

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

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MEMBERS

Councillor Jenny Headlam-Wells (Chair) (L)
Councillors Lotis Bautista (L), Matt Cooper (L), Julian Fulbrook (L),
Sylvia McNamara (L), Tom Simon (LD), Shiva Tiwari (L), Nanouche Umeadi (L)

Co-opted Members Aya Elgool, Margaret Harvey, Sarah Jafri, Reverend Guy Pope, Samir Qurashi and Dr Rachel Wrangham

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillors Chung (LD), Tommy Gale (L), Samata Khatoon (L), Izzy Lenga (L),
Jenny Mulholland (L), Nazma Rahman (L) and James Slater (L)

L = Labour, LD = Liberal Democrat

Issued on: Wednesday, 1 November 2023

CAMDEN TOWN HALL FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, leave the building quickly and calmly by the nearest available exit. Do not stop to collect personal belongings. Fire exit doors are clearly marked and lead via the staircases to Judd Street or Euston Road.

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MEETINGS IN CAMDEN

Agendas for public meetings are available in advance on the Council's website at www.camden.gov.uk. If you are interested in a particular item being considered at a meeting and you wish to speak (called making a deputation), please write to the Committee Officer listed on the front of the agenda. The deadline for deputation requests for this meeting is **5pm on Tuesday, 7 November 2023**. If your deputation request is accepted, the option to make your deputation remotely via Microsoft Teams will be available.

The Council is allowed to discuss some items in private, although this does not happen often – any such items will be discussed at the end of the meeting and you will be asked to leave at this point. Any members of the public joining the meeting remotely will also be asked to leave.

Members of the public have a right to film, record or photograph public meetings for reporting purposes. This does not apply to any of the Council's meetings which are private or not open to the public. Laws on public order offences and defamation still apply, and you should exercise your rights with responsibility. Please respect the views of others when reporting from a meeting. You may be asked to stop filming, photographing or recording a meeting if the Chair feels that the activity is disrupting the meeting.

This meeting will be webcast and can be watched live or viewed for twelve months afterwards at www.camden.gov.uk/webcast. If you are attending a meeting but do not wish to appear on the webcast you are advised to sit in the public gallery.

If you have any views or questions about meetings at Camden Council please call Committee Services on 020 7974 1915.

Gender inclusive minutes: Camden seeks to write the minutes of its committees in a way that does not misgender individuals. If you are contributing to the meeting and you wish to let us know what your pronouns are, please contact the Committee Officer named on the front of this agenda. Otherwise, we will use job titles, full names or neutral terminology. We will not assume gender.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

This meeting will be broadcast live by the Council via www.camden.gov.uk/webcast. The whole of the meeting will be filmed and recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the Internet for at least a year. A copy of it will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

If you make a representation to the meeting you will be deemed by the Council to have consented to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

The Council is obliged by law to allow members of the public to take their own recordings and images of this remote meeting. The Council will only seek to prevent this should it be undertaken in a disruptive or otherwise inappropriate manner.

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If you have any queries regarding webcasting or the recording of meetings by the public, please contact the webcasting co-ordinator on 020 7974 5653.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 9 NOVEMBER 2023

THERE ARE NO PRIVATE REPORTS

AGENDA

Wards

1. APOLOGIES

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

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

Broadcast of the meeting

The Chair to announce the following: 'In addition to the rights by law that the public and press have to record this meeting, I would like to remind everyone that this meeting is being broadcast live by the Council to the Internet and can be viewed on our website for twelve months after the meeting. After that time, webcasts are archived and can be made available upon request.

If you have asked to address the meeting, you are deemed to be consenting to having your contributions recorded and broadcast, including video when switched on, and to the use of those sound recordings and images for webcasting and/or training purposes'.

Any Other Announcements

4. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

Requests to speak at the Committee on a matter within its terms of reference must be made in writing to the clerk named on the front of this agenda by 5pm two working days before the meeting.

5. MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 7 September 2023.

(Pages
9 - 18)

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

7. 2023 ANNUAL SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING REPORT

All Wards

Report of the Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation.

(Pages 19 - 98)

Over the last 5 years there has been a significant reduction in demand for school places within Camden and the wider London area. Forecasts of pupil demand have also been created in times of unprecedented change and challenge for families in Camden. Specifically, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have fundamentally altered people's lives and changed patterns of migration within central London and Camden Borough specifically. The impacts of these have reduced the anticipated level of demand for school places. These factors also created a significant degree of uncertainty, and a less stable environment in which to plan ahead. Our modelling aims to account for these as best as they can, but they also rely on assumptions of future trends that can only be accurately assessed over time.

In response to these changing local demographics the Council has taken a proactive approach to school place planning. Since 2018 the Council, in partnership with its family of schools, has removed 10 forms of entry from our reception intake, responding to a 24% reduction in birth rates across the borough. These difficult decisions including four school closures, the most recent being the closure of St Dominic's Catholic Primary School, ensure that our family schools remain both sustainable and responsive to the needs of their communities.

Forecasts up to 2021 indicated a significant ongoing decline in pupil numbers. At that stage the Council indicated some caution in those figures as potentially over-estimating the ongoing impact of reduced migration caused by both Brexit and the Pandemic. In September 2021 and 2022 entry in to the Boroughs Secondary and Primary Schools were above the forecast for those years and this is a positive position for Camden Schools. During this period Camden Schools also welcomed a large number of Afghan and Ukrainian Families as part of the Afghan resettlement programme and the Homes for Ukraine programme. Whilst a number of the pupils have relocated within the UK, a proportion have also settled within Camden and bolstered pupil numbers as a result. As the national position has stabilised and our local position has taken account of these trends our most recent forecasts indicate a more consistent position and now show an increase in pupil demand towards the end of the decade.

The forecast data does however still show suppressed birth rates within London and Camden alongside the continued effect of reductions in families moving into Camden during the COVID period.

Primary:

The surplus over the reception year admission number is estimated to fall from 7% in 2023/24 to 13% by the middle of the decade before falling to 4% by 2032/33.

Secondary:

The Secondary Year 7 surplus is estimated to increase from 10% in 2023/24 to 21% by 2032/3.

This level of anticipated surplus provision within both phases does require responses overtime to ensure the sustainability of our school offer.

Ensuring Camden has the right number of school places is both the Council's statutory responsibility and aligns with our [We Make Camden](#) principals. Preventing schools becoming financially vulnerable and thus subject to unplanned change, helps maintain strong, safe and open communities. Good and outstanding schools promote independent healthy lives and support robust growth and jobs.

The data and forecasts of the demand for school places within Camden is reviewed annually by the authority and made publicly available. Our review incorporates all underlying demographic data including: existing provision and capacity, actual registered births and fertility, the latest GLA forecasts for births and their relationship to school rolls, together with the additional pupils associated with new housing developments. The analysis is used to help us make informed decisions about the future organisation of school places.

Our understanding of the current demographic pressures facing schools has also informed the development of Camden's Education Strategy 'Building Back Stronger. A significant part of the purpose of the of that strategy, and our continued school organisation work, is to ensure that our school system is sustainable and stable, maximising the opportunities for school level collaboration.

8. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BEST START FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: NOVEMBER 2023

All Wards

Report of the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families.

(Pages
99 - 144)

The Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families here provides the Committee with their annual report for discussion, including updates on Camden Learning, free school meals, support for students with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) and our other children and family health support initiatives.

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| 9. | UPDATE OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE & CULTURE | All Wards |
| | Report of the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture. | (Pages
145 - 150) |
| | This report provides the Committee with an update relating to the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture. | |
| 10. | LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN CHILDREN'S STATUTORY SERVICES COMPLAINTS REPORT 2022/23 | All Wards |
| | Report of the Director of Children's Prevention, Family Help and Safeguarding. | (Pages
151 - 180) |
| | This report provides information about complaints made to the Children's statutory services in the London Borough of Camden during the twelve months between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023. It is a statutory requirement to produce an annual report which is published on the Council's website. | |
| 11. | SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) PROVISION SCRUTINY PANEL - TERMS OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT | All Wards |
| | Report of the Chair of the SEND Provision Scrutiny Panel. | (Pages
181 - 184) |
| | On 7 September 2023, the Children, Schools and Families (CSF) Scrutiny Committee agreed for the SEND Provision Scrutiny Panel to be established and agreed the terms of reference. This report asks the Committee to agree an amended terms of reference (Appendix A), recommended by the Panel following their first formal meeting on 4 October 2023. | |
| 12. | CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER 2023/24 | All Wards |
| | Report of the Executive Director Children and Learning. | (Pages
185 - 190) |
| | This report sets out the work programme for the municipal year 2023/24 for the Committee's consideration. The Committee will continue to be provided with an updated report on their future work programme at each meeting, for their consideration. | |

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the future meeting dates for the remainder of the 2023-24 municipal year:

- 19 December 2023
- 18 January 2024
- 26 February 2024
- 13 March 2024

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECIDES TO CONSIDER AS URGENT

AGENDA ENDS

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 6.30 pm in Committee Room 2, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE.