

## MINUTES

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CROWDALE CENTRE, 218 EVERS Holt STREET, LONDON, NW1 1BD AT 6.30 PM WEDNESDAY, 6TH APRIL, 2022

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

The Mayor, Councillor Sabrina Francis (in the Chair), and Councillors;

Steve Adams	Adam Harrison	
Meric Apak	Jenny Headlam-Wells	Abdul Quadir
Danny Beales	Nancy Jirira	Nazma Rahman
Nayra Bello 'Shanahan	Heather Johnson	Roger Robinson
Marcus Boyland	Alison Kelly	Nadia Shah
Patricia Callaghan	Samata Khatoon	Tom Simon
Oliver Cooper	Rishi Madlani	Jonathan Simpson
Richard Cotton	Jenny Mulholland	MBE
Maryam Eslamdoust	Henry Newman	Gio Spinella
Julian Fulbrook	Richard Olszewski	Stephen Stark
Thomas Gardiner	Andrew Parkinson	Shiva Tiwari
Georgia Gould	Simon Pearson	Paul Tomlinson
Abdul Hai	Luisa Porritt	Anna Wright

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Councillors Lorna Russell, Nasim Ali, Douglas Beattie, Siân Berry, Leo Cassarani, Maria Higson, Oliver Lewis, Angela Mason, Gail McAnena, Awale Olad, Lorraine Revah, Georgie Robertson, Ranjit Singh, Peter Taheri and Sue Vincent

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

#### 1. GUIDANCE ON HYBRID MEETINGS

##### RESOLVED

THAT the guidance on hybrid meetings be noted.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

No declarations were made.

**3. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR OTHER RELEVANT OFFICERS, AND ANY OTHER MEMBERS WHO THE MAYOR HAS AGREED MAY MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Broadcasting of the meeting**

The Mayor announced that the meeting was being broadcast live to the Internet and would remain available for viewing for twelve months, after which it could be made available upon request. Anyone addressing the meeting was deemed to be consenting to having their contributions recorded and broadcast, and to the use of those sound recordings and images for webcasting and/or training purposes.

**Waiver of Procedure Rules**

2 – Business at Ordinary Council Meetings: The Mayor will ask the Council to waive this procedure rule to permit the published agenda to be considered.

9.2 – Motions and recommendations not dealt with: The Mayor will ask the Council to waive this procedure rule as it relates to the motions that were not dealt with at the 7<sup>th</sup> March meeting.

10 – Leaders’ Speeches: The Mayor will ask the Council to agree that Leaders’ speeches and oral questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members be not taken at this meeting.

19.15 – Time Limit for Motions: The Mayor will ask the Council to waive this procedure rule to permit the consideration of motions to continue beyond 30 minutes, subject to the overall limit on the meeting duration under Procedure Rule 9 being adhered to.

21.1 – Minutes: The Mayor will ask the Council to waive this procedure rule so that the minutes of the previous meeting are not considered.

22 – Record of Attendance: The Mayor will ask the Council to waive this procedure rule so that Members are not required to sign the attendance book.

28 – Open Session: The Mayor will ask the Council to agree that this item be not taken at this meeting.

**Breaking of Fast**

The Mayor also announced that at 7.40pm there would be an adjournment for 25 minutes for those observing Ramadan to break their fast. Prayer rooms, and refreshments would be available during the break and the meeting would restart at 8.05pm.

#### **4. COMMUNICATIONS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ali, Berry, Cassarani Lewis, Mason, Olad, Revah, Robertson, Russell, Taheri and Vincent. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Kelly.

#### **5. DEPUTATIONS**

A deputation was heard from Peter Ptashko, in relation to agenda item 6 about support to refugees in Camden.

Members then asked questions of the depute and the Leader of the Council then responded to the deputation.

A deputation was heard from Lauren Thomas, regarding Motion 1 on establishing a Resident Empowerment Fund and Motion 2, tall buildings being built in low-rise areas.

Members then asked questions of the depute and the Cabinet Member for Investing in Communities, Culture and an Inclusive Economy responded to the deputation.

A further deputation was heard from Eric Bergsagel, of the Combined Residents Association of South Hampstead (CRASH), in relation to Motion 2, tall buildings being built in low-rise areas.

Members then asked questions of the depute and the Cabinet Member for Investing in Communities, Culture and an Inclusive Economy responded to the deputation.

Copies of the deputation statements had been circulated to Members and published on the Council website.

#### **6. AN UPDATE ON CAMDEN'S SUPPORT TO REFUGEES IN OUR BOROUGH**

Consideration was given to a report of the Leader of the Council that provided an update to all Members on the Council's ongoing efforts to support displaced people and refugees in Camden including from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Councillor Georgia Gould introduced the report and the Council heard from the following residents and speakers involved in supporting refugees in Camden:-

Rabbi Shlomo Levin of South Hampstead Synagogue, who was working with Ukrainian refugees in Camden, spoke of how the synagogue was helping to provide medical supplies to hospitals in Ukraine through crowd funding. As well as working on joint initiatives with churches and mosques in the borough that had helped to

### *Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022*

create supportive local environments and cultural community spaces, to provide wrap around care for refugees in Camden.

Jonathan Miller, of the American Church who had led refugee community sponsorship schemes, welcomed the opportunity to speak to the Council about community sponsorship schemes, resettlement and the need for a London wide response to provide caring compassionate resettlement for refugees.

Isabelle Terrisson, of Hopscotch, working with Afghan refugees in Camden hotels - spoke of the coordinated programme of work and codesigned activities of the voluntary sector, local residents and the Council, in response to the needs of the refugees. There was a need for cultural sensitivity in providing this support and ensuring that staff were trained to support the wellbeing of the people and families that they were working with.

Maria Montague from the Ukrainian Institute, leading on work with refugees, thanked the other speakers and the Council for their work and contribution to making a difference to the lives of Ukrainian refugees in the borough. Her thanks included the information on the Council web site, the welcome point at St Pancras International Station, visa processing and signposting to services.

Members of the Council thanked the speakers and briefly discussed the further practical support that could be provided to meet the needs and usefully support refugees in the borough.

The Leader of the Council thanked the speakers for the work of their organisations and the work of Camden's designated Refugee Team, working together as part of the London wide response to the needs of refugees. The arrangements were based on a six-month time period but there needed to be long term support from the Government to support refugees.

#### **RESOLVED –**

THAT the Council:

- Noted the contents of the report and the work to support refugees and displaced people in our Borough;
- Agreed that Camden would use its discretionary powers under Section 13A of the 1992 Local Government Finance Act to ensure that anyone who provided a temporary home to a refugee under the Government's sponsorship or family visa programme will not lose any single person discount for Council Tax they would otherwise be entitled to;
- Agreed that Camden will, in light of the urgent situation, amend its Council Tax Support Scheme for working age residents to ensure that a refugee living temporarily in a sponsor's home will not be classed as a non-dependent and the £350 per month "thank you payment" will not be classed as income;
- Agreed that the Council would develop a "Camden pledge" for refugees in our Borough, working as part of the London-wide "fare shares" programme –

ensuring that we house refugees in Camden in stable, high-quality homes as quickly as possible; and

- Noted the Council's commitment to supporting refugees in our Borough, and intention to continue a dialogue with Government regarding the funding and information needed to properly support anyone coming to make a home here as a result of war or conflict.

*The meeting adjourned at 7.40pm and restarted at 8.05pm.*

## **7. THEMED DEBATE - BUILDING EQUAL FOUNDATIONS - TACKLING RACE INEQUALITY AND DISPROPORTIONALITY IN CAMDEN**

Councillor Hai introduced the report and then the Council heard from the following speakers:-

Dr Frances Baawuah, a practicing GP at Brondesbury medical centre, spoke of the health inequalities that had been highlighted by the pandemic and how those in most need were the least likely to have received the help they needed. A review was taking place into the impact of ingrained inequalities and opportunities for change and improvement. Dr Baawuah spoke of being proud to be a Camden GP, her involvement in the vaccine outreach group, Camden's health bus focus on preventative health care and the powerful effectiveness of collaborative care in the Camden community.

Dr Fatumo Abdillahi, a public health consultant leading the strategic Covid-19 acute response, spoke of the cultural shift that had taking place since the murder of George Floyd, the issues highlighted by Black Lives Matter and that Camden as a local council was a leading light in the work to address inequalities. The Equalities Foundation and Building Back Better were examples of how Camden had understood the impact of racial inequality and was committed to resourcing change to heal past trauma and bring communities together.

Adejare Oyewole, Camden Black Workers Group convenor, spoke of the tragic death of George and how it had highlighted racial inequalities. The work of the Council to focus on anti-racism for staff and the community it served had included the appointment of a Director of Equalities and Disproportionality with a specific focus that had been lacking in the past. The leadership of the Council had provided opportunities for discussion and a commitment to deliver change, with measurable outcomes and the aim of providing a place where everyone was able to flourish.

Dr Jak Buela, of Nubian Jak Community Trust spoke of the project to erect plaques in the borough to honour the legacy and contribution of Bob Marley, Leo Constantine and Nelson Mandela. There were plans for more plaques to be erected in the future. Other Nubian Jak Community Trust projects involved an important focus on education including Black History Month, working in schools with Year 7 - Year 9 students and summer projects.

### *Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022*

Anisah Rahman, youth leader with Bite Back 2030 and founder of the mental health app Eleos, spoke of the round table discussions organised by the Council. How the young people who had taken part in the discussions had benefitted from the opportunity to talk freely about the issues affecting them. The chance to talk had encouraged openness and had helped to reduce some of the stigma around mental health issues for young people.

Sarah Jafri, Richard Cobden School governor and member of the Camden Parent Advisory Group spoke of the impact of unconscious bias on black and brown children and young people in schools. The very recent case of Child Q, who had been strip searched by the Police in a Hackney school, was cited as an example of the education system failing to safeguard children in schools. School governing bodies needed to do more and should work in the best interest of all children. A starting point for this should be that governing bodies reflected the pupils at their schools and were representative of their communities. The assumption of unconscious bias should be questioned.

Members of the Council then made the following comments:-

- We have heard from young people about how positive they feel but are there areas where they would like to see more progress?
- That the work of many of the Councillors not standing in the May elections had included identifying issues of inequality, had challenged social injustice and the work in their wards should be recognised and valued.
- A lot more was needed to be done to address inequalities in our local communities.
- There should be more focus on children under age 5 in the borough, the rising number of that cohort with special needs and the low take up of immunisations. The effect of low employment and associated issues on families needed to be addressed.
- We cannot be bystanders in our communities, we need to stand up and be counted. Camden's commitment to addressing structural inequalities needed to remain a key priority.
- The under achievement of British Asian and Black children for maths and English. Improvement was needed, with more emphasis on improving education outcomes.
- The Covid Oversight Panel had highlighted health inequalities. Had any other inequality issues been identified around disabilities or intersectionality and how were they being addressed?
- What more could be done with Camden employers to support and encourage the availability of paid internships?
- Changes to the curriculum to make it more inclusive, diversifying school leadership and governing bodies was welcomed. Practical steps to make people feel included were important and made a real difference to the experience of pupils and their parents.

*Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022*

- It was very positive to hear from pupils, teachers and staff across the borough that what we do makes a difference. What more could be done to scale up the work that was taking place.

In response to questions:-

Anisah Rahman commented on the change that young people were building in their communities, finding solutions and ensuring progress for the future. Building better communication with young people would make them more aware of their potential and could help signpost them to the support that was available. Widely accessible paid internships and information about how to access them would make a real difference to young people

The Leader of the Council spoke about the lack of representation in education of black children and young people and only seeing themselves reflected when slavery was being taught was an area that the introduction of the Black Curriculum in Camden Schools was helping to address, through teaching about the Black British contribution and experience in a range of subjects across the syllabus. Education was at the core of Camden's work with young people. Camden's Education Strategy would address gaps in education, target inequalities and support Camden children and young people. Wider representation of Camden's communities in school leadership was a key part of addressing educational inequalities in the borough.

The Mayor spoke about hearing about Child Q and that reading about the details of what had been done to the child was the most shocking thing that she had read. This was an example of how differently the world sees the life and experiences of little black girls. The adultification of black girls and boys and that they were not shown empathy when they victims of crimes. In her role as Mayor she had experienced being othered and questioned about her validity in the role while wearing the badge of office.

Sarah Jafri commented that in order for education to flourish, diversifying school governor representation should not be based on quota numbers.

All the external speakers were thanked for their contribution to the meeting.

The Leader of the Council spoke about the diverse work force of the Council and representing the community we serve but there was always more work to do and inclusion needed to be at the heart of the Council and everything it does.

## **8. MOTIONS**

Motion 1 was not considered because Councillors Berry and Russell had given their apologies for absence from this meeting and there was no one to propose and second motion 1.

## **Motion 2**

Consideration was given to the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Oliver Cooper and which was seconded by Councillor Andrew Parkinson:-

*This Council notes:*

- *The London Plan, Policy D9 states, "Tall buildings should only be developed in locations that are identified as suitable in Development Plans." The London Plan furthermore states, "Boroughs should determine if there are locations where tall buildings may be an appropriate form of development, subject to meeting the other requirements of the Plan" and if so, where. Councils should also define 'tall building' for specific localities.*
- *Camden has so far not designated any areas as either suitable or not suitable for tall buildings, despite some areas being unsuited to tall buildings. Not designating any areas as suitable or unsuitable for tall buildings arguably reduces the protections against high-rise developments in low-rise areas.*
- *The Central Activities Zone is subject to separate planning policies in the London-wide planning framework. However, two of the growth areas designated in the draft Site Allocations Local Plan are outside the Central Activities Zone: West Hampstead Interchange and Kentish Town. Despite their designation as growth areas, high-rises are expected to be - subject to individual circumstances - more harmful in those areas than those in the Central Activities Zone.*
- *The Council will take the current highest buildings in particular areas as its starting point in any consultation as its definition of 'tall building' in those locations, pending more detailed collection of evidence and public consultation. The height that qualifies a building as 'tall' will necessarily be lower in some other locations in the borough, depending on their character.*

*This Council calls on the Cabinet to note that:*

- *As a general principle, this Council opposes tall buildings being built in low-rise areas and is committed, subject to evidence and consultation, to seeking the urgent development of an approach responding to London Plan Policy D9 to protect low-rise areas from skyscrapers; and*
- *This Council considers the area outside the Central Activities Zone - including the growth areas in West Hampstead Interchange and Kentish Town, and individual sites named in the draft Site Allocation Local Plan - to be low-rise areas for the purposes of paragraph 1 above and of London Plan Policy D9;*
- *And that the Cabinet therefore urgently receives an officer report, which subject to their consideration of that report, could lead to:*
- *Publishing a draft amendment to the Local Plan that reflects paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and then immediately launching a Regulation 18 consultation on that draft amendment; and*
- *Publishing an interim position statement stating the position in paragraphs 1 and 2 above would be a material consideration in any forthcoming planning*



***Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022***

*applications, pending the publication of any draft amendment following consultation.*

An amendment to motion (2) was proposed by Councillor Heather Johnson and seconded by Councillor Danny Beales

*Paragraph 1, delete everything after ‘with residents’ and replace with ‘residents’ desires and concerns to see development which respects Camden’s neighbourhoods and responds to their special character and diversity.’*

*Insert new paragraph 2 ‘It agrees with Camden’s Local Plan 2017 planning policies (D1 – design), which considers all of Camden sensitive to the development of tall buildings due to the specific character of our borough, the large numbers of conservation areas, strategic views, and listed buildings. Suitability of tall buildings can vary significantly across neighbourhoods, streets and even on the same site. Tall buildings therefore need detailed design assessments and careful consideration.’*

*Insert new paragraph 3 ‘Camden’s existing policy has been used and can be used to reject unsuitable development, including that of tall buildings – such as the Council’s rejection of the 100 Avenue Road proposals (regrettably later overturned and approved by the Secretary of State).’*

*Original paragraph 2, after ‘The’ insert ‘2021’. After ‘Policy D9’ delete ‘states “Tall buildings should only be developed in locations that are identified as suitable in Development Plans.” The London Plan furthermore states,’ and replace with ‘says that’. At the end of the paragraph, add ‘This process should be based on assessment and evidence and consideration of local contexts. For the purposes of the London Plan, tall buildings are generally those that are substantially taller than their surroundings and would cause a change in the skyline.’*

*After original paragraph 2, insert new paragraphs ‘It is clear from recent case law with a Hillingdon Council case, that these tall buildings policies are a guide, and need to be viewed along with the existing planning policies in their entirety, and as with Hillingdon’s Judicial Review case, they do not preclude consideration of proposals outside of these designated areas.*

*Camden has existing policy which is clear that all areas of the borough are sensitive to taller buildings. This council notes that so far this policy has ensured that development in Camden has generally been of a lower scale than many boroughs. For example, the NLA Tall Buildings Survey (2020) shows that of the 587 tall buildings planned in London, 2 were in Camden, 28 in Barnet, 9 in Westminster and 5 in Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.’*

*Delete original paragraphs 4 and 5.*

*Delete everything after ‘This Council therefore asks the Council to note’ and replace with ‘and commit to:*

- 1. Commission a study on building heights looking at local character and sensitivity to help inform where tall buildings may be more appropriate as part of a future policy. This should form part of the scheduled upcoming review of the Local Plan in 2023 and involved extensive public consultation and engagement.*
- 2. Continue to robustly apply Camden's existing Local Plan policy which views all of Camden as sensitive to tall buildings.*
- 3. Work with other boroughs in London to press for reform of the Housing Delivery Test. The Government has set a significant housing delivery test for London and Camden specially, of over 1,000 homes per year. Not meeting these targets, further weakens the borough's planning policies and our ability to push for affordable housing, community benefits and more sustainable scale development. We believe that the housing delivery test is inappropriate for Camden, that does not take into account the character of boroughs, and the need to deliver family-sized homes and more affordable housing as an absolute priority.'*

***The amended motion therefore reads:***

- This Council notes and agrees with residents' desires and concerns to see development which respects Camden's neighbourhoods and responds to their special character and diversity.*
- It agrees with Camden's Local Plan 2017 planning policies (D1 – design), which considers all of Camden sensitive to the development of tall buildings due to the specific character of our borough, the large numbers of conservation areas, strategic views, and listed buildings. Suitability of tall buildings can vary significantly across neighbourhoods, streets and even on the same site. Tall buildings therefore need detailed design assessments and careful consideration.*
- Camden's existing policy has been used and can be used to reject unsuitable development, including that of tall buildings – such as the council's rejection of the 100 Avenue Road proposals (regrettably later overturned and approved by the Secretary of State).*
- The 2021 London Plan, Policy D9 says that "Boroughs should determine if there are locations where tall buildings may be an appropriate form of development, subject to meeting the other requirements of the Plan. and if so, where. Councils should also define 'tall building' for specific localities. This process should be based on assessment and evidence and consideration of local contexts. For the purposes of the London Plan, tall buildings are generally those that are substantially taller than their surroundings and would cause a change in the skyline.*
- It is clear from recent case law with a Hillingdon Council case, that these tall buildings policies are a guide, and need to be viewed along with the existing planning policies in their entirety, and as with Hillingdon's Judicial Review case, they do not preclude consideration of proposals outside of these designated areas.*

***Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022***

- *Camden has existing policy which is clear that all areas of the borough are sensitive to taller buildings. This Council notes that so far this policy has ensured that development in Camden has generally been of a lower scale than many boroughs. For example, the NLA Tall Buildings Survey (2020) shows that of the 587 tall buildings planned in London, 2 were in Camden, 28 in Barnet, 9 in Westminster and 5 in Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.*

*This Council therefore asks the Cabinet to note and commit to:*

*1. Commission a study on building heights looking at local character and sensitivity to help inform where tall buildings may be more appropriate as part of a future policy. This should form part of the scheduled upcoming review of the Local Plan in 2023 and involved extensive public consultation and engagement.*

*2. Continue to robustly apply Camden's existing Local Plan policy which views all of Camden as sensitive to tall buildings.*

*3. Work with other boroughs in London to press for reform of the Housing Delivery Test. The Government has set a significant housing delivery test for London and Camden specially, of over 1,000 homes per year. Not meeting these targets, further weakens the borough's planning policies and our ability to push for affordable housing, community benefits and more sustainable scale development. We believe that the housing delivery test is inappropriate for Camden, that does not take into account the character of boroughs, and the need to deliver family-sized homes and more affordable housing as an absolute priority.*

Councillor Cooper, the mover of the original motion, declined to accept the amendment.

There was a debate on the motion and the amendment.

Councillor Cooper asked for a recorded vote on the original motion and the request was seconded:

The original motion was put to the vote and FELL:

For - 7

Against - 25

Abstentions - 0

The amended motion was then put to the vote and CARRIED.

For - 25

Against - 7

Abstentions - 0

**RESOLVED –**

THAT:

- This Council notes and agrees with residents' desires and concerns to see development which respects Camden's neighbourhoods and responds to their special character and diversity.
- It agrees with Camden's Local Plan 2017 planning policies (D1 – design), which considers all of Camden sensitive to the development of tall buildings due to the specific character of our borough, the large numbers of conservation areas, strategic views, and listed buildings. Suitability of tall buildings can vary significantly across neighbourhoods, streets and even on the same site. Tall buildings therefore need detailed design assessments and careful consideration.
- Camden's existing policy has been used and can be used to reject unsuitable development, including that of tall buildings – such as the council's rejection of the 100 Avenue Road proposals (regrettably later overturned and approved by the Secretary of State).
- The 2021 London Plan, Policy D9 says that "Boroughs should determine if there are locations where tall buildings may be an appropriate form of development, subject to meeting the other requirements of the Plan. and if so, where. Councils should also define 'tall building' for specific localities. This process should be based on assessment and evidence and consideration of local contexts. For the purposes of the London Plan, tall buildings are generally those that are substantially taller than their surroundings and would cause a change in the skyline.
- It is clear from recent case law with a Hillingdon Council case, that these tall buildings policies are a guide, and need to be viewed along with the existing planning policies in their entirety, and as with Hillingdon's Judicial Review case, they do not preclude consideration of proposals outside of these designated areas.
- Camden has existing policy which is clear that all areas of the borough are sensitive to taller buildings. This Council notes that so far this policy has ensured that development in Camden has generally been of a lower scale than many boroughs. For example, the NLA Tall Buildings Survey (2020) shows that of the 587 tall buildings planned in London, 2 were in Camden, 28 in Barnet, 9 in Westminster and 5 in Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

**Motion 3**

Consideration was given to the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Tom Simon and which was seconded by Councillor Luisa Porritt:-

*This Council notes:*

- *The grave threat to the health of our planet posed by the climate emergency.*

### *Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022*

- *The Climate and Ecological Emergency declared by the Council in November 2019.*
- *The rising cost-of-living crisis, driven by Brexit, the increase in energy prices worsened by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and wider inflation affecting essential goods including food, which hits the poorest in our society hardest.*
- *That, on average, 80% of energy used in homes is for heating.*
- *Insulating homes is one of the simplest and most cost-effective measures that can be taken to mitigate both rising costs and high energy consumption.*
- *That the Government's 'Green Homes Grant' scheme, reached only 41,300 homes nationwide out of a target of 600,000. In Camden, just 17 homes benefitted, of which seven were low-income households. There are 29 million homes nationwide.*

*This Council further notes:*

- *The vision expressed in the Council's 'Climate Action Plan' that all buildings in Camden will be energy efficient.*
- *The support offered by the Council to residents to insulate their homes or take other steps to improve their energy efficiency, such as through installing solar panels.*
- *Work being done to the Council's housing estate to improve energy efficiency.*

*This Council believes:*

- *Insulating all homes should be a priority for governments at all levels.*
- *Financial support should be provided to incentivise and enable residents to undertake work to properly insulate their homes, with the greatest level of assistance available for those least able to afford it.*
- *In the absence of an effective national scheme, the Council should significantly enhance the support available under its Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2021-26 or through other routes.*
- *The Council should accelerate work done to its own housing stock, with a particular focus on insulating homes.*
- *That work to improve the energy efficiency of Camden homes has the added benefit of creating new jobs and training opportunities for Camden residents.*

*This Council calls on:*

- *The Government to set up an effective and properly financed nationwide scheme to provide support to all homes that could benefit from better insulation.*
- *The Leaders of all four groups on the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy calling for a new, more effective scheme to be established, backed by adequate funding for those who need it most.*

*Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022*

- *The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet to increase the funding available, and redouble other efforts, to support and encourage residents to insulate their homes.*
- *The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet to review the Council's housing to stock to identify homes that would benefit from better insulation, and to prioritise carrying that work.*

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor Harrison and seconded by Councillor Apak

*After bullet point 6, add two additional bullet points:*

- *'That over £2.3m of grant funding has been secured by the Council over 2021/22 on addition to the Government's Green Homes Grant scheme to support the affordable warmth focused domestic retrofit programme.*
- *That over £4.3m of grant funding has been secured by the Council over 2021/22 to improve the energy efficiency of schools, leisure centres and libraries.'*

*At the end of original bullet point 7, insert ' and welcomes that the Leader and Cabinet, have already completed the analysis and have developed the Council's priority work packages and pilots in achieving the Plan's ambitions'.*

*Original bullet point 8, after 'such as through' delete 'installing solar panels' and replace with 'installation of renewable energy heating systems'.*

*Original bullet point 12, delete everything after 'the Council should' and replace with 'build on recently approved enhancements to the Council's Housing Renewal Assistance Policy which increase the value of grants available to homeowners through the Warmer Homes and Eco grants, and introduce a Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards Support Grant for landlords to improve the energy efficiency of homes across Camden. The Council should also continue to promote and expand the refreshed Camden Climate Fund which provides grants to homeowners, businesses and community groups to improve building energy efficiency and install renewable energy, while also supporting the roll out of renewable energy through low cost procurement programmes such as Solar Together'.*

*Delete original bullet point 13 and replace with 'The Council will continue its work to deliver retrofit pilots through approximately £4m of grant funding secured over 2021/22 from the national Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Local Authority Delivery scheme, and Mayor of London led Future Neighbourhoods programme while continuing to develop its work across London and Core Cities on how to deliver retrofit at scale. Examples of these include:*

- *Deep retrofit of 5-7 Belsize Grove, which comprises 58 homes – solid wall insulation and heat pumps. Energy efficiency works at Brookes Court, which comprises 32 homes – heating works, insulation and glazing*
- *Deep retrofit of 27 street properties (two separate grant allocations) – solid wall insulation and heat pumps*

***Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022***

- *Internal wall insulation and other measures to up to 62 homes with solid walls in Somers Town*
- *Prototype project for a small number of properties (approx. 10 or 11). Model whereby residents make energy savings and part of the saving is used to pay back the retrofit investment. Approved by Cabinet on 2 March*
- *Affordable warmth private sector housing retrofit for low income households £10k/home administered by London Energy Hub.'*

*At the end of original bullet point 15, add 'while incentivising the critical low carbon heating transition required to decarbonise the UK and reduce our reliance on volatile gas markets.'*

*Delete final bullet point.*

***The amended motion therefore reads:***

*This Council notes:*

- *The grave threat to the health of our planet posed by the climate emergency.*
- *The Climate and Ecological Emergency declared by the Council in November 2019.*
- *The rising cost-of-living crisis, driven by Brexit, the increase in energy prices worsened by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and wider inflation affecting essential goods including food, which hits the poorest in our society hardest.*
- *That, on average, 80% of energy used in homes is for heating.*
- *Insulating homes is one of the simplest and most cost-effective measures that can be taken to mitigate both rising costs and high energy consumption.*
- *That the Government's 'Green Homes Grant' scheme, reached only 41,300 homes nationwide out of a target of 600,000. In Camden, just 17 homes benefitted, of which seven were low-income households. There are 29 million homes nationwide.*
- *That over £2.3m of grant funding has been secured by the Council over 2021/22 on addition to the Government's Green Homes Grant scheme to support the affordable warmth focused domestic retrofit programme.*
- *That over £4.3m of grant funding has been secured by the Council over 2021/22 to improve the energy efficiency of schools, leisure centres and libraries.*

*This Council further notes:*

- *The vision expressed in the Council's 'Climate Action Plan' that all buildings in Camden will be energy efficient, and welcomes that the Leader and Cabinet, have already completed the analysis and have developed the Council's priority work packages and pilots in achieving the Plan's ambitions.*
- *The support offered by the Council to residents to insulate their homes or take other steps to improve their energy efficiency, such as through installation of renewable energy heating systems.*
- *Work being done to the Council's housing estate to improve energy efficiency.*

***Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022***

*This Council believes:*

- *Insulating all homes should be a priority for governments at all levels.*
- *Financial support should be provided to incentivise and enable residents to undertake work to properly insulate their homes, with the greatest level of assistance available for those least able to afford it.*
- *In the absence of an effective national scheme, the Council should build on recently approved enhancements to the Council's Housing Renewal Assistance Policy which increase the value of grants available to homeowners through the Warmer Homes and Eco grants, and introduce a Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards Support Grant for landlords to improve the energy efficiency of homes across Camden. The Council should also continue to promote and expand the refreshed Camden Climate Fund which provides grants to homeowners, businesses and community groups to improve building energy efficiency and install renewable energy, while also supporting the roll out of renewable energy through low cost procurement programmes such as Solar Together.*
- *The Council will continue its work to deliver retrofit pilots through approximately £4m of grant funding secured over 2021/22 from the national Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Local Authority Delivery scheme, and Mayor of London led Future Neighbourhoods programme while continuing to develop its work across London and Core Cities on how to deliver retrofit at scale. Examples of these include:*
  - *Deep retrofit of 5-7 Belsize Grove, which comprises 58 homes – solid wall insulation and heat pumps. Energy efficiency works at Brookes Court, which comprises 32 homes – heating works, insulation and glazing*
  - *Deep retrofit of 27 street properties (two separate grant allocations) – solid wall insulation and heat pumps*
  - *Internal wall insulation and other measures to up to 62 homes with solid walls in Somers Town*
  - *Prototype project for a small number of properties (approx. 10 or 11). Model whereby residents make energy savings and part of the saving is used to pay back the retrofit investment. Approved by Cabinet on 2 March*
  - *Affordable warmth private sector housing retrofit for low income households £10k/home administered by London Energy Hub*
- *That work to improve the energy efficiency of Camden homes has the added benefit of creating new jobs and training opportunities for Camden residents.*

*This Council calls on:*

- *The Government to set up an effective and properly financed nationwide scheme to provide support to all homes that could benefit from better insulation while incentivising the critical low carbon heating transition required to decarbonise the UK and reduce our reliance on volatile gas markets.*
- *The Leaders of all four groups on the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy calling for a new, more effective*



## ***Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022***

*scheme to be established, backed by adequate funding for those who need it most.*

- *The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet to increase the funding available, and redouble other efforts, to support and encourage residents to insulate their homes.*

Councillor Simon, the mover of the original motion accepted the amended motion. There was a short debate on the motion and amendments.

The amended motion by Councillors Harrison and Apak was put to the vote and CARRIED.

### **Motion 4**

Consideration was given to the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Julian Fulbrook and which was seconded by Councillor Richard Olszewski.

*Camden has a proud history of providing safe haven to refugees.*

- *Camden welcomed 22 Syrian families – 82 people – in 2016, initially the largest London response to the crisis in Syria. We welcomed 10 young people from camps in Calais into our care between October and December 2016.*
- *The council continues to support children who have fled from conflicts around the world. We are currently supporting 52 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Camden.*
- *More Afghan refugees were placed in Camden than any part of London. This saw an extraordinary community response with faith and community groups supporting an amazon wish list appeal and providing a whole range of support services. The council continues to work with partners to support refugees health, wellbeing, education with 270 children supported into Camden schools.*
- *The council is committed to supporting Ukrainian refugees fleeing brutality and devastation.*
- *Over the last two weeks over 150 community groups, places of worship and businesses came together to offer their support and discuss community sponsorship of Ukrainian refugees.*
- *Council staff have been welcoming refugees arriving at Eurostar and providing immediate support and accommodation where needed.*
- *This council notes that it is local government stepping up to support refugees even with much reduced budgets.*

***Council - Wednesday, 6th April, 2022***

*This Council:*

- *Commits to working with community organisations and Ukrainian residents to support the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme and ensure there is safeguarding and wraparound support for those fleeing violence.*
- *This council commits to working cross party with councils across London to make sure there is funding for all the needs of Ukrainian refugees and for council services to refugees in contingency hotels from other parts of the world.*
- *Commits to working cross party to raise the profile of refugees from Afghanistan still in hotels and push for faster action nationally on housing families.*
- *Believes no-one should be criminalised for seeking safety as a refugee and calls on all MPs of all parties to reject any legislation that could allow refugees to be prosecuted.*
- *Calls for a housing fund to support refugees where no place can be found in somebody's home.*
- *Believes all refugees should have the right to work while they wait for their longer-term status*

The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE MAYOR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 10.00 pm.

**CHAIR**

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**MINUTES END**