

Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (HIA SPD)

1. Purpose of this SPD

This SPD is aimed at individuals and organisations involved in submitting a planning application as well as those involved in the determination and enforcement of planning applications, for all proposed developments (for the purposes of this document, this refers to residential, commercial and mixed developments).

Under policy HW1 of the Coventry Local Plan (see chapter 4.2 of this SPD), the Council requires applicants to mitigate against potentially significant negative health impacts. A HIA is a tool that is used to identify these impacts (and their potential severity) and to inform design of a development during the decision making process. This leads to a development which is sustainable and healthy with a strong, vibrant community. A HIA would also identify positive impacts that the proposed development might have on health and allow them to be recorded and highlighted to the community and stakeholders. This could lead to a development that is more attractive and appealing to potential customers and visitors, which can lead to an increased interest for, and value of, the proposed development.

To ensure that the potential impacts on health (during construction and long term) are considered and mitigated against for all proposed developments, the Coventry Local Plan 2011 – 2031 also encourages and recommends the completion of a health toolkit for all development proposals, including those below the threshold in the Coventry Local Plan (see Chapter 4.2).

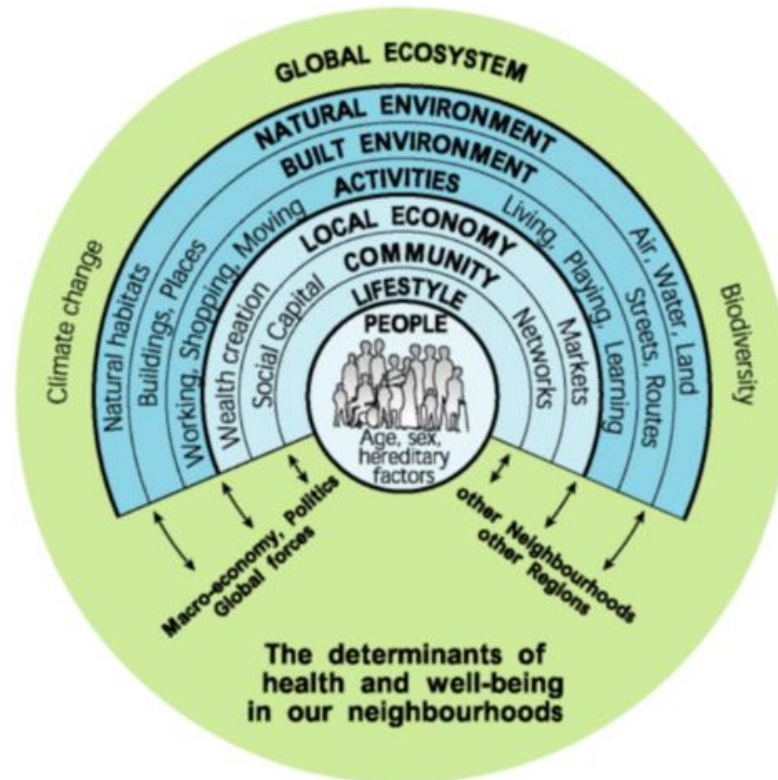
This SPD will provide information and guidance on completing the relevant health toolkit and the HIA. This SPD will also identify sources of data to consider, provide examples of health impacts of the built environment to take into consideration and examples of how to mitigate against negative health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

2. Coventry, Health and the Built Environment

Health refers to a “state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.¹ As well as access to healthcare services, the wider determinants of health also influence a population’s health. Wider determinants of health include physical and social conditions and good quality lifestyle choices, which can be impacted by the built environment (for example housing quality and design, social infrastructure, access to open space and nature, air quality, noise, neighbourhood amenity, accessibility, active travel, crime, community safety, access to healthy food, work, training and social cohesion). The health map for the local human habitat² shows the relationship between health and the physical, social and economic environment.

¹ World Health Organisation, Constitution of WHO: principles <http://www.who.int/about/mission/en/>

² Barton, H. and Grant, M. (2006) A health map for the local human habitat. The Journal for the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, 126 (6). pp 252-253. ISSN 1466-4240 developed from the model by Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991



This supports the World Health Organisation definition of a healthy city as “one that continually creates and improves its physical and social environments and expands the community resources that enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and developing to their maximum potential.”³

Health inequalities (the differences in health status between different population groups) exist in Coventry. Men in the most affluent areas of Coventry will live, on average, 9.7 years longer than men in the most deprived areas, while for women the difference is 8.7 years. Although potential health impacts in all areas of Coventry should be considered and mitigated against, and positive impacts enhanced, this is particularly important in deprived areas of the city to contribute toward reducing this inequality gap.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2016 (JSNA) looks at the current and future health and care needs of the local community. It is intended to inform and guide the planning and commissioning of health, wellbeing and social care services within a local area. It also considers factors that impact on the health and wellbeing of the local community including economic, education, housing and environmental factors; as well as local assets that can help improve health and reduce inequalities. One of the priorities from the JSNA is working together as a Marmot City to reduce health and wellbeing inequalities.

Coventry became a Marmot City in 2015. Being a Marmot City has brought together partners from different parts of Coventry City Council and from other public sector and voluntary organisations,

³ <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/urban-health/activities/healthy-cities/who-european-healthy-cities-network/what-is-a-healthy-city>

whose decisions and activities have an impact on health and who can work together to reduce health and wellbeing inequalities.

The Marmot principles from the Marmot Review (Fair Society, Healthy Lives) aim to reduce health inequality and improve health outcomes for all and have been embedded into the core functions of the council and its partners. Objectives within this review include creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities. Completing a HIA contributes towards meeting this objective.

Appendix A provides information on sources for data and information on the health and population in Coventry and nationally.

3. National Supporting Policy

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF, released in March 2012, is considered a key part of the Government's reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, to protect the environment and to promote healthy communities and sustainable growth.

Within the NPPF there is a section on promoting healthy communities (chapter 8, paragraphs 69 – 78) which covers, amongst other topics, green space, national trails & rights of way, community cohesion and education. All of these are areas that contribute to the health and wellbeing of individuals and the community. Health and the wider determinants of health are also a key part of other sections of the NPPF, including the 12 core planning principles.

Paragraph 66 states that “Applicants will be expected to work closely with those directly affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Proposals that can demonstrate this in developing the design of the new development should be looked on more favourably.” Completing a HIA is an ideal way for the developers to engage with the community and evidence the outcome of this as well as to account for the wider determinants of health in the consideration of a new development.

3.2 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

The NPPG provides guidance on how local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure, are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision-making and that there is recognition of the role that new developments can have on health.

The NPPG also provides information on the range of issues to consider through the decision-making process in developments in respect of health and healthcare infrastructure. There is also reference in the NPPG to the HIA and acknowledgement as to how a HIA can be a useful tool where there might be significant health impacts, therefore supporting Coventry's HIA policy.

3.3 Localism Act (2011)

The Localism Act empowers community and voluntary groups to get involved and work innovatively to support new ideas. A HIA can help to create very good stakeholder engagement, including with the community.

3.4 Health and Social Care Act 2012

Local Authorities are required to use all levers at their disposal to improve health and wellbeing through the Health and Social Care Act and therefore the promotion of health and wellbeing is being addressed in all departments in the council, which includes the Planning department.

3.5 Social Value Act 2012

This requires public authorities to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts and for connected purposes. A recommendation from national work to develop a path for integrating social value into Planning recommends that Social Value is explicitly linked to new developments to ensure that the community and social factors are considered. Social Value is therefore referred to in Chapter 5.2 – Considerations and possible effects of planning on health.

4. Locally Supporting Policy

4.1 Coventry and Warwickshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan

This aims to deliver the NHS Five Year Forward View and make health services sustainable for the future. Preventing people from becoming ill is crucial to managing demand. Using a HIA to inform the design of a development will help to maximise the positive health impacts and minimise the adverse ones, contributing to preventing ill-health and improving the health and wellbeing of the population, therefore contributing to the delivery of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

4.2 Coventry Local Plan 2011 - 2031

The development of the Coventry Local Plan has identified nine key objectives, all of which impact on the wider determinants of health. The introduction to the Coventry Local Plan lists the supporting policies to these key objectives.

For the first time in over fifty years, the Local Plan for Coventry has a chapter and policy explicitly based on health – “*Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents*” and *Policy HW1*. This reinforces the Government approach to having health in all policies and enables health implications to be taken into consideration during the decision making in development design.

Policy HW1: Health Impact Assessments (HIA)

1. All major development proposals will be required to demonstrate that they would have an acceptable impact on health and wellbeing. This should be demonstrated through a:
 - a. HIA where significant impacts on health and wellbeing would arise from that proposal; or
 - b. HIA Screening Report which demonstrates that the proposed development would not overall give rise to negative impacts in respect of health and wellbeing.
2. All HIAs shall be undertaken in accordance with the Council’s HIA Supplementary Planning Document.
3. Where a development has significant negative or positive impacts on health and wellbeing the Council may require applicants to provide for the mitigation or provision of such impacts through planning conditions and/or financial/other contributions secured via planning obligations and/or the Council’s CIL Charging Schedule

The Coventry Local Plan defines major development proposals, for these purposes, as:

- a) The use of land for mineral-working deposits;
- b) Waste development;
- c) All forms of residential development where:
 - (i) The number of homes to be provided is 150 or more; or
 - (ii) The site area is 5 hectares or more and it is not known whether the development falls within sub-paragraph (c)(i)
- d) All forms of urban development (not involving housing) where:
 - (i) The area of development exceeds 1 hectare; or
 - (ii) In the case of industrial estate development exceeds 5 hectares

For the purposes of this SPD a home, mentioned in c) (i) above, refers to a dwelling that comes under C3(a), C3(b), C3(c) classes of use and Sui Generis (for example, a student accommodation block consisting of 150 bedrooms would meet the threshold for a HIA, regardless of the layout).

The Local Plan will be supported by a variety of additional documents, as well as this HIA SPD. These also need to be followed by applicants (when applicable to the proposed development) and can impact the health of new and existing populations, in particular:

- City Centre Area Action Plan
- Affordable Housing and Infrastructure SPD
- Air Quality SPD
- Coventry Connected (Transport) SPD
- Delivering a More Sustainable City SPD
- Hot Food Takeaways SPD
- Sustainable Urban Extension Design Guide SPD
- Tree Protection SPD
- The Community Infrastructure Levy
- Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) Design Guide

4.3 Coventry Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016 -2019

This identifies priorities that the Health and Wellbeing Board believe will make the biggest difference to the lives of people in Coventry.

This strategy recognises that creating health, wealth and happiness in Coventry requires more than simply managing people's health problems. People who have good jobs, good housing and are connected to families and their communities feel and stay healthier and live longer lives. The priorities in this strategy have been identified as:

- Working together as a Marmot City to reduce health and wellbeing inequalities
- Improving the health and wellbeing of individuals with multiple complex needs
- Developing an integrated health and care system that provides the right help and support to enable people to live their lives well.

Carrying out a HIA will allow an applicant to identify where impacts might have a negative impact on one or more of these three priorities and therefore gives the opportunity for mitigating actions to be put in place.

5. Toolkit to Identify Health Impacts

The Coventry Local Plan states that all developments (notwithstanding the thresholds identified for the HIA policy) will be encouraged and recommended to complete a Health Impacts Toolkit created by Birmingham City Council. At the time of publishing this SPD, the toolkit from Birmingham City Council was still in development. In its absence, Coventry City Council advise that developers complete the Healthy Developments Template (Appendix B) and submit it with all development applications (adapted from an Assessment Matrix created by the Healthy Urban Development Unit⁴).

The Healthy Developments Template is designed to be used as early as possible in the planning process (i.e. by the pre-application stage) to help inform decision making, for a development proposal to have the best possible impact on health, and it is an overview of some of the broad determinants that impact health and wellbeing. The Healthy Developments Template has not been designed to create extra work, but to compliment a variety of policies contained in the Coventry Local Plan that can impact the wider determinants of health and is a tool to allow existing work to be recorded, from a health perspective.

5.1 Process for using the Healthy Developments Template for proposed developments:

- 1) Consider each of the criteria listed (in the 11 different categories) in the Healthy Development Template early in the planning stage of the proposed development and then identify which criteria are relevant to the development. The 'Details/evidence' column needs to be completed for each of the criteria, including those that are deemed to be not relevant. Some of these criteria could be subjective and therefore the detail to be provided should be as clear as possible.

If the Healthy Development Template is completed in the very early stages of a proposed development, it may not be clear whether some of the criteria in the Template are going to be met. If this is the case, the 'Details/evidence' column should be used to record this information.

- 2) Investigate these relevant criteria in more depth, looking at why the criteria is, or is not, relevant to the proposal and the evidence. This evidence can come from a wide range of sources, many of which will be collected as part of the planning application (for example, the design and access statement, environmental statement, transport assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment). Some other possible sources of evidence are listed in Appendix A.
- 3) This evidence can then be used to inform whether the potential health impact is likely to be positive, negative or neutral. These health impacts may be short-term (for example, relating to construction) or longer-term (for example, the ongoing management of the development), or both. Similarly, some impacts may have a local impact, whilst others may have a wider impact. This information should be used to complete the 'Potential Health Impact' column.

⁴ <http://www.healthyurbandevlopment.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/HUDU-Rapid-HIA-Tool-3rd-edition-April-2017.pdf>

On occasion there may be a lack of data on certain aspects of the proposed development, in which case the potential impact should be marked as uncertain, and further investigations should be done.

- 4) The last criteria for each of the 11 categories refers to the potential impact on health inequalities of the proposed development. As with the other criteria, the 'Details/evidence' column needs to be completed, including those that are not relevant.
- 5) Where a potential health impact (including health inequality impact) is identified, the recommended mitigations (for negative health impacts) and recommended enhancement actions (for positive health impacts) column on the Healthy Development Template should be completed.

Whether the evidence indicates that the impact (either positive or negative) is likely to be significant or not should also be recorded in the 'Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions' column on the Healthy Developments Template. Recommended actions to mitigate against negative (or enhance positive) health impacts only need to be completed on the Healthy Development Template when the impacts are likely to be significant.

This gives the opportunity for the development plans to be updated accordingly at an early stage (avoiding potentially costly adjustments to design further down the line).

The completed Healthy Development Template should be submitted to Coventry City Council with the Planning Application.

Although the Healthy Developments Template shows categories and criteria that are likely to influence health and wellbeing, it should not be taken as an exhaustive list. Extra criteria can be added to the template as necessary for a particular proposed development.

5.2 Considerations and possible effects of planning on health

Table 1, adapted from the Healthy Urban Development Unit, shows some of the potential health impacts that planning can have on the 11 different categories within the toolkit and some potential areas for a developer to consider during the planning process, including recommendations from the HIA carried out on the draft Coventry Local Plan and draft City Centre Area Action Plan in 2016.

The considerations and potential health impacts will help support the completion of the Healthy Development Template and therefore the design of the proposed development.

Table 1: Considerations and possible impacts on Health

Category 1: Housing Quality and Design

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

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible and adaptable dwellings • Internal space standards, orientation and layout • Affordable housing and dwelling mix • Energy efficiency • High Quality Design 	<p>A lack of affordable housing within communities may compromise the health of low-income residents as they are likely to spend more on housing costs and less on other daily living needs.</p>	<p>Making provision for affordable housing has the potential to improve wellbeing, while housing quality can be improved by use of appropriate construction methods. This includes use of good materials for noise insulation and energy-efficiency, and detailed design considerations to make sure that homes are accessible, adaptable and well oriented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC2: Road Network • DE1: Ensuring High Quality Design • DS3: Sustainable Development Policy • EM2: Building Standards • EM5: Sustainable Drainage Systems SuDS • H3: Provision of New Housing • H4: Securing a Mix of Housing • H5: Managing Existing Housing Stock • H6: Affordable Housing • H8: Care Homes, Supported Housing, Nursing Homes and Older Persons accommodation • Coventry Connected (Transport) SPD • Delivering a more Sustainable City SPD
	<p>Poor choice of location, design and orientation of housing developments can be detrimental to physical and mental health.</p>	<p>Providing a sufficient range of housing tenures with good basic services is also essential. Adaptable buildings for community uses such as health, education and leisure can contribute towards a sustainable community.</p>	
	<p>The quality of design, including internal sound insulation, daylighting and provision of private space can influence the health and wellbeing of occupiers.</p>	<p>Providing adaptable homes allows residents to remain in their home despite changing accommodation requirements. In this context, adaptable housing allows care to be</p>	

		provided in the community more easily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Urban Extension Design Guide SPD
--	--	--	--

Category 2: Access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure

Social infrastructure includes; education (primary, secondary, higher and special needs); health facilities (hospitals and primary care providers); social services; emergency services (police, fire and ambulance); and other community facilities, such as cultural facilities, libraries, cemeteries and community halls.

Strong, vibrant, sustainable and cohesive communities require good quality, accessible public services and infrastructure. Access to social infrastructure and other services is a key component of Lifetime Neighbourhoods.

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

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs and demand for services Capacity of existing healthcare services, education services and social infrastructure Timing, location and accessibility and developer contributions Reconfiguring health and social care services Access and use of buildings by disabled and older people 	Failing to plan for the social infrastructure needs in an area can exacerbate pressure of existing services and worsen health outcomes and inequalities	The provision of accessible healthcare services and other social infrastructure to support population growth and change is an essential component of creating sustainable, healthy communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC1: Accessible Transport Network CO1: New or improved social community and leisure premises CO2: Re-Use of or Redevelopment of facilities H3: Provision of New Housing H8: Care Homes, Supported Housing, Nursing Homes and Older Persons accommodation IM1: Developer Contributions for Infrastructure JE1: Overall Economy and Employment Strategy
	The under-provision of key services can contribute towards unnecessary extra travel, which can damage the environment and social cohesion	The planning system can help modernise facilities and improve the quality of services. Developer contributions can help provide and fund new facilities.	
	For those with mobility problems, including older people, poor access to local services could limit opportunities for social	Co-locating some services can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery, for example, primary health and social care, dentistry and pharmacies	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Access Automated External Defibrillators 	interaction and lead to isolation and depression.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JE7: Accessibility to Employment Opportunities R2: Coventry City Centre – Development Strategy Coventry Connected (Transport) SPD Community Infrastructure Levy
		Access to a range of education, primary, secondary and post-19 improves self-esteem, job opportunities, support to residents in applying for jobs and earning capability.	
		Rapid access to CPR and defibrillation can save lives.	

