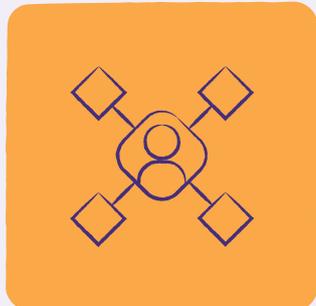
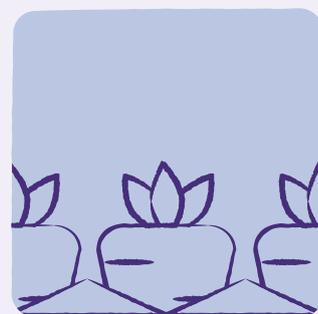


# Planning for healthy places:

a practical guide for local authorities on embedding health in Local Plans and planning policies in England



This guidance document *Planning for healthy places: a practical guide for local authorities on embedding health in Local Plans and planning policies in England* was developed by the Centre for Public Health and Wellbeing at the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol), the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) and the University of Bristol.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Aims of the guidance

This guidance aims to raise awareness about the important links between planning and health, and support those working across urban and rural local authorities in England to promote health through Local Plans<sup>1</sup>.

Those working in local authorities can collaborate to create healthier places for all. This guide provides **practical evidence, guidance, and inspiration** to help to achieve this.

## 1.2 Intended audience and how to use the guidance

This guidance is designed to appeal to a range of audiences from different professional backgrounds and levels of understanding about planning and public health. The intended audience is primarily:

- Local Planning Authority based officers working in planning policy and development management.
- Local Authority public health officers working on health in all policies, the wider determinants of health and healthy places.
- Councillors and others with responsibilities for place, planning, public health, and community wellbeing.

Other local stakeholders (e.g. transport planners, sustainability and climate teams, as well as those working with local communities on neighbourhood plans) and national stakeholders may also find the guidance useful, for example, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the Planning Inspectorate, the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH).

**Section 1 Introduction** sets out the aims, intended audience and information on using the guidance. It also outlines the importance of planning in creating healthier places, provides an overview of the scope of Local Plans in England, signposts to key national evidence and guidance, and notes impending plan-making reforms.

**Section 2 Summary of the Planning for healthy places guide** summarises the approach to preparing healthy Local Plans and planning policies. Organised under three guidance themes – universal, policy, and implementation – it is focused on promoting healthy places through Local Plan policy. This section also provides a quick reference point for the policy examples cited throughout this document.

**Section 3 A framework for planning healthy places** presents a detailed approach to developing health-focused Local Plans informed by research and practice in the field of planning and public health.

For more information on how this guidance was created, see *Appendix A*.

**Note.** Throughout this document, examples of adopted policy from across England are displayed in boxes. Policies are not always shown in full. The reader should therefore view policies and their explanation and justification on the appropriate local authority website to understand the context within which they have been applied.

<sup>1</sup> In this document, Local Plan(s) (with capital letters) refers to the statutory planning document that every local planning authority must prepare and adopt, setting out strategic development and land use priorities for the next few decades.

### 1.3 Why planning is important for health and wellbeing

The places in which people live have a profound influence over the opportunities they have and the choices they can make – and planning shapes those places. Whether people have good homes, easy access to parks and greenspaces, pleasant and safe routes for walking, wheeling and cycling, local jobs, shops, schools, and other vital infrastructure, is all influenced by planning.

The role of planning in shaping good population health and wellbeing is now widely understood and many planning authorities have been working to strengthen the ‘health’ aspects of their plans and policies. Speaking at the TCPA’s Annual Conference on 24 November 2022, England’s Chief Medical Officer, Prof. Sir Chris Whitty, said:

*“If you look back over the last 150 years, more has been done for public health by proper planning, than almost any other intervention (except, perhaps, vaccination).”*

Some of the most pressing health challenges faced by the UK, such as obesity, mental ill health, physical inactivity, social inequality and the needs of an ageing population, can all be affected by the quality of our built and natural environment. These ‘wider determinants of health’ are in-turn influenced by the planning system. Improving both physical and mental health and wellbeing should therefore be integral to neighbourhood planning.

For more information on the important links between planning and health see *Appendix B*.

### 1.4 Planning policy, plan-making and opportunities for promoting health

Planning policy and guidance are created at national and local levels. **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** and **Planning practice guidance** set out the English government’s set of national planning policies and guidance on how these policies are to be interpreted. The NPPF must be considered when a local planning authority is creating a Local Plan, but it does not dictate planning outcomes or how plans should be written.

Local Plans are central to the operation of the planning system. They are the key documents through which local planning authorities set out a vision and framework for how an area will change and develop. Local Plans typically cover topics such as housing, the local economy, greenspace, community facilities and infrastructure. They should safeguard the environment, enable adaptation to climate change, protect and promote health and wellbeing and help secure high-quality design. The policies in Local Plans then form the basis on which decisions about individual planning applications are made.

For further information on the planning system see **Overview of the planning system (England)** and **Plain English guide to the planning system**.

*Figure 1* presents a simplified visual representation of the planning system, and where Local Plans sit within this system.



Figure 1. Simplified representation of the English planning system

Health appears in, and can be woven through, all these documents



All development must also comply with building regulations. Set out by the Building Act 1984, building regulations are a collection of individual standards that apply in different ways to different types of buildings. They seek to address issues such as safety and energy efficiency. Building regulations are separate to the planning system but can affect the quality of the built environment and consequently health outcomes. There are many challenges with building regulations being relied on for the creation of healthy homes, see [Permitted development, housing and health: a review of national policy and regulations - Town and Country Planning Association \(tcpa.org.uk\)](#).

## 1.5 A note on planning reforms

This guidance was produced while awaiting details of proposed reforms to the planning system. These reforms include a new version of the NPPF and the potential introduction of National Development Management Policies (NDMPs) as well as changes to planning guidance. The recent UK general election result in July 2024 is also likely to bring further changes to the planning system, however this guidance remains pertinent and useful to local authorities and the authors aspire to update it once details on any changes emerge. For more information on planning reform in England please visit the [MHCLG website](#).

## 1.6 A note on language

This guidance aims to provide a useful framework for all types of local authorities in England, in urban and rural areas. Use of terms such as 'city' and 'neighbourhood' are not intended to be exclusionary of villages and more rural natured places and the principles can be applied to many contexts.

## 2 Summary of the Planning for healthy places guide

**Local Plans should include soundly evidenced, strong and clearly defined health and wellbeing requirements, specifying what is required from developers when they make a planning application or submit a development proposal for assessment by a local planning authority. Weaknesses in Local Plan policy mean developers can be unclear about their responsibilities in addressing local health priorities and they then fail to adequately incorporate healthy development principles and features in their proposals.**

*Table 1* summaries **universal, policy and implementation** recommendations and guidance for the planning of healthy places, as well as providing a quick reference point for the policy examples cited throughout this document. These should be considered when promoting healthy places through Local Plan policy. See Section 3 for more detail – and examples – on the approach to developing health-focused Local Plans and policies, as informed by research and practice in the field of planning and public health.



Table 1. Summary of recommendations and guidance to be considered in making healthy places through Local Plan policy

 <b>Universal guidance</b> Considers how health should be characterised and justified in the Local Plan and explores the role of collaboration and health impact assessment at the plan-making stage			
Recommendation	How you can do it	Examples and useful links	Section
Focus on collaboration	<p>Establish a health and planning forum or working group to develop working relationships, explore opportunities for collaboration and increase knowledge and capacity.</p> <p>Create a Memorandum of Understanding or Protocol between public health and planning.</p> <p>Develop a technical background/evidence paper on health in the local authority.</p> <p>Commit to a health impact assessment (HIA) of the Local Plan.</p>	<p><a href="#">East Sussex Public Health and Planning Memorandum of Understanding   East Sussex County Council</a></p> <p><a href="#">Portsmouth development and planning health background paper</a></p> <p><a href="#">Fareham Health Background Paper</a></p>	<a href="#">3.2.1</a>
Include a definition of health and health inequalities	Use clear language to explain what is meant by health and health inequalities.	<p><a href="#">Constitution of the World Health Organization</a></p> <p><a href="#">The King's Fund</a></p> <p><a href="#">Marmot &amp; Allen (2024)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Southwark Plan 2022 - Southwark Council</a></p>	<a href="#">3.2.2</a>
Include references to key strategies, standards and guidance	<p>Include references to national design and development strategies, standards and guidance that aim to promote health. This will help give developers a clear indication of baseline good practice and point to specific built environment attributes that have peer-reviewed evidence of health benefits.</p> <p>Relevant local authority strategies relating to health outcomes should be referenced especially where these support policy on specific issues, for example on climate change or housing.</p>	<p><a href="#">Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038   Bassetlaw District Council Policy ST42: Promoting Healthy, Active Lifestyles</a></p>	<a href="#">3.2.3</a>
Include references to local health data	Local health evidence provides important contextual information and evidence which should inform and shape policy and development proposals. The Local Plan should signpost developers to where to find this data (inc. Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Health and Wellbeing Strategies) and how to take account of this local health evidence base in their proposals.	<p><a href="#">Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy - update 2022   Healthy Surrey</a></p>	<a href="#">3.2.4</a>
Conduct a health impact assessment (HIA) of the Local Plan	It is recommended that local authorities conduct an HIA during the preparation of Local Plans to help ensure that health and wellbeing are fully considered. The type and scope of the HIA will depend on the structure of the local authority (e.g. unitary or two tier), the level of resource available, and the timelines of the production of the Local Plan.	<p><a href="#">Havering Local Plan   London Borough of Havering</a></p> <p><a href="#">HUDU Rapid HIA tool</a></p> <p><a href="#">WHO Health impact assessment tools and methods</a></p> <p><a href="#">Health impact assessment in spatial planning</a></p>	<a href="#">3.2.5</a>

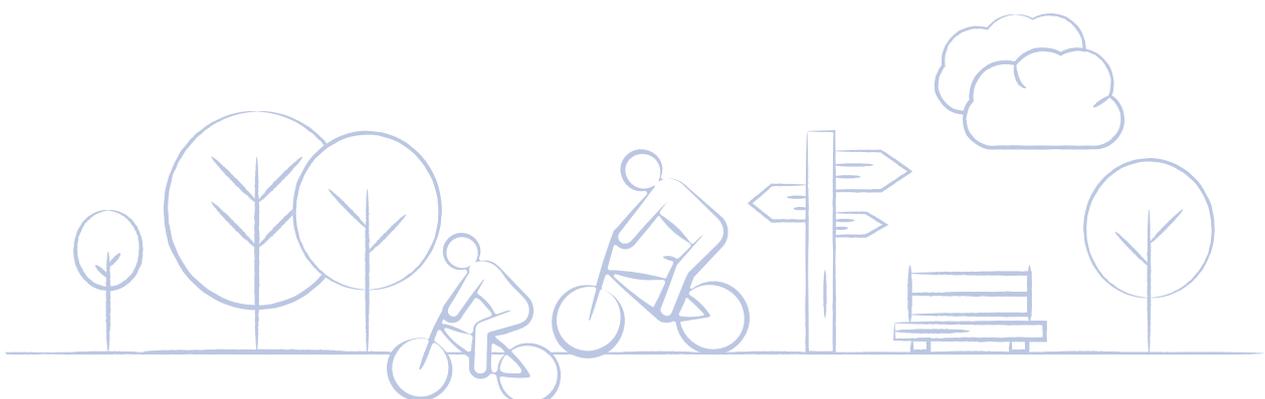


**Policy guidance** examines strategic and specific health-related policy areas that developers should be expected to consider when making planning applications

Recommendation	How you can do it	Examples and useful links	Section
Create strategic health policy	Strategic policies and objectives in Local Plans are authority-wide policies that reflect the wider aspirations of the Council as set out in any Corporate Plan or other strategies. It is recommended that strategic policies link the reader directly to the detailed policies that the strategic policy supports.	<p><a href="#">Havering Local Plan   London Borough of Havering Policy 12 Healthy Communities</a></p> <p><a href="#">Salford Local Plan Salford City Council Policy HH1: Development and Health</a></p> <p><a href="#">Development plans (brighton-hove.gov.uk) City Plan Part One, Policy CP18 Healthy City</a></p> <p><a href="#">Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)   West Northamptonshire Council Policy Q4: Health and wellbeing</a></p>	3.3.1
Embed process for health impact assessments (HIA) of development proposals	<p>Local authorities may choose to include a Local Plan policy requiring developers to complete an HIA as part of the planning application for certain types of development.</p> <p>HIAs should be conducted at the earliest opportunity of a proposed development to inform design and detail. This can be supported by early involvement of public health officers, such as during pre-application engagement between a local authority and an applicant.</p> <p>Any authority seeking to require HIAs from applicants must consider the process for triggering, supporting applicants, reviewing and addressing the findings of completed HIAs. Different types of local authority will face different challenges around resourcing of HIA policies and will need to carefully consider the threshold that triggers a HIA in their area.</p>	<p><a href="#">Coventry Local Plan (2011-2031) – Coventry City Council Policy HW1: Health Impact Assessments (HIA)</a></p> <p>Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (HIA SPD)</p> <p><a href="#">Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 Policy LP29: Health Impact Assessment</a></p> <p><a href="#">Harlow Council - HIA SPD (January 2024)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Darlington Borough Council – Health Impact Assessments (July 2024)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Wakefield Council Health Impact (HIA) Assessment for planning tool (May 2024)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Brighton &amp; Hove City Council – Health impact assessment guidance note (September 2021)</a></p>	3.3.2
Promote healthy neighbourhood design	A healthy development is one that supports health and wellbeing holistically. Local Plans can establish comprehensive spatial and neighbourhood design principles that promote complete, compact and connected development and communities. Healthy neighbourhood design can encourage engagement in healthy behaviours and be inclusive of the needs of different groups.	<p><a href="#">Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038   Bassetlaw District Council Policy ST42: Promoting Health, Active Lifestyles</a></p> <p><a href="#">Southwark Plan 2022 - Southwark Council Policy P45: Healthy developments</a></p> <p><a href="#">Milton Keynes Plan: MK 2016-2031 Policy EH7: Promoting Healthy Communities</a></p>	3.3.3

