

CHILD FRIENDLY PLACES SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)	
Key Decision No. NH R63	
CABINET MEETING DATE (2021/22) 28 June 2021	CLASSIFICATION: OPEN
WARD(S) AFFECTED ALL WARDS	
CABINET MEMBERS	
<p>Councillor Woodley Cabinet member for Families, Early Years, Parks and Play</p> <p>Councillor Bramble Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children’s Social Care</p> <p>Councillor Nicholson Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Supply, Planning, Culture and Inclusive Economy</p>	
KEY DECISION Yes	
REASON The Child Friendly Places SPD is a Borough wide planning document that will affect all wards.	
GROUP DIRECTOR Ajman Ali, Group Director of Neighbourhoods & Housing	

1. CABINET MEMBER INTRODUCTION

1.1 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.

1.2 A child-friendly borough can be defined as a place that fulfills children's rights as citizens and ensures that their rights, needs and aspirations are met in the built environment. This approach goes beyond designing designated playground provision, towards shaping the physical features of neighbourhoods, towns and cities, as a whole to become multifunctional and inclusive.

1.3 Children and young people need 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 industry 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 to planning and design.

1.4 Following Cabinet approval in October 2020, consultation on the draft Child-Friendly Places SPD ran from 27th October 2020 to 12th February 2021. Feedback from consultation has enabled preparation of the final version of the Growing Up In Hackney: Child-Friendly Places SPD.

1.5 I commend this report to the Cabinet.

2. GROUP DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report seeks the adoption of Hackney's Child Friendly Places SPD.

2.2 The Child Friendly Places SPD will sit alongside and complement policies in the borough wide Local Plan 2033 (LP33). Once adopted, the SPD will form part of the Council's Statutory Development Plan and be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and planning decisions. As well as providing guidance to inform new development this guidance will also be used to positively shape existing places through projects for parks, public realm improvements and streetscene initiatives, housing and regeneration.

3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- Adopt Hackney's Child Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document ([Appendix 1](#)).

4 REASONS FOR DECISION

4.1 To adopt the Child Friendly Places SPD to help set the LP33 policies within a child-friendly context to ensure Hackney becomes a fully 'child friendly borough' that accommodates and actively plans for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

5. DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5.1 There are no alternative options.

6 OVERVIEW OF THE CHILD FRIENDLY PLACES SPD

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 The 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 SPD is to help set the LP33 policies in a child-friendly context including:

- *LP1 Design Quality and Local Character,*
- *LP2 Development and Amenity,*
- *LP8 Social and Community Infrastructure,*
- *LP9 Health & Wellbeing,*
- *LP10 Arts, Culture and Entertainment Facilities*
- *LP19 Residential Conversions*
- *LP39 Over-Concentration of Uses (Hot-Food Takeaways)*
- *LP41 Liveable Neighbourhoods*
- *LP42 Walking and Cycling*
- *LP43 Transport and Development*
- *LP44 Public Transport and Infrastructure*
- *LP45 Parking and Car Free Development*
- *LP47 Biodiversity and Sites of Importance of Nature Conservation*
- *LP48 New Open Space*
- *LP50 Play Space*
- *LP58 Improving the Environment - Pollution*

6.3 On adoption, the SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, together with the emerging Area Action Plans and Area based Supplementary Planning Documents. As well as providing guidance to inform new development this guidance will look to positively shape existing places through improvement works for parks, public realm and street initiatives, housing and regeneration projects.

6.4 The SPD is formed of six chapters and outlines key child-friendly principles, provides design guidance and case studies of best practice to shape a better environment for existing and future residents. The SPD was informed on findings from the Hackney Young Futures Commission Report (2020) and engagement work with Hackney Youth Parliament.

6.5 Part 3 of the SPD outlines the eight Child Friendly *Principles* for Hackney:

1. **Shaping my Borough:** to ensure children and young people have the power to influence change in Hackney
2. **Doorstep play:** to provide easily accessible and overlooked space for play and social interactions immediately outside the front door
3. **Play on the way:** to provide multi-generational opportunities for informal play, things to see and do around the neighbourhood beyond designated parks and playgrounds.
4. **Streets for people:** to ensure that children, young people and their families can safely and easily move through Hackney by sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling or public transport.
5. **Contact with nature:** to design places which increase everyday opportunities to access and connect with nature
6. **Destinations for all:** to design socially inclusive and accessible public spaces that are welcoming, enjoyable and safe for everyone
7. **Making spaces young people want to be in:** to ensure that public spaces are designed, planned and managed to consider the varied needs of teenagers and young people.
8. **Health and wellbeing:** to ensure the design of outdoor environments supports improved physical health and mental wellbeing

6.6 Part 4 of the SPD identifies *design guidelines* to support key LP33 policies in informing and assessing how the Council plans, designs and maintains new developments. The SPD includes case study examples in order to illustrate best practice.

6.7 The child-friendly design guidelines in this document are structured by dividing the neighbourhood into the scales a child in Hackney will typically grow up and experience in their built environment within their neighbourhood:

- 1) **The Doorstep:** the shared spaces that connect an individual's front door to surrounding streets and public spaces
- 2) **Streets:** the network of routes that children, young people and their families use to move between their home and destinations within their neighbourhood
- 3) **Destinations:** the public places that children, young people and their families make frequent journeys to in Hackney

6.8 Part 5 of the SPD outlines examples of best practice for engagement with children and young people in the Borough in relation to shaping changes in their neighbourhood. The examples in this section demonstrate how we can meaningfully engage, consult and actively include children and young people's voices on issues regarding shaping the built environment.

6.9 Part 6 of the SPD outlines the tools needed to inform and assess how development proposals ensure that children and young people's rights and specific needs are delivered and implemented in Hackney's built environment. The tools consider how we can effectively measure whether the SPD is delivering a child-friendly borough in Hackney.

6.10 The child-friendly design checklist (page 67) is one of the tools established to deliver the principles and guidelines set out in the SPD. The checklist comprises a list of questions to help individuals critically reflect on their experiences when moving through the built environment through the lens of children and young people. The checklist is divided into categories that correlate with the documents' design guidelines following the three main types of places in the built environment that a child in Hackney will grow up and experience within the scale of their neighbourhood. The questions are designed to be used at all stages of the development process, guiding design related discussions between the local community members, local planning authority and other stakeholders.

6.11 The child-friendly impact assessment (page 73) provides a step-by-step process for applicants to systematically consider the effects their proposed application will have on children and young people and incorporate the results into their updated proposal. The child friendly impact assessment should be submitted with a planning application for proposals that generate a child yield

of 10 or more, as outlined in policy LP50, as well as masterplans that include public realm enhancements.

6.12 The Child-Friendly Borough Delivery Projects (page 76-78) outline the examples of planning service and council wide project delivery where the child friendly places SPD has the opportunity to provide guidance. As part of the delivery and implementation of the SPD, there is an opportunity to ensure this guidance is adopted corporately, beyond the Planning service, to establish best practice with Council-led development processes.

6.13 The **Child-Friendly Borough Delivery Projects** tables on page 76-78 of the SPD outline the examples of planning service and council wide project delivery where the child friendly places SPD has the opportunity to provide guidance.

7 ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION TO DATE

7.1 Engagement and consultation has been a fundamental part of developing the Child-Friendly Places SPD. In 2019 the project team commissioned Dinah Bornat of ZCD architects to assist in developing the youth engagement strategy for the SPD and delivering a series of workshops with Hackney Youth Parliament. Three workshops were held with Hackney Youth Parliament as part of the preparation and development of the key child-friendly principles and design guidance in the SPD.

7.2 In developing the Child-Friendly Places SPD we have sought to engage and draw on the skills and expertise from a broad range of services within Hackney Council and external design expertise. As well as ensuring that feedback received through Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission, Health and Wellbeing Board, Planning User Forum and development of the Aging Well Strategy has informed the final SPD.

7.3 Following Cabinet approval in October 2020, consultation on the draft Child-Friendly Places SPD ran from 27th October 2020 to 12th February 2021. This consultation period was extended beyond the statutory 6 weeks to allow for an extended consultation period in order to provide an additional time due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated lockdown. This included:

- *A dedicated webpage:* The website page is regularly updated with project information including development of work and ways people can have their say.

- *Commonplace engagement platform*: A total of 2,253 individuals visited the dedicated Commonplace platform, **Growing up in Hackney**.
- *Banners in Parks*: Banners with information on how to consult on the document, including a QR code have been placed on railings in Springfield Park, Haggerston Park, London Fields and Clissold Park.
- *Printed material - Hackney Today & Hackney Life*: Features in both Hackney Today and Hackney Life (two editions) distributed to 180,000 properties across the borough.
- *Social media outreach*: Targeted social advertisements on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat to share and amplify the message of the document's consultation to a younger audience.
- *Hackney Design awards*: This year the Hackney Design Awards included a new category - the Young Peoples Choice Award. The shortlisting panel used the draft Child-Friendly Principles to shortlist entries for this category.

7.4 Given the coronavirus restrictions, virtual workshops were held, focussing on gathering feedback from specific groups:

- Xenia Group - Migrant women's group
- Hackney Matters Citizen Panel (55+ years)
- Project Indigo - LGBTQI youth group (13-20 years)
- HYFC Young People group (16-23 years)
- Intergenerational group (16-55+ years)
- Age concern/Connect Hackney (55+ years)

7.5 The consultation and engagement strategy initially developed for the Child Friendly Places SPD had to be considerably altered and adapted to reflect the fast moving nature of the coronavirus, Government advice and the second national Lockdown. Understandably schools, children's centres and residents have experienced more urgent priorities in relation to disruption and school closures caused by Covid-19. This has meant that engaging with groups of younger people and their caregivers has been limited and communication with schools has similarly been more difficult than normal.

7.6 The feedback received and updates made following public consultation included:

- There has been wide recognition of the urgent need for the pioneering nature of the work.
- Similar priorities across age groups were identified to be as important to older generations as they are to younger ones:
 - safe streets
 - adequate seating
 - accessible and well maintained public toilets
 - access to green spaces/ nature

- good lighting
- places to sit, dwell or keep active
- Principle update from 'People before cars' to 'Streets for people'. Following responses fearful of anti-car sentiment, the update better represents the SPD's vision that child-friendly planning is not about removing all vehicles from the Borough but to rather realise the streets as part of our public realm that can better prioritise the active and sustainable pedestrian street user experience.
- Updates to 'Play on the way' and 'Destinations for all' to make greater reference to multi-generational and varied (dis)ability focus
- Greater focus on teenage years made in Principles and design guidelines in response to the constructive criticism that the Principles in general seemed overwhelmingly "childish" and focused on early years children with not enough consideration of teenage/ young people age groups who are frequently left out of built environment conversation and considerations
- The Doorstep scale, new guidance 'Development Play Provision' (page 21 of draft SPD) following feedback to make greater reference and expand on London Plan policy S4 and Local Plan LP50 criteria for play provision in development proposals likely to generate a child yield of 10 or more
- At all scales, references to corporate strategies including the Council's Arts & Cultural Strategy, the Council's Ageing Well Strategy and Hackney's Air Quality Action Plan

7.7 The lessons learnt through consultation on the SPD and the engagement guidance outlined in part 5 of the document will inform an update to Planning's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) with a dedicated chapter setting out how children and young people can be engaged in planning decisions.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment, which includes an Equalities Impact Assessment, was undertaken in support of the 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.

8.2 The draft Child Friendly Places 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 SPD, rather it works towards building a more inclusive economy and environment.

9 SUSTAINABILITY

9.1 The draft Child Friendly Places SPD supplements the Local Plan and does not create new policies. 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 new draft Plan SPD meets agreed sustainability objectives.

10 RISK ASSESSMENT

10.1 A risk assessment has been carried out as part of the project plan and engagement strategy produced for the SPD. This includes considering the potential risks associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic, such as possible impacts to community engagement. The risk assessment process has considered the level of risk and measures to mitigate any possible adverse impacts.

11 COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES

11.1 There is no direct financial implication from the reports recommendations. The cost of the consultation is included in the service budgets.

12 COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE SERVICES

12.1 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.

12.2 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).

12.3 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.

12.4 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 a 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*).

12.5 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.

12.6 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.

12.7 Once the Child Friendly Places SPD has been adopted as a SPD and forms supplementary guidance to 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	Child Friendly Places Supplementary Planning Document
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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