



Resource B: Summary of local authorities' key policies¹

In phase 1, the core working team will build a business case to link obesity to other key local priorities. The following table identifies a number of documents that may contain information on, or related to, tackling obesity. Whilst obesity may not necessarily be mentioned in these documents per se, it is important for the core working team to identify how the obesity agenda can link to the many priorities of the local authority. Not all policy documents included in this summary are mandatory. Different local authorities will have different documents and document titles.

¹ This resource is part of Public Health England's wider whole systems approach to obesity programme. Please search to find the main guide and additional resources.

General and Infrastructure

<p>Sustainable Communities Strategy</p> <p>Purpose: Recognises the economic, social and environmental opportunities and challenges to an area and outlines a flexible partnership plan that will adapt and respond to them.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Obesity prevalence has been shown to negatively impact on nearly all aspects of a community, including education, economic and cultural outcomes. It may highlight opportunities to link obesity with other local authority priorities/work.</p>	<p>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)</p> <p>Purpose: Looks at the current and future health and care needs of local populations to inform and guide planning and commissioning of health, wellbeing and social care services.</p> <p>Link to obesity: JSNAs should feature detailed information on obesity to provide adequate data as a basis for service provision and action. This will also feed into the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Valuable source of information on related issues.</p>	<p>Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>Purpose: Aims to make the community safer, reduce crime and the fear of crime, reduce anti-social behaviour and work with businesses and residents on issues concerning them.</p> <p>Link to obesity: People’s likelihood of participating in physical activity in public spaces is directly linked to how safe they feel in those spaces. Improving perception/reality of safety locally could be a lever to getting more people physically active who otherwise wouldn't be.</p>
<p>Local Plan</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used, determining what will be built and where. Translates the Core Strategy into actual actions. Should be</p>	<p>Core Strategy</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out at a strategic level the spatial vision, objectives, development strategy and a series of over-arching strategic policies that will guide the scale, location and type of development in the local area.</p>	<p>Council Plan/Corporate Plan</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out the key priorities for the local authority across all domains of responsibility. Provides framework for performance management of key targets and actions. This document should describe how resources and</p>

<p>consulted on and reflect local people's views.</p> <p>Link to obesity: The plan should be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework, which stresses the importance of creating places to support the health and wellbeing of the local population. The plan should therefore support obesity prevention efforts.</p>	<p>Requires wide ranging consultation and public engagement.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Should be referred to when planning new developments that promote the health and wellbeing of the local population. Strategy should therefore support obesity prevention efforts.</p>	<p>strategies can be linked to maximise impact to increase and improve opportunities across the local population.</p> <p>Link to obesity: These opportunities may align with the wider determinants of health and obesity efforts.</p>
<p>Housing Strategy</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out local housing policies and how to work with communities to build better places for everyone. Should include building affordable housing, improving quality of rented accommodation, and providing housing support for vulnerable people.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Housing policies feature elements related to health and wellbeing. Obesity is often connected to social exclusion and social inequality. The way developments are planned and designed can influence this. Also needs to reflect demands for housing type and adaptations related to obesity.</p>	<p>Transport Planning Strategy</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out the local transport strategy and path towards transport investment for a sustainable and health-promoting transport system, and to improve public health and safety.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Promoting active travel and proportionate infrastructure investment can influence levels of activity, particularly if targeted to areas of greatest risk of obesity.</p>	<p>Environmental Health Strategy</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out the links between environment and health and develops strategies related to local transport, food provision, housing and energy with environmental health priorities in mind.</p> <p>Link to obesity: These policies have an important role in addressing quality of local food provision and can influence the food environment and food choices of suppliers and consumers. Some local authorities have shown how working with suppliers can have major impact.</p>

Health and Wellbeing

<p>Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out local priorities for health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Link to obesity: If obesity or related issues are a local priority then they should be included in this document, ideally linked to other related issues. Strategy could be used as part of mechanisms for setting out actions, monitoring and holding to account.</p>	<p>Obesity/Healthy Weight Strategy or Plan</p> <p>Purpose: An opportunity to demonstrate the importance of the issue and to articulate why “doing nothing” is not an option. Should outline plans for physical activity and healthy eating throughout the life course.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Creation of an effective obesity plan involves engaging key stakeholders and demonstrating there is a clear approach to address the issue.</p>	<p>Food Strategy or Plan</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out short- and long-term actions to enhance the local food system to ensure people have access to an adequate diet of safe, affordable healthier food. Food strategy may be part of a wider plan such as Environmental Health or Health & Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Food Strategy should link with other local authority strategies aiming to enhance local population health. This should also link with efforts to prevent obesity.</p>
<p>Director of Public Health (DPH) Annual Report</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out the state of public health in the local area. Annual content/topic selected by DPH.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Annual reports have frequently highlighted obesity locally which can help engage local stakeholders including communities.</p>	<p>Sport and Physical Activity Strategy or Plan</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out to ensure there is sufficient and appropriate sport and physical activity infrastructure locally to promote activity, social capital and engage most at-risk groups.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Increasing the levels of activity in the general population may not impact on obesity if the approach is not targeted. Should reflect complex issues around obesity, stigma and that</p>	<p>Arts and Culture Strategy or Plan</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out approaches to enrich the lives of local residents through arts, heritage and culture.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Promoting activity, social capital and engaging most at-risk groups through arts and culture offer many opportunities to tackle obesity.</p>

	many find sport and activity venues and other participants off-putting.	
<p>Leisure Services Strategy or Plan</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out long term plans to make informed commissioning decisions about how facilities and services are managed, maintained and developed in the future.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Promoting activity, social capital and engaging most at-risk groups through leisure services is important in tackling obesity.</p>		
Children and Young People/Adult Services (may be separate or combined)		
<p>Children and Young People's Partnership Strategy</p> <p>Purpose: Outlines partnership work with children and families to provide strategic direction for children's services, joint agency working to improve outcomes for children and young people locally.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Obesity is a complex issue which can have multiple impacts on children and young people. Cross-departmental working at this stage is</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out plans and pathways to protect children from abuse, maltreatment and harm to their health development.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Childhood obesity is a significant public health issue but having obesity is not enough to instigate child protection proceedings. Professionals working in this area should be mindful that obesity can be a result of more complex needs, which</p>	<p>Early Years Strategy</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out issues relating to early years, including infant development and mortality, security and safety, health and wellbeing, and access to high-quality services.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Evidence has shown that providing children with a nutritionally balanced diet from an early age can influence eating behaviour in adulthood and reduces the prevalence</p>

<p>important to prevent adult obesity and the poor health outcomes associated with this.</p>	<p>may raise issues around child protection intervention.</p>	<p>of obesity, as well as impacting on other development issues.</p>
<p>Adult Services Plan</p> <p>Purpose: Outlines strategies for promoting independence, reducing need for support, improving care choices and overall quality of life of those receiving services.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Connections between obesity and demand for services, particularly relating to its impact on long-term health conditions and independent living.</p>		
<p>Business, Growth and Regeneration</p>		
<p>Regeneration and Economic Services Plan</p> <p>Purpose: Provides guidance on economic development and change in the region, identifies new developments and opportunities for growth with the aim of reversing or preventing economic social and physical decline of the area.</p>	<p>Enterprise Partnership Plan</p> <p>Purpose: A strategic plan for tourism, business support, housing, place shaping, transport, planning and rural issues. It should set out plans for enterprise partnerships and economic growth.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Local business-led partnerships between local authorities and businesses play a central role in determining local economic priorities</p>	<p>Trading Standards Plan</p> <p>Purpose: Sets out services to build a safe, fair and legal marketplace locally.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Ensuring people have access to appropriate, safe, affordable, accurately labelled and healthier food is a strong lever for obesity prevention efforts. Trading Standards and Public Health in partnership with Planning and Environmental Health can address food</p>

<p>Link to obesity: Obesity can impact on productivity, absenteeism and efficiency, which can all undermine the local economy, so any strategy to strengthen local economic growth should encompass tackling obesity.</p>	<p>and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs. Obesity has connections with efficiency, effectiveness and productivity.</p>	<p>eaten in and outside of the home to ensure food meets relevant standards and local people can make informed and healthier choices.</p>
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Voluntary, community sectors

<p>Contact with voluntary and community sector</p> <p>Purpose: An agreement between the local authority and voluntary and community sector for cross-sector working to ensure organisations are better able to influence and deliver services and policies that will have positive impacts in the community.</p> <p>Link to obesity: Working with voluntary and community sector bodies can provide significant levers to understand and connect with local hard to reach groups, often associated with higher levels of obesity. They often have strong community links and can assist in communicating important messages in ways that are acceptable, relevant and inclusive.</p>		
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