

RESOURCES AND CORPORATE PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, TOWN HALL, JUDD STREET, LONDON WC1H 9JE

Enquiries to: Ben Lynn, Committee Services
E-Mail: ben.lynn@camden.gov.uk
Telephone: 020 7974 5653 (Text phone prefix 18001)

MEMBERS

Councillor Linda Chung (Chair) (LD)

Councillors Rebecca Filer (L), Edmund Frondigoun (L), Liam Martin-Lane (L), Jenny Mulholland (L), Andrew Parkinson (C), Jonathan Simpson (L) and James Slater (L)

Co-opted Members

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillors Steve Adams (C), Ajok Athian (L), Nina De Ayala Parker (L), Julian Fulbrook (L), Lorna Greenwood (L), Matthew Kirk (LD), Izzy Lenga (L) and Nazma Rahman (L)

L = Labour, LD = Liberal Democrat, C = Conservative

Issued on: Monday, 30 September 2024

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**RESOURCES AND CORPORATE PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
8 OCTOBER 2024**

THERE ARE NO PRIVATE REPORTS

PLEASE NOTE THAT PART OF THIS MEETING MAY NOT BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BECAUSE IT MAY INVOLVE THE CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION WITHIN THE MEANING OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, OR CONFIDENTIAL WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 100(A)(2) OF THE ACT.

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)

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

6. MINUTES

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2024. (Pages 7 - 12)

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT AND MID-YEAR STRATEGY **All Wards**

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living. (Pages 13 - 28)

This report presents the treasury activity during 2023/24 and the first half of 2024/25, compliance with guidance and treasury indicators and an update on the economic background shaping the treasury strategy.

8. KING'S SPEECH: IMPLICATIONS FOR CAMDEN

All Wards

Report of the Director of Corporate Strategy and Policy Design.

(Pages 29 - 48)

This report sets out the legislative programme announced by the government at the King's Speech, which took place on Wednesday 17 July 2024. It identifies implications that may arise for Camden from the announced legislation, including financial and resource implications, changes to statutory or regulatory frameworks within which Council services operate, and anticipated impacts on demand for Council services. There are also implications arising from announced legislation that may have significant implications for local government as a sector, and these are considered. The Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee is advised of specific pieces of announced legislation that may be worth remaining mindful and aware of if and when they become law.

The Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider Camden's strategic approach to working in partnership with the government, the local government sector, and the wider policymaking landscape in the context of the legislative agenda announced in the King's Speech

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 AND ACTION TRACKER

All Wards

Report of the Executive Director Corporate Services.

(Pages 49 - 56)

This paper provides an outline of the 2023/24 work programme and provides an update on actions requested at previous meetings of the Committee in the Action Tracker.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

AGENDA ENDS

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday, 12 November 2024 at 6.30 pm in Committee Room 2, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE.

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THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **RESOURCES AND CORPORATE PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held on **MONDAY, 15TH JULY, 2024** at 6.30 pm in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT

Councillors Linda Chung (Chair), Rebecca Filer, Edmund Frondigoun, Liam Martin-Lane, Andrew Parkinson and Jonathan Simpson

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT

Councillors Jenny Mulholland and James Slater

ALSO PRESENT

Councillors Richard Olszewski

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received for Cllrs Jenny Mulholland and James Slater.

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

No declarations were made.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED –

THAT the Terms of Reference be noted.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Broadcast of the meeting

The Chair announced that the meeting was being broadcast live by the Council to the Internet and could be viewed on the website for twelve months after the meeting. After that time, webcasts were archived and could be made available upon request. Those who had asked to address the meeting were deemed to be consenting to having their contributions recorded and broadcast and to the use of those sound recordings and images for webcasting and/or training purposes.

5. DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

There were no deputations.

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

There was no such business.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes of the meetings of 22 January 2024 and 27 February 2024 be agreed.

8. HOUSING OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL COMPLAINT HANDLING AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT AND COMPLAINT HANDLING CODE SELF-ASSESSMENT - LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN 2023-2024

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor. The report was introduced by the Service Manager – Information Governance and the Head of Property Customer Services and Engagement.

In their discussion of the report, the Committee made the following comments:

Members asked about the process of the self-assessment and the form that it takes. The Service Manager explained that the Housing Ombudsman stated areas where Camden needed to be compliant. The Council then needed to provide evidence of compliance and reasons for non-compliance.

The Committee were interested in lessons that the organisation had learned from the process. The Service Manager said that the process had allowed the team to look at

where blocks were happening in the system and identification of training and improvement needs.

The Head of Property Customer Services and Engagement said that previously, complaints within the Neighbourhoods and Property Services teams, that would usually have several elements to it, would be handled across teams by multiple people. This would be evident in responses given to residents. Learning from the complaints and assessment had led to assigning complaints to an individual officer increasing the cohesiveness of responses given to residents.

Using our existing independent customer satisfaction provider, they are making outbound calls to follow up with every resident after their Stage 1 complaint. This was to seek feedback of residents' experiences of the process, whether the response was timely and professional. The new process for following up with residents allowed for more organisational learning and was an indicator of Camden taking ownership and responsibility for the complaints process.

A Member commented that if an issue had reached the stage of a complaint, there had been a failing earlier in the system. They asked what assurance could be given that trends in complaints were being investigated and learnt from, to tackle issues before they reach a complaint stage. The Head of Property Customer Services and Engagement said that there was now a 'lessons learned' lead who would look at complaints, trends and improvements. They were keen to hear from residents as part of the process. The Head of Property Customer Services and Engagement spoke about the new Customer Oversight Panel, a resident led panel that had been created to hold officers to account.

A Committee Member raised the rate of maladministration of complaints being significantly higher than the national average. The Service Manager – Information Governance commented that as the numbers were very small, any change would come out higher as a percentage. He would look into the request from the Member as to whether publishing cases of maladministration when they occurred, rather than waiting for the annual report, could be an option.

Action by: the Service Manager – Information Governance

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

9. 2024/25 UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL POSITION

Consideration was given to the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living. The report was introduced by the Head of Finance, Corporate Services.

Members reflected on the previous government and funding given for the additional services and functions being expected from local authorities. The Cabinet Member

commented that there were a lot of benefits from government devolving services, however, when this was not properly funded it added to the financial pressures on local authorities. The Cabinet Member said that the local government sector would be conveying the experiences of authorities through the Local Government Association (LGA) and London Councils. In time, suggestions could be made about how to improve systems, but this shouldn't be expected to come with lots of funding.

A member of the Committee asked about the increase fixed penalty notice fines and why some fines were increased to the maximum allowable amount, whereas others were not. The Head of Finance said that these amounts would be under review and that the amount needed to be enough to act as a deterrent whilst not creating undue financial hardship for people. In response to a follow up question, the Head of Finance agreed to provide the Committee with information of the support available for those who received fixed penalty notices and could not afford to pay them.

Action by: the Head of Finance, Corporate Services

The Committee discussed local authority funding from central government and welcomed plans for multi-year funding settlements. They agreed that it would be helpful for central government to receive feedback of how challenging single-year funding settlements had been.

The Committee thanked the Finance Team for their continued hard work and success in managing Camden's finances.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

10. INSIGHT, LEARNING AND IMPACT REPORT – QUARTER 4/END OF YEAR 2023-24

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Directors of Adults and Health, Children and Learning, Supporting Communities and Corporate Services. The report was introduced by the Head of Corporate Strategy.

In their discussion of the report, the Committee spoke about the recent election. In response to questions that arose the Head of Corporate Strategy agreed to provide members with the actions taken to engage voters for the general election and the information given on how to vote. They also agreed to provide information to Members on the timescale of the canvass.

Action by: The Head of Corporate Strategy and Cabinet Office.

RESOLVED –

THAT the report be noted.

11. WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 AND ACTION TRACKER

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Director Corporate Services, the report was introduced by the Corporate Strategy Portfolio Lead.

The Committee, who were joined by the Directors of Corporate Strategy and Finance and the Chief Experience and Information Officer, discussed the work programme for the new municipal year and suggested reports they would like to have at future meetings.

Through their discussion the Committee identified the following areas of interest that they wanted programmed into the work of the Committee:

- Equalities
- Maximising income
- The Missions approach
- Apprenticeships
- HR Annual report
- Implications on Camden Council arising from the King's Speech
- An update on the data, communications and the Camden website

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no such business.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

CHAIR

Contact Officer: Ben Lynn
Telephone No: 020 7974 5653
E-Mail: ben.lynn@camden.gov.uk

MINUTES END

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Agenda Item 7

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Treasury Management Annual Report and Mid-Year Strategy (CS/2024/15)	
REPORT OF Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee Cabinet Council	DATE 8 October 2024 9 October 2024 14 October 2024
STRATEGIC CONTEXT We Make Camden is our joint vision for the borough, developed in partnership with our community. The proposals ensure a strong treasury management strategy is in place to help achieve the ambitious vision of our communities. We Make Camden includes a commitment to “strong financial management”. A robust and effective treasury management strategy is crucial to enabling this ambition.	
SUMMARY OF REPORT This report presents the treasury activity during 2023/24 and the first half of 2024/25, compliance with guidance and treasury indicators and an update on the economic background shaping the treasury strategy. Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information There are no documents which are required to be listed. Contact Officer: Nigel Keogh Head of Treasury & Financial Services Corporate Services Dennis Geffen Annexe Camley Street. N1C 4DG. Tel: 07505074979 Email: Nigel.Keogh@camden.gov.uk	
RECOMMENDATIONS Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the report and make any recommendations to the Cabinet. Cabinet is recommended to note the annual report (paragraphs 3.3-3.18) and Mid-year strategy (paragraphs 3.19-3.46) and recommend to Council for approval Council is recommended to approve the Treasury Management Annual Report (paragraphs 3.3-3.18) and the Mid-year Strategy (paragraphs 3.19-3.46) outlined in this report;	

Signed: Signed by the Director of Finance

Date: 26 September 2024

1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

1.1. This report presents an update on the previous year's treasury management activities together with a mid-year update on progress against the current year's strategy. The annual report demonstrates the effect of the decisions taken in accordance with the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy as well as how treasury activity has complied with that policy. The mid-year report considers the continuing suitability of this year's strategy at the mid-year stage.

1.2. The report provides detailed assessment of our treasury management activity, but in summary, it is worth noting that:

- There is no increase in the risk profile and appetite and the Council continues to operate prudent debt and investment strategies.
- All Councils are operating in challenging and volatile economic circumstances with Central banks globally struggling to control inflation and financial markets expecting economies to enter recessionary periods. This is a very different scenario compared to past years and requires a prudent approach.
- The Council has not engaged in the arguably riskier commercial activities that have led to a tightening of the treasury framework for all Councils. While we continue to look at ways in which to maximise our investment returns, this has not been at the expense of the security of our investments.
- Treasury Management issues have compromised the financial stability of some councils, particularly where lending practices have led to defaults or where commercial ventures have underperformed. However, Camden has maintained a prudent approach, avoiding such high-risk activities. Our strategy focuses on ensuring that our capital programme remains affordable and sustainable, while treasury management continues to support the Council's financial stability by managing revenue pressures effectively within the agreed budgets.
- There are no immediate plans for new borrowing at this time. The internal borrowing policy continues to be sensible (saving £533k per annum) and appropriate given the outlook for interest rates on debt and investment. The policy ensures the Council minimises interest paid on debt and uses investment resources efficiently.
- During 2023/24 and the first half of 2024/25, the Council has operated within its treasury and prudential indicators set which demonstrates good governance and control.
- On 24 February 2022 the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) borrowed £250m and this cash is co-invested alongside Council investment balances and has therefore increased investments under management. On 19 January 2023 the NLWA borrowed £200m and a further £140m on 11 July 2024. The Executive Director Corporate Services is NLWA's Financial Adviser and has delegated authority to increase limits as and when future NLWA borrowing occurs in order to manage higher investment balances. While this may affect the scale of those investments, the underlying strategy remains unaffected. Any decisions made are within NLWA governance. Note this report only reports on NLWA investments as invested alongside Council investments. All NLWA borrowing is not reported here but will be reported to the NLWA as part of their governance.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

2.1. The Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2023/24. It is also required to

review the 2024/25 annual strategy mid-year. This report meets the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 3.1. The effective management and control of risk are prime objectives of treasury management. Risks can include, amongst others, the failure of a bank to repay a loan. The Council needs to determine for itself how it pursues value for money whilst simultaneously striving to effectively manage and control such risks.
- 3.2. The Council has strategic options available in the management of its debt and investment portfolios:
- The Council must decide when it is appropriate to take on new **debt** and at what rates in order to fund its existing and planned capital expenditure. The Council can also choose to ‘internally borrow’ by avoiding new debt and instead using reserves and working balances to fund borrowing.
 - The Council sets an **investment** strategy that prioritises security and its cash flow needs whilst maximising investment income.

ANNUAL REPORT

Borrowing

- 3.3. The borrowing strategy agreed for last year was premised on three factors:
- the Council’s continuing underlying need to borrow
 - the availability of reserves and working capital to cover under-borrowing (the capital financing requirement less existing borrowing), and
 - the difference in rates available for investments versus those charged for new debt (the ‘cost of carry’). Borrowing rates were expected to fall gradually during the year.
- 3.4. The Council is internally borrowing which means it is temporarily using its own resources (reserves and working capital) to fund past and planned capital expenditure rather than entering into new borrowing. Although external debt stood at £314m at the end of 2023/24, the overall need to borrow (the Capital Financing Requirement or CFR) was £636m and therefore the Council was under-borrowed by £322m. Note NLWA debt is not included in these figures and reported separately to their Authority.

TABLE 1: YEAR END DEBT POSITION

	31-Mar-23			31-Mar-24		
	Value	Average interest rate (%)	Avg life (yrs)	Value	Average interest rate (%)	Avg life (yrs)
Fixed rate (PWLB) borrowing	£198m	5.54	19.55	£190m	5.31	19.56
Variable rate (market) borrowing	£124m	4.63	28.96	£124m	4.63	27.95
Total debt	£322m	5.08	24.25	£314m	4.97	23.76
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	£662m			£636m		
Under-borrowing	-£340m			-£322m		

- 3.5. Table 1 shows that overall debt has decreased to £314m with loans maturing with a value of £8m in 2023/24. The overall average interest rate payable on the borrowing portfolio has decreased to 4.97% at the end of March 2024 and the average life of the portfolio was 24 years at that date.
- 3.6. Market debt remains unchanged at £124m during the year. The market debt comprises 6 LOBO (lender's option borrower's option) loans. LOBOs remain part of a valid, diversified borrowing strategy. Camden's market loans were acquired at lower interest rates than available from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and, as per Table 1, the average rate for LOBO loans is currently lower than the average rate for the Council's PWLB borrowing. It is important to note that our LOBO loans are straight forward rather than the more complex loans ('inverse linkers') that other Councils have been involved with which have been investigated by the Communities Select Committee and have been prominent in the press.
- 3.7. LOBO loans can be 'called' by the lending banks on a half yearly basis which means the lender can change (increase) the rates applied and the borrower (the Council) has the 'option' to accept the new rate or repay the loan.
- 3.8. Although it is not estimated that these loans will be called over their lifetime, the Council keeps the loans under review and will negotiate a rescheduling when and if market conditions allow. Scenario testing carried out by the Council's treasury consultants, Link Asset Services, indicates that the cumulative call probability of a call by LOBO lenders will increase from circa 35-45% using current market expectations of interest rates to 40-55% when an additional 0.5% was added to future interest rate expectations over the life of the loans.
- 3.9. In accordance with the internal borrowing approach adopted, the Council did not take on any new debt during the year. The Council could have decided to borrow at rates (currently offered at 5.29% for 50-year loans) to meet some of its outstanding borrowing requirement. However, as the Council has no immediate need for external borrowing, this would have resulted in a 'cost of carry' of £533k (i.e. the difference between new borrowing rates and investment rates on re-invested cash not immediately required) which would be a real revenue cost to the Council.
- 3.10. The Council is required to work within a prudential framework which sets indicators for deciding the level of affordable borrowing and managing debt. The Council has complied with the requirements of the Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code of Practice throughout the year and remained within borrowing limits set (see indicators set out in Appendix 1). The debt portfolio remains affordable and appropriately structured with no immediate requirement to restructure the portfolio. Officers monitor the under-borrowing position with our treasury consultants regularly to ensure that the internal borrowing strategy remains appropriate.

Investments

- 3.11. The Council's investment strategy is governed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance, and is approved annually by Council in March of each year. Using credit ratings provided by the three main rating agencies together with additional market information, this strategy sets out which counterparties (mainly banks but also other local authorities) the Council can invest with, cash limits for each counterparty, and

the maximum investment term for each counterparty. Given the scale of investments under management the Council is more risk aware in setting its criteria for investment than other boroughs. The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy.

- 3.12. Bank of England base rates were 0.75% on 1 April 2022 and during 2022/23 there were 8 increases with rates finishing the year at 4.25%. Since then, the Bank has raised rates at each successive meeting ending up at 5.25% in August and leaving them on hold. Rates dropped to 5% in August 2024. The Council continued to adopt a prudent approach to investment with security as the prime consideration. Whilst the Treasury function aims to optimise investment opportunities, it is primarily concerned with stewardship of public money.
- 3.13. Throughout the 2023/24 year the Council maintained average investment balances of £671m and the average rate of interest earned was 4.95%. This compared to average Sterling Overnight Index Average (known as SONIA) for 3 months of 5.12%, average 6-month SONIA of 5.23% and average 12-month SONIA of 5.24%.
- 3.14. The investment strategy limited investments with suitable counterparties to two years including NatWest due to it being part-nationalised with Government support. The investment strategy also allows investment with local authorities up to two years.

