

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 28 November 2017

Agenda item:

Wards: all

Subject: New Local Plan

Lead officer: Director for Environment and Regeneration, Chris Lee

Lead member: Cabinet Member for Housing Planning and Regeneration, Councillor Martin Whelton

Forward Plan reference number:

Contact officer: Deputy FutureMerton manager, Tara Butler

Recommendations:

That the Health and Wellbeing Board

- A. responds collectively and as individual organisations to Local Plan consultations, including this first stage which will finish on 8th January 2018;
- B. leads on or engage in gathering evidence to support new planning policies, site allocations or other matters that the Health and Wellbeing Board want to see in Merton's new Local Plan;
- C. leads on co-ordinating input on future health and wellbeing capacity needs, particularly primary healthcare, in Merton over the next 5-10 years. This is crucial to support planning officers and the council to negotiate for new healthcare and wellbeing facilities or modernised facilities as part of new developments during the next 10-15 years.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report will update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the new Local Plan, ask for responses to the first stage consultation before 8th January 2018 and request ongoing involvement, particularly on developing policies, allocating new sites and providing information on new infrastructure requirements.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In October 2017, Cabinet resolved to start consultation on the borough-wide Local Plan. This started on 31st October 2017 and will run until 8th January 2018. Please see www.merton.gov.uk/newlocalplan
- 2.2. The new Local Plan will set out the council's strategy for development in Merton. It will contain the planning policies against which all planning applications received by the council will be assessed. It will be a single document which will replace Merton's *Core Planning Strategy* and Merton's *Sites and Policies Plan*. It must be in line with the Mayor's London Plan.
- 2.3. When the Local Plan is finished, it can cover:
 - A vision and objectives for development in Merton

- **Borough-wide strategic policies** on housing, design, flood risk, health and wellbeing, open space, etc) The Local Plan is a key strategic document which can effectively deliver Health in all Policies.
- **Neighbourhood-specific planning policies** covering the town centres and surrounding neighbourhoods of Colliers Wood, Mitcham, Morden, Raynes Park and Wimbledon
- **Setting land designations:** e.g. town centre boundaries, designated open space boundaries, areas for nature conservation, cycle routes etc. (similar to the maps in the Sites and Policies Plan)
- **Allocations of specific sites for development** or potential future expansion (e.g. Wilson Hospital; Birches Close; Morden Health Centre)
- **Infrastructure requirements** to support new homes. The infrastructure requirements will help the council negotiate for space for healthcare and wellbeing facilities and services (for the NHS or other providers) as part of new housing schemes over the next 10-15 years.

2.4. The Local Plan will be taking into account the health impact of its proposals to wherever possible promote healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities. In doing so, it will be taking forward the commitment to Health in all Policies which offers a means to optimise the Council and partner's statutory duties for population health and wellbeing. The HiAP approach helps to reduce health inequalities because it focuses attention on the underlying social, economic and environmental causes that the council and partners can influence.

3 DETAILS

3.1. At this very early stage of starting Merton's new Local Plan, the Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to consider the following:

3.1.1 **To respond to the initial consultation by 8th January 2018.**

Responses can be by answering the short surveys www.merton.gov.uk/newlocalplan or by writing to us at future.merton@merton.gov.uk. We would also strongly encourage individual groups and organisations that sit on the HWBB to respond to the consultation too.

3.1.2 To lead on or assist in **gathering evidence to support any new policy approaches** or other Local Plan matters that the HWBB want to put forward or support putting forward.

3.1.3 To take forward (or encourage another organisation to take forward) the **submission of NHS sites for allocation for new uses or for future expansion**. For example, in 2011 the Wilson Hospital and Birches Close were originally submitted to Merton's existing Local Plan (Merton's *Sites and Policies Plan*) by the then Primary Care Trust. If these sites or other NHS sites are to be progressed for redevelopment, then some person or organisation will need to lead on recommending sites to the council and gathering the evidence to support their redevelopment.

3.1.4 To assist us in gathering information on **primary health infrastructure capacity** to support future housing growth, and to include capacity gaps in the Local Plan.

- 3.2. The latter point is particularly important as this will be the justification for future support from new development towards health services. The council has access to the existing location and different types of primary healthcare facilities (e.g. GP surgeries, dentists) However we currently do not have access to the capacity of these facilities, whether they are fit for purpose, whether they need modernising or are even capable of expansion etc.
- 3.3. If the new Local Plan does not contain information on any geographic or service area where there is a lack of capacity and the ability to deliver more capacity (subject, for example, to finding an appropriate site or funding) then planning officers can't negotiate with developers to help support this infrastructure by either providing some funding or land.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 5.1. The current consultation started on 31st October 2017 and will finish on 8th January 2018, although it is expected that engagement on individual issues will continue into spring 2018.
- 5.2. Further consultation opportunities are set out in the timetable below.

6 TIMETABLE

- 6.1. The timetable for the production of the new Local Plan is set out below:
- 6.1.1 8th January 2018 – Stage 1 consultation ends; evidence gathering and meetings etc will continue to spring 2018
- 6.1.2 Summer 2018 – consultation on Stage 2 new Local Plan for at least six weeks
- 6.1.3 Winter 2018/19 - Council recommendation to submit new Local Plan to the Secretary of State, followed by six weeks publication
- 6.1.4 2019 – examination by an independent planning inspector (usually takes at least six months)
- 6.1.5 2019 – adoption of the new Local Plan

7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Funding to support this work will come from existing resources and officers will seek opportunities for funding bids wherever possible.
- 7.2. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will have assessed the infrastructure needed to support new development over the next 15 years, which will be essential to enable planning officers to negotiate with developers to help support this funding (e.g. by providing land or finance towards it)

8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purposes of this report

9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

9.1. Local Plans contain planning policies to improve community cohesion and are subject to Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessments and Equalities Impact Assessments.

9.2. The Local Plan will be taking into account the health impact of its proposals to wherever possible promote healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities.

9.3. In doing so, it will be taking forward the commitment to Health in all Policies which offers a means to optimise the Council and partner's statutory duties for population health and wellbeing. The HiAP approach helps to reduce health inequalities because it focuses attention on the underlying social, economic and environmental causes that the council and partners can influence. The Local Plan is a key strategic document which can effectively deliver Health in all Policies.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1. None for the purposes of this report..

12 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS