

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)

Date: 24 October 2012

Subject: Balancing the Council's duties as a planning authority with its future public health responsibilities

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Introduction

1. As part of the NHS reforms arising from the Health and Social Care Act 2012, from April 2013 Public Health responsibilities will transfer from local Primary Care Trusts (which will be abolished and replaced by Clinical Commissioning Groups) to local authorities. This shift in responsibility will mean that local authorities will become directly accountable for public health services and outcomes from April 2013.
2. In June 2012, the Scrutiny Board identified balancing the duties of a planning authority with public health responsibilities (through the Local Development Framework (LDF)) as a potential area/ topic for consideration during 2012/13. Reference to this was again made at the September 2012 Board meeting, along with the on-going work of the Development Plan Panel in finalising the LDF and the associated Core Strategy to be recommended to the Executive Board in November 2012.
3. As such, it was agreed that the Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care) would consider the inclusion and degree of reference to public health issues facing the City within the LDF.

The Local Development Framework (LDF) and Core Strategy

4. The Council is preparing the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Leeds. The LDF is the name for a number of Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents, which together make up the overall development plan. It should be noted that the LDF forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and therefore must be adopted by Full Council.

5. The Core Strategy is the main document setting out the key strategic policies and vision of the Local Development Framework (LDF). The Core Strategy sets out the broad framework which will guide the delivery of development and investment for Leeds over the coming years. All other LDF documents are directly guided by the Core Strategy.
6. The policies of the Core Strategy must be supported by evidence. The evidence base of the Core Strategy includes information on housing, employment, the environment and many other topics.
7. To date, the Core Strategy has gone through a number of stages and consultation events. Informal consultation for the Core Strategy was held both in 2006 and 2011, and formal consultation events were part of the previous publications in 2007 and 2009. A further round of informal consultation was held in summer 2011. Each stage of publication has involved public consultation, with the most recent publication of the Core Strategy Draft Publication in February – April 2012. It is anticipated that the Core Strategy will be adopted in 2013.
8. For members information, extracts of the Core Strategy (as it relates to Public Health considerations) are appended to this report, alongside the Health Topic paper.

Wider determinants of Health

9. In November 2008, Professor Sir Michael Marmot was asked by the then Secretary of State for Health to chair an independent review to propose the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England. In February 2010, the final report 'Fair Society: Healthy Lives' was published and concluded that reducing health inequalities would require action on the following six policy objectives:
 - Give every child the best start in life;
 - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives;
 - Create fair employment and good work for all;
 - Ensure healthy standard of living for all;
 - Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities;
 - Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.
10. Given the issues associated with the wider determinates of Health and the main purpose of the Board's consideration at the meeting, the Executive Summary of the report 'Fair Society: Healthy Lives' is appended to this report for information.

Public Health – the Council's New Responsibilities

11. In June 2012, the Executive Board considered a report from the Joint Director of Public Health that set out the Council's Public Health responsibilities from April 2013, issues associated with the transfer of such responsibilities, alongside ways of working within the overall national Public Health landscape.
12. To assist the Scrutiny Board's general consideration around this topic (i.e. the Council's future public health responsibilities), a copy of the Executive Board report is attached for information.

Attendance at the meeting

13. To assist the Board's consideration of the information presented, it should be noted that relevant Development and Public Health officers have been invited to attend the meeting.

Recommendations

14. The Scrutiny Board is recommended to consider the information presented and identify:
 - a. What, if any, further actions to take;
 - b. Any relevant matters that require further and/or more detailed scrutiny.

Background documents¹

15. None used.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.