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Ebbsfleet's 21st Century Garden City will lead the way in UK for healthy communities

Ebbsfleet Garden City will be recognised as Healthy New Town, it was announced today (Tuesday).

It means the garden city will lead the way – and be held up as a role model – for being a healthy community that promotes good lifestyle choices.

The project – one of only ten announced by NHS England today - will be a joint partnership with Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group.

Michael Cassidy, CBE, Chairman of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, which is accelerating the development of up to 15,000 homes in Britain's first garden city for 100 years, said: "This is an important milestone in the development of Ebbsfleet Garden City and we are delighted to be part of an initiative that will encourage healthy lifestyles in the 21st century.

"We look forward to working with NHS England as we drive forward our Garden City. Having Healthy New Town status is a positive move forward with all that it can bring in health care innovation in developing communities."

As the Garden City moves forward, the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation will help create opportunities for play, sport and recreation including connected cycle tracks, open air gyms, dog walking trails and schools that children and parents can walk to.

We want to create and an accessible and healthy community for current and future generations to enjoy.

Connectivity between Ebbsfleet and existing communities will be essential with improved transport links and accessibility of services and facilities supporting all residents across Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley.

There will also be a specific focus on keeping older people independent and healthy, supported by the latest technology, to help them live in their own homes for longer.

This provides an opportunity for the garden city to be a pioneer in providing easily adjustable homes that give an elderly or disabled homeowner a lifetime of benefits as well as allowing garden city planners to 'design in' modern healthcare from the start.

Multi-functional green spaces, high quality leisure facilities and healthy eating venues will be developed alongside active transport links, integrated cycle paths and walking routes. Access to smart technology will also make healthy choices easy.