

## HUDU Planning for Health

# Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool



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NHS London Healthy Urban Development Unit

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## HUDU Planning for Health

# Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool

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### Background

The Watch Out for Health guide and checklist was first published in 2008 to help ensure that health was properly considered when evaluating and determining planning proposals, and that where possible development plans and proposals had a positive rather than a negative influence on health.

The assessment tool was completely revised in January 2013 to take into account new legislation and policy changes both nationally and in London that relate to health and spatial planning. This fourth edition has been updated to be consistent with the new National Planning Policy Framework, the London Plan, the NHS Long Term Plan, the Public Health England Strategy 2020 to 2025 and the 25 Year Environment Plan. It also provides additional advice on the health impact assessment process and incorporates other relevant assessment approaches, such as Healthy Streets and Contextual Safeguarding principles.

- *The [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#)*. The new NPPF came into effect in July 2018 and has replaced the 2012 version. An updated version was published in February 2019. The NPPF continues to promote the role of planning to create healthy and safe communities by supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all. It encourages applicants to engage with both non-statutory and statutory consultees in pre-application consultation to resolve issues, such as affordable housing and infrastructure and to secure good design. There is an increased focus on the quality of design of developments includes the buildings and the spaces create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being. The supporting [Planning Practice Guidance](#) on healthy and safe communities encourages local planning authorities to consult the Director of Public Health on planning applications, including at the pre-application stage to identify significant health and wellbeing impacts and necessary mitigation measures, using health impact assessment as a useful tool to do this. To support the NPPF, the Government has published a [National Design Guide](#) which sets out ten characteristics of well-designed places and demonstrates what good design means in practice by providing examples of schemes in England. Many of the characteristics and principles overlap with health and wellbeing and the guide is a useful tool to integrate good design with healthy urban planning principles.
- *The [Localism Act 2011](#)*. The Act enshrines a new layer of development plan called the neighbourhood plan. These are initiated by communities, although they are subject to a formal approval process and a referendum. The Act also enables neighbourhoods to initiate a neighbourhood development order, which allows local people to designate for particular development without it requiring planning permission, and to prepare a neighbourhood plan.

- *The [London Plan](#) and other Mayoral strategies in London.* Along with Local Plans, the London Plan forms part of the statutory development plan for London Boroughs. Health is treated as a cross-cutting issue linking planning and health throughout the London Plan. Underpinning the draft new London plan are six 'Good Growth' policies, including a policy framework to create a healthy city (Policy GG3) which aims to help improve Londoners' health and reduce health inequalities. Delivering Good Growth will involve prioritising health in all London's planning decisions, including through design that supports health outcomes, and the assessment and mitigation of any potential adverse impacts of development proposals on health and health inequality. The plan requires the impacts of new developments on health and wellbeing to be assessed, for example by using health impact assessments. An objective of the Mayor of London's [Health Inequalities Strategy](#) (2018) is to use the planning system to create healthier neighbourhoods and to adopt the Healthy Streets Approach. Healthy Streets Indicators also underpin the Mayor's [Transport Strategy](#) (2018).
- *[Fair Society, Healthy Lives \(the Marmot Review\)](#).* Published in 2010, the review found that individual health is influenced by wider determinants such as income, education, local environmental quality and employment – called the 'social determinants of health'. The review set out six policy objectives for reducing health inequalities including 'to create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities'. In February 2020 The Institute of Health Equity will publish with The Health Foundation: 'Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On', to examine progress in addressing health inequalities in England and to propose recommendations for future action. Recognising that the NHS could do far more to support good health as well as treat ill health, the Institute published in 2018 [Reducing Health Inequalities Through New Models of Care: A Resource for New Care Models](#)
- *The [Public Health England Strategy 2020 to 2025](#)* sets out how the organisation will work to protect and improve the public's health and reduce health inequalities over the next 5 years. A key role is to shape policy and practice. In 2017, Public Health England published [Spatial Planning for Health: An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places](#), which assessed the impact of neighbourhood design, housing, transport, the natural environment and the food environment on health.
- *A [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies](#).* Prepared by local health and wellbeing boards they identify health and wellbeing needs and priorities, inform commissioning plans and the integration of services, and support action across the wider determinants of health. The Government has updated the [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#) indicators for 2019 to 2022. The indicators help identify public health trends and are used to measure progress on local public health plans.
- The [NHS Long Term Plan](#). Published in 2019, the NHS Long Term Plan sets out a 10-year programme of phased improvements to NHS services and outcomes, including improving the quality of care, transforming 'out-of-hospital' and integrated community-based care, increased use of digital technology and an emphasis on prevention. A focus on population health involves a new system hierarchy involving primary care networks serving populations of 30,000 – 50,000 people, local authorities (places) serving

populations of 250,000 – 500,000 people and larger integrated care systems covering populations from 1 – 3 million. The NHS Long Term plan stresses the importance of the NHS and the built environment sector continuing to work together to improve health and wellbeing.

- *The NHS England Healthy New Towns programme* was launched in 2015 to explore how the development of new places could provide an opportunity to create healthier and connected communities with integrated and high-quality services. Key lessons from 10 demonstrator sites have been captured in the [Putting Health into Place](#) publications. The documents set out ten principles for healthy place-making. They advocate a ‘whole systems approach’ to address the root causes and wider determinants of preventable health conditions and poor wellbeing, involving local authorities, NHS organisations, developers, housing associations, and the voluntary community and social enterprise sector. They recognise the need to ensure that health, wellbeing and social connections are prioritised in the master planning and design of places, and that there are long term management solutions in place for public and community spaces.
- [A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#). The Government’s 25-year Environment Plan was published in 2018 and sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. One key area is connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. It contains actions that are linked to spatial planning such as ensuring access to the natural environment, recognising the physical and mental health benefits of access to nature and the concept of environmental therapies, such as gardening, outdoor exercise and care farming, and encouraging more investment in green infrastructure, including planting one million trees in England’s towns and cities by 2022. It also includes actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to minimise waste.

Taken together, this legislative and policy context sends a strong signal that local authorities, health and wellbeing boards and NHS commissioners and providers should engage in the planning system to address the health impacts of development and regeneration proposals and improve health outcomes in new and existing communities.

## The Rapid HIA tool

The tool is designed to assess the likely health impacts of development plans and proposals, including planning frameworks and masterplans for large areas, regeneration and estate renewal programmes and outline and detailed planning applications. It is partly based on the World Health Organization Publication *Healthy Urban Planning* by Hugh Barton and Catherine Tsourou (2000).

It helps identify those determinants of health which are likely to be influenced by a specific development proposal. It does not identify all issues related to health and wellbeing but focuses on the built environment and issues directly or indirectly influenced by planning decisions. Not all the issues or assessment criteria may be relevant, and the user is encouraged to prioritise specific actions which focus on key impacts.

There is no single definition of HIA, but a common description used is from the World Health Organization as:

“a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of these effects within the population”.

European Centre for Health Policy, WHO Regional Office for Europe. Gothenburg Consensus Paper (1999)

It is widely recognised that there are three types of health impact assessment:

- A ‘desktop’ assessment which draws on existing knowledge and evidence, often using checklists or templates which provide a broad overview of potential health impacts
- A ‘rapid’ assessment, which is a more resource intensive process, involving a more focused investigation of health impacts and recommending mitigation and enhancement measures
- A ‘full’ assessment which involves comprehensive analysis of all potential health and wellbeing impacts, which may include quantitative and qualitative information, data from health needs assessments, reviews of the evidence base and community engagement.

HUDU has developed this Rapid HIA tool using existing evidence to assess the impacts of a development plan or proposal and recommend measures to mitigate negative impacts and maximise health benefits. New development may generally bring about a number of positive impacts. However, it may also result in consequences that are unintended which may be good or bad for a person's health.

A more comprehensive HIA could use qualitative and/or quantitative methods, including participatory techniques with local communities and organisations and identify the impacts of development on different groups in the community. The assessment should also include arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the impacts and measures.

Potential users of the tool could include:

- *Developers and consultants* formulating a development proposal and assessing the health impacts of a subsequent planning application.
- *Local authorities and NHS organisations* assessing the health impacts of regeneration or development proposals, who may want to scrutinise planning applications to ensure that health impacts are addressed and health benefits maximised. Use of the tool could be coordinated by health and wellbeing boards and be supported by the joint strategic needs assessment.
- *Community, voluntary groups and organisations* such as neighbourhood forums who may want to identify the health impacts of a proposed development or of a proposed neighbourhood plan or development order.

The assessment tool is generic and should be localised for specific use. It is designed to highlight issues and to facilitate discussion. As a rapid assessment tool, its purpose is to quickly ensure that the health impacts of a development proposal are identified, and appropriate action is taken to address negative impacts and maximise benefits. It may be

supplemented by further information, such as a policy and literature review, a needs assessment and community engagement.

The tool overlaps with other assessments and standards, in particular environmental impact assessment and sustainability appraisal (see summary of assessments in Table 1). In London, the Mayor of London has used Integrated Impact Assessments to assess the Mayoral strategies, including the London Plan, which includes an assessment of health impacts.

This tool could be used as a ‘stand-alone’ assessment to assess the impact of large-scale development plans or projects, such as area action plans or masterplans, or large planning applications. Alternatively, it could form part of an integrated impact assessment process. In the case of major planning applications subject to environmental impact assessment (EIA), the environmental statement could include a separate chapter on health impacts using this tool. Cross-references should be made to other relevant chapters in the environmental statement, such as socio-economic impacts, transport, noise and air quality. Incorporating health impacts into EIA also allows the cumulative impacts of other neighbouring developments to be addressed. For example, the cumulative impact of a number of developments might necessitate the need for new health or social infrastructure.

