Camden Local Plan



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Photographs: Brian O'Donnell

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Managing the impact of development

- 6.1 Standards of amenity (the features of a place that contribute to its attractiveness and comfort) are major factors in the health and quality of life of the borough's residents, workers and visitors and fundamental to Camden's attractiveness and success. Camden's Inner London location, the close proximity of various uses and the presence of major roads and railways means that amenity is a particularly important issue within the borough.
- 6.2 Policy A1 therefore seeks to ensure that standards of amenity are protected. Other policies within the Plan also contribute towards protecting amenity by setting out our approach to specific issues, such as the impact of food, drink and entertainment uses in Policy TC4 Town centre uses, Policy A4 Noise and vibration, and Policy CC4 Air quality.

Policy A1 Managing the impact of development

The Council will seek to protect the quality of life of occupiers and neighbours. We will grant permission for development unless this causes unacceptable harm to amenity.

We will:

- a. seek to ensure that the amenity of communities, occupiers and neighbours is protected;
- b. seek to ensure development contributes towards strong and successful communities by balancing the needs of development with the needs and characteristics of local areas and communities;
- c. resist development that fails to adequately assess and address transport impacts affecting communities, occupiers, neighbours and the existing transport network; and
- d. require mitigation measures where necessary.

The factors we will consider include:

- e. visual privacy, outlook;
- f. sunlight, daylight and overshadowing;
- g. artificial lighting levels;
- h. transport impacts, including the use of Transport Assessments, Travel Plans and Delivery and Servicing Management Plans;
- i. impacts of the construction phase, including the use of Construction Management Plans;
- j. noise and vibration levels;
- k. odour, fumes and dust;
- I. microclimate;
- m. contaminated land; and
- n. impact upon water and wastewater infrastructure.

plans, restoring confidence and pride in an area. Open space and greenery can limit the risks to human health and the economy from extreme weather events and environmental threats through cooling the air, the absorption of pollutants and attenuating run-off. This will become even more important if climate change results in more extreme weather events.

Policy A2 Open space

The Council will protect, enhance and improve access to Camden's parks, open spaces and other green infrastructure.

Protection of open spaces

In order to protect the Council's open spaces, we will:

- a. protect all designated public and private open spaces as shown on the Policies Map and in the accompanying schedule unless equivalent or better provision of open space in terms of quality and quantity is provided within the local catchment area;
- b. safeguard open space on housing estates while allowing flexibility for the re-configuration of land uses. When assessing development proposals we will take the following into account:
 - i. the effect of the proposed scheme on the size, siting and form of existing open space and the functions it performs;
 - ii. whether the open space is replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality; and
 - iii. whether the public value of retaining the open space is outweighed by the benefits of the development for existing estate residents and the wider community, such as improvements to the quality and access of the open space.
- c. resist development which would be detrimental to the setting of designated open spaces;
- d. exceptionally, and where it meets a demonstrable need, support smallscale development which is associated with the use of the land as open space and contributes to its use and enjoyment by the public;
- e. protect non-designated spaces with nature conservation, townscape and amenity value, including gardens, where possible;
- f. conserve and enhance the heritage value of designated open spaces and other elements of open space which make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of conservation areas or to the setting of heritage assets;
- g. give strong protection to maintaining the openness and character of Metropolitan Open Land (MOL);
- promote and encourage greater community participation in the management of open space and support communities seeking the designation of Local Green Spaces through the neighbourhood planning process;
- i. consider development for alternative sports and recreation provision, where the needs outweigh the loss and where this is supported by an up-to-date needs assessment;

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- j. preserve and enhance Hampstead Heath through working with partners and by taking into account the impact on the Heath when considering relevant planning applications, including any impacts on views to and from the Heath; and
- k. work with partners to preserve and enhance the Regent's Canal, including its setting, and balance the differing demands on the Canal and its towpath.

New and enhanced open space

To secure new and enhanced open space and ensure that development does not put unacceptable pressure on the Borough's network of open spaces, the Council will:

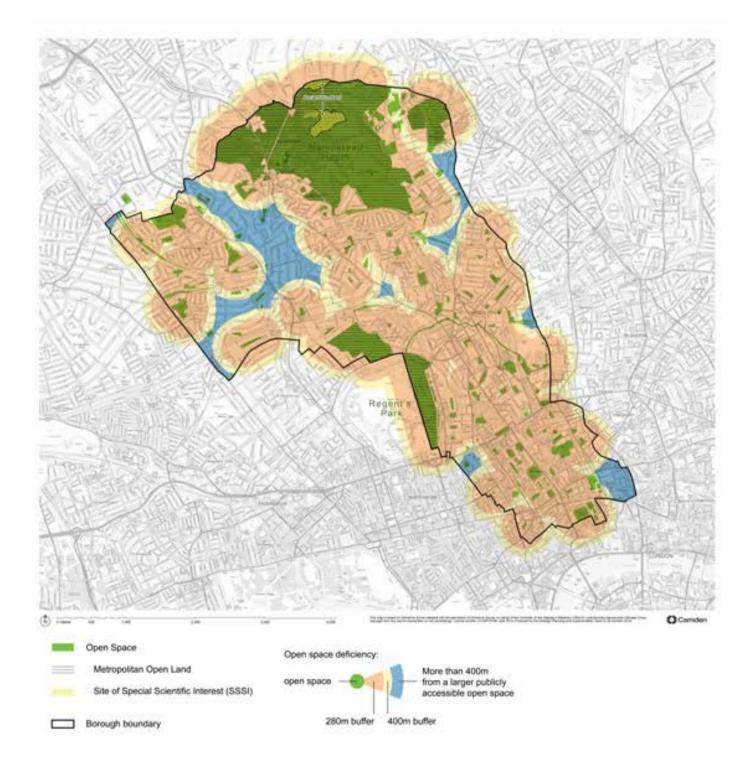
- seek developer contributions for open space enhancements using Section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Council will secure planning obligations to address the additional impact of proposed schemes on public open space taking into account the scale of the proposal, the number of future occupants and the land uses involved;
- m. apply a standard of 9 sqm per occupant for residential schemes and 0.74 sqm for commercial and higher education developments while taking into account any funding for open spaces through the Community Infrastructure Levy;
- n. give priority to securing new public open space on-site, with provision off-site near to the development only considered acceptable where provision on-site is not achievable. If there is no realistic means of direct provision, the Council may accept a financial contribution in lieu of provision;
- o. ensure developments seek opportunities for providing private amenity space;
- give priority to play facilities and the provision of amenity space which meet residents' needs where a development creates a need for different types of open space;
- seek opportunities to enhance links between open spaces recognising the multiple benefits this may bring;
- r. tackle deficiencies to open space through enhancement measures; and
- s. seek temporary provision of open space where opportunities arise.

