

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden	
REPORT OF Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	DATE 11 th September 2023
SUMMARY OF REPORT <p>The Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden provides the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee with his annual report for discussion.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer:</p> <p>Hannah Bennai Cabinet Officer Corporate Services 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Telephone: 020 7974 1750 Email: hannah.bennai@camden.gov.uk</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS <p>The committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.</p>	

Signed:



Councillor Adam Harrison, Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden

Date: 11.09.2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Extreme weather occurrences are taking place across the world and Camden is experiencing the effects of the climate emergency first hand. From dry and warm weather, to increased chances of flooding disasters, the repercussions of climate change are already impacting Camden residents, wildlife, and greenspaces. It's clear we need to do all that we can to mitigate the impact of climate change, but it's also important for us to build our resilience against future challenges we can anticipate.
- 1.2. Mitigating the current impact of the climate crisis remains central to the Sustainable Camden portfolio, with borough wide CO2 emissions falling by 51% between 2005 and 2020. We've led the way across London, as the first local authority to commit to achieving the updated World Health Organization air quality guidelines and continue to push driving sources of air pollution down as quickly as possible to achieve our *We Make Camden* vision that 'no one in Camden should experience poor health as a result of the air they breathe.'
- 1.3. Council-led campaigns across the year have been successful in supporting residents access information and advice on heating and climate related issues with over 700 people visiting the council webpages and 1,027 people receiving heating and climate related advice over 2021-22. We're currently developing our Climate Resilience plan which will improve boroughwide resilience to respond to probable future consequences of a changing climate. Tackling climate change cannot be done alone and requires a comprehensive approach which empowers the community to take action and protect their spaces with the tools and resources necessary.
- 1.4. We continue to find innovative ways to connect the community with Camden's nature and green space and have been awarded the 'Tree Cities of the World' for the fourth time since 2019. Prioritising green space not only positively impacts the environment and local wildlife, but also improves the physical and mental health of residents. Our green space gardening opportunities encourage community groups to establish new growing projects across the borough, connecting people with nature and producing healthy food while supporting the Camden Food Mission.
- 1.5. Our healthy streets work has also had multiple successes across the year with: London Cycling Campaign recognising us as "one of the stars of London on climate safe streets", the annual Healthy Streets Scorecard assessment ranking our healthy streets 3rd amongst all Boroughs, and the Healthy Streets Scorecard assessors awarding our response.
- 1.6. This report captures the work across the council within the Sustainable Camden portfolio from November 2022 to present day, with a particular focus creating a green, clean, lively, accessible, and sustainable place where everyone is empowered to contribute to addressing the climate emergency as per our We Make Camden priorities.

2. Climate Emergency and Climate Action Plan

2.1. Human-induced climate change is seeing extreme weather events affect many parts of the world. Camden is not immune, and the likelihood of flood events occurring is increasing. In July 2021 and August 2022, significant rainfall in Camden caused flooding to the public realm and homes in Camden, causing disruption for citizens across the borough. Flooding in July 2021 impacted over 100 residential properties and 12 businesses across Camden. Flooding in August 2022 fortunately only impacted a limited number of properties in Camden, but caused significant disruption to public services and infrastructure.

2.2. It is clearer than ever that we need to do all that we can to cut greenhouse gas emissions in Camden, but it is also clear that the climate has changed and that we need to build our resilience and adaptive capacity to anticipate what is to come. This Annual Review highlights the action the Council and our community is taking to both mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.

2.3. Climate Action Plan Review

2.3.1. Camden has published two annual reviews of the Climate Action Plan since its adoption in 2020, the most recent in December 2022. The key measure of progress is the level of borough wide greenhouse gas emissions (hereafter CO₂). The Council's CO₂ emissions across our own corporate buildings and operations are also measured annually to capture organisational progress.

2.3.2. Borough wide CO₂ emissions have fallen by 51% and emissions from our own estate and operations (excluding Council housing) are now 59% lower than the respective base-line years of 2005 and 2010. Figures 1 and 2 show these reductions against a 2030 zero carbon trajectory.

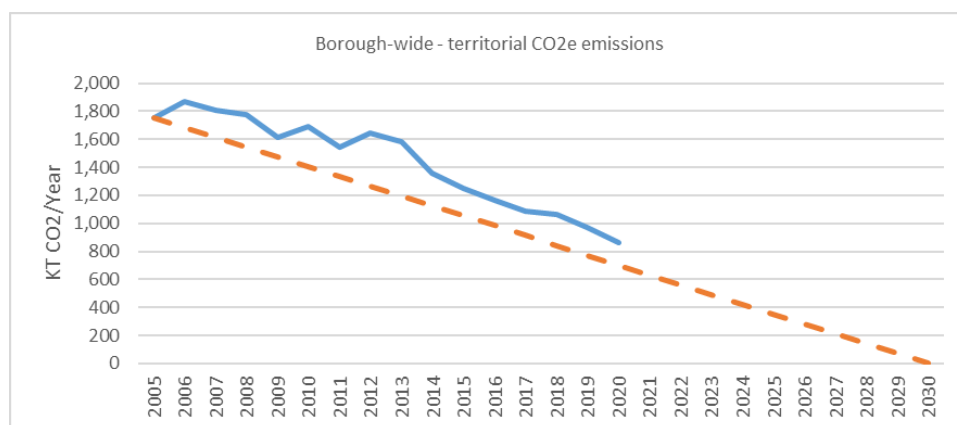


Figure 1 – Borough wide CO₂ reduction to 2020

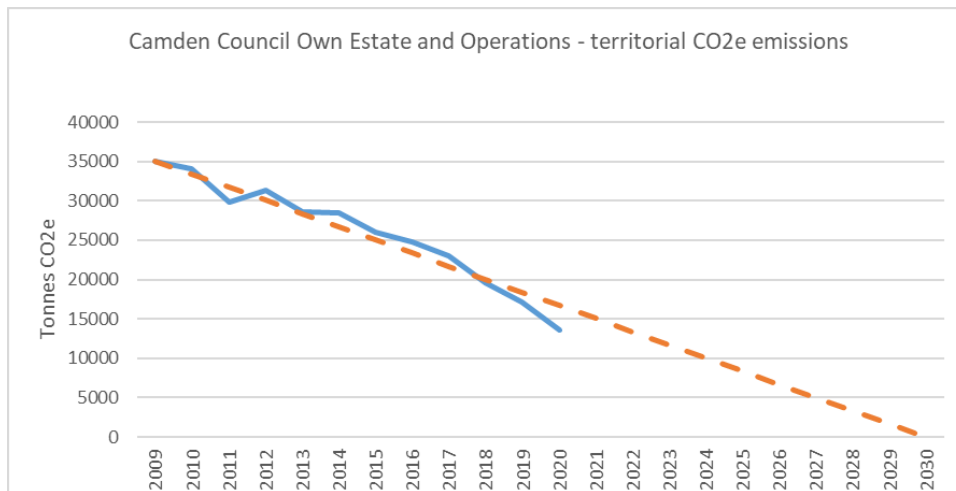


Figure 2 – Corporate estate and operations CO₂ reduction to 2021

2.3.3. The Annual Review also measures progress against all 92 actions in the Climate Action Plan using an indicator used by the Climate Change Committee. 93% of actions are either completed or progressing well, 5% are partly achieved and 2% have not been achieved. The review includes new actions to replace those completed.

2.3.4. The Camden Climate Action Plan adopted in summer of 2020 is organised around the themes of People, Places, Buildings and Organisations and establishes a vision for a net zero carbon Camden by 2030. The vision requires everyone living and working in Camden to play their part, with the Council enabling and supporting residents and organisations to take action to protect the climate.

People

2.3.5. As a direct recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly, the Council committed to establishing a Camden Climate Citizen Panel. The first Citizen panel was recruited to in 2020 and the second Annual Review marked the end of their two-year term. A new panel is now recruited and started work in April 2023. The first substantive meeting focused on proposals for Camden's new Climate Resilience Plan.

2.3.6. The original panel supported: the Council's public information campaign on the climate crisis; Prince of Wales cycle lane scheme; the redesign of the Camden Climate Fund www.camden.gov.uk/ccf; the Camden Climate Pledge; Camden's Safe & Healthy Streets programme; and the annual Climate Action Plan review. The panel continues the call for community climate action Camden Climate Citizen Panel: Calls to Action - YouTube.

2.3.7. Over 2023, we accelerated our public information campaign on the climate crisis, working with individuals and community organisations to highlight climate action stories from local voices.

- 2.3.8. Council-led social media campaign and new graphics helped residents access high-quality information, advice and support about the Climate Emergency. Over 700 people visited the Council's new Climate Crisis webpages, and in 2021/2022, 1,027 people were given advice by the Green Camden Helpline on home energy and climate-related issues.
- 2.3.9. In 2021, the Council launched our Community Climate Action grant from the Camden Climate Fund, helping community groups and residents to deliver local projects with up to £5,000 of funding per project. The fund has helped to establish a parklet in Belsize Park, greening projects in schools, and supported feasibility work for community-led building retrofit projects.
- 2.3.10. Aligned with the Estates Mission, we have also partnered with Think and Do to establish "sharing spaces" in underused TRA halls in Somers Town and Kentish Town that support climate and social action with over 1,000 residents benefiting from clothes swaps, cooking clubs and knowledge share. Funding secured from the GLA's Breaking Ground programme has funded a new "sharing space" at Templar House in Fortune Green, which opened in January 2023
- 2.3.11. Think and Do have also been supporting the Intensive Resident Engagement programme with a series of "F.E.S.T" events (Fix, Eat, Swap and Talk) across 6 housing estates. The events have been focusing on reducing consumption emissions by thinking about sustainable food, fixing items instead of throwing them away and swapping items with neighbours rather than buying them new – alongside engagement with residents on estates.
- 2.3.12. The Gate Theatre hosted the production of HOT IN HERE by the Pig Foot Theatre in June 2023 which celebrated the power of collective climate action through the voices of climate activists from around the world. The show also features live theatre's first energy-generating dance floor and called and a rallying cry for international climate justice.
- 2.3.13. Refill Station Camden continues promoting the principles of a circular economy in Camden, and eliminating unnecessary waste and single use items or outer packaging. The stalls dispense liquids and sell other household products to customers that buy or bring their own reusable containers, lidded jars and bottles. The Refill Station is now weekly and services Queens Crescent Market, Chalton Street Market and the Canopy Market in Kings Cross.
- 2.3.14. The Camden School Climate Charter has supported schools to frame and deliver climate action work for almost two years and currently has 27 signatories. The most popular charter commitments among schools are rewilding and biodiversity, single-use plastics, transport and clear air, waste embedding sustainability in the curriculum. The Climate Connectors programme has been a key mobiliser for helping schools to deliver initiatives in these areas. In April 2022, the Camden Climate Alliance (CCA) in partnership with Think and Do Camden and Camden Learning

delivered the Green Dragon's Den. attended by 7 primary schools and more than 50 students. Students pitched their ideas to 6 'Green Dragons' and took part in educational workshops. In between the delivery of projects and events, there are termly barrier busting sessions and newsletters circulated to more than 135 teachers. The CCA will continue to work with Camden Learning to encourage uptake of the charter through speaking at headteacher briefings, the governors' forum and featuring articles in the governors' newsletter.

