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choice

# Health Impact Assessment

## Screening Tool

Toolkit produced by: Public Health  
Toolkit version: 1.2  
HIA version: 1.0  
Date HIA completed: 23/11/2015

***Health is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity but a state of complete physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being.  
(modified by M. Birley (2013) from World Health Organisation's definition – 1948)***

**Title of policy, programme or project ("activity") to be assessed:**

**Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies**

**What is the activity about? What is the context outlined for the activity? (e.g. policy context, history, background)**

The activity is the preparation of Part 2 of the non-minerals and waste element of the Council's development plan/Local Plan. The Core Strategy, adopted in January 2011, is Part 1 of the Local Plan. Part 2 is a complementary document to the Core Strategy; it provides more detail on specific land allocations for different purposes including employment and housing, it sets out the infrastructure requirements for the successful delivery of the identified sites and development management policies for the determination of every planning application.

The Local Plan period extends over 15 years to 2026.

Planning legislation and national planning policy requires local planning authorities such as the Council to have a Local Plan in place and be up to date. National planning policy places Local Plans at the centre of the planning system.

Planning Practice Guidance states that:

*'Local Plans set out a vision and framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as the basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design. They are also a critical tool in guiding decisions about individual development proposals....'*

Legislation (Localism Act 2011) places a legal duty on local planning authorities and other bodies to cooperate with each other to address strategic cross boundary matters in the preparation of their development plan/Local Plan. The prescribed 'other bodies' includes health organisations. On this basis both the BwD Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England (Lancashire Area Team) were involved in the preparation and content of the plan.

**Does this activity have the potential to impact on health? Explain**

*(please consult appropriate Public Health colleague if you are unsure or require further information)*

The plan does have the potential to impact on health.

The plan gives the Council the ability to:-

- Plan for and meet the needs of the borough to the end of the plan period in 2026, and;
- Manage and influence the impact of development on health throughout the design, construction and operational stages including in some cases ongoing maintenance and management.

The plan's approach is grounded in the Council's vision to make the borough a better place for the benefit of all groups – both established and newcomers.

The plan's employment and housing land allocations have been identified to support housing and economic growth in response to anticipated demographic changes and to encourage/promote/provide opportunities for investment in new and established housing, jobs/business, infrastructure, transport, services and public facilities.

The plan's development management policies will be applied, as appropriate, equally and equitably to the consideration of and decisions made on all development proposals included with a planning application. The obligation for scheme proposals to meet policy requirements puts the Council in a strong position to influence and secure a satisfactory scheme. It equally enables the Council to resist development which is of poor quality, not in keeping with its strategy and/or likely to incur a negative impact on people and/or the environment.

The plan recognises that planning can make a vital contribution to improving health. It acknowledges that:

*'In some instances a proposed development may have a direct impact on people's health. In other cases it may contribute to poor health by encouraging or making it easy for individuals to make unhealthy choices.'*

The plan includes a specific policy (Policy 33: Health) intended to manage the impact of development on public health and improve health outcomes; it makes particular reference to obesity and related disorders, and illnesses associated with alcohol or smoking. A draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to provide additional guidance on the application of this policy; this will support delivery of the Local Plan in ensuring that health implications are considered at the outset by developers and businesses. The SPD is due to be adopted early 2016.

***\*If no health impacts are identified then the screening does not need to continue, but please ensure that this has been discussed with the appropriate Public Health colleague prior to discontinuation\****

**Does this activity relate to / impact on any of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy objectives?**

- Best start for children and young people**
- Health & Work**
- Safe & healthy homes & neighbourhoods**
- Promoting health and supporting people when they are unwell**
- Older people's independence and social inclusion**

**Does the activity concern any of the following determinants?**

Lifestyle	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Physical environment	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Social / economic environment	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify Public services and public policy.		

**What are the potential positive impacts?**

With the plan in place the Council is in a strong position to positively influence and guide development decisions in line with the delivery of corporate objectives for growth, health and well-being, community cohesion and place making.

Planning legislation requires that all decisions on planning applications must be made in accordance with the authority's development plan unless there are substantial considerations that would indicate otherwise.

**What are the potential negative impacts?**

None identified

**What are the assumptions/risks embedded in or underpinning the activity?**

There is an assumption that the plan policies will be applied equally and equitably to all development proposals. The Council will work closely with landowners/developers and housebuilders throughout the preparation of scheme details and the processing of each planning application to ensure that this does happen and the best scheme is secured. However in some cases it may be that the 'best scheme' requires a judgement/compromise to achieve the most beneficial scheme; there may be circumstances where it is demonstrated that the need for or benefits of the scheme/development outweigh the 'harm' caused and the harm has been mitigated or compensated for so far as is reasonable.

**Are there any external factors which identify the nature and extent of the impacts on health for this type of proposal (e.g. research; policy changes etc.)**

It is widely acknowledged by the government and health and well-being related agencies/organisations and research that the range of planning topics addressed in the Local Plan including access to a mix of good quality housing, all modes of transport, access to employment and services, delivery of infrastructure including public facilities, public protection matters such as noise/odour/light/privacy/dust, the environment, climate change and the provision of well-designed and functional green infrastructure are all determinants of health.

National planning guidance acknowledges the role of health and well-being in planning and identifies the links to planning and health that have been captured throughout the whole of national planning policy:

<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/health-and-wellbeing/what-is-the-role-of-health-and-wellbeing-in-planning/>

These links are similarly acknowledged in the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

With regard to the role of health and wellbeing in planning the guidance states:

*'Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making. Public health organisations, health service organisations, commissioners and providers and local communities should use this guidance to help them work effectively with local planning authorities in order to promote healthy communities and support appropriate health infrastructure.'*

**List the groups most likely to be affected by this proposal**

- Established resident and business population in the borough and newcomers;
- Developers and landowners, and;
- Main health organisations including Health and Wellbeing Board, BwD Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England (Lancashire Area Team).

**What are some of the potential equity issues?**

None have been identified. As noted above the plan policies will be applied equally and equitably to all groups.

## CHECKLIST

Answers favouring doing an HIA	To your knowledge	Answers favouring not doing a HIA
<b>Health impacts</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Does the initiative affect health directly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Does the initiative affect health indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Are there any potential serious negative health impacts that you currently know of?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Is further investigation necessary because more information is required on the potential health impacts?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> No	Are the potential health impacts well known and is it straightforward to identify effective ways in which beneficial effects can be maximised and harmful effects minimised?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Community</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Is a large proportion of the population likely to be affected by the initiative ( <i>over 25% of the resident population</i> )?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Are there any socially excluded, vulnerable, disadvantaged groups likely to be affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Are there any community concerns about any potential health impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Initiative</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	Is there some reason to suspect that health issues not considered in the planning process of this initiative might become more visible by doing an HIA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	Is the cost of the initiative high ( <i>over £100,000</i> )?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe	Is the nature and extent of the disruption to the affected population likely to be major?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Organisation</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Is the initiative a high priority/important for the organisation/partnership?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maybe	Are the individuals and organisations with a stake in this initiative likely to buy into the HIA process?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maybe in response to monitoring/as part of a future plan review	Is there potential to change the proposal? Will there be any other similar proposals in the future?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No to change to the proposal
<b>FOR = 5</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>AGAINST = 10</b>

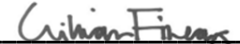
## Choosing which HIA to do

Health Impact Statement	Type of HIA	Comprehensive
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Is there only limited time in which to conduct the HIA?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Is there only limited opportunity to influence the decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Is the timeframe for the decision-making process set by external factors beyond your control?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Are there only very limited resources available to conduct the HIA?	<input type="checkbox"/> No

## Deciding who should do the HIA

External	Assessors	Internal
<input type="checkbox"/> No	Do personnel in the organisation or partnership have the necessary skills and expertise to conduct the HIA?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No	Do personnel in the organisation or partnership have the time to conduct the HIA?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Is an HIA appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Why or why not?		
The outcome of the screening suggests that an HIA is not needed for the project.		
If yes, what type and how?		
Recommendations / comments		

Completed by: Gill Finlay  Date: 13/11/2015

Approved by  
(Head of Service/Director):  Date: 23/11/2015

*This signature signifies the acceptance of the responsibility and ownership of the HIA and the resulting action plan (if applicable).*

Approved by  
(Public Health):  Date: 23/11/2015

*This signature signifies the acceptance of the responsibility to publish the completed HIA.*

***\*Once this form has been completed and approved, this document should be saved as the Health Impact Statement for the specified activity, any actions should be monitored appropriately\****