**Table 1 Summary of relevant assessments and standards**

Assessment	Process
<p><b>Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM)</b></p>	<p>A BREEAM assessment should be undertaken for all major development proposals.</p> <p>Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) assesses the environmental performance of new and refurbished buildings. Based on a common framework of technical standards, versions of BREEAM have been developed to assess all key elements of the built environment including new buildings, masterplanning of new communities or regeneration projects and new homes (the Home Quality Mark (HQM)). The assessment gives buildings a score of pass, good, very good or excellent.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bregroup.com/products/breeam/">https://www.bregroup.com/products/breeam/</a></p> <p><b>Note on Code for Sustainable Homes</b></p> <p>Previous editions of this tool advocated the use of the Code for Sustainable Homes to assess major development proposals. Following the technical housing standards review, the Government has withdrawn the Code for Sustainable Homes, aside from the management of legacy cases.</p> <p>Legacy cases are those where residential developments are legally contracted to apply a code policy (eg. under an affordable housing programme), or where planning permission has been granted subject to a condition stipulating discharge of a code level. In these instances, it is possible to continue to conduct code assessments.</p>

Assessment	Process
<p><b>Housing standards</b></p>	<p>The current approach to housing standards in England was announced in March 2015 and comprise a <a href="#">nationally described space standard</a> and <a href="#">optional technical standards</a>. These have been adopted in the London Plan and the <a href="#">Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance 2016</a></p>
<p><b>Sustainability appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</b></p>	<p>Sustainability Appraisal is mandatory under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Sustainability appraisals incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (commonly referred to as the ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations’). The process seeks to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations in the preparation of development plan documents and supplementary planning documents.</p> <p>SA provides a critical evaluation of the performance of policy against predetermined social, economic and environmental criteria so that the plan’s performance can be improved. It usually involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reviewing current best practice with regard to the subject of the plan</li> <li>• scoping national, regional and local policy guidance</li> <li>• reviewing the plan’s assumptions, objectives and forecasts</li> <li>• identifying criteria for appraising the plan’s sustainability performance</li> <li>• appraising policies against the criteria (usually in a matrix)</li> <li>• modifying policies in the light of the appraisal</li> <li>• identifying sustainable development indicators (SDI) so the plan’s long-term delivery of sustainability can be monitored.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal</a></p>
<p><b>Health Impact Assessment (HIA)</b></p>	<p>Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a means of assessing the health impacts of policies, plans and projects using quantitative, qualitative and participatory techniques. It aims to produce a set of evidence-based recommendations to inform decision-making to maximise the positive health impacts and minimise the negative health impacts of proposed policies, plans or projects.</p> <p>It assumes that policies, programs and projects have the potential to change the determinants of health. Changes to health determinants then leads to changes in health outcomes or the health status of individuals and communities.</p> <p>World Health Organization Health Impact Assessment: <a href="http://www.who.int/hia/en/">http://www.who.int/hia/en/</a></p> <p>Mayor of London Social Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance (May 2015): <a href="https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/supplementary-planning-guidance/social-infrastructure">https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/supplementary-planning-guidance/social-infrastructure</a></p>



Assessment	Process
	<p>The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 requires public bodies to carry out health impact assessments in specified circumstances. The Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit provide a number of resources  <a href="https://whiasu.publichealthnetwork.cymru/en/resources?cat=3&amp;keyword=&amp;topic=">https://whiasu.publichealthnetwork.cymru/en/resources?cat=3&amp;keyword=&amp;topic=</a></p> <p>The International Health Impact Assessment Consortium (IMPACT) is based at the University of Liverpool. A key resource is the Merseyside Guidelines for HIA (2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2011)  <a href="https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/population-health-sciences/departments/public-health-and-policy/research-themes/impact/publications/">https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/population-health-sciences/departments/public-health-and-policy/research-themes/impact/publications/</a></p>
<b>Mental Well-being Impact Assessment (MWIA) Toolkit</b>	<p>The toolkit helps support national, regional and local services and systems across health, local government, the voluntary, community and private sector to embed mental well-being into their work. It includes an updated evidence base on population characteristics, determinants and protective factors for mental wellbeing. It focuses on the social determinants of mental well-being, such as socio-economic position, environment, transport, education, food, and the understanding of resilience, core economy, social justice and equity.</p> <p><a href="#">National MWIA Collaborative (England) (2011) Mental Health Wellbeing Impact Assessment: A Toolkit for Well-being (3rd edition)</a></p>
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	<p>The Mayor of London has adopted an integrated approach to assessing the impacts of his strategies, which incorporates the following legal requirements: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Sustainability Appraisal, a Health Impact Assessment (related to the duty to reduce health inequalities as set out in the GLA Act 1999 as amended), an Equalities Impact Assessment, and a Community Safety Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Carrying out an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) enables any synergies and cross-cutting impacts of the assessments to be identified.</p> <p>To meet the requirement of the SEA Directive, the significant effects of implementing the London Plan are monitored through a set of key performance indicators, which are reported in the London Plan Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).</p> <p>The IIA approach has been widely used by London boroughs to assess the impacts of their draft Local Plans.</p>
<b>Environmental impact assessment (EIA)</b>	<p>An EIA may be required to identify the environmental effects of a proposed development and ensure that these are thoroughly understood. EIAs are compulsory for certain types of development that include urban development projects where the size of the site is above 0.5ha and where the proposal is likely to have significant environmental impacts.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment</a></p>

Assessment	Process
	<p>The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 specify 'population and human health' as one of five core 'factors' to be assessed in an environmental impact assessment. Thus, there is a clear requirement to ensure that health effects are considered early in the design process and that any likely significant health effects arising from the project are identified and mitigated. See <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-environmental-impact-assessment-guide-for-local-teams">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-environmental-impact-assessment-guide-for-local-teams</a></p>
<p><b>Design and access statement (DAS)</b></p>	<p>A DAS is required for both outline and full planning applications. Statements are documents that explain the design thinking behind the application. This includes how everyone, including disabled people, older people and very young children will be able to use the development.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-an-application - Design-and-Access-Statement">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-an-application - Design-and-Access-Statement</a></p>
<p><b>Design Code</b></p>	<p>A design code is a set of illustrated design requirements that provide specific, detailed parameters for the physical development of a site or area. The graphic and written components of the code should build upon a design vision, such as a masterplan or other design and development framework for a site or area. A design code is particularly useful to ensure that good design principles are applied across a number of sites in a masterplan area, or across a large phased development.</p> <p>To support the <a href="#">National Design Guide</a> and National Planning Policy Framework, the Government intend to publish a National Model Design Code, setting out detailed standards for key elements of successful design. It is expected that local planning authorities will develop their own design codes or guides, taking in to consideration the National Model Design Code.</p>
<p><b>Lifetime Homes and Neighbourhoods, Inclusive and Age-friendly Design</b></p>	<p>Lifetime Homes is a set of 16 design criteria that can be incorporated into the construction of new homes at minimal cost. In 2015, the Government withdrew the Lifetime Homes concept. The London Plan no longer includes references to Lifetime Homes standards, but now reflects the Building Regulation requirement M4 (2) on accessible and adaptable dwellings.</p> <p>Many local planning policies continue to require Lifetime Homes standards in new developments.</p> <p><a href="http://www.lifetimehomes.org.uk/">http://www.lifetimehomes.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Lifetime Neighbourhoods places the design criteria of Lifetime Homes into a wider context. It encourages planners to help create environments that people of all ages and abilities can access and enjoy, and to facilitate communities that people can participate in, interact and feel safe.</p> <p><a href="http://www.lifetimehomes.org.uk/pages/lifetime-neighbourhoods.html">http://www.lifetimehomes.org.uk/pages/lifetime-neighbourhoods.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/lifetimeneighbourhoods">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/lifetimeneighbourhoods</a></p>

