Appendix 1. Growing up in Hackney

Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document

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Part 1: Moving Towards a Child-Friendly Borough

ïWe want to work with the community to ensure that Hackney becomes a fully 'Child Friendly Boroughôand 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 themò

Hackney Labour Manifesto, 2018

What is the purpose of the document?

The new borough-wide Local Plan (LP33) will shape future growth and regeneration in the Borough of Hackney over a 15 year period from 2018 to 2033. The purpose of the Child-Friendly Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to help set the LP33 policies in a child-friendly context to ensure that adopted planning policies maximise their benefit for all children, young people and caregivers who learn, work, play and live in Hackney. On adoption, the Child-Friendly SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, in conjunction with emerging Infrastructure Assessment and Delivery Plan, Area Action Plans and area based SPDs for Dalston, Stamford Hill and Shoreditch.

The SPD is one way the Council will be delivering the Mayor's Manifesto commitment to ensure that Hackney becomes a fully 'child-friendly borough' through established child-friendly principles and design guidelines for Hackney's built environment. Both of these measures aim to describe the aspirational vision for Hackney as a borough that accommodates and actively plans for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

The three key elements of a child-friendly city are suitable family housing, supportive education and social services, and designing safe and welcoming public realms for children and young people. This SPD focuses specifically on the design guidelines necessary to support the needs and desires of children and young people within Hackney's public realm; particularly outdoor spaces that encourage safe, independent movement and social interaction. This detailed focus on the public realm seeks to address one of the main challenges facing children and young people: inadequate and unequal access to city spaces.

Child-friendly design 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 paradigm 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 neighbourhood and city wide approach.

If built environment professionals do not champion giving children and young people a more prominent position on the built environment agenda, we risk more lives being adversely impacted by poor provision, with segregated play spaces in the same development being one such example. This document paves the way for children's rights to be included in the planning decision and plan making process in Hackney, and for those under 18 to be recognised as a distinct group, with distinct needs and aspirations.

Who is the document for?

The user-friendly document is specifically designed for its multiple target audience, all of whom play a key role in making the built environment in Hackney child-friendly:

- **Children and Young People** who live, study, visit and play in Hackney, to raise awareness of their rights in the built environment and upskill their ability to identify the key principles that help create more friendly and accommodating spaces for them;
- **Planners, architects** and **developers**, to screen and scope the health and wellbeing impacts of development proposals against the child friendly design guidelines and principles;
- **Neighbourhood forums, community groups, housing associations and individual residents** to comment on major planning applications to help foster community engagement
- **Public health** and **environmental health professionals**, to comment on and scrutinise plans and development proposals;
- **Council officers**, to help identify and address the impacts of plans and development proposals to inform and support the processes of estate regeneration projects, street

scene, public realm and parks initiatives, area regeneration programmes, plan-making and planning decisions

How to use the document?

The document is formed of 6 sections:

Part 1 introduces a framework for a child-friendly built environment and outlines the document's purpose and vision (pp 1-6)
Part 2 outlines the key policy, research and guidance context that has supported the SPD development (pp 7-12)
Part 3 introduces the key child-friendly principles for Hackney's built environment (pp 13-18)
Part 4 details the technical design guidelines needed to supplement the Local Plan 33 to ensure the built environment is child-friendly. The guidelines are supported by best practice case studies, used to illustrate aspirational design standards and schemes. The Child Friendly Design Standard Questions (see page 61) corresponding to each scale can be found at the end of each design guideline section (pp 19-53)
Part 5 details guidance, resources and examples of best practice for engaging with children and young people in the built environment (pp 54-60)
Part 6 sets out tools to support the implementation, delivery of the design guidelines (pp 61-68)

What will the SPD will inform?

The Child-Friendly SPD will set the LP33 policies in a child-friendly context to ensure that adopted planning policies maximise their benefit for all children, young people and caregivers who learn, work, play and live in Hackney. On adoption, the document will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, planning decisions, parks and streets initiatives and regeneration projects.