



Public

Bowmer and Kirkland Ltd

**Proposed Redevelopment of Gomersal
St Mary's CE Primary School, Shirley
Avenue, Gomersal
Health Impact Assessment**

March 2026

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Document distribution

Bowmer and Kirkland Ltd

Proposed Redevelopment of Gomersal St. Mary's CE Primary School, Shirley Ave, Gomersal, Cleckheaton

Health Impact Assessment

Public

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Prepared for

Bowmer and Kirkland Ltd

Submitted to

Kirklees Council

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Introduction



1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been prepared to support a full planning application at Gomersal St Mary's Primary School in Gomersal, submitted by Bowmer and Kirkland (B+K) on behalf of Gomersal St Mary's School and the Department of Education (DfE) (the Applicants) in support of the redevelopment of Gomersal St. Mary's CE Primary School (the 'Proposed Development').

1.2 The Proposed Development

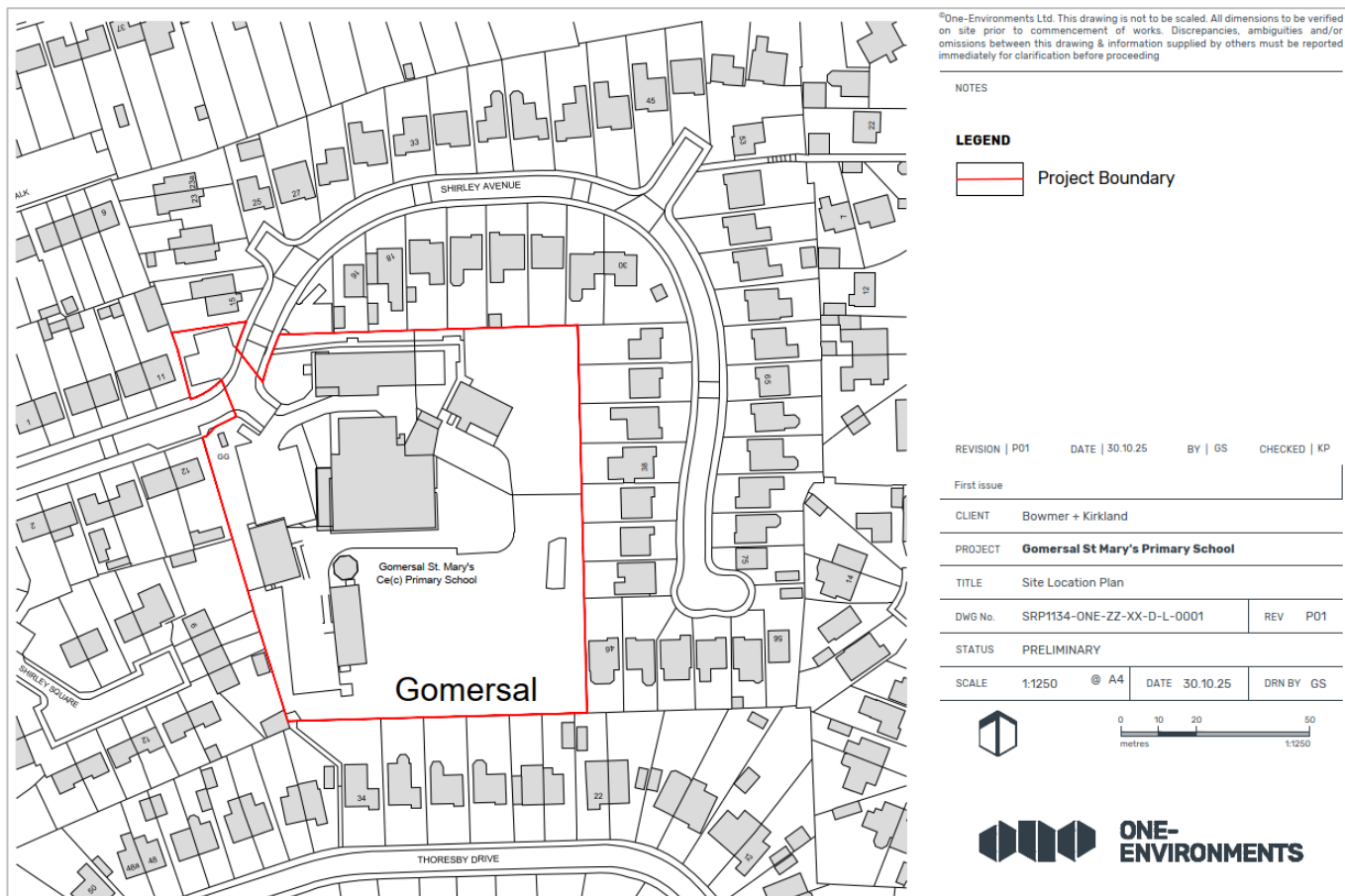
- 1.2.1 Gomersal St Mary's Primary School is located on Shirley Avenue, Gomersal (the 'Site').

- 1.2.2 The planning application is submitted to Kirklees Council as the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The description of development (the 'Proposed Development') is as follows:

"Redevelopment of school, including demolition of existing buildings and construction of replacement single storey building with external works including provision of hard and soft PE and play spaces and associated landscaping, as well as installation of temporary building during construction."

- 1.2.3 The Proposed Development is being delivered as part of the Government's School Rebuilding Programme. The programme champions the provision of high-quality learning environments in line with the UK's latest government standards, alongside low energy solutions delivering net zero carbon in operation.
- 1.2.4 The current school building is not fit-for-purpose, and it is financially exhaustive for Gomersal St Mary's in terms of operational and maintenance costs.
- 1.2.5 The following figure provides the proposed Site location.

Figure 1.1 Proposed Development location plan



Source: One-Environments (2026), Gomersal St Mary's Primary School, Location Plan.

1.3 Purpose of this Health Impact Assessment

- 1.3.1 A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) provides an overview of the wider determinants of health and serves as a tool to identify and enhance the potential health and wellbeing impacts of planning decisions.
- 1.3.2 The purpose of this report is to evaluate the health-related impacts of the Proposed Development, taking into account the current socio-economic baseline conditions and the development proposals.
- 1.3.3 Where the Proposed Development is considered to have the potential to create an adverse effect on human health, the HIA recommends mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate these impacts, as well as any potential measures to enhance beneficial effects.
- 1.3.4 Further detail about the HIA approach is detailed in Chapter 2.

1.4 Structure of this report

1.4.1 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2: Scope of this Health Impact Assessment** – what a HIA is and what it seeks to achieve.
- **Chapter 3: Review of policy and guidance** – a review of key policy documents that specifically consider the local health and wellbeing priorities of the residents of Kirklees and Yorkshire and the Humber.
- **Chapter 4: Baseline data and health profile** – this chapter reviews publicly available data to provide an understanding of socio-economic trends and the health profile of the local population.
- **Chapter 5: Analysis of community feedback in relation to health themes** – this chapter summarises feedback received during public engagement, in relation to health themes as set out in Kirklees Council’s ‘Rapid HIA for Spatial Planning’ guidance;
- **Chapter 6: Health Impact Assessment** – incorporating Kirklees Council’s Public Health Rapid Health Impact Assessment Form, this chapter evaluates the potential health impacts of the Proposed Development.
- **Chapter 7: Conclusion** – this chapter presents the overall conclusions and summarises the key health themes in relation to the Proposed Development.

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Approach to this HIA



2. Approach to this HIA

2.1.1 This chapter provides an overview of the purpose of a HIA and explains the scope for this HIA for the Proposed Development, incorporating the guidance published by Kirklees Council.¹

2.2 Introduction to Health Impact Assessment

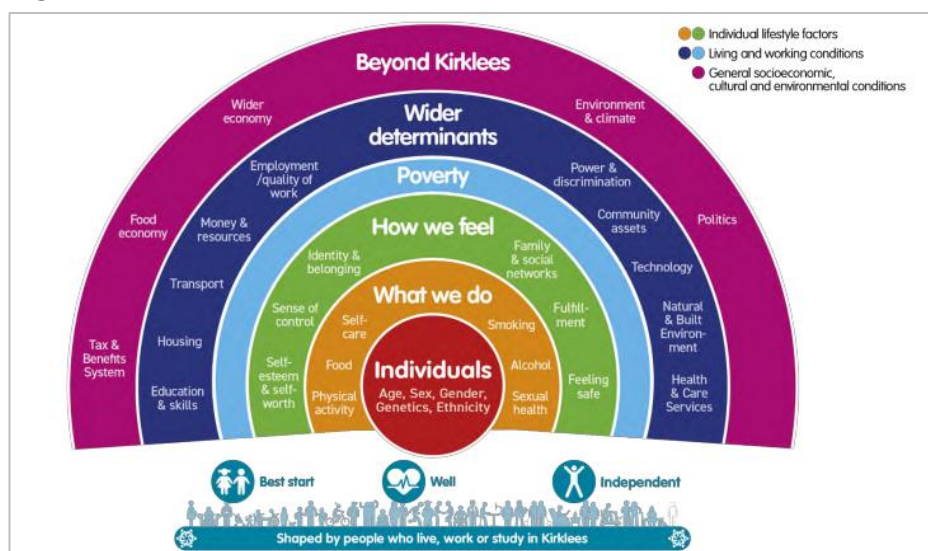
2.2.1 The aim of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is to assess the potential consequences, both positive and negative, for health and well-being resulting from the construction and operation of a Proposed Development. It involves a multidisciplinary approach combining qualitative and quantitative evidence from a range of technical experts.

2.2.2 There is no single definition of HIA, but a common description used is from the World Health Organization Gothenburg Consensus Paper (1999)² as:

“a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of these effects within the population.”

2.2.3 HIAs take into account a holistic approach to assessment of human health, reflecting ‘wider determinants of health’, in recognition that human health is influenced by a wide range of direct and indirect factors, including an individual’s society and environment. The ‘wider determinants of health’ model is used to conceptualise how human health spans environmental, social and economic aspects. This is illustrated in the following figure.

Figure 2.1 Wider determinants of health



Source: Dahlgren, G. and Whitehead, M. (1993), as quoted in Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027.

¹ <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-applications/pdf/rapid-health-impact-assessment-for-spatial-planning.pdf>

² Health impact assessment: main concepts and suggested approach. Gothenburg consensus paper. Brussels, European Centre for Health Policy, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 1999

2.3 Requirement for this Health Impact Assessment

2.3.1 The purpose of this HIA is to examine potential health impacts that the Proposed Development may have on the local area and its community. A range of social, environmental, and economic factors are considered to understand the context of the local area and the health profile of the local community.

2.3.2 The HIA has been prepared in response to the Kirklees Local Plan, Policy LP47: *Healthy, active and safe lifestyles*. Policy LP47 is discussed in detail in Chapter 3 as part of the review of the relevant policy context.

2.3.3 According to Kirklees Council's Planning Validation Requirements (2023), a HIA is required for:

“Any MAJOR application comprising:

(i) 50 dwellings and above.

(ii) A floor space of over 1,000m²

AND if the proposed development is in a ward which has been identified to have one or more of the five public health indicators (higher than the Kirklees average), where the land use planning could have an influence...

AND/OR the proposed development is in a ward within Kirklees that has been ranked one of the five most deprived by the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).”³

2.3.4 The Proposed Development meets the requirement for an HIA based on its floorspace. The Site covers approximately 0.9 hectares and comprises the school grounds and buildings, as well as an existing car parking area on the opposite side of Shirley Avenue at the site entrance.

2.4 Kirklees Council – Rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for Spatial Planning

2.4.1 Kirklees Council has developed guidance and accompanying tools to support the process of undertaking a HIA. The Kirklees Council Rapid Health Impact Assessment for Spatial Planning guidance provides the following context:

³ Kirklees Council (2023), Kirklees Planning Validation Requirements, pp. 35-36.
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“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).

*Rapid Health Impact Assessments (Rapid HIAs) provide a systematic approach for assessing the potential impacts of development on the social, psychological and physical health of communities”.*⁴

2.4.2 The guidance encourages applicants to consider the Proposed Development in the context of:

- Reducing health inequalities;
- Not causing further harm;
- Prevention and early intervention; and
- Improving and enhancing population health outcomes.⁵

2.4.3 The guidance identifies nine topic areas to be considered when assessing potential health impacts. These topic areas reflect wider determinants of health, such as access to green space, opportunities for active travel, and community safety:⁶

1. Construction phase
2. Housing
3. Active travel and sustainable transport
4. Access to open and green spaces
5. Access to healthy and affordable food
6. Community and personal safety
7. Employment and economic vibrancy
8. Community cohesion
9. Climate change.

⁴ Kirklees Council (2022), Kirklees Council – Rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for Spatial Planning. Accessed at: [Kirklees Public Health Rapid Health Impact Assessment](#)

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid
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2.5 Scope of this HIA

2.5.1 As outlined above, this HIA is based on an approach informed by Kirklees Council’s ‘Rapid Health Impact Assessment for Spatial Planning’ guidance. However, not all topic areas are relevant to every development. For this assessment, each topic has been reviewed, and those that are not applicable have been scoped out with justification provided in the following table.

2.5.2 In advance of this assessment, WSP contacted the Local Planning Authority to confirm the use of Kirklees Council’s ‘Rapid HIA for Spatial Planning Guidance’ for the purposes of this assessment. WSP also sought agreement to scope out the ‘Housing’ topic from the assessment due to this not being relevant to the Proposed Development. WSP did not receive a response from the LPA.

Table 2.1 Kirklees Council, Rapid HIA Assessment for Spatial Planning template, WSP review of topics relevant for this HIA

Kirklees Council Rapid HIA topic	Scoped in/out of the HIA
1. Construction phase	Scoped in
2. Housing	Scoped out – the Proposed Development does not include any residential uses; therefore, this topic is not relevant to this assessment.
3. Active travel and sustainable transport	Scoped in
4. Access to open and green spaces	Scoped in
5. Access to healthy and affordable food	Scoped in
6. Community and personal safety	Scoped in
7. Employment and economic vibrancy	Scoped in
8. Community cohesion	Scoped in
9. Climate change	Scoped in

Source: Kirklees Council (2022), Rapid Health Impact Assessment for Spatial Planning; WSP (2025)

2.6 Sources of information used to inform this HIA

2.6.1 The following technical documents have been used to inform this HIA, all of which are submitted as part of the planning application:

- Bowmer + Kirkland (2026), Gomersal St. Mary’s CE Primary School, Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Eddisons (2026), Gomersal St. Marys Primary School, Gomersal, Transport Statement.

- Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary School (2022), Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary School Travel Plan.
- One-Environments (2026), Gomersal St Mary's Primary School, Illustrative Masterplan; Whole Site Plan; Site Landscaping Plan
- Pick Everard (2026), Gomersal St Mary's Primary School, Design and Access Statement.
- Ramboll (2026), St Mary's Gomersal, Noise Assessment
- Toren Consulting (2026), Gomersal St Marys Primary School, Crime Impact Statement
- Bowmer + Kirkland (2026) Appendix A, Climate Change Statement.
- Bowmer + Kirkland (2026), Gomersal St. Mary's CE(C) Primary School, Phasing Plan .
- WSP (2026) Proposed Redevelopment of Gomersal St Mary's Primary School, Planning Statement.

