

Hackney Devo Pilot – proposed Public Health powers

- This paper outlines the case for requesting Public Health (PH) devo powers for Hackney. These asks are in line with those of the one Prevention Devo Pilot in London, Haringey.
- It is recommended that local decisions on the detail of the requested Hackney PH devo powers are taken once the outcomes of a more detailed analysis of insight and evidence, along side the deep dive exercise being undertaken by Haringey, are known.

Planning powers

Why is this an issue for Hackney?

- Obesity is a major public health problem in Hackney: contributes to 1 in 10 deaths; almost 40,000 adults and 25% of 10-11 year olds are obese (amongst the highest rates of child obesity in the country)
- Significant costs associated with obesity – annual costs to the NHS in Hackney are £95m; obese adults 3x as likely to need social care
- Obesity is strongly linked to deprivation and so acts to widen inequalities
- We live in an ‘obesogenic’ environment where unhealthy choices are the norm
- Higher concentrations of fast food outlets are associated with higher levels of obesity - there are over 200 fast food outlets in Hackney

What are we already doing?

- ‘Whole systems approach’ to obesity led by Hackney Obesity Strategic Partnership (chaired by LBH Chief Exec) – membership drawn from across council services and NHS to address wider determinants of obesity
- Relevant workstreams include: ‘healthier catering commitment’ award for hot food takeaways; research to develop a model for healthier retail offer in corner shops; Public Health input to relevant planning applications in line with DM Policies

What is the devo ask?

- Power to amend Use Class Order to better distinguish between unhealthy and healthier uses (e.g. Class A5 hot food takeaways)

Health as an alcohol licensing objective

Why is this an issue for Hackney?

- It is estimated that almost 10,000 people in Hackney are dependent drinkers, and these numbers are expected to rise
- Alcohol-related health harms are more prevalent in Hackney than nationally - hospital admissions for alcohol-related problems and alcoholic liver disease are both more common in the local population
- Levels of alcohol-related violent crime and sexual assault are also higher locally than the London and England averages – linked to a vibrant night-economy as well as a relatively young population

What are we already doing?

- Proactive alcohol identification and brief advice in General Practice
- A new drug and alcohol treatment service has been commissioned, responsive to the needs of the local community
- Public Health input to licensing decisions using 'bulls-eye' tool to help identify high areas of crime and where there are numerous licensed premises

What is the devo ask?

- Power to extend the four Licensing objectives under the 2003 Licensing Act to include health – to enable LB Hackney to take wider health related harms into account in licensing decisions
- Possible further powers:
 - restrict sale of alcohol in off-licenses located near schools

Tobacco licensing

Why is this an issue for Hackney?

- Smoking contributes to almost 1 in 5 deaths in Hackney; and is a major cause of health inequalities - accounts for half the difference in mortality between rich and poor areas
- Local smoking prevalence (20.5%) is significantly higher than the national average – over 40,000 adults in Hackney currently smoke
- Smoking is costly to Hackney's public services (annual cost to the NHS=£7.4m; annual social care costs=£2.9m) and to society as a whole (total annual costs=£65.1m)
- Availability of cheap/illegal tobacco makes it harder for smokers to quit and easier for young people to start
- Half of Hackney smokers in a recent survey had been offered cheap tobacco - almost 2/3 of these took up the offer

What are we already doing?

- A comprehensive multi-agency tobacco control action plan has been developed in partnership with a broad spectrum of local stakeholders - responsibility for delivery of the action plan lies with Hackney Public Health, accountable directly to Hackney HWB Board
- Relevant actions in the plan include: various activities implemented through a collaborative arrangement with neighbouring NE/NC London boroughs to improve reporting and reduce the supply of cheap/illegal tobacco across the patch (working with enforcement colleagues)

What is the devo ask?

- Powers to establish a positive tobacco licensing scheme to cover all commercial entities involved in the tobacco supply chain (i.e. retailer and wholesalers) - fines and deprivation of licenses to be administered by the responsible enforcement authorities [NB: this ask is subject to the outcome of the HMRC consultation, *Tobacco Illicit Trade Protocol – licensing of equipment and the supply chain*]
 - Smokefree outdoor spaces in cafes, restaurants and bars

Tackling problem gambling

Why is this an issue for Hackney?

- Around one in 10 people in the UK participate in over-the-counter betting in bookmakers – a small % of these are 'problem' gamblers
- Gambling exacerbates financial vulnerability and worsens mental health problems through addictive behaviour – problem gamblers have the poorest health outcomes and tend to live in more deprived areas
- Fixed Odds Betting Terminal (FOBT) use by young people is a growing problem
- There is a strong link between the availability of venues and the number of regular/problem gamblers in a local area
- There are 56 betting shops in Hackney, with the highest concentrations in Haggerston and Dalston

What are we already doing?

- Local licensing decisions for betting shops are decided on the basis of principles set out in the Council's Gambling Policy, including a requirement to protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling
- Hackney Council has lobbied successive governments calling for councils to have more powers over betting shops, including a proposal to give betting shops their own planning class
- Following a public consultation in 2014, the Government amended the General Permitted Development Order to give bookmakers their own planning use class, giving greater control to licensing authorities to control their proliferation

What is the devo ask?

- Local licensing powers over gambling premises and Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) to:
 - influence the location of betting shops (to prevent over-concentration and reduce saturation)
 - limit the hours of operation
 - restrict the number of FOBTs in each betting shop
 - set limits on maximum stakes accepted by FOBTs