

East Herts Council Non-Key Decision Report

Date: 6 May 2020

Report by: Councillor Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council

Report title: Harlow and Gilston Garden Town, Healthy Town Framework – draft for consultation

Ward(s) affected: Hunsdon

Summary

To enable agreement of the draft Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Healthy Town Framework for stakeholder and wider consultation, alongside our Garden Town partners

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION: That the draft Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Healthy Town Framework be agreed for stakeholder and wider consultation

1.0 Proposal

1.1 The Harlow and Gilston Garden Town (HGGT) is a collaborative project of five partner Councils¹. HGGT, through its health workstream, commissioned the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) to formulate a Healthy Town Framework (the Framework). The health workstream includes representation from the partner Councils, the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Trusts (including Princess Alexandra Hospital), public health, community and voluntary services and the Harlow Health Centres Trust.

¹ East Herts, Epping Forest and Harlow District Councils, Hertfordshire and Essex County Councils.

- 1.2 The draft Framework (Appendix A) has been subject to assessment by the Quality Review Panel (QRP). The QRP has been formulated by Frame Associates on behalf of the Garden Town. It operates to provide independent professional scrutiny of guidance and policy documents and development proposals coming forward. A Chair's Review was undertaken on 3 May 2019. The draft Framework has been revised and updated taking account of the output from the Review (which is attached as Appendix 2 to the report).
- 1.3 The consultation proposed will comprise engagement with landowners and developers of the HGGT sites and other development sites in Harlow. It is considered that the consultation exercise will also represent a good opportunity to raise the profile of the Garden Town and one of the key aspirations around the creation of a healthy town. In that respect, there will be wider community engagement through the consultation exercise across the partner authorities.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The draft Framework sets out its status and how it is intended to be used. It will be a guidance document and is not intended to be prescriptive. Subject to the outcome of consultation, and the form of the final document, it is suggested that all Local Planning Authority Council partners consider endorsing it, so that its weight in planning decision making is enhanced.
- 2.2 The Framework is structured around nine elements that are aligned to the Healthy New Town principles developed by NHS England with Public Health England, the TCPA, the King's Fund² and the Young Foundation³. In relation to each of the elements, the Framework sets out a range of indicators which

² The King's Fund is an independent charitable organisation working to improve health and care in England.

³ The mission of the Young Foundation is to create better connected and more sustainable communities.

can inform and shape policy making and also assist in the evaluation of land use proposals coming forward.

2.3 There are a range of actions that the Councils and health service providers can also undertake to pursue the objectives of the Framework. These are set out in a delivery and implementation section of the document. In many cases, action is already underway to achieve the outcomes listed. The Framework is not a policy instrument that should be applied to developer proposals only.

2.4 The intention is to also prepare a Health Framework Action Plan to support implementation of the Framework. The Action Plan will be finalised, taking into account feedback from the consultation exercise, and will be reported back subsequently.

3.0 Reason(s)

3.1 The Executive is asked to agree the Framework so that stakeholder and wider consultation can proceed.

4.0 Options

4.1 Other options include ceasing further action in relation to the Framework, or proceeding to its completion in the absence of consultation. The first of these is not considered to be an acceptable option as it would be counter to the Council and Garden Town objectives to ensure that the new development coming forward maximises public health.

4.2 The second option has been discounted as it would not be appropriate to proceed to the conclusion of a guidance document without enabling comment from stakeholders.

5.0 Risks

5.1 It is considered that taking the decision recommended minimises any risks associated with the production of this

guidance document as the views of other parties are canvassed.

- 5.2 Not proceeding to consultation or, proceeding to the conclusion of the document without consultation, are considered to represent greater risks. This would be as a result of the lack of inability of other parties to input and in relation to the partnership arrangement of the Council within the Garden Town.
- 5.3 In relation to this matter, providers of health care services are to be included in the consultation process. There is a clear risk that, in the current public health circumstances, those service providers will be unable to engage in consultation due to the vital alternative demand for their resources. In order to mitigate this risk, consultation will not commence in the short term. Subject to any views of the Executive and taking into account the views of the Garden Town partners, Officers will undertake an ongoing assessment in relation to the timing of any consultation process and will only commence when it is reasonable to do so.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No direct impact, but ensuring good design and layout of development has a potential positive impact in relation to community safety issues.

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

Yes – well-designed developments have the potential to enhance environmental sustainability.

Financial

No

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

No

Specific Wards

Yes – the Healthy Town Framework will be used to guide development proposals and support other interventions in the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town – in East Herts, this is contained within the Hunsdon ward.

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

Appendix 1 – Harlow and Gilston Garden Town draft Healthy Town Framework

Appendix 2 – Quality Review Panel Report

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