

CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023 AT 6.30 PM
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, TOWN HALL, JUDD STREET, LONDON WC1H 9JE

Enquiries to: Sola Odusina, Committee Services
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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

	Wards
3. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)	
Plant Based Council's Campaign – Sam Ebner- Landy	(Pages 3 - 5)
Save London Motorcycling – Ben Pearson.	(Pages 6 - 9)

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ENDS

Issued on: Wednesday 13 December 2023

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Agenda Item 3

What we are asking is that the council ensure all catering for internal meetings and events is plant-based, which is an important and necessary step in addressing the climate crisis. It's a simple ask, and a small task, but to understand why it's important, we need to zoom out and look at the bigger picture.

This year we have seen a record-breaking cyclone in south-eastern Africa, wildfires in Chile and Canada, unbearable heatwaves across Asia, and powerful ice storms in the southern United States. Environmental experts predict that at our current rate of collective inaction, the world could be facing a 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature rise within the next 10 years. Current scientific consensus points to meat and dairy production as a leading cause of climate breakdown, with the **livestock sector accounting for 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and animal farming and fishing being the leading cause of deforestation and biodiversity loss globally** (Chatham House, 2021). In London, 27% of food emissions come from meat, while it provides only 5% of the volume of food consumed (ReLondon, 2021). Per calorie and gram of protein produced, meat and dairy produce many times more emissions than plant foods.

In the UK, approximately 85% of agricultural land is used for farming animals and growing their feed; 40% of the UK's arable land is used just to grow animal feed. Of all the cereals eaten in the UK, 40% are eaten by people and almost 60% are fed to animals. Animal grazing and land clearing has devastated our natural landscape and continues to be the source of harmful emissions and pollution.

It only makes sense that to reduce emissions and reverse the devastation of our landscape, we must move towards plant-based foods. Recent studies have confirmed this, showing that the least sustainable plant-based diet was more environmentally friendly than the most sustainable meat-eaters diets in terms of emissions, water and land use (Scarborough et al., 2023), whether they are imported or grown locally, or produced using conventional or organic methods ([Pieper et al. 2020](#), [Fresán and Joan Sabaté. 2019](#)). A shift to plant-based eating in high-income nations could cut those nations' agricultural emissions by 61% and free up land that can be returned to nature and therefore sequester carbon ([Garner et al. 2019](#)) This change in land use would also benefit wildlife, allowing for our precious ecosystems and biodiversity to bounce back.

This is reflected in the report titled *Camden Carbon Scenarios to 2030: Achieving a Zero Carbon Camden* says that solutions to achieving net zero 'could be achieved by adopting more land efficient diets that would then free up land for rewilding with trees. Camden residents could therefore play a role in this by dietary adjustments to reduce the amount of lamb and beef which are particularly land inefficient and replace them with plant proteins.'

The Government commissioned National Food Strategy (July, 2021) recommended meat consumption should be reduced by 30% to help food security for future generations, and the Government's independent Climate Change Committee recommended that public bodies should lead the way by promoting plant-based food. Other countries have taken major steps recently - South Korea and Denmark have announced action plans to radically transform the food system

through plant-based foods. Many councils across the UK have switched to fully plant-based catering.

The solutions are clear - a move away from meat and dairy is necessary for the council and the country to achieve their net zero targets, prevent further deforestation and halt biodiversity loss. What we need now is modelling and leadership from local authorities - from Camden Borough council, by committing to serve 100% plant-based fare at internal meetings and events. When residents hear about this, they'll be able to recognise the serious position we are in and the importance of taking up plant-based eating habits themselves. We will be normalising plant-based eating, and will encourage residents to take action to prevent climate breakdown and protect nature as much as possible.

Inclusion: Plant-based catering takes away any guess work in feeding those who might have any number of motivations for avoiding particular foods, such as religion, culture, animal, environmental or health related concerns. Providing an array of foods that everyone could eat is *the* most inclusive approach to catering. Providing plant-based alternatives of the foods we all know and love will allow attendees to feel more comfortable with the changes to the menu.

