

Committee(s)	Dated:
Health and Wellbeing Board – For decision	17/06/2016
Policy and Resources – For information	07/07/2016
Community & Children’s Services – for information	08/07/2016
Subject: Health in all Policies	Public
Report of: Director of Community & Children’s Services	For Information
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Summary

As part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the City of London Corporation is responsible for promoting the wellbeing of all the people who live or work in the City. As the determinants of people’s health lie largely outside the healthcare system, social, physical and economic policies can have a substantial impact upon health. There is currently no systematic approach for officers to consider the health and wellbeing aspects of their proposed policy changes; however, all new policies must be approved through the committee process.

It is proposed that the committee paper template be revised to include guidance on health implications for officers. Incorporating an additional paragraph of guidance will have zero cost implications, and will help the City Corporation to work towards meeting its statutory responsibilities for public health and health promotion.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- endorse the proposed approach to mainstreaming health considerations into the committee paper writing process
- discuss whether the report should be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration.

Main Report

Background

1. Health in all Policies is an approach to public policies across sectors that takes into account the health and health system implications of decisions to prevent negative health impacts. As the determinants of people’s health lie largely outside the healthcare system, social, physical and economic policies can have a substantial impact upon health.

2. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (“the HSCA 2012”) received Royal Assent on 27 March 2012. One of the key aspects of the reform is that local authorities in England have taken over the responsibility for health improvement of local populations, including both residents and workers.
3. The City of London’s Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for carrying out duties conferred by the HSCA 2012.
4. The membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board is designed so that key City of London committees and partner organisations are represented.
5. Several of the Board’s priorities have a significant impact on health and wellbeing but do not come under the traditional remit of public health, health and social care services. These include priorities about air quality, noise pollution, physical activity and child poverty. This means that joint working with Port Health and Public Protection, Open Spaces, Planning and Transport, Built Environment and Economic Development is vital, and the Health and Wellbeing Board is informed of progress and achievements through these reports.
6. A key strength of the Health and Wellbeing Board in the City is the strong network with officers across the Corporation. Officers representing the Health and Wellbeing Board work alongside their counterparts in other departments to influence their strategies, policies and work plans and ensure that health and wellbeing concerns are properly represented.
7. Through this programme of activity, the Health and Wellbeing Board has proven itself to be a valuable consultation resource for other committees. Over the past two-and-a-half years the Health and Wellbeing Board and its Chairman have engaged with a wide range of partners and stakeholders and have reviewed a significant number of key issues and policies that impact on the health and wellbeing of the Board’s community.

Current Position

8. The City of London Corporation is responsible for promoting the wellbeing of all the people who live or work in the City.
9. This means that decisions taken by the City Corporation should consider the associated health impacts on residents and workers.
10. As noted above, social, physical and economic policies can often have a substantial impact upon health.
11. City Corporation’s chief officers are required to meet health and wellbeing objectives, as set out by the Town Clerk, as part of their yearly performance appraisals.

12. There is currently no systematic approach for officers to consider the health and wellbeing aspects of their proposed policy changes; however, all new policies must be approved through the committee process.

Proposals

13. It is proposed that the committee paper template be revised to include guidance on health implications for officers. This will act as a prompt for consideration of health impacts, and might spark discussion of whether a proposed policy change will have positive or negative impacts upon the health of the City's populations. This guidance could be as simple as the following paragraph:

Health implications: *will this proposal have any positive or negative impacts on the health of City workers or residents? Remember that health impacts can come from changes in traffic, noise and pollution; walkability; access to social spaces and green spaces; impact on mental health; provision of alcohol, tobacco or unhealthy food; and access to high roofs or balconies where there is a risk of death by falling. Where a proposal has significant health implications, it should be taken before the Health and Wellbeing Board – please call 020 7332 3223 for further guidance.*

14. The revised template could be piloted to see what impact it has on health considerations and discussions at subsequent committees. It could be reviewed at six months and again in one year's time to assess whether the approach is working, and whether further refinements could be made.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. An increase in joined-up working throughout the Corporation should lead to greater efficiencies, as it will prevent work being duplicated, and allow the pooling of resources between departments that share a common agenda.
16. This proposal contributes to the following Corporate Plan key policy priorities:
- KPP3 Engaging with London and national government on key issues of concern to our communities such as transport, housing and public health
 - KPP4 Maximising the opportunities and benefits afforded by our role in supporting London's communities.

Implications

17. Incorporating an additional paragraph of guidance will have zero cost implications, and will help the City Corporation to work towards meeting its statutory responsibilities for public health and health promotion.

Conclusion

18. A Health in all Policies approach is systematic, and takes into account the health implications of decisions. It is hoped that changing the City Corporation's committee report template will act as a useful aide memoire for officers who are planning new policies that will impact upon the health of workers and residents in the Square Mile.

Appendices

- None

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