Policy and strategic context



3. Policy and strategic context

3.1.1 This chapter provides a review of legislation, policy, and guidance that are applicable to the HIA and the Proposed Development.

3.2 National

National Planning Policy Framework (2024)

3.2.2 The most recent version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in December 2024. The NPPF emphasises the need for planning policies and decisions to create environments that support health and wellbeing. Paragraph 96 states:

“Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places and beautiful buildings 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 beautiful, 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. 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.”⁷*

3.2.3 The NPPF recognises the importance of community facilities, including schools, in meeting local needs. Paragraph 98 states:

“To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- a. plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;*

- b. *take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;*
- c. *guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;*
- d. *ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and*
- e. *ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.”⁸*

3.2.4 With regard to the provision of education facilities, Paragraph 100 states:

“It is important that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:

- a. *Give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools through the preparation of plans and decisions on applications; and*
- b. *Work with school promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted”⁹.*

Fair Society, Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review), 2010

3.2.5 The Marmot Review, published in 2010, is a seminal report that fundamentally shaped the understanding of health inequalities in England.

3.2.6 The Marmot Review demonstrated that health outcomes are not determined solely by access to healthcare services but are significantly influenced by a wide range of social, economic, and environmental factors, often referred to as the ‘wider determinants of health’. These include income, education, employment, housing, and the quality of the local environment.

3.2.7 The review concluded that reducing health inequalities requires action across multiple sectors and recommended six key policy objectives:

- *“Give every child the best start in life;*
- *Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control of their lives;*
- *Create fair employment and good work for all;*
- *Ensure a healthy standard of living for all;*
- *Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities; and*
- *Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.”¹⁰*

⁸ Ibid, Paragraph 98

⁹ Ibid, Paragraph 100

¹⁰The Institute of Health Equity, Health Equity in England, The Marmot Review (2010), page 15

Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On, 2020

3.2.8 A decade later, the follow-up report '*Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On*' assessed progress and found that health inequalities had widened. The report highlighted that austerity measures and reductions in public spending had negatively affected health outcomes, particularly in deprived areas.

- Increases in life expectancy have slowed since 2010;
- There is a strong positive relationship between the level of deprivation and poverty and ill health;
- The health gap has grown between wealthy and deprived areas; and
- Where people live matter in terms of health outcomes.

3.2.9 The review emphasised that improving health equity requires a preventative approach focused on the social and economic conditions in which people live. This includes creating environments that support health and wellbeing, particularly in disadvantaged communities¹¹.

The School Rebuilding Programme

3.2.10 In 2021, the Government launched the School Rebuilding Programme (SRP) to deliver major rebuilding and refurbishment projects for schools and sixth form colleges across England. The programme prioritises buildings based on their condition, with the aim of replacing facilities that are no longer fit for purpose¹².

3.2.11 In July 2022, Gomersal St Mary's Church of England Primary School was confirmed as part of the SRP due to the existing building being assessed as not fit-for-purpose. The current facilities place a significant financial burden on Gomersal St Mary's in terms of operational and maintenance costs.

3.2.12 As part of the prioritisation process, the UK Government undertook an Equalities Impact Assessment¹³ to ensure that the programme delivers positive outcomes for health, safety, wellbeing, and accessibility, thereby supporting improved educational attainment. The assessment focused on achieving the following objectives:

- Eliminating discrimination against individuals with Protected Characteristics¹⁴
- Improving opportunities for all, including those with Protected Characteristics such as disability and pregnancy; and
- Enhancing wellbeing, health, and educational outcomes.

3.2.13 The Proposed Development represents a major investment by the Department for Education (DfE). It will redevelop the existing primary school to provide modern, high-

¹¹The Institute of Health Equity, *Health Equity in England, The Marmot Review 10 Years on* (2020), page 130

¹² Department for Education (2024), *About the school rebuilding programme*.

¹³ Department for Education (2022), *School Rebuilding Programme, Equality Impact Assessment*.

¹⁴ As defined by the Equality Act (2010)

quality facilities that support effective teaching and learning. The design aims to create a safe, sustainable, and fully accessible environment that promotes academic achievement as well as social and emotional development. The new school campus will also deliver improved integration and accessibility, benefiting both pupils and the wider community.

3.3 Kirklees Local Authority

Kirklees Local Plan Strategy and Policies 2013-2031

3.3.2 The Kirklees Local Plan, was adopted on the 27th February 2019, covering the period 2013 to 2031 and sets out the strategic planning framework for the borough.

3.3.3 Several policies within the plan are relevant to health and wellbeing considerations. These policies are outlined below.

Policy LP47: Healthy, Active and Safe Lifestyles

3.3.4 *“Proposals shall demonstrate how they contribute to creating an environment which supports healthy, active and safe communities and reduces health inequalities. This will be achieved by:*

- a. Providing access to a range of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation;*
- b. Protecting and enhancing existing open spaces, playing pitches and rights of way;*
- c. Improving opportunities for walking, cycling and encouraging more sustainable travel choices;*
- d. Improving access to healthy food;*
- e. Improving air quality through reduced traffic congestion and increased sustainable transport;*
- f. Supporting energy efficiency and low carbon development; and*
- g. Supporting development that minimises the risk of crime¹⁵.”*

Policy LP48: Community Facilities and Services

3.3.5 *“Proposals which protect, retain, enhance or provide new community facilities and services will be supported. Development that would result in the loss of community facilities will only be permitted where:*

- a. It can be demonstrated that the facility is no longer required to serve the needs of the community; or*
- b. Equivalent or better provision is made in a suitable location; or*

¹⁵ Kirklees Council (2019), Kirklees Local Plan, Policy LP47
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c. It can be demonstrated that the facility is no longer financially viable¹⁶.”

Policy LP49: Educational and Health Care Needs

- 3.3.6 *“Proposals for new or enhanced educational and health care facilities will be supported where:*
- a. They meet an identified deficiency in provision;*
 - b. They improve the scale, range, quality and accessibility of facilities; and*
 - c. They are well related to the catchment they are intended to serve to minimise the need to travel, or they can be made accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.”¹⁷*

Policy LP50: Sport and Physical Activity

- 3.3.7 *“The council will protect, enhance and support new and existing open spaces, outdoor and indoor sport and leisure facilities and, where appropriate, encourage everyone in Kirklees to be as physically active as possible and promote a healthier lifestyle for all. Development that would result in the loss of sport and leisure facilities will only be permitted where:*
- a. An assessment has been undertaken which clearly shows the facility is surplus to requirements; or*
 - b. The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
 - c. The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.”*
- 3.3.8 *“Proposals that enable community use of school facilities will be supported. Development for the renewal and development of secondary school sites will be encouraged to allow for the provision of community use facilities where possible¹⁸.”*

Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027 (2022)

- 3.3.9 The Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027, approved in September 2022, sets out a shared vision for Kirklees:
- “A district that combines a strong, sustainable economy with a great quality of life – leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality where people enjoy better health throughout their lives.”¹⁹*

¹⁶ Ibid, Policy LP48

¹⁷ Ibid, Policy LP49

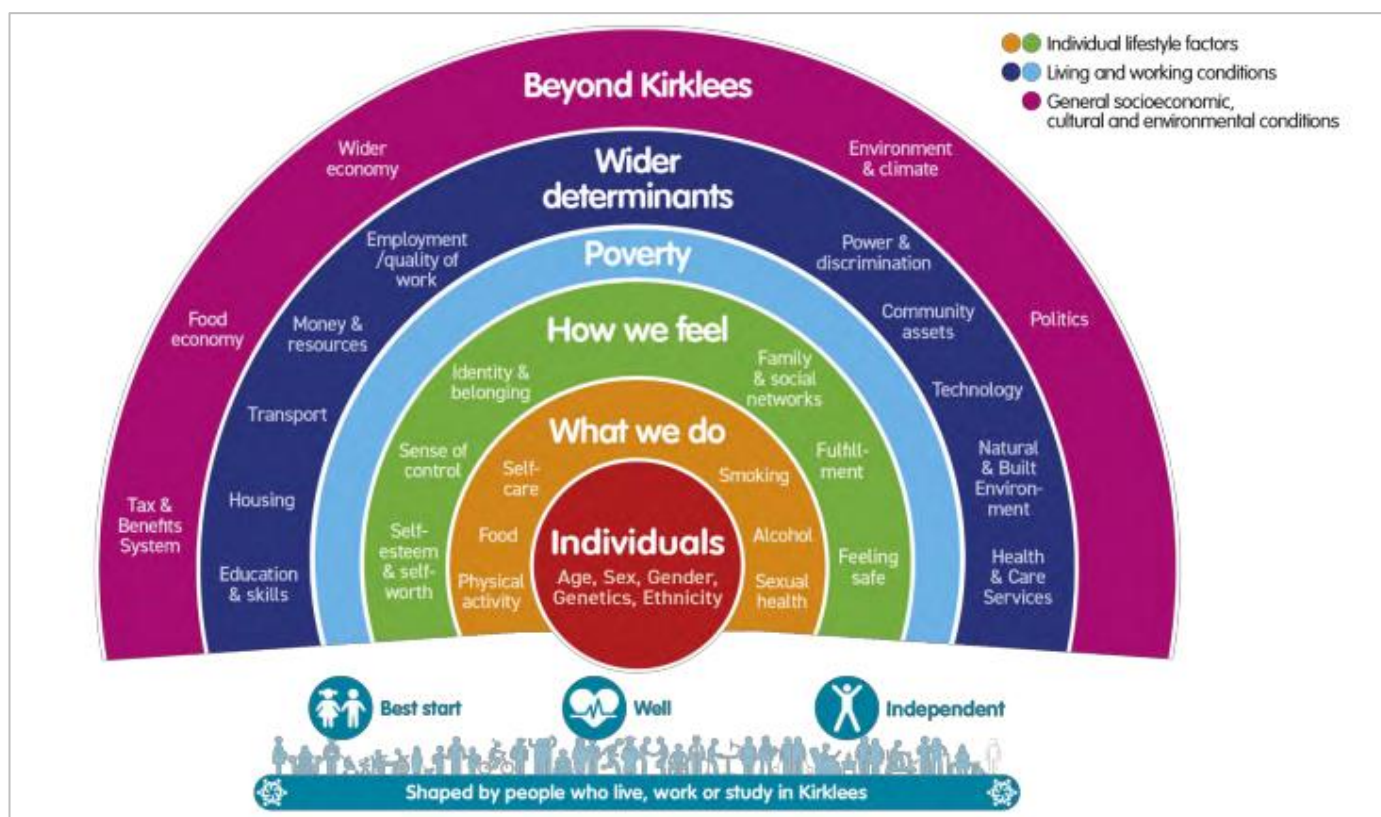
¹⁸ Ibid, Policy LP50

¹⁹ Kirklees Council (2022), Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027, p. 3.

3.3.10 The strategy builds on the principle of addressing ‘wider determinants of health’, recognising that health and wellbeing are shaped by a broad range of social, economic, and environmental factors.

3.3.11 To illustrate this, the strategy introduces a ‘Rainbow Model’, which demonstrates how influences on health extend beyond individual behaviours to include community, living and working conditions, and broader socio-economic and environmental contexts. These influences vary across different stages of life and are affected by the distribution of money, power, and resources, as well as by individual characteristics. This concept is illustrated in the figure below.

Figure 3.1 Kirklees Council (2022), Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027, Rainbow Model



Source: Kirklees Council (2022), Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027

3.3.12 The strategy aims to achieve four of the Kirklees Shared Outcomes through the delivery of four outcomes:

- Best Start – children have the best start in life;
- Well – people in Kirklees are as well as possible for as long as possible;
- Independent – people in Kirklees live independently; and
- Shaped by people – we make our places what they are.

3.3.13 To achieve the four outcomes listed above, the strategy focuses on three priorities:

- Mental wellbeing – ambition for everyone in Kirklees to achieve good mental wellbeing and have a good quality of life with purpose and fulfilment throughout their lives;
- Healthy places – the physical and social infrastructure and environment supports people of all ages who live, work or study in Kirklees to maximise their health opportunities and to make the healthy choices; and
- Connected care and support – organisations and professionals across the health and care system work together to ensure people are able to access the right care/support for their needs, when they need it, making the best use of all available resources.

3.3.14 The priorities set out in the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy address the main public health challenges facing the district. The local indicators that informed these priorities are presented in the following table.

Table 3.1 Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy, key public health indicators

Health challenge / priority	Indicators
Mental wellbeing	The ‘Currently Living in Kirklees’ survey (2021) showed that anxiety and depression are the two most common long term health conditions.
	Around 1 in 8 children in Kirklees have some level of special educational need or disability (SEND).
	People with serious mental illness die on average 15 years earlier than those without serious mental illness.
Healthy places	Just over half of adults and just over one third of children and young people in Kirklees are meeting their recommended minutes of activity per week, with residents living in the least areas most likely to be achieving this.
	Nearly two thirds of residents regularly walk as a means of getting around, but only around 7% regularly cycle.
	5% of residents have no access to the internet at home, leaving them digitally excluded and unable to engage with education, work and services.
Connected care and support	A connected care and support system is most important during the first 1,000 days of life, key transition points (e.g. diagnosis with a long-term condition) and the last 1,000 days of life.
	When there is a coordinated systems approach, people have a better experience of care across the life course (including at end of life), that is timely and where people don’t need to retell their story.
	Across the system there are significant and ongoing challenges in terms of funding, resources and workforce capacity (recruitment and retention). Alternative and more joined up ways of working are required to support a sustainable future.

Source: Kirklees Council (2022), Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Baseline socio-economic and health context



4. Baseline socio-economic and health context

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section provides a review of relevant socio-economic and health-related indicators, across different spatial scales ranging from the neighbourhood-level to the wider region and national averages, where appropriate. The baseline considers local life expectancies, mortality rates and deprivation, as well as general adult and child health profiles from a variety of sources.

Data limitations

4.1.2 The latest available data has been used throughout this HIA in the preparation of the baseline. As a range of datasets have been used within the baseline, several geographic boundaries are reflected throughout the HIA, which is dependent on the geographic constraints of the available datasets. Data sourced from third parties has not been independently verified by WSP.

Spatial areas

4.1.3 Three spatial areas are considered for this assessment, as presented in the following table.

Table 4.1 Relevant spatial areas for the Proposed Development

Area name	Geography	Map of relevant spatial area
Neighbourhood Impact Area	LSOA Kirklees 004D	

Area name	Geography	Map of relevant spatial area
Local Impact Area	Kirklees	<p>A map of the Kirklees Local Impact Area, outlined in black. The area includes towns such as Halifax, Sowerby Bridge, Brighouse, Elland, Huddersfield, Meltham, Holmfirth, and Penistone. Major roads like the M1 and A63 are visible. The map shows a mix of urban and green spaces.</p>
Wider Impact Area	Yorkshire and the Humber	<p>A map of the Yorkshire and the Humber Wider Impact Area, outlined in black. The area covers a large region including major cities like Leeds, York, Sheffield, and Hull. It also shows national parks such as Yorkshire Dales National Park and North York Moors National Park, as well as the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape. The map includes major roads and geographical features like the Humber estuary.</p>

Source: ONS (2026).

4.2 Population and demographic profile

Residential population

- 4.2.2 The Proposed Development is located in the Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) of Kirklees 004D, in Kirklees local authority.²⁰
- 4.2.3 The 2021 Census found that Kirklees LSOA 004D had a population of 2,012 people, and Kirklees local authority had a population of 433,216 people. The Neighbourhood Impact Area of Kirklees LSOA 004D therefore makes up 0.46% of the population of the Local Impact Area of Kirklees.
- 4.2.4 Table 4.2 below compares the estimated population of the study area over 10 years from 2011 to 2021. The population across LSOA Kirklees 004D reduced over this period, in contrast to 2.5% population growth across Kirklees and 3.7% growth across Yorkshire and the Humber.

Table 4.2 Population change from 2011 to 2021

Area	2011 population	2021 population	% Change
Kirklees 004D	2,033	2,012	-1.0%
Kirklees	422,458	433,216	2.5%
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,283,733	5,480,774	3.7%

Source: ONS (2021) Census 2021 and 2011 tables KS101EW, table TS001 – Number of usual residents in households and communal establishments

Age profile

- 4.2.5 Table 4.3 below shows the age profile of LSOA Kirklees 004D and comparator areas in 2021. The study area has a larger proportion of residents aged 15 years and under (22.8%) than for the comparator geographies.
- 4.2.6 Correspondingly, Kirklees 004D has fewer older residents (15.1%) than Kirklees local authority (17.7%) and the region (19.0%). However, the proportion of working age residents is consistent across all three geographies.

Table 4.3 Age profile

Age range	Kirklees 011D	Kirklees	Yorkshire and the Humber
Age 0-15	22.8%	20.1%	18.5%
Age 16-64	62.0%	62.3%	62.3%
Age 65+	15.1%	17.7%	19.0%

²⁰ An LSOA is an area defined by the ONS for statistical purposes, and typically has a population of approximately 1,500 to 2,000 residents.
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Source: ONS (2021), Census, table TS007 – Age by broad age bands.

Population growth

- 4.2.7 The ONS also provides population growth projections based on demographic trends for the local authority. The population of Kirklees is projected to increase to 456,556 by 2035, equivalent to a 5.4% increase since 2021.
- 4.2.8 Between 2021-2040, the number of residents aged 65 and over in Kirklees is projected to increase by 37.9%, an estimated additional 29,102 older residents.
- 4.2.9 Younger age groups in Kirklees are predicted to instead see minimal growth or even a decline. The 16-64 age group is forecast to increase by 0.4%, and the 15 and under age group is forecast to decline by 2.7%.²¹

4.3 Deprivation

- 4.3.1 The 2025 Indices of Multiple Deprivation,²² produced by MHCLG, is a measure of deprivation across seven socio-economic domains. These include Income; Employment; Health Deprivation and Disability; Education; Skills and training; Crime and Safety; Barriers to Housing and Services; and Living Environment. These domains are then combined to provide an overall deprivation ranking for each local authority across England.
- 4.3.2 The IMD also provides deprivation scores at the Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) level, with each LSOA falling within a deprivation decile between 1 and 10 (with 1 representing an area within the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods).
- 4.3.3 The Proposed Development is located within LSOA Kirklees 004D, which has an overall IMD decile rank of 7, falling within the 70th percentile out of all LSOAs. This concludes that the area experiences lower than average levels of deprivation overall in comparison to the rest of the country, ranking within the 30% least deprived neighbourhoods.
- 4.3.4 It is also important to consider how the LSOA performs across individual deprivation domains. The domain of most concern for the neighbourhood area is the 'crime' domain, falling within the 3rd decile. This indicates that the area has high levels of crime-related deprivation in comparison with the national average.
- 4.3.5 Comparatively, Kirklees 004D has less deprivation than average across all other domains, in particular in the 'living environment' domain (decile 9) and 'education, skills and training' domain (decile 8).
- 4.3.6 The following table indicates the decile scores for the LSOA in which the Site is located (Kirklees 004D) in respect to the seven domains. The closer the decile to 1, the more deprived the LSOA is, while the closer the decile to 10, the less deprived the LSOA is.

²¹ ONS (2025), Population projections – local authority based on single year of age (2040).

²² Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2025), 2025 English Indices of Deprivation.

Table 4.4 Deprivation in Kirklees 004D

IMD Domains	Kirklees 004D
	Decile
IMD Overall	7
Income Domain	7
Employment Domain	7
Education, Skills and Training Domain	8
Health Deprivation and Disability Domain	6
Crime Domain	3
Barriers to Housing and Services Domain	6
Living Environment Domain	9

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2025), 2025 English Indices of Deprivation.

4.4 Health profile

General health

- 4.4.2 According to data published by the Department of Health and Social Care from 2023/24, 66.6% of adults in Kirklees are classified as physically active. This is approximately the same as the regional level, however slightly lower than the national average of 67.4%.
- 4.4.3 Obesity amongst adults aged 18 and over is also recorded by the Department of Health and Social Care. In England, 64.5% of adults are classed as being obese or overweight whereas 67.7% of adults in Kirklees fall into this category, which could be impacting health outcomes in the Local Impact Area negatively.

Table 4.5 Rates of physical activity and overweight/obesity

Adult health indicator	Kirklees (%)	Yorkshire and the Humber (%)	England (%)
% of Physically Active Adults	66.6	66.3	67.4
% of Adults Overweight or Obese	67.7	67.2	64.5

Source: Department of Health & Social Care (2023/24) – Local Authority Health Profile – Kirklees.

Self-reported health status

- 4.4.4 The 2021 Census asked residents to self-assess their general health, with possible responses ranging from ‘very good’ to ‘very bad’. This provides a useful, although subjective, measure of perceived health that complements other health indicators.
- 4.4.5 Residents in the neighbourhood area (Kirklees 004D) reported much better perceptions of their health compared with some comparator areas.
- 4.4.6 In the Kirklees 004D, 49.8% of the population reported themselves as being in ‘very good health’. This is higher than the average in the local authority of 46.6%, the regional average of 46.2% and the national average of 48.5%. The proportion reporting ‘good health’ in the LSOA was 35.7%, which is also higher than the average across all comparator areas.
- 4.4.7 Table 4.6 presents a comparison of self-reported health across different spatial levels, from LSOA to national level.

Table 4.6 Self-assessment of health

Self-assessment	Kirklees 004D (%)	Kirklees (%)	Yorkshire and the Humber (%)	England (%)
Very good health	49.8	46.6	46.2	48.5
Good health	35.7	34.5	34.3	33.7
Fair health	11.0	13.4	13.7	12.7
Bad health	2.7	4.3	4.5	4.0
Very bad health	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.2

Source: ONS (2021), Census, table TS037 – General health.

Child health

- 4.4.8 The Department of Health and Social Care publishes data on child health at a local authority level, the most recent dataset being for the period of 2024/25.
- 4.4.9 The prevalence of obesity in Year 6 children is a key indicator of local health; the latest data shows that 23.7% of Kirklees’ children are categorised as overweight or obese. This is similar to the regional average (24.1%) and slightly higher than the national average (22.2%).

Table 4.7 Child health

Child health indicator	Kirklees	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
% of Children Overweight or Obese	23.7%	24.1%	22.2%

Source: Department of Health and Social Care (2024/25) – Local Authority Health Profile - Kirklees.

Smoking prevalence

- 4.4.10 The Local Authority Health Profile data from 2024 shows that 12.6% of adults (aged 18 and over) residing in Kirklees were current smokers.²³
- 4.4.11 This is slightly higher than the regional average (12.2%) but much higher than the national average (10.4%) and could lead to local residents experiencing poorer health outcomes.

Life expectancy and infant mortality rate

- 4.4.12 For the period 2022-24, the average life expectancy at birth in Kirklees was 78.0 years for men and 82.0 years for women. These figures are slightly lower the regional averages of 78.3 years for men and 82.3 years for women, and both are lower than the national averages of 79.5 years for men and 83.3 years for women.²⁴
- 4.4.13 The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for Kirklees (2022-24) was 6.7%. This is lower than the infant mortality rate in the region for the same period, which is 7.5%, and higher than the national figure of 6.1%. However, the regional and national infant mortality rates have seen a dramatic increase in the past year from 5.0% in Yorkshire and the Humber and 4.1% in England, as of 2021-23.

Table 4.8 Life expectancy at birth

Gender	Kirklees	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
Male	78.0	78.3	79.5
Female	82.0	82.3	83.3

Source: Department of Health and Social Care (2021-2023), Local Authority Health Profiles – Life Expectancy – Kirklees.

Disability

- 4.4.14 The 2021 Census reported that 13.1% of the population within the LSOA where the Proposed Development is located is classified as disabled under the Equality Act. Within this group, 4.5% stated that their day-to-day activities are “limited a lot.” These proportions are lower than those recorded across all other comparator geographies.
- 4.4.15 Within Kirklees local authority, 17.4% of residents reported being disabled, which is similar to the national average of 17.3% for England but lower than the regional average of 18.6%. Although the overall proportion of disabled residents in Kirklees is comparable to the national figure, the borough has a slightly higher proportion of individuals whose day-to-day activities are “limited a lot” at 7.7%, compared with 7.3 % nationally, as shown in Table 4.9.

²³ Department of Health and Social Care (2021-2023), Local Authority Health Profiles – Smoking prevalence, Kirklees

²⁴ Department of Health and Social Care (2022-24), Local Authority Health Profiles – Life Expectancy, Kirklees

4.4.16 These findings suggest that the Neighbourhood Impact Area has lower than average levels of disability and the Local Impact Areas has comparable levels of disability to the national average, but lower than the regional average.

Table 4.9 Incidence of disability

Disability	Kirklees 011D (%)	Kirklees (%)	Yorkshire and the Humber (%)	England (%)
Disabled under the Equality Act	13.1	17.4	18.6	17.3
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	4.5	7.7	8.1	7.3
Day-to-day activities limited a little	8.6	9.8	10.5	10.0
Not disabled under the Equality Act	86.9	82.6	81.4	82.7
Has long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited	7.8	6.5	6.9	6.8
No long term physical or mental health conditions	79.2	76.0	74.4	75.9

Source: ONS (2021), Census, Table TS038 - Disability

NHS Outcomes and Quality Framework

- 4.4.17 The Proposed Development is located within the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) administrative area. The NHS reports on prevalence of health conditions amongst GP patients at ICB level, as well as nationally.
- 4.4.18 Obesity rates are particularly high in West Yorkshire ICB, at 12.6%, in comparison to the national average of 11.4%. Data from the House of Commons Library of Health Conditions dashboard, which estimates health condition prevalence at a neighbourhood level, shows that rates of obesity in Gomersal are amongst some of the highest in the country, at 15.1%.²⁵
- 4.4.19 The following table demonstrates that residents in Kirklees may face poorer health outcomes in 12 of the 20 health conditions that are included in the NHS Outcomes and Quality Framework, compared to the national average.

²⁵ UK Parliament (2025), Library of Health Conditions dashboard, Constituency and local data, Spen Valley. Health Impact Assessment UK0043290.2281

Table 4.10 NHS outcomes and quality framework (2022-23), prevalence of health conditions in West Yorkshire ICB and England

Health condition	Recorded prevalence of total GP patients with health condition in West Yorkshire ICB	Recorded prevalence of total GP patients with health condition in England	Above England average (Yes/No)?
Asthma	7.15%	6.52%	Yes
Atrial Fibrillation	1.90%	2.13%	No
Cancer	3.14%	3.49%	No
Chronic Kidney Disease	3.95%	4.19%	No
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	2.09%	1.85%	Yes
Coronary Heart Disease	3.05%	2.99%	Yes
Dementia	0.71%	0.74%	No
Diabetes Mellitus	8.09%	7.45%	Yes
Epilepsy	0.86%	0.80%	Yes
Heart Failure	0.98%	0.99%	No
Hypertension	14.28%	14.42%	No
Learning Difficulties	0.67%	0.56%	Yes
Mental health	1.06%	1.00%	Yes
Non-Diabetic Hyperglycaemia	8.34%	7.10%	Yes
Obesity	12.60%	11.37%	Yes
Osteoporosis	0.84%	0.97%	No
Palliative Care	0.54%	0.47%	Yes
Peripheral Arterial Disease	0.67%	0.57%	Yes
Rheumatoid Arthritis	0.75%	0.76%	No
Stroke And Transient Ischaemic Attack	1.88%	1.85%	Yes

Source: NHS Digital (2023), NHS Outcomes and Quality Framework (QOF) Data for 2022/23.

4.5 Labour market

Working age population

- 4.5.2 As indicated in the age profile subsection, approximately 62.0% of residents in LSOA Kirklees 004D are of working age (age 16-64), compared with 62.3% for Kirklees local authority and 62.3% for Yorkshire and the Humber region.

Economic activity

- 4.5.3 Data from the 2025 ONS Annual Population Survey shows that of the working age population (those aged 16-64), residents in Kirklees local authority have a similar rate of economic activity (80.4%) compared to the national average (79.1%), but a significantly higher rate than the regional average (76.5%)²⁶.

Employment rate

- 4.5.4 In June 2025, the employment rate in Kirklees was 76.4%, higher than the average for Yorkshire and the Humber (73.4%). This represented an increase in the employment rate within the Local Impact Area from 74.1% as of July 2024.²⁷

Unemployment rate

- 4.5.5 In June 2025, approximately 11,200 people aged 16 to 64 years in Kirklees were unemployed, representing a rate of 5.1%. This represents an increase from 3.3% in the previous year. In contrast, the unemployment rate across Yorkshire and the Humber increased from 3.0% to 4.0% over the same period, with the number of unemployed people increasing from around 77,700 to 105,500²⁸.

Claimant count

- 4.5.6 The Claimant Count is a measure of the number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits, primarily Jobseeker's Allowance and certain Universal Credit claimants who are required to search for work. It does not represent all unemployed individuals but provides an indication of those receiving benefits during unemployment.
- 4.5.7 The Claimant Count in Kirklees was 12,705 in November 2025, a decrease from 14,170 as of November 2024. The proportion of people aged 16 to 64 years in Kirklees who were claiming unemployment-related benefits reduced from 5.2% in November 2024 to 4.6% in November 2025.²⁹

Economic inactivity

- 4.5.8 Approximately 53,300 people, or 19.5% of the working age population in Kirklees were classified as economically inactive during the latest Annual Population Survey dated June

²⁶ ONS (2025), Annual Population Survey

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ ONS (2025), Claimant count by sex and age

2025. This compares with approximately 64,000 people (23.3%) as of June 2024. Economic inactivity in Kirklees is slightly lower than the regional level, with 23.5% of working age residents being economically inactive across Yorkshire and the Humber as of June 2025, a decrease from 24.8% in the previous year³⁰.

