

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Establishment of, and Appointments to, Council Bodies within the Constitution	
REPORT OF: Borough Solicitor	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Council	DATE: 20 th May 2026
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT:</p> <p>This annual report outlines the requirements relating to the establishment of bodies within the Constitution for the 2026/27 municipal year. It asks the Council to establish these bodies, agree their terms of reference and appoint Members to them, including Chairs and Vice-Chairs where shown. It also asks the Council to confirm the meeting dates for the bodies for the municipal year, together with agreeing some minor constitutional changes agreed by Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on the 26th March 2026</p> <p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – ACCESS TO INFORMATION No documents which are required to be listed were used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>CONTACT OFFICER: Andrew Maughan Borough Solicitor Town Hall Judd Street London WC1H 9JE E-mail: andrew.maughan@camden.gov.uk Tel: 020 7974 5656</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Agrees to establish the bodies, their size and terms of reference and meeting dates for the 2026/27 municipal year as set out in Appendices A and B; ii) Appoints those nominated by the political groups as set out on the updated version of Appendix C circulated before and tabled at the meeting and/or announced at the meeting to those bodies, including Chairs and Vice-Chairs where shown, for the 2026/27 municipal year (unless otherwise stated); iii) Agrees the changes to the Constitution detailed in Paragraph 2 and agree that otherwise the Constitution shall remain unchanged as currently published at http://www.camden.gov.uk/constitution; iv) Agrees the arrangements for delegations to officers as set out in Appendix A; and v) Delegates authority to the Borough Solicitor to continue to publish and make copies of the Constitution available having made the changes detailed in Paragraph 2 	

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Murray".

Borough Solicitor

Date:

11th May 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report outlines the annual requirements relating to the establishment by the Council of the bodies specified within the Constitution (available at <http://www.camden.gov.uk/constitution>) and the appointment of Members to those bodies.
- 1.2. The changes at Paragraph 2 are before the Council for agreement. The Constitution which is published on our website and which the Council is asked to agree s published subject to the changes at Paragraph 2.
- 1.3. The Constitution also sets out the Council's long-standing delegation arrangements, including that matters not reserved to Members or specifically delegated to particular named officers fall to the relevant Executive Director. Executive Directors may in turn authorise officers to take decisions as set out in their internal authorisation schemes; those internal authorisation schemes are published and can be accessed online appended to the Constitution. Members are asked to confirm those ongoing delegation arrangements.

2. Amendments to the Constitution

2.1. Sealing of Council's Deeds

Current wording in the Constitution

15.05

Common Seal of the Council

The Common Seal of the Council will be kept in a safe place in the custody of the Borough Solicitor.

The Common Seal of the Council may be affixed either by physical means or by such electronic means as the Borough Solicitor may from time to time authorise. The affixing of an electronic seal shall be of the same legal effect as affixing the Common Seal of the Council physically.

New Wording

The Common Seal of the Council may be affixed either by physical means or by such electronic means, **including the application of a digital image or electronic representation of the Common Seal** as the Borough Solicitor may from time to time **agree and** authorise. The affixing of an electronic seal shall be of the same legal effect as affixing the Common Seal of the Council physically.

Reason for proposed change

While arguably already covered by the existing wording, the above changes make it clear how this new process will operate.

2.2. Audit and Corporate Governance (Staff Appeals) Sub-Committee

While not requiring an amendment to the Constitution as such, the Council is asked to note that, as a result of a slight upturn in work levels and difficulties in arranging panels at short notice, officers will be proposing the creation of two staff appeal sub-committees in May, rather than the current one. Members will note that these meetings are arranged during the working day.

2.3. Allocation of Statutory Roles to specified council posts

- 2.3.1. The Constitution formally notes the allocation of statutory roles such as Monitoring Officer and Section 151 (s151) officer to specific posts in the Council.
- 2.3.2. The s151 role is currently recorded in the Constitution as sitting with the Executive Director Corporate Services post. However, this post has a broad portfolio of responsibility ranging from our key strategic enabling services to services that provide frontline service delivery.
- 2.3.3. S151 officers must by law be qualified accountants. Jon Rowney was the previous postholder and following his appointment as Chief Executive, interim arrangements have been in place.
- 2.3.4. The previous interim Executive Director Corporate Services led the Corporate Services directorate, which includes the Finance service, but does not carry the s151 responsibility. The current Director of Finance has been successfully designated as the statutory 151 Officer as part of these interim arrangements.
- 2.3.5. Following a national recruitment for a new Executive Director Corporate Services role, which was as inclusive as possible to encourage the best talent in the market to apply recognising a candidate's suitability, experience and expertise across the full suite of responsibilities in the portfolio, the previous Interim post holder Kat Myers was successful.
- 2.3.6. As the cross-party Audit and Corporate Governance (Appointments Panel) Sub-Committee awarded the role to a candidate who cannot hold the s151 office – being fully aware of this issue - the Panel asked the Borough Solicitor to seek to amend the Constitution to show that the s151 role no longer sits with the Executive Director Corporate Services role. The Appointments Panel, in addition to appointing to the Executive Director role, was aware of the fact that the Director of Finance was the acting s151 officer. They approved the transition of this to a permanent arrangement and requested the Borough Solicitor to ask Council to agree to these arrangements being recorded in the Constitution. Therefore the Constitution will be amended to record that the s151 position now rests with the Director of Finance post rather than the Executive Director Corporate Services.

3. Political Balance

- 3.1 The political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 apply to any committees and sub-committees established under the Constitution. They also apply to scrutiny committees, which are treated as committees as per the Local Government Act 2000.
- 3.2 Proportionality does not, as a matter of law, apply to the Cabinet or other bodies exercising executive functions. Nor does it currently apply, through Council decisions, to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Licensing Panels or the Standards Committee.
- 3.3 The Council is asked, by agreeing to the allocations in the version of Appendix C which will be circulated prior to the meeting, to agree to continue to disapply proportionality on the Health and Wellbeing Board, Licensing Panels and Standards Committee for the 2026/27 municipal year.
- 3.4 The Council has a duty when allocating or reviewing the allocation of seats on committees to give effect so far as is reasonably practicable to the following four principles:
 - i) All the seats are not allocated to the same political group;
 - ii) The majority of the seats go to the political group with a majority on the Council;
 - iii) Subject to the above two principles, the total number of seats each group has on all ordinary committees of the Council is in the same proportion as the group's share of the total council elected membership; and
 - iv) Subject to the above three principles, the number of seats each political group has on ordinary committees of the Council is in the same proportion as it holds on the Council as a whole.
- 3.5 Committee seats will therefore be allocated in the same proportion, or as near as possible since the split of seats is not exact, as the group's representation on the Council subject to principles (i) and (ii) above.
- 3.6 The allocation of seats may be amended by Council either where there is a genuine mathematical choice, or where no Member votes against any alternative proposed arrangement, though this in effect amounts to disapplying proportionality (see paragraph 3.3). Whilst adhering to the key principles, Camden has traditionally allocated seats in a way that is not strictly proportional following discussions and agreement between the groups. This process is ongoing this year and the final suggested allocation will be circulated to all Members before the meeting.
- 3.7 Appointments made at statutory Council are for the whole municipal year unless otherwise stated.

- 3.8 Each committee, except scrutiny committees, has the power to appoint sub-committees to take responsibility for any of its functions, which are also subject to the rules on political balance. By tradition, Council appoints to the standing sub-committees such as Licensing Panels or the sub-committees of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.
- 3.9 Scrutiny committees are entitled to set up time-limited panels (though each committee may only have one panel operating at any time) reporting back to the relevant scrutiny committee. The panels are not formal bodies of the Council and therefore not subject to the proportionality rules, although political balance is encouraged and is the usual custom and practice.

4 The Establishment of the Bodies under the Constitution

4.2 Cabinet

- 4.2.1 The annual appointment of the Cabinet (one of whom must also be nominated as Deputy Leader) is a matter for the Leader of the Council. The Leader of the Council will be invited to indicate to the Council their intentions in this regard.
- 4.2.2 Formally, and in accordance with the Constitution, the Leader makes these decisions by way of a single-member decision and can at that point also define, and if necessary amend, the terms of the respective portfolios, their titles, delegations to Cabinet Members, Cabinet Advisors, and officers, and the procedural operation of Cabinet.
- 4.2.3 Those decisions are political in nature and entirely at the Leader's discretion; therefore, the Council has agreed that they should not be subject to call-in.

4.3 Scrutiny committees

- 4.3.1 The Constitution provides for the appointment of five scrutiny committees, subject to the rules on political proportionality as previously set out, which will have the functions set out in the Constitution as attached at Appendix A. Cabinet Members cannot be appointed to scrutiny committees.
- 4.3.2 The Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee must also include between two and five co-opted parent governors – the Council has previously decided to have three – as well as one Church of England representative and one Roman Catholic representative nominated by the relevant dioceses. These co-optees are voting members in respect of education functions and as such technically they count as non-administration members for the purposes of proportionality.
- 4.3.3 Since these statutory co-optees cannot vote on all matters which the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee considers, the custom and practice has been to ignore the co-optees in terms of proportionality and consider proportionality only in terms of the councillor members. However, in terms of the rules, this arrangement means that in some previous years technically

proportionality has been disapplied. For 2025/26, the make-up of the Committee including the co-opted members was proportional within the rules and therefore proportionality was not disapplied. If Council agrees a different allocation of seats to groups on the Committee this year so that technically it would not conform to the proportionality rules, then it will be considered to be also agreeing to disapply proportionality in line with the practice used in previous years.

4.3.4 The Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee has also chosen to have a non-voting Camden Youth Council representative.

4.3.5 The Housing Scrutiny Committee has previously chosen to co-opt three non-voting members who are residents of the borough. As they are non-voting members they do not count towards proportionality.

4.3.6 The Council has also established with the London Boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, and Islington the North Central London Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee to exercise the functions set out in Appendix A.

4.4 Non-Executive Committees

4.4.1 The Constitution currently provides for there to be four non-executive committees, which are proposed to be re-established with the same terms of reference as at Appendix A:

- i) Licensing Committee, which is statutorily required and must have at least 10 but no more than 15 members;
- ii) Planning Committee;
- iii) Pension Committee;
- iv) Audit and Corporate Governance Committee, which has responsibility for carrying out all other non-executive functions that are not reserved to Council. Audit and Corporate Governance Committee also has two independent non-voting members, Fehintola Akinlose and Alan Layton, who do not count towards proportionality. The Council is asked to re-appoint Ms Akinlose and Mr Layton for the duration of the 2026/27 municipal year.

4.4.2 The Licensing Committee has been previously established with five sub-committees – known in Camden as Panels – to make decisions on licensing applications. They are established on the following basis:

- i) As statutorily required, the membership of any Panel cannot exceed three;
- ii) Only members of the main Licensing Committee can be members of a Panel;
- iii) Every member of the Licensing Committee acts as a substitute for each Panel on which they are not ordinarily a member and a substitute can take the place of any Panel member;

- iv) Traditionally, Council makes the appointments to the Panels usually because they are due to meet before Licensing Committee is due to meet;
- v) Proportionality is not applied to the Panels.

4.4.3 The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee has a number of sub-committees dealing with specific non-executive functions:

- i) Accessible Transport Appeals Panel
- ii) Appointments Panel;
- iii) Statutory Officers' Appeal;
- iv) Executive Directors' Appeal;
- v) Performance Review;
- vi) Staff Appeals Panel

4.4.4 By custom and practice, statutory Council has established and appointed to these sub-committees, rather than the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee doing so, and it is asked to do so again.

4.5 Standards Committee

4.5.1 Members will be aware that Standards Committee has, as a result of previous decisions by the Council, been excluded from the usual proportionality rules and it is recommended that this continues - the current division of seats is set out in Appendix C.

4.5.2 The Council's statutorily required Independent Persons, Maggie Redfern and Sue Terry, attend Standards Committee as observers as part of their role of advising on Member conduct. Council is asked to re-appoint them for the 2026/27 municipal year.

4.6 Health and Wellbeing Board

4.6.1 The Council is required to have a Health and Wellbeing Board under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, which must include defined non-councillor members, such as a North Central London Integrated Care Board representative. The Leader of the Council appoints the councillors who sit on the Board and the rules on proportionality are disapplied as per Council's decision when it was set up.

4.7 London Councils

4.7.1 Camden is a member of London Councils, along with the other 32 local authorities in Greater London, and some functions are assigned to London Councils' committees as set out in Appendix A. The Leader appoints the Council's representatives to sit on the London Councils committees.

4.8 Other miscellaneous bodies

4.8.1 The Council is required to have the following bodies which are not formal committees within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972:

- i) Pension Board, where one of the four members of the Board is a councillor, acting as an employer representative and appointed by Council;
- ii) Statutory Panel for Statutory Officer Dismissal, which under Camden's previously agreed arrangements is comprised of the Camden's Independent Persons plus another council's independent person;
- iii) Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), where the seven local authority members are appointed by Council and, although not a requirement, these appointments reflect the political balance of the Council. The other appointments are delegated to the Executive Director Children and Learning in line with the wishes of the relevant religious denominations.

4.8.2 These bodies are listed in the Constitution with appropriate notes to clarify that these are not formally committees of the Council, but statutory bodies in their own right.

5 Delegations to officers

5.2 All matters not reserved to Council bodies as per the Constitution are delegated to the relevant Executive Director to exercise, who may in turn authorise other officers to exercise those functions as per their internal authorisation schemes; those internal authorisation schemes are published and can be accessed online alongside the Constitution. The Leader of the Council decides which executive functions are delegated to officers, and full Council agrees the non-executive delegations. Through agreeing Appendix A, Council is asked to continue these delegation arrangements.

6 Meeting dates

6.2 By custom, Council is asked to agree the programme of meeting dates for the municipal year. This does not impact on the ability of meetings to subsequently be added, cancelled, or rearranged in accordance with the relevant procedures in the Constitution.

6.3 The dates set out in Appendix B were drawn up in consultation with the group Whips during early 2026.

7 Appointments to outside bodies

- 6.1 The Constitution provides that all uncontested appointments to outside bodies are delegated to the Borough Solicitor in consultation with Members. Accordingly there are no recommendations to this meeting in respect of those appointments. Details of Council appointments to outside bodies are available on the website at www.camden.gov.uk/outsidebodies.

8 Comments of the Director of Finance

The Executive Director Corporate Services has been consulted on the report. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations.

8. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

This is a report of the Borough Solicitor and there are no further legal comments.

9. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications.

10. Appendices

Appendix A - Terms of Reference of Council committees

Appendix B - Municipal schedule of meetings 2026/27

Appendix C - Membership of Council bodies 2026/27 (updated version with nominations to be circulated prior to the meeting)

REPORT ENDS