

Appendix 12.1: Human Health – Planning Policy and Guidance Review

- 12.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (“NPPF”) (December 2023) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied. In order to achieve sustainable development, the planning system has three overarching objectives, all of these contribute to the health of residents and the community. Paragraph 8 objectives are:
- “a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*
 - b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and*
 - c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.”*
- 12.2 Chapter 8 of the NPPF is related to ‘Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities’. Paragraph 96 states that planning decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:
- “a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;*
 - b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and*
 - c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.”*
- 12.3 Paragraph 97 states that decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
- 12.4 Open space and recreational opportunities are recognised as important infrastructure to support the health and well-being of communities.
- 12.5 Paragraph 109 is within the chapter relating to sustainable transport and states sustainable modes of travel can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health.

- 12.6 The design of new development is recognised as an important consideration to create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible, promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future site users (para 135(f)).
- 12.7 Paragraph 191 relates to pollution and states that planning decisions should ensure that new developments are appropriate for its location, taking into account the likely effects of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment. In doing so, development should:
- "a) mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life⁶⁵;*
- b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason; and*
- c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation."*

Planning Practice Guidance

- 12.8 National Planning Practice Guidance ("NPPG") is an online guidance tool to assist the planning process, providing further detailed information which supports the policy basis in the NPPF. Paragraph 001 (ref. ID: 53-001-20190722) of the Achieving Health and Inclusive Communities section of the NPPG states:

"The design and use of the built and natural environments, including green infrastructure are major determinants of health and wellbeing. Planning and health need to be considered together in two ways: in terms of creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles, and in terms of identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care, and the wider health and care system (taking into account the changing needs of the population)."

Manchester's Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Adopted 11 July 2012)

- 12.9 A series of Citywide challenges are set out in the Core Strategy. These need to be overcome for the Council to achieve its sustainable community strategy, including:
- Reducing worklessness and deprivation.
 - Improving the skills of residents to meet the job opportunities.
 - Reducing contribution to and mitigating effects of climate change.
 - Creating neighbourhood focus, facilities and identity.
 - Providing a choice of high quality safe and sustainable lifetime homes and neighbourhoods for a growing population.
 - Removing health inequalities and enabling more healthy lifestyles.
 - Improving access to employment and education.
 - Reducing congestion on the roads, improving the reliability of public transport and reducing overcrowding.
 - Improving the quality of air and water.

- Reducing the area of contaminated land and facilitating the re-use of previously developed land.
 - Continuing to ensure that development is of a consistently high quality.
- 12.10 All of the above challenges are in some way linked to the health and well-being of the residents in Manchester.
- 12.11 Policy SP1 'Spatial Principles' states that development in the City should make a positive contribution to the health, safety and well-being of residents. Paragraph 6.8 which supports Policy SP1 states that new development can play a role in improving health by:
- Providing pedestrian and cycling facilities.
 - Good open space provision.
 - Sustaining local facilities and networks.
 - Good quality housing provision and choice.
 - Good access for all to jobs and services.
- 12.12 Access to sustainable modes of transport is recognised as a positive mechanism to tackle the impacts of climate change, and thereby improving health.
- 12.13 Policy T1 'Sustainable Transport' sets out the Council's measures to deliver a sustainable, high quality, integrated transport system to encourage modal shift away from car travel to public transport, cycling and walking.
- 12.14 The importance of green infrastructure is recognised as a critical element for delivering sustainable economic prosperity. The attractiveness of the environment is in part what determines where firms choose to locate, and where the workforce chooses to live; workers with access to green infrastructure also tend to be healthier and more productive. Green infrastructure provides accessible areas for relaxation, recreation, exercise and sport and alternative sustainable transport routes. It reduces air pollution, improving the general health and well-being of communities (paragraph 12.51).
- 12.15 Policy DM1 'Development Management' sets out a series of criteria which should be considered when designing new developments. Of specific relevance to human health are:
- Appropriate siting, layout, scale, form, massing, materials and detail.
 - Impact on the surrounding areas in terms of the design, scale and appearance of the proposed development. Development should have regard to the character of the surrounding area.
 - Effects on amenity, including privacy, light, noise, vibration, air quality, odours, litter, vermin, birds, road safety and traffic generation. This could also include proposals which would be sensitive to existing environmental conditions, such as noise.
 - Accessibility: buildings and neighbourhoods fully accessible to disabled people, access to new development by sustainable transport modes.
 - Community safety and crime prevention.
 - Design for health.
 - Adequacy of internal accommodation and external amenity space.
 - Green Infrastructure including open space, both public and private.
 - Flood risk and drainage.

Guide to Development in Manchester Supplementary Planning Document (April 2007)

12.16 Whilst the SPD is somewhat dated, some of the core messages and principles are still relevant today. The SPD intends to provide developers with guidance when bringing forward development within the City.

12.17 Chapter 9 is titled 'Design for Health' and sets out a series of objectives to ensure that development works to improve the health of Manchester's residents. These objectives are:

- **Encourage active lifestyles** – place walking and cycling routes as a priority over cars. This can be assisted by providing secure cycle storage in all developments, and ensuring good quality facilities for cyclists.
- **Build opportunities for social interaction** – create environments where people can meet informally; promote local services; and ensure that people are adequately involved in developments in their area.
- **Improve housing quality** – new housing should be of a high standard of design. New dwellings should be designed and orientated to maximise natural light and provide views over aesthetically pleasing spaces, designing for safety, both in terms of reducing accidents and reducing the risk of crime.
- **Improve access to work** – all new development which include employment generating uses should consider the needs of those without cars, and should actively encourage access to the site by pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. Mixed-use development can also be a means of shortening journeys to work by bringing employment near to residential areas.
- **Ensure accessibility for all** – new development should ensure the needs of the more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, disabled people, cyclists and those using public transport are considered during the planning process.
- **Promote local food production and access to healthy food** – encourage a diversity of shopping facilities in local centres.
- **Promote safety and a sense of safety** – new developments should use traffic calming measures to slow the speed of traffic and give priority to pedestrians and cyclists; design to ensure natural surveillance over public space; and provide safe places for children to play.
- **Promote social inclusion** – delivering development that provides a mix of housing tenures, whilst ensuring that development does not drive out those on low incomes by making property or services too expensive, and ensuring that people are not excluded because of age, disability, or lack of access to a car.
- **Improve the quality of the natural environment** – development should protect and enhance waterways and areas of green space.
- **Improve the quality and aesthetics of the built environment** – designing places to be intuitively understandable, integrating the natural environment into the built environment with trees and other planting schemes, and by providing gardens in residential developments.

Manchester Population Health Plan: 2018-2027

12.18 The plan focuses on delivering results in five aspects of life in Manchester:

- The first 1,000 days of a child's life
- Work and its positive impact on health
- Making social connections and changes that matter
- An age-friendly Manchester
- Action on preventable early deaths.

Health Impact Assessment in Spatial Planning (October 2020)

- 12.19 The guide was prepared by Public Health England to support the preparation of HIAs in the planning system. The guidance described the health and well-being outcomes that are influenced through planning, and how these outcomes can be optimised through the planning process.
- 12.20 Table 1 summarises a list of considerations that HIA can seek to review as part of the planning process.

Table 1: Wider Determinants of Health and Well-being Outcomes

Health Considerations	Wider Determinants of Health and Well-being			
	Access	Traffic and Transport	Socio-economic	Land Use
Reduce health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local public key services and facilities • Good quality affordable housing • Healthy and affordable food • Natural environment • Green spaces and public realm • Leisure, sport, recreation, play and physical activities within the environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility • Access to public transport • Opportunities for active travel (cycling and walking) • Links between communities • Community severance • Connections to jobs • Connections to services, facilities and leisure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, including skills development and training opportunities • Local business activity • Regeneration • Tourism and leisure industries • Community/ social cohesions and access to social networks • Community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and efficient land use in urban and/or /rural settings • Quality of Urban and natural environments, such as air and noise pollution • Climate change impacts
Improve mental health and wellbeing				
Improve diets and weight				
Improve musculoskeletal health				
Improve respiratory health				
Improve cardiovascular health				
Protect environmental health				
Provide access to health and care infrastructure				

Other Relevant Guidance

- 12.21 There are a series of other relevant guidance documents which support the undertaking of HIAs:
- Spatial Planning for Health: An Evidence Resource for Planning and Designing Healthier Places (2017).

- HUDU Planning for Health: Healthy Urban Planning Checklist (April 2017).
- HUDU Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool (October 2019).
- IEMA: Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment (November 2022).
- IEMA: Determining Significance for Human Health In Environmental Impact Assessment (November 2022).