Kirklees Council – Public Health

Rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for spatial planning

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This guidance and the accompanying tools have been developed by Kirklees Council, Public Health – Wider Factors to assist with the process of carrying out the Rapid Health Impact Assessment of planning applications. It can also be used to assess planning policy.

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Our health and wellbeing is determined by a wide range of factors – these factors include individual characteristics, lifestyle and the social, physical and economic environment. These factors are known as the "wider determinants of health". Social, physical and economic factors that affect our health and wellbeing include employment, income and the built and natural environment. These factors combine to have a far greater impact than health services on both how long, and how well, people live. More local intelligence on the wider determinants of health can be found in the Kirklees Joint Strategic Assessment.

Kirklees is committed to improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities through tackling the root causes of illness and health inequality. Many issues like poverty, social exclusion, crime and disorder, transport and air pollution are issues which are beyond the control of health services. Many aspects of planning and indeed the built and natural environment can have a significant impact on health. In particular: good quality housing; a well-designed public realm, sustainable transport; employment and training opportunities; and access to leisure, cultural activities and parks/recreation areas; green spaces (i.e., visible grass, trees and other vegetation) and blue spaces (i.e., visible water).

Many of these aspects of our built and natural environment can be designed and shaped by planning policy and development to improve and protect health and wellbeing. The overarching priority for the Kirklees Local Plan is to deliver long-term sustainable growth, ensuring that the Council positively takes into account the three pillars of sustainable development – that is the economic, the environmental and the social pillars. The Local Plan, and in particular Policy PLP 47 'Healthy, active and safe lifestyles', highlights how new developments can support sustainable health-related objectives and states that:

Health Impact Assessments will be carried out for all proposals that are likely to have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the local communities, or particular groups within it, to identify measures to maximise the health benefits of the development and avoid any potential adverse impacts.

Rapid Health Impacts Assessments (Rapid HIAs) provide a systematic approach for assessing the potential impacts of development on the social, psychological and physical health of communities. The health impact assessment goes beyond the current and future requirements of healthcare systems and healthcare infrastructure.

The health impact assessment enables applicants to think about the proposed development in the context of:

- Reducing health inequalities
- Do not cause further harm

- Prevention and early intervention
- Improving and enhancing population health outcomes

WHAT IS A HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a structured process that uses evidence, data and intelligence from a range of sources to assess the public health consequences of proposals. In this instance, this is the identification of the health impacts of new developments on people who will live, work or use new developments, the local community and the contribution the proposal is expected to make to health and wellbeing of the population of Kirklees.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises that 'planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages.

b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and

c) c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

(National Planning Policy Framework, 2022 page 27)

WHAT TYPE OF HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS REQUIRED?

There are different types of Health Impact Assessment – these are often referred to as Rapid, Intermediate and Comprehensive HIA. Each of these types differs in complexity, the range of stakeholders who might be involved in the process and the time they take to complete. Comprehensive HIA is the most intensive form of HIA and Rapid HIA is the least intensive.

In Kirklees, we would like applicants to complete a **Rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**. This is a relatively quick process, involving desk-top research and the Applicants' professional knowledge and expertise. However, you may also wish to include insight from stakeholders and/or local people where available and relevant.

The Applicant or the Applicant's appointed representative can complete the HIA.

Please note, on occasion, there may be a requirement for a more in depth HIA to be completed. **If this is the case, you will be informed by the lead Planning Case Officer.**

THE RAPID HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING / COMPLETION PROCESS:

Stage 1. Planning Development Management or Public Health will use a screening methodology to assess if a Rapid Health Impact Assessment needs to be completed by the Applicant at pre-application or application stage.

Stage 2. If a Rapid Health Impact Assessment is required, applicants will need to refer to the guidance and framework sections included in this document. **The applicant will be required to use the template document included in this document. Different formats of health impacts assessments will not be accepted.**

Stage 3. Applicants when completing a Rapid Health Impact Assessment will need to clearly refer to, where relevant, any of the other planning conditions and documentation which are associated with the health and development issues set out in the framework template in this document. For example:

The Design and Access Statement may be relevant to detail and reference for Housing The

Travel Plan may be relevant for Active Travel and Sustainable Transport etc.

Stage 4. Kirklees Public Health will review the completed Rapid Health Impact Assessment before response and feedback is provided. All responses and further correspondence about the completed assessment will be via the lead Planning Case Officer/ Planning Development Management.

Stage 5. Public Health will respond and/or action in the following way: a)
Accept the completed assessment with no further action required.

b) Request further information and or ask for clarification as well as highlight matters which do not meet the requirements of the assessment before a response is provided
c) Make recommendations which enhance the proposed development and ask the Applicant to revise and resubmit the Rapid Health Impact Assessment for further review
d) Agreed Public Health recommendations are noted by the lead Planning Case Officer and for future follow up with the Applicant about the recommendations and implementation pre and post development.

