

Appendix 4:

Chapter 4 - Making wise use of our resources and securing a good quality local environment

4.1 - Health Impact Assessment

What is a Health Impact Assessment?

A health impact assessment (HIA) helps to ensure that health and wellbeing are being properly considered in planning policies and proposals¹. It is important that development promotes and contributes to a healthy living environment, and HIAs ensure that proposals consider health outcomes prior to the submission of a planning application.

Why undertake a Health Impact Assessment?

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises that the planning system '*should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places*².

HIAs help to promote the creation of sustainable and healthy environments by:

- Ensuring that proper consideration has been given to potential health impacts when preparing, evaluating and determining development proposals.
- Ensuring developments contribute to the creation of a healthy society.
- Ensuring the needs of local people have been assessed and addressed.
- Maximising potential beneficial health and wellbeing impacts of a particular development, and taking action to minimise potential negative health impacts.

When is a Health Impact Assessment Required?

A HIA is required for development proposals of 10 or more dwellings or 1000m², and should be submitted as part of the pre-application stage or the later planning application submission.

How to undertake a Health Impact Assessment:

Firstly, in order to undertake a HIA it will need to be established whether a rapid or full HIA is required. The following diagram explains that a 'Full' HIA is likely only required from nationally significant applications. Therefore, applicants will likely only be required to undertake a 'Rapid' HIA, explained further below. We welcome desktop HIAs from other developments outside of our HIA criteria, however these are not compulsory.

¹ <http://www.healthyrbandevelopment.nhs.uk/our-services/delivering-healthy-urban-development/health-impact-assessment/>

² NPPF (2018), p.27

APPLICATION	HIA TYPE [^]	LEAD IMPLEMENTER [*]
Major Infrastructure Project Nationally-significant infrastructure projects with Local Impact Reports	Full HIA	Local Authority
Strategic planning application Development proposals referred to the Mayor or consulted by authorities	Rapid HIA	Applicant
Major EIA or non-EIA planning application 'Major' developments likely to have significant effects on the environment or health and wellbeing.	Rapid HIA	Applicant
Other application with health impacts Developments likely to have an effect on health and wellbeing	Desktop HIA	Applicant
New Local Plan or other planning documents+ Preparing the new Local Plan including suite of other planning documents	Rapid HIA	Local Authority
Review of Local Plan or other Development Plan Documents (DPD) Reviewing existing Local Plan including suite of statutory planning documents	Desktop HIA	Local Authority
New/ Review of Neighbourhood Plan Preparing a new or reviewing existing Neighbourhood Plan	Desktop HIA	Local Authority
New or review of a SPD/ SPG Preparing or reviewing a current SPD/SPG. Prioritise those SPD/ SPG prepared for development sites.	Rapid HIA	Local Authority
[Borough-specific application]	[HIA type]	[Who]

Source: Town and Country Planning Association (2015) *Public Health in Planning Good Practice Guide*.

Rapid HIA Template:

A rapid HIA is less resource intensive and can be conducted to quickly identify both potential positive and negative impacts of a development. Further information on conducting a Rapid HIA can be found [here](#)³ and a fillable template can be found [here](#)⁴. An example of a Rapid HIA can be found below.

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

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

3 Access to open space and nature

Assessment criteria	Relevant?	Details/evidence	Potential health impact?	Recommended mitigation or enhancement actions
Does the proposal retain and enhance existing open and natural spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
In areas of deficiency, does the proposal provide new open or natural space, or improve access to existing spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal provide a range of play spaces for children and young people?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal provide links between open and natural spaces and the public realm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Are the open and natural spaces welcoming and safe and accessible for all?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	
Does the proposal set out how new open space will be managed and maintained?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain	

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