Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document

March 2022

Contents

1 Introduction

1.1   Well designed and sustainable developments can support strong, vibrant and healthier communities and help create places that encourage people to adopt healthy lifestyles. Today, the planning system has an increasingly important role to play in helping to make towns and cities healthier places to live, work and visit. Health is now embedded as a key theme throughout national and local policy, underpinning many aspects of planning to provide a more sustainable and beneficial future for the health and wellbeing of our population.

1.2   The links between town planning and public health are well established. Poor sanitary conditions and low life expectancy of urban dwellers in the 19th Century led to changes in law which brought about improvements in the health, life expectancy and living conditions of people living within industrialised towns and cities. It is now recognised that good place making and effective design in terms of layout, density, access to sunlight and daylight and the provision of attractive green spaces, are all important elements contributing to the improvement of health.

1.3   The purpose of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to provide guidance and supporting information to facilitate the delivery of healthier developments and positively influence the impact that planning decisions have on health and wellbeing in the borough.

1.4   To help achieve this, the SPD is based around ten key topic areas, which are integral to the application of:

- A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for schemes subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening; and
- A Planning for Health Checklist for all other major developments.

1.5   The SPD also sets out a clear and consistent process for calculating developer contributions to address capacity issues in the health care system that result from new development proposals. It also applies a framework for managing the provision of new hot food takeaways in the borough to help tackle obesity and other related health issues.

2 Policy background

2.1   This SPD provides guidance on how to meet the requirements pertinent to health and wellbeing in the following policies within the development plan for Wigan.

Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy, 2013:

- CP1: Health and wellbeing
- CP2: Open space, sport and recreation
- CP3: Community facilities
- CP4: Education
- CP5: Economy and employment
- CP6: Housing
- CP7: Accessibility
- CP9: Strategic landscape and green infrastructure
- CP10: Design
- CP12: Wildlife habitats and species
- CP13: Low-carbon development
- CP16: Flooding
- CP17: Environmental protection
- SP2: Our Town and Local Centres (in relation to hot food takeaways)

3 Key topic areas

3.1   The planning system plays an important role in protecting and enhancing the health and wellbeing of residents, through the creation of healthy developments and communities. Clear links between planning and health are set out in the following ten key topic areas.   For relevant proposals, developers will be required to assess and understand the impact of their schemes on health and wellbeing, informed by these ten key topic areas, through the application of either a Health Impact Assessment or Planning for Health Checklist, as applicable.

3.2   The ten key topic areas are:

> 1.   Active travel and accessibility
> 2.   Access to open space and the natural environment
> 3.   Creating great places
> 4.   Adaptation to climate change
> 5.   Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity
> 6.   Crime reduction and community safety
> 7.   Housing standards and affordability
> 8.   Access to work and training
> 9.   Access to healthy food
> 10. Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure

3.3   Not all topic areas or potential mitigation measures will be applicable or possible in all developments. The issues will vary according to local priorities and needs. These could be derived from a profile of socio-economic needs and local health assets, which could be identified through the council's Service Delivery Footprints or by community engagement. The impacts identified may be short-term, temporary related to construction, or longer-term related to the operation and maintenance of a development. Some impacts may be local or may be further afield, and some may particularly affect vulnerable or priority groups. An assessment of their appropriateness may be needed.

Active travel and accessibility

3.4   Connecting people to jobs, education and training, leisure and recreation, town and local centres, neighbouring places, extensive greenspaces and to wildlife, support services, and to each other, are critically important for health and wellbeing. Creating well connected places in an environment that encourages safe, sustainable travel options will increase physical activity and promote social interaction, as well as reducing air pollution, noise, road traffic accident rates and greenhouse gas emissions from transport.

3.5   To help promote active travel, development proposals should:

- Prioritise pedestrians and encourage walking, for example through the use of shared spaces and the provision of benches at regular intervals.
- Provide safe, well-lit and clearly signposted walking and cycling routes to existing and improved public transport services, local amenities and employment opportunities.
- Link new walking and cycling routes into existing and planned walking and cycling networks, including the waterway network.

- Provide sufficient secure cycle parking and storage in new developments, and showers and changing facilities in places of work.
- Incorporate traffic management and calming measures to create a safer environment for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Allow people with mobility problems or a disability to access buildings, places and open spaces.
- Establish 'Streets for All' principles

3.6   Further guidance is available in the council's Travel Plans SPD, as applicable.

Access to open space and the natural environment

3.7   Contact with nature is known to have positive impacts on blood pressure, cholesterol, stress and general outlook on life. A lack of access to open space and the natural environment can lead to physical inactivity, cardiovascular disease and obesity.

3.8   To help provide access to open space and the natural environment, development proposals should:

- Consider landscape and green infrastructure from the outset to ensure that habitats, biodiversity, and green and blue infrastructure can be enhanced or created; this includes making provision for nature, for example by planting trees and native species, and providing bird and bat boxes.
- Ensure that there are safe walking and cycling routes to nearby parks, local greenspace, the countryside and/or other areas of outdoor recreation.
- Provide quality amenity green space and play spaces on-site, where applicable, that are safe, easily accessible by walking and cycling and suitable for young children to use, or contribute to provision off-site.

3.9   Further guidance is available in the council's Landscape Design SPD and the Open Space in New Housing SPD, as applicable.

Creating great places

3.10   The nature of the places where people live, work, learn and spend their leisure time can strongly influence their long-term health and wellbeing. The design of buildings, streets, parks and neighbourhoods therefore plays a key role in supporting good physical and mental health, reducing health inequalities and improving wellbeing.

3.11   Through effective design, urban environments can be created where people feel safe, well-connected and want to spend their time, raising their spirits and engendering a sense of civic pride. Such places provide opportunities for social interaction, which helps to reduce social isolation and depression. Incorporating good landscape design and easy access to the natural environment, as set out in the topic area above, also forms a key component of such great places, providing contact with nature.

3.12   Living and work environments where users have sufficient space, can look out onto greenery or communal areas, and have easy access to good quality outdoor space also facilitate healthy living and can play an important part in both the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the population.

3.13   To help create great places, developments proposals should:

- Comprise clearly defined streets and spaces that are safe, social, inclusive and easy to navigate.
- Incorporate good landscape design into schemes, with safe walking and cycling connections into nearby green spaces.
- Be well integrated with their surroundings, making the most of natural connections and providing easy access to local facilities and services.
- Create healthy living and working environments, where users have sufficient space, can look out onto greenery or communal areas, and have easy access to outdoor space and green infrastructure for recreation and relaxation.

3.14   Developers will be expected to comply with design codes established by the council and/or approved as part of the planning permission. Further guidance is available in the council's Landscape Design SPD, as applicable.

Mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change

3.15   Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge the world has ever faced with clear implications on health and wellbeing. The Earth's atmosphere is warming, and in some cases, weather patterns, climates and natural environments are changing quicker than wildlife and people can adapt, with rising temperatures, rising sea levels and increased heavy rainfall, amongst other effects.

3.16   The planning profession and the development industry can play a key role in addressing climate change through appropriate mitigation and adaptation, and contributing towards carbon neutrality.

3.17   To help to mitigate and adapt to climate change, development proposals should:

- Follow the energy hierarchy which in order of importance seeks to minimise energy demand, maximise energy efficiency, utilise renewable energy, utilise low carbon energy and utilise other energy sources.
- Ensure that buildings and public spaces are designed to effectively respond to both winter and summer temperatures with good standards of acoustics, ventilation and thermal comfort.
- Consider opportunities to improve the environmental performance of buildings, including applying BREEAM standards and adopting a 'Fabric First' approach to building design.
- Create new and/or enhance existing green and blue infrastructure features in urban areas.
- Incorporate sustainable drainage systems to effectively manage surface water run-off to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere

Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity

3.18   Poor air quality from pollution and dust is linked to a number of health issues including lung disease and asthma. Excessive noise and vibration and artificial light can interfere with people's daily activities, cause sleep disturbance, stress and annoyance, reduce performance, and provoke changes in social behaviour. Links have also been found between long term exposure to transport noise and an increase in the risk of cardiovascular effects, including heart disease and hypertension.

3.19   It is therefore important that new developments are designed effectively, or incorporate appropriate mitigation measures, to minimise their impact on neighbourhood amenity.

3.20   To minimise their impact on neighbourhood amenity, development proposals should:

- Apply good design and sustainability principles and where necessary implement specific and appropriate mitigation measures, either on-site or close by.
- Manage the impact of construction activity on residents and the local environment through the preparation of, and compliance with, a Construction Environmental Management Plan. This includes proactively engaging with residents and businesses before and during construction.
- Be designed effectively to minimise emissions to air and artificial light on neighbouring properties.
- Incorporate good acoustic design, such as by containing or reducing the noise generated at source; optimising the distance between the source and noise sensitive receptors; applying adequate screening by natural or purpose built barriers or other buildings; and mitigating the impact through noise insulation and sound proofing.
- Set back development from noise sources, provide amenity space and local green spaces and use mitigation planting, including trees, to protect residents and improve the quality of the local environment.

3.21   Further guidance is also available in the council's Development and Air Quality SPD, as applicable.

Crime reduction and community safety

3.22   Crime reduction and community safety clearly impact on health and wellbeing, both directly through incidents of crime and indirectly through fear of crime. They can affect life choices, such as whether to go out and when which, in turn, can deny people opportunities and result in social isolation.

3.23   To help reduce crime and the fear of crime, and increase community safety, development proposals should:

- Apply design solutions in streets and public spaces that encourage their legitimate active or community use, including through the use of materials, effective lighting, street furniture and signage
- Avoid creating crime hotspots and optimise natural surveillance and maintain good lines of sight on walking routes.
- Be informed by effective engagement with the local community and voluntary sector as part of their design.

Housing standards and affordability

3.24   Having a secure, comfortable and affordable home is critically important for a person's health and wellbeing throughout life. There are risks to an individual's physical and mental health associated with living in:

- An unhealthy home: one that is cold, damp, or otherwise hazardous.
- An unsuitable home: one that doesn't meet the household's needs due to risks such as being overcrowded or inaccessible to a disabled or older person.
- An unstable home: one that does not provide a sense of safety and security including precarious living circumstances and/or homelessness.

3.25   To help improve housing standards and increase affordability, development proposals should:

- Provide an affordable mix of house types, sizes, and tenures to meet local needs.
- Apply appropriate interface distances, space standards and amenity space provision.
- Provide accessible and adaptable homes to meet the changing physical and care needs of current and future occupants.
- Orientate homes effectively to maximise natural light and minimise the impact of prevailing winds and the wind corridor effect.
- Provide energy efficient homes which are well insulated, adequately ventilated and not susceptible to overheating.
- Optimise quality and beauty through good architecture, layout and effective landscaping; being sympathetic to local character; establishing a strong sense of place and connecting residents with green infrastructure through easy access and views.

3.26   Further guidance is available in the council's Housing Strategy, Housing Needs Assessment, Residential Design Guide and the Open Space in New Housing SPD.

Access to work and training

3.27 Being employed and having job security are critically important for health and wellbeing. A secure job gives residents purpose, fulfilment, increased self-esteem, and a greater control of their lives, including an increased ability to access decent housing, afford nutritious food and do the things they enjoy, while being able to save for their future.

3.28 The quality and range of jobs available to borough residents is therefore very important, and planning has a key role in bringing forward a sufficient level of employment sites of the right quality, in terms of location, accommodation provision and supporting infrastructure to attract, maintain and grow businesses in the borough.

3.29 Whilst having a secure job is really important for our health, the quality of our working environment and the ability to access training and opportunities to progress are fundamental to supporting a healthy life.

3.30 The location, layout and design of workplaces can impact significantly on a person's health and wellbeing, with light and well ventilated workplaces likely to reduce ill health and employee sickness absence rates. In-work training, and apprenticeships, allows staff to gain skills and chances for progression, providing opportunities to increase their incomes and career prospects, whilst reducing socio-economic inequalities.

3.31 Engagement between businesses and schools, including work placements, mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities, can also increase aspirations, unlock potential, and help students understand the links between classroom activities and the world of work. This should enable students to be well placed to access local jobs when they leave education.

3.32 To increase access to local job and training opportunities, and the delivery of healthier working environments, development proposals should:

- Secure local employment and training agreements to ensure jobs and training are created for local people both in the construction phase and in the new businesses to be accommodated.
- Seek engagement with local schools to provide opportunities for students to gain the necessary skills and qualifications to access local employment when they leave education.
- Create a healthy and safe workplace environment for employees which is well lit, ventilated, and where possible, with good access to healthy food options and green infrastructure for exercise and relaxation.
- Secure a work travel plan to reduce traffic generation and help ensure local people can access work and training opportunities conveniently by a variety of transport modes, including walking, cycling and public transport.

3.33 Further guidance is available in the council's Travel Plan SPD and in the guidance note on securing local employment and training opportunities through the planning process (October 2021).

Access to healthy food

3.34 Access to healthy food is an important contributor to good health and well-being. Growing food is a healthy activity in itself, creates opportunities for social interaction and encourages healthy eating. Conversely, easy access to fast food is linked to obesity, diabetes, heart disease and other related illnesses.

3.35 To improve access to healthy food, development proposals should:

- Provide space for communal and individual food growing opportunities, such as allotments, community orchards etc.
- Provide provision of adequate private garden space as part of residential curtilages.
- Provide safe, convenient access to local food shops and/or farmer's markets.

3.36 To help limit accessibility to fast food, a framework to manage the provision of new hot food takeaways in the borough is set out in Section 6.

Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure

3.37 Access to good quality health and social care services and other social infrastructure plays an important role in the health and wellbeing of residents.

3.38 Poor access to quality healthcare services can exacerbate ill health and make effective treatment more difficult.

3.39 Good quality and accessible community facilities help local communities to help themselves, providing services and functions that bring people together in shared purpose or interest. This can help to engender community ownership and local pride, which can have a beneficial impact on mental health.

3.40 To help ensure access to good quality health and social care services and other community infrastructure, developers should:

- Effectively assess the capacity, location and accessibility of health infrastructure in the area and contribute effectively towards mitigating the impact of the proposed development.
- Effectively assess the capacity, location and accessibility of community facilities in the area, ensuring that appropriate provision is provided to serve local needs.

3.41 A clear and consistent process for calculating developer contributions to address capacity issues in the health care system that result from new development proposals is set out in Section 5.

4 Using the HIA Tool and the Planning for Health Checklist

4.1   New development has the potential to impact upon a wide range of matters which can affect the health and wellbeing of the population in the borough. It is therefore important that these potential impacts are fully considered as part of scheme design to help achieve healthy developments.

4.2   For this purpose, and informed by the ten key topic areas set out in Section 3, developers are required to assess and understand the impact of their schemes on health and wellbeing through the application of either a Health Impact Assessment or Planning for Health Checklist, subject to the thresholds set out in Table 1.

Use	Health Impact Assessment	Planning for Health Checklist
Residential	150 homes or more	10 - 149 homes
Residential (where number of units not known)	Over 5 hectares	0.5 - 5 hectares
Employment	Over 5 hectares	0.5 - 5 hectares
Other commercial / leisure	Over 1 hectare	Over 1,000 sq. m (or 0.5 - 1 hectares if floorspace not known)

Table 1: Thresholds for Health Impact Assessment and Planning for Health Checklist

4.3   The HIA or Planning for Health Checklist should be undertaken early in the planning process e.g. at the design stage, the pre-application stage or the EIA scoping stage.

4.4   Developers may choose to apply a HIA or the Planning for Health Checklist to development proposals that sit below the relevant thresholds in order to achieve wider, positive health and well-being benefits to the local community.

4.5   Where an extension to an existing use or uses is proposed, the health impact of the current development will be material to the HIA or Planning for Health checklist. However, a HIA or Planning for Health checklist will only be required where the additional site area or floorspace meets the thresholds set in Table 1 and will only be required for that additional floorspace.

Health Impact Assessment Tool

4.6   A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a systematic and iterative process which enables developers to assess the potential impacts of their proposals on the health and wellbeing of the population, and make appropriate amendments, as necessary, to help maximise the positive and minimise the negative impacts through scheme refinement.

4.7   The Wigan HIA tool is set out in Appendix A. It is informed by the ten key topic areas set out in Section 3, with a series of questions and a requirement for developers to provide details and evidence, including policy compliance where relevant.

4.8   An evidence based review using published research or resources is an important stage in undertaking a HIA. Relevant sources of information and key evidence are included in a separate document published separately alongside this SPD.

4.9   Informed by this evidence review, developers should assess the likely health impacts of proposals, including their nature, scale, significance, timing and distribution. The effects on different population groups, both new and existing, should also be considered, as well as any key health issues and inequalities in the local area. Engagement with the local community early in the process is encouraged, to inform the assessment and the mitigation solutions.

4.10   The findings of the assessment should identify potential changes to the proposal that could mitigate negative impacts or enhance positive impacts. The mitigation actions undertaken in the final development scheme proposal should be recorded in the submitted HIA.

Planning for Health Checklist

4.11   The Wigan Planning for Health Checklist is set out in Appendix B. It enables developers to broadly assess the potential health and wellbeing impact of proposed schemes, informed by the ten key topic areas set out in Section 3. It aims to get developers thinking about the impact of their development proposals on health and well-being at the outset, as part of the design process, so that potential negative impacts can be designed out or mitigated effectively.

4.12   It requires developers to complete three columns:

- **Assessment of health and wellbeing impact:** This should be based on the content under each topic area in Section 3, supported by evidence and policy compliance as applicable.
- **Overall impact:** This requires developers to assess whether the scheme has a positive, negative or neutral impact against each of the ten topic areas. Developers are expected to provide justification, supported by evidence where possible.
- **Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions:** This should identify the mitigation measures or design principles incorporated into the scheme to mitigate negative impacts or enhance positive impacts.

4.13   Unlike a HIA, Planning for Health checklists should not require a specialist consultant and be able to be undertaken by a developer, planning consultant or architect.

5 Developer contributions

5.1   New residential developments can place additional pressure on the capacity of existing health provision and create a need for new and/or improved services to accommodate increased demand.

5.2   The impact of proposed developments on health provision should be assessed and considered at an early stage in the planning process.

5.3   A consistent and fair approach is needed to provide clarity and certainty for developers. However, applying a standard formula to calculate developer contributions is challenging given the complexities of how health services are provided and how this can change over time.

5.4   Consequently, a four step process is set out below. This will ensure that relevant factors will be considered in a consistent way, when determining the appropriate level and type of contribution that is needed.   This includes predicting the likely demands arising from new development, an assessment of how this can be addressed through existing provision, and, if necessary, the level of additional provision needed to meet additional demand.

5.5   This relates to physical space, such as new build and physical changes to existing premises, rather than the provision of new or additional services, and to capital investment, not revenue costs.

5.6   The 4 step process is as follows:

> **Step 1: Predicting the level and type of demand the proposal will generate**
>
> This should be based on the number, size and type of homes proposed. For example, family housing would likely generate a different type and level of demand than specialist accommodation or a nursing home.
>
> **Step 2: Understanding the likely impact of the proposed development on health infrastructure capacity.**
>
> Informed by existing health infrastructure capacity within the locality, developers should assess whether the level and type of demand could be met by existing provision or if it would likely result in a deficit.
>
> **Step 3: Considering the appropriate additional capacity solution.**
>
> If step 2 identifies a need for additional capacity, the developer will need to agree with the council, in liaison with the health sector, the most appropriate solution. This could be in the form of new health facilities or adaptations and alterations to existing provision.
>
> **Step 4: Considering the appropriate form of developer contribution.**
>
> When required, the appropriate form of developer contribution will generally be either a financial contribution towards the cost of providing new or enhanced facilities; or the provision of land and/or new buildings.

5.7   Applying the 4 step process will need to be undertaken in liaison with local health bodies and other key stakeholders as applicable. If the approach identifies the need for new provision to meet additional demand, this will be a requirement of the development, subject to viability, with any new provision being built to agreed specifications, taking into account existing health infrastructure plans.

6 Managing the provision of hot food takeaways

6.1   Hot food takeaways generally sell low cost, energy-dense meals with little nutritional value that can contribute towards increasing obesity and ensuing health issues.

6.2   Data from Public Health England identifies that nearly three in four adults in the borough in 2019 were either overweight or obese compared to around two-thirds of adults in the northwest (66%) and nationally (63%). The borough also has above average levels of obesity and cardiovascular disease in children and young adults.

6.3   With over 350 hot food takeaways, the density of fast food outlets in Wigan Borough is above both the regional and national average, which indicates the link between the availability of fast food and obesity rates.

6.4   The concentration of hot food takeaways on our high streets, within our neighbourhoods, and close to schools has been recognised as a key planning issue for some time. Councils across the country are having similar issues, often in areas suffering from high levels of deprivation.

6.5   To help address this, the provision of new hot food takeaways will be restricted to appropriate locations, as set out in the blue box, taking into account the provision of existing premises and the proximity of secondary schools. Limiting new hot food takeaways in sensitive locations will help promote healthy communities and maintain the character, vitality and viability of our high streets.

6.6   Hot food takeaways are premises selling hot food, where the consumption of that food is mostly undertaken off the premises. This includes premises which provide a limited number of tables and chairs for customers, where the majority of customers consume the food off the premises.

Location of new hot food takeaways

New hot food takeaways will be restricted to designated town centres, smaller town centres and local centres, subject to:

1. Limiting the concentration of hot food takeaways within designated centres to no more than 10% of total ground floor commercial units
2. Not allowing more than 2 adjoining or adjacent hot food takeaways.
3. Where located within 400 metres of a secondary school, applying planning conditions to:
    a   Restrict hours of operation so the premises are closed to customers between 3pm and 4pm on weekdays during school term time.
    b   Ensure the availability and promotion of healthier food and drink options, at all times.

Outside of designated centres there will be a strong presumption against the provision of hot food takeaways, except within existing parades or clusters of 5 or more commercial units, where a maximum of 1 hot food takeaway (including existing provision) will be supported in principle, subject to amenity impacts.

6.7   The restrictions set in clause 3 in the box above do not apply to primary schools or colleges, as primary school children are generally collected from school by a parent or guardian and colleges generally have less fixed closing times with students able to leave the college grounds throughout the day in between lessons.

6.8   The distance between a proposed hot food takeaway and a secondary school should be measured using a circle with a 400 metre radius centred on the proposed main customer entrance of the takeaway. If obvious physical barriers exist preventing pedestrian access between the school and the proposed takeaway, such as a railway line, river or motorway, the council will take this into account as part of the assessment.

6.9   Healthier food and drink options are those whose ingredients and methods of cooking result in a product with a reduced calorific value and minimal or no saturated fat content.

6.10   We are also keen to minimise the detrimental impact of new hot food takeaways on the amenity of the area, including in terms of odour, noise, waste disposal and customer litter, disturbance, traffic and road safety.

Appendix A: Health Impact Assessment Tool

Wigan Health Impact Assessment Tool	Assess-ment	Details / evidence / policy compliance	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Active travel and accessibility				
Does the proposal prioritise pedestrians and encourage walking, for example though the use of shared spaces and the provision of benches at regular intervals?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the site layout maximise opportunities for providing safe, attractive and well signposted pedestrian and cycle links to local services, public transport and open spaces, including links into existing and planned walking and cycling networks?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal prioritise and encourage cycling, for example by providing cycling lanes, secure cycle parking and storage, and showers and changing facilities at places of work	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal include traffic management and calming measures to make pedestrians and cyclists feel safe and help minimise road injuries?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal allow people with mobility problems or a disability to access buildings, places and open spaces?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	

Wigan Health Impact Assessment Tool	Assess-ment	Details / evidence / policy compliance	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal establish 'Streets for All' principles?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal have regard to the Council's Travel Plan SPD?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Access to open space and the natural environment				
Does the proposal consider landscape and green infrastructure from the outset enabling habitats, biodiversity and green and blue infrastructure to be enhanced or created, in accordance with the Landscape Design SPD?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal provide quality amenity green space and play spaces in accordance with the Open Space in New Housing SPD, that are safe, easily accessible by walking and cycling and suitable for young children to use?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal provide safe walking and cycling access to existing public rights of way, nearby parks, local greenspace, the countryside and /or other areas of outdoor recreation, and provide improvements to the wider footpath and cycle networks where possible?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	

Wigan Health Impact Assessment Tool	Assess-ment	Details / evidence / policy compliance	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Creating great places				
Does the proposal comprise clearly defined streets and spaces that are safe, social, inclusive and easy to navigate?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal incorporate good landscape design into schemes, with safe walking and cycling connections into nearby green spaces?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal integrate well into its surroundings, make the most of natural connections and provide easy access to local facilities and services?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal create healthy living and working environments, where users have sufficient space, can look out onto greenery or communal areas, and have easy access to outdoor space and green infrastructure?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change				
Does the proposal follow the energy hierarchy?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal ensure that buildings and public spaces are designed to effectively respond to both winter and	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral	

Wigan Health Impact Assessment Tool	Assess-ment	Details / evidence / policy compliance	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
summer temperatures with good standards of acoustics, ventilation and thermal comfort?			o N/A	
Does the proposal consider opportunities to improve the environmental performance of buildings, including applying BREEAM standards and adopting a 'Fabric First' approach to building design?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal create new and/or enhance existing green and blue infrastructure features in urban areas?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal incorporate sustainable drainage systems to effectively manage surface water run-off to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity				
Does the proposal direct development to sustainable locations, apply good design and sustainability principles and where necessary implement specific and appropriate mitigation measures, either on-site or close by?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Is the proposal supported by a Construction Environmental Management Plan which will enable the impact of	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral	

Wigan Health Impact Assessment Tool	Assess-ment	Details / evidence / policy compliance	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
construction activity on residents, such as dust, noise and vibration to be well managed and minimised?			o N/A	
Is the proposal designed effectively to minimise emissions to air and artificial light on neighbouring properties?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal incorporate good acoustic design, such as by containing or reducing the noise generated at source; optimising the distance between the source and noise sensitive receptors; applying adequate screening by natural or purpose built barriers or other buildings; and mitigating the impact through noise insultation and sound proofing?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal set development back from noise sources, providing amenity space and local green spaces and using mitigation planting, including trees, to protect residents and improve the quality of the local environment?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Crime reduction and community safety				
Does the proposal help to reduce crime and the fear of crime through effective design, natural surveillance and sufficient lighting?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	

Wigan Health Impact Assessment Tool	Assess-ment	Details / evidence / policy compliance	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal optimise natural surveillance in public areas and avoid creating crime hotspots?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Has engagement and consultation been carried out with the local community and voluntary sector?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Housing standards and affordability				
Does the proposal provide an appropriate mix of house types, sizes and tenures, including affordable housing and specialist accommodation, responding to identified local housing needs?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal apply appropriate interface distances, space standards and amenity space provision?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal provide accessible and adaptable homes to meet the changing physical and care needs of current and future occupants?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal orientate homes effectively to maximise natural light and minimise the impact of prevailing winds and the wind corridor effect?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	

Wigan Health Impact Assessment Tool	Assess-ment	Details / evidence / policy compliance	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal provide energy efficient homes which are well insulated, adequately ventilated and not susceptible to overheating?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal optimise quality and beauty through good architecture, layout and effective landscaping; being sympathetic to local character; establishing a strong sense of place and connecting residents with green infrastructure through easy access and views?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Access to work and training				
Does the proposal secure local employment and training agreements to ensure training and jobs are created for local people both in the construction phase and in the new businesses to be accommodated?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal seek engagement with local schools to provide opportunities for students to gain the necessary skills and qualifications to access local employment when they leave education?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal create a healthy and safe workplace environment for employees which is well lit, ventilated,	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral	

Wigan Health Impact Assessment Tool	Assess-ment	Details / evidence / policy compliance	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
and where possible, with good access to healthy food options and green infrastructure for exercise and relaxation?			o N/A	
Does the proposal secure a work travel plan to reduce traffic generation and help ensure local people can access work and training opportunities conveniently by a variety of transport modes?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Access to healthy food				
Does the proposal provide space for communal and individual food growing opportunities, such as allotments and community orchards?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal provide provision of adequate private garden space as part of residential curtilages?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal provide safe, convenient access to local food shops and/or farmer's markets?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal avoid contributing towards an over-concentration of hot food takeaways in the local area?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure				

Wigan Health Impact Assessment Tool	Assess-ment	Details / evidence / policy compliance	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal effectively assess the capacity, location and accessibility of health infrastructure in the area and contribute effectively towards mitigating its impact?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Does the proposal effectively assess the capacity, location and accessibility of community facilities in the area, ensuring that appropriate provision is provided to serve local needs?	o Yes o No o N/A		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A	
Summary of the HIA findings				

Appendix B: Planning for Health Checklist

Topic area	Assessment of health and wellbeing impact	Overall impact	Recommended Mitigation or Enhancement Actions
1. Active travel and accessibility		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	
2. Access to open space and the natural environment		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	
3. Creating great places		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	

Topic area	Assessment of health and wellbeing impact	Overall impact	Recommended Mitigation or Enhancement Actions
4. Adaptation to climate change		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	
5. Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	
6. Crime reduction and community safety		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	

Topic area	Assessment of health and wellbeing impact	Overall impact	Recommended Mitigation or Enhancement Actions
7. Housing standards and affordability		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	
8. Access to work and training		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	
9. Access to healthy food		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	

Topic area	Assessment of health and wellbeing impact	Overall impact	Recommended Mitigation or Enhancement Actions
10. Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	
Other potential issues		o Positive o Negative o Neutral o N/A Justification:	

Topic area	Assessment of health and wellbeing impact	Overall impact	Recommended Mitigation or Enhancement Actions
Notes:			

Wigan
Council