Protection of public and private open spaces and land on housing estates

6.32

It is important that we protect the public and private open spaces designated on the Local Plan Policies Map, as well as areas of land on housing estates with the potential to be used as public open space. They are a limited resource and highly valued by the community. There will be increased pressure on this space from the anticipated growth in Camden's population. Camden's open space designations include outdoor sports provision, including playing fields and ancillary facilities, which the Council will seek to protect, maintain and enhance. The Council's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2014) provides further information relating to the attributes of individual open spaces. The loss of an

Map 2: Locations deficient in access to open space



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Protection, enhancement and management of biodiversity

- 6.56 Nature provides us with a variety of environmental, social, cultural, education, health and recreation benefits. For example, trees and plants improve air quality, absorb carbon dioxide and help to regulate city temperatures; vegetated areas reduce surface water run-off and flooding risk; and insects such as bees provide pollination.
- 6.57 Biodiverse green spaces provide opportunities for inspiration and contemplation, boosting mental wellbeing. Local Nature Reserves and other natural sites provide a focus for conservation activities, support physical activity and contribute to community spirit and social inclusion. These sites also provide a rare opportunity for young people living in the urban area to learn about the natural environment. Biodiversity can provide colour and contrast to the built environment and may be important to an area's character and amenity.
- 6.58 Camden's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study identifies there are 186 spaces with a least 5% natural greenspace cover in the Borough. Amenity grassland is the most prevalent habitat to be found across Camden. It has limited biodiversity value but does offer scope for improvement. Woodland is the second most prevalent habitat and supports a range of wildlife but is mainly in the north of the borough, meaning it is not accessible to all residents. There are also smaller areas of UK Priority habitat (i.e. of national importance) including acid grassland, heathland, ponds and reedbeds. Sites have a range of wildlife designations which reflect their national, regional and local importance. Around three quarters of all provision in the borough is found within four large sites of metropolitan importance (Hampstead Heath, Highgate Cemetery, Regent's Park and Regent's Canal).
- 6.59 Policy A3 is intended to support the London Biodiversity Strategy and the Camden Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) by ensuring Camden's growth is accompanied by a significant enhancement in the borough's biodiversity. The Council aims to maximise opportunities for biodiversity in and around developments in order to deliver a net gain in biodiversity and a range of wider environmental benefits.

Policy A3 Biodiversity

The Council will protect and enhance sites of nature conservation and biodiversity. We will:

- a. designate and protect nature conservation sites and safeguard protected and priority habitats and species;
- grant permission for development unless it would directly or indirectly result in the loss or harm to a designated nature conservation site or adversely affect the status or population of priority habitats and species;
- c. seek the protection of other features with nature conservation value, including gardens, wherever possible;

- assess developments against their ability to realise benefits for biodiversity through the layout, design and materials used in the built structure and landscaping elements of a proposed development, proportionate to the scale of development proposed;
- e. secure improvements to green corridors, particularly where a development scheme is adjacent to an existing corridor;
- f. seek to improve opportunities to experience nature, in particular where such opportunities are lacking;
- g. require the demolition and construction phase of development, including the movement of works vehicles, to be planned to avoid disturbance to habitats and species and ecologically sensitive areas, and the spread of invasive species;
- h. secure management plans, where appropriate, to ensure that nature conservation objectives are met; and
- i. work with The Royal Parks, The City of London Corporation, the London Wildlife Trust, friends of park groups and local nature conservation groups to protect and improve open spaces and nature conservation in Camden.

Trees and vegetation

The Council will protect, and seek to secure additional, trees and vegetation. We will:

- j. resist the loss of trees and vegetation of significant amenity, historic, cultural or ecological value including proposals which may threaten the continued wellbeing of such trees and vegetation;
- require trees and vegetation which are to be retained to be satisfactorily protected during the demolition and construction phase of development in line with BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' and positively integrated as part of the site layout;
- I. expect replacement trees or vegetation to be provided where the loss of significant trees or vegetation or harm to the wellbeing of these trees and vegetation has been justified in the context of the proposed development;
- m. expect developments to incorporate additional trees and vegetation wherever possible.

Protection of designated nature conservation sites and safeguarding of habitats and species

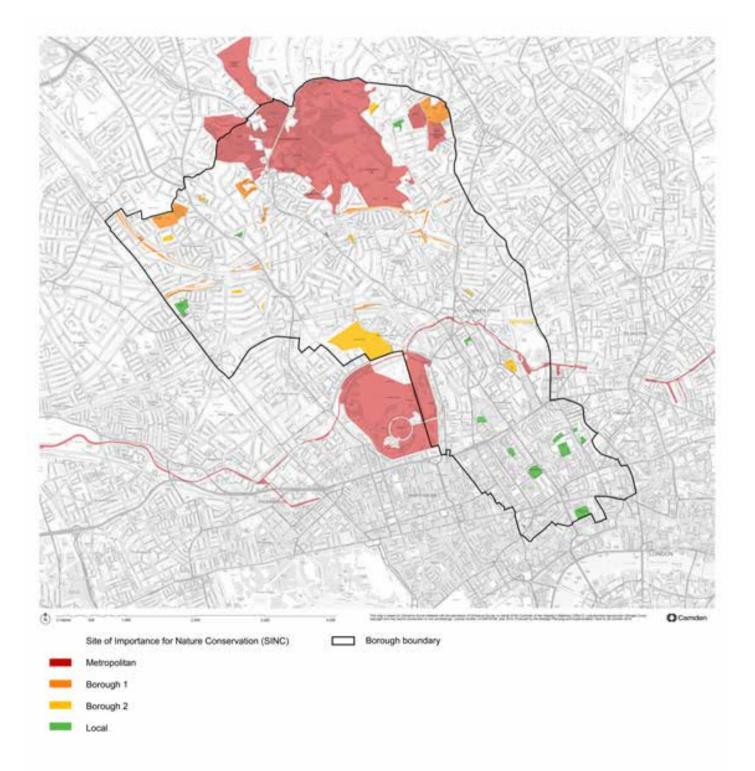
Designated sites of nature conservation interest are shown on the Local Plan Policies Map. Taken together, these sites occupy some 414 ha of land. They are as follows:

- Hampstead Heath Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is Camden's only SSSI. SSSIs are designated by Natural England due to their nationally important habitats and species and/or geological features and must be given the highest protection in accordance with legislation.
- 36 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) which are graded into four categories according to spatial significance and quality. As part of the evidence base for the Local Plan, LB Camden commissioned the London

6.60

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Map 3: Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation



Noise and vibration

- 6.84 This policy seeks to ensure that noise and vibration is appropriately considered at the design stage and that noise sensitive uses are not negatively impacted by noise and vibration or that existing uses (such as music venues, theatres and some employment uses) are not unduly restricted through the introduction of nearby noise sensitive uses.
- 6.85 Noise and vibration can have a major effect on health and amenity and quality of life. Camden's high density and mixed use nature means that disturbance from noise and vibration is a particularly important issue for health and wellbeing in the borough. The Council may seek to explore the identification and designation of Quiet Areas, which are local green spaces identified for their particular tranquility and amenity value.

Policy A4 Noise and vibration

The Council will seek to ensure that noise and vibration is controlled and managed.

Development should have regard to Camden's Noise and Vibration Thresholds (Appendix 3). We will not grant planning permission for:

- a. development likely to generate unacceptable noise and vibration impacts; or
- b. development sensitive to noise in locations which experience high levels of noise, unless appropriate attenuation measures can be provided and will not harm the continued operation of existing uses.

We will only grant permission for noise generating development, including any plant and machinery, if it can be operated without causing harm to amenity. We will also seek to minimise the impact on local amenity from deliveries and from the demolition and construction phases of development.

Sources and the character of noise in Camden

- 6.86 The main sources of noise and vibration in Camden are; road traffic, railways, industrial uses, plant and mechanical equipment, food, drink and entertainment uses, and building sites. The top six sources of noise that receive the most complaints in Camden are; music, construction noise, general people noise (e.g. footsteps, gathering), parties, fixed machinery and burglar alarms.
- 6.87 There is a proliferation of fixed machinery, such as air conditioning units in Camden's centres which cumulatively can have a harmful impact. The borough is also home to a large number and variety of food, drink and entertainment uses, often close to where people live, and as a result, conflicts can arise (see Policy TC4 Town centre uses). Such sources of noise and the character of noise can increase stress levels and cause significant disturbance. Other sources of noise such as those associated with construction are considered in Policy A1

Policy A5 Basements

The Council will only permit basement development where it is demonstrated to its satisfaction that the proposal would not cause harm to:

- a. neighbouring properties;
- b. the structural, ground, or water conditions of the area;
- c. the character and amenity of the area;
- d. the architectural character of the building; and
- e. the significance of heritage assets.

In determining proposals for basements and other underground development, the Council will require an assessment of the scheme's impact on drainage, flooding, groundwater conditions and structural stability in the form of a Basement Impact Assessment and where appropriate, a Basement Construction Plan.

The siting, location, scale and design of basements must have minimal impact on, and be subordinate to, the host building and property. Basement development should:

- f. not comprise of more than one storey;
- g. not be built under an existing basement;
- h. not exceed 50% of each garden within the property;
- i. be less than 1.5 times the footprint of the host building in area;
- j. extend into the garden no further than 50% of the depth of the host building measured from the principal rear elevation;
- k. not extend into or underneath the garden further than 50% of the depth of the garden;
- I. be set back from neighbouring property boundaries where it extends beyond the footprint of the host building; and
- m. avoid the loss of garden space or trees of townscape or amenity value.

Exceptions to f. to k. above may be made on large comprehensively planned sites.

The Council will require applicants to demonstrate that proposals for basements:

- n. do not harm neighbouring properties, including requiring the provision of a Basement Impact Assessment which shows that the scheme poses a risk of damage to neighbouring properties no higher than Burland Scale 1 'very slight';
- o. avoid adversely affecting drainage and run-off or causing other damage to the water environment;
- p. avoid cumulative impacts;
- q. do not harm the amenity of neighbours;
- r. provide satisfactory landscaping, including adequate soil depth;
- s. do not harm the appearance or setting of the property or the established character of the surrounding area;
- t. protect important archaeological remains; and
- u. do not prejudice the ability of the garden to support trees where they are part of the character of the area.

The Council will not permit basement schemes which include habitable rooms and other sensitive uses in areas prone to flooding.

We will generally require a Construction Management Plan for basement developments.

Given the complex nature of basement development, the Council encourages developers to offer security for expenses for basement development to adjoining neighbours.

Basement development

6.113 Although basement developments can help to make efficient use of the borough's limited land it is important that this is done in a way that does not cause harm to the amenity of neighbours, affect the stability of buildings, cause drainage or flooding problems, or damage the character of areas or the natural environment.

Basement impact assessment

- 6.114 The Council will require evidence of the impact of basement schemes in the form of a Basement Impact Assessment to be carried out by appropriately qualified professionals. Basement Impact Assessments are to include geotechnical, structural engineering, and hydrological investigations and modelling to ensure that basement developments do not harm the built and natural environment or local amenity. Basement Impact Assessments must be prepared according the specifications set out in our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on basements and the Camden Geological, Hydrogeological and Geological Study (ARUP 2010).
- 6.115 The level of information required will be commensurate with the scale and location of the scheme. All schemes will be expected to provide evidence against each of the considerations in Policy A5 Basements. Schemes will also be expected to submit information which relates to any specific concerns for that particular scheme or location (e.g. any history of flooding at the site or in the vicinity of the site, the presence of underground watercourses, proximity to water bodies such as the ponds on Hampstead Heath, structural instability of the development or of neighbouring properties, or unstable land). Basement Impact Assessments must use the Burland Scale in estimating effects on neighbouring properties, in accordance with the details set out in our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on basements.
- 6.116 Information submitted with basement applications must be contained within a Basement Impact Assessment which is specific to individual sites and particular proposals. Where hydrological and structural reports are required, they should be carried out by independent professionals (e.g. Chartered Structural Engineers) according to the qualifications set out in Camden Planning Guidance on basements.

Design

7.1 Good design is essential to creating places, buildings, or spaces that work well for everyone, look good, last well and will adapt to the needs of future generations. The National Planning Policy Framework establishes that planning should always seek to secure high quality design and that good design is indivisible from good planning.

Policy D1 Design

The Council will seek to secure high quality design in development. The Council will require that development:

- a. respects local context and character;
- b. preserves or enhances the historic environment and heritage assets in accordance with Policy D2 Heritage;
- c. is sustainable in design and construction, incorporating best practice in resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- d. is of sustainable and durable construction and adaptable to different activities and land uses;
- e. comprises details and materials that are of high quality and complement the local character;
- f. integrates well with the surrounding streets and open spaces, improving movement through the site and wider area with direct, accessible and easily recognisable routes and contributes positively to the street frontage;
- g. is inclusive and accessible for all;
- h. promotes health;
- i. is secure and designed to minimise crime and antisocial behaviour;
- j. responds to natural features and preserves gardens and other open space;
- k. incorporates high quality landscape design (including public art, where appropriate) and maximises opportunities for greening for example through planting of trees and other soft landscaping,
- I. incorporates outdoor amenity space;
- m. preserves strategic and local views;
- n. for housing, provides a high standard of accommodation; and
- o. carefully integrates building services equipment.

The Council will resist development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions.

Tall buildings

All of Camden is considered sensitive to the development of tall buildings. Tall buildings in Camden will be assessed against the design criteria set out above and we will also give particular attention to:

- p. how the building relates to its surroundings, both in terms of how the base of the building fits in with the streetscape and how the top of a tall building affects the skyline;
- q. the historic context of the building's surroundings;
- r. the relationship between the building and hills and views;
- s. the degree to which the building overshadows public spaces, especially open spaces and watercourses; and
- t. the contribution a building makes to pedestrian permeability and improved public accessibility.

In addition to these design considerations tall buildings will be assessed against a range of other relevant policies concerning amenity, mixed use and sustainability.

