

The background image shows a modern, multi-story brick building with numerous balconies, situated behind a canal. Several narrowboats are moored along the canal's edge. The scene is captured in a slightly hazy, overcast light.

# Camden Infrastructure Delivery Plan

October 2025

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# Introduction

Infrastructure is the physical assets, services and facilities needed to support and sustain Camden's communities. The term infrastructure covers a range of different facilities and services. It ranges from community infrastructure, such as schools, libraries, and GP surgeries to more physical infrastructure, such as utilities, cycle lanes and waste management facilities.

In order for Camden to grow sustainably, and accommodate further housing, economic development and population growth, it is necessary to ensure that the right infrastructure is provided at the right time, to benefit both existing communities and new residents.

The Local Plan sets out the overarching development strategy for Camden over the next 15 years, from 2026 to 2041, and includes the planning policies and site allocations to help achieve this. The development strategy aims to address the long-term needs of the borough and respond to the challenges it faces. It maximises opportunities for providing new and affordable homes, jobs, and the infrastructure required to support this, whilst seeking to ensure that development is delivered in a way that is socially and economically inclusive, environmentally sustainable and brings benefits to the borough and its residents.

The purpose of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is to assess the current level of infrastructure provision in Camden, and identify known projects and future needs, to support the delivery of the Local Plan.

The IDP also supports the delivery of the Council's broader ambitions and priorities set out in We Make Camden, and other relevant Council plans and strategies, including those relating to climate change, health and wellbeing, diversity, affordable workspace, the evening and night-time economy, culture, libraries, community facilities, education, adult social care, families and children, open space, biodiversity and transport.

## About the Infrastructure Delivery Plan

This Infrastructure Delivery Plan is intended to form part of the evidence base for the Camden Local Plan Proposed Submission Draft which has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2025. It has been prepared following a review of available

documents, and engagement across the Council, and where relevant, with external infrastructure providers. This included three workshops with infrastructure providers held in June 2025.

This document aims to:

- Establish the current level of infrastructure provision across Camden;
- Identify known infrastructure projects, as set out in existing plans and strategies, or coming forward as part of approved schemes;
- Assess future infrastructure needs to support housing and economic development; and
- Inform infrastructure funding decisions, including Section 106 (S106) negotiations, Capital Programme allocations (including Strategic CIL), and Neighbourhood CIL application decisions.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is intended to be a live document, reflecting the Council's and external partners current priorities.

The infrastructure requirements, costs, and timescales contained within this IDP represent the best information available to the Council at the time of publishing. This information may therefore be amended and refined through future updates to this study. It is also not intended to identify every infrastructure plan or project in the borough – it should therefore be read in conjunction with other plans and strategies prepared by the relevant infrastructure service providers.

The Council welcomes suggested updates which can be incorporated into future editions of the IDP, particularly from those directly involved in the provision of infrastructure and/or local services. These should be sent to [PlanningPolicy@camden.gov.uk](mailto:PlanningPolicy@camden.gov.uk). The Council would also like to record its thanks to everyone who contributed to the current document.



# 1 Adult Social Care



## Adult Social Care

This section refers to services provided by the Council's Adult Social Care (ASC) Services, the NHS and a wide range of voluntary / third sector providers. [The Camden Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) aims to improve population health, reduce inequalities (particularly around physical and mental health) and help people to maintain their independence regardless of background, circumstance or impairment. In short, Camden should be the best place to start well, live well and age well.

Significant proportions of Camden's communities face economic hardships and health challenges, worsened by the rising cost of living. There is a life expectancy gap of 13.5 years for men and nearly 10 years for women between the most and least deprived areas. Mental health issues and economic activity due to health problems have in recent years surged. Data projections for Camden's population indicate that by 2035, there will be an increased number of residents who will need to draw on care and support, particularly people over the age of 65. 15% (32,000) of Camden residents defined themselves as disabled at the time of the 2021 Census. People with disabilities experience stark inequalities in terms of economic and health outcomes; far higher numbers are economically inactive compared to the non-disabled population and significantly higher numbers of residents say they are in 'bad' or 'very bad' health. There are a variety of challenges that disabled people experience, highlighting the need to build their needs into local strategies and service design. There are also increasing numbers of young adults being supported through Special Educational Needs and Disabilities services (see Education and Employment and Training sections of IDP).

Under the Care Act 2014, the Council has responsibilities for keeping people safe, providing information and advice on care and support, promoting wellbeing and independence within a more integrated health and care system. The Council has a duty to meet a person's needs for support in the least restrictive setting in which it is possible to meet their needs, taking into account where relevant, the Human Rights Act, Equality Act and Mental Health Capacity Act duties. The Council is also required to commission enough care and support options within Camden for all predicted demand. The Care Act also imposes requirements for promoting the market for adult care and support, ensuring it meets the needs of all residents who need care and support.

Camden's Adult Social Care services follow a strengths-based approach called 'What Matters', focussed on person-centred care, empowerment and autonomy and community connectedness. Key to the approach is early intervention, prevention and proactive

care, with joined-up practice across health, social care and community partners. There is recognition of the value provided by the home and residents' own support networks, and of enabling people to live independently and stay at home and within their community for as long as possible. 'Floating' care and support services and adaptations with approximately 3,500 Camden residents drawing on care and support at home. In addition, around 1,250 residents draw on reablement services, designed to provide short-term intensive support to help individuals regain their skills, abilities and confidence to manage daily activities and live independently, especially after a hospital stay or illness. Where residents have greater/ more long-term care and support needs, suitable specialised housing may be required.

The 2021 Census states that there were 24,825 people living in Camden over 65 years of age (approx. 11.8% of the borough's population). The number of people aged over 75 is expected to increase by around 40% by 2041. There is increasing demand for older people's accommodation in the Borough that is able to meet complex residential/ nursing needs (due to older people typically entering residential care later in life). Age UK have identified the need for elderly people to receive timely adaptations to their homes, the importance of community transport (enabling people to attend appointments and live a social life) and the value of 121 support where people cannot leave their home and befriending services/ local activities (Camden has one of the highest rates of social isolation in England).

Just over 1,000 Camden residents are registered with their GP as having a Learning Disability. Around 440 individuals with a learning disability have a funded package of support from Camden, around 500 live with family carers, around 120 live within supported living in Camden and about 130 individuals are placed out of Borough, the majority living in neighbouring boroughs. The numbers of older persons with moderate or severe learning disability are expected to rise significantly, the borough is also seeing increasing numbers of young people with complex needs. Support for people with learning disabilities in Camden include a 'Shared Lives' scheme which recruits, trains and supports self-employed shared lives carers who offer accommodation and support to people with learning disabilities, 'Breakaway Short Breaks' a respite service providing people with learning disabilities a chance to socialise and learn daily living skills and allow families a break from their caring role; and the Learning Disability Day Service at the Greenwood Centre. The Camden Learning Disability Service is an integrated health and care service jointly run by the Council and NHS. Their work includes promoting the uptake of annual health checks, helping with people with learning disabilities into employment and tackling disproportionality of access to services.

There are high rates of mental ill health in the borough. 3 core teams are provided by the North London NHS Foundation Trust comprising NHS, social care and voluntary sector staff. They support people to find purpose in their lives and engage with community-based groups and offers. Through the Mental Health Supported Living Pathway, the Council commissions accommodation-based support for around 200 people with serious mental illness. This helps people to progress their mental health recovery in a safe and supportive environment, develop independent living skills, progress their mental health recovery and move away from homelessness/housing precarity and into their own home. Mental health supported living services in Camden have seen an increase in both demand and complexity of resident need with a 38% increase in referrals in 2023/24 alone; for every person moving out of the pathway, at least two were referred in. Residents have increasingly been referred with combination of co-occurring and mutually re-inforcing needs, as well as mental health, such as drug and alcohol misuse, involvement in the justice system, physical ill health, unresolved immigration and legal status and needs relating to domestic/ gender-based violence. The Council also supports people with mental ill health into employment. This involves the provision of intensive support, placements in paid employment and in-work support for both the employee and employer.

The Camden Local Plan has an important role in influencing determinants (drivers) of health and wellbeing. It features an 'Access for All' policy (SC2), itself informed by engagement with local disability groups. It also sets out how the planning process will help to secure accessible and adaptable living accommodation, as well as types of specialised housing. More widely, there are a range of policies to improve inclusion and environmental quality.

The table below outlines some of the key projects being brought forward by the Council to enhance experiences for service users and manage the impacts of growing demands.

Adult Social Care	
Category	Details
Lead	The Camden Borough Partnership is a collaborative effort between various organisations and local providers within Camden who aim to improve the quality of health and care services for residents. The partnership includes hospitals and the community sector.



	<p>Camden Adult Social Care (ASC) is the social care service provided by Camden Council to adults aged 18 and over who live in the borough. It aims to support individuals to live as independently and safely as possible and provides a range of services including assessment of needs, support with daily living, commissioning of accommodation and support services for different user groups, support for carers and the safeguarding of adults to ensure that people are protected from abuse and neglect. Camden ASC work with healthcare professionals and other organisations and Council services to ensure comprehensive support.</p> <p>Details of main NHS service providers are set out in the Health section of the IDP.</p> <p>There is an extensive voluntary and community sector in Camden acting as partners in building and sustaining community wellbeing and resilience.</p>
<b>Current Provision</b>	<p><a href="#">Camden Care Choices</a> is Camden Council's website for adult care and support. This includes people with learning disabilities, sensory impairments and physical disabilities as well as support for unpaid carers. There is a dedicated site- <a href="#">Mental Health Camden</a> providing details of support for people with mental ill health.</p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p><u>Adult Early Help</u> – this is currently being implemented as a 'test and learn pilot' and based upon prevention and early intervention. It responds to evidence suggesting that people are not accessing the support they need on a timely basis, even if the support exists due to factors such as language barriers, lack of digital skills and uncertainty around eligibility. This particularly applies to people with physical and mental health challenges and neurodiverse people. Where people are experiencing anxiety, there can also be a perceived stigma around receiving help.</p> <p>Adult Early Help is based upon the idea of providing a 'collective response' through joining up services, particularly to identify, prevent or delay the need for statutory social care support and needs becoming entrenched and so more difficult to address. It also helps to reduce the risk of duplication across services and the need for residents to have the same conversations multiple times. The pilot was launched in 2024 and seeks to understand what an Adult Early Help way of working would look like (in terms of practice models) and what conditions are necessary to do it well (e.g. financial costs, resources, staff skills, access to data etc.) Over its 18-month duration, it aims to reach 16-40 adults facing multiple challenges in their lives and with a range of personal characteristics/backgrounds.</p> <p>The <u>Camden Neighbourhoods project</u> seeks to improve collaboration and consistency across services through creating '<u>Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs)</u>' (or 'team of teams') that operate at a neighbourhood / locality level and 'wrap around' local GP practices. It brings together ASC, community health partners and local health practitioners on a neighbourhood footprint. This is intended to improve outcomes and experiences for local people</p>

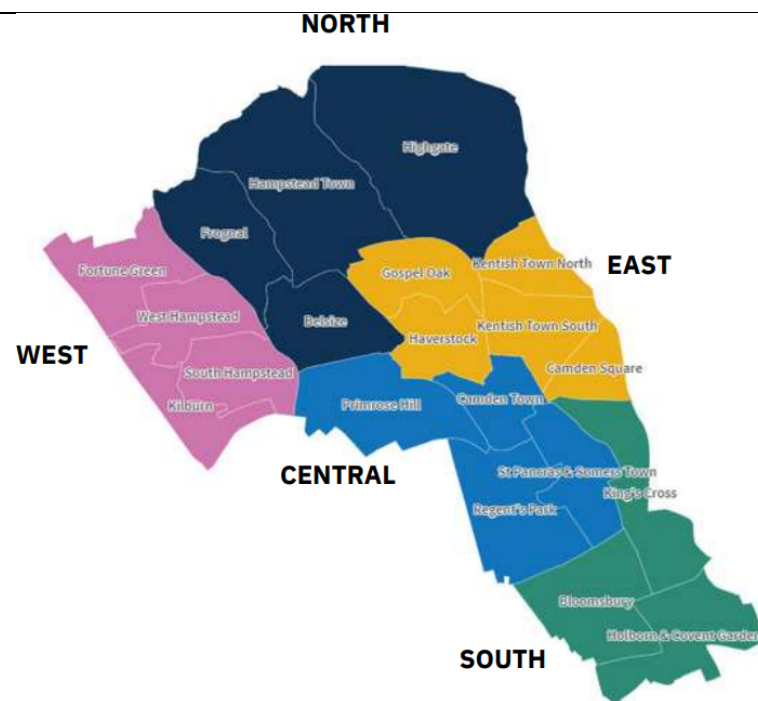
drawing on care and support, delivering more co-ordinated care for adults with support needs, particularly those with multiple and complex needs, from personalised support, prevention and early intervention.

The Vision for neighbourhoods in Camden is: “In Camden, people and place lead the way...we are accessible to people where they live and want everyone to be empowered to live a good life. Our services to be local, connected and built on relationships, enabling people to find solutions”.

A pilot Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) went live in the East of the Borough in late 2024. It covers Kentish Town North and South, Camden Square, Gospel Oak and Haverstock wards. The team at Kentish Town Health Centre includes ASC social workers, district nursing, physical therapists, mental health practitioners, GPs (James Wigg Practice is also located at this site) and social prescribing and drug and alcohol support services. Alongside the INT team at Kentish Town Health Centre, a Housing and Communities integrated team has also been established co-locating housing, community safety, repairs, estate management, adult social care and social prescribers and mental health staff.

The Council has also been working with voluntary organisations / civic society to develop community capacity and engagement in the Kentish Town area. This includes the formation of ‘Kentish Town Connects’, a forum bringing together local community organisations, active residents and partners. Walks, neighbourhood summits and new governance processes have sought to enhance the community’s voice and advocacy. Thus, from a grassroots level, the community has the opportunity to actively shape the emerging networks in the area and work with the range of service providers (statutory and third sector) to influence outcomes.

The East INT will inform future models of Neighbourhood working in Camden whilst recognising that each area is different, and therefore what is provided will vary from place-to-place. Camden and NHS organisations increasingly recognise 5 neighbourhoods and plan their services in alignment, see map below. Bespoke models for these 4 other neighbourhoods/localities will be developed over time bringing together a variety of teams to support the health and care of the local population and taking on board the learning from the pilot INT. Longer-term, the approach also provides the opportunity to include services such as housing, education, employment community safety and support for children and families, recognising their impact on the ‘social determinants’ of health and health inequalities.



Neighbourhood	Electoral Ward
North	Highgate
North	Hampstead Town
North	Belsize
North	Frognal
West	Fortune Green
West	West Hampstead
West	Kilburn
West	South Hampstead
East	Gospel Oak
East	Haverstock
East	Kentish Town North
East	Kentish Town South
East	Camden Square
Central	Regent's Park
Central	St Pancras and Somers Town
Central	Camden Town
Central	Primrose Hill
South	King's Cross
South	Bloomsbury
South	Holborn and Covent Garden

### Supporting People, Connecting Communities Accommodation Plan

Housing and having a good home contributes to ASC prevention and wellbeing outcomes (and is widely recognised as one of the 'social determinants' of health). ASC Officers have been working with the Council's Planning Service to identify the specialist housing types that are likely to be needed to support different service user groups. This has resulted in revised policies in the Draft New Local Plan. The Plan takes account of the long-term accommodation needs of people currently drawing on care as well as emerging and future demands for care and support.

The Accommodation Plan has 5 ambitions to improve resident outcomes:

'My Life'

- (i) Embed early help and prevention across service areas to identify people with housing and support needs, delaying or preventing the need for more specialised services;

- (ii) Enable people to stay in their own home as long as possible with high quality, person-centred care and technology-enabled lives;

‘My Home and Community’

- (iii) Develop sufficient homes for the future that people want to live in;
- (iv) People are supported to remain or become active members of their community and local neighbourhood, with a focus on reducing loneliness and recognising the diversity of Camden’s communities;
- (v) Residents draw on the care and support they want, alongside practitioners who focus on their strengths, ensuring their wellbeing is maximised through what matters most to them and their identities. Services are delivered across a wider range of population needs that ensures the inclusion of those seldom heard.

The Accommodation Strategy addresses a ten year period from 2025 and the following initial projects/ priorities have been identified:

Transformation of Care and Support in the Home: this is linked to the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams / Neighbourhood model described above and the development of Adult Early Help services. Service delivery is based on the premise that with some support, people are more likely to live a good life, stay connected with their loved ones and surrounding community and thus, the need to draw on more intensive care and support can be delayed. ASC’s home based wellbeing model harnesses community connections, preventative strategies to reduce loneliness and increasing uptake of digital technologies to enable independent living. The Council is testing a variety of changes and improvements which it is planned will be implemented incrementally over the next five years.

New Build Programme: the Council’s ASC service have been identifying potential sites for new build projects and have inputted into the Local Plan process and engaged with the Council’s Community Investment team. There is an initial focus on delivering new build supported living flats and the remodelling of existing sheltered housing flats for people with a Learning Disability. One example are plans to use the sheltered housing at Ashdown Crescent for supported living.

Transformation of sheltered housing: reviewing the older persons housing offer within the general needs housing stock. The Council will be preparing a plan to develop a portfolio that meets the future demands and aspirations of residents.

Transforming mental health and adult pathways: reviewing the current Mental Health supported living and hostel pathways, ensuring the Council is able to holistically support residents with a greater range of needs.

	<p><u>Expansion of 'Shared Lives' and 'Housing First' services</u> for people with mental ill health and neurodiverse and autistic residents. 'Shared lives' involves supporting residents recovering from a mental health crisis. Housing First Camden is a programme offering permanent, affordable housing to people experiencing homelessness. It prioritises immediate access to housing, followed by individualised, flexible support to help residents address their needs.</p> <p><u>CLDS 'Living a Good Life' project</u> focusses on fostering strong and valued friendships for people with Learning Disabilities, helping to support their personal growth and development and enabling individuals to participate in meaningful activities.</p> <p><u>Good Work Camden Disability Jobs Hub</u> has been established to provide pre-work skills programmes and employability support. They have helped residents with disabilities to secure paid employment, work experience and access to education and training.</p> <p><u>Carers Action Plan</u>: supports the vital role of care givers, to ensure they have the resources, recognition and support necessary to thrive. The Council's ASC have set up a dedicated project lead and support team. A carers workplan is being co-produced with carers.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p><u>Accommodation Strategy future needs</u></p> <p>The Council has identified the needs over a ten year period for various client/user groups. Needs will fluctuate over time and demand for particular types of provision will in many cases depend on individual client choices (or their families and carers) and their ability to continue to stay well and live independently. In some instances, it may be appropriate for facilities to be provided in the wider North Central London area. A significant number of residents will have multiple support needs, e.g. such as elderly people with mental health needs. There are also other groups needing housing support, the ones mentioned below are those that represent a large proportion of overall need.</p> <p><u>Older persons:</u></p> <p>Under 'Home First' residents will be supported in the community with care and support in the first instance.</p> <p>There is a large stock of sheltered housing in Camden, involving over 1,500 homes managed by the Council or by Housing Associations. This housing often offers very limited support (typically it comprises self-contained flats with a support manager and an alarm system) and often is not well designed for disabled people or for care and support staff to provide assistance. It is likely that a proportion of this stock will need to be adapted or replaced over time to enable its use by residents with support needs.</p>



Extra Care housing is designed to enable provision of additional care as occupiers' needs increase, with on-site care available. It takes the form of self-contained homes with some communal facilities, such as a shared lounge. It was originally conceived with the needs of older people in mind, but is now viewed as an intergenerational resource. There are currently around 180 Extra Care flats in Camden, located in five facilities each with 30-40 flats. It is anticipated that around 40-45 Extra-Care flats will be needed c.2026-2036 (the way in which these are provided could vary depending on the opportunities that arise). Up to 45 flats could potentially be provided in a single carefully managed facility, or alternatively one facility of 30-40 flats could be provided over this period, with another following c.2036-41. Around one third of extra care residents have a need for mental health support.

The Council currently supports over 300 older people in care homes with residential or nursing care. Around 200 supported places are outside the borough, but over half are in North Central London. The aim is to reduce the number of places in low-level care facilities through provision of reablement services, care and support at home, and an expansion of Extra Care. The Council is also seeking to commission 20 new nursing care places, either in the borough or elsewhere in North Central London. Nursing care involves providing 24 hour medical and personal care for individuals who need help with daily living and require medical attention, often due to chronic illnesses or disabilities. The Council is also looking to reduce its reliance on spot purchasing: this refers to when Camden ASC purchases accommodation from various providers on an as-needed basis, potentially providing access to a wider range of facilities and services that best suit individual needs. However, there is a significant and increasing pressure on spot market availability and price, which is expected to increase further as the elderly population across Camden and North London increases.

There is also a need to maintain adequate provision of respite care and 'step down' residential care (designed to facilitate the transition from a hospital/intensive care setting to a more independent living situation).

A large proportion of the Borough's housing for older persons caters for the self-funder market and has prohibitive pricing for local authority funded residents. There is particular saturation of standard residential care offering low levels of support. The proliferation of this type of accommodation presents a financial risk for Camden ASC. As people's needs change and they can no longer be supported in this type of residential home, they may become the responsibility of the Council to support through to the end of life.

#### Mental Health:

Supported living for mental health provides people with the opportunity to live independently while receiving the support they need. It combines accommodation, ideally their own home, with individualised support to help manage daily life.

There are around 200 places in supported housing in Camden. A small number of residents are supported out of borough (around 15) because of the specialist nature of their needs. Supported living services operate as high support (circa three-quarters of places) with 24/7 staff or low support with daytime or visiting support (circa one quarter of places). Demand for self-contained accommodation is higher than demand for rooms with shared facilities. Camden ASC estimate that numbers of people requiring local authority commissioned services could grow by around 15% over the next ten years.

Only around a quarter of places are in properties that are wholly fit for purpose. Just under a half are thought to be capable of renovation, with the remaining quarter needing to be replaced. For new and replacement provision, the Council expects each development to provide 12-15 self-contained flats. At least two schemes will be required to replace current provision that is not fit for purpose, and one to accommodate the impact of population growth.

The Council currently supports 25 places in residential or nursing care homes in Camden for people needing mental health support, and just over 100 places elsewhere. One property in the borough (providing 13 beds) is not fit for purpose, and the Council anticipates that replacement provision will be required. Population growth could also generate a need for a further 35 places in care homes over the lifetime of the Plan. The exact numbers of places required will depend on factors including the role played by other accommodation options (for example, people living in general needs housing with support or a carer).

New purpose-built accommodation needs to be accessible (from the street and internally to living rooms and communal areas), have ensuite facilities, have adequate resident communal and staff office space, inbuilt security, outdoor green space and be located in an accessible location, in an area with low street activity.

#### Learning Disabilities:

There are just under 100 places in supported housing in the borough for residents. These are split over almost thirty properties, primarily owned by Housing Associations. Many are too small to operate efficiently, lack self-contained flats or en-suite bedsits, and/or deficient in access for those with physical disabilities. The Council is working on the remodelling of one property to provide four replacement places, and commissioning new

development to provide around twelve replacement places. In addition, the Council supports around 30 places outside Camden. Camden ASC estimate that numbers of people requiring local authority commissioned services could grow by around 15% over the next ten years.

For new and replacement provision, the Council will seek development that is accessible to disabled people, provide 4-6 places in individual self-contained flats or en-suite bedsits, and provide adequate space for staff and resident communal space. New provision should also be Autism-friendly and suitable for those with complex needs. The Council anticipates that two to three schemes will be required to replace current provision. In addition, four further schemes are likely be required c.2026-36 to accommodate new needs, and potentially one or two further schemes c. 2036-41. A need for a facility with 4-6 beds to provide emergency and respite care has also been identified. There may be opportunities to remodel existing buildings to enhance the offer where this is cost effective.

The Council currently supports people with learning disabilities in care homes outside Camden. These include around 70 places in residential care homes and 16 in nursing care homes. Nursing care places are secured in North Central London as far as possible.

Neurodiverse/ autistic residents: although dedicated accommodation is not needed, new and remodelled health and care facilities need to be designed with these residents in mind. A gap has been identified in suitable accommodation for autistic residents without a learning disability with the Charlie Ratchford Centre currently the only Extra Care scheme accommodating younger adults in this group.

Adult Pathway: this is a system of hostels and Supported Living in Camden designed to help single homeless people with support needs transition to independent living. A range of services are provided to address various support needs including health and wellbeing, employment and housing. There are around 640 individuals living in Supported Living i.e. hostels and supported housing. There are also 72 individuals within the Housing First programme who are living in permanent housing with intensive support services tailored to their individual needs (addressing matters like mental health, addiction and access to benefits).

The Council has identified a need for 1 new purpose-built hostel for people with complex needs that is accessible and a further purpose-built hostel for women only. This will need to be accompanied by development of the support offer for those living in move-on accommodation (helping individuals transition from temporary/ supported living situations into independent accommodation), the provision of specialist support services for women and investment

	<p>in in-reach services addressing mental health and multiple co-existing long-term health conditions. Works are ongoing to replace two small facilities for single homeless people with expanded facilities suitable for homeless families.</p> <p><u>Camden Draft New Local Plan</u>: the Local Plan's housing policies support the delivery of permanent housing to meet specific/ specialist needs, including older person's housing, and other types of housing for people with care and support requirements. Policy H8 seeks a proportion of housing and affordable housing in the largest housing developments to meet the needs of older people, homeless people and other people with care or support requirements, i.e. as a proportion of the affordable housing offer, and otherwise where housing is proposed as part of a development with a site area of 0.5ha or greater. Such housing should be targeted towards existing borough residents and meet demonstrable needs, i.e. the particular care and support being provided should meet local needs.</p> <p>To provide long-term flexibility should care needs change, the Local Plan seeks provision that can be used by a wide range of residents, including those with multiple and complex support needs, and should wherever possible be autism and dementia friendly. To maximise opportunities for people to live independently at home, new homes should be designed to be accessible and adaptable where feasible and a proportion of homes in each development should be wheelchair user dwellings. Local Plan site allocations include sites that are expected to deliver housing for older people or make provision for people with other care or support requirements.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p><u>Housing</u>: the Council's capital programme includes provision for adult social care, however there are significant funding pressures exacerbated by inflation. The Council also works with housing associations/ 'Registered Providers' (RPs) to deliver specialised housing, however, recently there has been an increase in RPs leaving the market or scaling back their support for new development. Government and NHS funding programmes may also contribute towards the provision of accommodation.</p> <p><u>Camden property</u>: where LB Camden is the freeholder/ landlord there may be an opportunity to reconfigure/remodel existing buildings to meet alternative uses. However, a significant number of the buildings serving the client groups above are owned and/or managed by RPs, not the Council. The Council has also been able to secure the renewal of community facilities through its Community Investment Programme, which has included the regeneration of a number of residential estates. As identified, some of the needs above require the reprovision of services from out of dated properties that were not originally designed for their current use.</p>

Section 106 Obligations: Most of the services highlighted above are funded through established processes outside of the planning process. Section 106 agreements can be used to secure requirements around affordable or specialised housing on suitably located sites.

The local proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy can provide funding for community facilities and projects. There is a ward-based spending with ward members identifying priorities in their area.



# 2

## Arts and Culture



## Arts and Culture

Camden has a rich variety of arts and culture across its many different forms from large iconic venues to small, independent spaces showcasing new and innovative works. Many of these contribute towards the borough's vibrant and diverse social infrastructure. There are also cultural events, many to celebrate and raise awareness of communities, places and heritage in Camden. Arts and culture has an intrinsic value for education and learning and helps to support wellbeing by bringing people and communities together. It is strongly linked to the development of Camden's large sector of creative industries and the vibrant evening and cultural economy centred on the West End and Camden Town. In 2022, it is estimated there were 37,900 jobs in cultural and leisure activities and 137,000 jobs in the night-time economy (the highest numbers of all London Boroughs after Westminster).

Camden is globally recognised as a centre of culture. The borough is home to national and international cultural institutions such as The Roundhouse, the British Museum, Hampstead Theatre and the British Library, alongside creative businesses and grassroots artists. Camden Market and Camden Lock attract over 28 million visitors each year. Camden plays a pivotal role within the local and national cultural ecosystem, through strategic support and collaboration, contributing to the growth and sustainability of the sector. Key highlights include being home to 31 Arts Council England National Organisations, the 4<sup>th</sup> most popular film location in London and the 6<sup>th</sup> largest Evening and Nighttime Economy in the UK.

The creative and cultural industries have been identified as a key growth sector within the London Growth Plan, contributing approximately £52 billion to London's economy each year. With one in six jobs now based in the creative economy, the sector plays a vital role in driving innovation, employment and economic development. This aligns closely with Camden Council's strategic ambition to promote inclusive and sustainable growth and harnessing the potential of this sector to deliver meaningful benefits for communities across the borough.

Culture has the power to support residents, creatives and businesses through celebrating our diverse heritage via cultural programmes to increase community cohesion, promote health and wellbeing and stimulate the local economy. Cultural events and activations on high streets and in the public realm support grassroots and early career artists and creatives through leveraging

affordable creative spaces and empowering young people by creative learning opportunities and pathways to employment and training.

The Cultural Camden Strategic Partnership and the Council's Culture Service worked together to develop the 'Cultural Framework 2018 to 2025' which has an overarching vision for Camden to be a "London borough inspired by its culture: a place where the arts, creative industries, heritage, libraries and museums are part of everyday lives and evident everywhere we go and in everything we do". The strategy is used to identify priorities for arts and culture development in Camden and can be taken into account when decisions are made around funding.

Under the Arts Council Investment Programme 2023-2026, 32 funded organisations in Camden were allocated investment of over £10.5 million. This was a small reduction in overall funding for Camden-based organisations with the Arts Council England seeking to increase representation of diverse communities across its funded portfolio and redistribute funding to organisations outside of London. However, the redistribution of funding did result in substantial reduction in funding for five organisations.

The Mayor of London's Culture Strategy was published in 2018. Culture is described as what "makes the daytime thrive and the night come alive" and London as one of the most culturally rich cities in the world, with the creative economy employing 1 in 6 Londoners. The Culture Strategy aims to deliver culture for everyone and is themed around four priorities:- 'Love London' – more people experiencing and creating culture on their doorstep; 'Culture and Good Growth' – supporting, saving and sustaining cultural places and spaces; 'Creative Londoners' – investing in a diverse creative workforce for the future, and 'World City' – a global creative powerhouse today and in the future.

The table below sets out the existing arts and cultural infrastructure in Camden and identifies current key programmes and projects. It also explains the role of planning/ the Local Plan in protecting assets and in some cases, helping to fund cultural infrastructure.

Arts and Culture	
Category	Details
Lead	The Council's Culture Service works with the Cultural Camden Strategic Partnership, a network of key arts and culture organisations in the borough to deliver the cultural strategy. The Greater London Authority has also a significant pan London role.
Current Provision	<p>Camden is home to many museums, theatres, galleries, live music venues, cinemas, comedy clubs and a variety of other arts and performance spaces. The main facilities in Camden can be found via the Mayor of London's <a href="#">Cultural Infrastructure Map</a>.</p> <p>LB Camden has a dedicated online platform called <a href="#">Love Camden</a>, which brings together a directory of events and opportunities across the borough for residents and visitors.</p> <p><u>Cultural Educational and Learning Support Fund</u>: the fund was established in 2023 with £300k ringfenced for a 3 year period to enable local arts and cultural organisations to deliver free learning programmes for children and young people in the borough. 2025 marks the final phase of the fund, which has supported 27 organisations across three funding rounds. These include The Donmar Theatre, Camden Arts Centre and English Folk Dance and Song Society, which had received cuts in funding from Arts Council England.</p> <p><u>Culture Programme</u>: this celebrates the borough's rich heritage and vibrant contemporary culture. At its heart, the programme aims to reveal hidden stories and bring the community together through activation in the public realm, the commissioning of new work and the development of a future talent pipeline. Flagship programmes include Windrush, Black History Season, Pride, Inverness Street Bloc Party, South Asian Heritage Month and Representing Bloomsbury which addressed the interpretation of statues and memorials in the public realm.</p> <p><u>Love Camden Advisors</u>: ten Love Camden advisors were recruited in May 2024 from local communities as a forum to help shape and develop the cultural offer of the borough. All members live in the borough and support the Council with the commissioning of artworks, the development of the cultural strategy and delivery of various Love Camden cultural programmes.</p> <p><u>Pathways to Employment and Training</u>: this aims to ensure young people can access cultural experiences and creative careers. Projects include 'STEAM' work experience, with local employers/ organisations providing access to</p>

	<p>workplace activities for young people; ‘Set Ready’ where Camden’s film service provider (Film Fixer) secures paid work placements with shoots in the borough, and Apprenticeship placements within LB Camden’s Culture Service, giving young people an opportunity to contribute to the delivery of events and culture programmes.</p> <p><u>Community Festival Grants Programme</u>: a small grants initiative to support festivals, street parties and storytelling/heritage projects.</p> <p><u>Artists Network</u>: a forum set up in 2023 for grassroots artists to connect and collaborate – its membership is ever-evolving; all the artists live, study and/or work in Camden</p> <p><u>Affordable Creative Workspaces</u>: The Culture Service and the Euston Regeneration Team have been working with Bow Artist to provide workspace for artists, designers and makers in the Regent’s Park Estate. This involves the reuse of homes vacated due to the High Speed 2 rail project. The Affordable Workspace policy (IE4) in the Draft New Local Plan will potentially support the provision of additional workspace for creatives in the borough where it is needed.</p> <p>The Greater London Authority has an important role in supporting and developing arts and culture in London, through the implementation of the adopted Culture Strategy. In recent years, cultural uses in London have been faced with severe financial pressures as well as impacts relating to other land uses. The GLA through its Culture at Risk team works to support cultural organisations and creative businesses at risk of losing space. For some years, LB Camden through its Local Plan has sought to safeguard cultural assets (from proposals involving their loss/ demolition) and by applying the ‘Agent of Change’ principle whereby the agent of change/ developer has responsibility for preventing any harm to the operation of existing cultural uses (for example, they have responsibility for ensuring that noise impacts of residents are satisfactorily mitigated). Where existing operations are no longer viable, the applicant is expected to thoroughly explore the feasibility of alternative/ similar cultural uses.</p> <p>In recent years, a number of cultural venues such as The Horse Hospital in Bloomsbury and Camden Arts Centre have been listed by the Council as Assets of Community Value.</p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p><u>Development of a new Cultural Strategy</u>: the Council is preparing the first cultural strategy for the borough for 2026-31. Following consultation with residents, cultural sector partners, artists and young people, three main themes emerged: ‘People and Place’: creating opportunities for culture in neighbourhoods; ‘Learning and Skills’: residents of all ages have access to a range of learning, skills and work experience opportunities and ‘Grow and Thrive’: creating the conditions to enable the borough’s cultural and creative industries to sustain and contribute to London and the national creative ecology and economy.</p>



	<p>The Strategy is expected to be adopted in November 2025.</p> <p><u>2025 Culture Programme</u>: in line with previous years, the Culture Service will work with cultural partners, creatives and residents to deliver cultural experiences. Activities include the delivery of two permanent public artworks to celebrate the contributions of the Windrush and Bangladeshi communities and the Love Camden annual cultural programme of events including Lesbian Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT+) History Month, Windrush, Pride, South Asian Heritage Month, Black History Season and curation of the Swiss Cottage Art Gallery.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>These will emerge through the Council's new Culture Strategy – to be published in 2025. This will be a live document that is reviewed annually. It is expected that the new Strategy will link to the 3 renewal missions of 'We Make Camden' on Diversity, Estates and Young People and will help support the delivery of other Camden strategies such as the Evening and Night-Time Economy Strategy, the Strategy for Diversity in the Public Realm and Camden Future High Streets.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p><u>Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy</u>: possible future funding subject to available funding and wider Council spending priorities. In February 2024, £818,446 of funding from the strategic proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy was allocated to support the delivery of projects in the Council's Cultural Programme over 2024/25 and 2025/26. A further £198,000 of funding was allocated to deliver a cultural programme as part of a 12-month part pedestrianisation trial in Camden High Street. The trial pedestrianisation is being launched in May 2025.</p> <p><u>Local Community Infrastructure Levy</u>: cultural projects are potentially eligible. A proposal would need to be submitted to the Council that meets the relevant criteria and any award of funding will be subject to available ward balances and prioritisation of projects by ward members.</p> <p><u>Section 106 Obligations</u>: Policy SC6 (Cultural Facilities) of the Draft New Local Plan states that the Council will secure S106 contributions to help fund place based cultural and arts projects linked to the regeneration of centres and estates, and in appropriate circumstances. Projects will involve local artists, art and cultural providers and potentially schools.</p> <p><u>Other</u>: Council grant funding, for example the Cultural and Learning Support Fund, would be subject to future agreement and allocation of funding by Camden's Cabinet. As stated above, the culture service/ Council generates income from filming and venue hire.</p>

# 3 Community Facilities



## Community Facilities

Camden has a diverse, vibrant and active community sector providing social welfare and support services and nurturing social action in all its forms. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) has extensive reach and forms a vital function in tackling the causes and effects of poverty and social injustice, giving residents a greater sense of control over their lives, building a sense of connection and belonging and providing a voice for vulnerable and marginalised communities. Whilst this section focusses on some of the larger voluntary and community sector organisations due to their role in managing physical community facilities, there are many smaller organisations and projects performing valuable functions it has not been possible to capture. In practice, many programmes are delivered through collaboration across multiple organisations (in some cases including Council services and the NHS). The term 'VCS' embraces a wide range of not-for-profit organisations including social enterprises, faith groups, volunteering and social action.

Many of the provider organisations in Camden have a long-standing presence in their communities meaning they have developed reach and relationships of trust with residents and communities. Their service provision and activities reflect the needs of the communities in which they are based or represent, with a considerable proportion of organisations and groups having a specialist focus such as community safety, advisory services, improving the environment and targeted support for communities with 'protected characteristics' (as defined by the Equality Act 2010). In recent years, the sector has performed a vital role in supporting responses to the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis.

By their nature, community buildings are located in the most accessible locations within local centres/ high streets, in proximity to other health and wellbeing services or within/near estates. Larger 'neighbourhood' organisations will tend to operate from multi-functional centres or hubs delivering a range of projects and programmes for different groups. Their facilities might include access to leisure space such as gyms and sports pitches, community kitchens/cookery space, cafes/restaurants and early years provision such as nurseries and creches. In some cases, facilities have been secured through developer agreements (ie. Section 106 obligations), usually dedicated space at ground floor level. The renewal and refurbishment of community facilities in Camden has also been achieved in recent years through the Council's Community Investment Programme (with sales of private homes enabling funding).

There are also a wide range of cultural, education and commercial buildings which support the delivery of community services by local groups and organisations, including LB Camden's libraries (-see Libraries section of IDP). In some cases, there are 'shared use' agreements in place facilitating community use at certain times, for example school sports halls.

Many residential areas in Camden also feature independently managed sports/leisure facilities such as tennis clubs and community gardening spaces/allotments and nurseries and play centres for young children. Many pubs in Camden have meeting rooms which can be hired by community groups at low/no cost and serve as an important enabler of community and family functions. The Camden Local Plan also recognises the value of laundrettes in providing an essential service for local communities, especially students and households living in smaller homes. Arts and cultural venues will often share use of their space with community organisations and provide outreach. In some instances, they may also support employment and training programmes, helping to provide opportunities especially for young people in the creative industries (-see Arts and Culture section of the IDP).

The voluntary and community sector has been experiencing increased demands for their services linked to the cost-of-living crisis, while operating costs have increased and income has been squeezed. There are challenges around managing and maintaining community spaces, the recruitment and retention of staff and attracting and supporting volunteers. Commercially run spaces such as public houses, arts venues and leisure clubs have also experienced viability issues. A recent report set out '[The State of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Camden 2024](#)', identifies the sector's strengths and challenges it is facing, as well as their support requirements.

Camden Council is a significant landlord for community organisations leasing around 100 premises to charities and community organisations, of which around a quarter are community centres. Various estates in Camden also have Tenants and Residents Associations Halls which act as a focal point for local meetings and activities. Over thirty community assets have also been designated by the Council as '[Assets of Community Value](#)' under the Localism Act. This gives eligible community groups additional time to draw up plans and raise funds to acquire an asset when it comes up for sale, sometimes referred to as 'the community right to bid' (it does not however give the community preferential status and there are significant practical difficulties for community groups to acquire buildings and land in Camden due to their high value).

The material below provides a snapshot of community infrastructure in Camden and identifies how planning and development can enable investment in facilities.

Community Facilities	
Category	Details
Lead	Multiple groups and organisations make up Camden's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).
Current Provision	<p>LB Camden's <a href="#">'Find my nearest'</a> map and <a href="#">Cindex</a> identify the services, organisations and groups operating in Camden.</p> <p>There are a wide range of community organisations operating in Camden providing services, events and activities tailored to their local communities and maintaining spaces in which local people are able to meet. As well as holding programmes of activities, community centres have an important role in the empowerment and resilience building of communities, helping residents become engaged in issues affecting their local area and influence decision making.</p> <p>Brief descriptions of some of the local organisations is provided below (full details of community organisations operating in Camden are set out in Cindex).</p> <p><a href="#">King's Cross - Brunswick Neighbourhood Association (KCBNA)</a> – deliver services from 3 sites in the South Camden area:- Chadwell Healthy Living Centre in Harrison Street, King's Cross Neighbourhood Centre in Cromer Street and Marchmont Community Centre in Marchmont Street. They provide a broad range of activities and projects for all ages, co-produced with residents and informed by council and NHS strategies. They help residents to identify their strengths/assets, support development of networks and enable residents to build their confidence, knowledge and independence. Their main projects are the Youth Team, Older Person's Group and tailored programmes for the Bangladeshi, Chinese and Somali communities.</p> <p><a href="#">Origin Community Halls, Somers Town and Kentish Town</a> - The Basil Jellicoe hall in Somers Town has been used for Arabic classes, yoga, church, drama classes, scouts and tenants meetings while Athlone Hall in Kentish Town supports meetings, community groups, exercise classes and has a large garden.</p>



[Somers Town Community Association](#) – provide programmes and activities from 2 centres at 150 Ossulston Street and 2 Ossulston Street: the Somers Town Living Centre. The Association aims to provide “inclusive, vibrant, diverse and welcoming programme of activities/services that are open to all”. Services being delivered include the Somers Town Jobs Hub, health and wellbeing programmes, a community café, youth programme, and climate and sustainability initiatives. The Living Centre is provided within, and supported by the Francis Crick Institute, its objectives are to improve the health and wellbeing of residents, reduce economic and social deprivation in the local area and help residents to tackle the climate emergency and create a fairer future.

[Calthorpe Project, Gray's Inn Road](#) – a one acre community garden for local people to tend and a sports pitch for hire. There are 3 main strands to their work: sustainable food growing around a ‘closed loop’ food cycle; supervised activities for children (0-14 years) and their families; sports development including coaching and training for young people; community classes/activities and a horticultural volunteering and training programme for people with learning disabilities and mental health issues.

[St Pancras Community Association, Plender Street](#) – services provided particularly for those living in St Pancras and Somers Town who are in greatest need. Key projects include ‘Health & Wellbeing’ – a programme of fitness classes for adults and children, ‘Golden Years’ offering events for 60+ years to reduce social isolation and improve quality of life and ‘Stay & Play’ – activities for pre-school children aged 0-5 years. They also operate a small nursery caring for children aged 2-4 years. The new centre was provided as part of a wider Camden Community Investment Programme scheme.

[Fitzrovia Community Centre](#) – a community hub in Foley Street (LB Westminster) bringing together local residents, businesses, public services and community organisations. They operate a space on the ground floor and lower ground floor of John Astor House secured through a Section 106 agreement. Their premises include a courtyard garden and a kitchen designed to a commercial standard. They offer programmes around ‘Arts, Culture and Heritage’, ‘Health and Wellbeing’, ‘Senior Services’ and ‘Children and Families’. They work to enhance the quality of life of all residents and workers in Fitzrovia while prioritising the most vulnerable members of the community.

[All Souls Clubhouse](#) – a community centre and church in Cleveland Street, Fitzrovia (LB Westminster) with full size gym in the basement plus several large and smaller rooms all available for hire when not in use. Various projects take place e.g. Parent/Carer Toddler Groups, After School Clubs, a Lunch Club for seniors and an outreach project

for elderly housebound and isolated people. A church meets on Sundays and many self-help groups are based there. Clubhouse also provide support for the homeless.

[Maiden Lane Community Centre, St Paul's Crescent](#) – established as part of the Maiden Lane Estate, it caters for a wide range of interests and age groups providing free services and activities for people from all backgrounds. They provide a nursery for 2-4 year olds, run a Junior Club for 5 to 10 years, and offer services and activities for young people from 10 to 19 years including outreach by a street team, and bespoke support for girls around life skills (Get Lots of Wisdom). They also run a project to empower, integrate and educate BME women and are involved in the facilitation of a Green Social Enterprise to raise environmental awareness and provide employment and training opportunities for local young people. A Cost of Living Partnership Project has provided community meals and winter essentials for older residents, including warm spaces. The Association also operates a food bank in conjunction with Sainsburys and host a community radio service and a 'town shed'.

[Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust](#) provides activities and services to local residents living in Central London. They work in partnership with other local organisations to provide After School Clubs, community activities, events, trips and support for the over 55s. They have also provided emergency food support, counselling and advice on issues such as debt and benefits and helped with the development of digital skills. Their support for young people has a strong focus on technology, arts, drama, music, coding, 121 support and homework support. Over 55s activities and events include dance, exercise, creative classes and gardening at The Phoenix Garden – a community garden project (overseen by its own charitable organisation).

[The Pirate Castle, Oval Road, Camden Town](#) provides boating and outdoor activities based in a community centre overlooking The Regent's Canal. They offer adventurous recreation, outdoor education and training initiatives to improve health and safety, to nurture life/social skills and bring people together regardless of their ability or personal circumstances.

[Primrose Hill Community Association \(PHCA\)](#) run events, activities, classes and workshops predominantly through their centre in Hopkinson's Place. This includes a wellbeing café, a Sunday bar, music classes for babies and young children and 'Circus Glory' offering trapeze classes for adults, teens and children. They also run the community library and publish a magazine.

[Thanet Youth and Community Centre, Herbert Street, Gospel Oak](#) – core activities are a youth club (8-14 years), over 50s coffee mornings, a sewing club and North West Fashion Project (a free, full time course for 2 weeks in August) and a bike club allowing young people to learn bike mechanics and maintenance.

[Swiss Cottage Community Association, Winchester Road](#) – provides facilities for recreation, learning and leisure for the residents of Swiss Cottage. There is a nursery on the ground floor for 2-5 year olds and a community café. Activities include language schools, ballet, chess, therapy and counselling services, a scrabble league, robotics and chess and Camden adult community learning courses.

[Holly Lodge Community Centre](#) – a community centre located on the Holly Lodge Estate in Highgate offering various activities such as pilates, Zumba, messy play for babies, a Monday Lunch Club, HIIT, tai chi, kids art and telescope making.

[Lauderdale House](#) – an arts and education centre. For adults, the offer includes life drawing, yoga, pilates, watercolours, guitar playing and ballet. Children's activities include drama classes, drawing, painting, violin lessons, storytelling, fun days, little yoga and sensory art classes. There are also activities programmed in conjunction with local schools. Art and creative sessions also feature as a part of youth-led provision. Lauderdale House is also a significant local resource for life changing events such as weddings and funerals and provides event space for birthdays and anniversaries.

[Hampstead Community Centre, Hampstead High Street](#) supports services including an after-school play centre, a Saturday market, coffee mornings for seniors, an under 5s toddler group, art therapy and counselling.

[Latin American House, Kilburn](#) is a centre supporting the inclusion and wellbeing of Latin American communities living in Camden and London. They provide welfare advice, cultural events such as dance, films and crafts, an activities programme for children and links to adult learning. A Saturday Spanish school helps children primarily from Spanish speaking families develop their language proficiency through play, social interaction and creative learning experiences.

[Community Association for West Hampstead, Dornfell Street](#) provides classes and activities for adults and children such as pilates, dance, mobility exercises, book clubs, community lunches, mosaic workshops, tutoring, English for

Speakers of Other Languages, Ecoclub, photography and capoeira. Some of these activities are provided at the 02 Centre Community Hall and West Hampstead Primary School.

[Queen's Crescent Community Association](#) is a significant provider of free/ heavily subsidised activities for older people, younger people and families living in Gospel Oak. Their older persons' support includes chair-based exercise, art, drama, coffee mornings, bingo and use of a dedicated gym. The Association employ dedicated support workers. The young people's offer includes sports clubs hosted out of The Dome. They have also been tackling food poverty through a local food bank. Two commercial nurseries – Caversham and Holly Lodge help fund their core work.

[Highgate New Town Community Centre/ Highgate New Town Community Partners, Bertram Street](#) – the centre has been completely redeveloped as part of an LB Camden Community Investment Programme scheme. The new facilities provide an indoor sports pitch, arts and crafts rooms, a cookery school, residents lounge and restaurant area and a community laundry.

[Kentish Town Community Centre, Busby Place](#) – there are four main projects: an Under 5s 'stay and play' in conjunction with Highgate New Town Community Partners, Community Coffee Mornings, over 60s club offering craft, film and exercise and a food bank.

[Holborn Community Association \(HCA\)](#) aim to bring people together and improve their health and wellbeing through arts, care, movement and play. Their support for older people includes day centre care and a befriending scheme linking volunteers with isolated older people. There are two main venues – Holborn House community centre and Millman Street community centre.

[Castlehaven Community Association](#) operate at the heart of Camden Town providing safe, inclusive spaces and activities for people of all ages and abilities. Their 4 acre community campus includes a dance studio, floodlit sports pitches, a community kitchens, gardens and a horticulture hub.

[Abbey Community Centre](#) supports people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds living in Kilburn. Their mission is to deliver inclusive and impactful services and volunteering opportunities to improve health and wellbeing, reduce poverty and promote social integration for vulnerable residents, focussing on elderly people and low income families with children. One example project is 'Tech Buddies' helping residents to get online, get connected and become

confident with technology. The new community centre was delivered as part of the LB Camden Community Investment Programme scheme for the Abbey Estate.

[Sidings Community Centre](#) provide services primarily for the local community in the wider area around West Hampstead and North Kilburn. Their services include early years, play and youth projects, digital learning Centre, adult community education classes, and health & fitness activities. Being located adjacent to Maygrove Peace Park helps to support the health and fitness elements of their service.

[SHAK 'Living and Learning Together'](#) is based on the Alexandra and Ainsworth estate in Kilburn ward and works with young people and adults in the local area to improve wellbeing, inclusion and their life chances. The ARC Youth Club provides a structured programme of activities such as football, music, technology and dance. The facilities include a recording studio. Young people can also access advice and support including on education and employment. The South Hampstead Education and Lifelong Learning centre provides drop-in training, learning activities and supports health and wellbeing.

[The Winch](#) is based in Winchester Road and helps young people to explore their potential. They provide after school clubs and a holiday play scheme and have a dedicated programme for teenagers. They also offer services for young adults enabling them to access projects, sports, be mentored or become a mentor, with facilities including a music studio, making room and IT. They work with the local community through neighbourhood action projects to bring residents together and support their engagement in the development of local services. The Winch operate the Belsize Community Library in Antrim Road and run parents groups providing practical and social support.

[Hopscotch](#) works towards improving the physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing of women and their families. Their women's centre in Hampstead Road provides services for minoritised ethnic women experiencing gender and racial inequities. They also offer domiciliary home care services and employ a workforce fluent in over 20 languages.

[Surma Centre](#) – is a base for the Bengali Workers Association and a focal point for the Bengali community in Camden and venue for a range of social, cultural and religious events. They provide advice and advocacy, employment and training support and assistance with living healthier lifestyles. There are particular programmes for older people, women's development and young people.

[Somali Cultural Centre, Falkland Road](#) – the centre aims to lift up the community through celebrating culture, elevating education and by empowerment through advocacy. They help families to access better healthcare, housing and educational opportunities and becoming financially stable.

[Camden Disability Action](#) are the lead organisation for the LB Camden commissioned Centre for Independent Living services based at the Greenwood Centre in Kentish Town. It is a centre run by disabled people working for disabled people to promote the principles of independent living. The Greenwood Centre is a one stop shop for advice, information and support and is a base for a range of activities. Organisations other than the CDA also operate from the centre ensuring a comprehensive offer, further information about the Greenwood Centre is on the Council's [website](#).

[Voluntary Action Camden](#) is a charity and membership organisation that supports other charities and community groups in Camden. They help new voluntary organisations to get started (as many can struggle to formalise and comply with the associated regulations) and support established organisations to achieve their aims. They facilitate networking and collaboration bringing residents, community groups and organisations together by forging local partnerships and engage on behalf of the sector with strategic organisations such as LB Camden and the NHS. The VAC offers a range of training services and support and collect data and insights from frontline organisations to further the objectives of the VCS.

[Young Camden Foundation](#) was set up to build capacity and networks, and broker investment, in children and young people's services. It is a membership organisation representing community groups working with children, young people and families with the aim of ensuring that children and young people in the Borough have equal access to opportunities. They provide grant funding to support small and micro organisations, projects and enrichment activities.

Volunteering enables people to learn new skills, build confidence and support causes they believe in. Many of the charities and community groups operating in Camden will need volunteer support. [Volunteer Centre Camden](#) provide a brokerage service helping people who are looking to volunteer find a role that interests them.

[TRAs and community rooms](#): there are around 75 TRA halls and community rooms in the Borough. They are predominantly maintained through the Council's Housing Revenue Account. TRA halls are community spaces,



	<p>normally managed by Tenants and Residents Associations that are made available for residents to use for various purposes such as meetings, events and social gatherings. Most of these facilities are in reasonable condition, though some have become disused or used for storage. DMCs (advisory forums of tenants representatives and councillors are able to initiate low level improvements). Major works will be funded through repair or capital works budgets. CIP estate regeneration projects have also delivered new TRA halls, for example at Bacton Low Rise and Bourne Estate.</p> <p><u>Faith facilities</u>: a Religion and Beliefs section in Camden <a href="#">Cindex</a> identifies the principal lead organisations and meeting spaces. A report for Camden's Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee in 2015 identified a total of 38 places of worship owned or used by minority faiths in the borough (i.e. not used by Christians, which formed the largest religious group at the time of both the 2011 and 2021 census, although in the 2021 census, a greater number of residents stated they had 'No religion' and a significant proportion did not answer). Islam and Judaism are the second and third largest faith communities in Camden.</p> <p>The Council facilitates the '<a href="#">Interfaith Network</a>' which brings together residents, faith organisations and community organisations to share knowledge, insights and resources, and to highlight the issues impacting on them. Throughout the year, a range of events, such as coffee mornings, history walks and community iftars are held to build connections between people of faith and celebrate diversity.</p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>During Summer 2025, the Council is undertaking a comprehensive stock condition survey of TRA halls and community rooms which will assist with the identification of priority improvements.</p> <p>Under the Local Plan's policies, new community space is secured as a part of large development schemes (with a benchmark of 200+ homes). Typically, the site owner will be required to both fund and manage the space. New and replacement spaces have also been delivered through the Community Investment Programme – the new Highgate Newtown Community Centre is due to fully open in 2025. New community spaces have also recently been completed through the CIP schemes at Maitland Park and Abbey estates.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>Although some community centres and halls have been fully replaced through Community Investment Programme schemes, many VCS organisations occupy older buildings. This means that in some cases funding is needed to improve their environmental performance as well as periodic maintenance of built elements such as roofs as well as refurbishment of heating, plumbing and electrics. The age of buildings and limited accessibility of certain properties</p>

	<p>are also challenges. There is limited available funding from the Council's general fund for major repairs, while many charities in occupation are unable or not responsible for undertaking work. Where new spaces or the refurbishment of existing facilities are being considered, mixed-use / shared space may be a way of helping to sustain a community facility's viability over time (whereas occupation by a single community use/organisation may mean there are long periods when a facility is not in use). There is also an identified need for space for social enterprises during their incubation period. Shared space can be a good way of supporting such organisations, as they will not be able to manage buildings on their own. The Council's Community Partnerships team report that there is a particular demand for spaces around Somers Town and central areas of Camden where many charities wish to be located. The transformation of 2 Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town and the former Kingsgate Centre could potentially accommodate VCS organisations.</p> <p>The <a href="#">State of the Sector Report 2024</a> identifies the need for an incubator hub accessible in person as well as digitally to provide a range of information, guidance and support services especially for small groups and volunteer led organisations. These groups have also identified challenges around developing their workforce and investing in their digital capabilities. Organisations have identified a need for support in exploring the accessibility and cultural sensitivity of their services, recognising Camden's demographics and varied identities.</p> <p>Given the significant need to upgrade/repair existing community buildings, prioritising only new community spaces may have an adverse impact on existing provision in an area. Therefore, the Community Partnerships team have suggested that new premises may only be appropriate where there is a shortfall in provision and development contributions may be used more effectively in the first instance, towards projects improving existing facilities.</p> <p>Mosques in Camden have greater demand than they can currently accommodate, with many offering multiple services on a Friday and for evening prayers during Ramadan. A key impact of the lack of capacity is on access for women to prayer space as very few Mosques provide spaces for women.</p> <p>The Local Plan's site allocations set out requirements for new community facilities on certain sites.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p><u>Rents and repairs:</u> In 2023, the Council introduced a new VCS lease and rent setting policy for nearly 100 identified VCS premises. This was intended to be a fairer, consistent and more transparent approach to the way properties let to VCS organisations are valued and their rents set, with standardised heads of terms setting out the Council's responsibilities for structural and exterior repairs. Rent levels are agreed through negotiation based upon similar uses (e.g. a community centre) in a similar area with a social value discount applied subject to qualifying criteria and an award process. Charitable organisations are also entitled to business rates reliefs. Community centres are</p>

particularly important in terms of the portfolio of 100 VCS premises as they are typically purpose built and if lost, likely to be difficult to replicate elsewhere.

There is a significant shortfall in the levels of funding needed to support capital projects and investment in the Council's current stock of buildings, with funding allocated up to 2026/27. Given their age, this includes high costs associated with improving their environmental performance and undertaking (sometimes complex) works to improve standards of accessibility.

Tenants and Residents Halls and community rooms in Camden are funded through the Housing Revenue Account.

Grants: The Council's 'VCS Investment Programme 2024-31' provides £4 million per annum in grants to Camden's VCS. This is distributed via funding streams including 'Community Partner Fund': 7 years of unrestricted funding to organisations that are deeply rooted in Camden communities; an 'Advice Fund' 7 years of funding for organisations providing advice to Camden residents; 'We Make Camden Project Fund' which provides grants for 1-3 years for organisations addressing one of the We Make Camden Missions, and 'Infrastructure Support' - one off and long-term funding focussed on leadership and advocacy, partnerships/collaboration, capacity building and volunteering.

There are also small grant programmes that are open for applications at any time including the 'We Make Camden Kit' offering small grants of up to £2,000 for resident led social action and the 'Community Climate Action Grant' providing up to £5,000 for projects that can demonstrate carbon savings and community benefit.

Charitable Trusts: the [Hampstead Wells and Camden Trust](#) operates in the north and west of Camden with the main purpose of alleviating poverty and advancing physical and mental health. They provide grants of around £15,000 to organisations operating in their area and one-off small grants to help individuals and families.

The [Camden 4 Community](#) funding kit is a database of local, regional, national and international funding opportunities developed by Camden Council and VAC. Most organisations have a mix of income streams including individual and business donations, funding bids and in some cases, renting or hiring out of space.

Commissioning: The Council is a major commissioner of services in the Borough of which VCS organisations are a key provider.

Section 106: this is used to secure contributions towards new community spaces in large major schemes. These would usually be provided on site and generally need to be fully fitted to be successfully let out to a community or charitable tenant. Shell and core spaces are considered to be particularly problematic as this is likely to divert funding away from existing budgets and result in their occupation being delayed.

The Heads of Terms will state who has long-term responsibility for managing and maintaining the space. The Council's Community Partnerships team have stated that while the Council may not be able to take on the obligation of a long lease for a premises, it is desirable for the Council to be involved in the nominations of future tenants for premises secured via Section 106. In some instances, this has resulted in better terms for the tenant than the Council would otherwise be able to offer. The Council may also seek to retain nomination rights in perpetuity as this can safeguard its community use and benefits over the longer term.

Local CIL: some tenants of community buildings have applied for this funding to undertake minor alterations and repairs to buildings, fund new equipment or employ staff. Local CIL allocations are based on priorities identified by ward councillors and availability of CIL funds.

# 4 Digital



# Digital

Digital connectivity infrastructure is composed of fixed (broadband) and mobile connections to the internet. Examples are:

- Fixed broadband network infrastructure including ducting, poles, the exchange and fibre (to the cabinet / to the premises known as 'full fibre' – see below)
- Mobile network radio-based infrastructure involving standalone mobile masts and antennae. Macro cells provide area-wide radio coverage for a mobile network while small cells are an overarching term for low powered radio access nodes serving indoor as well as outdoor areas.

The previous Government published its 'UK Digital Strategy' in 2022 which aims to “ensure that everyone, wherever they live or work in the UK, can access the connectivity and services they need for the ever-digitising world.” The Strategy responds to the transformational impacts of digital technologies on how we live, work and interact. It found:

- The digital sector now accounts for around 9% of the national workforce (and has a growth rate of around 3 times the national economy), equivalent to over 1.7 million jobs.
- In 2022, over 67% of premises in the UK had access to gigabit capable broadband (internet connections offering download speeds of at least 1 gigabit per second, significantly faster than traditional broadband and allowing for streaming of high-definition content. This compares to just 8% of premises in 2019.
- People's daily lives are now happening more and more online, with the average home estimated to have 9 internet-connected devices such as smartphones and smart TVs.
- The UK has the third highest number of AI (Artificial Intelligence) companies in the world and is the second most popular destination for AI researchers (after USA).
- Digital infrastructure is an enabler of multiple fields/activities including fintech, quantum computing, analytical technologies supplying the health and care sector and the collaboration and commercialisation of research through networks of business, entrepreneurs, academia, funders and the public sector.
- Many schools and educational institutions are tackling the digital skills gap through investment in and expansion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects.



- There remains the challenge of improving the wider working population's digital skills and improving diversity and representation across digital employers.

Government and industry have been working together to support the roll out of full fibre networks, also known as fibre to the premises, these use fibre optic cables to connect directly to a home or business, offering faster and more reliable internet speeds than traditional copper based broadband (unlike fibre to the cabinet which uses fibre to a street cabinet and then copper to the house). Much of this roll out is being delivered by the private sector on a commercial basis, with public subsidy used to connect homes and businesses where it would otherwise be unviable.

The table below sets out how digital connectivity is being enhanced in Camden and the key organisations involved.

Digital	
Category	Details
<b>Lead</b>	Digital infrastructure operators work within a framework set by Government regulations. The Greater London Authority and Camden Council also have a role in terms of promoting, and enabling, equality of access and the modernisation of digital networks more broadly. They can also help ensure that digital infrastructure is not compromised by new development (for example through the planning process and engagement with operators). The voluntary and community sector has also been supporting residents build their digital skills.
<b>Current Provision</b>	<p>From January 2017, a digital connectivity requirement (Part R) was introduced to Schedule 1 of the Building Regulations 2010. This requires physical infrastructure to support high speed broadband in all new buildings and major renovation projects. 95.9% of premises in Camden are connected with gigabit capable infrastructure while <a href="#">Ofcom data</a> shows that between the mobile network operators there is ubiquitous outdoor coverage for voice calls (though areas such as train stations and high streets can experience poor mobile connectivity at peak times).</p> <p>The <a href="#">adopted London Plan (2021)</a> includes a Digital Connectivity Infrastructure policy (SI 6) which expects developers to provide connections at gigabit speeds (with ducting included unless more affordable alternatives are available). Developments are also expected to meet the likely mobile connectivity demands of their occupants. The policy also states that any new buildings and infrastructure should not worsen existing connections for neighbouring buildings. At a local level, London boroughs are expected to support efforts to roll out full fibre or</p>

equivalent digital infrastructure and work with the Greater London Authority and operators to address issues with connectivity and wider socio-economic factors impacting on households' ability to get online.

[‘We Make Camden’](#) was published in 2022 by LB Camden to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing the borough, identifying six major challenges. One of these is that everyone in Camden should be able to access, and be part of, a digital society. Digital exclusion is described as having multiple impacts including on learning, working and being able to effectively participate in community life in general.

The Council, alongside other London boroughs, has been working with operators to ensure social housing is served by the latest technology. This is being supported by use of wayleave agreements (contractual agreements granting telecommunications companies the right to access and use a landowner's property for installing infrastructure) covering multiple homes/ estates enabling the streamlining of the legal process and quicker connections to be made overcoming one of the most significant barriers to improving coverage. In negotiating these agreements, LB Camden has been seeking social value benefits for residents such as digital inclusion training and employment opportunities, as well as low-cost tariffs for those most in need, and free connections for community buildings.

[The Camden Local Plan](#): as part of the planning application process, the Council does not typically seek planning contributions towards the installation of digital infrastructure. However, the Council will apply London Plan policies (as above). The Draft New Local Plan includes policies expecting infrastructure of all kinds to be provided in a timely way (Policies DS1 Delivering Sustainable Development and A1 Protecting Amenity) and the impacts of development on infrastructure to be mitigated (Policy DM1 Delivery and Monitoring). The Draft New Local Plan's Inclusive Economy chapter identifies the importance of commercial developments having access to high quality connections, and in supporting growth sectors such as the creative industries, the tech sector and research being undertaken at multi-disciplinary centres, particularly those relating to healthcare and the development of treatments.

In 2018, the Council adopted [Camden Planning Guidance – Digital Infrastructure](#). This highlights the importance of open access ducting (to industry standards) for all employment developments to allow premises to be served by full fibre broadband. The guidance stresses the importance of connectivity being considered comprehensively at the pre-planning stage through liaison with network providers to ensure suitable connections are in place on the occupation of premises.

Digital providers in London are also continuing to invest in the reliability of the 4G mobile network. Mobile/wireless connectivity can be particularly important where there are barriers to upgrading wired broadband services. In

	<p>recent years, 5G services have become widely available, with outdoor coverage now generally good, although further investment is needed to overcome issues with capacity and coverage indoors (due to the energy of 5G frequencies dissipating as they penetrate buildings/objects). The GLA report that there are various factors constraining improved mobile coverage in London including high rates of planning refusals, difficulties in securing new sites (as landlords do not see the direct benefits for tenants and do not receive rents for use of their roof space) and the redevelopment of premises (these can reduce the number of rooftop sites when developers serve infrastructure providers with 'Notices to Quit'; replacement sites can themselves take a while to get 'on air' resulting in reduced connectivity in a particular area).</p> <p>The London Connectivity Map shows the estimated coverage of broadband across the capital, with Camden performing strongly against London wide benchmarks. <a href="https://apps.london.gov.uk/connectivity/">https://apps.london.gov.uk/connectivity/</a>. Overall, there is good coverage at gigabit speeds (including Full Fibre to the Premises and Virgin Media/cable services).</p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>The Mayor of London identified 'Digital Access for All' as one of the London Recovery Programme (2020) missions. The objective of the mission is to ensure that "Every Londoner has access to good connectivity, basic digital skills and the device or support they need to be online by 2025". The <a href="#">'Connected London' programme</a> has been identifying gaps in connectivity and working with relevant stakeholders and communities to overcome barriers to service provision at a strategic scale. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with boroughs to formalise wayleave agreements at scale (as set out above). Camden is one of 23 boroughs in London to have engaged.</li> <li>• Digital inclusion services such as 'Get Online London' which has provided access to refurbished devices by public and private organisations, free mobile connectivity and digital skills training.</li> <li>• Advice and support for businesses on how to improve their digital capabilities.</li> <li>• Development of full fibre networks across the public estate including the London Underground, highways and street furniture.</li> </ul> <p>LB Camden's Digital Inclusion and Support offer is set out <a href="#">here</a>. This builds on the pan London offer at a local level. There is also a programme to improve digital infrastructure and services in Camden libraries – see Libraries section of IDP.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>There remain pockets/ 'not spots' of digital connectivity where there can be viability issues in upgrading connections (as of January 2025, around 960 premises in Camden could only access copper based services).</p>

	<p>Viability issues can arise where ducts are congested or there are small clusters of development set at a distance from existing infrastructure.</p> <p>Delivering a 'smarter city' (urban areas using digital technologies, especially data collection and analysis, to improve the quality of life for residents) is likely to be dependent on increasing numbers of masts/roof tops and small cells in the public realm, e.g. attachments to lampposts and 'feeder pillars' to achieve better 5G coverage indoors. However this can be difficult to achieve in practice due to their visual impact and the regulatory environment, for example in relation to heritage assets. This can be a major barrier to increasing coverage.</p> <p>In London, there can also be stresses on networks due to the concentration of people in one area at a particular time, for example peaks associated with the evening economy.</p> <p>Operators are also experiencing issues around the retention of existing digital infrastructure/sites. Where the development/refurbishment of buildings occur, they may be served a 'notice to quit' by the landowner. It is often difficult to maintain the standard of coverage due to a lack of willing site providers in a particular area.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>The roll out of new digital infrastructure in London is primarily being delivered through the private sector (operators and investors). This section has however identified the role of the Greater London Authority and London boroughs in ensuring that everyone can benefit from high quality connections and have the skills needed to benefit from a more digital economy and society. Boroughs can help accelerate the rollout through using their own assets to pull investment into an area, this especially applies in areas of high footfall such as centres and high streets.</p>

# 5 Education





## Education

Locations of Camden's Primary Schools and Secondary Schools in the Borough are mapped on the Council's website:

[Primary Schools](#): there are 37 schools (20 of these are faith schools (CoE, RC), there is 1 academy and 2 free schools)

[Secondary Schools](#): there are ten (including 1 academy)

A large independent/private sector exists in Camden with over 30 schools, it is estimated by the Council that almost a third of Camden's resident population is educated in the independent sector. A significant proportion of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) also attend private schools. At secondary school level, movement across borough boundaries is much more significant, although Camden is a 'net importer' of pupils.

Details of sixth forms and colleges and the options for students after year 11 are set out on the Camden Rise website:

[Camden Rise - Post 16](#) The largest provider in the Borough of sixth form education is Capital City College (formerly operated as Westminster Kingsway) with centres at King's Cross and Regent's Park providing a range of academic and vocational courses for 16-18 year olds and adult learners, with the specialist Alexandra Centre in Swiss Cottage providing specialist facilities for those aged 16-25 who have profound and multiple learning disabilities or autism and associated behavioural difficulties.

The Council has a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 1996 to ensure that the right number of school places is provided, thereby enabling a sustainable and efficient education system with financially stable schools. This includes ensuring there is fair access and that provision is made for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Camden schools are funded on a formula basis with the number of pupils attending driving the amount of funding a school will receive. The financial sustainability of schools across inner London has become a notable issue with falling school rolls resulting from lower birth rates. Unused school places can result in individual schools being unable to offer the full curriculum or range of support services. This trend has been resulting in the closure and merger of schools. Where the closure of Camden managed schools has become necessary, the Council retains long-term flexibility by ensuring that any alternative uses do not compromise the ability to revert to educational use should needs change.



## Planned projects

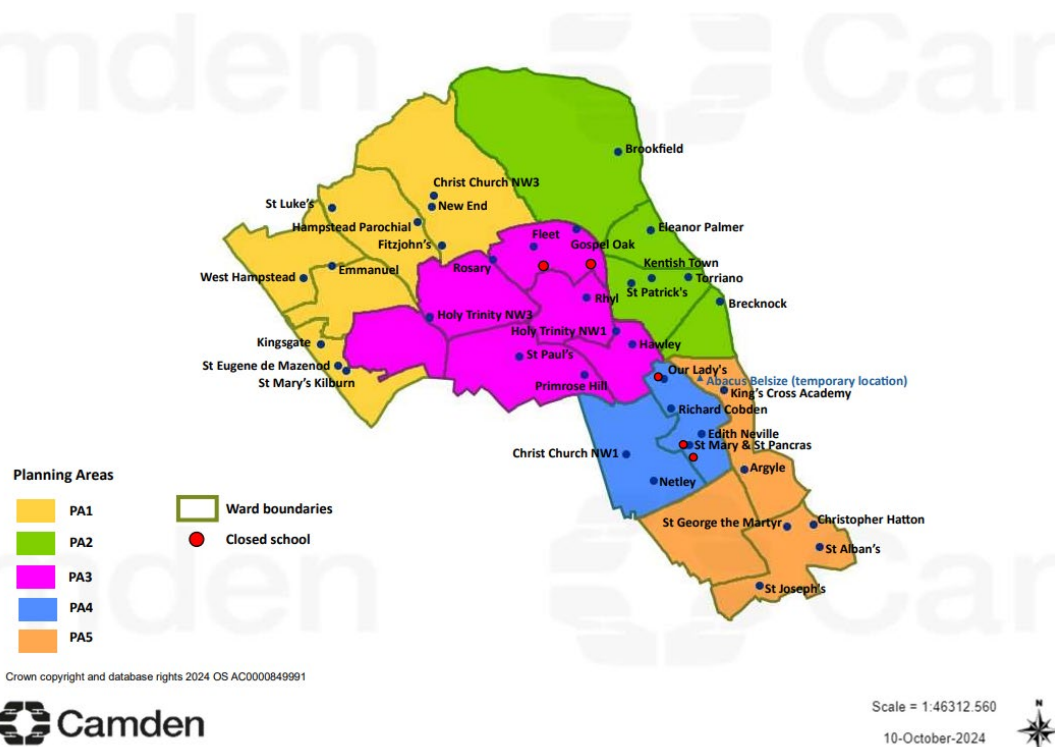
The Council undertakes 'school place planning' to review past and current trends and determine future needs and surpluses. This forecasting uses a number of variables including GLA population projections, birth rates, school roll trends and anticipated future housing development (including their likely 'child yield'). Whilst the free school presumption process is the main route by which local authorities currently establish new schools to meet the need for additional places, in limited circumstances, local authorities are able to put forward proposals to establish new maintained schools. The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill currently before Parliament will remove the presumption that all new schools should be academies. Local authorities will be able to invite proposals for academies and other types of school and decide whether to put their own proposals forward.

On a temporary basis, there are a number of actions the Council can take in response to reducing school rolls. This includes reducing numbers of classes/ class sizes (referred to as 'capping arrangements'), repurposing parts of school buildings, introducing mixing across age groups and/or sharing of space and expertise across different schools. In times of greater demand, the Council may temporarily increase rolls through provision of 'bulge' classes (provision for a year group as it moves through a school that would not normally be provided for subsequent years). This can help to manage spikes in demand in particular areas. It is projected that over the next ten years, birth rates are likely to remain suppressed.

The table below outlines the main Education infrastructure in the Borough and any known planned changes.

Education	
Category	Details
Lead	The Council's Education Service and school place planning function. 'Camden Learning' is a not-for-profit school's company which was established to facilitate school improvement, professional learning and support for all Camden maintained schools. The schools, together with the Council, are members of this company.

<b>Current Provision</b>	<p><a href="#">‘Building Back Stronger’</a> is Camden’s Education Strategy promoting principles of academic excellence and equity. The Strategy sets out 3 main ambitions-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ‘A Fair Start’ which covers conception until Reception</li> <li>- ‘An Excellent School Experience’ – covering primary and secondary education and,</li> <li>- ‘Flourishing Lives’ which covers post-16 education and pathways to further education and careers</li> </ul> <p><u>Primary</u></p> <p>In recent years, the Council has needed to address high and growing surpluses in primary schools.</p> <p>At primary level, the Council plans school places for 5 sub areas shown in the map below.</p>
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A particular concern has been surpluses of school places in the central and southern parts of the borough (areas 4 and 5 on the map above). This has resulted in the closure of St Aloysius Roman Catholic Primary School, the merger of Carlton Primary School and Rhyl Primary School in Gospel Oak and the closure of St Michaels CofE Primary School. The most recent closure involves St Dominic's Catholic Primary School, with all pupils guaranteed continuation of their education at a Camden school.

LB Camden's ['2024 School Place Planning Report'](#) forecasts surplus capacity across a plan period to 2032/33 with neighbouring boroughs also showing high surpluses at reception. A further reduction of 2FE is therefore now being planned for 2025/26 together with capping arrangements at 3 schools.

## Secondary

Despite Camden being a net importer of pupils from other boroughs which is beneficial for secondary schools, forecasts point to a growing surplus in capacity. This has been managed recently through form of entry reductions at Haverstock and La Sainte Union schools with further secondary schools currently contemplating reductions in admissions. A 28% surplus in secondary school places is predicted by the mid 2030s.

## Tackling inequalities

A key focus of Camden schools has been tackling the wide gulf between those who have good housing, IT equipment and connectivity and those who do not. There is also a need to ensure all young people are able to access 'enrichment'/extra-curricular activities such as music, cookery and the arts.

Opportunity Centres: Camden's Education Strategy sets out a priority to develop Opportunity Centres to facilitate learning beyond the school day. There have been trials at two Camden secondary schools – La Sainte Union and Acland Burghley, offering out-of-hours interventions, 1:1 tuition and targeted support. These school-based opportunity centres are also delivering programmes in music, physical activity, creative arts, and food and nutrition. They offer access for secondary age students to learning, targeted at those who most need it, but with wide access alongside to technology for all students. Two further Opportunity Centres are planned to open in 2025, one as part of the AI Campus in Somers Town, see below, and the other based at the Euston Skills Centre.

The 'AI Campus' launched in November 2024 in Somers Town. Established as a collaboration between Google, Camden Learning and Camden Council, Camden sixth form students across all ten secondary schools will be accessing the campus, which offers an enrichment experience for local students interested in pursuing a career or degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and related fields.

Camden Music provides opportunities for young people to experience, enjoy and learn music. They have collaborated with schools to provide tuition and supported out-of-school musical groups and the organisation of concerts.

The Camden Holiday Activity and Food Programme is a DfE funded programme that supports children and young people aged 5-16yrs who are eligible for Free School Meals during Spring, Summer, and Winter school holidays. It provides free access to physical and enriching activities, nutritional education, and a healthy hot meal during the day. The Council works in partnership with the Young Camden Foundation to deliver the programme, with support from

Camden leisure centres. The Council has provided top-up funding to expand access to the programme, supporting additional SEND places.

### Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

LB Camden aims to ensure that children and young people with SEND attend education settings that match their needs and preferences. In many cases, this will involve attending mainstream schools and where this is not the right option, specialist facilities and additional support are provided.

There are over 4,000 pupils with SEN (Special Educational Needs) support in Camden schools, children receiving Educational and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) or Exceptional Needs Grants (ENGs):- children and young people with EHCPs/ENGs attract additional funding per child/ young person. An EHCP is for children and young adults up to 25 years of age who require extra help and support, the EHC Plan identifies an individual's educational, health and social needs and the additional support required to meet those needs. An ENG is LB Camden top-up funding for borough residents and is able to allocated faster than ECHPs.

In Camden schools, 14% of children overall receive SEN support and 5% have an EHCP. As of January 2025, there were 1,609 EHCPs for children and young people who reside in the borough, the number of those receiving an ENG was 288.

The [Camden Local Area SEND Strategy 2022-27](#) involves key partners working towards 3 main ambitions:

- 'Making life easier for children with SEND': this includes provision of a duty line, drop-in surgeries and a variety of targeted support and outreach. SEND funding is also used for the school holidays activities programme and specialist SEND sports sessions. The Council has recently refreshed its [local SEND offer](#).
- 'Supporting children and young people to thrive in education, health and wellbeing': LB Camden has allocated £2.5million of capital funding to make adaptations to school buildings to ensure they are more inclusive, for example through the provision of sensory rooms. Funding has also been allocated for additional occupational therapists and speech and language therapists in schools, and to increase the borough's diagnostic capacity (to enable autism and ADHD to be confirmed earlier, with this funding provided by the NCL Integrated Care Board).
- 'Enabling young adults to build a good life locally': initiatives include supported internships as a stepping stone to permanent employment and the provision of the Disability Jobs Hub offering employment support for

disabled adults and advice for employers. Camden Learning have also published a [post 16 prospectus](#) setting out educational routes and pathways for young people.

Mainstream schools deliver the majority of additional support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. A small number of children may need more support than schools can provide, even with an ENG or EHC Plan. Where this applies, it may be appropriate to fund 'Additionally Resourced Provision' (ARP) in a mainstream school: this provides an enhanced level of support (they used to be known in Camden as Resource Bases). 5 Primary Schools and 3 Secondary Schools in Camden have ARPs. Here, children and young people will be in their classes alongside their peers for as much time as they can manage. They will receive a more individualised curriculum and work in small groups, supported by one or more adults, for much of their week. Over time, they are supported to spend an increasing amount of time with their same-age peers and less time in small groups.

A very small number of children and young people will be unable to progress in mainstream schools, even with an enhanced level of support. They might go to a specialist school or college. There are 3 maintained special schools in Camden's state system: Frank Barnes (for children who are deaf); Harmood School (for children with social, emotional and mental health needs) and Swiss Cottage (for children with severe and profound learning difficulties).

The 'Rebuilding Bridges' project supports children and young people aged 6-25 with social, emotional and mental health needs, autism and learning difficulties through 1:1 mentoring, small group support and therapeutic interventions, helping those out of education or at risk of school placement breakdown. It is co-ordinated by LB Camden with funding from the Department for Education.

The Independent Living Hub at the Greenwood Community Centre also supports young people to prepare for independent living as they move into adulthood. Delivered by the charity Wac Arts, 14-25 year olds are able to develop essential life skills and gain greater confidence.

#### Post 16 / adult learning

In addition to the core educational offer at school sixth forms and FE colleges, the [Camden Summer University](#) – supports young people aged 13-19 develop their existing skills and interests and develop new ones, with the most vulnerable young people given priority. In Summer 2024, 69 courses were available.



	<p><u>Camden's Adult and Community Learning</u> service aims to "Encourage and support adults to make their first steps back into learning and become more active economically in their families and communities, and maintain better health." It is funded primarily by the Greater London Authority. Most learners are women of an economically active age and residents who are non-White British. More details about Camden Adult Community Learning can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><u>Young people with SEND</u> have a number of pathways after they <a href="#">complete their secondary school education</a>. This includes further education colleges and The Alexandra Centre.</p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>As identified, there have been surpluses in recent years across primary and secondary schools in Camden requiring interventions such as capping arrangements and school closures.</p> <p>Housing developments are factored into school place projections, including details of Local Plan site allocations and commitments (planning permissions). This allows for arrangements to be put in place to address any potential pressures being placed on schools at a local level. School place planning and the monitoring of housing permissions are undertaken on a continuous basis with annual publication of projections.</p> <p><u>Primary</u></p> <p>In the West of the borough, there is currently 1FE of unused provision at Kingsgate Primary School which could be brought forward if it was required to address needs arising from the permitted O2 development.</p> <p>In the South, there is the ability to adapt the new Edith Neville School at Ossulston Street to 2FE if it is required. There are a number of significant development sites directly above the Euston Road (in Planning Area 4) – however, this area has experienced surpluses over recent years and there has been significant expansion due to the opening of the King's Cross Academy (2FE) and the Abacus free school (1FE) which has been operating from a temporary site at King's Cross.</p> <p>In the East, in 2019/20 LB Islington expanded provision in Tufnell Park Primary School by 1.5FE helping to meet demand in this area. In the Gospel Oak area, Rhyl Primary School was previously capped at 1FE and then expanded to 2FE under the merger with Carlton School. The Carlton School building has been retained in Council ownership and could theoretically support school place needs subject to sufficient forecast demand.</p> <p><u>Secondary</u></p> <p>Declining birth rates are expected to continue to feed through to secondary school admissions. In the unlikely scenario that additional capacity was required, then there is unused capacity of 2FE at Regent High and 1FE at</p>

	<p>Haverstock School that could be brought forward. Site allocation (S14) in the Draft New Local Plan allocates land at Pakenham Street and Wren Street for education and/or employment use. The site was identified in the 2013 Camden Site Allocations as a potential location for a new secondary school. At the time of writing this Local Plan, the most recent pupil place projections for Camden indicate that there is no current need for a secondary school at this location. Pupil place planning is, however, kept under review.</p> <p><u>SEND</u></p> <p>There are continuing challenges around rising numbers of pupils with EHCPs and ENGs, placing pressure on budgets. These matters are being addressed through the Local Area SEND strategy and relevant monitoring and reporting procedures.</p> <p>As mentioned, diagnostic investment has been increased to reduce wait times for assessment for children with SEND through NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board funding. The High Needs Block (a specific portion of the Department for Education's Dedicated Schools Grant that is allocated to local authorities to support children and young people with SEND) has supported funding for therapy services for children with significant levels of need as identified by either EHCP or ENG, providing additional Speech and Language therapists (SALT) /Speech Language and Communications Teachers (SLCN).</p> <p><u>Post 16</u></p> <p>Life Futures Plans: there is an aim for every young person in Camden to have one of these plans, intended to help young people with making their next steps in education, work and training. A Post 16 Strategy Implementation Group has been established to support the development and improvement of post 16 options. There is a desire to develop technical education / the T-Level curriculum.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p><u>Primary and Secondary</u></p> <p>There is currently considered to be sufficient provision of school places to address needs arising over the next ten years, including from housing development. School place planning and monitoring will continue to identify where and when additional capacity is required.</p>

	<p>The Department for Education has however been seeking to secure a permanent site for Abacus Belsize Primary School which has been operating out of temporary classrooms since 2013.</p> <p><u>SEND</u></p> <p>There are growing numbers of children and young people requiring SEND support or with ECHPs, with steeper growth at secondary level. The most common need for those with a ECHP relates to those with a Autism Spectrum Disorder and for children requiring SEN support is speech and language communication needs.</p> <p>The percentage of school pupils with any kind of support for SEN is forecast to increase to 21% by 2027, in both primary and secondary schools. In secondary schools, the number of pupils with any support for SEN is also forecast to grow by around 248 between 2024 and 2027, to 2,091 pupils. In primary school, the number of pupils with any SEN support is forecast to decrease slightly, owing to a decrease in the school roll projections over the period.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p><u>Section 106</u>: funds have been pooled to fund major school projects, e.g. recently at Acland Burghley School</p> <p><u>Local Community Infrastructure Levy</u>: education projects are potentially eligible. A proposal would need to be submitted to the Council that meets the relevant criteria and any award of funding will be subject to available ward balances and prioritisation of projects by ward members. Recently, local CIL has helped to fund support services for vulnerable children and families from disadvantaged communities. Local CIL is also used to fund other types of community facilities that may be used by schools.</p> <p><u>Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy</u>: education projects are potentially eligible. Strategic CIL funds have previously been used to fund improvements works for primary and secondary schools in the borough.</p> <p><u>Community Investment Programme</u>: In Camden, income from the sale of new homes built through the Community Investment Programme has paid for better classroom spaces, external repairs and sustainability improvements, meaning school buildings cost less to run and maintain. Major school transformation projects have included Netley, Parliament Hill, Edith Neville and Kingsgate schools. It has also helped to fund improved science, technology, engineering, arts and maths facilities and the development of the borough's SEND provision.</p> <p><u>School Capital Grants</u>: provided by the Department for Education. They can be used to support backlog maintenance and condition works across maintained schools.</p> <p><u>Other</u>: The revenue costs of a school (staffing, running costs) are financed by Distributed Schools Grant (DSG) which is distributed on a formula basis to local authorities by the Government and is a ring-fenced source of funding. DSG allocations are on a per pupil basis so the funding received by a school will rise and fall in line with increases or</p>

decreases in pupil numbers. The Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block provides funding for the education of pupils subject to EHCPs from age 0-25.

The Schools Capital Board: bringing together different Council services, this has responsibility for reviewing building condition surveys and utilisation analysis. It can then advise on potential capital allocations, education site development and alterations.

# 6 Emergency Services and Community Safety



## Emergency Services and Community Safety

In 2023, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) published a new policing plan '[New Met for London 2023-25](#)' based on the mission of 'More Trust, Less Crime and High Standards'. It states that the types of crime in London are changing, while the demands on the police and complexity of cases are increasing. The plan sets out three areas of reform: (i) 'Community crime fighting': providing more officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in local neighbourhoods, with a particular focus on reducing levels of disparity in achieved outcomes for Black and ethnic minorities, LGBT communities and for women; (ii) 'Culture change': maintaining high standards, learning from others and stopping discrimination and (iii) 'Fixing the foundations': changing the way staff are deployed, improving training and equipment and making greater use of data and technology.

The London Fire Brigade (LFB) has published its 2023-29 strategic plan called '[Your London Fire Brigade](#)'. The LFB have a number of responsibilities including responding to fires, making sure buildings are safe and dealing with major incidents and events such as extreme weather. The Plan identifies multiple challenges impacting on the effective delivery and resilience of services. These include:

- a high (and growing) number of people at greater risk from fire events, for example due to disabilities, their age, a lack of resources or lack of awareness (for example students living away from home for the first time);
- a growing need to respond to incidents related to extreme weather/ climate change such as flooding and drought (the latter impacting on the availability of water for emergency use);
- growth and complexity in the built environment – more buildings and more taller buildings. There can be relatively greater risks experienced by some types of building/property. This includes those with basements due to their vulnerability to flooding;
- greater use of battery charging within/ adjacent to premises, for example e-scooters.

The London Ambulance Service (LAS) is a pan-London NHS Trust with responsibility for delivering emergency and urgent care throughout the capital 365 days of the year. The Trust's Strategy is called "[We are the capital's emergency and urgent care responders](#)" and addresses the five years from 2023-2028. The Trust forms part of the North Central London Integrated Care System (a group of health and care organisations tasked with delivering care to north London Boroughs including Camden).



The Strategy identifies key pressures on the service including increasing overall levels of demand (calls are rising by c.3% per annum); the growth in the elderly and frail population (with falls being the most common reason for a call being made) and people living with long-term conditions; significant growth in demand for 111 services involving urgent/same day care (i.e. non life-threatening emergencies) and growing levels of need in London's most deprived areas. A significant proportion of ambulance attendances involve people over the age of 70 (attendances are six times higher for this age group than people under the age of 70).

The London Ambulance service has moved beyond its traditional role of taking sick people to hospital to delivering a wide range of emergency and urgent care assessments and treatments both face to face and on the phone. The 2023-2028 Strategy sets 3 main missions:

- Delivering outstanding emergency and urgent care whenever and wherever it is needed;
- Being an increasingly inclusive, well-led and highly skilled organisation that people are proud to work for; and
- Using our unique pan-London position to contribute to improving the health of the capital.

The table below identifies the role of the emergency services in Camden and the community safety and protection services provided by Camden Council.

Emergency Services and Community Safety	
Category	Details
Lead	<p>The Camden Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together local partners to improve safety in Camden. It includes the Metropolitan Police Service, London Fire Brigade, the Probation Service and health organisations.</p> <p>The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), often referred to simply as 'The Met' is the police force with responsibility for law enforcement and crime prevention in Greater London. The Central North Borough Command Unit (BCU) has responsibility for overseeing policing in Camden.</p> <p>The London Fire Brigade (LFB) is the fire and rescue service for London. As well as firefighting, the LFB responds to road traffic collisions, floods and other incidents such as those involving hazardous materials or major transport incidents. It also conducts fire safety inspections and education.</p>

	<p>The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust is responsible for operating ambulances and answering and responding to urgent and emergency medical situations in London. Similar to the fire service, LAS have specialist teams responsible for planning for and co-ordinating the response to major incidents and specialist hazard units trained and equipped to work in hazardous and high-risk settings, e.g. at height, in water, in building sites.</p> <p>The Council has various services involved in community safety and protection including environmental health, licensing and planning. The Council's <a href="#">website</a> sets out how individuals can seek help and report issues relating to their safety or wellbeing or negatively impacting on their community.</p>
<b>Current Provision</b>	<p>There are three police stations in the borough at Holborn (Lamb's Conduit Street), Kentish Town Police Station (Holmes Road) and West Hampstead Police Station (Fortune Green Road). The borough also is currently home to the headquarters of the British Transport Police (at Shirley House in Camden Town). Both the police station in Kentish Town and Shirley House are subject to Draft New Local Plan site allocations (C4 and C16 respectively); the Kentish Town allocation requires the continuing provision of police facilities on the site, either alone or as part of a mixed-use development.</p> <p>The MPS website has <a href="#">ward-based information for Camden</a> detailing the nearest police stations, contact points and offices. It is also possible to find the 'top reported crimes' in the ward, view a map showing where there are concentrations of reported crimes and obtain information about local crime fighting priorities. Supporting borough teams, pan-London officers have responsibility for dealing with the most harmful criminals due to the resource intensive nature of this work and specialist expertise needed.</p> <p>Policing in Camden is overseen by a Superintendent and the workforce is flexed at ward level depending on relative policing priority/needs. There are also two town centre teams operating in Camden and an officer resource dedicated to community engagement matters (including licensing), school and youth engagement and supporting the Youth Offending Service. The police also work with Trading Standards to seize and disrupt the trade in counterfeit goods.</p> <p>Under Local Plan policies, the Council requires all developments to incorporate appropriate design, layout and access measures to help reduce opportunities for crime, the fear of crime and to create a more safe and secure environment, and recommends early engagement with Policy Liaison Officers on this issue. Furthermore, 'crime impact assessments' also need to be submitted for major developments, either as part of a scheme's Design and</p>

Access Statement or as a separate standalone document. Where Student Housing Management Plans are required, the applicant is requested to include details of safety and crime prevention. The Council will also consult the MPS on certain smaller developments where the use/design is considered to have a potential impact on crime or anti-social behaviour.

The MPS has a dedicated resource for commenting on planning applications and identifying potential S106 requirements, with a Designing Out Crime Officer providing a link between the MPS and LB Camden's Planning service. Design measures such as window placement, use of convex mirrors and lighting can positively contribute to community safety and security. Controlled access (including the use of 24/7 concierge) and compartmentalisation of different uses in a building may also sometimes be recommended as a means of improving security for their occupants.

'Operation Makesafe' has been running in Camden since 2011 and assists by working with hotels to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation to increase reporting and prevention. Abusers will seek hotels often due to the proximity to large travel hubs (of which Camden has several). Design and operational measures can also help to reduce risk.

There are three fire stations in the Borough at Kentish Town (Highgate Road), Euston (Euston Road) and West Hampstead (West End Lane). The fire station in Kentish Town is subject to a Draft New Local Plan site allocation (C6) which identifies the opportunity to provide a replacement fire station and introduce housing to make more effective use of the site. The LFB has an overarching objective of getting the first fire engine to a premises within 6 minutes.

The LFB's [website](#) provides details of latest incidents reported in Camden and offers a 'Home Fire Safety Checker Tool'. LB Camden has a programme to fit hardwired smoke detectors in all tenanted flats in purpose built blocks, and in all street properties. Leaseholders and tenants who don't have a hardwired detector, can request a free 10-year battery operated smoke alarm and [home fire safety visit](#) from the LFB. Saturday Surgeries are also provided at the three borough fire stations with firefighters available to provide fire safety advice to residents.

The LFB has the primary responsibility for enforcing fire safety regulations within buildings and ensuring that landlords meet their obligations. Following the Grenfell fire, fire safety regulations were amended to improve [safety](#)

standards in high rise buildings. This includes submitting details about a building to LFB, undertaking certain checks and supplying residents/occupiers with fire safety information. Since April 2024, there are additional requirements for owners of buildings that are 18 metres or more or have 7+ floors to provide the Building Safety Regulator with building safety case reports identifying all major fire hazards and structural hazards. These should explain how the building's owners are managing the risks as far as possible. Under Building Regulations, wheelchair accessible homes are expected to comply with additional design requirements to ensure safe evacuation, for example through including an evacuation lift or refuge(s) accompanied by an emergency-call system.

The adopted London Plan 2021 introduced a policy on Fire safety (D12). It expects development proposals to achieve the highest standards of fire safety and ensure that various steps are taken in building and site design to manage risk. All major developments are also expected to provide a fire statement, which is a fire strategy prepared by an independent and suitably qualified assessor.

The Council has statutory duties as a major landlord in the borough to undertake fire, building and electrical safety checks and assessments. This includes fire risk assessments for all purpose-built blocks. The Council also employs a team of fire advisors providing advice regarding fire safety matters for residents living in Camden managed properties.

The main ambulance station in Camden is situated in Cressy Road. There is also a small ambulance station in Bloomsbury (Herbrand Street). In total there are 70 ambulance stations in London. The LAS aims to answer 999 calls inside 10 seconds and be with a patient for a Category 1 emergency (life threatening injuries and illnesses) inside 7 minutes. There is also a target of 90% of patients requiring urgent clinical assessment to get a call back within one hour.

The Council has a multi-disciplinary Community Safety Enforcement Service to improve community safety and reduce environmental crime through engagement, reassurance and enforcement activities. This involves tackling and preventing crime and public nuisance such as drug-related activity and graffiti and can issue Fixed Penalty Notices for offences such as fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering. They also have responsibility for enforcing business waste disposal regulations. They have a role in working with other Council teams to engage with the street population, including people rough sleeping. The Council has a 'Response Security Patrol' which is for Council

	tenants and leaseholders and they investigate anti-social behaviour, harassment, drug users and dealers, residential noise nuisance, rough sleepers and youth disorder.
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>The Community Safety Partnership aims to reduce crime, support victims and help communities to deliver local projects. They have published a Community Safety Partnership Plan setting priorities for the Council when working with partner agencies and the community during 2024-27. These are: drug-related activity; anti-social behaviour (itself often linked to drug use); 'No Place for Hate' (tackling hate crime arising from racism, homophobia and antisemitism); women's safety; serious violence. A range of strategies and interventions have been developed for each priority which are briefly outlined below (the full details are set out in the <a href="#">plan online</a>).</p> <p><u>Drugs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increasing education and awareness of drug-related harms and support services;</li> <li>• providing diversionary pathways for arrested youth;</li> <li>• providing high quality substance misuse treatment and recovery services;</li> <li>• offering flexible appointments, enhanced outreach and improved continuing of care for individuals with substance misuse needs;</li> <li>• increasing crime reporting;</li> <li>• identifying and targeting priority locations through multi-agency intelligence;</li> <li>• taking measures against premises that condone or facilitate drug dealing and use;</li> <li>• strengthening the County Lines Programme (tackling criminal activity in which drug dealers in major cities establish networks for the supply/sale of drugs to users in towns and rural areas, using other people (often the young or otherwise vulnerable) to carry, store and sell drugs); and</li> <li>• offering a recovery support offer including access to education, training, employment, social prescribing and community services.</li> </ul> <p><u>Anti-social behaviour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing young people with positive opportunities to divert from anti-social behaviour;</li> <li>• improving physical infrastructure to design out crime;</li> <li>• collating strong intelligence and targeting disproportionately affected locations;</li> </ul>

- utilising a range of interventions, including enforcement, to reduce harm and impact on communities and individuals; and
- holding of multi-agency risk assessment meetings to manage high risk cases.

#### Hate

- increase reporting of hate crimes;
- promote positive outcomes arising from hate crime investigations;
- training for frontline staff to enable them to confidently support victims;
- supporting community engagement events and cohesion programmes;
- working with schools and community groups to deliver prejudice, hate and extremism training;
- increasing awareness and understanding of harmful narratives (for example online hate); and
- tackling radicalisation.

#### Women's safety

- developing women's safety initiatives such as the 'Safety Hub' (a space offering support and resources to individuals who need assistance during the night, particularly those who are on a night out), 'Safety Bus' (a safe space for people out in Camden Town on a Friday or Saturday night, including women and girls who may not feel safe or have experienced harassment or inappropriate behaviour) and the 'Ask Angela' scheme (a national scheme used by bars and other venues to keep people safe when they are feeling vulnerable on a night out or are in an uncomfortable situation);
- establishing a framework for women's night time safety and prioritising in licensing policy; and
- having regular engagement with women to understand their experiences and concerns.

#### Serious violence

- a multi-agency approach to addressing individuals at risk of violence or exploitation through enforcement, prevention and diversion;
- collaborating with parents/carers and schools;
- removing weapons;
- increasing the understanding of disproportionality in the impacts of violence;



- providing access to specialists and support for at-risk youth and victims of youth violence and exploitation, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults who experience violence and exploitation; and
- increasing community engagement in collaborative violence reduction programmes and preventative measures.

The MPS have developed a precision crime fighting plan for Camden which addresses many of the priorities above. Factors placing significant demand on local police resources (source: Central North Borough Command Unit, October 2024) are robbery and theft linked to the night time economy/ hotspots; violence and injury also related to the night time economy and football match days and anti-social behaviour and drugs with Camden Town remaining a focal point.

Local policing strategies and initiatives are also being developed to align with A New Met for London' to enhance strengthen community ties, target dangerous offenders and ensure the fair application of police powers across diverse communities (while developing greater inclusion in its own workforce).

Policing in Camden is designed to address both immediate risks as well as long-term issues, focusing on public protection, protecting vulnerable communities and applying a trauma-informed approach (for example by identifying the signs and symptoms of trauma in individuals and recognising trauma can be influenced by cultural, historical and gender-specific factors, with training for staff provided). Local measures include:

- using neighbourhood policing to increase visibility, problem solving and community engagement;
- targeting high crime areas using initiatives such as 'Clear, Hold and Build' – a multi-agency approach used to tackle serious and organised crime by targeting and disrupting criminal groups, stabilising areas and building resilience;
- ensuring the involvement of communities and partners in developing and shaping local policing, including utilising volunteers such as Special Constables to improve community engagement and increase resource;
- delivering the Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan for the Borough Command Unit, including initiatives such as 'Project Vigilant' (a proactive approach to preventing sexual violence in the night time economy by targeting the behaviours of potential perpetrators before they escalate to committing an offence);
- increasing staff resource in the Public Protection Unit which focus on domestic abuse and serious sexual offences;
- increasing numbers of detective sergeants to ensure high quality and proportionate investigations;

- working with the Council and schools on the deployment of Safer Schools Officers who work to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime, play a role in the safeguarding of young people and support schools with matters such as anti-bullying and drug education; and
- expand the safeguarding of vulnerable individuals to prevent issues such as cuckooing (controlling someone's home for criminal purposes).

The London Fire Brigade has statutory elements of its service focussed on 'Prevention', 'Protection' and 'Response'. 'Prevention' refers to the Fire Brigade's role in education and awareness raising to ensure that premises are safe in the first place, for example home safety visits and campaigns. 'Protection' relates to the availability and inspection of proposed new buildings to ensure they are safe to be occupied and if there is a fire, safe for firefighters. 'Response' refers to their role in dealing with incidents such as fire and road traffic collisions, with an 'all hazard' approach to ensure contingency for specialist incidents.

The 'Your London Fire Brigade Plan' states that for the plan's period, the total number of fire stations in London will be maintained. To ensure service capacity and resilience, it identifies key priorities including maintaining sufficient appliances for tackling fires in high rise buildings; rescue boats and pumping equipment for floods and access to specialist forms of equipment such as evacuation hoods. The plan explains how services will be targeted towards both populations/individuals as well as buildings deemed to be at highest risk, for example residential care facilities and high rise residential/multi-use buildings.

Similar to the MPS, London Fire Brigade are developing more local ways of working with risk management plans being developed at borough level through partnership working.

To cater for rising demand, London Ambulance Service are following a 'right resource to the right patient' approach to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions. For non-life threatening situations, this involves greater provision of advice/self-help via the telephone (with expanded clinical assessment teams at control centres including doctors, nurses, pharmacist, mental health experts, midwives as well as paramedics). The LAS is also increasing the proportion of highly-skilled/'advanced' paramedics able to provide treatments 'on scene'. LAS are also building links with partners to improve awareness, and uptake of, alternative care providers and pathways enabling patients to be directed to these services where it is appropriate and in a timely way, for example community pharmacies. Bespoke teams and use of car-based responders is being used to support people dealing with acute mental health issues and

to assist non-injured elderly fallers. The LAS is also involved in prevention work and campaigns e.g. life saver training.

#### Draft New Local Plan

As a part of 'Achieving Design Excellence' (Policy D1 in the Draft New Local Plan), developments should be designed to minimise crime and anti-social behaviour and public spaces should be welcoming, attractive, safe and useful. Developers are also expected to explain and justify how any major scheme will achieve good design through the submission of Design and Access Statements.

Under 'Safety and Security' (Policy A2) developments are required to incorporate design, layout and access measures contributing to community safety and security, giving consideration to designing out crime and anti-social behaviour at an early stage in the planning process. Applicants for major schemes are expected to prepare a crime impact assessment as part of a Design & Access Statement or as a standalone document to show how potential impacts of a development on crime and anti-social behaviour have been addressed. This policy identifies measures commensurate with good design, which should be included where appropriate, and that developments should mitigate suicide risks in the built environment/design. It expects developments to be resilient to terrorism and natural hazards (proportionate to the threat and size/nature of the proposed scheme).

The Council secures operational management plans for food, drink and licensed entertainment uses. To reduce potentially negative impacts on community safety and security, the Council requires the developer to undertake or fund appropriate site-related works or measures to fund minimise these impacts (such as CCTV and improved lighting).

The Council's licensing functions also play an important role in how premises operate in order to reduce levels of crime, manage alcohol and address other public health concerns.

In July 2025, Camden Council approved a new '[Statement of Licensing Policy](#)' for the period 2025-30. This sets out how the Council will regulate licensable activities. There are 4 statutory licensing policies: (i) The prevention of crime and disorder; (ii) The prevention of public nuisance; (iii) Public Safety and (iv) The protection of children from harm. Each of these objectives is deemed to be of equal importance. The Policy seeks to balance the right of an individual to make a licence application for licensable activities with the rights of individuals or communities to object to an application or seek a review of an existing licence. The Mayor of London has also introduced a [Women's Night](#)

	<p><u>Safety Charter</u>. The Charter expects all staff working in licensed premises to act in a responsible and supportive manner, taking all reports of women's safety seriously. The Council expects all licensed premises operating in the evening and night-time economy to adhere to a range of measures that the Charter supports. This includes nomination of a dedicated Women's Safety Champion who is responsible for promoting women's safety; participation in the 'Ask for Angela' scheme (defined above) and welfare and vulnerability training for their staff; and provide access to simple and confidential reporting mechanisms with any reports documented, investigated and acted on swiftly. The policy also sets out expectations for licensed premises to promote a "safe and responsible drinking environment, addressing concerns around 'spiking' of drinks. Preventative measures include bartender actions (e.g. not leaving drinks unattended), greater patron awareness of the importance of keeping track of their drinks and surveillance in key areas to deter potential offenders.</p>
<p><b>Future Needs</b></p>	<p>The MPS are looking to make improvements to their estate to "improve our buildings to make sure our teams are nearby, visible and easy to access for Londoners." Priorities include boosting neighbourhood policing teams, the creation of hubs for the processing of digital evidence, better evidence and property storage facilities and additional training facilities. A new estates strategy is being developed by the Met which will set out more detail on what might be required. It is assumed that existing police stations in the Borough will continue to be required.</p> <p>The MPS's Designing Out Crime Officer comments that the Building Regulations Approved Document Q does not go far enough in terms of security to mitigate the potential crime risk faced by inner London boroughs and the document only relates to residential premises. The MPS therefore recommends that applicants seek a Secured By Design Silver or Gold award (a Bronze award is suitable for refurbishments or existing buildings in conservation areas).</p> <p>As of the MPS's work to prevent violence against women and girls (discussed above), the training of staff in licensed premises has an important role in increasing awareness and enhancing safety. The MPS suggest this should happen on at least an annual basis and form part of the induction process for new staff members.</p> <p>The MPS is looking to extend 'Operation Makesafe' to other forms of accommodation (complementing the approach for hotels – see 'Current Provision' above) and commercial activities including the taxi/private hire industry.</p> <p>The London Fire Brigade plan identifies key priorities for infrastructure (some are highlighted above) which are likely to remain a focus for new investment over the plan's period.</p>

	<p>The LAS Strategy does not identify any specific changes involving their estate in Camden, but it notes more broadly the need to ensure that ambulance stations remain in the best location and at an appropriate scale. The service aims to open at least one rebuilt station each year up to 2028. It also identifies the long-term need to update the vehicle fleet to ensure net zero requirements are met, with 50% of this fleet to be fully electric or hybrid by 2028. It is also anticipated that radio and telephony systems will be modernised.</p> <p>From a headcount perspective, LAS have set targets to grow total numbers of frontline ambulance staff, call handlers and clinical assessors. There are also plans to significantly increase training and support for staff working across the organisation.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>The Metropolitan Police Service is primarily funded by the Home Office and the Mayor of London's Office for Policing and Crime (MPOAC). The Home Office provides a majority share of funding, with the Mayor supplementing this through a combination of contributions from City Hall, council tax and business rates. However, there is a significant funding shortfall and additional sources of funding are needed to accommodate the requirements arising from new development. The MPS has developed a model for establishing a potential financial contribution towards the policing resource generated by new development and will likely seek contributions using this model for development proposals that are referable to the Mayor of London. Areas for use of contributions that have been identified include mobile IT, vehicles, the Police National Database and police accommodation. The MPS encourages applicants proposing referable schemes to engage with them at pre-application stage to understand the amount of funding that is likely to be sought and any specific policing infrastructure that might be sought within the scheme itself.</p> <p>The London Fire Brigade is primarily funded by the Mayor of London through a mix of council tax, business rates and government grants. The latter is provided for capital projects (like new equipment) or for specific areas of expenditure, such as flood response.</p> <p>The London Ambulance Service's main source of income for Accident &amp; Emergency services is through NHS Service Level Agreements made on an annual basis. A capital allocation is also received each year from the Department of Health and Social Care. Additional income is generated from support provided at public events, community resuscitation training and other health related activities. The Trust has a charitable fund, which earns income from investments.</p>

The Council secures Section 106 obligations through the planning process to provide community safety measures necessary to ensure developments are operated and managed in a safe way. This may include contributions towards initiatives and projects in the local area. The design of developments is also critical to ensure that developments are successful over the long-term, for example by taking steps to design-out crime and ensure buildings and outdoor spaces are safe in terms of risks such as fires, floods and evacuation/rescue.

The local proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy may also be used to support neighbourhood/ local community safety projects, subject to the availability of funds and ward level priorities.

The Late Night Levy was introduced in Camden in 2016. Any premises offering alcohol sales between midnight and 6am are required to pay it. The money generated from these funds is used to contribute to the costs of policing the late night economy.



# 7

## Employment and Training



## Employment and Training

We Make Camden sets out that “we want everyone in Camden to be able to access and benefit from all of the opportunities provided by our thriving local economy, and businesses, including global enterprises that have chosen to put down roots here” and notes the role of the local economy in “delivering equality and justice for Camden, creating good jobs, and helping to tackle the climate emergency.”

In 2022, Camden had the third highest number of jobs of any local authority area in London, at 402,000, demonstrating the borough’s importance to London’s economy. The largest employment types were ‘Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities’, ‘Information and Communication’ and ‘Human Health and Social Work Activities’. The borough has concentrations of high performing growth sectors, a significant research base and is home to a variety of national institutions. Strengths include the number of businesses engaged in technology and science; clusters of medical and educational uses; legal services; consultancy; and a wide range of creative industries.

The planning system has long had a role in shaping local economic outcomes through promoting areas and sites for employment development, protecting businesses from proposals involving changes to other land uses, and by using Section 106 to secure local employment and training initiatives. Our planning policies also seek to influence the type and sizes of new employment floorspace being provided to ensure it addresses local needs. On large schemes, the Council has been able to secure affordable workspace which can help address a lack of space suitable for start-ups, small and medium enterprises and some growth sectors. Camden continues to be a highly desirable location in which to invest, with national and global companies attracted by the skills and talents of Camden residents, the clustering of businesses in a variety of economic sectors and the presence of nationally important health and educational institutions. The Council has welcomed and through the planning system helped to enable growth and investment in the borough. However, commensurate with their size and scale, planning proposals are expected to deliver beneficial impact for Camden residents and communities and integrate positively into the local area.

## Planned projects

The Local Plan identifies a number of key areas/sites which form part of place-based regeneration projects being worked up through collaboration with residents, local organisations and where relevant, the Greater London Authority and Transport for London. Common to each of these is the need to unlock benefits for local communities. The Council has adopted planning frameworks for each of these areas which are supplementary planning guidance. These are intended to inform planning applications being developed by the relevant landowners.

Regis Road Regeneration – this area offers significant potential to become a vibrant and sustainable mixed-use neighbourhood providing significant intensification of industrial and employment uses as well as new homes and social infrastructure. An allocation for Regis Road and Holmes Road depot is set out in the Draft New Local Plan. The Council has recently entered into a land-sale agreement with developer investors Yoo Capital for the sites currently occupied by Holmes Road Depot and the Regis Road Recycling Centre with the aim of catalysing the wider regeneration of this area. Yoo Capital has been developing a vision for the Camden Film Quarter and expected to seek planning consent during 2025. The London Screen Academy and the National Film and Television School are looking to provide education and training facilities on this site.

Murphy's Site – forms part of the Kentish Town Industry Area, which is considered to be a Locally Significant Industrial Site in terms of the London Plan. The site is predominantly occupied by the Murphy Group and is expected to deliver significant employment space and new housing. Policy of C3 of the Draft New Local Plan seeks to intensify industrial provision to increase, or at least maintain industrial, storage and warehousing capacity and provide for other high-density employment uses.

Camley Street – the Council has selected Ballymore and Lateral as joint development partners for the redevelopment of land it owns at 120-136 Camley Street and 3-30 Cedar Way Industrial Estate. The Partnership are looking to deliver at least 2,000sqft of Knowledge Quarter-led commercial space as well as light industrial and affordable workspace to support start-ups and SMEs. Draft New Local Plan policies S5 and S6 relate to these sites and seek to intensify their employment floorspace, whilst securing the co-location of housing.

Knowledge Quarter – this is a thriving innovation district, focussed on King’s Cross and Euston, with research organisations, high-growth companies, knowledge-intensive industries and academic institutions. The Knowledge Quarter facilitates access to other innovators, equipment and knowledge and is home to internationally leading clusters in life and data sciences. In 2023, Camden and Islington Councils published [‘A Knowledge Quarter Unlocked – A Strategy for an Inclusive Innovation District.’](#) The Strategy sets a vision for the future of the area which seeks to balance growth with securing solutions to the social and environmental impacts of development: *“By 2050, we want the Knowledge Quarter to be and be known as the best place in Europe for collaboration, innovation, and research; a place that delivers inclusive opportunities for local residents, regardless of their means, to fulfil their social and economic potential within the KQ area.”* Key ambitions are more diversity of leadership, local recruitment and participation in the STEAM programme (see below). Several major sites are under construction for Knowledge Quarter uses including Tribeca, Belgrove House/MDS, the new Moorfields Eye Hospital/Oriel Centre and Belgrove House/MSD.

The south of the borough forms part of the Central Activities Zone (CAZ) which as a whole, accommodates one third of London’s jobs and around 10% of UK output. The [London Plan](#) seeks to promote its international, national and London-wide roles and its rich mix of strategic functions and local uses, such as housing, social and community infrastructure. Policy SD4 of the London Plan applies to this area and lists the main strategic functions associated with the CAZ including agglomerations of nationally and internationally significant offices and company headquarters, uses connected with science, technology, media, communications and cultural uses and centres of excellence for education, research and medical activities.

Euston Area Plan/ High Speed 2 – the redevelopment of Euston station in connection with the High Speed 2 project has the potential to provide a significant quantum of additional employment space and harness its location within the Knowledge Quarter. Employment floorspace targets will be set through the Euston Area Plan and as part of its evidence base, a separate infrastructure delivery plan for the Euston area will be prepared in due course.

Local Plan site allocations – the Draft New Local Plan includes a number of sites which are expected to deliver employment and training benefits (beyond the major sites mentioned above).

[Affordable Workspace Strategy](#) – this borough wide Strategy was adopted by the Council in 2023. The Strategy sets out a series of actions focussed on supporting residents, start-up businesses and not-for-profits accessing the right workspace on affordable and fair terms. The planning system will continue to be the main mechanism for securing new affordable workspace (including payment in lieu) where it is not appropriate or viable to deliver on-site. Policy IE4 (Affordable Workspace) of the Draft New Local Plan updates the Council's approach. Alongside planning, the Council is bringing forward affordable workspace for social enterprises and the Voluntary and Community Sector through the 'Neighbourhood and Vacant Spaces' programme. The first 'neighbourhood hubs' are being developed at 2 Prince of Wales Road in Kentish Town and 107 Kingsgate Road, Kilburn. A pilot project is also underway at the Hilgrove Estate to re-use vacant/underused spaces such as car parks and garages. The Council has also commissioned a research piece to understand the demand profile and specific affordable property needs of life science businesses.

[The Evening and Night Time Economy Strategy](#) – seeks to make Camden a welcoming, safe and inclusive place to spend time in the evening. In particular, it is looking to grow the range of family-friendly and inclusive non-alcohol led experiences in the early evening and implement a new Licensing Charter to set standards of best practice and incentivise good management of venues and attractions operating at night.

The table below sets out Employment and Training initiatives supported by LB Camden and the role of planning in securing benefits for our residents.

Employment and Training	
Category	Details
Lead	<p>The Council's Inclusive Economy team supports Camden's Development Management Officers in the negotiation of employment and training benefits. They are also involved in the review of marketing evidence (where the applicant is proposing the loss of existing employment floorspace) and advising on the development of new employment floorspace, including affordable workspace.</p> <p>There are a number of business associations operating at different geographical scales and across different sectors bringing together local businesses and offering networking and collaboration opportunities. There are also 5 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) which undertake area wide improvements and help promote their areas, they</p>

	are funded through a mandatory levy on the businesses in the area. The BIDs are <a href="#">Camden Town Unlimited</a> , <a href="#">The Fitzrovia Partnership</a> , <a href="#">Central District Alliance</a> , <a href="#">Hatton Garden</a> and <a href="#">Euston Town</a> .
<b>Current Provision</b>	<p>The Council is undertaking a number of activities to develop an Inclusive Economy where Camden residents have equal access to jobs, fair wages and the opportunity to grow.</p> <p>The Camden Local Plan encourages the supply and protection of employment space across the borough and aims to protect space for small businesses and workspaces. It also seeks to ensure that sufficient workspace is provided for Camden residents and support the local economy. This means ensuring access to a variety of different sizes and types of workspace, including accommodation at affordable rents.</p> <p>The Council negotiates employment and training packages for all commercial land uses and where the proposal is expected to provide at least 1,000sqm of floorspace or 50 jobs (unless the applicant demonstrates that the total build cost is less than £3 million). The Council will routinely secure construction opportunities for residents, normally via the Euston Skills Centre as set out below. The Council will also seek to negotiate the provision of apprenticeships and training placements in the new development once it is occupied. Camden Planning Guidance – Employment Sites and Business Premises sets out recruitment targets proportionate to the size of scheme.</p> <p>Developers are required to submit Employment and Training Strategies as part of their planning application. The Council may also secure commitments to support a wider range of initiatives aimed at creating a more inclusive economy, and helping to provide people with the skills and opportunities to find meaningful work. Details of these are listed below. The Council also seek assurances around the recruitment of local residents and procurement with local businesses to be provided with opportunities to contribute where possible, including opportunities for small and medium enterprises to tender for construction contracts. Where the loss of employment floorspace has been justified by the applicant, the Council will also seek a financial payment that can be re-invested to mitigate the impact by contributing to employment and training initiatives elsewhere.</p> <p>The Council has for a number of years been seeking affordable SME workspace from large scale employment opportunities. There is also an established approach to development in Hatton Garden where jewellery workshop space is the priority use. Here schemes involving an increase of 200sqm of any use must provide 50% of the uplift</p>



(additional floorspace) as affordable jewellery sector workspace. The Council seeks provision of cellular spaces of a range of sizes, including those no larger than 50sqm.

### Employment Support

The Council provides a range of support, advice and signposting for residents looking for work, starting a business or growing an existing business. This is delivered under 'Good Work Camden', the Council's flagship employment and business support programme. This provides:

The Job Hub - a free service offering one-to-one employment support service in person (from physical hubs in Gospel Oak, Kilburn and Regent's Park) or via the phone or online. The service helps residents access work experience and provides assistance with preparing CVs and for interviews, with specialist support given for people with disabilities or a mental health condition. There is also an annual Jobs and Skills event providing an opportunity to network with local employers who are hiring for current job openings and gain valuable insights.

Apprenticeship opportunities can be accessed by registering via the Good Work Camden website. An apprenticeship combines practical training in a paid job with at least 20% study leave, leading to a nationally recognised qualification. They are available for people of all ages, including with a university degree.

Euston Skills Centre (ESC) - a partnership between Camden Council and United College Group for people looking to start a career in construction or further their career in the industry. It provides pre-job and on-the-job training leading to nationally recognised qualifications and ongoing support to ensure long-term employment. The ESC operates from a purpose-built facility at the former Maria Fidelis School site and was funded in part by HS2 assurances. It now also provides 'green skills bays' enabling practical training for residents in green technologies such as heat pumps and solar PV.

The Disability Job Hub has been providing bespoke support for disabled residents including training and skills programmes. Since it launched in 2023, residents have been supported into paid employment, work experience placements and education and training.

Education and employment opportunities for refugees – this has recently involved supporting Afghan and Ukrainian residents onto courses and into employment. A multi-disciplinary approach is being used across Council services to assist asylum seekers from multiple countries.

LB Camden offers a '[Young Talent Guarantee](#)' whereby every 16 to 24 year old in Camden is guaranteed support to access employment opportunities, including work experience, careers guidance and apprenticeships. A 'one-stop shop' showing the different routes for young people is set out on [Camden Rise](#).

[LIFT: Learning Inclusive Futures through Technology](#) is a 3 year programme in Camden, Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets supporting residents from under-represented communities to engage with knowledge economy sectors: Health and Life Sciences, Tech and AI and Digital Creative industries. The LIFT programme also helps entrepreneurs from under-represented backgrounds access subsidised desk space and start-ups secure investment in their ventures.

With funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Council have commissioned [Rebel Business School](#) to deliver a 12-month start-up / scale-up business support programme, combining in-person sessions across Camden and virtual workshops, covering start-up essentials, growth strategies, and sustainable practices.

#### Employment Networks

There are many business networks operating in Camden for building partnerships and accessing support. The Council has developed the '[Inclusive Business Network](#)' as a forum which businesses from any sector or industry are free to join. It provides recruitment support and a variety of resources to help organisations become more inclusive. Training is provided on topics such as flexible working, equality, diversity and disability inclusion. Camden's HR function has provided drop-in surgeries and advice on subjects such as making reasonable adjustments in the workplace. Businesses are encouraged to obtain accreditation as a 'Good Work Standard' employer.

[The Camden Climate Alliance](#) brings together businesses, the community, schools and the Council to tackle the climate crisis in Camden. The Alliance is working on projects and programmes to reduce carbon emissions, invest in young people, improve air quality and green local spaces. Through obtaining grant funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Alliance has been able to provide businesses with energy efficiency support and training sessions on best practice energy management.

The [Camden STEAM Programme](#) brings together Camden schools with employers in the science, technology and creative sectors. This helps raise awareness amongst young people of STEAM industries and equip them with the skills and opportunities to embark on successful careers. Over 60 STEAM employers have pledged support for this initiative, with over 200 STEAM ambassadors (employee volunteers).

	<p><u>Workspace for small businesses</u></p> <p>There are a range of providers with potential space opportunities shown on the <a href="#">London Workspaces Map</a>. Residents, small businesses and social enterprises can register their interest in affordable/discounted space, including meanwhile space, via the Council's website. Specialist providers include '<a href="#">Camden Collective</a>' providing hot-desking and subsidised office space for creative start-ups in Camden Town and the <a href="#">London Bioscience Innovation Centre</a> at King's Cross which provides fully equipped lab spaces for early-stage life science entrepreneurs.</p> <p><u>Growing businesses</u></p> <p>A variety of organisations are active in helping businesses to grow. Camden has a partnership with <a href="#">Grow London Local</a> which is dedicated to helping small business owners and provides free support and advice including drop-in surgeries and events. <a href="#">Grow London Global</a> is a 12 month programme supported by the Mayor of London to support growth businesses in sectors such as fintech, the creative industries, life sciences and sustainability.</p> <p>LB Camden also provides targeted scale-up support for eligible small and micro businesses. This includes '<a href="#">Inclusive Growth London</a>' which provides fully funded support for micro and small female-owned and/or disabled-owned businesses in Camden through a partnership involving Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Westminster Councils.</p> <p><a href="#">The Future Camden Fund</a> is LB Camden's small business grant and loan offer for businesses delivering social impact. Businesses that typically struggle to access funding are encouraged to apply. 100% of grantees self-identify with underrepresented groups in business, relating to disability, cultural background, sexuality and gender. They also benefit from wraparound business support and advice.</p>
<p><b>Known Planned Provision</b></p>	<p>The immediate focus is on delivering the aims and objectives of the main strategies listed above.</p> <p>It is expected that large scale commercial and mixed-use schemes will continue to be focussed on the CAZ. There is a particular demand for accommodation in the Knowledge Quarter area, which encompasses areas which traditionally would have been regarded as being on the fringes of Central London, i.e. to the north of Euston Road. Several large knowledge economy schemes are already at an advanced stage of construction here.</p> <p>The main office markets around 'Mid Town'/ Holborn area and Fitzrovia continue to attract large corporate occupiers, and there is very strong demand for quality 'best-in-class' spaces, as has been well documented, providing enhanced amenity for employees and typically will offer the highest sustainability standards. Camden Town, the</p>

borough's largest designated town centre, is also expected to retain a significant employment role and there continues to be demand for a range of commercial uses here.

The planned development of the Euston station/High Speed Two site should also result in a significant cluster of new employment premises, including knowledge economy uses, although this a long-term project and much of the development is not expected to be delivered until after the end of the Plan period. Furthermore, as highlighted in the introduction, there are several areas in Camden where the Council is supporting comprehensive redevelopment and where new employment spaces will be supported. These key sites are identified as Local Plan site allocations.

Reflecting the wider pressures on the retail and leisure sector, there has been a marked decline in planning permissions for major retail and leisure proposals. However, the majority of Camden's designated centres have been found to still be performing well in our recent Retail Survey (2024) and it is expected that where there is future demand, this can be absorbed within existing centre boundaries. Additional retail is also expected to come forward in association with the Euston station/HS2 proposals (with requirements set through the Euston Area Plan). The Local Plan has designated parts of King's Cross Central as a 'CAZ Retail Cluster' and identifies two new neighbourhood centres' – while this space already exists, this will help support the long-term protection of their retail function and management of land uses. There is currently a high demand for new hotels in London, reflecting the strong visitor economy, and the Council has recently granted planning permission for new hotels at a number of sites. Policy IE5 (Hotels and Visitor Accommodation) of the Draft New Local Plan sets out the circumstances in which hotel development will be supported.

The Local Plan recognises there is continuing demand for smaller and flexible employment spaces, and the important role played by the large creative enterprises sector. The [Camden Economic Needs Assessment](#) (part of the Local Plan's evidence base) identifies locations in Camden where there are concentrations of these uses, often occupying former industrial buildings and warehouses. The Draft New Local Plan seeks to safeguard these sites where they continue to have an economic use. The Council has also made Article 4 Directions which apply where there are concentrations of these premises. This removes permitted development rights, in recognition of the potential of their continuing economic role.

Policy IE4 (Affordable Workspace) of the Draft New Local Plan sets a working benchmark of 20% of the net additional floorspace to be provided at 50% of the market rent for a minimum period of 15 years. The policy recognises that different types of workspace are needed depending on location and that the costs of delivery will vary. It introduces a route for 'payments-in-lieu' of provision, which will generally be considered where the direct delivery of floorspace is not feasible or viable or a payment would deliver a better employment outcome. Under the

	<p>existing Local Plan (2017), any development proposing more than 1,000sqm of net additional commercial floorspace is expected to provide affordable workspace, to be secured through a Section 106 obligation if planning permission is granted. Since 2011, the Council has negotiated and secured affordable workspace totalling over 17,400sqm (across 26 schemes).</p> <p>The Council has a longstanding approach of seeking accommodation suitable for use as jewellery workshops and related uses through development schemes in the Hatton Garden area. This has primarily been for small and micro workshop spaces. The draft Local Plan Policy S3 Hatton Garden Jewellery Industry Area retains the threshold of 200sqm, above which any development should provide 50% of the floorspace for jewellery related uses. Typically, these are only deliverable at significant discounts to market rents (given the competition for premises from other higher value uses) and the preference is for this space to be secured in perpetuity.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>The Local Plan sets an office floorspace target which recognises the continuing demand and delivery of space, predominantly in Central London. This is a significant reduction from the target in the adopted 2017 Local Plan, recognising that virtually all sites in the King's Cross Central development have now been built out. The Local Plan identifies that around half of the target is made up of developments with planning permission, particularly in the Knowledge Quarter.</p> <p>The Council commissioned a <a href="#">Retail and Leisure Needs Assessment</a> which found that future forecast expenditure (and the continuing growth of online shopping) means that additional retail capacity is not required during the plan period (as set out, Euston is likely to be an exception). Where there are particular demands for space, it is likely this can be met through turnover in the stock of existing space (both for comparison and convenience goods shopping).</p> <p>The Local Plan notes that vacancies of industrial sites in the Borough are close to zero but it is not practical to set a target for additional industrial space in Camden given it is not possible to deliver new sites at scale and competing pressures from other land uses.</p> <p>In 2025, the Mayor of London and London Councils published the <a href="#">London Growth Plan</a>. Its aim is "to create an economy that works for all Londoners, making our city more equal as well as more prosperous". It sets 4 main ambitions:</p> <p>Productivity – raise productivity growth rates to 2% on average per year from 2025-2035;</p>

	<p>Inclusion – raise the real household weekly income (after housing costs) of the lowest earning 20% of Londoners by 20% by 2035.</p> <p>Green growth – accelerate progress towards achieving London’s net zero target for 2030; and</p> <p>A global capital – grow London’s services exports by an average of 6% per year.</p> <p>The Plan states that there will continue to be an emphasis on growing financial, professional and business services, creative industries, the experience economy and education noting the transformation of these sectors through technology and digital products.</p> <p>The Plan also identifies the need to be a “frontier creator of breakthrough technologies and solutions” given London’s strengths in research, life sciences, AI and green technology. Supporting the growth plan is an ‘inclusive talent strategy’ which responds to a shortage of skilled workers, low skills and low economic participation and the constraints these have on growth.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p><u>Section 106 Obligations</u>: Contributions to employment and business support will be primarily secured through section 106 agreements where legally justified rather than through the Community Infrastructure Levy because they do not constitute infrastructure as defined by the CIL regulations. Affordable workspace will also be secured as part of a legal agreement.</p> <p><u>Other</u>: There are a variety of schemes, often time-limited and targeted towards particular employment outcomes, that may support local skills and training and enterprise development. As highlighted, a number of business networks and associations provide a vital role in delivering educational opportunities, knowledge sharing and connection.</p>



# 8 Energy



## Energy

In 2019, Camden declared a climate and ecological emergency. This recognised the threat of climate change and the irreversible damage to our planet it may cause. The Climate Action Plan was developed following an extensive community engagement process, created a framework for action across all aspects of the borough with the aim of achieving a zero carbon Camden by 2030. The Climate Action Plan is reviewed annually, providing progress updates that report on each action within the plan, while highlighting key achievements made in the community.

A Phase 1 Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) has been prepared for the subregion of Central, Inner East, and North London. Local Energy Area Planning is a process to identify the most effective route to decarbonise a local area's energy system, based on the opportunities and constraints in that place. The LAEP covers:

- electricity generation, including solar PV;
- electricity transmission and distribution systems;
- buildings and retrofit;
- heat, including heat networks;
- transport systems; and
- market systems and policy.

The Climate Action Plan states “The electricity and gas used by buildings for power and heating causes 85% of the direct carbon dioxide emissions in Camden. Electricity is increasingly being produced by low carbon technologies such as wind and solar. However, this means that over time the emissions from heating buildings with gas will become the key challenge in the journey to a zero carbon Camden. To help solve this we need to improve the energy efficiency of buildings to reduce heating demand, and replace gas heating systems with low carbon alternatives such as air or ground source heat pumps.”

Evidence commissioned to inform the Local Plan ‘Decarbonising Camden’s existing buildings’ 2024 states that the electrification (moving away from fossil fuels e.g. gas boilers) of existing buildings will play a pivotal role in reducing carbon emissions. This

provides an opportunity for the decarbonisation of buildings: by switching away from fossil fuels (e.g. gas) for heating and hot water to electricity (a process called 'electrification').

The Local Plan will require all new buildings and existing buildings that include the creation of a home or involves 500sqm new or replacement floorspace not to use fossil fuels (that is, not connected to the gas grid, use non-combustion energy systems). The plan also seeks to tackle the causes of climate change in the borough by ensuring that developments use less energy and maximise the generation of renewable energy on-site.

**District heat networks** can be used to provide low carbon heating to existing homes if a suitable centralised low carbon heat source is present. Existing heat networks in Camden are located in Somers Town, Gower Street, Bloomsbury, Gospel Oak, and King's Cross. These networks have grown around existing Combined Heat and Power (CHP). The carbon savings from these systems has declined in recent times as a result of the decarbonisation of the national grid. they are also related to adverse air quality impacts. While it is possible to decarbonise existing CHP systems, this has yet to be carried out in Camden.

**Centralised systems** such as a air source heat pump in flats are a key enabler for the removal of gas boilers. This is challenging as it requires the combined actions of many individual property owners. In the social housing sector this is relatively easy, though leasehold properties may present a challenge, but it is the private sector that requires the largest transition. This is relevant to both communal systems and heat networks. The London Plan requires major development proposals to utilise communal low temperature heating systems following the heating hierarchy set out in London Plan Policy SI3 Energy infrastructure.

For **renewable energy generation** rooftop PV is the most common opportunity across the subregion. London benefits from the freely available London Solar Map, which quantifies the theoretical potential for rooftop PV across the capital. Policies in the Local Plan seek to maximise the opportunity of solar pv in the borough.

The table below sets out the existing energy infrastructure in Camden and identifies current key programmes and projects.

Energy	
Category	Details
Lead	The Council's Sustainability team, Greater London Authority, UK Power Networks.
Current Provision	<p>The electricity distribution network in the subregion is operated by UK Power Networks. The natural gas distribution network in the area is operated by Cadent. The majority of primary substations currently have headroom capacity at both transmission and distribution level. This indicates that these substations may be suitable for the connection of additional loads such as heat pumps or EVs. However, by 2027/28 several primary substations are forecast to have negative demand headroom including some which serve Camden (Hendon Way Primary, Lithos Rd, Kimberley Rd).</p> <p>There are five existing heat networks which have grown around Combined Heat and Power in the borough, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gospel Oak (council owned) - Energy centre at the Royal Free Hospital;</li> <li>• Somers Town Energy (council owned) – Purchase Street;</li> <li>• King's Cross network (private) – King's Cross site;</li> <li>• UCL (private) - UCL Campus, Bloomsbury; and</li> <li>• Bloomsbury (private) - Various university buildings.</li> </ul>
Known Planned Provision	<p>At present there are no known planned physical infrastructure projects. Camden is looking to undertake a Phase 2 Local Area Energy Plan to be completed in 2026. The Phase 2 LAEP would build on the evidence base from Phase 1 to develop a clear, costed, and prioritised plan for how Camden can transition to a low-carbon energy system including buildings, heating, electricity, and transport infrastructure. It will produce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A preferred local energy pathway aligned with Camden's priorities;</li> <li>• A roadmap of deliverable projects with costs and timelines; and</li> <li>• Data and evidence to support funding bids and decision-making.</li> </ul>

<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>Development in the Bloomsbury Campus Area should seek to upgrade the Bloomsbury decentralised energy network. Infrastructure requirements for Camden Town over station development (Site Allocation C17) expects applicants to explore opportunities for decentralised heating and cooling (including the ability of the Underground station to supply development above ground).</p> <p>The Local Area Energy Plan Phase 1 identified the following key projects in relation to heat networks –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tottenham Court Road area to Camden Town: High heat density areas that could benefit from the transmission of waste heat sources from across the borough boundaries</li> <li>• Large opportunity for heat networks with Phase 2 to explore the cross-borough context for heat transmission. Somers Town funding from Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNEZ) for Advanced Zoning Pilot</li> <li>• For out of borough waste heat, Enfield is the most important borough for Camden - given the potential scale of waste heat from Energetik with the North London Waste Authority heat network study identifying this collaboration</li> </ul> <p>The GLA are also exploring cross borough heat transmission networks through technical heat network studies exploring waste heat opportunities. Furthermore, the LAEP Phase 1 recommended that a working group could be created through the new GLA Zero Carbon Accelerator to further define each of the main transmission opportunities. The Zero Carbon Accelerator continues to support organisations to procure and manage the delivery of decarbonisation projects.</p> <p>UK Power Networks undertake an annual ‘Distribution Network Options Assessment’ to identify future capacity needs, this is informed by a separate assessment process that considers future ‘energy scenarios’ (which considers the role of different technologies). LB Camden has shared the data it holds on whether development is expected to occur during the plan period, including the indicative capacities of site allocations in the draft Local Plan. UKPN have a statutory requirement to facilitate</p> <p>These assessment processes inform the prioritisation of infrastructure within their network, i.e. substations and ensures that the most attention is given to the highest priority areas. Where there is an urgent need for additional capacity, reinforcement will be considered. Where reinforcement is not required imminently, ‘flexibility’ is used as a means of balancing network demands – this works by providing incentives for uses to reduce their energy consumption at certain times.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>UK Power Networks has two main funding mechanisms for capital investments- Load Related Expenditure and Non-Load Related Expenditure. Both of these have an allowance for works identified through the regulatory period.</p>

This would mean that if UKPN identified a need for work on the network that was not as a result of increased demand, they would be able to continue and replace the equipment as required.

**Greater London Authority:** The Zero Carbon Accelerator will transform organisations' ability to decarbonise and will help London to meet its net zero target by 2030. This will be done by sharing technical expertise, upskilling and training, and guidance on topics such as funding opportunities, procurement and project management.

**Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy:** Possible future funding subject to available funding and wider Council spending priorities.

**Local Community Infrastructure Levy:** A proposal would need to be submitted to the Council that meets the relevant criteria and any award of funding will be subject to available ward balances and prioritisation of projects by ward members.

**Section 106 Obligations:** Policy CC6 the Local Plan Proposed Submission Draft states that the Council will seek a payment in lieu where an energy balance cannot be achieved 'The applicant should establish the shortfall between the predicted annual energy use and annual renewable energy generation. An offset payment equivalent to the shortfall will be secured through a s106 agreement, subject to viability. Funds collected in this way will be used to deliver carbon reduction measures in the borough.'



# 9

## Green Infrastructure





## Green infrastructure

Camden benefits from a rich and diverse natural environment and has a wide range of open spaces including parks, natural or semi-natural green spaces, housing estate amenity areas, playgrounds, historic cemeteries, churchyards, allotments, community gardens, outdoor sports facilities and the Regent's Canal. These spaces, together with street trees, soft landscaping, roof gardens, rain gardens and green/brown roofs and walls form a network of 'green infrastructure' in the borough.

The Local Plan Policies Map designates 297 open spaces, 39 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and eight sites used for allotments or community food growing. Within Hampstead Heath, there is an area of ancient woodland which is also nationally listed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. A significant number of the borough's open spaces also have heritage significance, with many recognised as forming London Squares and a small number listed as Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

The Regent's Canal also winds its way through the borough and is a waterway of London-wide significance. It is managed by the Canal and River Trust.

## Open Spaces

The Local Plan sets out an expectation for major development schemes (11+ homes or 1,000sqm+ of employment space or 11+ student rooms/ occupiers) to provide new public open space on-site (i.e. within the red line boundary of a development scheme). 'Public open space' means space that is visited by members of the public to meet their social, recreational and leisure needs. In practice, in a highly built-up area such as Camden, many sites are already wholly developed. Opportunities to provide open space at ground level therefore tend to be confined to large major schemes. How much and what type of open space these schemes will be able to deliver is established through the detailed design of the scheme, and then secured through a Section 106 obligation.

Where (the policy compliant quantum of) open space is not being provided on-site, the additional occupants of residential, employment and higher education related schemes are likely to add pressure on existing open spaces in the vicinity of the development. For many years, LB Camden has sought Section 106 payments-in-lieu of provision to fund enhancements to existing open spaces.

The Council's [2014 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study](#) identified 66 play areas in the borough many of which are within designated open spaces. There were a further 44 sites on housing estates with formal play provision or Multi-Use Games Areas. Section 106 contributions for open spaces are used to help fund upgrades to play areas in the borough. The vast majority of play areas in Camden are managed and maintained by the Council. DJS Research undertook a review of public outdoor play provision in Camden in 2015. They found that there were sufficient numbers of play spaces in Camden, although they made a series of recommendations about how existing facilities can be enhanced and made more appealing for their users and parents/guardians.

The Council calculates open space contributions using a formula set out in [Camden Planning Guidance – Open Space](#). This includes an allowance for ongoing maintenance.

Although many open spaces in Camden are managed by the Council, the Local Plan seeks to protect a significant number of spaces which are privately owned by a variety of different organisations. In some cases, these have public access. Even where there is no or limited access, the open space can form an important function in terms of local amenity by providing 'breaks' in the built-up area. Many of the private open spaces are owned and managed by sports clubs and nurseries which provide services used by local residents.

## Nature Conservation

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as amended by the Environment Act 2021, requires the Council to consider what action it can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity. In 2022, the Council published [‘Creating space for nature in Camden’](#) a new biodiversity strategy for the borough incorporating a revised ‘Biodiversity Action Plan’ setting out projects and priorities to benefit biodiversity and improve access to nature. Implementation of the strategy is supported by the ‘Camden Nature

Partnership' which brings together residents groups, community organisations, businesses and the Council to protect and improve the borough's biodiversity.

The Environment Act 2021 also introduced a requirement for certain planning applications to achieve 'Biodiversity Net Gains' (BNG). This is expected to impact on only a relatively small proportion of Camden's planning applications as the majority of development sites fall below the habitat area threshold, or are exempted for other reasons, such as householder applications. BNG is not planning policy and where it does apply, is a mandatory target (not something to weigh in the planning balance). The Environment Act also places a responsibility on local authorities to establish 'Local Nature Recovery Networks' which are a way of mapping opportunities to improve connectivity for wildlife at a larger spatial scale. A London-wide Nature Recovery Network is being developed by the Greater London Authority as an evidence document to inform the emerging London Plan. Camden Council has started gathering information to support a Camden-focussed version.

## Trees

Local Plan Policy NE3 – Tree Planting and Protection sets out how the Council will seek to protect and retain existing trees and secure additional tree planting via the planning process. Under trees legislation, the Council is able to serve 'Tree Preservation Orders' (TPOs) when necessary to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands, in the interests of amenity and biodiversity. The Local Plan takes a 'right tree for the right place' approach with the aim of delivering an attractive treed environment with age and species diversification.

The Council has prepared [Camden Planning Guidance – Trees](#) which provides more detail of the step-by-step approach applicants are expected to take in terms of tree planting and protection.

## Planned projects

The 'Green Spaces Investment Programme' is the Council's rolling programme of investment projects for the borough's open spaces. These projects can involve replacing outdated equipment or enhancing how an open space performs or functions: for example creating a community food growing area or providing new seating. The Programme is funded by Section 106 open space payments, the Local Community Infrastructure Levy, DMC (estate) funding, external funding (e.g. bids) as well as capital allocations from the Council's central fund.

The Council is about to commence preparation of a new Green Infrastructure Strategy, as a cross-directorate piece of work, with the aim of completing a draft later in 2025. The Green Spaces team is also leading on the development of a new play facilities strategy.

Our planning policies support biodiversity enhancement through the provision of green roofs and walls, species features such as bird and bat boxes and tree planting.

A Camden Green Network is being developed which is a green link joining Hampstead Heath with the south of the borough. Major sites in Kentish Town such as Murphys and Regis Road & Holmes Road Depot will have an important role in facilitating new corridors. Local networks have also been identified through neighbourhood plans which are planned to be implemented over time.

The table below sets out the existing and planned green infrastructure in the borough and explains how enhancements are secured.

Open Spaces	
Category	Details
Lead	The Council's Green Spaces team. Various external organisations which own and manage open spaces in Camden such as the City of London Corporation (Hampstead Heath) and Crown Estate (Regent's Park). The

	<p>Friends Of Parks Groups and volunteers help to support the delivery of improvement schemes and organise and run some local events and activities.</p>
<b>Current Provision</b>	<p>Accessible 'Spaces to Visit' are shown as part of Greenspace Information for Greater London's (GiGL) 'Discover London' portal:</p> <p><a href="#">Discover London - GiGL</a></p> <p>The <a href="#">Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2014)</a> was commissioned by LB Camden to identify relative need and deficiencies in access to open space. There a number of different ways in which deficiency can be assessed- often this is through applying a catchment or 'buffer' to existing open spaces (e.g. the deficiencies shown by mapping the distances from parks in the borough).</p> <p>Using this measure, the Study found that there is less formal provision in predominantly residential areas to the North and West of the borough (Fortune Green, Frognal and South Hampstead in particular, see Figure 5.4 of the Study), however this will be mitigated to some extent where households have access to private gardens. Deficiencies are likely in practice to be greatest in areas with the highest population densities. Pressure on open space in Central London can be particularly acute and households living in areas with high population density will often lack both private gardens and access to larger open spaces such as public parks.</p> <p>The Study maps relative population and household densities, see Figures 4.1 and 4.2. Higher child population densities are also a proxy for demand. Higher child population densities tend to correspond with high density housing with particular concentrations around Somers Town, South Hampstead and Gospel Oak areas.</p> <p>National green infrastructure mapping led by Natural England also provides a way of exploring relative open space provision against a range of national standards: <a href="#">GI Mapping Analysis</a></p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p><a href="#">Green Spaces Investment Programme (2020-2025)</a>: Its purpose is to ensure that future capital investment in Camden parks and open spaces meets the Council's strategic objectives, and there is an annual approval process. The Programme identifies the areas of Camden in greatest need, then matches available funding to deliver these specific projects. There are currently four main areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks projects – investment in public park sites</li> <li>• Housing projects – improving Camden housing estate open spaces</li> </ul>

- Highways projects – greening opportunities identified and delivered in the public highway as part of Transport-led schemes, e.g. pocket parks and sustainable urban drainage (SuDS)
- High Speed Two mitigation – improvements to open spaces in the Euston area to compensate for impacts arising from the HS2 rail project. This has a particular focus on Regent's Park Estate and Phoenix Road, Somers Town

The Programme includes projects to improve play areas and deliver biodiversity gains, for example through the planting of wildflower meadows and relaxed mowing regimes.

Borough/ area-based initiatives: these will often be schemes designed and led by the Council's Transport, Community Investment Programme and/or Placemaking teams. The Green Spaces team will be involved in the delivery of green infrastructure elements of these plans and projects. Current programmes include:

- Greening of the public realm/ highways: Sustainable drainage projects to incorporate SuDS principles helping to address flood risk, the creation of new pocket parks and street tree planting
- Community Infrastructure Programme (CIP): this is Camden's own development programme with a number of estate regeneration schemes providing opportunities to enhance/renew open spaces and play areas within housing estates
- Holborn Liveable Neighbourhoods: an area-wide project with an adopted planning framework delivering public realm improvements throughout a large area of Holborn
- Bloomsbury Vision: a public realm strategy helping to shape multiple projects across the Bloomsbury area in a cohesive manner
- Camden Town regeneration: various initiatives to improve highway and public realm, including Camden High Street part-pedestrianisation trial
- Camden Green Network: this will improve green infrastructure along spinal routes between Hampstead Heath and the southern Borough boundary. Parts of this network are already being planned as part of the area-based work in Holborn, Bloomsbury and Camden Town. An initial focus will be developing new corridors for nature in Kentish Town as major development sites come forward.

Tree Planting Strategy: LB Camden has part funded a project to plant an additional 3,000 trees on Council owned land from 2020-25.



	<p><u>Parks for Health</u>: a variety of initiatives to maximise the physical and mental health benefits of parks and open spaces, including a social prescribing partnership with Voluntary Action Camden and activities organised by community groups and organisations</p> <p><u>Resident/community -led initiatives to deliver local greening</u>: this will often build on green infrastructure projects identified in neighbourhood plans. The Council works with a variety of Friends Of Parks Groups and volunteers to improve green spaces.</p> <p><u>Accessibility</u>: many green space projects will involve improving conditions for people with disabilities and sensory needs.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>This will be identified through future updates to the Green Spaces Investment Programme and annual approvals of projects. A 2025-2030 Programme is currently being developed.</p> <p>The outstanding pipeline of projects in the <u>2020-2025 Programme</u> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talacre Town Green: redevelopment of the play facilities and delivery of a site-wide masterplan</li> <li>• Kilburn Grange Park: creation of a more welcoming entrance from Kilburn High Road</li> <li>• Crabtree Fields, Fitzrovia: play area improvements and renewal of assets</li> <li>• Leighton Crescent and Montpelier Gardens, Kentish Town: a combined project involving renewal of play equipment</li> <li>• Argyle Square Gardens, King's Cross: improvements to the surrounding public realm in association with the Belgrove House development</li> <li>• Cantelowes Gardens: asset replacement, possible inclusion of a padel tennis court (subject to planning consent)</li> <li>• St Andrew's Gardens, Gray's Inn Road/ Wren Street: site-wide refurbishment and asset replacement</li> <li>• Landscaping improvements on housing estates</li> </ul> <p><u>Camden Green Corridor</u>: a co-operative of organisations in the North of the borough have proposed a Camden Green Corridor from Hampstead Heath to Talacre Gardens. This is likely to form a key component of the Camden Green Network identified above.</p> <p><u>Mortimer Terrace Nature Reserve</u>: a small nature reserve (former railway land close to Highgate Road) which was managed by volunteers for decades and acquired by Camden Council in 2022. The Council is working with the</p>

	<p>associated Trust to become freehold owners, develop a management plan and seek formal designation as a 'Local Nature Reserve'.</p> <p><u>Camden Nature Recovery Network</u>: this will provide a spatial framework and priorities for improving connectivity for wildlife. The main opportunities have already been identified and include strategic development sites (allocations in the Local Plan), strategies such as the Holborn and Bloomsbury Visions and various corridors and sites identified through neighbourhood plans.</p> <p><u>The Camden Highline</u>: a project being led by Camden Town Unlimited which involves the repurposing of former railtracks on the viaduct connecting Camden Gardens, Camden Town with the Maiden Lane Estate, King's Cross.</p> <p><u>Food growing</u>: access to sustainable fresh food is central to 'We Make Camden's' food mission. Capital funding has been allocated by the Council to support the creation of up to 25 new food growing spaces within estates with a pilot project being launched in 2025 in the Kentish Town West area. There are also potential opportunities to create food growing areas as a part of development schemes, for example at roof level.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p><u>Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy</u>: possible future funding subject to available funding and wider Council spending priorities.</p> <p><u>Local Community Infrastructure Levy</u>: open space and biodiversity projects are potentially eligible. A proposal would need to be submitted to the Council that meets the relevant criteria and any award of funding will be subject to available ward balances and prioritisation of projects by ward members.</p> <p><u>Section 106 Obligations</u>: Policy SC4 (Open Space) and Policy NE1 (Natural Environment) in the draft new Local Plan states that the Council will secure S106 contributions to help fund open spaces and priorities for the natural environment. This will be subject to the type and size of scheme.</p> <p><u>Other</u>: Council grant funding, for example to support the development and delivery of food growing projects and the Camden Tree Planting Strategy. The Council also regularly submits bids where there are external funding opportunities such as the monies received for Talacre Park (Government's Levelling Up fund) and Kilburn Grange Park (UK Shared Prosperity Fund).</p>

# 10 Health



## Health

Camden is one of 5 boroughs within the North Central London (NCL) Integrated Care System (ICS). The Health and Care Bill (2022) formalised closer collaboration between the NHS, local authorities and care providers to provide more joined up working to deliver better care to patients and residents. The ICS includes primary and specialist care; physical and mental health services and health and social care. In July 2025, the Government published 'Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England'. The plan centres on three 'shifts' or changes the government wants to see: moving care from hospitals to local communities, realising the potential of digital technology and preventing illness, not just treating it. As such, there will be a continued focus on a Neighbourhood Health Service that aims to bring care into local communities and neighbourhood health centres.

NCL ICS has made a strategic commitment to improving the health of its population and tackling health inequalities in the ['Population Health and Integrated Care Strategy'](#). They also identify the need for a collaborative focus on prevention, early intervention and proactive care and to act "As an integrated care partnership of health, care and voluntary sector services... to work with residents of all ages in North Central London so they can have the best start in life, live more years in good physical and mental health in a sustainable environment, to age within a connected and supportive community and to have a dignified death. We want to achieve this ambition for everyone." The development of fit for purpose infrastructure, which reflects needs and priorities identified in the Population Health and Integration Strategy is a key enabler of NCL's ambition.

[Camden's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-30](#) takes a population health approach to improving physical and mental health, promoting wellbeing and reducing health inequalities across the entire population. This incorporates the full range of determinants (or drivers) of health and wellbeing, many of which, such as education, good work and the local environment are separate to health and care services. The Strategy is based on 3 ambitions:

*Start well: All children and young people have a fair chance to succeed and no one gets left behind-* so every child has the best start in life, equal opportunity to thrive and is ready to learn. The aim is for families to be supported from conception through the first 1,001 days of a child's life, with a universal integrated offer, high quality targeted support, early education and a strong focus on community. It also acknowledges the importance of preventing social inequalities and poor health from emerging later in life and

helping parents and carers to maintain good health give their vital role in supporting children's learning and wellbeing. (Also see the 'Support for Children and Families' part of the IDP)

*Live well: People live in connected, prosperous and sustainable communities-* providing the services, environments and conditions to support a good life. Healthy environments are seen as places providing secure livelihoods and economic prosperity, where key social needs are met and long-term conditions are prevented. It involves supporting people to connect with one another, building of more active and empowered communities, reducing loneliness and improving mental wellbeing. Access to nutritious food, quality employment, clean air, secure housing, the outdoors and sports and physical activity are all contributors towards healthier lifestyles and consequently, better physical and mental health. Healthy behaviours nurtured early in life can help to prevent complex/ long-term health conditions as people grow older.

(The IDP identifies some of the relevant projects and programmes contributing to a 'good life', for example sections on Community facilities, Green Infrastructure, Sports and Physical Activity, Employment and Training and Transport)

*Age well: People live healthier and more independent lives, for longer-* focussing on those most in need of support with local health and social care services working together in a seamless way to help people to stay independent and be their best selves. The aim is for local service provision to be inclusive, relational (focussing on what matters to individuals, their strengths and community connections), accessible and collaborative with individuals supported to maintain their own health and provided with the tools to support the wellbeing of others. (Also see the Adult Social Care section of this IDP)

[The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment hub](#) is a collection of evidence about health and wellbeing in the Borough which is managed by Camden's Public Health Intelligence team. It also links to NCL's 'Outcomes Framework' which is a set of indicators showing how population health is changing at a borough level compared to London and England. Collectively, this resource provides vital information to support local decision making.

Health research and teaching - Camden is also a centre for world-class research and teaching centred on Bloomsbury and a key driver for the 'Knowledge Quarter' focussed on King's Cross and Euston area. Major institutions include University College Hospital/ UCLH Foundation Trust, University of London, University College London, Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and the Francis Crick Institute. The latter opened in 2016 on a site in Brill Place, next to St Pancras station, to help better understand why disease develops and find ways of treating, diagnosing and preventing illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, stroke and neurodegenerative diseases. There are two National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) supported Biomedical Research

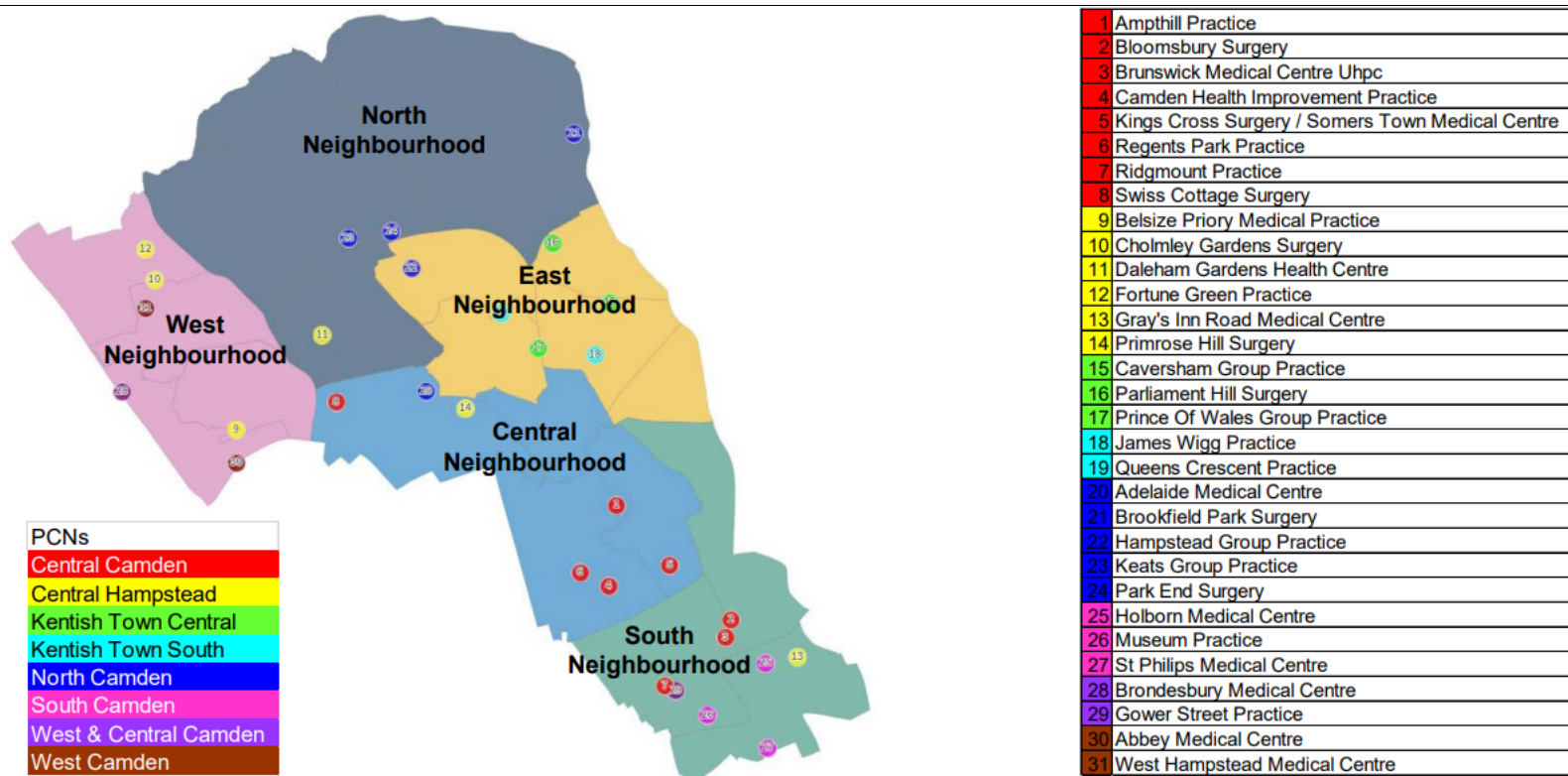
Centres (BRCs) in Camden bringing together academics and clinicians to translate research findings into new treatments, diagnostics and technologies. These is the Great Ormond Street BRC which is solely focussed on paediatric research. The UCLH BRC undertakes research into areas of clinical need that are considered to have the potential for major health care impact. Their research themes include cancer, neurological diseases, dementia, cardiovascular, inflammation, immunity, mental health, obesity, hearing and oral health. The NHR is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.

According to the ONS Business Register and Employment Survey, 12% of all jobs in Camden in 2023 were in 'Human Health and Social Work Activities' and nearly 21% in 'Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities'. Many further and higher education institutions in the borough provide training and qualifications in health and care related professions, with a very significant range of accredited training, placements and learning opportunities available. [The NCL Heath and Social Care Academy](#) has also been established to provide pathways into this sector.

The table below sets out some of the key programmes and projects being delivered across the health and care system. It focusses on infrastructure that has been developed or is being provided for Camden residents and outlines the relevant funding sources. It is not a comprehensive picture of all health and care provision in Camden and should be read in conjunction with the strategies and plans described in this section and found on the Council and NCL ICS's websites.



Health	
Category	Details
Lead	<p>Borough Partnerships bring together a range of people and organisations – both commissioners and providers of health and social care – to work even more collaboratively to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce the health inequalities that exist within the borough. <u>Camden's health and care partnership</u> is a longstanding alliance of Camden based organisations who work together to deliver personal, joined-up care. It is overseen by the <u>Health and Wellbeing Board</u>. LB Camden employs a <u>Public Health service</u> led by the Director of Public Health. Many of the interventions described in this section involve multiple services including Adult Social Care, Children's services, Inclusive Economy, Community Partnerships and Greenspaces. There is an extensive <u>voluntary and community sector</u> in Camden acting as partners in building and sustaining community wellbeing and resilience. There are also independent and private health and care providers.</p> <p>The <u>North Central London Integrated Care Board</u> has a responsibility for allocating NHS budget and commissioning services across Camden. The Integrated Care System is a joint committee of councils, NHS and voluntary partners with responsibilities for planning to meet wider health, public health and social care needs.</p>
Current Provision	<p><u>Primary Care</u></p> <p>Camden primary care consists of 32 GP practices (across 31 sites) serving over 300,000 registered patients. Since July 2019, Camden's GP practices have been organised into primary care networks. PCNs are provider collaboratives comprising GP practices currently, and which are expected to evolve to include other partners (e.g. community health services, community pharmacy, local authority teams) over time. PCNs are resourced to hold an expanded, integrated workforce, in order to deliver a range of additional enhanced primary care services for the whole population. There are currently eight networks – see Diagram below. GP surgeries are also listed on LB Camden's <u>'Find your nearest'</u></p>



GP practices operate from a mixture of purpose-built facilities, health centres and converted units, the majority of primary care sites are in leasehold premises. Most of the premises have little or no potential to expand and several practices have less than the recommended number of clinical rooms for their list size. Some spaces are operating at sub-optimal levels of space utilisation, which means for significant periods of time, rooms can be left empty.

Belsize Priory Health Centre opened in 2023, as part of the wider Abbey Community Investment Programme (CIP) regeneration scheme. New accommodation has been provided for Belsize Priory Medical Practice; the Centre is also a local hub for some of Camden and North West London's children's services, health visitors, dietitians, healthy living practitioners, podiatrists and district nurses.

[Camden Musculoskeletal \(MSK\)](#) service integrates a full range of MSK services including physiotherapy, pain management, rheumatology, orthopaedics, diagnostics and podiatry. Services are provided across a number of local health centres and clinics including Belsize Priory, Peckwater, St Albans and The Grove Centre.

Health and social care services are highly interlinked. The Adult Social Care section of the IDP sets out some of the key local services, a more comprehensive guide is the [Camden Care Choices website](#). There is also a dedicated site – [Mental Health Camden](#) relating to mental health services in the Borough.

Dentists: the majority of people accessing dental care in Camden do so via local NHS dentists. The location of dentists in Camden can be found via the [Find your nearest website](#). Whittington Health also provides the [Camden Community Dental Service](#) for those whose needs cannot be met in general dentists. This includes Adult Special Care Dentistry for people with disabling conditions and paediatric dentistry (for example for Looked after children and children with physical and learning disabilities). They also undertake oral health promotion and education, for example visiting care homes in the borough.

In June 2021, Healthwatch Camden identified 33 dental practices with NHS contracts. However, it found that NHS services were mainly open only for existing patients, with just one dentist offering an NHS contract for students, although some did make exceptions for emergency care. At the same time, two thirds of these practices did have availability for private appointments. Although this data was likely skewed by the impact of the pandemic, it highlights issues around unmet need for dental services and likely health inequalities.

Pharmacies: there are 63 community pharmacies in Camden. [A Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment](#) for Camden was undertaken in 2022. Although in recent years the total number of pharmacies have closed, the study finds that Camden is well-served, with numbers of pharmacies comparable to London and national averages. Over 99% of the population are within a 15 minute walk of a pharmacy. Map 1 of the study (page 165) shows pharmacy locations in the borough.

[The Camden Care Navigation and Social Prescribing service](#) provides support for Camden residents (aged 18 and over) who need support with issues impacting on their lives, such as social isolation, support with self and home

management, support with finances and unemployment or having difficulties navigating the health and care system. They also support hospital patients who have been discharged and need support with self-management while recovering.

#### Non-primary care provision

[Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust \(RFL\)](#) provide acute and specialist healthcare services. A masterplan for the Royal Free site in Hampstead is due to be developed to consider opportunities to facilitate health and health related facilities on the site and will explore the feasibility of a GP hub.

In 2021, the Institute of Immunity and Transplantation (IIT) opened in the Pears building on the Royal Free site. The IIT combines the clinical expertise of the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and the research capabilities of UCL immunologists to deliver patient-focussed research. The institute is involved in studying diseases such as cancer, HIV and hepatitis as well as the development of new therapies to stop the rejection of transplants. Medicines and therapies can be tested in clinical trials performed at the newly-established Clinical Trials Facility within the adjacent Royal Free Hospital. The Pears building includes accommodation for patients treated at the Royal Free and/or participating in clinical trials.

[University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#) (UCLH) provides acute and specialist services and is a centre for research and education, especially postgraduate medicine. Services will continue to be consolidated within the University College Hospital campus and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery/Queen Square campus with considerable capital investment expected.

[North London NHS Foundation Trust](#) (formally known as Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust) provide mental health and substance misuse services. Services are currently provided from two in-patient facilities at Highgate and St Pancras Hospital and from community facilities. Plans to transform mental health services are focused on the redevelopment of the St Pancras Hospital site with the provision of new mental health facilities at Greenland Road and Lowther Road (in Islington) and a new hub in the west of the Borough.

[Moorfields Eye Hospital](#) (MEH) and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology are seeking to move to part of the St Pancras site (with MEH leaving its premises at City Road in Islington). This is called Project Oriel and would deliver a purpose-built facility. The project is currently expected to be completed in late-2026.

	<p><a href="#">Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust</a> (CNWL) provide a range of community services in Camden. A key priority is to optimise the estate and focus on key hubs and new opportunities, such as re-provision arising from the St Pancras Hospital development and the new Belsize Health Centre.</p> <p><a href="#">The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust</a> provides mental health services and training and education. The Trust has been looking to improve space utilisation and consolidate its estate portfolio, with funding to be redirected to replace assets and ensure compliance (e.g. fabric/roofs, fire, water, security etc). The principal site is in Belsize Lane.</p> <p><a href="#">Great Ormond Street Hospital</a> is a world leading children's hospital. They treat seriously ill children and young people from all over the UK for life changing treatment and care. This includes providing specialised services supporting children with rare and complex conditions. The hospital also carries out research with partners, particularly the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health.</p> <p><a href="#">Whittington Heath</a> (just outside LB Camden) delivers acute services from the main hospital site in LB Islington. Estate priorities include upgrading power infrastructure, addressing backlog maintenance, including continuing fire remediation works and improving maternity and neonatal facilities. They also provide community services such as the Camden Community Dental Service.</p> <p><u>Health Impact Assessments (HIA)</u>: certain developments schemes, including large major schemes, are expected to prepare a Health Impact Assessment which is used to maximise the positive impacts and minimise the negative impacts of a development on health and wellbeing.</p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>The NHS estate is a key enabler of change to respond to service transformation and changing workforce and digital requirements.</p> <p>The new ICS refreshed its <a href="#">Estates and Infrastructure Strategy</a> in 2024. NCL's intention is to develop its 'core' and higher quality estate, and move away from investment in poorer, quality assets with limited growth potential.</p> <p>To support the estate priorities, buildings should be cost effective, integrated, accessible and enables the delivery of high quality health and social care services for local communities. Across NCL, there is variation between areas in provision of larger, core estate that can support integrated hub working at scale. Without that larger estate, integrated service provision remains conceptual. The Fuller stocktake argued: "Estates are so much more than buildings. We must move to a model that makes estates a catalyst for integration rather than a barrier to it. This</p>

new model should focus on patient needs, create a positive working environment for staff and provide adequate space for key activities like training and team development.” Fuller and other national documents set out ambitions for using estate in innovative new ways to facilitate better, more joined up health and care, and to unlock opportunities for collaboration across a wider range of partners.

As set out in the IDP section on Adult Social Care, an Integrated Neighbourhood Team went live in 2024 in the East of the Borough with the main hub at the Kentish Town Health Centre. This is providing learning and insights which will inform the development of INTs in other parts of the borough and their associated estate requirements. Each INT is likely to be different reflecting the needs of their area and representation of existing health, care and community services.

A review of the primary care estate in 2024 found that around 60% of patients in Camden are being served from good quality, future-proof estate that aligns with clinical and estate priorities. A further c.25% of patients are served from premises considered to be acceptable, though with some shortcomings. The remaining facilities will require further investment and some will need to be relocated when alternative estate becomes available. NCL have identified the following challenges around the primary care estate:

- Many sites are in leasehold premises, with associated risk of lease expiry and rent reviews/ requirements for the NHS to pay ‘market rents’;
- Camden has some of the most expensive real estate in the country, especially in the south of the Borough. There is a lack of affordable properties or potential development sites;
- Estate is of variable quality and age with a mix of purpose-built facilities, health centres, converted units;
- Significant population growth is anticipated across several major growth areas. Where capacity is already constrained, population growth will inevitably place pressure on operations. Continuing list size growth could impact on plans to add services to core general practice or support training programmes. A priority is to improve provision in the west of the Borough (where the O2 development is expected to come forward), and existing surgeries are struggling with space;
- The number of people living with one or more long-term conditions is continuing to rise prompting changes to care models, also highlighting the importance of ensuring premises are accessible ;

- There is a need to facilitate primary care at scale to realise efficiencies and deliver more effective integrated out of hospital care. The additional roles reimbursement scheme (ARRS) has resulted in significant expansion of the general practice workforce (physician associates, clinical pharmacists, care coordinators etc);
- New and reconfigured buildings need to be designed to be flexible recognising that the healthcare sector is one of continual (and often quite rapid) innovation and change.

St Pancras Hospital: the construction of the new Moorfields Eye Institute is now well advanced for part (the north-west corner) of the St Pancras Hospital site. This will be delivered through '[Project Oriel](#)' a joint partnership of Moorfields Eye Hospital, the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology and Moorfields Eye Charity. The project is intended to create a world-leading centre for eye health, facilitating greater collaboration between clinicians and scientists, enhanced by patient participation in research, and speeding up the delivery of new treatments and therapies. The Institute is due to open in 2027.

The [St Pancras Hospital Transformation Programme](#) is aimed at improving mental health and community services for the local population. The North London NHS Foundation Trust is leading on proposals for a new Centre for Mental Health with the aim of providing exceptional clinical care in a modern, accessible and sustainable mental health facility, more effective emergency mental health capacity and an integrated community service offer across different providers. The centre would also be a hub for mental health research and education (with elements of existing mental health services at the St Pancras Hospital site retained/reprovided). A planning application is expected to be submitted in 2025.

The St Pancras Hospital site is identified in a Draft New Local Plan site allocation (S8) and sets out that health, education, employment and housing are appropriate uses (with an expectation that the remainder of the site delivers around 200 new homes).

North London NHS Foundation Trust investment in mental health services: A priority for NCL has been, and continues to be, the delivery of improved mental health inpatient and community facilities, with the aim of North London being an exemplar for service provision, supported by leading research, quality improvement and technological approaches providing advances in mental health care. There has been significant investment in mental health estate acknowledging growing demand for these services.

In 2024, the new 'Highgate Campus' opened bringing together crisis assessment services, acute inpatient, rehabilitation and older person's inpatient services on the one site. It comprises: Highgate West (in Camden) where



a new Mental Health Crisis Assessment Facility was completed and refurbishments undertaken, and Highgate East (LB Islington): a new inpatient facility with 78 single, ensuite rooms offering an enhanced therapeutic environment, including secure communal outdoor space on every ward, a sports hall and a community café at the entrance which can be used by service users, visitors and the wider community, helping to break down traditional barriers. The close proximity to the Whittington Hospital also enables opportunities to better integrate the physical and mental health care needs of service users.

The new Lowther Road Integrated Community and Mental Health Centre also opened in 2024 in the Holloway Road area of LB Islington providing a modern environment conducive to group and 121 therapeutic interventions. The centre offers integrated mental health and physical health services and reprovides some of the community mental health services previously operated from St Pancras Hospital. The new facility provides multiple interview, counselling and treatment rooms, group collaboration zones, a café and pocket park.

A Camden Mental Health Day Support Service (CMHDS) opened in 2024 and is based at the Greenwood Centre. It brings together health and social day support services and offers three different levels of support.

The new Neuroscience centre of excellence is being constructed at 256 Gray's Inn Road (the former Eastman Dental Hospital) and is intended to accelerate the discovery of new treatments for neurological diseases such as dementia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and motor neuron disease. The facility will be home for [UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology \(IoN\)](#), the [UK Dementia Research Institute](#) and [the UCLH National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery \(NHNN\)](#).

It is intended to provide a technologically advanced research environment with shared lab facilities, flexible spaces, a new outpatient unit, a lecture theatre and a range of equipment and services. The site will provide all of IoN's pre-clinical neuroscience and its wet labs (with Queen Square House retained as a centre for research activities with a clinical focus). The UK Dementia Research Institute is being funded by the Medical Research Council, Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research and will lead national efforts in dementia research. NHNN is the UK's largest neurological and neurosurgical hospital. Already based alongside IoN in Queen Square, they provide services for the diagnosis, treatment and care of conditions affecting the brain, spinal cord and peripheral nervous system (their existing facilities include inpatient wards, day care, operating theatres and intensive care units). The new centre will provide an NHNN outpatient unit and an MRI unit which NHNN will share with IoN. This will potentially allow additional inpatient space to be created in Queen Square.

The [Great Ormond Street Hospital](#) (GOSH) is developing a Children's Cancer Centre which will bring together cancer ward and day care services spread across older parts of GOSH's estate. The centre will enable services and teams to work from the same building which will include theatres, leading edge imaging equipment, a critical care unit, digitally advanced cancer inpatient wards, a day centre, school space and significant outdoor areas. Within the existing hospital, there are also projects being delivered to replace diagnostic and imaging equipment, refurbish theatres and upgrade mechanical and electrical systems.

The Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children opened in 2019 through a partnership between GOSH and UCL's Institute of Child Health. The new facility will help drive new tests, treatments and cures for children with rare and complex diseases from labs to practice. It includes a main laboratory with 140 benches to test the safety and efficacy of potential treatments, a second lab housing a genomics team and a manufacturing suite enabling the production of clinical grade gene and cell therapies.

The [7 Bedford Passage development](#) is a UCLH Charity mixed-used development project, located in Fitzrovia on Cleveland Street, with new clinical space being provided for UCLH. Once complete, it will provide a Breast Care Centre supporting breast outpatients in a Breast Care Centre and additional magnetic resonance (MR) imaging services. It is due to open in 2026.

In 2024, the Royal Free Foundation Trust published a new [Clinical Strategy](#) which sets 3 clinical priorities of cancer, cardiovascular and organ failure and transplantation. The Royal Free is looking to accelerate its research in these areas and invest in new equipment and technologies. Major capital projects on the Royal Free Hospital include hybrid vascular theatres and endoscopy services.

Integrated health and care hubs / Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INT): these operate at a neighbourhood level co-locating frontline staff and practitioners to deliver integrated and co-ordinated care for residents. They bring together primary, secondary and social care, as well as community services, recognising that people have a range of support needs. The aim is also to improve the experience of people working in the health and care sector through shared working practices, with improved outcomes for residents drawing on care and support. These hubs are expected to be delivered primarily through the consolidation/ refurbishment of existing community and healthcare buildings rather than through development of new buildings.

[East Neighbourhood](#): The first INT went live in 2024, co-locating staff from adult community, primary care and adult social care services, ensuring better utilisation of space at the Kentish Town Health Centre. It is intended as a prototype, allowing for a 'test and learn' approach to refine the neighbourhood model of care. Over time, it is

envisaged that the neighbourhood model could expand to provide a broader range of services including voluntary sector organisations. It is a way of making sure that services are being delivered in the right location and align with other services in terms of delivery. In 2025/26, the full impact of the East INT will be evaluated, and important elements introduced across all neighbourhoods.

North Neighbourhood: there has been a long-term ambition to provide a new GP hub facility providing primary care at scale and incorporating Hampstead Group Practice. A model of care by is being developed by NCL and partners integrating primary, secondary and community care. This includes considering how this can link in and support the work of the Royal Free Hampstead. There is also a potential need to re-provide services presently based at Gospel Oak health centre (when the redevelopment of Wendling estate comes forward).

South Neighbourhood: the Hunter Street Health Centre has been identified as a site capable of being better utilised and delivering primary care at scale to become an INT hub. This would involve combining GP services (which may be expanded) with a range of community services such as district nursing and multi-disciplinary teams.

West Neighbourhood / O2 Masterplan: the Council has consented to the delivery of a new health centre as part of the proposals for the O2 Centre, car park and car showrooms/ 'O2 Masterplan'. The applicant would provide space of up to 1,000-1,200sqm on a 25 year lease with a 40% market discount. Allocation W2 of the Local Plan Proposed Submission Draft identifies a health centre as one of the appropriate uses for this site (now including 14 Blackburn Road). The NHS has identified capacity constraints across the primary care estate in the west of the borough.

Central Neighbourhood: proposals are still being developed and will consider the future impacts arising from development around Euston station/ High Speed 2.

Camden Health and Wellbeing Strategy actions: Multiple projects are being delivered against 3 "short-term priorities" the Strategy identifies to focus system attention and demonstrate partnership action around the social determinants of health. They are: 'Healthy and ready for school'; 'Good work and employment' and 'Community connectedness and friendships'

Healthy and ready for school: the Council is actively engaging communities and service providers to enhance access to immunisation services. MMR vaccines have been promoted through various channels and support drawn from parent champions, health improvement staff and school nurses. The Council has also engaged with asylum

seekers, refugees and New Horizons (a pan London centre for young people experiencing homelessness to provide vaccinations and GP registrations).

Oral health: access to dentists has gradually improved but Camden has consistently experienced low dental access with inpatient admissions for tooth decay higher for more deprived children. LB Camden supports an oral health promotion service which has secured supervised tooth brushing programmes at family hubs, nurseries and early years settings; a fluoride varnish programme for 3-7 year olds and 'Brushing for life' with age-appropriate brushes and paste distributed at health events and dental clinics.

Asthma: is the most common long-term condition among children and young people in Camden with a 4.5% prevalence amongst children aged 0-11. A North Camden asthma pilot based on group education has been working with the community to improve understanding of asthma and good asthma care and reducing risks of developing asthma. The aim is to extend this model of support to cover the whole of Camden using the Family Hub network.

Children in Camden are at high risk of having speech, language and communication difficulties with children receiving free school meals 1.5 times less likely to achieve their communication, language and literacy goals. The [Camden Early Years' Speech and language Therapy Service](#) works with children across their pre-school years across health centres, family hubs and nurseries to develop children's communication skills. [Camden Kids Talk](#) is a multi-faceted, multi-agency approach to providing language and communication support for children aged 0-5.

[Camden Early Help](#) support service provides a free support service for families with children aged 0-19 and practical and emotional support with a range of life issues.

Good work and employment: a good work and employment partnership group has been established to drive work forward on this priority. The priority area has a particular focus on supporting people furthest from the labour market (for example, people with learning disabilities) into good work and providing opportunities for Camden residents to become part of the health and care workforce. The priority is intended to add value to existing work including Good Work Camden and services provided by voluntary and community organisations.

The Disability Job Hub was launched in April 2023 and has helped residents into paid employment, work experience and training and provided skills and employability programmes. The Individual Placement Support

service is funded by central Government and involves integrating employment specialists into health teams. It aims to place people into employment relatively quickly and then provide strengths-based support while they are in work. The service has been targeted at those with specific needs (e.g. mental health, substance abuse).

'Workwell' is a new work and health pilot programme funded by central Government to support people who are economically inactive or unemployed, or in danger of falling out of work for health-related reasons. Disabled people and those with health conditions will be able to access early intervention work and health assessment, with low-intensity holistic support for their health-related barriers to employment. It also provides a single gateway into services that are available locally to tackle their specific needs. Universal Support is another Government programme designed to help economically inactive and disabled residents find work as part of a broader initiative to help those facing complex employment barriers. A place-based team is being established made up of Camden Council and VCS staff who will support residents in accessing these programmes.

Community connectedness and friendships: a working group has been established co-chaired by Voluntary Action Camden and Camden Public Health. They have identified 3 priority opportunity areas: (i) improve identification and engagement of people who are chronically lonely and isolated; (ii) optimise service area specific opportunities to help reduce social isolation and loneliness and (iii) undertake a borough wide communications campaign to increase awareness and reduce stigma. Activities include:

- School and family hubs helping to identify isolated families;
- Utilising the Heath Bus to reach communities;
- System social prescribing;
- Buddying to support people to connect to support offers;
- Community champions who agree hyper-local priorities on estates to improve health and wellbeing;
- Neighbourhood walks;
- Cultural Advocacy Project: partnering with community organisations to develop good practice in understanding, supporting and actively engaging with users that may be experiencing mental illness. It seeks to break down barriers and raise cultural awareness across and within communities in a sensitive and confidential manner;
- 'Making Every Second Count': whereby frontline staff and volunteers use the conversations they are already having to deliver additional support and advice where appropriate to help local people improve their wellbeing;
- Digital and print campaigns.

Heart health, cancer and lung health are the three biggest causes of the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived communities and have multiple common risk factors – such as smoking, physical inactivity and poor air quality. LB Camden have multiple programmes to reduce risk such as ‘Get Active Specialists’ (for people with long-term health conditions), ‘Shape Up with Arsenal’ (a weight management service for men), ‘Active for life’ providing free and low cost activities for over 60s and ‘Breathe’ a community smoking cessation service (operated by CNWL).

Better Care Fund (BCF): this is a national programme to further the development of integrated health and social care for residents. Under the BCF, ICBs and local authorities are required to pool a set amount of funding and agree an annual anticipated spending plan. The fund has two main objectives – enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer and providing the right care, at the right place and at the right time. In Camden, the funds are used to invest in a range of preventative services to reduce avoidable admissions to hospitals, reduce permanent admissions to care homes and tackle delays in discharges from hospitals, for example through investing in care packages, district nursing, residential and nursing care home placements and use of equipment and assistance technology.

