

# Healthier High Streets

## Framework and Illustrative Indicators

Southwark Council

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# Healthier High Streets

## The Framework

### Our vision and guiding principles to encourage our high streets in Southwark to become healthier places

**Our Ambition** We want Southwark's high streets to become healthier spaces and places within our communities. Local high streets are also community assets that can make communities more resilient, and can be used to promote and improve the health of local residents<sup>i</sup>. Healthier high streets support the reduction of health inequalities and promote other desirable outcomes including safety, prosperity and social interaction. In short, high streets can help make healthy choices easier choices.

High streets mean more to people than just places to shop. They are social spaces with 45% of people saying they use the high street for other reasons than to shop. Our high streets and town centres are shifting from being retail focused places to a myriad of uses which foster greater social interaction, community spirit and local identity. They also feature as part of a growing night time economy. We want our high streets and town centres to be healthier places both day and night.

A healthier high street<sup>ii</sup>;

- Helps to reduce health inequalities;
- Increases access to health-promoting goods and services;
- Creates opportunities for social interaction; and
- Generates local economic growth.

**Our Vision** To provide residents, workers and visitors a gateway to healthier lives through an improved high street offer, good employment opportunities, and through welcoming, accessible places that allow for a range of retail, social and leisure activities that support wellbeing for all. High streets that can provide opportunities for everyone, and welcome all ages, cultures, abilities and income levels can help to tackle social exclusion, promote integration, community wellbeing and can help address health inequalities.

**Our Priorities** The development of healthier and vibrant high streets reflects commitments set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Economic Wellbeing Strategy, the Movement Plan, the Regeneration That Works For All framework, and the emerging New Southwark Plan. The Economic Wellbeing Strategy aims for town centres and high streets in Southwark to be dynamic, diverse, digital centres that are great places to visit spend time and enjoy. Key priorities include:

- Every Southwark resident has access to quality, affordable, and healthy food and produce from their local high street or market
- Payday lenders, betting shops, and outlets specialising in unhealthy food are effectively

- regulated and controlled
- Southwark town centres and high streets are accessible, safe and well connected, both physically and digitally

## The Purpose

This HHS framework builds on PHE recommendations to ‘Ensure that the regeneration and development of high streets focuses on inclusive design for all, and that opportunities to reduce health inequalities are maximised’.

The framework provides a tool for developers, Business Improvement Districts and officers working in the built environment to have a greater awareness and focus on health, and those officers working in health, to have a greater awareness and focus on built environment interventions.

The implementation of the framework will be supported by a number of other tools available to the Council including its asset management plan, lettings strategy, advertising policy, powers through licencing and trading standards and planning decisions.

This framework adopts a health in all policies approach to facilitate more and better collaboration between public health, planning, design, and crucially, communities, to support the development of high streets that are ‘health enhancing’.

## Our Goals

In line with our ambition to ensure this healthier high street framework reduces health inequalities, we have three overarching goals for our high streets:

**Prosperity:** A vibrant, resilient and accessible high street economy

**People:** A high street which supports the health and wellbeing needs of local people

**Place:** A physical environment that is inclusive and supports health

In order to achieve these goals we have identified 10 principles which form the healthier high street framework. For each principle we have identified indicators to help monitor our progress. These principles are:

Principle 1: **Diversity**

Principle 2: **Affordability**

Principle 3: **Resilient and accessible**

Principle 4: **Choice**

Principle 5: **Social Interaction**

Principle 6: **Safe and connected neighbourhoods**

Principle 7: **Inclusive design**

Principle 8: **Good design**

Principle 9: **Sustainability**

Principle 10: **Identity.**

## Key programmes

The ‘**Building Blocks for Health on the High Street**’ include these programmes:

- Full occupancy of units, and coordination of local needs and uses (supported and curated where relevant by a landlord charter and lettings strategy);
- Restricting, in line with the proposed policy in the New Southwark Plan, new high street uses such as hot food takeaways, late night off licenses, betting shops and pay day lenders that relate to public health risks such as obesity, alcohol, unhealthy eating, addiction and poorer mental health;
- Relaunching the Healthier Catering Commitment to engage hot food outlets in healthier cooking practices and healthier options;
- A new Good Food Retailer scheme for convenience stores to support an improved

- range and positioning of healthier foods;
- Support for the Breast Feeding Welcome scheme;
- Ensuring access to public / community toilets and changing facilities,
- Ensuring access to free water through a water refill offer or public drinking fountains;
- A clear approach to alcohol licensing
- Timed commercial waste collections (synchronised where necessary between different collection operations) to ensure trade waste bins are well designed, clutter is minimised, and the high street is an attractive place to walk.

## Tracking our progress

We recognise that no two high streets in Southwark are the same, and will work with champions for each area who understand their unique character, challenges and opportunities.

This framework has been developed to set out a borough-wide approach which can be tailored for each place to help identify opportunities presented by policy changes or projects for our high streets to become healthier places.

We have identified an indicator(s) for each principle. The framework and indicators will be reviewed annually.

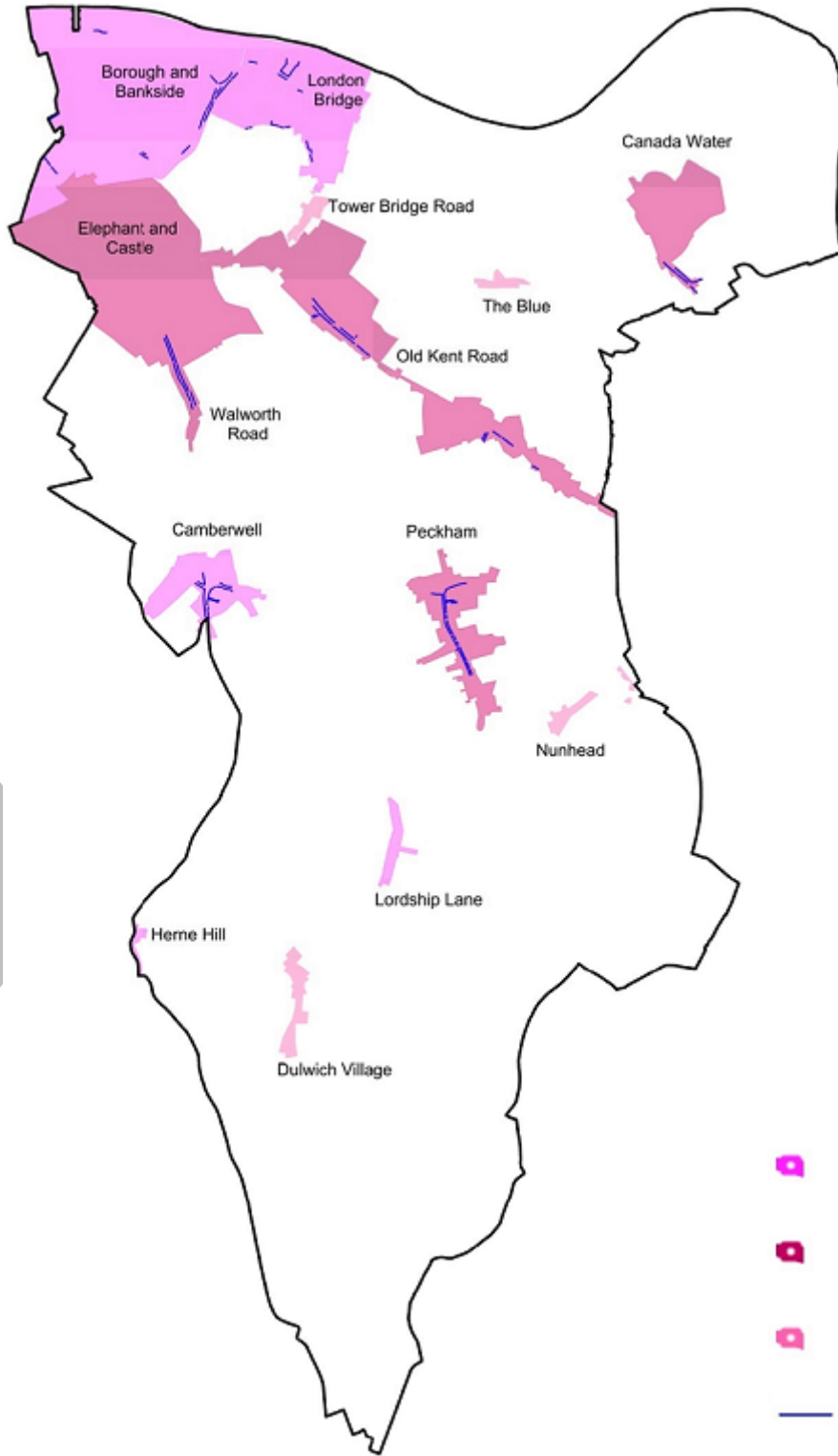
As part of the Planning Policy digital upload, project work will be undertaken to map all town centres and to update and amend planning policies where necessary for each town centre starting with Peckham and then Walworth Road.

The new Statement of Community Involvement and Development Charters will assess impact of developments on local businesses, communities and it will provide an additional equalities perspective and analysis.

We will work with local communities, voluntary organisations, local businesses and developers to align activities to the ambitions and objectives of this framework to achieve the shared outcome – a healthier high street.

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# Map of town centres and primary high streets



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## Our Framework

<p><b>Goal 1. Prosperity</b></p> <p>To promote a vibrant and healthy local economy</p>	<p><b>Goal 2. People</b></p> <p>To support the health and wellbeing needs of local people</p>	<p><b>Goal 3. Place</b></p> <p>To create a physical environment that is inclusive and supports health</p>
<p><b>Principle 1: Diversity</b></p> <p>Promote a balanced range of uses</p>	<p><b>Principle 4: Choice</b></p> <p>Improve access to healthier and affordable, food, leisure and shopping opportunities</p>	<p><b>Principle 7: Inclusive design</b></p> <p>Deliver attractive, healthy, accessible and safe high streets for everyone in the community (e.g. all age and disability friendly)</p>
<p><b>Principle 2: Affordability</b></p> <p>Deliver affordable workspaces in new developments</p>	<p><b>Principle 5: Social Interaction</b></p> <p>Create opportunities for people to engage, share and learn from each other</p>	<p><b>Principle 8: Good design</b></p> <p>Embed the 'TfL Healthy Streets' to create healthier streets</p>
<p><b>Principle 3: Resilient and accessible</b></p> <p>Increase economic resilience and improve local access to the high street through footfall, spend &amp; additional support e.g. digital innovation, new or improved walking and/or cycling routes</p>	<p><b>Principle 6: Safe and connected neighbourhoods</b></p> <p>Connect community facilities (libraries, health centres and crèches) to the high street, Promote safe havens and a zero tolerance culture to violent and hate crime.</p>	<p><b>Principle 9: Sustainability</b></p> <p>Implement sustainable transport infrastructure to create cleaner and greener environment</p>
<p><b>Principle 10: Identity</b></p> <p>Understand how people feel about their high street</p>		

# Healthier High Streets

## Indicators

### Goal 1: To promote a vibrant and resilient local economy

Principle	Measure/Indicator	Source (New / existing)
<b>Principle 1: Diversity</b> Promote a balanced range of uses	1.1 Diversity a) Number of vacant units on the high street b) Number of units in retail use c) number of units in other uses	New Southwark Plan (Existing)
	1.2 The change in the number of properties leased out for specific purposes	Property lettings
<b>Principle 2: Affordability</b> Deliver affordable workspaces in new developments	2.1 Available affordable workspace in m squared	New Southwark Plan (Existing)
<b>Principle 3 : Well used and accessible</b> Improve local access to the high street to increase footfall and spend e.g. digital innovation, new or improved walking and/or cycling routes	3.1 Excess wait times for high frequency bus services	Movement Plan (Existing)
	3.2 How people travel to the high street (walking, cycling and public transport)	Southwark Resident Survey (Adapted from the Movement Plan)
	3.3 How many trips people make to the high street and from where	Southwark Resident Survey (Adapted from the Movement Plan)
	3.4 Public Transport Accessibility Level	TfL
	3.5 Number of vehicle types, cyclists and pedestrians (Borough-wide movement data vivacity)	TfL