Places

- 2.3.15. Camden and the Somers Town community won £3 million from the Mayor of London's Future Neighbourhood programme, with over £3m additional investment from local partners to deliver a flagship sustainable neighbourhood in Somers Town, which demonstrates how place based investment in environmental projects can help secure financial, social and health benefits to residents. Outcomes of the programme so far include:
- Support for LifeAfterHummus whose food bank distributes 40 tonnes of surplus food
 - Planning approved for a 80kW community solar on Regent High School with community share offer funding planned with Power Up North London
 - 6 new Green Mobility Hubs in planning and Healthy School Streets opened at local schools
 - Local Carbon Offset fund delivered in partnership with the Housing Associations' Charitable Trust (HACT) which has allowed businesses to offset carbon emissions through investing in social housing retrofit in Camden with Knowledge Quarter
 - Over 200m² of green space improved on estates with the Story Garden
 - Retrofitting 50 homes with apprentices with 25% complete
 - 30 resident led indoor air quality projects with 50 more in the pipeline
 - Chalton Street circular economy market opened
 - Over 2,000 volunteer hours and 15 temporary green jobs created
- 2.3.16. The Somers Town Energy district energy network now serves over 550 homes, a school, community facilities and the Francis Crick Institute. In 2020/21, a combined heat and power (CHP) unit was installed to provide low-carbon heating to the connected homes with capacity for export electricity to the national grid. In 2022/23 we connected Somers Town Energy to the Brill Place tower.
- 2.3.17. Following the success of Kentish Town, and to support a more circular economy, we opened a second Library of Things in Kilburn in March 2023. Over 1,000 items have been borrowed at the Kentish Town Library of Things saving residents an estimated £30,000.
- 2.3.18. The Council has also seen the "Fixing Factory" on Queen's Crescent, co-located with the Gospel Oak Job hub, go from strength to strength: 433 people have had electrical items fixed at Queen's Crescent at no cost and

201 items destined for recycling have been diverted back into use, saving 1.5 tonnes of e-waste and more than 40 tonnes of Co2e. Big Lottery funding has been secured to extend the Fixing Factory.

2.3.19. The Council continues to identify routes funding opportunities to improve Camden’s climate change resilience and reduce flood risk. In 2022, the Council delivered a pocket park in Mount Pleasant and plans are under way to deliver schemes in South Hampstead on Belsize Road and on Parliament Hill road.

Buildings

2.3.20. Camden’s housing stock represents approximately 8% of borough wide territorial emissions and is largely under Council control. Analysis for our Council housing stock concluded that investment of approximately £706m would be needed to achieve net zero.

2.3.21. In response we have developed a retrofit programme supported by c.£4m of grant from the Government’s Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and the Mayor of London’s Future Neighbourhood programme. The programme has started with a series of pilot projects. Table 1 summarises the current projects.

Project	Outcomes and status
Belsize Grove SHDF	Deep retrofit of 58 homes. Tendered with works on site
Street properties (various) SHDF	Deep retrofit of 27 street properties (two separate grant allocations) – solid wall insulation and heat pumps
50 estate properties in Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods	Internal wall insulation to 50 properties by end of 2023 – 25% complete
Brookes Court SHDF	Energy efficiency work to 32 flats. Tendered with works on site

Table 1-Current Building Projects

2.3.22. A further £3.1m Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund was secured from Government in March 2023 to retrofit approximately 280 of our least energy efficient homes. 227 households on the Tybalds Estate will benefit from a new communal heating system through the Better Homes programme. Heating system energy efficiency reviews are also under way at Chester Balmore; Gillfoot; Harben Road; Highgate New Town; Henderson Court and Holly Lodge estates.

2.3.23. Financing retrofit at scale remains a key issue area and work continues on a new financial model with Tallarna, Sero, L&G, London Councils and Lambeth – looking at how to blend third party finance with Council resources and cost recovery via a ‘comfort charge’.

2.3.24. Our Community Investment Programme also continues to decarbonise our housing estate, with Camden’s 359-unit Agar Grove development meeting the highest Passivhaus energy efficiency standards and the planned regeneration of areas such as West Kentish Town and Camley Street also required to deliver against Camden’s zero carbon planning policies.

Buildings retrofit-corporate and schools’ estate

2.3.25. Our corporate and schools estate represents approximately 1.2% of borough wide emissions and is largely under Council control. Improving the energy efficiency of our corporate estate also brings financial savings.

2.3.26. The Carbon Management Plan has secured 61% CO₂ reduction and a new 7-year programme has been developed, suggesting a total investment of £55-£69 million for our corporate estate and £115m for our schools’ estate would be required by 2030 to make our stock zero carbon.

2.3.27. The current approach to investment across our corporate estate blends available national grant funding via the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) with the required match funding (typically around 60-70% of cost) secured via s.106 carbon offset funding (we have around £2m) and Council investment.

2.3.28. This approach has been trialled successfully to complete the £3.2m retrofit of Swiss Cottage Library using £1.4m of secured PSDS funding. [2023-swiss-cottage-library-the-mission-to-retrofit-an-architectural-gem.](#)

2.3.29. A further five projects in Table 2 below secured c.£1m of PSDS of funding in March 2023. The table also notes the £80,000 raised through community share offer with Power Up North London which saw the solar installation completed at Talacre Leisure Centre in June 2023.

Project	Outcomes subject to funding approval
West Hampstead Library	Air source heat pump, glazing, heating controls, insulation & lighting
Netherwood Day Centre	Air source heat pump, heating controls, insulation & lighting
Waterlow Park Visitor Centre	Air source or ground source heat pump, heating controls, lighting, insulation & solar PV
York Way Depot	Air source heat pump and heating controls
Highgate Library	Air source heat pumps, double glazing, insulation, solar PV
Talacre Leisure Centre	Solar PV – community share offer

Table 2-projects across corporate estates

2.3.30. Council funded or Government PSDS with Council match funding is also financing the following schools retrofit projects in Table 3.

Project	Status
Brookfield	Pilot net zero site fully funded by Camden. Detailed feasibility stage
Acland Burghley	Contract awarded – started on site Feb. 2023
Eleanor Palmer	Contract awarded – started on site Feb. 2023
Kingsgate	PSDS funding bids submitted in Nov 2022 – pending decision
Hampstead secondary	
Regent High and Parliament Hill	Solar PV installation in 2024 subject to community share finance

Table 3- schools' retrofit projects

- 2.3.31. To tackle rogue landlords renting properties with poor energy efficiency to vulnerable residents, the Council has secured £96k of funding from Government to establish an enforcement process for the Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES), ensuring landlords improve the thermal comfort of the homes with the lowest energy performance ratings in Camden.
- 2.3.32. In addition to improving the energy efficiency of our own buildings, the Camden Climate Fund provided £24,403 of funding from 2021-22 for residents installing measures such as solar panels and insulation, making their homes more energy efficient.
- 2.3.33. The Council has also worked in partnership with the community energy group Power Up North London to identify schools suitable for solar power installations. Feasibility work has concluded for a solar array at Regent High School and is due to start imminently at Parliament Hill School. Since November 2022 we have provided written responses on air quality or energy and sustainability for 63 major planning application consultations to ensure the best environmental outcomes. This included reducing carbon, incorporating renewable energy, reducing the risk of overheating, considering the whole life carbon of a development and contributing to the circular economy through 95% reuse, recycling or recovery of waste during development, ensuring developments are air quality neutral (and very large developments are air quality positive), construction dust is effectively monitored and managed, and the occupants are not exposed to unacceptable levels of air pollution. As the Lead Local Flood Authority on major applications and all applications in areas which may be vulnerable to flooding, there have been 53 further responses to ensure developments do not increase flood risk, but reduces the risk of flooding where possible. A particular success has been in securing greenfield run-off rates at the O2 Centre development, which will reduce run-off by over 98% in storm events (compared to the current site) helping to protect nearby flood-prone areas of South Hampstead. Additionally, there have been 220 sustainability surgery advice sessions with planners providing specific advice on energy, sustainability and air quality for minor planning applications or conditions.

Organisations

- 2.3.34. 2022-23 saw the Camden Climate Alliance deliver two core programmes targeting emissions reduction from commercial buildings and the delivery of local climate action in collaboration with community actors; the Mayor of London's Business Climate Challenge (BCC) and Climate Connectors.
- 2.3.35. As a Business Engagement Partner to the BCC, more than 40 Camden businesses have benefited from receiving free technical energy efficiency support. Organisations have received an energy audit and recommendation report to identify where efficiencies could be made and how operational net zero could be achieved. Organisations have attended training sessions on energy management and staff engagement, as well as regular peer-support sessions hosted by the CCA to maintain engagement levels and foster knowledge sharing. Further training dates are planned for 2023-24 and businesses will be signposted to the Camden Climate Fund to deliver on their recommended actions. The CCA will continue to work with businesses to monitor reduction progress as a result of the programme.
- 2.3.36. The Climate Connectors programme ran from September 2023 – June 2023 and delivered more than 20 local projects with the support of businesses. Collectively, more than £27,000 was committed in funding, in excess of £5,000 in corporate volunteering time and 239 hours volunteered. Programme highlights included a joint project involving Troup Bywaters + Anders, The Francis Crick Institute and Power Up North London with a value of £15,000 to upgrade 74 residential flats with LED lightbulbs resulting in an estimated 2.5 tonnes carbon saved per year, as well as the Green Dragon's Den event mentioned above. Owing to its success, the programme will be reinstated for 2023-24 with delivery partners to be appointed imminently.
- 2.3.37. The 2022 Sustainable Camden Annual Report highlighted an average slowing in emissions reduction from reporting members at 22%, compared to 24% from 2021. More than 60% of commercial contributions are attributed to the way businesses heat and power their buildings, therefore providing energy efficiency support to help combat this will need to be a key focus for the CCA. In May 2023 the CCA was awarded £640,879 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for a joint project with the London Borough of Brent and The Fitzrovia Partnership to scale the ambitions of the successful BCC to deliver an energy efficiency project that will reach 125 businesses. The programme will launch in the autumn of 2023 and conclude in March 2025.

Cross Cutting

- 2.3.38. In September 2020, Camden's Constitution changed to create new duties on the Council to protect and enhance the natural environment and to act to mitigate and ensure resilience to climate change in recognition of the declared climate emergency. The changes also require all Council

decisions to consider the likely environmental consequences, recording and detailing such consideration within the decision-making report.

2.3.39. To help officers respond to the Constitutional change and embed consideration of environmental impacts within projects and policy, a new e-learning module was created and has been promoted via lunchtime learning sessions and a staff Environment Day at 5PS on 31 January. The e-learning also provides simple report writing tips to help decision reports meet the required standards.

2.3.40. The Council's organisational response extends to additional programmes including implementation of our Sustainable Procurement Policy and social value framework; greening our fleet of vehicles; divestment of the Council's pension; purchasing 100% renewable electricity for our corporate buildings and schools.

2.3.41. Funded by our new Future Neighbourhoods programme we have also been working with the social housing charity, HACT, on a proposal for a Local Carbon Offset fund for Camden which allows businesses to offset carbon emissions through investment in social housing retrofit. Retrofit Credits allows Camden based organisations to offset their residual carbon emissions locally by purchasing carbon credits secured directly from energy efficiency improvements made to social housing in Camden.

2.3.42. The health and wellbeing benefits of the energy efficiency improvements are also calculated and reported using metrics developed by the UK Social Value Bank.

2.3.43. Camden is one of twenty-two social housing providers to have benefitted from the carbon credit pilot, which will generate around £100,000 this year.

2.3.44. Over the next twenty years, it is forecast that the credits generated through the pilot will raise over £7 million that can be reinvested back into retrofit works across the social housing providers who are partners.

2.3.45. Following the success of the pilot, Camden will be partnering with Retrofit Credits to release further tranches of carbon credits for purchase later this year.

Climate Resilience Plan

2.3.46. Camden continues to experience the impacts of climate change, from flash flooding in 2021 and 2022, to heatwaves in 2022, which have adversely affected residents. The Climate Action Plan (2020-2025) focuses on actions to mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, with the aim of slowing down climate change. The plan includes an action that commits the council to producing a Climate Resilience Plan for the borough.

2.3.47. In December 2022, a public consultation was launched to gather views from Camden communities on the topic "How ready are we for a changing

climate". The consultation received 112 responses, with over 50% of the respondents stating that in their view Camden is not prepared for the impacts of climate change.

2.3.48. Camden Council commissioned Arup to undertake a preliminary review of the availability and quality of data and information for a borough-wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment. Arup provided guidance on the most suitable data sets to be used in the assessment to generate insights about potential climate change impacts on built and natural assets, council services, communities, and businesses.

2.3.49. Following the review of climate hazards and potential vulnerabilities to these climate risks, the Council will publish our first Climate Resilience Plan 2023-2025 to align our work on climate resilience and adaptation with the next Climate Action Plan from 2025.

2.3.50. The Climate Resilience Plan will incorporate actions setting out our approach to fully understanding climate risk and vulnerability across infrastructure, council services, communities, and the local economy. The Plan will also highlight pilot flood risk management projects including implementation of community flood plan (CFP) recommendations in South Hampstead and plans for roll-out of further CFPs, sustainable drainage system (SUDs) pilots such as in South End Green where the Council is working with Cadent to reduce disruption and share costs of roadworks by completing works simultaneously, highways greening schemes and green space projects which support climate resilience, and delivery through the Community Investment Programme considering overheating and flood risk through the delivery of new homes in Camden.

3. Air Quality

3.1. Clean Air Action Plan

3.1.1. We Make Camden calls to action that 'no one in Camden should experience poor health as a result of the air they breathe.' Camden Council was the first local authority to commit to achieving the updated World Health Organization air quality guidelines. We are working with partners in the borough and beyond to drive sources of air pollution down as quickly as possible.

3.1.2. In March, Camden launched its new Clean Air Action Plan 2023-2026, setting our ambitious air quality programme towards a borough with clean air. "Our Plan seeks to tackle the local sources of NO₂ and particulate matter air pollution whilst also helping to build public awareness as well as also advocating for action and ambition in national policy, to help to control pollution sources outside of Camden's boundaries." We also committed to increasing our air quality monitoring and publishing data and have now launched an updated online data page.

3.2. Performance on Emissions Levels

3.2.1. The average change across all diffusion tube NO₂ monitoring sites was a 1.4% reduction. This is despite a continued trend of traffic returning

towards pre-pandemic levels; in Camden, 1/3 of nitrogen dioxide air pollution comes from road transport.

- 3.2.2. Monitoring sites north of Euston Road showed a larger improvement from 2021 to 2022 compared to those south of Euston Road. This is in part thanks to the expansion of the London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in October 2021.
- 3.2.3. At monitoring sites installed since 2019, nitrogen dioxide levels have fallen on average 31%. Ten sites in Camden still exceeded the legal limit for nitrogen dioxide – a reminder of the need for continued action. However, this marks a major improvement since 2019 when 96 sites breached the legal limit.
- 3.2.4. WHO targets are more stringent than the legal limits mandated by the government. To track Camden's progress towards healthier and safer WHO levels by 2034, the council has set interim targets to be achieved by 2026 and 2030.
- 3.2.5. On Camden's journey to WHO levels, the council can report that: 199 (82%) of the 242 diffusion tube nitrogen dioxide sites in 2022 complied with the Council's 2026 target of $30\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Encouragingly, a total of 44 (18%) sites also met the 2030 target of $20\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- 3.2.6. The second key type of air pollution measures is particulate matter, of which the most harmful is $\text{PM}_{2.5}$. This form of air pollution rose slightly from 2021 to 2022 at two of three 'automatic monitoring' sites in Camden, with the third showing no overall change. A large portion of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ in the air in Camden comes into the borough from external sources so from one year to the next we are significantly affected by long-range transportation of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ from emissions elsewhere in the UK and internationally.
- 3.2.7. National data confirms that $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ emissions in the UK rose slightly from 2020 to 2021, which suggests the same may have happened in 2021 to 2022. Sources of these emissions include agriculture, industrial activity and from domestic fireplaces and wood-burners, which can be a major source of wintertime air pollution.
- 3.2.8. Despite the persistent challenge in tackling national emissions of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, in 2022 two of the four automatic monitoring sites already met the Council's 2030 interim target of $10\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. These locations were Russell Square (Bloomsbury) and Coopers Lane (St Pancras).
- 3.2.9. The ultimate goal is to achieve the $5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ WHO guideline by 2034. This will require sustained effort on all fronts – tackling local emissions as well as leading by example and advocating for action at national and

international scale to push for a transition to cleaner transport, industry, agriculture and buildings.

3.3. Behaviour Change and Projects

- 3.3.1. The Camden Electric Moorings partnership between Camden and the Canal & River Trust has led to the installation of electrical power bollards along the visitor mooring area of the Regent's Canal between Camley Street and St. Pancras Way. This work was completed in February 2022 and many boaters are already using the power supplies instead of having to run diesel engines for power whilst moored. This will help to protect the health of boaters and surrounding communities, whilst also reducing carbon emissions.
- 3.3.2. The Mayor of London-funded Idling Action London project, which is jointly led by Camden and City of London Corporation, concluded in March 2022. Camden and City have convened a London idling working group comprising borough air quality officers as a legacy to the project, and completed a total overhaul of the Idling Action London website which remains the main resource for schools, community groups, businesses and individuals seeking information about vehicle engine idling and the materials needed to deliver local campaigns.
- 3.3.3. Clean Air Walking Route maps and banners were produced for three primary schools in Camden Town as part of the Camden Town Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN). The engagement concluded in September 2022 with assemblies at each school, with further plans to run school workshops with a specific focus on air quality and asthma management, and for these to link up with the Camden School Nursing service.
- 3.3.4. The Camden Town LEN also involved a business-focused air quality research project, where researchers from King's College London and AmbioTEK collected air quality data from commercial kitchens and nearby streets to investigate the impact of restaurants on local air quality. As a result of the project, the GLA is seeking to fund a second phase with expanded monitoring as a way of producing guidance to support commercial kitchen operators reduce emissions and protect employee health. If funding is approved by the Deputy Mayor, the project will commence in 2023 and will also involve City of London Corporation and Westminster City Council.
- 3.3.5. The Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme involves an air quality project split into several key components, including a loan programme for indoor and personal exposure air quality sensors, home energy and air quality advice visits, and an enhanced local air quality monitoring network. Air quality monitoring commenced in February 2022 with a local network of NO₂ diffusion tubes and the addition of a real-time PM_{2.5} sensor at the reference standard Coopers Lane monitoring site. Sensor loans and home visits commenced in October.

3.3.6. Camden's 'Ice Cream Project', funded with £100,000 from the Defra Air Quality Grant Scheme, has gained momentum over 2022-23 with successful procurement to install a minimum of eight electrical power supply bollards at newly licensed ice cream trading bays in Camden. Vendors using these bays will be required through the licensing conditions to utilise mains electricity rather than running diesel engines to power refrigeration and other appliances, which independent research has shown can lead to dangerously high exposures to health-damaging fine particulate matter air pollution.

3.3.7. In March 2022 Camden was awarded a further £300,000 from the Defra Air Quality Grant Scheme for a partnership project led by Camden and Islington on behalf of a consortium of 15 London local authorities in total. The 'London Wood Burning Project' involves public surveys, air quality monitoring, and a health impact study to improve the evidence base about the local air quality impacts from domestic wood- and coal-burning. This will be followed by a behaviour change and engagement campaign and a follow-up survey to evaluate impacts and refine messaging approaches. Surveys and data collection are due to commence in October and November, respectively. The project will be vital for improving awareness-raising initiatives to discourage domestic wood- and coal-burning, which is a significant source of dangerous air pollution.

3.4. Monitoring and Public Air Quality Data

3.4.1. As of October 2022, Camden's diffusion tube NO₂ monitoring network stands at 266 sites, an increase of 24 sites compared to October 2021 and an 84% increase compared to January 2019, prior to the launch of the first Clean Air Action Plan 2019-2022. This continued expansion demonstrates our commitment to building awareness about the public health impacts of air pollution on our communities, and our evidence-driven approach to project and policy development.

3.4.2. Over the same period the Council increased its reference standard real-time monitoring network by adding a PM_{2.5} analyser to the Coopers Lane monitoring site, as part of the Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme in Somers Town, whilst also replacing the outdated Swiss Cottage monitoring site with a new suite of NO₂ and particulate analysers.

3.4.3. The AirScape 'Camden Sensor Network' was launched in a public event at Google's Pancras Square office in June 2022. The Network, which was created through a partnership between Camden, AirScape and the Camden Clean Air Initiative, comprises a further 226 real-time air quality sensors measuring NO₂, particulate matter, and ozone (O₃), with current and historic monitoring data mapped on a publicly-accessible [online dashboard](#). The network will be used to engage Camden's communities and businesses with local air quality data, as well as helping to identify potential pollution hotspots and measuring the impacts of local interventions such as Healthy School Streets upon air quality.

3.5. Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2022-26 and Clean Air Strategy 2019-2034

3.5.1. In March Camden became the first local authority to commit to working towards the World Health Organization's (WHO) revised air quality guideline targets for NO₂ and particulate matter, which are much more stringent than the WHO's 2005 guidelines that the Council adopted in 2018.

3.5.2. The commitment to meeting the new WHO guidelines borough-wide by 2034 will be formalised in the Camden Clean Air Strategy 2019-2034 which will be published in tandem with a new Camden Clean Air Action Plan. The new WHO standards are not a formal statutory requirement as they go much further than the legal requirements for air quality targets in the UK. We believe that there is no safe limit for air pollution.

3.5.3. The new Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2022-2026 (CAAP) is a statutory requirement and will set out the next four years of Camden's air quality programme. It will be the second in a series of co-designed Action Plans intended to deliver on the long-term objectives, set out in the Clean Air Strategy, to meet the WHO guidelines and to realise the community vision for a borough in which no person experiences ill health because of the air they breathe.

3.5.4. Work to produce the next CAAP started in January 2022 with internal and external stakeholder workshops to review the delivery of the previous CAAP and to explore new opportunities and priorities for tackling air quality. A public consultation on a draft CAAP ran from 13 August to 16 October, with over 100 people responding online and many others sharing their views with officers throughout a series of engagement events.

3.5.5. A final post-consultation Camden Clean Air Action Plan 2022-2026 will be taken to Cabinet on 14 December for consideration.

3.6. Public Health, Awareness Raising and National Health Services (NHS) Partnership Working

3.6.1. Across the year Camden have continued to develop a productive working partnership with the borough's hospitals, the North Central London Integrated Care System (NCL ICS), and the NHS's Healthy London Partnership to develop a range of awareness-raising projects on air pollution and steps to reduce health risks.

3.6.2. Camden led a project with NCL ICS to produce easy-to-understand advice about the impacts of indoor air outdoor air pollution upon respiratory health, specifically intended for people accessing health and social care services. The project included creating a poster, a flyer and a short video about the simple steps anyone can take to reduce their exposure to air pollution to protect their health. The resources were translated into several languages to aid accessibility and have since been promoted widely as part of the annual Ask About Asthma campaign. A second stage in this project will produce guidance materials for health and social care professionals so that they are able to have the

necessary conversations with patients and service users about air quality and its impact upon health.

3.6.3. Camden continues to work closely with Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), University College London Hospital (UCLH) and Royal Free hospitals to share best practice and knowledge about sustainability and air quality projects, including plans to embed air quality information in the patient records management system used at GOSH.

3.6.4. Camden's representation at Healthy London Partnership's 'London Asthma Leadership and Implementation Group' (LALIG) has enabled us to advise and guide the group's policy recommendations to ensure that air quality remains a key consideration in the development of London NHS plans to improve asthma care. It has also been valuable for ensuring that a clear line on air quality runs through the group's responses to policy development, such as TfL's consultation on the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone, and the GLA's review of the Mayor of London air quality alert communications.

4. Green Spaces

4.1. Working with Communities to create healthy parks and green spaces

4.1.1. Parks and green spaces are of vital importance to our communities. Our Parks for Health Programme revealed that each visit provided £7 worth of physical health benefit and £13 of mental health benefit (equivalent to a £11.58 return on investment for every pound spent). We continue to find new ways to work with and reach communities to help ensure our parks are inclusive, welcoming and healthy.

4.1.2. A range of community-led activities help citizens make the most of Camden's parks and bring them to life, including gardening activity on 20 of our 75 parks, well-being walks between sites (such as the popular Bloomsbury well-being walks), and a range of community events hosted by Friends Groups and local organisations and businesses.

4.1.3. The borough has nearly 20 Friends of Parks Groups, who convene quarterly to discuss issues. In response to insight from the Parks for Health programme we are supporting Friends groups to strengthen their memberships and attract new and diverse volunteers, and connect with other local community organisations, including guidance and advice from Voluntary Action Camden. We have also worked together on new partnership agreements.

4.1.4. In the past year we have worked with Castlehaven Community Association to establish a new community project on Elm Village Open Space Upper level. Castlehaven have recently attracted funding to rebuild the raised beds and run a successful volunteer and Green social prescribing programme. We have also worked with the Anyone can Grow project in Kilburn to establish a new community growing project in Kilburn Grange Park and the project is now well established and offering opportunities to grow and learn to local residents.



Image 1-Camden outdoor gyms post

4.1.5. During our Parks for Health work we heard how important it was for communities to have access to information on the parks and green spaces that are available and what they offer. In response to this we continue to improve our website, with new maps of local green spaces and user-focused information. In partnership with Voluntary Action Camden, a new Green Social Prescribing Directory has been created – helping to link people with healthy activities in their neighbourhood green spaces. We are also adding new signage to many parks to provide helpful information and make spaces more welcoming, including advice on how to use our outdoor gyms.

4.1.6. We are actively engaged with Pro Active Camden and Social Prescribing partnerships to develop projects and promote what our Green Spaces have to offer to help people improve their health. Our Green Gym programme delivered by TCV continues to enhance our wilder areas in our parks and nature reserves whilst supporting participant's well-being.
"Being in nature isn't escapism. It's coming back to where I belong"
Green gym participant reflection (source Laura Brown, Natural England)

4.1.7. We are working with UCL on an innovative new way to evaluate the health benefits of parks and green spaces, with the aim of providing a tool that can be used with communities to identify opportunities and demonstrate health benefits from parks.

4.1.8. We continue to work with local artist Oliver Chan on happy to talk benches, aimed at addressing social isolation and celebrate neurodiversity. There are currently benches in Chalcot Square and Belsize Village, with the next ones planned for South End Green and Kilburn.

4.1.9. Following the successful completion of the soil remediation works at Antrim Grove and Branch Hill allotments in 2022 we have signed five

year partnership agreements with each sites voluntary allotment association to continue to manage the day to day running of their site.

4.1.10. In October 2022 we successfully let the café in Red Lion Square for three years to Norte Grande Ltd. We have also been actively seeking tenants for the refreshment facility in Lincolns Inn Fields and the Kilburn Grange Play hut.

4.1.11. Parks for Health shone a spotlight on the role of the borough’s parks, but we also support communities to improve and use other types of green space, from housing estate spaces to roads and pavements.

4.1.12. Supporting food growing is a key part of Camden Food Mission and we have worked with a number of groups to establish new growing projects across the borough, expanding an already strong network of gardening and growing activity. New gardening beds have been installed in Somers Town, as part of the Future Neighbourhoods 2030 project, on Hilgrove Estate and at Sidney Boyd estate – providing space for residents to garden, grow produce and meet neighbours.

4.1.13. We continue to find new ways to reach communities and find ways that citizens can benefit from green space and gardening opportunities. Working with TCV and idVerde we have established several successful gardening, arts and craft groups with sheltered housing residents – providing valuable opportunities for social interactions and connections.



Image 2- Social activities focused on nature



Image 3- New raised beds for growing: Sidney Boyd Court

4.1.14. We have provided professional support for the Camden Forest Communi-tree project, funded by Koko Foundation which has planted 60 trees and funds a local young person to maintain the trees.

4.1.15. Camden in Bloom has continued in 2023 and aims to encourage residents, businesses and community groups to take pride in their neighbourhood and create a more pleasant place to live and work.

4.2. Managing and maintaining safe and sustainable spaces

4.2.1. There are over 300 green spaces managed by Camden. This includes 75 parks sites, 45 hectares of housing estate green space (equivalent to 63 football pitches) and a growing number of rain gardens/pocket parks in streets.

4.2.2. In the past year we have invested £1.3 million in the repair, replacement and renewal of infrastructure in parks and housing green spaces. This has provided new surfaces on a number of ball courts across the borough, renewed play areas to ensure they remain safe to use, and maintained the historical infrastructure of some of our parks and gardens.

4.2.3. To diversify the biodiversity and visual interest of parks and green spaces we continue to introduce new bulb planting and wildflower areas, providing space for nature in the heart of the city. This year we planted approximately 100,000 bulbs across sites and established new wildflower displays on parks and housing estates.



Images 5&6- Bulb planting: Fortune Green and Russell Square



Images 7&8- Wildflower seeding in parks and housing estates: Brunswick Square and Gamages Estate



Images 9&10-Introducing more sustainable planting: St Andrews Gardens and Brunswick Square

4.2.4. Reducing the demand for imported resources in our parks is an important way to reduce their carbon footprint and reduce waste. We recondition furniture to extend its life and have started producing our own bench slats from felled timber within the borough for repairing aging benches.

4.2.5. We are also rethinking the materials we use in parks in response to the climate emergency, from planting drought tolerant species that can withstand periods of hot weather and require less watering, to changing the materials we use for play area surfacing to reduce the damage caused by more extreme changes in temperature now experienced.

4.2.6. The Council's Green Space service contract with idVerde ends in March 2025. As part of the early stages of this process, an online consultation for residents and other stakeholders was undertaken throughout spring 2023. The online consultation receiving 188 responses. The recommissioning process provides Camden with the opportunity to explore what future service delivery will look like and ensure it meets future demands.

4.2.7. The playgrounds and outdoor gyms across the Council's parks and housing estates are inspected weekly with minor repairs taking place

straightaway. An independent annual inspection is then used to create our annual package of repairs and renewal to ensure play areas remain safe and open for use.



Images 11&12-Refurbished Ball courts: Kilburn Grange and Jim's Pitch (Russell Nurseries)



Image 13&14- Restored benches using local timber and restored pond decking (Waterlow Park)

4.3. Tree Management

4.3.1. Camden Council manages 28,000 trees, with a further 10-15,000 trees in woodland sites. The total tree canopy cover in the borough is 22.9%, which is 2.9% above the suggested canopy cover set by the Urban Forestry & Woodland Advisory Committee Network for inland towns and cities.

4.3.2. The service publishes information about the stock of trees we maintain on the Council's open data portal. The Council's trees are also mapped with specific maps for newly planted trees and those due to be removed.

4.3.3. Camden has now been awarded the 'Tree Cities of the World' /designation four times: 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, a programme run by the Arbor Day Foundation and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

4.3.4. Outside institutions including the Forestry Commission (National Tree Champion Sir William Worsley)), London Tree Officer Association (LTOA) and the Greater London Authority have also recognised Camden as innovative and holistic in our approach. We have been involved in a

number of academic studies, for example with University College London (UCL) on measuring carbon capture in trees.

4.3.5. A new tree term contractor, Treehab Ltd was appointed on 1st November 2022, following the voluntary liquidation of City Suburban Tree Surgeons Ltd. Treehab Ltd. are a local firm based in the West of the borough and employ local people.

4.3.6. The Hardy tree in St. Pancras Gardens fell on Boxing Day 2022 into an area that had been fenced off to protect the public. The tree was found to be suffering from decay in 2014 and has undergone works and monitoring periodically to address any risk to users of the park. The news of the tree falling was reported internationally in the [New York Times](#).



Image 15- Hardy Ash 28th December 2022



Image 16- Hardy Ash 09th August 2023

4.3.7. As a notable tree for Camden, a stakeholder group comprised of locally interested parties and the Thomas Hardy Society was formed to think of ideas on how to commemorate the tree. The decision was taken to retain the trunk near the mound of gravestones as informal seating and look at planting a new tree next planting season close to the original position.

4.3.8. Camden's Tree Planting strategy 2020-2025, is progressing well and has so far planted 1,718 trees. During the last planting season, we planted more new than replacement trees for the second year running.

Year	Replacement Trees	New Trees	Total
2020/21	362	217	579
2021/22	171	368	539
2022/23	209	391	600

Figure 3-Total tree planting: replacement and new trees

2022/23 planting by ward	New tree	Replacement	Total
Belsize	1	5	6
Bloomsbury	40	8	48
Camden Square	4	13	17

Camden Town	4	7	11
Fortune Green	79	23	102
Frognaal	7	7	14
Gospel Oak	44	4	48
Hampstead Town	1	16	17
Haverstock	35	1	36
Highgate	12	9	21
Holborn and Covent Garden	16	21	37
Kentish Town North	52	9	61
Kentish Town South	18	8	26
Kilburn	0	10	10
King Cross	0	12	12
Primrose Hill	8	1	9
Regents Park	24	19	43
South Hampstead	0	1	1
St. Pancras and Somers Town	46	14	60
West Hampstead	0	21	21
Grand Total	391	209	600

Figure 4-Tree planting by ward

4.3.9. Capital funding of £1.94 million (including £61,000 from Urban Tree grant) for the programme was provided in 2021/22 to plant and provide 3 years watering for 3,000 trees over 4 years. In addition to this we have been successful in securing other funding streams:

Additional funding secured (from start of tree planting strategy)	Funding
Urban Tree Challenge Fund	£45,827.92
West End Project	£20,862.00
Clear Channel funding	£29,316.75
Central District Alliance bid	£8,809.00
Highways projects – internal contribution	£18,982.00

Figure 5-Additional funding

4.3.10. The extremely warm and dry weather during 2022 has placed our urban forest under increased stress. The extent of this impact is not fully apparent yet, but our team will continue to monitor the condition of our forest through 2023.

The success the team has achieved has been despite a National shortage of tree professionals in the industry at all levels, as reported in the press.

4.4. Investing in new and improved Green Space Improvement

4.4.1. Our Green Space Investment Programme has continued to improve and enhance green spaces across the borough, with a focus on areas of greatest need, investing £2.7 million into improving green spaces this year. This investment has included transformational work at College Gardens, Cumberland Market and St Pancras Gardens to make spaces more welcoming, more accessible and offer greater health benefits.

4.4.2. We are also exploring how we can adapt our parks to make them more climate resilient, and completed a new masterplan for Kilburn Grange Park that explores what a neighbourhood park could look like to better respond to the climate emergency. This work was supported by the GLA's green and resilient fund.

4.4.3. Several projects are also under way to improve housing estate space, helping communities make the most of the green space on their doorstep. The Future Neighbourhoods project in Somers Town has delivered new food growing space in a number of estates and will continue with projects to depave and increase green space in the neighbourhood. In Swiss Cottage a programme of improvements co-designed with North Camden Zone and local residents, has continued with enhancements at Freeling House and Taylor Court.

4.4.4. Design work and community engagement is under way on the next wave of projects and will inform future improvement, including projects at Swiss Cottage Open Space, Talacre Town Green, Crabtree Fields, and Maygrove Peace Park.



Image 17- Cumberland Market – renovated play area and more accessible entrances



BEFORE



AFTER

Images 18&19- St Pancras Gardens – new accessible paths and an increase in permeable green space



Images 20& 21 Swiss Cottage green infrastructure projects (Taylor Court and Freeling House, Hilgrove Estate)



Image 22- Kilburn Grange park – planning for the future



Image 23- College Garden – transformed local square

HS2 mitigation around Euston

4.4.5. Camden lost 2 hectares of open space to HS2 construction and secured a package of assurances from HS2 Ltd to help mitigate its impact on communities, including investment in existing open spaces.

4.4.6. This programme has neared completion this year, with work completed at Cumberland Market, Munster Square, Amphill Square Estate and Churchway Estate as well as enhancement to several housing estate green spaces across the Regents Park Estate.

4.4.7. We also opened a brand new temporary open space for impacted communities on the grounds of the former Maria Fidelis School. Starcross Yard provides green space in the heart of the HS2 construction area and has been constructed using recycled and reused materials to minimise its carbon footprint.

4.4.8. In response to the pause to HS2 construction, announced in March, we have been identifying opportunities for additional meanwhile space using mothballed construction areas. The first such space was successfully opened in July next to the National Temperance Hospital and we will continue to campaign for further spaces to be created.

4.4.9. Greening Phoenix Road, our proposal to green the heart of Somers Town, moved to its next phase with the consultation and approval of an 18 month trial of traffic changes. This will provide the opportunity to test new uses of the space with communities and trial greening interventions before the permanent scheme.

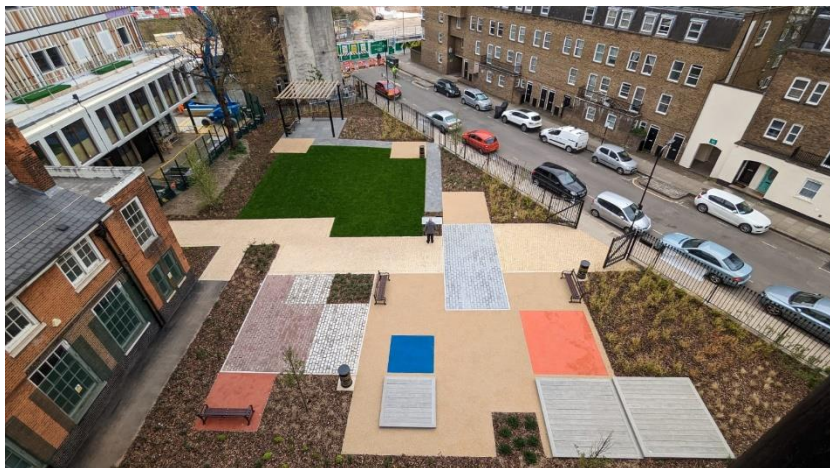


Image 24- Starcross Yard – brand new temporary open space in the heart



Images 25&26 Munster Square and Amphill Square – redesigned with local communities



Image 27- Stanhope Street rain garden – depaving hard surfacing



Image 28- Kendal Gardens: making housing estate space more useable

Greening the Public Realm

4.4.10. The West End Project has continued the creation of new green spaces in the heart of Central London, with the successful completion of Windmill Square and Princes Circus – converting road space to pedestrian-friendly public realm and introducing new greening to transform the public realm.

4.4.11. Our Highways Greening Accelerator programme is enabling us to learn and establish new ways of greening our streets and public realm so we can deliver more of this kind of greening. The project is funded by the Future Parks Accelerator programme, and we are working in partnership

with London Borough of Islington. The programme is exploring how we can better make use of street space to provide green infrastructure in areas of greatest need. This includes an extensive year-long officer training programme to increase necessary skills, as well as the development of a new green infrastructure mapping tool to help inform the strategic allocation of resources.

4.4.12. The delivery of new highway greening projects continue, including Hartland Road in Camden Town, Bedford Row in Holborn and the completion of Fleet Valley Pocket Park in Mount Pleasant. We secured funding from the GLA Green and Resilient Fund to create new rain gardens in South Hampstead to reduce flood risk, and are incorporating greening into highways schemes such as Chalk Farm Road and the Somers Town mobility hubs.

4.4.13. We are working with partners to develop a Bloomsbury Vision, an example of a place-based landscape-led approach to greening the public realm – working in partnership to realise an ambitious green corridor through the heart of central London.

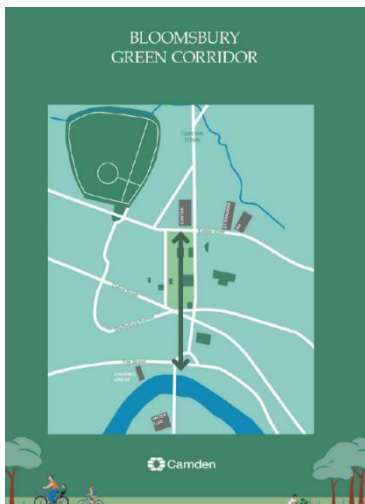


Image 29- Bloomsbury Corridor prospectus



Image 30-Princess Circus-new green infrastructure as part of the West End Project

5. **Creating Space for Nature**

5.1. Our contract with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to deliver Camden Green Gym and other volunteering opportunities in the borough continues to deliver opportunities for improving people's health and well-being while managing and creating habitats for nature. In 2022/23 the programme delivered 5154 hours of volunteering, equivalent to nearly £60,000. TCV also delivered a volunteering session as part of The Big Help Out for the coronation in May.



Image 31- Volunteers at Waterlow Park in May as part of the Big Help Out.

5.2. Continuing the access to nature theme, new signs have been designed for some of the nature reserves, to better inform local communities of their opening times. A near-final design is shown below. However, access to some sites is being reviewed to see if further improvements to access to nature can be made.



Image 32- Example new nature reserve signage

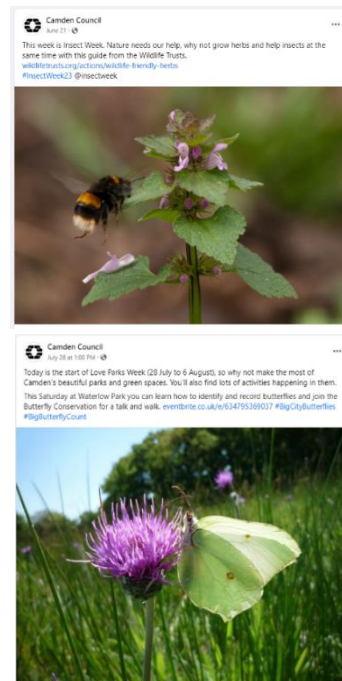


Image 33- Social media promotion-raising awareness

5.3. A couple of successful events have been run in partnership with Butterfly Conservation; a moth event at Adelaide Local Nature Reserve in June and a Butterfly event at Waterlow park in July. Social media posts supported the events and recording activities. This has resulted in further engagement with community groups interested in doing more wildlife recording, and more volunteers have stepped forward to undertake regular surveys. We are planning more events for next year.



Image 34-Moth event with Butterfly Conservation at Adelaide Local Nature Reserve in June



Image 35-Butterfly talk and walk at Waterlow park in July

5.4. A Review of the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation was procured and is under way at the time of writing. This will provide part of the evidence base for the local plan but also provide important habitat data for these sites.

5.5. The initial consultation on the Local Plan review attracted many comments on biodiversity, and the Nature Conservation Officer has been working with the planning policy officer to develop the revisions to the policy and supporting text for the next stage of consultation.

5.6. Development of the proposed Nature Recovery Network continues apace, and conversations have been had with members of the Camden Nature Partnership regarding their particular areas of interest, such as picking up areas already identified through Neighbourhood Plans. This is being incorporated alongside technical information from Greenspace Information for Greater London (shown below) that seeks to predict best ecological routes, though this requires further refinement.



Image 36- Using data to identify Nature Recovery Networks

6. Parking

6.1. Air Quality

6.1.1. Improving air quality on all fronts continues to be a priority within the Parking Operations service. Camden introduced some years ago a borough wide Traffic Management Order that makes the whole of Camden a no engine idling zone. During this period there have been 4784 interactions with drivers of vehicles who had idling engines and 65

Penalty Charge Notices were issued to those drivers that refused to turn off their engines when challenged. Our enforcement officers continue to use these engagement opportunities to educate drivers as to the restrictions in force and the impact of engine idling.

6.2. Service Updates and Improvements

6.2.1. Parking policies and how they are applied are a key tool in our aim of reducing vehicle ownership and use across the borough. These policies support the continued rollout of changes to transport and streetscape being delivered across the borough.

6.2.2. Parking enforcement plays a key role in delivering the aims of these ambitious transport schemes which seek to reduce vehicle use and to change modes of travel to more sustainable alternatives. These schemes are monitored by CCTV cameras and improved signage which are monitored and maintained by Parking Operations officers. We continue to monitor and assess the data from these schemes to understand their performance and success levels.

6.2.3. We have during this period provided body worn cameras for all of the parking and traffic enforcement officers that work across Camden. These cameras have been introduced as they have proven successful in other boroughs in reducing the numbers of reported incidences of abuse and violence against officers, which has proven to be the case in Camden as we have seen a marked decrease in the number of reported incidences of verbal and physical abuse of these officers.

6.2.4. The councils in house built parking permit system has continued to be developed beyond its launch and has been further improved by customer feedback with many of the suggestions made by residents who use the system being deployed.

6.3. Rail Strike Parking Support

6.3.1. The Parking Operations service has continued to support key workers across Camden in our NHS Trusts during the national rail strikes that have been in place across the year. Provision has been made for key staff to drive into the borough and park when there has been no national rail provision.

6.4. Estates Services Project

6.4.1. Parking Operations have been working closely with colleagues from the council's Estate Services team to deliver a parking management regime based upon a borough wide Traffic Management Order. This will tackle the problem of parking that many residents have been experiencing on a number of estates across the borough. It will provide security of access for emergency services and other necessary service vehicle such as refuse removal. This will also enable Estate Services colleagues to better plan the use of space for uses such as bicycle hangars, greening and possibly providing for improved community spaces.

6.4.2. This is being developed after a successful trial of the model on the Maiden Lane estate, to the north of Kings Cross, where access has been greatly improved and the instances of prohibited parking has greatly reduced whilst improving facilities for those who most need them.

6.4.3. The wider project will also enable the alignment of parking policies across the whole borough to enable the successful delivery of the Camden Transport Policy and its key aims.

6.4.4. This is a multi-year project with the borough wide order being delivered in 2023 and with 9 estates being brought under its remit in early 2024, there will be more estates added each year as the need arises.

7. Transport

7.1. Transport for London (TfL) Funding

7.1.1. The Camden Transport Strategy (CTS) was adopted in April 2019 and sets out the Delivery Plan for Healthy Streets in each 3 year period. In December 2022 Cabinet approved the Healthy Streets Delivery Plan for the period to 2025: details can be found here. In the same report, Cabinet approved the “Local Implementation Plan” submission for 2023/24 to Transport for London (TfL) of circa £1m, for a range of walking, cycling, road safety and bus priority interventions. Based on Camden’s strong track record of delivery, the full allocation was approved by TfL.

7.1.2. Camden has also secured, for 2023/24, further TfL funding for a variety of projects including new Cycleways, additional bus priority schemes, and for the Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood project. Highlights include:

- £500,000 secured for cycling and pedestrian improvements at the Castlehaven Road/Grafton Road junction, including providing safer conditions for cyclists on the “C6 Cycleway” route, with works starting in autumn ‘23
- £550,000 to implement the remaining elements of the Tavistock/Torrington cycle corridor scheme
- £50,000 for the Camden Street bus and cycle lane scheme
- £700,000 for further development of the Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood project, alongside over £250,000 for implementation of the Procter Street upgrade

7.2. West End Project, Princess Circus & Holborn

7.2.1. The West End Project (WEP) is our £40m scheme to transform the Tottenham Court Road and surrounding areas. 2023 has seen the substantial completion of the final elements of the WEP programme, including the £2.3m Princes Circus scheme which has transformed a previous hostile network of roads outside the Shaftsbury Theatre into a tranquil urban oasis with new trees, greenery, seating, public realm improvements and new and safer walking and cycling routes.

7.2.2. As the WEP draws to a close, the Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood (LN) project starts to ramp up. Feasibility and concept design work is currently underway, whilst engagement on the scheme and wider Holborn/Farringdon vision will take place in February 2024. Whilst the larger scheme develops, we continue to make important road safety and public realm interventions in the area. In September '23 we will start construction of the next phase of cycling, walking and road safety improvements to the Holborn gyratory, including new cycle tracks and urban greening on Procter Street, and in summer '23 we completed the creation of a new public realm area and traffic management scheme on Bedford Row. A range of other “quick-win” measures in the Holborn area are being developed for further delivery this financial year and next, supported by the Central District Alliance and TfL.



Image 37: WEP site for Princes Circus images

7.3. Euston Road

7.4. HS2's construction works on the Euston Rd came to a halt as part of the HS2 Euston Pause in Spring 2023. With the HS2 pause and removal of the traffic management (TM) from Euston Rd for at least the next two years, the joint Camden-TfL Euston Healthy Streets (EHS) project are seeking the opportunity to revisit previously proposed short-term measures (STMs).

7.5. The current objective set by EHS is to progress some of these designs and deliver improvements before HS2 remobilise and restart future enabling works along with any associated TM. Officers have been working with TfL to put forward a set of interim upgrades to pedestrian and cycle facilities and key junctions along Euston Rd. Officers are supporting TfL cost and develop feasibility design work via TfL's internal Healthy Streets Board.

7.6. Concurrently, EHS will be holding joint workshops between TfL and Camden to consider options for the 'end state' of Euston Road (ie. post-HS2 construction works). The EHS project team will continue to use the current Euston Healthy Streets vision to set the parameters for these designs. The project team are also maintaining ongoing dialogue with the nascent working group established by Camden and City Planning at TfL which the aim of setting and emerging long-term political vision for Euston Road which looks to maximise the 'place' function of the street.

7.7. Dockless bike hire and E-scooters

7.7.1. Camden continues to operate the most used dockless bike hire and e-scooter systems in the capital. By summer '23 over 200,000 e-bike hires were starting in Camden each month, and around 50,000 e-scooter hires. To support these popular modes of shared mobility, we have provided a dense network of around 200 e-bike and e-scooter bays across the Borough, mainly on the carriageway rather than footway, to protect pedestrian space. Phase 7 of this bay provision is currently being built, with Phase 8 to be consulted on shortly, as we work towards a target of 270 bays by 2025.

7.7.2. The management of e-bike and e-scooter hire parking is critical to the success or otherwise of the scheme, and to ensure that other road users, especially pedestrians, are not adversely impacted by erroneous parking. The Council now has formal contracts, following tender processes, with our e-bike (Forest and Lime) and e-scooter (via a TfL contract - Lime, Dott and Voi). These contracts provide formalised arrangements that condition compliant parking. For example, since signing the contract with Lime in spring 2023, parking compliance for their bikes in Camden has increased from around 75% to close to 90%, which is the minimum key performance indicator (KPI) in the contract.

7.7.3. This was an important decision taken in the absence of powers from the government to allow local authorities to control hire bikes (in contrast, controls do exist for e-scooters). London boroughs had also sought to introduce a bye-law in order to obtain such powers and control. Unfortunately, not all boroughs participated and it was therefore necessary to pursue the contract route to obtain firmer powers.

