

## AGENDA ITEM 10

### **Growing Up in Hackney: Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document**

#### **Report to Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board**

#### **Strategic Planning | October 2020**

<b>Date:</b>	26th October 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Growing Up in Hackney: Draft Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
<b>Report From:</b>	Strategic Planning
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>The draft 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 background.</p> <p>The purpose of the draft SPD is to help set the Local Plan 2033 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.</p> <p>On adoption it will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and in plan-making. The draft SPD also provides guidance for projects outside of the planning process, including parks and streets initiatives, public realm and housing regeneration projects.</p> <p>This item has been included in the agenda as part of the Board’s Health in all Policies approach to local strategy review. The Child Friendly SDP and key lines of enquiry are included for pre-reading, to be considered by Board members in relation to the presented strategy.</p> <p><u>Key lines of enquiry</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What are the core objectives of the policy/strategy?</li><li>2. How do these align with HWB objectives - what are the actual/potential health impacts (positive/negative)?</li><li>3. What are the intentional and unintentional health impacts of the strategy?</li><li>4. How do these impacts differ for different people/communities - how does the policy</li></ol>

	<p>contribute (positively/negatively) to health inequalities?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. What mitigating actions should/could be taken to prevent negative health impacts of the policy/strategy, while achieving its stated objectives? Who is responsible for these actions?</li> <li>6. What could/should be done to maximise the positive health impacts of the policy/strategy? Who is responsible for these actions?</li> <li>7. What is the role of partners on this board in preventing negative health impacts/maximising positive health impacts?</li> <li>8. What collective action can we take as a board to ensure the policy/strategy is successful in reducing health inequalities in Hackney?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p>	<p>The Board is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review and provide comments on the draft Child-Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document.</li> <li>2. Provide further recommendations into how design guidelines could be developed to deliver health and well being benefits.</li> </ol>
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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the draft Child-Friendly Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) with a specific focus on the anticipated health outcomes related to the design guidance document.
- 1.2. The SPD was approved by Cabinet for public consultation on 19th October 2020. 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' 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.

## **2. Child-Friendly Places SPD Overview**

- 2.1. 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 Places 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.
- 2.2. 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 officer group has continued 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. The working group will continue to meet as the document moves to adoption and continues to be evaluated post adoption.
- 2.3. The Child-Friendly Places SPD seeks to 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) (see section 4). 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. Positively improving the health and wellbeing of all children and young people in Hackney is at the core of this guidance document. This document sets out a vision for Hackney's built environment supporting the happiness, health, wellbeing, prosperity and equity of all children and young people in the Borough. Setting out measures to reduce health inequalities for all young people in Hackney through built environment interventions is therefore central to the draft Principles and design guidelines.

### 3. 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 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
  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 draft SPD identifies three neighbourhood 'place' scales, the Doorstep, Streets and Destinations. These 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
- 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.
- 4.4. At this stage of the documents lifecycle, it is only possible to comment on the anticipated health impacts policies will bring. The draft design guidelines in the document aim to provide guidance to deliver a healthier built environment in some of the following ways:

***Supporting children to have places to play and be active directly outside their front door irrespective of the home they live in.*** For example design guidelines cover:

- All residential buildings should have playable space directly outside main entrances and should be prioritised for pedestrian (p 34)
- Spaces immediately outside front doors should enable independent entry and accessibility for any individual who may require additional assistance features to reach this space; (p 34)
- The use of the pavement for doorstep play provision should be encouraged, especially in areas where residential developments have no front garden and in urban neighbourhoods with wide pavements of 3 metres or more; (p 38)

***Supporting children and young peoples safe and independent mobility.*** For example design guidelines cover:

- Spaces immediately outside front doors should ideally be in sight of residential windows to allow family members to easily observe their children (p 34)
- Wayfinding signage and clear connections between residential development and local parks or public open spaces (p 40)
- Road space is reallocated to pedestrians and cyclists where possible, with new residential streets promote traffic calming and through-traffic reduction measures (p 62)
- Design of streets to include elements such as bollards and tactile paving to provide clarity of routes for people with disabilities (p 66)
- Footpaths should be wide, well lit, overlooked by building frontages and if possible separated from the road by planting (p 66)

***Supporting greater equity and ownership in public spaces.*** For example design guidelines cover:

- Spaces immediately outside front doors should provide amenities for the differing needs of children of various ages, genders and (dis)abilities; (p 34)
- Shared outdoor spaces across the same residential development should be accessible to children across all tenures; (p 42)
- The acoustics of play spaces are adequately considered at the early stages of design and should incorporate positively worded signage, rather than the usual 'No Ball Games' and/or wayfinding to nearby play spaces. (p 42)
- Parks and open spaces should include and encourage integrated provision of play equipment for a wide range of ages, physical and sensory abilities i.e. loose parts play for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and autism (p 98).

***Supporting reduced proximity to pollution.*** For example design guidelines cover:

- The design of streets should: Ensure new development located within 150m of heavily polluted roads (more than 40  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) demonstrate which measures have been taken to protect residents from the harmful health impacts of pollution and seek to reduce this pollution at source through an approved travel plan. (p 62)

- The design of streets should: Ensure new development compliments Council policies related to reducing harmful pollution levels by restricting traffic volumes, polluting vehicles and overall reliance on private vehicles. (p 64)
- New children's amenities should not be located on major roads or areas with poor air quality (more than 40 µg m<sup>-3</sup>), as defined by the most recent air pollution data available (p 96).
- School sites should: Ideally be located away from busy or highly polluted roads (more than 40 µg m<sup>-3</sup>). If this is not possible, appropriate mitigating measures should be incorporated at the start of the design process (p 100)

Supporting greater access to and contact with nature in everyday settings. For example design guidelines cover:

- Playable space to provide opportunity for contact with natural elements – such as trees and other types of planting, areas of open grass, boulders, timber, logs, gravel, sand and water – appropriate to the setting and maintenance resources available; (p 40)
- Any proposed development should contribute towards making streets and neighbourhoods more liveable and green by: Signposting clear and engaging links to nearby green and open spaces creatively at a range of heights (p 74) and ensuring contextually appropriate species and placement are considered in the selection of new street trees. (p 62)

***Supporting access to Healthy Foodscapes.*** Building on existing Local Plan policy 39 Over-Concentration of Uses (Hot-Food Takeaways). For example design guidelines cover:

- Playable space in a residential development should consider providing communal food growing opportunities for Hackney residents who do not have their own private garden or access to an allotment. (p 40)
- Any proposed development should contribute towards making streets and neighbourhoods more liveable and green by: Including edible and educational plants and crops, or semi-wild play areas (p 74)

***Supporting children and young people to have more intergenerational experiences in their neighbourhood.*** For example design guidelines cover:

- Parks and open spaces should provide multi-use and multi-functional furniture – seating options should offer flexible arrangements and opportunities for social interaction for both groups and individuals of all ages and abilities (p 98)
- Promote public toilets near parks and open spaces, and ensure that they will be pleasant to use, step free access and well-maintained over the long term (p 98)
- School sites should have outdoor open spaces and playgrounds which can be open after hours as a facility that the surrounding community can benefit from (p 100)
- MUGAs should be flexible and versatile in order to accommodate different uses to support children and young people of a variety of ages, genders and abilities to use this space for different activities, including intergenerational play (p 102).
- MUGAs should incorporate versatile seating and adjustable equipment to encourage simultaneous use by different groups (p. 102).

## **5. Shaping my Borough Guidelines**

- 5.1. This section of the document outlines guidelines of best practice for engagement with children and young people in the Borough.
- 5.2. The engagement guidelines, case studies, and resources in this section demonstrate how we can meaningfully engage, consult, and actively involve children and young people in shaping their built environment at every stage. Some examples of best practice case studies include [Build Up Flanders Way](#) and [Hackney Young Futures Commission](#) can be found below.

## **6. Tools for Delivery and Implementation**

- 6.1. This section of the draft SPD outlines the tools needed to inform and assess how development proposals ensure that children and young people's rights and specific needs are met in Hackney's built environment.
- 6.2. As the Principles and Design Guidelines have been developed, we have also considered the tools needed to deliver and effectively measure whether the guidance is delivering a child-friendly borough in Hackney.
- 6.3. The tools set out in this chapter help embed the Principles and Design Guidelines in the proposed scheme. We believe if these guidelines are used this will deliver high-quality, liveable, and accessible schemes for all residents in Hackney.
- 6.4. The Tools for Implementation and Delivery include the Child-Friendly Design Standard. The Design Standard supports a collaborative and inclusive approach and encourages different stakeholders to work together to address the impacts of plans and development proposals on children and young people's health and wellbeing. This tool is important to ensure both positive benefits to health, inclusion and wellbeing are promoted and to raise awareness of the potential unintended consequences of poor design and planning on the health of children and young people in Hackney. Identified consequences can then be removed or reduced via mitigation strategies and interventions.
- 6.5. 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 Impact Assessment 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. 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
Draft SPD to Cabinet	October 2020
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. Consultation for the draft SPD will ensure a range of children, stakeholders and members of the community of all ages, abilities will be consulted in order to mitigate any negative health impacts of the draft Principles and design guidelines. This is important as it will be important to ensure that for example Principles such as 'Play on the way' for example do not make the built environment harder to navigate for people with a disability or the elderly.

7.3. We will work to enable covid abiding workshops to test the key concepts and ideas in the design document with a wide range of groups including: young people, Disabilities groups, Elderly Groups, Parent groups and built environment professionals.

### Attachments

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