



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Are inequalities in neighbourhood food environments contributing to inequalities in health? – Planning Policy

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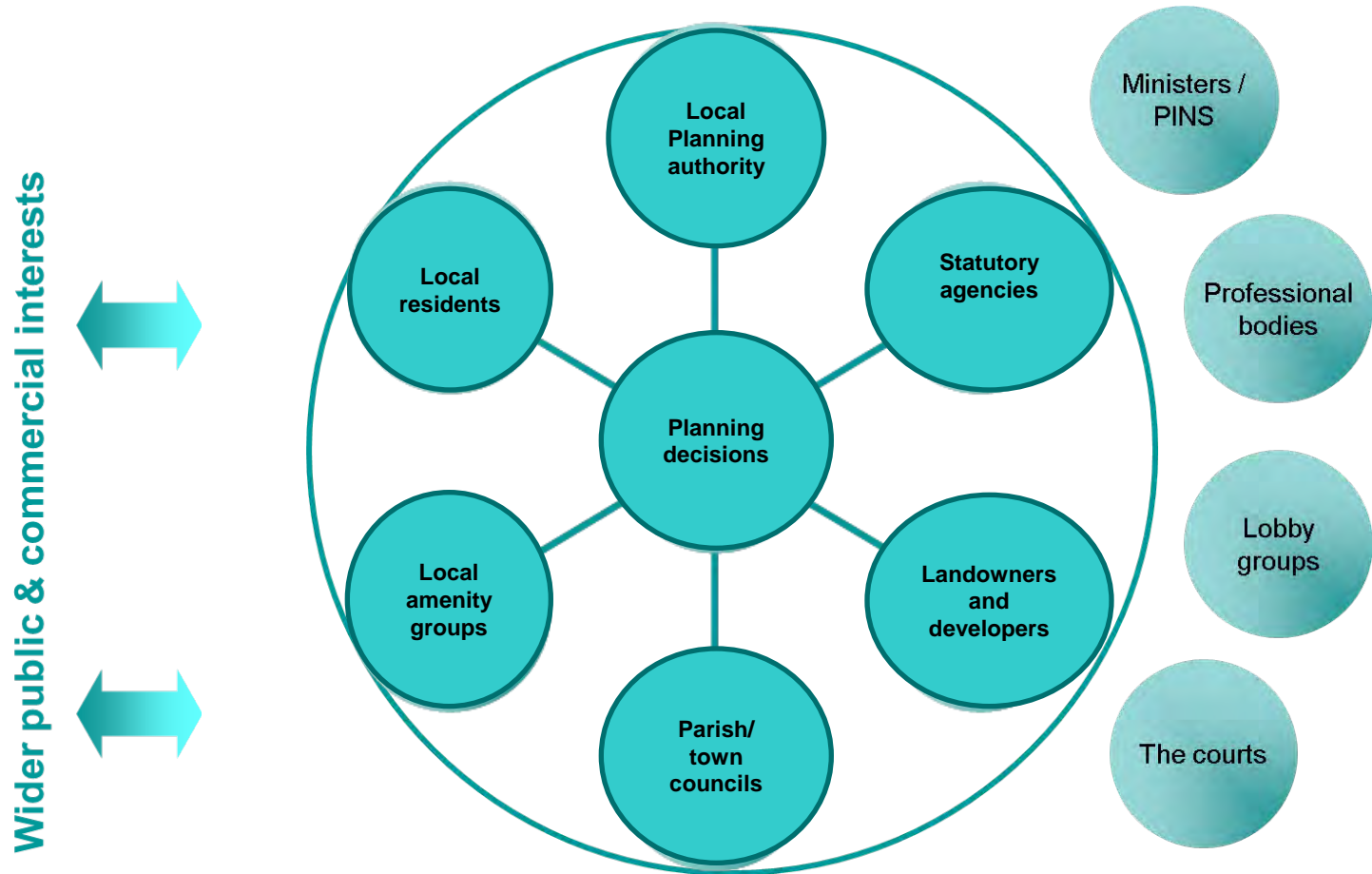
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How do we see planning?





Who has an interest in planning?





Planning – Roots in public health



*Images: Gustave Doré (above) &
National Maritime Museum (right)*





Planning – Roots in public health

The object of the bill is to provide a domestic condition for the people in which their physical health, their morals, their character and their whole social condition can be improved by what we hope to secure in this bill. The bill aims in broad outline at, and hopes to secure, the home healthy, the house beautiful, the town pleasant, the city dignified and the suburb salubrious.

John Burns, 1909 Housing, Town Planning, etc, Act



A Plan-led system

- Plans shape where development should and should not go – 15 year time period
 - Now includes neighbourhood plans

- Plans must be positively prepared, justified and effective
 - What evidence is needed?

- Plans subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.....may apply to neighbourhood plans and Supplementary Planning Documents



Planning and food: how do we plan for the future

- 1) What size stores do we like?
- 2) Where do we want to do our food shopping?
- 3) Do we want and like a more diverse range within individual stores?



Our changing eating habits?

4) What is the Growth in internet shopping and home-grown produce?

5) Are we eating out more? How many such facilities are there? Where are they?

= > What is the impact on the existing retail network?



Where does health fit into all this?





