Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for planning tool

(Updated May 2024)

Proposal name:

Reference/application number
(if known):

wakefieldcouncil

Introduction.

Thank you for using the updated Wakefield Health Impact Assessment (HIA) tool for planning.

Major planning applications are required to consider how the proposal will impact on the health and wellbeing of the local population. This template is designed to assist this consideration and to make the process as meaningful and streamlined as possible.

As you complete the assessment, it is important to remember that the Council requests HIAs to be carried out for certain developments to improve and protect human health by ensuring appropriate and proportionate consideration is given to:

1. The potential impacts on the wider determinants of health and wellbeing of a specific development; and
2. Any measures that could be put in place to minimise any negative and maximise any positive impacts of the development.

The HIA should be completed by those with an appropriate understanding of the project, its context and public health knowledge, especially the wider determinants of health.

This template may appear lengthy, but should take a similar amount of time to complete as other HIA templates. This version integrates guidance and includes a glossary and reference section which will help its completion. Further, some sections may not be relevant depending on the nature of the application, and can be skipped if needed.

Help, advice and support to carry out an HIA is available from the Wakefield Council's Public Health Department:

hia@wakefield.gov.uk.

Acknowledgements:

Wakefield Council would like to acknowledge the contributions that were made to the development of this template.

The peer-review process from professionals in the planning and public health fields helped to strengthen and complete the project.

Contributions were made from the following people external to Wakefield Council:

- Ryngan Pyper, RPS
- Tom Mapplethorpe, Louise Muhammad, Priti Gohil and Lisa Waldron, Kirklees Council
- Karen Horrocks, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
- Lisa Reardon, West Yorkshire Police
- Will Robertson, NHS England
- Emma Wilson, Doncaster Council
- Sally Jenks, Rotherham Council

Suggested citation:

Wakefield Council Public Health Department, 2024, Health Impact Assessment for Planning Tool.

Table of contents.

Seems long?

Depending on the nature of the development, not all sections will require completion. Prompts will guide skipping sections where applicable.

Integrating the guidance within the template increases the length of the document, but makes it easier to complete.

Instructions and guidance.

(1) Affected areas and population groups:

Tick all relevant boxes to establish which area(s) this proposal is likely to impact and who will be affected.

(2) Summary and Evidence:

Describe the proposal and what evidence has been used to inform the HIA.

(3) Themed assessments:

The HIA is separated into themes (e.g., Housing, Physical Activity, etc). Each section is compulsory to complete unless it specifies that it can be skipped because it lacks relevance.

(4) Positive and negative aspects:

Common positive and negative aspects have been listed under each theme. Tick which aspects apply, leaving boxes blank if they are not relevant.

It is important that the HIA identifies any negative aspects. Doing so can help the author think of ways to minimise or offset the future negative health impacts.

It also unrealistic to claim that any proposed development will be perfect and have 100% positive aspects.

(5) Overall health impact (per theme):

Using the lists of positive and negative aspects, indicate whether the proposal will have a positive, negative, or neutral overall health impact for the corresponding theme given the balance of aspects.

An overall negative impact for one theme doesn't necessarily mean a scheme won't be supported. Positive impacts identified elsewhere may balance or outweigh the negative impacts made in an assessment.

(6) Likelihood of the impact:

Not all assessments can be made with complete confidence. Gaps in evidence, research, and precedence can reduce the likelihood of an accurate assessment.

Making an uncertain assessment can often lead to recommendations about further research or an evaluation and monitoring scheme associated with the development.

(7) Describe and explain the assessment:

While the list of positive and negative impacts will provide a good indication of the overall health impact, the likelihood, severity, and/or balance of the aspects and impacts should be considered and addressed. Any other assessment process should also be explained in this section.

(8) Listing ways to improve:

Recommendations should be made where practical to improve the proposed development. These should seek to reduce negative health impacts and maximise positive ones.

(9) Submission and evaluation:

The completed HIA will be reviewed for quality, completeness and accuracy, including the extent to which opportunities for public health have been explored by the Wakefield Public Health Department, or their appointed consultants. Substandard HIAs may be rejected as not valid or given low weight in the planning determination.

Glossary and reference:

Throughout the document there are interactive links to the glossary and reference section at the back of the template. This section provides definitions of terms and in some cases explains why certain aspects are encouraged or discouraged.

Links are provided within the glossary and reference section back to their corresponding assessment page.

Alternative template:

This HIA template has been designed to be relevant for most proposal types in the planning/pre-planning stage of the development process.

Sometimes a more flexible template is required due to a particularly unique proposal. In these cases, the Wakefield HIA 'Classic' template should be used.

Other alternative HIA templates are discouraged. However, alternative formats may be accepted in special circumstances providing they comprehensively assess the proposal's health impact and have received prior approval.

Help, advice and support:

A collaborative process for preparing HIAs is encouraged.

Advice and support to carry out an HIA is available from the Wakefield Council's Public Health Department:
hia@wakefield.gov.uk

Affected areas and population groups.

Location:

Tick which parts of the district will be most affected by this proposal:

Ackworth, North Elmsall and Upton - Ward 1,

Airedale and Ferry Fryston - Ward 2,

Altofts and Whitwood - Ward 3,

Castleford Central and Glasshoughton - Ward 4,

Crofton, Ryhill and Walton - Ward 5,

Featherstone - Ward 6,

Hemsworth - Ward 7,

Horbury and South Ossett - Ward 8,

Knottingley - Ward 9,

Normanton - Ward 10,

Ossett - Ward 11,

Pontefract North - Ward 12,

Pontefract South - Ward 13,

South Elmsall and South Kirkby - Ward 14,

Stanley and Outwood East - Ward 15,

Wakefield East - Ward 16,

Wakefield North - Ward 17,

Wakefield Rural - Ward 18,

Wakefield South - Ward 19,

Wakefield West - Ward 20,

Wrenthorpe and Outwood West - Ward 21,

All wards/district wide,

Other areas (e.g., neighbouring districts or regional-scale):

Population groups:

Tick all the specific population groups that will be particularly affected by this proposal. The HIA should acknolwedge the health needs of these groups:

Asylum seekers/refugees,

Ethnic minorities,

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller ethnic groups,

People living in areas of high social and economic deprivation,

People with a disability - physical, mental and learning,

Families with young children,

Children and young people (0-19 years),

Adults aged between 18-60,

Older people (60+ years),

Women and girls,

Men and boys,

Transgender people,

Lesbian, gay and/or bisexual people,

Unhoused people,

People with dementia,

Religious or belief groups,

Visitors or those working in the district,

Others:

? Think about...

Different population groups will have different health and design needs.

For example, older people and those with physical disabilities will have different housing needs to families with young children.

Health data for each ward in the district is available online via the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

Proposal summary

Provide a brief summary of the proposal

For example:

Mixed use development of 56 dwellings, three shops, and new public open space at 12-38 Example Street, Wakefield.

The 56 dwellings comprise of 14 one-bed apartments, 28 two-bed apartments, and 14 three-bed houses. The 3 shops include one larger space of 125m², and two smaller shops with 75m² floor space each.

The public open space is 1,200m² and includes mature landscaping, a small play space, and pedestrian connections to existing neighbourhood.

Evidence

Provide details of the various sources of information that has been used to inform this Health Impact Assessment. For example:

- Local community members/groups including any consultation responses;
- Data from healthcare providers and primary care services. In particular, GPs, dentists, and pharmacy provision;
- Scientific literature (e.g., systematic reviews and meta-analyses)
- Advice from relevant experts such as environmental health professionals, public health professionals or transport and highways engineers;
- National and local health policies including priorities from the Wakefield District Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- Relevant regulatory standards
- Reports and documents such as Air Quality Assessments and Travel Plans

You may wish to submit a copy of any relevant supporting evidence alongside this form

About the author

Provide some details about who is completing this HIA, including their relevant qualifications and experience.

Housing H1 - High Quality Housing

1. Does the scheme include any residential component?

Yes	No
Complete this section	Skip to next section (Physical Activity PA1 - Walking)

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Homes designed so that it is difficult to visually determine the tenure of properties
- Homes that have suitable internal space, private outdoor space, and are NDSS compliant
- All homes have access to natural light
- Homes can be ventilated effectively to prevent damp and mould, especially in bathrooms
- Homes are designed to ensure privacy of occupiers and neighbours
- Apartments, flats, and maisonettes are provided with some private outdoor amenity space such as gardens on the ground floor, and balconies and terraces for homes above the ground floor
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- External design dictated by tenure or affordability
- Homes that are too small and risk being overcrowded
- Habitable rooms without windows
- Design compromises the privacy of occupiers and neighbours
- Apartments, flats, and maisonettes have no private outdoor amenity space
- Other negative aspects:

Remember:

!

Acknowledging negative aspects is an important part of the HIA process. It is unrealistic to claim a proposal is 100% positive.

2. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure

3. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

4. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

5. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond	Quite well	A little bit	Not at all	It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

Homes that enable older and disabled people to live independent lives (e.g., homes that are adaptable or meet the requirements M4(2) or M4(3)):

Some examples of adaptable homes include stair lift compatibility, downstairs bathrooms, and ramped access

Storage space for mobility scooters where applicable

Housing located close to services and amenities suitable to the needs of the people living there

Higher density housing located close to high quality public transport and town centres

A range of varied home tenures and sizes

A provision of affordable homes for purchase and/or rent

Homes that are highly energy efficient and affordable to run

Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

Homes that make no provisions for older and disabled people

A homogeneous housing stock

Housing isolated from essential services and amenities

Car dependent neighbourhoods

No provision for affordable housing

No diversity of tenures. For example, an entire development of build-to-rent units

Homes with lower efficiency energy performance certificate (EPC) ratings

Other negative aspects:

> **!** Have you contacted Council's Housing Growth team to ask if there is a requirement for a wheelchair accessible property/s on the site?

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Physical Activity PA1 - Walking

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Providing wide, safe streets with narrow carriageways
- Including home zones in new developments
- Implementing traffic calming measures
- Providing a permeable network of streets and paths. Filtered permeability should be used to design out rat-runs, rather than cul-de-sacs
- Where cul-de-sacs cannot be avoided, sufficient pedestrian access is provided throughout the development
- Footpaths that are well-lit and overlooked by surrounding houses and other buildings
- Places to stop and rest are provided along walking routes, such as durable bench seating
- Formalising existing pedestrian desire paths
- Public transport can be easily accessed by short walking routes

- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Minimal space is provided for pedestrian movement
- Road conditions prioritise traffic movements and speed
- No efforts made to calm traffic speeds
- A disjointed street network with paths that don't lead anywhere
- Footpaths that aren't overlooked and run along the rear of buildings and back fences
- Unsafe and poorly-lit walking routes
- No infrastructure is provided to support pedestrians who may need to rest on longer walking routes (e.g., seating and shade)
- Opportunities to formalise desire paths are not taken
- Public transport not accessible within short walking distances

- Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

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Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Physical Activity PA2 - Cycling

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

Welcome packs containing information on the best opportunities to walk and cycle in the local area

Accessible bicycle parking facilities that are conveniently and logically located

Bicycle parking that benefits from passive surveillance and is visible by lots of people

Secure bicycle parking, such as lockers, garden sheds, and lockable indoor parking

Bicycle parking with sufficient capacity for the scale of the development

Industrial and commercial schemes that provide end-of-trip facilities, such as lockers and showers

Providing cycle lanes on busy roads physically separated from traffic

Off-road paths suitable for cycling

Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

A lack of information available to new residents or workers about walking and cycling

No provision of bicycle parking or storage

Bicycle parking that is less convenient to use compared to car parking

Bicycle parking located in 'left-over' space, such as spare corners in a car park

Bicycle parking located behind buildings or out of sight from most people

Insecure bicycle parking that is intended for long-stay parking

An under-sized bicycle parking provision

No provision of cycle lanes on busy roads

Poor quality cycle lanes, including narrow, unseparated, and disconnected lanes

Landscaping along cycle routes contains planting that without regular trimming may grow to impede cycle use or that can create thorny or spiky debris when trimmed

Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Physical Activity PA3 - Active Play.

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Landscaping features with the capacity to support play, or 'play on the way'
- Provision of playgrounds and play areas
- Play features that are suitable for a variety of ages and for both boys and girls. For example, teenage boys will typically use skate parks and multi-use game areas (MUGAs); however, teenage girls are more likely to use parks with more swings and social seating
- Surrounding development that overlooks playgrounds and play areas to encourage shared usage and to provide passive surveillance
- Supporting facilities such as bench seating, shade, bicycle parking, and drinking fountains
- Children are involved in the design process of new play areas
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Landscaping features that restrict or disallow play
- No provision of playgrounds and play areas in suitable locations
- No diversity of features to support different groups of people
- Hidden playgrounds and play areas
- Playgrounds and play areas that are isolated from the surrounding development
- No complementary features resulting in lower usage and unsupervised play
- The views of children are not considered during the design of new play areas
- Other negative aspects:

2. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

3. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

4. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

5. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Development is located within close proximity to high quality public open spaces
- Public open spaces are provided in areas of deficiency
- Public open spaces are connected to developments with direct walking routes
- Public open space is accessible to wheelchair and pushchair users
- Public open spaces are usable, safe, and well-maintained
- Measures to make parks safer for women and girls, such as:
  - Circular running tracks near the edges of the park
  - Multiple, clearly visible exit points
  - Women and girls are actively included in the design of public spaces
- Larger parks are designed with running routes that are suitable for Parkruns and other ways to encourage physical activity and social interactions
- Sectioned-off areas for off-lead dogs
- Shady, mature trees planted and maintained well to support streets, paths, and parks
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- High quality public open spaces are difficult to access from the development site
- Areas of public open space deficiency are not addressed
- New developments aren't connected with public open spaces
- Barriers that prevent wheelchair and pushchair users from accessing public open spaces
- Public open spaces without any useful features that support activity
- Public open spaces without a maintenance or management plan
- Minimal consideration given to the safety of women and girls in parks and public open spaces
- Parks and public open spaces that are designed without any involvement from women or girls
- No shady trees, or trees poorly maintained with overhanging canopies
- Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Food and Nutrition

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Accessible and secure garden sheds/garages to store gardening tools and equipment
- Gardens designed and landscaped to grow food (among other things), including fruit-bearing trees
- Show homes that showcase gardens that can grow food
- Provision of communal gardens, or access to allotments which are well maintained and well-utilised
- Easy access to supermarkets and other places to access healthy food
- Homes are equipped with adequate kitchens, food preparation facilities including sufficient bench space, and space to eat together
- Shared kitchens are large enough for multiple people to cook, prepare and eat food in at any given time
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- No places to store gardening tools and equipment
- Gardens that are only turfed
- No provision of spaces for food growing e.g. allotments
- No supermarkets or other places to access healthy food within 15-minutes walking distance
- Homes without kitchens and food preparation facilities
- Shared kitchens large enough for only one person at a time
- Other negative aspects:

Remember:

Acknowledging negative aspects is an important part of the HIA process. It is unrealistic to claim a proposal is 100% positive.

2. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure

3. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

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Air Quality and Noise

Examples of positive and negative aspects

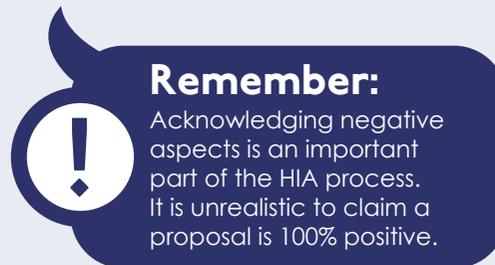Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Schemes located in sustainable locations that won't generate additional traffic
- Safe distances between sources of air pollution and noise and sensitive land uses, such as housing
- Noise attenuation measures (e.g., good acoustic design and tree lining) to reduce the impacts of noise created elsewhere, such as roads, industry, and late-night land uses
- Internal ventilation where higher-specification glazing is required to reduce the impacts of nearby noise
- Measures to reduce the noise created on-site
- Smoke-free workplaces and public spaces, particularly at entry points
- Dedicated smoking and vaping areas that promote local stop smoking services
- Apartment buildings that provide access from a deck, rather from internal corridors
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Dust, traffic congestion and noise caused during construction
- Developments that increase traffic
- Land uses that pollute the air and generate disturbing levels of noise
- Sensitive land uses located close to sources of air pollution and noise
- Car-centric design features, such as drive-throughs
- Smoking areas located close to entrance points or windows regularly opened
- Other negative aspects:

! Remember:
Acknowledging negative aspects is an important part of the HIA process. It is unrealistic to claim a proposal is 100% positive.

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Transport T1 - Well Designed Places

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Streets prioritise pedestrian and cyclist movements over motorists where appropriate
- Attractive and interactive building with façades at a human scale
- Minimising or consolidating places to drive (e.g., minimising road access points)
- Streets with public access surrounding developments are continuous for pedestrians and cyclists, rather than being separated by private drives
- Measures to discourage school runs, such as locating car parking further away from school gates and not designing for drive-through pick-up/drop-off points
- Street types that are visibly different and demonstrate a clear hierarchy
- Traffic calming features which slow traffic, reduce traffic noise, and reduce the likelihood of road traffic injuries
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Designs and layouts that prioritise car-usage and convenience of motorists over other road users
- Streetscapes that are dominated by parked cars, driveways or garages
- Drive-through design
- Internal roads which cause conflict points between motorists and pedestrians
- Private drives that interrupt public access
- Design measures that encourage school runs
- A uniform design approach to street types
- High speed limits and streets designed for high speeds
- Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Generally straight and interconnected street networks
- Connections are provided to existing dead-end streets
- Footpaths and cycleways are the shortest and most direct way to get between key destinations
- Crossing points are provided in convenient and logical locations, especially linking to schools and public open spaces
- Schemes are located close to compatible land uses which reduces the need to travel, especially by car
- Connections are made to existing footpaths and cycleways
- Public right of ways are protected and enhanced

- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Maze-like street networks with dead-ends that don't allow for pedestrian and cyclist permeability
- Indirect pedestrian and cycling routes
- Crossing points that require detouring or diverging from the main route
- Isolated land uses
- Footpaths and cycleways that don't connect to the wider network
- Obstructions, interruptions, closures, or other compromises to the public right of way network

- Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

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4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

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Transport T3 - Public and Alternative Transport

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Schemes that are located close to high quality, frequent, safe, and reliable public transport
- Upgrading existing bus stops to provide seating, shelters, lighting, and real-time information
- Providing direct and safe footpath access to bus stops and railway stations
- Providing secure bicycle parking at train stations
- Creating new bus stops and railway stations where appropriate
- Travel Plans are prepared and implemented effectively that encourage new residents/workers/visitors to utilise public and active transport
- Demand responsive transport, car clubs, and lift-sharing schemes
- New or improved Park and Ride schemes
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Poor quality and minimal access to public transport
- Schemes that don't address poor quality public transport infrastructure
- Failing to address obstacles that prevent people with limited mobility accessing public transport, such as steps, gutters, and blocked footpaths
- Missed opportunities to provide new public transport services and infrastructure
- Minimal thought and effort to promote the use of public and active transport
- Minimal effort to reduce car dependency and car ownership
- Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Transport T4 - Car Parking

1. Does the scheme include any car parking?

Yes   No

Complete this section   Skip to the next section
                               (Crime Reduction and Community Safety)

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Provision of charging points of electric vehicles
- Provision of disabled car parking bays
- Shared and unallocated on-street car parking in quiet residential locations
- Landscaping to soften the visual impact of car parks
- Frontage car parking that is broken up every 4-6 bays with green landscaped features
- Design measures that prevent illegal anti-social car parking
- A mix of houses with and without integral garages
- Large-scale commercial developments that have a consolidated car parking area
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Car parking located between the street and the front door, rather than on-street or at the rear or side of buildings
- Un-landscaped car parking which presents a harsh visual impact and contributes to an urban heat island effect
- Tandem car parking arrangements
- Large-scale commercial and employment developments with each parcel having an individual car park
- Other negative aspects:

2. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

3. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

4. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

5. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

Buildings that provide active frontages to public spaces, including streets, parks and car parking. This should include:

- Front doors that face streets and public spaces
- Ground floors of non-residential buildings have clear, transparent windows and frequent access points
- Dual aspect homes on street corners with windows serving habitable rooms
- Levels above the ground floor provide windows and balconies that overlook public spaces

Clear and legible walking and cycling routes, safely separating road users, and differentiating public and private space

Defensible space and strong boundary treatments

Shared pathways to bicycle and refuse storage that are shared by no more than three dwellings:

- Gates to these shared pathways that are located at the front of buildings

Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

Public spaces that aren't overlooked by surrounding buildings

Large sections of street that are fronted with blank walls and fences

Infrequent access points to non-residential buildings

Homes on street corners that only address one street

Footpaths and cycling routes that have not been safely separated from road traffic

No defensible space for homes

Weak boundary treatments that make it difficult to differentiate between public and private space

Shared pathways to bicycle and refuse storage are shared by four or more dwellings:

- Gates to these shared pathways that are accessed at the rear of buildings

Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Well-lit public spaces with clear sight-lines to points of egress
- Measures to promote a sense of community ownership, respect, responsibility, and community
- Allowance for emergency vehicle access
- Design measures that prevent attempts at suicide
- Anticipation and mitigation of possible malicious threats or natural hazards, especially in locations with large amounts of people gathering
- Mixed use developments and shared spaces so that buildings and public spaces are used by more people and for a higher proportion of the day
- Schemes and activities that facilitate additional activation of public spaces that make it safer for women and people of ethnic minorities
- Apartment buildings that have multiple points of access, including being accessed from the street, rather than solely from car parks and back doors
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Poorly lit public spaces
- Design features that create a sense of enclosure
- Land use and development with limited links to a local community
- Places that restrict emergency vehicles
- No design response for suicide prevention in high-risk locations
- Busy places or major gathering spots without any security measures in place
- Gated communities
- Homogeneous developments which lack a diversity of activity
- Apartment buildings with limited points of access or points of access all on one side of the building
- Other negative aspects:

Remember:
Acknowledging negative aspects is an important part of the HIA process. It is unrealistic to claim a proposal is 100% positive.

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

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Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Economy and Employment E1 – A Strong and Resilient Local Economy

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Measures to support business start-ups, development, and survival, such as:
  - A range of lease sizes and lengths
  - Flexible co-working spaces
  - Pop-up options for start-up businesses
- Increased access to local employment and training opportunities, including permanent (end use) and temporary (construction) employment
- Local procurement arrangements/agreements
- Provision of a diversity of business and job opportunities
- Accessible employment opportunities appropriate to the skillsets in the local community
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- No measures to support business start-ups
- An anticipated workforce of commuters from outside of the Wakefield district
- No plans to employ and train the local community
- A homogeneous industry and workforce
- Incompatible employment for the skillsets of the local community
- A disproportionate amount of low wage jobs
- Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Residential development situated close to workplaces and educational services
- Childcare facilities and other support services
- High quality infrastructure and design which creates attractive business locations
- A safe and pleasant working environment
- Attractive break-out spaces, such as well-landscaped outdoor picnic areas to encourage workers to take breaks
- Adequate access to natural light in working environments
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Isolated workplaces forcing long commutes
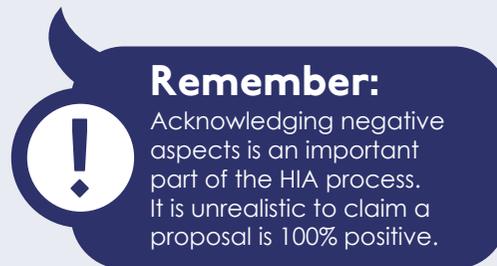- No support for parents and carers in the workforce
- Stock-standard design with the minimum infrastructure requirements
- Minimal amenities for workers and visitors
- Unsafe and unpleasant working conditions
- Working spaces without access to natural light
- Other negative aspects:

Remember:
Acknowledging negative aspects is an important part of the HIA process. It is unrealistic to claim a proposal is 100% positive.

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

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4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Measures to minimise the risk of flooding, such as:
  - Permeable surfaces to reduce surface run-off
  - Locating development in safe areas
  - Sustainable drainage systems that have sufficient capacity that improves water quality and provides amenity and biodiversity values
- Water efficient gardens with a higher proportion of drought-tolerant species
- Surface water management features/drainage infrastructure with safe edge treatments
- Street trees that:
  - Provide lots of shade
  - Have enough space to grow above and below ground
  - Are protected by long-term management arrangements which are not the responsibility of individual land occupiers
- Buildings that can be cooled easily during heat waves
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Hardstand or impervious surfaces that dominate the development, increasing surface run-off
- Unsustainable drainage systems which make no effort to improve water quality, amenity, or biodiversity values
- Development in high risk flood areas
- Gardens that are not water efficient
- Surface water management features/drainage infrastructure with unsafe edge treatments such as steep slopes and perimeter fences
- No street trees provided
- Street trees planted in inappropriate areas or without adequate management arrangements
- Buildings that can overheat in heat waves
- Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Recycled building materials used in construction
- Materials from any demolished buildings to be recycled
- Sustainable construction methods and materials are used
- Energy efficient buildings
- Buildings that use renewable energy sources
- Electric vehicle charging points
- Access to some outdoor space suitable for drying clothes for apartments and maisonettes
- Minor design measures, such as airing cupboards, that help to reduce energy consumption
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Small proportions of recycled building materials used in construction
- No plans to recycle materials from demolished buildings
- No consideration made for sustainable construction methods
- Buildings with poor energy efficiency
- Buildings that don't use renewable energy sources
- No electric vehicle charging points
- No outdoor space suitable to dry clothes
- Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

Measures to make recycling waste easy for residents, workers, and visitors

Refuse storage appropriately located:

Separated from any bicycle parking facilities

Separated from outdoor dining areas

The location won't impact the ability to ventilate homes effectively

Adequate space provided for storage and collection of bins and waste

Footpaths and entry points are not obstructed

Sufficient bins are provided in public spaces

Land use and developments that don't generate any litter

Litter management plans prepared and implemented when appropriate

Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

Recycling systems that make it difficult and/or inconvenient for people to recycle waste

Refuse storage co-located with bicycle parking

Refuse storage located nearby dining areas

Refuse storage located nearby windows that need to be opened

Complicated and difficult systems for waste collection and removal

Refuse storage which blocks or obstructs entry points or footpaths

An inadequate provision of bins in public spaces

Land uses which typically generate a lot of litter, such as hot food takeaways

No consideration as to how litter will be managed

Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

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4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

Green space is protected, and new green space is described in detail. For example, instead of 'POS', specify, 'parks', 'woodland', 'allotments', 'wildflower meadows'

Biodiversity is strengthened by connecting existing and new habitat areas, and existing corridors are protected

Landscape features including (but not limited to) waterways, forests, hedgerows, and other vegetated areas are protected and enhanced. Landscape features are within the public realm, rather than in private back gardens

Nature based features are incorporated into design. For example, rain gardens, shaded recreation areas, community growing areas, and green roofs

Landscape edges that blend into surrounding environments

Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

Green space is lost or compromised

The function of new green spaces is vague and not clearly defined

Existing habitat areas are damaged or left unconnected

No efforts made to expand habitats or improve biodiversity of existing habitats

A biodiversity net-loss (cleared natural features and habitats for the development without any offsets or replacements)

Valued landscapes are lost or compromised

Design without any natural features, for example through use of artificial landscaping

Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Environment EN5 - Sustainable Land Use

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Public open space is protected, and conflicting land uses have appropriate distances between them
- Farming and agricultural land is protected or enhanced
- Efficient use of land, including:
  - All open space is usable and has a purpose
  - Space between pavements and buildings have clear purpose and are practical to maintain
- Development of land which considers and complements planning for future community infrastructure and services
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Public open space is lost or compromised
- Conflicting land uses without adequate buffer distances
- New development that negatively impacts farming and agricultural land
- Inconsistent and an interrupted block structure
- Proposals that feature ransom strips
- Open spaces which serve no meaningful purpose
- Space between pavements and buildings which are difficult to maintain and serve no purpose
- Development of land which compromises the future delivery of important community infrastructure and services
- Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

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This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Affordable housing, varied tenures, and housing sizes are pepper-potted or scattered throughout new developments
- Opportunities for communities to interact socially in both structured and informal settings, (e.g., parks, shops, community facilities, shared spaces, front gardens, staff rooms)
- Local community and volunteer groups are engaged with prior and during the planning process
- Measures to prevent community severance, including:
  - Physical connections to nearby communities and to the edges of development areas
  - Visual connection between important places and communities
  - Designing streets and roads that can be extended in the future
  - Interlocking back gardens between existing and new development where existing back gardens adjoin a site boundary
- Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Affordable housing units clustered together
- Similar housing types and tenures clustered together
- Limited opportunities for social interactions due to minimal communal areas
- No engagement with local and community volunteer groups
- No physical connections between communities
- No visual connections between places and communities
- Barriers, such as major roads, which can physically divide communities
- Dead end streets that can't be extended in the future
- Poor interface with the back fences of an adjacent community
- Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

Buildings intended for use by the public are accessible for those with mobility issues

Changes in level are well resolved to provide safe, attractive, and logical access for all

Measures to address local inequalities. Some examples might include:

- Income deprivation, including income deprivation affecting children
- The proportion of households in fuel poverty
- Overcrowded houses
- Unemployment and long-term unemployment
- The proportion of people with long-term illness or disability
- Life expectancy

The voice of people who experience inequalities is actively sought during consultation and design

Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

Buildings that are inaccessible for those with mobility issues

A-frame barriers, steps, kissing gates, and other similar barriers which restrict access to people with pushchairs and people with mobility limitations

Poorly resolved or unattractive changes in level

No efforts made to address local inequalities

Views and opinions from those experiencing inequalities are not considered or sought

Other negative aspects:

Remember:
Acknowledging negative aspects is an important part of the HIA process. It is unrealistic to claim a proposal is 100% positive.

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

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3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

This should outline recommendations to make amendments to the scheme or summarise improvements that have already been made

4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Access to Public Services

Examples of positive and negative aspects

Tick where relevant. Aspects will contribute to positive and negative health impacts

Will contribute to positive impacts:

- Existing social infrastructure to be retained, reinstated, or enhanced
- Facilitating or increasing accessibility to schools, healthcare, parks, public transport, libraries, and other social services
- Consultation with relevant service providers
- Monetary contributions to offset any increased demand on public services
- The management and maintenance of public spaces is well considered whether this be publicly or privately
- Assessments of the existing capacity of social infrastructure, including healthcare, community facilities, and educational institutions
- Shared-use community buildings and co-location of community services
- Public services accessible by a variety of transport modes

Other positive aspects:

Will contribute to negative impacts:

- Decommissioning social infrastructure or lost opportunities to reinstate them
- Development that is isolated from public and social services
- No consultation or engagement with relevant service providers
- Increasing the demand on public services without any monetary or in-kind contributions
- Poorly considered management and maintenance of public and shared spaces
- Exacerbating the demand for public services which are already operating over or near to their capacities
- Public services and community buildings which are not coordinated or co-located
- Public services only accessible by car

Other negative aspects:

1. Considering the list of positive and negative aspects listed in this section, what will the health impact be?

Positive   Negative   Neutral   Unsure

2. Describe the details and explain how the health impact has been assessed

This should consider the certainty, severity, and/or balance of the positive and negative impacts and aspects

3. List ways that the scheme can minimise any negative health impacts and maximise any positive impacts

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4. Including the recommended action(s), how well does the scheme improve public/human health?

Above and beyond   Quite well   A little bit   Not at all   It worsens public health

Conclusion

1. Based on a combined and balanced consideration of all themes within the HIA, what is/are the overall health impact(s) of the scheme?

Refer to the adjacent table for explanations. Tick all that apply

Major positive   Moderate positive   Slight positive

Neutral

Major negative   Moderate negative   Slight negative

2. What are the recommended next steps for this scheme?

Tick all that apply

Proceed with the recommended actions detailed in the assessment

Refer to the Public Health Department for advice

Further work is required to gain a better understanding of the potential health impacts (detail below)

Revise the design and supporting documentation of the scheme in order to reduce any negative impacts and/or maximise any positive impacts

Withdraw the application based on the overall negative impact

Other recommended next steps (detail below)

Explanations for overall impact terminology. *Note: It will often be the case that relevant criteria span categories of level, e.g., a high scale of change, but over a short-term duration. In these instances a professional judgement is made on the most appropriate level taking into account all relevant criteria.*

Impact level		Explanation
Major positive	Major negative	Major impacts based on: high exposure or scale; long-term duration; continuous frequency; severity predominantly related to mortality; majority of population affected; permanent change; and substantial service quality implications. Prevention measures are required for major negative impacts.
Moderate positive	Moderate negative	Moderate impacts based on: low exposure or medium scale; medium-term duration; frequent events; severity predominantly related to moderate changes in morbidity; large minority of population affected; gradual reversal; and small service quality implications. Prevention or mitigation measures are required for moderate negative impacts.
Slight positive	Slight negative	Slight or non-significant impacts based on: very low exposure or small scale; short-term duration; occasional events; severity predominantly related to minor change in morbidity; small minority of population affected; rapid reversal; and slight service quality implications.
Neutral		Neutral impacts based on: negligible exposure or scale; very short-term duration; one-off frequency; severity predominantly relates to a minor change in quality-of-life; very few people affected; immediate reversal once activity complete; and no service quality implication.

ⓘ Evaluation and review

The completed HIA will be reviewed for quality, completeness and accuracy, including the extent to which opportunities for public health have been explored by the Wakefield Public Health Department, or their appointed consultants. Substandard HIAs may be rejected as not valid or given low weight in the planning determination.

? Quality assurance

Wakefield's HIA framework does not include its own quality assurance guidance; however, the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) have published a useful resource that indicates the process of evaluation.

The Quality Assurance Review Framework for HIA published by the WHIASU is available online through this link (external link).

Accessible bicycle parking

Bicycle parking should be convenient and logically located. People will generally avoid parking their bicycles in inconvenient and unsafe locations.

Further, not all bicycle parking is suitable and accessible for all. Some examples of non-accessible bicycle parking include:

- Stacked two-tier cycle racks, which are only suitable for two-wheeled standard cycles and require upper-body strength and dexterity to use
- Bike hangers (vertical parking), for similar reasons as above
- Sets of Sheffield-style hoops with small clearances between each hoop
- Lockers, which require a certain level of mobility to access
- Secure shelters or indoor parking facilities that require opening heavy doors
- Any form of bicycle parking that requires scaling steps or stairs

Accessible bicycle parking means that more people will have opportunities to cycle as a way of being physically active.

Back to Physical Activity PA2 - Cycling

Active frontages

Active frontages are street frontages where there is an active visual engagement between those in the street and those on the ground and upper floors of buildings. This is improved where the front facade of buildings, including the main entrance, faces and opens towards the street. Ground floors may accommodate uses such as cafés, shops, or restaurants. However, for a frontage to be active, it does not necessarily need to be a retail use, nor have continuous windows.

A building's upper floor windows and balconies may also contribute to the level of active frontage. Active frontages can provide informal surveillance opportunities and often improve the vitality and safety of an area.

Read more online (external link)

View the supplementary planning documents here

Back to Crime Reduction and Community Safety CR1 - High Quality Design

Active travel

The most common forms of active travel are walking and cycling, but includes other physical modes of transport, including wheelchairs, scooters, and skateboards. Public transport can also be considered a mode of active travel when legs at either end of the trip include walking or cycling to bus stops or train stations.

The benefits of active travel include:

- Integrating physical activity into daily routines, making it easier for more people to meet physical activity guidelines. Walking for 30 minutes or cycling for 20 minutes on most days reduces mortality risk by at least 10% and actively commuting is associated with an approximate 10% decrease in risk for cardiovascular disease and a 30% decrease in type 2 diabetes risk
- Reducing traffic on the roads, easing congestion and air pollution
- Environmentally friendly: active modes of transport are typically low-emission options

Back to Transport T3 - Public and Alternative Transport

Air quality

The UK government acknowledge poor air quality to be "the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, as long-term exposure to air pollution can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy.

Improvements to air quality have been achieved through legislation enforcing tighter controls on emissions of pollutants. Local authorities have duties to review and assess the local air quality against national pollutant health based objectives. Air quality is a planning consideration. The level of detail to support an application will depend on the nature of the proposed development, its location, and the relationship to surrounding uses.

Read more about the benefits of air quality online

BioDiversity and Biodiversity NG

Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is a way to contribute to the recovery of nature while developing land. Making sure the biodiversity - the variety of all living organisms, including animals, insects, plants, bacteria and fungi, that exist within a particular area - is in a better state than it was before development.

Most new developments are required to deliver a net gain in biodiversity of 10%, measured using the Statutory Defra biodiversity metric or Statutory Small Sites Metric. This net gain might be completed through habitat creation or enhancement, after avoiding or mitigating harm. Net gain should be delivered on-site. If this is not possible, it may involve off-site measures which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

Building regulations M4(2) and M4(3)

Relating to the access and use of buildings, M4(2) is the category for accessible and adaptable dwellings, and M4(3) is the category for wheelchair use dwellings.

These regulations outline requirements and provide specifications for ramp gradients, door widths and entrance points, car parking, room and hall dimensions, and kitchen design, among other things.

A proportion of homes should be designed to these regulations, particularly in areas with more wheelchair users, larger developments, and social housing developments.

Building homes to these standards will mean that more people with mobility issues will be able to lead normal, independent lives.
For more information around these standards and requirements contact Housing Growth - affordablehousing@wakefield.gov.uk

View the approved document, Access to and use of buildings, online (external link)

Back to Housing H2 - Accessible Housing

Car clubs

Via Energy Saving Trust (external link):

Car clubs offer instant access to cars in and around local areas without the need for individuals to own a car. Members can sign-up annually and then pay one-off fees as trips are taken.

Memberships can be a cheaper alternative to a second car and are also suitable for those who don't drive very often, but who still need access to a car for some journeys.

Club cars are, on average, newer than the average UK car, which means they are safer and more comfortable to drive, emit 43% less carbon dioxide from tailpipe emissions, and there are often electric vehicle choices available.

The benefits of car clubs include:

- Physical activity, as walking to the destination of the club car is usually required.
- They are convenient and simple to use – simply book the car, turn up, drive away, and return to a car club parking location.
- They are potentially cheaper than a private car, as members don't have to pay costs associated with maintenance, road tax or insurance. Members only pay as they drive.

Back to Transport T3 - Public and Alternative Transport

Car dependence

Car dependent urban environments can be caused from an absence of nearby facilities, services, and amenities, or by the design of the environment. For example, a prevalence of wide, high-speed roads and poor quality footpaths and cycleways will make it infeasible for most people to travel by modes other than a car.

Lower density neighbourhoods can also contribute to car dependence as distances to essential facilities and services become longer, and servicing areas with efficient public transport can be difficult.

Car-dependent environments result in lower levels of physical activity, poorer air quality, and unfairly disadvantages specific cohorts of the population, including:

- Older and younger people who cannot drive
- Women, who are less likely to drive than men in the UK, where one in three women don't drive
- People with disabilities impacting their ability to drive
- Those who cannot afford or struggle to afford owning a car

Back to Housing H2 - Accessible Housing

Back to Transport T3 - Public and Alternative Transport

Community ownership

A concept where community members are more inclined to steward local areas, arrange volunteer groups, informally manage public spaces, share information or report crime and anti-social behaviour.

This often occurs when a community can express an opinion/voice concerns, influence a decision, have pride in a local area, and/or have regular and meaningful opportunities to participate in community activities.

Community ownership in a place, programme or group will increase usage and participation, increase safety, and provide more social opportunities to more people.

Back to Crime Reduction and Community Safety CR2 - Places that Feel Safe / Emergency Mitigation

Deck access

Within apartment buildings, or a blocks of flats, deck access means having a continuous inset balcony at each level onto each front door opens. This is opposed to internal corridors.

Towards the end of the 20th-century, this design feature was unpopular due to its association with outdated public housing and social deprivation. However, the benefits of its design are becoming appreciated and it is re-emerging into quality architecture.

Deck access can nurture social interaction, promote communality, and improve air quality within homes.

To have positive impacts, the decks themselves need to be designed well with appropriate space and need to be maintained.

Back to Air Quality and Noise

Deficiency of public open space

Public open space deficiency can be measured in many ways; however, a useful rule is to consider both population density and access to parks and natural spaces. Natural England's Green Infrastructure mapping tool includes a layer highlighting *accessible natural greenspace inequality and population density – local buffer coverage*. Areas within the Wakefield District that have notable public open space deficiencies are:

- Altofts
- Castleford, Glasshoughton and Airedale
- Hemsworth
- Knottingley and Ferrybridge
- Lupset
- Minsthorpe
- Normanton
- Ossett and Gawthorpe
- Pontefract South
- South Kirkby
- Wakefield East

Addressing this deficiency is important as areas with sufficient public spaces are more likely to be physically active and lead healthier lives.

View the Natural England Green Infrastructure mapping tool online (external link)

View Wakefield Council's Green space needs assessment online

Back to Physical Activity PA4 - Quality Public Spaces

Demand responsive transport

Demand responsive transport (DRT) is a flexible service that provides shared transport to users who specify their desired location and time of pick-up and drop-off.

DRT can complement fixed route public transport services and improve mobility in low-density areas and at low-demand times of day.

While many DRT services are implemented primarily to improve social inclusivity and access to services, DRT can also contribute to decarbonisation by replacing private car journeys and facilitating multi-modal travel (for example, linking users to a train station or fixed route bus service). It is important that DRT services are integrated into the local transport network to be effective.

DRT services run without a set timetable and typically use smaller vehicles than fixed route bus services. Dial-a-ride services scheduled through advance bookings are a traditional example.

Visit the Government's DRT local authority toolkit online (external link)

Back to Transport T3 - Public and Alternative Transport

Desire paths

Desire paths or desire lines typically emerge as convenient shortcuts where more deliberately constructed paths take a longer or more convoluted route, have gaps, or are non-existent.

Desire paths provide indisputable evidence of the preferences and activity of pedestrians and cyclists and should therefore be formalised with constructed paths to provide a safer and more comfortable experience.

Back to Physical Activity PA1 - Walking

Drive-through designs

Most commonly associated with fast food restaurants, drive-through (or drive-thru) design enables customers to make transactions without leaving their car. Drive-throughs are now being incorporated into the designs of coffee shops, pharmacies, banks, and supermarkets, among other land uses. While they may offer a certain level of convenience for motorists, the negative health and urban design impacts of drive-throughs certainly outweigh the positives. These include:

• **Increased congestion:** drive-through queues often spill out onto the highway network during peak-times, blocking lanes and compounding the issues of peak-hour traffic. Drive-through design also encourages trips to be made by car, rather than other modes of transport, also creating more congestion on the road network

• **Air quality:** increased traffic and congestion also has a negative impact on air quality. Poor air quality is largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, as long-term exposure to air pollution can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy

• **Car-centric design:** development that prioritises vehicular movement discourages walking. This occurs because urban environments become less pleasant to walk, become safer and more convenient to drive, and the accumulative space required for car-centric design creates lower density neighbourhoods which creates longer walking distances

• **Increased potential conflict points:** drive-throughs often include zebra crossings for pedestrians; however, poor driver behaviour, the complicated nature of drive-through and carpark design, and crossing footpaths all lead to a less-safe walking environment for pedestrians

Back to Air Quality and Noise

Back to Transport T1 - Well Designed Places

Dual aspect buildings

A dual aspect, or double aspect, building has been designed with openable windows and/or doors on two or more walls, creating views towards more than just one direction.

This is often used where buildings are situated on corners or have street access to the front and the rear.

Dual aspect design prevents large blank walls from fronting streets, which can limit passive surveillance, or 'eyes on the street', which improves community safety.

Back to Crime Reduction and Community Safety CR1 - High Quality Design

Gated communities

A gated community is a form of residential community or housing estate containing strictly controlled entrances for pedestrians, bicycles, and automobiles, and often characterised by a closed perimeter of walls and fences.

These developments can entice home buyers with a perceived sense of security and privacy; however, it undermines other important principles of urban development such as freedom of movement and balanced and mixed communities. As such, they generally conflict with the National Planning Policy Framework and attract criticism from planners and academics. This criticism includes doubt and scepticism of the perceived sense of safety. No gated community is immune from crime, and research shows that there is no significant difference in crime between gated and non-gated communities.[1]

"The growth of gated communities represents a choice by those who can afford to buy into such developments, to withdraw into a protected homogeneity which limits contact between different socio-economic groupings. This must raise concerns about the loss of urban variety and the ideal of a society to which all contribute."[2]

Back to Crime Reduction and Community Safety CR2 - Places that Feel Safe / Emergency Mitigation

[1] Wilson-Doenges, G, 2000, "An Exploration of Sense of Community and Fear of Crime in Gated Communities", *Environment and Behavior*, Vol. 32, Issue 5, available online (external link)

[2] Blandy, S, 2007, "Gated communities in England as a response to crime and disorder: context, effectiveness and implications", *People, Place & Policy Online,* Vol. 1, Issue 2, available online (external link)

Habitable rooms

A room intended to be used for dwelling purposes, but which is not solely a kitchen, utility room, bathroom, cellar, or sanitary accommodation. Therefore, examples of habitable rooms are:

- Bedrooms
- Living rooms
- Dining rooms
- Living or dining rooms with kitchen facilities combined
- Studies and offices

Back to Crime Reduction and Community Safety CR1 - High Quality Design

Back to Passive surveillance (in urban design)

Hardstand and impervious surfaces

Hardstanding is ground surfaced with a hard material generally for parking, driveways, and footpaths.

Impervious surfaces prevent infiltration which results in stormwater flowing off at a higher rate than pervious surfaces, which can worsen flood events. This includes gravel driveways because of the compaction of underlying soil and stones from vehicles.

High proportions of impervious surfaces in urban environments can exacerbate flood events as it limits the capacity for land to drain more naturally and rapidly directs stormwater to waterways. Pervious surfaces in a stormwater catchment can also treat pollutants from roads, carparks, and other urban land uses prior to discharging into waterways.

Back to Climate Change Adaptation

Healthy foods

Healthy food is food that contributes to balanced diet and provides the nutrition and energy that the human body needs. The Eatwell Guide illustrates the five food groups and examples of foods that are healthy.

Foods that are high in fat, salt and sugar are not included.

View the NHS Eatwell Guide online (external link)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nutrient-profiling-model

Healthy eating

Healthy eating involves taking foods from the five food groups on the Eatwell Guide and mixing and matching them so that we give our bodies all the nutrients we need for good health and wellbeing.

It also involves eating healthy foods in the correct portions for our individual needs to enable us to keep a healthy weight and support our entire system to work effectively.

Back to Food and Nutrition

Hedgehog highways

From Hamworthy Hedgehog Rescue (external link):

A hedgehog highway is a series of holes in fences and walls that allow hedgehogs to pass freely between gardens, parks, and allotments. Hedgehog highways allow hogs to move around without having to use human roads, which can be very dangerous for them.

Back to Natural Environment

Home zones

These are local streets that are designed to make motorists feel like a guest and in doing so, slows down traffic, creates a safer, healthier environment, provides spaces for social uses and play, and opens up space for landscaping. They make being physically active easier, especially for children living locally.

The design of home zones are flexible; however, common features include level carriageways, shared surfaces, a different palette of materials, clearly identifiable car parking spaces, and clear gateways so that motorists understand when they are entering or exiting a home zone.

Where home zones are being retrofitted into existing neighbourhoods, community input, especially from children, is important in the design process.

The Council's Street Design Guide sets out requirements for home zones to be acceptable for adoption by the Highway Authority. The Street Design Guide SPD can be found at: https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/media/0vsbzd0u/221-street-design-guide-supplementary-planning-document.pdf.

Back to Physical Activity PA1 - Walking

Glossary and reference

Housing tenure

The financial arrangement and ownership structure under which someone has the right to live in a house, apartment, or other dwelling type.

The most common tenures are:
- Owned and occupied
- Privately rented
- Socially rented

Neighbourhoods with mixed tenures are important as they can help to break up concentrations of social deprivation.

Quality design must not be compromised for dwellings that are built to rent.

Back to Housing H1 - High Quality Housing

Back to Housing H2 - Accessible Housing

Integral garages

Rather than garages in separate buildings to the house, an integral garage is integrated or attached to the dwelling. Doors to integral garages can dominate the street scene with blank and unattractive presentations, and the garages themselves are often used for storage or non-car related domestic purposes.

A mix of homes with and without integral garages is important as they can provide safe and secure car parking for those who need it, while limiting the visual impact on the street.

Back to Transport T4 - Car Parking

Legibility (in mobility)

Legibility in terms of mobility refers to how easy it is to navigate through an environment, particularly for those less familiar with the area.

Measures to improve legibility include:

- Wayfinding signage including maps, fingerposts, reassurance markers, and ground markings
- Sight-lines and clear view corridors to key landmarks or landscape features
- Grid-like block structure
- Avoiding dead-end streets
- Varied building materials and designs to avoid widespread uniformity in the street scene
- A clear hierarchy of street types
- Information, including real time information to assist public transport users

A legible environment will help to create user-friendly walking and cycling routes and public transport networks, which will encourage continued usage and patronage. Legibility also helps to create a sense of safety as 'unknown' elements are reduced, points of egress are clear, and users of the space have a sense of control.

Back to Crime Reduction and Community Safety CR1 - High Quality Design

Lift-sharing

Unlike car clubs, where members will take isolated individual trips, lift-sharing, carpooling, or car sharing is where two or more people need to make a similar trip at the same time and share the trip together in the same car. Lift-sharing schemes are common in dense urban environments and more isolated workplaces.

Participants benefit from the convenience of a car, while cutting congestion and emissions.

Back to Transport T3 - Public and Alternative Transport

Maze-like street networks

A street network of windy roads and dead-end streets discourages walking and results in an inefficient use of land.

These environments often add unnecessary distance to travel times and are difficult to navigate. As a result, they can lead to a reliance on cars for those living in and frequently visiting the area.

Windy roads and dead-end streets can also result in wasted land - bits of left-over land that cannot be used for either buildings or useful private open space.

Back to Transport T2 - Good Connectivity

Multi-use games areas (MUGA)

These are designated areas with a range of different surfaces and finishes but are intended to facilitate different sports in the same space, such as football, hockey, netball, basketball, and tennis, and are often enclosed with a tall, transparent fence.

MUGAs are popular as they can accommodate a high intensity of use, are space-efficient and are flexible in terms of local preference for sports. MUGAs are predominantly used by boys, which in itself discourages girls from using the spaces. The sense of enclosure is also a deterrent for girls, so it is important that MUGAs are designed with several access/exit points.

Back to Physical Activity PA3 - Active Play

NDSS - Nationally Described Space Standard

This standard deals with internal space within new dwellings and is applicable to all tenures. It sets out requirements for the gross internal (floor) area of new dwellings at a defined level of occupancy as well as floor areas and dimensions for key parts of the home, notably bedrooms, storage and floor to ceiling height.

Compliance with this standard is important as it will help to avoid overcrowded homes, which pose significant health risks to future residents. These include a higher risk of spreading respiratory infections and a negative impact on mental wellbeing.

Compliance with the Nationally Described Space Standards is now required since the adoption of the Wakefield District Local Plan 2036.

View the standard online (external link)

Back to Housing H1 - High Quality Housing

Noise attenuation

Attenuation is the combined effect of scattering and absorbing sound. Common forms of noise attenuation include:

- Appropriate setbacks from major roads
- Safe distances from noisy land uses
- Higher specification building materials, such as windows and insulation
- Walls and other structures designed to absorb or repel sound
- Trees and hedges
- Topographical landscaping, such as hills and mounds

Preventing the source of noise should also be considered where possible and practical. This could be controlled by removing the source of noise or reducing operating hours.

Noise pollution can have a significant impact on public health. Long-term exposure to noise pollution can lead to number of issues including sleep disturbance, negative effects on the cardiovascular and metabolic system, as well as cognitive impairment in children.

View the Planning Practice Guidance: Noise document online (external link)

Back to Air Quality and Noise

Park and Ride

Park and ride schemes are an effective transport solution for transporting large amounts of people to high-demand places where driving should be discouraged to ease congestion. These include to major events and city centres.

Large-scale car parking facilities are provided cheaply or for free, and tickets can be purchased for regular shuttle services running between the two sites. Park and ride schemes are a good way to reduce unnecessary congestion, improve air quality, and can introduce people who normally drive out of habit to high-quality public transport options.

Back to Transport T3 - Public and Alternative Transport

Parkrun

Parkrun is a collection of five-kilometre events for walkers, runners and volunteers that take place every Saturday morning at more than 2,000 locations in 22 countries. In the Wakefield district, Parkrun is held at:

- Frickley Country Park
- Nostell Priory
- Pontefract Park
- Thornes Park

Back to Physical Activity PA4 - Quality Public Spaces

Passive surveillance (in urban design)

Passive, or natural, surveillance is the concept of having 'eyes on the street'. Having streets, parks and public spaces that are well-overlooked while providing privacy to individual dwellings will result in safer places. Placement of doors, windows, and balconies from habitable rooms will increase levels of passive surveillance.

Another example of passive surveillance can be provided in retail and commercial areas, where active street frontages of doors and transparent windows provide a safer and more pleasant environment for all users.

Back to Physical Activity PA3 - Active Play

Pepper-potting

This term refers to the equal spatial distribution, or 'sprinkling' of affordable housing, social housing, or housing in different tenures.

By creating this mix, developments can avoid pockets of social and economic deprivation, while creating more diverse, socially cohesive, and interesting communities. These type of communities often have better levels of social mobility, meaning that individuals will have better chances at breaking the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage.

Back to Social and Community Cohesion

Permeability (in urban design)

The extent to which an urban environment permits movement of people or vehicles in different directions.

Filtered permeability is an urban design measure that filters out car traffic on selected streets and other environments to prioritise walking and cycling. These often create dead-ends for motorists, creating calmer, safer and more enjoyable routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

Common examples are bollards and path-only routes.

Back to Physical Activity PA1 - Walking

Back to Transport T2 - Good Connectivity

Planet-friendly/sustainable construction materials and methods

Also known as eco-friendly or green building materials, planet-friendly materials will have a lower impact on the environment due to less-intense manufacturing/processing and/or sourced from renewable resources. Buildings will still need to include non-planet-friendly materials, such as glass and concrete; however, a more sustainable balance should be aspired for.

Some examples of planet-friendly materials that are available in the UK are:

- Recycled steel
- Cross-laminated timber
- Bamboo
- Clay brick
- Rammed earth
- Softwood timber
- Solar panels
- Plants (green roof)
- Straw bale
- Reclaimed wood
- Recycled aluminium
- Natural stone
- Terrazzo

Conversely, some examples of building materials that are not as planet-friendly are:

- Plastics
- Concrete
- Glass
- Steel
- Aluminium

Apart from utilising planet-friendly materials, sustainable construction methods will:

- Optimise site potential appropriate to its setting
- Minimise energy consumption
- Protect and conserve water
- Enhance indoor environmental air quality
- Implement measures to prevent contaminants polluting the surrounding environment

The natural environment and human health are closely related. A healthy environment will mean a healthier population.

Back to Resource and Energy Minimisation

Play on the way

The concept that play can happen anywhere, and is generally supported by landscaping features that accommodate play. These could include stepping stones, a low levelled brick wall to balance on while walking, or playful design with natural landscape features, such as tree trunks. But the possibilities are endless and should be influenced by the surrounding environment.

Back to Physical Activity PA3 - Active Play

Rat-runs

Rat running is the outcome of motorists using residential side streets or any unintended short cut such as a car park or service road instead of the intended main road in urban or suburban areas.

Rat-runs increase traffic in places that are not designed as such, therefore creating an unsafe and unpleasant environment for residents and other road users.

Back to Physical Activity PA1 - Walking

Renewable energy

Energy from a source that is not depleted when used. Common examples include solar, wind, hydro, tidal, geothermal, and biomass energy.

Renewable forms of energy are important for public health as they generally emit less air pollutants.

Back to Resource and Energy Minimisation

Safety in parks for women and girls

Women and girls do not feel safe in parks and are likely to be harassed or abused in public spaces. They therefore use parks less, which is unfair, unequal and leads to inequalities in the health and wellbeing of women and girls.

The University of Leeds and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (and others) have led research and published a guidance document, which seeks to improve access to parks for women and girls. The guidance includes ten principles for successful design:

1. Busyness and activation
2. Staffing and authority figures
3. Visibility and openness
4. Escape
5. Lighting
6. Wayfinding and layout
7. Belonging and familiarity
8. Image
9. Access and location
10. Co-production and engagement

These measures to make parks safer for women and girls will also lead to good outcomes for others who may feel threatened in public spaces, such as young Black men or people within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Read the Safer Parks research and guidance online (external link)

Back to Physical Activity PA4 - Quality Public Spaces

School runs

School runs are the transport pattern of parents and guardians taking children to school by car. Drivers often park their cars in school car parks, driveways, and footpaths to drop off and pick up children at start and finish times.

Because of exact and isolated peak times and a common destination, school runs can result in dangerous levels of congestion which causes confusing and stressful conditions for all road users and has a negative impact on air quality. School runs also remove opportunities for children to be physically active by walking or cycling to school and reinforce poor travel behaviours from a young age.

School Street schemes can mitigate the negative impacts of school runs. A school street is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applies to school traffic and through traffic. The result is a safer, healthier, and pleasant environment for everyone.

Read more about School Streets online (external link)

Back to Transport T1 - Well Designed Places

Social seating (in public space planning)

Public open spaces are important for both physical activity and social connectivity. Parks and other public spaces that are designed for both are more likely to be used and provide more benefits for the surrounding population.

Rather than scattered park benches, social seating facilitates social interactions and provides informal meeting places. These don't need to be park benches but can be other flat surfaces integrated with other features, such as garden beds or swings for example.

Back to Physical Activity PA3 - Active Play

Sustainable drainage

From the Local Government Association (external link):

Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are designed to manage stormwater locally (as close to its source as possible), to mimic natural drainage and encourage its infiltration, attenuation, and passive treatment.

SuDS are beneficial for a number of reasons, including for flood risk and water quality management, biodiversity, better public open spaces and amenity, and the capacity to re-use water.

Back to Climate Change Adaptation

Tandem parking

A car parking arrangement where spaces are located one in front of another and with the potential of cars being closed in once another car is parked behind it.

These are common in higher density car-dependent neighbourhoods and increasingly common in the UK; however, they should be avoided as tandem parking spaces are often underutilised by households with two or more cars in regular use, and therefore an inefficient use of impervious paved land.

Back to Transport T4 - Car Parking

Traffic calming

Traffic calming uses physical design and other measures to improve safety for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. It can combat speeding and other unsafe behaviour, as well as reducing traffic noise. Common measures include (but are not limited to):

- Narrower lanes and carriageways
- Kerb extensions at pedestrian crossing points
- Chicanes and speed bumps
- Tight corner radii of less than three metres at street junctions and side streets
- Low speed limits of 20 miles per hour
- Raised zebra crossings
- Varied materials, such as cobblestones

View Supplementary Planning Documents

Back to Physical Activity PA1 - Walking

Back to Transport T1 - Well Designed Places

Travel plans

The National Planning Policy Framework states that all developments which generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan. The National Planning Practice Guidance further reinforces the importance of travel plans in the planning context, stating travel plans should be considered at the start of any new development proposals and integrated into the design and occupation of the new site.

Travel Plans should support Transport Assessments in taking forward the identified mitigation measures which relate to ongoing occupation and operation of the development, the local authority, and the ultimate users of the site.

A travel plan can bring several benefits to a new development:

- Less congestion and improved safety on local roads by promoting alternatives to the car
- Reduced highway capacity problems by promoting sustainable travel choices
- Local environmental improvements from reduced congestion, carbon emissions, pollution, and noise
- Making the site more attractive to potential occupiers/users
- Increased opportunities for active healthy travel, such as walking and cycling

Wider determinants of health

From the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (external link):

Wider determinants, also known as social determinants, are a diverse range of social, economic and environmental factors which impact on people's health. Such factors are influenced by the local, national and international distribution of power and resources which shape the conditions of daily life. They determine the extent to which different individuals have the physical, social and personal resources to identify and achieve goals, meet their needs and deal with changes to their circumstances. The Marmot review, published in 2010, raised the profile of wider determinants of health by emphasising the strong and persistent link between social inequalities and disparities in health outcomes. Variation in the experience of wider determinants (i.e. social inequalities) is considered the fundamental cause (the 'causes of the causes') of health outcomes, and as such health inequalities are likely to persist through changes in disease patterns and behavioural risks so long as social inequalities persist. Addressing the wider determinants of health has a key role to play in reducing health inequalities.

Several studies have attempted to estimate the contribution of the wider determinants to population health, finding that wider determinants have a greater influence on health than health care, behaviours or genetics. It is therefore an important aspect of public health in terms of informing preventative action and reducing inequality. In addition, both the Marmot review and the Dame Carol Black review highlighted the huge economic costs of failing to act on the wider determinants of health.

Back to introduction

Image credit: H Barton and M Grant

The determinants of health and well-being in our neighbourhoods