chapter 15

Community Health, Safety and Well-being

To improve health, well-being and social care of local people, reduce inequalities and help people at all stages of their life to enjoy the best possible health.

To reduce social inequalities, renew disadvantaged neighbourhoods, protect the vulnerable and ensure access for all members of the community to services and opportunities.

To reduce crime and disorder and fear of crime amongst young people.

To stimulate participation in cultural pursuits, promoting creativity and extending opportunities for people to experience high quality recreational and leisure activities.
Community Health, Safety and Well-being

Introduction

15.1 This section sets out how healthcare, sport, active recreation and community safety will change over the LDF period. The task of the LDF is to set a spatial planning framework which will facilitate positive improvements to the city's health, safety and well-being and support the achievement of the city's vision. Plymouth's Health Authorities and the University of Plymouth have major proposals to improve the city's health facilities. The Council is preparing a Playing Pitch Strategy, a Sports Facilities Strategy and a Green Space Strategy to identify shortfalls in provision and to guide investment. The Council has also adopted a Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy that sets out to reduce crime and fear of crime. These initiatives will be outlined in this section and their spatial planning requirements identified.

Context

15.2 Health, well-being and safety are major issues on the national agenda, and are closely interrelated. Health is about more than access to medical treatment and services. It is about lifestyle, including routine exercise and fitness for all ages and interests. It is also about living in a safe environment and feeling part of the community. Major development proposals such as large mixed-use areas or urban extensions should have regard to the potential health impacts of the proposal.

15.3 The draft Regional Spatial Strategy identifies high level policies to ensure that these issues are adequately addressed in LDFs, and contains a specific requirement for all major developments to be subject to a health impact assessment. Specific to Plymouth, it identifies the need for the creation of regionally significant recreational facilities, linked to leisure and commercial facilities in the City Centre.

15.4 Plymouth's exceptional natural setting and wealth of open spaces provides a wonderful stage and a range of opportunities for outdoor recreation and leisure. Plymouth also offers a number of managed indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities for active and competitive sports, including the Mayflower Centre (Central Park), the Brickfields (Devonport) and the Manadon Football Development Centre.

15.5 In comparison to the rest of the United Kingdom, the health and well-being of people who live in the South West is very good. Health in Plymouth is also good overall, but there are significant variations in health levels within the city, with some neighbourhoods experiencing worrying levels of poor health.

15.6 The South West has one of the lowest crime rates in England. The rates, however, are significantly worse in Plymouth than in the surrounding rural areas, particularly in some of the city's priority neighbourhoods.

15.7 The design and layout of the built environment can help to reduce crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. A contributory factor to improving safety is to create and sustain a 'sense of place', where people take pride in their surroundings. Designing out crime and designing in community safety should be a core principle in planning any new development as well as in helping to reduce crime and the fear of crime in existing developments.

Approach

15.8 Plymouth's Sports Plan 2020 sets out a vision to support participation in sport and recreational activity for all members of the community. Young people in particular are identified as a ‘target group’ to focus resources on.

15.9 In order to implement the Sports Plan 2020 there has been a need for a more coordinated and strategic approach to managing the city's sports facilities, as well as investment in improving facility provision. The Council's Sports Facilities Strategy (in preparation) sets out to do this by proposing a number of actions and recommendations. This will include major proposals to improve and enhance sports and recreation provision in Central Park, the Brickfields and Manadon; proposals to improve sports facilities at schools; to improve provision for water sports and to improve sports facilities at Plymouth's sports colleges (Plymstock School and Sir John Hunt Community College).
15.10 The Council’s draft Playing Pitch Strategy 2006 – 2016 assesses the current and future predicted supply of, and community demand for, playing pitches for cricket, football, hockey and rugby union. It identifies current and predicted future shortfalls of pitches, and makes recommendations as to how these shortfalls can be addressed. It sets out local standards for playing pitch provision based on assessment of current and future need and demand. Local standards are set out for Plymouth as follows:

- City (north) – 0.6 hectares / 1000 population
- City (south) – 0.6 hectares / 1000 population
- City (east) – 1 hectare / 1000 population.

15.11 These standards will be used to assess any development proposal that affects playing pitch provision, and to assess the need for new provision generated by new development. The strategy identifies a need for a new floodlit, sand-dressed synthetic turf pitch suitable for hockey in the east of the city; 26 additional junior football pitches, three cricket pitches and 3 rugby pitches by 2016.

15.12 The Council will also be producing a Green Space Strategy that will identify proposals for the management of the city’s green spaces to improve the quality of provision as well as set local standards for open space provision. A Children’s Play Strategy will also be produced.

15.13 The Plymouth Area Health Community’s Vanguard Health Project aims to modernise and redesign health services for the area. The project includes plans to modernise and re-build a significant part of Derriford Hospital as an Emergency and Specialist Services Centre, and to build a new Planned Care Centre for routine operations, treatments and diagnosis on Plymouth International Medical and Technology Park. Both projects are planned for completion during the plan period.

15.14 The Plymouth Primary Care Trust aims to modernise and improve Plymouth’s primary health care facilities through the LIFT initiative (Local Improvement Finance Trust) and through working closely with local GPs on developments and improvements using other funding methods. Mount Gould Hospital will be upgraded into a 60-bed Local Care Centre and two new Primary Care Centres will be built – one for the East End as part of a new Community Village and one for Ernesettle (now completed). Further initiatives will involve providing for new GP premises where current provision is inadequate, for example in areas such as North Plymstock which will experience significant new housing development during the LDF period. Where appropriate, primary health care can be provided as part of the extended schools agenda.

15.15 One further planned investment in health care for the city will be the Peninsula Dental School which has been established as a partnership between the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth and the NHS in Devon and Cornwall. New teaching facilities and community based surgeries are proposed at the Plymouth University Campus site, Devonport and in the Derriford area.

15.16 Plymouth’s Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-08 (Towards a Safer City) sets out a number of priorities for reducing crime and fear of crime including:

- To reduce anti-social behaviour and associated crime, and
- To reduce violent crime in public places.

15.17 The LDF can contribute to these priorities by helping to reduce the opportunity for and incidence of crime and to help reduce the fear of crime. The policies and proposals of this LDF seek a practical and co-ordinated approach to the problems of safety and security for people and properties.
Strategic Objective and Policies

Strategic Objective 15
Delivering Community Well-being

To set a spatial planning framework for the improvement of the city’s community health, safety and well-being for everyone. This will be achieved through:

1. Protecting and improving the city’s sport and leisure facilities through supporting the implementation of the city’s Sports Plan 2020, the Sports Facilities Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy so as to promote healthy and active lifestyles.
2. Development of the Life Centre at Central Park.
3. Safeguarding and improving the diverse leisure and recreation needs of the whole community.
4. Protecting and enhancing the city’s parks and open spaces as amenity and recreation spaces by supporting the implementation of the city’s Green Space Strategy.
5. Improving the city’s healthcare facilities by supporting the implementation of the Vanguard Health Project, the LIFT initiative, other GP-led initiatives and the Peninsula Dental School.
6. Safeguarding and providing for other key community infrastructure, including community meeting places and places of worship
7. Ensuring that the potential health impacts of development are identified and addressed at an early stage in the planning process.
8. Making Plymouth a safer place by requiring new development to incorporate good design that will help to reduce crime and the fear of crime, avoiding gated communities.

Targets
Progress towards achieving this goal will be measured by the following targets:

1. A reduction in the % of Plymouth’s residents and visitors who feel unsafe outside on the streets by day or night.
2. Delivery of new investment in healthcare infrastructure.
Policy CS30
Sport, Recreation and Children’s Play Facilities

To enhance the city’s sport and recreation facilities by delivering major new facilities at the following locations:

1. Central Park Life Centre – which will be an outstanding venue for sport, active recreation, health, arts, education and the environment.
2. Manadon – continuing improvements to football and cricket pitch facilities.
3. Devonport Brickfields – new rugby, athletics and community sports facilities.

New residential development will be required to make appropriate provision for sport, recreation, open space and children’s play to meet the needs of the development.

Development proposals for new sport, recreation and children’s play facilities, or for the enhancement / replacement of existing facilities, will be permitted provided that:

a. There is no demonstrable harm from noise, lighting, transport or environmental impacts.

b. The development contributes to meeting identified shortfalls in provision or to enhancing the quality of provision of sport / leisure facilities.

c. The development is accessible by sustainable transport modes.

d. Where appropriate, the development contributes to wider open space objectives.

There will be a presumption against any development that involves the loss of a sport, recreation or play facility except where it can be demonstrated that there is currently an excess of provision, or where alternative facilities of equal or better quality will be provided as part of the development.

15.18 This policy aims to protect existing provision and improve the city’s sport / leisure and play provision by supporting the implementation of the city’s Sports Plan 2020, the emerging Sports Facilities Strategy, the Playing Pitch Strategy and the emerging Green Space Strategy and Children’s Play Strategy. It also seeks to ensure that new provision is forthcoming as the city grows.

15.19 This policy will be implemented through the normal planning process and in the following ways:

- Through the identification of sites in other Development Plan Documents to support the implementation of the Sports Plan 2020, the emerging Sports Facilities Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy and emerging Green Space Strategy
- Through the identification of sites to meet additional need generated by new development. In particular, proposals for new facilities will be included in the following AAPs – North Plymstock; Sherford and Derriford / Seaton. The Central Park AAP will set out proposals for the Life Centre
- Through protection of existing facilities to meet current and future need and demand.
Policy CS31
Health Care Provision

To improve the health of the city through requiring all major development proposals to be subject to Health Impact Assessment, and through the development of new and enhanced health care facilities in the following general locations:

1. Mount Gould – Local Care Centre.
2. East End – Primary Care Centre and GP surgery.
3. Derriford – Vanguard Health Project and the Peninsula Dental School community surgery.
4. Devonport – Peninsula Dental School community surgery.

Proposals for new health care facilities should be well related to public transport infrastructure, and should provide high standards of accessibility to all sectors of the community.

Proposals involving the loss of health care facilities will be permitted only where adequate alternative provision is made to meet the needs of the community served by the facility.

15.20 This policy aims to improve health and the quality of health care in the city. All major development proposals should have regard to Health Impact Assessments in order to identify and address the potential health impacts of the proposal. Additionally, new investment in health care infrastructure is required. In this respect, policy supports the Vanguard and LIFT health care initiatives, other GP-led initiatives and the Peninsula Medical and Dental Schools. It also aims to ensure that new facilities are provided as the city grows.

15.21 This policy will be implemented in the following ways:

- Through identification of sites to support implementation of the Vanguard project, the LIFT initiative, GP-led initiatives and the Peninsula Dental School
- Proposals to support the Vanguard project will be set out in the Derriford/Seaton AAP
- Proposals to support the Peninsula Dental School will be set out in the Devonport and Derriford / Seaton AAPs
- Through the consideration of planning applications.
Policy CS32
Designing Out Crime

To reduce opportunities for crime and the fear of crime by requiring all new development to incorporate good design principles, including:

1. Providing places with well defined routes, spaces and entrances that provide for convenient movement without compromising security.
2. Providing adequate natural surveillance (overlooking) of adjacent streets and spaces.
3. Ensuring that all new developments are designed to make crime difficult to commit by increasing the risk of detection.
4. Creating a sense of ownership by providing a clear definition between public and private spaces.
5. Promoting activity that is appropriate to the area, providing convenient access and movement routes.
6. Providing where necessary for well designed security features.
7. Providing places that are designed with management and maintenance in mind, to discourage crime in the present and the future.
8. Avoiding the creation of gated communities.

15.22 This policy seeks to ensure that all new developments are designed to reduce opportunities for crime by following design guidance. It also seeks to avoid the creation of gated communities.

15.23 This policy will be implemented through the normal planning process and through the application of design guidance in the Design Supplementary Planning Document.

Key Sources:
- Safer Places: The planning system and crime prevention
- Sports Plan 2020 (2001) – City Council
- Towards a Safer City – Plymouth crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-08 – Plymouth Community Safety Strategy