

HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY

This note follows the discussion at March’s H&WB board meeting. It confirms what sort of product will be developed, the type of work involved to develop it, and the proposed duration of the work. It also poses a question of the board about the timeframe for which the strategy should cover.

Background

Health and wellbeing form the central core of our borough strategy, Doncaster Delivering Together (DDT). DDT identifies 13 wellbeing essentials that are at the heart of our central ambition of ‘thriving people, places and planet’.

Health Services	Education	Transport	Greenspace	Homes	Social Contact	Social Equity
Digital Capabilities	Income	Influence	Safety	Food	Employment	

Beneath our Borough Strategy are a series of tier 1 strategies that set out our priorities and strategic actions under various themes e.g., economy, education & skills, housing, culture, environment. Our H&WB strategy will sit at this level as a tier 1 strategy.

Given that the Wellbeing Essentials form the core of DDT, they are also represented throughout the tier 1 strategies. Each strategy contains priorities and strategic actions that either directly or indirectly contribute to addressing and delivering the wellbeing essentials.

Most tier 1 strategies are now developed, approved, and adopted, and so much of the work regarding the identification of H&WB-related priorities and strategic actions has been completed – they are simply scattered amongst numerous tier 1 strategies rather than in one strategic document. For example,

- we have priorities to encourage people of all ages to be physically and mentally active through access to arts and culture (culture strategy);
- priorities associated with active travel to improve physical activity and air quality (transport strategy/Get Doncaster Moving); and
- priorities associated with ensuring safe and healthy accommodation (Housing Strategy).

We also have regional plans (e.g., ICB 5-year plan) that already identify priorities and ambitions such as reducing harm from smoking, alcohol, and obesity; improving cardio-respiratory health and improving mental health – these priorities and their associated areas of activity all need to be reflected in our local H&WB strategy and delivery plans.

What we will create

We will identify and pull together all H&WB-related priorities and strategic actions from these other strategies into one strategic Health and Wellbeing document.

We will ensure all aspects of health & wellbeing and our wellbeing essentials are covered, identifying any aspects that are not currently being addressed in those other tier 1 strategies or the sub-strategies/action plans that support them.

The H&WB strategy will reference the high-level priorities and strategic actions already agreed and also include any additional content to address any aspects of H&WB not currently covered elsewhere, or not covered sufficiently elsewhere.

Like other tier 1 strategies, the H&WB strategy will be a high-level summary document, rather than a detailed account of all individual interventions and projects to deliver on the strategic aims/actions. It will outline the key priorities and provide high level information as to how the Board will achieve them – including both areas of activity and the identification of lead delivery partners.

The strategy may identify a need for the development of a more detailed sub-strategy or action plan if this/these don’t currently exist or have expired.

Fairness & Wellbeing commission (FWC)

To help ensure that everyone in Doncaster has a decent standard of living, the Health and Well-being Board established a FWC to identify the changes locally that we can make to support people who are struggling.

The FWC is currently reviewing evidence on the experiences of people who live and work in Doncaster so that they can better understand the challenges and opportunities they face.

It will make an independent strategic assessment of the nature, extent, and causes of inequalities in Doncaster and prioritise recommendations for tackling them in the medium and long term to improve fairness and well-being across the borough.

The FWC is scheduled to report its findings/recommendations around October 2023 and the H&WB strategy will include our partnership response to any strategy-level recommendations. This means that the H&WB strategy should be presented for approval after the FWC report is published (i.e., strategy presented for approval around Dec 2023/Jan 2024) – the timeframe for presenting the strategy will need to adapt to any delays in the completion/publication of the FWC report.

Important to note

Development of other tier 1 strategies have been based upon the latest data and insight available and have included announcements of new priorities and strategic actions, either coupled with or followed by delivery plans containing new programmes of activity/intervention.

Given that some of the H&WB strategy document will contain content pulled together from other tier 1 strategies already launched, its public facing publication may need to acknowledge that some priorities and strategic actions have already been launched as part of those existing strategies.

Consultation

Consultation with partners and the public has already taken place as part of the development of DDT and other tier 1 strategies. We have therefore already had the necessary conversations about what our ambitions should be, what we will prioritise, and the areas of activity that will help achieve them. Partners and elected members have already reviewed the evidence and proposals presented and approved them.

In pulling together a H&WB strategy, there does not need to be the same level of pre-drafting consultation on what should go into early drafts of the document. There will, of course, be post drafting consultation with partners and with the public prior to the approval stage and any new data, insights and the lived experience will be considered draft document.

Strategy timeframe

DDT and most tier 1 strategies run to 2030, with shorter term delivery plans setting out specific activity planned over the next few years. It is proposed that the H&WB strategy also runs to 2030, aligning it with the rest of our strategies. **The Board are asked to confirm agreement with this timeframe.**

Proposed Timeline

May – Sep	Review & extract H&WB-related content in existing regional and local strategies and delivery plans, e.g., ICB 5yr plan, local tier 1 strategies
	Identify gaps in WB essentials coverage in existing strategies and delivery plans
	Identify proposed strategic priorities and actions not covered in other tier 1 strategies
	Draft new H&WB strategy to include existing priorities and strategic actions from strategies and new/proposed priorities and actions not covered elsewhere
	Engage with portfolio holder, elected members and Overview & Scrutiny
	Circulate draft strategy amongst partners and leadership teams
Oct/Nov	Review findings/recommendations from FWC
Nov/Dec	Fine tune draft strategy in light of any accepted FWC recommendations
Dec/Jan	Approval process – to include Portfolio holder, H&WB board and elected leadership