

SCHOOLS FORUM

TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2023 AT 6.00 PM
REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS. THIS MEETING CAN BE WATCHED
LIVE AT WWW.CAMDEN.GOV.UK/WEBCAST

Enquiries to: Anoushka Clayton-Walshe, Committee Services
E-Mail: anoushka.clayton-walshe@camden.gov.uk
Telephone: 020 7974 8543 (Text phone prefix 18001)

MEMBERS

Katy Forsdyke (Chair)

Daniel Silverstone (Vice-Chair) (L)

Jen Allan, Jules Belton, Alan Chesters, Rob Earrey, James Hadley, Nick Hewlett, John Hayes, Perina Holness, Bob House, Deborah Issacs, Nicholas John, Vijita Patel and Colin Reader

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Jemima Wade, Izzy Jones and Alison Lowton

Issued on: Thursday, 30 November 2023

REMOTE MEETINGS IN CAMDEN

Everyone is welcome to watch public meetings in Camden. Agendas for these meetings are available in advance on the Council's website at www.camden.gov.uk/democracy.

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This meeting will be broadcast live via www.camden.gov.uk/webcast and will be viewable for six months afterwards. If you have any views or questions about meetings at Camden Council please call Committee Services on 020 7974 1915

REMOTE MEETING ETIQUETTE

Participants¹ in remote meetings are asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

Preparing for the meeting

- If you are planning to attend, make sure you have informed the committee officer named on the agenda front sheet, so that a full list of those expected at the meeting can be prepared.
- Ensure you have read the report(s) before the meeting.
- Ensure that you are located in an area where you are unlikely to be disturbed.
- Ensure that your broadband connection is sufficiently stable to join the meeting. If your connection has low bandwidth, you might need to ask others using your broadband connection to disconnect their devices from the broadband for the duration of the meeting. If the does not help, you may wish to try connecting your device to your router using an Ethernet cable.
- Ensure that your background is neutral (a blank wall is best) and that you are dressed appropriately for a meeting held in public.
- Ensure that the camera on the device that you are using is positioned to provide a clear, front-on view of your face. This may involve thinking about lighting in the room you are in (for example, sitting in front of a window may plunge your face into shadow) or putting your webcam, laptop or tablet on top of a couple of books so that you can look into the camera face on.
- Ensure that you are familiar with the functions of the software you are using. The committee officer will be online 15 minutes before the meeting start time to give everyone time to join and deal with any technical challenges, so try to join the meeting at least 5 minutes before the meeting start time to make sure that everything is working.
- Ideally, you should use earphones or a headset to participate in meetings as it reduces the risk of feedback from using your device's external speaker and reduces background noise from your surroundings.

At the meeting

- Join the meeting promptly to avoid unnecessary interruptions.
- Mute your microphone when you are not talking. If you are an officer or a depute, please turn off your video when not speaking in order to reduce bandwidth.

¹ Participants are defined as members of the Forum; officers advising the Forum or presenting reports; and any external partners / third-parties invited to address or advise the Forum.

- Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.
- When speaking for the first time, please state your name.
- Keep comments, questions and other contributions brief and to the point.
- If referring to a specific page on the agenda, mention the page number.
- The 'chat' function must only be used by committee members to indicate a wish to speak, to indicate that they are having a connection issue or to make a request for a formal vote. It is not to be used for conversations and should be used in an appropriate and professional manner at all times.
- Once you no longer need to participate in the meeting, please leave the call; you can still watch via the public video stream if you wish. Once the Chair closes the meeting, all remaining participants should leave the call promptly.

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.

ENDS

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.

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The Council has a privacy notice and further details that you can see at www.camden.gov.uk/privacy. We also have a privacy notice that explains our use of webcasting data that you can see at www.camden.gov.uk/data-protection-privacy-and-cookies#webcasting

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.

**SCHOOLS FORUM
5 DECEMBER 2023**

AGENDA

- 1. GUIDANCE ON REMOTE MEETINGS** (Pages
9 - 12)

To agree the procedures for the operation of remote meetings.

- 2. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP LIST** (Pages
13 - 14)

To note the Schools Forum membership list and any updates.

- 3. APOLOGIES**

- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

- 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- 6. MINUTES** (Pages
15 - 20)

To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2023.

7. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

8. SCHOOL FUNDING 2024/25

(Pages
21 - 48)

Report of the Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation.

At the recent November meeting, forum was presented with the results of the consultation document sent to schools relating to the funding arrangements for 2024/25. There were no major objections raised from the consultation and forum confirmed its agreement of the funding formula to be used for the distribution of funds to schools for 2024/25. This report indicates the latest estimate of funding for the schools Designated Schools Grant (DSG) block by school – (as updated on 6th October by Education Schools Funding Agency (ESFA) from their earlier figures indicated in the September Forum report) and seeks schools forum's agreement on the amount of DSG de-delegation for next year.

The individual schools figures are at this stage only indicative of the notional National Funding Formula (NFF) figures to be allocated to the overall schools budget for distribution by the Council via Camden's local formula. Final individual school budgets will be released to schools pending update of ESFA data (with the recent October 2023 census data) and its application to the local Camden schools' formula using the Authority Planning Tool (APT). This is expected in late December 2023.

The report also gives initial forecasts of the 2023/24 Early Years and High Needs DSG outturn, future budgets requirements planned DSG spending.

The report also outlines current and future cost pressures on schools and high needs budgets.

This report was completed prior to any further announcements by the ESFA regarding schools national funding formula proposals. Officers will provide an oral update to the forum on any intervening development in schools' funding at the meeting.

9. 2023 SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING REPORT

(Pages
49 - 62)

Report of the Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation.

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 into 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 rise 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.

10. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB): POSITION UPDATE FOR 2023/24

(Pages
63 - 66)

Report of the Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation.

This report provides an update on the position of the 2023/24 HNB and some initial comments about the 2024/25 allocation.

11. SCHOOL MEALS DELIVERY IN SCHOOLS

(Pages
67 - 74)

Report of the Head of Education Commissioning and School Organisation.

Camden Council reported to Schools Forum in September 2023 concerning the ongoing consideration of future School Meals contract.

The following presentation sets out the Council's current position with regard to the future of school meals delivery and the range of options available to the Council.

12. FORWARD PLAN

(Pages
75 - 76)

To consider and note the Schools Forum forward plan.

13. FUTURE MEETING DATES

To note the remaining meeting dates of the academic year:

- 6 February 2024
- 4 June 2024

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

AGENDA ENDS

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 6 February 2024 at 6.00 pm in Remote meeting via Microsoft Teams. This meeting can be watched live at www.camden.gov.uk/webcast.