

9th January 2014	ITEM: 9
Thurrock Health and Well-Being Board	
HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SOUNDING BOARD	
Report of: Ceri Armstrong, Strategy Officer, Thurrock Council	
Accountable Director: David Bull, Director of Planning and Development	
This report is Public	
Purpose of Report: For the Health and Wellbeing Board to sign off the terms of reference and therefore agree the establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Planning and Development Sounding Board.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The built environment has a significant impact on health and wellbeing. In recognition of this, partners have worked together to develop a means of identifying the impact of major development initiatives on health and wellbeing through the Council's planning process – the establishment of a health and wellbeing planning and development Sounding Board. The Sounding Board will aim to ensure that the impact of major plans are recognised and influenced accordingly.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board agree the establishment of the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Planning and Development Sounding Board.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 The Director of Housing and Director of Planning and Transportation jointly presented a report to the September Board meeting which emphasised the importance of housing and planning in relation to good health and wellbeing.
- 2.2 The relationship between Housing and the Board is already cemented by the Director of Housing being a permanent Board member, but until now there has been no formal link with planning.
- 2.3 A closer relationship with Planning will help planners to ensure the vision and aims for achieving good health and wellbeing for all in Thurrock are fully reflected in planning policies and regeneration plans. It will also enable the Health and Wellbeing Board to engage more closely with Housing and Planning to take advantage of development opportunities that will help deliver its strategic priorities.

2.4 Following on from September's report, a piece of work has been carried out to ensure that health and wellbeing considerations influence major planning and development in Thurrock – the establishment of a Health and Wellbeing Planning and Development Sounding Board.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

3.1 The Sounding Board will sit within the Health and Wellbeing Board's structure and operate within the existing planning decision-making framework – e.g. for major planning applications.

3.2 The purpose of the Sounding Board is to ensure that the health and wellbeing implications of significant development plans are considered at the earliest opportunity and that comments the Board make contribute towards the decision-making process. It is hoped that this will be at pre-application stage as this is where the Sounding Board are likely to have the greatest change to influence. In its considerations, the Board will also consider if appropriate where and on what section 106 monies are likely to best be used.

3.3 Due to the short period of time available for comments to be submitted (fourteen days for internal consultation), the Sounding Board will mostly meet virtually – a physical meeting will be dependent upon the nature of the application received and its perceived impact on health and wellbeing.

3.4 The Board's membership will include but not be exclusive to:

- Planning Department;
- Housing Department;
- Thurrock HealthWatch;
- Thurrock Coalition;
- NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group;
- Public Health;
- NHS England (Essex Local Area Team);
- Adult Social Care
- Community – as appropriate to the area affected

3.5 Comments from the Sounding Board will be captured on a template to be agreed by Planning and submitted accordingly – before the end of the fourteen day consultation period.

3.6 Where possible, the Sounding Board will also wish to feed in to Council-hosted developer forums. This would enable the Sounding Board to influence proactively – e.g. homes for life, dementia-friendly design etc.

3.7 As the Sounding Board is a new initiative, the terms of reference will be reviewed on a regular basis and changed accordingly.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- 4.1 To influence the built environment to help ensure that it positively affects health and wellbeing in Thurrock and that any negative impacts of major planning and development schemes relating to health and wellbeing are identified at the earliest opportunity and minimised.

5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with the Health and Wellbeing Board, and with the Planning Department.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 6.1 The creation of a Planning and Development Sounding Board will contribute towards the priority 'Improve Health and Wellbeing' by ensuring that the built environment positive affects the health and wellbeing of those people affected.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 **Financial**

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
 Telephone and email: **01375**
mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk

None identified.

7.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: **Mike Kelly**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652822**
mike.kelly@BDTLegal.org.uk

Major planning applications provide opportunities to consider the ways that benefits can be achieved to the health and well being of the Boroughs residents. This can be achieved through improved design or the allocation of funding from Planning Contribution moneys. By linking planning with the health and wellbeing board there will be earlier involvement at the application stage when design and possible areas to allocate funding can be identified. Early engagement will also help to identify areas of concern which can be addressed with design improvements a re allocation of resource.

There are national and local planning policy considerations which set the parameters for the provision and allocation of planning contribution moneys. These guide the situations when and the ways that contributions can be provided. A formal agreement will also be entered into which earmarks the

amount, the way and the time in which financial contributions are then to be spent .

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
Telephone and email: **01375652472**
Sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

The implementation of a Health and Wellbeing Planning and Development Sounding Board will help to contribute towards reducing inequalities in health and wellbeing across the Borough.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

Appendix 1 – Planning and Development Sounding Board Draft Terms of Reference

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