

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 27th November 2018

Subject: Local Plan – HWBB Participation in Consultation

Lead officer: Director for Environment and Regeneration, Chris Lee

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

Contact officer: Strategic policy planner, Ann Maria Clarke

Recommendations: That the Health and Wellbeing Board

- A. Participate in the draft Local Plan consultation which will finish on 6th January 2019
www.merton.gov.uk/newlocalplan
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following on from initial recommendation on the 28th November 2017 and then on the 27th March 2018. This report will update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the new Local Plan, ask for responses to the Stage 2 consultation before 6th January 2019 and request ongoing involvement, particularly on developing policies, site allocations and providing information on new infrastructure requirements in Merton.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In the last few years there has been renewed understanding that the places in which we live have a strong influence over our health and wellbeing. Amongst the most significant influence on population health is the built environment, which is intrinsically linked to our opportunities for an active and healthy lifestyle.
- 2.2. Merton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWS) highlights some of the population health challenges which the planning system can help to tackle, including the following:
- Reducing health inequalities
 - Helping people to be more active and live active lives
 - Planning for an aging population
 - Addressing mental health and isolation
 - Protecting the population from hazards
- 2.3. Merton's new Local Plan with consideration to the highlighted issues in the HWS, seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of residents, encourage and support healthy living; tackle the causes of ill health and health inequalities in Merton, as highlighted for example in the HWS, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Child Health Weigh Action Plan.

- 2.4. Once adopted the new Local Plan will set out the Council's strategy for development in Merton. The plan contains planning policies against which all planning applications received by the Council will be assessed. The Plan is required to be in line with national planning policies, Mayor's London Plan and its supporting documents such as the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy.
- 2.5. In the process of developing the new Local Plan towards adoption, the approach taken is to have health and wellbeing as its 'golden thread' throughout document for example; in policies on design, housing, open space, public realm, and sustainable transport. 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.
- 2.6. It seeks to ensure that neighbourhoods and developments are well designed, promote healthier living, improve connectivity to essential services, promote active living, encourage walking and cycling and adopt active living and aging approaches.
- 2.7. In addition, it has health and wellbeing policies which emphasise the Council's ambition to be a Dementia Friendly Borough and the need to create safe and accessible neighbourhoods that promote social interactions, including places for people to meet, socialise and help combat loneliness. It clearly emphasises that developments in the borough will be need to adopt Healthy Streets approaches, which are beneficial to health and wellbeing.
- 2.8. In developing the Plan, policy planners have worked closely with Merton Public Health colleagues, who are carrying out a Health Impact Assessment to measure the health impacts of the Local Plan towards its adoption. The policy planners will continue to work with Public Health at each stage of the Plan's development towards adoption.
- 2.9. Since the last committee report policy planners have met with the CCG to discuss primary health infrastructure capacity to support future housing growth and will continue to have further discussions with the CCG and other appropriate health bodies.

3 DETAILS

- 3.1. The Stage 1 consultation finished in January 2018 and the comments we received from the public and stakeholders have helped shape the draft Local Plan out for consultation.
- 3.2. The Local Plan aims to help guide how the borough develops over time and create a vision that enables the council to successfully and responsibly manage growth and create a healthy place to live and work.
- 3.3. We are recommending that the Health and Wellbeing Board consider the following:
 - **To respond to the stage 2 consultation by 6th January 2019.**
Responses can be submitted via an online questionnaire www.merton.gov.uk/newlocalplan or by writing to us at future.merton@merton.gov.uk

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 5.1. The current consultation started on 30th October 2018 and will end on the 6th January 2019, although it is expected that engagement on individual issues will continue into spring 2019. 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:
- **Autumn 2018: consultation on Stage 2 new Local Plan – until the 6th January 2019.**
 - Winter 2018/19: council recommendation to submit new Local Plan to the Secretary of State, followed by six weeks publication
 - 2019: Examination by an independent planning inspector (usually takes at least six months)
 - 2019/2020: 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. 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 takes into account the health and wellbeing impacts of its policies and seeks encourage physical activity, living well and to reduce health inequalities across the borough, by creating healthy place. As part of the development of the Local Plan a Health Impact Assessment has been carried. 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.

- 9.3. 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 council 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