Health Impact Assessments: Checklist for Planning Applications

1. HIAs in planning – a guide to the process

HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a process which ensures that the effect of development on both health and health inequalities are considered and responded to during the planning process.

HIA is undertaken to predict the health implications on a population of implementing a plan, policy, programme or project, and in so doing aid decision-making. HIA should aim to enhance the potential positive aspects of a proposal through assessment while avoiding or minimising any negative impacts, with particular emphasis on disadvantaged sections of communities that might be affected.

Figure 1: HIAs in the planning process

HIA STAGES

1 • Screening

2 • Scoping

3 • Assessment

4 • Recommendations

6 • Monitoring
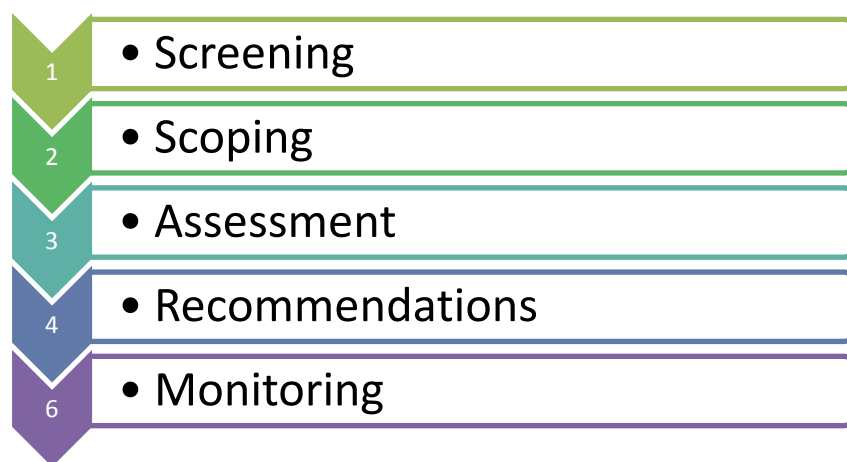
1 • Screening

▶ **Decide if HIA is required**

The screening stage involves considering whether to perform a HIA. Not all planning proposals will require a HIA, as this will depend on the type, scale and location of the development or proposal. Issues such as timing and the likely impact on residents should be considered here.

▶ **Decide what type of HIA is required**

Three types of HIA are generally recognised:

HIA TYPES		
RAPID	The brief investigation of health impact and exchange of existing knowledge which tends to be rapid and with minimal resources.	1 - 3 hours
INTERMIDIATE	Detailed investigation of potential health impact including researching community and environmental assessments.	1-2 days
FULL	Extensive, comprehensive investigation, collection and analysis of new information, working together with the community in a collaborative process	1 month +

2 • Scoping

▶ Identify aims and objectives of the proposal

This step supports consideration of impact on different groups of the population.

▶ Identify the geographical remit of the proposal

Immediate communities may be affected by the proposal, but there may also be positive or negative impact on wider communities.

▶ Consider who the potential users of the site/development or area will be

Proposals may impact on current residents of the local area or on communities surrounding the development. Future communities may also be impacted by planned development.

▶ Identify the impact on health

Section 2 - Good Practice Guide & Data sources offers examples of the potential impact of development on health.

▶ Gather evidence

At this stage relevant data is identified and collated. The data may include:
- demographics – current & projected
- identification of deprivation levels and locations
- economic status of the population
- current state of the population's health and wellbeing
- main issues affecting health in the population
- health inequalities and health & wellbeing trends
- communities' perceptions of their health

Section 2 - Good Practice Guide & Data sources provides links to national, county and local data sources which will inform health impact considerations.

▶ Identify relevant stakeholders and experts

A range of stakeholders should be selected to ensure that different views are considered. These may include decision-makers, experts, community representatives and public health representatives.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

During the consultation/engagement process the desktop analysis of community needs is sense-checked by interested parties and experts, and the potential health impact is established. It can demonstrate to people who challenge a proposal or policy that all aspects of health impact have been fully considered.

3 • Assessment

The assessment stage of a HIA includes analysing information and prioritising potential health impacts. This is can take the following stepped approach:

▶ Consider the effects of the proposal on different population groups for each health impact category (in the demographic, socio-economic and geographic contexts)

▶ Assess the type and level of impact of the proposal. Identify whether the proposal will have a positive, negative or no impact on the particular population group.

Please use the **PLANNING CHECKLIST** to undertake the assessment – available in **Section 3.**

4 • Recommendations

At the recommendations stage any conclusions and suggestions to remove or mitigate adverse health impact and to enhance positive effects of the proposal are reported to the relevant decision maker for consideration.

The Planning Department will assess the quality of the HIA and check any recommendations against the planning proposals. Where there are any doubts regarding interpretation of a HIA, the applicant and planning officers should contact the Public Health team at WCC. A list of contacts is included at the end of this paper.

IMPLEMENTATION

It is advised that the applicant/Local Planning Authority demonstrates how HIA recommendations have been taken into account in the proposal. Appropriate actions should be taken to embed HIA recommendations into the proposal.

▶ **Responding to the impact on health**
Section 3 - Good Practice Guide & Data sources provides links to evidence and good planning practice.

5 • Monitoring

Following submission of the HIA recommendations and implementation of the proposals it requires, the extent to which the HIA has influenced the decision making process should be evaluated.

2. Good Practice Guide & Data Sources

Good Practice Guide for Planning

The themes have been identified as those which may affect health and wellbeing of the local people in a locality as the result of planning / development.

Table 1.The health impact of planning projects and examples of good practice to improve outcomes

Theme	Planning Issue	Impact on Health & Wellbeing	Possible Mitigation/Enhancement Measures
Construction	Construction operations during the development stage including increased vehicle movement, noise etc.	Disturbance and stress caused by construction activity Site safety	Ensure site security Limit the disturbance levels Adjust the vehicle movement and operation hours to benefit surrounding communities
Housing	Housing design and quality Accessible housing Healthy living Housing mix Housing affordability	Lack of living space - overcrowding Unhealthy living environment – daylight, ventilation, noise Injuries in the home Mental illness from social isolation and fear of crime Excess deaths due to cold / overheating	Ensure a mix of housing types and tenures cater for all population groups. Some areas might require an increased provision for one type of population e.g. bungalows for elderly. Provide affordable and social housing. Housing design and quality provided to a high standard - ensure appropriate size, ventilation, daylight and warmth standards Ensure that houses are placed appropriately in relation to the provision of green, open spaces, public services and infrastructure
Active Travel and Connectivity	Promoting walking and cycling Minimising car use Safety Connectivity	Physical inactivity, cardiovascular disease and obesity Mental illness from social isolation	Provide safe and attractive walking and cycling routes Link the new cycle and pedestrian paths with wider networks to ensure that people can use them to access facilities and community hubs Ensure that people in new developments are well

Theme	Planning Issue	Impact on Health & Wellbeing	Possible Mitigation/Enhancement Measures
		Noise and air pollution from traffic	connected e.g. provide bus routes to ensure that elderly and less able can freely travel and access amenities Providing parking facilities at reduced cost outside of the city centre/a short distance away from facilities would encourage increased walking Provide cycling storage for flats and smaller dwellings
Access to Public Services and Infrastructure	Healthcare services Education Access to social infrastructure Access to local food shops Public transport provision	Access to services and health inequalities Mental illness from social isolation	Ensure that new developments are located in sustainable locations with access to healthcare services such as GPs, education establishments and social infrastructure such as churches, community centres and local food shops Ensure that amenities are accessible by walking and cycling Provide access for all population groups Ensure that new developments do not reduce the accessibility of amenities for existing communities
Open and green spaces	Open space Green space Play space Playing fields Biodiversity Views and landscaping	Physical inactivity, cardiovascular disease and obesity Mental health benefits from access to nature and green space and water Poor environment leading to physical inactivity	Ensure provision of green spaces within developments. It is important that these are the right type of green spaces for the population group Ensure that green and open spaces are of good quality and safe as this can determine if they are going to be used Ensure that the new developments do not reduce existing access to green and open spaces for existing communities Provide safe play areas Provide opportunities for recreation and physical activity for all population groups e.g. outdoor gyms or circular walks Provide benches in strategic places i.e. bus stops and regular intervals to allow elderly and other population groups to rest when needed Provide attractive and landscaped developments –

Theme	Planning Issue	Impact on Health & Wellbeing	Possible Mitigation/Enhancement Measures
			views of green space have a positive impact on health and wellbeing of communities Provide communal spaces to support social cohesion
Healthy foods	Local food growing Hot food takeaways Access to local food shops	Opportunities for food growing – active lifestyles, healthy diet and tackling food poverty Access to hot food takeaways increases risks of obesity and related diseases such as diabetes Limited access to healthy food linked to obesity and related diseases	Provide communal and individual food growing opportunities e.g. allotments, community orchards Ensure the provision and easy access to local food shops Limit access to hot food takeaways e.g. limits on distances from schools or limits on the proportion within town and city centres
Community Safety	Traffic management Lighting Safe play areas	Dark corners can encourage substance misuse Link to people perceptions of safety and impact on their wellbeing Prevention of accidents - road and traffic injuries	Limit unlit/non-overlooked corners within developments and areas Ensure that communal spaces e.g. play areas and allotments are safe Provide traffic calming measures within developments Segregated walking and cycling routes Dropped curbs Safe access to buildings
Equality and social cohesion	Public buildings Public spaces Facilities and infrastructure accessible to all population groups	Ill-health exacerbated through isolation, lack of social contact and fear of crime Badly designed environments can constraint vulnerable groups from participating in everyday life	Provide attractive and landscaped developments – attractive environments provide sense of pride and increase peoples satisfaction and sense of wellbeing Provide communal spaces to support social cohesion e.g. communal allotments Ensure that amenities are accessible for all e.g. disabled, elderly, parents with young children, financially disadvantaged etc. Provide community centres and social infrastructure
Employment and Economy	Local employment opportunities Healthy workplaces	Mental illness and poor self-esteem associated with unemployment and poverty	Provide new employment opportunities for local people Ensure that people can access work places through variety of transport modes including walking, cycling

Theme	Planning Issue	Impact on Health & Wellbeing	Possible Mitigation/Enhancement Measures
			and public transport Ensure that employment sites maintain a high standard of design e.g. provision of green spaces and sustainability standards to benefit the surrounding communities and employees
Environmental hazards	Air quality Dust Noise Contaminated land Waste	Poor air quality - lung and heart disease Disturbance from noisy activities and uses Health risks from toxicity of contaminated land	Ensure that developments are free from environmental hazards Particular attention to locating homes for certain population groups e.g. care homes should be located away from noisy areas to limit the disturbance Arrange for waste disposal Locate new development in good air quality areas Ensure a low carbon dioxide emissions from new developments Implement best practice methods to minimise noise and dust pollution.
Climate change	Flood risk Overheating	Mental well-being effect as people fearful of the re-occurring floods Excess summer deaths due to overheating	Provide flood mitigation measures e.g. sustainable drainage Ensure that all developments provide green infrastructure Provision of street trees and other vegetation can reduce urban heat island effect Provide benches in shelter of trees

Table 2. Guidance and good practice examples from other authorities

HIA Guidance and Good Practice	
Theme	**Source**
HIA	Public Health England's HIA Gateway http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=P_HIA
HIA	Town and Country Planning Association (2014) Health impact assessment – where next?

HIA Guidance and Good Practice	
HIA	Town and Country Planning Association (2014) New Communities Group Seminar. Using Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) to address health in development proposals
HIA	Healthy City Stoke-on-Trent (website) Health Impact Assessments
HIA	Wakefield District Council (website) Health Impact Assessments
HIA of a planning application -Example	Broadland District Council (2011) FINNINGLEY AIRPORT HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT
HIA and Planning Applications	Bristol City Council/NHS Bristol (presentation) Planning Applications: Health Impact Assessment
HIA of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project	Department for Transport (2013) High Speed Rail (London- West Midlands) Health impact assessment
Local Plan HIA Example	Chorley Council (2012) Chorley Local Plan 2012-2026 Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document Health Impact Assessment
HIA SPD Example	South Cambridgeshire District Council (2015) Local Development Framework. Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document
HIA/Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	Town and country Planning Association (2010) Spatial Planning for Health: A guide to embedding the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in spatial planning
Healthy planning guidance and good practice	
Theme	Source
Healthy places	Worcestershire County Council (2015) Planning for Health in Worcestershire Technical Research Paper
Healthy places	Professor Sir Michael Marmot for the then Secretary of State for Health (2010) Fair Society Healthy Lives Report
Healthy places	London Health Urban Development Unit (2014) Healthy Urban Planning Checklist
Healthy places	Royal Town Planning Institute (2014) Planning Horizons no 3: Promoting Healthy Cities
Healthy places	The King's Fund (website) Health and spatial planning
Healthy places	Town and Country Planning Association (2014) Planning healthier places – report from the reuniting health with

HIA Guidance and Good Practice	
	planning project
Healthy places	Healthy places (website) Wellbeing in the local environment
Health SPD	Dudley Council (2013) Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document
Health SPD	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council – Draft Planning for Health SPD (September 2015)
Health and the planning process	Town and Country Planning Association (2015) Public Health in Planning Good Practice Guide.
Health and the planning process	Spatial Planning & Health Group (2011) Steps to Healthy Planning: Proposals for Action
Healthy built environment	Provincial Health Services Authority (2014) Healthy Built Environment Linkages A Toolkit For Design, Planning and Health
Transport and Health	The Department of Health (DH) and Department for Transport (DfT) (2011) Transport and Health Resource. Delivering healthy Local Transport Plans

Detailed planning guidance and good practice	
Theme	**Source**
Masterplanning	Stoke-on-Trent City Council (2010) Health-Proofing Masterplan Designs: A Guide
Design and Physical Activity	Design Council (2014) Active by Design Designing places for healthy lives
Construction	Health and Safety Executive Health and safety in the construction industry
Construction	Construction health risks: Key points
Active Travel	Town & Country Planning November (2014) Public health evidence to support transport planning
Active Travel and Physical Activity	Sport England (2015) Active Design Planning for health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity
Open and green spaces	Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Partnership (2014) Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Framework 4: Socio-economic benefits of green infrastructure

HIA Guidance and Good Practice	
Open and green spaces	Town & Country Planning November (2014) [Public health evidence to support green infrastructure planning](#)
Open and green spaces	Deakin University Australia (2010) [Beyond Blue to Green: The benefits of contact with nature for mental health and well-being](#)
Green spaces and physical activity	Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (2002) [Living spaces: cleaner, safer, greener](#)
Green spaces and landscape	Landscape Institute (2014) [Public Health and Landscape. Creating healthy places](#)
Healthy foods	Town & Country Planning November (2014) [Public health evidence to support planning for healthier eating](#)
Healthy foods	Town and Country Planning Association (2014) [Planning healthy weight environments](#)
Healthy foods	London Healthy Urban Development Unit (2013) [Using the planning system to control hot food takeaways A good practice guide](#)
Healthy foods	Brighton and Hove City Council Planning Department (2011) [Hot-food takeaways near schools; An impact study on takeaways near secondary schools in Brighton and Hove](#)
Healthy foods	Public Health England & Local Government Association (2015) [Healthy people, healthy places briefing: Obesity and the environment: regulating the growth of fast food outlets](#)
Equality and social cohesion	Town & Country Planning November (2014) ['Crap places kill people' – how local involvement in place-making aids health and wellbeing](#)
Equality and social cohesion	Forest Research (2010) [Benefits of Green Infrastructure](#)
Equality and social cohesion	CABE Space (2010) [Community green: using local spaces to tackle inequality and improve health](#)
Housing	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) (website) [Housing and health resource](#)
Housing	HACT (website) Standards of evidence http://www.hact.org.uk/standards-evidence-drafts-comment
Housing	Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (2014) [Housing and Health Evidence Review for Health Impact Assessment (HIA)](#)
Housing and ageing population	Department for Communities and Local Government and Brandon Lewis MP (2015) [Better homes and bungalows for Britain's older people](#)
Climate change	Forestry Commission (2013) [Air temperature regulation by urban trees and green infrastructure, Forest Research,](#)

HIA Guidance and Good Practice	
	Research Note
Air Quality and climate change	Forest Research (nd) Improving air quality
Environmental Hazards	Worcestershire Regulatory Services (website) Planning and pollution
Environmental Hazards	Worcestershire Regulatory Services (2014) Development Control Checklist (Please contact Worcestershire Regulatory Services for this checklist)
Monitoring	The New Economic Foundation (2012) Measuring Well-being. A guide for practitioners

Table 3: Data Sources:

