

RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Local Government (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)
(England) Regulations 2012.

Type of decision: Material decision

Decision Date: 20 June 2023

Decision Maker: Executive director of development and city services

Decision status: Is Key Decision?: No

Is subject to call in? No

Decision details:

That the revised version of the Planning in Health protocol which seeks to embed health and wellbeing in spatial planning be adopted for use by Norwich City Council

Reason for decision:

See attached report

Alternative Options:

See attached report.

Declarations of Interest:

None

Reports considered by the decision maker: See attached.

This was discussed with Cllr Stonard on 20 June 2023 who had no objection to the decision to adopt being made by officers under delegated powers.

Any background documents considered:

Amended [Planning in Health Protocol](#)

Publication date: 27 June 2023

Report to: Executive Director of Development and City Services

Portfolio area: Councillor Stonard, Leader and Cabinet member for inclusive and sustainable growth

Report from: Head of planning and regulatory services

Wards: All wards

Purpose

The report notes updates made to the Planning in Health protocol and seeks approval to adopt the revised protocol.

Recommendation:

That the revised version of the Planning in Health protocol which seeks to embed health and wellbeing in spatial planning be adopted for use by Norwich City Council

Background

1. As part of the wider effort to foster a closer collaboration between local planning authorities and other health service organisations to plan for future growth and to promote health, an engagement protocol (the 'Planning in Health protocol) has been produced between local planning authorities, the Norfolk and Waveney Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health Partners and Public Health Norfolk and Public Health Suffolk.
2. The built and natural environment is a key determinant of health and wellbeing, and shapes health inequalities. There is a body of research showing that the environment people live in is inextricably linked to health across the life course. For example, the design of neighbourhoods can influence physical activity levels, travel patterns, social connectivity, mental and physical health, and wellbeing outcomes.
3. The Planning in Health Protocol sets out a process governing how health organisations are consulted about planning applications, and how relevant NHS organisations, public health and local planning authorities jointly consult to ensure that health considerations are adequately accounted for in plan making, planning applications and their subsequent development.
4. Previous versions of the Planning in Health protocol have been approved by Cabinet as part of the approval of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF), most recently approved by Cabinet in [April 2021](#). Given current uncertainty about when the NSPF will be updated this protocol is being brought separately to the Norfolk Authorities for endorsement. Given the relatively modest scale of changes to an already adopted document (outlined in para 8) approval under delegated powers is recommended.
5. Agreement 18 of the 2021 NSPF states: 'Norfolk authorities agree to endorse the Planning in Health: An Engagement Protocol between Local Planning Authorities, Public Health and Health Sector Organisations in Norfolk and undertake its

commitments. Norfolk authorities agree to consider matters relating to healthy environments and encouraging physical activity, and fully integrated these into a potential Norfolk-wide design guide and local design codes (which will inform local plans and neighbourhood plans), drawing on key guidance such as Building for a Healthier Life and Active Design.’

The Planning in Health protocol

6. The protocol governs how relevant NHS organisations, public health and local planning authorities will jointly consult to ensure that health considerations are adequately accounted for in plan making and in planning applications and their subsequent developments. In this context health considerations includes planning for health service provision – such as the provision of enough doctor’s surgeries to meet population needs – and promoting health and wellbeing in the design and provision of developments, such as provision of walking and cycling infrastructure, access to green spaces or maintenance of good air quality.
7. The protocol sets out the size and scale of development when it will apply and provides information about the types of activities that can be undertaken, such as health impact assessment, to promote healthy planning and development and includes a health planning checklist.
8. The changes made in this revision are to:
 - Ensure greater consideration of health promotion through the planning process
 - Update the protocol to reflect new NHS structures and changes in national planning policy
 - Make the protocol more accessible, as well as clarifying partner roles and responsibilities.
9. The revised protocol is set out at appendix 1.
10. The protocol is a multiagency-owned document between planning authorities and health organisation. The original (2016) protocol was jointly prepared by staff at Norwich City Council, Broadland District Council and Norfolk County Council. The revised version has been developed in collaboration with Public Health at Norfolk County Council, County and District planners, the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System (ICS), and the Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Consultation

11. The revised health protocol has been discussed with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for sustainable and inclusive growth, and discussed with and endorsed by the Norfolk Members’ Planning Forum in September 2022. It has also been endorsed by Norfolk County Council’s Health and Wellbeing Board District
12. Council Subcommittee in September 2022.

Implications

Financial and resources

13. There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources.

Legal

14. There are no legal implications to this report.

Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and diversity	The health protocol should have positive impacts on equality and diversity by ensuring that new development considers a variety of needs of the population including the ageing population, those with younger children, and those with mobility difficulties for example.
Health, social and economic impact	The revised health protocol aims to ensure greater consideration of health promotion through the planning process to support and enable healthy lifestyles, with positive physical and mental health benefits, and indirect positive social and economic impacts.
Crime and disorder	N/a
Children and adults safeguarding	N/a
Environmental impact	The protocol should have positive environmental impacts by ensuring that peoples' health needs are integrated into the development, design and planning stages of new development, contributing to fairer, more sustainable and attractive spaces.

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
No risk identified; this is a refinement of an existing protocol.		

Other options considered

15. The revised protocol is a refinement of an existing health protocol which has been in operation for a number of years and revisions are designed to make the protocol more effective. It is not considered necessary to consider other options in this circumstance.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

16. The council is being recommended to adopt the health protocol to ensure that to ensure that health considerations are adequately accounted for in plan making, planning applications and their subsequent development.

Background papers: none

Appendices: 1. Revised [Planning in health protocol](#)

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