Skills attainment

4.5.9 The 2021 Census reported that within the LSOA Kirklees 004D, 14.7% of the population had no formal qualifications. This is much lower than the average for Kirklees local authority (20.7%) and the regional average (20.6%).

Conversely, 31.7% of residents in the LSOA held qualifications at Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) Level 4 or above (degree-level), which is slightly higher than the averages for Kirklees (29.9%) and Yorkshire and the Humber (29.5%), although lower than the national average (33.9%). Table 4.11 Highest level of qualification

Highest level of qualification	LSOA Kirklees 004D	Kirklees	Yorkshire and The Humber	England
No qualifications	14.3%	20.7%	20.6%	18.1%
Level 1 and entry level qualifications	10.5%	9.8%	10.1%	9.7%
Level 2 qualifications	14.5%	13.3%	13.6%	13.3%
Apprenticeship	7.6%	6.3%	6.1%	5.3%
Level 3 qualifications	19.4%	17.4%	17.4%	16.9%
Level 4 qualifications or above	31.7%	29.9%	29.5%	33.9%
Other qualifications	2.1%	2.7%	2.6%	2.8%

Source: ONS (2021), Census – TS067 – Highest level of qualification.

Occupation

4.5.10 The 2021 Census recorded the current occupations of residents aged 16 years and over who were in employment, ranging from lower-skilled roles such as ‘elementary occupations’ to higher-skilled roles such as ‘managers, directors and senior officials’.³¹

4.5.11 Residents of LSOA Kirklees 004D are more likely to be employed in higher-skilled roles overall. The most common occupation is ‘professional occupations’, accounting for 20.5% of the workforce, which is higher than the Kirklees average of 18.4%. The Neighbourhood Impact Area also has a notably higher proportion of people employed in ‘associate

³⁰ ONS (2025), Annual Population Survey

³¹ ONS (2021), Census – TS063 - Occupation

professional and technical occupations’ (15.3%) and ‘administrative and secretarial occupations’ (11.5%), than the Kirklees averages, at 13.0% and 9.0% respectively.

4.5.12 A smaller proportion of residents in the LSOA are employed in lower-skilled roles such as ‘Process, plant and machine operatives’ (6.0%) and ‘Elementary occupations’ (7.3%) when compared with the wider geographies.

4.5.13 Employment in ‘sales and customer service occupations’ is relatively low in Kirklees 004D, encompassing 6.8% of the workforce, compared with 8.3% across the Local Impact Area.

Table 4.12 - Occupation

Occupation	LSOA Kirklees 004D	Kirklees	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
Managers, directors and senior officials	13.1%	12.0%	11.2%	12.9%
Professional occupations	20.5%	18.4%	18.1%	20.3%
Associate professional and technical occupations	15.3%	13.0%	12.3%	13.3%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	11.5%	9.0%	9.0%	9.3%
Skilled trades occupations	11.3%	11.0%	11.1%	10.2%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	8.2%	9.4%	9.7%	9.3%
Sales and customer service occupations	6.8%	8.3%	8.3%	7.5%
Process, plant and machine operatives	6.0%	8.9%	8.4%	6.9%
Elementary occupations	7.3%	10.0%	11.8%	10.5%

Source: ONS (2021), Census – TS063 – Occupation

4.6 Economy and economic productivity

Jobs density

4.6.2 In 2023, Kirklees had a jobs density of 0.66, which is lower than the Yorkshire and the Humber average of 0.82 and the England average of 0.87. Jobs density represents the

ratio of jobs in an area to the working-age population (aged 16 to 64), indicating the availability of employment opportunities relative to the size of the local workforce³².

Key employment sectors

- 4.6.3 Kirklees local authority has a diverse employment base, with significant representation in sectors such as manufacturing (15.4%), alongside health (13.6%), education (9.9%) and retail (9.3%).
- 4.6.4 Notably, the manufacturing industry employs a much higher proportion of employees within Kirklees than the regional (10.4%) and national (7.1%) averages, however there appears to be no representation of this industry within LSOA Kirklees 004D.
- 4.6.5 Within the LSOA Kirklees 004D, the majority of employee jobs are in education (30.0%) and construction (20.0%). This is much higher than the equivalent averages across all comparator areas.
- 4.6.6 The lowest proportion of jobs in Kirklees is in agriculture, forestry and fishing (0.2%), which is broadly consistent with the regional and national averages.

Table 4.12 Industry

Industry	Kirklees 004D	Kirklees	Yorkshire and The Humber	England
	%	%	%	%
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.5
Mining, quarrying & utilities	0.0	0.8	1.2	1.1
Manufacturing	0.0	15.4	10.4	7.1
Construction	20.0	5.6	5.4	4.9
Motor trades	0.0	2.8	2.3	1.8
Wholesale	5.0	5.6	4.2	3.8
Retail	0.0	9.3	8.0	8.2
Transport & storage (inc postal)	5.0	4.3	5.4	5.1
Accommodation & food services	0.0	6.2	7.3	7.7
Information & communication	0.0	1.5	2.5	4.8
Financial & insurance	0.0	1.1	2.7	3.4

³² ONS (2023), Jobs Density.
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Industry	Kirklees 004D	Kirklees	Yorkshire and The Humber	England
	%	%	%	%
Property	0.0	1.5	1.4	1.9
Professional, scientific & technical	10.0	5.6	7.5	9.6
Business administration & support services	10.0	8.0	8.5	8.8
Public administration & defence	0.0	3.7	5.0	4.5
Education	30.0	9.9	9.0	8.6
Health	0.0	13.6	14.7	13.8
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	10.0	4.3	4.2	4.4

Source: ONS (2024), Business Register and Employment Survey

Economic output and productivity

- 4.6.7 Workforce productivity in Kirklees can be assessed using Gross Value Added (GVA) generated per job.
- 4.6.8 According to ONS estimates, the Kirklees economy generated approximately £8.5 billion in GVA in 2022, representing a 31% increase compared with 2015. This growth is broadly in line with the trend for England as a whole. Productivity measures have also improved in recent years: GVA per hour worked in Kirklees increased from £22.20 in 2012 to £30.70 in 2022. However, this remains at around 77% of the UK average, indicating a persistent productivity gap³³.
- 4.6.9 Provisional data for 2019 shows that GVA per capita in Kirklees was £17,629, compared with £24,828 in West Yorkshire, £23,269 in Yorkshire and the Humber, and £29,599 nationally. The gap between Kirklees and the UK has widened over the past two decades, from £4,793 per head (31%) in 1998 to £11,970 per head (40%) in 2019, although this has narrowed slightly from 43% in 2013. The gap between the Kirklees and regional average has remained relatively stable.³⁴

³³ [Item+7a.+Kirklees+Inclusive+Economy+Strategy+v2.3.pdf](#)

³⁴ [Achieving Our Outcomes.pdf](#)

4.7 Hot food takeaways

4.7.1 Kirklees Council has adopted a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Hot Food Takeaways. The SPD Policy HFT3: 'Proximity to Schools' establishes restrictive zones within a 400-metre (approximately five-minute walk) radius from school entrances.

4.7.2 The policy states:

*"Hot food takeaways within easy walking distance of schools can provide an attractive and affordable food option for pupils. In an effort to establish appropriate healthy eating habits and reduce the rate of childhood obesity in the local population, the Council therefore considers it appropriate to restrict the hours of operation for hot food takeaways within 400m of primary (infant and/or junior or middle) and secondary schools."*³⁵

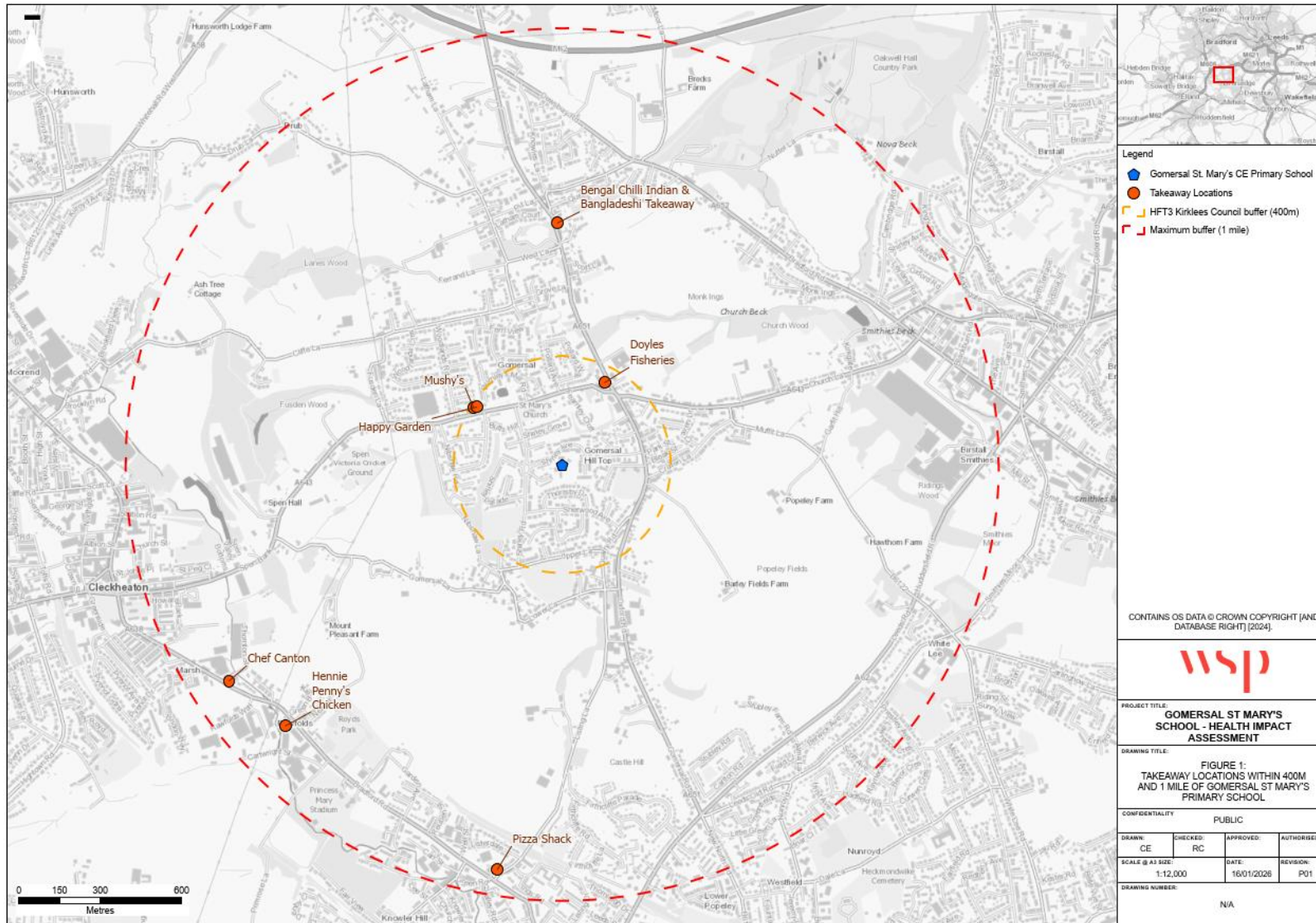
4.7.3 The purpose of this policy is to reduce children's exposure to unhealthy food options during times when they are most likely to make food choices, such as lunchtime and after school. By limiting the availability of hot food takeaways during these periods, the policy aims to encourage healthier eating habits and support long-term wellbeing.

4.7.4 The Proposed Development is located near several hot food takeaways, including Happy Garden, approximately 0.3 miles (a six-minute walk) away, Mushy's, approximately 0.3 miles (a seven-minute walk) away, and Doyles Fisheries approximately 0.4 miles (a nine-minute walk) away. In compliance with the SPD, Mushy's and Happy Garden do not open until after 5:00 pm on weekdays.

4.7.5 The following figure depicts the location of hot food takeaways within a 400m and 1 mile radius from the Proposed Development.

³⁵ Kirklees Council (2022), Hot Food Takeaway SPD, pp. 16-17
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Figure 2 - Local hot food takeaways in proximity to Gomersal St Mary's Primary School



Source: WSP (2026)

4.8 Vulnerable groups

- 4.8.1 The Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU)³⁶ provides national guidance on the application of Health Impact Assessments. This guidance was later updated in 2026.
- 4.8.2 One of its key tools is the ‘Population Groups Checklist’, which is designed to support the screening and appraisal stages of an HIA. The checklist helps practitioners identify population groups with healthy equity and inequity factors who therefore may experience disproportionate or differential impacts from a proposed development.
- 4.8.3 The groups listed in the WHIASU checklist are considered more susceptible to poor health and wellbeing outcomes due to social, economic, or environmental vulnerabilities. These include, for example, children, older people, people with disabilities, and those living in deprived areas.
- 4.8.4 The checklist is intended as a guide rather than an exhaustive list. The specific groups most likely to be affected will depend on the characteristics of the local population, the context of the area, and the nature of the proposal itself.

Figure 4.3 WHIASU population groups checklist

<p>Sex/Gender related groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female • Male • Transgender • Non-binary • Other (<i>please specify</i>) <p>Age related groups (<i>Could specify age range for special consideration</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years (including pregnancy and babies up to age of 2) • Children and young people • Working age adult populations • Older people <p>Employment / Income related groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economically active/inactive • Economically inactive • People on low income • People on temporary contracts or zero hours contracts • People who are unable to work due to ill health • Unemployed/workless • Volunteers • Young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) 	<p>Groups at higher risk of discrimination or other social disadvantage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers • Ethnic minorities (<i>please specify</i>) • Ex-offenders • Gypsy, Roma and Traveller • Homeless or no fixed abode • Language/culture (<i>please specify</i>) • Lone parent families • Looked after children or those leaving care • Offenders • People with long term health conditions • People with mental health conditions • People with physical, sensory or learning disabilities/difficulties • Refugee groups and asylum seekers • Religious groups (<i>please specify</i>) • Sex workers • Sexual orientation groups • Veterans/military personnel <p>Geographical groups and/or settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in key settings: workplaces/schools/hospitals/care homes/prisons • People living in areas which exhibit poor economic and/or health indicators • People living in urban or rural areas • People living in isolated or over-populated areas • People unable to access services and facilities
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Source: WHIASU (2026), *Health Impact Assessment (HIA): Population Groups and Wider Determinants of Health and Well-being*.

³⁶ Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (2026), *Health Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2025: A guide for public bodies in Wales*.
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- 4.8.5 The WHIASU recommends considering vulnerable population groups during the screening and appraisal stages of a Health Impact Assessment.
- 4.8.6 These groups are identified because they may experience disproportionate or differential impacts from a proposed development due to social, economic, or health-related vulnerabilities.
- 4.8.7 The checklist provided by WHIASU is not exhaustive; the relevance of each group depends on the characteristics of the local population, the context of the area, and the nature of the proposal.
- 4.8.8 The following table applies this guidance to the Proposed Development, assessing key population sub-groups that may be more sensitive to potential health impacts.

Table 4.13 Identification of vulnerable groups

Vulnerable group	Analysis
Age related groups	<p>The Proposed Development is particularly relevant to children and young people because it involves the redevelopment of Gomersal St. Mary's CE Primary School, which serves this age group.</p> <p>The school currently accommodates 184 pupils (including 12 nursery spaces) aged between 3 and 11 years old.³⁷ Within the LSOA where the Proposed Development is located (Kirklees 004D), 22.8% of the population is aged 0-15, which is higher than the average for Kirklees local authority, at 20.1%.</p> <p>During the construction phase, pupils currently attending the school may experience temporary disruption, such as noise, dust, and changes to access arrangements. However, the long-term objective of the Proposed Development is to provide a modern, high-quality facility that supports improved learning environments and overall wellbeing.</p> <p>Older people also represent a smaller proportion of the local population. In Kirklees 004D; 15.1% of residents are aged 65 or older, compared with 17.7% across Kirklees local authority. This group may be more sensitive to temporary environmental impacts during construction, such as increased noise, air pollution, and traffic. While these effects are short-term, they require careful management to avoid adverse impacts on health and quality of life.</p>
Income related groups	<p>Approximately 269,500 residents (62.3%) in Kirklees local authority are of working age (aged 16-64), which is in line with the Yorkshire and the Humber regional average³⁸. Data from the 2025 ONS Annual Population Survey shows that of the working age population residents in Kirklees local authority have a much higher rate of economic activity at 80.5%, compared to the average for the Yorkshire and the Humber region (76.5%), and similar to the England average (79.1%)³⁹.</p> <p>Approximately 11,200 people aged 16-64 years in Kirklees were unemployed in the June 2025, equivalent to an unemployment rate of</p>

³⁷ DfE (2024), Gomersal St Mary's Primary School, Feasibility Study.

³⁸ ONS (2022), 2021 Census

³⁹ ONS (2025), Annual Population Survey.

Vulnerable group	Analysis
	<p>5.1%. This is higher than the rate across Yorkshire and The Humber, in which the unemployment rate was 4.0%.⁴⁰</p> <p>Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility of pupils at Gomersal St. Mary's Primary School is a relevant indicator of income vulnerability in the local population. As of 2025, 57 pupils (34.3% of the pupil body) are eligible for FSM. This is higher than the England average of 24.6%.⁴¹</p> <p>The median FTE gross salary for residents in Kirklees in 2025 was £35,867 which is slightly below the Yorkshire and the Humber average of £35,990, and both were below the England average, which is £39,243.⁴²</p>
<p>Groups who suffer discrimination or other social disadvantage</p>	<p>For the purposes of this HIA, indicators of social disadvantage relating to deprivation, health, life expectancy have been assessed.</p> <p>The 2025 Indices of Multiple Deprivation indicates that the LSOA in which the Proposed Development is located⁴³ has an overall rank of 7 out of 10, therefore ranked in the 70th percentile out of all LSOAs across England, amongst the 30% least deprived.</p> <p>Generally, the Neighbourhood Impact Area has less deprivation than average across the domains, other than the 'crime' domain, in which it scores as decile 3.</p> <p>Health outcomes are generally better in LSOA Kirklees 004D, with 85.5% of residents reporting to be in 'good' or 'very good' health, in comparison to the local authority which reports 81.1%. Within Kirklees local authority, some health outcomes related to behavioural health (child obesity, and physical activity) are generally in line with or perform better than the region, however there is worse infant mortality than the national average, and higher prevalence of several chronic conditions. Smoking rates in Kirklees are significantly higher than average, with 12.6% of adults being current smokers compared to 10.4% nationally.⁴⁴</p> <p>Residents in Kirklees have higher than average rates of incidence of 12 of the 20 health conditions measured by the NHS Outcomes and Quality Framework, compared to the England average.</p> <p>Disability prevalence in the LSOA and Kirklees local authority is lower (13.1% and 17.4% respectively) than the regional average, and in line with the national average (17.3%).</p>
<p>Geographical groups: people living in isolated areas, areas with poor access to services and facilities, or areas of high deprivation</p>	<p>The Site of the Proposed Development is located in a suburban location. People residing in urban/suburban locations can be more likely to have better access to services and facilities locally, and multiple options for public transport, however, may have a lack of accessible green spaces.</p>

Source: Identification of vulnerable groups by Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (2020), Health Impact Assessment: A practical guide; analysis by WSP (2025).

⁴⁰ ONS (2025), Annual Population Survey.

⁴¹ DfE (2025), Get Information About Schools, Percentage of children eligible for free school meals.

⁴² ONS(2025), Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings – resident analysis.

⁴³ LSOA Kirklees 004D

⁴⁴ Department of Health and Social Care (2021-2023), Local Authority Health Profiles – Smoking prevalence, Kirklees Health Impact Assessment UK0043290.2281

4.9 Summary of key findings

4.9.1 The baseline assessment has identified the following key trends:

Population

- The local population in Kirklees LSOA 011D shrank by 1% between 2011 and 2021, which is very different from the growth rate for Kirklees (+3%) and Yorkshire and the Humber (+4%).
- The Neighbourhood Impact Area has a relatively young population, with 22.8% aged 15 and under, compared to 20.1% in Kirklees and 18.5% regionally.
- Projections indicate a decline in this age group by 2040, while the population aged 65 and over in Kirklees is expected to increase by 37.9%.

Life expectancy

- Life expectancy in Kirklees is lower than national averages for both men (78.0 years vs 79.5) and women (82.0 years vs 83.3). The infant mortality rate is lower than the regional average but higher than national averages.

Deprivation

- The LSOA is ranked in the 70th percentile for overall deprivation, indicating lower level of deprivation. However, it experiences higher deprivation in the domain of crime (decile 3). In the 'living environment' domain (decile 9) and 'education, skills and training' domain (decile 8), it ranks amongst the least deprived in the country.

Health profile

- Adult obesity is a concern, with 67.7% of adults in Kirklees being overweight or obese, higher than the national average of 64.5%. Physical activity levels are slightly below the national average.
- Self-reported health in the LSOA shows a higher proportion of residents in "very good" or "good" health compared to other geographies, suggesting slightly better perceived health.
- Child obesity in Year 6 is 23.7%, slightly lower than the regional average but higher than the national figure of 22.2%.
- Disability levels in the LSOA are much lower than regional and national averages.
- NHS data indicates higher prevalence of several chronic conditions in West Yorkshire compared to England, including diabetes, obesity, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

- Smoking rates in Kirklees are significantly higher than average, with 12.6% of adults being current smokers compared to 10.4% nationally.

Employment and skills

- Employment rates in Kirklees are above regional averages, and economic activity is slightly higher than the national average.
- The employment rate in Kirklees was 76.4% in 2025, an increase from 74.1% in the previous year, but continuing to be above the regional average.
- The unemployment rate was 5.1% in 2023, an increase from 3.3% in the previous year. This contrasts with a regional increase from 3.0% to 4.0%.
- The number of people claiming unemployment-related benefits in Kirklees reduced from 14,170 in November 2024 to 12,705 in November 2025.
- In the LSOA where the Proposed Development is located, 14.3% of residents have no formal qualifications, which is lower than both local and regional averages. 31.7% of residents hold Level 4 qualifications or above, slightly above the Kirklees average (29.9%) and the national average (33.9%).

Key sectors and occupations

- Key employment sectors in Kirklees include manufacturing (15.4%), health (13.6%), education (9.9%) and retail (9.3%).
- The most common occupation in the LSOA is professional occupations (20.5%), which is higher than the Kirklees average (18.4%).
- There is also a higher proportion of residents in management roles (13.1%) and associate professional and technical occupations (15.3%) compared to other geographies. Employment in lower-skilled roles such as process, plant, and machine operatives is below local and regional averages.

Economic output and productivity

- Kirklees generated £8.5 billion in GVA in 2022, a 31% increase since 2015, but productivity remains at around 77% of the UK average.
- GVA per head in Kirklees is significantly below both regional and national averages, and the gap with the UK has widened over the past two decades.

Hot food takeaways

- The Proposed Development is within 400 metres of three hot food takeaways, but local planning policy restricts opening hours to reduce exposure to unhealthy food options for school children.

Vulnerable groups

- The Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) provides national guidance on applying Health Impact Assessments (HIAs). A key tool is the Population Groups Checklist, which helps identify groups that may experience disproportionate or differential impacts from a proposed development.
- Age-related groups: The development is highly relevant to children and young people as it involves a primary school. Temporary construction impacts (noise, dust, access changes) may affect pupils, but long-term benefits include improved facilities. Older people (15.1% of the population of the Neighbourhood Impact Area) may be sensitive to short-term environmental impacts.
- Income-related groups: High vulnerability is indicated by 34.3% of pupils being eligible for Free School Meals, compared to 24.6% nationally. Local unemployment (5.1%) is above the regional average, and median salaries are below national levels.
- Social disadvantage: The LSOA ranks in the 70th percentile for overall deprivation. It is within the 30% most deprived LSOAs for the crime domain, however performs better than average across all other domains. Health outcomes are generally better in Kirklees than the regional average, although there is higher infant mortality than the national average and higher prevalence of several chronic conditions.
- Geographical factors: The Site is in a suburban area with good access to services and transport but potentially limited green space.



5

**Analysis of community feedback in relation
to health themes**



5. Analysis of community feedback in relation to health themes

5.1 Approach to community engagement

5.1.1 Community engagement has been undertaken as part of the process to inform the development proposals, led by Stonyrock. Full details of the engagement process can be found in the 'Gomersal St Mary's CE (C) Primary School, Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI) prepared by Stonyrock. The document is submitted as part of the planning application.

5.1.2 The following engagement activities were conducted:

- A preview of the public exhibition was held for staff in the afternoon, ahead of the main exhibition in the evening.
- Public exhibition on 11th March 2026 at Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary School
- Prior to the consultation launch political representatives and community stakeholders were contacted. All Councillors were emailed details of the proposals and exhibition and will be kept informed as the project progresses. No political stakeholders made themselves known at the public exhibition.
- Comprehensive promotion of the public exhibition through the following methods:
 - Letter invitations posted to 100 immediate neighbours of the Site;
 - 1,000 flyers distributed to the community;
 - Email invitations issued to stakeholders, including Councillors, community representatives, community groups and other local schools, and
 - Invitations were issued to parents/carers through the school email and a school Facebook post.
- Project website (gomersalstymarysplans.co.uk) including layout, design, latest news and the function to leave feedback and register for updates
- Press advertisement
- Feedback was gathered in person at the event through feedback forms as well as via telephone and email during the consultation process.⁴⁵

5.1.3 Engagement activity will continue throughout the planning process and will include:

- Update emails to subscribers;
- Support school sharing updates with staff and families;

⁴⁵ Stonyrock (2026), Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School, Gomersal, Statement of Community Involvement. Health Impact Assessment UK0043290.2281

- Letters or newsletters as required;
- Meetings with stakeholders and neighbours;
- Website updates;
- Guidance on how to comment on the application; and
- Next steps through construction until project completion.

Public Exhibition

- 5.1.4 Stonyrock facilitated a public exhibition hosted on 11th March 2026 at Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary School. The event was attended by representatives from Bowmer + Kirkland, One Environmental, WSP, as well as the leadership team from Gomersal St Mary's and the Department for Education (DfE).
- 5.1.5 The event was attended by 95 people in total, which included 40 neighbours and local neighbours in the evening session and 55 parents, carers, pupils and staff in the afternoon. These included neighbours located on the immediate boundary of this site.
- 5.1.6 The event was hosted in order to consult with the staff, parents and carers, stakeholders and the public before the planning application was submitted to Kirklees Council.
- 5.1.7 Attendees at the exhibition were encouraged to complete paper feedback forms or fill in the online version. 18 feedback forms were completed via online or paper forms. Emails were also received with additional comments. Respondents included current parents and carers, local residents, Governors and those with links to the Church.

5.2 Findings from community engagement

- 5.2.1 This section assesses the community engagement feedback in the context of the themes set out in Kirklees Council's 'Rapid Health Impact Assessment for Spatial Planning' guidance, with the aim of establishing how the feedback relates to Kirklees Council's HIA theme areas.
- 5.2.2 Those who completed the feedback forms were asked if they supported the plans to regenerate Gomersal St Mary's CE (C) Primary School. Of the 18 responses to this question, 76% support the plans to regenerate the school. Support for the proposals was evident during conversations at the public exhibition.⁴⁶
- 5.2.3 Those who completed feedback forms selected the three key elements of the proposals as the most important elements to them:
- A comprehensive Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to help minimise disruption to neighbours;
 - Modern, inspiring, sustainable school; and
 - Multiple and varied areas for outdoor play, learning and sport.

⁴⁶ Ibid.
Health Impact Assessment
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- 5.2.4 This HIA reviews the feedback in relation to the Kirklees Rapid HIA guidance topics. While the feedback was relevant to many of these topics, analysis of the feedback indicates that the some were more prominent. These are:
- Topic 1: Construction Phase
 - Topic 6. Community and personal safety
 - Topic 8. Community cohesion
 - Topic 9. Climate change
- 5.2.5 Identifying these themes and topics helps to understand the community's priorities in relation to the wider determinants of health, ensuring that the assessment reflects local perspectives on accessibility, safety, and social connectedness.
- 5.2.6 Table 5.1 provides a summary of the health-related themes raised during the community engagement activity.
- 5.2.7 The Statement of Community Involvement report includes detailed feedback responses from the project team, addressing questions and concerns raised during the engagement process.

