

Item no. 11.	Classification: Open	Date: 20 October 2015	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Response to Recommendations from the Scrutiny of the Health of the Borough	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Barrie Hargrove, Public Health, Parks and Leisure	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PARKS AND LEISURE

Improving the health of Southwark's population and reducing health inequalities require a multi faceted partnership approach across the system. Southwark Council, NHS partners and the voluntary and community sectors are working together to do this. The scrutiny sub committee highlights the importance of this cross cutting approach by conducting a wide ranging review that covered the financial health, the environmental health and the physical health of the borough. I very much welcome the participation of the many partners in submitting their evidence to the scrutiny process. I am pleased to present the response to the recommendations received from the healthy communities scrutiny sub-committee and I look forward to continuing to work across council departments and with local partners to improve the health of Southwark's communities.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That cabinet agree the proposed response to the healthy communities scrutiny sub-committee's report on the Health of the Borough and note the progress in taking forward the recommendations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The healthy communities scrutiny sub-committee undertook an investigation into the Health of the Borough. The investigation covered financial health, environmental health and physical health. A report of the sub committee's findings was received by the healthy communities scrutiny sub committee in March 2015.
3. There were in total 33 recommendations presented to cabinet on the 23 June 2015. This report provides the proposed responses and an update on the progress in taking forward the recommendations.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Recommendations from Healthy Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee and proposed Cabinet responses

Financial Health

4. Recommendation 1: The Committee recommends that the Council continue to provide funding for the Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) so that it continues to support vulnerable residents, in particular men in their 50s who are adversely affected.

Response

5. The council has three year contracts with the Southwark Citizens Advice, Advising London and Southwark Law Centre to provide advice to residents who are having difficulties with housing, debt, welfare benefits, immigration status and other issues. Southwark CAB from its bases in Bermondsey and Peckham provides face to face advice, drop-in sessions and appointments. It also provides on-line advice via the www.southwarkadvice.org.uk website, and telephone advice via the low-rate Southwark Advice Line.
6. The council is part of Southwark Legal Advice Network which plans and co-ordinates the delivery of services to meet the needs of Southwark residents. The Council attended the launch of the Southwark Legal Advice Network Draft Strategy for Advice in September and will be holding a Consultation Event with partners and stakeholders to consider community advice needs as part of the process for commissioning services to start from August 2016.
7. The scrutiny report highlighted specific concerns with men aged 50+ on low incomes who may be isolated. The CAB aims to ensure its services meet the diverse needs of all residents, including the needs of this group. Specifically, the Council and the Tenants Joint Security Initiative grants panel has funded a project informed by the Pullens Tenants and Residents Association and supported by the Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations. This project is linked to the Community Advice agencies including Southwark CAB and involves:
 - Setting up a self-help group for Southwark tenants who are unemployed and claiming JSA or ESA
 - Confidence building of unemployed tenants, thereby decreasing isolation and increasing community engagement.
8. Recommendation 2: The Committee recommends that the Council continue to promote local CAB services to residents, particularly the Money Savvy service, providing financial education for social housing tenants.

Response

9. Community Advice Services are promoted on the council website and through a range of communication channels including the community engagement e-Newsletter, community council e-Newsletters, Facebook page, Southwark Life

and the revenues and benefits stakeholder letter. Details of Money Savvy workshops and training events are also regularly circulated through the above channels and to local voluntary sector groups and the Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations who work closely with residents. Community engagement and other council departments continue to work with the Money Savvy project to build awareness and participation in the activities. Regular updates are posted on the council intranet to ensure staff are aware that these services are available to residents.

10. Recommendation 3: The Committee recommends the January edition of Southwark Life should carry information on financial services provision in the Borough to raise awareness at a time when people are more likely to be looking at organising their finances.

Response

11. Information on financial services provision in the borough and being money wise was featured in the summer edition of Southwark Life. The CAB was featured and provided some top tips on managing personal finances. Southwark Life will continue to include features on a regular basis about financial management and where to get help.
12. Recommendation 4: The Committee further recommends that Community Council chairs should be encouraged to invite financial support services to present and be on display at Community Councils during the administrative year.

Response

13. The healthy borough initiative was discussed at the June 9 Community Council chairs and vice chairs meeting. Chairs were encouraged to hold a health and wellbeing themed meeting in their areas. Credit Unions and Money Savvy (CAB) have presented in community council meetings previously and we will be happy for them to present or have stalls at future meetings. Their services are regularly promoted in the Community Council e-newsletters.
14. Recommendation 5: The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Member writes to all Tenants & Residents Associations on an annual basis to provide them with details of services that are located within Southwark.

Response

15. Information on these services is regularly provided to tenants via the resident involvement team and Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations.
16. Recommendation 6: The Committee therefore recommends that a named Cabinet Member works to identify a potential premise for a credit union on the Walworth Road, which would help to balance the number of payday loan shop services.

Response

17. Officers have been working with London Mutual Credit Union (LMCU) in relation to the former Cash Office, 177-179 Walworth Road, in order for that property to become a new service outlet for LMCU. Terms for a lease have been agreed. It

is hoped that LMCU will take possession shortly and start to deliver services to local residents once the refurbishment programme is complete.

18. Recommendation 7: The Committee also recommends that all Councillors should be encouraged to join a credit union so that they can speak from first-hand experience to residents about using credit unions.

Response

19. Credit union and money advice services are promoted in the borough. These services have presented at council meetings and to councillors so that councillors are aware of them and are able to promote them.
20. Additionally, young people in Southwark are encouraged to save through a credit union. Eleven year olds in Southwark are being given a helping hand with their finances with the Council Smart Savers initiative. Every child aged 11 living in the borough can set up their own bank account with the London Mutual Credit Union, and all those who do so will find £10 in their account, to help them get their savings underway. Southwark Smart Savers has been designed to help young people to save and teach responsible financial behaviour including experience of money matters, budgeting, saving and handling cash.
21. Recommendation 8: The Committee recommends that the Council takes the lead in initiating discussions about the potential for working with the CCG, local GP practices and CAB services to provide financial health services in health centres in Southwark.

Response

22. There is an agreed project plan and on-going discussion between the Council and CCG to finalise the details which will be presented to the CCG Community Resilience and Prevention Board in autumn.

Environmental Health

23. Recommendation 9: The commitment that the Council has so far made to our parks and green spaces should be commended, and the Committee recommends that the Council continues to invest in these areas to improve the health of residents.

Response

24. We will continue to invest in our Parks and Green Spaces. We have a multi-million pound capital programme rolling out over the next few years. But at the same time need to always be mindful of future budgetary constraints, particularly those affecting revenue streams.
25. Recommendation 10: The Committee would recommend that the cabinet member continue to put pressure on TfL to reconsider the scope for the ultra-low emission zone to include Southwark.

Response

26. Transport for London has agreed to review the extent of the Ultra Low Emission Zone. A working group has been established through London Councils to assist and steer this work. Southwark Council will be feeding into this work.
27. Recommendation 11: The Council should consider banning smoking in children's playgrounds. This will be a good initial move to improve the air quality for young people in our borough and those who are likely to be affected by second hand smoking from adults whilst they are at play.

Response

28. Smoking will not be allowed in any of the 68 playgrounds in Southwark. A voluntary approach has been taken initially. Young people have been engaged in a poster competition around smoking during the summer term 2015. Winning entries will be used as signage in playgrounds to inform people that smoking is not allowed. Signage preparation will commence during Autumn 2015. Installation of the signs in the playgrounds is scheduled in the New Year.
29. Recommendation 12: The Committee would recommend that the Cabinet Member looks into the possibility of funding a project highlighting the green link projects throughout the Borough.

Response

30. We are working on a major cycling marketing campaign that will be promoting the priorities in the strategy. This will include the different routes people can cycle and is expected to roll out next year. In the interim, there is on-going print and digital promotion to highlight cycling schemes, like the cycle loans, cycle training and cycle parking. There is also work exploring the various social media options to advertise local cycling provision and the Council is promoting walking by hosting a 'walking hub' on its website. The council's walking strategy is currently being developed. Green links will be promoted within this.
31. Recommendation 13: The Committee welcomes the suggestion from meeting participants that we have planted sections which would act as a 'green ribbon' through the Borough and recommend that the Cabinet member factors this into the ongoing Cycling Strategy that the Council is developing.

Response

32. The Cycling Strategy commits the council to talking to communities about how a street functions, and to better understand what designing for cycling means for local streets, parks, neighbours and the community itself when provided the infrastructure improvements identified in the plan. It is through this engagement that landscaping and greening can be considered. It is also worth highlighting that green ribbon projects also meet the criteria for Cleaner, Greener, Safer.
33. Recommendation 14: The Committee recommends that the cabinet member for Regeneration seriously considers the viability of a low line and works with the Walworth Society to develop a proposal to take this forward.

Response

34. Officers will continue working in close partnership with Network Rail and the local community in Bankside, London Bridge, Elephant and Castle and Walworth to

ensure the delivery of the project as appropriate sites and opportunities come forward. The Low Line will be supported in planning policy through the New Southwark Plan to be adopted in 2017.

35. Recommendation 15: The Committee would recommend that the Cabinet Member looks to conduct a study into the better use of green space in the Borough and work with local TRAs and community groups to identify community projects that can be undertaken.

Response

36. This summer, the marketing team are conducting a piece of research into how to encourage behaviour change relating to green spaces in areas identified as having the lowest rates of activity. Different messages are being tested to ascertain which have the greatest impact on park use. Areas near a park will be split, with half of the residents receiving one message, the other half another. Materials have the same look and feel but a different emphasis, one specifically promoting local facilities. The direct mail is being followed up with research in key streets to identify whether residents took the required call to action, whether the shift in emphasis affected this and to gather other key information about what encourages or discourages residents to use their local parks or other parks in the borough.

37. Recommendation 16: We would encourage the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and the Chair of Planning to look to encourage developers to consider interim use projects which contribute to improving the environment for Southwark residents during their schemes.

Response

38. The Council is actively encouraging developers to consider interim use projects which contribute to improving the environment for Southwark residents during their schemes. For example, at Elephant and Castle the Council is working with Lend lease to deliver a programme of interim uses. The Artworks scheme has opened providing over 30 temporary units for small business start ups, and land has been provided to the Mobile Gardeners, a local community group, for a gardening and horticulture project. Next year, Lend Lease will be submitting plans for a temporary park which will provide an interim open space for residents pending the provision of a much larger permanent one hectare open space. At Canada Water, the Council is working with British Land to redevelop the former Harmsworth Quay's printing press site. Secret Cinema are currently occupying the premises on a short term basis as a venue for a programme of cinematic, theatrical, musical and cultural events. Opportunities for gardening and greening projects are also being actively explored. In the longer term, once the site is cleared there could also be opportunities for interim sport and leisure uses such as temporary 5 a side football pitches.

Physical Health

39. Recommendation 17: The Committee recommends that the Council consider further sites for outdoor gyms in parks and open spaces throughout the Borough.

