

**4 May 2016****Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****PLANNING HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENTS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report sets out how the planning system can promote health and reduce health inequalities. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
  - Note the contents of the report
  - Approve the 'Spatial Planning for the Health and Wellbeing of Nottinghamshire' document in order to ensure that Nottinghamshire utilises the potential that the planning system can have on health.
  - Request all districts in Nottinghamshire to endorse the 'Spatial Planning for the Health and Wellbeing of Nottinghamshire' document as part of their Local Plans.
  - Agree to the development of a 'Planning and Health Engagement Protocol' between planning authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Public Health to ensure that health is given consideration at the earliest possible stage during planning processes.

**Information and Advice**

2. *'Too often we intervene too late in the pathway to ill health and forget that health starts where we live, learn, work and play.'* (Institute for Health Equity 2012).

The built and the natural environment are both 'major determinants of health and wellbeing'. Planning healthier communities not only improves physical health but can improve mental health and wellbeing. Appendix 1 shows health problems linked to the built environment.

3. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012) requires planners to work in partnership with public health and other organisations in the promotion of healthy communities and help create healthy living environments. Both the NPPF and The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (2012) set out a role for planners to consider health and wellbeing through both the plan-making and decision-making processes. This states that local plans should:
  - Promote health, social and cultural wellbeing and support the reduction of health inequalities.
  - Consider the local health and wellbeing strategy and other relevant health improvement strategies in the area

- Enable an environment that supports people of all ages to make healthy choices by promoting active travel and physical activity, access to healthier food, high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation
  - Promote access to the whole community by all sections of the community, whether able bodied or disabled.
4. Since April 2013, Local Authorities have had the responsibility to join local health policy up with other strategies such as planning, transport infrastructure and housing. To reduce health inequalities the healthy planning goals are:
- **Avoiding adverse health impacts from development** (health protection) – air quality, water quality, noise, dereliction and land pollution, waste management, light pollution, community severance.
  - **Providing a healthy living environment** – housing (quality, space standards, affordability, mixed tenure, type, density); good quality safe and stimulating public realm; accessible to all; parks and green open space, water features, play facilities; community facilities; recreation and sports facilities; employment opportunities (variety, skill levels, working hours); education and learning; walking and cycling routes; public transport network; food production and distribution.
  - **Promoting and facilitating healthy lifestyles as the norm** – pattern of development (mixed use), movement/connectivity and urban design quality to promote active travel, physical activity and mental well-being; active travel (safe, direct routes, secure parking and facilities for walking and cycling); physical activity (access to green open space, play, recreation and sports facilities); healthy eating (access to affordable safe and nutritious food, space for local food growing); safe space for social interaction and play; buildings to be designed to maximise physical activity by encouraging walking and use of stairs and providing sufficient secure cycle storage.
  - **Providing good access to health facilities and services** – health centres, GP's, dentists, hospitals, pharmacists to meet current and future population needs.
  - **Responding to global environmental issues** (climate change, resource depletion, waste management) – minimising carbon emissions by transport and development, sustainable design, construction methods and building materials; sustainable/renewable energy; flood risk; biodiversity and nature conservation; waste disposal and recycling.
5. A good planning system can create better places where it is easy for people to lead healthier lifestyles, in which illness is prevented, people's lives are improved with health and social care costs cut. The planning function in local government is an important lever to shape the natural and built environment through green spaces, housing, transport and our high streets and town centres. Through local plans (which set the land and development vision for each district) and approaches to planning applications health and wellbeing can be improved and negative impacts mitigated against. Using a Health Impact Assessment checklist ensures that the health and wellbeing of residents is taken into account when decisions on planning applications, plans and strategies are made.
6. With around 200,000 extra homes being built every year for the next five years, the NHS Five Year Forward View (2014 & 2015) states the need for the NHS to work with local

councils to improve population health by helping to 'design in' health and modern health care from the outset ensuring that they are at the heart of housing and urban planning to tackle the health and care challenges of this century – obesity (including type 2 diabetes), dementia and new models of digital health. In practical terms this means a triple agenda: designing in healthy living, capitalising on new home based care and technologies to support older people at home and sharing infrastructure across public services to make smarter use of investment. The WHO report 'Global report on diabetes' (2016) also states the importance of urban planning in enhancing health.

7. The role that planning has on health and wellbeing has been identified in the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2014-2017). Priority 5 of the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board is to develop healthier environments to live and work in Nottinghamshire, supporting all of the four ambitions, a good start, living well, coping well and working together. The aim is to facilitate a joint approach across Health and Wellbeing partners to ensure that environments are planned to maximise health and wellbeing which promote healthy lifestyles and access to support/services.
8. In October 2015, the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Stakeholder event, Planning Healthier Environments facilitated by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) brought together key individuals and organisations with the aim to understand how to capture the potential of the planning system to promote healthy communities and tackle obesity. This event was one of a number held across the country and is referenced in the recently published national document: [Building the Foundations](#): Tackling obesity through planning and development (page 35).
9. During December 2015 and January 2016 discussions were held with local planners to ensure that there was a shared understanding of spatial planning and health, identifying how planners and health colleagues should work together in the future and to discuss what actions were needed. Local planning forums consist of planners who make up the Nottingham Strategic Housing Market Area (SHMA) which includes Nottingham City and Erewash in Derbyshire. At the meetings attended, planners from these areas wished to be included in the work being undertaken by Nottinghamshire.
10. As a result of the workshop and meetings with local planners, the first action agreed was the development of a Nottinghamshire Planning for Health and Wellbeing guidance document that all Districts could adopt as part of their Local Plans to ensure that health was given consideration during the planning process. The document 'Spatial planning for the Health and Wellbeing of Nottinghamshire' was drafted by colleagues in the Nottinghamshire County Council Planning Department. This was consulted on in March and the final version is for approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The document can be viewed on the [web page for this meeting](#) of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and is available as a background paper to this report.
11. It is proposed that the next action is to develop a 'Planning and Health Engagement Protocol' between planning authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Public Health similar to [Planning and Public Health](#) document developed in Norfolk. This is to ensure that health is given consideration at the earliest possible stage during the planning process with agreement as to when a Health Impact Assessment should be undertaken. This will ensure that the potential positive and negative impacts on health and wellbeing of proposals will be considered in a consistent, systematic and objective way, identifying opportunities for

maximising potential health gains and minimising harm and addressing inequalities taking account of the wider determinants of health.

### **Other Options Considered**

12. This report takes account of national best practice to develop an approach to housing and urban planning to create healthier places to live in Nottinghamshire.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

13. To ensure that the Health and Wellbeing Board has an overview of how local planning processes can create healthier places to live, that it supports the endorsement of the 'Spatial Planning for the Health and Wellbeing of Nottinghamshire' document and it agrees to additional action around housing and urban planning to promote health.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

15. The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Planning is at the forefront of both trying to reduce carbon emissions and to adapt urban environments to cope with higher temperatures, more uncertain rainfall, and more extreme weather events and their impacts such as flooding. Poorly designed homes can lead to fuel poverty in winter and overheating in summer contributing to excess winter and summer deaths. Developments that take advantage of sunlight, tree planting and accessible green/brown roofs also have the potential to contribute towards the mental wellbeing of residents. Local areas should prioritise policies and interventions that 'reduce both health inequalities and mitigate climate change' because of the likelihood that people with the poorest health would be hit hardest by the impacts of climate change.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Note the contents of the report.
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3. Request all districts in Nottinghamshire to endorse the 'Spatial Planning for the Health and Wellbeing of Nottinghamshire' document as part of their Local Plans.

4. Agree to the development of a 'Planning and Health Engagement Protocol' between planning authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Public Health to ensure that health is given consideration at the earliest possible stage during planning processes.

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**Director of Public Health**

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#### **Constitutional Comments (LM 14/04/2016)**

16. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Health and Well Being Board'.

#### **Financial Comments (KS 14/04/2016)**

17. There are no financial implications contained within the report.

#### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (2012)
- [National Planning Practice Guidance](#) (2012)
- Fair Society, Healthy Lives: [The Marmot Review](#) (2012)
- [Five Year Forward View](#) (2014)
- [The Forward View into Action](#): Healthy New Towns Programme (2015)
- Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: [Air Quality](#) (2015)
- Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: [Physical activity](#) (2015)
- Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: [Diet and nutrition](#) (2015)
- Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: [Excess weight in children, young people and adults](#) (2016)

- [Global Report on Diabetes](#) (2016)
- [Building the Foundations](#): Tackling obesity through planning and development (2016)
- [Tipping the Scales](#): Case studies on the use of planning powers to limit hot food takeaways (2016)
- [Spatial Planning for the Health and Wellbeing of Nottinghamshire](#) (2016)

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All