

You Said, We Did

Addressing free text comments received from questions in Health & Wellbeing Strategy Public Consultation (4 August – 26 October 2025).

You Said	We did
<p>We support the vision (88%, the principles (87%) and strategy overall (79%). The strategy is easy to understand (80%) and has sufficient information in it (60%).</p>	<p>Support for the strategy is positive, therefore the main elements of the strategy will remain.</p>
<p>We support the 4 priority areas: Starting Well (88%), Staying Well (97%), Connecting Well (93%) and Financially Well (95%).</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Starting Well - we would like to see the importance of a balanced/healthy diet, good nutrition emphasised, and we criticise the presence of fast-food shops near schools.</p> <p>We think there should be more school/extra curricular/education activities around healthy eating and managing finance</p>	<p>Its really positive that the majority of comments were in support of highlighting the role of a healthy/balanced diet and good nutrition, and the presence of fast-food shops near to schools. These issues are key in the whole system approach to childhood obesity taken by the strategy.</p> <p>There will be a specific action plan developed for each area of focus, and these will give due consideration to how urban planning can positively influence the food environment. This is highlighted by the ambition under starting well within the strategy to <i>'Explore the use of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan to control provision of new fast-food outlets'</i>.</p> <p>Consideration will also be given to whether existing Personal Social Health and Economic education (PSHE) in schools sufficiently addresses healthy eating and physical activity education, as well as supporting young people to understand aspects related to money, saving and budgeting, relevant to life-long financial wellbeing.</p>
<p>Staying Well – we are interested in environmental issues like reducing pollution, improving green spaces. We also see a need for more work around mental health, ageism.</p> <p>We also recognise the importance of good housing, for example social housing, in terms of wellbeing and accessibility.</p> <p>We question the Council's ability/resources to successfully implement</p>	<p>The Health and Wellbeing Strategy will sit alongside other council plans and strategies that address a broad range of health determinants including the Green City Action Plan, Biodiversity Plan, Air Quality Action Plan and the Housing Strategy.</p> <p>A lot of work is already underway to improve housing in the city, and it is recognised that health is strongly linked to housing. The new Housing Strategy 2026-2031 sets out the aims to improve housing in Southampton. The</p>

	<p>Health & Wellbeing Board will feed in to support this work.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing strategy contains a variety of ambitions aligned to each area of focus under each theme. The strategy is a system / partnership strategy, not solely to be delivered by the council, and therefore the resources to deliver will be shared across organisations</p>
<p>Connecting Well – We think there should be more offers/incentives/accessible social activity and events including exercise. We think that transport should be improved, and active travel promoted.</p>	<p>It's positive to see such a high level of support for this priority, and the strategy takes a rounded approach to opportunities for people to connect, including being creative together and physical activity/exercise. The Strategy and its Action Plan will link strongly with the We Can Be Strategy for Southampton, which is working to deliver physical activity opportunities.</p> <p>Regarding Transport it is recognised that improvements are both in the transport network and to support active, sustainable travel. There are 15 projects (11 completed) which are supporting people to travel sustainably and create a greener more sustainable city. There is a long-term transport plan, Connected Southampton 2040, and the 10 Year Cycle Strategy which both set ambitions to make Southampton a modern, liveable and sustainable place to live, work and visit. A Southampton Cycle Network (SCN) will be created, with places that people can safely walk and cycle.</p> <p>There is also a Bus Service Improvement Plan, developed by the City Council and local bus operators. This sets out the ambition to improve the bus network to 2030, by providing additional services, improving facilities, bus lanes, and providing a new Park and Ride at Adnac Park.</p>
<p>Financially Well – we think that helping people back into work and supporting a good work/life balance is important. We would also like to see good support for people on benefits, including how to access them and how to maintain wellbeing.</p>	<p>The majority of comments supported the core aims of the Financially Well priority, which focuses on the utilisation of work/employment to improve wellbeing, helping people into work and supporting a good work/life balance.</p> <p>One of the ambitions under financially well is <i>'Support all residents to receive the national benefits they are eligible for, particularly people facing multiple-disadvantage'</i></p> <p>We will build upon the considerable advice and support already available in Southampton and will work to better promote these opportunities.</p>

	<p>These include advice and guidance agencies such as Citizens Advice Southampton, Southampton Advice and Representation Centre, and the City Council's Welfare Rights and Money Advice Team. Gateway at the Civic Centre provides walk in advice and support on benefits and other matters. This promotion will feature in the action plan detailing how the Financially Well priority will be delivered</p>
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