“Planning for a healthier Bristol - integrating health issues into urban planning”

Stephen Hewitt
Bristol City Council/NHS Bristol
Agenda

• Introduction
• Health and Planning
  – Partnership working
  – Strategic planning
  – Place-shaping/master-planning
• Development management
  – Protocol with NHS Bristol
  – Support to NHS Bristol
• Food and supermarkets/retailers
Fat is a planning issue, says academic

By Huw Morris Tuesday, 03 August 2010

Urban design is making us fat and needs to be made healthier, a leading academic warned today.

Tim Townsend, director of planning and urban design at Notting Hill Housing, who focused urban environments is beginning to change.

"Our urban landscape is full of shopping malls and fast food outlets with people taking to the open space closest to their work.

"These environments are simply not designed for exercise."

"We need to think seriously about what a sensible debate about what's acceptable and what's not on the town planning agenda.

"To achieve this, we need to create and manage the logistics of the ingredients for exercise, including footpaths, cycling routes, and greenspaces.

"Although we're not in a city or an area with a history of physical activity, we need to move towards a more active lifestyle.

http://www.planningresource.co.uk/forlorn_news/article/102911

http://www.morris@hyzynarx.com
Six key planning for health goals

- Avoiding adverse health impacts from development - health protection
- Providing a healthy living environment
- Promoting and facilitating healthy lifestyles
- Providing good access to health facilities and services
- Building resilience and responding to the health impact of global environmental issues (such as climate change, peak oil, food security)
- Engaging the community in decision-making and implementation

Underpinning all these goals is the cross-cutting/over-arching principle of reducing health inequalities.
Healthy Urban Team

WHO collaborating centre for healthy urban environments (UWE)
Marcus Grant (0.1 fte)

Climate change and peak oil
Dr Angela Raffle (0.6 fte)

Planning and Health
Stephen Hewitt

Health Policy
Liz McDougall (BCC)

Active Bristol
Clare Lowman

Transport Planning
Dr Adrian Davis (0.5 fte)
Five planning and health work areas

- **Strategic policy development**
- **Place-shaping/master-planning**
  - Knowle West HIA
- **Development management**
  - NHS Bristol as a consultee
- **Advice to NHS Bristol**
  - Spatial planning learning set
- **Partnership working**
  - Food
  - Transport (JLTP3)
  - Healthy City Group
The Core Strategy (June 2011) aims to deliver “A safe and healthy city made up of thriving neighbourhoods with a high quality of life” and has “Better health and well-being” as one of its eleven objectives.

5. Better health and wellbeing
a pattern of development and urban design that promotes good health and wellbeing and provides good places and communities to live in. Bristol will have open space and green infrastructure, high quality healthcare, leisure, sport, culture and tourism facilities which are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. This will help enable active lifestyles, improve quality of life and reduce pollution.
Putting policy in to practice

- Development management policies
- Health impact assessments
- Integrating health into supplementary planning documents
- Planning a Healthier Bristol planning advice note to be produced
- Joint local transport plan
- Evidence and research
Place-shaping

Knowle West
HIA workshop

- 36 people attended
- Local residents
- Local councillor
- Local workers
- Professionals
- Academics

NHS Bristol
Development Management

NHS Bristol to be consulted on:

- Pre-applications discussions on super major developments (100+ dwellings or 10,000 m² floorspace)
- 10 or more dwellings
- 1,000 m² or more floorspace
- Loss of public open space
- Hot food takeaways
- Section 106/CIL
Support to NHS Bristol

- Spatial planning learning set
- Community development
- Healthy neighbourhood-check
- Neighbourhood planning - frontrunners
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- Resource – access to planning expertise
The Food Agenda

• Bristol Food Network
• Food Charter
• Annual Food Conference
• Procurement
• Community Growing
• Food Policy Council
• www.bristol.gov.uk/food
Who feeds Bristol?
Towards a resilient food plan

Production • Processing • Distribution • Communities • Retail • Catering • Waste

Research report written by Joy Carey
A baseline study of the food system that serves Bristol and the Bristol city region
March 2011

www.bristol.gov.uk/whofeedsbristol
Figure 14: Planning powers for food

- A specific allocation for food growing to cover agriculture and allotments and community growing initiatives.
- Encourage temporary / interim uses such as food growing, pending development of a site.
- Providing facilities for composting and food waste recycling.
- Housing developments (including flat conversions) to have space for separate food waste storage.
- New housing to include new allotments (or contribution to off-site provision).
- Encourage green/greenhouse roofs on large buildings that could be used for food production.
- Private amenity space (such as gardens) to be designed and located to facilitate opportunities for growing food.
- Growing, production and processing

- Waste

- Distribution and retail

- Consumption

- Restrict the development of hot-food takeaways near schools, youth clubs and parks as part of a strategy to support healthy eating, particularly by children and young people.
- Allocate sites for markets in all local centres.
- Policies for town, district and local centres to restrict the loss of food shops (both to non-retail uses and to non-food retail) and to cover the sub-division or amalgamation of retail units (so that proposals to merge a number of small shops together to create one large store or supermarket would need planning permission).

(Data source: Stephen Hewitt, Bristol City Council)
Use class war
How a planning row fuelled the Bristol riots 01

Cross-borough core strategy
Four Black Country local authorities have created the first joint core strategy document for a metropolitan area 05

Local background
How planning policies were used to make these areas fit for the future of the local economy. 06

Leeds chief appointed
The mayor’s new deputy says the planning, land and property, faces a challenging role in the coming months 07

Joint management
Crown jumper, head of the government team responsible for managing the new office space, wonders whether they will achieve their goal.
A new approach

- Be clear about **what we want to achieve**; what is the harm we want to avoid/mitigate.
- Identify **clear, objective and justifiable criteria** that can be used to distinguish between different retailers or between different retail uses.
- Have a **strong evidence base** to support our actions. In pioneering a new approach there will be strong challenges.
- Recognise that **retailing is a dynamic market** that may not respond as anticipated. In trying a new approach, there may well be unintended consequences.
- **Different regulatory regimes**

Positive support for local centres
Supermarkets

A clear distinction needs to be made between:

- **The building** (eg small convenience store or large superstore, is it accessible and well-designed or not, what are the servicing arrangements, is it a listed building, is it new build or refurbishment)

- **The location** (in centre, out of centre, in a prosperous vibrant centre or a poorly performing centre on a deprived outer estate, in a conservation area)

- **The use** (retail or non-retail; what is being sold, when is it open)

- **The operator** (eg a local independent, a franchise, a local retail chain, a national or international multiple retail chain)

Which factors can/should planning control?
Planning concerns?

• The diversity, character, vitality and viability of local centres. In some centres the concern is the "clone town Britain" effect, where there are other poorly performing centres where a supermarket anchor store would be welcomed.

• Servicing and delivering to stores. The servicing requirements of a convenience supermarket are very different to other retail uses.

• The loss of community pubs to retail.

• The local economy and local employment – including the impact on local suppliers and the wholesale and distribution infrastructure.
A fit and proper organisation

- Agricultural practices
- Relationships with suppliers
- Food production and distribution (food miles)
- Packaging and food waste
- Healthy eating
- Climate change and use of fossil fuels
- Consumer choice and enterprise
- Monopoly and competition (national and local)
Beyond Planning

- Sustainable Communities Act 2007
- Local Government Act 2000 – promotion of economic, social and environmental wellbeing
- Localism Bill – general power of competence
- Bye-laws
- Licensing/registration – pubs, betting shops, off-licences, sex shops
- Pharmacies - control of entry - necessary or desirable
- Office of Fair Trade – local monopolies
- Lessons from abroad
An opportunity?

• The review of the Use Classes Order and General Development Order
• Deadline for responses of 1 September 2011
• www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/changeuseissues
A New Use Class A1?

a) Small convenience store (up to 250 sq m)
b) Supermarket – convenience store (over 250 sq m)
c) Small comparison store (up to 250 sq m)
d) Large comparison store (over 250 sq m)
e) Pharmacy
f) Other retail (hairdressers, travel & ticket agencies, domestic hire shops, dry cleaners, funeral directors, internet cages, sandwich bars)
Contact

Stephen Hewitt
Specialist Professional Planner
(Healthy Living/Health Improvement)
Bristol City Council
City Development
Brunel House
St George's Road
Bristol BS1 5UY

Tel: +44 (0) 117 922 2756
E-mail: stephen.hewitt@bristol.gov.uk
www.bristol.gov.uk/health