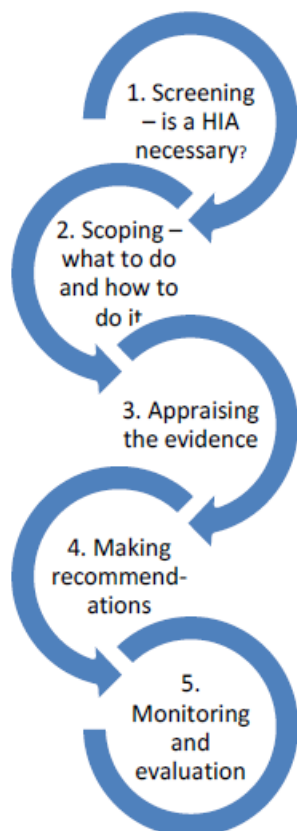
Assessment	Process
	<p><b>Inclusive and Age-friendly Design</b></p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance now refers to inclusive and age-friendly design and the issues and principles to be considered, and characteristics of a dementia-friendly community.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-for-older-and-disabled-people#inclusive-design">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-for-older-and-disabled-people#inclusive-design</a></p> <p>The World Health Organization has established a Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities</p> <p><a href="https://www.who.int/ageing/projects/age_friendly_cities_network/en/">https://www.who.int/ageing/projects/age_friendly_cities_network/en/</a></p> <p>The Housing Learning and Improvement Network (LIN) is a leading knowledge hub and has compiled resources on age-friendly communities and design</p> <p><a href="https://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/browse/Design-building/Neighbourhoods/">https://www.housinglin.org.uk/Topics/browse/Design-building/Neighbourhoods/</a></p> <p>The Royal Town Planning Institute has published Dementia and Town Planning: Creating better environments for people living with dementia</p> <p><a href="https://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/practice/dementia-and-town-planning/">https://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/practice/dementia-and-town-planning/</a></p>
<p><b>Building for Life</b></p>	<p>Building for Life (BfL), updated in 2012, is the industry standard, endorsed by Government, for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods. BfL12 is a tool that local communities, local authorities and developers are invited to use to stimulate conversations about creating good places to live. It sets out 12 questions to be addressed when designing new developments, grouped under three broad headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrating into the neighbourhood</li> <li>• Creating a place</li> <li>• Street and home.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/knowledge-resources/guide/building-life-12-third-edition">http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/knowledge-resources/guide/building-life-12-third-edition</a></p>
<p><b>Healthy Streets</b></p>	<p>The Healthy Streets Approach and the 10 Indicators of a Healthy Street were first included in Transport for London policy in the first Health Action Plan in 2014. The Healthy Streets Approach now underpins the Mayor's Transport Strategy (2018), the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy (2018) and the new London Plan.</p> <p><a href="https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/transport-and-health/healthy-streets">https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/transport-and-health/healthy-streets</a></p> <p>The approach aims to deliver a healthier, more inclusive city where people choose to walk, cycle and use public transport. The 10 Healthy Streets Indicators are the key elements of a healthy street environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pedestrians from all walks of life</li> <li>2. People choose to walk, cycle and use public transport</li> <li>3. Clean air</li> <li>4. People feel safe</li> <li>5. Not too noisy</li> </ol>

Assessment	Process
	<p>6. Easy to cross 7. Places to stop and rest 8. Shade and shelter 9. People feel relaxed 10. Things to see and do</p> <p>A Healthy Streets Toolkit aims to put the approach into practice. It includes an indicator tool and a Healthy Streets Check for Designers tool which aim to embed the approach into initial assessment, project implementation and evaluation.</p> <p><a href="https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/healthy-streets">https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/healthy-streets</a></p>
<b>Contextual Safeguarding</b>	<p>Contextual Safeguarding is a framework for safeguarding children beyond their family settings developed by the University of Bedfordshire. Whilst traditional safeguarding is focused on working with parents, within this new contextual framework the focus is on identifying harm or risk of harm in public spaces and then working in partnership to create safety within those environments. For example, this might include increasing lighting in a stairwell, or closing down a space being used to exploit young people.</p> <p>Planning applications should consider designing spaces to reduce the risk of young people being harmed or exploited (e.g. by reducing hidden or unlit spaces, increasing the number of windows, or providing safe communal facilities and spaces where young people can socialise).</p> <p>Further information and resource can be found on the Contextual Safeguarding website: <a href="https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/">https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/</a></p>
<b>Equalities Impact Assessment</b>	<p>The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on local planning authorities to engage with the local community and other interested parties when developing plan policies and take into account representations made to it when determining a planning application.</p> <p>An equality impact assessment is a process designed to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not discriminate against any particular group on the basis of certain characteristics, which are defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Disability</li> <li>• Ethnicity/Race</li> <li>• Gender/Sex</li> <li>• Gender reassignment</li> <li>• Marriage and Civil Partnership</li> <li>• Pregnancy and maternity</li> <li>• Religion or beliefs and;</li> <li>• Sexual orientation</li> </ul> <p>The use of equality impact assessment can help identify disadvantaged or vulnerable groups for the purposes of the health impact assessment and seek to address health inequalities.</p>

## Suggested HIA methodology and use of the Rapid HIA tool

The scale and complexity of the development proposal or plan will determine the type of HIA used and the extent of analysis, engagement and assessment. HIA should be used at the earliest possible stage during plan preparation or prior to the submission of a planning application to inform the design, layout and composition of a development proposal.

Whilst there is no single approach or methodology to carry out an HIA, typically, it involves the following key stages, as illustrated in the following diagram.



GLA, Public Health Team

1. Screening - Is a HIA required?
2. Scoping – identifying the type of HIA and what it will focus on
3. Appraising the evidence – gathering evidence and engaging with community groups and local stakeholders
4. Assessing the impacts and making recommendations – using the evidence to assess the impacts and recommend actions to mitigate negative impacts and maximise benefits
5. Monitoring and evaluation – monitoring health impacts and outcomes and ensuring that recommendations are implemented and HIAs are effective.

### 1. Screening

A requirement for HIA might be set out in the Local Plan and the validation list for planning applications. The Local Plan might specify the types and sizes of development that require HIA. Pre-application discussions should confirm the requirement, or agree a different approach, for example, where HIA could be incorporated into environmental impact assessment. The screening stage may also consider the site context, for example whether the site is located in a deprived or sensitive area, or whether there are likely to be cumulative impacts arising from other developments in the area, or phases of a large development.

### 2. Scoping

The scoping stage should determine the type of HIA to be used, which will depend on the scale and complexity of the plan or development proposal, the proposed use or uses, the site context and the scale of development in the wider area. For plans and large

development proposals, this should be agreed at the pre-application stage. The geographical scope of the assessment may be influenced by the proximity of existing communities and physical barriers, for example roads, rail, or water.

It should also identify the proposed approach to use local evidence, to identify the groups affected by the proposals, including the existing community and new occupants, and the methods to be used to consult and engage with the local community and stakeholders. The extent of the analysis and level of community engagement should be proportionate to the scale of the development proposal. For example, a desktop assessment could focus on specific issues and impacts using existing evidence, such as a local health profile.

Where a full or rapid HIA is required, a desktop checklist or template, such as HUDU's Healthy Urban Planning Checklist could be used to identify the key issues and impacts and when they are likely to occur, for example at the construction stage, or occupation of the development.

The following diagram indicates the type of HIA that could be used depending on the plan or development proposal.

### Screening and scoping – what type of HIA should be used

Plan or development proposal	Suggested type of assessment
Local Plan	Full HIA, Integrated Impact Assessment or incorporate health impacts into Sustainability Appraisal
Major infrastructure project	Full HIA, use rapid HIA to scope issues
Area Action Plan or masterplan	Full HIA, use rapid HIA to scope issues
Neighbourhood Plan	Rapid HIA, or desktop checklist
Large planning applications (applying development thresholds)	Rapid HIA, or incorporated into Environmental Impact Assessment where applicable
Major applications	Rapid HIA, or desktop checklist
Minor applications	Desktop checklist or incorporated into other documents, ie Design and Access Statement
Other developments, for example change of use to A5 use	Desktop assessment or checklist looking at specific issues and impacts

Adapted from GLA Public Health Team 2015

The scoping stage should consider the resources required to conduct an HIA, including the capacity of local public health teams and the local community to inform and scrutinise the assessment. For HIAs on local plans or large development proposals, a steering group could be considered, setting out terms of reference, identifying resources and establishing the time-frames for the assessment.

### 3. Appraising the evidence

This stage aims to collate evidence and engage with community groups and local stakeholders to inform the assessment and recommendations. The extent of evidence gathering, data analysis and engagement will depend on the scale of the development proposal and the type of HIA used. This stage could involve the following tasks:

- A policy review – a summary of the relevant national and local policy context, for example the local health priorities identified in the joint health and wellbeing strategy.
- A local community profile and baseline identifying key health and wellbeing issues and determinants, and an infrastructure baseline, identifying existing capacity. This will require consultation with infrastructure providers and commissioners and the voluntary sector where appropriate.
- A evidence review using published research or resources, such as [Public Health England's Spatial Planning for Health: An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places](#), or the evidence summary and references provided in this tool.
- Gathering other evidence used for other assessments to support a development proposal, such as for an Environmental Statement or Transport Statement.
- Community engagement, considering how the proposal might affect different population groups, for example children and young people, older people and people with disabilities and long-term health conditions, certain ethnic minority or religious groups. The impacts might be at different stages of the development, for example during construction. Engagement might also take place with the voluntary sector and local interest groups.

#### Community engagement

The level of community engagement should be proportionate to the scale and complexity of the development proposal, the local site context and the characteristics of the existing population affected. For masterplans and large phased developments engagement could take place with new occupants as their needs and requirements are likely to be different than those of the existing community. This could include new residents, workers and visitors.

Community engagement can provide the contextual knowledge that is often missing from purely quantitative evidence. It allows people to become involved in assessing the potential impact of a development proposal on their own health and wellbeing while also providing key information on the way in which impacts may be distributed across a whole population. Engagement should be ongoing, particularly during the different phases of large developments.

There are different methods to engage community and stakeholder groups, which vary according to the type of HIA used and the amount of time and resources available.

- Participatory workshops
- Interviews and focus groups
- Recruiting public members to HIA steering groups
- Surveys
- A community led HIA, for example on a neighbourhood plan

Development proposals and local plans are subject to statutory consultation. It may be beneficial to link HIA consultation and engagement with pre-application consultation on development proposals and early consultation on a Local Plan at the issues and options stage. The Council's Statement of Community Involvement provides the minimum standards for public consultation on planning applications and local plans, including details of who should be consulted as well as techniques of community involvement.

Community engagement may be linked to wider regeneration programme, for example a Council estate regeneration scheme. In such instances, engagement on the HIA may form part of wider consultation and engagement. The use of regeneration ballots and charters may encourage community engagement and highlight issues and concerns to be addressed in a HIA.

#### **4. Assessing the impacts and making recommendations**

Assessing the impacts of development proposals and plans should be informed by the evidence collating and examined and from feedback from community engagement.

A structured approach using a matrix or template is useful setting out the issue, assessment criteria, the evidence, the potential health impact and recommended action.

This rapid HIA tool provides an assessment matrix in Section 1 based on eleven topics or broad determinants:

1. Housing design and affordability
2. Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure
3. Access to open space and nature
4. Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity
5. Accessibility and active travel
6. Crime reduction and community safety
7. Access to healthy food
8. Access to work and training
9. Social cohesion and inclusive design
10. Minimising the use of resources
11. Climate change

Under each topic Section 2 identifies examples of planning issues which are likely to influence health and wellbeing and provides supporting information and references.

Assessment criteria are suggested derived from the planning issues, but the user is encouraged to add other criteria where necessary. Information and evidence to assess and evaluate the proposal will come from a wide range of sources, including information submitted with a planning application. This could include a planning statement, design and access statement or an environmental statement for applications subject to environmental impact assessment. In some cases, there may be a lack of information and/or data about certain aspects of the proposal. In this case, the impact is likely to be uncertain and more information should be requested.



The planning issues and topics may be assessed according to local priorities and needs, derived from community engagement and a profile of community health and wellbeing needs and assets. In addition, impacts may be short-term or temporary, related to construction or longer-term, related to the operation and maintenance of a development and may particularly affect vulnerable or priority groups of the population, such as older people or black and ethnic minority groups. Some issues may have a local impact, whilst other issues may have a wider or neighbourhood impact.

It may not be possible to quantify the impacts as many of the effects on an individual's or community's health are not easily measurable and many health effects are indirect and take many years to manifest themselves.

Where an impact is identified, actions should be recommended to mitigate a negative impact or enhance or secure a positive impact. Recommended actions on development proposals may require design or layout changes, closer adherence to policy requirements or standards or planning conditions or obligations. In some cases, it may be helpful to identify non-planning measures, such as licencing controls or maintenance arrangements. The matrix should bring together commitments made in other assessments, for example plans to mitigate construction impacts. They can also be an opportunity to 'fill in' any identified gaps within the proposal and readdress any health (or other) inequalities that may be caused. Overall, recommendations need to be achievable and reflective of all available evidence and community views.

A HIA report should summarise the evidence gathered and analysed, describe the stakeholder and community engagement undertaken and explain how the recommendations have either influenced the development proposal or plan or will be implemented in future.

Normally, developers should take ownership of the recommendations and incorporate them into their planning for the design, construction and operation phases of development. Future recommendations and actions may require monitoring and the use of a management plan or governance arrangements to ensure that they are implemented.

## **5. Monitoring and evaluation**

HIAs are a decision-making tool. Their effectiveness in influencing plan making or planning decisions should therefore be monitored and reviewed. This stage is often overlooked.

To ensure that the recommended actions are implemented, monitoring arrangements should be put in place. It is particularly important that actions and obligations are carried forward from a masterplan or outline approval into detailed planning applications. A separate assessment may be needed for each detailed application having regard to the overall framework of actions and recommendations.

Large-scale development proposals phased over a long period time will give rise to potential construction, operational and post-occupation health impacts which may be best monitored and evaluated by way of longer-term health study. A post-occupancy survey of new housing may be recommended to assess the profile of the new population and to reassess the health impacts. Relevant local indicators from the borough's Annual Monitoring Report, Joint

Strategic Needs Assessment or a sustainability appraisal can help monitor health impacts and outcomes.

The following sources provide indicators which could be used to monitor health impacts and outcomes:

- Marmot Indicators 2017 - Institute of Health Equity Briefing  
<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/marmot-indicators-2017-institute-of-health-equity-briefing>
- Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) data tool.  
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework>
- The Wider Determinants of Health tool <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/wider-determinants> providing resources and a wider set of indicators relating to the wider determinants of health
- Healthy Streets Indicators  
<https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/how-we-work/planning-for-the-future/healthy-streets>

### Quality assurance

It is also useful to evaluate how the information from the HIA was used, and whether it influenced decision making. This will help to assess how effective the HIA process is in influencing decisions.

To ensure a HIA report is of high quality, it is useful to undertake a quality review using a structured tool. This will allow a critical appraisal of the HIA report, the outcome of which can then influence the validity of the recommendations and results, or whether further work needs to be undertaken.

- Quality Assurance Review Framework for Health Impact Assessment (HIA) WHIASU:  
<https://whiasu.publichealthnetwork.cymru>
- Screening Record Sheet and Scoping Checklist WHIASU:  
<https://whiasu.publichealthnetwork.cymru>
- Ben Cave – A review package for Health Impact Assessments:  
<https://www.scams.gov.uk/media/5749/hia-review-package-ben-cave-assoc.pdf>

Consideration could be given to a scoring system to identify and reward a high standard of design, or 'healthy development' principles and use of measures to address adverse impacts. This could build on other standards, such as the Healthy Streets Approach and Building Research Establishment's Home Quality Mark.

## Section 1 – HUDU Rapid Health Impact Assessment Matrix

The assessment matrix is designed to rapidly assess the likely health impacts of development plans and proposals, including planning frameworks and masterplans for large areas, regeneration and estate renewal programmes and outline and detailed planning applications. It should be used prospectively at the earliest possible stage during plan preparation, or prior to the submission of a planning application to inform the design, layout and composition of a development proposal.

The matrix does not identify all issues related to health and wellbeing, but focuses on the built environment and issues directly or indirectly influenced by planning decisions. It is generic and should be localised for specific use. Not all the issues or assessment criteria may be relevant and the user is encouraged to prioritise specific actions which focus on key impacts.

The assessment matrix identifies eleven topics or broad determinants. Under each topic, Section 2 of the tool identifies examples of planning issues which are likely to influence health and wellbeing and the section also provides supporting information and references.

Health impacts may be short-term or temporary, related to construction or longer-term, related to the operation and maintenance of a development and may particularly affect vulnerable or priority groups of the population. This should be indicated in the details / evidence section. Where an impact is identified, actions should be recommended to mitigate a negative impact or enhance or secure a positive impact.

Name of assessor / organisation: .....

Name of project (plan or proposal): .....

Planning reference (if applicable): .....

Location of project: .....

Date of assessment: .....

## 1 Housing design and affordability

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal seek to meet all 16 design criteria of the Lifetime Homes Standard or meet Building Regulation requirement M4 (2)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal address the housing needs of older people, ie extra care housing, sheltered housing, lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible homes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal include homes that can be adapted to support independent living for older and disabled people?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal promote good design through layout and orientation, meeting internal space standards?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal include a range of housing types and sizes, including affordable housing responding to local housing needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal contain homes that are highly energy efficient (eg a high SAP rating)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

## 2 Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal retain or re-provide existing social infrastructure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal assess the impact on health and social care services and has local NHS organisations been contacted regarding existing and planned healthcare capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal include the provision, or replacement of a healthcare facility and does the facility meet NHS requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal assess the capacity, location and accessibility of other social infrastructure, eg primary, secondary and post 19 education needs and community facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal explore opportunities for shared community use and co-location of services?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

### 3 Access to open space and nature

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal retain and enhance existing open and natural spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
In areas of deficiency, does the proposal provide new open or natural space, or improve access to existing spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal provide a range of play spaces for children and young people?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal provide links between open and natural spaces and the public realm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Are the open and natural spaces welcoming and safe and accessible for all?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal set out how new open space will be managed and maintained?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

#### 4 Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal minimise construction impacts such as dust, noise, vibration and odours?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal minimise air pollution caused by traffic and energy facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal minimise noise pollution caused by traffic and commercial uses?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

## 5 Accessibility and active travel

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal address the ten Healthy Streets indicators?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal prioritise and encourage walking, for example through the use of shared spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal prioritise and encourage cycling, for example by providing secure cycle parking, showers and cycle lanes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal connect public realm and internal routes to local and strategic cycle and walking networks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal include traffic management and calming measures to help reduce and minimise road injuries?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	



Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Is the proposal well connected to public transport, local services and facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal seek to reduce car use by reducing car parking provision, supported by the controlled parking zones, car clubs and travel plans measures?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal allow people with mobility problems or a disability to access buildings and places?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

## 6 Crime reduction and community safety

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal incorporate elements to help design out crime?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal incorporate design techniques to help people feel secure and avoid creating 'gated communities'?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal include attractive, multi-use public spaces and buildings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Has engagement and consultation been carried out with the local community and voluntary sector?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

## 7 Access to healthy food

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal facilitate the supply of local food, for example allotments, community farms and farmers' markets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Is there a range of retail uses, including food stores and smaller affordable shops for social enterprises?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal avoid contributing towards an over-concentration of hot food takeaways in the local area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

## 8 Access to work and training

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal provide access to local employment and training opportunities, including temporary construction and permanent 'end-use' jobs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal provide childcare facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal include managed and affordable workspace for local businesses?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal include opportunities for work for local people via local procurement arrangements?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

## 9 Social cohesion and inclusive design

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal consider health inequalities by addressing local needs through community engagement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal connect with existing communities, ie layout and movement which avoids physical barriers and severance and land uses and spaces which encourage social interaction?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal include a mix of uses and a range of community facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal provide opportunities for the voluntary and community sectors?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal take into account issues and principles of inclusive and age-friendly design?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