Socio-economic Data Sources		
DEMOGRAPHICS		
Topic	**Info Level**	**Resource**
Population, ward and electoral division, LSOA	County, district, ward, electoral division, LSOA	Joint Strategic Needs Population Tool http://atlas.worcestershire.gov.uk/IAS/dataviews/view?viewId=143
ECONOMIC DATA		
Topic covered	**Info Level**	**Resource**
Latest unemployment figures, economic Indicators	National, County, Local, Ward	Worcestershire County Economic Summary http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20044/research_and_feedback/673/worcestershire_county_economic_summary
HEALTH AND WELLBEING DATA		
Topic	**Info Level**	**Resource**

Health inequalities	County, Local, Ward	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2014 http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/6145/public_health_annual_report_2014_health_inequalities
Health Needs: Worcestershire Profile	County	Public Health England, Health Profiles http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&AreaID=50611
Health Needs: Worcester City Profile	Local	Public Health England, Health Profiles http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&AreaID=50614
Health Needs: Wychavon Profile	Local	Public Health England, Health Profiles http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&AreaID=50615
Health Needs: Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Profile	Local	Joint Strategic Thematic Needs Assessments and Profiles 2014 http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/4562/2014_redditch_and_bromsgrove_profile
Health Needs: Redditch	Local	Public Health England, Health Profiles http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&AreaID=50613
Health Needs: Bromsgrove	Local	Public Health England, Health Profiles http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&AreaID=50611
Health Needs: Malvern Hills District Profile	Local	Public Health England, Health Profiles http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&AreaID=50612
Health Needs: Wyre Forest District Profile	Local	Public Health England, Health Profiles http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&AreaID=50616
Determinants of health	County, district, ward, electoral division, LSOA	JSNA Determinants of Health Tool http://atlas.worcestershire.gov.uk/IAS/dataviews/view?viewId=142
		Public health outcomes framework: http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/
		PHE Local Health website: http://www.localhealth.org.uk/#v=map9;l=en

Various health issues	GP, district, ward, electoral division, LSOA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Analysis Tools http://atlas.worcestershire.gov.uk/IAS/dataviews/view?viewId=141
Various health issues		Public health outcomes framework: http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/
		PHE Local Health website: http://www.localhealth.org.uk/#v=map9;l=en
In-depth local health and well-being information on specific topics	County, GP, district, ward, electoral division, LSOA	Joint Strategic Thematic Needs Assessments and Profiles http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/download/572/joint_strategic_thematic_needs_assessments_and_profiles

HEALTH PERCEPTIONS		
Topic	**Info Level**	**Resource**
Health attitudes and perceptions	County	2015 Worcestershire Viewpoint survey http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20044/research_and_feedback/361/worcestershire_viewpoint_citizens_panel

3. HIA Matrix for Planning

Date Completed:	
Contact details:	
Title of the project:	
Description of the project:	

Section 1: Socio-economic make-up of the area

Please provide a brief description of the socio-economic context for the local area/site. This should include the population make-up, any areas of socio-economic deprivation and the health and wellbeing issues of the local population and perspective users of development sites.

Theme	Description
Population make-up	
Health & wellbeing Issues	
Economic status	
Summary of status:	

Section 2: Consultation evidence

Please briefly describe the stakeholder engagement process.

Description

Section 3: Planning Checklist

- ✓ **Themes:** This matrix is based on an indicative checklist of topics relevant to health in planning, however it is advised that they should be revised to ensure that they reflect local circumstances and local policies.
- ✓ **Description:** Briefly describe how the proposal affects the health and wellbeing of the existing and future local residents/users of the site/local area.
- ✓ **Impact:** Identify if this impact is positive or negative. This should be scored X to 3 which constitutes:
  X – no impact , 1 – high impact, 2- medium impact, 3 – low impact
- ✓ **Recommendation:** based on the impact assessment.

Summary:						
Theme	**Description of Impact**	**Impact Assessment**				**Recommendation**
		Positive	**Negative**	**Neutral**	**Unknown**	
Construction						
Housing						
Active Travel and Connectivity						
Access to Public Services						
Open, green spaces, sport and leisure facilities						
Healthy foods						
Environmental hazards (Air Quality, Noise Contaminated Land & Waste, Flooding)						
Community Safety						
Employment and Economy						
Equality and social cohesion						
Climate change						

Public Health Contact Details:		
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This document can be provided in alternative formats such as Large Print, an audio recording or Braille; it can also be emailed as a Microsoft Word attachment. Please contact Liz Howell on telephone number 01905 845637 or by emailing ehowell@worcestershire.gov.uk.