

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 28 January 2016	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Project proposal on enhancing the impact of planning policy on health outcomes and inequalities in Southwark and Lambeth	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All (Southwark and Lambeth)	
From:		Director of Planning	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Health and Well-Being Board support the proposal that has been put forward for the Guys and St Thomas's Charity Health Innovation Fund on enhancing the impact of planning policy on health outcomes and inequalities in Southwark and Lambeth.
2. That members endorse the aims of the project, support its objectives and request further updates on the progress of the project subject to funding being agreed by the Guys and St Thomas's Charity.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Improving the nation's health through better planning and design to reduce the impact of a poor physical and natural environment is a Public Health England (PHE) priority¹. The government's public health strategy 'Healthy lives, healthy people', explicitly recognises that "health considerations are an important part of planning policy". The Marmot Review highlighted the need for planning to address health inequalities and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities. There are many ways in which planning can influence the 'wider determinants of health' (see figure 1). Health related planning policy issues include:
 - Housing provision, including in terms of affordable housing/housing mix, design (low carbon energy efficient design, space, daylight, etc) and older people's housing
 - Active travel (encouraging walking and cycling and public transport use)
 - Social infrastructure e.g. education provision, faith venues, community facilities
 - Employment provision
 - Public realm design, green space and play space
 - Health service provision and access
 - Air quality
 - Food e.g. hot food takeaway exclusion zones around schools; food growing

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. An outline of the proposed project is attached at appendix 1 and is summarised below.
5. The important link between how places are planned and developed and the health of the communities who live in them is increasingly recognised by planners. However the links between the wider determinants of health, health outcomes and health inequalities are not always explicitly and fully addressed in planning documents.
6. For this innovative action research project we propose a focus on three key themes:
 - A. Assessing the influence of the built environment on social interaction and social isolation
 - B. Addressing obesity and inactivity through creating 'healthy-weight environments'
 - C. Improving health service provision and access
7. It is proposed that the project will use intensive social research with people in Southwark and Lambeth to discover the factors in their lives and their interaction with their environment which are likely to become important determinants of health. This information will be used in the detailed planning of new neighbourhoods.
8. For example, in Southwark, the mainly industrial and commercial area around the Old Kent Road has been designated an 'Opportunity Area' in the London Plan and will be transformed over the next 20 years to become highly accessible mixed use areas providing a wide range of employment opportunities, social infrastructure, shops and other services and open space to serve around 20,000 new homes. Such a transformation of a large part of the borough could potentially have far reaching impacts on the health of the new population moving into the new homes and the existing population in established residential neighbourhoods that surround the area. The aim of the project is to acquire a deeper, more detailed understanding of the lifestyles of local people so that the planning of the new area can optimise the opportunities for improving public health.
9. The success of the project depends on strong leadership to think about ideas, suggest and carry through new ways of working and influence change. The Health and Well Being board is important as this can assist with making change happen to ensure that the health improvements take place within Lambeth and Southwark.

Policy implications

10. The project is intended to shape planning policy and inform regeneration programmes in the two boroughs. In Southwark it will inform the New Southwark Plan and the Old Kent Road Area Action Plan currently being prepared. It should lead to better coordination between planning, regeneration and public health policy.

Community impact statement

11. The purpose of planning policy is to facilitate regeneration and beneficial development ensuring that community impacts are taken into account. Plans such

as the New Southwark Plan and the Old Kent Road Area Action Plan require equalities analysis to be carried out. The proposed project will assist in the carrying out of these analyses and help ensure that the plans have a positive impact on different groups.

Resource implications

12. The project will contribute to the resources available for the preparation of planning and regeneration policy in the two boroughs.

Legal implications

13. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Financial implications

14. Funding for the project is sought from the Guys and St Thomas's Charity Health innovation Fund. This should cover all costs including project management in Southwark and Lambeth.

Consultation

15. The proposal will facilitate enhanced public involvement and consultation in the preparation of planning and regeneration policy.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Public Health

16. Public health was involved in the scoping and development of the project proposal. The opportunities offered by the Old Kent Road transformation can contribute towards improving the health of the local population as well as to mitigate any potential negative impacts. The project will enable work to begin to establish a good baseline to inform local needs assessment as well as support more robust evaluation of the OKR transformation and its impact on population health. The www.southwark.gov.uk/jsna and the Director of Public Health's Annual Public Health Reports identify key issues for Southwark including this geographical area as including unhealthy weight, physical inactivity, tobacco use, common long term chronic health conditions and opportunities for enhancing health and community provision. The project proposal will inform 'healthier' place shaping. Public health is represented on the Project Steering Group and will continue to input to the project.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None	N/A	N/A

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Proposal for Guys and St Thomas's Charity Health Innovation Fund

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Simon Bevan – Director of Planning		
Report Author	Simon Bevan		
Version	Final		
Dated	15 January 2016		
Key Decision?	No		
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	
Director of Public Health	Yes	Yes	
Cabinet Member	No	No	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		15 January 2016	