

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARD: All
REPORT TITLE: Update on the State of the Borough Report	
REPORT OF: Director of Strategy and Design	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Joint Chairs of Scrutiny Committee	DATE: 19 th October 2022
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT:</p> <p>The State of the Borough report is a commitment made in the December 2021 Cabinet report on the findings of the Renewal Commission and in the March 2022 Cabinet report that adopted We Make Camden, the borough strategy. The report will be published annually and is intended to present a shared evidence base reflecting how people in Camden are doing and their experience of life.</p> <p>It will help develop a shared ownership in Camden as it will be jointly owned by the council and partners. The report is planned to be published in March and presented to Full Council in April.</p> <p>The Joint Chairs discussed the proposal for a State of the Borough report with the Leader of the Council, when she presented her Annual Statement in March 2022, and expressed an interest in further information about the proposal at future meetings.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information: No documents that are required to be listed were used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Michal Shinwell Strategic Research and Evidence Lead London Borough of Camden 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Michal.shinwell@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p>The Joint Chairs of Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the further development of the State of the Borough report and process • Agree to receive the State of the Borough report at individual scrutiny committee meetings in February 	

- Agree to explore in future meetings how to use the State of the Borough report to inform the development of scrutiny committees' work programming

Signed: Executive Director Corporate Services

Date: 10th October 2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The recently approved borough strategy, We Make Camden (WMC), as well as the Renewal Commission report, both refer to a commitment towards an annual reporting on outcomes for people in the borough. The WMC strategy, a refreshed and updated version since Camden 2025 was published, sets out the six joint ambitions for the borough. It also defines 4 missions and 6 challenges as complex issues requiring different approaches and ways of working to deliver change. The WMC also sets out an approach to understanding impact and evaluating delivery, as an “*annual State of the Borough report, supporting an approach to measuring the progress towards our community vision.*”
- 1.2. The Renewal Commission report recommends that council “...*Facilitates annual, cross-borough learning and reflection on progress towards the missions*” and that it develops “...*a shared mission outcomes framework to understand the progress towards the missions... co-designed with the Camden community and express what it will look and feel like for Camden residents when the missions are achieved. based on ‘good life’ measures, building on international work such as the Sustainable Development Goals, and local work such as the Euston Wellbeing Index.*”
- 1.3. These commitments are strongly aligned with the 2019 Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review on prioritisation and evaluation, and fit in with the Council’s emerging approach to insight and accountability. There are three interlinked components to this approach: assuring performance accountability, developing insight, and understanding the state of the borough and residents’ wellbeing.
- 1.4. A State of the Borough report will look at how life is for people in the borough, and how sustainable the current situation is. It is data and evidence focused and tells a story using data in order to understand people’s perspectives, experiences, and expectations for the future. It also includes stories that bring the voice and lived experience of residents to the fore.
- 1.5. It follows a practice of using a ‘State of the [...]’ reports to delve into policy issues affecting people which is grounded in data and evidence. At times, this is focused on a specific issue, such as the *State of the Nation report on Social Mobility* by the Social Mobility Commission. Other reports cover a wide range of issues relevant to the constituents of the organisation. For example, Manchester City Council publish an annual *State of the City Report* which aligns to the 5 themes of their long-term strategy and presents statistics on these alongside council actions for each theme. The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham publishes a *State of the Borough* report which similarly tracks the borough’s manifesto and presents statistics aligned to the main themes. In Camden, the *Annual Public Health* report published by Public Health takes a similar approach in describing the current situation for people in the borough from the health perspective, using available data. The common underlying theme of these reports is that they present data and evidence on how life is for people in a certain place or a certain theme.
- 1.6. The State of the Borough report supports several objectives:

- **Partnership and cross-borough ownership** for the borough strategy for facing its main challenges. As a consensual set of data and insights about how life is for people in the borough, it allows partners and key institutions from across the borough to address and take action independent from the Council. A shared understanding of the challenges faced by Camden allows for different prioritisation aligned to the objectives, mandates, and capabilities of each of the partners.
 - **Conversations with residents and the community** about priorities for the borough: alongside presenting the data and evidence, the State of the Borough report and convening event would be supported by the voices and lived experiences of residents and partners.
 - **Supporting prioritisation, impact measurement and scrutiny** through member engagement on data and evidence.
 - Developing and deepening a **culture of data and evidence-based policy** in the Council. Working as an organisation to generate the State of the Borough report will require engaging with the outcomes that residents have identified as priorities, as well as data literacy to support this. It also supports the ongoing work to develop the insights and accountability frameworks which help us understand the change we seek to achieve and our tools to make it happen.
 - As a regular annual reporting mechanism which supports **continuous assessment of the delivery and impact** of our ambitions – making the WMC strategy a “living document”.
 - **Breaking through silos** of policy issues by articulating the multidimensional way that people’s quality of life is experienced in the borough.
- 1.7. Subject to the views of the Joint Chairs of Scrutiny Committee and the individual scrutiny committees, the state of the borough report could also become a key input to work planning for the subsequent municipal year, informing work programmes and the commissioning of panels to explore in more detail the findings about outcomes for Camden’s communities and residents.
- 1.8. In line with the publication of the WMC strategy in March 2022, the State of the Borough is planned to be published in March 2023 alongside a convening event with partners and the community. We aim to have partners endorsing the report at the event so that it has a shared ownership. Following the event, the report will be presented at Full Council.
- 1.9. The emerging work on developing a wellbeing measurement framework, currently titled ‘Good Life Camden’, will provide the foundation for the State of the Borough report in the future. This framework is being co-created with residents and builds on the Good Life Euston project which was developed together with University College London’s Institute for Global Prosperity and the Euston Partnership. In which residents developed a conceptual framework which captures the dimensions important for living a good life in Euston. The Good Life Camden project is underway, with a planned ‘soft launch’ in March, alongside the State of the Borough report.

1.10. The drafting of the report is under way, and we are starting to reach out to partners to invite them to contribute data, evidence and lived experience stories to the report. This will support the shared ownership approach and reflects the understanding that not all the relevant data and evidence is held in the Council.

1.11. The proposed process for the report is as follows:

- Final draft to Scrutiny Committees (February)
- Publication and convening event (March).
- Full Council (April)

2. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

2.1. Officer resource will be provided by the Corporate Strategy and Policy Design team which will be met from within existing resources, and any additional initial costs will be met from Camden Plan reserve as previously agreed. The report also touches on the “Good Life Camden” project which has agreed funding from the Camden Plan reserve.

3. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

3.1. The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and there are no legal comments.

4. Environmental Implications

4.1. This proposal has no environmental implications.