

# Agenda item 6

## Healthy and Safe Places For All Mission Deep Dive

**Item Presented by:** Paul Burstow, Chair of the Mission and Chair of Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB and Ben Martin, Associate Director of Planning, Infrastructure and Economy, Watford Borough Council

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### 1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This item, together with an accompanying presentation provides a deep dive into progress to date, and the proposed next steps to take forward the Healthy and Safe Places for All Mission work programme.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Growth Board support the proposed next steps for the Strategic Steering Group to take forward, as set out in Section 8 of the report.

### 3 Background

- 3.1 Healthy places or environments can prevent illnesses, reduce health inequalities, improve quality of life and reduce health and social care costs.
- 3.2 Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety and their wider determinants, are delivered through many different organisations, as shown in the numerous partners engaged in delivering this Mission as shown in Appendix 1. Whilst these organisations/partners are fully engaged in statutory planning processes, there is no single body with responsibility for delivering this important and multifaceted issue in Hertfordshire. For this reason a new Healthy and Safe Places Mission Strategic Steering Group has been set up to provide leadership and strengthen cross partner working on this important issue. The membership of the group has representatives from relevant partner organisations within Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), Hertfordshire District and Borough Councils, the Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (HWE ICB), the Health Care Partnerships, the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the voluntary (VCSFE) sector.
- 3.3 There is considerable overlap between the work overseen by the Strategic Steering Group and the work currently carried out by the Healthy Places Team within Public Health at HCC to achieve the business plan objectives set for 2024-2027. Similarly, there is overlap with the wide role and responsibilities of district

and borough councils, and that of the NHS HWE ICB and partner NHS Trusts, as set out in the Health and Care Act 2022.

- 3.4 Of particular note, the new National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) in regard to 'Health in Planning' was published on 12 December and sets out additional guidance that promotes the creation of healthy and safe communities with particularly new emphasis on reducing health inequalities, restriction of unhealthy food / fast food outlets and take aways. Changes have also been made to ensure significant weight is given to new, expanded or upgraded public service infrastructure, including a welcome reference to a broader range of public infrastructure, which now includes health and emergency service facilities.
- 3.5 There are a number of emerging national policies and local strategies that are likely to impact the work of this Mission (listed in Appendix 2). Some of the Mission's work is guided by and impeded until there is clarity on national direction.

## **4 Delivering the Goals**

- 4.1 This report sets out how the Strategic Steering Group will ensure delivery of the Healthy and Safe Places mission goals. It should also be noted that there will be considerable interaction with the other five HGB missions.
- 4.2 Given the need to establish a new group and the current uncertainty over Government direction, the Year 1 work programme has focused on engaging the right partners and establish objectives that will underpin and enable future actions (Appendix 3).
- 4.3 A key delivery milestone has been the stocktake exercise to establish a current baseline for health in planning for Hertfordshire and a literature review of existing international, national and local schemes to provide a reference point and recommendations for local good practice standards. This sets out the key requirements around health, wellbeing and safety for new developments and for any interventions for existing communities. The recommendations place particular emphasis on healthcare infrastructure to meet current clinical need, reduce health inequalities by enabling equal access to good quality green spaces, clean air, safe walking and cycling routes, accessible public transport, sustainable and energy efficient housing as they will have a long-term impact in supporting healthier and safer communities.
- 4.4 The full work programme for 2024/25 is set out in Appendix 3. Actions to be progressed / completed in the second half of the year include a review of literature, which will then form a set of recommendations that will build the foundation for the healthy places framework to inform Local and Joint Strategic

Plans to enable the maximum level of health and wellbeing and safety in new and existing developments.

- 4.5 The programme for 2025/26 and beyond will be developed in the coming months, with an initial draft considered by the meeting of the Steering Group in early 2025. It should be noted that the timing of some elements within the forward programme will be influenced by the new NPPF and the NHS HWE ICS Estate Infrastructure Strategy (which is awaiting NHS England sign off) to avoid duplication of work and to ensure alignment of priorities. Therefore, it is likely that delivery of some actions will roll into the work programme for 2025/26.

## **5 Resourcing the Goals**

- 5.1 It is envisaged that process related goals will primarily rely on existing officer resources. It will also require engagement with existing partnerships in particular areas e.g. HPG for stocktake and local plan baseline work.
- 5.2 The reliance on existing officer resources will mean that the timetable for the Mission's work will need to consider peak workloads in business-as-usual activity. An early sign of pressures on officer time is the low level of nominations from districts and boroughs for the officer working group to support the mission.
- 5.3 As noted in 4.1, there is considerable interaction with the other five missions. To achieve the Healthy and Safer Places mission it will be necessary to identify synergies, coordinate activities and allocate funding to jointly deliver on shared objectives. (e.g. decarbonisation and air quality).
- 5.4 The complex set of healthy and safe places priorities (as shown in Appendix 2) means that the success of the mission will require enhanced commitment, engagement, and investment from partner organisations such as HCC, OPCC, ICS and VCSFE.
- 5.5 HGB mission funding will be used to support delivery of the mission goals. Specifically, funding will be used to commission an external provider to develop a 'Healthy Place-Making' Framework which sets out the principles and best practice guidance for designing and building healthier, safe, and inclusive environments in Hertfordshire. This will build on work drawn out of the evidence base stocktake evaluation of relevant work with partner organisations and literature review being completed by Public Health. Part of this commission will also include communications and engagement with stakeholders (public, communities, business partners, local authority colleagues and Members) to inform development of the framework. To also include facilitation of a range of workshops for local planning authorities, district / borough leaders, portfolio holders for health and for planning.

## **6 Data & Reporting**

- 6.1 A set of performance indicators has been developed for the success measures previously agreed through HGB, as set out in Appendix 4. These indicators will be included in the HGB Missions dashboard which is currently being developed by the Herts Insight team.
- 6.2 Additional data will also be used to support the development of future actions.
- 6.3 Targets for the indicators will be developed using an assessment of what can realistically be achieved within the context of the stretching goals.

## **7 Risks and Obstacles**

- 7.1 A key risk is the availability of staff resources within the HGB member organisations, including difficulties in securing member representation to the mission's Officer Steering Group.
- 7.2 The success of the mission will also rely on the cooperation of partner organisations within the mission steering group to ensure cross cutting priorities are identified, aligned and co-delivered to minimise risk of duplication and maximise outcomes with restricted resource.

## **8 Next Steps**

- 8.1 The next steps for the Strategic Steering Group are:
  - Ensure progression / completion of the 2024/25 work programme which will provide the foundation for future work
  - Finalise the specification for the commissioning of external agency for the use of the HGB development fund
  - Mission engagement workshops with Members & key stakeholders including Local Planning Authorities (LPAs)
  - Monitor the emerging picture of Government policy (NPPF, NHSE)
  - Develop a work programme for 2025/26 and beyond

## Appendix 1: Steering Group and Officer Group Members

<b>Steering Group Members:</b>	
Paul Burstow	Chair of the Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB - <b>Chair</b>
Donna Nolan	Chief Executive, Watford Borough Council – <b>Lead CEx</b>
Sarah Perman	Director of Public Health, HCC - <b>Lead Officer</b>
Cllr Sarah Nelmes	Deputy Leader, Three Rivers District Council
Charmagne Barnes	Pro Vice-Chancellor of Education and Student Experience, University of Hertfordshire
Sharn Elton	Place Director, East and North Hertfordshire Health and Care Partnership
Laura Bell	Deputy Place Director, South & West Hertfordshire Health and Care Partnership
Toni Coles	Place Director West Essex Health and Care Partnership
Ian Tompkins	Programme Director Levelling Up and Partnerships West Essex Health & Care Partnership
Simon Aulton	Voluntary Sector (VCSFE Alliance) – also supporting Officer Group
Caitlin Blumgart	OPCC Policy and Partnerships Manager – also supporting Officer Group
Rhiannon Sawyer	OPCC Director of Strategy and leading on the development of the Police & Crime Plan
Sarah McLaughlin	Head of Growth & Infrastructure, HCC
Forogh Rahmani	Director of Hertfordshire Growth, Hertfordshire Growth Board
<b>Officer Group Members:</b>	
Victoria Leitner	Strategic Lead, Healthy Place, Public Health, HCC
Rachael Donovan	Town Planning Policy Manager, Hertfordshire & West Essex ICB
Ben Martin	Associate Director of Planning, Infrastructure and Economy, Watford Borough Council in place of Donna Nolan
Matt Wilson	Welwyn Hatfield, Chair of the Herts Planning Group - Local Plans
Hollie Rawlings	Healthy Place, Public Health, HCC
Sandra Spacey	HGB Project Manager
Brenda Harris	HGB Programme Manager

## Appendix 2: Emerging National Policy and Local Strategies

There are a number of emerging national policies and local strategies that are likely to impact the work of this Mission such as:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- NHS HWE ICS Estate Infrastructure Strategy
- New Hospitals Programme
- New Police and Crime Plan for Hertfordshire
- Retrofit Strategy: Local Area Retrofit Accelerator (LARA)
- Air Quality Strategy: under review
- Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP5)
- Devolution White Paper

### Appendix 3: Healthy and Safe Places Mission Work Programme 2024/25

Strategic Goals	Progress made Quarter 1 & 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><b>Goals 1 &amp; 2:</b> HGB to commission an evaluation of the Healthy Garden Town Framework developed by the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.</p>	<p>Established that HGGT monitoring, and evaluation is underway. No value in us commissioning a separate evaluation.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p><b>Goals 1 &amp; 2:</b> HGB to agree that all local plans seek to have an overarching 'Healthy Place-Making' Framework which sets out the principles for designing and building healthier, safe and inclusive environments in Hertfordshire, drawing on the evaluation findings set out above.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baselining what we already do:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Healthy Places team monitoring PH HIA input to Local Plans. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) policy/ recommendations</li> <li>* Health Principles for Local Plan Policy guidance already exists and available for colleagues to reference.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stocktake of relevant work within partner organisations is underway to provide an evidence base /literature review identifying best practice and recommendations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Baseline</li> <li>• Complete Literature Review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission external provider:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Form a set of 'good standard' recommendations regarding healthy and safe places</li> <li>○ Engagement activities and workshops with stakeholders</li> <li>○ Combine and align with strategic aims and objectives of the other HGB Missions to ensure duplication is avoided</li> <li>○ Development of HGB framework / best practice guidance to inform emerging local plans in future (to be endorsed by HGB)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Goals 1 &amp; 2:</b> As part of the above framework HGB to agree principles for how local residents and communities, district community safety partnerships, and the Police and Crime Plan for Herts has due</p>	<p>HCC local and strategic planning documents – Healthy Places team involved in developing a technical appendix to set out Public Health expectations for emerging local plans</p>	<p>Complete Technical Appendix</p>	<p>Engage with OPCC to align priorities in Mission and Police and Crime Plan</p>

regard for or can be directly involved in the design of healthy, active, safe and sustainable places, supported by accessible public facing communications.			
<b>Goal 3:</b> HGB members seek to work collaboratively through local plans and health policies to address health inequalities faced by particular communities, and to support implementation of the delivery plan for the H&WE ICS			ICB Health inequalities and VCSFE colleagues to work with consultants to ensure hard to reach communities are engaged
<b>Goal 4:</b> HGB members work with NHS providers to make the vision and plans for existing and new health facilities genuinely health promoting, including the planned rebuild at Watford General Hospital.	An agreement in Hertfordshire exists to consider Healthy Place-Making, but this relies on good will and is not policy NPPF Consultation: Recommendations being pushed for Public Health to be a statutory consultee on Local Plans and planning applications.		TBC awaiting guidance on NPPF and New Hospitals Programme
<b>Goal 5:</b> HGB to promote close working, collaboration and peer learning between the local ICB, NHS providers and LPAs for matters in Hertfordshire and on its borders that relate to emerging local plans, infrastructure delivery plans, strategic planning application consultations and health financial contributions.			TBC Peer Learning Review. Learning from early adopters of framework
<b>Goal 5:</b> HGB members to work with the local ICB on a county-wide strategy for provision of primary, community, and secondary health services that is aligned with anticipated population increases and planned housing growth.	NHS Estates and Infrastructure Strategy has been submitted to NHS England		TBC awaiting publication of the NHS Estates and Infrastructure Strategy



<p><b>Goal 5:</b> HGB members to support the OPE programme to repurpose surplus public estate for public services, housing and regeneration, and explore opportunities within this programme to maximise economic and commercial redevelopment.</p>	<p>OPE/ HPP provided an update to Steering Group: successes so far, strategy and priorities moving forward</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hemel Garden Communities and health campus - using existing and newly created estate – lessons learned to be obtained</li> <li>• TBC Review of operation in Herts and West Essex - success, barriers, funding, lessons</li> <li>• TBC align priorities of NHS and OPE. Identify OPE lessons learned and pipeline schemes</li> </ul>
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## Appendix 4: Performance Indicators

<b>HGB Success Measure</b>	<b>Proposed Indicators</b>
Increase in the proportion of adults who walk or cycle	Proportion of adults who walk or cycle Source: DfT Table CW301
Increase in the proportion of children and young people who walk or cycle to school	Children and young people who walk or cycle to school Source: Active Lives Children Survey
Increase in utilisation of outdoor space for exercise	TBC
Percentage of homes in Hertfordshire within a 15 minute walk or cycle of a natural green space	Percentage of homes within a 15-minute walk or cycle of a natural green space Source: Derived from Natural England Greenspace Mapping.
Reduced transport related carbon emissions and improved air quality	Emissions from the Transport Sector (Kt of CO <sub>2</sub> e) Source: DeSNZ
Improved resident perceptions of feeling safe	TBC
An increase in developer contributions towards health and wellbeing infrastructure	TBC
Improved access to primary health care services	TBC