

12 Policy CS9 - Promoting Better Education

Strategic Objective 9

Provide a quality of education and vocational training that ensures that the young people of the Borough can capitalise on the opportunities in Waltham Forest and London, and are able to succeed and prosper now and in the future.

Introduction

12.1 A key challenge for the Borough is to help young people to capitalise on the advantages and opportunities available to them in London, by providing access to skills and education. To be able to do this, the Council needs to provide a quality of education and facilities that will drive up attainment levels and help the Borough's children to succeed. In some cases, child poverty limits the life chances of the Borough's children. By planning for appropriate provision of educational facilities, and ensuring that sites are designated for future school and further education facilities, the Council can ensure a successful future of the children of the Borough. Educational facilities included in this policy are nursery, pre-school, school and further / higher education facilities.

Policy CS9 - Promoting Better Education

The Council and its partners will ensure that all residents, especially young people in the borough have access to high quality educational facilities by:

- A) providing enough primary, secondary and further education places so that all young residents in the Borough can be educated to a high standard;
- B) making sure that facilities are sustainably designed, energy efficient and easily accessible by sustainable transport modes;
- C) providing access to play spaces, local playing fields and sporting facilities;
- D) requiring new schools to be developed as community hubs whereby they are accessible to the general public outside school hours; and
- E) allocating land for new educational facilities where there is a need.

12.2 Access to education is essential in ensuring the prosperity of the borough's residents, as well as reducing existing deprivation in some parts of the borough. The concept of convergence is an important one. Given that levels of educational attainment are much lower in Waltham Forest than in other parts of London, there is a need to improve education facilities in the Borough to provide equal life chances.

12.3 As Local Educational Authority, the Council is responsible for securing provision of education for children of 5 –16 years old on a compulsory basis and providing facilities for the education of under 5s and people of 16 plus.

12.4 There is recognition that education attainment is a crucial driver in terms of determining life choices for the borough's young people, particularly their 'employability'. Good quality educational offer is an important criteria in anchoring families and in building sustainable communities. High quality education, particularly in secondary schools, would encourage more families to remain in the borough.

Educational Capacity Requirements

12.5 The Strategic Infrastructure Plan (URS 2009) assessed the requirements of the Borough in terms of all types of infrastructure. Key findings are described below.

Early Years Education

12.6 There is considered to be enough spare capacity across the borough to meet demand ⁽⁶⁸⁾.

Primary Education

12.7 There are currently 43 established maintained primary schools in the borough and 6 infants and junior schools. These are organised into 10 educational planning areas. There is currently a planned increase in provision of 9 forms of entry (FoE) to meet need for places to 2014. In addition to this, URS estimates of demand show that the Council need to plan for a further 13.5 over the period 2014 - 2019 with demand then stabilising over the remainder of the planning period. Demand for these FoEs will be greatest in the the south and centre of the Borough ⁽⁶⁹⁾. (Figure 20)

Secondary Education

12.8 There are currently 15 established maintained secondary schools in Waltham Forest, with further provision being made for 1 all-through (3-16 year olds) school. There is a need for 14.6 FoEs over the period 2014-2026 to account for new demand (there is little requirement for new capacity in the first phase 2009-2014). This additional capacity will largely be required to serve demand in the southern area of the Borough. ⁽⁷⁰⁾

Further Education

12.9 There are 3 further education colleges in Waltham Forest in addition to secondary schools that also provide post-16 education. Under the previous BSF programme (recently scrapped by the current government), 830 further educational places were to be provided which would have met the demand. These places now need to be provided through another funding stream yet to be identified.

68 Strategic Infrastructure Plan, URS, 2009

69 Strategic Infrastructure Plan, URS, 2009

70 Strategic Infrastructure Plan, URS, 2009

Planning for School Places

12.10 The deficiency in school places is an issue which needs to be addressed through planning for new schools and expansion of existing schools.

12.11 In line with the London Plan, the Borough encourages a criteria based approach to the provision of different types of educational facilities and the expansion of existing facilities, taking into account the need for new facilities; the potential for expansion of existing provision; and the proximity to homes and work places. In all cases, school developments are to maximise the potential of sites and promote high quality, inclusive design. Furthermore, energy efficiency and renewable energy is encouraged through all levels of planning policy. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan included in Appendix 1 provides further details regarding the delivery of educational facilities.

12.12 A key component of this policy is the safeguarding of sites for the development of new schools. As the population increases, demands on schools will grow accordingly, and therefore major developments and regeneration should address school places provision. There is currently planning taking place to secure a site for a new school, and this is an important consideration which should be addressed through the Site Area Allocations Development Plan Document.

Schools as Community Hubs

12.13 Outside conventional school hours, there could be opportunities for a range of activities, for example sports and arts facilities, health, training and Job Centre plus to take place on shared use basis. This policy seeks to encourage the transformation of schools into 'community learning hubs' and becoming the focus of other community activities. The hubs will be characterised by:

- being “full service” in terms of addressing locally identified needs,
- housing or providing programming and/or activities 7 days a week, 24 hours a day; and
- maintaining the traditional secondary school focus for student learning, welfare and safety.

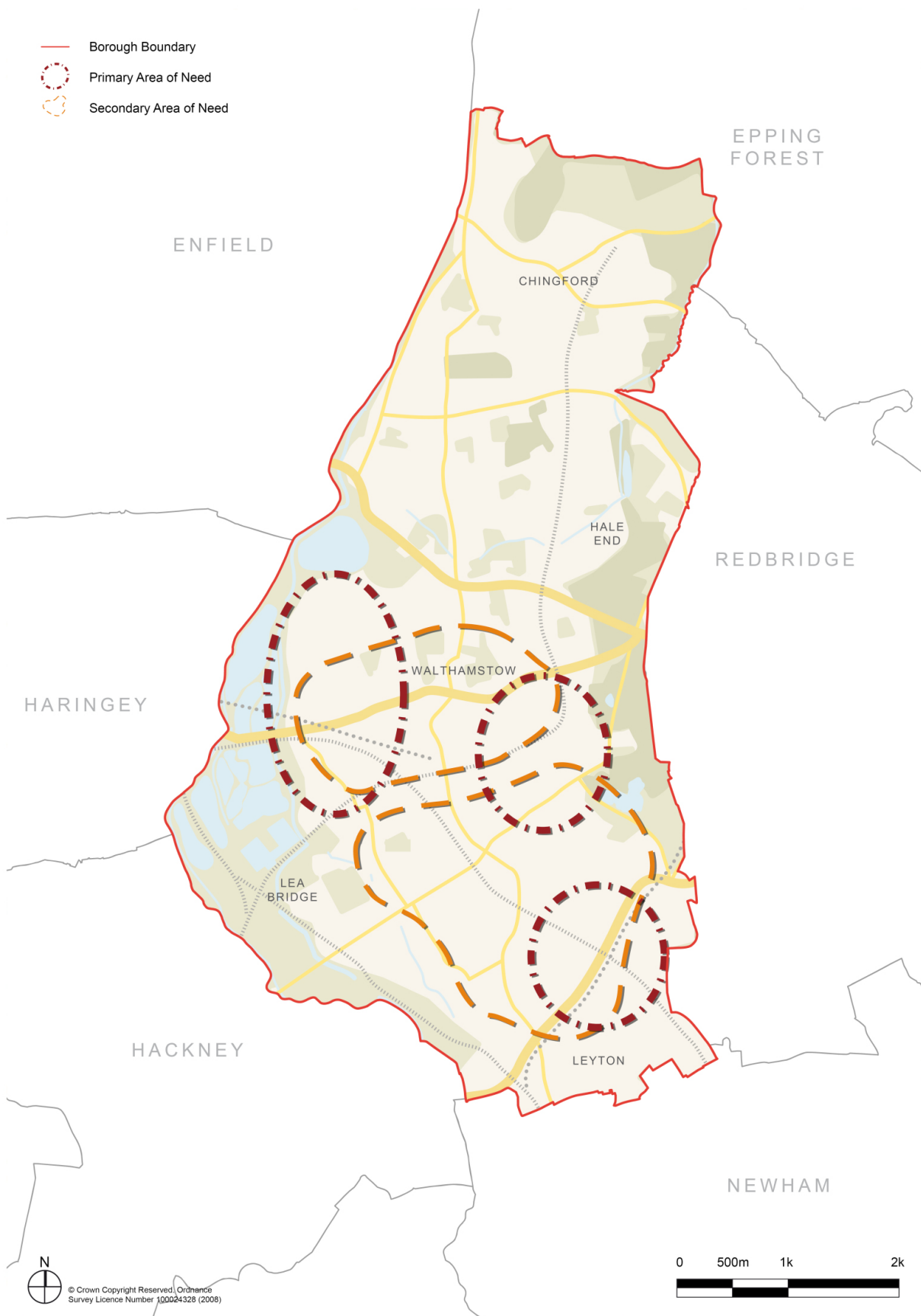
12.14 Through a clear management and funding structure, these facilities should be valuable hubs for the surrounding community, with the Council encouraging the community to embrace the services, with the hope that they will view the school as a friendly and supportive place to be.

12.15 The Council also supports investment in facilities in the regeneration areas such as Blackhorse Lane and the Northern Olympic Fringe, where the requirement for greater provision of school places due to an increased population should provide a catalyst for the development of high quality 'community hubs'.

Implementation

12.16 This policy will be implemented through the normal planning process, and through the allocation of sites for development in the relevant Development Plan Documents including Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow Central and Northern Olympic Fringe Area Actions Plans.

Figure 20 Area of Need (Educational Facilities)



13 Policy CS10 - Creating More Jobs and Reducing Worklessness

Strategic Objective 10

Reduce inequalities, unemployment and worklessness in the borough by improving skills, training and employment opportunities and access to jobs.

Introduction

13.1 Unemployment in Waltham Forest is high in comparison to the London average (8.4% in September 2008 compared to 6.8% for London). ⁽⁷¹⁾ The borough also has a population with lower than average levels of skills which is disproportionately employed in the lower occupational categories. This is especially true for the borough's ethnic minority population and for the young adult population. Amongst those aged 20-24, almost a third are either unemployed or economically inactive. ⁽⁷²⁾ Population churn in the more deprived areas of the borough is also a key issue as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

13.2 Unsurprisingly the workless population is disproportionately concentrated in some of the more disadvantaged neighbourhoods. As shown in Figure 21, wards with the highest percentage of claimants of out-of-work benefits are Leyton, Lea Bridge, Markhouse, Wood Street, Hoe Street, Cathall and Higham Hill.

Policy CS10 - Creating More Jobs and Reducing Worklessness

The Council will seek to maximise employment opportunities for its residents by:

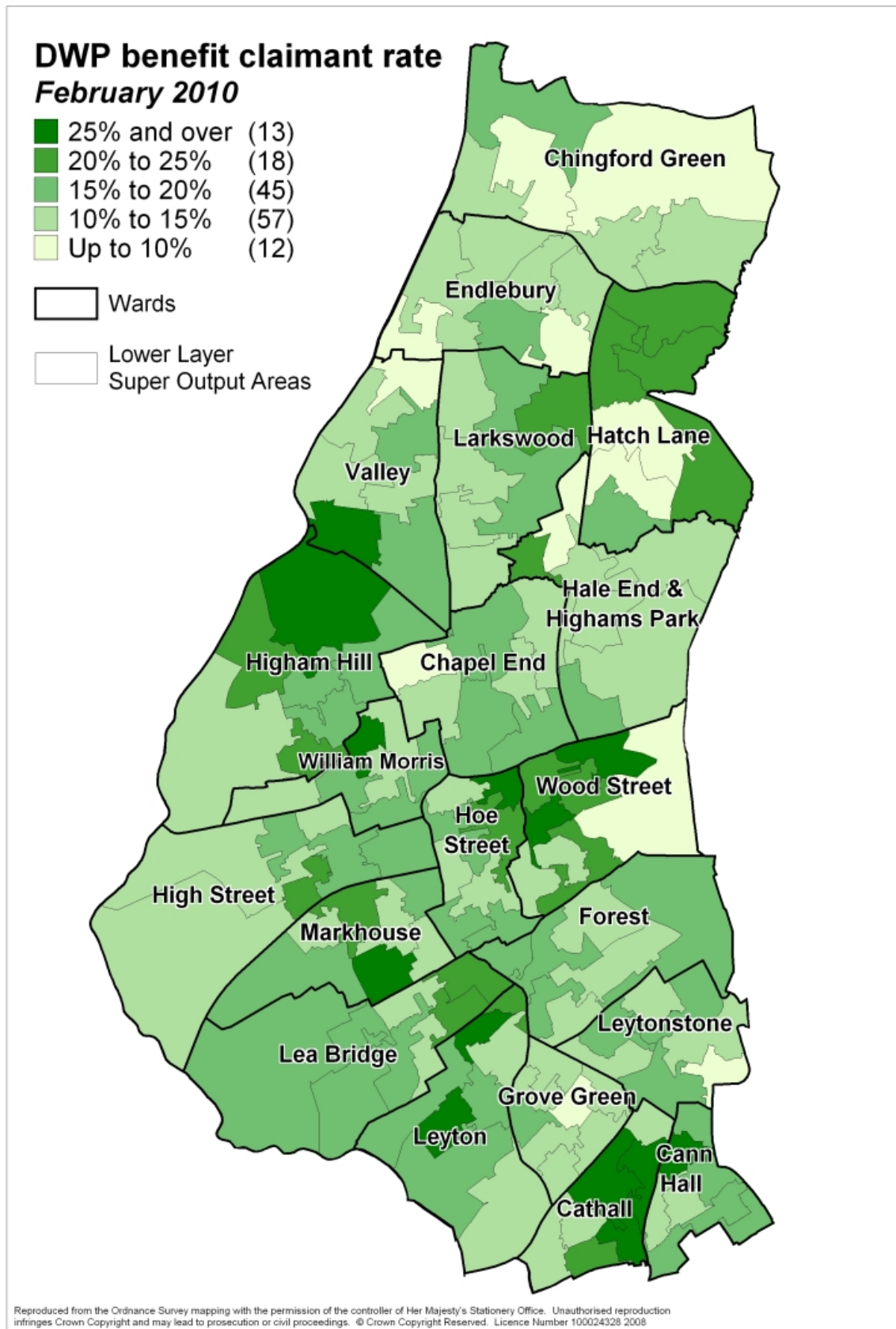
- A) promoting the delivery of additional educational and training facilities in suitable locations, in both new and existing developments;
- B) ensuring provision is made where appropriate in new developments for the recruitment and training of local residents, including through s106 agreements or any future tariff based system;
- C) supporting infrastructure improvements that enhance residents' access to employment areas via public transport, foot and bicycle.

Opportunities for the most vulnerable sections of the community will be enhanced through focussing employment growth in the boroughs key growth areas.

71 Waltham Forest Employment Land Study, URS, 2009

72 Waltham Forest Strategy for Enterprise, Employment and Skills, 2009

Figure 21 Map of Benefits Claimants, Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Feb 2010



13.3 A key commitment of the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy is to achieve full employment. This means breaking down the barriers to employment opportunities for our residents. The economic growth of East London is expected to attract high quality jobs, meaning that over the next decade employers are going to be seeking higher levels of skills and qualifications.⁽⁷³⁾ Matching the skills of the local population to the jobs created will therefore be imperative in addressing social exclusion and making the most of regeneration. Given that economic development will largely be directed to the more deprived areas of the borough, where educational attainment is low, raising skills and qualifications of the existing community is both an opportunity and a challenge.

13.4 Industrial decline has left the borough with a large unemployed and under-qualified resident population. This is a major barrier to economic growth, since a strong correlation exists between qualifications and employment levels. For example, 85% of residents with high level qualifications are in employment, whilst of residents with no qualifications, only 40% are in work.⁽⁷⁴⁾ Furthermore, recent reliance on public sector employment (34% of all employment)⁽⁷⁵⁾ means the borough is vulnerable to increased unemployment through major public spending cuts.

13.5 Almost a third of Waltham Forest residents are 'low/ no skilled' and fewer than 60% of the population have a level 2 qualification or better.⁽⁷⁶⁾ Whilst progress has been made in recent years, to match the London average there is still need to upgrade the skills of 14,000 of our residents to above the 'low/no' skill level.⁽⁷⁷⁾ This is a major area of concern in terms of sustainable growth. 53% of jobs in London are higher end, but only 37% of Waltham Forest residents are equipped to access them.⁽⁷⁸⁾ As higher end opportunities are forecast to grow, it is those occupying lower end positions that are more vulnerable to redundancies, and less likely to find alternative employment.

13.6 Providing new training and education facilities in the borough will enhance the opportunities for local residents to obtain the skills needed to secure gainful employment, a requirement of the legacy of jointly hosting the 2012 Olympics. Training provided will need to relate to growth areas such as green industries; which nationwide there is a growing recognition of a skills shortage in. Whilst any location for training facilities will need to be judged on sustainability grounds, it should be recognised that co-location with employment developments can offer synergies between business and education, for example through offering opportunities for 'on the job training.'

13.7 Much of the focus of new employment development will be directed to the areas of deprivation through respective Area Action Plans. Whilst this will help break down physical barriers in terms of access to employment, effort will also be necessary in terms of raising skills and awareness of employment opportunities in these areas. This can be secured through the planning application process and will provide huge benefits in terms of providing for a higher skilled workforce. Since this will essentially be to address employment need arising from the developments, it is a justified approach in terms of Circular 05/05: Planning Obligations. Furthermore, London Plan Policy 2.14 sets out that in regeneration areas there is a need for integrated policies that address matters beyond

73 Waltham Forest Strategy for Enterprise, Employment and Skills, 2009

74 Waltham Forest Strategy for Enterprise, Employment and Skills, 2009

75 Local Economic Assessment, Navigant Consulting, 2009

76 www.ons.gov.uk

77 Waltham Forest Strategy for Enterprise, Employment and Skills, 2009

78 p11 Local Economic Assessment, Navigant Consulting, 2009

land use issues; such as improvements in learning and skills, whilst Policy 4.12 sets out that strategic development proposals should support local employment, skills development and training opportunities. Also, it is understood that local rewarding employment can have a significant impact on residents mental health and wellbeing.

13.8 Raising residents' skills to match emerging employment sectors is imperative in creating a sustainable pattern of development, and realising the aim of the Sustainable Community Strategy to create and retain more wealth in the borough. Recognition of the wider job market in London is also necessary though.

13.9 Whilst the borough suffers from high levels of deprivation, there are also approximately 40,000 Waltham Forest residents with high level qualifications.⁽⁷⁹⁾ Data from the Local Economic Assessment suggests that the better skilled residents of the borough largely commute to jobs in neighbouring districts - for example in the financial sector in Tower Hamlets.

13.10 These patterns are likely to continue as the borough is not expected to attract such employers (indeed the URS Employment Land Study found that most demand for office space in Waltham Forest was for that with cheap rents). New development at Stratford City will also provide further competition in terms of attracting high quality new office developments to the area. In this context it is important that the borough looks beyond administrative boundaries and supports enhanced access to broader job opportunities. Such an approach is consistent with London Plan Policy 2.7 requirements that improved access from Outer London to key employment areas is secured.

Implementation

13.11 Further criteria for assessing the provision of new training facilities will be provided in the Development Management Policies DPD. Specific proposals for such uses will be brought forward in Area Action Plans as part of the co-ordinated regeneration of those areas.

13.12 Funding for training and skills development schemes will be secured through negotiations with developers during planning applications. The Council will pursue contributions under Section 106 agreements in accordance with its Planning Obligations SPD. Planning obligations will be determined by the location, scale and nature of any development proposal and will vary dependant on if they are to upskill the local workforce or mitigate for the loss of a local employer. In the future, pooling of contributions may supersede or complement section 106 agreements and where this is the case funding may be sought through a tariff based approach.

13.13 Area Action Plans for the key growth areas will set out detailed proposals that enable better physical access to areas of employment through a range of means. In addition the Council will continue to work with partners to press for the reinstatement of the Hall Farm Curve, to enable better access for the borough's residents to opportunities in Stratford City.

79 Waltham Forest Strategy for Enterprise, Employment and Skills, 2009

13.14 There are other work streams outside of planning in which the Council can influence employment opportunities for its residents. For example, dialogue between employers and learning providers will take place through the Local Strategic Partnership Board, and education and learning providers will be encouraged to re-shape courses to match the forecast needs of business growth sectors in terms of skills and knowledge.

13.15 The Waltham Forest Strategy for Enterprise, Employment and Skills (2009) sets out a plan to integrate the many services for workless people. Waltham Forest has successfully piloted the Worknet programme as part of the City Strategy Pathfinder for East London. In Waltham Forest, this aims to deliver integrated in-to-work, training and skills services through 32 neighbourhood access points, targeted at the borough's most vulnerable residents and deprived neighbourhoods.

13.16 The role of voluntary, community and faith organisations will be promoted in the local media, including the Waltham Forest Magazine.

14 Policy CS11 - Tourism Development and Visitor Attractions

Strategic Objective 11

Increase the attraction of the area as a tourist destination, based on its unique assets, and the opportunities offered as one of the host boroughs of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Introduction

14.1 Tourism is defined by the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) as comprising the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes. It includes the activities of both overnight visitors and same day visitors.

14.2 A successful tourist sector can have major benefits to an area in terms of supporting the local services and facilities, diversifying the local economy, contributing to an area's identity, and providing employment opportunities for local residents. It is estimated that in 2004, Waltham Forest received an estimated total of £42.5 million in tourism.⁽⁸⁰⁾

14.3 Waltham Forest is well placed for the development of a strong tourism sector. It benefits from good transport links to central London, but also has unique attractions in its own right. These include:

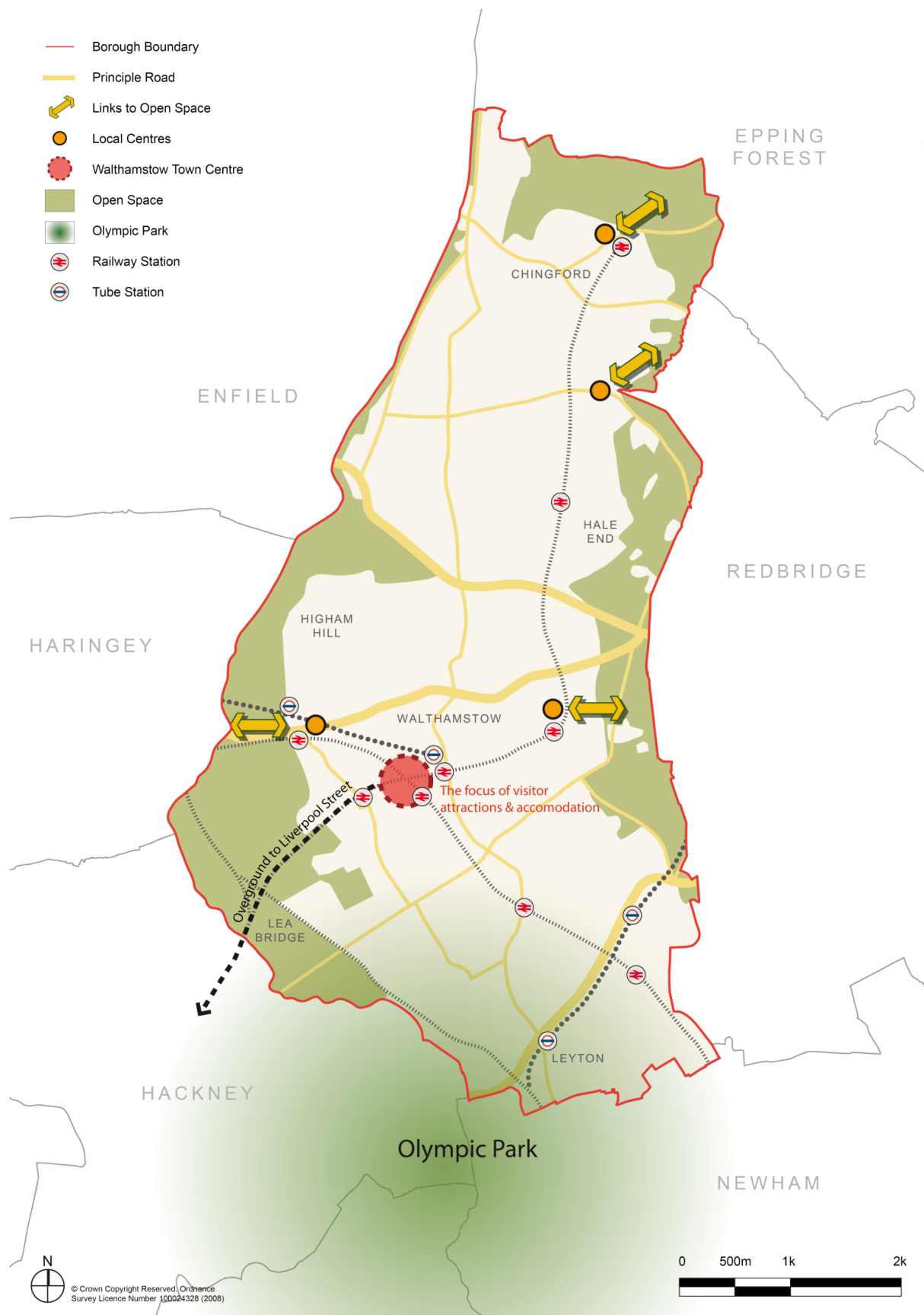
- Epping Forest
- Lea Valley Regional Park
- The William Morris Gallery
- One of the longest street markets in Europe in Walthamstow Town Centre
- Sporting facilities being developed at Eton Manor as one of the 2012 Olympic Games host boroughs.

14.4 In particular, the green nature of the borough is a major asset that makes it quite distinct from the rest of London. 'Our Place in London: Waltham Forest's Community Strategy 2010-2030', identifies that one fifth of the borough is covered by forest, reservoirs, open spaces, parks and playing fields.

14.5 Figure 22 shows visually the opportunities for a growing tourism sector in Waltham Forest.

80 Local Area Tourism Impact Model, London Development Agency, July 2009

Figure 22 Tourism opportunities



Policy CS11 - Tourism Development and Visitor Attractions

The Council will support the development of the tourism sector in Waltham Forest by:

Visitor accommodation

A) focusing visitor accommodation in designated town centres whilst also allowing for some small scale visitor accommodation within close proximity to visitor attractions;

Visitor attractions

B) encouraging new leisure and cultural developments in Walthamstow town centre, and other locations suited to attracting visitors;

C) protecting, promoting and enhancing Walthamstow Market as a unique feature of Walthamstow town centre;

D) protecting the borough's unique assets including Epping Forest, and Lea Valley Regional Park, from insensitive development, while encouraging growth in visitor numbers and improved access;

E) protecting and enhancing the quality of existing visitor attractions;

F) promoting the development of the Walthamstow Wetlands as a significant visitor destination.

Visitor Accommodation

14.6 The Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism ⁽⁸¹⁾ sets out the benefits of tourism in all its forms to the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of the country. As the capital city, London currently attracts over 25 million tourists every year, over half of which are from abroad. ⁽⁸²⁾ The London Plan therefore sets a target of achieving 40,000 net additional hotel bedrooms across London by 2031, whilst also recognising that there is scope for growth in tourism and leisure in outer London.

14.7 Many visitors to London are attracted to the rich heritage and cultural offer in the centre and the West End. Through making the most of its unique assets, good transport links (e.g. 22mins from Walthamstow Central to Oxford Circus on the London Underground Victoria Line), means Waltham Forest has a good opportunity to tap into London's strong tourism market. Furthermore its location on the fringe of the Olympic Park will further enhance its appeal as a visitor destination once the 2012 Olympic Games are underway.

14.8 To secure maximum economic benefit, it will be important to retain tourists in the area. High quality new visitor accommodation will therefore be necessary. Both the London Plan and Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth, dictate that town centres, with good public transport links, and the offer of a variety of facilities and a night time economy, should be the main focus for visitor accommodation. As the

81 DCLG 2006

82 www.visitlondon.com

biggest centre in the borough, with the strongest PTAL rating and retail offer, Walthamstow town centre should absorb most of this demand. However it is recognised that smaller centres may have a unique appeal for small scale accommodation such as guest houses, and that there is a need to provide for accommodation close to the borough's main attractions in order to reduce the need to travel.

Visitor Attractions

14.9 Tourists can include people visiting family and friends in and around Waltham Forest. The Council is keen to ensure that its natural and cultural assets are effectively promoted to allow a wider range of people to enjoy them.

14.10 As with tourist accommodation, the accessibility of Walthamstow town centre means it should be the main focus for new developments likely to result in a large number of visitors. This will be essential in realising one of the key commitments in the Waltham Forest Sustainable Community Strategy, namely to 'transform Walthamstow town centre into an asset for the borough, with quality shopping, healthy businesses and workspace, leisure, an iconic market and cinema, and vibrant day and evening economies.' Realising this commitment will help retain visitors in the area, and thus strengthen the local economy.



14.11 However, it is important to also recognise that to fully realise its potential as a tourist destination, Waltham Forest must provide a complimentary offer to the traditional tourism magnets of London. In this context the green nature of the borough is just as important as the offer of the urban area. Assets such as Epping Forest and Lea Valley Regional Park, if managed correctly, offer something different as visitor attractions to much of the more urban parts of London. In particular, Lea Valley Regional Park currently has

limited public access, which if addressed, through projects such as the Walthamstow Wetlands, could also have benefits for the local community in terms of reducing open space deficits identified in the Waltham Forest Open Spaces Strategy.

14.12 Striking a balance between providing for increased access and use of open spaces, whilst not compromising their biodiversity value, will be important in terms of compliance with Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.

Implementation

14.13 Improved access through to Lea Valley Regional Park will be a key principle of, and secured through, the Blackhorse Lane and Northern Olympic Fringe Area Action Plans. In addition the Council will also work with stakeholders such as Thames Water and the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority on projects that enhance the use of Walthamstow Wetlands, as identified in the Upper Lea Valley Landscape Strategy.

14.14 A separate Area Action Plan setting out a detailed planning framework for Walthamstow town centre is also in production. This will enable the regeneration of the town centre that secures improved retail, leisure and cultural offer; thus making it a more attractive place for visitors to spend time and money.

14.15 Detailed guidelines on criteria to be considered in planning applications for tourism development and visitor accommodation will be set out in the Development Management Policies Development Plan Document.

14.16 Waltham Forest College is running a number of courses in tourism and hospitality, meaning that local residents will be well placed to find employment in this growing sector.

14.17 Funding has been secured for refurbishment works to the William Morris Gallery, whilst continuing to host successful events identified in the Waltham Forest Culture Strategy, such as the E17 Art Trail and an Annual Cycling Festival, will provide a further drawer to the borough.

15 Policy CS12 - Protecting and Enhancing Heritage Assets

Strategic Objective 12:

Conserve and enhance the borough's heritage assets whilst maximising their contribution to future economic growth and community well-being.

Introduction

15.1 Heritage assets ⁽⁸³⁾ make a crucial contribution to local identity and distinctiveness. They refer to those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic archaeological, architectural or artistic interest. They are an expression of our local pride and achievement and embrace all manner of features within the historic environment including buildings, spaces, archaeological remains, whether designated or not and whether or not capable of designation. Policy CS6 (Enhancing Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity) deals with open spaces in general.

15.2 Once lost, heritage assets cannot be easily replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. These assets play an important role in the life of communities. They help to maintain community identity and assist with economic development and tourism initiatives. Over the plan period, Waltham Forest will develop and be recognised as an area where the local heritage is appreciated, conserved and enhanced for the benefit of the local community and future generations.

Policy CS12 - Protecting and Enhancing Heritage Assets

In managing growth and change, the Council will promote the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the historic environment by:

- A) conserving and enhancing the significance of the borough's heritage assets and their settings such as conservation areas, listed buildings, parks and gardens of local historic interest, archaeological priority zones and other buildings of local historic value;
- B) keeping under review heritage designations and designating additional areas, buildings and spaces for protection where justified by evidence;
- C) carrying out, reviewing and implementing Conservation Area Appraisals and management plans;
- D) promoting heritage-led regeneration and seeking appropriate beneficial uses and improvements to historic buildings, spaces and areas;

83 PPS5 - Planning for the Historic Environment, March 2010

E) ensuring improved access to historic assets and improved understanding of the borough's history.

15.3 PPS5⁽⁸⁴⁾ places a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets. The more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation. Waltham Forest's heritage assets will be protected and enhanced in accordance with PPS5. In managing changes affecting heritage assets, the Council will also seek to ensure in accordance with PPS5 that opportunities to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change are considered. This will include the reuse and, where appropriate, the modification of heritage assets so as to reduce carbon emissions and secure sustainable development. Accordingly, Policy CS5 will also be applied to all proposals affecting heritage assets.

15.4 The conservation and enhancement of the historic environment has a significant role to play in regenerating urban areas. Waltham Forest has a diverse heritage which contributes to its identity. These include conservation areas, listed buildings, parks and gardens of local historic interest, archaeological priority zones and other buildings of local historic value. The quality and distinctiveness of the historic environment can be easily eroded by ill conceived and short sighted actions and once lost, the historic environment is difficult to restore.

15.5 The setting of a heritage asset is particularly important. In managing changes to the environment, the Council will treat favourably proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of a heritage asset. The Council will generally follow the policy approach set out in PPS5 in considering proposals likely to have a negative impact on the significance of heritage assets. Other impacts upon heritage assets and the wider historic environment are important considerations, for example, the potential issue of tall buildings. Policies in subsidiary plan documents, in particular, the Development Management Policies Document will ensure that adequate protection measures are in place to guide changes to the built environment.

15.6 The Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) provides a valuable source of information on the borough's historic environment. Where the loss of the whole or a material part of the heritage asset's significance is justified, the Council will ensure that those elements to be lost are recorded, understood, disseminated and held on the Greater London Historic Environment Record, for example, where the heritage asset is of archaeological interest. Additionally, the Council will use planning obligations to help compensate and enhance the historic environment.

Conservation Areas

15.7 Conservation areas are defined in law as “areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”⁽⁸⁵⁾ Conservation areas can bring many benefits, including giving greater controls over

⁸⁴ Planning Policy Statement 5, Planning for the Historic Environment, 2010

⁸⁵ Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

demolition, minor development and tree felling. The Council has a duty to designate as Conservation Areas those areas of the borough that have special architectural or historic interest, and whose character or appearance it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

15.8 Waltham Forest has a rich architectural and historic heritage, with 11 designated Conservation Areas (see figure below), defining distinctive settlements such as Walthamstow Village and examples of cohesive design such as the Warner housing of Leucha Road in Walthamstow and the mid-1940's Garden suburb development of Ropers Avenue in Highams Park. The borough also has over 100 statutorily Listed Buildings, along with approximately 140 locally listed buildings of architectural and historic interest. There are also 5 Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest including Fairmead Park, Highams Park, Mallinson Park, Lloyd Park and Coronation Gardens. The Waltham Forest Characterisation Study 2009 reinforces the importance of these unique areas.

15.9 The designation of conservation areas is not intended to prevent change or development but to ensure that where development takes place, they preserve or enhance the essential character of an area. Accordingly, rigorous design standards will be applied in these areas. Applicants for planning permission will be required to demonstrate that their proposals are sensitive to the context of the area.

15.10 The Council is required to survey its area from time to time to determine whether to designate Conservation Areas (areas of special architectural or historic interest). Accordingly, conservation areas will be periodically reviewed. Conservation Areas are designated not on the basis of individual buildings but because of the overall quality of the area, its mix of uses, historic layout, characteristic materials, scale and detailing of buildings and open spaces. Designation also takes into account the need to protect trees, hedges, walls, railings and other characteristic features. Once designated, special attention must be paid in all planning decisions to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

Listed Buildings

15.11 Waltham Forest has a limited stock of statutorily listed buildings. However there are buildings on the local list which whilst not necessarily of national importance are considered by the Council to have a particular environmental value, contributing significantly to the character and amenity of a locality. They might have a high townscape value, architectural quality or historic associations which the Council wishes to see maintained. Such buildings include St.Mary's Infant School E17, Highams Park Signal Box and the Leyton Almshouses on Church Road. They all represent a finite asset and for that reason their loss or substantial demolition will not be permitted unless the Council is satisfied that every possible alternative approach for restoration, conversion or re-use has been thoroughly explored and found to be impractical.

15.12 Some of the borough's historic buildings are within the designated centres where regeneration opportunities exist. In considering development proposals for properties in these areas, the Council will ensure that the essential character and appearance of the buildings is maintained and enhanced through redevelopment proposals. Proposals which would involve the demolition of, or drastic alterations to these properties will be resisted.

The Council considers that it is important, as far as is practicable, to retain certain individual, or groups of buildings. For example, parts of the High Street E17 have historic buildings of importance to the character of Walthamstow Town Centre.

Archaeological Priority Zones

15.13 The historic legacy of the Borough means significant areas of land are identified as Archaeological Priority Zones which have particular archaeological interest although significant archaeological remains may survive outside of these designated area. Some of these zones cover extensive areas such as the whole of the Lea Valley, the valleys of The Ching and The Fillebrook Rivers and areas around former Saxon and Mediaeval settlements such as Chingford, Walthamstow, Leyton, Highams Park and Leytonstone. All archaeological remains require policy protection. Any development or changes taking place in these areas will be carefully managed to encourage the conservation, protection and enhancement of the archaeological heritage of the borough.

Conservation Area Appraisals

15.14 Conservation Area Appraisals help to define what is important about the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and their important characteristics. It is a vital tool to enable the active management of a Conservation Area. It identifies the area's special features and changing needs through a process which includes researching its historical development, carrying out a detailed townscape analysis and preparing a character assessment. As a planning authority, Waltham Forest has a duty to protect and enhance the character and appearance of conservation areas and to prepare and publish proposals for doing so. This is also necessary for residents and property owners to be aware of the key features, which create the area's special character.

15.15 Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans have been completed for Ropers Field, Leucha Road, Thornhill Road, Forest School, Walthamstow Village, Browning Road, Chingford Green and Orford Road. Work is currently in progress to prepare others for Leytonstone, Woodford Green and Walthamstow St James.

Heritage-led Regeneration

15.16 The Council will support heritage focused projects where appropriate. Heritage-led regeneration can have some influence on social issues such as crime, health, education and particularly social capital.⁽⁸⁶⁾ Accordingly, heritage-led regeneration will be applied to area based regeneration schemes, single building projects or other regeneration projects based around a historic building.

15.17 In managing changes to the built environment, the Council will ensure that regeneration presents an opportunity for conservation and development to work together. The Council will ensure that regeneration projects do not ignore the historic environment - including the parks and green spaces, streets, areas and buildings. Accordingly, where

86 The Social Impacts of Heritage-led Regeneration 2008, Report commissioned by the Agencies Coordinating Group (ACG), incorporating the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Civic Trust, the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, the Association of Preservation Trusts, and the Prince's Regeneration Trust.

decisions are being made about the future of historic buildings or areas as part of a regeneration scheme, the Council will seek to ensure that their historical, architectural and archaeological significance has been properly assessed.

15.18 Integrating heritage buildings into urban regeneration schemes has been shown to create popular, successful places with character. The historic environment lies at the heart of our sense of place and can be a valuable catalyst for regeneration. Particularly in town centres, historic buildings can provide a foundation for regeneration. Regenerating buildings can reinforce a sense of community and make an important contribution to the local economy. It can also act as a catalyst for improvements to the wider area. Through sensitive adaptations, new uses would be allowed in old buildings.

Access to Historic Assets

15.19 With thought and care, historic buildings can usually be made accessible to all members of the community without compromising their character and quality. Accordingly, the Council will support appropriate initiatives which increase access to historic assets, provide learning opportunities and maximise their potential as heritage attractions. Where possible, the Council will seek to open up and provide wider public access to all heritage assets.

15.20 There is much that can be done to promote an increased awareness of Waltham Forest's heritage. The Council will endeavour to promote an increased awareness of the local heritage by means of the identification and signing of buildings and sites of historic interest, the linking of buildings and sites of historic interest by town trails, and the creation and improvement of sign-posted pedestrian routes.

Implementation

15.21 To protect the character and appearance of the designated conservation areas, the Council has made use of Article 4 Directions on 9 of the 11 conservation areas. The provision of such a direction is given under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, and withdraws certain permitted development rights, such as removal of timber windows, doors, chimneys and painting of previously unpainted brickwork. The Council will continue to use this mechanism.

15.22 The Council will use its best endeavours to safeguard the borough's heritage assets. This policy will be primarily delivered through more detailed policies contained in the Development Management Policy DPD, Site Allocations DPD and Area Action Plans. Further detailed guidance on Locally Listed Buildings will be prepared as SPD.

15.23 Conservation Area Appraisals are intended to act as a guide to the buildings and features that make a special contribution to the character of an area. As each Conservation Area appraisal is adopted, this will be used to inform planning decisions through the Development Management process.

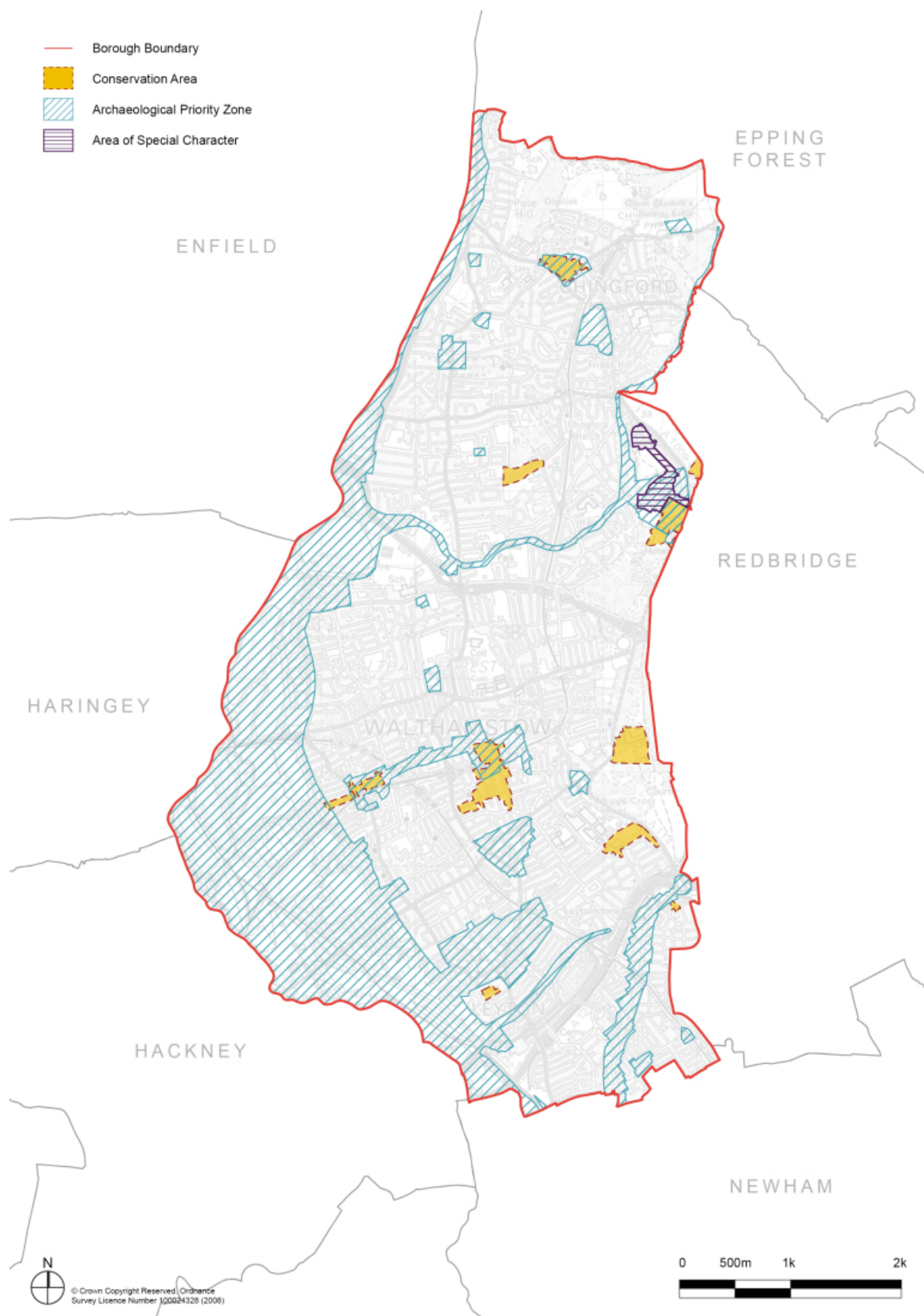
15.24 Funding for heritage-led regeneration will be sought from many sources. The Heritage Lottery Fund is presently the most important source of funding for heritage projects and has helped to promote regeneration through its awards to historic building projects. English Heritage's Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) typifies the approach

of using heritage to promote regeneration. Combining English Heritage funding with Council and private sector money, HERS concentrates on using heritage to revitalise run down towns or urban areas to create or safeguard employment.

15.25 Furthermore, the use of Section 106 agreements to secure repair and reuse of historic buildings will be applied. Linking the granting of planning permission for new buildings to repair or re-use of associated structures, on the same site or close by can ensure that some of the value of the new development is put back into the historic environment and can help to promote regeneration.



Figure 23 Conservation Areas and Archaeological Priority Zones



16 Policy CS13 - Promoting Health and Well-Being

Strategic Objective 13

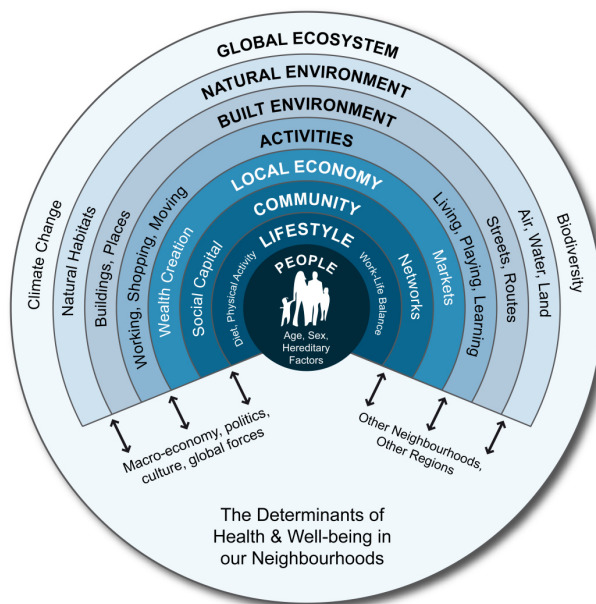
Improve the health and well-being of Waltham Forest residents by positively influencing the wider and spatial determinants of health, to enable residents to make healthier choices.

Introduction

16.1 As outlined in the The Marmot Review - Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2010) the government has the twin aims of improving health and well-being for all and reducing health inequalities. Planning Policy Statement 1 - Delivering Sustainable Development (2005), aims to deliver safe, healthy and attractive places to live and support the promotion of health and wellbeing by making provision for physical activity. The Council's Sustainable Community Strategy (2008) seeks to 'ensure residents are fit and healthy for work'. Theme five of the Council's Healthier Communities (Health Inequalities) Strategy, A Healthier, Fairer Waltham Forest (2010) is to "create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities".

16.2 Greater emphasis is being placed on providing an environment that enables healthy choices and on lifestyle and personal responsibility. A person's health and well-being is influenced by what are often referred to as the wider social determinants of health, which are the conditions in which a person is born, grows up, lives, works and age (Figure 24). These determinants are inextricably linked to socio-economic and environmental factors such as the quality, accessibility and sustainability of the physical environment. Therefore, the way an area is planned and managed can have a significant impact on an individual's quality of life, health and well-being. The Council seeks to promote healthy communities and active lifestyles in order to improve the health and reduce the health inequalities of residents in the borough.

Figure 24 Determinants of Health and Well-Being



16.3 Life expectancy is lower in Waltham Forest as compared to the rest of the London and England. According to Waltham Forest's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2009-11), life expectancy in the borough is 76.5 for males and 81.2 for females, compared with 78.2 and 82.7 in London and 77.82 and 81.95 in England. People living in poverty are more likely to be exposed to conditions that are adverse to their health such as crowded living conditions and unsafe neighbourhoods. According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation

(IMD) 2004, Waltham Forest is ranked 47th most deprived borough of the 354 local authorities in England. Waltham Forest's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2009 -11) states that 43.9% of the population live in areas ranked in the 20% most deprived areas in England and Wales and that 39% of children in Waltham Forest are affected by deprivation. Even within the borough, residents experience different levels of quality of life. For example, residents living in northern parts of the borough enjoy better health and longer life expectancy than those living in southern parts.

16.4 Olympic Host Boroughs account for the greatest cluster of deprivation in England and Wales. In relation to a number of social indicators including health, research demonstrates that communities in Olympic Host Boroughs are on average worse than other communities in London. For example, the percentage of households who live in overcrowded conditions is between 18% and 38% in the five host boroughs. The London average is under 7%. An extra 15 people per 100,000 of the population die prematurely in the host boroughs than in London overall. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games provide a unique opportunity to bring about regeneration in this area and tackle some of these challenges. To ensure communities benefit from this investment and opportunity the Olympic Host Boroughs have developed a Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF, 2009). The SRF seeks to link the physical investment brought about by the Olympics and its Legacy with socio-economic change in the surrounding areas. The SRF aims to ensure that within the next 20 years the Olympic Host Boroughs 'converge' and enjoy the same social and economic chances as communities across London.

Policy CS13 - Promoting Health and Well Being

The Council will aim to create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities by:

- A) requiring all new developments to meet appropriate environmental standards that minimise air, water, noise and light pollution and address the risks arising from contaminated land and hazardous substances;
- B) requiring new development to consider how it will contribute to improving health and reducing health inequalities. Where adverse impacts are identified, the development will be expected to demonstrate how it will address or mitigate against these impacts;
- C) improving both pedestrian and cycle access to green and open spaces, particularly the Olympic Park, Lea Valley Regional Park and Epping Forest;
- D) improving access to the borough's health facilities and services, leisure and sports and recreation facilities whilst ensuring they are accessible by all;
- E) promoting higher levels of regular exercise by making the public realm and pedestrian and cycle routes more attractive and safer;
- F) reducing the proliferation of any land use which reduces people's ability to be healthy; and

G) maximise the benefits of the Olympic Legacy for the benefit of the borough's residents.

Health and the Environment

16.5 It is a key objective of the draft replacement London Plan (2009) that London becomes a world leader in improving the environment. This includes taking the lead in reducing pollution. National policy makes it clear that the environmental impact of development proposals should be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control acknowledges that possible links exist between the quality of the environment and health. As well as being a statutory requirement, it is also in the interests of promoting good health amongst the borough's residents, that every effort is made to ensure new development does not have an adverse environmental impact.

Health Impacts of New Development

16.6 The Council seeks to ensure that all new developments and initiatives promote health and that negative impacts are mitigated before final approval. All new initiatives and policies will be reviewed in terms of their impact on health during development in order to ensure positive health impacts are emphasised. In addition, the way communities are designed and managed has a significant impact on health and well-being. Accordingly the Council will seek to ensure that new development, both residential and non-residential, contributes to improving health and reducing health inequalities in the borough.

16.7 Furthermore, The Council will seek to ensure that health issues are a key consideration when developing when a planning application. Factors such as low levels of internal space, poor neighbourhood quality, infrastructure deprivation (e.g. lack of availability and access to health services and facilities), polluting uses and poor neighbourhood safety can adversely affect a person's health and wellbeing. New development should consider how it will impact on the health of those who will live in, live close to, work in or use them. Where negative impacts are identified, the Council will ensure that these are addressed or mitigated.

16.8 The association between housing conditions and physical and mental ill health has long been recognised. Housing which is located in unhealthy locations, is cold and damp, poorly designed and oriented and has low levels of natural light can adversely affect a person's physical and mental health. Housing which is overcrowded can also cause mental disorders, physical illness and accidents. In accordance with policy CS2 - Improving Housing Quality and Choice, the Council seeks to ensure that residents live in high quality, well designed homes. These homes should be built out of good materials, be appropriately sized, energy efficient, warm and dry, adaptable and safe. Homes should be located with good access to high quality social infrastructure and green spaces. The disturbance from noise and exposure to poor air quality should be limited.

16.9 The Council will support initiatives which seek to improve the quality both internally and externally of existing homes. The Council will support retrofitting measures and schemes such as the Decent Homes Programme.

Quality Health Facilities

16.10 Also in accordance with Policy CS4 (Providing Infrastructure), the Council will seek to maximise opportunities to deliver new and improved health services and facilities. Provision and access to good quality health facilities and services has a direct positive effect on health. The Council will endeavour to ensure efficient public transport to existing health facilities. Providing secure, convenient and attractive access to such facilities and services is critical to ensuring residents use them. It is even more vital for those with mobility problems such as the elderly. Facilities and services which are located far away can cause significant problems not only in terms of accessing vital services but also preventing opportunities for daily social interaction which can contribute to isolation and depression.

Encouraging Physical Activity

16.11 Physical activity has strong links with reduced obesity, diabetes and the likelihood of cardiovascular disease and generally contributing to better physical and mental health. Research suggests that only 25% of adults in the borough take 30 minutes moderate exercise 5 times a week. The national figure is 32%.

16.12 The Council seeks to promote and encourage a built and natural environment that encourages residents to be more active and healthier. The Council recognises the important role open spaces, sports and recreation facilities play in promoting healthy living and preventing illness.



16.13 In accordance with Policy CS4 (Providing Infrastructure), the Council will seek to maximise opportunities to deliver new and improved facilities for sport and recreation, walking and cycling. Increasing the level of provision will provide residents with greater opportunities to partake in physical activity. Providing secure, convenient and attractive access to such facilities will encourage greater use. In relation to built sports and recreation facilities, wherever possible, there is a need to provide a wide range and choice of activities in single multi-functional centres, such as through extended schools and leisure centres. Efforts will be made to create opportunities for sports and recreation not only in existing facilities such as schools and leisure centres but also to take advantage of our local parks and Epping Forest.

16.14 In accordance with Policy CS6 (Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity), the Council will seek to enhance and increase the provision of green and open spaces in the borough. Such spaces and the facilities within them, can play a vital role in promoting healthy living and preventing illness. Green Spaces act as 'green lungs' for local residents. Evidence suggests that people with access to quality green space are healthier. Being outside can promote well being, relieve stress, overcome isolation and improve social cohesion. Providing secure and attractive walking and cycling access to such spaces can lead to more residents accessing them to partake in physical activity and recreation. Improving access to areas such as Epping Forest and the Lea Valley Regional Park can further encourage residents to access these attractive environments to partake in physical activity and use the sports and recreation facilities which are already located in them. While the Council seeks to increase public access to such spaces, this should be balanced with the need to prevent any undue disturbance to sensitive habitats and species.

16.15 In accordance with Policy CS16 (Making Waltham Forest Safer), the Council seeks to provide more attractive and safer environments. Generally, access to good quality environments for physical activity is associated with increase in frequency of use. Residents are unlikely to undertake physical activity in areas which are perceived to be unsafe, with 'unwalkable' areas, which lack greenery and are dominated by traffic. The Council will seek to create attractive, safe and convenient environments that encourage residents to walk and cycle to school, their place of work and shops. The design of the public realm should be safe, permeable, pedestrian friendly and promote active transport such as walking and cycling.

16.16 The Council will also seek to maximise the opportunities associated with the 2012 Games and their legacy. The Council recognises that the 2012 Olympics present a valuable opportunity to capitalise on increasing investment and interest in sport and health.

16.17 In accordance with Policy CS8 (Developing Sustainable Transport), the Council will seek to improve both cycle and pedestrian access to existing homes, schools, shops and other amenities by improving their connection to existing and new walking and cycle networks. This will encourage residents to walk and cycle to school, their place of work and shops. This will also reduce dependence on vehicular transport and promote active travel which in turn will increase the levels of incidental physical activity.

Proliferation for Unhealthy Uses

16.18 Access to health and nutritious food can improve general health. Quality of diet can contribute to health inequalities through the excessive consumption of alcohol, salt, oil and sugar. Dietary goals to prevent chronic disease consistently emphasise the need to eat more fresh fruit and vegetables.



16.19 In order to provide a holistic approach to concerns over community health, the Council will seek to promote healthier communities by managing the proliferation of any use which may reduce a person's ability to lead a healthy lifestyle, including such things as unhealthy food and alcohol. This approach will be used to promote a real choice including healthy options. The concentration of uses such as hot food takeaways can reduce the opportunities residents have to make healthy choices. The Council will seek to ensure residents are provided with greater choice, particularly in relation to accessing healthy food options.

16.20 The proliferation of such uses can have a number of other detrimental effects on a local area. These detrimental effects include increased incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour, noise, general disturbance, while high concentrations in town centres can adversely impact on the vitality and viability of such centres.

Implementation

16.21 Achieving appropriate environmental standards will be important in terms of protecting both existing, and new communities. Potential measures could be through avoiding the co-location of high noise generators and sensitive uses, or through attaching conditions to planning permissions relating to design standards, or in the case of contaminated land, remediation measures. Greater detail of the requirements likely to be placed on developers will be set out in the Development Management Policies DPD.

16.22 Area Action Plans (AAPs) prepared for the borough's four key growth areas will designate sites for health and sports and recreation uses. AAPs will set out a strategy of improvements to the public realm by seeking to make them safer and more attractive and where appropriate create and enhance cycle and pedestrian networks. AAPs provide a unique opportunity to ensure health impacts are considered in the regeneration areas.

16.23 Outside the identified key growth areas, additional sites will be identified in the Site Specific Allocations DPD. This document will allocate and safeguard sites for health, sports and recreational uses.

16.24 The Development Management DPD will provide supporting policy mechanisms on health impact assessments, sports, recreation and health uses.

16.25 The Council has prepared and adopted a Supplementary Planning Documents on Hot Food Takeaway. This provides further guidance on the policy.

16.26 The Council will seek to work with partners including a range of national and regional agencies such as Sport England and the GLA to secure funding for new and improved sports and recreation facilities.