

# CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM  
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, TOWN HALL, JUDD STREET, LONDON WC1H 9JE

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## MEMBERS

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

Co-opted Members Camden Youth Council representative, Margaret Harvey, Sarah Jafri and Dr Rachel Wrangham

## SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillors Linda 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, C = Conservative

Issued on: Friday, 1 November 2024

## **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.

Do not use the lifts. If you are a wheelchair user or have a mobility problem which prevents you from using the staircases, please proceed to the lift lobby area where you will be evacuated from the building.

Do not wait immediately outside the building – proceed to Bidborough Street (outside the Openreach building) and await further instructions.

## **MEETINGS IN CAMDEN**

Agendas for public meetings are available in advance on the Council's website at [www.camden.gov.uk](http://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 Thursday, 7 November 2024**. 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

# **CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **11 NOVEMBER 2024**

**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 8 October 2024.

(Pages 9 -  
20)

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

**7. LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN CHILDREN'S STATUTORY SERVICES COMPLAINTS REPORT 2023/24**

**All Wards**

(Pages 21 - 44)

Report of the Director of Children's Prevention, Family Help and Safeguarding, Children and Learning.

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<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. It is a statutory requirement to produce an annual report which is published on the Council's website.

**8. 2024 SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING REPORT**

**All Wards**

Report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.

(Pages 45 - 100)

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 across the Borough.

Since 2018 the Council, in partnership with its family of schools, has removed 10 forms of entry from our reception intake, responding to a reduction in birth rates of over 30% 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.

The forecast data continues show suppressed birth rates within London and Camden alongside the continued effect of reductions in families moving into Camden during the COVID period. Whilst the peak of surplus anticipated from last year is not forecast to increase our new forecasts indicate that Camden will reach that peak sooner, and that the marginal increases towards the end of the planning period will not be realised to the same extent.

Primary:

The surplus over the reception year admission number is estimated to rise 6.7% in 2023 to 28% by 2032/33.

Secondary:

The Secondary Year 7 surplus is estimated to increase from 12% in 2023 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. The Council in collaboration with schools has established a School Place Planning Group of school leaders to develop a school place planning strategy with aligned implementation plan focused on schools most acutely impacted by falling roles.

Ensuring Camden has the right number of school places is both the Council's statutory responsibility and aligns with our We Make Camden principals and are fundamental to the implementation of the Councils Education Strategy 'Building Back Stronger'. 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 Greater London Authority (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.

**9. PERSISTENT ABSENCE, INCLUSION AND ALTERNATIVE PROVISION All Wards**

Report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion and Chief Executive Officer, Camden Learning.

(Pages 101 - 114)

This report discusses the prevalence of persistent absence in Camden's schools and an overview of our work to ensure education is inclusive for all children. Overall attendance in Camden schools in 2023/24 has improved from previous years but remains below pre-pandemic levels and the proportion of pupils considered persistently absent is higher than comparable national rates. This report details our current work to improve attendance and inclusion of students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and an overview of existing alternative provision and support for children known to social care, including looked after children.

**10. CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER 2024/25**

(Pages 115 -  
122)

Report of the Executive Director Children and Learning.

This report provides an outline of the 2024/25 work programme (Appendix 1) and provides an update on actions requested at previous meetings (Appendix 2).

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the meeting dates for the remainder of the 2024-25 municipal year:

- Tuesday, 10 December 2024
- Tuesday, 14 January 2025
- Monday, 24 February 2025

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECIDES TO CONSIDER AS URGENT**

**AGENDA ENDS**

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 10 December 2024 at 6.30 pm in Committee Room 2, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE.