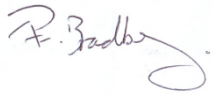


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| <b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>   | <b>WARDS:</b><br>ALL        |
| <b>REPORT TITLE</b><br>Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden Response to the Circular Economy Panel Report.   |                             |
| <b>REPORT OF</b><br>Director of Environment and Sustainability  |                             |
| <b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b><br>Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee  | <b>DATE</b><br>15 July 2024 |
| <p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>This report sets out the Council’s responses to the Report of the Circular Economy Scrutiny Panel (November 2023) whose report was presented to the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</p> <p>The special scrutiny panel was established by the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee (C&amp;E) to investigate the ‘application of the circular economy in the work of Camden Council and support for the principles of circularity in the public and private sectors in the Borough’.</p> <p>The report contained 43 recommendations for the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden to consider and this report provides a response to each of the recommendations, including how the Council will take forward areas of work highlighted by the Panel.</p> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b></p> <p>The following documents have been used in the preparation of this report:</p> <p>Report of the Circular Economy Scrutiny Panel, “<i>The application of the circular economy in the work of Camden Council and support for the principles of circularity in the public and private sectors in the Borough</i>” (November 2023)</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b><br/>Richard Bradbury, Director of Environment and Sustainability<br/>Telephone: 020 7974 3725<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:richard.bradbury@camden.gov.uk">richard.bradbury@camden.gov.uk</a></p> |                             |
| <p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>That the Culture &amp; Environment Scrutiny Committee note the Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden responses to the recommendations.</p>   |                             |

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Date: 2 July 2024

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a Council response to the report of the Circular Economy Scrutiny Panel, "*The application of the circular economy in the work of Camden Council and support for the principles of circularity in the public and private sectors in the Borough*" (November 2023).
- 1.2. The responses are provided in appendix 1, which is structured across the Panel's 5 specific focus areas of, Food; Repair; Textiles; Transport, and; Buildings. The responses include how the Council will take forward areas of work highlighted by the Panel's recommendations.

## 2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. "A circular economy is one in which stuff is kept in use for as long as possible, delivering the highest value it can, for as long as it can. So rather than making, using and then throwing stuff away (a linear system), a circular economy means looking at each of those stages for new ways of cycling materials and value back into the system – using materials and products again and again, in many different forms." ReLondon 2021.
- 2.2. Circular economy is more than just waste management (although it's also about that). By the time we focus on waste, we've missed so many opportunities to recirculate value in materials. We also need to be acting upstream of production and so creating opportunities to keep materials in use and eliminate waste. The Council welcomes the work of the Circular Economy Panel to assist and build on thinking how the Council applies circular economy principles in its work.
- 2.3. In line with the Council's ambition in We Make Camden, the circular economy is as much about social and economic benefits as environmental. There's huge potential to help increase social capital, support wellbeing, save money and create economic opportunities. Circular economy approaches have much to contribute to many of the challenges our communities face e.g. cost of living, employment, digital divide, access to food, housing, affordable transport.
- 2.4. The Culture and Environment Circular Economy Panel was established to "*work to develop a changing narrative and practice within Camden on the use of materials, away from just waste and recycling collection services, to a more progressive ambition of lower resource usage and reduction in 'consumption emissions'.*"
- 2.5. The Panel sought to *scrutinise the applicability of concepts related to the circular economy in the work of Camden Council and to consider any appropriate recommendations for circularity within the Council and more broadly in support for circularity in the public and private sectors within the Borough.*

- 2.6. The Panel recognised the breadth of the circular economy, but practically focussed on 5 areas – Food; Repair; Textiles; Transport, and; Buildings.
- 2.7. The Panel's report necessarily recognises the cross-organisational nature of circular economy activities and the Council response, therefore, covers work from across the organisation and the wider community. The Council's response to the Panel's recommendations is attached in appendix 1. This work includes the operation of the Food Mission, the refreshed Local Plan, the Climate Action Plan, Future Neighbourhoods programme, Camden Climate Change Alliance, North London Waste Authority and much more.
- 2.8. Taking forward and building on the Panel's work, the Council looks forward to continuing and developing its work to support the circular economy within the organisation and across the wider community.

### **3. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services**

- 3.1. The principles of a circular economy are well aligned with the Council's aim of financial resilience. The Cabinet Member for a Sustainable Camden responses to the Panel's recommendations should in the most part be delivered through Council services' existing budgets, its planning and other powers, and its relationships with contractors and local partners. This reflects the whole organisation approach to the circular economy described in paragraph 2.7. The Food section of the recommendations does in some cases refer to additional investment which is funded from the reserves allocated to the We Make Camden missions.

### **4. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

- 4.1. The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to add.

### **5. Environmental Implications**

- 5.1 The application of circular economy principles to Council services and the operation of the Council reduces resource use and material use, therefore, reducing the environmental impact of service delivery. As set out in the report these principles are in line with the Council's ambition in We Make Camden, with the circular economy being as much about social and economic benefits as environmental.
- 5.2 The environmental implications, in a general form, are contained within the main body of the report with more detail in the attached appendix.

**REPORT ENDS**

### **Appendices:**

**Appendix 1: Circular Economy Panel – Recommendations Response June 2024 FV**