## 10 Minimising the use of resources

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal make best use of existing land?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal encourage recycling, including building materials?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

## 11 Climate change

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal incorporate renewable energy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal ensure that buildings and public spaces are designed to respond to winter and summer temperatures, for example ventilation, shading and landscaping?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal maintain or enhance biodiversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal incorporate sustainable urban drainage techniques?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

## Section 2: Supporting information

### General references and resources

[Centre for Urban Design and Mental Health \(2018\) Designing mental health into cities](#)

[Design Council \(2018\) Healthy Placemaking](#)

[Department of Health \(2012\) No health without mental health: implementation framework](#)

[Department of Health and Social Care \(2016\) Public health outcomes framework 2016 to 2019](#)

[Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government \(2019\) National Planning Policy Framework](#)

[Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government \(2019\) National Design Guide](#)

[The King's Fund / London Healthy Urban Development Unit \(2009\) The health impacts of spatial planning decisions](#)

[The King's Fund \(2013\) Improving the public's health: A resource for local authorities](#)

[The King's Fund \(2018\) Communities and Health](#)

[The King's Fund \(2019\) Creating healthy places: perspectives from NHS England's Healthy New Towns programme](#)

[HM Government \(2018\) 25 Year Environment Plan](#)

[Institute of Health Equity \(2010\) Fair Society Healthy Lives \(The Marmot Review\)](#)

[Institute of Health Equity \(Marmot Indicators\) 2017 - Institute of Health Equity Briefing](#)

[Institute of Health Equity \(2018\) Reducing Health Inequalities Through New Models of Care: A Resource for New Care Models](#)

[NHS England \(2019\) NHS Long Term Plan](#)

[NHS England and NHS Improvement \(2019\) Putting Health into Place](#)

[NHS Sustainable Development Unit](#)

[Public Health England \(2019\) PHE Strategy 2020 to 2025](#)

[Public Health England \(2017\) Spatial planning for health: an evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places](#)

[Town and Country Planning Association \(2019\) The State of the Union: Reuniting Health with Planning](#)

[University of Liverpool International Health Impact Assessment Consortium resources](#)

[Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit resources](#)



## 1 Housing design and affordability



### Issues to consider

- Accessible and adaptable dwellings
- Internal space standards, orientation and layout
- Affordable housing and dwelling mix
- Energy efficiency

### Potential health impacts

Access to decent and adequate housing is critically important for health and wellbeing, especially for the very young and very old. Environmental factors, overcrowding and sanitation in buildings as well as unhealthy urban spaces have been widely recognised as causing illness since urban planning was formally introduced. Post-construction management also has impact on community welfare, cohesion and mental wellbeing.

### Possible effects of planning

Negative effects	Positive effects
A lack of affordable housing within communities may compromise the health of low-income residents as they are likely to spend more on housing costs and less on other health needs.	Making provision for affordable housing has the potential to improve wellbeing, while housing quality can be improved by use of appropriate construction methods. This includes use of good materials for noise insulation and energy-efficiency, and detailed design considerations to make sure that homes are accessible, adaptable and well oriented.
Poor choice of location, design and orientation of housing developments can be detrimental to physical and mental health and safety. Housing that is overcrowded can also affect mental health, and lead to physical illness and accidents.	<p>Providing a sufficient range of housing tenures with good basic services is also essential. Adaptable buildings for community uses such as health, education and leisure can contribute towards a sustainable community.</p> <p>Planning can give consideration to the layout of the space with specific vulnerable groups in mind by providing spaces for communal activities (e.g. study or leisure spaces for young people).</p> <p>It can also design spaces to reduce the risk of young people being harmed or exploited through the maximisation of positive</p>

Negative effects	Positive effects
	guardianships <sup>1</sup> (e.g. reducing hidden or unlit spaces; increasing windows).
The quality of design, including internal sound insulation, daylighting and provision of private space can influence the health and wellbeing of occupiers.	Providing adaptable homes allows residents to remain in their home despite changing accommodation requirements. In this context, adaptable housing more easily permits care to be provided in the community.

### National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

- 5. Delivering a sufficient supply of homes
- 12. Achieving well-designed places
- 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities

### London Plan policies (March 2016)

- Policy 3.3 Increasing housing supply
- Policy 3.4 Optimising housing potential
- Policy 3.5 Quality and design of housing developments
- Policy 3.7 Large residential developments
- Policy 3.8 Housing choice
- Policy 3.9 Mixed and balanced communities
- Policy 3.10 Definition of affordable housing
- Policy 3.11 Affordable housing targets
- Policy 3.12 Negotiating affordable housing on individual private residential and mixed use schemes
- Policy 3.13 Affordable housing thresholds
- Policy 3.14 Existing housing
- Policy 3.15 Coordination of housing development and investment
- Policy 3.16 Protection and enhancement of social infrastructure

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<sup>1</sup> In order to create environments where young people are safe, we all have a role to play. Professionals working in and users accessing communal facilities can positively shape the environment by being a positive 'bystander'. A positive bystander is someone who either intervenes to stop events before they happen, while they are happening, or deals with an outcome after the event. This could involve directly intervening where it is safe to do so, or sharing information so that it can be responded to by others. As someone who is 'on the ground', professionals and users of community facilities have the capacity to notice, report and respond in partnership with others to create safety within a particular environment.

## **Supporting information**

[Office of the Deputy Prime Minister \(2004\) The Impact of Overcrowding on Health and Education](#)

[BRE \(2015\) The cost of poor housing to the NHS](#)

[NHS England \(2016\) Quick Guide: Health and Housing](#)

[Report of the Marmot Review Built Environment Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[Marmot Review Team \(2011\) The Health Impacts of Cold Homes and Fuel Poverty](#)

[World Health Organization \(2011\) Environmental burden of disease associated with inadequate housing](#)

[Mayor of London \(2010\) London Housing Design Guide Interim Edition](#)

[Mayor of London \(2016\) Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance](#)

[Department for Communities and Local Government Code for Sustainable Homes \(archived\)](#)

[Lifetime Homes Foundation, Lifetime Homes Standards and Revised Standards \(2010\)](#)

[Department for Communities and Local Government \(2008\) Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society](#)

[Department for Communities and Local Government \(2012\) Investigation into overheating in homes: Literature review and Analysis of gaps and recommendations](#)

[London Assembly \(2011\) Crowded houses, Overcrowding in London's social rented housing](#)

[The City of New York \(2010\) Active Design Guidelines – Promoting physical activity and health in design](#)

[NHS Improvement \(2019\) Homes for NHS staff](#)

## 2 Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure



### Issues to consider

- Health and social care needs and demand for services
- Capacity of existing facilities and services
- Timing, location and accessibility and developer contributions
- Reconfiguring health and social care services
- Multipurpose buildings and co-location of services
- Access and use of buildings by disabled and older people

### Potential health impacts

Strong, vibrant, sustainable and cohesive communities require good quality, accessible public services and infrastructure. Access to social infrastructure and other services is a key component of Lifetime Neighbourhoods. Encouraging the use of local services is influenced by accessibility, in terms of transport and access into a building, and the range and quality of services offered. Access to good quality health and social care, education (primary, secondary and post-19) and community facilities has a direct positive effect on human health. Opportunities for the community to participate in the planning of these services has the potential to impact positively on mental health and wellbeing and can lead to greater community cohesion.

### Possible effects of planning

Negative effects	Positive effects
Failing to plan for the social infrastructure needs in an area can exacerbate pressure of existing services and worsen health outcomes and inequalities.	The provision of accessible healthcare services, which include specialist targeted services such as sexual health and child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and other social infrastructure to support population growth and change is an essential component of creating sustainable, healthy communities. The provision of safe social spaces for children and young people associated with their safety, wellbeing, education, and development (e.g. youth centres or sports facilities) should be considered.
The under-provision of key services can contribute towards unnecessary extra travel, which can damage the environment and social cohesion.	The planning system can help modernise facilities and improve the quality of services. Developer contributions can help provide and fund new facilities.
For those with mobility problems, including older people, poor access to local services could limit opportunities for social	Co-locating some services can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery, for example, primary health and social care, dentistry and pharmacies.

Negative effects	Positive effects
interaction and lead to isolation and depression.	
	Access to a range of education, primary, secondary and post-19 improves self-esteem, job opportunities and earning capability.

### National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

- 3. Plan-making
- 4. Decision-making
- 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities

### London Plan policies (March 2016)

Policy 3.16 Protection and enhancement of social infrastructure

Policy 3.17 Health and social care facilities

Policy 3.18 Education facilities

Policy 3.19 Sports facilities

Policy 7.1 Lifetime neighbourhoods

Policy 7.2 An inclusive environment

### Supporting information

[NHS England \(2019\) NHS Long Term Plan](#)

[Mayor of London \(2010\) Health Inequalities Strategy](#)

[Mayor of London \(2015\) Social Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance](#)

[Report of the Marmot Review Social Inclusion and Social Mobility Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[NHS London Healthy Urban Development Unit Planning Contributions Tool \(the HUDU Model\)](#)

[Institute of Public Health in Ireland \(2008\) Health Impacts of Education: a review](#)

[Environmental Audit Committee inquiry into Transport and the Accessibility of Public Services](#)

[Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method \(BREEAM\)](#)

[Sport England, Use Our School](#)

### 3 Access to open space and nature



#### Issues to consider

- Opportunities for physical activity
- Access to open and natural space
- Formal and informal outdoor play spaces
- Maintenance of open space and sports facilities
- Integration with other outdoor uses such as food growing

#### Potential health impacts

Providing secure, convenient and attractive open/green space can lead to more physical activity and reduce levels of heart disease, strokes and other ill-health problems that are associated with both sedentary occupations and stressful lifestyles. There is growing evidence that access to parks and open spaces and nature can help to maintain or improve mental health.

The patterns of physical activity established in childhood are perceived to be a key determinant of adult behaviour; a growing number of children and young people are missing out on regular exercise, and an increasing number of children and young people are being diagnosed as obese. Access to play spaces, community or sport facilities such as sport pitches can encourage physical activity. There is a strong correlation between the quality of open space and the frequency of use for physical activity, social interaction or relaxation.

#### Possible effects of planning

Negative effects	Positive effects
Failing to protect local green spaces and playing fields near to communities can limit opportunities for physical activity.	The provision of publicly accessible green spaces and play spaces can encourage physical activity and maintain or improve mental health.
Green spaces that are of poor quality, feel unsafe, or are inaccessible will discourage physical activity and social interaction.	A growing population, particularly an increase in children and young people will require a range of formal and informal play spaces and equipment. Outdoor spaces and equipment should be age-appropriate and consider the specific needs of adolescents as well as younger children and include a variety of activities (i.e. football, basketball, playing parks). The location parks and other outdoor spaces should avoid isolating specific areas and spaces to increase safety.

Negative effects	Positive effects
Failing to provide a range of different types of open and play spaces may place pressure on existing spaces where formal and informal activities may conflict with each other.	Natural spaces and tree cover provide areas of shade and can improve the air quality in urban areas.
	There may be opportunities to integrate play spaces with other related health and environmental programmes such as food growing and increasing biodiversity.

### National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

- 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities
- 13. Protecting Green Belt land
- 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

### London Plan policies (March 2016)

- Policy 2.4 The 2012 Games and their legacy
- Policy 2.18 Green infrastructure: the multi-functional network of green and open spaces
- Policy 3.6 Children and young people's play and informal recreation facilities
- Policy 5.1 Climate change mitigation
- Policy 5.2 Minimising carbon dioxide emissions
- Policy 7.1 Lifetime neighbourhoods
- Policy 7.18 Protecting open space and addressing deficiency
- Policy 7.19 Biodiversity and access to nature
- Policy 7.22 Land for food

### Supporting information

[Department of Health \(2011\) Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Call to Action on Obesity in England](#)

[Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs \(2011\) Natural Environment White Paper: Natural Choice securing the value of nature](#)

[UK National Ecosystem Assessment \(2011\)](#)

[Foresight Report \(2007\) Tackling Obesities: future choices](#)

[NICE \(2008\) Guidance on the promotion and creation of physical environments that support increased levels of physical activity \(PH8\)](#)

[Report of the Marmot Review Built Environment Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[Mayor of London \(2018\) London Environment Strategy](#)

[Mayor of London \(2018\) Health Inequalities Strategy](#)

[London Health Board](#)

[Well London programme](#)

[Mayor of London \(2012\) Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation SPG](#)

[Faculty of Public Health \(2010\) Great Outdoors: How Our Natural Health Service Uses Green Space To Improve Wellbeing](#)

[Sustainable Development Commission \(2008\) Health, Place and Nature \(archived\)](#)

[Sport England \(2015\) Active Design: Planning for health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity](#)

[Sport England \(2019\) Planning for Sport Guidance](#)

[Town and Country Planning Association and Public Health England \(2014\) Planning Healthy Weight Environments](#)

[Town and Country Planning Association and Public Health England \(2014\) Planning Healthy-Weight Environments – Six Elements](#)

[Public Health England \(2018\) Everybody active, every day: framework for physical activity](#)

[UCL Institute of Health Equity, Public Health England, University of Sheffield \(2018\) Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces](#)



## 4 Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity



### Issues to consider

- Construction impacts
- Air quality
- Land contamination
- Noise, vibration and odour
- Quality of the local environment
- Provision of green space and trees

### Potential health impacts

The quality of the local environment can have a significant impact on physical and mental health. Pollution caused by construction, traffic and commercial activity can result in poor air quality, noise nuisance and vibration. Poor air quality is linked to incidence of chronic lung disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) and heart conditions and asthma levels of among children and young people. Noise pollution can have a detrimental impact on health resulting in sleep disturbance, cardiovascular and psycho-physiological effects. Good design and the separation of land uses can lessen noise impacts.

### Possible effects of planning

Negative effects	Positive effects
Construction can result in exposure to land contamination, deterioration in air quality and nuisance from noise, dust, vibration and odours.	The use of construction management plans can lessen construction impacts, particularly hours of working and construction traffic movements.
High levels of road traffic and congestion generated by new developments can result in higher levels of air pollution and noise.	Reduced levels of car parking and travel plans which encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking will result in better local environmental conditions.
The close proximity of residential units to industrial uses or uses generating late night noise can cause nuisance.	Good design and the sensitive location and orientation of residential units can lessen noise impacts.
	Natural spaces and trees can improve the air quality in urban areas.

## **National Planning Policy Framework (2019)**

- 4. Decision-making
- 13. Protecting Green Belt land
- 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

## **London Plan policies (March 2016)**

Policy 7.1 Lifetime neighbourhoods

Policy 7.2 An inclusive environment

Policy 7.14 Improving air quality

Policy 7.15 Reducing and managing noise, improving and enhancing the acoustic environment and promoting appropriate soundscapes

## **Supporting information**

[Mayor of London \(2010\) Clearing the Air: The Mayor's Air Quality Strategy](#)

[Environmental Protection UK \(2010\) Development Control: Planning for Air Quality](#)

[Aether for the Greater London Authority \(2016\) Updated Analysis of Air Pollution Exposure in London - Interim Report](#)

[Clean Air in London, 10 Steps for Clean Air in London](#)

[London Air Quality Network - King's College London, Air Pollution Guide](#)

[Trust for London, Policy Exchange and King's College London \(2016\), Up in the Air – How to Solve London's Air Quality Crisis](#)

[Transport for London \(2015\) An Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Delivery Plan for London: Cleaner Vehicles for a Cleaner City](#)

[British Medical Association \(July 2012\) Healthy transport = Healthy lives](#)

[Report of the Marmot Review Built Environment Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[King's College London, Environmental Research Group](#)

[Mayor of London \(2014\) The Control of Dust and Emissions During Construction and Demolition SPG](#)

[Health Protection Agency \(2010\) Environmental Noise and Health in the UK](#)

[European Environment Agency \(2010\) Good practice guide on noise exposure and potential health effects, EEA Technical report No 11/2010](#)

[Public Health England \(2019\) Improving outdoor air quality and health: review of interventions](#)

## 5 Accessibility and active travel



### Issues to consider

- Streetscape
- Opportunities for walking and cycling
- Access to public transport
- Minimising the need to travel
- Discouraging car use
- Road traffic injuries

### Potential health impacts

Convenient access to a range of services and facilities minimises the need to travel and provides greater opportunities for social interaction. Buildings and spaces that are easily accessible and safe also encourage all groups, including older people and people with a disability, to use them. Discouraging car use and providing opportunities for walking and cycling can increase physical activity and help prevent chronic diseases, reduce risk of premature death and improve mental health.

### Possible effects of planning

Negative impacts	Positive impacts
Greater traffic volumes and speeds have increased the risk of road traffic injuries, with pedestrians and cyclists being particularly vulnerable.	Combining active travel and public transport options can help people achieve recommended daily physical activity levels
Poor urban planning has prioritised the car over pedestrians and increased community severance.	By attending to inclusive design, access, orientation and streetscape planners can make it easier for people to access facilities using public transport, walking or cycling. Planners can consider the safety of public transport facilities such as ensuring that bus stops are in opened and accessible locations and safely lit; ensuring secure cycle storage spaces; safe and well-lit walking routes and keeping entrances in open sight lines (i.e. avoiding entrances located at the back of the building).
Over provision of car parking in a development can undermine other travel modes such as public transport and cycling.	Reduced levels of car parking and travel plans which encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking will result in increased opportunities for active travel.

Negative impacts	Positive impacts
	Planning can promote cycling and walking by connecting routes and public to wider networks, providing safe junctions and calming traffic and providing secure cycle parking spaces.

