Appendix 16.a

Policy

National

1.1. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (MHCLG, 2024)

- The NPPF was first published in March 2012, and has had several revisions and updates, before the latest revision, published in December 2024. It sets out the Government's economic, environmental, and social planning policies for England. The social objectives include supporting "strong, vibrant and healthy communities." These policies outline the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local and community aspirations.
- Chapter 8 of the framework, 'Promoting healthy and safe communities', expands on the social objective, setting out the requirement that planning policies and decisions should aim to provide healthy, inclusive, and safe places which:
  - Promote social interactions, including opportunities for meetings between people;
  - Are safe and accessible such that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the equality of life or community cohesion;
  - Enable and support healthy lives, through both promoting good health and preventing ill-health, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs, for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure or layouts that encourage walking or cycling.
- Chapter 9, 'Promoting sustainable transport', outlines support for developments in sustainable locations, reducing congestion and emissions, improving air quality and public health, and pursuing opportunities to promote walking and cycling.
- Chapter 12, 'Achieving well-designed places', describes the standards of good design, including the use of design measures that can promote safe, inclusive and accessible places and thereby improve health and wellbeing. Good design includes, for example, measures that mitigate and minimise light, noise and air pollution.

1.2. Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (Defra, 2023)

- The Environmental Improvement Plan, published by Defra, (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), builds on the 25-Year Environment Plan (2018), a provides a reviewed and revised plan to make environmental improvements. The plan has ten goals, with specific targets and goals relating to each. The most pertinent to human health are:
  - Clean air: improvements have been made to air quality in recent decades, which have had significant benefits for our health and the environment. However, air pollution continues to be the biggest environmental risk to human health, with particular hotspots in some urban areas;
  - Clean and plentiful water: water is essential for human health and wellbeing, but the water system is under pressure due to the growing population and ageing infrastructure;
  - Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides: it is an ongoing priority to ensure the way that chemicals and pesticides are manufactured, used, managed, and disposed of is safe for communities and the environment;
  - Mitigating and adapting to climate change: climate change can cause intense and changeable weather patterns, an increased risk from pests, pathogens and invasive non-native species, which can have impact on human health. The commitment is to go beyond net-zero and become carbon negative by 2050; and

- Enhancing beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment: part of this goal is to create more woodland, increase the inclusivity of green and blue spaces, and enhance nature for wellbeing. These are expected to have a substantial impact on the improvements in mental health.

1.3. Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On (2020)

- The Marmot Review (2010) argues that serious avoidable health inequalities exist across England and shows these inequalities to be determined by a wide range of socio-economic factors (Institute of Health Equity, 2010). Health is linked to both individuals and communities. The following policy objectives are identified:
  - "Give every child the best start in life;
  - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives;
  - Create fair employment and good work for all;
  - Ensure a healthy standard of living for all;
  - Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities; and
  - Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention"
- Based on historical data, the Marmot Review argues that economic growth without a reduction in inequality will not result in better health. Policies should not be targeted to only helping those with the poorest health, but also to reduce overall inequalities in health.
- It is further argued that improving health results in economic benefits. The report also links health equality to promoting environmental sustainability as the poorest people in society are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change.
- The Marmot Review 10 Years On report published in February 2020, strengthens the argument provided in the Marmot Review, showing that health inequalities in England are increasing (Institute of Health Equity, 2020a). Social and ethnic inequalities in health should be addressed to ensure better health outcomes for all. The report makes the case for a multi-disciplinary approach to achieve a reduction in health inequalities, which integrates health policies with housing, economic development and transport policies.

1.4. Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review (2020)

- An update to the Marmot Review 10 Years on Report, Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review (Institute of Health Equity, 2020b) was published in December 2020 to investigate how the pandemic has affected health inequalities in England. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and amplified the inequalities highlighted in the Marmot Review 10 Years on Report. The report highlights that the economic harm caused by measures to control the virus may cause further damage to health and the widening of health inequalities.

1.5. The Public Health England Strategy 2020-2025

- This strategy sets out Public Health England's priorities for the next five years and how it will work to protect and improve the public's health. 10 key priorities have been identified in the strategy, and include:
  - Priority 3: "Creating cleaner air – develop and share advice on how best to reduce air pollution levels and people's exposure to polluted air"
  - Priority 5: "Best start in life – work to improve the health of babies, children and their families to enable a happy healthy childhood and provide the foundations of good health into adult life"
- The importance of working towards a fairer society has been outlined, which means providing the foundations for everyone to have good physical and mental health. By investing in early years, it can offer good value for money and can ensure equality from an early stage, where most inequalities in health often begin.

Regional

1.6. Greater Manchester Strategy 2021-2031 (GMCA, 2021a)

- This strategy sets out the long-term vision and priorities for the Greater Manchester area. It outlines the region's ambitions and objectives across various domains, including the economy, environment, transport, housing, health, and social issues.
- One key objective from the Strategy is "A fairer Greater Manchester: addressing inequalities and improving wellbeing for all". The strategy recognises that inequalities across Manchester have worsened since the pandemic. Covid mortality rates are also 25% higher in Manchester than in England as a whole, and mortality rates in deprived areas of Manchester are 2.3 times higher than in areas that aren't deprived in Manchester.
- The strategy also recognises that changing demographics and an ageing population will present major challenges to improving population health and the need for significant innovation to transform the health and social care system. The strategy aims to tackle inequalities, including the widening gap in healthy life expectancy between areas within Manchester. The strategy aims to ensure easy access to all residents to high quality culture, outdoor, sport and leisure opportunities, which will bring significant health benefits to the population of Manchester. Through the strategy, a new Integrated Care System and an Integrated Care Board are being delivered which will replace the current Health and Social Care Partnership and provide a new delivery structure for health and care systems across Manchester.

1.7. Taking charge of our Health and Social Care in Greater Manchester (GMCA, 2015)

- This vision aimed to deliver the greatest and fastest possible improvement to health and well-being for the population of Manchester, from 2015-2021. In April 2019, a review was done on the progress made so far, and what should be delivered over the next five years to improve health (GMCA, 2022).
- Core objectives outlined in the vision are:
  - "Transform the health and social care system to help more people stay well and take better care of those who are ill;
  - Align our health and social care system to wider public services such as education, skills, work and housing;
  - Create a financially balanced and sustainable system; and
  - Make sure our services are clinically safe throughout."

1.8. Improving Health and Care in Greater Manchester: 2023-2028 Strategy (GM Integrated Care Partnership, 2023)

- This strategy follows on from the 'taking charge' strategy from 2015, and sets out how the region intends to work together to improve the health of people in the city-region. The strategy sets out missions and priority actions, in response to the current challenges being faced in the city-region. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - Strengthen our communities: help people, families and communities feel more confident in managing their own health.
  - Helping people get into, and stay in, good work: support wider social and economic benefits from NHS investments, including expanding Work and Health programmes, and developing social value through a network of anchor institutions
  - Helping people stay well and detecting illness earlier: collaborate to reduce smoking rates, increase physical activity, tackle obesity, and alcohol dependency. Also want to do more to identify and treat high blood pressure and other conditions that are risk factors to poor health. The aim is to embed a comprehensive approach to reducing health inequalities.
- The strategy also identifies the model for health and conditions for good lives. The model for health includes improving community wellbeing, increasing primary care networks and neighbourhood teams, and having adequate dental and community pharmacy services. Some conditions for good lives include promoting clear air and sustainable development, improving diet and food security, and promoting

physical activity with 'GM Moving', which is a movement across the city-region of people with a shared goal of enabling active lives for all.

1.9. Places for Everyone (PfE) Joint Development Plan 2022 – 2039 (GMCA, 2024)

- The Places for Everyone Plan was written in 2021 and took effect and became part of the statutory development plan in March 2024. The Plan is a long-term plan for nine Greater Manchester districts (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) for jobs, new homes, and sustainable growth. Policy JP-P6 is related to health and outlines the following:
  - To help tackle health inequality, new developments will be required, as far as practicable, to: maximise their positive contribution to health and wellbeing; support healthy lifestyles; and be supported by a Health Impact Assessment for all developments that require an Environmental Impact Assessment;
  - Where appropriate, the provision of new or improved health facilities as part of new development, proportionate to the additional demand they would generate;
  - Enabling and continued enhancement and successful operation of hospitals; and
  - Facilitating greater integration of health and social care, and the provision of integrated wellness hubs, including the co-location of health, community and wellness services.
- Policy JP-P7 relates to sport and recreation to ensure a network of high quality and accessible sports and recreation facilities will be protected and enhanced, supporting greater levels of activity for all ages, which will have positive health impact.

1.10. Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2029 (GM Integrated Care Partnership, 2024)

- The Strategy addresses how the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership has a responsibility to deliver the targets outlined in the NHS England's 10-year plan for mental health. This latest strategy builds on the 2016-2021 strategy and seeks to address how Manchester can face challenges head on and improve the mental health and wellbeing of people living in Greater Manchester. Goals of the Strategy are:
  - People will be part of mentally healthy, safe and supportive families, workplaces and communities;
  - People's quality of life will improve through inclusive, timely access to appropriate high-quality mental health information, support and services;
  - People with long-term mental health conditions will live longer and lead fulfilling and healthy lives;
  - People will be comfortable talking about their mental health and wellbeing and will be actively involved in any support and care that they receive; and
  - The mental health and wellbeing system recognises the inequality, discrimination and strucutural inequite people experience and are committed to developing more inclusive services and opportunities that people identify with and are able to access and benefit from.

Local

1.11. Manchester Core Strategy 2012-2027 (MCC, 2012)

- The Manchester Core Strategy document, also known as the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD), is a key planning document that sets out the long-term spatial vision and strategic policies for the City of Manchester. It provides a framework for guiding development and shaping the city's growth and regeneration. The document is prepared by Manchester City Council and is based on extensive research, consultation, and analysis of the city's needs and aspirations. It covers a wide range of planning related topics, including land use, housing, employment, transportation, community facilities, and the environment. The Core Strategy was updated following the adoption of Places for Everyone (PfE) Joint Development Plan in March 2024. Some of the Core Strategy policies have been replaced by PfE policies.
- Policy SP1 outlines spatial principles to guide strategic development in Manchester. The core development principles that should be followed state that developments in all parts of the city should make a positive contribution to neighbourhoods of choice including making a positive contribution to the

health, safety, and wellbeing of residents, and considering the needs of all members regardless of any protected characteristics.

- In accordance with policy EC1, employment and economic growth in Manchester, the Council will support significant contributors to economic growth and productivity, which includes health.
- Policy H10 outlines guidelines for housing developments for people with additional support needs. In accordance with this, proposals for accommodation for people with additional support needs will be supported where it will contribute to the vitality and viability of the neighbourhood, and where there would not be a disproportionate stress on local infrastructure, including health facilities.
- In accordance with Policy T2, outlining transport policy for accessible areas of opportunity, developments should be strategically located so there is easy access to services by walking, cycling, and public transport. This is important to connect residents to jobs, health services, leisure, and open space.

1.12. Manchester Population Health Plan 2018-2027 (MCC, 2018)

- The Manchester Population Health Plan sets out the vision for health in the area, to be achieved by 2027. The aim is for residents to be living longer, healthier lives. The five priority areas are:
  - "Improving outcomes in the first 1,000 days of a child's life;
  - Strengthening the positive impact of work on health;
  - Supporting people, households, and communities to be socially connected and make changes that matter to them;
  - Creating an age-friendly city that promotes good health and wellbeing for people in mid and later life;
  - Taking action on preventable early deaths."
- In accordance with the third priority area, the Council has outlined the importance of having better housing with adequate insulation, which will help keep people well in the winter and prevent physical illness. The importance of having access to space that allows us to be physically active has been identified, as well as the importance of being exposed to good-quality air. The objectives in line with this priority area include improving the local environment, providing easier opportunities for people to find local solutions for better health and wellbeing, and providing warm, safe homes for children, families and older people.

Guidance

1.13. Planning Practice Guidance: Healthy and Safe Communities (MHCLG, 2022)

- The 'Healthy and safe communities' guidance was published in 2014 and last updated in 2022. It sets out guidance on promoting healthy and safe communities (MHCLG, 2022). The guidance considers planning and health 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)".
- The guide defines a healthy place as "one which supports and promotes healthy behaviours and environments and a reduction in health inequalities for people of all ages. It will provide the community with opportunities to improve their physical and mental health, and support community engagement and wellbeing".

1.14. Spatial Planning for Health (PHE, 2017)

- This report provides evidence of links between spatial planning and health, focusing on five key built environment topics – neighbourhood design, housing, healthier food, natural and sustainable environment, and transport:
- Neighbourhood design: the design of a neighbourhood can contribute to the health and well-being of the people living there. Several aspects of neighbourhood design (walkability and mixed land use) can

also maximise opportunities for social engagement and active travel. Neighbourhood design can impact our day-to-day decisions and therefore have a significant role in shaping our health behaviours.

- Housing: housing is a basic human right and the quality and affordability of houses can determine the health status of residents. It is estimated that 20% of the UK's housing stock does not meet decent home standards and that the cost to the NHS of poor quality housing is £2.5 billion per annum. Living in good quality and affordable housing is associated with numerous positive health outcomes for the general population and those from vulnerable groups.
- Food environment: The food environment plays an important role in promoting a healthy diet, but this is a complex system influenced and determined by a series of factors, including a person's proximity to food retail outlets and the type of food available. Vulnerable groups, including those on a low income, children, young people, those who are overweight or obese, and those of certain ethnicities, are less likely to achieve a healthy and balanced diet.
- Natural and sustainable environments: there is a very significant and strong body of evidence linking contact and exposure to the natural environment with improved health and wellbeing.
- Transport: transportation plays an important role in supporting daily activities. Active travel (cycling, walking and use of public transport) can increase physical activity levels and improve physical and mental wellbeing. Prioritisation of active travel can also reduce over reliance on motorised transport, contributing to improved air quality and a reduction in road injuries.

1.15. Health Impact Assessment in Spatial Planning (PHE, 2020)

- This document provides a guide for local authority public health and planning teams setting out process and practice with regard to the wider determinants of health and wellbeing for plan-making and the planning application process. It identifies eight categories of health and wellbeing outcomes in planning: reduce health inequalities; improve mental health and wellbeing; improve diet and weight; improve musculoskeletal health; improve respiratory health; improve cardiovascular health; protect environmental health; and provide access to health and care infrastructure and services. The guide is mostly associated with the plan-making and associated strategic environmental assessment processes. It does include an annexe on integrating HIA in EIA and this does confirm the importance of a proportionate and justified approach.

1.16. Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2022)

- The guidance provides a framework that supports a proportionate approach that can apply to all scales and sectors of EIA. It confirms that a wider determinants approach should be taken by EIA scoping, and for health this means deciding on the relevant health issues that are likely and have the potential to significantly affect population health.
- An EIA health chapter is required when either other EIA technical topics have been scoped in to assess likely and potential significant effects on human receptors, or there is a likely significant change for the health of a group of individuals due to the proposed project and in a wider determinant of health not covered by other technical EIA topics.