

# Warwickshire Health and Well Being Board

21<sup>st</sup> May 2014

## Report Title: Planning for Healthy Communities

### Recommendations

The Board note the contents of the report and the current work with District and Borough Councils regarding their emerging core strategies.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To update the Board on the current progress of Planning for Healthy Communities and the work being carried out with the District and Boroughs on their local plans.
- 1.2 The report will cover, health policies included in Warwick District Councils Draft Local Plan, Health Impact Assessment being carried out to support Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Councils emerging Local Plan, work on major site allocations in Stratford on Avon Districts Councils emerging Local Plan and an update from NHS England.

#### 2.0 Background

##### Infrastructure Delivery.

- 2.1 The Infrastructure Delivery Team will provides a one stop service with regards to all planning obligations secured via Section 106 Agreements and/or Unilateral Undertakings. Provide a transparent system for securing site specific infrastructure and identify, at an early stage, potential barriers to growth and seeking ways of removing them.
- 2.2 The team also works closely with the District and Borough Councils and Warwickshire's internal stakeholders bringing together the key strands of major infrastructure required to support each of the five Local Plans. We are working to supply evidence based information to demonstrate the sustainability and viability of these plans. Public Health is one of the prime strands of infrastructure required to ensure that the current new and expanded communities, are able to maximise public health opportunities at an early stage.

### **Health and Wellbeing Board 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014.**

- 2.3 Planning for Healthy Communities were discussed extensively at the last Board, with contributions from various District and Borough Councils. The key result of these discussions was an identified need for all key partners to have regular dialogue and that progress would be presented to future Board meetings.

## **3.0 Warwick District Council – Draft Local Plan**

- 3.1 On the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014 Warwick District Council published its Draft Local Plan, which includes their current preferred options for development and the draft policies which will be carried forward into the final published Plan. Warwickshire County Council has / and are currently liaising with the District Council over a number of Infrastructure matters relating to the Draft Plan, including Public Health. This has led to a number of Public Health orientated policies being included.

- 3.2 The Key policy in the Draft Plan, for Public Health, is Policy HS6 Creating Healthy Communities. An excerpt of the Draft Local Plan showing Policy HS6 is included as **Appendix 1**.

- 3.3 Policy HS6 sets out the following key requirements for delivering healthy communities:

- good access to healthcare facilities;
- opportunities for incidental healthy exercise including safe and convenient walking and
- cycling networks;
- opportunities for community cohesion by the provision of accessible services and
- community facilities and places and opportunities for people to interact regardless of;
- high quality housing outcomes to meet the needs of all age groups in society (including
- the right mix by size and tenure);
- Access to high quality and safe green or open spaces, and;
- Access to opportunities to partake in indoor and outdoor sport and recreation.

- 3.4 Paragraph 5.77 of the explanatory notes to the policy, sets out a clear commitment for Warwick District Council to work with Public Health Warwickshire and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The notes go on to say

that WCC are producing health guidance and a Health and Wellbeing Strategy which ties in with the work being carried out by Emily Fernandez.

- 3.5 We are committed to working with Warwick District, to ensure that these policies are carried forward into the final adopted plan. It is also envisaged that these draft policies can be used as an exemplar in our discussions with the remaining Districts and Boroughs.

#### **4.0 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council – Health Impact Assessment**

- 4.1 Warwickshire County Council has commissioned, in consultation with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the strategic site allocations for Nuneaton and Bedworth's emerging Local Plan. It is currently programmed for this assessment to be completed before the end of May 2014.

- 4.2 The HIA is intended to provide constructive comment and to provide opportunities to consider modifications to proposed draft policies contained within the Plan. The HIA will then be submitted as one of the supporting documents to the Plan as it goes to public examination and will strengthen the evidence base and viability of the plan when it is considered.

- 4.3 The HIA report will include the following:

- a summary of key aspects of the Plan;
- an introduction to the wider determinants of health and the HIA approach;
- a brief record of the 'screening exercise' that determined the need for HIA;
- results of the 'scoping exercise' that identified the potentially important health issues that are the focus of the HIA;
- an analysis section that considers the evidence and reaches a judgement on potential conflicts or opportunities presented by the Plan;
- a conclusion and recommendations section that draws together the key findings of the HIA and the next steps;

- 4.4 Work on this project is ongoing and will require us to continue to work closely with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. A meeting is being organised for later in the year for a HIA workshop with the remaining District and Borough Councils in an effort to highlight to them the help and support we can provide.

## **5.0 Stratford on Avon District Council – Major Site Discussions**

- 5.1 Stratford on Avon District Council are currently finalising their preferred site allocations for their Emerging Local Plan. Among the preferred options are a number of strategic housing allocations, which will form significant new communities.
- 5.2 One such allocation is a proposal for three thousand new dwellings at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath.
- 5.3 The Infrastructure Delivery Team has been involved in a series of meetings with the developers of this site and their consultants regarding a number of potential infrastructure requirements. These meetings are to facilitate both the Developers and Stratford to gather supporting information for the allocation which will be used to produce a draft plan.
- 5.4 One element of infrastructure required is Public Health, and early contact with the developers have allowed us to get early input into the master planning of the proposed new community. Emily Fernandez was able to submit the Draft Public Health Evidence for Planning paper to the developers and this will be subject to a number of forthcoming meetings.

## **6.0 NHS England Update**

- 6.1 Premises for Warwickshire which had received PCT Board approval were given a Category 1 status and these are:
- New Premises for 95 Surgery & Beech Tree Medical Practice, Rugby (Cattlemarket) Completed March 2014
  - New Premises for Albert Street Medical Centre, Rugby (Brownsover) Board approval - on hold
  - New Premises for Bidford Health Centre Expected Completion May 2014
- 6.2 In addition to those 3 premises, NHS England have received a number of business cases since 1st April 2013 asking that NHSE consider requests for additional funding for premises. These are schemes which are in the 'pipeline' and until the process and finance have been confirmed for such schemes an answer cannot be given. These are categorised below.
- 6.3 If the Business Cases for these schemes had been received prior to October 2013 they will have been entered onto a Regional return and given a Category 2 status. The two for Warwickshire at Category 2 are:
- Cape Road, Warwickshire and
  - Cubbington, Leamington

- 6.4 Any business cases received since that date will be as Category 3 scheme.
- 6.5 There are also discussions with developers and local authorities where new housing developments are taking place and which will have a significant impact on the health provision infrastructure and these will be in addition to the above e.g:
- Rugby Radio Station site,
  - South Leamington Spa,
  - Nuneaton Northern strategic sites.
- 6.6 Planning and Public Health continue to liaise with NHS England to ensure that health infrastructure requirements are submitted for these new developments.

## 7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 This report identifies the current and ongoing work being carried out in Public Health in terms of Planning. .
- 7.2 The current work being undertaken also includes opportunities to bring in other District and Borough Councils, highlighting the help and support which is available. It is envisaged that work in this area will continue to grow and the Infrastructure Delivery Team will continue to work to encourage greater early engagement wherever possible.

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# Warwickshire Health and Well Being Board

21<sup>st</sup> May 2014

## APPENDIX 1

*Excerpt from Warwick District Council's  
Draft Local Plan*

## HS6 Creating Healthy Communities

Development Proposals will be permitted provided that they address the following key requirements associated with delivering health benefits to the community:

- a) good access to healthcare facilities;
- b) opportunities for incidental healthy exercise including safe and convenient walking and
- c) cycling networks;
- d) opportunities for community cohesion by the provision of accessible services and
- e) community facilities and places and opportunities for people to interact regardless of;
- f) high quality housing outcomes to meet the needs of all age groups in society (including
- g) the right mix by size and tenure);
- h) Access to high quality and safe green or open spaces, and;
- i) Access to opportunities to partake in indoor and outdoor sport and recreation.

### Explanation

- 5.76 It is important that new developments are designed to a high standard to ensure that they have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of both existing and future communities in Warwick District. The design and layout of new housing developments in particular can do much to influence the health of its residents by changing people's behaviour towards embracing a healthy lifestyle.
- 5.77 The Council is committed to working with Public Health Warwickshire and the Warwickshire Health and Well Being Board to ensure developers and their consultants give full consideration to health and wellbeing outcomes in the design and delivery of development proposals. This will be particularly important in relation to the master planning and formulation of planning applications for strategic housing and employment allocations in this Plan.
- 5.78 Public Health Warwickshire is to produce health guidance that will assist in the assessment of planning applications to ensure good development outcomes. The Council is also developing a Health and Wellbeing strategy that will also inform and influence decisions that it makes with regard to developing healthy communities across Warwick District, reflecting its commitment to the goal of setting health issues high on its agenda. The Council will also, through its infrastructure planning, liaise with the relevant agencies including Public Health Warwickshire, NHS England, NHS Property Services, South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the South Warwickshire Foundation Trust to ensure that new development contributes to the delivery of additional healthcare provision and infrastructure as required throughout the plan period.
- 5.79 Good access to healthcare facilities is essential and is particularly relevant in relation to housing developments for the elderly and less physically able people in society. Access to well designed, energy efficient housing stock to cater for all sectors of society will be also be beneficial in reducing health inequalities and there should be an appropriate mix by type (size) and tenure to reduce housing waiting lists and create neighbourhoods that are welcoming, accessible and inviting for all regardless of age, health or disability. 5.80 Opportunities to partake in exercise can be provided in many ways. Good footpath and cycling networks are fundamental in creating environments where people can move safely and benefit from opportunities to access local services and facilities. Similarly, access to high quality public open space and recreational facilities for sport and leisure can help motivate people to partake in healthy activities/lifestyles.

- 5.81 The protection of existing, and future provision of local shops and services and community facilities is also central in delivering sustainable developments that reduce dependency on the use of private motor vehicles. This brings two-fold benefits of increasing the opportunity to walk and cycle as well as ensuring that there are appropriate places for people to meet and interact.
- 5.82 There are a wide range of other policies contained in this this Plan that will assist in the aim of ensuring good development and are integral in the delivery of positive health benefits.
- 5.83 It is important that new developments meet the requirements of these policies and that collectively they deliver good development conducive to encouraging people to partake in healthier lifestyles.
- 5.84 It will be important to monitor the on-going impacts of policy requirements on the delivery of healthier communities. The Director of Public Health's annual report will be a vehicle for providing information about the health of local communities and identifying health gaps and priorities that need to be addressed.