National Planning Policy Framework

Paragraph 7 – Planning should perform a social role

“...creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and supports its health, social and cultural well-being”

Paragraph 17 – As a Core planning principle, planning should

“....take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.”

....and sections throughout the Framework on transport (chapter 4), high quality homes (chapter 6), good design (chapter 7), climate change (chapter 10) and the natural environment (chapter 11)



Planning guidance – setting the expectation?

What is the role of health and wellbeing in planning?

Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making. Public health organisations, health service organisations, commissioners and providers, and local communities should use this guidance to help them work effectively with local planning authorities in order to promote healthy communities and support appropriate health infrastructure.



Making Planning decisions

- Does the proposal actually need planning permission?
- Who is engaged in the decision?
- What factors are relevant for each case?
- What tools are appropriate to inform the decision?



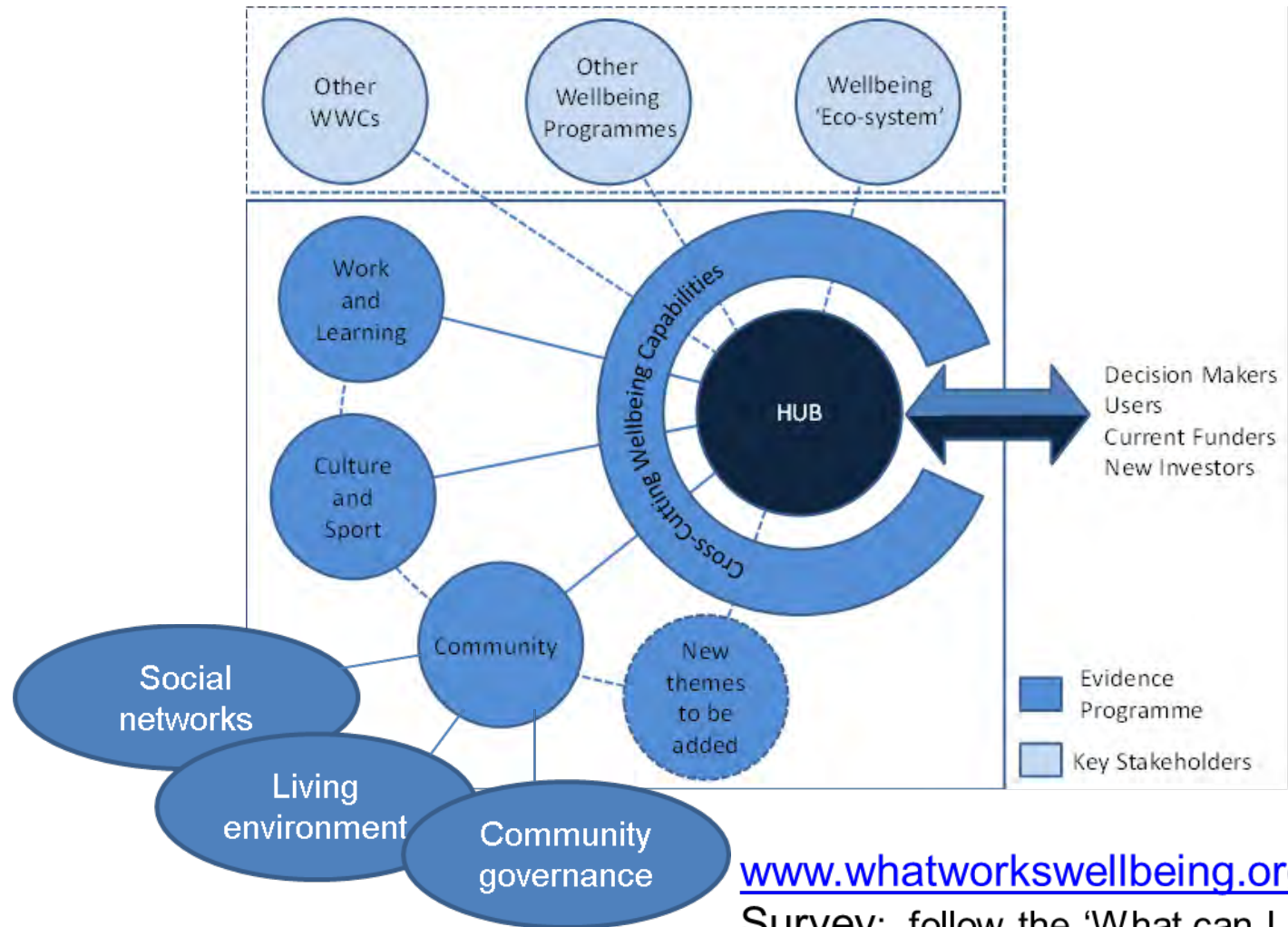
So what are the limitations of planning?

- Aim is to control and mitigate spatial impacts, so there are clear limits on what it can take into account..... but ultimately for the courts to decide;
- Not retrospective. So can't change what is already there;
- Can take time to put measures in place;
- Cannot specify the type of food sold within an individual Use Class

So planning can be a part of the solution....but only a part. Are Public health and education policy, and licensing probably more effective tools?



What Works Centre for Wellbeing



www.whatworkswellbeing.org

Survey: follow the 'What can I do' tab



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