

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Health and wellbeing board
2.	Date:	11 July 2012
3.	Title:	Planning and Health
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

Feedback on planning activity and Health outcomes

6. Recommendations

That the Planning Service:

- engage with Health Improvement colleagues, as already agreed, when developing policies for sites and policies document (Autumn 2012)
 - Liaise with and establish contact and criteria for notification / consultation on planning applications to ensure NHS views are taken into consideration on appropriate applications
 - Liaise when drawing up charging schedule for infrastructure delivery.
-

7. Proposals and Details

To report on work completed so far to work with health colleagues in developing planning policy to ensure best outcomes for health and future determination of planning applications.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

NPPF requires planning to promote healthy communities by the provision of safe and accessible developments and work with public health leads to take account of health status and needs of the population (sports, recreation, places of worship etc)

It further stipulates that new developments include shared space and community facilities, opportunities for sport and recreation.

Further development of this national policy can be found within the Development Plan for each authority and in Rotherham the overarching policies can be found in the Local Plan Core Strategy (publication version currently out to consultation for soundness).

In relation to health, and building on the statements within the NPPF, the Core Strategy states that: Green space, sport and recreation are essential elements of sustainable communities that contribute towards health, quality of life, sense of place and overall well-being. Looking at our green assets in a more joined up way through initiatives such as Green Infrastructure can maximise social and environmental benefits, including the promotion of health and social wellbeing.

The Local Plan supports the provision of local health facilities but also influences health directly by supporting strategies for improvements to air quality and promoting a healthier lifestyle through walking / cycling and the provision of open spaces and recreation facilities.

The development of these themes within the Local Plan and its subsequent Health Impact assessment have been carried out in conjunction with colleagues in Health Improvement, Public Health.

In addition Planners are required to assess the amount and type of Infrastructure required to support areas of growth identified within the Core Strategy and Health colleagues have been fully involved in drawing up the Boroughs Infrastructure Delivery Plan where they highlighted:

- Potential requirements of primary health care, hospitals, community services and doctors surgeries to accommodate future growth.
- Major changes expected in delivery of health services following Health & Social Care Act = great uncertainty over infrastructure provision.
- Considerable recent investment (e.g. Rotherham Community Health Centre, Maltby & Aston Customer Service Centre) but no scope for further joint service provision in short term.

- Estimated cost of new infrastructure to meet Local Plan growth is £2.7m out of total cost of £9.5m for this provision. Includes new surgery at Bassingthorpe Farm; replacement for Dalton and Dinnington Surgeries (10% due to growth). Waverley proposed growth already consented.
- As PCTs are abolished, commissioning will become the role of GPs
- Given planned change and uncertainty, need to plan with caution and keep under review.

Health will also be fully involved in the next stages of developing a charging schedule for developers which will replace the majority of section 106 obligations.

Further interaction health / planning

Following on from the Core Strategy will be the more detailed sites and policies document later this year – specifying sites for future development and policies that all planning applications will be considered against.

In order to incorporate the Public Health Agenda stronger partnership working is expected by Government from April 2013 with spatial planning expected to make significant contributions to improving health and reducing inequality. (“Aims and Objectives of: Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England (2010).”) It has therefore been agreed that Health Improvement colleagues will be involved in the development of these specific policies to:

- ensure the best outcomes and to reduce demands on health service
- addressing issues of particular importance such as obesity
- assess areas of growth – sharing of information to assist with decisions relating to provision of facilities and master planning.
- Allow for increase physical activities by ensuring provision of adequate green space and recreational facilities
- reduce air / water pollution

Determination of Planning Applications

Although not a statutory consultee it would be useful to establish some criteria for consultation and a point of contact for planning applications for larger residential developments or development which may have an impact on NHS services such as nursing homes.

In terms of general input to the application process it is possible for harmful effects to human health to be considered as a material planning consideration.

There is also an opportunity to develop Health Impact Assessment Guidance for developers as this has not been used widely in Rotherham. A Health Impact Assessment is not a statutory requirement when considering a planning application although they can be very useful when considering major applications and can be built into the requirements in a planning performance agreement. (They are required as part of Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Permits issued by the Environment Agency but not within the Planning Regime).

Actions for Planning

- Engage with Joanna Saunders, Head of Health Improvement, Public Health Directorate as already agreed, when developing policies for sites and policies document (Autumn 2012)
- Liaise with and establish contact and criteria for notification / consultation on planning applications to ensure NHS views are taken into consideration on appropriate applications
- Liaise when drawing up charging schedule for infrastructure delivery.

8. Finance

Report for information no financial direct implications in relation to the content of this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Government agenda is requiring significant contributions to improving health and reducing inequality from planning. Joint working will ensure that key points are picked up through policy work and delivered on through the planning process.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Contribution to Development of Rotherham's Local Plan

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Bronwen Knight
Planning Manager

Bronwen.knight@rotherham.gov.uk

Tel : 01709 823866