

REVIEW OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND SPORTS PROVISION FOR SECONDARY AND PRIMARY CHILDREN (NOVEMBER 2011)

The review sets out emerging recommendation for comment:

Paragraph 8.18

Create a healthier environment for our children and young people by restricting the licensing of new hot food takeaways e.g. within 400m boundary or 10min walking distance of schools, children's centres, youth-centred facilities. High concentrations of fast food outlets are currently in Peckham town centre, Queens Road Peckham, Walworth Road. Other London boroughs have been very effective in their planning restrictions (e.g. www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/2-press-release/press-release-menu.cfm?item_code=3761), supporting more healthy eating opportunities, greater diversity of local outlets as well as reducing litter and anti social behaviour.

Planning Policy response:

We have recently consulted on the 'Towards a Preferred Option' draft Peckham Area Action Plan (AAP). The final AAP will have specific area policies which will be used alongside the strategic overarching policies in our adopted Core Strategy (2011) as well as some of our saved Southwark Plan policies.

The 'Towards a Preferred Option' consultation document set out in Policy 3 – Hot Food Takeaways – three options. Based upon the feedback we received through the first stage of consultation of the draft AAP (Issues and Options consultation) which raised concern about the number of takeaways in the town centre, we considered whether we should restrict the amount and the location of hot food takeaways (A5) and we now need to decide what the most effective approach should be which will need to be informed by a robust evidence base.

Option 1 included putting a restriction on the number of hot food takeaways in the town centre and/or within other protected shopping frontages and local centres. We have the option of applying this just to Rye Lane and Peckham High Street where there is a higher number of takeaway units or we could also apply this to the shopping frontages in the wider area to prevent the problem from arising elsewhere in the future. One possibility is that we could set a policy to say there should not be more than two units as hot food takeaways in all of the parades outside of Rye Lane.

Option 2 would restrict hot food takeaways to be located around schools, introducing an exclusion zone. This approach has been implemented at two other London Boroughs.

Option 3 would continue with our existing policy (saved Southwark Plan Policy 1.9 see below) and not restrict hot food takeaways and assess them in line with amenity and development management policies in the Southwark Plan. We have acknowledged that not all hot food takeaway shops sell unhealthy food.

The document has been through a public consultation period, and we are now considering the responses which will inform the preparation of the next stage of the draft AAP – Preferred Options.

With regard to Option 1 we have already proposed this approach in two protected shopping parades at Canada Water which is set out in the draft Canada Water Area Action Plan Policy 3. Draft Policy 3 maintains the status of Albion Street and Lower Road as "protected shopping frontages" and a mix of uses needs to be provided in

line with Policy 1.9 of the Southwark Plan. It also introduces a limit on the number of A5 uses.

This policy sets out the following:

We will maintain the status of Albion Street and Lower Road as “protected shopping frontages” which should provide a mix of uses. There should not be more than two units in hot food takeaway use (A5 Class Use) in either the Albion Street frontage or in any one of the six parades which comprise the Lower Road frontage.

The shops on both Albion Street and Lower Road currently provide day-to-day convenience facilities for local people and passing trade. Policy 1.9 of the Southwark Plan is intended to ensure that at least 50% of the shopping units in the frontages on Albion Street and Lower Road stay in retail (A1 Class Use) and we propose to maintain that.

During consultation many people raised concerns about the number of hot food takeaways (A5 Class Use) on Lower Road and Albion Street. In both streets, there is a relatively high proportion of units in use as takeaways. In Albion Street there are two takeaway restaurants and in Lower Road there are more, including 5 units in the first section of the frontage between nos. 226 and 290 Lower Road. Cumulatively, hot food takeaways can have a negative impact on local residents and on the retail vitality of the parade. Our policy would restrict further growth of hot food takeaways.

With regard to Option 2 – it may be difficult to provide robust evidence to support a policy of this nature. Availability of fast food in the school “fringe” – roughly within ten minutes’ walk from the school gates – is one factor identified by a number of reports as potentially contributing to childhood obesity. American research (Currie et al. 2009) found that having a fast food outlet within close proximity (within 0.1 miles) of a school increases the probability of obesity by 5.2 per cent. There was no significant effect of having an outlet 0.25 or 0.50 miles from a school and the effects of fast food access were found to be greater for girls. The authors concluded that policies restricting access to fast food near schools could have significant effects on obesity among school children. However, UK (Dolton 2009) and Australian (Crawford 2008) research has found little evidence that exposure to fast food outlets in local neighbourhoods increases the risk of obesity. Dolton concludes that in the UK, proximity does not have an impact on childhood obesity and is not related to prevalence.

Therefore, we need to undertake further work to identify whether there is robust evidence available to support the approach of implementing a ‘saturation’ zone around schools. The preferred options for the AAP will be out for consultation in February 2012.

Paragraph 8.20

Use planning and other methods at the local authority’s disposal, to promote the establishment of businesses that make available healthy food. For example groceries, market stalls, food cooperatives and supermarkets that sell fruits and vegetables, whole foods etc.

Planning Policy response: Support

Our planning policies support the provision of new markets. Markets can play a significant role in regeneration as part of the retail economy of the borough. The Council recognises that street traders are small business operators and therefore

supports their development wherever possible. To maximise this contribution the Council needs to take a more coordinated approach to both new developments and revitalising existing markets as part of regeneration schemes.

We have set out in the draft Canada Water AAP and the consultation document 'Towards a Preferred Option' draft Peckham AAP planning policies which support the provision of new markets.

Paragraph 8.23

Promote urban agriculture, for example allotments. Where possible link this with schools and nutritional education.

Planning Policy response: Support

We have planning policies which support urban agriculture. We have set out in Core Strategy Strategic Policy 11 'Open Spaces and Wildlife' that we will protect woodland and trees and improve the overall greenness of places, including through promoting green corridors, gardens and local food growing.

The policy states that Local food growing and composting help promote healthy lifestyles and reduce the environmental impact of food consumption. We are looking at ways to encourage local food growing and composting in Southwark, including how existing spaces may be used. It will be important for new development to include opportunities for local food growing, community gardening and composting where possible..

We have also set out in the 'Towards a Preferred Option' draft Peckham AAP the objective of promoting a network of high quality and easy to access open spaces that serve a range of functions, including recreation and children's play, sports facilities, nature conservation and food growing.