

APPENDIX 24 HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY

The way that we plan and design places has a significant influence over whether communities are able to live healthy lives. This is reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework consequently local plan policies should support population health by using public health evidence to inform policies to ensure that new development proposals support improvements to the health of the population.

Policy xx Health and Wellbeing Policy

- 1) All development shall be designed to maximise the impact it can make to promoting healthy communities and reducing health inequalities. In particular, regard shall be had to providing the necessary infrastructure to encourage physical exercise and health, including accessible open space, vegetation and landscaping, sport and recreation facilities, cultural facilities and safe, well promoted, walking and cycling routes.
- 2) Where new health facilities are planned these should be located where there is a choice of sustainable transport options and should be accessible to all members for the community
- 3) Proposals for residential development of 50 or more dwellings and non-residential development of 1000sqm or more will be required to submit a Health Impact Assessment (HIA), prepared in accordance with Hertfordshire Public Health's Position Statement on HIAs, with their applications.

Reasoned Justification

Health in Three Rivers

The health inequalities for Three Rivers have been based on data from the following resources:

- Hertfordshire's Director of Public Health Annual Report 2018/2019
- Indices of Deprivation in Hertfordshire 2019
- Hertfordshire Health Evidence (Data Tools and Reports)

Life Expectancy is 7.5 years lower for men and 7.9 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Three Rivers compared with the least deprived. This means that the lives of people in the more deprived areas of the District are almost 8 years shorter than the lives of the most affluent which is a considerable health inequality.

In spatial terms, health problems in Three Rivers are concentrated in some particular areas of the District especially in the south which includes South Oxhey Ward, part of which is the 6th most deprived area in the County.

In Three Rivers as a whole 19.3% of children are overweight when they start school in reception year but by the time they leave primary school 29.7% are overweight. This means that one in three children in Three Rivers leaves primary school overweight with the long-term health consequences that implies. However, in South Oxhey Ward more than 38% of children leave primary school overweight.

There are 14.5% people living with illness and disabilities in Three Rivers which is slightly more than the Hertfordshire average of 14.3%. However, in Abbots Langley & Bedmond, Carpenders Park and South Oxhey Wards this percentage is nearer 17% which is higher than the County average.

Health Facilities

The location and accessibility of health facilities has a direct impact on the health of the population. Three Rivers has a wide range of health facilities with xx GP practices and over xxx other facilities such as dentists, optometrists and pharmacists. As the population grows and ages there will be a requirement for different models of health and social care provided closer to home which will need to be recognised in the development and alteration of health care premises. Appendix xx (Infrastructure Delivery Schedule) sets out the infrastructure requirements for the District over the plan period, including many that relate to improving health.

Policy xx Social and Community Facilities specifically states that the loss of community facilities (which includes health services such as doctors or dental surgeries) will not be permitted unless a replacement facility is provided or where evidence demonstrates that the facility is no longer required.

Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Watford and Three Rivers Health and Wellbeing Partnership was formed in 2008. It brings together partners from the public, voluntary and community sector to identify and respond to the health and wellbeing priorities in both areas. It is accountable to the Local Strategic Partnership in Three Rivers and Watford.

The Health and Wellbeing Partnership have set out in their Health and Wellbeing (Strategy 2016 – 2020) the social determinants of health, these factors include:

1. Housing and living environment

2. Work environment
3. Transport
4. Access to health and social care services
5. Unemployment and welfare
6. Education

All of the above have particular links with planning. Many of the health issues relating to the above can be overcome by well-designed developments with consideration of the location, density and mix of land uses and the 'designing in' of health and wellbeing as an essential part of the development. Emphasis should also be placed on active travel, multi-functional open space and high quality urban environments to ensure that the setting of the housing and development within the neighbourhood area also contribute to the health and wellbeing of individuals.

HCC Public Health

HCC Public Health Department have produced a Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Planning Guidance Document (2017) to aid local authorities and developers in the delivery of healthy development and communities and focusses on the principle of designing in health and wellbeing as an essential part of the planning process. The document sets out the key principles and aspirations of the Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health Department and builds on the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and focusses on seven key areas:

- Air Quality
- Food and healthy choices
- Movement and access
- Neighbourhood spaces
- Housing and development design
- Local economy and employment
- Quality open space, play and recreation.

Developers are encouraged to consider The Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Planning Guidance Document in their development proposals and it is available at

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/public-health/hertfordshires-health-and-wellbeing-planning-guidance-may-2017.pdf>

Sport England and Public Health England have produced 'Active Design', a set of guidelines and principles on creating developments that encourage physical activity and to promote opportunities for sport and physical activity in the design and layout of development. Sport England's Active Design guidance can be viewed and downloaded for the Sport England Website at: www.sportengland.org

Health Impact Assessments

Health Impact Assessments (HIA) are a combination of procedures, methods and tools that systematically judges the potential, and sometimes unintended, effects of a policy, plan, programme or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA identifies appropriate actions to manage those effects.

To ensure that Health and Wellbeing is considered in proposals for development we require that Health Impact Assessments are submitted with planning applications for major residential developments of 50 or more dwellings and for non-residential developments of 1,000sqm or more in accordance with the Hertfordshire Public Health's Position Statement on HIAs available at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/public-health/health/hia-position-statement.pdf>