

HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 OCTOBER 2021

**CHILDHOOD OBESITY PLANNING OPTIONS IN RELATION
TO HOT FOOD TAKEAWAYS**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Scrutiny Committee on the available planning powers that could be used to support the Councils objectives of achieving the targets set in the Childhood Healthy Weight Plan for Darlington.

Summary

2. Planning can influence the built environment to improve health and reduce obesity and excess weight in local communities. Local planning authorities can have a role in enabling a healthier environment by supporting opportunities for communities to access a wide range of healthier food production and consumption choices.
3. Local planning authorities can consider bringing forward, where supported by an evidence base, local planning policies and supplementary planning documents, which limit the proliferation of certain use classes in identified areas, where planning permission is required. In doing so, evidence and guidance produced by local public health colleagues and Health and Wellbeing Boards may be relevant.
4. Policies may also request the provision of allotments or allotment gardens, to ensure the provision of adequate spaces for food growing opportunities.

Local planning authorities and planning applicants could have particular regard to the following issues:

- proximity to locations where children and young people congregate such as schools, community centres and playgrounds
 - evidence indicating high levels of obesity, deprivation and general poor health in specific locations
 - over-concentration and clustering of certain use classes within a specified area
 - odours and noise impact
 - traffic impact
 - refuse and litter
5. In order to establish and adopt an appropriate spatial planning approach to address the impacts of childhood obesity any policy changes need to be informed through evidence and intelligence of impact of hot food takeaways on childhood obesity the local area. A clear evidence base and justified policy wording should result in the policies being found to be 'sound' by the Planning Inspectorate and subsequently become the adopted policy. It is

important that any adopted policy provides strong grounds that enable the policy to be used as grounds for refusal in planning application decision making and that the decision is capable of being upheld at any subsequent appeal proceedings.

6. **Appendix 1** provides Members with a presentation outlining the some of factors that contribute towards obesity, the evidence base for tackling childhood obesity and specific planning policies and guidance which can contributed towards reducing obesity in a population.
7. **Appendix 2** provides members with an example of another authorities experiences of using planning powers as part of their approach to tackling childhood obesity.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that:-
 - (i) Members review the data and information provided by Darlington Health and Wellbeing Board around the explores the merits or otherwise of adopting the available planning powers through the development of an evidence base and the analysis of good practice elsewhere in the country which will assist in addressing childhood obesity.

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Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

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S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This will impact positive on all children and family's health and well-being.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	This will impact on climate change priorities associated with development, green spaces and active travel.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	There are no specific Wards which are affected by this report.
Groups Affected	All

Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	Not a key decision
Urgent Decision	Not an urgent decision
Council Plan	To enable children and families to be more healthy and independent, to enable children with the best start in life and to provide a safe and caring community
Efficiency	The outcome of this report does not impact on the Council efficiency agenda
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no direct impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers