



**CHILD-FRIENDLY PLACES SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT
(SPD)**

Key Decision No. NH Q55 (Level 2)

CABINET (2020/21)	MEETING	DATE
		19 October 2020

CLASSIFICATION:

OPEN

WARD(S) AFFECTED

ALL WARDS

CABINET MEMBER

**Councillor Nicholson
Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy**

KEY DECISION

Yes

REASON

Effects on one or more wards.

GROUP DIRECTOR

Ajman Ali

Acting Group Director of Neighbourhoods & Housing

1. CABINET MEMBER'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) contributes towards delivering the Mayor's Manifesto commitment to "ensure that Hackney becomes a fully 'Child Friendly Borough'. It will achieve this objective by maximising 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 can be defined as a place that fulfills children's rights as citizens and ensures that their specific needs are met in neighbourhoods and development. Planning for child-friendly built environments is an evolving set of ideas concerned with shaping the physical features of neighbourhoods and cities. Ensuring 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 the development industry and those involved in decision-making.
- 1.3 Child-friendly design and planning needs to be considered at a strategic level at the start of any development process, all the way through to post-occupancy analysis stages. This document aims to contribute towards an essential shift in how built environment professionals think about designing cities for children: transitioning away from segregated play spaces towards planning for a holistic, strategic and inclusive neighborhood and city wide approach.
- 1.4 Hackney Council has established links with design professionals and experts in the field which we will continue to look to draw on to help shape the guidance. This document has been developed with input from young people. This dialogue has helped inform the draft SPD that is the subject of this report. Approval is sought to go forward for a wider public conversation and consultation in Autumn 2020.
- 1.5 I commend this report to the Cabinet.

2. GROUP DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report seeks Cabinet's approval of the draft Child Friendly SPD for consultation.
- 2.2 The Child Friendly SPD will sit alongside and complement policies in the borough wide Local Plan 2033. Once adopted, the SPD will form part of the Council's Statutory Development Plan and will be used to determine planning applications borough wide, as well as a blueprint for other Council service areas and external stakeholders.
- 2.3 Approval is sought to consult Hackney's residents, businesses, stakeholders and statutory bodies on the draft Child Friendly SPD.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- 1. Approve the draft Child-Friendly Places SPD (Appendix 1) for public consultation.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Head of Planning to approve administrative alterations, graphical, typographical amendments, to improve cross referencing (e.g para numbering, page numbering) and typographical errors ahead of consultation.**

4. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 4.1 Continuous consultation and engagement with stakeholders and the public is integral to producing local plan documents. Consultation on the draft SPD is required in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and will help inform and influence the final version of the SPD.

5. DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 5.1 There are no alternative options. Consultation on a draft Child Friendly SPD is required to comply with the Regulations.

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Child-Friendly Places SPD contributes towards delivering the Mayor's Manifesto commitment to ensure that Hackney becomes a fully 'child-friendly borough' through establishing child-friendly principles and design guidelines for Hackney's built environment, ensuring the borough accommodates and actively plans for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- 6.2 In this guidance document, a 'child-friendly' urban built environment is defined as one that supports children and young peoples' right to independent mobility. Providing them with opportunities to connect with nature, play and move around independently in safe, healthy and unpolluted urban spaces. Recognising Children and young people are essential to the city, with their own unique needs, desires and aspirations for the built environment.
- 6.3 Child-friendly design and urban planning is an emerging and evolving field, which advocates an alternative approach to planning and designing places. This goes beyond designing designated playground provision, towards shaping the physical features of neighbourhoods, as a whole to become multifunctional and inclusive. This SPD provides design guidance to shape a better environment for existing and future residents, drawing on lessons to learn from pioneering initiatives such as Hackney's School Streets and recent developments in the borough.
- 6.4 The new borough-wide Local Plan (LP33) shapes future growth and regeneration in the Borough of Hackney over a 15 year period from 2018 to 2033. The purpose of the Child-Friendly SPD is to help set the LP33 policies in a child-friendly context. It seeks to ensure that adopted planning policies maximise their benefit for all children and young people who live, learn, work, and play in Hackney.
- 6.5 This Child-Friendly SPD brings together a range of workstreams and Council initiatives in order to establish Principles for what 'child-friendly places' mean in a Hackney context. Over the past year these principles have been developed through workshops with Hackney Youth Parliament. The design guidelines set the framework for how this can be delivered and with the lessons to learn from best practice in Hackney and beyond the Borough. The draft SPD has been prepared with the help of Hackney Design Team to ensure that it is visually strong, supported by graphics and illustrations and is accessible to a range of audiences.

6.1 Policy Context

- 6.1.1 The Child-Friendly SPD will provide further design guidance to supplement Hackney's recently adopted borough-wide Local Plan policies, LP33 policies relating 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).
- 6.1.2 It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and in plan-making. The SPD will also provide guidance for projects outside of the planning process, including parks and streets initiatives, public realm and housing regeneration projects.
- 6.1.3 The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) outlines the Council's standards for involving and engaging with the community, including children and young people, in the planning process and identifies the tools for how it will achieve this. The lessons learnt through engagement in preparing the SPD will inform an update to the SCI. It is anticipated that this could include a new dedicated chapter setting out how children and young people can best be engaged in plan-making and decisions in shaping their built environment in the future.
- 6.1.4 The draft SPD's key elements are summarised below:

Child-Friendly Principles for Hackney's Built Environment

- 6.1.5 Hackney's child-friendly Principles set out a vision for Hackney's built environment that accommodates children and young people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- 6.2.6 The Principles are specific to Hackney and are a direct outcome of a series of engagement workshops, held with members of the Hackney Youth Parliament and delivered by ZCD architects. The Principles were further developed following the recommendations from Hackney's Young Futures Commission's youth-led report (2020).
- 6.2.7 The 8 Child Friendly Principles for Hackney are:
- **Shaping My Borough:** to ensure children and young people in Hackney have the power to influence change in their Borough

- **Doorstep play:** to provide the opportunity for play and social interactions immediately outside the front door
- **Play on the way:** to provide opportunities for informal play, things to do and see around the neighbourhood beyond designated parks and playgrounds.
- **People before Cars:** to ensure that children, young people and their carers can move through Hackney safely by walking, cycling or public transport.
- **Contact with nature:** to build in opportunities for everyday access to and connections with nature
- **Places for all:** to design socially inclusive and culturally sensitive places that are accessible and safe for all children and young people to enjoy together
- **Making spaces children and young people want to be:** to ensure open spaces are designed to be vibrant, active and safe environments where children and young people want to be
- **Health & Well-Being:** to ensure design of outdoor environments contribute towards healthier foodscapes, reduced exposure to pollution and improved physical and mental wellbeing.

Child-Friendly Design Guidelines

6.2.8 The SPD identifies three neighbourhood 'place' scales, the Doorstep, Streets and Destinations, that reflect the three main types of 'places' that a child in Hackney will grow up and experience within their neighbourhood:

1. **The Doorstep:** the shared space that connects an individual's front door to wider public spaces and streets
2. **Streets:** the network of routes that children, young people and their carers use to move between their home and key destinations within a neighbourhood.
3. **Destinations:** the public spaces that children, young people and their carers make frequent journeys to use in Hackney

6.2.9 The draft SPD identifies design guidelines for each scale. These are supported by related LP33 policies. The draft SPD includes case study examples in order to illustrate best practice and demonstrate creative ways of incorporating child friendly guidelines to achieve successful development proposals.

6.2.10 Case studies of best practice and lessons to learn from are provided throughout the draft SPD to help define principles of child-friendly places and to illustrate the design guidelines.

Engagement

6.2.11 The draft SPD provides detailed guidance, resources and examples of best practice for engaging with children and young people in the built environment. This chapter will inform the planned update to the Planning's SCI during 2021.

Delivery & Implementation

6.2.12 The draft SPD sets out tools to support the implementation, delivery of the design guidance. This includes the proposal for a 'Child-Friendly Design Standard' which is a series of questions or checklists to ensure the principles and design guidelines are being considered. It is intended that the 'Child-Friendly Design Standard' be used by developers, designers, young people, community groups and the Council to ensure the design guidance is being met. The draft SPD suggests ways the 'Child-Friendly Design Standard' can be used including:

- At the planning application stage, by introducing a requirement for applicants to submit a 'Child-Friendly Design Statement' when applying for planning permission for a development of 10+ units.
- Incorporated into and referenced in plan-making through development of area-based plans.
- Used through Design Review Panels - including for the suggested establishment of the Young Peoples Design Review Panel.
- As assessment criteria for the 'Young People's Choice Award' at Hackney Design Awards.

Key Dates

6.1.13 The key dates in the production of the Child-Friendly Places SPD are outlined below:

Plan Making Stage	Dates
Draft SPD to Cabinet	October 2020
Consultation on the Draft SPD (including wider engagement on draft principles and guidelines)	Autumn/ Winter 2020/ 2021
Preparation of Final SPD	Early 2021
Final SPD to be approved by Cabinet for Adoption	Spring 2021

6.2 Equality Impact Assessment

6.2.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment which includes an Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken in support of LP33. This was required in order to comply with the public sector equality duty in the Equality Act 2010 by having due regard to:

- eliminating discrimination; harassment and victimisation,
- advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.2.2 The final Child Friendly SPD supplements the LP33 by providing local design guidance and does not itself create new policies. There will not be any detrimental impact to groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 caused by the adoption of this updated SPD on child friendly planning and design of the built environment

6.3 Sustainability

6.3.1 The final Child Friendly SPD supplements the new Local Plan and does not create new policies; these are provided for in LP33. A Strategic

Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has already been undertaken as part of the Integrated Impact Assessment of the new Local Plan to ensure that the plan meets agreed sustainability objectives.

6.4 Consultations

6.4.1 Engagement workshops previously undertaken on the draft Child-Friendly Principles have been used to inform the draft SPD. Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the methods set out in the Consultation Strategy (see appendix 3), which has been developed to comply with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), Hackney's SCI and will be guided by the Child-Friendly Places Officer Working Group and Member Steering Group.

6.5 Risk Assessment

6.5.1 A full risk assessment has been carried out as part of the project plan produced for the SPD. This includes considering the potential risks associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, including possible impacts to the consultation process. The risk assessment process has considered measures to mitigate any possible adverse impacts.

7. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES

7.1 This report seeks Cabinet's approval of the draft Child-Friendly Places SPD for consultation. It is anticipated that the SPD will be adopted in 2021.

7.2 There are no direct financial implications of the Child Friendly SPD. The cost of preparing the SPD spans two financial years from 2019/20 to 2020/21. These relate to staff involvement in meetings, design work, consultations, publications. Expenditure will be met from the existing Planning Service revenue budgets.

8. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL

- 8.1 Article 13.5 of the Constitution which authorises Cabinet to determine key decisions, such as the present matter that are significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Council.
- 8.2 Cabinet is authorised to approve the recommendations in this report pursuant to the Mayor's Scheme of Delegation, which states that the adoption/amendment of policies related to matters including the Local Development Framework are delegated to the Executive (ie Cabinet).
- 8.3 SPDs are described in Regulation 5 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. They are documents prepared by a local authority that are not Local Plan documents. They are local development documents containing statements regarding matters including the development and use of land which the local planning authority wishes to encourage during any specified period and any environmental, social, design and economic objectives relevant to the attainment of the development and use of such land.
- 8.4 The LPA must prepare SPDs in accordance with their statement of community involvement (*section 19(3), Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*). The statement of community involvement is a document which sets out an Local Planning Authority's policy for consulting and engaging with individuals, communities and other stakeholders, both in the preparation and revision of LDDs and in development control decisions (*section 18(2), PCPA 2004*).
- 8.5 Under Regulation 8 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, any policies in a SPD must be consistent with the adopted development plan.
- 8.6 Part 5 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012 sets out the regulations that must be adhered to when preparing an SPD. In summary, the regulations require that Local Planning Authorities;
- Allow any person to make representations about the SPD, make the document available for viewing, and set a date by which this must be received (being not less than 4 weeks).
 - Prepare a statement setting out who was consulted, a summary of the main issues, and how these issues have been addressed.
 - Prepare an adoption statement setting out the date on which the SPD was adopted, and that any person with sufficient interest

may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of that decision, no later than 3 months after the adoption date.

8.7 Once the Child Friendly Places SPD has been adopted as a SPD and forms part of the Council's Local Plan, it will have material weight as a planning consideration when determinations are made with respect to planning applications

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Draft Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix 2	Presentation of Document Graphic Look & Feel

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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