

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: ALL
REPORT TITLE We Make Camden: State of the Borough report	
REPORT OF Director of Strategy and Policy Design	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee Housing Scrutiny Committee Council	DATE 13 February 2023 20 February 2023 20 February 2023 21 February 2023 21 February 2023 26 April 2023
SUMMARY OF REPORT <p>This report provides an update on the development of the annual State of the Borough report and summit process, explains its purpose and origins, presents the findings of the first iteration of this annual report and seeks input from scrutiny committees, and thereafter the approval of Council to continue to develop this report for the longer term. It is hoped that the State of the Borough report will be a useful tool and source of information for both the Council itself, partners, and Camden's communities.</p> <p>The development of a State of the Borough report was agreed as part of the approval of the We Make Camden (WMC) strategy by Cabinet in March 2022. The State of the Borough report is a summary of data and evidence which tells us about life in the borough, with an emphasis on resident and community wellbeing. It is part of wider work to deepen the WMC strategy and support its delivery. The report is aligned to the ambitions and outcomes of WMC and the emerging Good Life Camden measurement framework. The report and associated measurement framework form a key part of the Council's approach to insight and accountability linked to We Make Camden.</p> <p>It is intended that the report will support a range of council functions, including but not limited to being a key source of evidence to inform the work of Scrutiny Committees, and as an evidence base and reference point for the Leaders annual statement.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information No documents that require listing 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>	

RECOMMENDATION

The Scrutiny Committees are asked to

- (i) Note and comment on the contents of the report (appendix A) as it relates to the remit of each committee, and comment on any additional data or evidence that could add value to the aims of the report.
- (ii) Refer the final version of the report on to Council for consideration.

The Council is asked to note the contents of the first State of the Borough report and endorse the continued annual development of the State of the Borough report.

Signed: 

Date: 1 February 2023

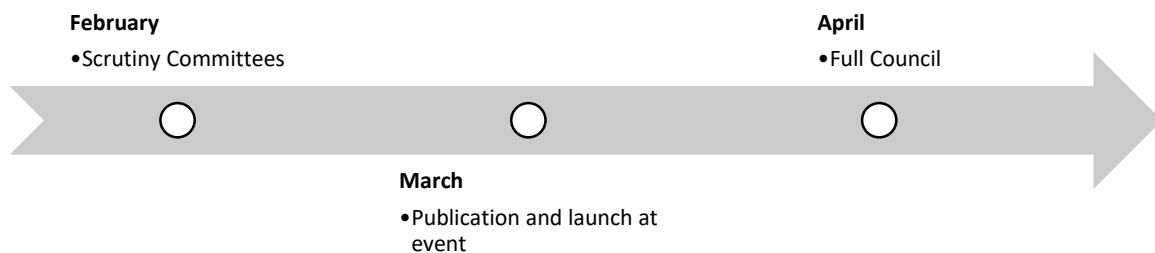
1. Background

- 1.1. The development of a State of the Borough report was agreed as part of the approval of the We Make Camden (WMC) strategy by Cabinet in March 2022. The State of the Borough report is a summary of data and evidence which tells us about life in the borough, with an emphasis on resident and community wellbeing. It is part of wider work to deepen the WMC strategy and support its delivery. The report is aligned to the ambitions and outcomes of WMC and the Good Life Camden measurement framework. The report and associated measurement framework form a key part of the Council's approach to insight and accountability.
- 1.2. The decision to publish this type of report – in addition to the Leader's Annual Report – is to provide a shared evidence base to underpin open and transparent conversations with partners and the community, about how we can solve problems together, recognising that no one organisation holds all the information, levers or resources.
- 1.3. The report intentionally presents data in an objective and factual way, rather than providing narrative or details about the Council's, or other partners, services, activities or interventions. It shares insights highlighting where Camden is comparatively better than other areas; it also contains more challenging data, about areas that we need to do better.
- 1.4. Scrutiny chairs welcomed the work at Joint Chairs of Scrutiny Committee in November 2022 and agreed to take a draft version of the report to their committees in February. The report and dialogue at the March event will support committees to plan their 2023/24 work programmes.
- 1.5. The process is designed to support the Council's response to the 2019 Peer Review which encouraged us to look at our capability around insight and data. It should be seen as a way of developing a new organisational route and discipline around our understanding of place, and as complementary to the

development of our data function (under the leadership of a new Chief Data Officer) and the potential created by a sovereign Camden Public Health intelligence function.

2. State of the Borough report

- 2.1. Our intention is that the report provides a shared evidence base that will be a starting point for our conversations with the community, borough partners and institutions about how people are doing in Camden, what needs to change and what we can do together to achieve change for the better. The report will help us stay collectively accountable for We Make Camden. It is important to note, that the report does not and is not intended to replace other key research and data-led work the Council engages in, such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and other analyses that are developed to support and evidence our work.
- 2.2. The full report shared in Appendix A is the final draft, before design, and it will be formatted and designed to align with the look of WMC to further illustrate the links between these pieces of work and our overall strategy. The report will be hosted on the We Make Camden website. The report is structured around the ambitions of WMC and includes an additional section, summarising what the data in the report tells us about inequalities. In addition to the full report, a summary overview will be developed to draw out key findings and include a condensed version of the narrative around the document, making it accessible to wider audiences.
- 2.3. The report will be received by all scrutiny committees and then by Full Council. A launch event will take place in March 2023.



- 2.4. The report contains data from a wide range of data sources, as well as quotes and stories from residents about their lived experience of Camden. To supplement this, a small group of partners have also been approached, inviting them to contribute additional data or insight, adding to the shared evidence base to share their perspective of how things in the borough are (currently there are placeholders for partner content in the report). This group of partners have also been asked to share their reflections and be part of the conversations at the launch event.

- 2.5. As part of the Good Life Camden wellbeing framework development, we have convened a small group of residents, who alongside the framework development they will also be reviewing the summary of the State of the Borough and advising on the accessibility and readability of the report. They will also be invited to take part in the launch event.
- 2.6. The Leader's Annual report, which will be presented to Joint Chairs of Scrutiny in March, will remain a key vehicle for updating on the Council's activities and achievements over the past year (alongside annual portfolio reports), including those relating to the WMC missions and challenges. The Leader's Annual report will be able to draw on the State of the Borough report as a key reference point and highlight key areas of activity the Council is already engaged in to address issues highlighted by the State of the Borough report.
- 2.7. Please note, that the final version of the report is therefore likely to have additional content from partners and the resident group and we will work with the designer to ensure the lived experience input is weaved through and highlighted throughout the report.
- 2.8. The State of the Borough report will be published and presented at a partnership event on the morning of March 23rd, alongside the final Good Life Camden measurement framework. The purpose of the event is to bring together partners in the community, annually, to reflect on the report as a shared evidence base for the borough, its findings, what needs to happen to improve and hear from those who are already driving great work to improve the state of the borough. This will drive a focus on what matters to our residents and supports our ambition to make WMC a dynamic strategy, rather than a static view of our vision and values at a particular point in time (important though that is). The launch provides an opportunity to build on the momentum and action from the conversations held at the We Make Camden Summit, just over a year ago.
- 2.9. We will be working with other colleagues to develop a communications and engagement plan to ensure maximum reach and impact is achieved from the launch of the report. What happens to the report, and how the evidence and insight contained within it is picked up and used will be crucial to ensuring the report helps us stay collectively accountable for WMC. After the event, work and momentum will be needed to ensure the report is just the starting point for continued conversations with the community, borough partners and institutions about how people are doing in Camden, what needs to change and what we can do together to achieve change for the better.

3. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 3.1. The Executive Director of Corporate Services has been consulted on the contents of the report and has no comments to add to the report

4. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 4.1. The Borough Solicitor has been consulted on the contents of the report and has no comments to add to the report.

5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1. The proposals in this report have no negative environment impacts

6. Appendices

Appendix A – We Make Camden State of the Borough Report

REPORT ENDS