
- Residents told us they want Camden to be a great place for their children to grow up and learn. Camden Labour has helped secure free school meals for all primary-age children in Camden (almost 10,000 children), with all Camden schools rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, alongside strong youth and cultural provision including an outstanding Youth Justice rating, major library improvements, and large-scale cultural participation for young people.
- Residents told us they want support through the cost-of-living crisis and strong local community organisations. Camden Labour has backed our voluntary sector with over £4m annual investment for 100+ organisations, expanded resident-led neighbourhood projects through the We Make Camden Project Fund, and supported 10,000 residents via the Camden Advice Network generating £10m in financial gains and writing off £1.8m in debt.
- Residents told us they want to feel pride in Camden as a place – a cleaner, greener borough with well-kept parks and public spaces. Camden Labour has invested £12.7m in parks and green spaces since 2020 (including new spaces like Alfred Place gardens and pocket parks), is planting 600 trees per year, and has invested an additional £1m per year in street cleaning and enforcement including higher fly-tipping fines.

This council resolves:

1. To put on record that these achievements reflect Camden Labour having stood by consistent priorities for the borough and investing heavily in the

foundations residents rely on: safe neighbourhoods, decent homes, high-quality care, great schools and youth services, strong community support, and well-kept parks and public spaces. This stands in clear contrast to the local austerity politics pursued when the Liberal Democrats previously ran Camden with the Conservatives, and returning to this style of politics could reverse hard-won progress.

2. To recognise that, whatever the national funding context, the difference is how a council chooses to respond - and that Camden Labour has consistently prioritised protecting frontline services and directing investment towards the issues residents care about most.

RESPONSE BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

I want to thank Councillor Abdi-Wali for bringing forward this motion, because it sets out something that cannot be said often enough: Camden is delivering, and we are delivering because we have made deliberate political choices rooted in fairness, ambition and a belief that every resident deserves security, opportunity and dignity. Camden is not just another London borough. We are an economic powerhouse, generating £35 billion a year, contributing 2% of the UK's GDP, and home to over 430,000 jobs. From the Knowledge Quarter to our high streets and to the thousands of freelancers living in the borough, Camden's success underpins national growth. And over the past year, my leadership has been focused on ensuring that this economic strength works for Camden residents, not just for globally recognised institutions and businesses.

That is why we have taken a proactive, determined approach: to steward growth, not simply manage it; to demand that economic success translates into good work, skills, health and thriving communities. The record set out in this motion shows exactly what political leadership looks like. When residents told us they wanted safer neighbourhoods, we delivered a full anti-social behaviour review, dedicated officers, visible enforcement and the Camden Safety Bus. When residents told us they needed warm, safe, and well-maintained homes, we initiated a £670m Housing Investment Strategy and improved repairs satisfaction to 85%. When families were trapped in unsuitable temporary accommodation, we drove the number of families in unsuitable B&Bs for more than six weeks down to zero. When residents needed support through the cost-of-living crisis, we invested in welfare advice, neighbourhood support and the voluntary sector, securing over £10m in financial gains for residents.

These are not accidental outcomes. They are the result of consistent political priorities and the refusal to make cuts to the foundations of a fair society. And Camden stands in stark contrast to the approach taken when others held responsibility for this borough. When the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives ran Camden, the strategy was austerity, retrenchment, and shrinking ambition. Services were cut, investment stalled, council houses flogged off with no reinvestment and inequalities widened. We have spent the last decade rebuilding from that damage, and the progress we have made should never be taken for granted.

Today, Camden's services are not just good; they are officially Outstanding – not just once, but three times. Independent inspections have said so, across children's

services, adult social care and youth justice. This is the product of investment, stability and strong political direction. And we are not slowing down. We are driving the next phase of inclusive growth based on the statement of intent approved by Cabinet on 25 February 2026, ensuring development delivers not just buildings, but apprenticeships, affordable workspace, high-quality public spaces and new homes. We will continue pushing for the best for residents from major schemes in Kilburn, Crowndale and Godwin, Agar Grove and West Kentish Town. We will maintain a strong, preventative approach to the cost-of-living crisis, and we will remain a clear voice in national discussions on SEND reform.

Most importantly, we will keep doing what this administration has always done: protecting frontline services, investing in what matters, and standing up for the people of Camden when times are toughest. That is the difference political leadership makes. And that is the difference Camden Labour leadership has made, and will continue to make, for this borough.

ENDS

APPENDIX B

RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION 1

TO THE: CABINET FOR NEW HOMES AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

BY: COUNCILLOR STEVE ADAMS

Can the Council clarify how much money on completion, will have been spent on the incredibly unpopular Queens Crescent Market Street resurfacing project? Concerned local residents believe this to amount to well over £4M and the matter has been raised within the GLA, which contributed substantial funds.

Can the Council state the exact make-up of The Queens Crescent Team?
Does the Council consider this expenditure a prudent use of public funds in these current times?

REPLY

In 2019, extensive community co-design and public engagement exercises created the development principles for the Queen's Crescent Public Realm scheme. This work highlighted the priorities of local residents and businesses for making Queen's Crescent a space for the community, a healthy street and one which celebrates culture and supports the local market.

These principles shaped the Queen's Crescent Public Realm scheme, delivering a street with less traffic, more opportunities to safely walk and cycle, with increased seating to stop and rest. The motor-traffic free zone has closed off a traffic rat-run, reducing accidents and creating a more pleasant environment for walking, wheeling, and cycling. This zone offers further opportunity to develop the local market. The wider and freshly resurfaced pavements, continuous raised crossing points, and traffic-free areas have made walking and wheeling more comfortable and safer, encouraging people to visit Queen's Crescent on foot.

Also, new high-quality lighting has been installed to address negative perceptions of safety at night and during darker times of the year. New trees and extensive planting have introduced greenery to the Crescent, helping to create a more pleasant environment and support biodiversity. Investment in the market has also delivered new electricity bollards for traders.

This investment in Queen's Crescent market ties in with Camden's draft Street Markets Strategy, which is being presented to February's Cabinet meeting. The draft strategy sets out our vision for street markets in Camden, built on providing opportunities for self-employment, stimulating economic growth, creating vibrant, safe, inclusive, and social spaces where we can celebrate culture and creativity within our communities. On 29 November 2025, the successful Queen's Crescent Winter Light Festival was held to celebrate this new space and to highlight how such

investment supports community-focused events, showcases local culture and talent, promotes local businesses, and supports new traders in the market.

The total expenditure of the scheme is £3.7m, of which £1.9m was from GLA Good Growth Fund and £0.46m from Levelling Up funding and Department of Transport. This expenditure funded all stages of the public realm scheme including engagement, design, management, infrastructure, and delivery. A range of services from across the Council, alongside specialist consultants and contractors, have worked to deliver this scheme, creating a vibrant and sustainable Queen's Crescent with a healthier and safer high street for people to travel by active modes of transport.

QUESTION 2

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BETTER HOMES

BY: COUNCILLOR IZZY LENGA

Recalling the deputation heard at Full Council from young people involved in the Doorstep Project about the lack of free Wi-Fi in Camden's hostels, can the Cabinet Member outline what progress has been made in addressing this issue affecting young people and families living in hostels?

REPLY

Delivering free Wi-Fi in Camden's hostels is a complex programme. Many of the buildings are historic, and retrofitting structured cabling requires intrusive building works, careful design, and close co-ordination with property colleagues. Officers have also experienced delays linked to wayleaves, which are the legal agreements required between telecommunications providers and the building owner or freeholder to permit the installation of internet infrastructure. These factors have had a material impact on delivery timescales.

Family hostels

Customer, Technology & Data Services (CTDS) was asked to deliver free Wi-Fi across the three family hostels directly operated by Camden. Installation at Abbots & Levine Family Hostel in South Hampstead was completed in December, and residents now have access to free in-room Wi-Fi. At Belmont Hostel, the physical installation is complete, and the available bandwidth will be upgraded as soon as the outstanding wayleave is signed.

Greenwood Annex already has an existing Wi-Fi in-room solution in place, which is fully operational. This will be upgraded in the second half of 2026 to replace legacy equipment and align it with the newer standards being deployed across the wider estate.

Extending the service to single-person pathway hostels

Financial support from Cisco, one of the Council's strategic IT suppliers, has made it viable to extend free Wi-Fi beyond family hostels to the remaining directly operated single-person pathway hostels. This includes Mount Pleasant, West End Lane, Holmes Road and North Villas.

Subject to the completion of wayleaves and, where required, permission from the freeholder, these sites are anticipated to be delivered by May 2026. As with the family hostels, delivery timescales remain dependent on resolving legal permissions and managing the physical constraints of older buildings. The redeveloped hostels at Camden Road and Chester Road will be equipped with in-room Wi-Fi when they reopen.

Supporting commissioned providers to provide Wi-Fi

Alongside work in directly operated hostels, the Council is also supporting commissioned providers to improve digital access for residents. Our Housing Service is currently surveying commissioned providers to understand the current offer and exploring how best to introduce free Wi-Fi directly into residents' rooms as part of service expectations and commissioning contracts.

Where this cannot be delivered immediately, temporary solutions are being put in place using Jangala boxes. A Jangala box is a portable, self-contained Wi-Fi system that uses mobile 5G connectivity to provide internet access within individual rooms. This allows residents to temporarily benefit from connectivity while providers seek funding to implement longer-term infrastructure solutions.

As part of this approach, the devices provided by Camden give each resident a 125 GB data allowance per month, ensuring residents can reliably access online services during the interim period. The first 50 devices were provided to residents at Endell Street Hostel, run by St Mungo's, in October 2025. Funded through social value initiatives, these devices are in great demand, and officers are working to secure additional devices from the charity to expand the offer.

Improving minimum digital living standards through social value

Alongside the core Wi-Fi rollout, several strategic IT suppliers have contributed through Camden's CTDS social value programme to help improve minimum digital living standards for residents living in temporary accommodation.

Working with Doorstep London, which supports families at Abbots & Levine, strategic IT suppliers donated equipment in December 2025 to help residents make the most of their new connectivity. This includes 46 50-inch 4K smart TVs gifted to families by Trustmarque and Philips, USB headsets donated by Jabra to support online learning and communication, and laptops donated by Kocycle to help families access services and develop digital skills.

In addition, interactive touch screens have been donated and installed by GVAV in community rooms at Abbots & Levine, Belmont, and West End Lane hostels. In total, over £40,000 of equipment has been provided at Abbots & Levine alone.

CTDS officers have also carried out door-knocking on two occasions to help residents get set up, connect devices, and troubleshoot issues in person. Building on this work, there are plans to deliver cyber awareness training for residents living in temporary accommodation, delivered by Microsoft and Google in partnership with Doorstep London and Caris Families.

As opportunities arise, CTDS officers intend to direct further investment through Camden's CTDS social value programme into temporary accommodation, ensuring that digital connectivity is supported by appropriate devices, skills, and awareness so residents can safely and confidently engage online.

QUESTION 3

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR, EQUALITIES AND COHESION

BY: COUNCILLOR JUDY DIXEY

What concrete progress has been made on making Camden an Age and Disabled-Friendly Borough since the agreed motion in January last year?

In particular, what plans does Camden have regarding bus stops, specifically Shared Use Bus Boarders (SUBBs); this is where pedestrians and cyclists cross a shared space, stepping directly into a cycle track with associated dangers to disabled and vulnerable people.

The Government has requested that all local authorities in England halt the provision of these SUBBs. Please confirm that no more SUBBs will be installed and set out plans to address the dangers posed by existing SUBBs.

REPLY

We have mapped services work in the relevant areas and are currently planning communication plans to better disseminate the work being done to date. There are also conversations across the Council on proactively considering inclusion in service workplans. Camden are also in the process of commissioning an interactive mapping approach to provide clear, visual accessibility information about venues and local areas, supporting disabled people to plan visits with confidence. This aligns with embedding social-model and co-production principles, improving understanding of local accessibility barriers, supporting inclusive service planning, and contributing to wider aims around accessibility, participation, and tackling social isolation. Furthermore, the Equalities Service have now taken over the management and refresh of the Interpreting, translation and transcription services Council wide to better ensure residents have the service they need when they need it.

We are also shaping our 2026 Inclusion Calendar around strengthened focus areas - such as disability inclusion and men's mental health - reflecting emerging needs across our workforce and the borough. This resource is intended to be used as a

practical, purposeful tool for raising awareness and supporting a more inclusive Camden.

In December 2025, Camden reported to Scrutiny on progress under the Transport Strategy, including schemes to improve accessibility for older and disabled residents. Camden continues to follow national guidance on bus stop design and, in line with the Government's request, has paused any new Shared Use Bus Boarders (SUBBs) while a national review is underway. Camden has had SUBB layouts on our roads for around 15 years without recorded safety issues but currently has no plans for new SUBBs in development. We remain committed to balancing the needs of all road users, including children and women, who tell us that feeling safe is the biggest barrier to cycling and reducing reliance on motor vehicles.

QUESTION 4

**TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND A SUSTAINABLE
CAMDEN**

BY: COUNCILLOR SHARON HARDWICK

The sloping and unsafe pavement outside the new development at 156 West End Lane, West Hampstead is currently undergoing repair. Please provide an outline explaining why this issue occurred and how, as a Council, we can prevent similar problems from arising in the future.

REPLY

Thank you to Cllr Hardwick for her persistent advocacy on behalf of the community on this issue.

Planning permission was granted for redevelopment of 156 West End Lane to provide new homes and commercial units fronting West End Lane. This was subject to a Section 106 legal agreement which secured various obligations to mitigate the impact of the development. This included an obligation for the payment of a highway contribution to cover the cost of any repair works to the footway. It is general practice for contributions to be paid to the Council before the development starts, to ensure at the outset there is budget to repair damage caused by construction to the Council's land. These funds are generally not used by the Council until the development works are finished (there would be no point) but are made available earlier in case temporary repair works are also needed, and importantly to avoid a situation where a development is complete and developer funds to deal with repairs are no longer available.

The situation arose because the developer, having already paid the agreed Section 106 contribution for highway works, undertook pavement reinstatement themselves rather than waiting for the Council to deliver the works. This was done without formal consent from the Highway Authority. The works were being undertaken behind a hoarding, even though the land is adopted public highway and is under Camden's responsibility. The Council are now seeking to remedy the developer's attempt to

reinstate the pavement. This has been a longer process than usual because there are other parties involved such as BT who need to move their utilities for the works to begin.

BT Openreach start on site on Monday (12 Jan) with Marlborough Highways following immediately behind with the pavement works. It is anticipated that all the works will be completed by mid-February 2026.

QUESTION 5

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BETTER HOMES

BY: COUNCILLOR NANOUCHE UMEADI

Can the Cabinet Member provide a breakdown of the number of new fire doors that are planned to be installed across estates in Camden on a ward-by-ward basis?

REPLY

The Council has a comprehensive fire and building safety programme and has invested over £200m of its resources on fire safety capital works in recent years. This includes making sure that every home that needs a new fire rated front door has one.

To date, the Council has installed over 10,000 new fire doors and a further 2,300 are being delivered by our capital works team in 2026/27. This is broken down by ward below.

We also install new fire rated front doors through the repairs service following inspections. In the current financial year, the service will install 300 new doors. As the capital programme completes, the repairs service will install fewer – just those that are beyond repair.

Ward Summary

Ward	New fire rated front doors in the 2026/27 programme	New fire rated front doors installed to date
Belsize	28	207
Bloomsbury	251	575
Camden Square	114	347
Camden Town	63	212
Fortune Green	62	200
Frognaal	65	38
Gospel Oak	103	707
Hampstead Town	39	106
Haverstock	192	445
Highgate	128	522
Holborn & Covent Garden	119	828
Kentish Town North	131	251

Kentish Town South	171	815
Kilburn	137	873
King's Cross	139	295
Out of Borough	55	26
Primrose Hill	35	911
Regent's Park	101	856
South Hampstead	83	394
St Pancras & Somers Town	217	1304
West Hampstead	69	456
Grand Total	2,302	10,368

QUESTION 6

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BEST START FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

BY: COUNCILLOR JAMES SLATER

The landscape of school inspections in England has recently undergone significant transformation. The previous system of single-word headline grades has been replaced by a more nuanced School Report Card system. Please update how Camden Learning is supporting the unique Camden school's eco-system as they move to the new Ofsted framework?

REPLY

How Camden Learning is supporting Camden schools through the new Ofsted framework

Our approach recognises that inspection readiness is about articulating a coherent, evidence-informed narrative of quality, inclusion and improvement. Camden Learning benefits from all Camden schools being members and committed to locally aligned working. Camden Learning has strengthened and aligned its core offer in the following ways to support schools navigate the new inspection framework:

Building understanding and confidence in the new framework

- **Ofsted Framework training sessions** are supporting leaders and governors to understand the principles, language and expectations underpinning the new inspection approach. These sessions focus on how evidence is gathered and evaluated, helping schools to confidently explain their practice and impact. 36 school leaders attended the Autumn training; there are two further sessions scheduled across the Spring and Summer Terms.

Strengthening self-evaluation and use of data

- **Information Data Summary Reports (IDSR) training and Self Evaluation Framework (SEF) support for schools in inspection window** has taken place for leaders to develop data interpretation and the use of it alongside qualitative evidence. Further sessions are scheduled for the Spring and Summer Terms.

Deepening developmental challenge and school improvement

- **Additional Camden Professional Partner (CPP) focus visits**, explicitly linked to School Development Planning, have provided schools with tailored, timely support. These visits help schools clarify priorities, test leadership articulation and ensure improvement actions are clearly connected to pupil outcomes and experiences.

Bespoke professional dialogue and adviser support

- **Adviser visits** offer personalised, context-sensitive challenge and support. Advisers work alongside leaders to refine their inspection narrative, ensure consistency between intent, implementation and impact.

Inspection-style reflection without high stakes

- **One Day Reviews** provide a structured opportunity for schools to experience inspection-like conversations and feedback in a supportive, developmental environment. These reviews focus on strengths and areas for refinement, helping schools feel prepared without becoming compliance-driven.

Maintaining a sharp focus on safeguarding

- **Safeguarding reviews** remain a cornerstone of Camden Learning's offer, ensuring that safeguarding practice is robust and well understood. Priority has been given to schools most due inspection.

QUESTION 7

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR, EQUALITIES AND COHESION

BY: COUNCILLOR REBECCA FILER

As we mark the one-year anniversary of the Community Partner Fund, could the Cabinet Member provide a breakdown of the funding awarded and a list of all the voluntary and community sector organisations supported in Camden by ward?

REPLY

As part of our commitment to working with Camden's Voluntary and Community Sector, in 2023, we made a bold promise: to invest for the long term. The Community Partner Fund is a major programme within our wider £4.1million per annum VCS Investment Programme. It is a seven-year commitment to organisations deeply rooted in our communities. Organisations funded through our Community Partner Fund lead essential work in Camden's neighbourhoods, bringing together residents, building trusted relationships and providing vital activities, spaces and services that contribute to achieving our We Make Camden borough vision to tackle inequality and make Camden a place for everyone, where no one is left behind. A breakdown of funding awarded and a list of the voluntary and community organisations supported by the Community Partner fund is provided below.

Organisation	Ward	Amount awarded
Abbey Community Centre	Kilburn	£ 85,000.00
British Somali Community	St Pancras and Somerstown	£ 25,000.00
BWA (Bengali Workers Association)	Regent's Park	£ 40,000.00
Calthorpe Community Garden	King's Cross	£ 30,000.00
Camden Chinese Community Centre	Bloomsbury	£ 40,000.00
Camden Disability Action	Kentish Town North	£ 15,000.00
Castlehaven Community Centre	Camden Town	£ 100,000.00
Coram's Fields	King's Cross	£ 30,000.00
Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust	Holburn and Covent Garden	£ 50,000.00
Doorstep	South Hampstead	£ 30,000.00
Elfrida Rathbone	Kentish Town South	£ 30,000.00
Fitzrovia Community Centre	Bloomsbury	£ 25,000.00
Fitzrovia Youth in Action	Bloomsbury	£ 40,000.00
Forum + (formerly Camden LGBT Forum)	St Pancras and Somerstown	£ 40,000.00
Henna Asian Womens Group	Kilburn	£ 25,000.00
Highgate Newton Community Centre	Highgate	£ 85,000.00
Holborn Community Association	Holburn and Covent Garden	£ 100,000.00
Home Start Camden	Kentish Town South	£ 40,000.00
Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre	Regent's Park	£ 75,000.00
Kentish Town City Farm	Gospel Oak	£ 74,000.00
Kentish Town Community Centre	Kentish Town South	£ 50,000.00
Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association	King's Cross	£ 100,000.00

Laamiga	St Pancras and Somerstown	£	10,000.00
Likewise	South Hampstead	£	30,000.00
Maiden Lane Community Centre	Camden Square	£	85,000.00
NW5 Project	Kentish Town South	£	30,000.00
Queen's Crescent Community Association	Gospel Oak	£	100,000.00
SHAK	Kilburn	£	50,000.00
Sidings	Fortune Green	£	85,000.00
Somali Youth Development Resource Centre	King's Cross	£	75,000.00
Somers Town Community Association	St Pancras and Somerstown	£	85,000.00
St Mary's Community Trust	Primrose Hill	£	30,000.00
St Pancras Community Association	St Pancras and Somerstown	£	50,000.00
The Sherriff Centre	West Hampstead	£	15,000.00
The Third Age Project	Regent's Park	£	30,000.00
The Winchester Project	Primrose Hill	£	60,000.00
Training Link	St Pancras and Somerstown	£	16,000.00
West Hampstead Women's Centre	Kilburn	£	52,000.00

QUESTION 8

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR BETTER HOMES

BY: COUNCILLOR TOMMY GALE

With the £670 million investment as part of the Council's Housing Investment Strategy, could the Cabinet Member provide a breakdown of how much this funding will be allocated across each ward?

REPLY

The Housing Investment Strategy was approved by Cabinet in January 2025 and added £350m to our capital programmes, bringing our housing capital programme up to £670m for the next five years. It is available online here: [Appendix B1 - Proposed Capital Programme](#).

The programme has seven areas of investment:

- Fire and building safety
- District heating
- Lifts
- Other Communal M&E Systems
- External Better Homes

- Internal Better Homes
- Retrofit and Energy Efficiency

The capital programme appendix describes how programmes are developed, whether provisional block listings are available for the work type, and the estimated number of homes benefitting from works. Even where blocks are named, schemes will be subject to detailed surveys to make sure the Council is making the best use of available resources. However, based on initial programmes, and *pro rata* allocations for programmes which are not yet scheduled, the document suggests an initial estimated investment per ward as follows:

Ward	Council homes	Tenanted homes	Previous programme (£ million)	Additional investment approved Jan 2025 (£ millions)	Total estimated investment (£ millions)
Belsize	378	268	£1.9 m	£4.3 m	£6.2 m
Bloomsbury	1,451	967	£14.4 m	£29.6 m	£43.9 m
Camden Square	1,648	1,143	£11.1 m	£10.5 m	£21.6 m
Camden Town	797	582	£4.2 m	£7.0 m	£11.2 m
Fortune Green	857	575	£6.2 m	£10.8 m	£17.0 m
Frognaal	262	169	£1.6 m	£2.4 m	£4.0 m
Gospel Oak	2,810	2,149	£26.5 m	£34.4 m	£60.9 m
Hampstead Town	370	254	£2.6 m	£1.9 m	£4.5 m
Haverstock	2,941	2,263	£33.2 m	£27.9 m	£61.2 m
Highgate	2,082	1,295	£19.1 m	£13.1 m	£32.2 m
Holborn & Covent Garden	2,149	1,475	£28.6 m	£23.9 m	£52.5 m
Kentish Town North	1,029	727	£4.8 m	£7.6 m	£12.4 m
Kentish Town South	2,098	1,513	£12.5 m	£13.1 m	£25.6 m
Kilburn	2,804	1,998	£21.6 m	£37.5 m	£59.1 m
King's Cross	1,520	1,095	£14.8 m	£16.3 m	£31.1 m
Out of Borough	350	214	£1.9 m	£4.9 m	£6.8 m
Primrose Hill	1,298	968	£60.5 m	£14.6 m	£75.1 m
Regent's Park	2,794	1,911	£19.5 m	£37.0 m	£56.6 m
South Hampstead	1,133	741	£10.8 m	£11.5 m	£22.3 m
St Pancras & Somers T'n	3,604	2,458	£20.5 m	£33.4 m	£53.9 m
West Hampstead	878	590	£3.9 m	£8.1 m	£12.0 m
TOTAL	33,253	23,355	£320 m	£350 m	£670.0 m

QUESTION 9

TO THE: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

BY: COUNCILLOR MATT COOPER

Where platforms like Commonplace are used for consultations, some residents have reported difficulties accessing the platform. In these cases, Camden officers have helpfully accepted written responses. How is this feedback passed on and how is it used to improve accessibility and learning for future consultations?

REPLY

The Council recognises the need for consultation and engagement activities to be inclusive and accessible in compliance with our Public Sector Equality Duties and takes steps to identify affected groups and tailor methods to their needs, including methods for people with accessibility needs or limited resources.

Commonplace is a digital engagement platform used by Camden Council and is one of the ways the Council engages and consults with the public. Consultation and engagement opportunities shared on Commonplace include contact information for anyone requiring information in a different format or an alternative way of engaging or submitting a response.

Commonplace is committed to making its platform accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. The platform is compliant with the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.2](#) AA standard as long as no map page or Beta question types are used. Some features of the platform are not yet fully accessible and a list of these features is available on the platform's accessibility statement.

The platform supports popular browsers, including Chrome, Firefox, edge, Opera and Safari VoiceOver on a Mac. The platform incorporates EqualWeb's automatic accessibility tool which enables a number of accessibility features, for example, keyboard navigation, adjusting font size and colour contrasting, image descriptions, compatibility with assistive technology etc.

Camden Council's Participation team meet with our Commonplace Account Manager regularly. User feedback from residents and services from across the Council is reviewed and shared with the platform Product Team to prioritise accessibility and usability improvements. In addition to contacting Camden Council's Participation Team, any resident experiencing any difficulties with Commonplace can also get in touch with the platform via accessibility@commonplace.is to get help and support.

Transport consultations are hosted on the Council's consultation platform provided by Citizen Space and branded as 'WeAreCamden'. The service uses Commonplace to host engagement opportunities, for example, gathering comments, feedback and ideas on trial schemes already in place, or on schemes which are in the early stages of development ahead of a full public consultation.

The team usually provides alternative options on request e.g. paper copies of surveys, different formats and languages to support accessibility, as well as receiving emails as another way to submit responses. In all cases and regardless of the format, all responses are sent to the project team reviewing the consultation or engagement and considered equally across all responses.

Any feedback relating to Council led transport service engagement would be provided to the Transport Strategy Communications, Engagement & Consultation Lead, who has an ongoing focus on ensuring transport consultations and engagement opportunities reach communities across the borough, and are inclusive and accessible.

QUESTION 10

TO THE: CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

BY: COUNCILLOR LORNA JANE RUSSELL

Please could you confirm how many people Camden has recorded as sleeping rough in the borough - broken down per ward and per year for the last five years. Please detail what support Camden is offering to these people to help them find secure housing.

REPLY

For several years, Camden has recorded the second highest level of rough sleeping nationally. Due to the borough's location, the termination of 3 large train stations within Camden, and the costs of housing, high levels of rough sleeping persist. Many people who rough sleep in Camden experience multiple disadvantage – intersecting and reinforcing challenges that create barriers to accessing support and housing. Levels of rough sleeping are recorded on the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN). When someone is first seen rough sleeping by Camden's commissioned street outreach team, they are added onto CHAIN. Each time the same person is seen rough sleeping, a further "bedded down" contact is added.

Quarterly and Annual reports are produced by CHAIN totalling rough sleeping contacts in many inner London boroughs, including Camden. CHAIN also produces reports of bedded down contacts across wards – however, this reporting function currently appears inaccurate (the Single Homelessness Commissioning Team have raised a query with CHAIN).

As such, we have compiled the figures based on the CHAIN annual reports. These reports also include "spatial distribution maps" showing the areas where bedded down contacts are most reported, and these are included within this report. They show that Bloomsbury and Kings Cross wards experience the highest levels of rough sleeping.

Period	Number of people seen rough sleeping	Change from previous year	Number of people seen rough sleeping only once
July – Sept 2025	311	N/A	N/A
Apr – June 2025	314	N/A	N/A
2024-25	975	8% increase	470 (48%)
2023-24	903	26% increase	475 (53%)
2022-23	719	8% increase	310 (43%)
2021-22	666	6% increase	265 (40%)
2020-21	630	1% decrease	320 (51%)

The recording system utilised by CHAIN has notable limitations. Someone has to be seen rough sleeping by the outreach team to be recorded as rough sleeping on CHAIN – this would suggest overall numbers are higher than recorded. Additionally, the work of the Women’s Rough Sleeping Census which Camden has taken part in for the past several years, highlights that women are less likely to be seen by traditional outreach. Using a different methodology, many more women are thought to rough sleep across London than CHAIN recording accounts for. We are using these insights to change the way we commission and deliver services.

To support people who rough sleep in Camden, the council commissions and directly delivers a variety of specialist services, works in partnership with a variety of external organisations, and contributes to wider systemic change through policy influencing.

The primary services and activities are listed below:

- **Camden Outreach Service** – a street outreach team providing shifts 7 days a week and a multi-agency hub 5 days a week. The service locates people rough sleeping, develops relationships and housing plans, and supports transitions away from the streets. This service has recently been recommissioned, and the new contract will begin in April 2026.
- **Navigator Service** – a specialist team designed to support people with longer histories of rough sleeping and multiple disadvantage to find accommodation solutions.
- **Camden Respite Rooms** – a specialist accommodation service for women experiencing homelessness and violence against women and girls

- **Rough Sleeping Hub** – a 16 bed “off the streets” accommodation service supporting moves to housing options including Camden’s Adult Pathway
- **Gray’s Inn Road** – mobilised in 2025, a 16-bed accommodation service for people with multiple disadvantage, providing a 3-6 month stay and supporting moves into longer term accommodation.
- **Housing First** – a high intensity model supporting 30 people to move into self-contained tenancies with wrap around support. Includes a pilot to support several couples.
- **Adult Pathway** – Camden’s supported accommodation pathway for single homeless adults, comprised of nearly 700 bedspaces, commissioned and provided through 3 internal services.
- **Connect Forward** – an internal service supporting people to reconnect to accommodation and services in their local areas, outside of Camden.
- **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-30** - Camden’s new strategy was approved by Cabinet in December. The ambitious goals within this plan will develop new ways of working and services to alleviate rough sleeping. This comes as the Mayor for London and national government have published renewed strategies to reduce rough sleeping at regional and national levels.
- **Target Priority Group** – defining a cohort of 35 individuals most at risk of fatality if they continue to rough sleep and building focused, multi-agency support around them. As of November 2025, 22 people are in accommodation.
- **Encampment Reduction** – in 2025 Camden establishing a new approach to reducing encampments across Camden – this includes the creation of a multi-agency strategic panel reporting into the ASB Steering Group and several site specific multi-disciplinary team meetings.
- **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol** – Camden provides additional support including accommodation during periods of extreme hot and cold weather. The Rough Sleeping Team work with multiple partners to create life-saving accommodation, which often leads to more sustainable accommodation outcomes.
- **Specialist roles** – these include 2 community safety officers, a transport hub coordinator in the outreach team, and multiple disadvantage social workers within Camden’s Adult Social Care Team.
- **Partnerships with external services** – the Camden Rough Sleeping Team maintain partnerships with specialist pan-London and subregional teams, mental health services, business investment districts, police, and Camden’s drug and alcohol teams.

Below is a table summarising the accommodation outcomes achieved by the Camden Outreach Service over the period in question.

Year	Accommodation Total outcomes
2020/2021	230
2021/2022	163
2022/2023	404
2023/2024	271
2024/2025	319
2025/2026	285 (Jan-Sep 2025)

April to Jun 2025: Total number of people Rough Sleeping = 311

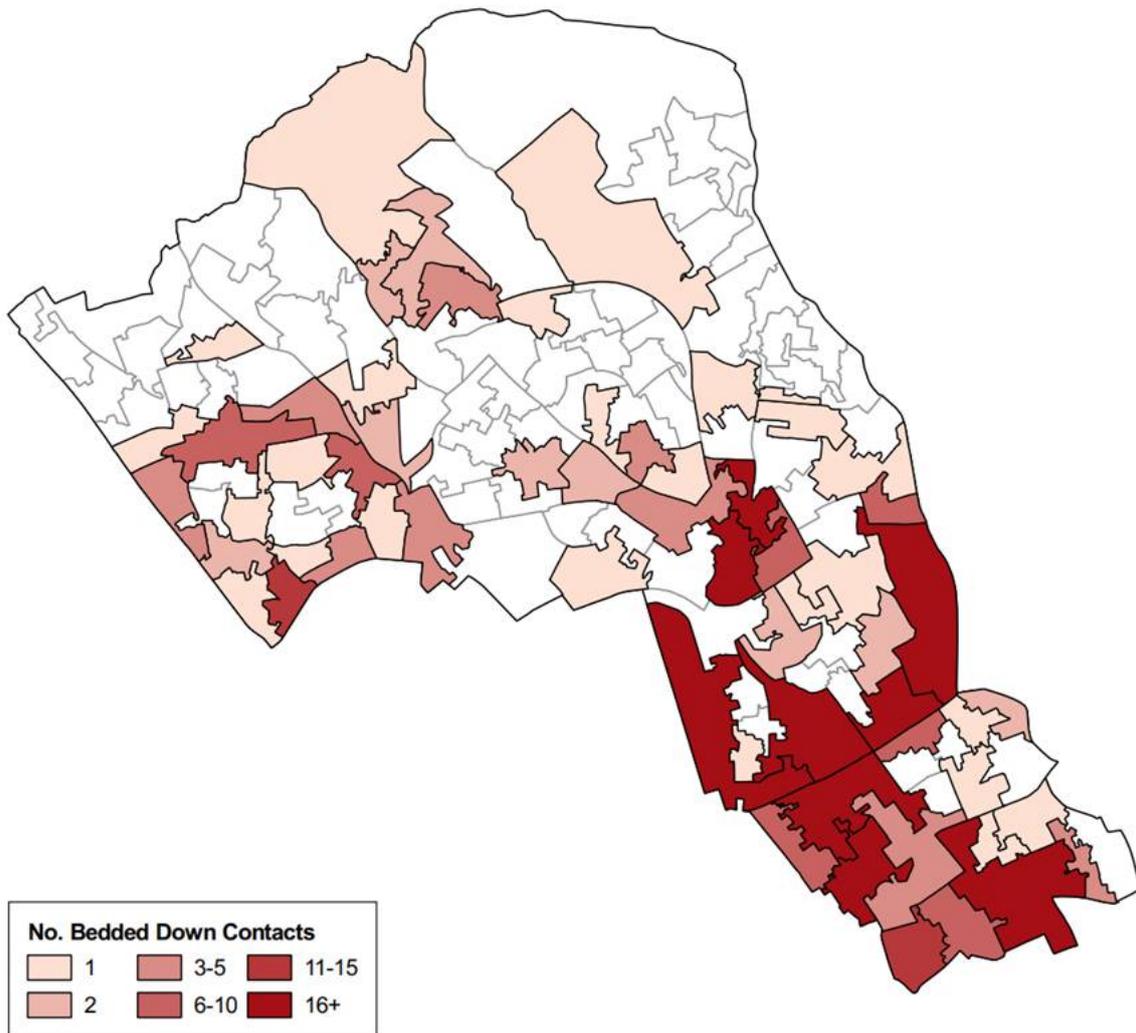
CHAIN QUARTERLY REPORT | CAMDEN | APR-JUN 25

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

Bedded down street contacts by area: Borough level

It is important to note that this represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area.

Map 1: Number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Lower Super Output Area in the borough during the period



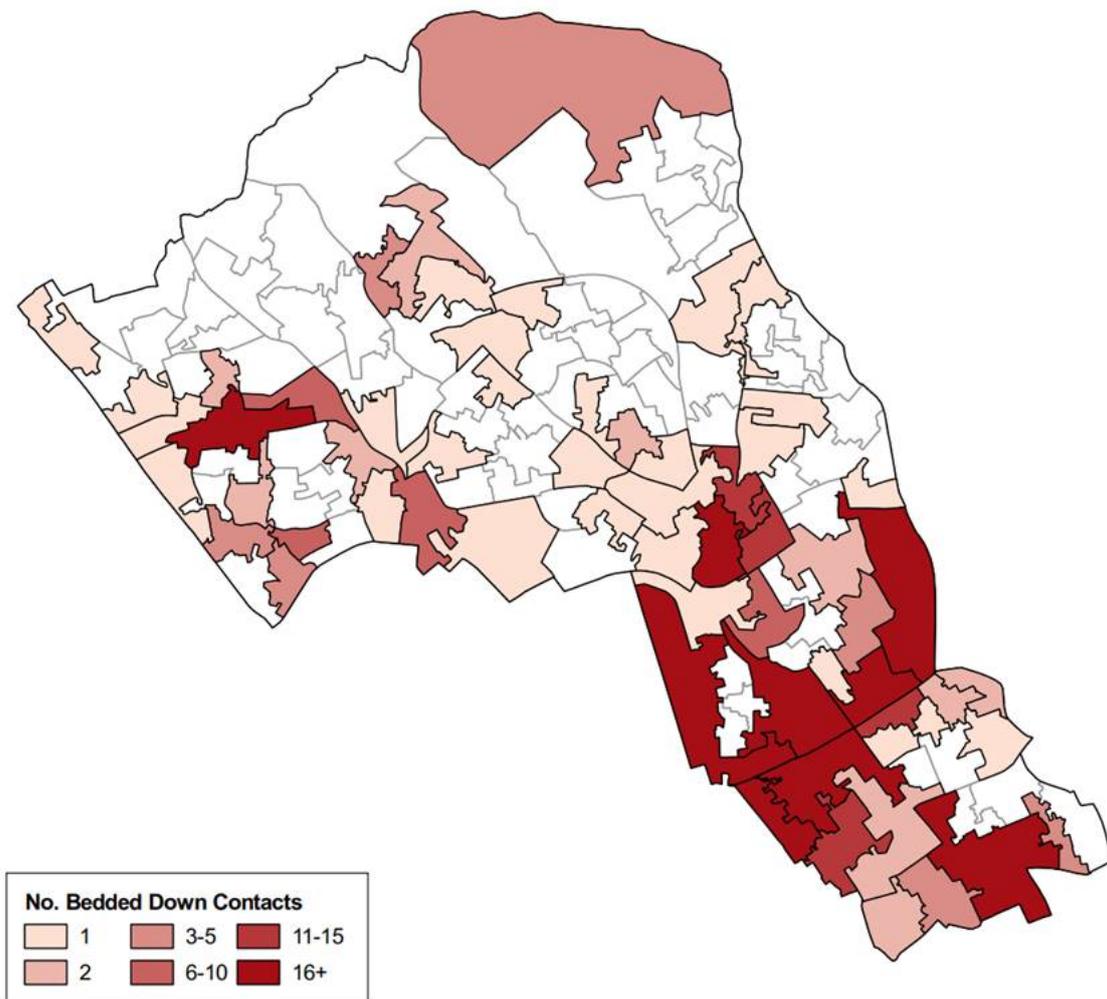
July to September 2025: Total number of people Rough Sleeping = 314

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

Bedded down street contacts by area: Borough level

It is important to note that this represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area.

Map 1: Number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Lower Super Output Area in the borough during the period



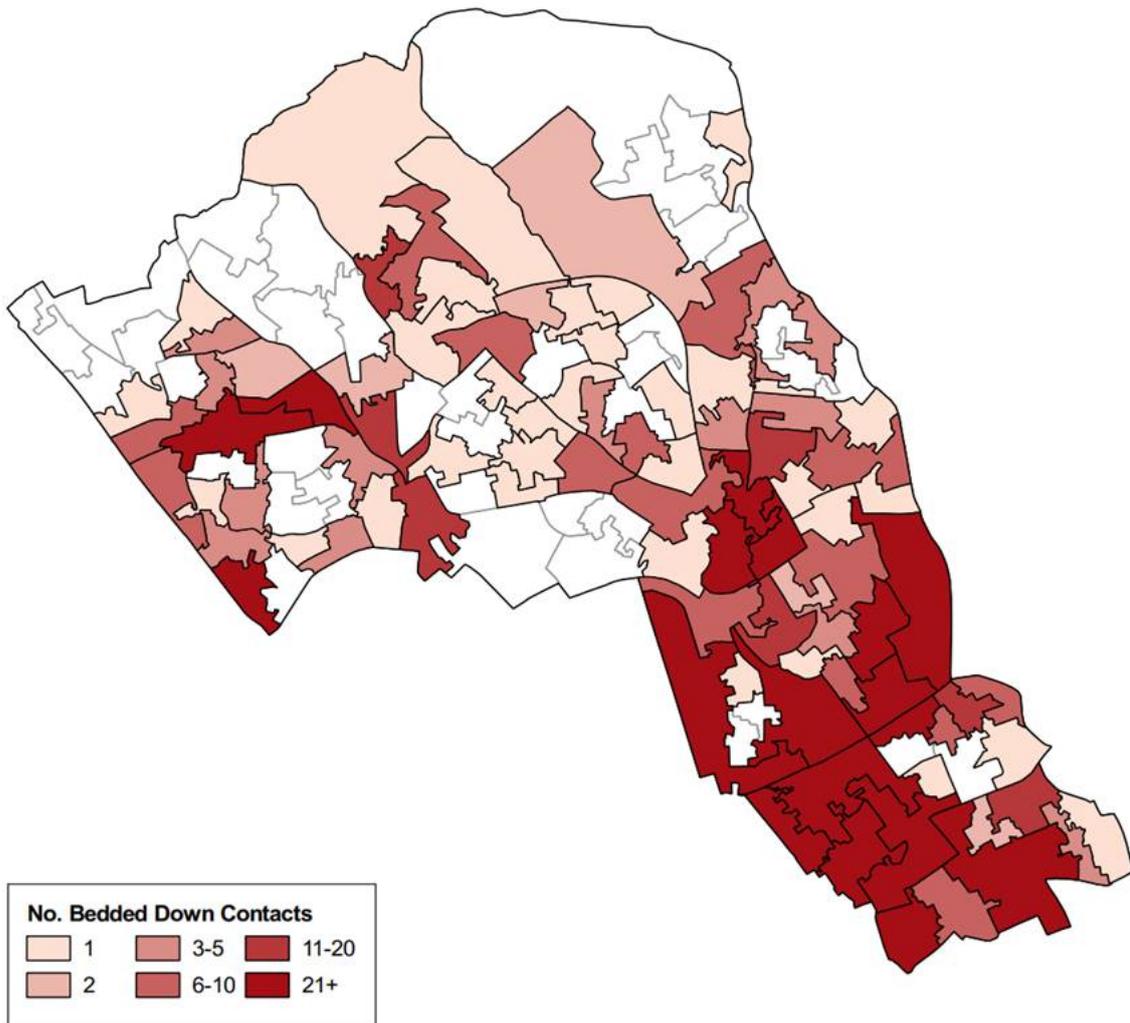
2024-2025: Total number of people Rough Sleeping = 975

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

It is important to note that this map represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area.

Map 1: Number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Lower Super Output Area in the borough during 2024/25



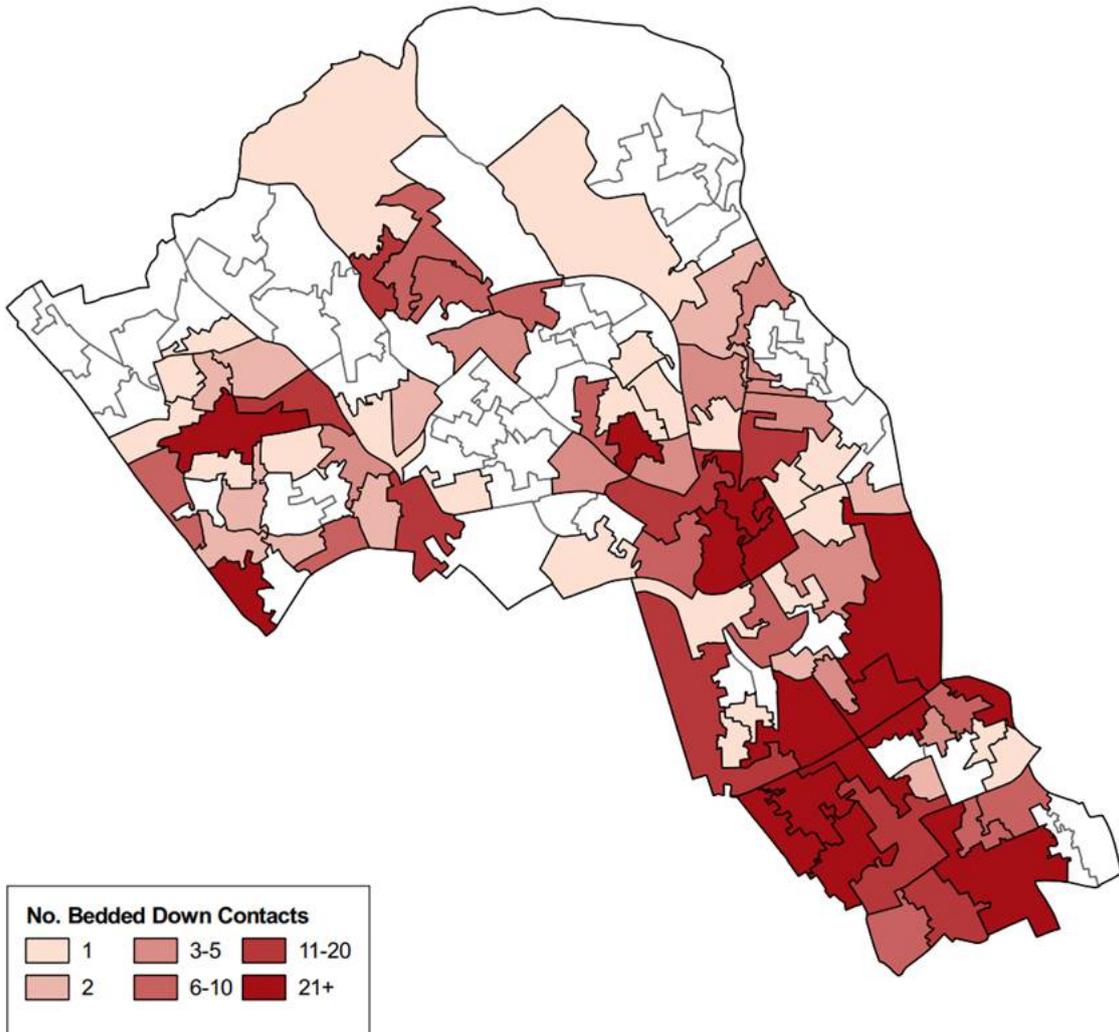
2023-2024: Total number of people Rough Sleeping = 903

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

It is important to note that this map represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area.

Map 1: Number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Lower Super Output Area in the borough during 2023/24



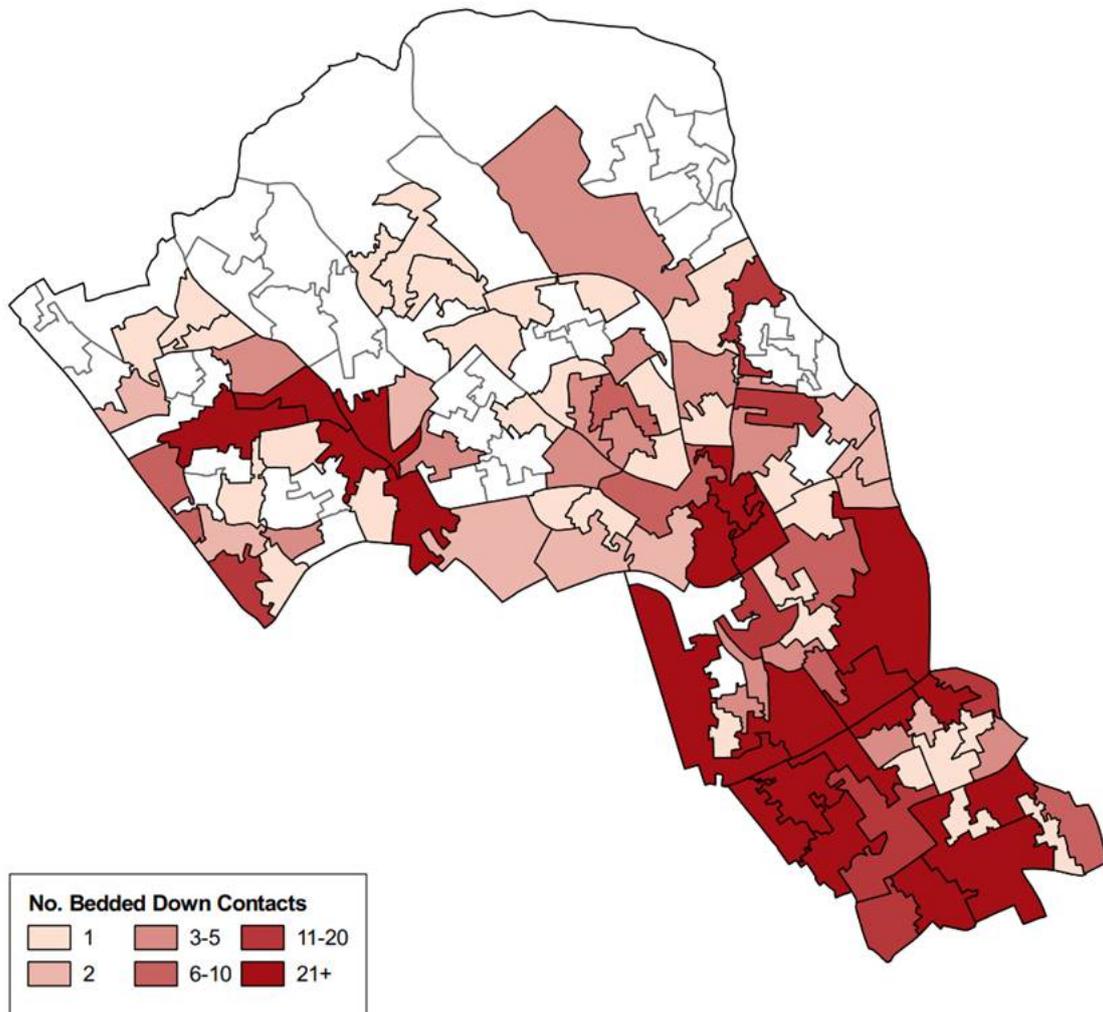
2022-2023: Total number of people Rough Sleeping = 719

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

It is important to note that this map represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area.

Map 1: Number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Lower Super Output Area in the borough during 2022/23

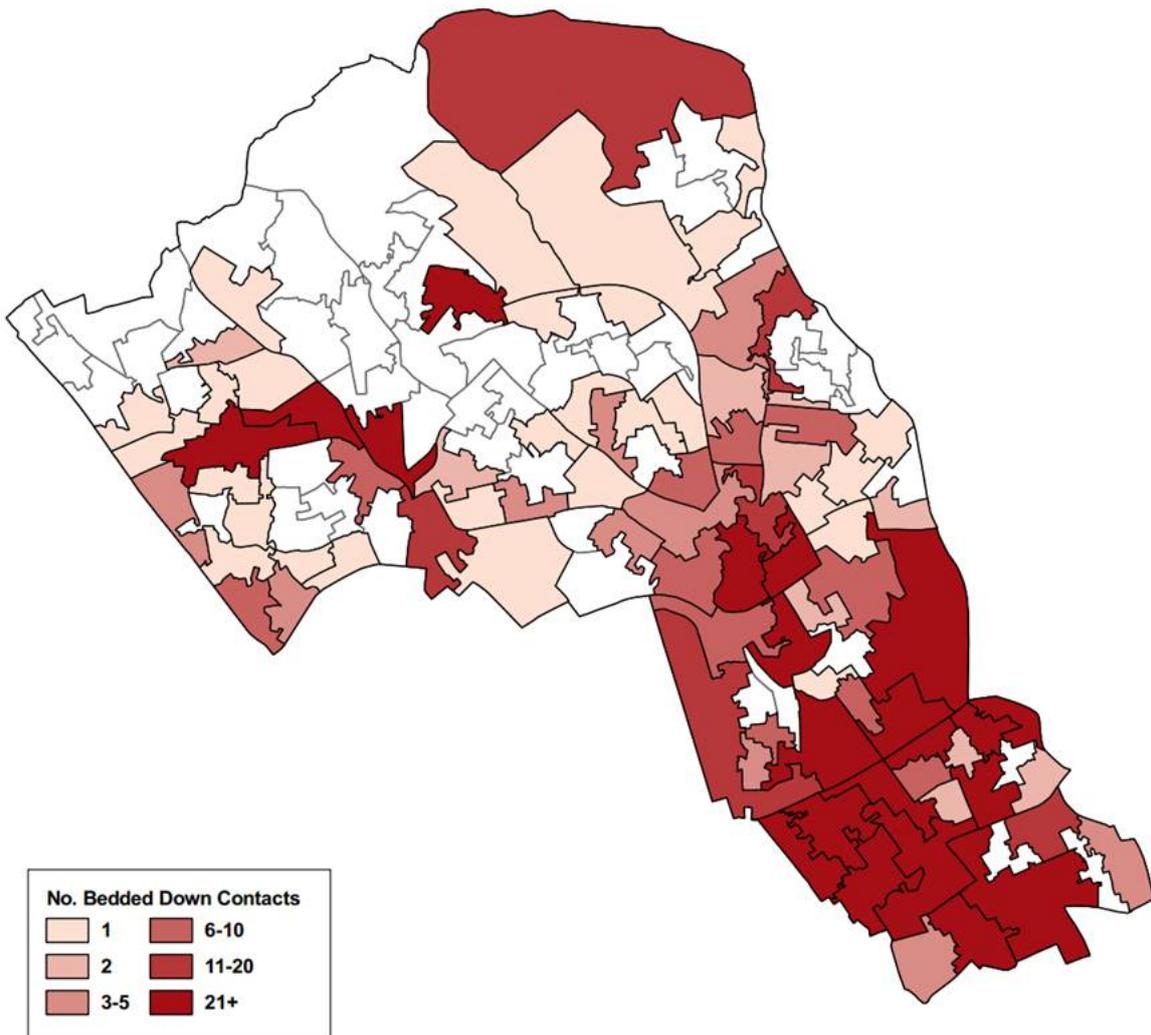


2021-2022: Total number of people Rough Sleeping = 666

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

The map below shows the number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Lower Super Output Area within the borough during the period. It is important to note that this represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area.

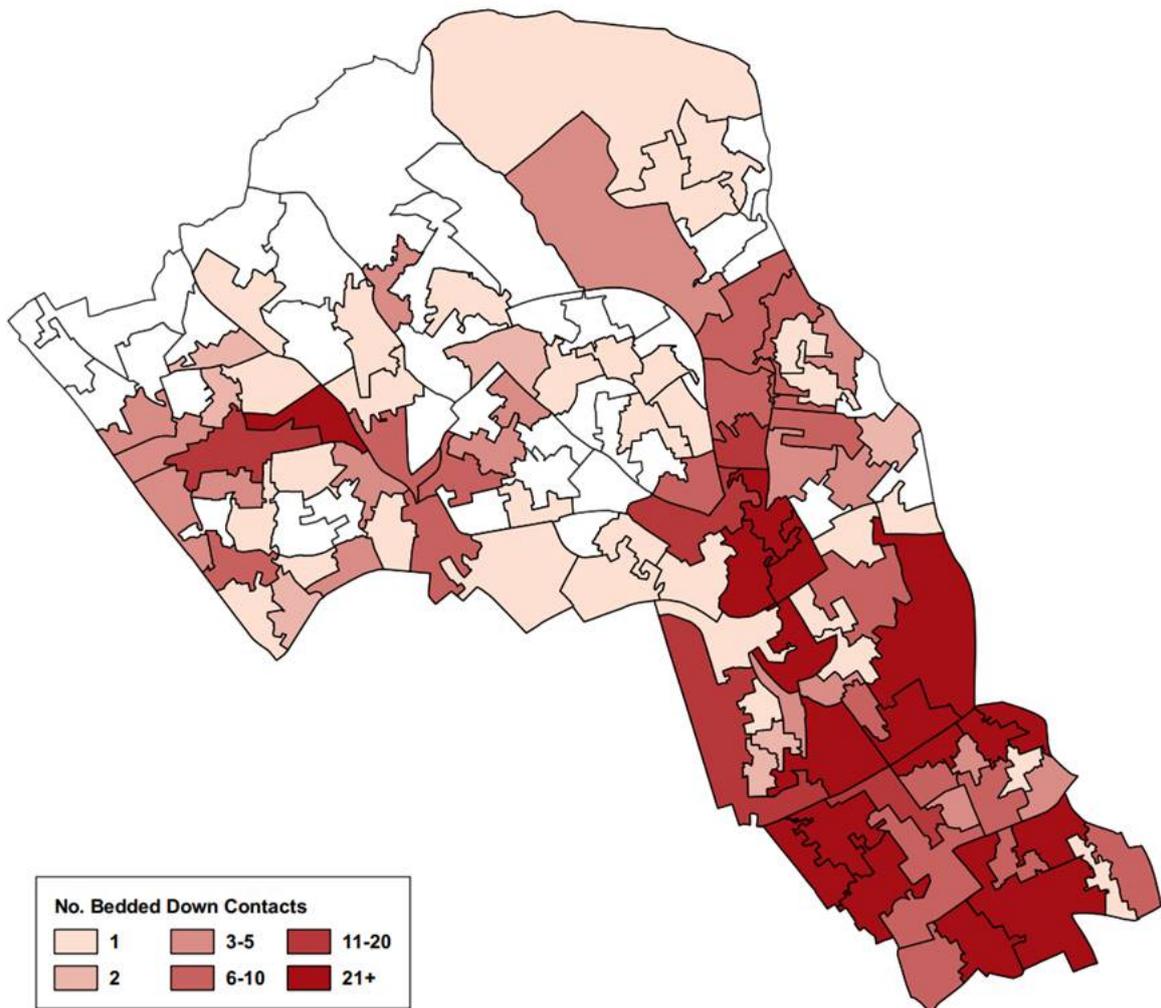


2020-2021: Total number of people Rough Sleeping = 630

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

The map below shows the number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Lower Super Output Area within the borough during the period. It is important to note that this represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area.



ENDS