

Planning and Development Health and Wellbeing Sounding Board

Terms of Reference

Background and Purpose

Major planning decisions will have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. The implications can be both positive and negative. The negative implications can be minimised or mitigated and the positive implications enhanced with early input from the right individuals, and if plans are then developed accordingly.

The Health and Wellbeing Board recognise, in terms of the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, the significance of good planning and development. As a result, the Board has commissioned the establishment of a 'Sounding Board'. The purpose of the Sounding Board is to look at significant development plans at the earliest possible stage to enable full consideration of the health and well-being impact.

The functions of the Sounding Board are set out below.

Functions

- To review emerging development plans (those classified as 'major') – at an early stage – e.g. either at pre-application if applicable, or post-application;
- Identify health and wellbeing implications of the plans being considered;
- Identify how the proposed developments might mitigate or minimise any negative implications and emphasis any positive implications;
- Provide an opinion on plans that can be considered by planners, as part of the formal consultation process on major plans;
- Provide an opinion on plans that can be considered by developers and planners on major plans submitted pre-application;
- Identify how section 106 monies might best be spent to enhance health and wellbeing;
- Link with developers to influence thinking – e.g. via Council-sponsored meetings and forums; and
- Input in to emerging policy and strategy.

Membership

Membership will consist of representatives of the following:

- Planning Department
- Housing Department
- Thurrock HealthWatch
- User-Led Organisation
- NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health
- NHS England (Essex Local Area Team)
- Adult Social Care

- Community Representation – representative attending will be appropriate to the plans being discussed (e.g. if concerning Purfleet, then a Purfleet community representative)

Membership will alter as appropriate and be reviewed regularly. Depending upon the nature of the application and its impact, individual members may also wish to submit a separate response – e.g. Public Health or CCG.

Frequency of Meetings

- The Sounding Board will meet mostly virtually to consider major applications
- Meetings may take place where appropriate and depending upon the issues contained within particular applications

Chair Arrangements

- Head of Adult Social Care

Governance

- The Sounding Board has accountability to the Health and Wellbeing Board and sits within the Board's structure.
- Comments made by the Board will be submitted to the Planning Department as part of the formal consultation process for major applications or the informal consultation process if commenting on a proposal pre-application

Operation

- Major applications – either pre-application or post-application – will be e-mailed to the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Received applications will be circulated to Sound Board members for comment;
- The Chair will consider whether the Sounding Board need to meet – depending upon the nature of the application and the extent of the impact on health and wellbeing;
- Comment will be required by Sounding Board members within a week of circulation;
- Comments will be collated and recirculated to Sounding Board members for sign off and final comment;
- The final response will be sent to Planning within fourteen days of receipt – this includes nil responses.

Review

As the Sounding Board is a new initiative, the Terms of Reference and Board operations will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Minor changes to the ToR will be approved by the Chair and Planning Department representative.

Major changes to the ToR will be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board – after consultation with the Planning Department to ensure consistency with Planning process.