

## Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015

1. Leeds City Council Public Health Directorate should be involved in early discussions relating to all new major housing developments, ideally at the pre-application stage, to ensure that health impacts are considered.

☺ *There have been examples of public health involvement in housing developments in Aire Valley, Skelton and proposed Climate Innovation District in Hunslet. Little London and Holbeck Moor are further illustrations of developments with a strong focus on health and community.*

*A more systematic and targeted approach to public health involvement still has to be developed. When Planning Briefs for new housing developments are prepared, this would be a good opportunity to require potential developers/architects to involve Public Health at an early stage. This would only apply to LCC Regeneration Schemes and could be limited by commercial sensitivities. There is a national proposal that Health Impact Assessment will be included as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process which would be a positive step if implemented.*

2. Developers should follow the principles set out in the *Neighbourhood for Living* document and use this Annual Report of the Director of Public Health as a complementary guide that draws out the public health benefits of good design.

☺ *Neighbourhood for Living is a source of reference for developers as it is an adopted Supplementary Planning Document. It has recently been updated with reference to the Leeds Standard for Housing. While The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health has no weight in making planning decisions it can be used as a point of reference by Planning Officers. It was circulated to officers and publicised to increase awareness and usage of the document. In addition the Annual Report should be used to guide strategic (Forward) planning by influencing high level policy. An example of this is evidenced in the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 Executive Board report on the adoption of "Integrating Diversity and Inclusion into the Built Environment" which references the Annual Report.*

3. The three Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) should actively engage with the planning process in their areas as they take on responsibility for the commissioning of primary health care services.

☺ *Each CCG has identified a lead and prepared a report looking at the potential impact of housing growth on primary care.*

4. Leeds City Council Public Health Directorate should promote the NICE recommendations on physical activity and the environment.

☺ *Physical activity is being considered as a priority under the Early intervention and reducing inequalities breakthrough project. The importance of the influence of the environment was promoted at a large Outcome Based Accountability workshop in July 2016 involving partners from across the city. Public Health are involved in supporting the active travel agenda to promote walking and cycling. The principles in the NICE guidance have informed a number of projects and funding bids including City Connect. The Sport Leeds Board is the strategic body in Leeds for sport and physical activity and now has a transport representative among its membership.*

5. Developers should consider design principles around food and climate change that are not covered specifically in *Neighbourhood for Living*:
  - a. Avoid the local food supply being monopolised by a single provider, enabling choice.
  - b. Wherever possible, safeguard allotments, good agricultural land, gardens or other growing land.
  - c. Wherever possible, build cooking facilities into community facilities and schools.
  - d. Consider measures to prevent overheating of homes including passive ventilation, providing cool and attractive outdoor areas, and the use of plants to create shade.

😊 Many of these issues are covered in 'Building for Tomorrow Today (BFTT) – Sustainable Design and Construction' Supplementary Planning Document which is the Council's guidance document for sustainable development. For example food growing is encouraged in the BFTT doc. There are instances namely 'Greenhouse' and LILAC (p24 of the report) where developers incorporated allotments within developments. In addition the Core Strategy (CS) contains Climate Change policies EN1 and EN2. The City Centre team have been asking for EN1 and EN2 compliance since the CS was adopted. This approach could be expanded to other areas.

*In terms of food outlets there is currently a review of Planning guidance around Hot Food Takeaways the outcome of which will be reported to the Plans Panel.*