Public art

The Council will only permit development for artworks, statues or memorials where they protect and enhance the local character and historic environment and contribute to a harmonious and balanced landscape design.

Excellence in design

The Council expects excellence in architecture and design. We will seek to ensure that the significant growth planned for under Policy G1 Delivery and location of growth will be provided through high quality contextual design.

Local context and character

- 7.2 The Council will require all developments, including alterations and extensions to existing buildings, to be of the highest standard of design and will expect developments to consider:
 - · character, setting, context and the form and scale of neighbouring buildings;
 - the character and proportions of the existing building, where alterations and extensions are proposed;
 - · the prevailing pattern, density and scale of surrounding development;
 - the impact on existing rhythms, symmetries and uniformities in the townscape;
 - · the composition of elevations;
 - · the suitability of the proposed design to its intended use;
 - inclusive design and accessibility;
 - its contribution to public realm and its impact on views and vistas; and
 - the wider historic environment and buildings, spaces and features of local historic value.
- 7.3 The Council will welcome high quality contemporary design which responds to its context, however there are some places of homogenous architectural style (for example Georgian Squares) where it is important to retain it.
- 7.4 Good design takes account of its surroundings and preserves what is distinctive and valued about the local area. Careful consideration of the characteristics of a site, features of local distinctiveness and the wider context is needed in order to achieve high quality development which integrates into its surroundings. Character is about people and communities as well as the physical components.

Policy D2 Heritage

The Council will preserve and, where appropriate, enhance Camden's rich and diverse heritage assets and their settings, including conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains, scheduled ancient monuments and historic parks and gardens and locally listed heritage assets.

Designated heritage assets

Designed heritage assets include conservation areas and listed buildings. The Council will not permit the loss of or substantial harm to a designated heritage asset, including conservation areas and Listed Buildings, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a. the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site;
- b. no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;
- c. conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- d. the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

The Council will not permit development that results in harm that is less than substantial to the significance of a designated heritage asset unless the public benefits of the proposal convincingly outweigh that harm.

Conservation areas

Conservation areas are designated heritage assets and this section should be read in conjunction with the section above headed 'designated heritage assets'. In order to maintain the character of Camden's conservation areas, the Council will take account of conservation area statements, appraisals and management strategies when assessing applications within conservation areas.

The Council will:

- e. require that development within conservation areas preserves or, where possible, enhances the character or appearance of the area;
- f. resist the total or substantial demolition of an unlisted building that makes a positive contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area;
- g. resist development outside of a conservation area that causes harm to the character or appearance of that conservation area; and
- h. preserve trees and garden spaces which contribute to the character and appearance of a conservation area or which provide a setting for Camden's architectural heritage.

Listed Buildings

Listed buildings are designated heritage assets and this section should be read in conjunction with the section above headed 'designated heritage assets'. To preserve or enhance the borough's listed buildings, the Council will:

- i. resist the total or substantial demolition of a listed building;
- j. resist proposals for a change of use or alterations and extensions to a listed building where this would cause harm to the special architectural and historic interest of the building; and
- k. resist development that would cause harm to significance of a listed building through an effect on its setting.

Archaeology

The Council will protect remains of archaeological importance by ensuring acceptable measures are taken proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset to preserve them and their setting, including physical preservation, where appropriate.

Other heritage assets and non-designated heritage assets

The Council will seek to protect other heritage assets including nondesignated heritage assets (including those on and off the local list), Registered Parks and Gardens and London Squares.

The effect of a proposal on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, balancing the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

Enhancing the historic environment

- 7.42 The Council has a proactive approach to conserving heritage assets. In addition to the application of Local Plan policies the Council protects the historic environment through the following areas of work:
 - Conservation Area Management Strategies: The Council works with the Conservation Area Advisory Committees to update and support the implementation of the strategies.
 - Heritage at Risk: The Council identifies buildings and structures at risk and proactively seeks to conserve and where required put them back into viable use, including identifying sources of funding.
 - Local list of undesignated heritage assets: The Council introduced the local list in 2015 and it will be updated annually.
 - Guidance: The Council has adopted detailed guidance for the preservation of heritage assets in the supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on design, and Retrofitting Planning Guidance (for sustainability measures in historic buildings). The Council updates planning guidance as required.

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Advertisements

7.81 This policy applies to all advertisements requiring advertisement consent under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007. Certain types of advertisements do not require advertisement consent and are regarded as having 'deemed consent' as they meet the specifications set out in the regulations. Information on what types of advertisements require consent is set out in Outdoor advertisements and signs: a guide for advertisers (Communities and Local Government, June 2007). Advertisements are only controlled in respect to their effect on amenity and public safety. Further guidance on Camden's approach to advertisements is available in the supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on advertisements.

Policy D4 Advertisements

The Council will require advertisements to preserve or enhance the character of their setting and host building. Advertisements must respect the form, fabric, design and scale of their setting and host building and be of the highest standard of design, material and detail.

We will support advertisements that:

- a. preserve the character and amenity of the area; and
- b. preserve or enhance heritage assets and conservation areas.

We will resist advertisements that:

- c. contribute to an unsightly proliferation of signage in the area;
- d. contribute to street clutter in the public realm;
- e. cause light pollution to nearby residential properties or wildlife habitats;
- f. have flashing illuminated elements; or
- g. impact upon public safety.

The Council will resist advertisements on shopfronts that are above fascia level or ground floor level, except in exceptional circumstances.

Shroud advertisements, banners, hoardings / billboards / large outdoor signboards are subject to further criteria as set out in supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on advertisements .

Character and amenity

7.82 Advertisements and signs should be designed to be complementary to and preserve the character of the host building and local area. The size, location, materials, details and illumination of signs must be carefully considered. Interesting and unique styles of advertisements and signs will be considered acceptable where they are compatible with the host buildings and surrounding environment. The Council will resist advertisements where they contribute to or constitute clutter or an unsightly proliferation of signage in the area.

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Adapting to climate change

- 8.30 Climate change adaptation involves changing the way we do things to prepare for the potential effects of climate change. We need to ensure that buildings and people can adapt to changes already evident within the climatic system.
- 8.31 Adapting to a changing climate is identified in Camden's environmental sustainability plan, Green Action for Change (2011-2020). The three key risks which require adaptation measures are flooding, drought and overheating. Specific design measures and 'green infrastructure' such as green roofs, green walls and open spaces can help mitigate some of these risks.

8.32 Changes to our climate could also lead to:

- subsidence, due to increased shrinking and expanding of Camden's clay base;
- · poorer air quality;
- a hotter microclimate;
- · increased summer electricity use due to increased demand for cooling; and
- · threats to the quantity and quality of our water supply.
- 8.33 Such risks impact upon the health and wellbeing of Camden residents, have financial implications and can have impacts upon whether plant and animal species thrive or decline. Ensuring new developments are designed to adapt to these risks should be a key consideration when assessing applications for development in the borough.

Policy CC2 Adapting to climate change

The Council will require development to be resilient to climate change.

All development should adopt appropriate climate change adaptation measures such as:

- a. the protection of existing green spaces and promoting new appropriate green infrastructure;
- not increasing, and wherever possible reducing, surface water runoff through increasing permeable surfaces and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems;
- c. incorporating bio-diverse roofs, combination green and blue roofs and green walls where appropriate; and
- d. measures to reduce the impact of urban and dwelling overheating, including application of the cooling hierarchy.

Any development involving 5 or more residential units or 500 sqm or more of any additional floorspace is required to demonstrate the above in a Sustainability Statement.

Sustainable design and construction measures

The Council will promote and measure sustainable design and construction by:

- e. ensuring development schemes demonstrate how adaptation measures and sustainable development principles have been incorporated into the design and proposed implementation;
- f. encourage new build residential development to use the Home Quality Mark and Passivhaus design standards;
- encouraging conversions and extensions of 500 sqm of residential floorspace or above or five or more dwellings to achieve "excellent" in BREEAM domestic refurbishment; and
- h. expecting non-domestic developments of 500 sqm of floorspace or above to achieve "excellent" in BREEAM assessments and encouraging zero carbon in new development from 2019.

Climate change adaptation measures

8.34 To minimise the risks connected with climate change we will expect the design of developments to consider anticipated changes to the climate. It is understood that some adaptation measures may be challenging for listed buildings and some conservation areas and we would advise developers to engage early with the Council to develop innovative solutions.

Green spaces

- 8.35 Camden is fortunate to have Hampstead Heath, Primrose Hill and Regent's Park which collectively help to temper the urban over-heating in the north of Camden and provide relatively cool space in hot weather. To the south of the Euston Road there is less green space available. Throughout Camden we shall continue to protect our open and green spaces and where possible seek to create additional open spaces. Please see Policy A2 Open space for further information on Camden's green spaces.
- 8.36 As well as limiting urban over-heating, green spaces help to slow the passage of rainwater to Camden's drainage network, which in turn reduces the risk of surface water flooding during intense rainfall events. The planting of trees as part of new developments is encouraged but species selection and location will need to be carefully considered to avoid risks of subsidence, drying out the soil or excessive maintenance.

Sustainable drainage and biodiversity

- 8.37 To support a sustainable approach to drainage, all development should install green roofs, permeable landscaping, green walls and combination green and blue roofs, where appropriate. Further information on these systems can be found in our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on sustainability.
- 8.38 As well as playing a vital role in slowing the speed at which rainwater enters the drainage network, green roofs provide valuable habitats which promote biodiversity, cool the local microclimate and can provide visual amenity. Green roof specifications should be tailored to realise the benefits most suitable for the site and should consider appropriate drought resistant planting to ensure that they can survive hot summers with minimal maintenance.

Water and flooding

- 8.51 Our built environment plays a significant role in the way water is consumed, distributed and disposed of. The way water is used in a building and the pollutants it picks up running across a site affect the quality of the water that reaches the combined storm water and sewer system. In addition, the location of a development, and any flood mitigation measures used, can have an impact on local and downstream surface water flooding. Camden is a Lead Local Flood Authority, which means the Council has responsibility for managing flood risk from surface water and groundwater in the borough.
- 8.52 Areas at risk of flooding in Camden are identified in the Council's Surface Water Management Plan and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. These areas are shown on Map 6: Historic flooding and Local Flood Risk Zones on page 266.
- 8.53 Camden experienced significant flooding in 1975 and 2002 and the probability of such events recurring is likely to increase as a result of climate change. As noted in Policy CC2 Adapting to climate change, flooding and drought are key risks which require mitigation and adaptation measures in the borough. Changes to our climate can also threaten the quantity and quality of our water supply. Such risks impact upon the health and wellbeing of Camden residents.

Policy CC3 Water and flooding

The Council will seek to ensure that development does not increase flood risk and reduces the risk of flooding where possible.

We will require development to:

- a. incorporate water efficiency measures;
- b. avoid harm to the water environment and improve water quality;
- c. consider the impact of development in areas at risk of flooding (including drainage);
- d. incorporate flood resilient measures in areas prone to flooding;
- e. utilise Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in line with the drainage hierarchy to achieve a greenfield run-off rate where feasible; and
- f. not locate vulnerable development in flood-prone areas.

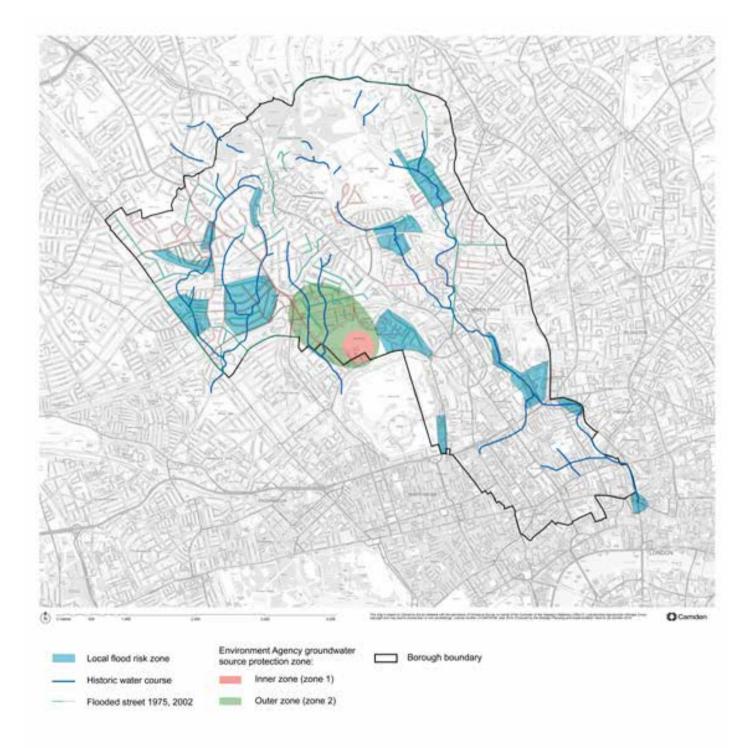
Where an assessment of flood risk is required, developments should consider surface water flooding in detail and groundwater flooding where applicable.

The Council will protect the borough's existing drinking water and foul water infrastructure, including the reservoirs at Barrow Hill, Hampstead Heath, Highgate and Kidderpore.

Water supply and quality

8.54 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

Map 6: Historic flooding and Local Flood Risk Zones



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Air quality

- 8.73 Improving local air quality, mitigating the impact of development on air quality and reducing exposure to poor air quality in the borough is vital in safeguarding public health and the environment. The focus of Policy CC4 is to mitigate the impact of development on air quality and to ensure exposure to poor air quality is reduced in the borough.
- 8.74 It is recognised that parts of Camden have some of the poorest air quality levels in London and since 2000 the whole of the borough has been declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for both NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide) and PM10 (Particulate Matter). Camden is also working to assess and address PM2.5 (the smallest fraction of particulate) because despite Camden meeting EU limit values for PM2.5, research suggests that particulates of this size have the worst health impacts. Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts, and it particularly affects the most vulnerable in society.
- 8.75 A key challenge is to make our local environment better by reducing air pollution. In addition to Policy CC4, this Plan also actively supports the improvement of air quality in Camden by:
 - requiring all new development in the borough to be 'car-free' (see Policy T2 Parking and car-free development);
 - maintaining and increasing green infrastructure (see Policy A2 Open space);
 - reducing emissions associated with new development (see Policy CC1 Climate change mitigation); and
 - supporting and encouraging sensitive energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings (see Policy CC1 Climate change mitigation).