Response

40. Fifteen outdoor gyms were identified at the time of writing the Health of the Borough report: Leyton Square, Tabard Gardens, Peckham Rye Park, Haddon Hall Estate, Mint Street Park, Southwark Park, Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Aylesbury Estate, Burgess Park (Albany Rd/Canal St), Burgess Park (St Georges Way /Sumner Road), Lordship Lane Estate, Dulwich Park, Durand's Wharf, Bethwin Road Adventure Playground, Brimington Park. Since then several more installation sites have been identified, funded through the Cleaner Greener Safer programme (2014/15) in consultation with local communities: Bermondsey Spa Park, Pearsons Park, Kingswood outdoor gym, Clifton Estate, Comus House.
41. Additionally, there is an outdoor gym at Pynners sports ground which was a pilot project funded through Olympic Legacy capital. The project is entitled Active Spectators. The aim is to encourage the parents and general spectators who visit the sports ground to be active, while watching their children take part in organised activities. The equipment is also used by the young people who visit the sports ground for sessions run by Caribb F.C. A further sports ground site may be funded informed by the usage and lessons from Pynners.
42. Recommendation 18: The Committee believes that the play street scheme provides an ideal opportunity for engaging children in safe play near their homes, and would recommend that the Cabinet Member looks to extend the scheme during school holidays.

Response

43. The recommendation is welcomed. The intention is to extend the scheme. The target set for applications for play streets are 12 (2014/15) and 24 (2015/16) ie to double the number of schemes. A targeted summer marketing plan is being rolled out with support from Living Streets as well as Council channels to advertise this opportunity. In 2014/15 there were 13 participating streets. So far in 2015/16, 32 applications have been received, (17 delivered Apr-end July and 15 booked for Aug-March).
44. Recommendation 19: The Committee is currently conducting a Licensing Policy Review, and the Committee would recommend that the new guidance would seek to ban the sale of super strength alcohol as a standard condition of a licence.

Response

45. The Statement of Licensing Policy is currently subjected to review. A revised version of the policy document is scheduled to be returned to the licensing committee this Autumn. It is anticipated that the revised policy will incorporate the 'removal of low cost high strength alcohol from offer' as part of the suite of measures intended to promote the licensing objectives of 'the prevention of crime and disorder' and 'the prevention of nuisance'. As such, applicants for new licences and applications for variations of existing licences would be directed to consider the inclusion of this measure as a proposed licence condition when preparing their business operating schedule as part of their application. 'Responsible authorities' and 'other persons' may also recommend the inclusion of the measure as a licence condition, where this is omitted by the applicant but considered to be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in the specific case in question.

46. In general, licensing authorities are guided against setting 'blanket' standard conditions. It is possible to introduce local agreements with individual applicants on the sale of cheap high strength alcohol but these agreements need to be specific to the licensing objectives, to local issues of concern and to the application. Where appropriate, this approach is already being considered.
47. Recommendation 20: The Committee recommends that the Licensing Review further considers the ways in which current licensing policy can be used more effectively to have a clear impact on decision making.

Response

48. The current review of the licensing policy is intended to be a full review of all aspects of the policy including how it can best support overall licensing strategy and individual application determinations.
49. Recommendation 21: As a Committee we believe there needs to be great importance placed on health as a licensing objective. We recommend that the Cabinet Member lobbies central Government for weight to be put behind this objective, so that it can be added to the updated licensing conditions.

Response

50. It is important that health is a licensing objective so that the impact of alcohol licensing on health can be taken into account in the licensing process. This is currently being lobbied for though the London Healthier High Streets Group (over 15 London boroughs are represented on this group which is chaired by Lambeth & Southwark Public Health) and through lobbying via the London Councils and public health devolution 'asks'.
51. Recommendation 22: The Committee would recommend that Public Health is regularly consulted on licence applications and review processes, and data is taken into account to assess the likely impact on health for residents, including A&E admissions, noise disturbance and ambulance call-outs.

Response

52. As a named 'responsible authority' within the Licensing Act 2003, Public Health is formally consulted as a matter of course on every application for a new premises licence or variation of an existing licence. Public Health has developed and is now using a data tool which allows the geographical location of licensing applications to be assessed in relation to alcohol related violence and crime, hospital admissions, A&E attendances and ambulance call outs. This evidence is being used by Public Health to make representations to support the Local Authority and the Metropolitan Police as Responsible Authorities to assess the impact of a license on the licensing objectives. This has supported the refusals of licenses as well as the incorporation and adoption of best practice conditions such as minimum price, sales of single cans of super strength, sales of alcohol in open containers and hours of operation. Public Health are now included in the three-weekly cycle of Responsible Authority meetings held to discuss new licence applications and upcoming reviews.
53. Recommendation 23: The Committee supports the idea that there needs to be a more localised approach to tackling smoking and we would recommend the close working together of the CCG, the Council and local partner organisations.

Response

54. A Southwark Tobacco Control strategy is being developed. The strategy is being informed by local intelligence that is being gathered through data analysis, engagement with partners including the CCG, as well as deep dive community insights with residents. The strategy will also identify commissioning priorities for the council as well as the NHS. The Lambeth and Southwark Tobacco Control Alliance facilitated by Public Health continues to promote an evidence based tobacco control approach locally. The Alliance consists of representatives from the council, CCG, NHS acute trusts, Fire Brigade, Police and HMRC.
55. Recommendation 24: Tackling smoking needs to remain a high priority for Public Health. The Committee supports the idea that there needs to be a more localised approach and we would recommend the close working together of the CCG, the Council and local partner organisations.

Response

56. Public Health has led the review of smoking across Southwark. Evidence of what works to tackle smoking has been collated. Smoking cessation is one of the most cost effective health interventions, every £1 spent on smoking cessation services saves £10 in future costs. A Health Equity Audit has been conducted to understand who is accessing the service and who is more likely to quit or be lost to follow up; and whether access is according to needs. Work has been conducted to enable comparisons to be made between Southwark and the rest of England on key indicators. In depth engagement has occurred with residents across Southwark – smokers and non-smokers. Dialogues have also been had with members of specific target groups e.g. those with long term conditions, mental health, unemployed. An illegal tobacco campaign is currently underway. Partners have been engaged with all the different elements of work and findings will inform the Tobacco Strategy.
57. Recommendation 25: Discouraging young people from taking up smoking is a particularly important want to tackle the issue, and there needs to be more done to educate in schools. At present 3 schools per year are being funded in a 4 year project working with year 8 students. This does not provide a comprehensive enough approach and we recommend that the Council needs to work with secondary schools to have a yearly programme of activity.

Response

58. Stopping young people from starting smoking is a crucial element within a comprehensive evidence based approach to tackling smoking. This will be a focus within the strategy, identifying what information and support need to be offered to young people through schools and youth settings. Emerging issues such as the increasing use of shisha by young people will also need to be taken into account.
59. Recommendation 26: In terms of tackling illegal tobacco, there is currently a partnership with Lambeth, Lewisham, Greenwich, Bexley and Bromley looking at the situation in SE London. The Committee commends this approach and would like to see a more concerted effort to tackle sales of illegal tobacco.

Response

60. The London Boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Royal Greenwich, Bexley and Bromley are stepping up their fight against illegal tobacco in South East London. Over the last three years these boroughs have worked together and had success in finding and prosecuting those who sell illegal tobacco. This summer has seen the launch of a joint South East London illegal tobacco campaign, "Keep It Out". The message has been going out into the community and online to show people what the true cost of tobacco is to them and their children in terms of crime and poor health. There have been face to face engagement at local events and a new website page and helpline that allows people to report illegal tobacco anonymously has been set up. Messages are also going out that the boroughs are working with the Police and HMRC and people who sell illegal tobacco could be visited by enforcement teams with sniffer dogs.
61. Recommendation 27: The Committee would recommend that the Cabinet Member takes note of the submissions to this Committee in his consideration of responses to the Council's Cycling Strategy.

Response

62. The Cycling Strategy was adopted by cabinet on 2 June 2015, the final version was informed by all responses received including that of the committee.
63. Recommendation 28: The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Member looks at a joined up approach and fairer allocation of safe cycle storage schemes and communication with residents about their location and provision.

Response

64. The cabinet member has met with officers, who will investigate how to engage with residents to deliver cycle storage schemes.
65. Recommendation 29: The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Member works with TfL to extend further cycle hire schemes throughout the Borough.

Response

66. The council is continuing to lobby Transport for London for an expansion of the cycle hire scheme. TfL and Southwark officers are working on a funding package to be finalised in early autumn.
67. Recommendation 30: The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Member considers the outcomes of the Grange Project and looks to see whether the scheme could be further extended in other areas in the Borough to encourage cycling.

Response

68. Agreed, officers to investigate further.

69. Recommendation 31: The Council is currently aiming to have 10% of the borough actively cycling. Given the success of the Grange Project, the Committee recommends that the Cabinet Member should consider increasing the target percentage of those actively cycling in the Borough for 2016/17.

Response

70. Southwark has the sixth highest percentage of commuting cycle users in London. Currently 4.6% of all trips in Southwark are made by cycle which equates to approximately 35,000 trips made by cycle every day. The current Transport Plan cycle mode share target aims to double current levels of cycling to 10% by 2025/26. We will continue to review progress against our target on an annual basis as part of the Annual Transport Plan Monitoring report.
71. Recommendation 32: For contracting purposes, the Committee recommends that the impact of public health on staff is taken into consideration.

Response

72. The commitment to the London Living Wage and the Southwark Ethical Care Charter for homecare workers will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of staff.
73. Local employers are also being supported to sign up to the Workplace Health Charter. The Charter provides a systematic process to improve the health of staff. Local organisations signed up include Southwark Council, Southwark CCG, GSTT, Kings College Hospital, HMRC, London Fire Brigade and GLA. Public health is also working with the voluntary sector to support their engagement with the Charter. There are on going discussions with Adult and Children Commissioning to also promote this within tendering specifications. This has already successfully been negotiated with Public Health input into the tendering specifications for Southwark's leisure centres.
74. Recommendation 33: The Committee recommends mandating Audit & Governance to investigate the inclusion of public health impact assessments across all Council departments.

Response

75. Health impact assessments and mental health and wellbeing assessments are effective and useful tools to flag and maximise positive effects on different population groups, and to highlight and mitigate unintended negative effects of a policy, strategy or project. These tools will also help to target investment to where it is most needed and to monitor if it reaches its intended population. The Director of Public Health is scheduled to attend Audit & Governance Committee in Autumn to discuss this.

Policy implications

76. There are no specific policy implications currently arising from the recommendations. In taking forward the recommendations, should any changes to policy arise, they will be further considered at cabinet.

Community impact statement

77. In taking forward the recommendations, equality of opportunity and assessment of potential impacts, in line with the Equality Duty, at section 149 of the Equality Act, will be considered. In particular, the provision of money advice services, the impact and take up of physical activity opportunities and active travel, the impact of re-commissioning tobacco control and smoking cessation services, and the impact of alcohol licensing on different communities, will be considered to ensure that some communities, in particular most 'at risk' communities are not disproportionately affected.

Resource implications

78. Wherever possible the proposed responses and implementation will be carried out within existing resources. Any additional resource required will be funded within existing budget arrangements.

Legal implications

79. There are no legal implications for the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Scrutiny report considered by Cabinet	Constitutional Team, Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Paula Thornton Paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk 020 7525 7055
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s52215/Health%20of%20the%20Borough%20draft%20report.pdf		

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Barrie Hargrove, Public Health, Parks and Leisure	
Lead Officer	Dr Ruth Wallis, Director of Public Health for Lambeth & Southwark	
Report Author	Jin Lim, Assistant Director of Public Health	
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CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Housing & Modernisation	Yes	Yes
Director of Planning	Yes	Yes
Director Regeneration	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	7 October 2015	