### National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

8. Promoting healthy and safe communities

9. Promoting sustainable transport

12. Achieving well-designed places

### London Plan policies (March 2016)

Policy 2.7 Outer London: economy

Policy 2.8 Outer London: transport

Policy 2.9 Inner London

Policy 2.13 Opportunity Areas and Intensification Areas

Policy 2.15 Town Centres

Policy 6.4 Enhancing London's transport connectivity

Policy 6.7 Better streets and surface transport

Policy 6.9 Cycling

Policy 6.10 Walking

Policy 6.11 Smoothing traffic flow and tackling congestion

Policy 6.13 Parking

Policy 7.2 An inclusive environment

### Supporting information

[World Health Organization \(2011\) Health economic assessment tools \(HEAT\) for walking and for cycling](#)

[Mayor of London \(2010\) Mayor's Transport Strategy](#)

[Mayor of London \(2010\) Cycling Revolution London: London's Cycling Strategy](#)

[Mayor of London \(2013\) The Mayor's Vision for Cycling in London](#)

[Report of the Marmot Review Built Environment Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation \(2010\) Manual for Streets 2](#)

[Department for Transport \(2014\) Active Mode Appraisal \(Walking and Cycling\)](#)

[Department for Transport Local Transport Note 1/11: Shared Space](#)

[The City of New York Active \(2010\) Design Guidelines – Promoting physical activity and health in design](#)

[Transport for London \(2013\) Transport planning for healthier lifestyles: A best practice guide](#)

[Department of Transport and Department of Health, January 2011, Transport and Health Resource: Delivering Healthy Local Transport Plans](#)

[British Medical Association \(July 2012\) Healthy transport = Healthy lives](#)

[Public Health England \(2018\) Everybody active, every day: framework for physical activity](#)

[Transport for London \(2017\) Healthy Streets for London](#)

## 6 Crime reduction and community safety



### Issues to consider

- Designing out crime
- Security and street surveillance
- Mix of uses
- Community engagement
- Major accidents/disasters

### Potential health impacts

Thoughtful planning and urban design that promotes natural surveillance and social interaction can help to reduce crime and the ‘fear of crime’, both of which impacts on the mental wellbeing of residents. As well as the immediate physical and psychological impact of being a victim of crime, people can also suffer indirect long-term health consequences including disability, victimisation and isolation because of fear. Community engagement in development proposals can lessen fears and concerns.

New environmental impact assessment regulations entering into force in 2017 require consideration of any significant effects arising from the vulnerability of the proposed development to major accidents or disasters that are relevant to that development.

### Possible effects of planning

Negative effects	Positive effects
Poor urban design can exacerbate crime and community safety and increase harm to young people in particular by creating under-used, isolated spaces without natural surveillance and segregate places by creating barriers such as roads.	The detailed design and layout of residential and commercial areas can ensure natural surveillance over public space. This can be assisted by creating places which enable possibilities for community interaction and avoiding social exclusion
Where the local pedestrian environment is intimidating, and inconvenient people are more likely to use cars more or go out less. This reduces social interaction and increases the potential for crime.	Active use of streets and public spaces, combined with effective lighting, is likely to decrease opportunities for anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.
A 24 hour or ‘evening’ economy could generate anti-social behaviour and disturbance and can also facilitate crime and exploitation of children and young people. It may also intimidate or isolate young people living in the community.	Planners can work with the police to get their advice on making development proposals ‘secured by design’. Large planning development projects should also involve communities to foster a sense of ownership and empowerment and differentiate between different groups (i.e.

Negative effects	Positive effects
	the different needs of young children compared to older adolescents, or the needs of adults compared to children) which can also help to enhance community safety. Planners can consider cultural opportunities for young people to engage with in their communities.

### National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

8. Promoting healthy and safe communities

12. Achieving well-designed places

### London Plan policies (March 2016)

Policy 1.1 Delivering the strategic vision and objectives for London

Policy 2.15 Town Centres

Policy 3.6 Children and young people's play and informal recreation facilities

Policy 3.16 Protection and enhancement of social infrastructure

Policy 7.2 An inclusive environment

Policy 7.3 Designing out crime

Policy 7.13 Safety, security and resilience to emergency

### Supporting information

[Mayor of London \(2010\) Health Inequalities Strategy](#)

[Report of the Marmot Review Built Environment Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[Department of Health \(2012\) No health without mental health: implementation framework](#)

[ODPM \(2004\) Safer Places – the planning system and crime prevention](#) (archived)

[Secured By Design - Design Guides](#)

[Secured by Design Interactive Guide](#)

[Design Council - Design out Crime](#)

[CABE \(2009\) This Way to Better Residential Streets](#)

## 7 Access to healthy food



### Issues to consider

- Healthy localised food supply
- Hot food takeaways
- Social enterprises
- Allotments and community food growing spaces

### Potential health impacts

Access to healthy and nutritious food can improve diet and prevent chronic diseases related to obesity. People on low incomes, including young families, older people are the least able to eat well because of lack of access to nutritious food. They are more likely to have access to food that is high in salt, oil, energy-dense fat and sugar.

Opportunities to grow and purchase local healthy food and limiting concentrations of hot food takeaways can change eating behaviour and improve physical and mental health.

### Possible effects of planning

Negative effects	Positive effects
The centralisation of shopping facilities and growth of large supermarkets can reduce the variety of foods available locally and disadvantage those on limited income to afford a healthy diet.	By considering food access, location and how to facilitate social enterprises planners can help to create the conditions that enable low income people to have better and affordable access to nutritious food.
Redevelopment local allotments, gardens or agricultural land can also reduce the potential for locally grown food.	Planning can assist by preserving and protecting areas for small-scale community projects and local food production, including allotments.
An overconcentration of hot food takeaways can restrict healthy eating choices.	Planning can promote an increase in the diversity of shopping facilities in local centres, restrict large supermarkets, and limit concentrations of hot food takeaways. Planning can also consider alternatives to hot food takeaways that still allows certain groups (e.g. young people) to have access to warm food and socialise in safety.



## **National Planning Policy Framework (2019)**

- 7. Ensuring the vitality of town centres
- 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities
- 12. Achieving well-designed places

## **London Plan policies (March 2016)**

Policy 2.15 Town Centres

Policy 2.18 Green infrastructure: the multi-functional network of green and open spaces

Policy 4.8 Supporting a successful and diverse retail sector and related facilities and services

Policy 5.11 Green roofs and development site environs

Policy 7.22 Land for food

## **Supporting information**

[Department of Health \(2011\) Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Call to Action on Obesity in England](#)

[Mayor of London \(2018\) Health Inequalities Strategy](#)

[London Health Board](#)

[Well London programme](#)

[London Food Board](#)

[Sustain - publications](#)

[Mayor of London \(2016\) Capital of Food: Ten Years of London Leadership](#)

[Mayor of London and Sustain \(2016\) Developing Food Poverty Action Plans](#)

[Foresight Report \(2007\) Tackling Obesities: future choices](#)

[Report of the Marmot Sustainable Development Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[Town and Country Planning Association and Public Health England \(2014\) Planning Healthy Weight Environments](#)

[Public Health England \(2017\) Encouraging healthier 'out of home' food provision](#)

[Public Health England \(2018\) Healthy High Streets: good place making in an urban setting](#)

[Public Health England \(2018\) Fast food outlets: density by local authority in England](#)

## 8 Access to work and training



### Issues to consider

- Access to employment and training
- Job diversity
- Childcare
- Business support

### Potential health impacts

Employment and income is a key determinant of health and wellbeing. Unemployment generally leads to poverty, illness and a reduction in personal and social esteem. Works aids recovery from physical and mental illnesses.

### Possible effects of planning

Negative effects	Positive effects
<p>Locating employment in inaccessible locations or failing to provide a diversity of local jobs or training opportunities can negatively affect health and mental wellbeing both directly and indirectly.</p>	<p>Urban planning linked to clear strategies for economic regeneration, allocation of appropriate sites and coordination of infrastructure provision can help to facilitate attractive opportunities for businesses, encourage diversity in employment and ensure that local jobs are retained. Planners can consider providing job opportunities or apprentices for the community (i.e. including young people on construction sites).</p>
<p>A poor quality environment and lack of infrastructure can make places less competitive or attractive to business investment.</p>	<p>Equitable transport strategies can play an important part in providing access to job opportunities. The provision of local work can encourage shorter trip lengths, reduce emissions from transport and enable people to walk or cycle.</p>
<p>A lack of business and employee support through affordable business space and childcare provision can hinder economic and growth and employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Access to other support services, notably childcare, or apprentice opportunities for young people can make employment easier to access.</p>

## **National Planning Policy Framework (2019)**

- 6. Building a strong, competitive economy
- 7. Ensuring the vitality of town centres

## **London Plan policies (March 2016)**

- Policy 2.7 Outer London: economy
- Policy 2.14 Areas for regeneration
- Policy 2.16 Strategic outer London development centres
- Policy 2.17 Strategic industrial locations
- Policy 3.2 Improving health and addressing health inequalities
- Policy 3.18 Education facilities
- Policy 4.12 Improving opportunities for all
- Policy 6.4 Enhancing London's transport connectivity
- Policy 8.2 Planning obligations
- Policy 8.3 Community infrastructure levy

## **Supporting information**

[Department for Work and Pensions Cross-Government initiative 'Health, Work and Well-being'](#)

[Mayor of London \(2018\) Health Inequalities Strategy](#)

[Mayor of London \(2018\) Economic Development Strategy](#)

[London First publications](#)

[The Local Enterprise Partnership for London](#)

[London First and London Enterprise Panel \(2015\) London 2036: An Agenda for Jobs and Growth](#)

[Report of the Marmot Review Social Inclusion and Social Mobility Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[Report of Marmot Review Employment and Work Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[Leeds Metropolitan University \(2010\) Mental Health and Employment Review](#)

## 9 Social cohesion and inclusive design



### Issues to consider

- Opportunities for social interaction
- Compact, mixed-use, walkable neighbourhoods
- Access to community facilities and services
- Community engagement and voluntary sector involvement
- Connectivity and permeability reducing community severance
- Inclusive and Age-friendly Design

### Potential health impacts

Friendship and supportive networks in a community can help to reduce depression and levels of chronic illness as well as speed recovery after illness and improve wellbeing. Fragmentation of social structures can lead to communities demarcated by socio-economic status, age and/or ethnicity, which can lead to isolation, insecurity and a lack of cohesion.