Policy CC4 Air quality

The Council will ensure that the impact of development on air quality is mitigated and ensure that exposure to poor air quality is reduced in the borough.

The Council will take into account the impact of air quality when assessing development proposals, through the consideration of both the exposure of occupants to air pollution and the effect of the development on air quality. Consideration must be taken to the actions identified in the Council's Air Quality Action Plan.

Air Quality Assessments (AQAs) are required where development is likely to expose residents to high levels of air pollution. Where the AQA shows that a development would cause harm to air quality, the Council will not grant planning permission unless measures are adopted to mitigate the impact. Similarly, developments that introduce sensitive receptors (i.e. housing, schools) in locations of poor air quality will not be acceptable unless designed to mitigate the impact.

Development that involves significant demolition, construction or earthworks will also be required to assess the risk of dust and emissions impacts in

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an AQA and include appropriate mitigation measures to be secured in a Construction Management Plan.

- 8.76 The Council's Air Quality Action Plan identifies actions and mitigating measures to be implemented by the Council and partners to reduce NO2 and PM10 from the four main emission sources of the borough: road transport; gas boilers; new developments; and small industrial processes. The Air Quality Action Plan takes account of the measures contained within the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy 'Clearing the Air'.
- 8.77 In order to help reduce air pollution and adhere to London planning policy, developments must demonstrate that they comply with Policy 7.14 of the London Plan (to be at least air quality neutral).

Air Quality Assessments

- 8.78 The Council will require Air Quality Assessments (AQA) where any of the following apply:
 - major applications where occupants will be exposed to poor air quality (along a busy road, diesel railway lines or in a generally congested area);
 - development that has potential to significantly change road traffic on a busy road;
 - · the development has more than 75 new residences;
 - commercial developments with a floorspace of 2,500 sqm or more;
 - developments that include biomass boilers or CHP (combined heat and power) and connections to existing decentralised energy networks (whereby the increased capacity is not already covered by an existing AQA); and
 aubstantial parthworks or demolition
 - substantial earthworks or demolition.
- 8.79 We will also require a basic AQA for all newly erected buildings/substantial refurbishments and changes of use where occupants will be exposed to poor air quality (due to its location next to a busy road, diesel railway line or in a generally congested area).
- 8.80 Air Quality Assessments must outline the predicted and forecast pollutant concentrations at the proposed development and the planned mitigations. The Air Quality Assessment should also consider wider cumulative impacts on air quality arising from a number of smaller developments.

Mitigating measures

- 8.81 Where an AQA shows that a development would cause harm to air quality, planning permission will be refused unless mitigation measures are adopted to reduce the impact to acceptable levels. Mitigation measures should be provided on-site, however where this is impractical the AQA should demonstrate that it is possible to include measures in the local area which have equivalent air quality benefits. Mitigation measures may be secured either by planning condition or legal agreement where appropriate.
- 8.82 Developments will also be expected to include measures to ensure that the exposure of occupants to air pollution is reduced to within acceptable levels. In addition to mitigation, major developments in these areas will be expected to address local problems of air quality which may include various design solutions

Neighbourhood Centres

Camden has 37 Neighbourhood Centres, which are identified in supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on town centres and retail.

Specialist Shopping Areas

- · Covent Garden;
- · Fitzrovia and south-west Bloomsbury;
- Hatton Garden;
- Museum Street; and
- Denmark Street.

Growth areas

- Euston;
- Holborn;
- · Kentish Town;
- King's Cross / St Pancras;
- Tottenham Court Road; and
- West Hampstead Interchange.

The boundaries of the centres are set out on the Local Plan Policies Map.

The borough's growth areas and town centres are shown on Map 7: Camden's centres on page 280.

Policy TC1 Quantity and location of retail development

The Council will focus new shopping and related uses in Camden's designated growth areas and existing centres, having regard to the level of capacity available in these locations.

Distribution of retail across Camden

The Council will promote the following distribution of retail and other town centre uses across the borough:

Growth Areas:

- significant development in the King's Cross / St Pancras Growth Area, with approximately 30,000 sqm net additional retail (A1 to A5 use classes) floorspace anticipated;
- significant development in the Euston Growth Area, with approximately 16,450 sqm of net additional retail (A1 to A5 use classes) floorspace anticipated;
- additional provision as part of redevelopment schemes in the growth areas of Tottenham Court Road, Holborn and West Hampstead Interchange; and
- limited additional provision as part of redevelopment of the Kentish Town Growth Area.

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Shops outside of centres

9.25 Camden has many individual shops, cafés and small shopping and service parades, complementing the role of larger town and neighbourhood centres. These provide for the day to day needs of the local population, workers and visitors and help provide locally accessible facilities for people with mobility difficulties. They also play an important social role in the surrounding community, as well as contributing to the character and identity of the local area.

Policy TC3 Shops outside of centres

The Council will seek to protect shops outside centres.

The Council will only grant planning permission for loss of a shop outside designated centres provided:

- a. alternative provision is available within 5-10 minutes' walking distance;
- b. there is clear evidence that the current use is not viable; and
- c. within the Central London Area, the development positively contributes to local character, function, viability and amenity.
- 9.26 The Council seeks to retain local shops outside centres where possible, including those on small shopping parades. Therefore, we will resist the loss of shops (Use Class A1) unless there is alternative provision within 5-10 minutes walk (approximately 400-800 metres), depending on the scale of provision. We will also take into account the viability of the premises for the existing use, in particular any history of vacancy in a shop unit and the prospect of achieving an alternative occupier. However, we recognise that, as the number of people shopping locally has declined, it is unlikely that all shops outside centres will continue to find an occupier.
- 9.27 Within Camden's Central London area, there is significant competition between competing land uses. This means that additional protection is needed to prevent the widespread loss of A1 retail uses outside centres, in order to ensure that local shops are available for local residents, workers and visitors. Therefore, the Council will only grant permission for the loss of shops outside centres in Central London where it considers that the replacement use will also contribute positively to the local area. Appropriate alternative uses are considered to be housing and uses providing essential services for residents, businesses, workers and visitors such as professional and financial services, community facilities and launderettes.

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centres and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).

9.34 This policy will be applied to proposals for these uses, whether located inside or outside of a centre.

Policy TC4 Town centre uses

The Council will ensure that the development of shopping, services, food, drink, entertainment and other town centre uses does not cause harm to the character, function, vitality and viability of a centre, the local area or the amenity of neighbours.

We will consider:

- a. the effect of development on shopping provision and the character of the centre in which it is located;
- b. the cumulative impact of food, drink and entertainment uses, taking into account the number and distribution of existing uses and nonimplemented planning permissions and any record of harm caused by such uses;
- c. the Council's expectations for the mix and balance of uses within frontages for each centre are set out in Appendix 4;
- d. the individual planning objectives for each centre, as set out in the supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on town centres and retail;
- e. impacts on small and independent shops and impacts on markets;
- f. the health impacts of development;
- g. the impact of the development on nearby residential uses and amenity and any prejudice to future residential development;
- h. parking, stopping and servicing and the effect of the development on ease of movement on the footpath;
- i. noise and vibration generated either inside or outside of the site;
- j. fumes likely to be generated and the potential for effective and unobtrusive ventilation; and
- k. the potential for crime and antisocial behaviour, including littering.

To manage potential harm to amenity or the local area, we will, in appropriate cases, use planning conditions and obligations to address the following issues:

- I. hours of operation;
- m. noise/vibration, fumes and the siting of plant and machinery;
- n. the storage and disposal of refuse and customer litter;
- o. tables and chairs outside of premises;
- p. community safety;
- q. the expansion of the customer area into ancillary areas such as basements;
- r. the ability to change the use of premises from one food and drink use or one entertainment use to another (within Use Classes A3, A4, A5 and D2); and

 the use of local management agreements to ensure that the vicinity of premises are managed responsibly to minimise impact on the surrounding area.

Contributions to schemes to manage the off-site effects of a development, including for town centre management, will be sought in appropriate cases.

- 9.35 New shops, services, food, drink and entertainment uses can add to the vitality and vibrancy of Camden's centres and local areas. However, they can also have other impacts such as diverting trade and displacing existing town centre functions. As a result, the Council will seek to guide such uses to locations where their impact can be minimised. When assessing proposals for these uses, the Council will seek to protect the character and function of our centres. The Council will prevent any reduction in vitality and viability of the centres by requiring sequential assessments and impact assessments where appropriate (in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework) and through implementing this policy.
- 9.36 The Council will not grant planning permission for development that it considers would cause harm to the character, amenity, function, vitality and viability of a centre or local area. We consider that harm is caused when an impact is at an unacceptable level, in terms of:
 - · trade and turnover;
 - · vitality and viability;
 - · the character, quality and attractiveness of a centre;
 - · levels of vacancy;
 - crime and antisocial behaviour;
 - the range of services provided; and
 - a centre's character and role in the social and economic life of the local community.
- 9.37 We will consider the cumulative impact of additional shopping floorspace (whether in a centre or not) on the viability of other centres and the cumulative impact of non-shopping uses on the character of the area. The Council will consider cross boundary impacts of shopping provision, both how provision in Camden affects neighbouring boroughs and how provision in neighbouring boroughs affects Camden.
- 9.38 The supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on town centres and retail provides detailed guidance on how we will treat planning applications for shops, food, drink and entertainment uses in particular centres, taking into account their specific circumstances. Camden Planning Guidance on town centres and retail also provides information on when we consider that concentrations of food, drink and entertainment uses, and reductions in the proportion of premises in retail use, would be likely to cause harm to the character, function, vitality and viability of a centre. We will take these and any other relevant supplementary guidance into account when we assess applications in these locations. We will also take into account any history of vacancy in shop units and the prospect of achieving an alternative occupier for vacant premises when considering proposals that involve the loss of retail premises.

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Small and independent shops

- 9.48 Small shops, often run by independent traders and providing specialist shopping, help to sustain the diversity, vibrancy and character of our centres and smaller shopping areas and provide suitable premises for local businesses. As the retail market changes there is a trend towards fewer larger shops. Many residents have expressed support for measures to encourage small shops and initiatives to encourage and promote retail diversity and entrepreneurialism in the borough.
- 9.49 The Council aims to provide an adequate supply of retail floorspace with a range of small and large units in town centres to meet the needs of different types of businesses. However, the Council's powers to help protect and promote small and independent shops are limited. For example, in most cases planning permission is not required to prevent adjacent shops being combined into larger premises.

Policy TC5 Small and independent shops

The Council will promote the provision of small shop premises suitable for small and independent businesses.

We will:

- a. expect large retail developments to include a proportion of smaller units;
- b. attach conditions to planning permissions for retail developments to remove their ability to combine units into larger premises, where appropriate; and
- c. encourage the occupation of shops by independent businesses and the provision of affordable premises.
- 9.50 The Council will resist the loss of shop premises in our centres where we consider that this would harm the character, function, viability and vibrancy of the area, however the Council cannot influence the occupier of individual premises or the type of goods and services they provide.

Provision of small shops as part of new developments

- 9.51 The Council will support and encourage the provision of small shop units as part of retail developments and will seek provision of small shop premises suitable for small and independent businesses in large retail developments, typically those over 1,000 sqm. As a guide, small units are considered to be those that are less than 100 sqm of gross floorspace, although we will take into account the character and size of shops in the local area and the function of centres when assessing the appropriate scale of new premises.
- 9.52 The Council recognise that provision of small shop units may not be appropriate in every large retail development, therefore in seeking premises for small and independent shop premises the Council will consider the character and

Prioritising walking, cycling and public transport

- 10.8 To promote sustainable transport choices, development should prioritise the needs of pedestrians and cyclists and ensure that sustainable transport will be the primary means of travel to and from the site.
- 10.9 Walking is a zero carbon means of transport and provides significant benefits in terms of promoting healthy lifestyles and helping to create more vibrant streets and public spaces. Between 2006-2014, travel by bicycle increased by 82%. The Council therefore seeks to build on this by improving cycling facilities, routes and creating the conditions that will encourage further take up of cycling. Contributions may also be sought to improve Camden's bus network where necessary.

Policy T1 Prioritising walking, cycling and public transport

The Council will promote sustainable transport by prioritising walking, cycling and public transport in the borough.

Walking

In order to promote walking in the borough and improve the pedestrian environment, we will seek to ensure that developments:

- a. improve the pedestrian environment by supporting high quality public realm improvement works;
- b. make improvements to the pedestrian environment including the provision of high quality safe road crossings where needed, seating, signage and landscaping;
- c. are easy and safe to walk through ('permeable');
- d. are adequately lit;
- e. provide high quality footpaths and pavements that are wide enough for the number of people expected to use them. Features should also be included to assist vulnerable road users where appropriate; and
- f. contribute towards bridges and water crossings where appropriate.

Cycling

In order to promote cycling in the borough and ensure a safe and accessible environment for cyclists, the Council will seek to ensure that development:

- g. provides for and makes contributions towards connected, high quality, convenient and safe cycle routes, in line or exceeding London Cycle Design Standards, including the implementation of the Central London Grid, Quietways Network, Cycle Super Highways and;
- h. provides for accessible, secure cycle parking facilities exceeding minimum standards outlined within the London Plan (Table 6.3) and design requirements outlined within our supplementary planning

document Camden Planning Guidance on transport. Higher levels of provision may also be required in areas well served by cycle route infrastructure, taking into account the size and location of the development;

- i. makes provision for high quality facilities that promote cycle usage including changing rooms, showers, dryers and lockers;
- j. is easy and safe to cycle through ('permeable'); and
- k. contribute towards bridges and water crossings suitable for cycle use where appropriate.

Public Transport

In order to safeguard and promote the provision of public transport in the borough we will seek to ensure that development contributes towards improvements to bus network infrastructure including access to bus stops, shelters, passenger seating, waiting areas, signage and timetable information. Contributions will be sought where the demand for bus services generated by the development is likely to exceed existing capacity. Contributions may also be sought towards the improvement of other forms of public transport in major developments where appropriate.

Where appropriate, development will also be required to provide for interchanging between different modes of transport including facilities to make interchange easy and convenient for all users and maintain passenger comfort.

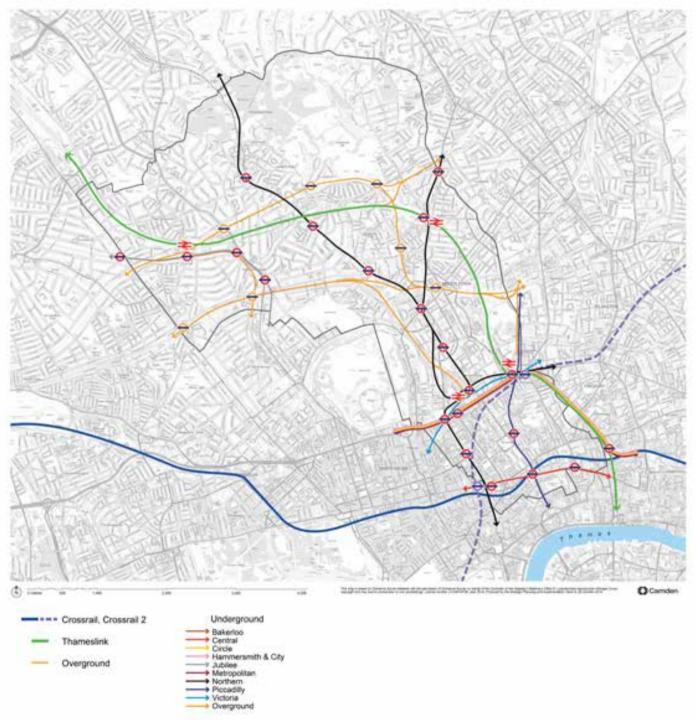
Walking

10.10 Policy D1 Design and our supplementary planning documents Camden Planning Guidance on design and Camden Planning Guidance on transport set out the Council's approach to providing attractive streets and spaces. Public realm improvements will primarily be delivered by the Council using our own funding and, where appropriate, developer contributions and funding from Transport for London. The Council will continue to work with Transport for London and neighbouring London boroughs to deliver improved pedestrian accessibility and way finding within Camden and into neighbouring boroughs.

Cycling

10.11 Cycling is an increasingly popular and sustainable means of travel which we hope to encourage further. The Council will therefore seek to ensure that developments contribute to and, where appropriate, provide appropriate links to strategic cycle routes. We will also expect cycle parking to be convenient and secure, so that users of a development are more likely to use bicycles to travel to and from a site. Details regarding cycle parking standards and design can be found within our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on transport.

Map 8: Regional Rail networks



Parking and car-free development

- 10.15 Limiting the opportunities for parking within the borough can reduce car ownership and use and therefore lead to reductions in air pollution and congestion and improve the attractiveness of an area for local walking and cycling. Car-free development will also mean that the borough's limited land can be used more efficiently, which will help to free up space to allow additional housing, employment uses, community facilities, play areas, amenity spaces and cycle parking. The Council does however also recognise that some people, businesses and organisations, rely on private car use as their only transport option. Parking provision for disabled people and essential uses will therefore be considered where necessary.
- 10.16 Camden is well connected. In most areas of the borough, essential day to day services such as shops, healthcare and education facilities and employment opportunities are no more than short journey away by walking, cycling or public transport. To compliment Camden's existing levels of parking provision, the borough currently also has the largest car club network in London, with over 250 car club parking bays. The car club network therefore provides a real alternative to private car ownership for people who need to use a car occasionally.

Policy T2 Parking and car-free development

The Council will limit the availability of parking and require all new developments in the borough to be car-free.

We will:

- not issue on-street or on-site parking permits in connection with new developments and use legal agreements to ensure that future occupants are aware that they are not entitled to on-street parking permits;
- b. limit on-site parking to:
 - i. spaces designated for disabled people where necessary, and/or
 - ii. essential operational or servicing needs;
- c. support the redevelopment of existing car parks for alternative uses; and
- d. resist the development of boundary treatments and gardens to provide vehicle crossovers and on-site parking.

Car-free in new developments

- 10.17 Car-free development means that no car parking spaces are provided within the site other than those reserved for disabled people and businesses and services reliant upon parking, where this is integral to their nature, operational and/or servicing requirements (e.g. emergency services, storage and distribution uses). In addition, current and future occupiers are not issued with on-street parking permits.
- 10.18 All new residential developments in the borough should be car-free. Parking will only be considered for new non-residential developments where it can be

Transport infrastructure

10.22 Projects to provide new and improved transport infrastructure will play a central role in supporting growth and promoting sustainable transport within the borough. As major development will largely be concentrated in locations that are, or will be, subject to significant transport improvements, land and facilities will therefore need to be safeguarded in order to ensure delivery of these projects.

Policy T3 Transport infrastructure

The Council will seek improvements to transport infrastructure in the borough.

We will:

- a. not grant planning permission for proposals which are contrary to the safeguarding of strategic infrastructure improvement projects; and
- b. protect existing and proposed transport infrastructure, particularly routes and facilities for walking, cycling and public transport, from removal or severance;
- 10.23 Camden's Infrastructure Table (Appendix 1) contains details of the key infrastructure improvements due to take place. The schedule includes 32 transport projects such as:
 - High Speed 2: new north-south railway linking London to Birmingham including potential redevelopment of Euston Station.
 - Crossrail 1: new east-west railway through London from Reading/Heathrow to Abbey Wood and Shenfield.
 - Crossrail 2: new north-south railway running from Surrey to Hertfordshire through London.
 - West End Project: introduction of two-way traffic at Tottenham Court Road and Gower Street and public realm improvements, including at Euston Circus, St Giles Circus and Princes Circus.
 - Camden Town and Holborn Station capacity improvements.
 - North-South Cycle Superhighway: segregated cycle corridor between King's Cross and Elephant and Castle.
- 10.24 Given the constraints on transport capacity in a densely developed borough like Camden, almost every part of existing transport infrastructure is a valuable asset. The Council will therefore seek to protect all existing and proposed transport facilities and links and safeguard the potential for improvements to the transport network.