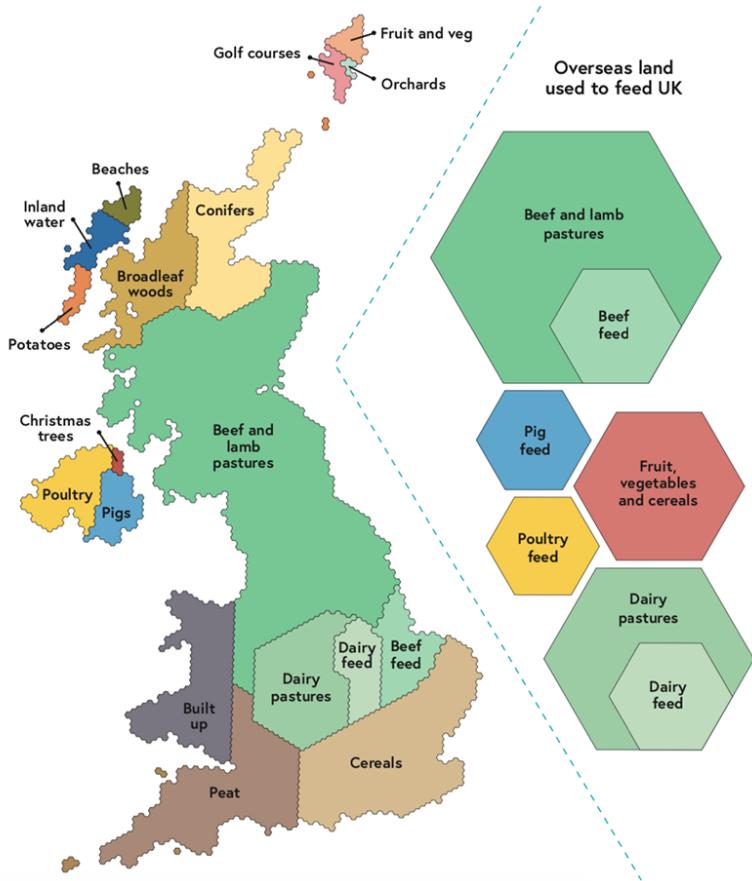
Nutrition: It is evident that both plant-based and non-plant-based diets can be sufficiently healthy or extremely unhealthy, depending on which foods are chosen. However, as the NHS, the British Association for Nutrition and Dietetics and an overwhelming number of non-industry-funded scientists have repeatedly said, a wholefoods plant-based diet is perfectly healthy for all stages of life, including infancy, pregnancy and old age.

Cost: Though issues of cost have been raised in the past, this is often entirely based on the meat substitutes that people see in restaurants, of course comparing a chicken burger to a 'plant-based chicken' burger will cause some discrepancies in cost as a result of supply and demand. Yet for our purposes in Camden Council, supplying sustainable, affordable catering to our meetings and events, it's relatively obvious to note that the cheapest supermarket staples (pasta, rice, potatoes, lentils, vegetables, beans) are all plant-based, whereas the more expensive aisles contain meat and fish.

In Cambridge City, where the council made a commitment to plant-based catering in 2022, the council officers performed research and found that "there was usually no difference in cost between plant-based foods and non-plant based foods" ([Stewart, 2022](#)).

Appeal

Plant-based catering is a necessary next step in addressing food related emissions and protecting and restoring nature in the UK. Those who come to Camden Council will begin to see your actions as paving the way for a better, brighter future for us all. Attendees at your meetings and events will be encouraged to recognise and celebrate the benefits of engaging with the plant-based catering that you provide. Though it might seem a small change in isolation, addressing the catering we provide at Camden Council is vital in showcasing how we can be an enormous part of the change that is so essential to our collective survival.



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COUNCIL MEETING – DEPUTATION/PETITION REQUEST FORM

NAME OF DEPUTATION/PETITION LEADER: Ben Pearson	
ADDRESS: Flat 208, Bakersfield, N7 0LY	
TEL:	E-MAIL: save.london.motorcycling@gmail.com
Name and contact details of other proposed attendees (maximum of 6 plus deputation leader): Rachel Mawby:	
Does any member of the deputation have access requirements? If so, please tell us what they are: NO	
Have you submitted a deputation request to the Council before? If so, please give details: NO	

Please summarise below the key points you wish to make at the Council meeting (continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

We wish to bring a deputation to the meeting of the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 14/12/2023 regarding anti motorcycle bias within Camden Council.

Camden Council has shown an anti-motorcycle bias in its approach to and understanding of PTWs. This is resulting in irrational anti PTW policies across different policy areas. This is having a meaningful impact on PTW riders in the borough and on the environment in Camden.

