

Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS) consultation response on the new National Public Health Body 'Public Health Scotland'

Q1. Do you have any general comments on the overview of the new arrangements for public health?

Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS) both welcomes and strongly supports the establishment of a new body to drive forward health reform and pro-actively address the health challenges Scotland Faces.

From a spatial planning perspective the planning system has a key roles to play, working closely with healthcare partners both in terms of prevention planning and infrastructure provision.

Local Government Planning officials have a key role to play in the delivery of healthy places for people to live, work and invest. This aligns well with the Public Health priorities for Scotland, with particular emphasis on Priority 1 'A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities'.

HOPS welcomes the statement that partnership working must sit at the heart of Public Health Scotland (chapter 2 para 3.3) HOPs would seek to ensure that Local Government Planners and other key built environmental professionals are recognised as key partners in the delivery of Public Health improvements in Scotland, this should be in addition to the existing collaboration that goes on as part of Community Planning partnerships. In addition to this HOPs would seek to see built environment professionals included in the board of Public Health Scotland.

Spatial Planning also has a role to play in the delivery of health related infrastructure, the long term planning of infrastructure needs to be championed by Public Health Scotland. Participation of Public Health Scotland representatives in the Local Development Plan - plan making process is essential to successfully delivering on strategic infrastructure and service provision within individual Local Authority areas.

Q2.

2a) What are your views on the general governance and accountability arrangements?

HOPs would seek to see representation from the Planning, specifically the Development Planning sector on the board and representation from housebuilding professionals and would welcome the inclusion of additional built environment professionals.

Hops would suggest that proposed Local Delivery Plans (LDP's) could be renamed, as we already have Local Development Plans (LDP's) produced by each Planning Authority. AS we wish to align these processes using the same acronym may cause unnecessary confusion. These should also closely align with Delivery Programmes produced as part of a Local Development Plan.

2b) How can the vision for shared leadership and accountability between national and local government best be realised?

Through meaningful joint working and establishing a shared and a vision that ensures both national and local priorities are aligned.

3.

a) What are your views on the arrangements for local strategic planning delivery of services for public health?

HOPS welcomes the desire to create a shared long term vision for each local area and the acknowledgement of the role LOIP's and LDP's play in the delivery of this. It is important that public health is an integral part of both of these plans rather than leading to the production of any further plans.

b) How can Public Health Scotland supplement or enhance these arrangements?

HOPS welcomed the acknowledgement of the role Local Authorities and specifically Town Planning plays in understanding crucial importance of the environment within people live and the delivering innovative solutions to improving health outcomes (paras 32 – 35) and seek to see opportunities for how Planning professionals can contribute to the shared vision of Public Health Scotland. However we feel that Planning should have much more prominent recognition as it provides a clear coordinating role across the aspect of Place and in creating the environments for people to take more ownership of their own health and wellbeing. Public Health Scotland should clearly support and be integral to this work around place rather than place additional duties.

4. What are your views on the role Public Health Scotland could have to better support communities to participate in decisions that affect their health and wellbeing?

HOPS welcomes and agrees with the proposals set out in paras 56 – 57. People are at the heart of creating successful, sustainable communities and their involvement in shaping the direction of Public Health in Scotland is critical to its success.

5.

a) Do you agree that Public Health Scotland should become a community Planning partner under Part 2 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.?

Yes

- b) **Do you agree that Public Health Scotland should become a public service authority under Part 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, who can receive participation requests from community bodies?**

Yes

- c) **Do you have any further comments?**

N/A

6.

- a) **What are your views on the information governance arrangements?**

HOPS welcomes the intentions set out in para 72 to maintain and enhance the accessibility of data and hopes that efficient and effective data sharing can be achieved with Local Authorities, with specific reference to data sources which support the preparation of Local Development Plans.

- b) **How might the data and intelligence function be strengthened?**

N/A

7.

- a) **What suggestions do you have in relation to performance monitoring of the new model for Public Health Scotland?**

N/A

- b) **What additional outcomes and performance indicators might be needed?**

N/A

8. **What are your views on the functions to be delivered by Public Health Scotland**

HOPS supports the functions outlined in chapter 5 and seeks to ensure that Public Health Scotland acknowledges the role Planning Professionals play in assisting and enabling the delivery of positive health reform and that Planners are supported in their role and the resources and support that is required to enable them to effectively do so.

9.

- a) **What are your views on the health protection functions to be delivered by Public Health Scotland?**

N/A

b) What more could be done to strengthen the health protection functions?

N/A

10.

a) Would new senior executive leadership roles be appropriate for the structure of Public Health Scotland and.

N/A

b) If so, what should they be?

N/A

11. What other suggestions do you have for the organisational structure for Public Health Scotland to allow it to fulfil its functions as noted in chapter 5?

N/A

12. What are your views on the proposed location for the staff and for the headquarters of Public Health Scotland?

N/A

13. Are the professional areas noted above appropriate to allow the Board of Public Health Scotland to fulfil its functions?

Yes, and as previously stated HOPS would seek to see Planning and Built Environment professionals represented under the appropriate categories in this list.

14.

a) What are your views on the size and make up of the Board?

Given the importance of Planning to public health and particularly Priority 1 it is our view that a planning professional should form part of the Board.

b) How should this reflect the commitment to shared leadership and accountability to the Scottish Ministers and COSLA?

15. What are your views on the arrangements for data science and innovation?

N/A

16. What are your views on the arrangements in support of the transition process?

N/A

17.

a) What impact on equalities do you think the proposals outlined in this paper may have different sectors of the population and the staff of Public Health Scotland?

N/A

b) If applicable, what mitigating action should be taken?

N/A

18. What are your views regarding the impact that the proposals in this paper may have on the important contribution to be made by businesses in the third sector?

N/A