Consultation Response from KC, Public Health
2025/91122 Turnbridge Mills, Quay Street, Huddersfield, HD1 6QT
Redevelopment of site for mixed-use E(g) (i, ii and iii) and B8 including: demolition of buildings and re-cladding of southern elevation of retained adjoining building; retention, conversion and renovation of existing mill/office/workshop/engine house building including alterations; erection of two new buildings; formation of two vehicular access points, service yard and parking areas; and other associated works.
Date Responded: 5th June 2025 **Responding Officer:** Louise Muhammad **Responding Ref:** 2025/91122

This response is from the Public Health Improvement Team.

In Kirklees, the Public Health Improvement Team has developed a rapid health impact assessment (HIA) framework and guidance tool for planning applications. The purpose of this is to assess the broad health impacts of proposed developments. The rapid HIA is a material consideration in the Kirklees Local Plan and is listed in the Kirklees Validation List.

The Public Health Improvement Team will carry out its responsibilities, as a consultee for the Kirklees Planning Authority to:

- Apply an agreed rapid HIA screening methodology at the pre-application / application stage to identify if a rapid HIA is required for a proposed development.

- Review and respond to a submitted HIA, focusing on the health improvement themes relevant to local and national planning policy and the public health priorities which impact on the immediate and surrounding areas of the proposed development.

The Public Health Improvement Team do not provide specialist technical advice or feedback on development proposals, such as around waste, noise or air quality. This responsibility lies with other council teams and their responses will be provided separately.

Local intelligence shows that the following health indicators for adults within **Dalton** Ward, where the proposed development is taking place, are higher than the Kirklees average relating to:

- Rates of emergency admission due to respiratory disease
- Rates of adults feeling lonely or isolated – OVER 65
- Rates of adults feeling lonely or isolated – UNDER 65

The submitted rapid health impact assessment has been reviewed. The Public Health Improvement Team have identified further measures and considerations surrounding the development issues, as outlined in the table below, which look to enhance the proposed development and further improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people and place. We kindly request that the measures set out in the table for each development issue are incorporated into the submitted Rapid Health Impact Assessment and implemented should the application progress.

Development issue	Further measures and considerations Although a completed template was submitted it would have been helpful to state what pages information could be found on in the supplementary documents for ease of identification. Also, the applicant has discarded some sections as not relevant (healthy eating/community cohesion). PH feel there are ways to address/incorporate some of this and have given some suggestions.
Construction phase	PH note that a Construction Management Plan will be agreed and produced. Please ensure it covers all the areas identified.
Housing	N/A
Active travel and sustainable transport	As highlighted in the travel plan the proposed site is already situated within a highly sustainable location (on the outskirts of the main Huddersfield town centre) - within walkable distance of bus/train stations etc. Furthermore, 10 bicycle storage bays have been earmarked in addition to carparking-as for any employees living locally, as stated cycling is a viable option. The site is also close to bus stop on a main arterial road with regular services. Also great to see that the site layout will link to existing footway networks in the immediate area. Encouraging to see that staff will be surveyed about their mode of travel/activity once the business is in operation and that active travel will be promoted
Access to open and green spaces	As the proposed development is located near a canal/waterway it may offer opportunities for employees to access open space and enhance their wellbeing at scheduled breaks and/or lunchtimes etc. As a minimum consideration maybe a few seats/benches within the site.
Access to healthy and affordable food	As stated the site is close to the town centre and therefore to shops and supermarkets with a wide range of eating options for those who wish to go off site and purchase things to eat. However, some consideration needs to be given to those who prefer to bring their own lunch or prepare something at work. Therefore, there needs to be appropriate and adequate kitchen facilities and somewhere to eat away from desks at the very least. This is especially important in a cost-of-living crisis where some employees may have limited budgets or have specific dietary requirements.
Community and personal safety	• PH acknowledges some thought and considerations have been made. However, we would ask that further consideration is taken in relation to suicide prevention (e.g low height roof etc). Please refer to this information and guidance

	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-suicides-in-public-places
Employment and economic vibrancy	PH note the increase in FTE jobs to be created over the next few years. Also good to see links to the University Health Innovation Hub and the PHD graduate programme etc.
Community cohesion and social support	There may be some opportunity to foster greater community cohesion through attracting a diverse workforce and good practice when it comes to recruitment protocols. Also incorporating employee welfare considerations such as dining rooms, lounge areas etc and or encouraging extra - curricular/out of work social activity throughout an annual calendar.
Climate change	PH acknowledge the list of mitigations on page 25 of the Planning Statement (Solar panels, the inclusion of air source heat pumps, re-using material and EVCPs etc).