Category 3: Access to open space and nature

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

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

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for physical activity Access to open and natural space, including water fronts Formal and informal outdoor play spaces Maintenance of open space and sports facilities Integration with other outdoor uses such as growing food 	Failing to protect local green spaces and playing fields near to communities can limit opportunities for physical activity.	The provision of publicly accessible blue space, green spaces and play spaces can encourage physical activity and maintain or improve mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DE1: Ensuring High Quality Design DS3: Sustainable Development Policy EM4: Flood Risk Management EM5: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) H3: Provision of New Housing GE1: Green Infrastructure GE2: Green Space IM1: Developer Contributions for Infrastructure
	Green spaces that are of poor quality, feel unsafe, or are inaccessible will discourage physical activity and social interaction	A growing population, particularly an increase in children will require a range of formal and informal play spaces and equipment	
	Failing to provide a range of different types of open and play spaces may place pressure on	Natural spaces and tree cover provide areas of shade and can improve air quality in urban areas	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximising green infrastructure in urban environments (including green roof systems and gardens and green walls) 	existing spaces where formal and informal activities may conflict with each other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R2: Coventry City Centre – Development Strategy Community Infrastructure Levy
		There may be opportunities to integrate play spaces with other related health and environmental programmes such as food growing and increasing biodiversity	
		Green walls can also provide insulation or shading and cooling	
		Green infrastructure can reduce flood risk	

Category 4: Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity

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

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction impacts Air quality Land contamination Noise, vibration and odour Quality of local environment Provision of green space and trees 	The construction process can result in exposure to land contamination, deterioration in air quality and nuisance from noise, dust, vibration and odours.	The use of construction management plans can lessen construction impacts, particularly hours of working and construction traffic movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC1: Accessible Transport Network AC2: Road Network AC3: Demand Management DE1: Ensuring High Quality Design DS4: General Masterplan Principles EM4: Sustainable Drainage Systems EM7: Air Quality GE1: Green Infrastructure GE2: Green Space GE4: Tree Protection
	High level of road traffic and congestion generated by new developments can result in higher levels of air pollution and noise	Travel plans for construction and the future community and reduced levels of car parking which encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking will result in better local environmental conditions	
	The close proximity of residential units to industrial	Good design and the sensitive location and orientation of	

	uses or uses generating late night noise can cause nuisance	residential units can lessen noise impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H3: Provision of New Housing • Air Quality SPD • Coventry Connected (Transport) SPD • Delivering a Sustainable City SPD • Sustainable Urban Extension Design Guidance SPD
		Natural spaces and trees can improve the air quality in urban areas	

Category 5: Accessibility and active travel

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

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streetscape (visual element of the street) • Opportunities for walking and cycling • Access to public transport • Minimising the need to travel • Discouraging car use • Road Traffic Injuries 	Greater traffic volumes and speeds have increased the risk of road traffic injuries, with pedestrians and cyclists being particularly vulnerable.	Combining active travel and public transport options can help people achieve recommended daily physical activity levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC1: Accessible Transport Network • AC3: Demand Management • AC4: Walking and Cycling • AC5 Bus and Rapid Transport • AC6: Rail • CO1: New or improved social community and leisure premises • DE1: Ensuring High Quality Design • DS3: Sustainable Development Policy • DS4: General Masterplan Principles
	Poor urban planning can prioritise the car over pedestrians and cyclists, and increase community severance.	Consideration inclusive design, access, orientation and streetscape during the design process can make it easier for people to access facilities using public transport, walking or cycling.	
	Over provision of car parking in a development can undermine other travel modes such as public transport and cycling.	Reduced levels of car parking and travel plans which encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking will result in increased opportunities for active travel.	

		<p>Cycling and walking can be promoted by connecting routes and public to wider networks, providing safe junctions, 20mph speed limits in new residential developments and calming traffic and providing secure cycle parking spaces.</p> <p>Provision of secure cycle parking, showers and cycle lanes and suitable routes can also promote walking and cycling, as can provision of routes and spaces that are green</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM7: Air Quality • H3: Provision of New Housing • IM1: Developer Contribution for Infrastructure • R2: Coventry City Centre – Development Strategy • Air Quality SPD • Coventry Connected SPD • Delivering a Sustainable City SPD • Community Infrastructure Levy • Sustainable Urban Extension Design Guide SPD
--	--	--	--

Category 6: Crime reduction and community safety

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

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing out crime • Security and street surveillance • Mix of uses • Community engagements • Major accidents/disasters 	Poor urban design can exacerbate crime and community safety by creating under-used, isolated spaces without natural surveillance and segregate places by creating barriers such as roads.	The detailed design and layout of residential and commercial areas can ensure natural surveillance over public space. This can be assisted by creating places which enable possibilities for community interaction and avoiding social exclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DE1: Ensuring High Quality Design • DS4: General Masterplan Principles
	Where the local pedestrian environment is intimidating and inconvenient people are more likely to use cars more or go out less. This can reduce social	Active use of street and public spaces, combined with effective lighting, is likely to decrease opportunities for anti-social behaviour or criminal activity	

	interaction and reduce physical activity.		
		Developers can work with the police to get their advice on making development proposals 'secure by design'. They can also involve communities to foster a sense of ownership and empowerment, which can also help to enhance community safety.	

Category 7: Access to healthy food

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

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

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy, localised food supply • Hot Food Takeaways • Social enterprises • Allotments and community food growing spaces 	The centralisation of shopping facilities and growth of large supermarkets can reduce the variety of foods available locally and disadvantage those on limited income to afford a healthy diet	By considering food access, location and how to facilitate social enterprises, planners can help to create the conditions that enable low income people to have better and affordable access to nutritious food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H3: Provision of New Housing • R6: Restaurants, bars and Hot Food Takeaways • Hot Food Take Away SPD
	Redevelopment of local allotments, gardens or agricultural land can also reduce the potential for locally grown food	Urban planning can preserve and protect areas for small-scale community projects and local food production, including allotments	

	An overconcentration of hot food takeaways can restrict healthy eating choices	Urban planning can promote and increase the diversity of shopping facilities in local centres, and limit concentrations of hot food takeaways.	
--	--	--	--

Category 8: Access to work and training

Employment and income is a key determinant of health and wellbeing. Unemployment generally leads to poverty, illness and a reduction in personal and social esteem.

Work can aid recovery from physical and mental illnesses.

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to employment and training • Job diversity • Business support • Social Value 	Locating employment in inaccessible locations or failing to provide diversity of local jobs or training opportunities can negatively affect health, including mental wellbeing, both directly and indirectly.	Urban planning linked to clear strategies for economic regeneration, allocation of appropriate sites and coordination of infrastructure provision can help to facilitate attractive opportunities for business, encourage diversity in employment and ensure that local jobs are retained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC1: Accessible Transport Network • AC2: Road Network • DS3: Sustainable Development Policy) • DS4: General Masterplan Principles • JE1: Overall Economy and Employment Strategy • JE2: Provision of Employment Land and Premises • JE4: Location of Office Development • JE5: Location of R & D, Industrial and Storage/Distribution Development • JE7: Accessibility to Employment Opportunities • R1: Delivering Retail Growth
	A poor quality environment and lack of infrastructure can make places less competitive or attractive to business investment.	Equitable transport strategies can play an important role in providing access to job opportunities. The provision of local work can encourage shorter trip lengths, reduce emissions from transport and enable people to walk or cycle.	
	A lack of business and employee support through affordable business space and childcare provision can hinder economic	Access to other support services, notably childcare, can make employment opportunities easier to access	

	and growth and employment opportunities.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality SPD • Coventry Connected (Transport) SPD
--	--	--	---

Category 9: Social cohesion and lifetime neighbourhoods

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

Voluntary and community groups, properly supported, can help to build up networks for people who are isolated and disconnected, and to provide meaningful interaction to improve mental wellbeing.

Lifetime Neighbourhoods places the design criteria of Lifetime Homes into a wider context. It encourages planners to help create environments that people of all ages and abilities can access and enjoy

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social interaction • Mixed Communities • Access to community facilities • Voluntary sector involvement • Community Severance • Lifetime neighbourhoods • Social Value 	Social cohesion can be undermined by intensive housing redevelopment and dispersal of resident communities	Urban planning can help to facilitate social cohesion by creating safe and permeable environments with places where people can meet informally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC4: Walking and Cycling • CO1: New or improved social community and leisure premises • CO2: Re-Use of or Redevelopment of Facilities • DS3: Sustainable Development Policy) • DS4: General Masterplan Principles • H3: Provision of New Housing • IM1: Developer Contributions for Infrastructure • JE1: Overall Economy and Employment Strategy
	Community cohesion can also be affected by infrastructure such as roads or other development that severs community links. Large schemes may disrupt familiar walking routes, or create a barrier to movement	Mixed-use developments in town centres and residential neighbourhoods can help to widen social options for people.	
	Poor planning may also result in the loss of community facilities	The provision of a range of diverse local employment opportunities (paid and unpaid) can also improve both social cohesion and mental wellbeing.	

		The planning system can be used to help the process of providing a range of facilities and providing opportunities for improving levels of equity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coventry Connected (Transport) SPD Community Infrastructure Levy
--	--	--	---

Category 10: Minimising the use of resources

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

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive Effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making the best use of existing land Recycling and reuse Sustainable design and construction Waste management Potential hazards Social Value 	If left unchecked, disposal of significant hazardous waste can have a serious impact on the health of those communities living near to collection or disposal sites.	Correct hazardous waste disposal, as well as using local recycled and renewable materials whenever possible in the building construction process minimises the environment impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DS3: Sustainable Development Policy EM3: Renewable Energy Generation EM8: Waste Management EM6: Redevelopment of previously developed land EM1: Planning for Climate Change Adaptation EM2: Building Standards EM9: Safeguarding Mineral Resources R2: Coventry City Centre: Development Strategy Delivering a More sustainable City SPD
	Sending out waste from a redevelopment site to be sorted or disposed of can increase vehicle movements, emissions and cause significant disruption including noise and dust which can contribute towards health problems for residents.	Redevelopment on brownfield sites or derelict urban land also ensures that land is effectively used, recycled and enhanced.	
	There are also ecological impacts (stripping of materials, mining for minerals etc.) through excessive use of resources from a scarce global environment.	Through encouraging reduction, reuse and recycling, resource minimisation can be better realised and contribute towards a better environment. Examples of various standards to consider include BREEAM (Building Research	

		Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and CEEQUAL (Civil Engineering Environmental Quality assessment), which are benchmarking tools for non-residential building and infrastructure projects as well as considering water efficiency measures	
--	--	---	--

Category 11: Climate Change

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

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

Considerations	Negative effects	Positive effects	Relevant Local Plan Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy • Sustainable transport • Building design • Biodiversity • Flood risk and drainage • Social Value 	Proposed developments can exacerbate the impacts of climate change by failing to consider relevant influences such as location, materials, designs or technologies that could help to reduce energy consumption or reduce the environmental impact of energy generation.	Proposed developments can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by requiring lower energy use in buildings and transport, and by encouraging renewable energy sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC3: Demand Management • AC4: Walking and Cycling • AC5 Bus and Rapid Transport • AC6: Rail • DS3: Sustainable Development Policy • DS4: General Masterplan Principles

	<p>Building in flood plain areas or a lack of local sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) may lead to greater flood risk.</p>	<p>Proposed developments can address sustainability and environmental considerations through the use of standards that will help to reduce energy demands and increase the amount of renewable energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM1: Planning for Climate Change Adaptation • EM2: Building Standards • EM3: Renewable Energy Generation • EM4: Flood Risk Management • EM5: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) • EM7: Air Quality • GE1: Green Infrastructure • GE3: Biodiversity, Geological, Landscape and Archaeological Conservation
	<p>Neglecting to consider the microclimate for the siting of a proposed development, and the influence the development might have on that microclimate, could lead to new buildings that are neither suitable nor adaptable to their environment.</p>	<p>Design techniques can ensure that new housing and public realm can adapt to changes in temperature.</p>	
		<p>Flood risk can be reduced through a sequential approach to locating development and by introducing mitigation measures, such as sustainable drainage systems in new developments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality SPD • Coventry Connected (Transport) SPD • Delivering a More Sustainable City SPD
		<p>Designing Sustainable Drainage Systems and other flood alleviation measures to mitigate against potential future flooding through more extreme events caused by climate change, will minimise the risk of future flooding and/or the need for costly retrofitting of drainage infrastructure or property level resilience.</p>	

Although completion of the Healthy Development Template is the responsibility of the applicant, Public Health at Coventry City Council are available to provide further guidance during the process. It is recommended that the Healthy Developments Template is discussed with Public Health as early as possible in the design process. Frequently asked Questions and further information around pre-application advice can be found at www.coventry.gov.uk/planningapplications .

6. Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

6.1 Introduction to HIA

A HIA is “a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population”⁵

Another definition is “A structured method for assessing and improving the health consequences of projects and policies in the non-health sector. It is a multidisciplinary process combining a range of qualitative and quantitative evidence in a decision making framework”⁶

There is an increased understanding on how the environment we live in, including the built environment, can impact our health. A HIA contributes towards improving the wider determinants of health (for example, by working towards sustainable development, aiming for fairness and equity for all, targeting disadvantaged and marginalised groups, encouraging the full participation of those likely to be affected by the development and making use of both qualitative and quantitative evidence). A HIA is a democratic tool, with good quality community consultation, and by carrying out a HIA as early as possible it can be used to inform decisions during the planning of a new development.

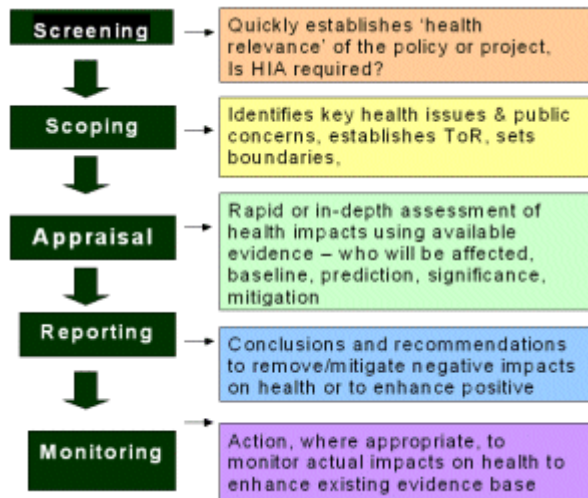
6.2 Carrying out a HIA

Useful resources describing the HIA process and the different stages involved are listed in Appendix A. These guides offer a detailed description of the process, and also emphasise the importance of when a HIA should be carried out. It is recommended that a HIA is carried out as early as possible (i.e. at the pre-application stage) in the design process. This is to inform decision making to allow the maximum mitigation of any health impacts identified. Any intervention at this early stage can allow for early adjustments to the design, preventing potentially costly amendments in the future.

