

CHESHIRE EAST HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
Reports Cover Sheet

Title of Report:	Cheshire East's New Local Plan
Report Reference Number	HWB 54
Date of meeting:	2 July 2024
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Executive Summary

Is this report for:	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Why is the report being brought to the board?	To highlight that the Council has decided to prepare a new Local Plan and has published an Issues Paper seeking initial feedback on its scope.		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategic Outcomes this report relates to?	<p>1. Cheshire East is a place that supports good health and wellbeing for everyone <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2. Our children and young people experience good physical and emotional health and wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3. The mental health and wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire East is improved <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4. That more people live and age well, remaining independent; and that their lives end with peace and dignity in their chosen place <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>All of the above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Principles this report relates to?	<p>Equality and Fairness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Accessibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Integration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sustainability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Safeguarding <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>All of the above <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
Key Actions for the Health & Wellbeing Board to address. Please state recommendations for action.	To note that the Council has commenced work on a new Local Plan.		

<p>Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council/meeting of the CCG board/stakeholders?</p>	<p>Reports regarding the new Local Plan have been considered by the Council’s Environment and Communities Committee.</p>
<p>Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?</p>	<p>The new Local Plan will be the subject of several rounds of public consultation and a public examination prior to its adoption.</p>
<p>If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit? Detail benefits and reasons why they will benefit.</p>	<p>Local plan policies can support the health and well-being of residents in various ways. These include supporting active travel, the provision of open space and sports facilities, facilitating development that meets a range of housing needs and the creation of well-designed, mixed-use neighbourhoods.</p>

1 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note that the Council has commenced work on a new Local Plan through the publication of an Issues Paper inviting initial feedback on its scope.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 To raise awareness that the Council is at the start of preparing a new Local Plan.

3 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategic Outcomes

- 3.1 Local plan policies can support the health and well-being of residents in various ways, including through supporting active lifestyles, meeting housing needs, enabling jobs growth and investment, promoting mixed-use development and protecting and providing green infrastructure.

4 Background

- 4.1 Local plans provide a foundation for longer term decision making on how a place should change over the next 15 years or so. Plans, and the policies within them, form the basis on which planning applications for new development will be decided. This is why our planning system is often said to be ‘plan-led’.
- 4.2 The current Cheshire East Local Plan was adopted in two parts, the Local Plan Strategy (“LPS”) in 2017 containing strategic policies and land allocations, and the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (“SADPD”) in 2022 containing non-strategic policies and smaller land allocations. The current Local Plan establishes the borough’s development housing needs to 2030 and sets out how they will be met. It also includes a range of policies that address other social, environmental and economic priorities.
- 4.3 Local plans need to be kept up to date so policies remain relevant and effective in meeting the needs of the local community. The Council is at the very start of preparing a new Local

Plan for the borough which will set out a new long-term development framework for the borough into the 2040s. When adopted it will replace the LPS and SADPD.

- 4.4 The role that planning can play in supporting healthy and active lifestyles is addressed in the vision and strategic priorities of the current Local Plan. This is implemented through a wide range of policies including those that provide for new market, affordable and specialist housing, seek good design which can positively influence physical activity levels, travel patterns and social connectivity, and protect open space and sports facilities. The Plan was informed by the JSNA and related reports and strategies. An example is Policy RET 5 of the SADPD which establishes a 'hot food take-away restriction zone' in Crewe. It restricts the opening hours of new hot foot takeaway facilities near to secondary schools and sixth form colleges in the 'Crewe 6' group of wards, responding directly to a recommendation in the Cheshire East Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Excess Weight Report (June 2019).
- 4.5 Progress with the new Local Plan has been delayed because of proposed national reforms to the planning system, including to the way that local plans will be prepared in the future. Given the general election, the national reforms are likely to be delayed further and should there be a change of government, replacement or additional planning reforms may be proposed.
- 4.6 That said, there remains a clear commitment by the Council to advance a new Local Plan whether it is under the current legal framework or under a reformed system. The new Local Plan will take several years to prepare. It will be informed by feedback obtained through several rounds of public consultation as it is developed. When a final draft has been prepared by the Council, it will be scrutinised through a public examination conducted by an independent Planning Inspector. Subject to it meeting legal requirements and being found 'sound' at examination, the Plan can then be adopted, at which point it carries its full weight in deciding planning applications. To successfully pass the examination stage, local plan policies must, amongst other things, be justified by relevant evidence and be consistent with national planning policy (most notably the National Planning Policy Framework).
- 4.7 In the midst of uncertainty at a national level arising from the stop-start nature of the planning reforms, the Council was keen to announce its intention to prepare a new local plan through the publication of an Issues Paper. The Issues Paper is a first opportunity, well ahead of the drafting of any policies or proposals, for residents, developers, businesses, and other organisations to give their initial views on the scope of the new Plan. Feedback was invited on the Issues Paper between 8 April and 1 July alongside several supporting reports that will help to inform future stages of the new Local Plan, including about the availability of land for future development. The Issues Paper and the other consultation documents can be viewed via this link:
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/new-local-plan.aspx
- 4.8 The Issues Paper is organised under a series of thematic headings including meeting the borough's future housing needs, tackling climate change, providing new jobs, restoring nature and supporting healthier lifestyles. Chapter 3 of the Issues Paper is entitled 'Healthy and safe communities' and invites feedback about how the Plan could support good health and well-being. However, the potential ways in which planning policy and support good

health do not fall exclusively within this chapter. Amongst other things, good design (chapter 4), the provision of new homes to meet a diverse range of needs (chapter 6), jobs growth (chapter 8) and active travel (chapter 9) all influence health outcomes. A series of topic papers were also published, one for each of the thematic chapters of the Issues Paper, providing additional background information to encourage feedback.

- 4.9 It is expected that a consultation report, summarising responses, will be taken to the Council's Environment and Communities Committee towards the end of this calendar year. It is also hoped that the Council will be in a position at that point, several months on from the general election, to prepare a firm project plan and timetable for the preparation of the new Plan.

5 Access to Information

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