

Public Document Pack

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN COUNCIL

MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2024

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ITEM 5. DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS (Pages 3 - 6)

Deputations will be heard from:-

- George Binette, on behalf of Camden UNISON Retired Members Committee
- Helena Aksentijevic, Secretary, Camden Palestine Solidarity Campaign

ITEM 11. AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS (Pages 7 - 16)

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Issued on: Friday, 15 November 2024

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COUNCIL MEETING – DEPUTATION/PETITION REQUEST FORM

NAME OF DEPUTATION/PETITION LEADER: George Binette on behalf of Camden UNISON Retired Members Committee	
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]	
TEL: [REDACTED]	E-MAIL: [REDACTED]
Name and contact details of other proposed attendees (maximum of 6 plus deputation leader): All can be contacted by email: [REDACTED] Ruth Appleton George Binette Keith Hallam Diane Pearson Phoebe Watkins	
Does any member of the deputation have access requirements? If so, please tell us what they are: No	
Have you submitted a deputation request to the Council before? If so, please give details: The UNISON branch has submitted several deputation requests, but we believe this is the first such submission from the branch's Retired Members Committee.	

Please summarise below the key points you wish to make at the Council meeting (continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

A summary of the main points that we will focus on in our deputation include:

- As retired members of Camden UNISON we are among the principal stakeholders in the LGPS – the vast majority of us have paid into the pension scheme and are now beneficiaries. We believe that LGPS contributors and indeed scheme beneficiaries should have some meaningful say in investment decisions concerning what is in a very real sense our money
- We share our union's wish to see ethical investment of our pension fund – both that directly managed by Camden and the London CIV – and call on the Council to facilitate participation by our representatives in discussions towards achieving that goal
- We want a full and transparent audit and disclosure of Camden's LGPS investments – including regular reporting of investments so that progress can be measured
- We want divestment at the earliest feasible time from these specific sectors:
 - a. The arms industry
 - b. Companies profiting from war and occupation including the occupation of the Palestinian territories
 - c. The fossil fuel industry.

We do **not** believe that there is a contradiction between the Council's fiduciary duty, its obligations to current pensioners, and an ethical investment policy, which can play an essential role in ensuring the health and well-being of future generations.

COUNCIL MEETING – DEPUTATION/PETITION REQUEST FORM

NAME OF DEPUTATION/PETITION LEADER :Helena Aksentijevic, Secretary, Camden Palestine Solidarity Campaign	
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]	
TEL: [REDACTED]	E-MAIL: [REDACTED]
Name and contact details of other proposed attendees (maximum of 6 plus deputation leader): Luca Salice. [REDACTED] Sabby Sagall. [REDACTED] Una Doyle. [REDACTED]	
Does any member of the deputation have access requirements? If so, please tell us what they are: No	
Have you submitted a deputation request to the Council before? If so, please give details: Yes, Camden PSC submitted a deputation to the pensions committee	

Please summarise below the key points you wish to make at the Council meeting (continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

- That Camden Council address the splits in community cohesion due to the councils refusal to discuss the situation in Gaza.
- That Camden Council divest from unethical investments including in any Arms companies.
- That Camden Council discuss and vote on a ceasefire motion against the war in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon.

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

COUNCIL MEETING – 18TH NOVEMBER 2024

AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS

Amendment to motion 1, proposed by Councillor Tom Simon and seconded by Councillor Judy Dixey:-

This Council notes:

- The Autumn Budget, delivered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves on 30 October 2024, set out the new Labour Government's plan to fix the foundations of the country's economy and to start rebuilding Britain following 14 9 years of Conservative decline.
- The Budget introduces crucial measures to support economic growth such as tackling inequality, uplifting health and social care budgets and empowering local authorities. **However, the amount of additional funding for social care (£500m across the UK) is limited and the amount to be allocated to Camden uncertain.**
- The extension of the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments for the most vulnerable residents, in combination with changes to schemes like Right to Buy, will enable the retention of receipts locally and will be of significant benefit to local authorities across the country, including Camden.
- **However, the cuts to Winter Fuel Payments risks harming vulnerable residents and placing an additional strain on the resources of local authorities.**
- **Likewise, the decision to retain the two-child benefit cap is a missed opportunity to tackle child poverty across the country, including in Camden.**
- **Delays to implementing Labour's manifesto promise to introduce multi-year funding settlements for local authorities will undermine efforts to plan ahead in these challenging times.**
- Further announcements from the Budget that will have a significant impact on residents across Camden are:
 - The measures to improve energy efficiency in homes and public buildings, with additional grants available for retrofitting.
 - The new incentives for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and specific support for local high streets.
 - Enhanced funding for local community safety initiatives seeks to address anti-social behaviour, promote crime prevention, and improve community well-being.

- Additional funding for Special Education Needs and Disabilities provision to ensure that we can deliver the best quality education for every child in every community.
- Commitment to funding that will enable HS2 to terminate at Euston.

This Council believes:

- Strengthening and expanding social and affordable housing is essential to ensuring Camden remains a fair and inclusive borough, and reforms that protect and enhance the social housing stock are crucial for our community.
- Increased health and social care funding provides an opportunity to enhance service quality, support vulnerable residents, and ensure all individuals receive the care and dignity they deserve.
- Advancing Camden's net-zero and sustainability goals is vital for both the environment and residents, and investments in energy efficiency can deliver long-term cost savings and improved living conditions.
- Community safety initiatives and resources targeted at reducing anti-social behaviour are fundamental to building cohesive, resilient neighbourhoods and fostering trust and safety for all residents.
- ~~Certainty on HS2 will help end the blight and uncertainty caused by the previous Conservative government's mismanagement of the project. That having opposed bringing HS2 into Euston for years, it is clear the recent announcement is a costly mistake that will continue to blight the borough for years to come.~~

This Council resolves:

- To maximise the impact of housing reforms by prioritising the retention, development, and accessibility of affordable and social housing, ~~and also leading the way in supporting private renters, thus~~ addressing Camden's diverse housing needs.
- To pursue and leverage available funding for energy efficiency initiatives, including retrofitting, as part of Camden's drive toward net-zero emissions and reducing the cost burden on residents.
- To work alongside local policing, community organisations, and residents to utilise community safety support, fostering initiatives that tackle anti-social behaviour and build safety in Camden.
- To take a proactive approach in advertising the benefits of our leading work in Camden in areas like preventative children's services to feed into the development of further government plans.
- ~~To acknowledge areas where we need to do better as a council, such as housing repairs, waste collection and Special Education Needs and Disabilities provision, and look to learn from other boroughs.~~

- To lobby the government to halt HS2 at Old Oak Common and to turn over land allocated for development to Camden Council so we can have a locally-led regeneration of the Euston area after years of blight, ~~do all it can to~~ maximising the benefits of HS2 for the people of Camden in terms of jobs, homes, open spaces, and wider economic and community benefits.

The amended motion therefore reads:

This Council notes:

- The Autumn Budget, delivered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves on 30 October 2024, set out the new Labour Government's plan to fix the foundations of the country's economy and to start rebuilding Britain following 9 years of Conservative decline.
- The Budget introduces crucial measures to support economic growth such as tackling inequality, uplifting health and social care budgets and empowering local authorities. However, the amount of additional funding for social care (£500m across the UK) is limited and the amount to be allocated to Camden uncertain.
- The extension of the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments for the most vulnerable residents, in combination with changes to schemes like Right to Buy, will enable the retention of receipts locally and will be of significant benefit to local authorities across the country, including Camden.
- However, the cuts to Winter Fuel Payments risks harming vulnerable residents and placing an additional strain on the resources of local authorities.
- Likewise, the decision to retain the two-child benefit cap is a missed opportunity to tackle child poverty across the country, including in Camden.
- Delays to implementing Labour's manifesto promise to introduce multi-year funding settlements for local authorities will undermine efforts to plan ahead in these challenging times.
- Further announcements from the Budget that will have a significant impact on residents across Camden are:
 - The measures to improve energy efficiency in homes and public buildings, with additional grants available for retrofitting.
 - The new incentives for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and specific support for local high streets.
 - Enhanced funding for local community safety initiatives seeks to address anti-social behaviour, promote crime prevention, and improve community well-being.
 - Additional funding for Special Education Needs and Disabilities provision to ensure that we can deliver the best quality education for every child in every community.
 - Commitment to funding that will enable HS2 to terminate at Euston.

This Council believes:

- Strengthening and expanding social and affordable housing is essential to ensuring Camden remains a fair and inclusive borough, and reforms that protect and enhance the social housing stock are crucial for our community.
- Increased health and social care funding provides an opportunity to enhance service quality, support vulnerable residents, and ensure all individuals receive the care and dignity they deserve.
- Advancing Camden's net-zero and sustainability goals is vital for both the environment and residents, and investments in energy efficiency can deliver long-term cost savings and improved living conditions.
- Community safety initiatives and resources targeted at reducing anti-social behaviour are fundamental to building cohesive, resilient neighbourhoods and fostering trust and safety for all residents.
- That having opposed bringing HS2 into Euston for years, it is clear the recent announcement is a costly mistake that will continue to blight the borough for years to come.

This Council resolves:

- To maximise the impact of housing reforms by prioritising the retention, development, and accessibility of affordable and social housing, and also leading the way in supporting private renters, thus addressing Camden's diverse housing needs.
- To pursue and leverage available funding for energy efficiency initiatives, including retrofitting, as part of Camden's drive toward net-zero emissions and reducing the cost burden on residents.
- To work alongside local policing, community organisations, and residents to utilise community safety support, fostering initiatives that tackle anti-social behaviour and build safety in Camden.
- To take a proactive approach in advertising the benefits of our leading work in Camden in areas like preventative children's services to feed into the development of further government plans.
- To acknowledge areas where we need to do better as a council, such as housing repairs, waste collection and Special Education Needs and Disabilities provision, and look to learn from other boroughs.
- To lobby the government to halt HS2 at Old Oak Common and to turn over land allocated for development to Camden Council so we can have a locally-led regeneration of the Euston area after years of blight, maximising the benefits for the people of Camden in terms of jobs, homes, open spaces, and wider economic and community benefits.

Amendment to motion 2, proposed by Councillor Sharon Hardwick and seconded by Councillor Rebecca Filer:-

This Council notes the various difficulties faced by residents with limited mobility in walking the streets and accessing public and other transport **notwithstanding:**

- The ~~inflexibility of built into the~~ Healthy School Streets schemes in Camden ~~can make accessing to ensure access to~~ transport ~~especially difficult~~ for vulnerable residents with limited mobility, including cars registered to addresses within an HSS area.
- The ~~particular problem faced need for~~ by residents in larger Healthy School Street (HSS) schemes to be able to get home, returning from hospital appointments at unpredictable times.
- The significance of street benches for residents with limited mobility, expanding their accessible realm, enabling them to enjoy their neighbourhoods and reach shops and transport facilities at a short distance from their homes; welcoming the administration's stated commitment to introducing more benches across the borough; .
- The continuing problem of Lime and Human Forest e-bikes and e-scooters blocking pavements and dropped kerbs, on which the council has led the way by rolling out bays and consequently seen a significant improvement in parking compliance; and that the council has requested the government to give local authorities powers to regulate.
- The threat posed to blind residents by A board signs and other street clutter, as well as uneven pavements.
- The importance of Transport for London's (TfL's) Dial-a-Ride service to some elderly and disabled people and the plethora of complaints about the inaccessibility and unreliability of the service.
- The need for step-free access at underground and rail stations in Camden, such as Kentish Town, Finchley Road and West Hampstead, welcoming the investment in West Hampstead Station now secured and encouraged by TfL's stated interest in bringing in step free access at Finchley Road-
- The difficulty that closed bus stops can cause residents, particularly residents who are elderly, or disabled, or with limited mobility such as mums with pushchairs or people with heavy luggage.
- The ongoing concern with the floating bus stop design among elderly and disabled residents; while there have been no reported major incidents, just the possibility affects users' confidence and contributes to growing isolation and loneliness, while also the important road safety benefits, especially vis a vis conflict with buses-
- The need for better training for bus drivers to demonstrate that London is age-friendly, allowing passengers, particularly those with disabilities, to sit down before setting off.

This Council further notes:

The equalities impact assessment of the Camden Transport Strategy Delivery Plan 2025-28 acknowledges the potential negative impact of the plan on older residents

and those with disabilities as well as the benefits from proposed changes including improved air quality.—

This Council believes:

The Labour administration needs to ensure that our transport network serves the most vulnerable people in our society, using the social model of disability. The Camden Transport Strategy Delivery Plan provides an opportunity to address these issues.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to:

~~Refine~~ Ensure Healthy School Streets (HSS) ~~so always they~~ work ~~better~~ for disabled residents, and those with specific needs. ~~Create~~ Acknowledge the a functional exemption application -solution to the need of disabled residents of HSS to return home from unpredictable timed hospital and other appointments by taxi. Lobby the Mayor of London and TfL to:

- improve the availability and reliability of the Dial-a-Ride service.
- introduce step-free access at more stations in Camden.
- ensure bus drivers are trained to take better care of disabled passengers.

Lobby the Government to ~~re-examine~~ keep under constant review the design of floating bus stops, having cognisance of the impact they have on bus use by people who are disabled, elderly or who have other needs as well as the need to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads, bearing in mind the need to ensure older and younger people cycling may welcome continuous protected space separate from large vehicles such as buses.—

The amended motion therefore reads:

This Council notes the various difficulties faced by residents with limited mobility in walking the streets and accessing public and other transport notwithstanding:

- The flexibility built into Healthy School Streets schemes in Camden to ensure access to transport for vulnerable residents with limited mobility, including cars registered to addresses within an HSS area.
- The need for residents in larger Healthy School Street (HSS) schemes to be able to get home.
- The significance of street benches for residents with limited mobility, expanding their accessible realm, enabling them to enjoy their neighbourhoods and reach shops and transport facilities at a short distance from their homes; welcoming the administration's stated commitment to introducing more benches across the borough.
- The continuing problem of Lime and Human Forest e-bikes and e-scooters blocking pavements and dropped kerbs, on which the council has led the way by rolling out bays and consequently seen a significant improvement in parking compliance; and that the council has requested the government to give local authorities powers to regulate.

- The threat posed to blind residents by A board signs and other street clutter, as well as uneven pavements.
- The importance of Transport for London's (TfL's) Dial-a-Ride service to some elderly and disabled people and the plethora of complaints about the inaccessibility and unreliability of the service.
- The need for step-free access at underground and rail stations in Camden, such as Kentish Town, Finchley Road and West Hampstead, welcoming the investment in West Hampstead Station now secured and encouraged by TfL's stated interest in bringing in step free access at Finchley Road.
- The difficulty that closed bus stops can cause residents, particularly residents who are elderly, or disabled, or with limited mobility such as mums with pushchairs or people with heavy luggage.
- The ongoing concern with the floating bus stop design among elderly and disabled residents; while there have been no reported major incidents, just the possibility affects users' confidence and contributes to growing isolation and loneliness, while also the important road safety benefits, especially vis a vis conflict with buses.
- The need for better training for bus drivers to demonstrate that London is age-friendly, allowing passengers, particularly those with disabilities, to sit down before setting off.

This Council further notes:

The equalities impact assessment of the Camden Transport Strategy Delivery Plan 2025-28 acknowledges the potential negative impact of the plan on older residents and those with disabilities as well as the benefits from proposed changes including improved air quality.

This Council believes:

The Labour administration needs to ensure that our transport network serves the most vulnerable people in our society, using the social model of disability. The Camden Transport Strategy Delivery Plan provides an opportunity to address these issues.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to:

Ensure Healthy School Streets (HSS) always work for disabled residents, and those with specific needs. Acknowledge the exemption application -solution to the need of disabled residents of HSS to return home from unpredictable timed hospital and other appointments by taxi. Lobby the Mayor of London and TfL to:

- improve the availability and reliability of the Dial-a-Ride service.
- introduce step-free access at more stations in Camden.
- ensure bus drivers are trained to take better care of disabled passengers.

Lobby the Government to keep under constant review the design of floating bus stops, having cognisance of the impact they have on bus use by people who are disabled, elderly or who have other needs as well as the need to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads, bearing in mind the need to

ensure older and younger people cycling may welcome continuous protected space separate from large vehicles such as buses.

Amendment to motion 3, proposed by Councillor Edmund Frondigoun and seconded by Councillor Liam Martin Lane:-

The Council notes that the residents of Camden need the reassurance of a present and effective Police Service, which has been significantly depleted by 14 years of funding cuts by the previous government, to provide security and prevent crime. ~~They~~ The Council notes that residents similarly depend on health workers in the Royal Free, University College Hospital and the various smaller clinics located in Camden.

~~There are growing problems with the housing of police officers due to~~ The Council notes the severe national housing crisis that has developed over the past decade and the high cost of rental properties across London, within the area and the potential redevelopment of the section house in Kentish Town. The cost of housing similarly affects health workers.—

The Council recognises the progress made to date in delivering new social affordable and intermediate rented housing in new developments under Policy H4 of the Camden Local Plan of which key workers are currently an eligible priority group.

~~The Council resolves to applying the findings from the stated policy requirement for a sustainable neighbourhood in the Kentish Town pilot to the new Camden Local Plan should apply throughout the borough. This requires that our vital workers are able to live reasonably close to their places of work and do not have to commute great distances, with all the negative effects of tiredness and pressure on public transport.—~~

~~To this end the Conservative group believe that the affordable housing provisions in new developments must be tailored, in some part, to resolve these issues.—~~

~~The Council commits to ensuring the continuation of our current affordable housing policies in the new Local Plan currently under development that delivers both social and affordable rented housing at 50% of a development value, of which 40% are intermediate rent and for which currently key workers are a priority eligible group. resolves to reserve 5% of all new affordable housing for these key workers and also ensure that of this provision, at least a third is for family accommodation in order to enable these workers to establish roots in our community and strengthen it.—~~

The amended motion therefore reads:

The Council notes that the residents of Camden need the reassurance of a present and effective Police Service, which has been significantly depleted by 14 years of funding cuts by the previous government, to provide security and prevent crime.

The Council notes that residents similarly depend on health workers in the Royal Free, University College Hospital and the various smaller clinics located in Camden.

The Council notes the severe national housing crisis that has developed over the past decade and the high cost of rental properties across London.

The Council recognises the progress made to date in delivering new social affordable and intermediate rented housing in new developments under Policy H4 of the Camden Local Plan of which key workers are currently an eligible priority group. The Council resolves to applying the findings from the sustainable neighbourhood in the Kentish Town pilot to the new Camden Local Plan

The Council commits to ensuring the continuation of our current affordable housing policies in the new Local Plan currently under development that delivers both social and affordable rented housing at 50% of a development value, of which 40% are intermediate rent and for which currently key workers are a priority eligible group.

ENDS

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