

19 October 2023		ITEM: 8
Health and Wellbeing Board		
A Health in All Policies approach to Place Shaping		
Wards and communities affected: Thurrock-wide guidance	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Karen Balthasar, Public Health Improvement Officer (Wider Determinants), Joanne Ferry, Head of Public Health (Whole Systems Obesity)		
Accountable Assistant Director: Sara Godward, Assistant Director of Public Health		
Accountable Director: Jo Broadbent, Director of Public Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Where we live, work and socialise plays an important role in our health. Both the built and natural environment make up part of the wider determinants of health and influence people's physical and mental health across the life course and can impact on health inequalities. The quality of the environment can influence many aspects of people's lives, from access to education, employment, healthcare and green and blue spaces to social connections within a neighbourhood, quality and affordability of housing, food production and availability, exposure to air, noise, and light pollution and safe sustainable transport including opportunities for active travel. The planning and management of places can help promote good health, improve access to services and reduce health inequalities. This is what we refer to as 'place shaping,' which can be defined as the 'creative use of powers and influence to promote the general well-being of a community and its residents'. It focuses on shaping an area's distinctive and unique identity and acts as the voice of the entire community.

This guidance document represents our aspirations for healthy place-shaping for existing and future residents, as set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022-2026). It is deliberately ambitious to enable us to strive for meaningful change in policy, guidance and practice, recognising that such change can only be achieved intergenerationally. This guidance is aimed at those involved in place-shaping in Thurrock and includes the Place Leadership & Growth Board, Public Health, community development, strategic planners (Local Plan), development management (Planning), housing, transport, highways, regeneration, design, sustainability, leisure and recreation, the community and residents of Thurrock, NHS partners in the ICS, and developers, house builders and project promoters.

It sets out achievable recommendations for delivery in the short, medium and long term, which support the overall vision whilst acknowledging the Council's current financial position.

Commissioner Commentary

Supports the delivery of the Health and Well-being Strategy (2022-2026).

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1** That Health and Wellbeing Board note the contents of and agree to the publication of the 'Health in All Policies approach to Place Shaping' on the Council website.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1** This guidance document has been brought to Health and Wellbeing Board at the request of the Director of Public Health to obtain approval and assent to publish on the Council website.
- 2.2** This guidance document has primarily been developed to ensure the delivery of the HWB Strategy within the context of the Local Plan and broader place-shaping agenda.
- 2.3** In Thurrock there are many complex factors that contribute to the widening of health inequalities including a reliance on cars; poor air quality in parts of the Borough; unequal access to green and blue spaces; poor public transport and walking and cycling infrastructure; uneven distribution of affordable healthy food options; and lack of affordable housing.
- 2.4** Public Health's role is to influence the wider determinants to support a reduction in health inequalities through working in partnership with a range of stakeholders, across a number of systems including housing, local plan, planning and design, regeneration and transport.
- 2.5** The Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach is central to achieving this collaborative place-based approach which builds on the strengths of Public Health and emphasises the reach and influence of local government's many other functions.
- 2.6** The 'Framework for creating change' detailed in the full report is synthesised from review of multiple policy and guidance documents from across the planning and health sectors which identified similar themes presented in a variety of ways. The framework encapsulates the key themes related to place-shaping: Neighbourhood Design, Housing, Food Systems, Natural Environments and Transportation Networks.
- 2.7** Climate change, sustainability and health underpin each of the framework topics, and the interconnectedness of health and climate.

- 2.8 The report is deliberately ambitious to enable us to strive for meaningful change in policy, guidance and practice, recognising that such change can only be achieved intergenerationally.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The final draft version of the report was completed in July 2023 and was subsequently approved by the Public Health Leadership Team, the Adults, Housing and Health Directorate Management Team, and Place Directorate Management Team.
- 3.2 The board will note the contents of the Health in All Policies approach to Place Shaping and provide their signoff for publication of this report on the Council website.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Board approve this document. In providing final signoff on the report the public health team and partners will be able to adopt it and work towards the strategic ambitions can begin.

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

- 5.1 This strategy has been reviewed and approved in its final form by the Public Health Leadership Team and Adults Health and Housing DMT, and Place Directorate Management Team.
- 5.2 In addition, a representative from key Place Directorate Teams, including Local Plan, Transport, and Housing, reviewed and commented on an earlier draft during a series of socialisation workshops. All feedback was considered and worked into the final version as appropriate.

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

- 6.1 The implementation of this guidance will supports the delivery of The Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-26, specifically impacting on Domains 1,5, and 6.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Bradley Herbert**
Senior Management Accountant

There are no direct financial implications of noting the content of the Health in All Policies approach to Place Shaping and providing approval for its

publication on the Council website. More specific financial implications would be likely to follow from any subsequent delivery plan.

7.2 Legal

Implications not received at the time of publication.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
**Community Engagement and Project
Monitoring Officer**

The Health in All Policies Approach to Place-shaping Guidance Document aims to support and promote healthy places in Thurrock by highlighting good practice across the Framework topics of Neighbourhood Design, Housing, Food Systems, Natural Environments and Transportation Networks. This approach will be of benefit to all longer term, regardless of protected characteristics (as defined by the Equalities Act 2010). Details about health inequalities, and our role in addressing them, is included in the report. The report references integration of Health Impact Assessment with Community Equality Impact Assessment as recommended practice and recommendation for action.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e., Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children

There are no significant identified implications of this report.

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):

- [Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(2022-2026\)](#)
- [Thurrock Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Whole Systems Obesity \(2017\)](#)
- [Thurrock Active Travel Needs Assessment \(2021\)](#)

9. Appendices to the report

- Appendix 1: A Health in All Policies Approach to place-shaping: Delivering on Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022-2026)
- Appendix 2: A Health in All Policies Approach to place-shaping: Executive Summary

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