Shifting care from hospitals to community and from treatment to prevention: the Lord Darzi review recommended investing in multi-disciplinary teams, expansion of community-based services and more digital solutions in the community. This is also reflected in the NHS 10 Year Plan (2025). At a system wide level, NCL have committed additional funding for community services, with a focus on reducing pressure at acute hospitals. A ‘core offer’ of community services has been developed with the objective of ensuring more consistency in outcomes and patient experience across the NCL area. The offer defines the level of service residents can expect, explain how they will be accessed and where they will be provided.

Virtual wards: also known as hospital at home, this allows patients to receive the acute care and treatment they need at home safely and conveniently, rather than being in hospital. There are around 200 virtual beds in NCL, with the aim of increasing this to up to 600 virtual beds in the next 5-10 years.

Decarbonisation of NHS estate: there is a need to reduce the carbon footprint of many NHS buildings. One significant example involves the Whittington Hospital (LB Islington) where a Power Infrastructure Project is underway. This involves moving the hospital away from fully relying on fossil as fuel as the primary source for



heating to modern electric heat pumps. The project also enables the hospital to increase its power supply by around 3 times current levels allowing it to upgrade its ventilation systems and transform services, such as maternity and neonatal care. NCL's [Green Plan](#) sets out how the system will shift towards sustainable health and improve the local environment for residents.

Maintenance backlog/ critical risk prioritisation: NCL ICS have also identified a significant backlog of maintenance across the health system which also needs to be addressed to reduce the risk of site closures and disruption to services. A recent 'critical risk prioritisation' process was led by NCL's Estates Board with providers invited to submit bids for critical backlog projects. This resulted in the allocation of an additional £14.3 million of funding for projects (over and above business-as-usual funding for maintenance).

Electronic Patient Records (EPR) Initiative: NCL have developed a digital strategy which seeks to improve digital infrastructure across the estate and enable better sharing of and access to health and care data. Priority trusts for EPR investment within NCL are North London Foundation Trust and Moorfields.

Patients records room conversion programme is freeing up an additional 24 consulting rooms. Smaller scale investments can help improve the quality of sites and fund repurposing of rooms

Estates partnerships: NCL ICS work with NHS providers and Camden Council to share plans and data, review the potential impacts of future developments and population growth and identify opportunities for affordable, well-placed health estate.

Draft New Camden Local Plan: its overarching policy of 'Delivering Healthy and Sustainable Development' (DS1) recognises many of the social, cultural, economic and environmental factors that can shape the conditions in which we live. The Local Plan has a role in influencing key health determinants such as access to housing, employment, education, leisure and high quality open spaces and public realm. It also promotes well-designed and inclusive buildings and places, with active and sustainable modes of travel support and the risks of climate change mitigated.

The Local Plan's site allocations identify where new health infrastructure is expected to be provided and how individual sites can contribute to the objectives of DS1. The Local Plan's policy on 'Improving Health and Wellbeing (SC1)' sets out key principles developments should meet in order to support healthier communities and reduce health inequalities and extends the requirements for Health Impact Assessments to all major developments. The Local Plan has also been subject to a Health Impact Assessment.

<b>Future Needs</b>	<p><u>NCL's 'Start Well Programme</u>: this is a long-term change programme focussed on secondary maternity, neonatal and children's and young people services. There are several drivers to the programme including external reviews of services, inequalities in outcomes and variations in user experiences, the need to better match demand with capacity, and opportunities to improve partnership working and sustainability of the workforce/working arrangements across these service areas.</p> <p>The NHS has been developing a case for change, in particular noting declining birth rates across the NCL area and a rising proportion of babies with born with complex needs. Following consultation on possible change options, in March 2025 the Integrated Care Board and NHS England agreed to consolidate maternity and neonatal services onto 3 hospital sites including UCLH and Whittington Health (LB Islington). The proposals envisage the co-location of midwifery and obstetric units alongside at least 2 neonatal units, ensuring the care offer includes premature and unwell babies (to at least level 2). This would mean the closure after several years of maternity and neonatal services provided at the Royal Free Hospital. The NCB also committed £67 million of capital investment to improve estate providing maternity and neonatal services. This would involve transforming the existing facilities at the Whittington Hospital to meet modern standards.</p> <p><u>Greenland Road, Camden Town</u>: the NHS is looking to provide a new Community Mental Health Hub. This would bring together a range of outpatient and other services together under one roof.</p> <p><u>GP surgeries</u>: as highlighted above, there are capacity issues in some parts of the Borough (particularly in the west linked to existing GP premises) and the need to replace/re-provide or reconfigure services provided out of poorer quality estate. There are also pressures involving lease expiry and renewal to ensure financial sustainability.</p> <p><u>Provision of GP services for students/student accommodation</u>: it is sometimes assumed that the majority of students will remain registered at their home (parent or guardian address), therefore limiting demand on healthcare services when they attend university. However, the NHS has found that universities in London will advise students to register with a GP in the area they reside during term-time. This can create particular pressure on existing provision, and particular types of services, in one locality. The NHS have requested that this matter is fully considered as part of applicants' Health Impact Assessments and any mitigation needed is identified.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p><u>National funding</u>: The NHS is primarily funded through general taxation and National Insurance contributions. A small portion comes from patient charges for certain services like prescriptions and dental treatment. The Government allocates a budget to the Department of Health and Social Care, which then funds the NHS. The largest area of NHS day-to-day spending is typically staff costs accounting for about half of all expenditure. Other</p>

areas of significant spending include primary care, procurement and non-NHS healthcare (from independent, local authority and voluntary and community sector providers).

Core capital funding (Capital Department Expenditure Limit) is allocated using a national formula by Government at ICS system level with NCL's capital envelope managed by the Integrated Care Board. Additional capital funding may also be provided dependent on the previous year's revenue performance (ie. where there is a surplus/ breakeven position or nationally set targets have been met). This capital funding is deployed to fund site/building developments, new and replacement clinical equipment, maintenance backlogs and upgrades of information systems and technologies.

NCL can also potentially draw money from national funding pots/ programmes, for example for digital diagnostics, frontline digitalisation or New Hospital Programme funding. Some providers may also be able to benefit from grants and donations. Proactive lease management (existing onerous leases) and the disposal of assets may also help to alleviate funding pressures/ manage financial risks at system level.

NCL ICS looks to spend part of its capital allocation on strategic schemes, for example the St Pancras Hospital Transformation Programme and work with partners to co-ordinate and prioritise capital planning across the system. In some cases, projects are funded through Trusts own core capital budgets, for example the GOSH Children's Cancer Centre. NCL have identified potential strategic schemes for 2024/25 to 2029/30 valued at over £200 million. Projects within NCL are developed through development of business cases and subject to an approvals process and include engagement with service users/representatives.

Funding flows for general practices depends on a complex mix of different income streams. About half the money a practice receives is from the 'global sum payment' – money for delivering the core parts of its contract. This includes payment for out-of-hours and additional services (specific clinical services such as vaccines and immunisations and contraceptive services, with limited ability to opt out of certain aspects) where these have been agreed.

Global sum payments are based on an estimate of a practice's workload and take into many factors under two groups 'drivers of workload' and 'unavoidable costs' and not on the actual recorded delivery of services. The global sum payment uses a weighted sum accounting for factors such as age and gender and is reviewed quarterly to account for changes to a practice's patient population. Other income is provided through the Quality and Outcomes Framework which is a voluntary programme that practices can opt in to in order to receive payments based on performance against indicators.

GPs practices can also access funding for providing enhanced services which are extra services provided above and beyond their core obligations. There are two main types: directed enhanced services that are nationally agreed and have to be offered to all practices in England. Local enhanced services are services developed by local commissioners to complement existing services and address specific local needs (in Camden, there is a universal offer of 10 additional services as well as an outcomes scheme tackling prevalence and improving control of long-term conditions, such as managing blood pressure and diabetes). GP practices have their rent and rates reimbursed by the ICB, but required to pay any service charges and may have to contribute to repair and maintenance of buildings as per their lease.

NCL and provider bodies work proactively with the Council to secure Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding through the planning application system to support project delivery. The Council seeks to secure floorspace for healthcare use on large development sites where there is an identified need and potential for suitable space to be delivered. A particular challenge is ensuring that this is affordable for NHS organisations to occupy. As highlighted above, Section 106 commitments have been secured as part of the 02 masterplan for a new health facility in the west of the Borough.

Local CIL can help fund local health and wellbeing projects subject to the availability of funds and the prioritisation of projects at ward level.

The Council's Community Investment Programme has also integrated new/ replacement health and care facilities into wider schemes, for example Chester Balmore and Abbey.



# 11 Libraries



## Libraries

There are 8 libraries in Camden that are directly managed by Camden Council (Swiss Cottage, Kentish Town, Queens Crescent, Holborn, Pancras Square, West Hampstead, Kilburn and Camden Town). The Council works with the Friends of Highgate Library to manage Highgate Library. There are also 3 libraries run by the community (Primrose Hill, Belsize and Keats). Part of the library service is the Local Studies and Archive Centre located at Holborn Library. The British Library is also based in the borough at King's Cross.

Libraries are a statutory public service under Section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons.' A council must do so in a way which meets the needs of local library users considering the resources available. What a comprehensive and efficient service means will differ between councils and will depend on the needs and interests of each area. Libraries can be viewed as *"universal services which nurture neighbourhoods and by their very nature are safe, anonymous, trusted and lifelong. Libraries can connect people, improve digital inclusion, offer refuge and sanctuary, signpost to support, improve our wellbeing, give us purpose through contribution, and refresh our souls through reading and cultural experiences"*<sup>1</sup>.

## Planned projects

Camden run Libraries are on a journey of transformation to become digital and physical spaces that reflect and belong to their neighbourhoods (referred to at Camden as 'neighbourhood spaces'). A report to Camden's Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee (July 2023) identified the key components for successful libraries: data; funding; infrastructure (building and tech); team; partnerships and programming; and branding. The table below sets out some of the key programmes and projects being delivered across the Council's Library Services. It focusses on infrastructure that has been developed or is being provided or planned for Camden residents and outlines the relevant funding sources.

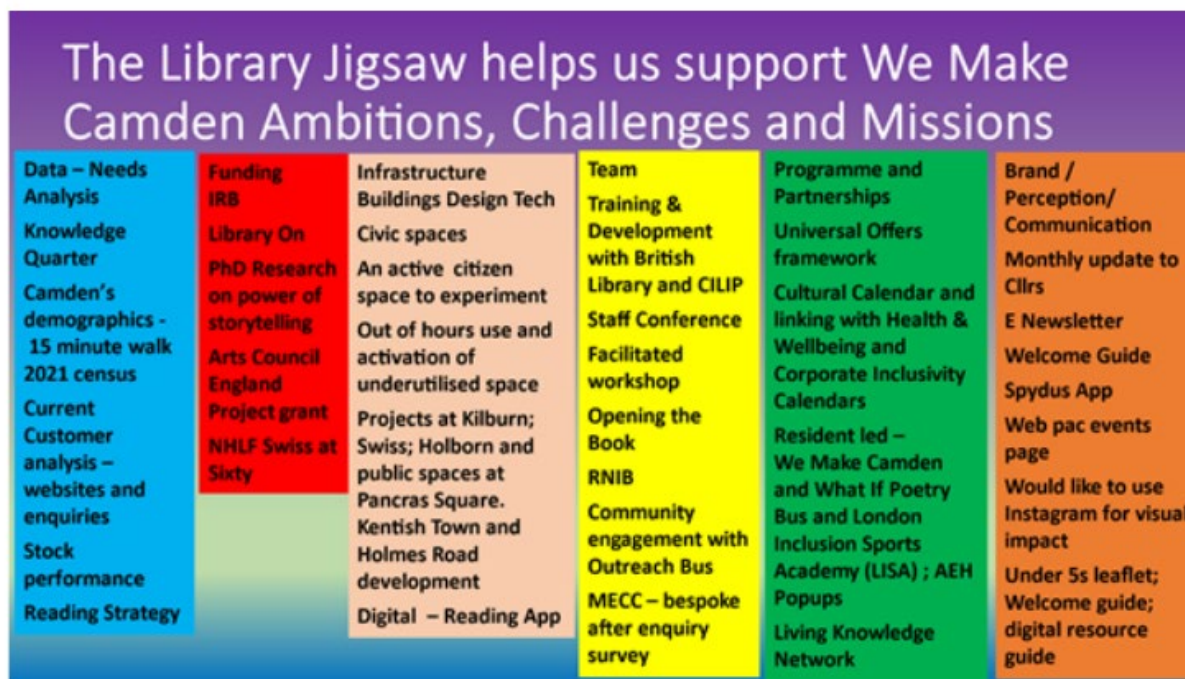
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<sup>1</sup> Report to the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee, November 2024



Libraries	
Category	Details
Lead	The Council's Library service
Current Provision	<p>The Council's Library service run 9 public libraries throughout the borough, in addition to the Local Studies and Archive Centre at Holborn Library. There are also 3 other community run libraries in Camden which are open to everyone.</p> <p>The Council's library estate is being decarbonised - Swiss Cottage, Highgate and West Hampstead libraries have had significant investment through decarbonisation programmes supported by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.</p> <p>Camden's library service had the second highest proportion of engagement across England and the highest in London according to the DCMS participation survey in 2024. The busiest library in Camden is Swiss Cottage, followed by Pancras Square Library, and Kentish Town. Camden Libraries are also part of the SELMS (Southeast Library Management) consortium. The SELMS consortium has 14 member authorities giving library members access to 6 million items.</p> <p>Camden libraries are important in providing access to IT/ computing equipment and free wifi and digital resources, with the libraries at Pancras Square, Swiss Cottage and Kilburn providing the largest number of PC sessions. Furthermore, libraries host a significant number of physical events – with 2,254 events delivered between April 2024 and March 2025. They also provide study space for young people, who may lack sufficient space at home.</p> <p>As 'neighbourhood spaces' libraries can directly deliver interventions that help meet the needs of residents and reduce inequalities, particularly through helping to drive literacy and lifelong learning (including digital and information literacy), supporting English for Speakers of other Language (ESOL), developing culture and creativity and contributing to health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The Library Service is using data to inform the collections and delivery of services at each library. The library team have worked with other teams across the Council and external partners to develop the first all age reading for pleasure strategy for Camden which was launched in June 2025 with an associated delivery plan. The Camden</p>

	<p>Reading Together strategy will be delivered by the library service, working collaboratively with other Council teams and the community. This places libraries at the centre of Camden's mission-based approach. Transformed spaces such as Holborn Library has seen partners including ShiftED co locating and the creation of affordable workspace in the library, supporting the needs of the community. Sharing spaces are also being developed to encourage residents to seek solutions and deliver activities in libraries. Queens Crescent Library is the first of these and others will be developed in Autumn 2025 at Swiss Cottage, Kentish Town, Pancras Square and Holborn.</p> <p>Camden Libraries are the only London Borough that are a member of the Living Knowledge Network coordinated by the British Library and the Head of Libraries is part of a new Strategic Partnerships group chaired by the British Library to develop a partnership strategy.</p> <p>Camden Libraries benefit from a strong professional network through the Living Knowledge Network and receive exhibition panels to tour around the borough, linked to the temporary exhibitions at the British Library. 'So far Fantasy', 'Beyond the Bassline' and 'Unearthed' have featured. To accompany the Beyond the Bassline exhibition there were events including a Black Music Panel Discussion at Pancras Square, Lin Kam Art Presents: The Future of Sound System Culture at Kilburn Library, and 'An evening of Jazz curated by Tomorrows Warriors' at Holborn Library. Camden Libraries will be one of the first of 10 green hubs being developed through a successful Lottery bid by CILIP supported by the British Library. Camden Libraries will benefit from 3 years of funding and a shared role with the British Library. This project will launch in October 2025 and the Hub will be at Pancras Square Library.</p> <p>Camden had the highest percentage of adults who had engaged with a library between May 2023 and March 24 than any other London Borough and second highest in the Country. Despite library closures during 2024/25, the performance data shows physical visits to libraries increased by 9% between 2023/24 and 2024/25; and use of the digital library remained at the same level with over 400,000 uses of online resources such as e-books and magazines.</p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>Key aspects of Camden's Libraries service are set out in the <u>'Library Jigsaw'</u> below, this identifies where the service will be further developed to better support residents and communities. An overarching library strategy is being developed to sit over the newly written reading for pleasure strategy, Camden Reading Together 2025-30.</p>



Camden's recent libraries transformation programme has been delivering the following key changes across Camden's libraries:

#### Digital Infrastructure Investment

- Increased broadband bandwidth
- Wi-Fi printing, enabling users to print documents straight from their laptop/mobile phone
- Improved wi-fi access throughout library buildings
- Refresh of public access computers and self-service equipment
- Roll out of 'Hublets' for accessing digital newspapers and online resources
- Launch of an app for renewals and searches

- A London wide ReadOn app encourages people to discover the pleasure of reading
- Camden Libraries are signed up to be data banks and are also signing up to be device banks through The Good Things Foundation and the team are supported by the Digital Inclusion Team.

#### Changing role and restructure

- Libraries becoming neighbourhood spaces offering events, advisory services, digital skills training, access to social prescribers and care navigators, provision of 'We Make Camden' areas and missions
- An ever-expanding programme of events and activities and offers such as Bitesize Music ; offering LEGO robotics for Home Educators and other families; Arts for Dementia weekly sessions at Swiss Cottage Library; Grow London and British Library sessions for entrepreneurs; VR and 3D printing sessions in partnership with Adult Community Learning; partnering with the Bloomsbury Festival; and with the Lang Lang International Music Foundation with piano academies at Holborn and Swiss Cottage Libraries offering free access to piano tuition
- Provision of warm and cool spaces and also pick up points for free sanitary products
- Clothes swaps/mend workshops and a Community Café using food waste to create affordable meals at Pancras Square Library. A funded Green Hub at Pancras Square Library
- Creation of a Community Library Manager role to connect with local organisations and residents; introduction of Area Lead roles and two reader development roles
- Improved succession planning and training for staff; skills audit of staff; apprenticeship qualifications
- Hosting British Library touring exhibitions and providing access to streamed events (via British Library's Living Knowledge Network)
- Development of co-working space for business start ups (Workary at Holborn)
- Partnering with a community organisation providing making sessions to primary schools (ShiftED)
- Health hubs for measuring health data, early intervention services (preventing falls)
- Increasingly library buildings in England provide flexible spaces (meeting rooms and pods including co-working/ad-hoc meeting space), better spaces for collections/exhibits and support for co-located services
- Camden Libraries are exploring greater shared use by community groups outside of normal library hours

#### Developing a Reading strategy

- To address reading inequalities, Camden Libraries have developed a Reading Strategy, Camden Reading Together, for all ages to develop the literacy levels of people living in Camden.

- The Reading Agency have been commissioned over the last year to work with the Library Service and other stakeholders to develop the strategy and corresponding delivery plan which will include auto enrolment of Primary aged children and baby packs to be given out by Registrars funded by S106. Packs will include a welcome letter, my first library card, joining form for the library, library welcome guide and a booklet on 'Developing reading skills for babies and pre-school children'.
- The Early Years Team will also be adding a leaflet on their offer "Camden Kids Talk: Ten Top Tips and QR code".
- The Libraries team are also discussing with the Book Trust about a leaflet promoting their programme - which libraries are already delivering and it will highlight the Book Trust offer. The Book Trust are contributing to the Libraries' reading strategy "Camden Reading Together".
- The Libraries service have accessed £1.15m over the last two and a half years from various sources including Local CIL, S106, Libraries Improvement Fund (Arts Council England and Department for Culture Media and Sport, DCMS) and Clore Duffield. £68k of CIL (from several wards) will support a storytelling project to develop the skills of the library team, to support them to build connections and support a health and wellbeing librarian role for 18 months. The funding has also supported the planned redesign of Kilburn Library which will see a £1.7m investment in 2025/26. A £499k grant application has also been awarded by the Library Improvement Fund (Arts Council England on behalf of DCMS) to improve Kilburn Library. This will be used to bring the lower ground floor back into use as a community facility (due to start in December 2025). This is in addition to the £1.7m investment which will fund the redesign of the two library floors, including removal of dated partitions, the installation of newly designed shelving units, a redesigned and relocated children's library and the introduction of digital offers including a laptop tower and a recording studio.
- Holborn Library has been refreshed and has benefitted from £92k of local CIL ad £114k of S106 funding to improve ventilation, shelving and furniture and create spaces to support community partners and organisations.
- Registrar packs as part of the reading strategy delivery plan have been funded with £14k of S106 – 'Share and read with Baby', packs are issued when parents register the birth of their baby including a library card and leaflets introducing them to services to support.
- £7,075 of local CIL funding delivered a literacy project with Brecknock School in 2024.

- £180k of local CIL has contributed towards an update to the Swiss Cottage children's library including a performance area, activities area and a juke box

#### Co-design

- To ensure each library reflects its locality with art walls; sharing spaces with community wallpaper spaces to capture ideas; and activity funded by Camden Giving
- Kilburn library artist collaboration
- Activating the library spaces through community gallery spaces and working with partners including City Lit to display student works at Holborn Library
- Through partnerships growing the learning offer, creativity and enterprise and being a one stop shop for community information
- Having a full cultural programming supporting South Asian Month, Pride, Black History Season and Refugee Week etc with events, exhibitions and activities
- Working with RNIB to make the library e-book collections more successful
- Working with professional storytellers
- Designing the spaces with the community through engagement before refurbishments e.g. Swiss Cottage Children's Library; Holborn Library and Kilburn Library and as part of the libraries strategy development.
- The reading strategy includes a goal to engage community connectors who will connect the library with more of the community who will be ambassadors for the service.

#### Developing the joy of reading

- Working with the Book Trust to get children reading
- Weekly rhyme time and storytelling sessions
- Books Together for 2-4 year olds at various libraries with Coram Beanstalk
- Participation in Summer Reading Challenge
- Engagement with schools / Camden Learning / Registrar
- Retrofit Kentish Town: creating a space for residents to come and talk about the environment and what they can do at home to help, and developing this into sharing spaces with the first at Queens Crescent Library from April 2025 and others to follow



<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>The Library Jigsaw set out above identifies infrastructure as one of the key Jigsaw pieces for the Library Service. However, at this time the Council's library strategy does not refer to an infrastructure need. However, there are potential plans for the Crowndale Centre where Camden Town Library is located as this library would benefit from a more prominent and visible space in this building or a new library in an appropriate location in the neighbourhood. Holborn Library also has a potential development plan connected to it and if this happens, reprovision will likely focus on the library and the feasibility of options for reprovisioning of the Archive storage are being considered. Kentish Town Library would also benefit from an extension to accommodate the activity that takes place in the library and high level options have been scoped and are being explored.</p> <p>The Council launched an all age Reading Strategy – Camden Reading Together – which doesn't have a specific infrastructure element, but does reinforce the need for libraries to be neighbourhood spaces, with a localised approach to working with local communities. The Reading Strategy has an associated delivery plan using data to inform the collections and delivery at each library. The delivery plan will also seek to engage stakeholders internally and externally, working to collaboratively support literacy development across all ages including digital and information literacy.</p> <p>An overarching libraries strategy to respond to Camden's missions, set out in We Make Camden, is also now in development. This will sit above the reading strategy.</p> <p>Building transformation to create spaces that meet community needs and enable co-location are also being developed with Holborn Library set to reopen in April 2025 and Kilburn Library to be redesigned and closed from October 2025 until June 2026.</p> <p>Furthermore, projects and programmes will continue to be developed and rolled out in line with the priorities identified in the 'Library Jigsaw' and transformation programme above.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>Core revenue funding for the Libraries service is allocated by the Council to deliver staffing; books (both physical and digital) and other digital resources, security of premises and events. Core building costs, including cleaning and maintenance, sit in the Property Team budget.</p> <p>Capital funding has also been sought from various sources including IRB; S106; Local CIL; CLORE Learning space funding; Lottery funding and Arts Council England. Furthermore sustainability funding is being used for</p>

decarbonisation projects at Swiss Cottage Library; Highgate Library and West Hampstead Library through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Sustainability funding has also supported the LED lighting upgrade at Holborn Library.

National Lottery Heritage Fund: Camden Libraries were successful in their bid to host the Black British Ballet, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and managed by Libraries Connected and featured an Island Movements performance as part of the Bloomsbury Festival in October 2024, following the success of the 2023 Bloomsbury Festival.

# 12 Sport & Physical Activity



## Sport and Physical Activity

Regular physical activity is an important part of being healthy. Guidance prepared by Public Health England and the Chief Medical Officer recommends that adults (aged 19-64) participate in at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each week, or 75 minutes of vigorous activity if that works for them. It also recommends that children undertake at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Adults with disabilities and / or long-term health conditions should also aim for 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each week.

Physical Activity has an essential role in helping Camden residents to lead 'healthy lives'. There are multiple health challenges facing the borough. According to Camden's [State of the Borough Report \(2024\)](#), 2 in 5 children were living in poverty after housing costs in 2022. Obesity levels are also challenging with 50% of Camden adults being overweight or obese and 1 in 3 children in year 6 being overweight or obese. The Office of National Statistics found 39% of households in Camden have no access to private green space compared to the 12% average across England. There is clear and compelling evidence that being regularly active makes a vital contribution to health, wellbeing, independence and quality of life. This includes preventing and reducing the impact of long-term health conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke and a range of cancers. Active living helps promote mental health and wellbeing, with the potential for benefit soon after becoming more active. The latest Active Lives data (Sport England Active Lives Adult Survey November 22/23) suggests that Camden is well above the national average for resident activity levels. In 2023, 74% of adults were considered active, achieving over 150+ minutes of activity per week. Despite this, in 2023, 18% of residents were found to be inactive, achieving less than 30 minutes per week. From a population health perspective these residents have most to gain from becoming more active, and with 1 in 5 of our adult residents inactive, this represents large numbers of people who could benefit from further support.

There are factors which can have an impact in activity between different social groups. In Camden, data from 2023 suggests adults with a disability or long-term health condition are less likely to be active. There are other inequalities in activity levels of certain population groups; Black, Asian and other ethnic communities are less likely to be active, as are those in long term unemployment. Generally, activity levels decrease with age and men are more likely to be active than women.

For children and young people participation in sport and physical activity is more difficult to achieve for some children. The latest Camden Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire Summary 2021-22 shows that boys are more likely to take part in physical activity than girls, and that participation among certain ethnic groups including South Asian children is less than other ethnic groups. Girls, children from some ethnic groups, children from our poorer neighbourhoods, care-experienced people and disabled children in particular face additional challenges to leading active lives.

Challenges for all social groups include access to appropriate facilities, affordability, timing and type of activities and locality, as well as demand on indoor and outdoor facilities, including our parks and open spaces. A more supportive environment that makes it easier to wheel, cycle and walk, along with support and messaging by providers and frontline staff may help to address some of these barriers. There is a need for a range of 'universally' accessible physical activity opportunities, as well as 'targeted' services to support residents into physical activity and address inequalities. The Council has an important role in ensuring residents are able to lead active and healthy lives, and that adequate and appropriate provision exists for those that need it the most.

There are also challenges facing the physical activity system, namely increased costs on supplies and services and challenges in recruiting to jobs and developing the much-needed voluntary workforce across the sector. A significant current challenge for leisure operators is viability arising from the cost-of-living crisis (impacting on people's ability to pay for admissions and memberships) and significant increases in energy prices, impacting particularly on swimming pool operators. As privately managed facilities tend to be membership-based and can be too expensive for residents and community groups, there is a need to ensure sufficient space for income generating activities whilst ensuring diversity of provision and access to free and discounted activities for residents in our leisure centres.

## Planned projects

There are currently projects being delivered to improve the facilities at Talacre Community Sports Centre and Camden's 6<sup>th</sup> leisure centre, King's Cross Fitness, has recently opened as part of the King's Cross Central development, with the remaining floor to open during 2025. Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre has just completed a new soft play facility and has plans to develop the cycle studio. Camden Council have no further sports hall, health and fitness centre or swimming pool developments planned currently.



There are a wide range of ongoing initiatives and projects to increase participation in sports and physical activity and remove barriers for those known to be least engaged, some of these are highlighted in the table below.

Over the Plan period, the Council will seek to leverage existing community assets and infrastructure such as schools, tenants and citizens association halls, and parks and open spaces in combination with well-trained staff to deliver 'doorstep' services. These can target those who cannot or do not feel comfortable attending leisure centres. A more diverse and inclusive provision can tailor physical activity to community needs, reach those who need it most, and make physical activity local, social, simple, and well-timed.

The Council's Green Spaces Investment Programme prioritises projects and funding to enhance open spaces, play areas and some sports equipment such as Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and outdoor gyms. 'Healthy Streets', including greening of the public realm, are interventions helping to provide safer and more welcoming environments to encourage walking, wheeling and cycling, with 'Healthy School Street' projects designed to increase 'active travel' to and from school. Improvements to key routes/corridors and area-based projects are set out in the Green Infrastructure and Transport sections of this IDP and form a vital way of making it easier to lead a physically active life.

The table below provides further information on sports and physical activity infrastructure in the borough and key priorities for enhancement this existing offer.

Sport and Physical Activity	
Category	Details
<b>Lead</b>	The Council's Leisure Service and Health and Wellbeing Department lead and develop physical activity in the borough. Inputting to this is Pro- Active Camden (PAC), the borough's voluntary strategic partnership for sport and physical activity, bringing together organisations committed to providing and increasing opportunities for Camden citizens to be physically active. Providers of sport and physical activity in Camden include voluntary sports clubs, trusts, schools, charities and private companies.
<b>Current Provision</b>	Camden's residents access sport and physical activity in many ways including: schools, early years, parks and green spaces, sports clubs, leisure centres, VCS youth and community/TRA centres and private facilities. Full information about facilities and services in the borough is provided through the <a href="#">Camden Sports Directory</a> on the Council's website.



The Council's Leisure Service is a direct provider, commissioner and enabler of sport and physical activity in Camden. It is a large and varied service to reflect the depth and diversity of need across the population. Since 2005, Camden's centres have been managed by GLL, a charitable social enterprise, which trades as 'Better'. The borough's 6 leisure centres are used by a mix of Camden residents, schools, local clubs and community groups as well as those working and studying in the borough or those who choose to access Camden facilities from neighbouring boroughs. As of 2024, membership stood at around 27,000 with approx. 11,000 concessions. LB Camden also manage 74 open spaces, 9 of which have outdoor gyms, with larger spaces featuring Multi-Use Games Areas. Waterlow Park, Kilburn Grange and Lincoln's Inn Fields also have well used park tennis and courts; and Waterlow Park and Lincoln's Inn Fields provide netball courts and hoops. Play areas are widely distributed across the Borough (-see the Green Infrastructure section of this IDP). The City of London Corporation and Royal Parks also manage the significant leisure facilities at Hampstead Heath and Regent's Park respectively.

The Leisure Service is commissioned by Camden Health and Wellbeing to tackle health issues facing residents through developing and delivering targeted interventions. The service works with clinicians, social prescribers, and front-line professionals to develop and implement interventions for older adults, adults and children living with disability, poor mental health and long-term medical conditions. There is a specific focus on supporting communities that may be less active, like those from South Asian communities in the borough. Recent projects have included:

- Active for Life Campaign: A 12-week behaviour change campaign to motivate residents aged 60+ into regular physical activity by overcoming common barriers such as limited mobility, low motivation and access constraints. Participants had access to free physical activity sessions hosted by partners throughout the borough, with the aim of encouraging them to try new activities and find sustainable ways to be active.
- Get Active Programme (GAP): A physical activity and behaviour change intervention for residents with a range of long-term conditions, currently delivered through five GP surgeries in deprived parts of the borough. Since the pilot began (2022) over 800 patients have been supported. Results taken during and for completers of the programme show a positive and sustained increase in their physical activity participation, in addition to a steady increase in health and wellbeing. 40% of referrals are from Camden's black and ethnic communities and 72% from the top 3 areas of deprivation. Options for extending the service are being discussed with NHS clinical leads.
- In leisure centres: the women's only swimming offer has been expanded, improved access to gym equipment provided for disabled users, and quiet soft play sessions introduced to support families and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The centres continue to provide many free and low-cost

opportunities for young people throughout the year and partner with Camden's Holiday Activities and Food Programme to support inclusion.

- The education and training programme, partnered with Camden's schools sixth form consortium LA Swap, provides 16 to 19yr olds, at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training at the next point of transition an opportunity to develop skills and qualifications in sports coaching, leadership and development. Many learners progress to further education, training or employment in sport, play, education and youth work in Camden and beyond.
- The high-quality gymnastics facility at Talacre Sports Centre caters from beginners to the elite delivering 117 (Children and Young People and adults) classes a week for both gymnastics and trampolining, with specialist SEN classes every weekend.
- There is a thriving community 'learn to swim' programme with over 3,100 young people developing this life skill. GLL deliver school swimming lessons to 66 schools per year and 5,180 pupils to help key stage 2 attainment to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over 25 metres. There are also opportunities for free swimming for children and young people, 60+, as well as supported facility time for some voluntary groups.

