

Overview & Scrutiny Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

Date of Meeting: 15/01/20

Title of Report: Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document

Report Author: Strategic Planning

Authorised by: Natalie Broughton (Interim Head of Planning)

Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission are requested to:

- a) Note the progress on the Child-friendly Supplementary Planning Document (SPD);
- b) Provide comments / suggestions on the scope and approach of the SPD, including;
 1. **The Hackney Context** | What does child-friendly places/ built environment mean in Hackney? What should be the key focus areas of the SPD?
 2. **Case Studies** | What are the good examples of child-friendly places in Hackney? What are the poor examples/ lessons to learn from?
 3. **Engagement** | What are the key groups or organisations in Hackney who should be involved in developing the guidance?
- c) Agree if a further update is required.

**Overview & Scrutiny: Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission
Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document
15.01.20**

1.0 Overview

- 1.1** The Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is one way the Council will be delivering the Mayor's Manifesto commitment to "ensure that Hackney becomes a fully 'Child-Friendly Borough' and maximise the opportunities for safe play and outdoor activities across our streets, estates, parks, adventure playgrounds, new developments and open spaces as children and their families explore and discover the world around them."
- 1.2** A child-friendly borough is one fulfilling children's rights as citizens and ensuring that their specific needs and rights are met in the city. Planning for child-friendly built environments are an evolving set of ideas concerned with shaping the physical features of neighbourhoods and cities so that children and young people have an opportunity to become more active and visible in the daily life of urban public spaces such as streets, parks and squares. Moreover, built environment interventions and initiatives aim to expand children's opportunities to have their views and experiences taken seriously by built environment professionals.

2.0 What will the Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) cover?

- 2.1** This SPD aims to bring together a range of workstreams and council initiatives in order to explore and establish principles for what a child-friendly place means in Hackney and to set out design guidelines for how this can be delivered.
- 2.2** The SPD will provide further design guidance to supplement Hackney's new borough-wide Local Plan policies which relate to achieving child-friendly places, including public realm (PP1) , social and community infrastructure (LP8) , health and wellbeing (LP9), liveable neighbourhoods (LP41) and play space (LP50).

2.3 The SPD will look to explore and establish case studies of best practice and lessons to learn from throughout the document to help define principles of child-friendly places and to illustrate the design guidelines included in the SPD. Examples of Hackney based case studies that could be included in the SPD Play streets, School Streets, Shoreditch Park consultation process, Buccleuch House, Marion Court, Woodbury Downs, Build up Flanders Way, Kings Crescent and Gillett Square.

3.0 How will the Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document be used?

3.1 The purpose of the SPD is to help to deliver on the Mayor's Manifesto commitment to ensure that Hackney becomes a fully 'child-friendly borough' and to promote best practice and the pioneering work of the Council across services.

3.2 Once adopted, the SPD will become a 'material consideration' in planning decisions. A material consideration is a matter that should be taken into account in deciding a planning application and therefore the SPD will help guide developers from early pre-application stages.

3.3 A key aim in preparing the SPD is to improve how the Council engages with and involves children and young people in the planning process to ensure that their specific needs are considered and met within new developments. The lessons learnt through engagement on the SPD will inform an update to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement which outlines the Council's standards for involving and engaging with the community, including children and young people, in the planning process (both in plan-making and planning decisions) and identifies the tools for how it will achieve this.

4.0 Progress to Date

4.1 An officer working group for the project has been established to bring together various teams within the Council including Planning, Regeneration, Street Scene, Parks, Urban Design and Education to feed into the production of the SPD. The working officer group will continue to meet at key stages of the development of the SPD to help develop the scope, objectives, case studies, key principles, design guidelines and later on the delivery of the Child-Friendly SPD.

4.2 Hackney Council also have established links with design professionals and experts in the field which we will continue to look to draw on to help shape the principles, case studies and design guidance included in the SPD. Meetings to date include: Dinah Bornat | ZCD Architects, Luke Billingham | Hackney Quest, Rohney Saggat-Malik | Hackney Young Futures Commission, Susanne Tutsch | Erect Architecture, Liza Fior | Muf and Holly Weir | University of Westminster.

4.3 Ensuring young people are involved in the preparation of the guidance document is critical for the project. Dinah Bornat of ZCD architects was commissioned to lead on formulating the youth engagement strategy for the SPD and delivering a series of workshops. Two workshops were held with Hackney Youth Parliament

this Autumn. The purpose of these workshops was:

- a) To work with the Youth Members to establish key principles of what child-friendly places mean in Hackney through their lived experiences, in order to shape the SPD design guidance; including how we can make Hackney's streets and spaces more child-friendly and welcoming for young people.
- b) The workshops aimed to introduce, test and practice some of ZCD's techniques for analysing space for and with young people. A set of skills that could be used to analyse future development proposals. Further thought and discussion is needed on how this could be taken forward along with necessary support and resources required.
- c) To directly demonstrate to Councillors and Council officers of different ways in which young people can engage and input into policy and development, and the challenges and opportunities these present. Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Bramble attended and contributed to the second youth engagement workshop on 7th November 2019.

4.4 Prior to public consultation on the draft SPD, officers plan to meet again with Youth Parliament to feedback on how their input has helped to shape the draft SPD and to seek their views and comments on the emerging SPD principles and design guidelines.

5.0 Engagement Strategy

5.1 Following Cabinet approval of the draft SPD, consultation will be carried for a minimum of 6 weeks. This timeframe may be extended if it overlaps with defined holiday periods. The feedback received on the draft will help to shape the final SPD.

5.2 Consultation on draft SPD to include:

- 1) Youth Engagement Workshops with:
 - Primary & secondary schools
 - Hackney Youth Parliament
 - Hackney Young Futures Commission
- 2) Hackney Apprentices - potential role for apprentices to refine the engagement strategy and deliver the engagement on the SPD
- 3) Working with Hackney Access for Everyone project
- 4) Use Commonplace (online consultation platform) to gather views on the draft Child Friendly SPD
- 5) Workshop with key stakeholders/ user groups

6.0 Key dates

Milestone	Dates
Scoping, Initial Research and Draft Engagement Strategy	July - September 2019
Initial Youth Engagement with Youth Parliament (Dinah Bornat, ZCD)	October - November 2019
Drafting the SPD and ongoing engagement with key stakeholders/ officer working group	October - December 2019
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Further workshop and consultation with Youth Parliament	January - February 2020
Draft SPD to Cabinet	Spring 2020
Public consultation on draft SPD	Spring 2020
Updates to draft SPD	Summer 2020
Final SPD to be approved by Cabinet for adoption	Autumn 2020

7.0 Recommendations

- 1) For the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission to:
 - c) Note the progress on the Child-friendly Supplementary Planning Document (SPD); and
 - d) Provide comments / suggestions on the scope and approach of the SPD, including;
 4. **The Hackney Context** | What does child-friendly places/ built environment mean in Hackney? What should be the key focus areas of the SPD?
 5. **Case Studies** | What are the good examples of child-friendly places in Hackney? What are the poor examples/ lessons to learn from?
 6. **Engagement** | What are the key groups or organisations in Hackney who should be involved in developing the guidance?
- 2) For officers to provide a further update to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission in 2020 (date to be agreed).