Promote healthy homes	All new housing should actively promote the health, safety and wellbeing of its individual residents and their local communities. Local Plan policies regarding housing should focus on quality and provision of secure, affordable and diverse homes that meet the needs of everyone, and be responsive to climate change.	<p><a href="#">Healthy Homes at the local level - TCPA</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Cornwall Local Plan - Cornwall Council Policy 13: Development standards</a></p> <p><a href="#">Adopted Local Plan March 2023 - Epping Forest District Council (eppingforestdc.gov.uk) Policy DM9: High Quality Design</a></p> <p><a href="#">Development plans (brighton-hove.gov.uk) City Plan Part Two, Policy DM5: Supported Accommodation (Specialist and Vulnerable Needs) and Policy DM6: Build To Rent Housing (promoting secure tenure and affordable homes)</a></p>	3.3.4
Promote a healthy food environment	The Local Plan has a key role in creating places that enable people to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. As part of a whole systems approach the Local Plan can support healthy diets and healthy food provision, good home design and the availability of healthy food in neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces and retail environments as well as opportunities for physical activity.	<p><a href="#">Adopted Local Plan 2035 - South Oxfordshire District Council (southoxon.gov.uk) Policy DES5: Outdoor Amenity Space</a></p> <p><a href="#">Local Plan - City of Doncaster Council Policy 9: Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) Policy 24: Food and drink uses Policy 26: Green infrastructure</a></p> <p><a href="#">Adopted Local Plan 2023   Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (n-kesteven.gov.uk) Policy S54: Health and Wellbeing</a></p> <p><a href="#">Local Plan (newcastle.gov.uk) Policy CS 14: Wellbeing and Health</a></p> <p><a href="#">Healthier Food Environments June 2024_V3.pdf (newcastle.gov.uk)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Local Plan   London Borough of Waltham Forest Policy 51: Hot Food Takeaways</a></p> <p><a href="#">Local Plan   Cheshire West and Chester Council Policy DM29: Health impacts of new development</a></p> <p><a href="#">Hot food takeaway guidance note – January 2023</a></p> <p><a href="#">Blackpool Council planning policy   Local plan   Site allocations Policy DM 16: Hot Food Takeaways</a></p>	3.3.5

<p>Promote natural environments and climate adaptation</p>	<p>Access to green and blue spaces varies considerably across many places and there are opportunities in Local Plans to provide new, high quality greenspace that is inclusive and equitable. Local Plans can also seek to address issues such as the protection of existing spaces, long term maintenance and access to spaces via active and public transport.</p> <p>Local Plans often refer to flood risk but there is generally limited reference to addressing other extreme weather or climate-related risks, such as droughts or extreme temperatures and wildfire risk. These can be highlighted in relation to building and street design, energy and water efficiency measures, ventilation measures (e.g. dual aspect apartments), green infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) policy requirements.</p>	<p><b><u>Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)   West Northamptonshire Council</u></b> Policy ENV1: Sustaining and enhancing existing, and supporting the creation of, Northampton’s green infrastructure</p> <p><b><u>Salford Local Plan Salford City Council</u></b> Policy G11: Development and green infrastructure</p> <p><b><u>Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan</u></b> Policy SP10: Climate Change</p> <p><b><u>London Borough of Richmond Local Plan</u></b> Policy LP 20: Climate Change Adaptation</p> <p><b><u>Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan</u></b> Policy DM2: Environmentally sustainable development</p>	<p><b>3.3.6</b></p>
<p>Promote healthy transport and movement</p>	<p>The Local Plan can outline clear transport and movement principles and requirements, including policies that promote active travel, better connectivity, safe and efficient infrastructure, compact communities, public realm improvements, as well as prioritisation of cycling, walking and public transport infrastructure.</p>	<p><b><u>Local Plan – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (welhat.gov.uk)</u></b> Policy SADM 3: Sustainable Travel for All</p> <p><b><u>Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)   West Northamptonshire Council</u></b> Policy MO1: Designing sustainable transport and travel</p> <p><b><u>Development plans (brighton-hove.gov.uk) City Plan Part Two</u></b> Policy DM33: Safe, Sustainable and Active Travel</p>	<p><b>3.3.7</b></p>





**Implementation guidance** covers how policies and other mechanisms can support policy implementation for better health outcomes

Recommendation	How you can do it	Examples and useful links	Section
Include relevant planning conditions	Planning conditions can enhance the quality of development and mitigate any adverse effects of proposed new development.	<a href="#">Milton Keynes Plan: MK 2016-2031 Policy EH8: Hot Food Takeaways</a>	<a href="#">3.4.1</a>
Set clear expectations regarding funding of health requirements	Local Plans or related documentation should have clear policies that indicate expectations for developer contributions towards local infrastructure and amenities that will promote individual and community wellbeing.	<a href="#">Information on Health and Spatial Planning in Surrey July 2024 - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)</a> Coplug analytics tool to assess the health service requirements of new development <a href="#">NPPF paragraphs 55-58</a>	<a href="#">3.4.2</a>
Set clear expectations regarding viability appraisals	Local Plans should indicate in detail how the authority expects viability appraisals to be undertaken and negotiated to increase the transparency and accountability of the process.	<a href="#">Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan   PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK</a> Policy DEL 1: Approach to development delivery and viability, planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy	<a href="#">3.4.3</a>
Explore mechanisms to require developers to produce health management plans	Local Plans can contain requirements for developers to produce management and maintenance plans in relation to a number of issues, e.g. regarding green infrastructure. Where deemed appropriate, a Local Plan could require developers to work with public health to develop health management plans, associated with site HIAs or otherwise.	<a href="#">The Liverpool Local Plan 2013–2033 - Liverpool City Council Paragraph 5.10</a> <a href="#">Quality of Life Foundation</a>	<a href="#">3.4.4</a>

<p>Set clear expectations regarding monitoring obligations</p>	<p>Local Plans should clarify required monitoring obligations so that developers are clear about them.</p> <p>Local Plans could include direct monitoring or post occupancy evaluation (POE) requirements regarding health outcomes for large developments of homes.</p>	<p><u>Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan Policy DM2: Environmentally sustainable development</u></p>	<p><u>3.4.5</u></p>
<p>Prioritise stewardship, community engagement and ownership</p>	<p>Local Plans should include clear signposting of good practice for early and effective community engagement and dialogue in relation to proposals and it is recommended that planners work with public health colleagues to enable this.</p> <p>Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) can be used to help gather and respond to public views regarding how development decisions will impact on healthy life choices and the environment.</p> <p>Local Plans can also indicate models of long-term stewardship.</p>	<p><u>Southwark Plan 2022 - Southwark Council Policy SP2: Southwark Together</u></p> <p><u>Salford Local Plan Salford City Council Policy H9: Custom, self-build and community-led housing</u></p> <p><u>Harrogate Borough Council Local Plan Policy HS3: Self and Custom Build Housing</u></p> <p><u>TCPA Long-term stewardship resources</u></p>	<p><u>3.4.6</u></p>



## 3 A framework for planning healthy places

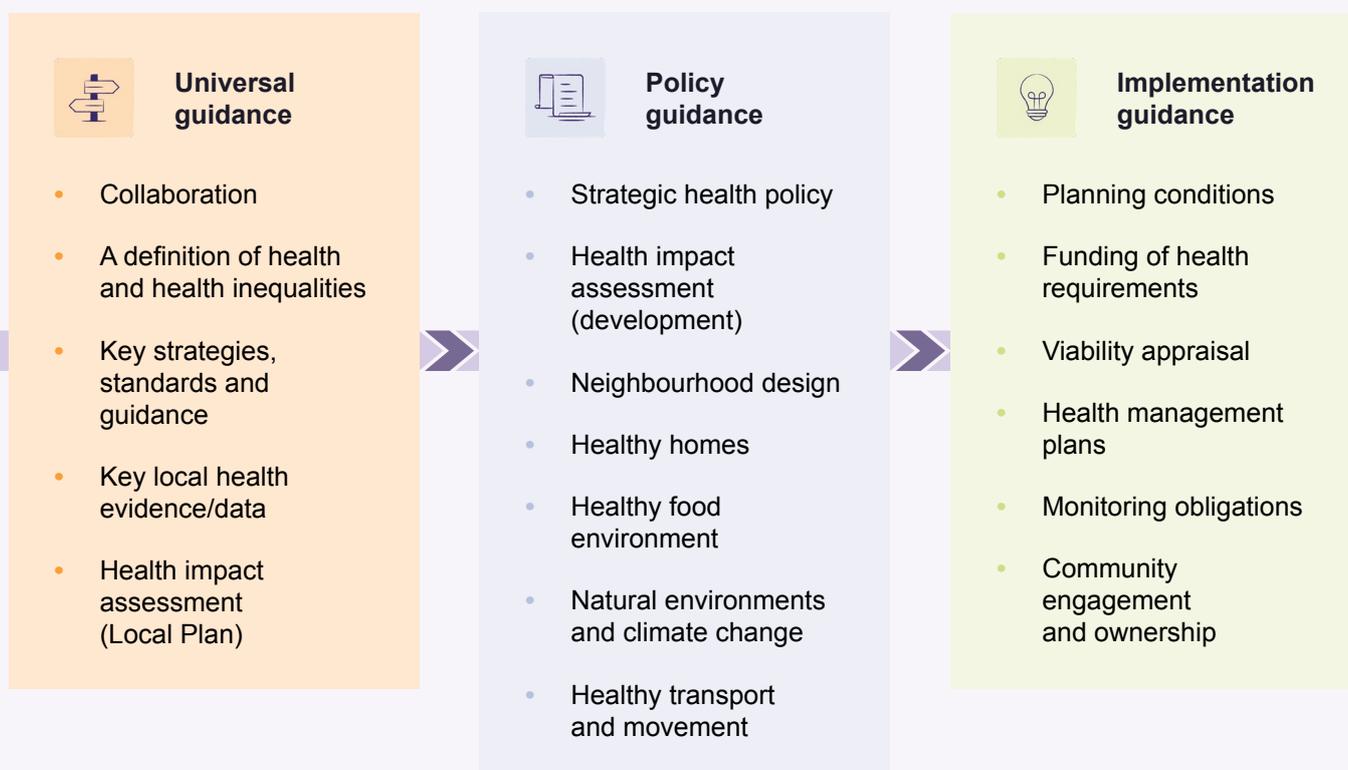
### 3.1 Introduction to the framework

Although a range of national planning policy and guidance supports the creation of healthier places, many councils want advice about how, exactly, to strengthen their plans and policies to maximise the potential for new development to create places in which diverse communities can thrive.

This section presents an approach to preparing healthy Local Plans and planning policies. The framework is organised under three themes: universal, policy, and implementation guidance (*Figure 2*) – which are described in more detail below.

- **Universal guidance** considers how health should be characterised and justified in the Local Plan and explores the role of collaboration and health impact assessment at the plan-making stage.
- **Policy guidance** examines strategic and specific health-related policy areas that developers should be expected to consider when making planning applications.
- **Implementation guidance** covers how policies and other mechanisms in the Local Plan can support policy implementation for better health outcomes.

Figure 2





## 3.2 Universal guidance

This theme explores features that all Local Plans should contain, based on collaboration between, and strategies and evidence held by, local authority officers from public health, planning and beyond.

Those involved in developing Local Plans and the wider plan-making process should consider how to cover and include each of the following (each of which is discussed in more detail below):

- Collaboration;
- A definition of health and health inequalities;
- Key strategies, standards and guidance;
- Key local health evidence/data;
- Health impact assessment (of Local Plan).

### 3.2.1 Collaboration

Although responsibility for the creation of Local Plans lies with the local planning authority and the planning department, Local Plans reflect their local context, support the achievement of local priorities and objectives and should be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence from across the local authority. Therefore, collaboration is key.

There are many informal and formalised ways that local authority planners can engage with colleagues. These may vary across types of local authority and where different functions sit, but authorities could:

- Establish a health and planning forum or working group to develop working relationships, explore opportunities for collaboration and increase knowledge and capacity.
- Create a Memorandum of Understanding or Protocol between public health and planning.
- Develop a technical background/evidence paper on health in the local authority.
- Commit to a health impact assessment (HIA) of the Local Plan (see 3.2.5 below).

One example of collaboration from Medway Council saw public health and planning policy teams co-facilitate an engagement event for local government, NHS, education, voluntary, community and faith sectors. The event helped build a common understanding of the need for promoting health, as well as supporting the aims of an early consultation on the Local Plan.

Useful resources:

- [East Sussex Public Health and Planning Memorandum of Understanding](#)
- [Portsmouth development and planning health background paper](#)
- [Fareham Health Background Paper](#)

### 3.2.2 A definition of health and health inequalities

Local Plans are read by planners, consultants, developers, elected members, members of the public and others. It is important that the language included strikes the right balance between technical, where appropriate, and 'plain English' so that it is widely understood. Local Plans should comply with [public sector accessibility requirements](#).

Health and health inequalities should be defined and 'set the tone' for the health content of the plan. It is recommended that Local Plans and health focused planning policies define health using the World Health Organisation's (WHO) definition, or one locally agreed:

*"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."* (WHO, 1948)

The WHO also state that

*"The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition."* (WHO, 1948)

Health inequalities are defined as “avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people.” (The King’s Fund, 2022). Local Plans and health focused planning policies should clearly define health inequalities using this definition or adapt to one locally agreed. An example from Southwark Plan 2022:

### Southwark Plan 2022

Health inequalities are avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people. Health inequalities arise because of the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. These conditions influence our opportunities for good health, and how we think, feel and act, and this shapes our mental health, physical health and wellbeing.

### 3.2.3 Key strategies, standards and guidance

Local Plans should include references to national design and development strategies, standards and guidance that aim to promote health. Examples of these include:

- [Active Design](#) (Sport England)
- [BREEAM Communities](#) (BRE Group)
- [Building for a Healthy Life](#) (Homes England, NHS England)
- [Building with Nature](#)
- [Green Infrastructure Framework](#) (Natural England)
- [Healthy Homes Principles](#) (TCPA)
- [Healthy New Towns Principles](#) (NHS England)
- [Healthy Streets](#)
- [Home Quality Mark](#) (BREEAM)
- [National Design Guide and National Model Design Code](#) (MHCLG)
- [Nationally described space standard](#) (MHCLG)
- [Quality of Life Framework](#) (Quality of Life Foundation)
- [WELL Building Standard®](#)
- [20-minute neighbourhoods](#) (TCPA)

Those involved in developing Local Plans can use these documents to guide the structure of a Local Plan, signpost to them in their introductions, explanations and justifications and, where appropriate, suggest and require compliance with them in policy. Use of high-quality frameworks for design by a planning authority helps to give developers a clear indication of the baseline good practice that they are expected to achieve, and points to specific built environment design attributes that contribute to better health outcomes.

A planning requirement for development to achieve a national or recognised standard does not necessarily guarantee that when a development is built out, that the standard is met. Where conditions are not met, a planning authority can use enforcement powers to require compliance. In extreme cases this can involve the development having to be demolished and rebuilt correctly.

Local Plans need to consider the implementation and monitoring of any agreed standards through construction and into the use phases of a development. **Section 3.4** seeks to address some of the key risks regarding this potential ‘implementation gap’.

Local Plans should seek to include references to local strategies that set out local priorities and objectives that intersect with planning and the built environment, for example:

- Children & young people strategy
- Climate change strategy
- Corporate strategies and business plans
- Green infrastructure, open space and playing pitch strategies
- Health and wellbeing strategy
- Housing strategy
- Inequalities plan
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Local nature recovery strategy
- Mental health strategy
- Physical activity strategy
- Transport Plans and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs)

These can be used to explain the context and justification for policy, and if appropriate in policies themselves. An example from Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038:

**Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038  
(adopted May 2024)**

**9.1 Healthy and active lifestyles  
(extracts leading to Policy ST42)**

9.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework recognises the importance of promoting healthy, inclusive, safe places which enable and support healthy active lifestyles for local communities.

9.1.3 But healthy lifestyles cannot be delivered by the planning system alone. Other partners, such as the NHS Bassetlaw ICP, other health providers and Nottinghamshire County Council will also need to be proactive to help deliver healthy place-making responsive to the diverse needs of residents. A range of Council and partner strategies will help implement Policy ST42 such as the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-20263, Sport England's Active Design principles, the Bassetlaw Playing Pitch Strategy 2019 and the Bassetlaw Open Space Assessment Update 2020.

9.1.5 People need to be able to access a choice of everyday facilities locally, ideally within a 20 minute walk/cycle (reflecting the Town and Country Planning Association principles for a 20 minute neighbourhood). This will enable people to keep fit and well, both physically and mentally, and enable them to feel part of a community which is welcoming, safe, clean and free from pollution.

**POLICY ST42: Promoting Healthy,  
Active Lifestyles**

**3.2.4 Key local health evidence/data**

To better appraise the potential impact of a development on local health outcomes, developers need to take account of baseline local health data and trends. It is therefore recommended that Local Plans are transparent about how policies have been shaped by local health and wellbeing strategies and health evidence.

The [Health and Social Care Act \(2012\)](#) places a statutory responsibility in England on local authorities to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board for their area. A key responsibility of these boards is to publish a joint local health and wellbeing strategy. This strategy should provide a useful 'frame' for the Local Plan, in clarifying local health priorities and identifying potential ways that development could contribute to mitigating negative impacts and improving health outcomes.

There is an opportunity for the Local Plan to include reference to the local health and wellbeing strategy alongside spatially disaggregated health priorities. Other relevant local authority strategies which relate to health outcomes can also be referenced, especially where these support policy on specific issues (for example, on climate change, housing, or health inequalities).

Local Plans should refer to the joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) and indices of multiple deprivation. JSNAs summarise authority, ward and neighbourhood-level data on health inequalities and deprivation. This provides important contextual information which can help to inform and shape development proposals. Local Plans should signpost developers where to find this data and how to take account of this local health evidence base in their proposals. For guidance on embedding planning in the JSNA see [Public Health in Planning: good practice guide](#).

Sources of data include:

- [Active Lives Online](#) (Sport England adult and child physical activity levels data)
- [Census](#) (ONS statistics providing demographic information)
- [Fingertips](#) (OHID public health profiles by theme)
- [Local Health](#) (OHID small area health-related data in maps, charts, reports etc.)
- [Nomis](#) (ONS statistics related to population, society and the labour market)
- [SHAPE Atlas](#) (Dept Health and Social Care scenario planning in support of public services)
- [UK Measures of National Wellbeing](#) (ONS overview of wellbeing in UK across 58 measures)

Public health officers working on health in all policies, the wider determinants of health and healthy places are perfectly placed within local authorities to provide local-level support with locating and interpreting local health data. One example comes from Surrey County Council, where the public health team recommend to planners producing Local Plans that there is a focus on deprived neighbourhoods. Planners are presented with local health data and trends from Surrey's [Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#).

### 3.2.5 Health impact assessment (HIA) of Local Plans

**Health impact assessment (HIA)** is a process which supports organisations to assess the potential consequences of their decisions on people's health and wellbeing. Notably, readers should be aware that other assessment procedures including environmental impact assessment and equality impact assessment may also incorporate health impacts.

HIAs should involve people and organisations contributing different kinds of knowledge and insight. Information gathered can build into the Local Plan measures to promote health, minimise risks and identify 'gaps' that can be filled. HIA can also provide a way of addressing inequalities in health by identifying groups within the population who may be particularly affected by a policy or plan.

It is recommended that local authorities conduct an HIA during the preparation of Local Plans to help ensure that health and wellbeing are fully considered. The type and scope of the HIA will depend on the structure of the local authority (e.g. unitary or two tier), the level of resource available and the timelines of the production of the Local Plan. Good examples of HIA tools and guidance include [HUDU Rapid HIA Tool](#), [WHO Health impact assessment tools and methods](#) and [Public Health England](#).

Where it is not possible to conduct a standalone HIA, it is recommended that HIA guidance is used to expand upon the health elements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Sustainability Appraisals (SA) or take the form of an Integrated Impact Assessment. This could help to demonstrate how healthy outcomes interrelate to other objectives, e.g. climate change.

SEA/SA must include health elements in policy appraisal, but it is not always clear which aspects of health are included. Greater clarity is required at the national level about the specific health criteria that should be considered relevant for SEA/SA, if an HIA is not conducted separately. Further support on this can be found on the [Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment \(IEMA\) - Impact Assessment](#) webpages.

One good example of HIA integration comes from the [Havering Local Plan 2016-2031](#) which was carried out using the London HUDU rapid HIA tool. The supporting [HIA report](#) describes the steps and actions undertaken as a result of the assessment:

#### **London Borough of Havering Local Plan 2016-2031 (adopted in 2021)**

The Council has undertaken a Health Impact Assessment for the Local Plan to make sure that policies optimise the health outputs of new development.

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Local Plan was carried out using the London Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) rapid HIA tool to assess the potential effects of the Local Plan policies on the health of Havering's residents and recommend actions to mitigate any negative impacts.

Source document: [Havering Local Plan Health Impact Assessment 2018](#)





### 3.3 Policy guidance

This theme is designed to support those working in local authorities to identify and incorporate strategic and specific health-related policy areas into Local Plans that developers should be expected or encouraged to consider when making planning applications.

Below we present broad health-related policy examples, covering **strategic health policy** followed by **HIA policy for developments**. The guidance then takes specific policy examples mapped against five-evidence-based themes of the built and natural environment that can be influenced by local planning policy: **healthy neighbourhood design, healthy homes, healthy food environment, natural environments and climate change, healthy transport and movement**.

**Note.** Strategic and specific policy examples from adopted Local Plans across England (displayed in boxes) are not all shown in full and should be viewed on the appropriate local authority website alongside the evidence base used to justify a local authority's individual policies.

#### 3.3.1 Strategic health policy

Strategic policies and objectives in Local Plans are authority-wide policies that reflect the wider aspirations of the Council as set out in Corporate Plans or other strategies. It is recommended that strategic policies link the reader directly to the detailed policies that the strategic policy supports.

Language in strategic policies can focus on health, healthy communities and healthy development. They can be placed near the beginning of plans or embedded within a health chapter in the Local Plan. A healthy development is one that supports health and wellbeing holistically, through avoiding or reducing the potential for environmental sources of illness and stress, and the deliberate designing-in of attributes that either directly or indirectly support health and wellbeing (i.e. through influencing behaviours). Examples of health supporting attributes are walkability, proximity to greenspaces or adequate provision of community infrastructure.

Local Plans should give clear direction to developers of the need to factor-in health through general and more specific requirements regarding mitigating the potential harmful impacts of development and actively promoting more healthy communities. Policy should use clear, directive language – e.g. “development must consider”, “the Council requires” etc.

Examples:

#### **Havering Local Plan 2016-2031 (adopted November 2021)**

##### **Policy 12 Healthy communities**

The Council will support development in Havering that provides opportunities for healthy lifestyles, contribute to the creation of healthier communities and helps reduce health inequalities.

The Council will seek to maximise the potential health gains from development proposals and ensure that any negative impacts are mitigated. All major development proposals must be supported by a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to demonstrate that full consideration has been given to health and wellbeing and the principles of active design.

The Local Plan will promote health and wellbeing by:

- i. Directing new development to well connected locations to enable active travel (refer to Policy 3);
- ii. Promoting well designed and safe places (refer to Policy 26);
- iii. Promoting the diversification of uses within town centres and managing the overconcentration of uses that can have a negative health impacts (refer to Policy 13);
- iv. Supporting the delivery of essential community services (refer to Policies 16 and 17);

- v. Providing and protecting open space, leisure and recreation facilities (refer to Policy 18);
- vi. Supporting measures to promote walking, wheeling and cycling (refer to Policy 23);
- vii. Supporting the provision of multifunctional green infrastructure (refer to Policy 29);
- viii. Seeking environmental improvements, minimising exposure to pollutants and improving air quality (refer to Policies 33 and 34); and
- ix. Avoiding contributing to factors that affect climate change, and contribute to prevention measures that mitigate against the effects of climate change (refer to Policies 32 and 36).

Developers of major development proposals are required to consider wider local/regional primary care and other health strategies, as appropriate, to take into account how any developments can contribute to the aims and objectives of those strategies.

### **Salford City Local Plan to 2037 (adopted January 2023)**

#### **Policy HH1: Development and health**

All development shall support an improvement in public health and a reduction in health inequalities, including by:

1. Minimising adverse impacts on health;
2. Providing a healthy living and working environment;
3. Supporting healthy lifestyles;
4. Promoting social and economic inclusion; and
5. Ensuring good access to a full range of health facilities.

Health impact assessments will be required for development proposals that the city council considers would have the potential to have a significant adverse impact on health and wellbeing.

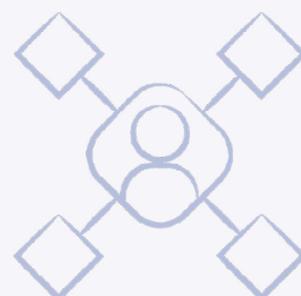
Health impact assessments shall:

- i. Appraise the potential positive and negative impacts on health and wellbeing, both on end users and the local population;
- ii. Consider the impacts on different groups, taking into account that some groups will be more vulnerable to negative impacts; and
- iii. Set out actions to maximise positive impacts, and minimise and mitigate adverse impacts, on health and wellbeing, having regard to the most affected groups.

Development that would have an unacceptable impact on health or wellbeing will not be permitted. In particular, the location and concentration of the following types of development will be carefully controlled to avoid possible adverse impacts on health and wellbeing:

- A. Hot food takeaways
- B. Off-licences
- C. Facilities that encourage smoking, for example smoking shelters and shisha lounges
- D. Payday lenders, betting shops and amusement arcades

Where uses identified in points A-D above can be justified, these shall be located away from places that are regularly frequented by younger people such as schools and youth facilities. The proximity to other community uses where the residents can be vulnerable will also be considered, for example refuges and temporary accommodation for the homeless.



## Brighton and Hove City Plan Part One (adopted March 2016)

### Policy CP18 Healthy City

Planning will support programmes and strategies which aim to reduce health inequalities and promote healthier lifestyles through the following:

1. Carry out health impact assessments (HIA or incorporated into a sustainability appraisal) on all planning policy documents.
2. Require HIA on all strategic developments in the city.
3. Require larger developments to demonstrate how they minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts on health within the development or in adjoining areas (where the benefits of new development can be maximised).
4. Encourage development that works towards Lifetime Neighbourhood principles; promotes health, safety and active living for all age groups, including healthy living options for older people (see also CP12 and CP13), active space for children and encourages physically active modes of transport.
5. Recognise, safeguard and encourage the role of allotments; garden plots within developments; small scale agriculture and farmers markets in providing access to healthy, affordable locally produced food options.
6. Joint working with health providers to help deliver and protect a sub-regional network of critical care hospitals and a citywide integrated network of health facilities that is within reasonable walking distance of public transport.

Through the City Plan Part 2 appropriate sites for health use with good access will be identified and safeguarded taking into account future growth and demand for health services in the city.

## Northampton Local Plan Part 2 2011-2029 (adopted March 2023)

### Policy Q4: Health and wellbeing

- A. The health and wellbeing of communities will be maintained and improved by requiring major development to demonstrate, through an appropriate health impact assessment, that it will contribute to creating an age friendly, healthy and equitable living environment through:
  - i. Creating an inclusive built and natural environment;
  - ii. Promoting and facilitating active and healthy lifestyles;
  - iii. Preventing negative impacts on residential amenity and wider public safety from noise, ground instability, ground and water contamination, vibration and air quality;
  - iv. Providing access for all to health and social care facilities;
  - v. Promoting access for all to greenspaces, sports facilities, play and recreation opportunities in accordance with the standards set out in Policy ENV2 of this Plan; and
  - vi. Use of design tools such as Building for a Healthy Life (BfHL)
- B. The Council will support the provision of health facilities to accommodate primary and secondary needs in accessible locations which contribute towards health and wellbeing.

Policies like these can be supported by supplementary planning documents and Design Codes that incorporate health and wellbeing, for example:

- [East Suffolk Council Healthy Environments SPD \(June 2024\)](#)
- [Homes and Neighbourhoods: A Guide to Designing in Bradford | Bradford Council](#)
- [Trafford Design Code](#)

### 3.3.2 Health impact assessment (HIA) of development proposals

Local authorities may choose to include a Local Plan policy requiring developers to complete a HIA as part of the planning application for certain types of development. HIA is a tool that is used to identify health impacts (and their potential severity) of proposed development and to inform design of a development during the decision-making process. This can lead to a development which is sustainable and healthy with a strong, vibrant community. HIA can also identify positive impacts that the proposed development might have on health and allow them to be recorded and highlighted to the community and stakeholders.

To be impactful HIA should be conducted at the earliest opportunity of a proposed development to inform design and detail (rather than being carried out late in the planning process, where decisions that might impact on health may already have been taken). This can be supported by early involvement of public health officers, such as during pre-application engagement between a local authority and an applicant.

Any authority seeking to require HIA from applicants must consider the process for triggering, supporting applicants, reviewing and addressing the findings of completed HIAs. Different types of local authority will face different challenges around resourcing of HIA policies and will need to carefully consider the threshold that triggers a HIA in their area. Triggers vary significantly across England from precise thresholds such as number of homes, size of floorspace created, location and/or type of business (e.g. hot food takeaways or shisha lounges) to more spatially nuanced triggers based on levels of deprivation or obesity data.

Commonly, HIA requirement policies in Local Plans are then supported through Supplementary Planning Guidance for example:

#### **Coventry City Council Local Plan 2011-2031 (adopted December 2017)**

##### **Policy HW1: Health Impact Assessments (HIA)**

All major development proposals will be required to demonstrate that they would have an acceptable impact on health and wellbeing. This should be demonstrated through a:

- A. HIA where significant impacts on health and wellbeing would arise from that proposal; or

- B. HIA Screening Report which demonstrates that the proposed development would not overall give rise to negative impacts in respect of health and wellbeing.
2. All HIAs shall be undertaken in accordance with the Council's HIA Supplementary Planning Document.
  3. Where a development has significant negative or positive impacts on health and wellbeing the Council may require applicants to provide for the mitigation or provision of such impacts through planning conditions and/or financial/ other contributions secured via planning obligations and/or the Council's CIL Charging Schedule.

#### **Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (HIA SPD)**

This SPD will provide information and guidance on completing the relevant health toolkit and the HIA. This SPD will also identify sources of data to consider, provide examples of health impacts of the built environment to take into consideration and examples of how to mitigate against negative health impacts and enhance positive ones.

#### **Coventry Local Plan (2011-2031) – Coventry City Council**

Some developments require environmental impact assessments. Further support on integrating HIA into the environmental impact assessment process can be found on the [Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment \(IEMA\) - Impact Assessment](#) webpages.

Public Health England (PHE) published a useful [guide](#) describing health and wellbeing outcomes that are influenced through planning and how these outcomes can be optimised through the process of plan-making (when developing policies in Local Plans) and planning applications (designing proposals for development projects). It also explores how health outcomes can be considered in other impact assessments (such as strategic and environmental impact assessments).

Public Health Wales has produced a [toolkit](#) focused on HIAs and the local development planning process. It is written for the Welsh context but does contain information and resources that may be of interest for people working in England.

The following steps are **recommended** for implementing HIA:

- Provide a **clear statement** of the HIA requirement in Local Plan policy wording. This can be accompanied by additional supporting text and guidance, but a standalone HIA policy, or a clear statement about HIA as part of a health and wellbeing policy, gives greater clarity.
- Create an **unambiguous trigger** for an HIA within policy wording. Use clearly defined triggers, whether these are defined terms, or precise thresholds such as number of homes, size of floorspace, location and/or type of business, depending on local circumstances.
- Give a clear **scope** for an HIA within policy wording. Avoid the need for judgment about whether an aspect of wider policy is tied in and expected to be addressed in the HIA.
- Be **explicit about proportionality**, with precision about the scale of HIA required depending on the size and/or type of development proposed.
- Consider setting out the HIA **process**. Some policies clearly state expectations in relation to process.
- Consider the **outcomes** of HIAs. Some policies explain how the results of HIAs will be implemented, for example through planning conditions. Some state that HIAs should include details of implementation, ongoing management of issues and/or monitoring.
- Include **explicit metrics**. Local Plans sometimes have defined metrics for monitoring HIAs, with most of these monitoring how many HIAs are submitted. Others include metrics designed to reveal the ways in which HIA impacts the subsequent process, which may also provide valuable information on the effectiveness of the HIA.

The Huntingdonshire District Council example below sets out the threshold triggers for different types of HIA. To be both meaningful and manageable, the scale of the assessment and level of detail required in an HIA should be proportionate to the scale of development proposed.



### Huntingdonshire District Council's Local Plan to 2036 (adopted May 2019)

#### Policy LP29 Health Impact Assessment

A proposal for large scale development, defined in the 'Glossary', will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the design of the scheme has been informed by the conclusions of a rapid Health Impact Assessment.

Reasoning: Taken together the policies in this Plan seek to ensure that new development of all scales and types facilitates safe, healthy and inclusive communities.

An HIA may cover many or all of the topics listed below which can affect the health and wellbeing of different groups within a community:

- Housing quality and design
- Access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure
- Access to open space and nature
- Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity
- Accessibility and active travel
- Crime reduction and community safety
- Access to healthy food
- Access to work and training
- Social cohesion and lifetime neighbourhoods
- Minimising the use of resources
- Climate change

Examples of locally developed HIA tools and guidance include:

- [Brighton & Hove City Council – Health impact assessment guidance note \(September 2021\)](#)
- [Darlington Borough Council – Health Impact Assessments \(July 2024\)](#)
- [Harlow Council - HIA SPD \(January 2024\)](#)

- [Wakefield Council Health Impact \(HIA\) Assessment for planning tool \(May 2024\)](#)

HIA policy can be monitored in terms of the number of assessments carried out and against, for example, indicators set out in local health and wellbeing strategies.

Importantly, evidence on the effectiveness of HIA is in its infancy. Key developments in this area are likely to be reported on [OHID](#) and [MHCLG](#) websites.

### 3.3.3 Healthy neighbourhood design

Local Plans can establish comprehensive neighbourhood design principles that protect and promote health and wellbeing. Healthy neighbourhood design creates holistic, health-supporting environments that are convenient to navigate, encourage engagement in healthy behaviours, are inclusive of the needs of different groups and ages, and through enhanced accessibility accommodate and support greater independence for people with different levels of ability. The [20-Minute Neighbourhood](#) is a useful framework for thinking about neighbourhood design to create complete, compact and connected communities. A similar proximity approach is the 15-minute neighbourhood used within the [green infrastructure standards](#).

Healthy neighbourhood design should include consideration of:

- promoting the character and distinctiveness of place;
- walkability, permeability and active travel modes (wheeling, cycling and public transport);
- accessible and inclusive public spaces and streets;
- mixed-use and mixed tenure developments;
- co-location and proximity to everyday facilities and amenities;
- access to nature and connected and multi-functional green and blue infrastructure;
- access to healthy food options including growing opportunities;
- opportunities for social connection; and
- consideration of the needs of different age groups.

Examples from adopted policies:

#### **Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038 (adopted May 2024)**

##### **Policy ST42: Promoting Healthy, Active Lifestyles**

1. The Council, with its partners will create an environment which supports healthy, active, inclusive and safe communities. Healthy, active and safe lifestyles will be enabled by:
  - A. working in partnership with the health authorities to maintain, and where practicable, improve access to the full range of health services for residents, including through the co-location of health facilities with other community facilities, open space and sports facilities, through multi-purpose buildings and sites;
  - B. facilitating access to a range of high quality, well maintained and accessible open space and play areas, woodland, blue infrastructure, leisure and cultural facilities;
  - C. improving the quantity, quality and accessibility to playing pitches and sports facilities;
  - D. supporting initiatives which improve access to locally grown food at for example, allotments or community gardens;
  - E. creating high-quality, inclusive environments that incorporate active design principles and where practicable, increase opportunities for movement through a network of well-connected sustainable travel routes, public rights of way and towpaths to everyday shops and services;
  - F. supporting energy efficient design of development, where practicable;
  - G. ensuring that the current air quality in the District is maintained and, where possible improved;
  - H. minimising and mitigating against potential harm from risks such as pollution and other environmental hazards and climate change;

1. facilitating the provision of optimal digital infrastructure in accordance with Policy ST55 to allow reliable connection to a range of online services;
2. All proposals of 50 or more dwellings will be required to submit a Rapid Health Impact Assessment Matrix as part of the planning application. The Council will recognise high performing schemes through Healthy Bassetlaw – a health accreditation scheme for well-designed healthy development proposals.

### **Southwark Plan 2019-2036 (adopted February 2022)**

#### **Policy P45 Healthy developments**

Development must:

1. Be easily accessible from the walking, wheeling and cycling network; and
2. Provide, or support opportunities for healthy activities; and
3. Retain or re-provide existing health, community, sport and leisure facilities.

Development will be permitted where it provides new health, community, sport and leisure facilities.

### **Milton Keynes: Plan: MK 2016-2031 (adopted March 2019)**

#### **Policy EH7 Promoting Healthy Communities**

Milton Keynes Council is committed to reducing health inequalities, increasing life expectancy and improving quality of life of the Borough. Proposals should be designed to achieve the aspirations below:

1. Helping to tackle obesity and reduce the levels of physical inactivity through the provision of adequate playing pitches, parks and open spaces, new and existing sports and active recreation facilities and outdoor gyms that are accessible to all.

2. Reducing loneliness by providing buildings and spaces where people can interact, encouraging food supply and healthy eating by providing access to allotments and to a variety of food sources, ensure timely access to services and information by providing high speed broadband and access to main service locations.
3. Creating and enhancing cycling and walking networks and their environments, such as maintaining and extending the redway network into new developments, as well as supporting the connectivity between local centres and attractions.
4. Securing good design that promotes walking, wheeling and cycling.
5. Seeking to improve air quality and reduce noise by locating and designing pollution generating land uses and roads to avoid adverse impacts on sensitive land uses, and securing necessary mitigation measures to make development acceptable.
6. Providing good quality and well-designed housing.
7. Securing the provision of fully staffed health care facilities and new community facilities, especially within local centres, which are necessary to support new and existing communities.
8. Creating safe residential environments and addressing the fear and perception of crime.
9. Improving road safety.

The above aspirations should be read together with [Sport England Active Design guidance](#), which provides advice for making places for the wellbeing of people and communities.

Useful resources:

- [Dementia and Town Planning](#) (RTPI, 2020)
- [Playful Cities Toolkit](#) (Arup and LEGO Foundation, 2021)
- [Quality of Life Framework](#) (QoLF, 2022)
- [Spatial planning for health: evidence review](#) (PHE, 2017)
- [The 20-minute neighbourhood](#) (TCPA, 2021)

### 3.3.4 Healthy homes

Local Plan policies regarding housing should focus on quality and provision of secure, affordable and diverse homes that meet the needs of everyone. In addition, policies should encourage the design of homes to enable occupants to engage in health-promoting behaviours, such as exercising more often, preparing meals from scratch and building relationships with their neighbours and wider community. Homes should also be designed to mitigate and be resilient to climate change (see 3.3.6 **Natural environments and climate change**). To do this housing policy should where possible demand and highlight opportunities for developers to exceed Building Regulation minimums.

Local authorities may choose to adopt the **TCPA Healthy Homes Principles** within Local Plans to ensure that policy reflects good design. **Technical guidance** for integrating the Healthy Homes Principles is also available.

Examples from adopted policies:

#### **The Cornwall Local Plan to 2030 (adopted November 2016)**

##### **Policy 13: Development standards**

All new development will be expected to achieve the provision of the following:

1. Sufficient internal space in housing for everyday activities and to enable flexibility and adaptability by meeting nationally described space standards for all affordable housing; and
2. Public open space on-site, in proportion to the scale of the development and providing for different types of open space based on local need. Where there is access to alternative facilities that would meet the needs of the new development, contributions to the ongoing maintenance and management of these alternative facilities may be required as part of a reduced requirement on site; and
3. An appropriate level of street parking and cycle parking taking into account the accessibility of the location in terms of public transport and proximity to facilities and services; and
4. Sufficient and convenient space for storage for waste, recycling and compostables; and

5. Avoidance of adverse impacts, either individually or cumulatively, resulting from noise, dust, odour, vibration, vermin, waste, pollution and visual effects. Such adverse impacts should be avoided or mitigated during the construction, operation or restoration stage of development; and
6. Utilising opportunities for natural lighting, ventilation and heating by design, layout and orientation; and
7. Where feasible and viable, connection to an existing or planned heat network. In the absence of an existing or planning heat network development will be expected where feasible, to provide a site-based heat network, or be designed to facilitate future connection to a heat network.

Housing developments of 10 dwellings or greater should provide 25% of dwellings as accessible homes (Building Regulations Approved Document M4 (2): Accessible and adaptable dwellings successor documents) unless site specific factors make the development unsuitable for such provision.

#### **Epping Forest District Local Plan 2011-2033 (adopted March 2023)**

##### **Policy DM9 High Quality Design**

- A. All new development must achieve a high quality of design and contribute to the distinctive character and amenity of the local area...
  - I. Development proposals must take account of the privacy and amenity of the development's occupiers and neighbours, and integrate occupier comfort and wellbeing within the design and layout. The Council will expect proposals to:
    - i. provide good sunlight, daylight and open aspects to all parts of the development and adjacent buildings and land (inc. any private amenity space);
    - ii. minimise risks of overheating and provide adequate ventilation within development proposals;

- iii. avoid overlooking and loss of privacy detrimental to the living conditions of neighbouring occupiers and the occupiers of the proposed development;
  - iv. not result in an over-bearing or overtly enclosed form of development which materially impacts on either the outlook of occupiers of neighbouring properties or the occupiers of the proposed development; and
  - v. address issues of vibration, noise, fumes, odour, light pollution, air quality and microclimatic conditions likely to arise from the development or from neighbouring uses or activities...
- K. Where appropriate, the design of development proposals must integrate health and wellbeing principles and any relevant Health and Wellbeing strategies.

### **Brighton and Hove City Plan Part 2 (adopted 2022)**

#### **DM5 Supported Accommodation (Specialist and Vulnerable Needs)**

1. Planning permission will be granted for supported accommodation for people with specialist and vulnerable needs...

2.38 Such development may offer accommodation on a temporary or long term/ permanent basis, to meet the needs of people who are:

- Homeless
- Disabled and/or vulnerable, including people with:
  - learning disabilities
  - mental health problems
  - dependency addictions
  - victims of domestic abuse or violence

#### **DM6 Build To Rent Housing (promoting secure tenure and affordable homes)**

1. Proposals for the development of Build to Rent housing will be required to meet all of the following criteria:
  - A. the development will improve housing choice and make a positive contribution to the achievement of mixed and sustainable communities in accordance with City Plan Part One Policy CP19 Housing Mix;
  - B. all of the dwellings are self-contained and let separately;
  - C. the homes are held as build to rent under a covenant for at least 15 years;
  - D. the build to rent housing is under unified ownership and will be subject to common management;
  - E. the development will provide professional and on-site management;
  - F. the development will offer tenancies of at least 3 years available to all tenants with defined in-tenancy rent reviews; and
  - G. the development provides a high standard of accommodation that complies with the requirements in Policy DM1 Housing Quality, Choice and Mix;
2. Build to rent developments will be expected to contribute towards meeting the city's identified need for affordable housing. The council will negotiate to achieve the following requirements:
  - A. provision of up to 20% affordable housing at genuinely affordable rents to be agreed with the council, taking account of the overall viability of the proposed development and subject to consideration of criteria i. to v. in Policy CP20;
  - B. eligibility criteria for the occupants of the affordable homes to be agreed with the council and included in the S106 agreement;
  - C. the size mix of affordable housing units to be agreed with the council in accordance with Policy CP20; and

the affordable homes to be secured in perpetuity - the council will seek inclusion within the S106 agreement of a 'clawback' arrangement in the event of affordable units being sold or taken out of the build to rent sector.

Useful further resources include:

- [TCPA – Healthy Homes fact checker](#)
- [TCPA – Securing Healthy Homes at the local level](#)
- [Lewes District Council – Motion to July 2021 Full Council: Healthy Homes and Places](#)

### 3.3.5 Healthy food environment

Living with overweight or obesity, or experiencing other forms of malnutrition are major drivers of poor health, poor wellbeing and reduced quality of life. Healthy, sustainable diets should be accessible and affordable to all. A whole systems approach to healthy weight, or an authority-wide food strategy is required to make an impact on this complex issue, but local planning policies have a key role in creating places that enable people to make healthier choices and achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Local Plans can influence healthy diets by introducing hot food takeaway restriction areas, good home design, neighbourhood design and promoting opportunities for food growing and physical activity.

#### 3.3.5.1 Food in the home

Homes that support healthy diets include kitchen facilities for preparing meals from scratch in dwellings of all types and sizes (including houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)). Kitchen designs should be large enough to accommodate kitchen appliances and food storage and preparation and dining space, and this is of greater importance for homes intended for affordable tenures or buy-to-let, as occupants on reduced incomes or that are renting property may not be able to change/extend the kitchen space. Homes of all sizes should also include the potential for food growing space through private amenity spaces (gardens, terraces, balconies) or shared facilities like allotments and shared/community gardens.

Examples from adopted policies:

**South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011-2035  
(adopted December 2020)**

#### Policy DES5: Outdoor Amenity Space

1. A private outdoor garden or outdoor amenity space, or alternatively a shared outdoor amenity area should be provided for all new dwellings. The amount of land that should be provided for the garden or amenity space will be determined by the size of the dwelling proposed and by the character of surrounding development. Private outdoor sitting areas should not be overlooked by adjacent habitable rooms. They should also not be compromised by shading from buildings or shading, leaf litter and anxiety of established significant trees and hedges that would lead to future pressure to prune or remove these landscape features.
2. Proposals for new development should demonstrate that the size, location and character of gardens and outdoor amenity spaces have been considered as an integral part of the design and not as an afterthought. These spaces should not be compromised by parking areas or garages.

#### Doncaster Local Plan (adopted 2021)

##### Policy 9: Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

Proposals for HMOs will only be supported under very strict circumstances where:

- A. the internal standards of the property are suitable for multiple occupation, including bedrooms with good soundproofing, privacy, outlook, light, ventilation and have good communal facilities for washing, preparation and consumption of food...

#### 3.3.5.2 Allotments and community gardens

Allotments and community gardens provide physical, mental and social health benefits as well as reducing household food costs. They provide benefits across all life stages, abilities and health states, particularly where sites are accessible, have toilet facilities and community buildings or shelter where allotment holder meetings and events can be held. Local Plans can ensure the provision and protection of allotments and community garden spaces in developments and consider strategies for their long-term management.

Examples from adopted policies:

**Central Lincolnshire Local Plan to 2040  
(adopted April 2023)**

**Policy S54: Health and Wellbeing**

The Central Lincolnshire authorities will expect development proposals to promote, support and enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing, and thus contribute to reducing health inequalities. This will be achieved by:

- C. Development schemes safeguarding and, where appropriate, creating or enhancing the role of allotments, orchards, gardens and food markets in providing access to healthy, fresh and locally produced food...

**Doncaster Local Plan (adopted 2021)**

**Policy 26: Green infrastructure  
(Strategic policy)**

Proposals will be supported which contribute toward green infrastructure and have regard to the latest Council GI audits and strategies. The green infrastructure should principally benefit the development but also connect to the wider network. All major development proposals of 1 hectare or more (see also Policy 42 Part C) will be required to demonstrate how the development:

...

- 5. provides well designed and accessible, sport, recreation and children's play space and food growing opportunities...

### 3.3.5.3 Retail shops and takeaways

Local Plans can influence neighbourhood and retail centres to restrict the proliferation and concentration of hot food takeaways, especially in areas where residents have high levels of overweight and obesity or in areas where children and young people tend to spend time or congregate (e.g. schools and youth facilities). They can also protect and increase both the number and the diversity of types of food retail outlets – such as small shops and markets – locally, and within easy walking, wheeling and cycling distance of communities, or by public transport.

There is an indication that some local planning authorities are seeking to increase control of 'dark kitchens' – food service models that offer ready-to-eat meals for delivery or takeout, ordered by phone, food delivery apps, websites, or through social networks. Considering the dynamic nature of the challenges around food and the food environment, many authorities use supplementary planning documents to create further guidance and detail on this topic, in the same way as HIA.

Examples from adopted policies:

**Newcastle City Council Core Strategy  
& Urban Core Plan 2010-2030  
(adopted March 2015)**

**Policy CS14: Wellbeing and Health**

The wellbeing and health of communities will be maintained and improved by:

1. 1. Requiring development to contribute to creating an age friendly, healthy and equitable living environment through:
  - i. Creating an inclusive built and natural environment,
  - ii. Promoting and facilitating active and healthy lifestyles,
  - iii. Preventing negative impacts on residential amenity and wider public safety from noise, ground instability, ground and water contamination, vibration and air quality,
  - iv. Providing good access for all to health and social care facilities, and
  - v. Promoting access for all to greenspaces, sports facilities, play and recreation opportunities.
2. Promoting allotments and gardens for exercise, recreation and for healthy locally produced food.
3. Controlling the location of, and access to, unhealthy eating outlets.

**Leading to the Healthier Food  
Environments SPD (adopted June 2024)**

### Leading to the Healthier Food Environments SPD (adopted June 2024)

Planning has an important role in shaping healthy communities. Hot food takeaways can provide a service to local people and add to the vitality and viability of centres but also have negative impacts on health and wellbeing. Newcastle currently has a high level of obesity. The numbers of people who are overweight or obese are projected to continue to rise in the future. Controlling the locations of hot food takeaways is important for tackling negative impacts, including obesity levels and adverse impacts on residential amenity.

This SPD includes guidance on the following 'Aspects' and 'Harms':

#### Aspects

- Locations where Children and Young People Congregate
- Over-Proliferation
- Over-Concentration
- Clustering
- Protection of Residential Amenity
- Highway Issues
- Hours of Operation

#### Harms

- Levels of Obesity
- Odours and Noise Abatement
- Disposal of Waste Products

[Healthier Food Environments June 2024\\_V3.pdf \(newcastle.gov.uk\)](#)

### Waltham Forest Local Plan 2020-2035 (adopted February 2024)

#### Policy 51: Hot Food Takeaways

In accordance with London Plan Policy E9 'Retail, markets and hot food takeaways', Parts D and E, proposals for new hot food takeaways will only be permitted where:

- A. The hot food takeaway is located within a designated centre or parade;
- B. The new hot food takeaway would not result in more than two hot food takeaway units being located immediately opposite or adjacent to each other, by maintaining a separation between them of at least two non-hot food takeaway units;
- C. The hot food takeaway is not located within 400 metres walking distance of the boundary of a nursery, a primary school, a secondary school, a community college or youth facilities; and
- D. A commitment is made to operate the hot food takeaway in compliance with the **Healthier Catering Commitment** within six months of opening.

### Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Part One and Part Two (adopted July 2019)

#### Policy SOC 5 and Policy DM29 Health impacts of new development

Development proposals should take every reasonable opportunity to promote and positively contribute to the health of the borough in line with Local Plan (Part One) policy SOC 5. A statement considering the health implications of new build commercial and residential development should be submitted, with mitigation of negative impacts made proportionate to the scheme.

Where development is likely to have a significant impact, including any cumulative impacts on public health, it must be demonstrated how health and wellbeing has been taken into account through an assessment. Such applications must make a positive contribution to health and wellbeing and any negative impacts adequately mitigated.

Development that would give rise to significant adverse effects on health and wellbeing will not be supported.

#### Leading to Hot food takeaways guidance note – January 2023

[Hot food takeaway requirements - Keystone \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 2012-2027 (adopted February 2023)**

#### **Policy DM16: Hot Food Takeaways**

To promote healthier communities, permission will not be granted for hot food takeaways in or within 400 meters of wards where there is more than 15% of the year 6 pupils or 10% of reception pupils with obesity.

### **Doncaster Local Plan (adopted 2021)**

#### **Policy 24 Food and drink uses**

...

Subject to first meeting the above criteria, where the proposal is solely for a hot food takeaway, development will only be supported where:

- D. there is no clustering or cumulative impact resulting from an over concentration of hot food takeaways in an area. Clustering will occur where more than 10% of units, in a parade of Main Town Centre Uses, will be used as a hot food takeaway; and
- E. the number of approved hot food takeaways within the ward is less than the UK national average of hot food takeaways per 1,000 population; Proposals solely for a hot food takeaway, which are located within 400 metres of a school, sixth form college, community centre or playground will not be supported unless the opening hours are restricted until after 1700 during weekdays and there are no over the counter sales before that time.

Useful further resources include:

- [Brighton and Hove City Council Food Growing and Development Advice Note 2020](#)
- [Food and greenspaces in Oldham | Local Government Association](#)
- Fuse Centre for Translational Research in Public Health – [Decision making in the planning appeals system for hot food takeaways](#)

- Hassan, Burgoine, Cummins et al (2024) [Managing takeaways near schools: a toolkit for local authorities](#)
- Sustain – [Planning Food Cities toolkit](#) and [The Case for Local Food](#)

### **3.3.6 Natural environments and climate change**

#### **3.3.6.1 Natural environments and green infrastructure**

Good quality green and blue infrastructure has an important role to play in both urban and rural environments. It can deliver a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity as well as addressing issues of social inequality and environmental decline.

At present access to green and blue spaces varies considerably and there are opportunities in Local Plans to:

- provide new, good quality greenspace that is inclusive and equitable
- improve, maintain and protect existing greenspace
- increase green infrastructure within public spaces, buildings (e.g. rain gardens, living roofs/walls) and promoting healthy streets
- improve transport links, pathways and other means of access to greenspace and providing imaginative routes linking areas of greenspace for active travel.

Natural England has developed a publicly accessible [Green Infrastructure Map](#) of England. The open data map provides information at multiple scales and can be used to inform local planning strategy and provide baseline data on the state of green infrastructure in a given area.

Examples:

#### **Northampton Local Plan Part 2 2011-2029 (adopted March 2023)**

#### **Policy ENV1: Sustaining and enhancing existing, and supporting the creation of, Northampton's green infrastructure**

- A. New developments must ensure that existing green and blue infrastructure assets will be protected, managed, maintained and connected to enhance their multi-functionality.
- B. All major housing and commercial developments will be expected to deliver and / or contribute to the green and blue infrastructure projects. Applications must be accompanied by a site-specific green and blue infrastructure strategy and / or plan to illustrate how green and blue infrastructure is integrated within the development proposal and how it seeks to improve connectivity to the Local Level Green Infrastructure network beyond the site boundary.
- C. In accordance with Best Practice Principles, Aims and Objectives set out in the Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan (or subsequent updated documents), development proposals will demonstrate how they make a positive contribution to the projects identified within the 9 Green Infrastructure Components and associated projects contained in the Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan.

**Salford City Council (adopted January 2023)**

**Policy GI1: Development and green infrastructure**

Development shall protect and enhance the green infrastructure network in Salford by helping to maximise its:

1. Extent, whilst having regard to the development needs of the city;
2. Interconnectedness, enabling individual pieces of green infrastructure to deliver greater benefits through links to the wider network;
3. Multi-functionality, whilst not detracting from the important primary functions of individual pieces of green infrastructure; and
4. Quality, ensuring that it can meet its various functions as effectively as possible.... (cont.)

In complying with the above points, developments shall:

5. Respond to the specific location, characteristics and surroundings of the site to take opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure that can most effectively benefit the wider area, for example providing sustainable urban drainage systems that address identified problems such as flood risk and water quality, and deliver environmental and quality of life benefits;
6. Ensure that green infrastructure is central to the design, rather than being relegated to 'left-over' land;
7. Use land and building surfaces creatively to maximise on-site green infrastructure provision, particularly within areas where there are currently major green infrastructure deficits such as City Centre Salford and Salford Quays;
8. Seek to maximise the benefits, and where appropriate public use, of the green infrastructure, with an emphasis on promoting healthier communities;
9. Ensure that appropriate long-term management and maintenance measures are in place for any green infrastructure; and
10. Deliver a net gain in biodiversity value, consistent with Policy BG2.

**3.3.6.2 Climate change and adaptation**

Local Plan policies can promote health in relation to climate resilience and requirements to reduce people's exposure to extreme weather. Local Plans often refer to flood risk but there is generally limited reference to addressing other extreme weather or climate-related risks, such as droughts or extreme temperatures and wildfire risk. These can be highlighted in relation to building and street design, energy and water efficiency measures, ventilation measures (e.g. dual aspect apartments), green infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) policy requirements.

If a local authority has declared a **climate emergency** or similar, then the Local Plan can link this objective to policies that can reduce fossil fuels and impact on climate change. It can explore the direct threats to health, wellbeing and equity (e.g. flooding and heat exposure) but also reflect that climate change is a source of anxiety for many people, especially young people, impacting on their mental health and wellbeing.

This is a fast-moving area of policy, but the TCPA has compiled an online case study hub that showcases practical examples and best practice to support local authority planners and other built environment professionals to address climate change through the planning system. The case study hub was created alongside joint guidance by the RTPi and TCPA *Climate Crisis – a guide for local authorities on planning for climate change*. The case study hub can be viewed [online](#).

The examples below from adopted policies include mitigation and adaptation approaches to responding to climate change. **Mitigation** seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, e.g., housing policies that promote uptake of insulation and energy efficient technology, while **adaptation** is focused on action which supports people with adjusting to the current and future effects of climate change, e.g., policies that promote adoption of green infrastructure and SuDS.

Examples from adopted policies:

**Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan to 2037 (found sound September 2023, awaiting adoption)**

**Policy SP10: Climate Change**

1. The Councils will:
  - A. Require all developments to take a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes and visual impacts, and the risk of extreme winter and summer temperatures; overheating from rising temperatures; Proactive approaches may include sustainable construction techniques that regulate building temperatures, tree planting and shelter in public realms including public transport nodes and stops and biodiversity net gain.

- B. Require a sequential risk-based approach taking into account future-proofing measures for impacts of flooding;
- C. Encourage and promote the principle of Holistic Water Management;
- D. Encourage and support innovative approaches to sustainable design;
- E. Require proactive approaches and identify opportunities to deliver decentralised energy systems powered by a renewable or low carbon source and associated infrastructure, including community-led initiatives.

**London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames Local Plan (adopted July 2018)**

**Policy LP 20: Climate Change Adaptation**

- A. The Council will promote and encourage development to be fully resilient to the future impacts of climate change in order to minimise vulnerability of people and property.
- B. New development, in their layout, design, construction, materials, landscaping and operation, should minimise the effects of overheating as well as minimise energy consumption in accordance with the following cooling hierarchy:
  1. minimise internal heat generation through energy efficient design
  2. reduce the amount of heat entering a building in summer through shading, reducing solar reflectance, fenestration, insulation and green roofs and walls
  3. manage the heat within the building through exposed internal thermal mass and high ceilings
  4. passive ventilation

5. mechanical ventilation
  6. active cooling systems (ensuring they are the lowest carbon options).
- C. Opportunities to adapt existing buildings, places and spaces to the likely effects of climate change should be maximised and will be supported.

### Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan (adopted 2022)

#### Policy DM2: Environmentally sustainable development

Development shall protect and enhance the green infrastructure network in Salford by helping to maximise its:

1. The Borough Council requires that:
  - A. all new build residential development (C3 Use Class only) must achieve at the time a Reserved Matters or Full Planning Application is submitted:
    - i. a 19% improvement in predicted carbon emissions, compared with the building regulations standard current at the time, through increased energy efficiency of the building fabric, unless this is superseded by an updated building regulations requirement equivalent to 'zero carbon homes'; and
    - ii. a predicted mains water consumption of no more than 110 litres/person/day.
  - B. all other development that is above 500 sq.m of floorspace measured externally (including extensions and conversions to existing buildings) must achieve BREEAM 'excellent' (or equivalent) or BREEAM 'very good' plus 'passivhaus' certification including a 15% improvement in predicted carbon emissions, compared with the building regulations current at the time, through low or zero carbon energy generation on site or in a Borough location agreed by the Council.

- C. all other larger developments above 10,000 sqm of floorspace should also seek to fund post occupancy evaluation (POE) in addition to the above.
2. In addition to the above, all development above 500 sqm of floorspace measured externally (including extensions and conversions to existing buildings) and external spaces within the curtilage serving developments of this size should where practical and viable:
    - A. incorporate energy-efficient passive design principles, the best use of natural daylight and natural ventilation systems wherever possible;
    - B. connect to any existing near or adjacent low carbon local energy network unless this is proved unviable;
    - C. use recycled, low embodied carbon, low environmental impact and locally sourced materials in construction where possible;
    - D. be designed with sufficient flexibility to enable the life of the building to be extended by re-use for other purposes where feasible;
    - E. aim to deliver at least 1% of all residential units within the whole scheme which achieve full 'passivhaus' certification

Useful resources:

- [Climate change: health effects in the UK](#) (UKHSA)
- [Climate Guide Case Studies](#) (TCPA)
- [Energy efficiency of housing in England and Wales](#) (ons.gov.uk) (ONS)
- [Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide 2023](#) (Natural England)
- [Improving access to greenspace: 2020 review](#) (PHE)

### 3.3.7 Healthy transport and movement

Transport and movement are fundamental aspects of people's lives. They affect where and how people live, work and interact, how people experience places and they directly and indirectly affect health and well-being.

Local Plans, local transport plans and other strategies such as local cycling and walking infrastructure plans can outline clear transport and movement principles and requirements within local authorities. Policies in this area also positively impact on a range of goals like achieving net zero and improving air quality.

Local Plan policy should:

- clearly prioritise active travel – modes of travel that involve a level of activity (e.g. walking, cycling, trips made using scooters, wheelchairs, adapted cycles, e-bikes as well as public transport).
- require new development to be well connected to existing infrastructure and local facilities and amenities, especially places of work and education
- seek to use new development to improve connections and active travel opportunities for everyone, including outside of the development site boundary
- seek to create high quality infrastructure that is safe and efficient for active travel users, taking into consideration wayfinding, rest, shelter, shade and cycle storage solutions (including for non-standard and high value cycles) and public facilities such as toilets and water fountains
- promote design that reduces conflict between street and road users, through allocation of space and features that reduce the potential for collisions
- recognise that streets are for people as well as vehicles, and that children and young people who are particularly vulnerable to the poor health impacts of traffic also have a spatial claim on the public spaces on their doorsteps for play and safe independent mobility.

Local Plans can actively de-prioritise the movements and storage of cars and privately owned vehicles. Car-dominated spaces create congestion, poor air quality, damage the environment, damage people's health and entrench inequalities. Some authorities like **Lambeth** and **Hounslow** have developed Kerbside Strategies to reimagine how to better balance different kerbside uses, helping to create safe, healthy, liveable and multi-functional streets for all ages and abilities.

There are important differences in transport challenges faced by rural communities, compared with those living in more urban areas. Whilst rural communities may have access to expansive greenspace or coastal walks, the use of active travel for employment, education, training or leisure activities is not always easy. Anecdotal evidence from Northumberland County Council cites long distances and narrow lanes with low visibility as reasons that active travel is an impractical method of functional transport in rural areas. They suggest that this, coupled with infrequent public transport, can lead to rural isolation or dependency on own vehicle use. Some of these challenges can be addressed through working with communities and landowners to create lower speed environments and initiatives like **Quiet Lanes**.

Examples from adopted policies:

#### **Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan 2016-2036 (adopted October 2023)**

##### **Policy SADM 3 Sustainable Travel for All**

- i. All developments at or above the thresholds set out in Hertfordshire County Council's Hertfordshire Travel Plan Guidance will be required to submit a Travel Plan as part of a planning application.

Development proposals should make provision where appropriate for:

- ii. Cyclists, through safe design and layout of routes integrated into new development and the wider cycle network and provision of secure cycle parking and where appropriate changing facilities.
- iii. Pedestrians (including disabled persons and those with impaired mobility), through safe, accessible, direct and convenient design and layout of routes within the new development and wider pedestrian network.
- iv. Safeguarding existing Public Rights of Way and promoting enhancements to the network, where appropriate, to offer walking, wheeling and cycling opportunities.
- v. Public transport, through measures that will improve and support public transport and provide new public transport routes.

- vi. Community transport, through the implementation of Travel Plans where appropriate (for example including measures that will promote carpools, car sharing and voluntary community buses, community services and cycle schemes).
- vii. Servicing and emergency vehicles.
- vii. Facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles.

### **Northampton Local Plan Part 2 2011-2029 (adopted March 2023)**

#### **Policy MO1: Designing sustainable transport and travel**

- A. In order to deliver a high quality, accessible and sustainable transport network proposals will be required to deliver or contribute to the infrastructure projects contained within Appendix D of this Plan...
- B. Developments should be designed to incorporate, demonstrate and achieve the following sustainable travel principles:
  - i. To promote, improve and encourage active lifestyles and health and wellbeing
  - ii. To promote modal shift away from and reduce car usage
  - iii. To improve accessibility by, and usability, of sustainable transport modes including public transport
  - iv. To maximise opportunities for integrated secure and safe walking, wheeling and cycling routes which connect to the existing network (including public rights of way), as well as open spaces and green infrastructure
  - v. To secure a high-quality design of the street scene which creates a safe, secure and pleasant environment
  - vi. To upgrade and improve the existing street scene

vii. To design developments including the provision of streets, streetscapes and open spaces which enable and encourage children to walk, cycle and play within their local environments

viii. To promote sustainable travel to day-to-day destinations including the town centre, the railway station, the bus station, places of work, schools and colleges, health facilities and local leisure and recreation facilities

- C. Applications for major developments will need to be accompanied by a Travel Plan. The Travel Plan needs to specify a long-term management strategy for integrating proposals to promote and encourage sustainable travel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This will include travel planning for new users.

### **Brighton and Hove City Plan Part Two (adopted October 2022)**

#### **Policy DM33 Safe, Sustainable and Active Travel**

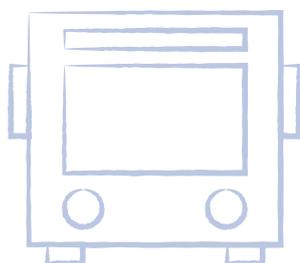
The council will promote and provide for the use of sustainable transport and active travel by prioritising walking, cycling and public transport in the city. This will support the objectives, projects and programmes set out in the Local Transport Plan and other strategy and policy documents. New developments should be designed in a way that is safe and accessible for all users, and encourages the greatest possible use of sustainable and active forms of travel.

1. Pedestrians (including wheelchair users)  
In order to encourage walking, new development should: a) provide for safe, comfortable and convenient access to/from proposed development for all pedestrians, irrespective of their level of personal mobility and cognition and... (cont.)
2. Cyclists  
In order to ensure a safe and accessible environment for cyclists, new development should: a) provide for safe, easy and convenient access for cyclists to/from proposed development; and... (cont.)

3. **Public Transport Users**  
In order to promote and provide for greater levels of public transport usage in the city (including bus, coach, taxi and rail travel), new development should: a) be located and designed to provide good access to public transport services and facilities; and... (cont.)
4. **Safe and Inclusive Travel**  
Planning permission will be granted for developments that meet all of the following criteria: a) Do not create road safety problems or dangers for any road user, especially those who are most vulnerable... (cont.)

Useful resources:

- [Active Design | Sport England](#) (Sport England)
- [Building Car Dependency](#) (Transport for New Homes)
- [Making streets healthy places for everyone](#) (Healthy Streets)
- [Net Zero Transport: the role of spatial planning and place-based solutions](#) (RTPI)
- [New report: Stepping off the Road to Nowhere](#) (Create Streets / Sustrans)
- [Place and Wellbeing: Movement Theme](#) (Improvement Service / Public Health Scotland)



## 3.4 Implementation guidance

This section is designed to support those working in local authorities to consider how Local Plans can be written in ways that support the implementation of health requirements. This is necessary to address the potential 'implementation gap', which refers to the risk of developers compromising on policies and planning conditions in development projects after planning consent is achieved.

Those involved in developing Local Plans should consider how to promote health through each of the following: **planning conditions, funding of health requirements, viability appraisal, monitoring requirements, and stewardship, community ownership and involvement.**

### 3.4.1 Planning conditions

When a planning permission application is made to a local planning authority, they may grant planning permission subject to conditions. When used properly, conditions can enhance the quality of development and mitigate any adverse effects of the proposed new development. National guidance is clear that planning conditions should be kept to a minimum and only used where they satisfy the '6 tests' as set out in the [NPPF](#).

Planning conditions can be used in support of health policies and objectives, such as restricting opening hours on uses that may engender harm, especially to identified vulnerable population groups such as children.

#### **Milton Keynes Council Plan: MK 2016-2031 (adopted March 2019)**

##### **Policy EH8 Hot Food Takeaways**

- A. Hot food takeaways (Class A5) which are proposed within close proximity to a primary or secondary school will only be permitted if the takeaway is located more than 400m from the main school entrance.
  1. The 400m distance will be assessed on the most logical walking distance from the main school entrance.
- B. The Council may impose conditions restricting opening hours of hot food takeaways.

However, wherever possible designing-out the need for conditions is always preferable. Positive dialogue between applicants, the planning authority, statutory consultees and the community is likely to result in fewer conditions being imposed as issues can be resolved as they arise.

The [NPPF](#) and national guidance set out what planning conditions and obligations can be used to achieve.

### 3.4.2 Funding of health requirements

Once built, new development sites will incur long-term management and maintenance costs, as well as creating an additional burden on public services and amenities, e.g. GP surgeries, transport infrastructure, schools, and natural spaces (green / blue infrastructure) by increasing the number of local residents. Developer contributions (money paid to the council through Section 106 agreements), Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other funding mechanisms, are important to resource the delivery of local amenities and affordable housing, to protect against harms and promote health benefits.

Local Plans or related documentation should have clear policies that indicate expectations for developer contributions towards local infrastructure and amenities that will promote individual and community wellbeing.

Surrey County Council's '[Information on Health and Spatial Planning in Surrey](#)' document provides useful examples of how this has been put into practice:

#### Coplug analytics tool to assess the health service requirements of new development

4.7 Surrey Heartlands ICS commissioned Coplug Ltd to develop an analytics tool for use by Surrey councils (based upon the London Healthy Urban Development Unit planning contributions model). The tool uses a range of up-to-date assumptions to assess the health service requirements and cost impacts of new residential development. Outputs from the model have contributed to infrastructure assessments either for entire Local Plans or specific large development sites. The tool also captures pipeline health infrastructure projects both to inform Local Plan development and discussions around CIL/S106 needs.

#### Planning obligations

4.8 For new development to be acceptable there may be a requirement for investment in affordable housing, infrastructure and supporting services. Section 106 agreements are put in place to make it possible to approve a planning proposal that might not otherwise be acceptable in planning terms. For example, a S106 agreement might require a developer to fund improving the access to a site, paying for a new health clinic, or ensuring the need for affordable housing is met.

4.9 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a general charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area. CIL is different to S106 in that it is levied on a much wider range of developments and according to a published tariff schedule. It is an important tool for local authorities to use to help them deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in their area. Most new development which creates net additional floorspace of 100 square metres or more, or creates a new dwelling is potentially liable for CIL. CIL can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, and other health and social care facilities.

4.10 For example, in 2022 Elmbridge Borough Council awarded £530,000 of CIL funds to the NHS for reconfiguration works at Walton Health Centre in order to provide additional clinical space for treatment. The works were proposed to provide additional capacity at the centre and respond to the growing number of patients, in part a result of additional development.



### 3.4.3 Viability appraisal

During the development process, the local planning authority and the developer are likely to negotiate what the developer will include in the development for the public good and how much the developer will contribute financially through Section 106. The developer might argue that some things the local authority want are not affordable.

The NPPF sets out the process for viability assessments of planning applications and government guidance on key principles in understanding viability in plan-making and decision taking is available [here](#). Importantly, if the Local Plan and all its requirements are found to be viable then developers have very limited scope to argue their developments are unviable at the application stage.

Policy makers need to ensure that development viability appraisal and negotiations are transparent and not used to reduce and constrain requirements relating to health and the determinants of health. There also needs to be awareness of the many, often competing, demands which influence healthy urban development decision making. These could result in 'trade-offs' where, for example, a decision to build more affordable housing leaves limited funding for other locally identified priorities. Local Plans should therefore indicate in detail how they expect viability appraisal to be undertaken and negotiated to increase the transparency and accountability of the process.

An example from Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan 2014-2034:

#### **Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan 2014-2034 (adopted March 2019)**

##### **Policy DEL 1 Approach to development delivery and viability, planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy**

The LPAs will take a positive and strategic approach to the use of their powers in relation to planning consents, planning obligations or agreements and, for Plymouth, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), in order to accelerate the delivery of development and secure developer contributions to meet the infrastructure needs of the city.

5. Requiring robust viability evidence to be submitted where a developer contends that planning obligations sought, including for affordable housing, would make a proposal economically unviable. The LPAs will seek an open book approach in these cases. In determining whether or not to grant planning permission, the LPAs will have regard to the overall economic, social and environmental benefits of the development and whether, on balance, some relaxation of planning obligations is justified.

### 3.4.4 Health management plans

Local Plans often contain requirements for developers to produce management and maintenance plans in relation to various determinants of health, e.g. regarding green infrastructure, biodiversity, flood risk, low or zero carbon plans.

Developers could be required to produce local health management plans for significant development, potentially as part of the HIA process. Such plans could create an important framework to help ensure developers have established ongoing procedures, financial and other resource arrangements to deliver agreed policy requirements.

An example from the Liverpool Local Plan 2013-2033:

#### **Liverpool Local Plan 2013-2033 (adopted January 2022)**

Paragraph 5.10 Major development proposals should be accompanied by a health impact assessment detailing how they respond to the above policy criteria, including details of ongoing management or mitigation of issues where necessary.

### 3.4.5 Monitoring obligations for developers

Whilst many Local Plans outline commitments by the local authority to undertake monitoring, there can be monitoring requirements from developers, as per other issues, such as on ecology. This needs to be explicitly required so that developers are clear about expectations to keep track of delivery. For example, Eastleigh Borough Council's Local Plan requires large developments to set aside funds for a post occupancy evaluation (POE):

### Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan (adopted April 2022)

#### Local Plan Policy DM2 Environmentally sustainable development

...all other larger developments above 10,000 sq.m of floorspace should also seek to fund post occupancy evaluation (POE) in addition to the above.

Local Plans could include direct monitoring or POE requirements regarding health outcomes, e.g. requirements to fund and undertake a POE of health metrics at a given stage, once a site is in use, as well as expectations that future development phases will be refined based on the POE findings.

RIBA published a [toolkit of POE case studies](#), encouraging local authorities to mandate the use of POE in large scale housing schemes (involving a mix of residential and commercial uses and likely to be over 100 dwellings) through the planning systems. The [Quality of Life Foundation](#) is also a good source of information on this topic.

### 3.4.6 Stewardship, community engagement and ownership

Stewardship, community engagement and ownership are important in the development process to help improve quality and sense of place, benefitting mental and physical health outcomes.

There is a need for clear signposting of good practice for early and effective community engagement and dialogue in relation to proposals, and it is recommended that planners work with public health colleagues to enable this. At present, local planning authorities must review their Statements of Community Involvement every five years from the adoption date. This provides a good opportunity to gather and respond to public views on planning applications, local plans or conservation areas. The NPPF sets out the pre-application engagement and front-loading regulations. Notably, the stages of consultation will be changing under the new plan-making system.

An example from the Southwark Local Plan 2019-2036:

### Southwark Local Plan 2019-2036 (adopted February 2022)

#### Policy SP2 Southwark Together

To deliver this strategic policy Southwark signpost applicants to their Development Consultation Charter (DCC, 2022) which sets out how Southwark will ask the developer to prove their commitment to community engagement and show that they have taken due consideration of:

- Equalities impacts
- Social infrastructure
- Community assets
- Local demography
- Heritage and cultural assets
- Existing transport

The Charter is for:

**Developers:** The DCC sets out guidelines for developers on how engagement should happen at each stage of the planning process. This will ensure that a development reflects the needs of the community.

**The Community:** The community includes all those who live, work, study, worship and volunteer in Southwark. The DCC shows the types of engagement the community can expect from developers throughout the planning process.

