

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Planning and Transportation Committee	26 April 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Planning Advice Note: Preventing suicides in high rise buildings and structures	Planning and Transportation Committee
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1,2,3,4,5,6,11,12
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Environment Department	<b>For decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Lisa Russell, Environment Department	

### Summary

This report presents a guidance note advising developers how to minimise the risk of suicide attempts in their proposed high-rise buildings and structures. As this is a Planning Advice Note, the decision to approve and publish it will be taken by the Planning and Transportation Committee. Health and Wellbeing Board Members were consulted on the guidance note in Appendix 1 and did not suggest any changes for consideration by the Planning and Transportation Committee.

### Recommendation(s)

Planning and Transportation Committee is asked to:

- Approve the Preventing Suicides in High Rise Buildings and Structures Planning Advice Note attached at Appendix 1 as a material planning consideration.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. This Planning Advice Note provides general guidelines about suicide prevention methods which are required as part of planning applications from designers, developers, and owners of buildings to help prevent suicides in

both public and private high rise buildings and structures. Vehicles and other forms of transport which are outside the scope of planning control, and other structures, are not included within these guidelines.

2. Recognition of suicide risks, and how to mitigate them is encouraged as part of the planning application process where new developments or refurbishments are proposed in the City of London. These guidelines can also be of use to owners and occupiers of existing high rise buildings and structures in reducing suicide risks.
3. National and regional guidance seeks to reduce the number of suicides. The Mayor of London's *Health Inequalities Strategy 2018* contains an objective that requires local authorities to take action to reduce suicides across London. The Mayor wants London to be a zero-suicide City and aims to reduce suicides by 10% in line with the Five Year Forward View national target. The City Corporation has established a multi-agency Suicide Prevention Steering Group and published a joint Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2017-2024 with the City of London Police.
4. Developers are encouraged to address potential suicide risks at an early stage before their designs are finalised. Using these guidelines, appointing experienced consultants, having a dialogue with officers of the City of London Corporation and commissioning early stage studies to assess the suicide risks will help maximise the effectiveness of both preventative and mitigative strategies on proposed development sites.
5. Subject to approval by the Planning and Transportation Committee, the Planning Advice Note attached at Appendix 1 will be published on the City Corporation's website. While not having the same weight as policies in the statutory development plan which have been through public consultation and examination, the Planning Advice Note will nevertheless be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

6. **Strategic implications-**This Guidance Note will support the delivery of the Corporate Plan by ensuring that land-use decisions fully incorporate measures to improve the health of the City's communities through the planning system (Corporate Plan, Outcome 2: People enjoy good health and wellbeing).
7. **Financial implications-** There are no financial implications arising from this report.
8. **Resource implication-** There are no resource implications arising from this report.
9. **Equalities implications-** Preventing Suicides in High Rise Buildings and Structures Planning Advice Note will contribute to the delivery of the City

Corporation's Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 by improving health and wellbeing outcomes for all people who are protected by existing equalities legislation.

10. **Climate implications**- There are no climate implications arising from this report.
11. **Legal implications** -There are no legal implications arising from this report.
12. **Risk implications** - There are no additional new risks arising from this report.
13. **Security implications** - There are no security implications arising from this report.

## **Conclusion**

14. This report presents the draft Preventing Suicides in High Rise Buildings and Structures Planning Advice Note. Once approved by the Planning and Transportation Committee, the Planning Advice Note will be published and will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1- Preventing Suicides in High Rise Buildings and Structures Planning Advice Note.

## **Report author**

Lisa Russell, Environment Department, Planning Officer

E: [lisa.russell@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.russell@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

T: 0207 332 1857