

Healthy Torbay Supplementary Planning Document Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Service / Policy:	Spatial Planning
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Version:	1.1	Date:	23/12/16	Author:	Andrew Gunther
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Section 1: Background Information

1.	<p>What is the proposal / issue?</p> <p>The Council adopted the Torbay Local Plan in December 2015. This document forms the Council’s statutory ‘development plan’ which guides decision-making in respect of planning decisions. As part of the toolkit of planning policy measures available to a local planning authority (LPA) and as enabled by the adoption of the latest Torbay Local Plan, the Council is able to produce and adopt Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) which add useful detail to the Local Plan policies in order to better secure environmental, social, design and economic objectives which are relevant to the attainment of the development and use of land. Once adopted by the Council (having been through a process of production in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Regulations) SPDs hold legal weight as material considerations in the consideration of planning applications.</p> <p>The Council has produced a number of Supplementary Planning Documents in this regard including most recently the town centre and future growth area Masterplans and is currently progressing a Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing SPD for adoption by Council.</p> <p>Within the Local Plan, the Council has committed to producing SPD’s to further the practical implementation of policies in the Local Plan. Further information in this regards is detailed in the latest version of the Torbay Local Development Scheme (LDS). One of those documents is a ‘Healthy Torbay SPD’ to add further detail on a number of issues relating to the attainment of health and wellbeing through the development management process including health impact assessment (HIA), healthy urban design and green infrastructure, housing and health, healthy food environments and tackling health inequalities.</p>
2.	<p>What is the current situation?</p> <p>Currently the Council has no SPD guidance which expands on the Council’s approach to ensuring new development contributes to improving the health and wellbeing of the community. Although the headline policies in the adopted Torbay Local Plan relating to health and wellbeing (perhaps most obviously SS11 Sustainable Communities and SC1 Healthy Bay) are currently being positively used to guide development towards better health outcomes, the Local Plan is very clear that further guidance on these matters is necessary and will be forthcoming in order to provide certainty to the development industry on the LPA’s requirement’s of development and help guide the production of successful</p>

	<p>planning applications. Furthermore, the local planning authority through the development management process currently draws on the latest evidence on health matters, experience of implementing the Local Plan over the past 12 months and best practice guidance. Drawing these elements together within a formal SPD gives these matters material weight for decision making, provides greater clarity and therefore allows the LPA to better realise development which contributes to better health and wellbeing outcomes.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>The Spatial Planning and Public Health teams have considered a number of options relating to the matter of helping to secure positive health and wellbeing outcomes through the planning process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Produce no further formal guidance in respect of matters relating to health and wellbeing which are referred to in the Local Plan. <p>This option was considered but dismissed. Firstly, there is a need for further guidance in respect of a number of planning policy matters relating to health and wellbeing, this is evidenced through practical experience of implementing the Local Plan over the last 12 months since its adoption in terms of feedback from Development Management staff and the development industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Incorporate health and wellbeing guidance under a different form of guidance i.e. not an SPD <p>This option was considered but dismissed. If new guidance is produced the best way to give it material weight for decision-making in the planning process is to adopt it as an SPD. This ensures that it has the best chance of positively influencing development outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iii) Produce a Healthy Torbay SPD <p>This was the preferred option. Thought has been given to the scope of the document in terms of what policy areas need most attention. The advantage of this document is that it will help to communicate and give a greater profile to the role that the built and natural environment plays as a key wider determinant of health in Torbay. There is a significant evidence base which supports the role of planning in being an important influence on health and wellbeing. The Healthy Torbay SPD will help to holistically identify those opportunities and show how development can help achieve good, local outcomes for health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>How does this proposal support the ambitions, principles and delivery of the Corporate Plan 2015-19?</p> <p>The Healthy Torbay SPD will help to deliver better quality development in Torbay, particularly in respect of health and wellbeing. This document will help achieve a Prosperous and Healthy Torbay particularly through helping the LPA to better address the economic, social and environmental factors (wider determinants) which cause ill health and those which sustain good health.</p>

<p>5.</p>	<p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</p> <p>The Healthy Torbay SPD will apply to and potentially influence (to varying degrees depending on the scale and nature of proposals) all development in Torbay.</p> <p>The whole population of Torbay is potentially affected indirectly or directly by choices which are made through the development management process therefore the consultation must provide the opportunity for anyone who lives, works or carries out business in Torbay to provide their views. Within the population of Torbay there are certain groups and actors who will take keener interest in the matters covered by the SPD, e.g. the development industry, the neighbourhood forums, businesses, the Clinical Commissioning Group, etc. These groups will be identified as part of the consultation process and approached directly for their views.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>How will you propose to consult?</p> <p>The consultation requirements for SPDs are specified through the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 and this includes 4 weeks of consultation with the public. The Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement details how the LPA consults on SPDs and includes a range of consultation methods. A 'statement of public participation' is a requirement to be produced alongside an SPD detailing how the LPA consulted with the public, statutory consultees, etc. and how comments from them have been taken on board during the production of the SPD. The LPA has access to a Spatial Planning consultation database of groups, organisations, companies and individuals who have registered their interest to be notified about the production of a Spatial Planning document in Torbay. Additional groups who may be particularly interested, including hard to reach groups will be identified as part of the consultation process for direct contact during the consultation period. 4 weeks of public consultation (23 Jan – 20 Feb) have been identified in the timeline as part of the production of the SPD.</p>