WHEN WILL A RAPID HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT BE REQUIRED?

Kirklees Council has in place a screening methodology to determine when a HIA is required and will therefore advise Planning Development Management when assessments need to be completed. The screening process acknowledges the interrelationship between planning policy, health and health inequalities and that those living in the most deprived neighbourhoods experience both environmental disadvantages and area inequalities which adversely affect population and individual health. Refer to SCREENING METHODOLOGY FOR RAPID HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS section of this document.

For developments on both allocated and unallocated sites, applications will be screened to assess if an assessment is required based on:

- the size of the proposed development (residential dwellings and or commercial space) AND
- the place (ward) where the health indicators on which the proposed development may have an impact on health inequalities and health improvement AND/OR
- the level of socioeconomic deprivation (in a ward with the worst 10 to 20 per cent for deprivation)

Where a HIA is needed, this will be submitted as part of the pre-application or application documentation to allow maximum scope for the health issues to be identified and addressed in the proposed development. The timescales for the submission of the HIA will be decided by the lead Planning Case Officer and communicated to the Applicant.

GUIDANCE ON HOW TO COMPLETE THIS RAPID HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

The HIA template is to be used by Applicants which can be found on page 29 of this guidance. There are several planning and development issues that can impact on health. The issues covered in the template may overlap with other assessments that developers are required to complete for Kirklees Council and therefore these should be cross-referenced and noted in the HIA submission where appropriate. Depending on the proposed development, some of the development issues will not apply, in which case, please state 'Not applicable'.

The template includes various sections for the developer to complete.

Part 1

Applicant details and proposal Summary. In this section, provide a summary of the proposal.

Part 2

Stakeholder involvement. In this section, provide a description of any other stakeholders or organisations who have been involved in the development of the proposal. If appropriate, also detail any changes that have been made as a result of this involvement.

Part 3

Rapid Health Impact Assessment of development issue template. This section includes:

Impact – Consider if the proposal will have an impact relating to each of the areas of focus listed for each of the development issues. The impacts of the proposal can be a positive or negative impact, or the impact is uncertain. Applicants will need to select one of these impacts. For each area of focus for each development issue.

Note: In the context of impacts being uncertain - Think about how certain the impacts are in the assessment for each development issues/ areas of focus. As far as possible, impacts should be supported using available evidence. However, where there is no clear evidence, the Applicant will need to use their best judgement and may need to undertake further research. Where this is not possible, the applicant should be open and honest about this in the assessment.

Recommendation - Write recommendations in this column detailing how positive impacts could be maximised and negative impacts minimised. This may include further enhancements improve the certainty of your assessment which are not included in the original application.

Other planning conditions and submitted documents to support the rapid health impact assessment.

Planning development impacts related to health, and which are included in the other submitted planning condition documents should be referred to in this section of the assessment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR EACH PLANNING DEVELOPMENT ISSUE.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE: CONSTRUCTION

Links to health

The construction industry is a major source of pollution, responsible for around 4% of particulate emissions, more water pollution incidents than any other industry, and thousands of noise complaints every year. Although construction activities also pollute the soil, the main areas of concern are air, water and noise pollution.

Potential positive impacts on health

- Implementing measures to minimise the impacts of construction traffic (e.g., controls on dust, noise and congestion).
- Clean-up of existing polluted sites

Potential negative impacts on health

- Activities which contribute to air pollution include land clearing, operation of diesel engines, demolition, burning, and working with toxic materials. All construction sites generate high levels of dust, and this can carry for large distances over a long period of time.
- Construction sites produce a lot of noise, mainly from vehicles, heavy equipment and machinery, but also from people shouting and radios turned up too loud. Excessive noise can lead to hearing loss, high blood pressure, sleep disturbance and extreme stress.
- Sources of water pollution on building sites include diesel and oil; paint, solvents, cleaners and other harmful chemicals; and construction debris and dirt.
- Surface water run-off also carries other pollutants from the site, such as diesel and oil, toxic chemicals, and building materials like cement. Pollutants on construction sites can also soak into the groundwater, a source of human drinking water. Once contaminated, groundwater is much more difficult to treat than surface water.

Kirklees Local Plan

Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies

Related policy sections

Policy LP 24 – Design

Policy LP 43 - Waste management hierarchy

Policy LP 47 – Healthy, active and safe lifestyles

Policy LP 51 – Protection and improvement of local air quality

Policy LP 52 – Protection and improvement of environmental quality

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE: HOUSING

Links to Health

Factors such as the location, affordability, condition, design and construction of homes can have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the people living in them. Inadequate or poorly designed housing that fails to meet the needs of its intended residents can cause or contribute to preventable injuries and a number of health conditions such as respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases and mental health conditions such as depression.

Potential positive impacts on health

- Developing housing in an appropriate location (e.g., close to services and amenities appropriate to the needs of people living there and away from sources of noise and air pollution)
- Providing quality affordable housing can result in people have a greater proportion of their income available to spend on their other health needs (e.g., heating, healthy food, leisure activities)
- Use of good materials for noise insulation and energy efficiency can help to reduce noise pollution, energy waste and fuel poverty.
- Ensuring homes are well orientated (e.g., to maximise natural light)

- Ensuring homes are accessible and adaptable to support care in the community and independent living enabling people to remain in their homes despite changing requirements caused by age, disability or illness (e.g., Mobility problems or mental health problems such as dementia.
- Providing a range of housing tenures with good basic services and links to local amenities (e.g., shops, schools, health services) can create diverse, sustainable communities and promote social interaction.
- Ensuring that new homes adhere to relevant guidance in are relevant Building Regulations guidance on falls, cold homes and fire safety.

Potential negative impacts on health

- Developing housing in an inappropriate location (e.g., in an isolated location with poor access to local services and amenities)
- Lack of affordable housing can mean people on a low income will spend more on housing costs and less on other health needs (e.g., heating, healthy food, leisure activities.)
- Poor insulation mean homes are difficult to keep warm in cold weather or cool in hot weather. This can exacerbate some health problems and contribute to fuel poverty and an increased impact on the environment.
- Lack of soundproofing can result in noise pollution which can impact on health by interrupting sleep and contributing to mental health problems.
- Overcrowded housing can contribute to poor mental health and an increase in accidents.

Kirklees Publication Local Plan

Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies

Policy LP 11 – Housing mix and affordable housing

Policy LP 47 – Healthy, active and safe lifestyles

Policy LP 24 – Design

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE: ACTIVE TRAVEL AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Links to Health

Reducing car dependency and the provision of convenient, safe, sustainable transport options (e.g. walking, cycling and public transport) can have a significant effect on health by encouraging participation in physical activity and social interaction, as well as reducing preventable road traffic accidents, noise and air pollution.

Having the ability to travel actively and easily access local public transport can have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. The risks of not considering this in new developments are far ranging and include: Obesity

Physical inactivity

Poor mental wellbeing

Social isolation

Road safety / killed and seriously injured

Poor outdoor air quality

Potential positive impacts on health

- Major sites to develop a travel plan which will deliver sustainable transport objectives through the encouragement of public transport, cycling and walking where appropriate.
- Implementing traffic calming measures can reduce road traffic injuries and create a safer environment that promotes greater participation in walking and cycling.
- Locating developments close to local services and amenities encourages people to visit them using sustainable transport methods.
- Ensuring developments have good links to the local public transport network.
- Establishing a HomeZones approach, where the road space is shared between drivers of motor vehicles and other road users (e.g., walkers, cyclists and playing children) can encourage greater participation in walking and cycling.
- Integrating a variety of services (e.g., community centre, library, doctors and pharmacy) in a single location can reduce the need to travel

Potential negative impacts on health

- Creating developments that are totally anti-car can have a negative health impact on those people who are unavoidably car dependant (e.g., due to illness or mobility problems)
- Creating isolated developments without adequate public or sustainable transport links can increase car dependence and contribute to more congestion, road traffic accidents, noise and air pollution.
- Giving priority to cars and other motor vehicles can create an environment that is intimidating to walkers and cyclists so discouraging physical activity and social interaction.

Kirklees Local Plan

Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies

Policy LP 19 - Strategic transport infrastructure

Policy LP 20 – Sustainable travel

Policy LP 21 – Highway and safety access

Policy LP 23 – Core walking and cycling network

Policy LP 24 – Design

Policy LP 31 – Strategic Green Infrastructure Network

Policy LP 47 – Healthy, active and safe lifestyles

Kirklees Walking and Cycling Strategic Framework

Kirklees Walking and Cycling Strategic Framework

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE: ACCESS TO OPEN AND GREEN SPACES

Links to health

Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) “is a network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.” It includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, street trees, allotments and gardens, as well as rivers, canals and other water bodies.

Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. People are more likely to make use of a green space if they think it is well-maintained and easy to reach.

As outlined in the Kirklees Local Plan, included in the vision for Kirklees is that by 2031, Kirklees will have reduced health inequalities by working to ensure that everyone has access to “green spaces and opportunities for physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.”

Lack of access to open and green spaces is a public health concern and can contribute to physical inactivity, cardiovascular disease and obesity. There are also mental health benefits of having access to nature and green space and water.

Green and blue infrastructure close to where people live provide opportunities for sport, recreation and play – providing enjoyment, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and benefiting mental well-being. Access to green and blue spaces can aid recuperation from illness and bring together to socialise and. They are also an essential component of the quality and local character of areas, providing visual amenity and wildlife value

Potential positive impacts

- Ensuring provision of green spaces within developments. It is important that these are the right type of green spaces for the population group
- Ensuring that green and open spaces are of good quality and safe
- Ensuring that new developments do not reduce existing access to green and open spaces for existing communities • Providing safe play areas
- Providing high-quality opportunities for recreation, sport and physical activity for all population groups e.g., outdoor gyms or circular walks
- Providing benches in strategic places i.e., bus stops and regular intervals will allow elderly and other population groups to rest when needed

- Providing attractive and landscaped developments – views of green and blue space have a positive impact on health and wellbeing of communities
- Providing communal spaces to support social cohesion

Potential negative impacts

- Physical inactivity, cardiovascular disease and obesity
- Mental health and wellbeing impact from lack of access to nature and green space and water
- Poor environment leading to physical inactivity
- Loneliness and social isolation

Kirklees Local Plan

Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies

Policy LP 47 - Healthy, Active and Safe Lifestyles

Policy LP 50 Sport and physical activity

Policy LP61 Urban Greenspace

Policy LP62 Local Greenspace

Policy LP63 New open space

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE: ACCESS TO HEALTHY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD

Links to health

Poor diet and nutrition is the second leading risk factor for premature death and disability in Yorkshire and Humber (after smoking). The determinants of poor diet and nutrition are complex and include biological, cultural and environmental factors – one environmental factor is access to food stores selling healthy food at reasonable prices.

Access to healthy, nutritious food has been shown to contribute to improving general health. A variety of studies have shown that a poor diet high in saturated fat, salt and sugar and low in fruit and vegetables can contribute to a range of health conditions including diabetes, heart disease, obesity, cancer and stroke.

Department of Health guidelines promote eating more fresh fruit and vegetables and cutting down on saturated fat, salt and sugar as a way to prevent chronic disease. However, evidence shows that people on low incomes (e.g., older people, young families, unemployed people,) are the least able to eat well, so increasing health inequalities.

Potential positive impacts on health

- Ease of access to local food supermarkets (e.g., using the Food Environment Assessment Tool)
- Promoting small scale community projects that enable local people to locally access affordable, fresh healthy food and the skills to form this into healthy meals (e.g., food coops, community allotments, community cafes)
- Providing gardens and allotment sites which enable people to grow their own fresh food and promotes physical activity.

Potential negative impacts on health

- Centralisation of shopping areas and the dominance of large supermarkets can act to reduce local food choice.
- Redevelopment of allotments, gardens and other similar facilities can result in people having nowhere locally to grow their own food.

Kirklees Local Plan

Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies

Policy LP 47 - Healthy, Active and Safe Lifestyles

COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL SAFETY

Links to health

The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. In the context of community safety the NPPF 2022 paragraph 92 – b states:

are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and

Suicide prevention measures in building design and planning.

Designing structures should limit access to the means of suicide and safety should be a key consideration to railways, public spaces, tall buildings and bridges. Open and green spaces included in the proposed development for example, and which look to safeguarding those at risk while also maintaining visually appealing designs. The design stage of a proposal is an ideal stage where suicide prevention measures can be integrated into the development rather than being seen as an 'add on' to the process at the end. Any measures should be complementary to the over-arching need to create good places and should not frustrate this.

Potential positive impacts on health

- Developments that include mixed use of buildings and public spaces can encourage their positive use by a wide range of community members.
- Provision of effective lighting can limit the opportunities for antisocial behaviour.
- Involving local communities in the planning and design of developments can help to identify actual and perceived safety issues as well as creating a sense of empowerment and ownership/stewardship.
- Creating a pedestrianised area can encourage people to interact socially.
- Creating safe and secure formal and informal play and recreation areas can help divert people from crime and antisocial behaviour
- Addressing local quantity and/or quality pressures regarding sports playing fields, based on the latest evidence from the Playing Pitch Strategy
- Opportunities where suicide prevention measures can be integrated into the development at the design stage of is ideal.

Potential negative impacts on health

- Excluding certain individuals or groups from using certain buildings or public spaces can create feelings of alienation, inequality and isolation that can lead to antisocial behaviour.
- Failure to involve local communities in the planning and design of developments can result in potentially important safety issues being missed and lead to people feeling powerless, uninvolved, uncooperative and antagonistic towards those developments.
- Creating areas that are unsafe or feel unsafe discourages their use and further increase the perception that they are unsafe.
- Creating an area where priority is given to cars can create an area that is intimidating to pedestrians and perceived as unsafe.
- Creating an area with ineffective lighting can encourage crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Proposals which may impact access to, or use of, sports playing fields. This may include developments close to existing pitches where potential for ball strike issues may arise.

Kirklees Local Plan

Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies

Policy LP 24- Design

Policy LP 47 - Healthy, active and safe lifestyles

Policy LP 48 - Community facilities and services

Policy LP 50 – Sport and Physical Activity

Secure by Design

Secured By Design

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE: EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC VIBRANCY

Links to Health

The Local Plan seeks to develop a strong and thriving economy, combining great quality of life and a strong and sustainable economy leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality and where people enjoy better health throughout their lives. This reflects the Local Plan vision and the main priorities identified in the Leeds City Region (LCR) Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and the Kirklees Economic Strategy (KES) and Joint Health and Well-being Strategy.

Potential positive impacts on health For

housing developments:

- Ensuring that people can access workplaces through variety of transport modes including walking, cycling and public transport.

For employment developments:

- Providing new employment opportunities for local people

Potential negative impacts on health

For housing developments:

- Creating employment opportunities in inaccessible locations with poor transport links can greatly limit who is able to access those opportunities.

For employment developments:

- Areas that are too reliant on a single employer or lacking in job variety can stifle the aspiration and limit employment opportunities of the local workforce and as a result have a negative impact on health and wellbeing.
- Developments in areas with poor infrastructure can make less competitive or attractive business locations, discouraging investment in an area.
- Creating employment opportunities that are inappropriate to the skills of the local resident workforce results in that workforce deriving little economic benefit from those opportunities.

Kirklees Local Plan

Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies

Policy LP8 Safeguarding employment land and premises

Policy LP 9 – Supporting skilled and flexible communities and workforce

Policy LP16 Food and drink and the evening economy Policy LP 47 – Healthy, active and safe lifestyles

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE: COMMUNITY COHESION

Links to Health

Community Cohesion and the extent to which people and communities “get along” can be influenced by a wide range of issues, which includes the physical structure of an area and opportunities for communities to interact socially.

Poor connectivity and social cohesion can lead to ill-health exacerbated through isolation, lack of social contact and fear of crime. Badly designed environments can also constrain vulnerable groups from participating in everyday life.

Potential positive impacts on health

- Creating buildings and spaces where people can meet formally and informally can help to stimulate the creation of social networks
- Creating mixed use developments can stimulate interaction between different social groups with a community (e.g. Parent and Toddler Group and Older Peoples group based in same space)
- Encouraging people to walk to local facilities rather than travelling by car encourages them to interact more.

Potential negative impacts on health

- Placing a busy road or other development through the middle of a community can act to split that community in two and hinder social interaction between the severed parts
- 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

Kirklees Local Plan

Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies

Policy LP 48 - Community facilities and services

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE: CLIMATE CHANGE

Links to Health

Research shows that climate change is likely to impact on human health in a range of ways. Harmful impacts may include extreme weather events and hotter weather and heatwaves. Most the UK's greenhouse gas emissions arise from the production and consumption of energy.

Potential positive impacts on health

- Creating sustainable drainage systems can safely deal with surface run off and minimise the risk of flooding
- Creating energy efficient well insulated buildings can reduce carbon emissions
- Developments that use renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind, biofuels) for all or part of their energy needs reduces carbon emissions
- Referring to sustainability standards when designing developments
- Ensuring that all developments provide green infrastructure
- Provision of street trees and other vegetation can reduce urban heat island effect

- Providing benches in shelter of trees

Potential negative impacts on health

- Building development on flood plains can increase the risk of flooding
- Buildings constructed with poor quality materials can be less energy efficient and so contribute to increased carbon emissions.

Kirklees Local Plan

Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies

Policy LP 24 – Design

Policy LP 26 – Renewable and low carbon energy

Policy LP 27 - Flood risk

Policy LP 28 – Drainage

Policy LP 43 - Waste management hierarchy

SCREENING METHODOLOGY FOR RAPID HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

KIRKLEES RAPID HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

The HIA provide a systematic approach for assessing the potential impacts of development on the social, psychological and physical health of communities. The Kirklees HIA and Guidance has set out the local context for improving health outcomes through planning development. In Kirklees, applications are screened before a Rapid HIA is requested and offers a systematic way of deciding whether a HIA is required. The screening assessment is carried out by Kirklees Public Health and can also be carried out by Kirklees Planning Development Management.

The screening is based on a set of health impacts, prioritised by Kirklees Public Health, which are relevant to planning development. The identified health impacts are highlighted in places where local populations are adversely impacted. These health impacts, together with the planning development issues can positively or negatively impact on people and place as result of the construction phase of a proposed development, through the proposed development itself, on the existing residents and workforces neighbouring the site, as well as the development's future residents and/or workforce

The screening of applications also helps to identify if there is a need for a more detailed health impact assessment. It is essential that HIA screening takes place at the earliest opportunity to allow identification and resolution of health issues and so there is sufficient time to complete a HIA where the need for one is indicated.

Whilst the HIA can be conducted prospectively, concurrently, or retrospectively, the latter is not able to identify any changes to a proposal that may enhance positive health impacts or mitigate negative impacts. Early screening and prospective assessments of planning proposals are fundamental to ensuring that planning proposals are not advanced to a stage at which it is uneconomical or unrealistic for an Applicant to modify that proposal.

Applications will be screened to determine if a Rapid Health Impact Assessment is required when:

1. The provision of 50 or more dwellings or the provision of building(s) where the floorspace is to be created is 1000 square meters or more or the site areas is 1 hectare or more (excluding dwellings) AND
2. The development is being proposed in a Kirklees ward which has been identified to have one or more of the five public health indicators where the land use for planning could have influence on health AND OR
3. The development is being proposed in a Kirklees ward that has been ranked one of the five most deprived by the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

KIRKLEES WARDS WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO HAVE ONE OR MORE OF THE FIVE PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATORS (HIGHER THAN THE KIRKLEES AVERAGE) WHERE THE LAND USE FOR PLANNING COULD HAVE INFLUENCE.

Kirklees wards with levels of obesity higher than the Kirklees average:

Ashbrow

Batley West

Crosland Moor & Netherton

Dewsbury East

Dewsbury West

Heckmondwike

Kirklees wards with levels of physical activity levels higher than the Kirklees average:

Colne Valley

Dewsbury West

Mirfield

Holme Valley North

Holme Valley South

Kirklees wards with rates of emergency admission due to respiratory disease higher than the Kirklees average:

Batley East

Cleckheaton

Dalton

Dewsbury East

Dewsbury West

Kirklees wards with rates of adults feeling lonely or isolated – OVER 65 higher than the Kirklees average:

Crosland Moor & Netherton

Dalton

Dewsbury East

Newsome

Kirklees wards with rates of adults feeling lonely or isolated – UNDER 65 higher than the Kirklees average:

Ashbrow

Batley West

Cleckheaton

Crosland Moor & Netherton

Dalton

Dewsbury West

KIRKLEES WARDS THAT HAVE BEEN RANKED ONE OF THE FIVE MOST DEPRIVED BY THE INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION

Ashbrow

Batley East

Crosland Moor & Netherton

Dewsbury West

Newsome

KIRKLEES RAPID HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM.

To be completed by the applicant / applicants' agent.

Part 1 – Applicant details and proposal Summary.

Application number: 2025/93438

Postcode and full address of the proposed development:

Site of the Former Arena Young Peoples Centre, Moorlands Road, Dewsbury. WF13 2LF

Person responsible for completing this Rapid Health Impact Assessment:

Name:

Contact email: r

Date submitted to Planning Development: 13.01.2026

Proposal summary
Please provide a summary of the application proposal. The proposal is for the development of an 8-bed residential care home with a 2-bed annex and a separate building comprising a ground floor day centre and first floor office. The scheme delivers a modern, high-quality specialist care facility designed to support local need and to provide an appropriate, safe and regulated environment for residents and service users. The development takes place on a vacant and previously developed site on Moorlands Road in Dewsbury, formerly occupied by the Arena Young People's Centre. The former buildings were demolished in 2018 and the site has remained unused since. The redevelopment will bring this derelict site back into active use, improving the local townscape, creating employment opportunities, and contributing positively to the health and wellbeing of future residents and the surrounding community.

The site is within the Dewsbury West ward, which has higher than average rates of obesity, loneliness and respiratory admissions. The scheme will contribute positively through new employment, improved access, social connectivity and sustainable transport options in line with Kirklees priorities for health improvement.

As with all Horizon Homes, partnerships with local voluntary, health, education and community organisations are forged to maximise community integration and support opportunities for intergenerational activity, volunteering and structured engagement.

Part 2 – Stakeholder involvement.

Stakeholder Involvement
Please provide a description of any other stakeholders or organisations who have been involved in the development of the proposal. If appropriate, please also detail any changes that have been made as a result of this involvement. Horizon Healthcare Homes Limited are the main stakeholder, however through their supply chain, they have engaged specialist consultants for architecture (Homewood Design), transport (Local Transport Projects), drainage strategy (Topping Engineers), Ecology (Elton Ecolgoy), Landscaping (MFH) and solar design (Leeds Solar). Input from health and care professionals informed the internal layouts to ensure compliance with regulatory care standards and modern best practice for residential and day care environments. Further engagement has taken place with the supply chain in relation to sustainability measures (including BNG delivery and renewable energy systems). Feedback was received from a pre-planning application which was made to Kirklees Council in July 2025 and all recommendations have been incorporated into a the full planning application of Horizon Healthcare Homes Limited which was received by Kirklees Planning on 12 December 2025

Part 3 – Rapid Health Impact Assessment of development issues 1. Planning and development issue: Construction phase

For each area of focus listed below, please select one type of impact that applies. The impacts can be positive, or negative or unsure about the impact.	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about the impact
Air quality		X	
Noise		X	
Light			X
Odour			X
Construction waste	X		
Recycling and repurposing of construction materials	X		
Safe and secure cycle parking for the construction workforce	X		
Health, wellbeing and welfare on site for the construction workforce	X		

Describe the impacts on health and your rationale for this.

Construction activity may generate temporary noise, dust, vehicle movements and construction waste, which can impact local amenity and air quality. These impacts are time-limited and typical for construction projects of this scale. The development replaces a long-term vacant site and will ultimately bring health and economic benefits by delivering employment and high-quality care facilities.

How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts?

A Construction Management Plan will set out measures including dust suppression, noise control, working hours management, wheel washing, traffic routing, and safe material storage. All contractors will operate under the appointed construction contractors health, safety and welfare policies. Waste will be minimised and recycled where practicable. These measures will minimise negative impacts and support a safe working environment. As the existing building has already been demolished by Kirklees Council, the effect of air quality and noise during construction will be limited.

Provide details of where this planning and development issue is considered in any other submitted plans, assessments, and documents which form part of this application. No reports have been submitted that relate to this issue, as these are matters that are normally addressed through planning conditions. Once the installation contractor has been appointed, construction management plans will follow which detail all relevant construction related activities. Has an Environmental Impact Assessment been submitted with the proposed application? (Answer Yes or No) **- not required** If answer is No, please complete section: **Planning and development issue: Climate change**

2. Planning and development issue: Housing

For each area of focus listed below, please select one type of impact that applies. The impacts can be positive, or negative or unsure about the impact.	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about the impact
Housing mix and pepper potting, range of house sizes and types etc			N/A
Proportion of affordable housing.			N/A
Adaptable and accessible space			N/A
Energy efficiency.			N/A
Falls and injury.			N/A
Fire safety.			N/A
Indoor air quality.			N/A

Describe the impact on health and your rationale for this. The proposal does not relate to housing.
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts? N/A
Provide details of where this planning and development issue is considered in any other submitted plans, assessments, and documents which forms part of this application. N/A

3. Planning and development issue: Active travel and sustainable transport

For each area of focus listed below, please select one type of impact that applies. The impacts can be positive, or negative or unsure about the impact.	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about the impact
Ease of walking	X		
Ease of cycling	X		
Cycling infrastructure which meet national standards	X		
Access to public transport links	X		
Promotion of active travel and sustainable travel	X		

Describe the impact on health and your rationale for this. The development is located within an established residential area well served by public transport. Similar Horizon homes demonstrate a strong pattern of local recruitment with high levels of staff walking or using public bus services. Secure cycle parking and four on-site EV charging points will support modal shift away from petrol/diesel vehicles. Sustainable travel options improve physical activity, reduce emissions and contribute to better air quality and health outcomes. The site will provide 40 local jobs with full training being provided through our well developed training and development programme. Horizon Healthcare Homes Limited received the coveted Platinum Award through Investors in People in the past year and we are actively working with our staff to build on this and further enhance the benefits that we provide to our workforce and the people we support within our care homes.
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts? A transport statement has been prepared, committing to promotion of active and sustainable travel options to staff and visitors. Travel information will be distributed to new employees, and secure cycle storage is provided. Parking is available for staff, visitors and ambulance transport whilst EV charging points encourage cleaner vehicle use.
Provide details of where this planning and development issue is considered in any other submitted plans, assessments, and documents which forms part of this application. Transport Statement Proposed architect plans Design and Access statement Horizon’s ESG Report as submitted with our planning application

4. Planning and development issue: Access to open and green spaces

For each area of focus listed below, please select one type of impact that applies. The impacts can be positive, or negative or unsure about the impact.	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about the impact

Safe and secure open and green spaces	X		
Accessible open and green spaces for all (Buggy users, Wheelchair users, cycles and push scooter)	X		
Playable space with play equipment			N/A
Playable spaces - natural play			N/A
Location and size of open and green spaces outside of proposed development			N/A
Location and size of open and green spaces inside the proposed development	X		

Describe the impact on health and your rationale for this.

The use is for a care home and associated day centre / office training facility. This proposal redevelops a long-vacant site, improving visual amenity and providing improved landscaping, new tree planting and biodiversity net gain (BNG). The enhancement of a currently derelict plot will benefit the local street scene and contribute to a more attractive environment for the local community. All Horizon Healthcare Homes are extremely well maintained, with dedicated landscaping and gardening teams. An example of the existing Horizon homes can be found at:

https://horizoncareservices.co.uk/our-homes/

How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts?

BNG requirements will be met through both on-site landscaping and off-site units secured via Environment Bank, alongside additional planting at an existing Horizon home. This hybrid approach increases overall biodiversity uplift compared to a purely on-site solution.

Provide details of where this planning and development issue is considered in any other submitted plans, assessments, and documents which forms part of this application.

Landscape Strategy (within design drawings) BNG Calculations (reservation of units with Environment Bank) Design & Access Statement

5. Planning and development issue: Access to healthy and affordable food

For each area of focus listed below, please select one type of impact that applies. The impacts can be positive, or negative or unsure about the impact.	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about the impact
Ease of access to local supermarkets or convenience stores by sustainable modes of travel	X		
Opportunities for local food growing			N/A
Tree species in the proposed development including communal fruit trees and areas of vegetable growth			N/A

Describe the impact on health and your rationale for this. Employees and visitors will have access to local supermarkets and convenience stores via walking, cycling and public transport. Food provision for residents will be sourced from local suppliers where possible, supporting local economy and enabling access to fresh food.
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts? No negative impacts identified. Internal catering will comply with care regulation standards and nutritional requirements.

Provide details of where this planning and development issue is considered in any other submitted plans, assessments, and documents which forms part of this application. N/A

6. Planning and development issue: Community and personal safety

For each area of focus listed below, please select one type of impact that applies. The impacts can be positive, or negative or unsure about the impact.	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about the impact
Traffic management	x		
Lighting	x		
Clear and accessible off-road networks	x		
Safe and secure play areas			N/A
Safe and inclusive environments	x		
Prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour	x		
Prevention of suicide and self-harm	x		

Describe the impact on health and your rationale for this. The scheme has been designed to create a safe, inclusive and well-lit environment. Passive surveillance from staff, secure access control and visitor management contribute to safety and reduce opportunities for antisocial behaviour. The site's use as a care home increases activity and natural surveillance compared to its existing vacant state, improving perceived safety in the area.
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts? Lighting, access control and layout incorporate Secured by Design principles. Level access and DDA-compliant facilities ensure inclusivity for residents and visitors. Parking and traffic movements have been designed to avoid conflict between vehicles and pedestrians.
Provide details of where this planning and development issue is considered in any other submitted plans, assessments, and documents which forms part of this application. Design and Access Statement Operational Statement Transport Statement

7. Planning and development issue: Employment and economic vibrancy.

Note: Economic vibrancy can be applied at the construction phase and or where proposed development includes commercial and or employment space. For each area of focus listed below, please select one type of impact that applies. The impacts can be positive, or negative or unsure about the impact.	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about the impact
Local employment opportunities	x		
Job creation	x		

Apprenticeships	x		
Access of a variety of sustainable and active travel modes to places of work	x		

Describe the impact on health and your rationale for this. The development will deliver approximately 40 new local jobs across care, administration and ancillary roles with full training. Local employment supports income, economic participation and health outcomes. Sustainable travel options enable access to employment for non-drivers. Construction will also provide temporary employment and supply chain spending.
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts? N/A
Horizon Healthcare Homes has an established Investors in People Platinum accredited training and workforce development programme which will be implemented at this site to support local skills development and retention.
Provide details of where this planning and development issue is considered in any other submitted plans, assessments, and documents which forms part of this application. Operational Statement ESG Report Design & Access Statement

8. Planning and development issue: Community cohesion

For each area of focus listed below, please select one type of impact that applies. The impacts can be positive, or negative or unsure about the impact.	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about the impact
Ease of access to public buildings for all			N/A
Opportunities for promoting community interaction	x		
Ease of access to and use of public spaces for all			N/A

Describe the impact on health and your rationale for this. The care home will generate regular visits from families, professionals and community partners, supporting interaction and inclusion for residents. The day centre and ofice will provide structured activities that engage residents and staff from the community. Accessible DDA facilities support inclusive access. The redevelopment of a derelict site also improves the local area's image and cohesion.
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts? Horizon will explore local partnerships (schools, voluntary groups, health services) to support community links, reducing social isolation for service users and promoting community cohesion.
Provide details of where this planning and development issue is considered in any other submitted plans, assessments, and documents which forms part of this application. Design and Access Statement and architect drawings

9. Planning and development issue: Climate change

For each area of focus listed below, please select one type of impact that applies. The impacts can be positive, or negative or unsure about the impact.	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about the impact
Green infrastructure	x		
Low carbon and renewable energy	x		
Flood risk and drainage	x		
Air quality (appliable if no EIA submitted)	x		
Noise (appliable if no EIA submitted)	x		
Light (appliable if no EIA submitted)	x		
Odour (appliable if no EIA submitted)	x		
Waste (appliable if no EIA submitted)	x		

Describe the impact on health and your rationale for this.

The scheme incorporates multiple carbon-reduction and climate resilience measures including solar PV (designed by Leeds Solar), ground/air source heat pump provision (subject to M&E), enhanced building insulation to 2026 Building Regulations, four EV charging points, SUDS attenuation tank and biodiversity net gain through on-site planting and off-site units. These features reduce emissions, improve air quality and mitigate overheating and flood risk, contributing to positive long-term health outcomes.

How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts? Energy efficiency measures and electrified heating reduce fossil fuel reliance. EV charging infrastructure supports cleaner transport. BNG planting supports urban cooling. SUDS attenuation manages surface water, reducing flood risk. Off-site BNG via Environment Bank allows greater ecological uplift than site constraints would otherwise permit.
Provide details of where this planning and development issue is considered in any other submitted plans, assessments, and documents which forms part of this application.
Proposed plans Operational statement Design and Access Statement.

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