

1. Key synergies between portfolio and Health and Wellbeing

Waste services and waste operations- Improper disposal of waste is one of the major risk factors affecting the health of individuals worldwide. Poor waste handling and disposal can lead to environmental pollution, encourage the breeding of disease and result in a range of diseases. Manual workers involved in these services often have unhealthy lifestyles such as smoking.

Fly tipping and graffiti- Apart from the direct health hazards of the waste and materials residents in Merton might encounter fly tipping and graffiti can alter the social and aesthetic appeal of a neighbourhood, encourage vandalism and crime, cause stress and be a contributory factor to depression and isolation. A neighbourhood that feels unsafe will also discourage outdoor activity including physical activity.

Parking services- While Merton residents need easy access to shops and services by different modes of transport including cars, the design and infrastructure of parking services can influence levels of physical inactivity, noise and air pollution, and crime and safety issues- all of which are public health issues.

2. Achievements and current activities

A few examples of the achievements of Public Health in relation to this portfolio:

- A Responsible Authorities Group established by Public Health to develop strategic responses and to identify common areas of interest, including
 - responding regularly to licensing and planning applications using relevant public health data
 - working with the Licensing Committee and officers to refresh the statement of licensing policy
 - working with local and national planning colleagues to develop a 'best practice' guide setting out key points in the planning process where Public Health can add value, and identification of potential to work across planning and licensing functions
- Health impact assessments – although agreement to embed this across the Council did not move forward, HIAs are now underway with the regeneration team for three estate regeneration schemes. A quantitative HIA has also been commissioned on the cost to the NHS and wider society of private sector housing hazards in Merton, and the potential return on investment of tackling these hazards.
- Agreement to work with litter enforcement officers to offer cancellation of litter fines for smokers who attend Stop Smoking services and quit smoking
- Work with Sustainable Communities and Transport through the work agenda (discussed below under Pollards Hill pilot) and the Sustainable Merton partnership through DigMerton support to Healthy Schools

- The Fire Brigade staff were trained to embed prevention (smoking and alcohol, the largest causes of fires) in their frontline work to install fire alarms
- Merton Chamber of Commerce has been commissioned to provide a sustainable healthy workplace outreach service to encourage small and medium size enterprises to support the health and wellbeing of staff, and sign up to the London Healthy Workplace Charter.
- A pilot of the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Merton the Place for a Good Life -- is being designed for Pollards Hill, in collaboration with Commonsense Community Development Trust, Phoenix residents association and residents. Starting with a Living Street Audit to identify assets and issues, efforts are now ongoing to seek support/interest from local residents to guide further development
- We are bringing together our work across lifestyle behaviours, including diet, exercise, smoking, and alcohol to create coordinated pathways that address not only individual lifestyle behaviours, but also enablers in our high streets and in the wider built environment to make the healthy option the easy choice.
- The DPH is the London DsPH lead for alcohol and works with the London Healthy High Street group to commission support to this agenda, as well as to identify areas of common interest across our boroughs, and to develop effective advocacy at the national level. We are awaiting feedback from a list of 'asks' sought by the group on increased control over their local high streets and are beginning to examine potential for a London pilot for alcohol minimum unit pricing for interested boroughs.

1. Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-18

This portfolio specifically links to theme five of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Theme 5 A good natural and built environment

Additional links exist (particularly around the creation of health promoting environments) to:

Theme 2 Good Health – focus on prevention, early detection of long-term conditions and access to good quality health and social care.

A summary page of all five themes with key outcomes is included in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy that can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/health-social-care/publichealth.htm>.