The following is a brief overview to carrying out a HIA and is not meant as a thorough guide to complete a HIA. Although there is no set methodology for a HIA, most follow the stages mentioned below. There are normally five stages involved in a HIA and they are briefly described below (please note, this is a summary and Appendix A has existing, detailed, guidance on completing HIAs):

⁵ World Health Organisation, Definitions of HIA, www.who.int/hia/about/defin/en/

⁶ Karen Lock. British Medical Journal, 320, pp 1395 – 1398 (2000)



1) Screening

This stage identifies whether or not the remaining stages of a HIA are necessary for a particular proposal, by a quick review of any potential health impacts. Although other methods can be used for screening for a HIA, Coventry City Council recommend that the Healthy Developments Template (see Chapter 5) is used for the screening. Stages one to four of the process in Chapter 5.1 should be completed for the Screening stage of the HIA.

If the evidence shows that all of the relevant assessment criteria in the 11 categories are likely to have neutral or positive impact on health (or a reduction in the case of health inequalities) or no significant negative impact on health, the results can be recorded on the Healthy Developments Template and the HIA can be ended at this stage. It is best practice to still consider and record actions to enhance potential positive impacts and feed this in to decision-making. If there is no need to continue to the other stages of the HIA, a screening report should be completed (consisting of the Healthy Developments Template, if used and a summary explaining why a full HIA does not need to be undertaken) and submitted with the Planning Application to Coventry City Council.

If the evidence shows that any of the assessment criteria are likely to have a significant negative health impact (or the health impact is uncertain), this must be recorded and the remaining stages of the HIA completed.

2) Scoping

The Scoping stage allows for the design and planning of the HIA, it determines the focus, methods and work plan. Areas for consideration include timescales, geographical boundaries, resources available, who should be involved (in terms of stakeholders, a steering group and decision makers), how they should be involved, the type of HIA (desktop, rapid or comprehensive), whether it is to be carried out internally or commissioned externally and methods for collecting evidence.

⁷ <http://www.who.int/hia/tools/en/>

By the end of the scoping stage, the chosen methodology for the specific HIA will have been identified (having the greatest potential influence on the decision-making process), as will the stakeholders to be involved and evidence to be appraised. This information will be recorded in a scoping report.

3) Appraisal (of the evidence)

This stage involves establishing the potential type, magnitude, probability and distribution of both the potential positive and negative health impacts identified in the screening stage, using the knowledge and evidence available. This will include analysing data from a variety of sources (some sources of health and population data are listed in Appendix A) and through engagement with stakeholders and the community as appropriate. To successfully complete a HIA there needs to be an understanding of the demographic, health and economic situation in the area.

At the end of this stage there will be a list of the potential health impacts (positive and negative) that the development might have on different populations of the existing community, new community and visitors to the area. These impacts will include cumulative impacts that might emerge through combined effects of nearby developments.

4) Reporting and Recommendations

The report should include the methodology used at different stages of the HIA and the evidence and information gathered. This should be collated and presented appropriately. As the purpose of a HIA is not only to identify whether or not there is a significant health impact, but also help recommend mitigating actions, this report must include a list of recommendations, based on and showing the evidence gathered through the previous stages of the HIA. These recommendations should enhance positive impacts that the development might have on health and wellbeing as well as recommend actions to mitigate against potential negative impacts on health that have been identified.

Chapter 5.2, shows some of the potential health impacts that planning can have on the 11 different categories within the toolkit and some potential areas for a developer to consider during the planning process.

5) Monitoring and Evaluation

Stage 5 of a HIA provides an opportunity to both monitor and evaluate. Evaluation is concerned with looking at the production of the HIA, the extent to which the HIA has influenced the decision making process, i.e. whether the recommendations were adopted. This is important as it identifies where the process of producing HIAs can be improved in the future.

Monitoring provides an opportunity to identify how the development affected the health and well-being of the community (the existing community in the area and the new community of the development). The report and recommendations from stage 4 should include the recommendations for monitoring the health impact of the development in the future and sharing this information with Coventry City Council.

The HIA should be submitted with the Planning Application to Coventry City Council.

Public Health will assess all HIAs that they receive, using the “Review package for Health Impact Assessment Reports of Development Projects” (see Appendix A). This will allow for a robust and consistent review method and ensure that all HIAs are thorough, fit for purpose, and give an accurate assessment of likely health impacts. If a HIA has omitted key points or if it does not receive a Grade A or B through this assessment, this will be communicated with the applicant and Coventry City Council may request that the applicant carries out the HIA again or resubmits the HIA with the required extra information as necessary. If these issues remain and the HIA does not meet these required standards for an application over the threshold described for policy HW1 (see section 4.2), it may be refused.

Although completing the HIA is the responsibility of the applicant, Public Health at Coventry City Council are able to provide further guidance on carrying out the HIA throughout the process, including identifying potential mitigating factors. It is recommended that a proposed development is discussed as early as possible with Public Health during the design process. Such advice may incur a fee, primarily at the pre-application stage. The nature of this fee will be developed in due course, but will be reflective of the Council’s other pre-application schedules. Further information can be found at www.coventry.gov.uk .