7.7.4. We will be continuing to work closely with all our shared micro-mobility operators to ensure that, alongside the obvious popularity of their systems, that the issue of parking compliance remains of critical importance throughout the length of the contracts. A follow up session with Culture & Environment Scrutiny Committee (following on from an initial meeting in May '23) will take place in December '23, to scrutinise the performance of the dockless bike hire operators including particularly around parking bay compliance.

7.8. Healthy Streets

7.8.1. Throughout 2023 the Council has continued to make rapid progress in delivering a range of Healthy Streets improvements. As set out to Cabinet in November 2021, our Healthy Street schemes are split into

“small”, “medium” and “large” categories, and a summary of key progress areas underneath are set out below:

7.8.2. “Small schemes”: includes the Borough-wide roll out of our dockless bike hire/e-scooter bays, cycle hangars, localised road safety schemes, Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) and so on. At the time of writing this report:

- There are currently just over 300 cycle hangars in the Borough, of which 94 have been delivered in 2023. A further 15 are close to delivery with several new phases under development.
- There are 560 electric vehicle charge points in the Borough, of which 67 have been delivered in 2023, with a further 200 expected to be delivered by the end of the financial year.
- Two further cycle permeability schemes have been approved for delivery following consultation, on Priory Terrace and Falkland Road, and a number of other improvements have been implemented including on the link from Agar Grove to Camley Street, and at the junction of Bartholomew Road and Kentish Town Road

7.8.3. “Medium schemes”: encompasses localised through-traffic restrictions, Healthy School Streets, bus priority interventions and Streateries. Updates include:

- There are now 30 schools covered by timed “Healthy School Street” restrictions across the Borough, of which 3 have been implemented in 2023 (St Paul’s Church of England Primary School on Elsworth Road, St Christopher’s School on Belsize Lane and Maria Montessori School on Lyndhurst Gardens). A further 6 schools will have such restrictions in place for the new autumn term in 2023, providing good progress towards our aim of delivering Healthy School Streets at all feasible schools by 2025.
- There are now around 120 “modal filters” restricting through-traffic in both directions on residential streets around the Borough.
- A number of Streateries have been turned from temporary into experimental traffic orders for a further 18 months, including Charlotte Street, Regent’s Park Road, Great Queen Street and Doric Way.

7.8.4. “Large Schemes”: include area-wide traffic management changes, significant cycle/bus corridor schemes, and “major projects” such as Liveable Neighbourhoods. Progress made during 2023 includes:

- Trial measures in Seven Dials to reduce through-traffic, improve road safety and enhance the public realm were made permanent early in 2023 and work is now underway to deliver the final scheme measures. The next stage of the project, working closely with local stakeholders, will take forward further public realm improvements in the Seven Dials area.
- Work is to commence in autumn ‘23 in the Queen’s Crescent area to make permanent the previous trial Safe & Healthy Streets scheme, including new areas of public realm, greening and further road safety interventions. Work will also commence in autumn/winter ‘23 on similar permanent measures to upgrade the previous trial Arlington Road area Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme.

- Construction will commence in autumn on the next phases of the Holborn gyratory road safety, cycling and walking improvements with new segregated cycling facilities, urban greening and other interventions, following a successful consultation. At the same time work is progressing to develop the wider Holborn LN scheme.
- Construction is nearing completion to upgrade the cycle tracks and pedestrian crossings/improvements on Prince of Wales Road, with the previous trial scheme being given a significant overhaul. The final element of the scheme, to improve road safety at the Castlehaven Road/Grafton Road junction, will complete in autumn '23. Construction has also started on making the York Way trial cycle tracks permanent, with upgraded cycling facilities and significant sections of new urban greening.
- Consultation has completed on the Haverstock Hill walking, cycling and road safety scheme and a decision has been made to make the trial interventions permanent, alongside some new features. Subject to statutory processes, construction on the permanent scheme is scheduled to commence in 2024.



Image 38: Prince of Wales Road nearly complete

7.8.5. The pace and quality of our Healthy Streets programme continues to be recognised by independent assessments. A recent report by London Cycling Campaign noted that “Camden is one of the stars of London on climate safe streets” with a “bold and rapid roads decarbonisation programme”. And the annual Healthy Streets Scorecard assessment for 2023 placed Camden at 3rd amongst all Boroughs (excluding City of London) again against a metric of indicators, ranging from coverage of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs), 20mph restrictions and Healthy Streets scheme implementation. Camden was also given an award by the Healthy Streets Scorecard assessors, noting our delivery beyond expectations when adjusting for housing density compared to other inner London Boroughs.

7.8.6. A range of Safe & Healthy Streets schemes are including in the CTS Delivery Plan programme to 2025, including continued roll out of active travel, traffic-restriction and urban greening measures in the Somers Town Future Neighbourhood area and Regent’s Park area, via the HS2 Road Safety Fund. Engagement work in Regent’s Park has recently started to gather ideas from the local community for sustainable transport schemes which will then be developed further in consultation and co-design with those stakeholders.

7.9. Road Safety

7.9.1. We continue to make good progress towards, and are on track to achieve, our objective of achieving “Vision Zero” - no killed or seriously injured road traffic casualties on our highways network – by 2041. The graph below shows a rolling 12 month average of Killed and Seriously Injured (KSIs) for all road users in Camden since the CTS was adopted in 2019, including both the Camden-owned highway network and the TfL-managed “TLRN”. The Borough trendline shows a gradually reducing number of KSIs. Within this data, “vulnerable” road users KSIs, including for pedestrians, cyclists and powered two-wheelers, are also showing reductions since the CTS was adopted.

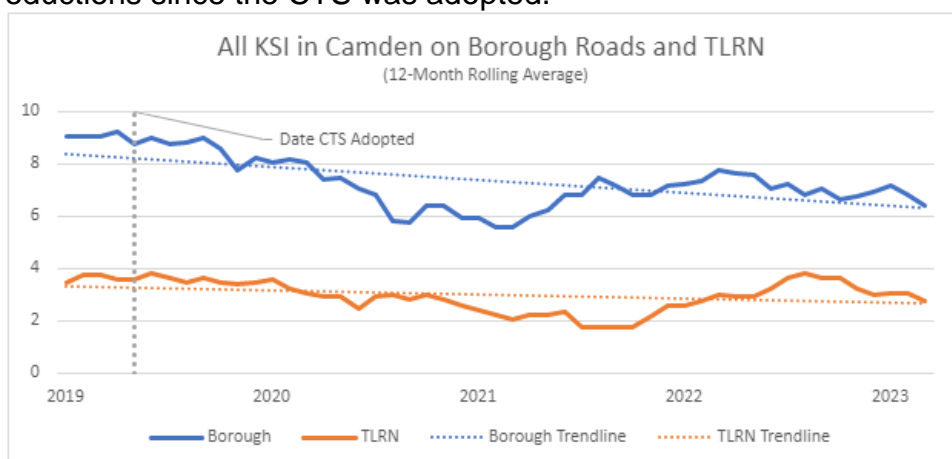


Figure 6: All KSI in Camden on Borough Roads and TLRN

7.9.2. We continue to deliver a range of infrastructure and “behaviour change”/education interventions to further improve road safety in the Borough. The CTS Delivery Plan to 2025, approved by Cabinet in December 2022, sets out how road safety data is an integral metric used to help prioritise new Safe & Healthy Streets interventions. Part of the programme moving forward is a focus on Safer Junctions, as these are the locations where most road traffic casualties occur. Schemes in the programme to help improve road safety, especially for vulnerable road users, at such locations include the junction of Theobald’s Road/Gray’s Inn Road, the Holborn gyratory and York Way/Agar Grove, all of which will be brought forward for consultation in the next 2 years.

7.9.3. Officers have continued to meet regularly with groups representing motorcyclists and are developing a number of actions to further reduce road traffic casualties from this mode. Further information will be provided in the annual CTS update report in Feb 2024 to Scrutiny.

7.10. Freight

7.10.1. Work continues on localised Freight & Servicing Action Plans as part of corridor//neighbourhood schemes, including for example on Haverstock Hill and in the Somers Town area. The Borough-wide Freight & Servicing Action plan is currently being drafted by Officers and expected to be consulted on in the autumn.

7.11. Cycling and Cycleways

7.11.1. Plans published in December '22 set out our ambitions to increase the length of the segregated cycle network in Camden from 27km, currently, to around 40km by 2025. Schemes to be included in that programme, subject to consultation and scheme by scheme approvals, include the Cross Camden Cycleway, joining Camden Square in the east with Regent's Park and Primrose Hill in the west, as well as cycle tracks on Shaftsbury Avenue, Clerkenwell Road, Fitzjohn's Avenue and Kentish Town Road. Initial design and development work is currently taking place on each of those schemes.

7.11.2. In addition, a number of trial cycle lane schemes implemented following the pandemic will be upgraded to permanent measures, including on Chalk Farm Road, St Pancras Way, and schemes listed earlier in the Healthy Streets section. And we have secured funding of over £500k from TfL to complete, this autumn/winter, the final permanent measures on the Tavistock-Torrington corridor including improved road safety interventions at a number of junctions on the route.

7.11.3. In summer 2023 Camden, in conjunction with TfL, delivered an extensive wayfinding programme to sign multiple new and improved Cycleways in the Borough. And we continue to support our infrastructure schemes with a range of support offers, including our extensive cycle training programme for children and adults, our Try a Bike scheme, and the recently launched cargo bike available for hire on Kentish Town Road

8. Environment Services Contract

8.1. Environment Service Contract Renewal

8.1.1. Delivery of Environment Services makes a significant contribution towards our We Make Camden ambition to be a green, clean, vibrant, accessible, and sustainable place with everyone empowered to contribute to tackling the climate emergency. This will be achieved by working closely with our communities to reduce waste, drive the circular economy and recycle more, whilst reducing the environmental impact of Camden's waste management operations.

8.2. Local Area Improvement: Enforcement

8.2.1. In 2017/18, Camden commenced an 8-year Environment Services contract with Veolia Environment Services, delivering the £5m savings target, as set out in Camden's Financial Strategy (2015-18). The contract is based around four outcomes, each focusing on Camden's needs,

which are monitored and managed through a number of annual targets and key outcome and performance measures. The outcomes are:

- Managing Camden's local environmental quality to an agreed standard
- Minimising rubbish and maximising participation in reuse and recycling
- Generating additional surplus from business recycling and waste services
- Increasing local employment opportunities and local economic development

8.2.2. The contract is managed through twenty-four key outcome targets which measure performance against agreed standards using live dashboards and data sets. The contract also includes a process for an annual service report and improvement plan. These documents focus on service performance for the previous year, in relation to the contract targets, and define an improvement plan to improve performance in required areas over the forthcoming year. Annual reports and contract documents are available on Camden's [website](#).

8.2.3. During 2022-23, Year 6 of the contract, good recovery was achieved from the Covid pandemic and heavy goods vehicle driver shortage that presented many challenges with service delivery through Years 4 and 5. The Contract's ability to flex and adapt, alongside collaborative working between Camden and Veolia, meant services returned to more business as usual and delivered to standard.

8.3. Key challenges and change

Seasonal and extreme weather events

8.3.1. December 2022 had significant snow fall, causing temporary disruption to services, which were quickly recovered due to implementation of our Winter Plan. Priority routes were kept open, and services focussed resource on clearing snow and gritting pavements. Learning outcomes from this event has resulted in an enhanced Winter Plan for 2023.

8.3.2. A major flood event also occurred in Belsize Road in December 2022. The contract worked well to deal with impacts and support to residents dealing with removing waste and damaged household items. It is expected with a changing climate that extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding will become more regular. The flexibility of the Contract and effective partnership working enables operations to adapt well to such challenges if and when they arise.

Legislation Change

8.3.3. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) legislation was implemented by the Environment Agency in January 2023, requiring that all waste upholstered domestic seating must be collected separately and disposed of by incineration. This legislation mostly affects Camden's domestic bulky waste collections, meaning loads containing POPs must be taken to Edmonton for incineration and recyclable materials cannot be separated from these loads. Future collection options are currently being scoped for domestic bulky waste.

Contract renewal

8.3.4. Camden's Environment Services contract with Veolia ends in March 2025. Beyond this there is an option to extend the contract for a further 8 years, retender or explore an in-house option. A review and benchmarking of current contract performance, including community and member engagement, started in early Summer 2023. Initial discussions with Veolia have also commenced alongside external review of the other options. A proposal with the preferred option will be taken to Cabinet in Spring 2024.

8.4. Reducing waste, increasing recycling and circular economy

8.4.1. Following a drop in 2019/20, Camden's recycling rate has steadily increased and maintained a similar level in 2021/ 22 to the previous year (see Table 4).

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
31.1%	25.9%	28.6%	28.2%	27.5%

Table 4: Camden Recycling Rates 2018-23

8.4.2. In April 2023, the Mayor of London ratified Camden's 2023-25 Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP), which provides a roadmap of how Camden will reduce waste, increase recycling and support transition to a more circular economy. The RRP outlines key initiatives to help achieve the related targets of the Mayor's 2018 London Environment Strategy.

8.4.3. Camden's Recycling Rewards programme continues to provide well received incentives and information to residents for reducing, reusing and recycling. Engagement remains high despite running for over 6 years. Proposed enhancements are in development which will widen the brief to include active travel and renaming of the scheme. It is also planned to include other 'eco' projects being delivered by services across the organisation, such as Sustainability and Green Spaces, which is in early stages of discussion.

8.4.4. To promote reuse and support a reduction waste across our street markets, Camden has partnered with Raze to replace single-use plastic with reusable bags which traders will give to customers from September 2023. Customers will gain points each time they are used, which will be logged on the Raze app, which can then be spent with a range of approved sustainable businesses. In addition, a number of food traders in Leather Lane market are trialling reusable 'Junee' food containers with customers.

8.4.5. In partnership with Veolia, Fixing Factory and Think & Do, four successful 'Fix and Do' events have taken place across the borough enabling residents to recycle, repair and share their electrical items. The events aim to encourage the reuse of electrical items and promote circular economy across Camden.

8.4.6. The Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods circular economy market project, funded by the Mayor of London, moved from development to delivery phase. Working with local partners and the community, a range of circular themed market events, workshops and initiatives such as sharing spaces and upskilling local residents have taken place. The current phase runs to March 2024.

8.4.7. Complementing Future Neighbourhoods, Refill Station Camden continues to offer residents low-to-no waste ethically sourced household products, through stalls located at both Queen’s Crescent and Chalton Street markets. This now includes refill options of dried herbs, spices and teas.

8.4.8. To support residents living in flats above shops, following the successful trial of grit-bin on-street residual waste storage in Belsize Village, provision is being extended to West End Lane for around 250 properties in September 2023. Feedback from residents, members and businesses has been very positive to date therefore further areas for provision are currently being scoped out.

8.5. Maintaining and Improving Cleanliness in Public Spaces

8.5.1. Street cleansing standards in Camden are independently measured by Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) three times a year. The results in Table 5 show litter increased in 2022/23, with an overall score of 7.3%. Graffiti is also an area that needs improvement, scoring around 12%. Both litter and graffiti are areas being tackled by Veolia and early 2023/24 scores show improvements taking effect.

8.5.2. Litter scores were analysed, and the deployment of resources were realigned to areas requiring improvement, resulting in an improved score for survey one 2023/24 of 6% meeting the contract target.

8.5.3. Graffiti is being tackled through an improvement plan working with community payback, improving the shop front waiver process and investigating longer term solutions to prevent graffiti from occurring in hotspot areas. The survey one score 2023/24 for graffiti was 7%.

Year	Litter	Detritus	Fly-posting	Graffiti	Fly Tipping	Leaf/Blossom Fall
2017/18	5.7%	5.0%	4.8%	7.2%	5%	6%
2018/19	3.8%	6.3%	2.1%	6.2%	1%	8%
2019/20	5.3%	5.3%	3.4%	7.9%	3%	5%
2020/21	4.0%	4.3%	4.2%	14.1%	4%	4%

2021/22	4.5%	5.5%	3.5%	11.7%	3%	8%
2022/23	7.3%	5.0%	5.6%	11.8%	2%	9%
Contract target	6.0%	5.0%	1.0%	3.0%	n/a	n/a

Table 5: KBT street cleansing scores 2017-23

8.5.4. The number of reported fly tips increased in 2022/23, as outlined in Table 6. Camden actively encourages reporting of all fly tips and have made it easy for residents, officers and Veolia through the app, web site and back-office systems since 2017/18. The KBT survey results show the percentage of fly tips present in surveyed areas decreased in 2022/23 to a low 2.3%.

Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total reported fly tips	25,765	34,465	34,870	29,804	31,457
KBT survey results	0.93%	2.50%	3.94%	3.24%	2.36%

Table 6: Reported fly tips 2018/19– 2022/23

8.5.5. In February 2023 Kingdom were awarded a 2-year contract to work alongside the Education and Enforcement Team to reduce fly tips and the amount of time waste is on our streets. Working in partnership, the enhanced team is driving up compliance by increasing the number of fixed penalty notices to those caught littering and fly tipping. In July 2023 they issued 870 littering FPNs and have issued over 16,000 since the initial contract started in February 2022.

8.5.6. Through CIL funding, a full-time officer has been allocated to focus on improving the street environment in the West Hampstead area by implementing a range of projects and innovations. These include working with businesses to clean up graffiti, increasing compliance, improving waste management for flats above shops, improving waste presentation along West End Lane and using high visibility stencils and CCTV in fly-tip hotspots. The two-year post concludes in Winter 2023/24.

8.5.7. A Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was implemented across the borough this Summer, enabling enforcement action against irresponsible dog owners. On the spot fines of £100 can now be issued for failure to clear up dog mess or comply with a request from an authorised officer to place a dog on a lead. The Order also enables dogs to be excluded from certain areas. An intensive education and compliance campaign is currently under way to raise awareness with dog owners and the wider public.

8.5.8. Veolia Camden supported the national Great British Spring Clean campaign, with 165 residents taking part within 13 litter pick groups,

collecting 70 bags of recycling and 117 bags of litter. All groups were provided with resources, and the street cleansing and collection teams helped by providing post-event collections.

8.5.9. A successful pop-up community skip event was held in the West Hampstead area in July, enabling residents to responsibly dispose of waste. The event attracted 32 attendees, disposing of a range of items such as electrical, bulky and garden waste.

8.5.10. In 2022, Camden trialled a chewing gum cleansing project with LB Brent, funded by KBT, to cleanse a paved area of chewing gum and install communications to highlight the issue and deter gum dropping. Cleansing was completed in November 2022. In addition, an area outside Camden Town tube was deep cleansed which proved to be effective at transforming the look of the area. The trial highlighted spot cleansing left initial 'trails', as illustrated in Figure 1 below, however these disappeared over time. Communications however were minimally effective in changing behaviour as gum returned not long after the cleansing work. The trial was a useful exercise however was expensive compared to its range and effect.



Image 39- Gum before cleansing & Post removal trails

8.5.11. Camden also delivered a fly-tip beautification project in partnership with KBT, providing funding to community groups to design out fly-tipping hotspots. The project funded 7 projects across the borough, installing a range of interventions such as planters and painted areas over Spring 2023. Monitoring of the areas post-intervention showed a trend across all sites of a significant reduction of fly-tipping in the hot-spot areas. The winning project, Kenton Street in Figure 2 below, received a £200 prize for the most effective intervention, which was spent on additional plants.

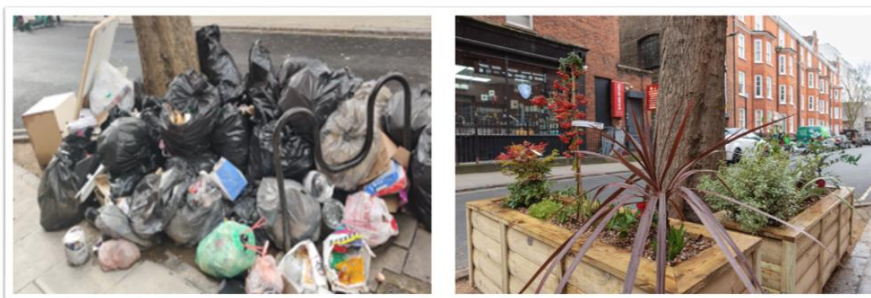


Image 40 Kenton street intervention before & after

9. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

9.1. The Executive Director Corporate Services has been consulted and has no additional comments to add.

10. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

10.1. Legal Services have been consulted and have no specific comments on the Report.

11. Environmental Implications

11.1. All of the programmes and work outlined in this report have positive environmental implications for Camden and are built from, or strongly aligned with, the Camden Climate Action Plan, Biodiversity Strategy and Clean Air Action Plan.

12. Appendices

12.1. There are no appendices to this report.