Examples of anti-motorcycle bias include:

- Removal of motorcycle bays on Flaxman Terrace - based on no evidence and clear prejudice against PTW riders
- Not allowing PTWs in bus lanes based on false perceptions and in contrary to the clear evidence
- No meaningful action taken to improve PTW safety - PTW safety deprioritised in preference to more 'desirable' modes
- Not recognising e-PTWs as a sustainable mode, despite encouraging other forms of electric powered two wheelers (for example through the E-scooter trial)
- Not recognising the impact of PTWs, as a vehicle that is distinct from cars, in the transport strategy and all associated policies

Examples of the impact of this bias include:

- Increased risk to individual PTW riders due to lack of action on safety/lack of access to bus lanes
- Disproportionate policies applied to PTW riders which are not in line with PTW impact
- Removal of necessary amenities such as parking
- Impact to the environment of Camden by missing out on the use of an emerging technology that would help to reduce congestion and emissions

While progress has been made in some areas, Camden still has a lack of understanding of the impact of PTWs and their usage. This is leading to incorrect and damaging policy decisions.

As the most vulnerable road user in Camden and London and a key part of the urban transport mix it is vital that this is addressed, both for the safety of individual riders, and the environment and life of Camden.

Camden should undertake a complete review of its policies with regards to PTWs, taking account the evidence on PTWs and their impact. This includes reviewing the relevant parts of the Transport Strategy.

(see guidance notes overleaf)

GUIDANCE FROM THE COUNCIL'S [CONSTITUTION](#) *

Deputations and petitions

Anyone likely to be affected by a matter in which the authority has functions, or which affects that area of the authority, or some of it, or the inhabitants of that area, or some of them may ask that a deputation or a petition should be received by a meeting of the Council.

A deputation request should be made in writing to the Chief Executive (via the contact listed below) setting out the reason why the deputation should be received, by no later than 12noon, three working days before the meeting to which it relates.

The person making the deputation request shall indicate what the deputation is about, the number (no more than 7), names and addresses of the persons who will form the deputation, and the member of the deputation who will address the Council.

Requests to present petitions to Council will be considered in line with the Council's Petition Scheme (Part 5 of the Constitution).

The Mayor will decide whether the deputation or the petition is to be received or not, or whether the deputation or the petition should be heard by another body. In deciding whether or not to redirect a deputation or the petition to another body the Mayor will amongst other things consider whether the matter could benefit from an in-depth analysis which could not be provided at Council, whether it is of wide interest to the Borough and whether the deputation or the petition has already been aired recently at another Council body. A maximum of three deputations or petitions will be taken at each Council meeting with the Mayor deciding which to accept with an overall maximum time allocated to deputations and petitions of 30 minutes.

At the meeting

When called, the spokesperson or Petition Organiser may speak for three minutes. The Mayor will ensure that the remarks are relevant and that the speaker refrains from personal attacks.

Members may then ask questions of the deputation. Six minutes per deputation or petition is allowed for this, to include responses from the depute(e)s/petitioner(s).

After the deputation or petition has been heard the appropriate Cabinet Member or committee chair may respond in a speech no longer than three minutes.

No deputation or petition may appear before the Council again within the next three months on the same or a similar subject.

Data Protection - What will we do with the information that you have provided to us?

The Council has a legal duty to allow public access to its formal meetings (except in limited circumstances where the press and public may be excluded) and we are processing the data that you have provided in order to deal with your request to make a submission to one of those meetings. We will only process the information provided to us for the purpose for which you have provided it.

Your name and address may appear in the papers of the council, committee or sub-committee meeting that you have requested a submission to. These papers are freely available on the Council's website and in hard copy from the Council's offices.

We will not transfer your personal data outside of the EU/EEA.

Full the full privacy notice, please visit <https://www.camden.gov.uk/deputations>

Please return this form by email to vicky.wemyss-cooke@camden.gov.uk / donna.alexander-morrison@camden.gov.uk or by post to:-

Vicky Wemyss-Cooke/Donna Alexander-Morrison
Committee Services
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
Judd Street
London, WC1H 9JE
Enquires: 020 7974 5726/5319

* Part 4 of Camden's Constitution, 'Procedure Rules and Standing Orders'

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