

## 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 centres 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;
- l. microclimate;
- m. contaminated land; and
- n. impact upon water and wastewater infrastructure.

**Protecting amenity**

- 6.3 Protecting amenity is a key part of successfully managing Camden's growth and ensuring its benefits are properly harnessed. The Council will expect development to avoid harmful effects on the amenity of existing and future occupiers and nearby properties or, where this is not possible, to take appropriate measures to minimise potential negative impacts.

**Visual privacy and outlook**

- 6.4 A development's impact upon visual privacy, outlook and disturbance from artificial light can be influenced by its design and layout. These issues can affect the amenity of existing and future occupiers. The Council will expect that these elements are considered at the design stage of a scheme to prevent potential harmful effects of the development on occupiers and neighbours. Further detail can be found within our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on amenity.

**Sunlight, daylight and overshadowing**

- 6.5 Loss of daylight and sunlight can be caused if spaces are overshadowed by development. To assess whether acceptable levels of daylight and sunlight are available to habitable, outdoor amenity and open spaces, the Council will take into account the most recent guidance published by the Building Research Establishment (currently the Building Research Establishment's Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight – A Guide to Good Practice 2011). Further detail can be found within our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on amenity.

**Artificial lighting levels**

- 6.6 Camden's dense character means that light pollution can be a bigger problem in the borough than in lower density areas where uses are not so close together. Artificial lighting should only illuminate the intended area and not affect or impact on the amenity of neighbours.
- 6.7 Developments in sensitive areas, such as those adjacent to sites of nature conservation, should employ a specialist lighting engineer accredited by the Institute of Lighting Engineers to ensure that artificial lighting causes minimal disturbance to occupiers and wildlife. For further information please see our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on amenity.

**Transport impacts**

- 6.8 The Council will consider information received within Transport Assessments, Travel Plans and Delivery and Servicing Management Plans to assess the transport impacts of development. Guidance regarding these documents is available within our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on transport. In instances where existing or committed capacity cannot meet the additional need generated by the development, we will expect proposals to provide information to indicate the likely impacts of the development and the steps that will be taken to mitigate those impacts.

- 6.9 Proposals should make appropriate connections to highways and street spaces, in accordance with Camden's road hierarchy, Transport for London's Street Type Framework and to public transport networks. Any development or works affecting the highway will also be expected to avoid disruption to the highway network, particularly emergency vehicle routes and avoid creating a shortfall to existing on-street parking conditions or amendments to Controlled Parking Zones. To avoid congestion and protect residential amenity, developments will be expected to provide on-site servicing facilities wherever possible. Major developments dependent upon large goods vehicle deliveries will also be resisted in predominantly residential areas. Further details regarding the movement of goods and materials is available within "Policy T4 Sustainable movement of goods and materials".
- 6.10 Highway safety, with a focus on vulnerable road users should also be considered, including provision of adequate sightlines for vehicles leaving the site. Development should also address the needs of vulnerable or disabled road users.
- 6.11 Highway works connected to development proposals will be undertaken by the Council at the developer's expense. This ensures that highway works, maintenance and materials adopted by the Council are constructed to an appropriate standard. This includes highway works that form part of a planning approval appropriate for adoption, including design and implementation of new routes to be adopted, owned and managed by the relevant Highway Authority. Development requiring works to the highway following development will be secured through planning obligation with the Council to repair any construction damage to transport infrastructure or landscaping and reinstate all affected transport network links and road and footway surfaces. Separate arrangements will apply for any works on roads managed by Transport for London.

### **Construction Management Plans**

- 6.12 Disturbance from development can occur during the construction phase. Measures required to reduce the impact of demolition, excavation and construction works must be outlined in a Construction Management Plan.
- 6.13 Construction Management Plans may be sought for:
- major developments;
  - basement developments;
  - developments involving listed buildings or adjacent to listed buildings;
  - developments that could affect wildlife;
  - developments with poor or limited access on site;
  - developments that are accessed via narrow residential streets;
  - developments in areas with a high number of existing active construction sites; and;
  - developments that could cause significant disturbance due to their location or the anticipated length of the demolition, excavation or construction period.
- 6.14 We will require Construction Management Plans to identify the potential impacts of the construction phase and state how any potential negative impacts will be mitigated.
- 6.15 Whether a Construction Management Plan is required for a particular scheme will be assessed on a case by case basis. Construction Management Plans will

usually be sought for major developments, however there are many instances where smaller schemes can have very significant impacts, particularly within predominantly residential areas.

- 6.16 A Construction Management Plan will usually be secured via planning obligations between the developer and the Council after an application is approved. We will expect developers to sign up to the Considerate Constructors Scheme and follow guidance within Camden's Considerate Contractors Manual. Financial contributions and monitoring fees may also be sought if necessary.
- 6.17 The level of detail contained within a Construction Management Plan should be proportionate to the scale and/or complexity of the development. To assist developers in providing the right information, the Council has created a Construction Management Plan Pro-forma which is tailored towards the specific needs of the borough. The criterion in the Pro-forma are drawn from relevant aspects of Transport for London's (TfL) Construction Logistics Plans and follows TfL's construction safety best practice guidelines. Construction Logistics and Cyclist Safety scheme (CLOCS) standards and Camden's Minimum Requirements for Building Construction also form the basis for the Pro-forma criterion. The Pro-forma is available on the Council's website.
- 6.18 The Council seeks to minimise the movement of goods and materials by road through the use of consolidation facilities and rail and water freight where possible. Please see "Policy T4 Sustainable movement of goods and materials" on the movement of goods and materials for further detail. For further details regarding Construction Management Plans please refer to our supplementary planning documents Camden Planning Guidance on amenity and Camden Planning Guidance on planning obligations.

### **Noise and vibration**

- 6.19 Noise and vibration can have a major effect on amenity. The World Health Organisation (WHO) for example states that excessive noise can seriously harm human health, disturb sleep and have cardiovascular and behavioural effects. Camden's high density and mixed-use nature means that disturbance from noise and vibration is a particularly important issue in the borough.
- 6.20 Where uses sensitive to noise are proposed close to an existing source of noise or when development that is likely to generate noise is proposed, the Council will require an acoustic report to accompany the application. Further detail can be found in "Policy A4 Noise and vibration" and our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on amenity.

### **Odours, fumes and dust**

- 6.21 Odours, fumes and dust can be generated from commercial cooking, industrial process and construction and demolition which have the potential to cause a range of health problems, including respiratory diseases.
- 6.22 We will require all development likely to generate nuisance odours to install appropriate extraction equipment and other mitigation measures. These should be incorporated within the building where possible. External extraction equipment and ducting should be sited sensitively, particularly on listed buildings and within conservation areas. Further details can be found in our

supplementary planning documents Camden Planning Guidance on design and Camden Planning Guidance on amenity.

- 6.23 The Council will limit the disturbance from dust due to construction and demolition by expecting developers and their contractors to follow the Greater London Authority and London Councils' Best Practice Guidance: The control of dust and emissions from construction and demolition. Details of how these measures will be implemented should be provided in a Construction Management Plan. Further information regarding the management of dust can be found within "Policy CC4 Air quality".

### **Microclimate**

- 6.24 Large developments can alter the local climate. Buildings can affect the flow of air and cause wind tunnels which can potentially affect the enjoyment of public spaces. A building's colour can affect how much heat it absorbs and therefore impact upon local air temperatures. Developments should therefore consider local topography and the local microclimate in their design. Developments large enough to alter the local climate will be required to submit a statement demonstrating how the design has considered local conditions. Further detail can be found in our supplementary planning documents Camden Planning Guidance on sustainability and Camden Planning Guidance on amenity.

### **Contaminated Land**

- 6.25 Development on contaminated land can expose people to a wide range of potential health risks. Examples of sites that may have contaminated land include those that have been used for vehicle repair, industrial processes and petrol stations. The Council will expect proposals for the redevelopment of sites that are known to be contaminated, have the potential to be contaminated, or are located in close proximity to such sites to submit relevant assessments and take appropriate remedial action to the Council's satisfaction if required. Remedial action is particularly important in developments where people will have access to the ground for gardening, play or planting food for consumption. Please refer to our Contaminated Land team and our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on amenity for further information.

### **Water and wastewater infrastructure**

- 6.26 The Council will work with water providers to ensure that there is adequate water and wastewater infrastructure serving developments likely to put pressure on existing water infrastructure. Developers may be required to demonstrate that there is adequate infrastructure capacity both on and off the site to serve the development and that it would not lead to reductions in water pressure, sewer flooding or overloading of existing water and wastewater infrastructure. Where there is a infrastructure capacity constraint and no improvements are programmed by the water provider, we will use planning conditions and/or obligations requiring developers to provide secure mitigation and compensatory measures which must be completed prior to occupation of the development. Further information regarding flood risk, drainage and water supply can be found within "Policy CC3 Water and flooding" and further detail regarding obligations can be found within our supplementary planning document Camden Planning

Guidance on planning obligations.

## Provision and enhancement of open space

- 6.27 Camden benefits from 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. Hampstead Heath is the largest open space in the Borough, providing nearly half of the total area of open space and a range of outdoor sports facilities. There are over 280 designated public and private spaces shown on the Local Plan Policies Map.
- 6.28 Camden has large areas of Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) which is important to the whole of London, as well as the Borough, and provides attractive, visual breaks to the built-up area, keeping land permanently open. This designation is broadly equivalent to the Green Belt, meaning development is only permitted in very special circumstances. The Regent's Canal forms part of the Blue Ribbon Network of waterspaces and is of strategic significance to London. It contributes to open space provision by providing amenity, opportunities for recreation and support for biodiversity. The London Plan sets out in detail how development affecting the MOL and Blue Ribbon Network will be assessed.
- 6.29 The Borough has a variety of locally significant open spaces performing a range of functions. About two-thirds of all spaces are small parks, linear green space/ green corridors or amenity land used and highly valued by local residents. A significant number of open spaces are designated for their nature conservation importance and "Policy A3 Biodiversity" relates to the safeguarding of these sites. The Borough's open spaces, together with street trees, soft landscaping, roof gardens, green/brown roofs and walls and the Regent's Canal, form a network of 'green infrastructure' performing a range of functions and delivering a wealth of benefits for the local population and wildlife.
- 6.30 The Mayor of London has published the 'All London Green Grid' Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to support the implementation of the Green Infrastructure policies of the London Plan. A series of Area Frameworks expand on this by setting out objectives and strategic opportunities in eleven sub-areas – (part of) the Lee Valley and Finchley Ridge and Central London Frameworks provide detail relating to opportunities and projects in Camden. The SPG identifies two strategically important landscape corridors partly in Camden: the Regent's Canal Link and the Nash Ramblas Link: a continuous route connecting Parliament and the Thames with Parliament Hill and Hampstead Heath.
- 6.31 Open space is critical to sustainability and wellbeing. It performs a social role by providing a variety of areas in which to relax, socialize, enjoy sport and take part in physical exercise. This is especially important at a time when the Council is seeking to address the prevalence of obesity and weight issues and their link with conditions leading to premature death. Quiet areas of green space can enhance personal wellbeing and play space is an important tool in supporting the development of children and young people. Businesses are more likely to invest in areas which offer attractive green spaces. The upgrading of open spaces and the public realm is often a key driver of regeneration and renewal



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 small-scale 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);
- h. 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;



- 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:

- l. 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;
- p. 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;
- q. 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

open space will only be acceptable where provision of equivalent or better space is made within an appropriate catchment area for the type of open space. Catchment distances are set out in Camden Planning Guidance on amenity.

- 6.33 Camden has many large housing estates with extensive areas of amenity land. This has generally not been formally designated as open space but constitutes a potential resource for providing enhanced public or communal open space. The Council wishes to protect this land, while allowing for the reconfiguration of open space and other land uses across estates where significant public benefits have been demonstrated (for example provision of new homes, schools and other community benefits), in particular for residents of the estate. The Council will consider whether such schemes provide equivalent or better provision in terms of the quality and quantity of usable open space and secure improvements to the accessibility and range of uses. This can bring enhancements where land set within housing estates is of poor quality, badly arranged or offers limited value in terms of open space functions for which it can be used.
- 6.34 The success and viability of open spaces is closely linked to the scale, character and quality of the adjacent townscape and development. We will resist proposals which would affect the use and enjoyment of an open space through detrimental changes to its setting. This includes changes to the space's appearance or character, effects on the microclimate, levels of external light or noise pollution and overshadowing, overlooking or disruption to views in or out of the space.
- 6.35 When assessing proposals that would involve the loss of open space, it must be demonstrated to the Council's satisfaction there is an exceptional need for the development and it is associated with the use of the land as open space. Any development should be the minimum necessary to address the identified need. We will resist proposals which would be detrimental to the amenity and character of the space or reduce the public's use and enjoyment of the open space and its setting. The Council will seek replacement provision elsewhere to compensate for the loss.
- 6.36 Extensions and alterations to existing buildings on open space should be proportionate to the size, including the volume, of the original building. Proposals seeking the change of use of an existing building should also be sensitive to the role and function performed by the open space. The poor quality of an open space will generally not be accepted as a reason for its partial development to fund improvements as, once built on, the open space is lost to the community for ever.

### **Protection of other undeveloped areas including gardens**

- 6.37 Development within rear gardens and other undeveloped areas can have a significant impact upon the amenity and character of the area. The Council will protect such spaces in accordance with paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Gardens help shape their local area, provide a setting for buildings, provide visual interest and may support natural habitats. Therefore they can be an important element in the character and identity of an area (its 'sense of place'). We will resist development that occupies an excessive part of the garden, and the loss of garden space which contributes to the character of the townscape. Part of the established character of these spaces may also

be defined through features such as railings and garden walls. We will seek the retention of these features where they make a positive contribution to townscape value.

- 6.38 We will seek the retention of important views and glimpses of green space where these have been identified in a conservation area appraisal or development brief, particularly where schemes are unable to meet the requirement to provide public open space on-site, to enhance the amenity of residents and occupants. Spaces above rooflines, gaps between buildings and even small, sometimes isolated pockets of amenity space, can be vital in supporting the notion of openness, provide visual interest, soften the built environment and contribute to wellbeing. These views may also help to define the significance of heritage assets.

### **Open space designations**

- 6.39 Many of the Borough's designated open spaces are located within Conservation Areas or designated as heritage assets in their own right. This includes 'London Squares' protected for their leisure and recreational value and non-designated heritage assets identified on the Council's 'Local List' or through neighbourhood plans. A number of spaces are Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest – significant designed landscapes registered by Historic England. Open spaces can positively contribute to a conservation area's character and the setting of heritage assets. We will have regard to conservation area appraisals and management plans, the National Heritage List for England, the Greater London Historic Environment Record (HER) and other appropriate sources when establishing the contribution made by open spaces to the historic environment.
- 6.40 Camden's designated open spaces include areas of MOL. This is open space of London-wide significance that provides a break in the built up area and receives the same presumption against development as green belt land. There are four main areas of Metropolitan Open Land in Camden, which are of great importance to the borough and its character – Hampstead Heath and adjoining areas, Regent's Park, Primrose Hill/Barrow Hill Reservoir and Highgate Cemetery/Waterlow Park/Fairseat. We will protect the openness and character of these spaces in accordance with London Plan policy 7.17 and policy guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on Green Belts.
- 6.41 The NPPF introduced the concept of a Local Green Spaces designation. This is green space where development is ruled out other than in very special circumstances. A Local Green Space should be within reasonably close proximity to the community it serves, be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance, be local in character and not form an extensive tract of land. The Council is supporting Neighbourhood Forums in identifying these spaces through neighbourhood plans.
- 6.42 The Council recognises that the need for sports and recreation provision can change over time. The Council will consider proposals for alternative provision of such uses where a need has been demonstrated to its satisfaction and this need outweighs the loss of the existing provision. The proposal will also be assessed taking into account its impact on the integrity of the open space and against other relevant policies.

**Key open spaces in Camden**

- 6.43 Hampstead Heath is the largest open space in the Borough providing nearly half of our total area of open space and many of our outdoor sporting facilities. The Council will work with partners, including the City of London (who own and manage the Heath), to ensure it is properly safeguarded. There are numerous large private gardens adjacent to the Heath that are designated as open space. We will continue using guidance in conservation area appraisals and management strategies to preserve and enhance the built environment around the Heath and preserve outlooks and views from it. This includes protected views from Kenwood House and Parliament Hill to St. Paul's and from Parliament Hill to the Palace of Westminster.
- 6.44 The Regent's Canal is Camden's only significant open watercourse and winds through the borough from Regent's Park to King's Cross. It is an important historical feature and development near the Canal will be expected to reflect its unique character. We will take into account the Regent's Canal Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy when assessing applications for sites along and adjacent to the Canal. Other issues relevant to development proposals include increasing demands on the towpath by pedestrians and cyclists, the potential for crime and anti-social behaviour due to the canal's relative isolation and importance of retaining dark, unlit land in sustaining habitats and species, particularly the foraging of bats. The Canal is designated as a site of metropolitan importance for nature conservation and there is considerable scope to improve biodiversity along the Canal through planting, the provision of green or brown roofs and green walls.

**New and enhanced open space**

- 6.45 The growth of Camden's population will lead to increased use and pressure on our open spaces and therefore the Local Plan seeks to secure sufficient open space with the capacity to meet the additional demand arising from new development (including a change of use).
- 6.46 The Council will seek Section 106 planning obligations, where it is legitimate to do so, to ensure that the additional demand a development places on existing open spaces is met. In some cases the Community Infrastructure Levy will be used to provide funding for open space improvements identified by the Council on the CIL funding list. Where the Council negotiates a planning obligation, we will apply the standards set out in criterion I. Planning obligations will not be sought for open space projects which are included in the CIL funding list. In addition, the Council recognises that the pooling of planning obligations is limited to a maximum of five section 106 agreements per infrastructure project or type of infrastructure. The Council will also not seek contributions for open space from small scale and self-build developments in line with the circumstances set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance.
- 6.47 The Council will seek on-site provision of open space wherever possible, particularly in areas we have identified to be deficient in open space. Where it is demonstrated to the Council's satisfaction that on-site provision is not possible, the Council will seek other forms of open space contribution, giving preference to off-site provision which is capable of meeting the needs generated by the development. This includes securing public access to existing open spaces;

potential sites include land around housing estates and large private spaces.

### **Securing high quality new open space**

- 6.48 Where new open space is provided, it should take into account the characteristics of the site and the local context. This includes existing street patterns and pedestrian routes. The open space should be easy to use by people of all ages and consider the particular barriers that can be experienced by people with physical and sensory disabilities and must be safe and secure for everyone. An important consideration will be the long-term ability for a space, including landscaping, planting, street furniture and surfaces, to be managed effectively and with demands minimised on natural resources, where relevant.
- 6.49 Private amenity space is also important in adding to residents' quality of life and applicants are therefore encouraged to explore all options for the provision of new private outdoor space. Gardens, balconies and roof terraces are greatly valued and can be especially important for families. However, the densely built-up nature of the borough means that the provision of private amenity space can be challenging, and the Council will require that the residential amenity of neighbours is preserved. In densely developed areas, we will consider use of a financial contribution to create usable spaces within the public realm, for example through the widening of pavements, as this can be an effective means of achieving a range of environmental and quality of life benefits. These measures may also contribute to the implementation of conservation area management plans, e.g. the installation of sympathetic lighting or restoration of pavement materials.
- 6.50 Where a development generates a need, the Council will give priority to securing suitable provision of playspace for children and young people and an appropriate level of amenity space for the occupiers of a development. Camden Planning Guidance on amenity provides further detail on how financial contributions for open space provision will be calculated for individual schemes. It also sets out our requirements in relation to the maintenance of open spaces.

### **Enhancing our green infrastructure**

- 6.51 The term 'green infrastructure' refers to the network of green and open spaces, green features such as trees and green roofs and water bodies, such as the Regent's Canal, which taken together provide multiple quality of life benefits. There is a particular opportunity to continue improving links between open spaces to improve access for recreation and corridors which allow species to move between habitats. Schemes should contribute to the implementation of green infrastructure strategies (e.g. All London Green Grid) and wider strategies seeking to enhance green infrastructure, such as the Thames River Basin Management Plan.

### **Tackling open space deficiencies**

- 6.52 The Camden Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (2014) shows the continuing presence of a number of 'deficiency areas' in the Borough where the local population is farther than 280m (or a 5 minute walk) from a designated public open space. The mapped deficiency areas are shown on "Map 2: Locations deficient in access to open space" on page 176. There are

particularly large areas of deficiency in the west of the Borough and Gospel Oak. The Council's Community Investment Programme is helping to address this through improving access to high quality open spaces. There are also deficiencies in the south of the Borough where it will be very difficult to create new areas of formal open space although there will still be opportunities for green and brown walls, roof gardens or public realm improvements.

- 6.53 The Open Space Study maps the areas that do not meet standards for different types of open space (parks, children's play areas, allotments and outdoor sports pitches). The Study advises that deficiency areas should be applied flexibly because they do not take into account local demographics and population density. Nevertheless, the Council considers the deficiency areas to represent a reasonable starting point for identifying where future on-site provision should be prioritised. The Open Space Study sets out a range of measures across seven sub-areas which could potentially address the issues relating to the supply of open space.
- 6.54 Camden's Site Allocations document has identified areas and development sites where there may be opportunities for incorporating new public open space. The Fitzrovia Area Action Plan and Euston Area Plan also identify how access to open space can be improved in association with development in these areas.

#### **Temporary provision of open space**

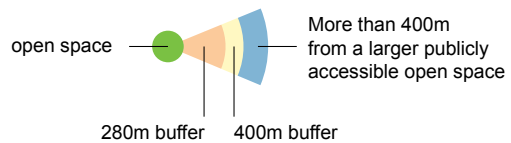
- 6.55 Sites awaiting development can sometimes make short term contributions to open space provision. We will strongly support the temporary use of cleared sites for public open space during the construction period where this can meet local needs. Such sites provide a potential location for local food growing projects.



**Map 2: Locations deficient in access to open space**

- Open Space
- Metropolitan Open Land
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Borough boundary

Open space deficiency:





# 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,
- l. 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.

How places have evolved historically and the functions they support are key to understanding character. It is important to understand how places are perceived, experienced and valued by all sections of the community. People may value places for different reasons, often reflecting the services or benefits they provide for them. In addition, memory and association are also a component of how people understand a place. All of these values and experiences are part of understanding the character of a place. Planning applications should include a Design and Access Statement which assesses how the development has been informed by and responds to local context and character.

- 7.5 Design should respond creatively to its site and its context including the pattern of built form and urban grain, open spaces, gardens and streets in the surrounding area. Where townscape is particularly uniform attention should be paid to responding closely to the prevailing scale, form and proportions and materials.
- 7.6 The Council has two sets of documents which describe the character and appearance of areas and set out how we will preserve or enhance them. Each conservation area has a Conservation Area Statement or Appraisal and Management Strategy. These detailed documents have been developed with the relevant Conservation Area Advisory Committee and are adopted supplementary planning documents. For areas outside of conservation areas the Council commissioned the Camden Character Study to identify and record their character. This is not a formal supplementary planning document. These documents can help developers to inform their understanding of the specific character of the area in which their proposals are located. "Policy D2 Heritage" provides further guidance on the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment. When assessing design, we will also take into account guidance contained within supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on design. For areas where Neighbourhood Plans are being prepared, these documents will form a valuable source of information on the character of the local area.

### **Sustainable design and durability**

- 7.7 The Council expects development to be sustainable in design and construction. Development should be consistent with the policies set out in section 8 of this plan on sustainability and also consistent with Camden Planning Guidance on sustainability.
- 7.8 Design should be durable in construction and where appropriate should be flexible and adaptable for a range of uses over time, a quality known as robustness. Robustness is influenced by factors including the size and shape of rooms, points of access and the depth of floorplates. The overall quality of a building is also a consideration as buildings with character and charm are more likely to be retained and adapted.

### **Details and materials**

- 7.9 Architectural detailing should be carefully integrated into a building. In new development, detailing should be carefully considered so that it conveys quality of design and creates an attractive and interesting building. Architectural features on existing buildings should be retained wherever possible, as their

loss can harm the appearance of a building by eroding its detailing. The insensitive replacement of windows and doors can spoil the appearance of buildings and can be particularly damaging if the building forms part of a uniform group.

- 7.10 Schemes should incorporate materials of a high quality. The durability and visual attractiveness of materials will be carefully considered along with their texture, colour, tone and compatibility with existing materials. Alterations and extensions should be carried out in materials that match the original or neighbouring buildings, or, where appropriate, in materials that complement or enhance a building or area.

### **Street frontages and legibility**

- 7.11 Building facades should be designed to provide active frontages and respond positively to the street. Active frontages are building facades that allow people on the street to see inside the building. A more active type of frontage is one where the use opens out to the street, like a shop with a window display and entrance, or a use like a café or restaurant with outdoor dining. Active frontages add interest and vitality to public spaces. Views into buildings provide interest to passers-by and views out of buildings provide safety through passive surveillance or 'eyes on the street'. Positive factors for frontages are entrances, shop fronts and windows. Negative factors include long blank facades, high boundary walls, solid roller shutters and service entrances and yards.
- 7.12 Buildings and spaces should also allow people to easily navigate their way around an area – a quality known as legibility. Designs should provide recognisable routes and be easy to understand. Buildings and spaces should be permeable by providing clear and direct routes between places. Routes should be direct, safe and attractive for walking and cycling.
- 7.13 Ground floors in new developments should have a storey height appropriate to their use. In mixed use schemes where a commercial use is provided on the ground floor this should typically have a more generous storey height (of approximately 4.5m). Further information on the design of retail spaces is in "Policy TC2 Camden's centres and other shopping areas".

### **Access**

- 7.14 Good access benefits everyone. The Council requires new buildings and spaces to be inclusive and accessible to all. As accessibility is influenced by perceptions as well as physical factors, buildings should also be designed to appear, as well as be, fully accessible. The Council will require Design and Access Statements for developments to show how the principles of inclusive design, ensuring access for all, have been integrated into the proposed development and how inclusion will be maintained and managed.
- 7.15 Making roads and pavements and the spaces between buildings fully accessible is as important as making the buildings themselves accessible. The Council will seek improvements for all pedestrians to ensure good quality access and circulation arrangements, including improvements to existing routes and footways. The Camden Streetscape Design Manual and our supplementary planning documents Camden Planning Guidance on design and Camden Planning Guidance on amenity provide more detailed information on this issue.

- 7.16 Any adaptation of existing buildings must respond to access needs whilst ensuring that alterations are sympathetic to the building's character and appearance. Please refer to "Policy C6 Access for all" for the Council's policies on access and to "Policy D2 Heritage" for the policy on providing access to listed buildings.

### **Health**

- 7.17 The way an area is designed and managed can have a significant impact on people's quality of life, health and wellbeing. Planning has a key role in promoting good physical and mental health by creating streets, spaces and buildings which allow and encourage healthy lifestyles. Architecture and urban design can affect human health through the quality and design of buildings and spaces, access to open space and nature, air quality, noise, opportunities for active transport such as walking and cycling, crime reduction and social cohesion. The Council will require applicants to consider how development will contribute to improving health. Please see "Policy C1 Health and wellbeing" and Sport England's Active Design Guidance for further information on the principles of Active Design.

### **Secure design and crime prevention through urban design**

- 7.18 Design should create safe and attractive places and be designed to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour. The impacts of proposals on crime and community safety should be considered and addressed from an early stage in the design process to prevent the need for reactive security measures. Access and movement routes, the layout of buildings, overlooking and active frontages, lighting, the clear delineation of spaces and ownership and the creation of activity all play a role in designing out crime. The Council will seek to maintain good accessibility in urban areas to foster flows of movement which produce vitality and natural surveillance and in doing so increase safety. Gating as a solution to crime and antisocial behaviour problems will be resisted unless there are exceptional circumstances. Further details are set out in supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on design and in the document Safer Places – The Planning System and Crime Prevention (ODPM April 2004). Please refer to "Policy C5 Safety and security" for further information.

### **Responding to natural features and preserving gardens and open space**

- 7.19 New developments should respond to the natural assets of a site and its surroundings, such as slopes and height differences, trees and other vegetation. Extensions and new developments should not harm existing natural habitats, including in private gardens. "Policy A3 Biodiversity" sets out the Council's policy on nature conservation, protecting trees and biodiversity.
- 7.20 Development within rear gardens and other undeveloped areas can often have a significant impact upon the amenity and character of an area. The Council will resist development that occupies an excessive part of a garden and where there is a loss of garden space which contributes to the character of the townscape.
- 7.21 The Council will resist development which fails to preserve or is likely to damage trees on a site which make a significant contribution to the character and amenity of an area. Where appropriate the Council will seek to ensure that

developments make adequate provision for the planting and growth to maturity of large trees.

### **Landscape design and greening**

- 7.22 The Council will expect development schemes to provide a high standard of landscape design and encourages the development of green and brown roofs and walls. The design of new hard and soft landscaping should be contextual and consider access requirements. Where appropriate, the Council will expect planting plans to be accompanied by a maintenance schedule. Detail on our approach to green infrastructure and landscape design is set out in Camden Planning Guidance on design and Camden Planning Guidance on sustainability supplementary planning documents.

### **Amenity space**

- 7.23 Private outdoor amenity space including gardens, balconies and roof terraces, can add significantly to resident's quality of life and applicants are therefore encouraged to explore all options for the provision of new private outdoor space. Please refer to "Policy A2 Open space" for the Council's approach to ensuring that new open space is provided in development. The Council also requires that the residential amenity of neighbours be considered in accordance with "Policy A1 Managing the impact of development".

### **Public art**

- 7.24 The Council encourages provision of high quality public art in development where appropriate. Public art can help to create a distinctive character to places and spaces. As well as adding visual interest it can influence the use of a space, encouraging or discouraging particular uses, or it can act as a focal point to provide directions. Public art can take many forms and occupy sites and spaces that span a range of scales and of varying character. It may take the more traditional form of a sculpture or other artwork in a public space but could also be conceived as a garden, the façade of a building or a lighting installation. Public art should be designed to be an integral part of a new development.
- 7.25 In assessing applications for artworks, statues and memorials the Council will also take into consideration the matters set out in the supplementary planning



document Camden Planning Guidance on design, including:

- the number of artworks, statues, or memorials already in the area;
- whether the proposal has contextual and historic connections to the site; and
- whether the proposal meets the Council's corporate guidance on artworks, statues and memorials.

### Views

- 7.26 A number of London's most famous and valued views originate in, or extend into, Camden. These are:
- views of St Paul's Cathedral from Kenwood, Parliament Hill and Primrose Hill;
  - views of the Palace of Westminster from Primrose and Parliament Hills; and
  - background views of St Paul's from Greenwich and Blackheath.
- 7.27 The Council will protect these views in accordance with London-wide policy and will resist proposals that would harm them. Where existing buildings that affect a view are redeveloped it is expected that any replacement building will be of a height that does not harm the view. The current framework for protecting these views is set by the London Plan (policies 7.11 and 7.12) and the Mayor's London View Management Framework supplementary planning guidance.
- 7.28 The Council will also consider the impact of a scheme, in terms of the townscape, landscape and skyline, on the whole extent of a view ('panorama'), not just the area in the view corridor. Developments should not detract from the panorama as a whole and should fit in with the prevailing pattern of buildings and spaces. They should seek to avoid buildings that tightly define the edges of the viewing corridors and not create a crowding effect around the landmark.
- 7.29 The Council will also seek to protect locally important views that contribute to the interest and character of the borough. These include:
- views of and from large public parks and open spaces, such as Hampstead Heath, Kenwood Estate, Primrose Hill and Regent's Park, including panoramic views, as well as views of London Squares and historic parks and gardens;
  - views relating to Regent's Canal;
  - views into and from conservation areas; and
  - views of listed and landmark buildings, monuments and statutes (for example, Centrepont, St Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill and St George's, Bloomsbury).
- 7.30 The Council will seek to ensure that development is compatible with such views in terms of setting, scale and massing and will resist proposals that we consider would cause harm to them. Development will not generally be acceptable if it obstructs important views or skylines, appears too close or too high in relation to a landmark or impairs outlines that form part of the view. Further guidance on important local views is set out in our supplementary planning documents, for example in individual conservation area statements, appraisals and management strategies.
- 7.31 The Council recognises that neighbouring boroughs have identified views for protection in supplementary planning documents and that development on some sites within Camden could affect these views. The Council will take into consideration these protected views of neighbouring authorities when deciding



planning applications.

### **Design of housing**

7.32 All residential developments are required to be designed and built to create high quality homes. The Council will seek to ensure that residential development, both new build and change of use:

- is self-contained and has its own secure private entrance;
- has good ceiling heights and room sizes;
- is dual aspect except in exceptional circumstances;
- has good natural light and ventilation;
- has good insulation from noise and vibration;
- has a permanent partition between eating and sleeping areas (studio flats are acceptable where they provide adequate space to separate activities);
- incorporates adequate storage space;
- incorporates outdoor amenity space including balconies or terraces; and
- is accessible and adaptable for a range of occupiers.