## Goal 2: To support the health and wellbeing needs of local people

Principle	Measure/Indicator	Source (New/existing)
<b>Principle 4: Choice</b> Improve access to healthier and affordable, food, leisure and shopping opportunities	4.1 Retention of local shops A1	Planning
	4.2 Food environment assessment tool	Feat tool LSOA / ward
	4.3 Number of Healthy Catering Commitment registrations as a % of total number of businesses present	New
	4.4 Breastfeeding welcome scheme registrations	Existing
	4.5 Access to affordable healthy food – basket studies	New (Food Security Plan)
	4.6 Food security prevalence	Survey of Londoners
<b>Principle 5: Social Interaction</b> Create opportunities for people to engage, share and learn from each other	5.1 How strongly people feel they belong to the local area	Survey of Londoners
	5.2 How often people feel lonely	Survey of Londoners
	5.3 Social isolation % of adult social care users who have as much social contact as they would like	Social Regeneration Framework - PHE wider determinants of health profile
<b>Principle 6: Safe and connected neighbourhoods</b> Connect community facilities (libraries, health centres and crèches) to the high street, Promote safe havens and a zero tolerance culture to violent and hate crime.	6.1 Number of offers advertised to library cardholders to promote cultural businesses / activities on the high street through the Southwark Presents programme	Culture & Events
	6.2 A wide diversity of local business that enables everyone to feel part of the community and able to access high street facilities	Southwark Resident Survey (New)
	6.3 Number of cultural celebrations and events supported by the council taking place on the high street	Culture & Events (Council Plan)
	6.4 Number of CitySafe havens being developed to address knife crime on or near the high street.	Southwark Knife Crime and Knife Carrying Action Plan - Revision April 2018



### Goal 3: To create a physical environment that is inclusive and supports health

Promise	Measure/Indicator	Source (New/existing)
<b>Principle 7: Inclusive design</b> Deliver attractive, healthy, accessible and safe high streets for everyone in the community (e.g. age friendly, CYP friendly)	7.1 Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over	Movement Plan
	7.2 Principal road length in poor condition	Movement Plan
	7.3 Casualties by mode of travel and age	Movement Plan
	7.4 Perception of safety % of people who feel safe when out and about in their local area	Southwark Resident Survey
<b>Principle 8: Good design</b> Embed the 'TfL Healthy Streets' to create healthier streets	8.1 TfL Healthy Street Checklist scores for the 10 Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pedestrians from all walks of life</li> <li>• Easy to cross</li> <li>• Shade and shelter</li> <li>• Places to stop and rest</li> <li>• Not too noisy</li> <li>• People choose to walk, cycle and use public transport</li> <li>• People feel safe</li> <li>• Things to see and do</li> <li>• People feel relaxed</li> <li>• Clean air</li> </ul>	Movement Plan
<b>Principle 9: Sustainability</b> Implement sustainable transport infrastructure to create cleaner and greener environment	9.1 Air quality monitoring (CO2 emissions, NOX emissions, PM10 & PM3.5 in tonnes from road transport)	Movement Plan
	9.2 How much active travel Southwark residents do a day	Movement Plan
	9.3 Number of public drinking water fountains / 'Refill' app sites in operation	Parks & Leisure Sustain

Principle	Measure/Indicator	Source (New/existing)
<b>Principle 10: Identity</b> Understand how people feel about their high street	10.1 Annual residents survey on how people feel about their local high street	Southwark Resident Survey (New)

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<sup>i</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (May 2019) Government response to the Eleventh Report of Session 2017 – 19 of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee inquiry into high streets and town centres in 2030

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<sup>ii</sup> Public Health England (January 2018) Healthy High Streets Good place-making in an urban setting

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