

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD  
9 OCTOBER 2015 AT 10.00 a.m.**

**HEALTH IMPROVEMENT – DELIVERING THE PLANNING AND PLACE  
AGENDA**

Report of the Director of Public Health

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**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the emerging strategic direction for Health Improvement - Planning and Place, and seek endorsement.

**2. Summary**

2.1 The overall aim of the planning and place agenda is to establish a *place-based, whole-system approach* to improving health and reducing health inequalities. In simple terms this means addressing the complex causes of health inequalities at the community level but improving the places – the physical, built, natural and social environments – in which we live, work, learn and play.

2.2 This approach has been developed by Public Health, working with other Directorates of the County Council, District and Borough Councils, Housing and Transport agencies and other stakeholders.

2.3 This is an approach which aligns well with spatial planning, the principles of sustainable development and is fully endorsed by Hertfordshire's Public Health Strategy. It also has the potential to positively influence and contribute to delivery on all HWB strategy priorities.

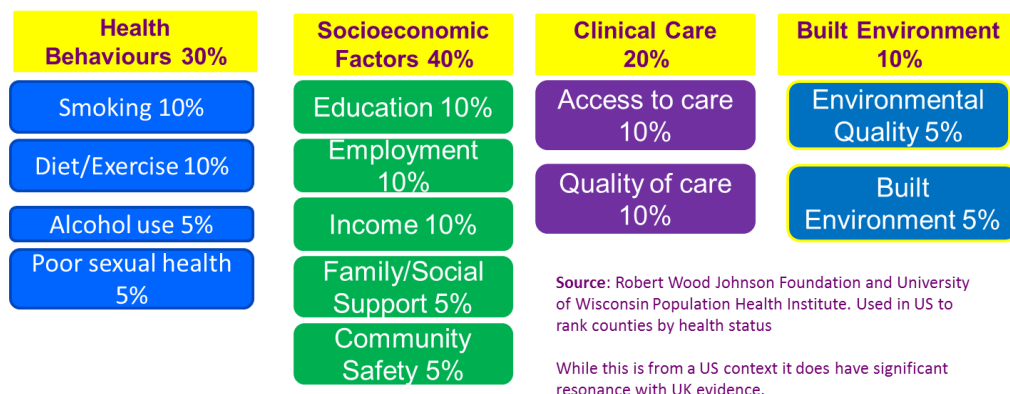
2.4 Addressing health and wellbeing from the angle of these wider determinants (and their strategic/statutory processes) can tackle our shared priorities more effectively than public health interventions on their own. This can only be achieved through effective partnerships with a number of key stakeholders across the county, the building of working relationships and our ability to influence decision and plan making processes across the county.

### 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Board to endorse the direction of the work.
- 3.2 For the Board to consider the potential synergies with its strategy and to decide how this should be included in its forthcoming refresh.

### 4. Background

- 4.1 Planning and place focuses on improving the wider determinants of health, wellbeing and health inequalities. In essence, the quality of our environment and nature of the places in which we live, work and play exerts an influence upon our health and wellbeing (as outlined in the figure below).

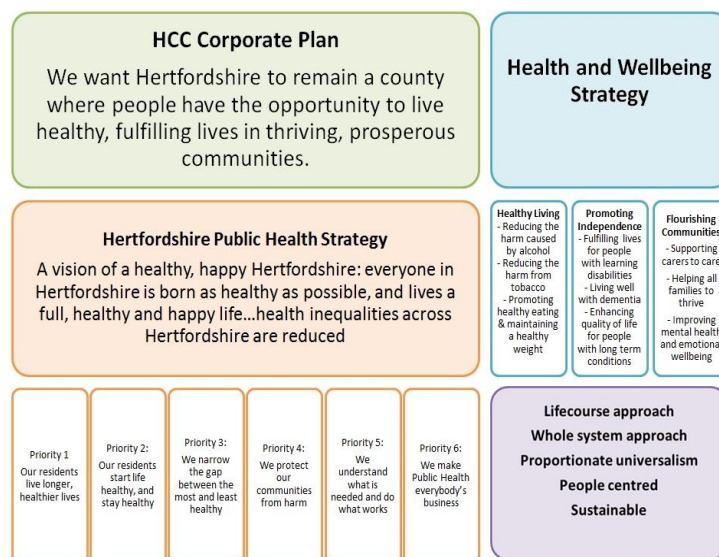


- 4.2 Addressing health and wellbeing from the angle of these wider determinants (and their strategic/statutory processes) can tackle our shared priorities more effectively than public health interventions on their own. Transport planning (and implementation thereof) is a good example of this; as well planned transport schemes have the potential to actively influence air quality, road safety and sustainable/active travel behaviours.
- 4.3 In turn these will have outcomes for health and wellbeing priorities such as maintaining a healthy weight and improving mental health and emotional wellbeing. The same principle applies in relation to other areas including spatial planning, housing, green/open space; access to education and employment, in terms of the linkages with wider health and wellbeing priorities.

### 5. Outcome(s) to be achieved

- 5.1 The overall aim is to establish a *place-based, whole-system approach* to improving health and reducing health inequalities. In simple terms this means addressing the complex causes of health inequalities at the community level by improving the places – the physical, built, natural and social environments – in which we live, work, learn and play. This is an approach which aligns well with spatial planning and the principles of sustainable development, and is fully endorsed by Hertfordshire’s Public Health Strategy.

- 5.2 The approach also has the potential to positively influence and contribute to the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic Priorities, due to the broad, overarching nature of the planning and place agenda.
- 5.3 However, this will only be achieved through effective partnerships with a number of key stakeholders (Districts, HCC, CCGs etc), the building of working relationships and our ability to influence decision and plan making processes across the county.
- 5.4 The wider benefits of this approach will be to support stakeholders in the delivery of public health outcomes; improve wider public health service delivery by linking into, supporting and enhancing broader projects (e.g. District Offer); contributing – through partnership working – to the wider health and wellbeing of Hertfordshire; and meeting agreed strategic objectives outlined in both the county's Health and Wellbeing Strategy (<http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/h/HWBS>), Public Health Strategy (<http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/p/phstrat.pdf>) and the County Council's Corporate Plan (<http://www.hertsdirect.org/statweb/corpplan/HertsCorpPlan2013.pdf>).



## 6. Delivering the Planning and Place agenda

### Where are we now?

- 6.1 We are:
- aware of the spatial planning processes across Hertfordshire and timescales and routes to engagement;
  - taking forward steps through initial engagement in individual planning documents, but on an ad hoc basis;
  - engaging with key partners within the County Council around planning, housing, green infrastructure, transport and wider environment issues;
  - formulating our criteria for responding to spatial planning and infrastructure development, but this needs to be refined;

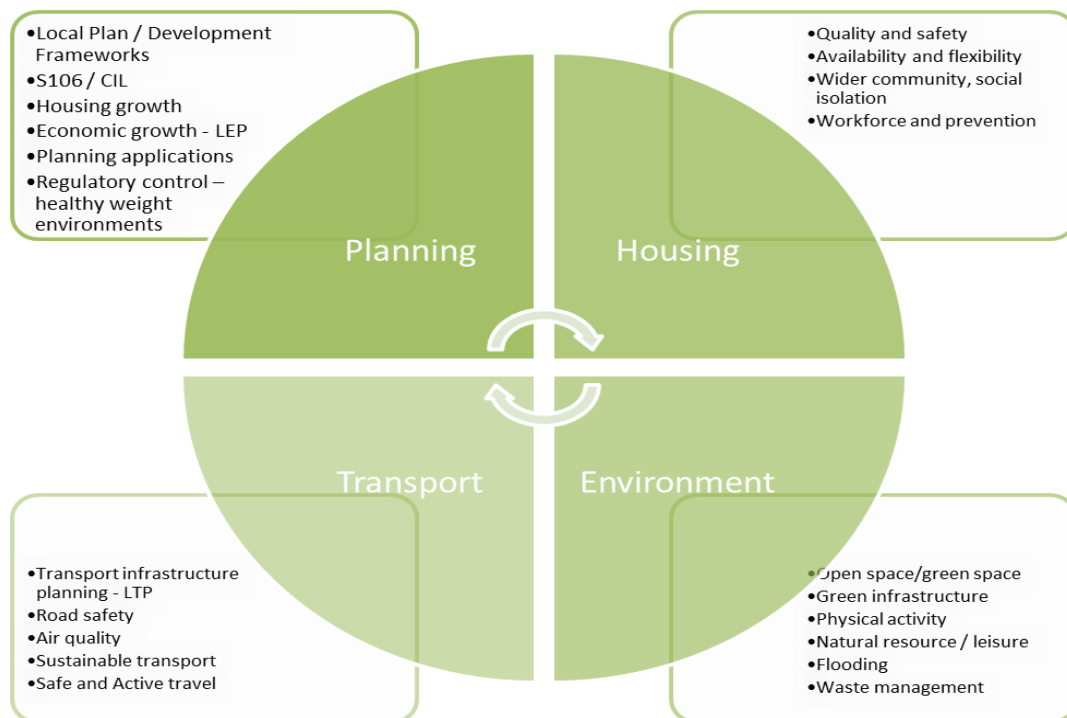
- working with external stakeholders to identify common priorities in relation to planning and place.

6.2 We are beginning to:

- develop an evidence base for some areas; improve, refine and enhance evidence for others and disseminate to a wide audience;
- establish how we can use the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) appropriately and effectively;
- agree our priorities;
- engage directly with strategic partners and key stakeholders;
- promote planning and place for health across Hertfordshire.

### **Future delivery**

6.3 There are four key domains within which the majority of the planning and place agenda falls:



6.4 These domains are not mutually exclusive of each other and offer many linkages with other service areas, but in their own right are very broad, covering long-term issues with complex interactions. Underpinning all four themes are the principles of sustainability, and building good working relationships with an array of common stakeholders. There is considerable scope for public health action, but this needs to be prioritised and resources targeted to maximise impact.

6.5 Considerable progress is currently being made in these four domains of work by stakeholders, such as HCC Environment and Transport, as well as District and Borough Councils. It is therefore important to identify where public health can add value to this and establish its priorities, actions and potential

outcomes. A key principle will be to work collaboratively to avoid duplication across other directorates and services.

- 6.6 It is proposed that public health action will initially focus on Planning and Housing as these are less developed (from the public health perspective). Public health will continue to work collaboratively with Environment and Transport colleagues to ensure that plans are aligned and public health outcomes are optimised.
- 6.7 **Plans on a Page** have been developed for each of the four themes in the context of delivering public health outcomes, and have been drafted in consultation with various stakeholders. These are intended as dynamic documents, but ones which show clearly the priorities, objectives, required actions, mechanisms for delivery and progress without the need for a lengthy strategy document. These are included in the appendices to this report.
- 6.8 There are many interdependencies with other areas of the health and wellbeing agenda for Hertfordshire. In order to succeed the plan requires ownership not only within the Public Health service and the County Council, but across the wider collective health and wellbeing stakeholders, to work together in driving the planning and place agenda forward.

## **7. Risk to delivery of outcomes**

- 7.1 A number of risks exist in the delivery of the planning and place domain and these are predominantly focused on the reliance upon others to deliver desired outcomes. One way in which to address this from the start is to ensure that appropriate time is built into the strategic plan for building good working relationships with stakeholders – something which is very much underway.
- 7.2 Two other risks to note are (1) the loss of momentum and engagement due to the long-term nature of planning and place and; (2) spreading resource too thin – trying to deliver on everything and achieving very little. With regards to (1) it is important to build knowledge and capacity amongst stakeholders to reach the point where public health is accounted for within business as usual considerations – much the same as equalities and sustainability. Avoiding the pitfalls of a broad area of work will be a challenge, but will require sticking to clearly articulated priorities.

## **8. Timeline**

- 8.1 The proposed priorities outlined in this paper were agreed by the Public Health and Localism Cabinet Panel in September 2015, subject to further progress updates over the next 12 months.

<b>Report signed off by</b>	Public Health, Localism and Libraries Cabinet Panel, Hertfordshire County Council Hertfordshire Multi-Agency Public Health Board
<b>Sponsoring HWB Member/s</b>	Jim McManus, Director of Public Health
<b>Hertfordshire HWB Strategy priorities supported by this report</b>	Delivery of the Planning and Place agenda has the potential to positively influence all of the HWB Strategy priorities.
<b>Needs assessment</b> N/A	
<b>Consultation/public involvement</b> N/A	
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b> An EQiA has been carried out and was submitted to the Public Health and Localism Cabinet Panel in September 2015.	
<b>Acronyms or terms used. eg:</b>	
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LTP	Local Transport Plan
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
LEP	Local Economic Partnership
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
S106	Section106

**APPENDICES: PLANS ON PAGES**

- Appendix A ENVIRONMENT*
- Appendix B HOUSING*
- Appendix C PLANNING*
- Appendix D TRANSPORT*