An Indoor Sports and Leisure Facility Audit was undertaken in 2015 by KKP consultants for LB Camden and an update prepared in 2022 as part of the evidence base for the Euston Area Plan. The key findings were:

- There are approximately 32 sports halls in Camden, most publicly available for community use. Demand is high, especially at peak times. Despite the recent opening of King's Cross Fitness, there remains a shortfall in sports hall provision impacting on participation in sports such as badminton, basketball, netball, handball and volleyball. Hire costs can also be a major influence on usage especially by voluntary and community groups. Football is not a dominant user of sports hall accommodation in Camden as main centres tend to encourage use at outside MUGAs and synthetic pitches (as well as the football pitches at Hampstead Heath, Regents Park and Market Road).
- 27 pools are provided (including the lido and the bathing ponds at Hampstead Heath). The supply was considered to be broadly in line with demand, however existing provision needed to be maintained, and older pools upgraded as necessary (Swim England). The 2015 Borough Needs Assessment identified a small deficiency in pool space but a relatively good distribution of swimming pools across the borough (although since, the Central YMCA pool has recently closed, there may be a slight deficit South of the borough).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The borough is generally well-served with gyms and health and fitness suites, however the offer in the south of the borough is particularly skewed towards workers, with limited provision for community and voluntary sector (including sports clubs). There are some local gaps such as the Euston area.</li> <li>• Physical activity needs in Camden are also being met by around 64 activity studios (for pilates, yoga, dance etc), 65 Multi-Use Games Areas in open spaces, housing estates and at leisure centres, and 16 artificial grass pitches and outdoor gyms.</li> <li>• There are some specialist facilities: the Council currently manages a skate park at Cantelowes Gardens and there are a number of public and private tennis and netball courts for hire. The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study 2014 identified a shortfall in tennis courts in Camden. Talacre Leisure Centre provides facilities for gymnastics and trampolining and there is a purpose-built boxing club in Kentish Town. Hampstead Heath provides an athletics track and has 2 football pitches. The Football Foundation funded a new hybrid football pitch in 2024 in Regents Park with priority usage for women and girls, SEND, Low Income and BAME players.</li> <li>• Camden's leisure centres provide multiple wet (a total of 9 pools including learning and leisure water space) and dry activities in one place. Fitness gyms are a key component of the leisure centre offer; however, they do not set out to compete with 'budget gyms'. The centres, like some of the charitable providers in Camden, provide warm spaces for non-users, facilities to improve health and wellbeing and to socialise. There are also targeted programmes for people with long term medical conditions, free access for specialist groups and supported environments to participate.</li> </ul>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>Grant funding (through the Government's Levelling Up initiative) was secured for the remodelling of the Talacre Community Sports Centre (Kentish Town) to significantly increase the quality and capacity of the venue. This ongoing project will provide a new studio, more space for gymnastics and a flexible classroom space with a moveable wall. The project will also involve refurbishment of changing areas and toilet facilities and improvements to the accessibility standards of the building. A cafe will be provided along with direct access to the adjoining park to improve the connection between neighbouring green space and the sports centre. The soft play facility will be replaced with high quality, modern equipment to provide an accessible and engaging soft play facility for local children and families.</p>

	<p>Kings Cross Fitness lower ground floor facilities will open in the Summer of 2025 adding a four-court sports hall and 60 station gym to the existing HIIT and cycle studios. Arsenal in the Community No More Red anti-knife crime campaign and DMC funded refurbishment of Peckwater Estate MUGA due in summer 2025.</p> <p>Leisure centres account for 3 out of the top 5 buildings in Camden's corporate estate in terms of energy consumption. A £1.1 million scheme is underway to decarbonise Talacre Community Sports Centre which is due to complete in Winter 2025/26. Funding is being sought through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for decarbonisation projects involving Kentish Town Sports Centre and Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>Larger strategic sites identified in the Local Plan, such as Regis Road, Murphys and Euston will be expected to make contributions towards sports and physical activity infrastructure.</p> <p>The borough's leisure centres require investment to ensure that they can continue to meet the expectations of residents, workers and visitors into the borough. This includes the periodic renewal of equipment and changes in the universal and targeted elements of the offer as demands change. There is an identified need to enhance provision of physical activity, including for young people, in the Kilburn area.</p> <p>At least £1million is required to undertake building repairs at Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre. A complete modernisation of Oasis Sports Centre is required involving reconfiguring of spaces, improving accessibility and full replacement of plant and machinery.</p> <p>A report to Camden's Cabinet on 'Opening up Access to Sport for Young People' in June 2024 highlighted potential interventions to improve the offer for children and young people in Camden, noting that the Borough is home to 36,000 under-18s and has the third highest number of households of any local authority area where residents lack access to private green space. Priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving skateboarding provision- there is sufficient demand to support a second skateboarding facility, potentially in the west of the borough.</li> <li>• Developing a cycle pump track/ BMX provision (there is no BMX facility in Camden).</li> <li>• Developing a padel tennis court (a new and growing sport).</li> <li>• Further development of provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.</li> <li>• Refurbishment of MUGAs and in some cases adapting them to diversify their use.</li> <li>• Improvements to the public realm to support play and physical activity 'on the go'.</li> </ul>

	<p>There is also a desire to provide a full size 11-a-side synthetic turf pitch for organised football (however there are challenges to finding the available space and any such pitch would likely require supporting infrastructure such as changing rooms and floodlights). A possible option might be to provide this at roof level as part of a major development scheme. There is more generally a need for more higher specification pitches, such as 3G, to support both organised and recreational football.</p> <p>There is currently shared use of a number of Camden school sports facilities, however there is the potential to negotiate Section 106 agreements to secure borough sports development outcomes (e.g. enhanced provision for local clubs).</p> <p>Over the plan period, it is forecast there will continue to be growth in the proportion of older adults in Camden – this will necessitate further adjustments in the local offer whilst recognising that Camden is likely to retain a much younger population than many other local authority areas. The latter includes the borough's large student population.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>Sports provision is likely to be met through extension of opening hours and optimising the use of existing facilities (including shared use agreements) and delivering a more diverse and inclusive sports provision. Major development at Euston is likely to require additional sports facilities in line with requirements set out in the Euston Area Plan.</p> <p>There is potential for the Community Infrastructure Levy to be used to refurbish and maintain existing sports facilities and shared-use agreements to be secured through legal agreements/ planning conditions in the development management process. Community halls and TRA centres may also qualify for Community Infrastructure Levy funding as these will often be multi-functional spaces, providing elements of sports and leisure programming at certain times. Proposals for use of Local CIL monies would need to be submitted to the Council that meets the relevant criteria and any award of funding will be subject to available ward balances and prioritisation of projects by ward members.</p> <p>Funding for general maintenance of the leisure centres is met through memberships and charges. The Green Spaces Investment Programme funds parks and open space improvement projects.</p> <p>The Council has also been successful in applying for external grant funding, e.g. Levelling Up (Talacre) and decarbonisation of estate.</p>

# 13 Support for Children and Families





## Support for Children and Families

This section refers to services ensuring every child and young person has the best possible start in life. They involve the Council working as both a direct provider and as a partner in tandem with a wide array of voluntary sector and community organisations. This section focusses on physical infrastructure such as children's centres and family hubs, nurseries and supported accommodation. It does not refer to all statutory functions of the Council nor is it intended to provide a comprehensive overview of services and programmes provided by organisations in Camden. It should be read in conjunction with other parts of the IDP dealing with Health, Education, Adult Social Care, Green Infrastructure and Sports and Physical Activity.

The Estates and Neighbourhood Mission in 'We Make Camden' seeks provision of services which are *"accessible to people where they live and wants everyone to be empowered to live a good life. We want our services to be local, connected and built on relationships, enabling people to find solutions"*. This means further development of neighbourhood working, bringing services closer to residents, built around local networks, based upon multi-disciplinary working, and familiar to, and trusted by their users. In short: "local, connected and built on relationships." Many of the problems and challenges experienced by families, parents/carers and children are inter-connected and therefore, will in many cases benefit from a collective and co-ordinated response working cross-council, cross-sector or cross-partners, allowing for challenges being experienced by children and families to be identified early and acted upon in the right way. Delivering timely and effective support can produce lasting, even lifelong, benefits.

Recent years have seen an exacerbation of the stresses impacting on families and children, particularly due to the cost-of-living crisis, recovery from the pandemic, sometimes inadequate, overcrowded and unaffordable housing and health inequalities. Young people have reported concerns around personal safety due to the prevalence of knife crime, gangs and drugs. The Council is also seeking to reduce complexity in the care and support system to make it as easy to 'navigate' as possible, recognising that this can be a major factor on the timeliness of interventions. While certain key services will be based around a 'universal' offer available to all, there is often a need for more targeted approaches at a population scale to address inequalities and inequities experienced by some groups. Lower uptake and engagement are factors influencing outcomes. Camden is working with partners to better understand underlying trends and patterns through using data, research and engagement with users.

In Camden, almost two in five children live in poverty after housing costs, with around 5,000 children living in absolute poverty in the borough. There are public health challenges around uptake of childhood immunisations, tooth decay, nutrition and physical activity. An estimated one in five children in Camden aged 11-16 have a mental health condition, rising to 23% of 17-19 year olds, there are also high rates of persistent absence in schools, particularly attendance by boys of secondary school age. Many of these issues are being tackled through 'whole-system' approaches involving co-ordinated interventions and often delivered across multiple settings.

About 9% of Camden households are overcrowded rising to around 1 in 5 households in the social rented sector, with consequential impacts on family life. There are over 600 Camden households living in temporary accommodation, not all housed in the borough. The National Planning Policy Framework states the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies/ Local Plans. This includes affordable housing, housing for families with children and looked after children. Policy H8 of the Draft New Local Plan relates to housing made available for people with care or support requirements, and who need varying levels of care to enable them to live safely and securely. This includes children and young people up to the age of 25 who are supported by LB Camden services. The Local Plan seeks a proportion of housing and affordable housing in the largest housing developments to meet the specific needs of people with care and support needs and more generally supports the development of a variety of specialised housing in the borough.

The Council has a statutory responsibility to be effective and caring 'corporate parents' for all Children Looked After and Care Experienced Young People. The term 'corporate parent' embraces provision of best possible support, safeguarding and support for the transition to adulthood. 'Looked after children' or 'children in care' are those who are in the care of a local authority for more than 24 hours, often due to circumstances where their parents are unable to provide adequate care or protection. 'Care experienced young people' refer to individuals who have lived in or are currently living in care, or at home with a supervision order, or previously looked after. The Council has developed a Corporate Parenting Strategy which is supported by a Placement Sufficiency Strategy and Kinship Strategy.

The table below outlines some of the main elements of service provision for children and families in the Borough. It also identifies some of the key changes to the way services are being delivered and future needs and priorities.

Support for Children and Families	
Category	Details
<b>Lead</b>	<p>Camden's Children and Learning Directorate was formed in Autumn 2023 to bring together children's, youth, early help and education services.</p> <p>There are many external organizations working with Camden to provide families with access to information, advice, mentoring and individual and group-based activities —both in-person and virtual—beyond what is delivered through the Council's designated Family Hub buildings (see below).</p> <p>Many of the projects and programmes involve the participation of Camden schools and the NHS.</p>
<b>Current Provision</b>	<p><u>Children's Centres and Family Hubs</u> – these offer services and support covering welfare, parenting support, parent-infant relationships, speech and language development, maternity and physical and mental health needs. There are 5 of these centres which taken together cover the whole of the borough. The individual centres and locations are listed on the Council's <a href="#">website</a>. All 5 centres provide dedicated early years support including midwifery services, baby feeding advice and health visiting and 'stay and play' drop ins. The 'Best Start for Baby' is a universal programme providing face-to-face contacts every 3 months up to a 12 month health review (with targeted contacts after 1 year), providing opportunities for prevention and early identification of needs.</p> <p>The term 'Family Hub' refers to a 'system-wide model' of joining-up services for families whatever the age of their child, providing a mix of physical and virtual spaces, as well as outreach, making it easier for families to 'navigate' towards the services they need. Family hub 'networks' have been developed involving schools, the NHS, voluntary sector partners and youth services.</p> <p>The evolving <a href="https://families.camden.gov.uk">families.camden.gov.uk</a> website provides a valuable resource for parents and professionals. Support for parent health and welfare can be found <a href="#">here</a>. Camden also assists parents with <a href="#">signposting</a> to practical courses, support groups and advice.</p> <p><u>Early Help Family Support</u> – this is a free service for families with children/young people aged 0-19 offering practical and emotional support. At the time of writing, housing, acute stress, mental health, parenting issues and issues relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are the top 5 presenting issues for Early help assessments. 'Early Help co-ordinators' assist residents with finding the right type of support from family workers</p>

and youth teams to address their needs. In 2023/24, there were 3,700 contacts forwarded from front door to Early Help.

In recent years, Camden has welcomed and supported significant numbers of refugees and displaced children and their families. A dedicated refugees and displaced families team within Early Help has provided assistance to those living in, or which have moved out of Home Office procured hotel accommodation. Early Help have also helped hosted Ukrainian families and children to access services and settle in the borough.

#### Health Visitors

Camden's Health Visiting and Family Support service is provided by Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL). They assist parents with monitoring a child's development, providing advice as challenges arise. They operate appointment-only as well as drop-in clinics.

The 'Start Well' workstream is focused on ensuring that every child in the borough is healthy and ready for school through prevention, early intervention and proactive care. It seeks to optimise children's physical and emotional health, tackle inequalities and build family resilience. Projects/ programmes have also been developed to address priorities such as mental health and wellbeing support, uptake of immunisations, oral health/child dental decay, participation in physical activity, access to food, and support for children and young people with SEND.

#### Mental health

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Camden are provided by the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust. They accept self-referrals, referrals from GPs, as well as from other professionals such as health visitors and school nurses. They use the i-THRIVE framework, which is an integrated, person-centred and needs-led approach to delivering mental health services for children, young people and families. The Trust is also supporting the delivery of mental health services through Children's Centres and Family Hubs.

There are Mental Health Support Teams available to provide weekly visits to all Camden state schools and offer 1:1 and group therapies for children and parents. The teams also assist with training for staff, curriculum development and the holding of mental health awareness events. Schools are supported to provide mental health and resilience workshops. The School Nursing Service also has an important role in reviewing emergency department attendances

to identify medical exacerbations and potential safeguarding issues and holds drop-in sessions at secondary schools during which young people can discuss emotional and mental health issues and risk-taking behaviours.

Additional support is commissioned for some groups such as looked after children and refugees.

#### Children and Young People's Disability Service

The Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS) is a specialist social care provider for children and young people with complex and profound disabilities. They work with a range of statutory and voluntary providers, including education, health and housing, to ensure there is holistic support in place for these young people, with a focus on the transition to adulthood. CYPDS is currently supporting around 550 children and young people from 0-25. There is a 'Preparation for Adulthood' assessment process from the age of 14. CYPDS was involved in the development of the 'Independent Living Hub' at Greenwood Community Centre in Kentish Town. This is a purpose-built space, run by the charity Wac Arts, with facilities designed by and for people with mild to moderate disabilities who can travel independently but need assistance with gaining essential life skills and confidence.

80% of those supported by CYPDS live with one or more carer in the family home. Supported living that is local to Camden is available when necessary for 30% of young people over the age of 18 who are supported by CYPDS, allowing them to develop skills independently with support whilst remaining connected to the community they are familiar with and their families.

#### Childcare

There is a mixed market for childcare including nurseries/nursery classes provided at Camden schools and children's centres, private and voluntary provision and pre/post school clubs and child minders. Camden benefits from a relatively strong network of childcare providers. The position is a less positive for childminders where numbers of registered childminders have fallen significantly.

Local authorities have a responsibility to ensure there is sufficient childcare available and make available a childcare offer for 3 and 4 year olds and disadvantaged 2 year olds. Details are set out on the Council's [website](#), this includes the Camden Enhanced Offer for parents/carers of 3 and 4 years not eligible for the Government's top-up of an extra 15 hours of free childcare. The Council reviewed its maintained nursery provision in 2020 resulting in a reduced number of sites, based on evidence of surplus/duplicate provision, with declining birth rates a factor. Funding was re-directed to a new '1,001 days pathway of services' recognising that almost every aspect of development –

physical, intellectual and emotional are laid down in early childhood. The remaining maintained nurseries help meet the needs of a significant proportion of children identified with SEND.

#### Activity groups

The Council's [website](#) lists multiple drop-ins and activities for children and young people of any age and support for parents, including support for male carers/dads. This includes after-school clubs and holiday play schemes.

#### Social prescribing

A social prescribing service has been established for children and young people aged 12-24, being delivered through partners at Fitzrovia Youth in Action, the Brandon Centre and the Hive. Link workers help young people to identify and co-produce a personalised plan of activities based on the young person's needs, preferences, and motivation. This can involve creating individual activities as well as facilitating access for the young person to activities which are already available in the borough. The service also supports group-based activities aimed at improving inclusion, building resilience and tackling isolation.

#### Access to healthy food

As part of 'We Make Camden', the Food Mission is working towards ensuring that everyone in Camden has access to a healthy, nutritious and sustainable meal every day with good quality, affordable food that is good for them and the planet. Eating healthy, nutritious meals helps support children's education and learning. Since 2023, free school meals have been provided to all pupils in Camden primary schools. Free school meals are also provided at secondary schools for those from families on the lowest incomes, the Council has been seeking to increase uptake to ensure that all eligible children benefit. A free fruit offer has been developed during breaktime at some secondary and specialist schools. The Magic breakfast programme has also delivered free breakfasts benefiting significant numbers of children from deprived families.

'Little Steps to Healthy Lives' and 'The Healthy Schools Programme', are whole-setting approaches involving one third of early years settings, all Children's Centres and a majority of schools aiming to improve diets and physical activity. Free school meals are also provided as part of Camden's Holiday Activity and Food Programme. There is also healthy eating support and breastfeeding support provided for parents. In recent years, the Council has funded



food vouchers for families experiencing food insecurity and made direct grants to VCS organisations to address hunger.

### Youth support

The Council's Integrated Youth Support Service co-ordinates a range of projects, services and opportunities for secondary school age children and for those up to the age of 25 with special educational needs and disabilities. The Youth Early Help Team arrange targeted support for young people where this is needed due to their vulnerability or exposure to risky behaviour.

Safe and culturally appropriate spaces have a vital role in offering a chance to learn, connect with others and explore interests. The Council runs 3 Youth Hubs at Somers Town Youth Centre, Kilburn Youth and Family Hub and Highgate Fresh Youth Academy. They offer activity programmes as well as advice and support on matters affecting young people's lives, including accredited qualifications. Young people living in overcrowded households are able to find space in which to do homework. The Youth Hubs also enable young people to gain experience of volunteering and develop their self-esteem and confidence through participation in decision-making and advocacy, e.g. via youth forums.

There are a significant number of not-for-profits and charities in Camden providing youth clubs and activities, many from local community facilities. A number are listed on the Council's [website](#). Examples include:

[The Castlehaven Community Association](#) in Camden Town has a dedicated team of youth workers who partner with local cultural organisations, tutors and coaches. They run a weekly Rebound youth club providing opportunities to get active, meet friends and access peer support and mentoring.

[Fitzrovia Youth in Action](#) is a community-based youth action project that uses youth work, sports, mentoring and work experience placements to empower children and young people to overcome the barriers they face, fulfil their potential and create positive change in their community. They operate in Camden and Westminster.

[The Hive / Catch 22](#) provides free drop-in health and wellbeing to support young people. This includes help and advice on matters such as mental health, personal development, health and wellbeing, sexual health, substance misuse. A range of activities are provided without the need to book in advance. They also offer study space and there is a daily food bank.

[Queen's Crescent Community Association](#) in Gospel Oak provides support for people of all ages. Their youth service is based at The Dome Youth and Sports Centre, with activities provided free of charge. They have senior and junior

sports clubs for children/young people from different age groups, providing tailored sports activities as well as girls only sessions. They also arrange holiday camps in school breaks.

[The Winch](#) provide a range of community services, including a programme for young people. Youth support encompasses a youth club (pool, tennis, music sessions and arts and crafts), mentoring services and a variety of youth-led projects. The latter includes GRRLS (a forum for young women to meet up and discuss issues impacting on their lives), Just Us Girls (for girls aged 11-18 offering activities such as dance and mindfulness) and 'Team Up' partnering with local schools and estates to engage young people in social action.

### Corporate parenting

Camden's population of children in care has been continuing to grow in recent years, while the costs of delivering care have also increased, linked to the wider cost-of-living crisis. There were 218 'looked after children' as of October 2024, with just over 60 in care for more than 2 years. A significant proportion of children coming into care in Camden are unaccompanied and separated children, who will often have complex emotional needs relating to trauma and loss and can be vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Data shows there is particular over-representation of Black and Global Majority (encompassing people of African, Asian, indigenous, Latin American and mixed-heritage backgrounds) children in care, and they are disproportionately male.

Most children come into care through care proceedings. Where children have 'care orders', this means that care proceedings have concluded, and the family court has decided that the local authority should hold parental responsibility.

Most Camden Children (i.e. 'Looked After Children' as well 'care experienced young people') are cared for inhouse, either through Camden Children's Homes, foster or kinship care, or the Young People's Accommodation Pathway. Children will be supported through foster or kinship care wherever possible, but there is provision in children's homes where no suitable care can be found (the Council maintains a 7 bed children's home for 12-17 year olds where no suitable foster care can be found). Adoption may also be a suitable outcome for looked after children. There remains a reliance on out-of-borough providers for the care of some children and young people with complex needs, often outside of London, and which can be very expensive.

The Young People's Accommodation Pathway provides a range of supported accommodation for looked after children and care leavers (aged 16 to 25 years), homeless young people (aged 16 and 17) and young parents, with over 230 beds across almost 30 properties in Camden, mostly owned by Housing Associations. The pathway includes provision of support for mental health and complex needs.

	<p>In late 2024, there were around 400 (previously looked after) care experienced young people eligible for a service with around 350 actually accessing a service. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 extended local authority duties to care for experienced young people up to 25, regardless of their employment, education, or training status. Young people may use LB Camden's services between the ages of 21-25 for variable lengths. When they cease to have a need, their cases may be closed and return when they need a service. For those aged 18-20, Camden mainly keep their cases open as they are yet to be settled into their permanent accommodation and more likely to require regular help and support.</p> <p>The Council has identified care-experienced young people as a 'protected characteristic' following evidence that nationally they form a disproportionate part of the homeless population, prison population and young people not in education, employment or training. They experience poorer health and wellbeing and may be exposed to stigma and discrimination. Corporate parenting, health and education services are working collectively to assist care leavers in their transition to independent lives.</p> <p>Information about how Camden supports Looked After Children and Care Leavers up to the age of 25 can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>'Stable Homes, Built on Love', the Government's response to the National Review of Social Care, outlines six pillars of reform, including a new Family Help model. This approach emphasises flexible and joined-up support delivered by local teams familiar with the community. It is based on having multi-disciplinary teams are embedded in neighbourhoods, integrating targeted early help and children in need services within a broader framework of universal, community, and specialist support. The idea is to improve family experiences, enabling those needing support to be identified faster.</p> <p>Camden's first step in responding to the national reform agenda is to streamline Early Help (see above), currently delivered by separate Early Years, Complex Families, and Youth Services teams. The proposal consolidates support for families with children of all ages within Family Hubs, adopting an "All Age, All Local" approach under the name Family Help.</p> <p>Family hubs are intended to be a 'one stop shop' of family support from conception through to the age of 19, or 25 for children with special educational needs and disabilities, however Government funding for designated hubs has, to date, focussed entirely on early years provision (see 'Funding below'). There are opportunities to develop support for older children and children with SEND. This includes possible expansion of and join-up of mental health services from antenatal through to adulthood, which look at the needs across the 'whole family'.</p>

	<p>Guiding service development and transformation is Camden's child health equity programme – RAISE Camden, applying an evidence and research-based approach to their work. This is helping to better understand the underlying causes for a range of worsening health trends, applying particular focus to including inequalities and inequities and the ethnic bias that is often prevalent. The programme has been delivering a number of 'test and learn' / pilot projects as well as longer term development initiatives on the core themes of child poverty, whole family mental health and tackling racism and inequality. Their work seeks to understand who are eligible to use services, who is accessing them, who is completing programmes and what the outcomes are. One example has been a project with University College London Hospitals Trust examining high repeated attendances by families at A&amp;E with limited/no medical need. To tackle this issue, follow up clinics have been provided through Family Hubs enabling these families to better address their needs and issues.</p> <p>The majority of the Council's contracts in the Young People's Supported Accommodation Pathway, comprising 160 beds, are due to expire in May 2026. In July 2025, LB Camden's Cabinet agreed the commissioning strategy to procure accommodation-based housing support for a further period of 72 months. The Council expects the overall number of care-experienced young people to either remain stable or grow by 2027, this growth is in part because of a national rise in the number of teenagers coming into care. The numbers of unaccompanied and separated children tends to fluctuate due to rapidly changing global issues and therefore sufficient capacity needs to be provided to cope with this changing demand. The numbers of vulnerable children and young people with complex needs is also rising against a background of increasing economic pressures on families and high pressure on mental health and other support services. The new commissioning strategy seeks to expand provision of local specialist accommodation for young people with complex needs. This in turn requires the recruitment of more skilled staff able to support these individuals. The Council will seek the ability in all contracts to flex or rebalance the type of care provided should the needs of the care-experienced population change. This enables beds to be repurposed between different levels of support as needs change.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>Total fertility rates in Camden have been declining over the last decade resulting in fewer children being born. Private rental properties in the borough have become significantly less affordable since reforms were made to the Local Housing Allowance. Housing inflation has soared whether families are looking to buy or rent. There is a particular lack of larger, affordable housing especially larger properties available at social rents. There are also issues around people living in overcrowded accommodation, impacting disproportionately on families from certain communities, e.g. Muslim households linked to the culture of looking after older adults who are relatives. There has been a 'hollowing out' of families on middle incomes, resulting in rising relative poverty, and increased social polarisation, as some households leave Camden at the point they look to start a family. There are also issues</p>

	<p>around the cost and ability to keep homes warm in the Winter and/or well-ventilated and cool in periods of hot weather.</p> <p>The delivery of permanent self-contained housing, and maximising the delivery of affordable housing are important priorities set out in the Camden Local Plan. The Draft New Local Plan sets a target of 3,000 additional affordable homes from 2026/27 to 2040/41. The Local Plan also seeks to influence the mix of dwelling sizes provided in line with evidence of local housing needs. The Local Plan identifies developments involving sites of greater than 0.5ha as likely to have the most scope for delivering housing for people with care or support requirements. Beyond the development of new homes, the supply of housing/affordable housing can also be increased where vacant properties are brought back to use, efforts to curb the prevalence of short-term lets and through the Council's own Community Investment Programme which has been focussed on estate regeneration schemes.</p> <p>Emerging needs accommodation needs for children and young people are a smaller children's home providing therapeutic support for those with complex needs, locally based respite and emergency care for those with complex needs who are aged 18 or under, and an additional facility for young people with mental health needs. There is also a need to modernise accommodation, which too often is in inappropriate and outdated buildings and increase the availability of semi-independence accommodation for 16+ year olds and more permanent accommodation – studios and 1 bed properties. Care experienced young people have also identified the benefits of having a physical hub where they can meet and access services.</p> <p>In relation to family health and wellbeing, the Council is taking a whole-system approach to tackling obesogenic environments- i.e. addressing wider environmental factors influencing nutrition and levels of physical activity. Some of these interventions are highlighted in the Sports and Physical Activity and Green Infrastructure sections of the IDP. The Camden Local Plan has also been seeking to limit the proliferation of hot food takeaways in the borough and sets out requirements for Health Impact Assessments for certain types of development, whilst also supporting community food growing.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>Most of these services highlighted above are funded through established processes outside of the planning process. Section 106 agreements can be used to secure requirements around affordable or specialist housing in line with Local Plan policies.</p> <p>The local proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy can be used to providing funding for community facilities and social action projects. There is a ward-based spending with ward members identifying priorities in their area.</p>

Camden facilities and programmes will be funded through the relevant budgets, in some cases assisted by Central Government grants. There are a range of local voluntary and community organisations, a significant number of these are registered charities.

The Council receives Family Hub funding from Government in its capacity as a Family Hub delivery authority. However, the funding awarded has been limited to the delivery of 'Start for Life' services, including development of online information for families. The Government's October 2024 budget confirmed funding for family hubs would continue for one further year, pending a comprehensive spending review in 2025. Camden early education and childcare entitlements are funded by Government with the Council supporting the 'enhanced scheme' for residents not eligible for the Government's 30 hours of childcare.



# 14 Transport



# Transport

Transport plays an integral part in the lives and well-being of Camden residents and those who visit, work and study in the borough. Enabling and encouraging active, sustainable modes of travel throughout Camden has the potential to improve the quality of the environment, health and wellbeing and the local economy. Provision of high quality and shared transport options enables access to opportunities and services such as jobs, education, healthcare and leisure. Tackling traffic dominance and congestion helps to reduce delays and travel times and strengthens the case for investing in new homes and jobs.

Strategies, programmes and projects developed by the Mayor of London and Camden Council set out actions to create healthier, greener and safer streets, enable cleaner modes of travel and promote greater walking, cycling and public transport use. This involves efforts to support a continuing shift away from non-essential vehicle journeys in favour of active travel and shared/public transport. Planning is an important enabler of these programmes and projects through securing funding through Section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy. Access to a high quality public realm and healthy streets are foundational elements to successful development. The Local and London Plan also set requirements around parking, with 'car free development' being the default in the whole of Camden since the current Local Plan was adopted in 2017.

LB Camden Transport Officers have a significant role in providing input into individual planning proposals and ensuring that development impacts are mitigated. This includes managing the impacts of construction vehicles and ensuring that arrangements for deliveries and servicing operate in an efficient and sustainable way. The Draft New Camden Local Plan's policies have been developed in line with the London Plan policies, which provide support for the implementation of the [Mayor of London's Transport Strategy](#). The Local Plan embraces the 'Healthy Streets' approach used throughout this document, with the aim of enabling more people to use active (walking and cycling) and sustainable modes of travel (public transport as well as the active travel 'modes' mentioned).

The Mayor of London's 'Healthy Streets' approach recognises that people's experiences of using streets will influence their decisions on whether to walk, cycle and use public transport. It has 10 indicators which are intended to inform policy and delivery and aimed at improving the experience of travelling through and spending time on London's streets. The indicators embrace

qualitative factors associated with high quality, attractive places:- ‘People choose to walk, cycle and use public transport’; ‘People feel safe’; ‘Things to see and do’; ‘People feel relaxed’; ‘Clean air’; ‘Pedestrians from all walks of life’; ‘Easy to cross’; ‘Shade and shelter’; ‘Places to stop and rest’; ‘Not too noisy’. Measures being implemented in line with this approach include road safety improvements, pedestrian/accessibility enhancements, better provision for cyclists, bus priority, urban greening and climate adaptation features such as sustainable drainage systems. Healthy Streets also form a vital component of wider green infrastructure, with some of the key strategic links identified in the green infrastructure section of the IDP.

## Planned projects

The [Camden Transport Strategy \(CTS\)](#) was adopted by the Council in April 2019. It is titled ‘Healthy Streets, Healthy Travel, Healthy Lives’ and sets the policy, objectives and targets to make transport and streets safer, healthier and more sustainable.

The CTS has seven main objectives (shown below) including transforming streets and places to increase walking and cycling; reducing car ownership and use and motor traffic levels; delivering a sustainable transport system and streets that are accessible and inclusive for all; reducing and mitigating transport-based emissions and noise. By 2041, it aims for 93% of all trips by Camden residents to be made by sustainable modes (up from around 85% today). Camden is also committed to a ‘Vision Zero’ goal of zero Killed and Seriously Injured casualties by 2041.

- 1 To transform our streets and places to **enable an increase in walking and cycling**
- 2 To **reduce car ownership and use**, and motor traffic levels in Camden
- 3 To deliver a sustainable transport system and **streets that are accessible and inclusive for all**
- 4 To substantially **reduce all road traffic casualties** in Camden and progress towards zero Killed and Seriously Injured casualties
- 5 To reduce and **mitigate the impact of transport-based emissions and noise** in Camden
- 6 To deliver an **efficient, well-maintained highways network and kerbside space** that prioritises the sustainable movement of goods and people
- 7 To **ensure economic growth and regeneration** is supported by, and supports, a sustainable transport network

Accompanying the CTS are 5 actions plans:- Cycling Action Plan, Walking and Accessibility Action Plan, Electric Vehicle Charging Point Action Plan, Road Safety Action Plan, and the Freight and Servicing Action Plan. These seek to improve and enable sustainable travel, reduce emissions and noise from vehicles and improve road safety in the borough.

The table below identifies the key transport infrastructure priorities and projects in Camden and sets out the relevant funding mechanisms.

Transport	
Category	Details
Lead	<p>There are two main leads for transport in Camden:</p> <p>(i) The London Borough of Camden has responsibility for managing and maintaining the vast majority of the borough's road network. The Council is also responsible for developing local transport strategy and policies within the London wide framework provided by the Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS).</p>

- (ii) [Transport for London](#) (TfL) is a metropolitan integrated transport authority with responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the capital's public transport and main routes also known as the TfL Road Network or 'red routes'. Current TfL led provision is summarised below:

[Red routes](#): These make up 5% of Camden and London's roads but carry a high percentage of total vehicle volumes and are of strategic importance in maintaining traffic flow. Key sections in Camden include Euston Road, Hampstead Road and part of Camden High Street, Camden Road and Finchley Road to the Borough boundary. A GIS route map is available on TfL's [website](#).

[Buses](#): The vast majority of bus services in London are managed by private operators who are awarded a contract by a TfL subsidiary called London Bus Services. London Bus Services plan routes, set service levels and monitor service quality. TfL also manage and maintain bus stops.

[London Underground](#): TfL subsidiary London Underground Ltd has responsibility for all aspects of the Tube network including running trains, stations and control centres; collecting fares and maintaining and upgrading infrastructure. Services on the following lines serve Camden: Northern (Bank and Charing Cross branches); Central; Piccadilly; Metropolitan; Hammersmith & City, Circle and Victoria.

[London Overground](#): TfL work with two other organisations to deliver Overground services: Arriva Rail London which manages the trains and stations and Network Rail which has responsibility for managing and maintaining most of the track and signals, London Overground forms part of the National Rail network. The routes bisecting Camden are: Richmond/Clapham Junction to Stratford : 'The Mildmay line'; Gospel Oak to Barking Riverside: 'The Suffragette line' and Euston to Watford Junction: 'The Lioness line'.

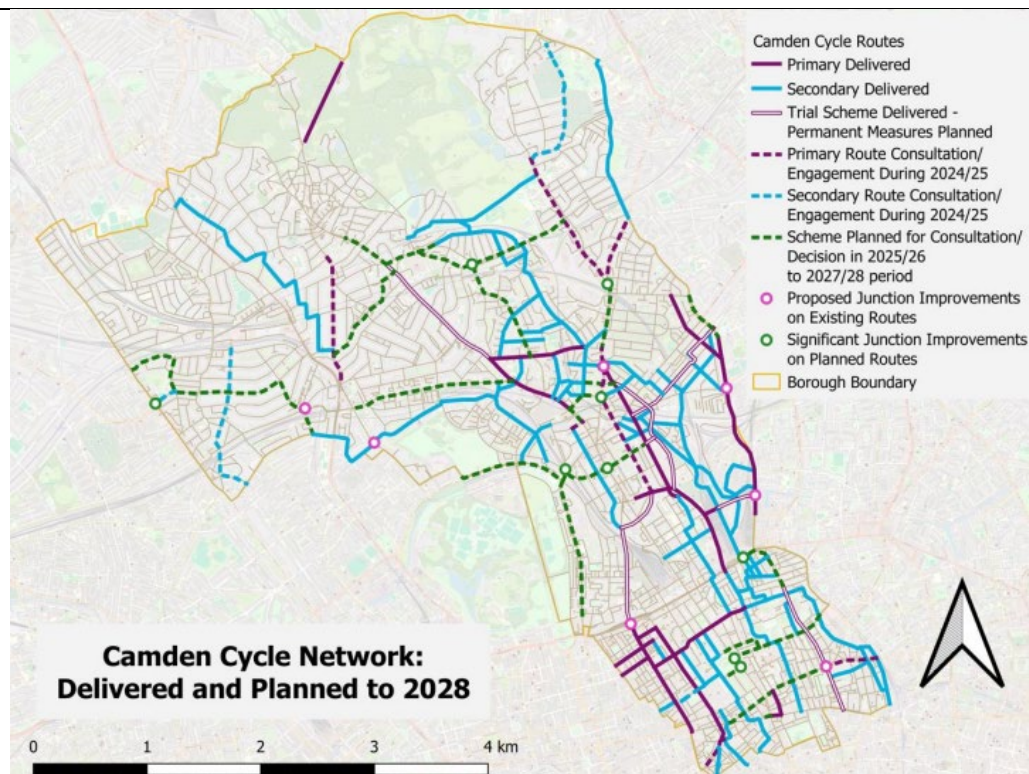
[Elizabeth line](#): TfL has responsibility for fares but MTR Elizabeth line manage trains and some stations. There are one station in LB Camden at Tottenham Court Road. Farringdon serves the Midtown/ Holborn area but is situated in LB Islington.

[London Dial-a-Ride](#) – a free door-to-door service for disabled people who are not able to use buses or trains.

	<p><u>Cycling</u> – TfL operate the <u>Santander bike hire scheme</u> offering bicycles for rent 24 hours a day. Working with boroughs, TfL has rolled out the '<u>Cycleways</u>' network which are intended to be "easy to navigate, help riders of all levels feel safe and confident".</p> <p><u>Taxis and private hire</u> – TfL also holds regulatory and licensing responsibilities and sets taxi fares.</p>
<b>Current Provision</b>	<p>Since the adoption of the Camden Transport Strategy in 2019, the Council has implemented a significant number of safer, healthier streets projects. This includes the completion of The West End Project improving pedestrian, cycle and bus movements along Tottenham Court Road and adjacent streets and involving the provision of new/improved public spaces and urban greening. Segregated cycle lanes were constructed in locations including Chalk Farm Road, Gray's Inn Road, York Way and St Pancras Way. Healthy Neighbourhood/ Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes have also been implemented, including in the Arlington Road area in Camden Town, while pedestrianisation/cycle priority schemes have been implemented in Euston Road and Phoenix Road.</p> <p>By 2024, 35 schools in the borough were covered by timed motor vehicle restrictions ('Healthy School Streets'). Road safety measures and improvements for pedestrians and cyclists have in many cases been part funded through development schemes, for example in Fitzrovia where a significant number of large development schemes have been delivered over the last decade. There has also been substantial expansion of secure cycle parking facilities, the initial roll out of Electric Vehicle Charging Points and creation of Streateries providing new spaces in which to eat and drink.</p> <p>In aggregate, implementation of the Camden Transport Strategy has resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycle mode share in the borough increased from 3.6% in 2017 to 6.7% in 2022;</li> <li>• Walking increased over the same period from 42% to 50% of trips;</li> <li>• Motor traffic volumes dropped by 15% from 2019 to 2023;</li> <li>• The number of cars in the borough decreased by 22% from 2016 to 2022; and</li> <li>• Significant reductions have been achieved in NO<sub>x</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> emissions from road transport</li> </ul>



<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>Every 3 years, Camden Council publishes a Delivery Plan setting out transport priorities for the forthcoming 3 year period. In November 2024, Camden's Cabinet approved a 3 year delivery plan covering the period 2025/26 to 2027/28, including £22 million of capital funding for the programme. The plan's priorities were determined through a process of reviewing strategic goals across Council services (including the Draft New Local Plan), progress towards achieving targets set out in the adopted Camden Transport Strategy, data (road collisions, road traffic levels, air quality, bus performance etc), identified opportunities to improve delivery, input from residents and stakeholders and availability of funding. The Delivery Plan also includes proposals for Transport for London Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding (where projects are demonstrated by boroughs' to help deliver the Mayor's Transport Strategy).</p> <p>Key schemes in the Delivery Plan are set out according to programme categories below. Detailed scheme by scheme proposals and updates are available on the Council's website. Implementation of individual Healthy Streets is contingent on bespoke engagement and decision-making processes, statutory consultations, consideration of equalities and funding availability.</p> <p><u>Healthy Routes (cycling) – strategic cycling corridors and Cycleways</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing the roll out of the full Camden cycle network consisting of 'primary' (main road corridors) and 'secondary' (quieter roads, corridors). Camden's approach is based upon 'protected infrastructure' where possible – i.e. segregation / enhanced separation for cyclists to reduce the risks of interaction with motor vehicles with the safety of junctions enhanced as necessary;</li> <li>Schemes at Haverstock Hill, Clerkenwell Road and Shaftesbury Avenue are awaiting final construction;</li> <li>There are new/ emerging schemes such as Albany Street, Kentish Town Road and Cross Camden Cycleway still to be consulted on. The Cross Camden Cycleway would provide a direct, continuous and safe cycle route from east to west (and vice versa) across Camden Town;</li> <li>The proposed network by 2028 (map below) shows completed 'links' and a variety of junction improvements on that network. This requires the construction of over 20km of additional, segregated cycle lanes. A key component of the network is its connectivity to ensure that continuous links and journeys can be accessed on high quality infrastructure rather than isolated section;</li> <li>Cycling projects will often incorporate wider 'Healthy Streets' measures such as pedestrian enhancements, new/improved urban greening and enhanced public realm.</li> </ul>
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### Healthy Neighbourhoods

Area-wide traffic management, public realm, urban greening and wider Healthy Streets measures in prioritised locations in Camden. These projects will involve motor vehicle restrictions and speed reduction. By 2024, one quarter of Camden had benefitted from area-wide, through traffic reduction, 'Safe and Healthy Streets' schemes.

