

Special Health and Wellbeing Board

Thursday 22 October 2015 at 5.00 p.m.

in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present: Councillor A. Ditta
Councillor E. Hughes
Councillor C. Jones
Councillor I. Robertson
Dr. B. Watt, Director of Public Health
Mr. K. Skerman, Interim Executive Director Adult Social Care
Ms. S. Morgan, Early Intervention and Family Support

In attendance: Ms. C. Boneham, Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager

246/15 Appointment of Chair

Resolved

That in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor Robertson be appointed Chair for this meeting only.

Councillor Robertson in the chair

247/15 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Martin, Mr. D. Haley, Dr. A. Gill, Dr. A. Suri, Dr. A. Rischie, Ms. S. Ali and Mr. S. Fogell.

248/15 Substitution

Ms. S. Morgan substituted for Mr. D. Haley, Executive Director, Children's Services.

249/15 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

250/15 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

251/15 Walsall Local Plan

Mr. M. Smith, Planning Policy Officer presented the report which further advised on the consultation on 3 important documents planning for the future development of the borough:

(see annexed)

The Board further discussed each of the issues raised at the previous meeting of 7 September which, together with the response from the planning officer, were set out in the report. During the discussion the following comments were made which Board members considered should provide the formal response of the Health and Wellbeing Board to the consultation:

1. **Try to ensure that children don't have to travel too far to access schools and facilities:**

The Board:

- Accepted the analysis of the issues
- Offered to work with Planning and with Education officers to identify how housing developments and educational needs can be linked

2. **Open spaces should be protected and maintained to benefit the health of residents**

The Board:

- Supported the protection of open spaces - as the ability for people to use open spaces is important for physical and emotional wellbeing.
- Noted that the borough has large areas of 'green' but that not all of these are publicly accessible and that access to open space varies across the borough.
- Recognised that the public sector resources for open space are limited. However, new housing developments should have access to open space and, if necessary provide open space and/or contribute towards its maintenance and/or improvement.
- Supported proposals to link open spaces together (including via 'Greenways') as this can encourage people to use them and should help promote walking and cycling.
- Supported the use of community infrastructure levy monies to maintain and enhance open spaces.

3. **Air pollution (especially from traffic, including the M6) is an important concern**

The Board:

- Recognised the Core Strategy policy framework that enables pollution issues to be taken into account.
- Supported the approach whereby 'sensitive receptors' such as housing, schools and health facilities are not exposed to pollution (and/or where pollution is mitigated).

- Whilst not identifying specific locations at this stage, where there might be problems or conflicts, asks officers to continue to liaise where issues might arise.
- Separately, will look forward to seeing work on the proposed Supplementary Planning Document

4. **Need to consider need for an access to health provision (e.g. GP services) when planning for new housing**

The Board:

- Supported Public Health officers working with planning officers to identify locations where there might be needs for new/expanded health facilities. Palfrey was identified as an area that should be considered.

5. **Need to plan, including with Education and with housing providers, for people living longer**

The Board:

- Recognised that some of the issues cannot be directly addressed through Site Allocations and other development plans. However, the approach to the locations for different uses – developed from the Black Country Core Strategy - is supported (to maximise accessibility be a choice of means of transport and make facilities as conveniently accessible as possible).
- Supported the offer from the Director of Public Health to provide appropriate support in the use of modelling techniques to plan for accessibility. This should support not only the progress of the plans but also be useful in decisions on planning applications and on the council's and partners' proposals.

6. **Need to reflect the health and social care needs. These include for more people (who might need care) to remain in their own homes. The types of housing and the access standards used should provide for this**

The Board:

- Recognised the issues regarding the framing of an appropriate policy that would seek to meet social care needs whilst retaining flexibility. The Board supported the approach put forward in terms of:
 - available evidence
 - particular locations
 - How a policy might be framed to say that particular sites should be for particular types of housing unless it can be demonstrated why that should not be the case.

and that Public Health officers will liaise with Planning officers to seek to incorporate such an approach into the plans.

7. **There is a need to provide sheltered accommodation rather than for care homes. The evidence shows that care homes are being promoted to meet needs arising outside the borough**

The Board supported the approach put forward – as “6” above.

8. **Overcrowding in multiple-occupancy should be avoided**

The Board:

- Acknowledged the issues and limitations. The Board supported the allocation of sites with the capacity to meet the borough’s housing needs.

The Board was concerned that the Housing and Planning Bill might raise serious issues for Walsall and noted the Councils intention to work with other councils and relevant bodies to minimise potential adverse effects and maximise any possible benefits.

9. **Support for proposals to promote the use of public transport, including the promotion of rapid transit on rail formations**

The Board:

- Restated its support for policies and proposals to promote the use of public transport, including the promotion of rapid transit on rail formations.
- Supported the provision of facilities in accessible locations, such as in Walsall town centre and the district and local centres; and that facilities should be of a scale and kind appropriate to the catchment they serve, so that for example, borough-wide facilities (such as the NHS Walk-in Centre) should be located within the centre of Walsall.

10. **What about the “inner circle route”?**

The Board accepted the response from Planning Officers.

11. **Should maintain strong links between Walsall and surrounding areas**

See “9” above.

12. **The Clinical Commissioning Group should be consulted**

The Board noted the response from Planning Officers.

13. **Consultation should include Area Partnerships, which should be brought together with Health Partnerships**

The Board noted the response from Planning Officers.

14. The Board welcomed that a Health Impact Assessment was included in the Sustainability Appraisal work for the Plans.

Public Health officers offered to liaise with Planning officers (and others) to identify a protocol for how HIA might appropriately be undertaken for future planning and development decisions that could have significant health implications)

15. The Board recognised the importance of providing for industrial development to support the borough's economy and provide jobs and considered that such developments should be accessible to the inner areas so as to maximise opportunities for those who might otherwise be most deprived, However, it was also considered to be important to ensure that industry is located and designed so as to minimise the effects of pollution, noise, traffic, etc. on local residents

The Board thanked Mr Smith for his presentation and advice and it was:

Resolved

That the comments of the Health and Wellbeing Board be submitted as the formal response to the consultation on Walsall's Local Plan.

The meeting terminated at 6.15 p.m.

Chair:

Date: