



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Consultation on the proposed Healthy Weight Strategy 2024-2029: Everybody's business (<i>A whole systems approach to tackling overweight and obesity</i>)
Decision Maker:	Mark Ansell Director of Public Health
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Ford Deputy leader
SLT Lead:	Mark Ansell Director of Public Health
Report Author and contact details:	Jack Davies Jack.davies@havering.gov.uk Elaine Greenway Elaine.greenway@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	Taking a whole systems approach to obesity prevention is a key work stream in the Councils Corporate vision and a priority for the Havering' Health and Wellbeing Board and the Borough Place Based Partnership Board
Financial summary:	There are no additional financial costs associated with the consultation. Publication and promotion of the strategy, and analysis of the responses, will be covered by existing resources.
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	Health

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Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	Yes
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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents	x
Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy	x
Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.	x

Part A – Report seeking decision

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DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of this report is to gain approval to go out to public consultation on the draft Havering Healthy Weight Strategy 2024-2029: Everybody's Business (a whole systems approach to reducing overweight and obesity)

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

3.4 Powers of Second Tier Managers –General Powers

- g) To undertake consultation with the Council's customers and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with the Council's consultation procedures, in order to establish:
- (i) levels of customer satisfaction with the Council's services
 - (ii) the public and stakeholders' responses to consultation documents, strategies and surveys.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

What is the healthy weight strategy?

This five-year draft strategy titled *Havering Healthy Weight Strategy 2024-2029: Everybody's Business* sets out why overweight and obesity is a concern, what causes obesity, and what should be done to reduce levels of obesity going forward. The draft strategy describes how the Council, the NHS, schools, the voluntary and community sector, and other partner agencies, will work together in laying the foundations of a "whole systems approach" to achieve a healthier population.

A whole systems approach brings together local stakeholders, including the local community, in partnership to understand the system that influences overweight and obesity and to tackle the different areas of the system. Local authorities are in a uniquely influential position to lead their communities and local partners to tackle obesity; by working with local NHS organisations and other partners, as well as the local authority's own scope for shaping the local area.

The strategy's primary focus is prevention; stopping increasing rates of obesity in the local population. At the same time, it recognises the importance of help and support being available for those individuals who want to lose excess weight and return to a healthy weight.

The strategy supports a long term vision for the borough where, within 20 years, childhood obesity will have been eradicated and that the borough will have become a healthier place to

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live work and study, and a place where communities have come together to make the healthy choice the easiest choice.

Why do we need a Healthy weight strategy?

Havering Council has a responsibility to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities for residents in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Overweight and obesity is a significant problem, both locally and nationally, and a major public health challenge. In Havering, data for 2022/23 showed that almost 25% of children started reception year at school above a healthy weight. For school year 6, 40% of children were above a healthy weight. For adults, over 60% of Havering residents were overweight or obese. Trend data for the past five years for Havering show rates of obesity among Havering adults were above the London average, and were above the national average for four years out of the five.

Overweight and obesity is affecting the quality of life of Havering residents, and is cutting lives short. Children are beginning to develop diseases previously only seen in adults, such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, liver conditions, and bone and joint problems. In adults, overweight and obesity is the second biggest preventable cause of cancer after smoking. Being overweight and obese increases risk factors for cardiovascular disease, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and type 2 diabetes.

When developed in childhood, obesity is likely to continue into adulthood, with higher risk of associated diseases. Adults who are obese are three times more likely to need adult social care. Obesity reduces life expectancy in adults by an average of three years or by 8-10 years with severe obesity.

Public Consultation

A healthy weight strategy has been drafted in collaboration with partners and stakeholders (see pre-decision consultation). This decision paper now seeks approval to undertake wide public consultation on the draft strategy; inviting views and comments of residents, businesses, the voluntary and community sector and workforces of statutory agencies.

It is proposed that consultation takes the form of online engagement which will include a social media campaign and online information sessions. As part of the consultation, the following documents will be published: the draft Healthy Weight Strategy, the needs assessment which has informed the strategy and which outlines the rationale, and the equality health impact assessment.

Next steps:

Responses to the consultation will be analysed. The analysis will be published on Citizen Space, and include information on what amendments have been made to the final draft strategy.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the consultation commences early January 2024 for between six to eight weeks.

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OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do not consult –rejected as not in accordance with Council policy.

A smaller scale consultation – rejected as the principles / strategy approach requires widespread and ongoing public engagement.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

The development of the draft strategy has been led by the Council's Public Health Service, working with elected councillors, including the Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Health, as well as most service areas across the Council. Over 30 stakeholder groups have been engaged in its development, including the local NHS, schools, Everyone Active, local sports clubs, and the voluntary and community sector.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Jack Davies

Designation: Public Health Specialist

Signature:

Date:

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The proposed Healthy Weight Strategy is a part of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy that the Council is required to produce by virtue of s 116A Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Under s 116A(5) In preparing a strategy under this section, the responsible local authority and each of its partner integrated care boards must—

- (a) involve the Local Healthwatch organisation for the area of the responsible local authority, and
- (b) involve the people who live or work in that area.

The proposal to consult on the Strategy is in line with this requirement.

There are no legal implications in making the decision to consult, however, when consulting the Local Authority must give sufficient information and time to consultees to comment meaningfully and then the responses to that consultation must be conscientiously taken into account by the final decision makers.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no direct financial implications of the proposed decision. Consultation will be undertaken by the public health team utilising online consultation methods at no cost, other than officer time. Limited costs could be incurred if we are required to print documents or provide documents in alternative forms to assist residents. These limited costs would be met within existing Public Health budgets.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no Human Resources implications of the proposed decision. Consultation will be undertaken by the development public health team, who have capacity to do so.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;

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(ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;

(iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

An equality impact health assessment will accompany consultation documents.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no environmental or climate change impacts from this decision. The recommendations made in this report do not appear to conflict with the Council's policy.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

None

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision


Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Mark Ansell

Position: Director of Public Health

Date: 21/12/23

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____