Voluntary and community groups, properly supported, can help to build up networks for people who are isolated and disconnected, and to provide meaningful interaction to improve mental wellbeing. Planning proposals should be developed in consultation with differentiated community groups (such as children, young people, residents, families, businesses, faith groups, community organisations). They should be involved in the planning of the project from the beginning and throughout the life cycle of the project. Opportunities for post-planning qualitative consultations should be considered with these different groups to explore a range of social, emotional and health needs.

The concept of Lifetime Neighbourhoods placed the design criteria of Lifetime Homes into a wider context. It encourages planners to help create environments that people of all ages and abilities can access and enjoy, and to facilitate communities that people can participate in, interact and feel safe. Planning Practice Guidance now refers to inclusive and age-friendly design and the issues and principles to be considered, and characteristics of a dementia-friendly community.

### Possible effects of planning

Negative effects	Positive effects
Social cohesion can be undermined by insensitive housing redevelopment and dispersal of resident communities.	Urban planning can help to facilitate social cohesion by creating safe and permeable environments with places where people can meet informally and consider the availability of positive community guardianship. Planning should consider intergenerational mixing which has been proven to improve community cohesion, such as having

Negative effects	Positive effects
	nurseries and nursing homes being located close to each other.
Community cohesion can also be affected by infrastructure such as roads or other development that severs community links. Large schemes may disrupt familiar walking routes or create a barrier to movement.	Mixed-use developments in town centres and residential neighbourhoods can help to widen social options for people.
Poor planning may also result in the loss of community facilities.	The provision of a range of diverse local employment opportunities (paid and unpaid) can also improve both social cohesion and mental wellbeing.
Planning does not directly affect income but it does have many indirect effects. The planning system can be used, for example, to hinder or to help the process of providing a range of facilities and providing opportunities for improving levels of equity.	

### National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

9. Promoting healthy and safe communities

12. Achieving well-designed places

### London Plan policies (March 2016)

Policy 3.1 Ensuring equal life chances for all

Policy 3.9 Mixed and balanced communities

Policy 3.16 Protection and enhancement of social infrastructure

Policy 7.1 Lifetime neighbourhoods

Policy 7.2 An inclusive environment

Policy 7.3 Designing out crime

### Supporting information

[Mayor of London \(2018\) Health Inequalities Strategy](#)

[Well London programme](#)

[Report of the Marmot Review Social Inclusion and Social Mobility Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[Report of Marmot Review Employment and Work Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[Department for Communities and Local Government \(2011\) Lifetime Neighbourhoods](#)

[National MWIA Collaborative \(England\) \(2011\) Mental Health Wellbeing Impact Assessment: A Toolkit for Well-being](#)

[Office for National Statistics: societal wellbeing theme](#)

[Young Foundation \(2010\) Cohesive Communities](#)

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Social Exclusion](#)

[Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government \(2019\) Planning Practice Guidance: Inclusive Design](#)

[World Health Organization Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities](#)

[Housing Learning and Improvement Network \(LIN\) age-friendly communities and design](#)

[Royal Town Planning Institute \(2017\) Dementia and Town Planning: Creating better environments for people living with dementia](#)

[Public Health England \(2016\) Active ageing and the built environment: practice briefing](#)

## 10 Minimising the use of resources



### Issues to consider

- Making the best use of existing land
- Recycling and reuse
- Sustainable design and construction
- Waste management
- Potential hazards.

### Potential health impacts

Reducing or minimising waste including disposal, processes for construction as well as encouraging recycling at all levels can improve human health directly and indirectly by minimising environmental impact, such as air pollution.

### Possible effects of planning

Negative effects	Positive effects
If left unchecked, disposal of significant hazardous waste can have a serious impact on the health of those communities living near to collection or disposal sites.	Planning can impose standards and criteria on hazardous waste disposal, recycling and domestic waste and that linked to development. It can ensure that hazardous waste is disposed of correctly, as well as ensure that local recycled and renewable materials are used whenever possible in the building construction process.
Sending out waste from a redevelopment site to be sorted or disposed can increase vehicle movements, emissions and cause significant disruption including noise and dust which can contribute towards health problems for residents	Redevelopment on brownfield sites or derelict urban land also ensures that land is effectively used, recycled and enhanced
There are also ecological impacts (stripping of materials, mining for minerals etc) through excessive use of resources from a scarce global environment.	Through encouraging reduction, reuse and recycling, resource minimisation can be better realised and contribute towards a better environment. Examples of various standards to consider include BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and CEEQUAL (Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment), which are benchmarking tools for non-residential buildings and infrastructure projects.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (2019)**

- 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- 17. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

### **London Plan policies (March 2016)**

Policy 5.3 Sustainable design and construction

Policy 5.14 Water quality and wastewater infrastructure

Policy 5.16 Waste net self-sufficiency

Policy 5.17 Waste capacity

Policy 5.18 Construction, excavation and demolition waste

Policy 5.19 Hazardous waste

Policy 5.20 Aggregates

Policy 5.21 Contaminated land

Policy 5.22 Hazardous substances and installations

### **Supporting information**

[Mayor of London \(2018\) London Environment Strategy](#)

[London Waste and Recycling Board](#)

[London Waste and Recycling Board \(2015\) Towards a Circular Economy – Context and Opportunities](#)

[Report of the Marmot Sustainable Development Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[Mayor of London \(2014\) The Control of Dust and Emissions During Construction and Demolition SPG](#)

[Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method \(BREEAM\)](#)



## 11 Climate change



### Issues to consider

- Renewable energy
- Sustainable transport
- Building design
- Biodiversity
- Flood risk and drainage.

### Potential health impacts

There is a clear link between climate change and health. Local areas should prioritise policies and interventions that ‘reduce both health inequalities and mitigate climate change’ because of the likelihood that people with the poorest health would be hit hardest by the impacts of climate change.

Climate change is potentially a significant threat to public health and may widen inequalities in health. The Mayor of London’s Environment Strategy sets out a range of climate change mitigation and adaptation approaches for London. It focuses on reducing the risk of climate change impacts for the most disadvantaged communities, as well as increasing their resilience so that they can recover more quickly when those impacts do occur.

Planning is at the forefront of both trying to reduce carbon emissions and to adapt urban environments to cope with higher temperatures, more uncertain rainfall, and more extreme weather events and their impacts such as flooding. Poorly designed homes can lead to fuel poverty in winter and overheating in summer contributing to excess winter and summer deaths. Developments that take advantage of sunlight, tree planting and accessible green/brown roofs also have the potential to contribute towards the mental wellbeing of residents.

The UK Government recently announced its commitment for the country to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 by amending the 2008 Climate Change Act which previously had a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels). There is a wealth of evidence which demonstrates that meeting this target requires effective spatial planning at a range of scales.

### Possible effects of planning

Negative effects	Positive effects
Planning can exacerbate the impacts of climate change by failing to consider relevant influences such as location, materials, designs or technologies that could help to reduce energy consumption or reduce the environmental impact of energy generation.	Urban planning can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by requiring lower energy use in buildings and transport, and by encouraging renewable energy sources.

Negative effects	Positive effects
Building in flood plain areas or a lack of local sustainable urban drainage measures may lead to greater flood risk.	Planning can address sustainability and environmental considerations through the use of standards that will help to reduce energy demands and increase the amount of renewable energy.
Neglecting to consider the microclimate for the siting of a proposed development, and the influence the development might have on that microclimate, could lead to new buildings that are neither suitable nor adaptable to their environment.	Design techniques can ensure that new housing and public realm can adapt to changes in temperature.
	Flood risk can be reduced through a sequential approach to locating development and by introducing mitigation measures, such as sustainable urban drainage systems in new developments.

### National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

### London Plan policies (March 2016)

Policy 5.1 Climate change mitigation

Policy 5.2 Minimising carbon dioxide emissions

Policy 5.3 Sustainable design and construction

Policy 5.4 Retrofitting

Policy 5.5 Decentralised energy networks

Policy 5.6 Decentralised energy in development proposals

Policy 5.7 Renewable energy

Policy 5.8 Innovative energy technologies

Policy 5.9 Overheating and cooling

Policy 5.10 Urban greening

Policy 5.11 Green roofs and development site environs

Policy 5.12 Flood risk management

Policy 5.13 Sustainable drainage

Policy 5.14 Water quality and wastewater infrastructure

Policy 5.15 Water use and supplies

## **Supporting information**

[Committee on Climate Change \(2016\) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017. Synthesis report: priorities for the next five years](#)

[Committee on Climate Change \(2019\) Net Zero – The UK’s contribution to stopping global warming](#)

[Royal Town Planning Institute \(2018\) Rising to the Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change](#)

[Mayor of London \(2018\) London Environment Strategy](#)

[London Climate Change Partnership - Resources](#)

[Climate Just - Publications](#)

[Mayor of London \(2015\) The Mayor’s Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Annual Report](#)

[Mayor of London - London Heat Map](#)

[Department for Communities and Local Government \(2012\) Investigation into overheating in homes: Literature review](#)

[Report of the Marmot Sustainable Development Task Group \(2010\)](#)

[GRaBS: Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns - Adaptation Action Planning Toolkit](#)

[World Health Organization \(2013\) Climate Change and Health: A Tool to Estimate Health and Adaptation Costs](#)

[NHS Sustainable Development Unit \(2009\) Saving Carbon, Improving Health – NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy for England](#)

[The Lancet, Health and climate change 2018 Report](#)

[Public Health England \(2015\) Flooding: health guidance and advice](#)

NHS London Healthy Urban Development Unit

[www.healthyurbandevlopment.nhs.uk](http://www.healthyurbandevlopment.nhs.uk)

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