

20 July 2018	ITEM: 11
Health and Wellbeing Board	
A report of the work of the Housing & Planning Advisory Group (HPAG)	
Wards and Communities affected All	Key decisions None
Report of: Les Billingham Assistant Director Adult Social Care & Leigh Nicholson, Strategic Lead, Development Services, Place Directorate (Co-Chairs of HPAG)	
Accountable Head of Service: Les Billingham Assistant Director Adult Social Care and Andy Millard, Assistant Director – Planning, Transport and Public Protection, Place Directorate	
Accountable Director: Steve Cox, Corporate Director, Place Roger Harris, Corporate Director Adults Housing and Health	
This report is public	

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to brief the Health and Wellbeing Board on the work of the Housing and Planning Advisory Group. The report describes the on-going work of the Advisory Group and the main areas of focus for the Group in the next 12 months.

The Advisory Group was established in 2014 following a report to the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2014. The Terms of Reference for the Group is attached at Appendix 1.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1** The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the work of the Housing and Planning Advisory Group undertaken in the past year and the proposed work plan for 2018/19.
- 1.2** The Health and Wellbeing Board approve Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board's Housing & Planning Advisory Group is a multi-agency group which considers the health and well-being implications of major planning applications, and provides advice and guidance on the health, social care and community impacts of proposed new developments.
- 2.2 The Advisory group comprises representatives from Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS England (Essex Area Team), the Community and Voluntary Sector (Thurrock CVS), as well as Planning, Housing, Adults, Health and Commissioning, Public Health, Regeneration, Children's Services and Essex Police. It has a significant role in articulating the Health and Wellbeing Board's vision and priorities in relation to housing and the built environment.
- 2.3 The Group also aims to influence planning policy and thereby developers so that planning applications when received, have already taken into consideration the impact of the proposed development on health and wellbeing. The Group plays a role in promoting good design and sustainable communities as well as influencing the provision of good quality housing for older people and people with disabilities. Incorporating crime prevention through environmental design provides a focus on quality and sustainable places, primarily through the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, and the national Secured by Design initiative incorporating the National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance.
- 2.4 The purpose of the HWB Housing and Planning Advisory Group is to:
- Review emerging development plans,
 - Identify how Section 106 monies might best be used to enhance Health and Wellbeing;
 - Input into emerging planning policy and strategy and;
 - Provide an opinion on plans as part of the formal consultation process on major developments;
 - To incorporate and maximise at every available opportunity the principles of crime prevention through environmental design.
- 2.5 The Advisory Group is consulted on all planning applications and pre applications for housing developments of 10 units or more, and residential care homes. The Advisory Group also acts as a conduit for consultations with NHS Property Services. Responses from members of the Advisory Group are collated to provide a co-ordinated response to planning applications and therefore to reflect a very broad perspective on health and well-being issues. This co-ordinated response, plus the detailed reports from NHS Property Services are submitted to the Planning Service within agreed timeframes.
- 2.6 The Group's multi-disciplinary focus corresponds with a number of statutory requirements of The Care Act 2014. The Care Act established a duty on local authorities to promote wellbeing as well as preventing, reducing or delaying the need for care. Care Act guidance specifies that the wellbeing principle

should inform the delivery of universal services not just services related to adult social care, and that the principle should be considered by the local authority 'when it undertakes broader, strategic functions such as planning, which are not in relation to one individual'. In addition the Care Act introduces a duty of integration of services and cooperation between services in relation to promoting wellbeing, and preventing, reducing or delaying the need for care. The Care Act guidance states that 'suitability of living accommodation is one of the matters local authorities must take into account as part of their duty to promote an individual's wellbeing'.