**The Council:** This charter outlines the requirements for developers for submitting a planning application.

The Council will ensure developers of major schemes in the borough meet these requirements.

Models of development have been shown to promote ownership and leadership, such as community land trusts, cooperative, co-housing and self-build projects. The [TCPA Long-term stewardship resources](#) are available for local authorities exploring how to implement models of community ownership.

The Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act (2015) requires authorities to keep a register of interest for self-build projects. Local Plans should outline where developers may find the register and how they might engage with it. For larger master planned projects, a developer can set aside parcels of land that enable self-build or community land trust type developments.

Examples from adopted policies:

### **Salford City Local Plan to 2037 (adopted January 2023)**

#### **Policy H9: Custom, self-build and community-led housing**

A supply of suitable opportunities for prospective custom, self-build and community led housebuilders will be secured by:

1. Favourably considering planning applications for custom, self-build and community-led housing where this is consistent with other policies, proposals and wider objectives of the Local Plan; and
2. Encouraging developers of larger sites to make plots available for custom, self-build and community-led housing as part of their development.

Community-led housing is where people and communities play a leading role in addressing their own housing needs. It comprises the following three principles:

- i. A requirement that meaningful community engagement and consent occurs throughout the process. The community does not necessarily have to initiate and manage the development process, or build the homes themselves, though some may do;

- ii. The local community group or organisation owns, manages or stewards the homes and in a manner of their choosing; and
- iii. A requirement that the benefits to the local area and/or specified community must be clearly defined and legally protected in perpetuity

### **Harrogate District Local Plan 2014-2035 (adopted March 2020)**

#### **Policy HS3: Self and Custom Build Housing**

On strategic sites of 500 dwellings or more, developers will be required to supply at least 5% of dwelling plots for sale to self-builders, subject to demand being identified by the council, by reference to the council's Self and Custom Build Register, supported as necessary by other sources of evidence in-line with the provisions identified in paragraph 5.30. In determining the nature and scale of any provision, the council will have regard to viability considerations and site-specific circumstances.

Where a developer is required to provide self-build plots, the plots should be made available and marketed appropriately for at least 12 months. Where plots which have been appropriately marketed have not sold within this time period, these plots may be built out as conventional market housing by the developer.

Useful resources:

- [Delivering design value: The housing design quality conundrum](#) (UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence)
- [Developer Contributions](#) (Local Government Association)
- [Post Occupancy Evaluation: an essential tool to improve the built environment](#) (RIBA)
- [Post-Occupancy Evaluation](#) (Quality of Life Foundation)
- [Long-term stewardship](#) (TCPA)

## Closing note

Those working in local authorities can collaborate to create healthier places for all. This guide provides **practical evidence, guidance, and inspiration** to help to achieve this.

It is recognised that the Planning for healthy places guide does not cover every potential policy area that local authorities may wish to address through a health lens.

The authors retain an aspiration to update and extend the document in the future as appropriate. For now, it provides an approach that supports local authorities to realise their ambitions to create and support healthier lives through the Local Plan.

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# Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Active travel</b>	Modes of travel that involve a level of activity (e.g. walking, cycling, trips made by wheelchair, mobility scooters, adapted cycles, e-cycles, scooters, as well as using public transport).
<b>Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH)</b>	Representative body for Directors of Public Health (DsPH) in the UK. It represents the professional views of all DsPH as the local leaders for the nation's health.
<b>Blue space</b>	Outdoor environments – either natural or manmade – that prominently feature water and are accessible to people.
<b>Built environment</b>	Human-made environment that provides the setting for human activities, ranging in scale from buildings to cities and beyond.
<b>Climate change adaptation</b>	Policies focused on action which supports people with adjusting to the current and future effects of climate change.
<b>Climate change mitigation</b>	Policies which seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
<b>Community infrastructure levy (CIL)</b>	A charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area. It is an important tool for local authorities to use to help deliver the infrastructure needed to support development in an area.
<b>Design codes</b>	A set of design requirements that set expectations for design quality created with local communities to develop a vision for new development in an area.
<b>Environmental impact assessment (EIA)</b>	A statutory assessment to evaluate the likely significant impacts of a proposed project as defined in Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017.
<b>Green infrastructure</b>	A network of natural spaces designed to deliver benefits for people and the planet.
<b>Greenspace</b>	Any area of vegetated land, urban or rural.
<b>Health</b>	A state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (WHO, 1948).
<b>Health and wellbeing strategy</b>	A strategy to inform commissioning decisions across local services to ensure they are focused on the health needs of service users and communities based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
<b>Health impact assessment (HIA)</b>	A process that identifies the health and wellbeing impacts (benefits and harms) of any plan or development project.
<b>Health inequalities</b>	Avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people (King's Fund, 2022).
<b>Implementation gap</b>	Refers to the risk of developers compromising on policies and planning conditions in development projects after planning consent is achieved.
<b>Indices of multiple deprivation (IMD)</b>	Refers to the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (or neighbourhoods). In England it is common to describe how relatively deprived a small area is by saying whether it falls among the most deprived 10 per cent, 20 per cent or 30 per cent of small areas.

Term	Definition
<b>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)</b>	A statutory assessment of the current and future needs and assets of an area to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and impact on the wider determinants of health.
<b>Local Government Association (LGA)</b>	The LGA works with councils to support, promote and improve local services and policy.
<b>Local Planning Authority (LPA)</b>	A public authority whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a particular geographic area.
<b>Local Plan</b>	The statutory planning document that every local planning authority must prepare and adopt, setting out strategic development and land use priorities for the next few decades.
<b>Local walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure plan (LCWIP)</b>	A strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required at the local level. They enable a long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks, ideally over a 10-year period.
<b>Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)</b>	A ministerial department in the UK, supported by 16 agencies and public bodies.
<b>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</b>	National planning policies for England and how these should be applied in plan-making and making planning decisions.
<b>Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)</b>	Conditions, also known as chronic diseases, that tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behavioural factors.
<b>Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)</b>	OHID is part of the Department of Health and Social Care in the UK. It focuses on improving health outcomes and reducing inequalities across the population.
<b>Office for National Statistics (ONS)</b>	The UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and the recognised national statistical institute of the UK.
<b>Plan-making</b>	Refers to the process of creating local plans and policies, and other development plan documents by the LPA.
<b>Planning Inspectorate</b>	The government agency responsible for planning appeals, national infrastructure applications, examination of local plans and other casework in England.
<b>Post occupancy evaluation (POE)</b>	The process for evaluating the performance of a home and/or neighbourhood once someone has moved in, to find out if it's meeting the needs of its occupants, identify areas for improvement and provide learning that informs better decisions in the future.
<b>Public Health England</b>	Public Health England was a UK government organisation that provided public health services and advice in England. It was replaced by UK Health Security Agency and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities in 2023.
<b>Public Health Wales</b>	Public Health Wales works to protect and improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities for the people of Wales.
<b>Public realm</b>	Relates to all parts of the built environment where the public has free access. It encompasses: all streets, squares, and other rights of way, whether predominantly in residential, commercial or civic uses.
<b>Section 106</b>	Planning obligations that are legal agreements to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal.

Term	Definition
<b>Strategic environmental assessment (SEA)</b>	A statutory assessment which allows local authorities to assess, consult on, and monitor the likely impacts their plans, programmes and strategies will have on the environment.
<b>Strategic health policy</b>	Authority-wide policies that reflect the wider aspirations of a Council as set out in any Corporate Plan or other strategies.
<b>Supplementary planning document (SPD)</b>	Produced by LPAs to build upon and provide more detailed advice on the policies contained in a local plan.
<b>Sustainability appraisal (SA)</b>	A statutory planning assessment which requires an LPA to carry out a SA during plan preparation to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
<b>Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)</b>	The TCPA is a charity with a mission to challenge, inspire and support people to create healthy, sustainable and resilient places that are fair for everyone.
<b>TRUUD</b>	TRUUD or 'Tackling the Root causes Upstream of Unhealthy Urban Development' is a five-year project involving a consortium of researchers across six universities, Bath, Bristol, Manchester, Reading, Stirling and UWE Bristol, funded by the UK Prevention Research Partnership.
<b>Walkability</b>	Describes aspects of the built and social environment that have important population-level impacts on physical activity, energy balance and health.
<b>Whole systems approach</b>	A local whole systems approach responds to complexity through an ongoing, dynamic and flexible way of working. It enables local stakeholders, including communities, to come together, share an understanding of the reality of the challenge, consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. Stakeholders agree actions and decide as a network how to work together in an integrated way to bring about sustainable, long-term systems change (PHE, 2019).
<b>Wider determinants of health</b>	A diverse range of social, economic and environmental factors which impact on people's health.
<b>15-minute neighbourhood</b>	The recommendation that everyone has access to and benefits from good quality green and blue spaces within 15 minutes' walk from home (Natural England, 2023).
<b>20-minute neighbourhood</b>	A useful framework for thinking about neighbourhood design to create complete, compact and connected communities.



# Appendix A: Summary of research leading to guidance co-development

Recent research from the TRUUD<sup>2</sup> project (Le Gouais et al., 2023) indicates that Local Plans are often inconsistent or weak regarding how policies can require consideration of health from developers when they make planning applications and that developers lack sufficient understanding about the form healthy urban development should take.

The same study also reported that additional support would be beneficial for those working in local authorities to consider how Local Plans can be written in ways that support the implementation of health requirements.

Responding to these findings, in 2022 TRUUD researchers developed a 'Health in Local Plans' framework to review how health is addressed in Local Plans and to clarify where improvements could be made (Callway et al., 2023). The framework was informed by planning and health literature (Bird et al., 2018; Public Health England, 2017) and co-developed with planning and public health officers from a partner Local Planning Authority (LPA).

The framework was applied to the Local Plans of seven LPAs across England. A follow-up evaluation of the value and impact of the framework review found that the process was valuable for the partner LPA and its emerging Local Plan, in addressing barriers and creating facilitators for better integration of health in local development planning policies to support improved development proposals.

The 'Health in Local Plans' framework was initially adapted by the TCPA to support North Yorkshire Council and Buckinghamshire Council's public health teams to work with their planning teams to develop their new Local Plans.

**This document further adapts the framework into a user-friendly guide for a range of stakeholder audiences involved in Local Plan and supplementary guidance making.**

To ensure its relevance and value for those working in a local authority context, planning and public health officers from seven local authorities were invited to support guidance co-development: Bristol City Council, Guildford Borough Council, Medway Council, Northumberland County Council, Southampton City Council, Surrey County Council, and Walsall Council. Selection was based on seeking a broad range across the following criteria:

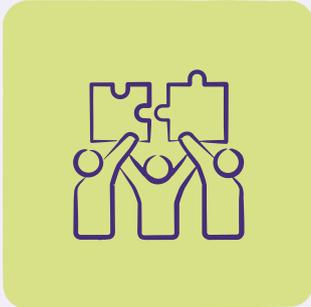
- Diversity of Local Plan development stage
- Diversity of local authority types
- At least one LPA with well-established planning and public health links and at least one with opportunities to develop cross-team working
- Geographical diversity across England
- Diversity of LPA deprivation levels

<sup>2</sup>TRUUD – Tackling the Root causes Upstream of Unhealthy Urban Development' is a five-year project involving a consortium of researchers across six universities, Bath, Bristol, Manchester, Reading, Stirling and UWE, funded by the UK Prevention Research Partnership.

## Appendix B: Further reading on links between planning and health

The following documents provide a helpful starting point for better understanding the links between planning and health:

1. **Creating health and wellbeing: A partnership approach to evidence-led planning and design** (QoL Foundation, 2024) summarises the planning and design tools available to local authorities in England and how evidence can be used to link these to the local context.
2. **Empowering Healthy Places Unveiling the powers and practices of local councils in fostering healthy neighbourhoods** (LGA, Prior + Partners, QoL Foundation, 2024) summarises local government powers in relation to place and public health.
3. **Getting research into practice A resource for local authorities on planning healthier places** (PHE, 2021) is an evidence-informed resource to assist local authorities to develop spatial planning policies and practices which can improve the health and wellbeing of their communities. Resources include:
  - A supplementary planning document (SPD) on healthy places
  - A framework for healthy planning principles
  - A technical research paper on planning for ageing well that could form the evidence base for local planning policies and guidance
  - An approach to integrate health considerations into neighbourhood plans
4. **Integrating Health into Local Plans: A Comparative Review of Health Requirements for Urban Development in Seven Local Planning Authorities in England** (Callway et al, 2023) documents how local health priorities are considered within Local Plans and provides recommendations on how to ensure health promoting policies are integrated into emerging Local Plans.
5. **Spatial planning for health: evidence review** (PHE, 2017) presents the findings from an evidence review (Bird et al., 2018) examining the links between health and the built and natural environment to help inform policy and to support local action. Findings were used to produce a series of diagrams to assist public health and planning professionals in designing places that enhance the health and wellbeing of local people.
6. **Strengthening the links between planning and health in England** (McKinnon et al, 2020) identifies how modifications made to the design of the built environment can support improvements in health, reduce the risk of developing certain diseases, and also help to improve people's physical and mental wellbeing.



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