

**Overview & Scrutiny  
Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission**

**Date of Meeting:** 07/12/20

**Title of Report:** Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document

**Report Author:** Strategic Planning

**Authorised by:** Natalie Broughton (Head of Planning)

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

- a) To note how the comments of the Commission have been addressed through the preparation of the Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document (SPD);
- b) The Commission are asked to provide comments on the following;
  - i) **The Principles:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the draft Principles? Is there anything that should be added or changed?
  - ii) **The Design guidelines:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the draft design guidelines proposed? Is there anything that should be added or changed?
  - iii) **Shaping my Borough guidelines:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the emerging Shaping my Borough guidelines? Is there anything that should be added or changed? Do you know of a project or organisation which you feel should be included here as a case study/ example of best practice?
  - iv) **Tools for implementation and delivery:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the emerging implementation and delivery tools and do you have any comments or further ideas for these tools?
- c) Note how the comments of the Commission have helped shape the consultation strategy taken in bringing forward the draft SPD.

**Overview & Scrutiny: Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission**  
**Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**  
**07/12/20**

## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Scrutiny Commission on the draft Child-Friendly Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), following presenting to the Commission in January 2020, as part of formal consultation. This report directly responds to the commitments agreed with the Commission under their Recommendation 3. These stated that:

*“The Commission welcomes the development of Child Friendly Special Planning Document (SPD), and would recommend:*

- 1. Further inclusion of the views of wider range of children and young people;*
- 2. Greater clarity on the expected outcomes of the Child Friendly Borough SPD and how this may influence local infrastructure;*
- 3. Further work to establish those criteria through to measure and monitor the success of this planning policy;*
- 4. Further detail on how young people themselves will understand this initiative, and the criteria through which they can assess local provision and success of this SPD (could there be a child friendly version of the SPD);*
- 5. That the final Child Friendly SPD is presented to Scrutiny.”*

1.2 The SPD was approved by the Cabinet for public consultation on 19th October 2020. Consultation on the draft SPD launched on the 27th October 2020 and will run until 12th January 2021.

1.3 The SPD contributes towards delivering the Mayor’s Manifesto commitment to ensure that Hackney becomes a fully ‘child-friendly borough’. It will achieve this through establishing child-friendly principles and design guidelines for Hackney’s built environment. These will ensure the Borough accommodates and actively plans for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

## **2.0 Child-Friendly Places SPD Overview**

2.1 In this guidance document, a ‘child-friendly’ urban built environment is defined as one that supports children and young peoples’ right to outdoor opportunities and independent mobility. It seeks to secure opportunities to connect with nature, play and move around independently in safe, healthy and unpolluted urban spaces. The SPD recognises that meeting the needs of children and young people is an essential aspect of planning for the Borough’s future growth.

2.2 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.

2.3 The new borough-wide Local Plan (LP33) shapes future growth and regeneration during the 15 year period from 2018 to 2033. The purpose of the Child-Friendly guidance document is to help set the LP33 policies in a child-friendly context including for example: public realm (Policy PP1) , social and community infrastructure (Policy LP8) , health and wellbeing (Policy LP9), liveable neighbourhoods (Policy LP41) and play space (Policy LP50). Once adopted, it will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and in plan-making. The SPD also seeks to provide guidance for projects outside of the planning process, including parks and streets initiatives, public realm and housing regeneration projects.

2.4 A cross-service officer working group for the project was established to bring together various teams within the Council including Planning, Regeneration, Street Scene, Family and Children's services, Public Health, Parks, Urban Design and Education to feed into the production of the SPD. The working group has continued to meet at key stages of the development to help develop the scope, objectives, case studies, key principles, design guidelines and later on the delivery of the Child-Friendly SPD. The working group will continue to meet as the document moves to adoption and continues to be evaluated post adoption.

2.5 The guidance document 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 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.

### **3.0 Child-Friendly Principles for Hackney's Built Environment**

3.1 The proposed child-friendly Principles set out a vision for Hackney's built environment that together supports the happiness, health, wellbeing and prosperity of all children and young people in the Borough.

3.2 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).

3.3 The 8 Child Friendly Principles for Hackney are:

- 1. Shaping My Borough:** to ensure children and young people in Hackney have the power to influence change in their Borough
- 2. Doorstep play:** to provide the opportunity for play and social interactions immediately outside the front door

3. **Play on the way:** to provide opportunities for informal play, things to do and see around the neighbourhood beyond designated parks and playgrounds.
4. **People before Cars:** to ensure that children, young people and their carers can move through Hackney safely by walking, cycling or public transport.
5. **Contact with nature:** to build in opportunities for everyday access to and connections with nature
6. **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
7. **Making destinations 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
8. **Health & Well-Being:** to ensure design of outdoor environments contribute towards healthier foodscapes, reduced exposure to pollution and improved physical and mental wellbeing.

#### 4. Child-Friendly Design Guidelines

4.1 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. **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

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

#### 5.0 Shaping my Borough Guidelines

5.1 The draft SPD provides detailed guidance, resources and examples of best practice for engaging with children and young people when it comes to changes happening in their built environment. This part of the SPD will inform the planned update to the Planning's Statement of Community Involvement during 2021.

#### 6.0 Delivery & Implementation Tools

6.1 The draft SPD sets out tools to support the implementation, delivery of the design guidance. The primary objective of the SPD is to guide the delivery of new growth, and associated supporting infrastructure, that is sustainable and inclusive. This specifically relates to how it supports the independent mobility, play experience and opportunities provided for children and young people in the Borough. These outcomes will be measured through the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) process, which provides an assessment of quantitative and qualitative indicators. The AMR will not only monitoring performance but also identify where intervention is needed - whether they be related to policy or infrastructure investment

6.2 One of the tools included within the draft SPD is a 'Child-Friendly Design Standard'. This 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.

## 7.0 Consultation and Next Steps

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

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

7.2 Planned consultation for the draft Child-Friendly Places SPD, between 27 October 2020 and 12 January 2021, will ensure a range of children, stakeholders and members of the community of all ages, abilities will be consulted in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

7.3 We are working closely with our communications and engagement team to try to mitigate the impacts that Covid-19, local and national lockdowns have had on the consultation and engagement strategy. We have raised awareness about the consultation by::

- Launching dedicated webpage on hackney website
- Launching the consultation on commonplace, online consultation/ feedback platform
- Using social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat
- A dedicated article in the November Edition of Hackney Life
- Banners on railings in London Fields, Springfield, Haggerston, Clissold parks with QR codes
- Cabinet Members have written directly to all schools and early years centers in the borough to raise awareness about the project and ask for schools to indicate if they would be willing to host workshops.

7.4 We have delivered and are planning a series of workshops with different stakeholders groups including:

- Primary Schools - workshop activity packs are currently being prepared for the primary schools which have expressed interest in hosting a workshop. The team will support schools on the project and provide opportunities for students to present their work and ideas.
- Hackney Youth Parliament - for feedback on the Principles and design guidelines that Youth Parliament directly contributed to.
- Hackney Matters Citizen's Panel - on the Principles of the SPD through a virtual workshop
- Built environment professionals - a virtual workshop on the Design Guidelines
- Protected characteristic groups including Xenia, Project Indigo, Age Concern and Connect Hackney, youth clubs and parent groups to create virtual workshops. It is important to reach these groups so that the design guidance ensures a built environment that works for everybody.

7.5 The key questions we are seeking feedback on from public consultation are:

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the draft Principles? Is there anything that should be added or changed? If yes, please tell us what.
2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the draft design guidelines proposed? Is there anything that should be added or changed? If yes, please tell us what.
3. Do the three scales (Doorstep, Streets and Destinations) capture the three main types of 'places' that a young person in Hackney will grow up and move through the Borough? If not, please tell us why?
4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the emerging Shaping my Borough guidelines? Please tell us why? Is there anything that should be added or changed? If yes, please tell us what.
5. Do you know of a project or organisation which you feel should be included here as a case study/ example of best practice?

## 8.0 Recommendations for the Scrutiny Commission

- a) To note how the comments of the Commission have been addressed through the preparation of the Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document (SPD);
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### Attachments

- [Draft Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document](#)
- [Summary Document](#)
- [Dedicated Consultation Webpage](#)