

Draft Greater Cambridge Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document

To:

Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure
Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee, 4 November 2024

Report by:

Stephen Kelly, Joint Director for Planning
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Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Stephen Kelly Joint Director of Planning confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Executive Councillor for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	<p>It is recommended that the Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agrees the draft Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (attached at Appendix 1) and the accompanying Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) (Appendix 2) be subject to public consultation; b) Agree that the preparation of materials and the running of the consultation be delegated to the Joint Director of Planning; c) Agree that any subsequent material amendments prior to consultation be made by the Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure, and that any subsequent minor amendments and editing changes that do not materially affect the content prior to consultation be delegated to the Joint Director of Planning in

	consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure.
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	The purpose of the draft Health Impact Assessment SPD is to provide supplementary guidance on policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and Cambridge Local Plan that are related to an assessment of health impacts of development. This draft SPD aligns with national guidance on HIAs published by Public Health England in 2020, thus ensuring that the application of policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and Cambridge Local Plan related to public health reflects current best-practice. Publication of the draft SPD for comment will ensure that the needs and aspirations of our communities and stakeholders are understood and taken into account when finalising the document.
3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	The option to not review the existing guidance on HIA and consideration of health impacts was considered, but preparing a new Supplementary Planning Document was deemed the most effective strategy in improving the planning application process as information in the document will support developers and landowners in preparing and completing the HIA process and demonstrating that health and health related planning policies have been properly considered in the planning process.
4.	Background and key issues
4.1	<p>The planning and design of the built environment has a major influence on human health and wellbeing. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023 recognises the importance of delivering places that promote social interaction and are accessible for all members of society, are safe and actively facilitate healthy lifestyles. Policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) and Cambridge Local Plan (2018) set out the need to assess a development's impact on health and wellbeing. The draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) aims to provide further detail on how to do this through the carrying out of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA).</p> <p>HIAs are a method of assessing the prospective positive and negative health impacts of development on different population groups. They function as a guiding framework for the design and delivery of a development project, identifying how negative health impacts can be mitigated or prevented, how health benefits can be maximised, and how health impacts can be monitored in the long-term.</p>

HIAs should be proportionate to the development proposal being considered; selecting the appropriate type of HIA will need to be considered on case-by-case basis, and it is dependent on the compatibility of land uses proposed in a given spatial context (e.g. residential, commercial, mixed-used development), the development's scale and location, and its potential health and wellbeing impacts on wider community needs.

This draft SPD is separated into sections that provide detailed guidance on when HIAs need to be considered as part of a development project, the different types of HIA, and the general steps involved in the HIA process.

The SPD sets out when an HIA will be required for new development, based on the number of dwellings or floorspace or if a development may have a particular health impact. Proposed developments in Greater Cambridge of 100 or more dwellings or 5,000m² gross internal floor area will require a full HIA. Developments in South Cambridgeshire between 20-100 dwellings or 1,000m² to 5,000m² will require an extended screening or rapid HIA that is of less detail when compared to a full HIA. This difference between the local authority areas reflects the fact that the health and wellbeing impacts of development can be greater in smaller settlements where access to infrastructure, community and healthcare facilities and public transport services can often be limited, which is different to the urban environment of Cambridge. In addition, development proposals in Greater Cambridge with potentially significant health and wellbeing impacts (which do not exceed the thresholds) may also require a HIA, the type of which will be determined through the screening and scoping stages of the HIA.

The draft HIA SPD is clear that, for a HIA to be successful, it must be considered early in the planning process and should be discussed with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) at pre-application stages of a project to determine the scope of the assessment. The draft SPD sets out in detail the steps to be taken to carry out the assessment and what must be reported to the LPA with the planning application. The draft SPD also provides information about the monitoring and evaluation of HIAs to improve the process further.

There is an existing HIA SPD (2011) for South Cambridgeshire which relates to policies in the previous Local Plan, which is currently used as a material consideration in planning decisions. In 2020, Public Health England published guidance on HIAs in spatial planning, providing national best-practice guidance on the general HIA process and how HIAs can be integrated into a development proposal. The new draft SPD has been designed to reflect this more up-to-date best-practice guidance and would replace the 2011 HIA SPD once adopted.

The draft SPD will also be taken to Cambridge City Council Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee on Monday 4 November 2024 with the same recommendations. If approved, it is proposed that a consultation is undertaken for eight weeks from 28 November 2024 to 24 January 2025, and that the consultation approach reflects the requirements of national regulations and the Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement. When the consultation is complete consultation responses will

