4 Noise and vibration

KEY MESSAGES:

We will ensure that noise and vibration is controlled and managed to:

- Limit the impact of existing noise and vibration sources on new development; and
- Limit noise and vibration emissions from new development.

4.1 The impact of noise and vibration can have a major affect on amenity and health and can severely affect people's quality of life.

4.2 Policy *DP28 – Noise and Vibration* of the Camden Development Policies aims to ensure that noise and vibration is controlled and managed. It sets out the Council's thresholds for noise and vibration and goes beyond the thresholds set out in Planning Policy Guidance 24: Planning and noise (see below). DP28 contains noise/vibration thresholds for the day, evening and night.

How can the impact of noise and vibration be minimised?

4.3 The main sources of noise and vibration in Camden are generated from:

- Road traffic;
- Railways;
- Industrial uses;
- Plant and mechanical equipment;
- Entertainment uses (such as bars and nightclubs); and
- Building sites.

4.4 For details on how to manage noise and vibration from building sites see section 8 on Construction management plans.

Ways to minimise the impact of noise on your development

Design

- Locating noise sensitive areas/rooms away from the parts of the site most exposed to noises;
- Creating set backs;
- Designing the building so its shape and orientation reflect noise and protect the most sensitive uses;
- Stacking similar rooms (such as kitchens and living rooms) above each other; and
- Positioning non-residential uses closer to the noise source in mixed use developments.

Built fabric

- Insulating and soundproofing doors, walls, windows, floors and ceilings;
- Sealing air gaps around windows;
- Double glazing;
- Including architectural fins (where appropriate); and
- Laminated glass.

Landscaping and amenity areas

- Incorporating planting, landscaping, fencing/barriers and solid balconies to reflect sound.

4.5 Our preference for controlling noise:

- Begins with attempting to reduce noise at its source;
- Then to separate the development (or at least the sensitive parts e.g. habitable rooms) from the source or to use noise barriers; and

- Finally construction materials such as acoustic glazing should be used.

4.6 When you consider measures to minimise noise and vibration you also need to take into account our policies on design and crime prevention. You should consider the implications of noise and vibration at the beginning of the design process to enable prevention or mitigation measures to be designed into the scheme. Poorly designed schemes will not be acceptable.

4.7 Proposals will be expected to include appropriate attenuation to alleviate or mitigate the impact of noise and vibrations to an acceptable level, as set out in policy *DP28 – Noise and vibration* of the Camden Development Policies. Where appropriate, the Council will consider the cumulative impact of noise sources (for example, air conditioning units).

4.8 Everyday domestic activities can also generate noise, e.g. communal entrances and roof terraces. Sufficient sound insulation must be provided between dwellings to prevent the transmission of noise between them, particularly in conversions where new partition walls are often deficient in terms of insulation.

Ways to mitigate noise emitted by your development

Engineering

- Reducing the noise emitted at its point of generation (e.g. by using quiet machines and/or quiet methods of working);
- Containing the noise generating equipment (e.g. by insulating buildings which house machinery and/or providing purpose-built barriers around the site); and
- Protecting any surrounding noise-sensitive buildings (e.g. by improving sound insulation in these buildings and/or screening them by purpose-built barriers).

Layout

- Ensuring an adequate distance between source and noise-sensitive buildings or areas; and
- Screening by natural barriers, buildings, or non-critical rooms in the development.

Administrative

- Limiting the operating time of the source;
- Restricting activities allowed on the site; and
- Specifying an acceptable noise limit.

4.9 If your proposal could result in noise and vibration that would cause an unacceptable impact to nearby uses or occupiers, or proposes sensitive uses near a source of noise or vibration and cannot be adequately attenuated then planning permission is likely to be refused.

Developments will be assessed against the thresholds set out in policy DP28.

How will the Council manage the impact of noise and vibration?

4.10 Detailed acoustic/noise and vibration information in the form of a report will be required if your development proposes:

- The installation of plant, ventilation or air conditioning equipment;
- A use that will create significant noise (e.g. new industry, nightclub)
- A noise-sensitive development in an area where existing noise sources are present (e.g. an existing industrial site, busy road, railway line);
- A use that will generate a significant amount of traffic.

Noise sensitive developments
Those developments located near sources of noise, including housing, schools and hospitals as well as offices, workshops and open spaces.

4.11 The list above is a guide only and you may need to provide noise and vibration information for other developments depending on the circumstances of the site or proposal.

4.12 The appropriate amount and detail of information required will depend on the specific circumstances of your proposal. At a minimum you will be expected to provide the following information to support your application:

- Description of the proposal;
- Description of the site and surroundings, a site map showing noise and vibration sources, measurement locations and noise receivers;
- Background noise levels;
- Details of instruments and methodology used for noise measurements (including reasons for settings and descriptors used, calibration details);
- Details of the plant or other source of noise and vibration both on plan and elevations and manufacturers specifications;
- Noise or vibration output from proposed plant or other source of noise and vibration, including:
  - Noise or vibration levels;
  - Frequency of the output;
  - Length of time of the output;
  - Features of the noise or vibration e.g. impulses, distinguishable continuous tone, irregular bursts;
- Manufacturers' specification of the plant, supporting structure, fixtures and finishes;

- Location of neighbouring windows (and use if applicable);
- Details of measures to mitigate noise or fume emissions and vibration;
- Details of any associated work including acoustic enclosures and/or screening;
- Cumulative noise levels of all the proposed and existing units;
- Hours/days of operation.

4.13 Where appropriate the Council will seek a legal agreement to control or reduce noise levels where this is unlikely to be met through the use of a condition attached to a planning permission.

Further information

PPG24	Planning Policy Guidance Note 24: Planning and Noise provide Government guidance on noise. This guidance defines four Noise Exposure Categories (A-D) and outlines what should be done if your proposal falls into one of these categories. Advice is also provided on how to address noise issues and secure amelioration methods through the planning system. www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg24
DEFRA	The Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs provide a number of publications on noise and noise related issues. www.defra.gov.uk
Camden Council website	Camden's Environmental Health web pages provide strategic information on noise in Camden including the results of monitoring that has taken place www.camden.gov.uk/noise Also see *Camden's Guide for Contractors working in Camden* on the Camden website.
The Mayor's Ambient Noise Strategy	This provides details on the Mayor of London's approach to reducing noise in London. http://legacy.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/noise/docs/noise_strategy_all.pdf