Significant projects between 2025/26 and 2027/28 include-

- Dartmouth Park Healthy Neighbourhood Scheme: a variety of traffic reduction, public realm, road safety, pedestrian and cycling, urban greening and Healthy Streets measures across the Dartmouth Park area. A joint scheme with Islington Council (currently subject to further review);

- Construction, subject to approvals, and statutory consultation phases, of Camden Street (south) Safe and Healthy Streets measures, including through traffic restrictions;
- Completion of Phase 1 and development of further phases of Fitzrovia Area Safe and Healthy Streets scheme, including through traffic restriction measures and public realm opportunities;
- New/emerging through traffic projects are being brought forward for consultation in Kingsgate Road, Parkhill Road and West Hampstead areas;
- Further feasibility testing of area-wide 'liveable neighbourhood' projects north of Euston Road.

#### Healthy School Streets

- Measures to improve road safety and enable walking, cycling, wheeling and public transport to and from schools with "timed" access restrictions outside schools in feasible locations;
- Permanent build outs, new trees/plants, bike stands etc will be delivered where school entrances are on the strategic road network;
- The Council is also working with the NHS to deliver Healthy Hospital Streets, with work having commenced on a project involving Great Ormond Street Hospital;
- LB Camden also continues to provide a School Crossing Patrol service.

#### Healthy Routes – Bus priority and programmes

- A variety of measures to protect bus journey times on key corridors alongside improvements to road safety for all road users, and high street enhancements. Includes proposals for Upper Woburn Place, West End Lane and Brecknock Road / York Way. Bus priority measures involve extension of priority lanes (where feasible) and 'bus gates' (short sections of road that restrict access to buses), reviewing/extending hours of control, signal optimisation for bus at junctions and 'kerbside management' (removal or relocation of parking and loading spaces which can interfere with bus progression).
- Delivering the 'Better Bus Partnership' which focusses on improving bus journey times and bus passenger experience by implementing upgrades to bus stop/shelters, including 'Countdown' provision, better bus passenger information, and enhanced interchange via Healthy Streets measures to connect bus passengers to/from other public and shared transport services.

- Enhancing the hours of operation of the 603 service, linking Swiss Cottage with Muswell Hill, and a feasibility study into unravelling the Swiss Cottage gyratory to improve conditions for buses and other road users.
- Lobbying Transport for London to review the feasibility of expanding/ amending existing routes and/or creating new orbital routes and expanding Superloop services to the northern part of Camden; improving bus accessibility infrastructure, electrification of the bus fleet and implementation of a range of new bus priority measures; increasing safety and further promoting bus usage.

#### Healthy High Streets

- Corridor and neighbourhood centre enhancements on/in the vicinity of key high streets, with public realm, urban greening, sustainable travel and road safety improvements;
- The high pedestrian flows and conflicts with motor vehicle traffic and safety of Camden High Street/ Parkway junction are long-standing concerns. Through an 'Experimental Traffic Order' a trial involving the part-pedestrianisation of Camden High Street will commence (May 2025), running from the junction with Parkway and Kentish Town Road to the junction with Jamestown Road and Hawley Crescent. Subject to the outcome of the trial, by 2028, the Council is planning to consult on an extension of the motor-traffic free area from Jamestown Road/ Hawley Crescent to Castlehaven Road/Chalk Farm Road;
- The 'Better Safer Kilburn' scheme is a joint project with the London Borough of Brent and City of Westminster. A £12m scheme has been developed which would introduce a range of road safety and public realm improvements along Kilburn High Road to make it easier to walk and cycle and provide places to stop and sit;
- Other potential projects in the 3 year programme include West End Lane, Regent's Park Road and Charlotte Street.

#### Healthy Junctions

Junction improvement schemes to address locations with high volumes of road traffic collisions (especially incidents of people being killed and seriously injured). Schemes include York Way / Agar Grove junction to provide separation for cyclists and better comfort for pedestrians. Other bespoke improvements being considered are Abbey Road/Boundary Road and Russell Square. Other Healthy Junction schemes are incorporated within other Delivery Plan programme categories as part of wider projects.

### Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood

A programme of circa £40 million transformation of streets in and around the Holborn area, including the creation of new/ extension of existing pedestrianised areas. The 'main' scheme involves transformational changes on Theobald's Road, Great Russell Street, the section of New Oxford Street between Bury Place and Museum Street, High Holborn and the Holborn gyratory amongst other locations.

There are also a number of smaller, ['starter' projects](#) being brought forward first.

### Strategic and local walking schemes

Bespoke walking and accessibility improvements in a local neighbourhood area:

- 'Euston to King's Cross Wellbeing Walk': this is intended to provide high quality, pleasant walking connections on the south side of Euston Road;
- Granary Street & Camley Street: linked to local developments, this involves enhancing the pedestrian experience and public realm on these two streets;
- Walking and Accessibility Action Plan measures: a variety of interventions including new zebra/pedestrian crossings, wayfinding and safe/accessible junctions at side roads

This is in addition to multiple pedestrian and accessibility enhancements delivered through various other Delivery Plan programme categories.

### Transport for London Road Network/ TfL-led schemes with LB Camden input

Schemes led by TfL on red routes / TRLN highway, with LB Camden as a partner in development and delivery. Priorities include Camden Road (measures to protect and improve bus journey times), Camden High Street south (improving pedestrian and cycle safety and public realm whilst protecting bus journey times) and King's Cross Phase 2 (improving pedestrian and cycle safety whilst project bus journey times, includes the junction of Euston Road and Pancras Road/ Belgrove Street, and Gray's Inn Road Corridor (north) including junction with York Way.

### Cleaner, Fairer Parking and Kerbside Management

A range of measures promoting healthier, sustainable modes of travel such as Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) reviews/ removal of on-street parking spaces, review of parking charges (e.g. shift to carbon emissions-based charging), the roll out of Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) with at least another 600 by 2026, bike hangers (around 100 per annum) and dockless bike hire/e-scooter bays (around another 100), and shared mobility schemes (bringing together car clubs, cycle e-scooter hire, ECVPs and cargo hire provision with the first ones in Somers Town and Kentish Town). The Council is also working with TfL to bring forward new locations for the Santander bike scheme, with Kentish Town a priority.

The Council is working with residents to develop 'parklets' enabling local communities to identify, be supported in delivering, pockets of kerbside space from parking to greenery, seating, climate resilience measures and more.

#### Behavioural change programmes / complementary measures

A wide-ranging programme of activities to support and encourage mode shift to active, healthier forms of travel. Includes cycle permeability schemes (making one way streets two way for cycling), cycle training and loan schemes, school travel planning and a variety of road safety measures such speed reduction measures.

#### Other projects

##### Step-free access at stations

The Council has for a number of years been lobbying for step-free access at more Underground /rail stations in the borough. Step-free stations will have lifts or ramps (or a combination of both) so that customers do not have to use escalators or stairs to move between the station and platform. Responsibilities for step-free access lie with the rail industry and Department for Transport.

Priorities include Camden Town Underground station, Holborn Underground station, West Hampstead Underground station, Kentish Town National Rail station, Kentish Town Underground station, Kentish Town West Overground station and Chalk Farm Underground station. The proposals for the O2 site have contributed significant funding towards providing step-free access and improved station capacity at the Underground/Jubilee



	<p>line station in West Hampstead and land is to be safeguarded to enable step-free access at the Jubilee line station in Finchley Road at a later stage.</p> <p><u>Piccadilly Line Upgrade</u> – this Underground line will shortly bring into service a new fleet of 94 trains (enabling frequencies in Central London to increase from 24 to 27 trains per hour at peak times). This is accompanied by investment in new depots and sidings and accessibility improvements at platform level. A longer-term ambition is to replace the signalling system (with the aim of up to 36 trains per hour in Central London at peak times).</p> <p><u>Redevelopment of Euston station and High Speed Two project</u></p> <p>The Euston Area Plan is intended to help shape change in the area around Euston Station. A Regulation 19 version is planned to be published for consultation later in 2025. The station redevelopment will also involve improving provision for buses, local London Underground stations and there is an ambition for a new link connecting Euston and Euston Square Underground stations.</p> <p>In October 2024, the Government confirmed that the High Speed Two railway line would run to Euston, following the project being significantly scaled back to the delivery of Phase 1 to Birmingham. This London-Birmingham route involves construction of 140 miles of new track (around 38 miles in tunnels), 4 new stations, two new depots and hundreds of new railway structures. As of March 2025, HS2 were preparing a revised baseline cost and delivery schedule.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>The <a href="#">CTS Delivery Plan</a> (key elements are summarised above) covers a 3 year period – it identifies both ‘defined’ schemes for 2025/26 with a reasonable certainty of delivery and ‘indicative’ schemes for 2026/27 and 2027/28. Indicative means the projects have been prioritised but funding is yet to be fully committed (confirmation of these projects will depend upon a variety of factors including progression of 2025/26 projects, Cabinet Member approval of future year’s schemes and the availability of funds including Council capital and TfL LIP funding).</p> <p><u>Capacity upgrades at Camden Town and Holborn Underground stations</u> Both of these stations are heavily used and experience congestion and lack step-free access from the street to platforms. Constraints on Transport for London funding have delayed implementation of these projects, their delivery is however likely to result in significant benefits for the Borough. It remains an ambition for these projects to be delivered during the Local Plan period. The station upgrade at Camden Town station also forms an enabling component of a potential future Northern line upgrade, emphasising the station’s strategic importance to London.</p>

### Crossrail 2

It would link south west and north east London, relieving mainline rail terminals and crowding on London Underground lines. Stations being proposed in the borough are at Tottenham Court Road (to link with Crossrail 1) and Euston Road. Updated 'safeguarding directions' for Crossrail 2 were issued by the Secretary of State for Transport in March 2015, these protect the route until such a time as the railway can be progressed. Funding is not currently in place and the anticipated date of opening is expected to be beyond the plan period. Safeguarding limits are shown on the Local Plan Policies Map.

### West London Orbital

This involves development of a new rail service on existing, underused lines in West London and would become part of the London Overground network, running from Hounslow to Hendon and West Hampstead. TfL are working with the West London Alliance, West London Boroughs and Network Rail to develop the business case, progress the design development and identify funding.

### London Overground

Subject to future passenger and freight demand, from the 2030s there may be a need to reinstate four tracks and a third platform at Camden Road station on The Mildmay line.

### Air quality on the London Underground

TfL is working to reduce Tube dust levels in the most affected areas with specific cleaning where monitoring shows that dust levels are higher. To significantly improve air quality in the longer-term, TfL's investment in new trains and track infrastructure, for example the modern braking system on the new fleet of Piccadilly line trains generates less dust.

### Draft New Local Plan site allocations

A number of site allocations identify individual mitigation measures to manage the impacts of development.

<b>Funding</b>	<p>A combination of funding sources are used: central Government funding, Mayoral budgets (Transport for London and Greater London Authority funding), the Council's own Healthy Streets capital budgets, Section 106 obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy. Business Improvement Districts have also made funding contributions.</p> <p>As highlighted above, the preparation of 3 year delivery plans incorporate 'Local Implementation Plan' (LIP) funding submissions. The LIP funding includes both funding allocated (by formula) to boroughs as well as discretionary/ needs-based funding subject to the outcome of funding bids. Guidance produced by TfL sets out the various funding streams available and conditions to ensure the alignment of borough schemes and policies with the Mayor's Transport Strategy and supporting action plans and targets. LIP funding has decreased by around half since the pandemic (and by around 70% when factoring in inflation). This has meant a greater onus on top-up/alternative sources of funding including developer contributions. Where funding cannot be found, projects may need to be descoped or deferred.</p> <p>TfL also make funding available to boroughs under the 'Road renewals and bridge strengthening' programme, working with local authorities to identify how these allocations can be targeted to the highest priority sections of roads and assets.</p> <p>Greater London Authority funding has been provided through Future Neighbourhoods 2030 (supporting elements of Future Neighbourhoods project in Somers Town such as the development of green mobility hubs) while central Government funding has helped support the rolling programme of EVCPs (e.g. Go Ultra Low Cities scheme) and provide funding for road safety improvements in the Regent's Park area linked to the construction of High Speed Two.</p> <p>Section 106 contributions will fund works closely related to particular development sites, i.e. mitigation of new development on the local transport and street network (the largest category of spend is usually for 'Pedestrian, Cycling and Environmental Improvements') while the Community Infrastructure Levy can be used more broadly (as it is not linked to a particular site).</p>
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# 15 Waste Facilities



## Waste Facilities

Under the Council's Local Plan policies for waste management, all new residential and commercial developments and schemes significantly changing the volume of waste generated are expected to provide suitable waste facilities (bin stores etc) onsite. This includes providing adequate temporary storage space to segregate waste streams within a home or commercial building; detailed guidance is provided in [Camden Planning Guidance \(CPG\) on Design](#). The CPG also sets out the relevant vehicular arrangements to facilitate the safe/effective collection of waste from larger developments. Schemes involving communal and commercial waste facilities will normally be expected to submit a site 'Waste Management Plan' as part of the planning application.

The 7 North London Boroughs (Camden, Barnet, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest) have responsibility for ensuring that sufficient land is allocated to manage the levels of waste which is apportioned to the North London area by the London Plan. The North London boroughs have pooled their apportionments and developed the cross-borough [North London Waste Plan \(NLWP\)](#) which identifies a range of suitable sites for the management of North London's waste up to 2031. This includes policies and guidance for determining planning applications for waste developments and forms part of Camden's Development Plan. The NLWP was formally adopted by each of the 7 boroughs in 2022.

The Council's We Make Camden ambition is for the borough to be a "green, clean, vibrant, accessible and sustainable place". The Council works with communities and businesses to reduce waste, promote the 'circular economy', by increasing reuse and recycling to minimise the environmental impact of Camden's waste management operations. A circular economy is one where things are kept in use for as long as possible, and when they are no longer needed or broken, are reused, shared, repaired or recycled to reduce the overall quantum of waste. The Council has been working with partners and communities to reduce waste, particularly packaging and single-use plastics and delivering projects around repair, reuse and recycling. A 'Love Clean Streets' app serves as a tool for reporting issues around fly-tipping.

Camden's Environment Services contract with Veolia, which commenced in April 2017, has been extended for a further eight years from April 2025. The Veolia contract includes provision of domestic recycling and waste collection services and street cleansing (cleaning of streets, emptying of bins etc). Businesses in Camden must have a commercial waste collection service, which can be provided by Veolia or other licensed commercial collection companies.

The table below sets out the role of planning in waste collection and management and initiatives led by the Council, residents, businesses and other local organisations to reduce volumes of waste.

Waste Facilities	
Category	Details
<b>Lead</b>	The Council's Environment Services team, with input from LB Camden's Planning service. Veolia deliver recycling and waste collection services for Camden's households and (signed up) businesses, and street cleansing across the borough via the Environment Services contract. The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) is responsible for the disposal of waste collected by the 7 North London boroughs. They also transport and dispose of waste from north London's reuse and recycling centres, including Regis Road in Camden.
<b>Current Provision</b>	<p>There are well established processes for the handling of all waste streams in the borough, with the planning process securing provision of on-site waste storage facilities as appropriate.</p> <p>Local Plan policy provides protection for the one waste site in LB Camden, ie. the Regis Road Reuse and Recycling Centre. If this site is to be redeveloped, then appropriate compensatory capacity will be required. Aside from planning's role in safeguarding existing sites and identifying suitable locations for new facilities, developer contributions are not routinely used to fund the onward disposal of waste generated in the borough because these matters are addressed by other funding streams.</p> <p>The Local Plan also contributes to better resource management through the construction process by promoting 'circular economy' principles. In line with this, the Local Plan expects developers to manage waste by following the 'waste hierarchy' of prevention, preparing for reuse, recycling, then recovery, with disposal only considered as a last resort.</p> <p>The adopted <a href="#">2021 London Plan</a> projects how much waste (Local Authority Collected Waste and Commercial and Industrial waste – see below) is likely to be generated in the capital over the next 20 years and apportions an amount of these waste streams to each London borough. Boroughs are expected to meet the apportionment through existing sites (e.g. greater efficiency/ new technologies / intensification) and by allocating a supply of land.</p> <p>LB Camden does not have the ability to be self-sufficient in the management of waste due to the borough's built-up character and a lack of sites in which to provide additional waste management facilities. This underpins the rationale</p>



for partnership working across the wider North London area. The Council provides residential kerbside waste collection of dry recyclables, residual waste, food waste, and if subscribed, green/garden waste. There are also communal collection facilities and arrangements in place for estate properties and flats above shops are provided with bags for their recycling and residual waste collections.

The jointly adopted North London Waste Plan (NLWP) sets out how the constituent boroughs will seek to manage all principal waste streams (i.e. types of waste), namely:

- Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW): household and trade waste;
- Commercial and Industrial (C&I): produced by business and industry;
- Construction, Demolition (C&D): arising from building and infrastructure projects and maintenance;
- Hazardous waste: normally requiring handing and/or treatment through specialist facilities, the majority outside of North London;
- Agricultural Waste;
- Wastewater/ Sewage Sludge; and
- Low-level radioactive waste: X-rays, labs etc.

The NWLP aims to ensure sufficient land is available to manage the equivalent of 100% waste arising across the key LACW, C&I and C&D waste streams and seeks beneficial use of as much excavation waste as possible. This, in turn, helps reduce waste exports from the North London area and brings down the volume of waste being sent to landfill (there are no landfill facilities in North London itself). To meet a 'capacity gap' of around 6.4ha in land (this gap is the difference between projected waste arisings and existing capacity in the North London area), the NWLP seeks to provide enhanced waste capacity at existing waste sites and within certain 'priority areas', ie. where the most suitable opportunities exist for new/expanded waste management facilities: these areas are located in Barnet, Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest (none are in Camden). Any new waste sites will be on existing industrial land. Alongside this, specialist treatment facilities will still be needed for some types of hazardous waste outside of North London or landfill for certain materials such as asbestos.

A key component of ensuring sufficient residual waste capacity within the North London area is the construction of the new Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) at the Edmonton EcoPark in LB Enfield, which is managed by London Energy, a subsidiary of the NLWA.

	<p>A major challenge for Boroughs is to increase the overall amount of waste being recycled, reused and composted. The London Plan (2021) sets a 65% recycling target for London's municipal waste by 2030 and a 95% reuse/recycling/recovery of C&amp;D waste. Recycling rates for Construction and Demolition waste are already exceeding this target due to the recognised value of much of this material (the London Plan aims for 95% reuse/recycling/recovery of C&amp;D waste). Camden Council's <a href="#">State of the Borough Report 2025</a> showed that in 2023/24, 29.1% of Camden's household waste was recycled (slightly less than London: 32.7% or England: 41.7%). A key issue in Camden is the composition of the housing stock, 85% of which are flats. This means there can be limited space for storing recycling containers and reduced opportunities for recycling.</p> <p>The Council's Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) 2023-2026 sets out actions for minimising waste and maximising recycling during the period 2023-2026. This is used to drive and monitor progress towards the Mayor of London's targets in the London Environment Strategy 2018, which includes reducing food and packaging waste. A summary of Camden's RRP actions is set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drive waste reduction and reuse across Camden</li> <li>• Minimise single use plastics and other items</li> <li>• Reducing fly-tipping</li> <li>• Work with North London Waste Authority to deliver Residual Waste Reduction Plan</li> <li>• Increase recycling and reduce contamination from kerbside properties</li> <li>• Increase recycling and reduce bin contamination on estates</li> <li>• Enhance service provision for flats above shops</li> <li>• <u>Increase recycling in Camden schools</u></li> <li>• Increase food waste recycling</li> <li>• Increase WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) and bulky waste recycling</li> <li>• Increase uptake of commercial waste service</li> </ul> <p>Work towards greening the waste collection and cleaning fleet</p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>The recent extension of the Environment Services contract included the introduction of 14 new electric waste/recycling collection vehicles from April 2025 and electrifying the remainder of vehicles (where possible) by the end of the contract as technology progresses and charging capacity increases. The Environment Services contract uses an 'outcome-based' specification that informs Veolia of the service standards that must be met but not the methods of</p>

	<p>delivery to achieve these outcomes. Alongside the Contract extension, LB Camden invested £1 million in street cleansing operations.</p> <p>Under Policy CC3 of the Draft New Local Plan (Circular Economy and Reduction of Waste) all planning applications for new build major development and major development involving substantial demolition and rebuild will be required to submit to the Council a 'Circular Economy Statement'. This will show how a development intends to reduce waste and provision of data relating to the use of materials, such as the proportion of materials/elements to be reused on-site. This extends the current requirement for Circular Economy Statements to be submitted for planning applications referable to the Mayor of London. The policy also expects developments to be designed to allow for easy maintenance, adaptation and dismantling over their lifetime, for example the structure and interior systems should allow for simple disassembly when parts of the building may need to be altered.</p> <p>From 31 March 2025, new 'Simpler Recycling' legislation requires all businesses and non-household premises with 10+ Full Time Equivalent employees to recycle glass, metal, paper and cupboard and plastics with separate food waste recycling. To enable compliance, Veolia Camden have a food waste service, providing caddy containers on request, which operates alongside the recycling and waste collection services. By 31 March 2026, all households including flats above shops and estate properties will be required to have access to a food waste service. By March 2027, all micro-businesses (those with under 10 FTEs) must also comply with the Simpler Recycling requirements.</p>
<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>The next London Plan will have responsibility for reviewing the apportionment of waste streams in the adopted Plan. With the projected number of new homes to be constructed by 2041, it is anticipated 1 to 2 additional collection rounds and vehicles may be required to cover increased demand, which is dependent on property, location and waste storage type.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>Developer contributions are not routinely used to fund the onward disposal of waste generated in the borough because these matters are addressed by other funding streams.</p> <p>The Community Infrastructure Levy has provided funding for a full-time officer to improve the street environment in West Hampstead targeting graffiti, waste management arrangements for flats above shops and improving waste presentation along West End Lane.</p> <p>The collection and disposal of household domestic waste is funded through Council Tax. Businesses are required ensure that their recycling or waste is collected, transported and disposed of by a licensed waste carrier, which is a legal requirement under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Recycling and waste collection costs are not included in business rates.</p>

# 16 Water and Wastewater



## Water and Waste Water

Thames Water is the UK's largest water and wastewater services company serving over 13.5 million customers in London and the Thames Valley area and parts of SE England. The company provide wastewater services for the whole of the borough and water supplies for all but a small number of properties in the far north of the borough (served by Affinity Water).

The Environment Agency monitors Thames Water's environmental activities, including issuing permits for discharge from sewage works, supplying of drinking water and monitoring water quality.

All main rivers historically located within the London Borough of Camden are now culverted and incorporated into the Thames Water Utilities Limited sewer network. This includes the River Fleet, River Westbourne (also known as the River Kilburn), and River Tyburn.

London has lower rainfall than the national average while having a very high population density. This combination of limited water resources and high demand has resulted in London being declared an area of serious water stress by the Environment Agency, and this is likely to be exacerbated by climate change.

Flooding from surface water and sewer surcharge pose the greatest risk to flooding in Camden, and the risk is exacerbated due to the prevalence of the combined sewer system. The borough experienced significant flooding in 1975, 2002, and 2021, and the probability of such events recurring is likely to increase as a result of climate change. Camden also experiences some flooding from groundwater sources particularly in areas to the north and the south of the borough.

The Local Plan requires improved water efficiency ensuring that new development will meet the London Plan target of 105 litres or less per head per day, with installation of water efficiency devices, and use of SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) in development to relieve pressure on these centralised systems. The Council expects developments to deliver a run off rate as close to greenfield run off as possible.

## Planned projects

Thames Water plan long term capacity via Water Resource Management Plans (WRMP) every 5 years. They also maintain and upgrade infrastructure via a series of 5 year Asset Management Programmes (AMP) based on approval/funding from Ofwat.

The Thames Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan was published by Thames Water Utilities Limited in May 2023 and will be used to inform the Thames Water Utilities Limited business plan for 2025-2050. The document provides a strategic view of risk and possible interventions within the Thames Water Utilities Limited service region for the next 25 years. It explores how the pressures of a changing climate, growing population and land use change may be alleviated through delivery of resilient infrastructure, improvement to wastewater systems and drainage networks, reduced impact on the environment and improved maintenance for the next 25 years.

Camden's Flood Risk Management Strategy 2022 – 2027 sets out how Camden Council and partner authorities will work together to manage flood risk and increase resilience across the borough until 2027. The Strategy commits to a biennial review, last published November 2024.

The table below sets out the existing water and waste water infrastructure in Camden and identifies current key programmes and projects.

Water and Waste Water	
Category	Details
Lead	Thames Water, Camden Lead Local Flood Authority, Transport.



<b>Current Provision</b>	<p>Major restoration works have been undertaken by the City of London on Hampstead Heath ponds to reduce the annual probability of the ponds overtopping to a 1 in 10,000 year rainfall event.</p> <p>The Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) 19 was published in 2020, setting out the actions Thames Water will take to provide a secure and sustainable supply of water for customers, support housing and economic growth, whilst protecting and improving the environment. The Plan includes proposals to make the best use of water, by reducing the amount lost through leaks in the pipes, installing smart water meters at homes and giving assistance to manage water use. It also sets out the new schemes needed to boost water supply in the next 10 years, these include sourcing new groundwater and buying surplus water.</p> <p>In South Hampstead 2024, Camden implemented a significant sustainable drainage system (SuDS) across Priory Terrace, Belsize Road and Priory Road, and another on Goldhurst Terrace. The Council was also awarded funding for a second phase of work (tree planting and water attenuation) on Goldhurst Terrace.</p> <p>Camden continues to actively identify opportunities to enhance greening in the public realm, including the installation of SuDS. The Camden Transport Strategy Delivery Plan prioritises projects based on key criteria, with flood risk data among them, and Healthy Streets Checks are performed on large transport schemes to identify recommendations for the provision of green infrastructure. The green space investment programme uses heat and flood risk data to shape project design.</p>
<b>Known Planned Provision</b>	<p>Thames Water WRMP24 sets out how water resources will be planned for to keep the taps flowing for customers over the next 50 years, looking ahead to 2075. The WRMP24 highlights the significant future shortfall in water resources in their supply area and the actions they plan to take to maintain the balance between water supply and demand. It sets out how they are going to tackle leaks and invest in new water infrastructure. Water supply options for WRMP19 and WRMP24 are still being refined. In the longer term, Thames Water will need to develop additional water supplies to ensure they can continue to provide a secure and resilient water supply in the future.</p> <p>Thames Water is also delivering improvements to the principal water treatment facility that supplies the borough. This work aims to improve the resilience of supply, making it more able to respond to growing demand, climate change and unexpected interruptions. Furthermore, Thames Water is delivering 9km of scheduled mains replacement work in Camden for the asset management period (AMP) 2020-2025.</p>

<b>Future Needs</b>	<p>The Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment provides a review of the Thames Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan. The analysis for London suggested a 54% increase in properties at risk of internal sewer flooding for a 3.33% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event, and a 30% increase for properties at risk of internal and external sewer flooding for a 2% AEP event. Although it was acknowledged that the overall impact on Greater London will be mitigated by the Thames Tideway Tunnel (25 km combined sewer), if consequences of population growth are left unmitigated, risk of sewer flooding into residential and commercial properties could increase by 4,000 every year. This could have an impact on areas such as the London Borough of Camden. To mitigate these challenges, Thames Water Utilities Limited note the importance of innovation and continued investment. Since the SFRA was finalised, the Environment Agency has published updated surface water flood risk maps including modelling for climate change for 2040-60. This shows that there is likely to be a 30% increase in the total number of areas at risk of flooding from surface water between 2040 and 2060.</p> <p>Although no specific reference is made to the London Borough of Camden within the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan, the Borough is referenced within the Catchment Strategic Plan produced for the Beckton System in June 2023. The Beckton CSP supports the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan and describes the preferred solutions to reduce risk and impact of flooding, according to varying Risk Zones. The London Borough of Camden is located within Risk Zone 4, where preferred solutions include catchment level planning (including mapping and modelling), individual property level protection, deep tanks and tunnels and network improvements. Solutions such as deep tanks, tunnels and network improvements are risk mitigations considered for the 2030-2035 and 2035-2050 period.</p> <p>Thames Water are required to design and deliver any necessary upgrades to support new development with funding provided through the infrastructure charge levied on new developments connected to the existing water and wastewater networks. Thames Water identified site allocations within the Local Plan where planning conditions should be imposed to ensure that development and infrastructure delivery are aligned and that development is not occupied until such time as any necessary upgrades have been delivered.</p> <p>Thames Water have reviewed all of the site allocations set out in the Proposed Draft version of the Local Plan (Regulation 19) using a 'RAG' assessment to identify potential impacts on water and wastewater infrastructure. This is attached to this section of the IDP.</p>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>For planning and development, Thames Water are required to design and deliver any necessary upgrades with funding provided through an infrastructure charge levied on new developments connected to the existing water and</p>

wastewater networks. Therefore, Section 106 agreements or CIL funding are not used to secure water/wastewater infrastructure.

The Environment Agency (EA) offers grants and funding opportunities for environmental projects, particularly in the areas of flood risk and natural environment improvement.

There are projects aimed at unlocking funding for Sustainable Drainage Systems this includes PROSPER (involving Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (TRFCC), Environment Agency, Thames Water, the Greater London authority (GLA), and local authorities) to access funding from DEFRA.

Site ID	Site Name	STW Catchment	Waste Network RAG Assessment	STW RAG Assessment	Water Network RAG Assessment	Additional Comments
65146	ALLOCATION O2 Centre, car park, car showrooms and 14 Blackburn Road	Beckton				
65113	Allocation C10 Juniper Crescent, Camden, LONDON, NW1 8AA (LP)	Beckton				
65094	Allocation C11 Network Rail Site at Juniper Crescent (LP)	Beckton				
79037	Allocation C12 Gilbeys Yard (LP)	Beckton				
65092	Allocation C13 West Kentish Town Estate, Weedington Road, London, NW5 4ND (LP)	Beckton				
79038	Allocation C14 Hawkridge House, Warden Road (LP)	Beckton				
65098	ALLOCATION C15 Wendling Estate and St Stephens Close (LP)	Beckton				
71721	ALLOCATION C16 – Shirley House (LP)	Beckton				
65101	ALLOCATION C17 Camden Town over station development	Beckton				
71766	ALLOCATION C18 UCL Camden Campus; 109 Camden Road	Beckton				
58397	Allocation C19 Arlington Road former depot site	Beckton				
46412	Allocation C2 Regis Road and Holmes Road depot (LP)	Beckton				
57884	Allocation C3 Murphy Site (LP)	Beckton				
26940	ALLOCATION C4 Kentish Town Police Station (LP)	Beckton				
60846	ALLOCATION C5 369 – 377 Kentish Town Road (LP)	Beckton				
26948	ALLOCATION C6 Kentish Town Fire Station (LP)	Beckton				
2160	Allocation C7 Morrisons Supermarket (LP)	Beckton				This site has planning approval so we have not undertaken any further assessment. If the proposal changes we will need to reassess.
65396	Allocation C8 Former Morrisons petrol filling station (LP)	Beckton				In order to make an assessment we require information on the proposed scale of development
65103	Allocation C9 100 Chalk Farm Road (LP)	Beckton				This site has planning approval so we have not undertaken any further assessment. If the proposal changes we will need to reassess.
34965	ALLOCATION N2 Former Mansfield Bowling Clu	Beckton				This site has planning approval so we have not undertaken any further assessment. If the proposal changes we will need to reassess.
65106	ALLOCATION N3 Queen Mary's House	Beckton				
65080	ALLOCATION N4 Hampstead Delivery Office	Beckton				
65112	ALLOCATION S10 Bangor Wharf and Eagle Wharf (LP)	Beckton				
65093	ALLOCATION S11 - Former Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital (LP)	Beckton				
65085	Allocation S12 Belgrove House, Belgrove Street, London (LP)	Beckton				
65165	ALLOCATION S13 (IDS17) - Former Thameslink station, Pentonville Road (LP)	Beckton				
22654	Allocation S14 Land at Pakenham Street and Wren Street (LP)	Beckton				
22640	Allocation S15- Land to the rear of the British Library (LP)	Beckton				In order to make an assessment we require information on the proposed scale of development
22650	Allocation S16 Former Central St Martins College (LP)	Beckton				
65084	Allocation S17 Selkirk House 166 High Holborn 1 Museum Street 10-12 Museum Street, (LP)	Beckton				This site has planning approval so we have not undertaken any further assessment. If the proposal changes we will need to reassess.
65166	Allocation S18 135-149 SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, LONDON WC2H 8AH (LP)	Beckton				In order to make an assessment we require information on the proposed scale of development
65111	Allocation S19 Cockpit Yard and Holborn Library (LP)	Beckton				
79012	Allocation S20 York Way Depot and adjacent land at Freight Lane (LP)	Beckton				
65168	Allocation S5 120-136 Camley Street (LP)	Beckton				
65089	Allocation S6 104 – 114 Camley Street and Cedar Way Industrial Estate (LP)	Beckton				
26944	Allocation S7 24-86 Royal College Street, Camden Town, London, NW1 0QA (LP)	Beckton				
54959	Allocation S8 ST PANCRAS HOSPITAL (LP)	Beckton				
65169	ALLOCATION S9 - Shorebase Access (LP)	Beckton				
76510	ALLOCATION W3 11 Blackburn Road	Beckton				
65100	ALLOCATION W4 13 Blackburn Road	Beckton				
65088	ALLOCATION W5 188 – 190 Iverson Road	Beckton				
60156	ALLOCATION W6 Meridian House	Beckton				
71744	ALLOCATION W7 Gondar Gardens	Beckton				
79059	Allocation W8 88-92 Kilburn High Road, Kilburn	Beckton				

## Network Assessment

On the information provided we do not envisage infrastructure concerns in relation to this development/s

On the information provided modelling may be required to understand the impact of development

On the information provided, modelling will be required, and it is anticipated that upgrades to network will be necessary

## STW Assessment

On the information provided we do not envisage infrastructure concerns in relation to the capacity at the STW

We are aware of capacity concerns at the STW and a scheme is planned to accommodate future growth

There are concerns about the capacity at the STW to accommodate future growth

**This assessment is based on the information provided and correct as of the date the assessment was carried out (June 2025)**

The following assumptions have been made:

- The connection will be made to the closest and largest foul water or combined sewer via gravity.
- All surface water will be disposed of at source as per the drainage hierarchy. Should surface water require a connection to the public network, further assessment will be required.
- Thames Water have only assessed the existing water and wastewater network and its capacity to serve the proposed development.
- It is the responsibility of the developer to contact Thames Water ahead of any planning application submission to determine the presence of any Thames Water assets that may require protection, diversions or that may have an impact on the amenity of new occupiers of the development.

### Notes:

- Modelling for network upgrades will proceed once sites have planning approval and there is certainty of development coming forward.
- Where network upgrades are required it can take 18 months to 3 years to plan and deliver from the point at which there is certainty of development coming forward.

## **Photography Credits**

Front Cover – 101 Camley Street – Simon Kennedy

Section 3 – Community Facilities – Holborn House – Johan Delin

Section 5 – Education - Kingsgate Primary School – Tim Crocker

Section 14 – Transport – Cyclist - UCL

Camden Infrastructure Delivery Plan, April 2025.