	<p>be considered and a report brought back to PTSC for consideration and proposed adoption of the draft SPD.</p> <p>The proposed consultation draft SPD has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment screening, and in both cases the requirement for further reassessment was screened out. It has also been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.</p>
5.	Corporate plan
5.1	<p>The draft Greater Cambridge HIA SPD aligns with the visions and strategies as set out in the Cambridge City Council Corporate plan 2022-2027: Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council</p> <p>Priority 1: Leading Cambridge’s response to climate change and biodiversity emergencies</p> <p>Health Impact Assessment is a tool for exploring the impact of development proposals on health-related matters, which includes consideration of climate change related issues.</p> <p>Priority 2: Tackling Poverty and Inequality and helping people in the greatest need</p> <p>Health Impact Assessment is a tool for exploring the impact of development proposals on health-related matters.</p> <p>Priority 3: Building a new generation of council and affordable homes and reducing homelessness</p> <p>Health Impact Assessment is a tool for exploring the impact of development proposals on health-related matters, including considering housing needs.</p> <p>Priority 4: Modernising the council to lead a greener city that is fair for all</p> <p>Health Impact Assessment is a tool for exploring the impact of development proposals on health-related matters, which includes consideration of equalities related issues.</p>
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	<p>During the preparation of the draft SPD, a range of consultation had taken place with relevant Council Teams and other organisations.</p>

	The report seeks to agree the draft SPD for public consultation where comments will be invited and considered as part of the final version of the SPD.
7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
7.1	<p>If approved, the HIA SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.</p> <p>The draft HIA SPD aligns with national guidance on HIAs published by Public Health England in 2020, thus ensuring that the application of policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and Cambridge Local Plan related to public health reflects current best-practice.</p> <p>The SPD also provides an opportunity provide clarity to applicants and agents on health-related matters at the pre-application stages of the planning process by introducing checklists and tools that will help to standardise the HIA process. The Review Matrix (included within the appendices of the SPD) has also been designed to help standardise how HIA Reports will be reviewed by technical officers when they are submitted as part of a planning application, making the process more efficient and helping to safeguard against missing key details during the assessment process.</p>
8.	Implications
8.1	Relevant risks
	<p>In the writing of this report consideration was given to the following implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Financial B) Legal C) Equality and socio-economic implications D) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications E) Procurement Implications F) Community Safety Implications <p>All of the implications listed have been considered below.</p>
	Financial Implications
8.2	This following are considered to constitute the financial implications of the draft SPD:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft SPD provides both applicants and Greater Cambridge Shared Planning’s officers with checklists and matrices that are designed to streamline the HIA process, including the process of Officers reviewing HIAs. • The draft SPD also provides clear guidance on how and when applicants can engage with Greater Cambridge Shared Planning’s officers on the topics of health and HIAs prior to the submission of a planning application in Greater Cambridge. The guidance that has been provided within the document is intended to improve the efficiency and relevance of pre-application engagement between applicants and the Councils, particularly where there is a need for a development to consider the array of health impacts that can stem from development.
	Legal Implications
8.3	There are no legal implications arising from the report.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.4	<p>The draft HIA SPD is designed to support the application of planning policies contained within both the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018), which aim to deliver placemaking that promotes healthy and inclusive living.</p> <p>One of the primary objectives of HIAs is the identification of health inequalities between sub-population groups, particularly those with protected characteristics such as the BAME communities, LGBTQIA+ communities and people with disabilities. From here, developers and decision makers can use the outcome of the HIA’s assessment to produce recommendations that promote inclusive and equitable development. The checklists included within the appendices of the draft HIA SPD ask applicants to review a development’s impact on social determinants of health, including access to cultural facilities (e.g. places of worship), the accessibility of recreational spaces for all members of a community, and the provision of affordable housing.</p> <p>Stakeholder holder engagement with vulnerable population groups is an integral part of most HIAs, allowing the process to integrate a diverse range of perspectives into the design process for development projects.</p> <p>The draft SPD has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA).</p>
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.5	The draft SPD highlights how HIAs can complement Sustainability Statements for a development, including considerations for green-space provision and design measures that can ensure the built environment responds proactively to climate challenges (e.g.

	increased risks of flooding and overheating). When determining the need for and scope of HIAs, applicants will be required to think about how their development proposal will respond to climate challenges and promote sustainable, healthy living practices. (e.g. improving connectivity via active transport modes, thus reducing carbon emissions and air pollution from private vehicle use, or using urban greening to help improve people's mental wellbeing, while simultaneously improving the condition of our natural environments and presenting opportunities for local food production). These could be judged as medium positive environmental and climate implications.
	Procurement Implications
8.6	There are no procurement implications arising from the report.
	Community Safety Implications
8.7	There are no community safety implications arising from the report.
9.	<p>Background documents</p> <p>Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire District Council – Health Impact Assessment SPD (2011)</p> <p>Public Health England - Health Impact Assessment in Spatial Planning (2020)</p>
10.	Appendices
10.1	<p>Appendix A: Greater Cambridge Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (Draft for Consultation) 2024</p> <p>Appendix B: Draft Equality Impact Assessment for the Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document</p> <p>Appendix C: Sustainability Appraisal Screening Report</p> <p>Appendix D: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report</p>
	<p>To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report, please contact:</p> <p>Nancy Kimberley, Principal Planning Policy Officer Telephone: 07563 421057 Email: nancy.kimberley@greatercambridgeplanning.org</p> <p>Vaughan Bryan, Planning Policy Officer Telephone: 07561 600342 Email: vaughan.bryan@greatercambridgeplanning.org</p>