- 2.7 Since its establishment in May 2014, the meetings of the Group have led to closer partnership working between diverse professional groups within the Council, and with other local stakeholders, as well as a much better understanding of the respective legislative drivers that need to be managed effectively to ensure that health and wellbeing is at the heart of decision-making. Examples of the partnership approach between Council services and different professional groups include:
- the Well Homes programme;
 - the HAPPI Housing schemes developed by the Council at Derry Avenue, South Ockendon and Calcutta Road, Tilbury;
 - The proposed Integrated Medical centre in Civic Square, Tilbury; and
 - the current development by Family Mosaic of 6 units of specialist housing for young adults with autism.
- 2.8 The Advisory Group meets monthly, with regular liaison between meetings in relation to consultation requests to review pre-applications and planning applications. Areas which have been addressed by the Group include:
- The Local Plan has been considered by the Group at a number of meetings, providing valuable inputs on both the plan itself and also the wider issues of public consultation and engagement. The development of the Local Plan will continue to feature in future meetings;
 - Substantive comments on the proposed major new developments in Aveley, Lakeside and Corringham;
 - Advice on an application to build a large care home;
 - A meeting with a developer to provide guidance on HAPPI housing design in relation to a pre-application;
 - Involvement with the Air Quality Working Group;
 - Advising on ways to improve the administration of the Infrastructure Requirements List so as to maximise the opportunity to secure investment of Section 106 monies in health, education and community facilities.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 In terms of the work of the Advisory Group going forward, as well as responding to new pre-applications and planning applications, the Group will continue to be involved in the development of the Local Plan, the large scale regeneration programmes at Purfleet and Lakeside, and major applications.
- 3.2 One area that has been identified by the Group as a priority in the coming year is the development of a housing strategy for older people (65+). The benefits of the multi-disciplinary approach to developing the strategy will be the shared understanding of Thurrock's health profile and future projections of health and social care needs which can be translated into the Local Plan and discussions with developers. Work on the housing strategy will be informed by the forthcoming Annual Public Health Report on the housing needs of older people
- 3.3 It is anticipated that in order to progress the housing strategy, task and finish groups will need to be convened to undertake the coordination and analysis of data, review of current provision, analysis of gaps in provision and the identification of potential locations for specialist housing. The task and finish groups could comprise officers from the range of disciplines and would report to the Housing & Planning Advisory Group. Once completed it is envisaged the housing strategy would be adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.4 A focus on the wider determinants of health will continue to be embedded in planning practice, and the Advisory Group will continue to influence the shaping of healthier environments. Two key events delivered in 2017/18 by Public Health and Planning in conjunction with Housing and Adult Social Care demonstrate what can be achieved:
- A Developer Forum in September 2017, with a focus on health and wellbeing formed a part of the Town and Country Planning Association's (TCPA) Developers and Wellbeing project. This event focussed on engaging with developers to achieve a business perspective on building healthier places; considered the Purfleet Centre model of development; introduced Public Health England's (PHE) Spatial Planning for Health and offered a skill-building session on Sport England's Active Design Principles;
 - The 2nd South Essex Health and Well-being Summit in November 2017, aimed to continue the conversation with a focus on health infrastructure – new models of care, sustainability, garden cities, planning for an ageing population – dementia, food access, and designing safer places.
- 3.7 Following on from these key events, local plan guidance and policy is being further shaped to promote and encourage healthier and safer environments. The Advisory Group, as a key stakeholder, will continue to ensure the wider determinants of health are considered in both the pre-application and application process, in future as part of a systematic Health Impact Assessment.

3.8 In summary, the Advisory Group has been consulted on a significant number of planning pre-applications and applications, it has developed a role in relation to strategic policy development and has been pro-active in relation to large-scale regeneration plans. The Group has also raised the profile of creating healthier and safer environments and HAPPI housing both across the council and with developers. The Group has broken down the professional barriers that can often exist between services, where there is no regular channel for communication and the sharing of information and views. This approach is clearly aligned to the Care Act's requirements for collaboration between services.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The Housing and Planning Advisory Group continually try to strike a balance between providing oversight to pre-applications and planning applications with fulfilling a strategic role in relation to promoting Health and Wellbeing in housing and the built environment.

4.2 Recognising the time constraints of Advisory Group members, there is nonetheless, a commitment to articulate more clearly, the housing needs of older people. The development of the housing strategy will provide a policy framework for the planning service and will provide much needed evidence to developers of the range of housing needs and aspirations in Thurrock and how best to meet them.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 The Advisory Group is an effective mechanism for co-ordinating contributions to formal consultations on major developments. It also provides a means to ensure consultations concerning the built environment take account of the potential implications for health and well-being.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 The Advisory Group aims to improve health and well-being by influencing planning policies and development in Thurrock to:

- make sure people stay healthy longer, adding years to life and life to years;
- reduce inequalities in health and well-being and safeguard the most vulnerable people with timely intervention and care accessed closer to home;
- enhance quality of life through improved housing.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: Roger Harris, Corporate Director Adults Housing and Health

This report is for the Health and Wellbeing Board's information. Financial implications will be considered as the Housing and Planning Advisory Group's programme develops further

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: Roger Harris, Corporate Director Adults Housing and Health

This report is for the Health and Wellbeing Board's information. Legal implications will be considered as the Housing and Planning Advisory Group's programme develops further.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: Roger Harris, Corporate Director Adults Housing and Health

This report is for the Health and Wellbeing Board's information. Diversity implications will be considered as the Housing and Planning Advisory Group's programme develops further

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

- There are none.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- The report of the Housing Our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/378171/happi_final_report_-_031209.pdf
- The Housing LIN Case Study on Building Positive Futures in Thurrock http://www.housinglin.org.uk/library/Resources/Housing/Practice_examples/Housing_LIN_case_studies/HLIN_CaseStudy72_Thurrock.pdf
- Planning Practice Guidance Methodology: assessing housing need <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments/methodology-assessing-housing-need/>

9. Appendices to the report

- Housing and Planning Advisory Group Terms of Reference.

Report Author:

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Appendix 1

Health and Wellbeing Housing and Planning Advisory Group Terms of Reference¹

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. The purpose of the Advisory Group is to look at significant development plans (major) at the earliest possible stage (pre-application where possible) to enable full consideration of the health and wellbeing impact. The functions of the Advisory Group are set out below.

Functions

- To review emerging development plans (those classified as 'major'²) – 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 emphasise any positive implications;
- Consider the impact of planning proposals on existing local infrastructure including the availability of pupil places;
- Provide initial input on how developments can consider preventative measures to support the reduction of crime on new developments (Design Out Crime)
- 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;
- Link with developers to influence thinking – e.g. via Council-sponsored meetings and forums;
- To make recommendations for supported housing provision;

¹ Terms of Reference agreed and approved by the HWB Housing and Planning Advisory Group on 15th May 2014

² A major planning application is defined as the creation of at least 10 residential units; Work on a residential development on a site of 0.5 hectares or more; Work on a non-residential development on a site of 1 hectare or more; The creation or change of use of 1000m² or more of gross floor space (does not include housing). Major planning applications are given 13 weeks in which to be determined as they are more complex and will usually require a greater level of consultation and negotiation.

- Inform and engage in the development of Thurrock's Local Plan; and
- Input in to emerging policy and strategy.
- Identify how section 106 monies might best be spent to enhance health and wellbeing and make recommendations;

Membership

Membership will consist of representatives of the following:

- Planning Department
- Housing Department
- NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health
- NHS England (Essex Local Area Team)
- Adult Social Care
- Essex Police
- Community Health Partnership
- Children's Services

Membership will alter as appropriate and be reviewed annually. 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. Substantial members are set out at Appendix B.

Frequency of Meetings

- The Advisory Group will meet monthly to consider major applications

Chair Arrangements

- Les Billingham - Assistant Director, Adult Social Care and Community Development
- Leigh Nicholson - Development Management Team Leader Planning

Governance

- The Advisory Group has accountability to the Health and Wellbeing Board and sits within the Board's structure.
- The Advisory Group will report its work to the Health and Wellbeing Board on an annual basis, usually of July of each year.
- Comments made by the Group 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

- Received applications will be circulated to Advisory Group members for comment alongside papers for the next meeting;

- Minutes of meetings will be circulated to HPAG members within one week following the meeting. Amendments or revisions should be suggested by members within 3 working days otherwise the minutes will be deemed approved in advance of the next meeting.
- Once approved key points made by HPAG members about planning applications, as captured in the minutes, will be submitted to the formal planning portal by HPAG Business Management
- Records of applications considered by HPAG and responses provided to the Planning Portal will be recorded centrally by HPAG Business Management

Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis. Minor changes to the Terms of Reference will be approved by the Chair and Planning Department representative. Major changes to the Terms of Reference will be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board – after consultation with the Planning Department to ensure consistency with the Planning process.