7.33 New dwellings and conversions to residential use will be expected to meet the government's nationally described space standard as set out in London Plan Table 3.3. The Council will also require development to adhere to the Mayor's Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance.

### **Building services equipment**

7.34 Building services equipment, such as air cooling, heating, ventilation and extraction systems, lift and mechanical equipment, as well as fire escapes, ancillary plant and ducting should be contained within the envelope of a building or be located in a visually inconspicuous position.

### **Tall buildings**

7.35 For this policy tall buildings are considered to be those which are substantially taller than their neighbours or which significantly change the skyline. While tall buildings offer the opportunity for intensive use, their siting and design should be carefully considered in order not to detract from the nature of surrounding places and the quality of life for living and working around them. Applications for tall buildings will be considered against Local Plan policies on design and heritage, along with the full range of policies, including those on mixed use, sustainability, amenity and microclimate. The effect on views and provision of communal and private amenity space will also be important considerations. In assessing applications for tall buildings the Council will have regard to the London Plan Policy 7.7 on the location of tall and large buildings and the Historic England Advice Note 4 on Tall Buildings.

7.36 Due to the dense nature of Camden with extensive range and coverage of heritage assets, such as conservation areas, numerous listed buildings and five strategic views and two background views crossing the borough, the Council do not consider that it is practical to identify broad areas either suitable, or not suitable, for tall buildings. In the borough, a site may be suitable for a tall building while adjacent sites are not, due to impact on either views, conservations areas or listed buildings. Indeed, in some cases, suitability for a tall building differs across a single site. Given Camden's environmental

characteristics, the entire borough is considered as being within the 'sensitive' category, as defined by the English Heritage / CABE Guidance on Tall Buildings. Tall building proposals in Camden will therefore merit detailed design assessments.

7.37 Further relevant guidance to the Council's approach to tall buildings is set out in:

- Area Action Plans including the Euston Area Plan and the Fitzrovia Area Action Plan;
- Site Allocations;
- Conservation area appraisals and management strategies;
- The Camden Character Study; and
- Neighbourhood Plans.

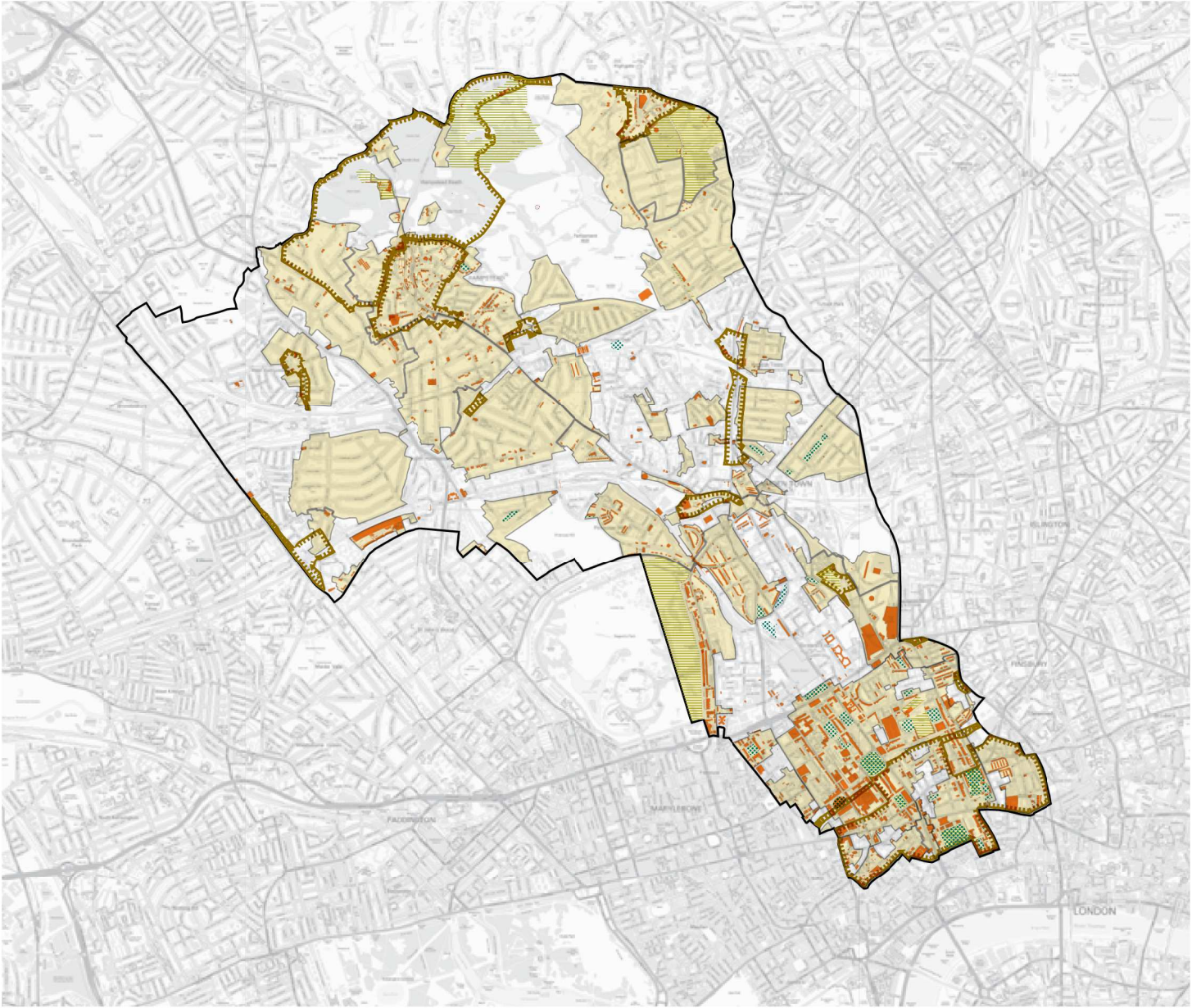
7.38 The Council will take these documents into account where relevant in assessing applications for tall buildings.







# Heritage

## Camden's heritage

- 7.39 Camden has a rich architectural heritage with many special places and buildings from throughout Camden's history (see "Map 4: Heritage and Archaeological Sites" on page 210). 39 areas, covering much of the borough, are designated as conservation areas, recognising their special architectural or historic interest and their character and appearance. We have prepared conservation area statements, appraisals and management strategies that provide further guidance on the character of these areas. We will take these documents into account as material considerations when we assess applications for planning permission in these areas.
- 7.40 Over 5,600 buildings and structures in Camden are nationally listed for their special historical or architectural interest and 53 of the borough's squares are protected by the London Squares Preservation Act 1931. In addition, 14 open spaces in Camden are on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens. The Council also maintains a local list of over 400 non-designated heritage assets. Camden also has a generally well-preserved archaeological heritage, with 13 identified archaeological priority areas, although this can be vulnerable to development and changes in land use.
- 7.41 The Council places great importance on preserving the historic environment. Under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act the Council has a responsibility to have special regard to preserving listed buildings and must pay special attention to preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation areas. The National Planning Policy Framework states that in decision making local authorities should give great weight to conservation of designated heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. The Council expects that development not only conserves, but also takes opportunities to enhance, or better reveal the significance of heritage assets and their settings.

Map 4: Heritage and Archaeological Sites



- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  Conservation area            |  London Squares                           |  Borough boundary |
|  Listed building              |  Gardens and Squares of Historic Interest |  |
|  Archaeological priority area |  |  |

## 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

Designated 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 non-designated 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.
- Area based work: Conservation and enhancement of the historic environment is a key objective of area action plans and the Site Allocations.

The Fitzrovia Area Action Plan for example sets principles for developing key sites which retain and enhance the setting of listed buildings.

- 7.43 The Council recognises that development can make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of, heritage assets and will encourage this where appropriate. Responding appropriately to the significance of heritage assets and its setting can greatly enhance development schemes (for example, King's Cross Central).

### **Designated heritage assets**

- 7.44 Designated heritage assets include listed buildings and structures, registered parks and gardens and conservation areas. The Council will apply the policies above and will not permit harm to a designated heritage asset unless the public benefits of the proposal outweigh the harm. Further guidance on public benefits is set out in National Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 18a-020-20140306). Any harm to or loss of a designated heritage asset will require clear and convincing justification which must be provided by the applicant to the Council. In decision making the Council will take into consideration the scale of the harm and the significance of the asset.
- 7.45 In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework the Council will only permit development resulting in substantial harm to or loss to a grade II listed building, park or garden in exceptional circumstances and will only permit development resulting in substantial harm to or loss to a grade I and II\* listed building, grade I and II\* registered park or garden in wholly exceptional circumstances.

### **Conservation areas**

- 7.46 In order to preserve or enhance important elements of local character, we need to recognise and understand the factors that create that character. The Council has prepared a series of conservation area statements, appraisals and management plans that assess and analyse the character and appearance of each of our conservation areas and set out how we consider they can be preserved or enhanced. We will take these into account when assessing planning applications for development in conservation areas. We will seek to manage change in a way that retains the distinctive characters of our conservation areas and will expect new development to contribute positively to this. The Council will therefore only grant planning permission for development in Camden's conservation areas that preserves or enhances the special character or appearance of the area.
- 7.47 The character of conservation areas derive from the combination of a number of factors, including scale, density, pattern of development, landscape, topography, open space, materials, architectural detailing and uses. These elements should be identified and responded to in the design of new development. Design and Access Statements should include an assessment of local context and character and set out how the development has been informed by it and responds to it.
- 7.48 Due to the largely dense urban nature of Camden, the character or appearance of our conservation areas can also be affected by development which is outside of conservation areas, but visible from within them. This includes high or bulky



buildings, which can have an impact on areas some distance away, as well as adjacent premises. The Council will therefore not permit development in locations outside conservation areas that it considers would cause harm to the character, appearance or setting of such an area.

### **Demolition in conservation areas**

- 7.49 The Council has a general presumption in favour of retaining buildings that make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area, whether they are listed or not, so as to preserve this character and appearance. The Council will resist the total or substantial demolition of buildings which make a positive contribution to a conservation area unless circumstances are shown that outweigh the case for retention. Applicants will be required to justify the demolition of a building that makes a positive contribution to a conservation area, having regard to the National Planning Policy Framework, Camden's conservation area statements, appraisals and management strategies and any other relevant supplementary guidance produced by the Council.
- 7.50 When considering applications for demolition, the Council will take account of group value, context and the setting of buildings, as well as their quality as individual structures and any contribution to the setting of listed buildings. Applications must clearly show which buildings or parts of buildings are to be demolished.
- 7.51 Applications for total or substantial demolition in conservation areas must demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that effective measures will be taken during demolition and building works to ensure structural stability of retained parts and adjoining structures. Before planning permission for demolition is granted, the Council must be satisfied that there are acceptable detailed plans for the redevelopment.
- 7.52 In addition proposals for demolition and reconstruction should be justified in terms of the optimisation of resources and energy use in comparison with the existing building. Further details on this are in "Policy CC1 Climate change mitigation".

### **Use**

- 7.53 Changes in patterns of use can also erode the character of an area. It is therefore important that, whenever possible, uses which contribute to the character of a conservation area are not displaced by redevelopment. Two uses of particular importance to the character of conservation areas are pubs and local shops, especially when they are located in historic buildings. The Council will protect these uses as set out in "Policy C4 Public houses" and "Section 9 Town centres and shops".

### **Details**

- 7.54 The character and appearance of a conservation area can be eroded through the loss of traditional architectural details such as historic windows and doors, characteristic rooftops, garden settings and boundary treatments. Where alterations are proposed they should be undertaken in a material of a similar appearance to the original. Traditional features should be retained or reinstated

where they have been lost, using examples on neighbouring houses and streets to inform the restoration. The Council will consider the introduction of Article 4 Directions to remove permitted development rights for the removal or alterations of traditional details where the character and appearance of a conservation area is considered to be under threat.

### **Landscape**

- 7.55 The value of existing gardens, trees and landscape to the character of the borough is described in “Policy A2 Open space” and they make a particular contribution to conservation areas. Development will not be permitted which causes the loss of trees or garden space where this is important to the character and appearance of a conservation area.

### **Sustainable design and retrofitting**

- 7.56 Historic buildings including those in conservation areas can be sensitively adapted to meet the needs of climate change and energy saving while preserving their special interest and ensuring their long-term survival. In assessing applications for retrofitting sustainability measures to historic buildings the Council will take into consideration the public benefits gained from the improved energy efficiency of these buildings, including reduction of fuel poverty. These considerations will be weighed up against the degree to which proposals will change the appearance of the building, taking into consideration the scale of harm to appearance and the significance of the building. Applicants are encouraged to follow the detailed advice in Camden’s Retrofitting Planning Guidance, the energy efficiency planning guidance for conservation areas and the Historic England website.

### **Listed buildings**

- 7.57 Camden’s listed buildings and structures provide a rich and unique historic and architectural legacy. They make an important and valued contribution to the appearance of the borough and provide places to live and work in, well known visitor attractions and cherished local landmarks. We have a duty to preserve and maintain these for present and future generations.
- 7.58 The Council has a general presumption in favour of the preservation of listed buildings. Total demolition, substantial demolition and rebuilding behind the façade of a listed building will not normally be considered acceptable. The matters which will be taken into consideration in an application for the total or substantial demolition of a listed building are those set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 7.59 In order to protect listed buildings, the Council will control external and internal works that affect their special architectural or historic interest. Consent is required for any alterations, including some repairs, which would affect the special interest of a listed building.
- 7.60 The setting of a listed building is of great importance and should not be harmed by unsympathetic neighbouring development. While the setting of a listed building may be limited to its immediate surroundings, it can often extend some distance from it. The value of a listed building can be greatly diminished if

unsympathetic development elsewhere harms its appearance or its harmonious relationship with its surroundings. Applicants will be expected to provide sufficient information about the proposed development and its relationship with its immediate setting, in the form of a design statement.

### **Access in listed buildings**

- 7.61 Where listed buildings and their approaches are being altered, disabled access should be considered and incorporated. The Council will balance the requirement for access with the interests of conservation and preservation to achieve an accessible solution. We will expect design approaches to be fully informed by an audit of conservation constraints and access needs and to have considered all available options. The listed nature of a building does not preclude the development of inclusive design solutions and the Council expects sensitivity and creativity to be employed in achieving solutions that meet the needs of accessibility and conservation.

### **Sustainability measures in listed buildings**

- 7.62 Proposals that reduce the energy consumption of listed buildings will be welcomed provided that they do not cause harm to the special architectural and historic interest of the building or group. Energy use can be reduced by means that do not harm the fabric or appearance of the building, for instance roof insulation, draught proofing, secondary glazing, more efficient boilers and heating and lighting systems and use of green energy sources. Depending on the form of the building, renewable energy technologies may also be installed, for instance solar water heating and photovoltaics.

## **Archaeology**

- 7.63 Camden has a rich archaeological heritage which comprises of both above and below ground remains, in the form of individual finds, evidence of former settlements and standing structures. These remains are vulnerable to modern development and land use. There are currently 13 archaeological priority areas in the borough (see “Map 4: Heritage and Archaeological Sites”) although these are scheduled for review in 2017.
- 7.64 The archaeological priority areas provide a general guide to areas of archaeological remains, but do not indicate every find site in the borough. These are based on current knowledge and may be refined or altered as a result of future archaeological research or discoveries.
- 7.65 It is likely that archaeological remains will be found throughout the borough, both within and outside the archaeological priority areas. Many archaeological remains have yet to be discovered, so their extent and significance is not known. When researching the development potential of a site, developers should, in all cases, assess whether the site is known or is likely to contain archaeological remains. Where there is good reason to believe that there are remains of archaeological importance on a site, the Council will consider directing applicants to supply further details of proposed developments, including the results of archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation. Scheduled monument consent must be obtained before any alterations are made to scheduled ancient monuments. Camden has only one

scheduled ancient monument: Boadicea's Grave in Hampstead Heath.

- 7.66 If important archaeological remains are found, the Council will seek to resist development which adversely affects remains and to minimise the impact of development schemes by requiring either in situ preservation or a programme of excavation, recording, publication and archiving of remains. There will usually be a presumption in favour of in situ preservation of remains and, if important archaeological remains are found, measures should be adopted to allow the remains to be permanently preserved in situ. Where in situ preservation is not feasible, no development shall take place until satisfactory excavation and recording of the remains has been carried out on site and subsequent analysis, publication and archiving undertaken by an archaeological organisation approved by the Council.
- 7.67 The Council will consult with, and be guided by, Historic England and the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS) on the archaeological implications of development proposals. The Greater London Historic Environment Record, maintained by Historic England, contains further information on archaeological sites in Camden. When considering schemes involving archaeological remains, the Council will also have regard to the National Planning Policy Framework.

### **Other heritage assets**

- 7.68 In addition to conservation areas, listed buildings and archaeological remains, Camden contains 14 registered parks and gardens, as identified by Historic England. There are also 53 London squares in the borough protected by the London Squares Preservation Act 1931. The Council will encourage the management of registered parks and gardens and London squares to maintain, and where appropriate, enhance their value and protect their setting. The Council will consult with Historic England over proposals affecting these parks and gardens. We also encourage the restoration and management of registered parks and gardens and London squares to enhance their value.

### **Non designated heritage assets**

- 7.69 The borough also has many attractive, historic, locally significant buildings and features which contribute to the distinctiveness of local areas, but which are not formally designated. The National Planning Policy Framework identifies these features as non-designated heritage assets. Non-designated heritage assets may either be identified as part of the planning process or on Camden's Local List. Camden's Local List identifies historic buildings and features that are valued by the local community and that help give Camden its distinctive identity but are not already designated in another way (for example a listed building). When planning permission is required for any proposal that directly or indirectly affects the significance of a non-designated heritage asset (either on the Local List or not) then the Council will treat the significance of that asset as a material consideration when determining the application. The Local List is available at [www.camden.gov.uk/locallist](http://www.camden.gov.uk/locallist).

## Shopfronts

- 7.70 Shopfronts contribute greatly to the character of centres and their distinctiveness. Most of Camden's town and neighbourhood centres date back to the 19th Century and earlier, having developed from commercial activities that first took place within dwellings, although there are some significant 20th Century shopping parades.
- 7.71 Please refer to "Policy TC2 Camden's centres and other shopping areas" for policy on the design of new retail spaces.

### Policy D3 Shopfronts

The Council will expect a high standard of design in new and altered shopfronts, canopies, blinds, security measures and other features.

When determining proposals for shopfront development the Council will consider:

- a. the design of the shopfront or feature, including its details and materials;
- b. the existing character, architectural and historic merit and design of the building and its shopfront;
- c. the relationship between the shopfront and the upper floors of the building and surrounding properties, including the relationship between the shopfront and any forecourt or lightwell;
- d. the general characteristics of shopfronts in the area;
- e. community safety and the contribution made by shopfronts to natural surveillance; and
- f. the degree of accessibility.

The Council will resist the removal of shop windows without a suitable replacement and will ensure that where shop, service, food, drink and entertainment uses are lost, a shop window and visual display is maintained.

Where an original shopfront of architectural or historic value survives, in whole or in substantial part, there will be a presumption in favour of its retention. Where a new shopfront forms part of a group where original shop fronts survive, its design should complement their quality and character.

### Protecting existing shopfronts

- 7.72 Shopfronts form an essential part of the character and attractiveness of many areas in Camden, in particular its centres, and contribute to the creation of vibrant streets and public spaces. We will seek to protect existing shopfronts that make a significant contribution to the appearance and character of an area, for example through their architectural and historic merit. We will consider the need to keep the appearance of the shopfront, taking into account the quality of its design, its historic importance and its location. Good examples of shopfronts should be retained wherever possible.