

SCHOOLS FORUM

WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6.00 PM
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, TOWN HALL, JUDD STREET, LONDON WC1H 9JE

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MEMBERS

Katy Forsdyke (Chair)

Daniel Silverstone (Vice-Chair)

Jen Allan, Mark Anthony, Jules Belton, Rob Earrey, John Hayes, Nick Hewlett, Perina Holness, Bob House, Deborah Issacs, Nicholas John, Kateryna Law, Vijita Patel, Luca Salice, Jacob Sam and Alex Wilson

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Izzy Jones, Alison Lowton and Jemima Wade

Issued on: Thursday, 30 January 2025

CAMDEN TOWN HALL FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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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.

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.

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.

ENDS

SCHOOLS FORUM 5 FEBRUARY 2025

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

3. 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

4. MINUTES

(Pages 7 -
12)

To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2024.

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

6. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP LIST

(Pages 13 -
14)

To note the Schools Forum membership list and any updates.

- 7. SCHOOL FUNDING 2025/26 - UPDATE** (Pages 15 - 50)
- Report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.
- This report updates the Schools Forum on the estimated funding available for 2025/26 following the recent Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) finance settlement notification on 18th December 2024 and details the anticipated use of this money to fund schools early years and high needs. It then outlines future funding pressures the current DSG reserves position, de-delegation and the latest ESFA support.
- 8. EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS FUNDING 2025-26** (Pages 51 - 58)
- Report of the Director of Children’s Prevention, Family Help and Safeguarding.
- This report details the proposed allocation of national free entitlement funding using Camden’s local funding formula. It seeks approval from School’s Forum for the proposed hourly rates payable to providers and for the retained element of funding used by the local authority to administer the schemes.
- 9. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK (HNB): UPDATE ON 2024/25 PROJECTION AND PROPOSALS FOR 2025/26** (Pages 59 - 68)
- Report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.
- This report provides an updated financial projection on High Needs Block (HNB) spend for 2024/25 and reports a further increase in the deficit projection since the last report.
- Proposals for the 2025/26 HNB budget are made against this background and that are sustainable whilst also working to improve life outcomes for children/young people with high needs.
- 10. SCHOOL MEALS DELIVERY IN SCHOOLS UPDATE** (Pages 69 - 74)
- Report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.
- At its meeting of 11th September 2024, an update was presented to the Schools Forum on the procurement of the new school meals contract. The current contract with Cater Link is due to expire on 31st March 2025. A further update is now available.

Following a successful tendering process, tenders were received on 10th September 2024 for a new service that is due to commence on 1st April 2025 for a period of three years, with option for two extensions of one year each, with a total estimated aggregate value of £24m. The new contract will include an option to break after two years (April 2027), which will allow the Council to move to an in-house arrangement, if possible.

11. SCHOOLS FORUM WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER 2024/25 (Pages 75 - 82)

Report of the Director of Education Commissioning and Inclusion.

This report sets out the work plan for the Schools Forum for the remainder of the 2024/25 school year (Appendix 1) and provides an update on actions requested at previous meetings (Appendix 2).

12. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The final meeting of the academic year is at 6pm, Wednesday 4 June 2025.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

AGENDA ENDS

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, 4 June 2025 at 6.00 pm in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE.