

Hot off the press. The Mayor Sadiq Khan has just announced that Somers Town has been chosen as one of two London areas to receive Future Neighbourhood 2030 funding. The first phase funding is for £1.42M for Somers Town, which will be match funded by Camden. The second phase pot is £4.5M and will be made available to us and the other Future Neighbourhood area: Notting Dale in Kensington & Chelsea.

Working with Camden Council, STCA, the Living Centre and lots of other partners, we submitted 10 projects in the first phase, with money needed to be spent by March 2022. The projects will largely be led by Camden Council and will include greening of estates, updating the Coopers Lane air quality station to monitor the smallest particulates, improving indoor air quality, better insulating/retrofitting 50 void social homes, green mobility hubs, a freight action plan for big business, and promoting the circular economy including new refill stalls on Chalton Street.

Much of the evidence base for the Future Neighbourhoods 2030 application came from work the Forum has done with partners including Voluntary Action Camden, UCL and the Environmental Law Foundation, including the Environmental Justice Inquiry and Air Quality Project. In his letter confirming our bid was successful the Mayor said, "My officers and Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy were impressed with your commitment 'to harnessing a genuine will for equitable climate action against a backdrop of deprivation check by jowl with affluence'." One of the projects I'm most excited about is that the Knowledge Quarter are looking to offset their emissions locally by supporting projects in Somers Town that combat the effects of global climate change.

Although the first phase projects were very much identified by "What local concerns have already been identified?" and "What can we deliver quickly?", the second phase is a bigger pot and projects will be developed and monitored locally through a neighbourhood strategy.