

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

16 March 2021



Subject: Birmingham Healthy City Planning Toolkit
Report of: Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health
Relevant Cabinet Member: Councillor Paulette Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Relevant O &S Chair(s): Councillor Rob Pocock, Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report author: Elizabeth Griffiths, Assistant Director of Public Health

Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference:		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The environment we live in has a huge impact on our health. By creating healthier built and natural environments we can prevent premature death and disease, enhance social cohesion and encourage physical activity. Conversely, a poorly designed built environment can adversely impact upon the health of the population and lead to inequalities in both health and wellbeing. Designing for health does not have to be onerous. If done well we will be able to achieve measurable improvements for the environment, 'environmental net gains', while ensuring economic growth and reducing costs, complexity and delays for developers.
- 1.2 Birmingham Public Health, working in collaboration with Birmingham Planning teams, has created a toolkit to address the above issues.

- 1.3 This toolkit has been designed with several prompts to help developers, architects and planners to consider and assess the impact new developments have on the health and wellbeing of the population.
- 1.4 The intention of this toolkit is to ensure that Birmingham can routinely consider how to maximise positive health and wellbeing outcomes in the context of its planning and development obligations.
- 1.5 The toolkit has been tested on Birmingham City Council Supplementary Planning Documents and Planning Applications for several years, it has proven to be successful in influencing positive health outcomes. It is currently being used in the development of the Perry Barr Masterplan.
- 1.6 The toolkit has been endorsed by the Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.7 Cabinet is asked to give approval to launch a public consultation exercise to seek a view on the formal adoption of the toolkit into the scheduled refresh of the Birmingham Development Plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - Give approval to consult on the Birmingham Healthy City Planning Toolkit as set out in this cover report and appended documents.

3 Background

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (2019) “the Framework” has issued guidance to ensure that health and wellbeing are routinely being considered at the earliest opportunity in the planning process. In particular the Framework suggests local authorities should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:
 - A) Promote social interaction
 - B) Are safe and accessible
 - C) Enable and support healthy lifestyles
 - D) Provide social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs
 - E) Consider the social, economic and environmental benefits of estate regeneration
- 3.2 The Birmingham Healthy City Planning Toolkit is in direct response to this guidance and seeks to make it easier for stakeholders across the planning system to consider the health and wellbeing impacts of developments at an early stage.
- 3.3 The Healthy City Planning Toolkit supports the creation of healthy communities through health-promoting planning policies, design and development management in Birmingham.

- 3.4 This toolkit will aid the preparation of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for planning related projects, including the development of planning policy and planning applications. It provides guidance on the HIA process and demonstrates how it can be used, and identifies aspects of the built environment which have an impact upon the health of Birmingham's residents.
- 3.5 The toolkit comprises a Health Inequalities Assessment template, and a guide to aid completion – this is based on the London Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) assessment tool and related documents. The toolkit reflects the World Health Organisation Publication Healthy Urban Planning (by Hugh Barton and Catherine Tsourou); and, NICE guidance for Reuniting Planning and Health, produced by the national Spatial Planning and Health Group (SPAHG).
- 3.6 The Birmingham Healthy City Planning Toolkit will support:
- Planning professionals including planning policy and development management officers in helping them to identify and respond to the health impact issues of development proposals through Local Plans and development management techniques
 - Architects, Developers and planning agents, to screen and scope the health impact of their development proposals and assessing the health impacts of a subsequent planning application
 - Other professionals who are involved in scrutinising and commenting on health-related issues in Local Plans and development proposals.
- 3.7 The toolkit promotes consideration of the health and wellbeing impacts of new developments across a number of domains: housing quality and design; access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure; access to open space and nature; air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity; accessibility and active travel; crime reduction and community safety; access to healthy food; access to work and training; social cohesion and lifetime neighbourhoods; minimising the use of resources; climate change; digital and technology; child friendly development; and, impact upon equalities.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

Public consultation exercise

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Embedding the toolkit as a formal process of the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) will ensure that Birmingham can systematically consider how to maximise positive health and wellbeing outcomes in the context of its planning and development obligations.

- 5.2 Permission is sought by Cabinet to launch a public consultation exercise to seek views on the formal adoption of the Birmingham Healthy City Planning Toolkit within the BDP.
- 5.3 A twelve week public consultation process is planned; the consultation will build upon the best practice methods developed by the Public Health Division in its consultations on Food and throughout the Covid pandemic offering a range of social media and online forums, targeted community engagement, wider stakeholder engagement, ward forums and utilising existing community trusted engagement channels.

6 Risk Management

Risk Analysis			
Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Failure to embed consideration of health and wellbeing inequalities within routine planning processes	Medium	High	<p>Toolkit developed in collaboration with planning.</p> <p>Support received from a wide range of stakeholders in the Health and Wellbeing Board and West Midlands Planning and Health Group.</p> <p>Full public consultation exercise to gauge support is planned.</p>

7 Compliance Issues:

- 7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?
- The Birmingham Healthy City Planning Toolkit links to each of the Council's priorities and is designed to sit within the Birmingham Development Plan.
- 7.2 Legal Implications
- Section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 Act introduced a new duty at Section 2B of the NHS Act 2006 Act for all upper-tier and unitary local authorities in England to take appropriate steps to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. The Birmingham Healthy City Planning Toolkit

seeks to maximise the health and wellbeing potential of all new developments in Birmingham.

7.3 Financial Implications

7.4 The costs for the public consultation exercise on the Healthy City Planning Toolkit will be met via the Public Health grant.

7.5 Procurement Implications (if required)

- None identified.

7.6 Human Resources Implications (if required)

- None identified, consultation support will be delivered through existing staff.

7.7 Public Sector Equality Duty

- EIA in process (04/03/21)

8 Appendices

8.1 Draft Birmingham Healthy City Planning Toolkit.