



HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Subject Heading:

Local Plan Development

Board Lead:

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- Theme 1: Primary prevention to promote and protect the health of the community and reduce health inequalities
- Theme 2: Working together to identify those at risk and intervene early to improve outcomes and reduce demand on more expensive services later on
- Theme 3: Provide the right health and social care/advice in the right place at the right time
- Theme 4: Quality of services and user experience

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the progression of the Havering Local Plan and discusses the role of the Local Plan in promoting and influencing health and well-being.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Board members are asked to review the report and note its content.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Background - The Havering Local Plan

- 1.1 The Council is currently consulting on a new Local Plan for Havering which will guide future growth and development within the borough up to 2031. The Plan sets out the Council's vision and strategy and the planning policies that are needed to deliver them. The Plan indicates the broad locations in Havering for future housing, employment, retail, leisure, transport, community services and other types of development. Once adopted, the Local Plan will be the primary tool used for assessing planning applications.
- 1.2 Over the lifetime of the Local Plan the population of the borough is expected to continue to grow and become more diverse. There is a need to build more homes and develop the infrastructure to accommodate this growing and changing population. The Local Plan seeks to ensure that there is the necessary growth in homes, jobs and critical infrastructure to support and sustain new and existing communities.
- 1.3 A key challenge is how to provide sufficient homes and infrastructure for a growing and changing population, whilst at the same time promoting health and wellbeing and facilitating healthy lifestyles. There is a need to improve health and wellbeing in Havering and reduce health inequalities and the Local Plan has an important role to play. This is explored in further detail below.

2. Planning for Health

- 2.1 The Council recognises that health and wellbeing is influenced by the natural and built environments. Carefully planned environments provide the circumstances where good health can be more easily achieved and where the healthier option is the easier and more obvious choice. Prevention, we know, is better than cure. If local residents chose not to smoke, drank less, had better diets and were more physically active, poor health could be avoided from the outset. Good planning can help design out environments that can contribute to obesity and can also facilitate community cohesion, social interaction and reduce opportunities for criminal and anti-social behaviour which can all impact on the wellbeing of Havering's residents.

2.2 Although it is difficult to quantify, with precision, the impact of the built and natural environment on health, research does seem to consistently report that the majority of health outcomes are explained by factors other than healthcare. Public Health England published a report in 2017 '*Spatial Planning for Health: An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places*' which examined the existing health and built environment evidence base, identifying relevant built environment topics, planning principles and characteristics that are associated, or thought to have an association with, health outcomes. The report highlighted the importance of planning in places and communities that encourage healthier choices.

3. The Local Plan and Health

Local Plan - Health Impact Assessment

3.1 One way to influence and promote health and wellbeing through new development is to ensure that the Local Plan is sufficiently robust to maximise health gains and mitigate any potential negative impacts. In 2016/17 a desktop Health Impact Assessment (HIA) was undertaken as part of the preparation of the Local Plan.

3.2 HIA is a process that can help to evaluate the health effects of a plan or project in recognition that where we live, how we travel, and how we gain access to green space or leisure activities can all have a significant impact on health and wellbeing. HIA provides an opportunity to ensure that the potential impacts on health and wellbeing, particularly where there may be inequalities in outcomes for marginalised or disadvantaged groups, are addressed from the outset and mitigated where possible.

3.3 Using the London Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) HIA tool, the Local Plan and all of the underpinning policies were assessed according to the following eleven topics:

- (i) Housing quality and design
- (ii) Access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure
- (iii) Access to open space and nature
- (iv) Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity
- (v) Accessibility and active travel
- (vi) Crime reduction and community safety
- (vii) Access to healthy food
- (viii) Access to work and training
- (ix) Social cohesion and lifetime neighbourhoods
- (x) Minimising the use of resources

(xi) Climate change

3.4 Under each of the topics above, the HUDU tool poses a range of questions against which the draft Local Plan and supporting policies were considered, taking into account Havering's population profile and health needs.

3.5 In response to the findings and recommendations of the HIA revisions were made to the Local Plan. Some of the key actions taken were:

- Embedding health and wellbeing throughout the Local Plan, recognising that the health challenges of non-communicable diseases, health inequalities and inequalities are hugely influenced by the environment
- Developing a specific Health and Wellbeing Policy to highlight the importance of health and wellbeing to those wishing to develop and invest in the borough
- Ensuring strong support for active travel options
- Strengthening policy support for independent living and adaptations to facilitate this.

Health Impact Assessments for Major Development Proposals

3.6 The HIA of the Local Plan has resulted in a new planning policy that will require all major development proposals (typically over 10 residential units or 1,000sqm of commercial floorspace) to be accompanied by a HIA when they are submitted to the Council for planning approval.

3.7 The purpose of this policy approach is to ensure that health and wellbeing is given full consideration as individual sites come forward for development and the potential health impacts of the proposed development are taken into account from the outset. It will build on the overarching position provided by the Local Plan and will give the Council more leverage in seeking improvements to the quality of development schemes from a health perspective.

3.8 In order to help developers and planners take this approach forward and to achieve maximum health benefits the Public Health Service will be developing detailed guidance for developers and will deliver training to the planning department.

Local Plan - Community Infrastructure

- 3.9 The Local Plan has a key role in facilitating the delivery of additional infrastructure which is needed to support the population and housing growth that is expected over the next 15 years. There is a clear recognition in the Plan of the importance of securing new infrastructure to support growth and tackle existing issues and to make sure that the community in Havering is well served by the facilities it requires.
- 3.10 The Council has prepared an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which seeks to identify the infrastructure that will be needed in Havering. The IDP covers a wide range of infrastructure requirements including health and social care.
- 3.11 The Council has worked closely with the Havering Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to understand what healthcare facilities are required. Officers have been involved in the preparation of the CCG's Havering Primary Care Infrastructure Capacity Plan (2017) to ensure that health care requirements and the way in which the CCG is seeking to transform and deliver health services in future is fully reflected in the IDP and Local Plan.
- 3.12 As a result of infrastructure needs assessment and close working with the CCG, the Local Plan has been able to identify the need for new facilities and provides planning policy support for the provision of a new health hub in Romford, new health facilities in the south of the borough at Rainham, the north west of the borough and at the former St Georges Hospital site.
- 3.13 The Local Plan provides a platform from which to secure major infrastructure investment and will put the Council and CCG in a much stronger position to push for the improved infrastructure needed to support growth.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 As mentioned in section 1.1 the Council is currently consulting on the Proposed Submission Havering Local Plan. The consultation is due to close on Friday 29th September. Following the consultation the Council will submit the Local Plan and any representations received to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who will appoint an independent Planning Inspector to undertake an Examination in Public. Only once the Inspector has found that the Plan is acceptable can the Council then adopt the Local Plan. It is anticipated that adoption will be in Spring 2018.



IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal implications and risks:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no HR implications arising directly as a result of this report.

Equalities implications and risks:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None