Table 5.1 Health-related themes raised during community engagement activity

Feedback gathered during community engagement	Response, as stated in Stonyrock (2026), Statement of Community Involvement	Relevant Kirklees Rapid HIA topics
<p>Layout – 8 comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Position on site</i> • <i>Height</i> • <i>Green space & impervious surfaces</i> • <i>Planting</i> 	<p>Respondents raised concerns that boundary and landscaping changes to the School Site could overlook neighbouring properties, causing noise impacts, disruption from artificial external lighting and reduction of natural light for existing residential properties once the Proposed Development is fully operational. They also noted the risks to neighbouring properties from run-off generated by “<i>increased impervious surface</i>”⁴⁷ coverage at the School Site.</p> <p>The SCI responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Gomersal St Mary’s CE(C) Primary School has grown in a piecemeal fashion. An extensive design process has been undertaken including the examination of alternative layouts. Key considerations included maintaining school operations throughout construction; topography of the site; retention of the Children’s Centre building; school standards and requirements / minimum sizes internally and externally; proximity to neighbouring properties and maintaining existing accesses. The outcome of which is the proposals we shared at the public exhibition.</i> • <i>The School Rebuilding Programme (SRP) proposals include the demolition and or removal of existing school buildings which have reached the end of their useable lifespan and the retention of the Kirklees Council Children’s Centre.</i> • <i>Pupils will benefit from a vastly improved accessible school with brand-new facilities. Separation of key stages, connecting key spaces to external areas and excellent passive supervision.</i> • <i>The proposals consolidate the built area, creating a more compact single storey footprint with a two storey school hall.</i> • <i>Site sections are provided as part of the application. The Housebuilders Design Guide SPD June 2021 provide a benchmark for assessing separation and privacy, these require</i> 	<p>Topic 6. Community and personal safety</p> <p>Topic 8. Community cohesion</p> <p>Topic 9. Climate change</p>

⁴⁷ Stonyrock (2026), Gomersal St Mary’s CE(C) Primary School, Gomersal, Statement of Community Involvement. Health Impact Assessment UK0043290.2281

Feedback gathered during community engagement	Response, as stated in Stonyrock (2026), Statement of Community Involvement	Relevant Kirklees Rapid HIA topics
	<p><i>a 12m distance between windows of habitable rooms that face onto windows of a non-habitable room.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Given the primarily single storey nature of the development, and the separation distances set out above, we do not anticipate the development resulting in any overshadowing issues. A daylight report accompanies the planning application.</i> • <i>The two-storey hall section is 10m by 18m and 8.3m in height with no windows above ground floor level.</i> • <i>The masterplan layout indicates an existing storage container will be relocated and new cycle parking for the nursery school.</i> • <i>A planting strategy will be included as part of the planning application which will detail the size and species of proposed trees.</i> • <i>The school has been informed that some residents have comments that trees are not currently well maintained.</i> • <i>The boundary fencing is detailed in the Design and Access Statement.</i> • <i>By consolidating the buildings, the proposals provide more useable external multipurpose space, including green space for the forest school, wellness garden and soft PE. New hard PE and separation of key stages as shown on the masterplan.</i> • <i>The proposals deliver a comprehensive drainage strategy.</i> • <i>Although, impact on property values is not a planning consideration, the proposals are for the delivery of a replacement, modern, fit for purpose school which is likely to be popular with local parents”.</i>⁴⁸ 	
<p>Construction – 8 comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maintaining school operation</i> 	<p>Residents raised concerns about disturbance to neighbouring properties from construction phase noise, debris and vehicles. They also raised the risk to the safety of pupils attending the School during the construction phase, and risk of evening theft and vandalism at the School during the construction phase.</p>	<p>Topic 1: Construction Phase Topic 6. Community and personal safety</p>

⁴⁸ Ibid.
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Feedback gathered during community engagement	Response, as stated in Stonyrock (2026), Statement of Community Involvement	Relevant Kirklees Rapid HIA topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic • Parking & access • Noise • Dust • Safety 	<p>The SCI responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Bowmer + Kirkland will manage all aspects of the project to ensure the works are carried out safely, on time, to the right quality and with the least disruption possible.</i> • <i>Bowmer + Kirkland has extensive experience of managing sites where a school is operational. Proposed phasing was presented at the public exhibition and will be detailed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</i> • <i>The CEMP will set out proposed approaches to managing potential disruption and effects on amenity, including noise mitigation and air quality (dust management).</i> • <i>The construction programme is designed to minimise disruption to neighbours, staff and pupils. Maintaining school operation on site during construction is a key consideration of the School Rebuilding Programme. Construction will be phased over approximately two and a half years.</i> • <i>The retained buildings will be accessible as well as the temporary nursery building throughout construction. Temporary relocation of the school fence will provide segregation at the front of the school and solid hoarding erected along the school playing field to segregate the playing field from the construction site.</i> • <i>Construction traffic access will be via the main school entrance off Shirley Avenue. A traffic management plan will be in place with construction traffic routes planned and deliveries scheduled. Details of site security, road safety measures and washing down of vehicles (Traffic Marshalls and Banksman) for construction traffic access.</i> • <i>Off-site methods of construction and optimised components for efficient manufacturing help to reduce time on-site and improve health and safety.</i> • <i>Some staff parking will be made available on council owned land opposite the school entrance on Shirley Avenue. Construction workers will park off site. Appropriate locations will be agreed with the Council.</i> • <i>Construction will take place in accordance with regulations and as determined by conditions agreed with the Council, this may include weekend working. Some activities will be scheduled for school holiday periods.</i> 	

Feedback gathered during community engagement	Response, as stated in Stonyrock (2026), Statement of Community Involvement	Relevant Kirklees Rapid HIA topics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Bowmer + Kirkland will work with the school to use the project as a learning tool for pupils.</i>⁴⁹ 	
<p>Design – 4 comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Appearance</i> <i>Noise</i> <i>Light</i> 	<p>Respondents raised concerns that boundary and landscaping changes to the School Site may overlook neighbouring properties, causing noise impacts, disruption from artificial external lighting and reduction of natural light for the existing houses.</p> <p>The SCI responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“The architects followed a comprehensive set of design principles, to deliver a high quality and sustainable place to teach and learn.</i> <i>The choice of materials is in keeping with the setting and follows discussions with the DfE, local authority and school. The materials and building technology create a low acoustic environment and take advantage of natural light.</i> <i>The proposals involve the replacement of an existing school and will not result in an increase in the number of staff, pupils, or vehicle movements at the site.</i> <i>The tallest part of the school building is the school hall area, which is two-storeys. The internal layout has been agreed to meet DfE standards, the needs of the school and ensure a practical approach to the school day, which necessitates the kitchen and hall are adjacent for dining purposes.</i> <i>The application will be supported by a Noise Impact Assessment demonstrating that the proposal is acceptable from a noise perspective. The proposals will not result in any community use of the external areas.</i> <i>Lighting is designed to comply with relevant regulations and takes neighbouring properties into consideration. Internal lighting uses absence detection meaning it will switch off automatically if there is no one present in a room/area and both internal and external lighting will utilise timers which will be set by the school.</i> 	<p>Topic 6. Community and personal safety</p> <p>Topic 9. Climate change</p>

⁴⁹ Stonyrock (2026), Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School, Gomersal, Statement of Community Involvement. Health Impact Assessment UK0043290.2281

Feedback gathered during community engagement	Response, as stated in Stonyrock (2026), Statement of Community Involvement	Relevant Kirklees Rapid HIA topics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>An external lighting layout plan will be submitted as part of the proposals. There is no floodlighting proposed as part of this development.</i> • <i>Improved safeguarding pupils ensuring use of the Children’s Centre can be maintained and a fencing strategy to ensure a clear secure line are documented in the Design and Access Statement.</i> • <i>The school will meet all DfE specification including teaching, learning spaces and communal spaces with regards to capacity, size, ventilation (passive cooling and heating) and accessibility.”⁵⁰</i> 	
<p>Parking and highways – 4 comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parking</i> • <i>Pedestrian safety</i> • <i>Drop off/pick up</i> 	<p>Discussions at the engagement event and anonymous email feedback raised concerns for the potential for disruption to parking for parents and neighbouring residents in the area, as well as pedestrian safety, once the School is fully operational.</p> <p>The SCI responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“The proposals create clearly segregated vehicle and pedestrian routes and access control to the main gates. Early Years (nursery and reception) and KS1 and KS2 have separated entrances once on-site to avoid disruption.</i> • <i>The number of staff and pupils is not changing.</i> • <i>Staff parking is provided for 18 vehicles including two accessible spaces and four EV spaces.</i> • <i>There is no vehicle drop off area however, the new pedestrian plaza provides ample space for pupil drop off and parent waiting.</i> • <i>The pedestrian plaza can be utilised outside of school pick up/drop off times for maintenance access. A bin store is provided adjacent to the staff parking and a substation (with separate entrance) is adjacent to the school entrance.</i> • <i>A Transport Statement will be submitted as part of the planning application.</i> • <i>A Travel Plan will be submitted with the application, which outlines how the school will encourage sustainable transport for all staff, pupils and visitors.</i> 	<p>Topic 3. Active travel and sustainable transport</p> <p>Topic 6. Community and personal safety</p>

⁵⁰ Stonyrock (2026), Gomersal St Mary’s CE(C) Primary School, Gomersal, Statement of Community Involvement.
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Feedback gathered during community engagement	Response, as stated in Stonyrock (2026), Statement of Community Involvement	Relevant Kirklees Rapid HIA topics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The school actively participates in Kirklees Modeshift Stars encouraging sustainable travel to school.</i>⁵¹ 	
Supportive – 4 comments	<p>A number of positive responses were made within the community feedback, including expressing support for school design as a better, functional layout with improved outdoor areas for play.</p> <p>The SCI responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“We are pleased support for the proposals shared at the public exhibition was reiterated in feedback forms.</i> <i>Respondents recognised the need for the regeneration and the benefits this will bring to pupils, staff and wider community.</i> <i>The layout and provision of a modern school were praised.</i>⁵² 	<p>Topic 4. Access to open and green spaces</p> <p>Topic 7. Employment and economic vibrancy.</p>
Community use – 1 comment	<p>Discussions at the engagement event raised the questions about current and future community uses for the School.</p> <p>The SCI responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>“The Children’s Centre has been engaged by the Council regarding the proposals.</i> <i>The Children’s Centre will be used by Bowmer + Kirkland as a site office and by the school for meetings during construction. It will be returned to its current condition on completion of works.</i> <i>On completion, the school could consider managed community use through a Council approved Community Use Agreement.</i>⁵³ 	<p>Topic 8. Community cohesion</p>

⁵¹ Stonyrock (2026), Gomersal St Mary’s CE(C) Primary School, Gomersal, Statement of Community Involvement.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

Feedback gathered during community engagement	Response, as stated in Stonyrock (2026), Statement of Community Involvement	Relevant Kirklees Rapid HIA topics
Environment and sustainability – 1 comment	<p>Respondents raised concerns that the plans demonstrated insufficient retention of green space, shrubbery and biodiversity.</p> <p>The SCI responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“The proposed building has been targeted by the Government as being Net Zero Carbon (as defined by the UK Green Building Council) in operation.</i> • <i>By consolidating the buildings, the proposals provide more useable external multipurpose space, including green space for the forest school, wellness garden and soft PE. New hard PE and separation of key stages as shown on the masterplan.</i> • <i>The scheme will provide a 10% biodiversity net gain. However, due to the limited scope within the site to deliver the necessary habitat units, some off-site units will need to be secured. This will be agreed as a post-determination matter in line with the relevant guidance.”⁵⁴</i> 	<p>Topic 9. Climate change</p>

Stonyrock (2026), Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary School, Statement of Community Involvement; WSP (2026)

⁵⁴ Stonyrock (2026), Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School, Gomersal, Statement of Community Involvement Health Impact Assessment UK0043290.2281

Assessment of health impacts



6. Assessment of health impacts

6.1 Assessment of health impacts

- 6.1.1 This chapter of the HIA considers the anticipated health impacts of the Proposed Development.
- 6.1.2 As set out in Chapter 2, the approach is informed by Kirklees Council's 'Rapid Health Impact Assessment for Spatial Planning' guidance, which provides a structured framework for considering how development proposals may influence health and wellbeing.
- 6.1.3 As discussed in Chapter 2, Table 2.1, note that Topic 2 'Housing' is not included in this assessment as it is not relevant to the Proposed Development.
- 6.1.4 The following pages present the assessment of potential health impacts relevant to the Proposed Development, addressing each topic area in turn.
- 6.1.5 Under each topic, Kirklees Council's 'Rapid Health Impact Assessment for Spatial Planning' template identifies a series of considerations which vary in number, depending on the topic. The Council's template includes three categories, to which each must be allocated, to indicate the anticipated impact:
- Positive: the Proposed Development is expected to deliver benefits for health and wellbeing;
 - Negative: the Proposed Development may result in adverse health impacts without mitigation; and
 - Unsure: the potential impact is uncertain due to limited evidence or where the effect could vary depending on implementation.
- 6.1.6 In addition to the above, a fourth category, 'Not Relevant', has been included in this assessment to capture considerations listed in the Council's template that do not apply to the Proposed Development.
- 6.1.7 After ranking individual considerations, the assessment provides a narrative analysis for the topic as a whole. The analysis addresses the overall health and wellbeing implications and responds to three standard questions, as requested by Kirklees Council:
- *"Describe the impacts on health and provide the rationale for the assessment;*
 - *Explain how negative impacts will be mitigated and positive impacts maximised; and*
 - *Identify where this issue is addressed in other submitted plans, assessments, or supporting documents".*⁵⁵

⁵⁵ Kirklees Council (2022), Rapid Health Impact Assessment for Spatial Planning



- 6.1.8 In addition to the above, the assessment identifies measures to mitigate any negative impacts and to maximise positive impacts.
- 6.1.9 Lastly, the template asks for signposting to other relevant technical assessments and documents submitted as part of the planning application.

Table 6.1 Topic 1. Construction phase

Construction phase areas of issue	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about impact	Not relevant
Air quality		✓		
Noise		✓		
Light		✓		
Odour			✓	
Construction waste		✓		
Recycling and repurposing of construction materials	✓			
Safe and secure cycle parking for the construction workforce			✓	
Health, wellbeing and welfare on site for the construction workforce	✓			

Construction phase - supporting details

Describe the impacts on health and the rationale for this	<p>During the construction phase of the Proposed Development, several factors have the potential to affect health outcomes. These are addressed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which is submitted as part of the planning application.⁵⁶</p> <p>The CEMP identifies the following potential negative health-related impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality: The CEMP found that there will be an impact on air quality due to dust emission and fumes being produced as a result of the construction work being undertaken. For residential areas nearby, the impact from dust was evaluated as a medium impact, for the general community, the impact of dust and fumes was considered to be low.
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⁵⁶ Bowmer + Kirkland s(2026), Gomersal St. Mary's CE (C) Primary School Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Construction phase - supporting details

- **Noise:** The construction methods used are expected to cause some disruption to the general local community and nearby residents during the construction phase due to noise emissions created. The CEMP describes this as a high level for those sites within close proximity to the construction site.
- **Light:** There will be temporary lighting on-site during the construction period. The construction site will be floodlit with LED lights.
- **Waste:** It is likely that there will be some negative impacts as a result of construction waste on site. However, the CEMP outlines that waste management mitigation will be applied throughout and reducing waste and recycling will be encouraged. A waste hierarchy will also be applied, which will consider options when looking to reuse materials.

The CEMP also anticipates several positive impacts during construction:

- **Health, wellbeing and welfare on site for the construction workforce:** A Portakabin is proposed to provide site welfare for construction workers. This will be located in a suitable area for each phase of the construction work. The welfare area will include the following:
 - Offices,
 - Staircases,
 - Meeting Rooms,
 - Canteens,
 - Toilet Units
 - Changing tooms,
 - Site Generators,
 - Fire Rated elements across the site accommodation.

Uncertain potential impacts:

- **Odour:** The CEMP does not imply that there will be any negative impact due to odour during the construction period.

Construction phase - supporting details	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Safe and secure cycle parking for the construction workforce: safe and secure cycle parking for the construction workforce is not specified within the Site Logistics Plan (Appendix B of the CEMP), however, there is a designated contractor's car park.
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts?	<p>Pupils and staff will be relocated to temporary teaching blocks during the construction phase, as per the Phasing Plan.⁵⁷ This will ensure the ongoing operations of the school continue, and limit disruption. There may be some negative impacts on Site users as a result of this temporary relocation, however this will be managed according to the Phasing Plan and is deemed to be outweighed by the long term benefits of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The CEMP outlines several mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce the effect of any negative impacts during the construction phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community Engagement and Communication: Residents raised concerns about disturbance to neighbouring properties from construction phase noise, debris and vehicles. They also raised the risk to the safety of pupils. The Statement of Community Involvement addressed these concerns through reference to the CEMP and phasing plan. The construction programme is designed to minimise disruption to neighbours, staff and pupils, construction workers will park off site, and off-site methods of construction and efficient manufacturing help to reduce time on-site and improve health and safety.⁵⁸ ■ Working hours and deliveries: Working hours on the construction site will be from 07:30 to 18:00 on weekdays and deliveries will be restricted to the hours of 09:00 and 14:30 during the school term to allow for minimal disruption to the school day. Any deliveries made outside of these hours will be escorted through the school by a banksman.⁵⁹ ■ Noise Control: Application of best practice measures in accordance with BS5228:2009+A1 2014, Part 1 throughout all phases of construction⁶⁰. ■ Air Quality and Dust Management: During the construction period highly recommended mitigation measures for sites at medium risk of negative impacts as a result of dust will be implemented.⁶¹ ■ Lighting Management: The temporary lighting installed on the construction site will be designed to minimise the negative effects beyond the site boundary. The proposed lighting will be LED, which eliminates upwards glare. The lights will also

⁵⁷ Bowmer + Kirkland (2026) Gomersal St. Mary's CE Primary School, Phasing Plan.

⁵⁸ Stonyrock (2026), Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary School, Statement of Community Involvement

⁵⁹ Bowmer + Kirkland (2026) Gomersal St. Mary's CE Primary School, Construction Environmental Management Plan, PP 17.

⁶⁰ Ramboll (2026) St Mary's Gomersal, Noise Assessment.

⁶¹ Bowmer + Kirkland (2026) Gomersal St. Mary's CE Primary School, Construction Environmental Management Plan, pp 22.

Construction phase - supporting details	
	<p>be hooded to reduce spill and will be directed away from any linear features, buildings or vegetation. This will help reduce the negative impacts associated with the temporary construction lighting.⁶²</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>The relevant technical assessments submitted as part of the planning application are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Construction Environmental Management Plan; ■ Statement of Community Involvement; ■ Noise Assessment; and ■ Air Quality Feasibility Assessment.

⁶² Bowmer + Kirkland (2026) Gomersal St. Mary's CE Primary School, Construction Environmental Management Plan, PP. 12-13
 Health Impact Assessment
 UK0043290.2281

Table 6.2 Topic 3. Active travel and sustainable transport

Active travel and sustainable transport areas of issue	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about impact	Not relevant
Ease of walking	✓			
Ease of cycling	✓			
Cycling infrastructure which meet national standards	✓			
Access to public transport links	✓			
Promotion of active travel and sustainable travel	✓			

Active travel and sustainable transport - supporting details

<p>Describe the impacts on health and the rationale for this</p>	<p>The Proposed Development can support positive health outcomes by promoting walking and cycling through improved pedestrian routes, dedicated cycle parking, and safe access points. Encouraging active travel reduces reliance on cars, which can lower air pollution and traffic congestion, while increasing physical activity levels among pupils, staff, and visitors. This contributes to better cardiovascular health, reduced obesity risk, and improved mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The baseline analysis for this HIA, presented in Chapter 4, found that 23.7% of children in Kirklees are categorised as overweight or obese. Therefore, the promotion of active travel is important across Kirklees.</p> <p>The anticipated positive impacts relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking: the Transport Statement highlights that there are a number of Public Right of Ways (PRoWs) located within the vicinity of the of the site. The nearest footpaths are located to the North of the site (SPE/58/10 and SPE/57/10), connecting Shirley Grove to the A643 Spen Lane, then further north connecting Reform Street and Cliffe Lane. To the east and west of the site several footpaths (SPE/61/30 and SPE/68/10) connect with more rural footpaths that lead into White Lee to the east and towards Cleckheaton to the west. The pedestrian catchment for the site is reviewed within
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Active travel and sustainable transport - supporting details

the Transport Statement, illustrating that the Site is highly accessible by foot within a 2-kilometre catchment area, including residential areas of Gomersal Hill Top, Swincliffe, Little Town, parts of Cleckheaton, and Birstall Smithies.⁶³

- **Cycling:** The Transport Statement also found that the Proposed Development is accessible by cycle. A distance of 5km is generally accepted as a distance by which cycling has the potential to replace short car journeys. This equates to a 25-minute journey at a leisurely cycle speed of 12km per hour. Within this radius, including Birstall, Heckmondwike, Cleckheaton and parts of Dewsbury. There are various cycle routes provided by Kirklees Council that are in close proximity to the site. For example, the North Kirklees riding route is joined in Gomersal to the north of the site and passes through areas such as Heckmondwike, Mirfield and Cleckheaton.⁶⁴
- **Cycling infrastructure:** Regarding cycle parking, the Proposed Development includes secure cycle parking provision within the site for up to 30 cycles across the proposed development, with 20 being located at the front of the school, adjacent to the main access, whilst a further 10 are proposed to the rear of the proposed building.⁶⁵
- **Public transport:** the Proposed Development is accessible by public transport. The nearest bus stops are located approximately 380 metres to the north on the A643 Spen Lane and can be accessed within a 4-minute walk. Further bus stops can be found to the east and west of the Proposed Development along the A643 Spen Lane and to the east along the A651 Oxford Road. There are seven services for these bus stops: the 200 and 252 between Heckmondwike and Leeds, the 254 and 155 from Huddersfield to Leeds, the 263 from Bradford Interchange to Dewsbury Bus Station, the 272 from Cleckheaton to Heckmondwike and the AL1 from Monk Ings to St John Fisher H.S.⁶⁶
- **Promoting active and sustainable travel:** the School Travel Plan has been designed to implement the school's vision for active and sustainable transport amongst pupils, staff and parents. Overall, the travel plan aims:

 - To increase awareness among pupils, parents and staff about the health, environmental and social consequences of their travel choices.
 - To reduce traffic congestion around the school gates.

⁶³ Eddisons (2026), Proposed Gomersal St. Marys Primary School, Gomersal, Transport Statement, pp. 8-10.

⁶⁴ Eddisons (2026), Proposed Gomersal St. Marys Primary School, Gomersal, Transport Statement, p. 10.

⁶⁵ Eddisons (2026), Proposed Gomersal St. Marys Primary School, Gomersal, Transport Statement, p. 6.

⁶⁶ Eddisons (2026), Proposed Gomersal St. Marys Primary School, Gomersal, Transport Statement, p. 11.

Active travel and sustainable transport - supporting details	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase the number of children walking and/or cycling to school. ■ To improve safety on the journey to school by reducing car use. ■ To increase the number of pupils participating in road safety education. ■ To support us in our Eco-Schools and Living Streets initiatives. ■ The School Travel Plan identifies that a working group has been set up and has identified a set of objectives they aim to implement. The objectives seek to encourage and promote active and sustainable transport through actions such as raising awareness of alternative transport methods and ensuring local signage is adequate. The school travel plan concludes that it will be reviewed annually and renewed every three years to ensure that the key areas of improvement remain relevant.⁶⁷
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts?	Although the Proposed Development will not increase school capacity, and therefore, is not expected to create additional long-term pressure on the local road network, temporary impacts during the construction phase could still occur. These include increased construction traffic, changes to access routes, and potential congestion during peak times. Mitigation measures set out in the Construction Environmental Management Plan, clear phasing, and a Travel Plan will help manage these risks by ensuring safe access for pedestrians and vehicles, minimising disruption, and promoting sustainable travel options.
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	The relevant technical assessments submitted as part of the planning application are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Construction Environmental Management Plan ■ Transport Statement ■ Travel Plan

⁶⁷ Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary School (2022), Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary School Travel Plan.

Table 6.3 Topic 4. Access to open and green spaces

Access to open and green spaces areas of issue	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about impact	Not relevant
Safe and secure open and green spaces	✓			
Accessible open and green spaces for all (Buggy users, Wheelchair users, cycles and push scooter)	✓			
Playable space with play equipment	✓			
Playable spaces – natural play	✓			
Location and size of open and green spaces outside of the proposed development				✓ Not relevant to the pupils at the school as the Proposed Development is for a Primary School and it is unlikely children would be unaccompanied during the school day.
Location and size of open and green spaces inside the proposed development	✓			

Access to open and green spaces - supporting details

Describe the impacts on health and the rationale for this	<p>Open green space is recognised as a wider determinant of health due to its role in promoting physical activity, improving air quality, and fostering social cohesion.</p> <p>As detailed in the planning statement, the existing site provides 4,989sqm of greenspace, whereas the proposed development will provide 5,728sqm of greenspace, resulting in an additional 739sqm being created as part of the proposed development.⁶⁸ Therefore, the green and open space provision will be significantly improved in quality through the Proposed Development. This</p>
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⁶⁸ WSP (2026) Proposed Redevelopment of Gomersal St Mary's Primary School, Planning Statement.

Access to open and green spaces - supporting details	
	<p>includes both hard and soft PE areas including a playing field, a multi-use games area (MUGA), as well as a wellness and prayer garden, Nurture Club area, gazebo structures for year-round outdoor learning and playground areas surrounding the school. ⁶⁹ Therefore, this is a significant positive impact for the wellbeing and health outcomes of pupils, allowing for more access to green spaces and playable spaces on site.</p> <p>The proposed development will deliver improved safety and security for open and green spaces, which is fundamental for the school's use. This includes proposed fencing with lockable gates in the form of 1.8m secure weldmesh fencing, 1.2m steel bowtop railing and 1m sport rebound fencing, all with matching lockable gates around the play and sports areas. ⁷⁰</p> <p>Inclusive access has been built into the design of the Proposed Development, including the following design features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Main entrances will have clear openings and shallow approaches to avoid the need for handrails ■ All spaces include minimum manoeuvrability requirements for wheelchair access ■ Doors will be wheelchair accessible with incorporated vision panels ■ Signage planned and designed in line with best practice ■ Lighting, colour contrasts and colour finishes are designed to best practice⁷¹
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts?	None.
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	<p>The relevant plans and technical assessments submitted as part of the planning application are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Whole Site Plan; ■ Illustrative Masterplan; ■ Design and Access Statement; and ■ Planning Statement

⁶⁹ One-Environments (2026) Gomersal St Mary's Primary School, Whole site plan.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Pick Everard (2026), Gomersal St Mary's Primary School, Design and Access Statement, pp. 29.

Table 6.4 Topic 5. Access to healthy and affordable food

Access to healthy and affordable food areas of issue	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about impact	Not relevant
Ease of access to local supermarkets or convenience stores by sustainable modes of travel	✓ Positive impact for members of staff.			✓ Not relevant to the pupils at the school as the Proposed Development is for a Primary School and it is unlikely children would be unaccompanied during the school day.
Opportunities for local food growing				✓ Not relevant, the Proposed Development does not include public open space for food growing uses.
Tree species in the proposed development including communal fruit trees and areas of vegetable growth				✓ Not relevant, the Proposed Development does not include public open space for food growing uses.

Access to healthy and affordable food - supporting details	
Describe the impacts on health and the rationale for this	<p>As referenced in ‘Topic 3: Active travel and sustainable transport’, the Proposed Development is highly accessible by sustainable modes of travel and is located in a convenient location for reaching local conveniences in Gomersal, such as local stores, including Sainsbury’s local and restaurants. As the proposed development is for a primary school, it is unlikely that this will be relevant to pupils at the school, however this will impact the staff and visitors of the school positively.</p> <p>The submitted transport statement also details how there are a number of PRoWs located within the vicinity of the site, which can be utilised by cycling or by foot. The Proposed Development is also demonstrated to be highly accessible by public transport with the nearest bus stops being located 380 metres away or within a 4-minute walk of the Proposed Development.⁷²</p>

⁷² Eddisons (2026), Proposed Gomersal St. Marys Primary School, Gomersal, Transport Statement.

Access to healthy and affordable food - supporting details	
	<p>As outlined in the baseline analysis in Chapter 4, the Proposed Development is located within approximately 0.3 metres or a 6 minute walk of the nearest hot food takeaway. In accordance with Kirklees Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Policy HFT3: 'Proximity to Schools', these businesses are required to restrict their opening hours during school hours. However, as the proposed development related to a primary school, it is unlikely children would be unaccompanied during the opening hours of the nearest hot food takeaway or leaving the school premises during the school day. In compliance with the SPD, Mushy's and Happy Garden (both within 0.3 miles away from the Proposed Development) do not open until after 5:00 pm on weekdays.</p> <p>High prevalence of obesity in Gomersal serves as a reminder that limiting access to unhealthy food options and providing information about making healthy and active lifestyle choices is an important consideration for wider determinants of health in the local area.</p>
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts?	None.
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	<p>The relevant technical assessment submitted as part of the planning application are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Transport Statement

Table 6.5 Topic 6. Community and personal safety

Community and personal safety areas of issue	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about impact	Not relevant
Traffic management	✓			
Lighting	✓			
Clear and accessible off-road networks	✓			
Safe and secure play areas	✓			
Safe and inclusive environments	✓			
Prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour	✓			
Prevention of suicide and self-harm				✓ This consideration is not relevant as the Proposed Development relates to the physical redevelopment of an existing school and does not introduce initiatives or functions that would influence suicide or self-harm risk.

Community and personal safety - supporting details

Describe the impacts on health and the rationale for this	Community and Personal Safety is a critical consideration for the Proposed Development because it directly influences physical and psychological wellbeing. A safe school environment reduced the risk of accidents, crime, and anti-social behaviour while fostering a sense of security for pupils, staff and parents. The Proposed Development will deliver improved site design, secure access points, and clear circulation routes, which will help to enhance safety for pupils and staff as well as supporting positive health outcomes for the school community and surrounding neighbourhood.
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Community and personal safety - supporting details

	<p>The Proposed Development will achieve an appropriate and proportionate standard of security, minimising the risk of crime whilst maximising safety for staff, pupils and visitors.</p> <p>The LSOA in which the Proposed Development is located, Kirklees 004D, has much higher-than-average deprivation levels within the crime domain according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, falling within the 30% most deprived LSOAs in the country for this specific domain.⁷³ This type of deprivation reflects the risk of experiencing personal or property-related offences. This is therefore a key consideration for the design of the Proposed Development and safety of the site users, particularly as young children are classified as a vulnerable group.</p>
<p>How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts?</p>	<p>The submitted Crime Impact Statement recognises the potential risks associated with the proposed use and location and details the approach taken to minimise risk and preserve safety, reduce the potential impact on policing resources and reduce adverse effects of crime on the wider community.⁷⁴ The crime Impact Statement outlines several security controls which they intend to implemented throughout the scheme to help mitigate any negative impacts or maximise positive impacts the design will have on community and personal safety.⁷⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Access: The proposal is designed to include singular access points for vehicles, with specific entrance points for pupils and parents included in the design to ensure all movement takes place in observable spaces. The scheme has been designed to ensure that boundary fencing and gates are positioned to direct circulation and designed to discourage opportunistic intrusion, internal fence lines and pathways naturally guide users to the main reception. The singular school building also simplifies access across the site in comparison to the existing school's layout. ■ Natural Surveillance: The school classrooms and reception are proposed to look out over the main entrance, car park and play spaces which allows for natural surveillance to take place across the site frontage. The surrounding residential properties located on Shirley Avenue and Thoresby Drive provide a degree of overlooking onto the site which provides further natural surveillance. Throughout the site weldmesh boundaries are proposed which provide good visibility, permitting observations both into and out of the school by staff, parents and neighbours. ■ Site Boundary: The proposed boundary fencing and entrance layout allows for a clear sense of ownership and to be established along with managed across to the site from Shirley Avenue, along with landscaping techniques and clear signage. 1.8 metre fencing is being proposed which will define functional areas including play spaces, car parking and teaching zones whilst keeping the spaces visible and legible. The soft pe area is proposed to be enclosed by 2 metre

⁷³ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2025), 2025 English Indices of Deprivation.

⁷⁴ Toren Consulting (2026), Gomersal St Marys Primary School, Gomersal, Crime Impact Statement.

⁷⁵ Ibid

Community and personal safety - supporting details

	<p>fencing, providing a contained area that restricts opportunist access outside of school hours. Existing trees and vegetation are also being retained around the perimeters of the site to create natural surveillance around the site.⁷⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lighting: The Proposed Development will incorporate a comprehensive lighting scheme which will illuminate key areas of the site. This will be consistent with Secured by Design Principles and key considerations will be given to service and plant access points, cycle parking areas, and building perimeter to maintain adequate visibility across the site. ■ Electronic Security Systems: Such as video surveillance systems, access control systems and intruder alarms, will be implemented across the site. ■ Traffic Management: Several Traffic Regulation Orders are active in the vicinity of the site. This includes advisory School Keep Clear markings located at the site access junction as well as speed bumps located on the approach to the junction to ensure vehicles are travelling at an acceptable speed.⁷⁷
<p>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</p>	<p>The relevant technical assessments submitted as part of the planning application are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Crime Impact Statement ■ Design and Access Statement ■ Transport Statement

⁷⁶ One-Environments (2026), Gomersal St Marys School, Tree Retention Plan.

⁷⁷ Eddisons (2026) Gomersal St Marys Primary School, Gomersall, Transport Statement.

Table 6.6 Topic 7. Employment and economic vibrancy

Employment and economic vibrancy areas of issue	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about impact	Not relevant
Local employment opportunities	✓			
Job creation	✓			
Apprenticeships			✓	
Access of a variety of sustainable and active travel modes to places of work	✓			

Employment and economic vibrancy - supporting details

Describe the impacts on health and the rationale for this

The topic area is relevant as a wider determinant of health. Employment provides income, financial security, and social interaction, all of which contribute to improved physical and mental wellbeing. Kirklees Council has a Post-16 Employment and Skills Plan which seeks to address skills shortages in the borough, ensures that people are equipped for the workplace and know how to progress with their careers. In order to deliver the plan an Employment and Skills Commission meet quarterly to discuss the sustainability of the actions outlined within the strategy. They measure against statistics such as a reduction in working age adults with no formal qualifications and an increase in the proportion of young people from Kirklees entering higher education.⁷⁸

Although the Proposed Development is unlikely to create additional permanent jobs within the school, as the school is remaining at the same capacity and staffing levels will remain broadly the same, the construction phase will generate temporary employment opportunities in the construction sector. They may include on-site roles, supply chains, and potentially apprenticeships, supporting local skills development and economic activity. These short-term benefits can positively influence household income and reduce unemployment risk during the construction period.

As referenced in Topic 3 'Active travel and sustainable transport' section of this assessment, the Proposed Development is highly accessible by sustainable modes of travel. The submitted transport statement also details how there are a number of PRowS located within the vicinity of the site, which can be utilised by cycling or by foot. The Proposed Development is also demonstrated to be highly accessible by public transport, with the nearest bus stops being located 380 metres away or within a 4-minute walk of the Proposed Development.⁷⁹ The proposed development includes secure cycle parking provision within

⁷⁸ Kirklees Council (2022), The Kirklees Post-16 Employment and Skills Plan 2022-2025.

⁷⁹ Eddisons (2026) Gomersal St Marys Primary School, Gomersal, Transport Statement.

Employment and economic vibrancy - supporting details	
	the site for up to 30 cycles across the proposed development, with 20 being located at the front of the school, adjacent to the main access, whilst a further 10 are proposed to the rear of the proposed building which will help encourage pupils and staff to consider cycling as a means of travelling to school or work. ⁸⁰
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts?	To help maximise positive impacts relating to employment, local job opportunities arising during the construction phase could be promoted through targeted advertising and engagement with local employment networks, such as the Kirklees Jobs and Careers Portal, which is operated by Kirklees Council. There is also a potential to implement local apprenticeships during the construction period.
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	The relevant technical assessments submitted as part of the planning application are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Transport Statement ■ Travel Plan

⁸⁰ Eddisons (2026) Gomersal St Marys Primary School, Gomersal, Transport Statement.

Table 6.7 Topic 8. Community cohesion

Community cohesion areas of issue	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about impact	Not relevant
Ease of access to public buildings for all	✓			
Opportunities for promoting community interaction	✓			
Ease of access to and use of public spaces for all	✓			

Community cohesion - supporting details

Describe the impacts on health and the rationale for this	<p>Community cohesion is relevant to the Proposed Development because schools often play an important role in local communities by acting as social networks, community identity and providing spaces for extracurricular and social activities. The anticipated positive impacts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inclusive Access: As detailed in Topic 4: Access to open and green spaces, inclusive access has been built into the design of the Proposed Development. This includes the following design features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Main entrances will have clear openings and shallow approaches to avoid the need for handrails ■ All spaces include minimum manoeuvrability requirements for wheelchair access ■ Doors will be wheelchair accessible with incorporated vision panels ■ Signage planned and designed in line with best practice ■ Lighting, colour contrasts and colour finishes are designed to best practice
How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts?	<p>There is no existing community use at the school, other than those directly associated with the school such as after school clubs, community courses and parents/guardians coffee mornings within the school itself. No external community use is proposed as part of the Proposed Development.⁸¹</p>

⁸¹ WSP (2026) Proposed Redevelopment of Gomersal St Mary's Primary School, Planning Statement.

Community cohesion - supporting details

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

The relevant technical assessments submitted as part of the planning application are:

- Design and Access Statement

Table 6.8 Topic 9. Climate change

Climate change areas of issue	Positive impact	Negative impact	Unsure about impact	Not relevant
Green infrastructure	✓			
Low carbon and renewable energy	✓			
Flood risk and drainage	✓			
Air quality (applicable if no EIA submitted)	✓			
Noise (applicable if no EIA submitted)				✓ This is not considered within this section because the Proposed Development involves the replacement of an existing primary school without increasing its capacity. Forecast impacts are anticipated to remain broadly the same as current levels with regard to human health.
Light (applicable if no EIA submitted)				✓ As above
Odour (applicable if no EIA submitted)				✓ As above
Waste (applicable if no EIA submitted)	✓			

Climate change - supporting details

Describe the impacts on health and the rationale for this

Note that for Topic 9 'Climate change', this assessment focuses on the long-term operational phase of the Proposed Development. Environmental effects associated with the temporary construction phase, such as air quality, noise, light, odour, and waste, are addressed separately under Topic 1 'Construction phase'. This section therefore considers only the potential operational impacts once the new school is in use.

Climate change is relevant to human health because rising greenhouse gas emissions have a direct impact on environmental changes affect such as air quality, temperature regulation, and resilience to extreme weather events. Climate change can increase the frequency of heatwaves, worsen air pollution, and contribute to flooding, which in turn can lead to respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, heat-related conditions, and mental health impacts linked to stress and displacement. Developments that incorporate energy efficiency, sustainable design, and low-carbon measures can reduce emissions and help mitigate these risks.

In the long term, therefore, environmentally sustainable design can help to support healthier environments by improving air quality, reducing fuel poverty, and promoting resource efficiency.

A Sustainability and Low Energy Strategy is implemented in the design of the Proposed Development⁸² The anticipated positive impacts as follows:

- **Green infrastructure and design principles** ensure that the Proposed Development is compliant with the standards of the UK Government's School Rebuilding Programme, championing low energy solutions delivering NZCiO (Net Zero Carbon in Operation). The energy strategy for the proposals follows the 'Be Lean', 'Be Clean', 'Be Green', 'Be Seen' hierarchy, which incorporates:
 - Be Lean - improved building performance;
 - Be Clean - centralised heating and cooling systems;
 - Be Green - use of low or zero carbon technologies; and

⁸² Design & Access Statement, p. 24.

Climate change - supporting details

- Be Seen – monitor and report on operational energy performance.⁸³
- **Low carbon and renewable energy:** the following key sustainability aspects have been incorporated into the design in order to create a sustainable development modelled to meet Building Regulations and Local Authority planning requirements:⁸⁴
 - ‘Fabric first’ design principle to optimise the energy efficient building envelope
 - Optimisation of natural light benefits, maximising natural daylight, reducing energy costs and improving internal conditions
 - Use of LED lighting throughout the Proposed Development, generating a 40% energy saving
 - Energy efficient temperature control through adaptive thermal comfort modelling, natural ventilation, and CO2 monitoring.
 - Roof mounted photovoltaic (PV) panel array installed on the roof to offset energy consumption, targeting Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCiO).
 - Water heating system is managed by a new Low Temperature Hot Water (LTHW) Heating installation comprising an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) installed on the roof. The heating system allows for connections to a low carbon heat source in the future.
 - The new school will be a fossil fuel-free all electric building.⁸⁵
 - Installation of ‘smart’ energy metering, allowing automatic monitoring of energy and triggering an alarm for facilities staff if excessive energy use occurs.⁸⁶
- **Air Quality** is delivered through the mixed-mode ventilation strategy with local heat recovery units.

⁸³ WSP (2026) Proposed Redevelopment of Gomersal St Mary's Primary School, Planning Statement.

⁸⁴ Design & Access Statement, p. 24.

⁸⁵ Bowmer + Kirkland (2026) Appendix A, Climate Change Statement, p. 1.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

Climate change - supporting details

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This shall incorporate heat recovery ventilation which is essential to reduce the energy demand of the building, providing a means of maintaining indoor air quality without causing discomfort from draughts associated with natural ventilation in cold temperature.⁸⁷ ■ Flood risk and drainage: a Flood Risk Assessment is submitted with the application which assesses the flood risk associated with the Proposed Development and concludes that the development will be safe for its lifetime, compliant with national and local policy, and will not increase flood risk elsewhere. Although the school will remain the same size, with no increase in forms of entry or pupil numbers, the existing drainage system will be upgraded to meet modern design standards and Policy LP28 of the Local Plan which requires for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) to be incorporated into proposals. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Attenuation tanks to manage runoff from impermeable areas for storm events up to the 1 in 100-year return period, with an additional 45% climate change allowance ■ SuDS features such as permeable paving to car parking bays and hardstanding, catchpit chambers upstream of the attenuation tanks. ■ Surface water routing and threshold protection at surface levels and drains. ■ Ease of access to features to allow future maintenance. ■ Waste: a site waste management plan will be implemented to manage and report waste in line with the waste management hierarchy.⁸⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All waste from site welfare will be separated on site and collected separately. ■ A dedicated bin store is provided within the landscaping with space for separated waste disposal and easy access for disposal and collection. ■ As per the DfE framework specification all elements of the proposed development will meet their minimum life expectancy requirements ensuring that long life materials are selected.
<p>How do you intend to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive impacts?</p>	<p>The efficiency of the new building exceeds that of the demolished buildings. The new building will be thermally efficient, and the MEP building services will be energy efficient with appropriate control strategies.⁸⁹</p> <p>To mitigate potential negative climate and environmental impacts, several embedded measures have been incorporated into the development proposals, as outlined in the Climate Change Statement. For example, the Proposed Development is</p>

⁸⁷ Design & Access Strategy, p. 26.

⁸⁸ Bowmer + Kirkland (2026) Appendix A, Climate Change Statement, p. 3.

⁸⁹ Bowmer + Kirkland (2026) Appendix A, Climate Change Statement, p. 3.

Climate change - supporting details	
	<p>designed to meet DfE standards for energy efficiency, achieve net zero carbon in operation, and utilise energy-efficient materials to enhance the overall sustainability of the new school building.</p> <p>With regard to Biodiversity Net Gain, the Proposed Development would achieve a 10% biodiversity net gain through off-site measures. In line with the guidance, this will be dealt with as a post-determination matter.⁹⁰</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>The relevant technical assessments submitted as part of the planning application are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Climate Change Statement ■ Design & Access Statement ■ Planning Statement.

⁹⁰ WSP (2026), Planning Statement.
 Health Impact Assessment
 UK0043290.2281

7. Conclusion

- 7.1.1 The redevelopment of Gomersal St Mary's CE Primary School as part of the Government's School Rebuilding Programme is expected to deliver significant long-term benefits in relation to health and wellbeing. The new school will provide modern, energy-efficient facilities that meet DfE standards, supporting improved learning environments and reducing operational costs through enhanced sustainability measures. These improvements contribute to wider determinants of health by creating a safe, high-quality educational setting and promoting environmental resilience and sustainability.
- 7.1.2 Temporary negative impacts during the construction phase, such as noise, dust, and disruption to pupils, have been identified. These will be managed through the Phasing Plan and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which set out mitigation measures to minimise environmental and safety risks. Importantly, the Phasing Plan ensures continuity of education for pupils and staff throughout the construction period and ensures sufficient mitigation of potential negative effects.
- 7.1.3 Additional positive impacts include improved site safety, better open space and sports provision for pupils, and opportunities for local employment initiatives during construction.
- 7.1.4 This HIA concludes that the Proposed Development will make an overall positive contribution to health and wellbeing outcomes for pupils and staff.

wsp