Regulatory guidance

- 3.15. On 20 December 2021 CIPFA published revised codes which build on previous editions (these include changes in capital strategy, prudential indicators and investment reporting). The Council continues to follow the principles within these codes that the Authority will not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. This Council is very supportive of the financial freedoms in the Prudential Code which the current framework allows and would want to protect our right to determine affordable capital schemes rather than a return to centrally set borrowing approvals.
- 3.16. The Prudential Code maintains the principle-based approach to decision-making (ensuring capital financing decisions are prudent, affordable and sustainable). The 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy reported in March 2024 included a summary of the capital expenditure plans and forecast capital financing requirements and considers long-term borrowing needs.
- 3.17. The Treasury Management Code includes non-treasury investment activities, which reflects the increasingly prominent commercialisation agenda in public sector organisations.
- 3.18. MHCLG investment guidance for local authorities (2018) made a number of changes primarily to address the non-treasury investments used by some Councils. Local authorities are required to follow the guidance and the Council incorporated these changes into the Treasury Management Strategy.

MID-YEAR STRATEGY UPDATE

- 3.19. During the first half of 2024/25 the Council has continued with the Treasury policies pursued recently. It continues to avoid expensive borrowing by internally borrowing and has a prudent investment policy. The Council has

complied with the CIPFA codes and its prudential and treasury indicators during the first half of 2024/25.

- 3.20. The 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy noted that long-term borrowing rates were likely to fall. Following the Bank of England’s decision to decrease interest rates to 5% on 1 August 2024, the Council’s treasury advisors Link had forecast base rate would remain at 5% in September 2024 but may fall again later in the year. Changes to base rates have a strong influence on the returns available to the Council on its short-term investments in the UK money markets. Link expect gilt yields and PWLB rates to reduce accordingly.
- 3.21. The UK’s quarterly economic growth was increased by 0.6% in the second quarter of 2024, following an increase of 0.7% in the first quarter. The Consumer Price Index rose by 2.2% in the 12 months to July 2024, up from 2% in June 2024. The largest upward contribution to the monthly change came from housing and household services where prices of gas and electricity fell by less than they did last year.
- 3.22. A loan of £6.4m will be made to Camden Living Social Offer Ltd (“CLR”) , a Council subsidiary company which is in the advanced stages of applying to become a Registered Provider. The loan’s purpose will be to enable CLR to purchase 34 newly constructed CIP housing units from the Council at Central Somers Town to let at Social Rent . The loan forms part of the Camden Living Implementation Strategy agreed by Cabinet in September 2022 and is subject to CLR completing its RP registration. It will be at a submarket rate of 3% and is anticipated to be completed in late 2024/ early 2025. Detailed terms of the loan are currently being approved through a Non Key Executive Decision being taken by the Executive Director Corporate Services as one of the actions to activate the Camden Living Implementation Strategy. The final provisions of the Council’s loan agreement with CLR will be approved by the Director of Finance in a further Non Key Executive Decision.

Borrowing

- 3.23. Borrowing is based on past and planned capital expenditure and must remain affordable within revenue budgets to ensure services continue without disruption. Although additional capital schemes were added to the programme in July 2024, including £22m for 2023/24, none were funded through borrowing. As a result, the impact on the borrowing requirement for 2024/25 remains unchanged, with planned capital expenditure at £223m and financing at £203m

TABLE 2: ESTIMATED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING FOR 2024/25

	2024/25 Original Estimate	2024/25 Revised Estimate	Variance
Capital expenditure	223	223	0
Less: financing	203	203	0
Impact on borrowing requirement	20	20	0

- 3.24. The annual change to the borrowing requirement remains unchanged for 2024/25. Although future capital expenditure includes projects such as the Veolia waste trucks, these will impact borrowing in later years, not in 2024/25.

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for 2024/25 has increased to £734m from £646m in March 2024, as initially estimated (Table 3). The annual change to the borrowing requirement has stayed the same for 2024/25, and so is the same at year-end compared to the March estimate. Overall, the estimated Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for 2024/25 has increased to £734m from £646m in March 2024 when the Treasury Management Strategy was agreed (Table 3).

TABLE 3: MEDIUM TERM BORROWING REQUIREMENT*

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
CFR (excl PFI)*	734	743	726	731	667
GF CFR	126	122	116	111	105
HRA CFR	607	622	609	620	562
Gross borrowing	293	293	281	281	281
GF	38	38	36	36	36
HRA	255	255	245	245	245
Under-borrowing	441	450	445	450	386
GF	89	84	80	75	69
HRA	352	366	365	376	317

*N.B. All figures as at 31 March and exclude PFI and finance leases

- 3.25. Table 3 shows that the amount of capital expenditure (both past and current) that requires financing (the CFR). The CFR peaks in 25/26 at £743m. The Council currently has existing borrowing of £293m (with £20.7m maturing in 24/25) and this reduces as debt matures over the five-year period to £281m. In 2024/25 the Council will be under-borrowed by £441m and this under-borrowing will increase to a peak of £450m in 2025/26 and 2027/28 (if no new borrowing is entered into).
- 3.26. The Council operates two distinct debt pools. This helps focus attention on the individual and differing needs of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and General Fund (GF). Decisions to borrow are considered with regard to these two pools' requirements.
- 3.27. While current borrowing rates have decreased, locking in fixed interest rates now may not be beneficial in a falling interest rate environment, as further reductions could present more favourable borrowing opportunities in the future. Additionally, taking on new debt at this point would result in an immediate cost of carry of £533k, which would be a direct expense to the Council without an immediate need for borrowing. The HRA faces significant interest cost pressures due to its larger borrowing needs for housing projects, making cost management crucial. In contrast, GF debt remains more manageable. Given these factors and the significant pressure from HRA interest costs, internal borrowing remains the most prudent and cost-effective strategy for both the GF and HRA.
- 3.28. It is far from certain in the current financial and political environment what the trajectory for inflation and interest rates will be and so the policy on internal borrowing may need to change. However, Camden's forecast cash balance remains positive despite the capital expenditure planned and the movement on reserves and balances. Therefore, to incur the cost of carry estimated at £533k cannot be justified whilst positive cash balances continue (up to 2028/29) and internal borrowing is the best course of action. Officers monitor the under-

borrowing position with our treasury consultants regularly to ensure that the internal borrowing strategy remains appropriate. This includes monitoring forecast rates and any changes in future plans to ensure the most suitable policy is used to fund our existing debt liabilities, planned prudential borrowing and other cash flows.

- 3.29. The Government has consulted on future PWLB lending terms after it raised rates by a further 1% on loans citing increased use of PWLB borrowing to support commercial projects in the public sector. Whilst there are exemptions for housing and regeneration this Council has argued against further controls outlined in the consultation. The Treasury updated the terms and conditions applied to PWLB lending, including more details on PWLB loans permitted and prohibited.
- 3.30. Debt rescheduling opportunities have been limited in the current economic climate and consequent structure of interest rates and following the increase in the margin added to gilts yields, which has impacted PWLB new borrowing rates since October 2010 and more recently in 2020. No debt rescheduling was undertaken during the first part of the year. Currently it would cost £4.3m to reschedule the £198m PWLB debt (in addition to repaying the principal debt amount) and so this is not economically advantageous.
- 3.31. The Council monitors its market loans which have semi-annual options for lenders to reset interest rates and the option to either accept or repay these loans. Many Councils have found it difficult to refinance these loans when this happens. This Council regularly reviews both the likelihood, market practice and options for refinancing. It is not expected that our loans will be called and we keep this under review.
- 3.32. The Council is required to set both an operational boundary and an authorised limit for external debt (Appendix 1). No difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these prudential indicators.

Investment Strategy

- 3.33. The Council's investment priorities are:
 - (a) security of capital (primarily) and
 - (b) liquidity of its investments (secondly).
- 3.34. After these overriding priorities, the Council will aim to optimise return on its investments (thirdly) commensurate with high levels of security and good liquidity. The risk appetite of this Council is low in order to give priority to security of its investments which is paramount.
- 3.35. The UK money market investment environment has changed with a downward trajectory for investment rates. The pace of changes to Bank Rate remains a key determinant of investment returns. Following the Bank of England's decision at its meeting on 1 August 2024, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted to decrease the base rate to 5%. The Council aims to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with high levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate and the heightened credit concerns, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term, and only invest with highly rated financial institutions, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with highly credit rated financial institutions.

- 3.36. The Council invests in three **Money Market Funds** (MMFs) (Aberdeen, JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs) which are all in the Low Volatility Net Asset Value (LVNAV) class. Money Market Fund Regulations restrict LVNAV funds from returning negative rates. If negative rates are a possibility, fund managers will either need to convert to accumulating share classes (ultimately 'decumulating' in value) and/or adjust their fees to avoid the need to change to this type of fund. An accumulating share class vehicle reinvests the income received back into the fund, as opposed to distributing the returns back to the investor.
- 3.37. In terms of security, the price of **Credit Default Swaps** (CDS essentially a means of insuring against a borrower's failure to repay debt) has decreased during the first half of the year indicating reduced concern about banks' security. Link provide information on banks' CDS pricing and all banks on our list remain within tolerance.
- 3.38. The Council held £684m of investments as at 19 August 2024 (£413m at 31 March 2024) and the average rate of return on this date was 5.09% (5.48% at 31 March 2024). £238m of this investment balance was invested on behalf of the NLWA. The rate of return has decreased (along with investment returns generally) as the Base rate has decreased to 5%. The Council's treasury consultants forecast the base rate will remain at 5% in Autumn and decrease to 4.50% in December 2024 and 4% in March 2025.
- 3.39. **NatWest bank** is eligible for inclusion on the Council's counterparty list. Given the Government's significant holding in the part-nationalised bank it is still not considered to be pure banking risk and is eligible for investments of up to two years on the Council's counterparty list. Due to significant, but not controlling, Government ownership, NatWest is considered to have quasi-sovereign risk, not pure banking risk, and has a limit of £135m.
- 3.40. The above position is being kept under review as the UK government has taken the decision to gradually reduce its holding (now at 18.99%), and has the longer-term intention to fully divest itself of the bank by 2025-26.
- 3.41. The approved counterparty limits and prudential and treasury indicators were not breached in the year to 19 August 2024 and there were no liquidity concerns.
- 3.42. The **NLWA** is constructing an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) as part of the North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP). An estimated cost of £800m–£850m was initially discussed in November 2021 based on early project estimates. While the final cost may vary, this figure was used to reflect the expected range at that time. On 16 December 2021, the NLWA borrowed £280m from the PWLB to support the project. This amount was invested in Euro MMFs to hedge against currency fluctuations, as the contractual commitments for the plant are in Euros. Of the initial €330m (£280m in sterling) invested, approximately €71m remains following euro-denominated payments.
- 3.43. The NLWA borrowed an additional £250m in February 2022, £200m in January 2023 and a further £140m in July 2024 to cover their procurement for the new ERF. This was to cover sterling capital expenditure. This cash has been invested alongside the council's investment balances, £238m invested on behalf of the NLWA included within the investment portfolio reported here. Subsequently, investment limits were increased in a report to the Executive

Director Corporate Services on 11 May 2022 (these increased limits are shown in brackets within Table 4). This was within delegated responsibility agreed by Council in the [Treasury Management Annual Report and midyear strategy report](#)¹ (November 2021). The approved Treasury Management Strategy includes the maximum investment period of 2 years for banks and local authorities.

TABLE 4 CREDIT RATING CRITERIA

Fitch		Moody's		S&P		Cash limit	Maximum Duration
Long Term	Short Term	Long Term	Short Term	Long Term	Short Term		
AA-	F1+	Aa3	P-1	AA-	A-1+	£45m (£80m)	2 years
AA	F1+	Aa2	P-1	AA	A-1+	£60m (£100m)	2 years
AA+	F1+	Aa1	P-1	AA+	A-1+	£80m (£140m)	2 years
AAA	F1+	Aaa	P-1	AAA	A-1+	£95m (£160m)	2 years

- 3.44. Officers will consider widening the number of MMFs used and consider adding additional funds to diversify risk should it be deemed necessary.
- 3.45. The Treasury Management Strategy permits the use of **Multilateral development bank** bonds with a limit of £40m per counterparty. In order to manage the potential euro NLWA commitment some of the money required in year two and later could be invested in bonds and commercial paper issued by the European Investment Bank which is a Supranational Bank owned and supported by European Union nations. The European Investment Bank (EIB) are the biggest multilateral financial institution in the world with a AAA credit rating. The use of these EIB bonds and commercial paper would help diversify risk away from the Euro MMFs and provide a safe and stable investment option for medium term euro balances.
- 3.46. The Council is using a local climate bond in the form of a Community Municipal Investment (CMI). Launched on 29 June 2022 at a value of £1m and a rate of 1.75%. This is an innovative financing route which gives the Council another way to realise its ambitious 2030 zero carbon target and is a first step towards introducing new financing measures towards reducing carbon emissions.

4. WHAT ARE THE KEY IMPACTS / RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?

- 4.1. The key risk connected to the investment strategy is that the Council suffers financial loss due to a borrower failing to make a repayment. The approved lending list ensures that funds are only placed with creditworthy banks.
- 4.2. Liquidity risk (the risk that the Council does not have funds available to make day-to-day payments) is another important concern. This risk is managed by the treasury team by ensuring investments mature at the right time to enable the Council to finance its day-to-day activities.

5. CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1. There is no consultation required.

¹<https://democracy.camden.gov.uk/documents/s99776/Treasury%20Management%20Annual%20Report%202020-21%20and%20Mid-Year%20Strategy%202021-22%2010112021%20Cabinet.pdf>

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has incorporated comments into this report.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services have been incorporated into this report.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The Community Municipal Investment is a means of funding ongoing local net zero projects via green finance. These projects include electrical vehicle charging points, healthy school streets, solar on council estate roofs and greening of Camden's transport fleet.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 9.1. Changes set out in this report and approved by full Council will be adopted immediately.

10. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Prudential and Treasury Indicators

REPORT ENDS

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APPENDIX 1 – PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS

The prudential indicators for both the previous financial years and the first part of the current financial year are presented below.

TABLE 1: PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

	2022/23	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25
	Actual	Estimate	Actual	Original Estimate	Revised Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital expenditure					
General Fund	90	52	52	50	50
HRA	238	207	207	173	173
Total	328	259	259	223	223
Capital Financing Requirement					
General Fund	100	123	110	54	126
HRA	477	523	526	592	607
Total	577	646	636	646	734
Gross debt					
General Fund	42	41	41	38	38
HRA	281	273	273	255	255
Total	322	314	314	293	293
Gross borrowing requirement					
General Fund	58	82	69	17	89
HRA	197	250	253	336	352
Total	255	332	322	353	441
HRA Debt Limit	525	525	525	525	525
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream					
General Fund	-0.66%	-0.65%	11.97%	0.19%	7.96%
HRA	8.36%	10.85%	3.24%	14.18%	5.91%

TABLE 2: TREASURY INDICATORS

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimate	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Original Estimate	2024/25 Revised Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Authorised limit for external debt					
borrowing	677	746	736	746	834
other long term liabilities	45	43	143	40	140
Total	722	789	879	787	974
Operational boundary for external debt					
borrowing	577	646	636	646	734
other long term liabilities	45	43	43	40	40
Total	622	689	679	687	774
Actual external debt	322	314	314	293	293
Principal sums invested for over 364 days					
Limit on investments for more than 1 year*	49	-2	4	35	35
Upper limits on fixed rate exposure					
Borrowing	577	646	636	646	734
Investments	-98	4	4	69	69
Net fixed rate exposure	479	650	641	715	803
Upper limits on variable rate exposure					
Borrowing	331	369	369	323	323
Investments	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100
Net variable rate exposure	231	269	269	223	223

TABLE 3: MATURITY STRUCTURE OF BORROWING

	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Original Estimate	2024/25 Revised Estimate
Under 12 months	0%	20%	3%	7%	7%
12 months and within 24 months	0%	20%	6%	0%	4%
24 months and within 5 years	0%	25%	4%	4%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	0%	50%	0%	21%	3%
10 years and within 20 years	0%	50%	25%	20%	25%
20 years and within 30 years	0%	50%	15%	40%	40%
30 years and within 40 years	0%	50%	46%	8%	21%
40 years and within 50 years	0%	50%	0%	0%	0%

Market loans are all 'Lenders Option Borrowers Option' (LOBO) loans. LOBOs in this profile are all included with their ultimate maturity dates. However, the structure of these loans means they could be 'called' every 6 months and therefore could be viewed as all maturing within a year.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE	
King’s Speech: Implications for Camden	
REPORT OF	
Nick Kimber, Director of Corporate Strategy and Policy Design	
FOR SUBMISSION TO	DATE
Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee	8 October 2024
STRATEGIC CONTEXT	
<p>We Make Camden is our communities’ vision for Camden. It highlights the significant influence of national policy on the circumstances in which Camden residents live, on local public services, and therefore on the ambitions that Camden Council shares with Camden’s communities.</p> <p>We Make Camden articulates the change that Camden wants to see in the long-term and the action that the Council will take in the short and medium-term to effect that change in partnership with local organisations and communities. The extent to which these actions and approaches are suitable to the long-term ambitions of We Make Camden depends on the national policy landscape.</p>	
SUMMARY OF REPORT	
<p>This report sets out the legislative programme announced by the government at the King’s Speech, which took place on Wednesday 17 July 2024. It identifies implications that may arise for Camden from the announced legislation, including financial and resource implications, changes to statutory or regulatory frameworks within which Council services operate, and anticipated impacts on demand for Council services. There are also implications arising from announced legislation that may have significant implications for local government as a sector, and these are considered. The Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee is advised of specific pieces of announced legislation that may be worth remaining mindful and aware of if and when they become law.</p> <p>The Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider Camden’s strategic approach to working in partnership with the government, the local government sector, and the wider policymaking landscape in the context of the legislative agenda announced in the King’s Speech.</p>	

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information

No documents have been used in the preparation of this report:

Contact Officer: Hugh Smith, Corporate Strategy Portfolio Lead,
5 Pancras Square, London N1C 4AG, hugh.smith@camden.gov.uk

RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee to note the contents of the report and to proffer any advice it thinks necessary to the Cabinet with regards to:

1. The contents of the King's Speech and their implications for Camden
2. Camden's approach to engagement with the new government

Signed:



Nick Kimber, Director of Corporate Strategy and Policy Design

Date: 25th September 2024

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The new government has committed to a series of national missions, to a programme of constitutional reform that includes devolution of powers, and to a set of fiscal rules. These commitments have provided the framework for the new government's policy priorities and positions to date. The contents of the King's Speech, which took place on Wednesday 17 July 2024, draw strongly on this framework.
- 1.2. The five national missions are both signalling and governing tools. They signal the government's diagnosis of the UK's major challenges, its priorities, and its favoured methods of delivery. At this point, the national approach to missions as governing tools is emerging, including the roles of local and regional government.
- 1.3. Camden has been pioneering this approach since 2022 following the completion of the Camden Renewal Commission and the adoption of We Make Camden, which includes four missions for Camden. The five national missions are:
 - 1.3.1. Kickstart economic growth to secure the highest sustained growth in the G7, with good jobs and productivity growth in every part of the country making everyone, not just a few, better off.
 - 1.3.2. Make Britain a clean energy superpower to create jobs, cut bills and boost energy security with zero-carbon electricity by 2030, accelerating to net zero.
 - 1.3.3. Take back our streets by halving serious violent crime and raising confidence in the police and criminal justice system to its highest levels.
 - 1.3.4. Break down the barriers to opportunity by reforming our childcare and education systems, to make sure there is no class ceiling on the ambitions of young people in Britain.
 - 1.3.5. Build an NHS fit for the future that is there when people need it; with fewer lives lost to the biggest killers; in a fairer Britain, where everyone lives well for longer.
- 1.4. It is important to note that the economic context within which the government is pursuing its policy agenda. HM Treasury published 'Fixing the foundations - Public spending audit 2024-25' on Monday 29 July 2024, which identifies a series of measures to tackle a £21.9bn gap in government spending plans. The government's first budget, which will take place on Wednesday 30 October 2024, and the Comprehensive Spending Review, which will conclude in spring 2025, will set the broad trajectory for public spending over the course of the current parliament. The government has made a commitment to establishing a new multi-year settlement for local government funding, but there is not clarity at this stage on the level of funding that will be set. It is expected that the multi-year settlement will begin in 2026, following the comprehensive spending review

2. KING'S SPEECH

- 2.1 The King's Speech set out a legislative package of 40 bills that the government intends to pass into law in the course of the current parliamentary session. It has been noted that this is the highest number of bills set out in a King's or Queen's Speech since 2005.
- 2.2 Several of the bills in the King's Speech correspond to the government's missions, noted above. These include the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, the Great British Energy Bill, and the Crime and Policing Bill.
- 2.3 Two of the 40 bills have been carried over from the previous parliamentary session. These are the Holocaust Memorial bill, to allow for the building of a holocaust memorial and learning centre in Victoria Tower Gardens in Westminster, and the High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill. Four of the 40 bills were introduced by the previous government but were not carried over, meaning that the legislative process will begin again for these bills. These include the Football Governance Bill, to establish an independent football regulator, the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, to ban smoking for those born after 2008 and prevent the availability of vapes for children, the Renters' Rights Bill, to reform the rental market and abolish Section 21 'no fault' evictions, and the Arbitration Bill, to reform arbitration laws in England and Wales.
- 2.4 There is limited information available publicly about the detailed contents of the legislation proposed in the King's Speech. The government has published a briefing alongside the text of the King's Speech which summarises the main provisions of each bill. The information presented in this paper is drawn from that briefing and public remarks by Ministers. The detailed contents of each bill will become available when each is brought before parliament.
- 2.5 The full list of bills, with their main provisions and a summary of likely implications for Camden, is set out in Appendix 1. Drawing from this list, the bills with the most significant implications for Camden that the Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee may wish to remain aware of and discuss are set out below. It should be noted that the implications of most of these bills relate to Council services that come within the terms of reference of other scrutiny committees. However, the monitoring of legislative developments and development of Camden's approach to working in partnership with the government and the local government sector around them is a corporate function and one that is within the terms of reference of the Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.5.1 The Planning and Infrastructure Bill. The purpose of this bill is to accelerate housebuilding and infrastructure delivery through reforms to the planning system. Provisions in the bill include simplification of the consenting process for major infrastructure, reforms to compulsory purchase compensation to facilitate regeneration and development, and establishment of financial mechanisms to fund nature recovery from the proceeds of development. This bill will have implications for Camden's Planning, Regeneration, and Development services. Some measures, including reform of compulsory purchase orders, may facilitate regeneration and development schemes. Other measures may

accelerate delivery of infrastructure and housing developments in Camden's planning pipeline.

- 2.5.2 The Employment Rights Bill. The purpose of this bill is to provide additional rights and protections to workers. Provisions include extension of rights to sick pay and flexible working, protection from unfair dismissal for all workers from the start of their employment, and protection from 'fire and rehire' practices. The bill will also provide for the banning of 'exploitative' zero hours contracts, the establishment of a Fair Work Agency to enforce employment rights, and the establishment of a fair pay agreement in the adult social care sector. The bill will likely have implications for Camden as an employer, particularly with regard to Adult Social Care staff who will be covered by the fair pay agreement.
- 2.5.3 The Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill. The purpose of this bill is to tackle organised immigration crime and address inefficiencies in the asylum and immigration systems. The main provisions include creation of a Border Security Command, clearing the backlog of asylum applications, and introducing new efficiencies in the asylum system. There may be implications for Camden associated with the government's intention to clear the backlog of asylum applications, wherein quick processing of claims may result in greater numbers of people who have been accommodated in the borough by the Home Office coming forward to the Council for housing advice. There may therefore be implications for Camden's Housing Options and Rough Sleeping services.
- 2.5.4 The Crime and Policing Bill. This purpose of this bill is to reform aspects of policing in alignment with the safety mission, noted at paragraph 1.3.3. The main provisions of the bill will be an increase in neighbourhood policing presence, an increase in capability within police forces to respond to domestic violence and abuse (DVA), rape, and other sexual offences, introduction of new 'Respect Orders' to tackle persistent anti-social behaviour, and creation of a new duty for local partners to co-operate to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB). For Camden, a focus on tackling anti-social behaviour is likely to require closer working between the Metropolitan Police and Council services, while enforcement of Respect Orders may have consequences for community cohesion and perceptions of safety. An increase in capability within police forces to respond to DVA, rape, and other sexual offences may have implications for Camden's goals around tackling violence against women and girls.
- 2.5.5 The Children's Wellbeing Bill. The purpose of this bill is to establish a range of measures in alignment with the opportunity mission, noted at paragraph 1.3.4. These include establishment of breakfast clubs in every primary school, limiting the number of branded school uniform items that a school can require, creating duties for local authorities to have and maintain Children Not in School registers and provide appropriate support to home-schooling parents, requiring all schools to teach the national curriculum, and requiring all schools to cooperate with local authorities on school admissions, inclusion of pupils with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), and place planning.

New duties introduced in this bill are likely to require resources for Camden to deliver, while measures on breakfast clubs and school uniforms are likely to reduce the cost of living for families in Camden for whom these are cost pressures.

- 2.5.6 The Renters' Right Bill. The purpose of this bill is to strengthen the rights of tenants in the private rented sector. The main provisions of the bill will be abolition of Section 21 'no fault' evictions, application of a decent homes standard to the private rented sector, introduction of new requirements for landlords to make properties safe when hazards are identified and strengthened investigatory and enforcement powers for local authorities. This package of measures may impact conditions in Camden's private rented sector and may alleviate pressure to some extent on Camden's homelessness prevention service.
- 2.5.7 The Mental Health Bill. The purpose of this bill is to improve autonomy and dignity for people detained under the Mental Health Act 1983. The main provisions of this bill will act to limit the conditions under which people may be detained or remain detained and to strengthen the voice of patients in decisions about their care. The bill will have implications for how Camden's safeguarding services and partner services' work with residents living with severe mental health conditions.
- 2.6 Other bills are likely to have significant implications for local government as a sector. These include:
 - 2.6.1 The Budget Responsibility Bill. This bill will introduce a 'fiscal lock' which will ensure any Government making significant tax and spending changes will be subject to an independent assessment by the Office for Budget Responsibility. This may have implications for the local government finance settlement or future spending commitments relevant to the sector.
 - 2.6.2 The English Devolution Bill. The purpose of this bill will be to establish a new framework for devolution in England, within which local leaders will have greater powers over levers of economic growth, including strategic planning, transport, skills, and employment support. The bill will simplify the process for securing these powers at a local level and require local authorities to produce Local Growth Plans.
- 2.7 The Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the contents of the King's Speech and their implications.

3. ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

- 3.1 Camden has engaged constructively with national governments of all parties on issues relevant to and affecting Camden citizens, businesses and communities. We work closely with London Councils as the regional representative body for London Boroughs, with the Mayor and the Greater London Assembly (GLA) and with the Local Government Association as the national representative body, on issues relevant to both Camden and the sector.

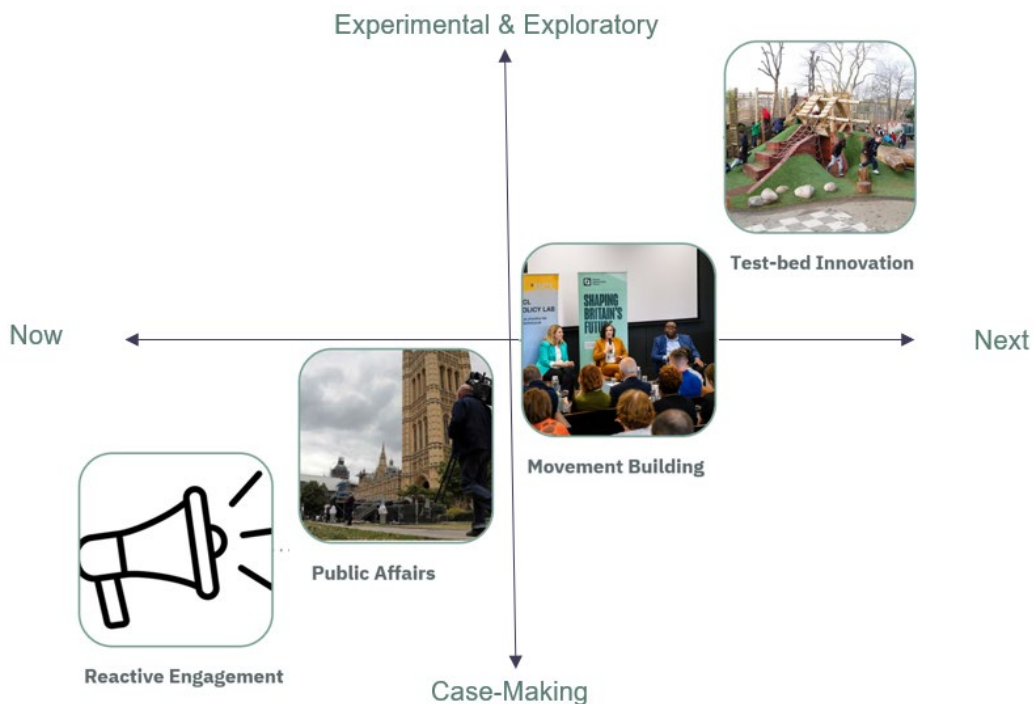
- 3.2 We have engaged with Government to provide Ministerial visits, briefings and insight on local delivery as necessary. Some examples of Camden engagement with Government include:
- Camden has worked with successive governments on plans for High Speed 2 (HS2) and Euston, engaging constructively to represent Camden residents, ensure that plans for HS2 and Euston are informed by a clear understanding of their potential impacts for Camden, and secure mitigations and redress for Camden residents affected by the scheme.
 - Through the Covid-19 pandemic, Camden worked with the Department for Health and Social Care and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities (DLUHC), and through 2021.
 - In 2022 Camden worked closely with the Home Office to ensure appropriate arrangements for accommodating refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine in Camden.
 - Camden has engaged constructively with DLUHC on plans to establish and operationalise an Office for Local Government
 - Camden has secured a position with the Department for Education (DfE) as a Sector-Led Improvement Partner for Children’s Social Care, and we have supported wide-ranging engagement with the DfE on our model of early years prevention and early intervention.
- 3.3 Successful engagement with national government has often been managed by Camden staff with extensive professional experience, expertise in the relevant subject matter, and dense networks within their sector. Camden also benefits from strong working relationships with the Local Government Association (LGA) and London Councils and an ability to draw on these organisations’ specialisms in methods of engagement such as parliamentary affairs.
- 3.4 The King’s Speech indicates that there is likely to be a significant amount of policy change over the next year at a national level, as new legislation is enacted. There will be value, in terms of the deliverability and impact of policy, in this change being informed by voices from local government.
- 3.5 The report of Camden’s Peer Review, undertaken in January 2020, noted Camden’s role in advocating for national policy change, drawing on the organisation’s insight into the challenges faced by Camden residents and those associated with public service delivery. The report noted that “the council is at the cutting edge of innovation” and recommended that it “could play a more visible role in developing answers to the wicked issues facing the public sector”.
- 3.6 Camden’s approach draws on insight gained about our services and our communities through means including the Insight, Learning and Impact reports, the most recent of which was presented to the Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee in July 2024, and work to build local partnerships and engage people who live and work in Camden in participatory activities such as citizen assemblies.
- 3.7 We have intentionally built relationships with policy actors to exercise influence more effectively, in partnership with organisations with

complementary skills, capabilities, relationships, and public voice. Camden has particularly strong relationships with University College London (UCL) and with Leeds City Council, with whom Camden has worked closely for several years.

- 3.8 As a Sector-Led Improvement Partner for children's social care, Camden also has national reach in terms of influence on practice in children's services. This is complemented and strengthened Camden's long-term commitment to early intervention and prevention and the recent establishment of the organisation's Centre for Relational Practice.
- 3.9 Camden also has regional and national reach through officers' positions in professional networks. These include the Chief Executive's position on London Councils' Self-Improvement Board and as welfare policy lead for CELC (Chief Executives of London Councils), the Executive Director of Adults and Health's position as Vice President of the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services, and the Executive Director of Corporate Services' lead roles on the climate emergency and violence against women and girls with London Councils and position as Vice Chair of the Society of London Treasurers' London Financial Advisory Committee.
- 3.10 The framework for considering engagement opportunities in Camden has two parts: engagement for 'now' and engagement for 'next'. Engagement for 'now' encompasses immediate asks that address or relate to immediate pressures and issues that may impact Camden services and residents. Activity to develop and communicate positions on HS2, local government finance, and the housing crisis are examples of how we might seek to shape our current operating context. Approaches for this kind of influencing include:
- Reactive engagement Opportunity-led communication of specific agreed asks to government, for instance via consultation responses or in collaboration with sector bodies such as the LGA or London Councils.
 - Public affairs: Pro-actively seeking to shape and lead opinion on policy challenges and public service reform via public communications, working with other local authorities and partners;
- 3.11 Engagement for 'next' encompasses long-term cases for systemic reform. Approaches for this kind of influencing include:
- Network building: Building relationships and pro-actively seeking and securing opportunities to work with influential organisations, including think tanks, charities, and other local authorities.
 - Test-bed Innovation: Building strategic cases for change by exploring how system changes could produce more effective public services and better outcomes for communities. Working in partnership with previous governments, Camden has been a test bed for innovation initiatives in areas including homelessness and education.



3.12 The chart below illustrates the ‘engagement for now’ and ‘engagement for next’ framework. It plots the four approaches noted above against an axis of ‘case-making’ to ‘experimental and exploratory’. This axis can be understood as different modes of engagement, ranging from making cases for clearly defined asks to building evidence for new approaches through experimentation. The chart demonstrates how the four approaches may support Camden to engage in ways that range across this axis, with the ‘reactive engagement’ and ‘public affairs’ approaches having a bias towards engagement for now and ‘movement building’ and ‘test-bed innovation’ having a bias towards engagement for next.



3.13 The Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider Camden’s strategic approach to engaging the government working with the wider local government sector, and the wider policymaking landscape in the context of the announcements made at the King’s Speech.

4. LEGAL COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR

4.1. This report sets out a summary of the legislative programme announced by the government at the King’s Speech. A Bill is a proposal for a new law, or a proposal to change an existing law, presented for debate before Parliament. A Bill can start in the Commons or the Lords and must be approved in the same form by both Houses before becoming an Act of Parliament. It will be

necessary to track the Bills through the parliamentary process and any amendments thereto to ascertain their precise impact and what legislation is ultimately passed.

5. FINANCE COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

- 5.1. The Director of Finance has been consulted on this report and has no additional comments.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no proposals with environmental implications made in this report.

REPORT ENDS

Appendix 1: King’s Speech Bills

Ref	Bill	Main Provisions	Corresponding Scrutiny Committee	Implications for Camden
1	Budget Responsibility Bill	The Bill will introduce a ‘fiscal lock’ which will ensure any Government making significant tax and spending changes will be subject to an independent assessment by the Office for Budget Responsibility.	Resources and Corporate Performance	The extent to which this has material effects on the government’s budget setting may have knock-on effects for the local government finance settlement. The requirement for independent assessments and the political imperative to be seen to be responsive to them may dispose government to be cautious about spending commitments.
2	National Wealth Fund Bill	Put the new National Wealth Fund on a statutory footing with a mandate to invest in specific priority industrial sectors.	Resources and Corporate Performance	Strategic resonance with the Community Wealth Fund, offering Camden an opportunity to position as a leading authority within local government.
3	Pension Schemes Bill	Reform aspects of the private pension market	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden
4	Planning and Infrastructure Bill	Accelerate housebuilding and infrastructure delivery by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simplifying the consenting process for major infrastructure - Reforming compulsory purchase compensation to ensure fair but not excessive levels - Modernising planning committees - Increasing local planning authorities’ capacity - Using development to fund nature recovery 	Culture and Environment	Implications for Camden’s Planning, Regeneration, and Development services. Some measures, including reform of CPOs, may facilitate regeneration and development schemes. Other measures may accelerate the pipeline of infrastructure and housing developments in Camden’s planning pipeline. Details of the commitments to increase capacity within planning authorities are unknown at this point.
5	Employment Rights Bill	Delivers Labour’s New Deal for Working People by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banning ‘exploitative’ zero hours contracts 	Resources and Corporate	Implications for Camden as an employer, particularly with regard to Adult Social Care staff

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ending 'fire and rehire' - Making parental leave, sick pay, flexible working, and protection from unfair dismissal available from day 1 of employment for all workers - Making sick pay available to all workers - Banning dismissal of new mothers for six months after return to work - Establishing a Fair Work Agency to enforce workplace rights - Establishing a Fair Pay Agreement in the adult social care sector - Reinstating the School Support Staff Negotiating Body - Reversing approach on minimum service levels - Simplifying the process of statutory recognition for trade unions 	Performance / Health and Adult Social Care	<p>who will be covered by a new fair pay agreement.</p> <p>Separately, implications for Good Work Camden in terms of the kinds of employment and the conditions of the jobs that Camden residents may be supported into.</p>
6	English Devolution Bill	<p>Establish a new framework for devolution in England, within which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local leaders will have greater powers over levers of economic growth, including strategic planning, transport, skills, and employment support - Local authorities will be required to produce Local Growth Plans - The process for securing additional powers will be simplified, with devolution as the default - The process for creating combined authorities will be simplified - Communities will have a 'right to buy' community assets 	Resources and Corporate Performance / Culture and Environment	<p>Significant implications for local government as a sector in terms of more regionally and locally held powers over significant areas of policy and service delivery, meaning that combined authorities are likely to become more nationally significant actors.</p> <p>For Camden, the bill will introduce a requirement to produce a Local Growth Plan in collaboration with other London boroughs and the GLA.</p>

7	Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill	Allow for a public sector operator to bring rail contracts into public ownership upon expiration.	Culture and Environment	Changes in the partnership landscape with regard to operators in King's Cross, St Pancras, and Euston.
8	Better Buses Bill	Allow for local authorities to take on bus franchising powers, remove the ban on publicly owned bus companies, and provide for greater local discretion over bus funding.	Culture and Environment	It is unclear at this stage how this bill will apply to Camden if at all in the context of the Mayor of London's transport powers.
9	Railways Bill	Bring together the management of the British railway network and the delivery of passenger services into a single public body – Great British Railways.	Culture and Environment	Implications for the partnership landscape in Camden, noting major rail termini in the borough.
10	Bank Resolution (Recapitalisation) Bill	Introduce a new mechanism to allow the Bank of England to use funds provided by the banking sector to cover certain costs associated with resolving a failing banking institution and achieving its sale	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden
11	Arbitration Bill	Enact reforms to enable quicker resolution disputes.	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden
12	Product Safety and Metrology Bill	Create a regulatory framework for the government to rapidly respond to high-risk products – e.g. e-bikes with lithium ion batteries.	Culture and Environment	Likely introduction of new duties for Public Safety teams to enforce regulation of high-risk products.
13	Digital Information and Smart Data Bill	Provisions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowing for the creation and adoption of digital identity products and services - Creation of a National Underground Asset Register – a digital map for use by planners and developers - Move to an electronic system of registration of births and deaths 	Resources and Corporate Performance	Camden's planning team will have access to the National Underground Asset Register to help with assessment of applications involving underground work. Digitisation of registrar functions. Stronger ICO enforcement powers may have implications for Camden's data management.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modernise the Information Commissioner’s Office into a regulatory structure with a CEO and board with new stronger powers 		
14	High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill	The briefing specifies that the government is <u>not</u> reversing the decision to cancel Phase 2 of HS2. Instead, this bill provides for regionally led efforts to increase east-west connectivity.	Culture and Environment	Continued lack of clarity on the future of HS2 and Euston.
15	Great British Energy Bill	<p>Create Great British Energy, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop, own, and operate assets that support technological innovation in and increase supply of clean power. - Facilitate, encourage, and participate in the production, distribution, storage and supply of clean energy, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from energy produced from fossil fuels as well as measures for furthering the transition to clean energy and improving energy efficiency 	Culture and Environment	<p>It is possible that this bill will allow for public investment in clean energy generation and supply in London, which may support progress towards Camden’s net zero goal.</p> <p>Capital investment in the energy network may help to unlock developments that have been stalled by delayed grid connections.</p> <p>Energy efficiency measures may include housing retrofit, potentially providing access to funding.</p>
16	The Crown Estate Bill	Widen the borrowing and investment powers of the Crown Estate	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden
17	Sustainable Aviation Fuel (Revenue Support Mechanism) Bill	Support sustainable aviation fuel production in the UK by providing financial mechanisms for secure investment.	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden
18	Water (Special Measures) Bill	Tighten regulation of water companies and strengthen environmental enforcement regimes.	Culture and Environment	Minor implications around environmental health and sustainability.
19	Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill	Create a new Border Security Command, introduce stronger deterrent penalties for those involved in organised immigration crime, and end the use of hotels to	Resources and Corporate	Potential implications associated with commitment to clear the asylum backlog due to requirement for asylum seekers to leave Home

		house asylum seekers by clearing the asylum backlog and introducing efficiencies in asylum processes.	Performance / Housing	Office accommodation, including increased demand for housing advice and potential rise in homelessness/rough sleeping. Potential reduction in unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving in the UK.
20	Crime and Policing Bill	<p>Introduce measures relating to the government's safety mission, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing neighbourhood policing presence - Tightening police vetting standards - Introduce new Respect Orders to tackle persistent ASB - Allowing for fast-tracking PSPOs - Creating a new duty for local partners to co-operate to tackle ASB, with an ASB lead in every local authority area - Introducing measures to tackle shoplifting - Banning sales of more kinds of knives - Strengthening the law to tackle child criminal exploitation - Creating arrangements for local Young Futures prevention partnerships to bring together services to support at-risk teenagers. - Increase capability within police forces to respond to DVA, rape, and other sexual offences 	Culture and Environment	<p>A focus on tackling anti-social behaviour is likely to require closer working between the Metropolitan Police and Council services. Enforcement may have consequences for community cohesion and perceptions of safety.</p> <p>Strengthened responses to child criminal exploitation may introduce new powers for multi-agency safeguarding of children.</p> <p>Young Futures prevention partnerships may provide a new vehicle for existing partnership work on youth safety, potentially offering a route to integrate services for young people across different agencies.</p> <p>A strengthened police and criminal justice system response to DVA, rape, and other sexual offences may support a strengthened coordinated community response and reduce demand on existing services.</p>
21	Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill	Require certain public premises and events to take steps to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce harm in the event of a terrorist attack occurring.	Culture and Environment	Implications for Camden's night-time economy, cultural sector, and events hosted by the Council.

22	Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill	Strengthen powers of the Victims' Commissioner, introduce new restrictions on sex offenders, and reduce delays in the court system.	Culture and Environment	Likely to support partnership work on public safety and violence against women and girls.
23	Children's Wellbeing Bill	<p>This bill will introduce measures relating to the government's opportunity mission, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening multi-agency child protection and safeguarding arrangements - Requiring free breakfast clubs in every primary school - Limiting the number of branded items of school uniform that a school can require - Creating a duty for local authorities to have and maintain Children Not in School registers and provide appropriate support to home-schooling parents - Empower Ofsted to investigate unregistered independent schools - Requiring all schools to cooperate with the local authority on school admissions, SEND inclusion, and place planning by giving local authorities greater powers to help them deliver their functions on school admissions and ensure admissions decisions account for the needs for communities - Requiring all schools (including academies) to teach the national curriculum - Bringing multi-academy trusts into the inspection regime 	Children, Schools and Families	<p>The duty to maintain a register of Children Not in School will be a new requirement for Camden and require resource to develop and maintain.</p> <p>Measures on breakfast clubs and school uniforms are likely to reduce the cost of living for families in Camden for whom these are cost pressures.</p> <p>Changes to school admissions policy will provide Camden with greater powers to fulfil our legal duties, though the details of what these new powers are or how they may be used is unknown at this point.</p> <p>No further detail available on the commitment to strengthening multi-agency child protection and safeguarding arrangements.</p> <p>The Labour manifesto committed to introduce a single unique identifier for children to support information sharing between agencies. This is not reflected in the briefing accompanying the King's Speech but may be in the final bill when published.</p>
24	Skills England Bill	Establish Skills England, transfer functions from the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to Skills England, and mandate Skills England to:	Culture and Environment	Significant implications for the policy and partnership landscape relating to adult skills, with knock-on effects for Inclusive Economy, the

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a single picture of national and local skills needs - Identify training for which the Growth and Skills Levy will be accessible - Ensure that the national and regional skills systems are meeting skills needs and are aligned 		Adult Community Learning service, and partnership work with the GLA and Central London Forward.
25	Renters' Rights Bill	<p>Strengthen the rights of tenants in the private rented sector by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abolishing Section 21 'no fault' evictions, balancing this with new clear and expanded possession grounds for landlords - Applying a Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector - Applying 'Awaab's Law' to the sector, setting expectations within which landlords must make homes safe when they contain hazards - Creating a digital private rented sector database to bring together key information for landlords, tenants, and councils. Councils will be able to use the database to target enforcement. - Introducing a new ombudsman for the PRS to resolve tenant/landlord disputes - Making it illegal for landlords to discriminate against tenants in receipt of benefits or with children - Strengthening councils' enforcement powers. New investigatory powers will make it easier for councils to identify and fine landlords 	Housing	<p>Abolition of 'no fault' evictions, establishment of a new ombudsman, anti-discrimination measures, and strengthened enforcement powers may alleviate pressure on homelessness prevention services to some extent.</p> <p>The package of measures, if supported by adequate funding and organisational infrastructure to support enforcement, may improve conditions in Camden's private rented sector and mitigate the social, economic, and health impacts of poor quality rented housing.</p>
26	Football Governance Bill	Establish an independent regulator for professional football	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden

27	Tobacco and Vapes Bill	Introduce a progressive ban on smoking so that children born after 1 January 2009 will never legally be able to be sold cigarettes. Advertising restrictions will be introduced for vapes and enforcement authorities will be given powers to issue FPNs for sale of tobacco products to underage people.	Health and Adult Social Care	The bill is likely to support Camden's smoking cessation activity and the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
28	Mental Health Bill	<p>Amend the Mental Health Act 1983 to improve autonomy and dignity for people detained over a number of years by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revising detention criteria to focus on risk of serious harm to self or others, shorten the period for which a patient may be detained for treatment, and provide for frequent review - Further limiting the extent to which people with a learning disability and/or autistic people can be detained and treated under the Mental Health Act and supporting such individuals to live in their community. It will do this by introducing duties on commissioners to improve understanding of the risk of crisis amongst people with a learning disability and/or autistic people in their local area and also ensure an adequate supply of community services to prevent inappropriate detentions. - Strengthening the voice of patients in decisions about their care - Extending access to Independent Mental Health Advocates - Removing police stations and prisons as places of safety under the Mental Health Act 	Health and Adult Social Care	Implications for how Camden's safeguarding services and other partner agency services work with residents at risk of detention under the Mental Health Act.

29	Hillsborough Bill (name TBC)	Introduce a legal duty of candour on public services and authorities.	Resources and Corporate Performance	Implications for how Camden may interact with public inquiries.
30	Armed Forces Commissioner Bill	Establish an Armed Forces Commissioner to act as a champion for service personnel and their families	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden
31	Northern Ireland Legacy Legislation	Repeal legislation that conferred a form of immunity on individuals who served in the armed forces in Northern Ireland during the Troubles	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden
32	House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill	Remove the right of the hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden
33	Cyber Security and Resilience Bill	Regulate digital products and services to protect public services from cyber-attacks and mandate increased incident reporting to give government better data on cyber-attacks	Resources and Corporate Performance	The likely impact of this bill will be to improve Camden's resilience to cyber-attacks, though the extent to which this will be the case will depend on the exact nature of the proposed regulations.
34	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and International Committee of the Red Cross (Status) Bill	Enhance the statuses of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and International Committee of the Red Cross to enable specific privileges and immunities	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden
35	Lords Spiritual (Women) Act 2015 (Extension) Bill	Extend the provision that is intended to increase the number of female bishops entering the House of Lords	N/A	N/A – no relevant provisions for Camden
36	Holocaust Memorial Bill	Provide for construction of a national Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Westminster	Resources and Corporate Performance	Implications for community cohesion and engagement with the histories of Camden's communities.

38	Draft Leasehold and Commonhold Reform Bill	Enact the Law Commission recommendations to bolster leaseholders' rights to extend leases and buy freeholds, restrict the sale of new leasehold flats, and modernise the legal framework to enable more 'commonhold' ownership.	Housing	Enacting the Law Commission's proposals on leasehold enfranchisement, right to manage and commonhold, and banning new leasehold flats so that commonhold is the default tenure, will impact CIP, potentially Camden Living, Leasehold Services and Planning.
39	Draft Equality (Race and Disability) Bill	Guarantee the right to equal pay for people from ethnic minority backgrounds and disabled people and make it easier to bring claims in cases of pay discrimination. Introduce mandatory ethnicity and disability pay reporting for large employers (250+).	Resources and Corporate Performance	Camden already undertakes the proposed data reporting activity and has policy in place to ensure equal pay.
40	Draft Conversion Practices Bill	Ban conversion practices in relation to sexual orientation or gender identity, not including legitimate psychological support or treatment.	Health and Adult Social Care / Children, Schools and Families	Consistent with Camden's position on LGBTQ+ rights, subject to the detail of provisions on any exemptions.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARD: ALL
REPORT TITLE: Work Programme 2024/25 and Action Tracker	
REPORT OF: Executive Director Corporate Services	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee	DATE: 8 October 2024
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This paper provides an outline of the 2023/24 work programme and provides an update on actions requested at previous meetings of the Committee in the Action Tracker.</p> <p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - ACCESS TO INFORMATION:</p> <p>No documents that require listing were used in the preparation of this report</p> <p>CONTACT OFFICER: Osian Jones Head of Corporate Strategy London Borough of Camden Five Pancras Square, 5 Pancras Rd, London N1C 4AG osian.jones@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATION:</p> <p>The Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consider its work programme for 2024-25 and propose any amendments; and ii. Note the Committee's Action Tracker 	
<p>SIGNED: Jon Rowney, Executive Director Corporate Services</p> <p>DATE: 16 September 2024</p>	

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper provides an outline of the Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee 2024/25 work programme, including the agenda items for the remainder of the year. The Committee is asked to review the contents of the work programme and provide their views on what the Committee may wish to discuss during the 2024/25 municipal year.
- 2.1 The paper also presents an update on progress in following up on actions from previous meetings at Appendix B.

2 Terms of reference

- 2.1 The Committee was set up with the following terms of reference:
 - To scrutinise the strategic and corporate policies and performance of the Council.
 - To assist the Cabinet in the development of the Council's annual budget (capital and revenue) and to review and scrutinise the Council's performance in relation to overall budgetary management.
 - To scrutinise the provision, planning, financing, management and performance of the Corporate Services Directorate (excluding parking operations), and any other Council functions not otherwise addressed by any other Scrutiny Committee.

3 2024/25 meeting dates

- 8 October 2024
- 12 November 2024
- 9 December 2024
- 14 January 2025
- 25 February 2025

4 Suggestions by Committee Members

- 4.1 The work programme should be informed by the corporate priorities of the Council, the priorities of the relevant portfolio holders, and issues raised by our communities.
- 4.2 At previous meetings, the Committee and the Chair have suggested items for the Committee to consider at future meetings. In order to schedule items for Committee meetings for the year 2024/2025, including for meetings where there are currently no items scheduled including 8 October 2024, a discussion with members is proposed in consultation with the chair. Suggested items will be programmed for the work programme for the year 2024/2025, included at the end of this report.

5 Scrutiny Panels

- 5.1 The Committee can form scrutiny panels to look at more specific areas under its remit. These are task-and-finish panels and should be established with clear terms of reference and target date to report back to the main Committee.
- 5.2 The Committee is constitutionally limited to one panel at a time, and co-ordination of Panels should be agreed by the Joint Chairs of Scrutiny Committee to ensure effective use and co-ordination of resources across all scrutiny committees.
- 5.3 Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee does not currently have an operating Panel.

6 Legal comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to add.

7 Finance comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 7.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted and has no comments to add.

8 Appendices

Appendix A – Work Programme 2024/25

Appendix B – Action Tracker

REPORT ENDS

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Appendix A – RCP Work Programme 2024-25

8 October 2024	<p>Pre Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Treasury Management Annual Report and Mid-Year Strategy <p>Other Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● King’s Speech: Implications for Camden
12 November 2024	<p>Other Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● HR Annual Report 2024● Camden’s Partnerships Strategy● Camden’s Missions Approach
9 December 2024	<p>Pre Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Review of the Camden Medium Term Financial Strategy● Council Tax Support 2025/26 <p>Other Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost of Living● Insight, Learning and Impact Report - Quarter 2 2024-25

14 January 2025	<p>Pre Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC <p>Other Report</p> <p>London Borough of Camden Annual Complaints Report 2023/2024 Update on the Camden Council website and citizen experience Update on debt transformation and income maximisation</p>
25 February 2025	<p>Pre Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC <p>Other Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025/26 Revenue Estimates and Council Tax Setting • Community Investment Programme (CIP) – CIP Annual Report 2024 • Update on Camden Council communications

Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee action tracker 2024/ 2025

Meeting Date	Item	Action	Action Of	Status
15 JULY 2024	HOUSING OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL COMPLAINT HANDLING AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT AND COMPLAINT HANDLING CODE SELF-ASSESSMENT - LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN 2023-2024	Look into whether publishing cases of maladministration when they occurred, rather than waiting for the annual report, could be an option.	Service Manager – Information Governance	In progress
	2024/25 UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL’S MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL POSITION	Provide the Committee with information of the support available for those who received fixed penalty notices and could not afford to pay them.	Head of Finance, Corporate Services	In progress
	INSIGHT, LEARNING AND IMPACT REPORT – QUARTER 4/END OF YEAR 2023-24	Provide members with the actions taken to engage voters for the general election and the information given on how to vote.	Head of Corporate Strategy and Cabinet Office	In progress
		Provide information to Members on the timescale of the canvass.	Head of Corporate Strategy and Cabinet Office	Complete
8 OCTOBER 2024				
12 NOVEMBER 2024				

9 DECEMBER 2024				
14 JANUARY 2025				
25 FEBRUARY 2025				