

## CHAPTER 8: HEALTHY, SAFE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

8.1. The Council recognises the important role that spatial planning has in the creation of healthy, safe and inclusive communities. Many of the policies of this Local Plan will have an impact on these matters and it is important that community needs are supported through appropriate physical and social infrastructure, as well as other facilities and services that contribute to improving peoples overall quality of life, physical and mental health, and wellbeing.

8.2. New developments can create environments to help all residents make healthy choices, promote active travel and physical activity, and promote access to healthier food, high quality open spaces, green infrastructure and opportunities for play, sport and recreation. Therefore, Local Plans have an important a role in helping to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

8.3. The Borough Council will work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population throughout the plan period and to ensure development addresses these needs appropriately.

### **Policy HS1: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities**

The potential for creating healthy, safe and inclusive communities will be taken into account when considering all development proposals. Support will be given to proposals which:

- Provide homes and developments which are designed to meet the needs of older people and those with disabilities;
- Provide energy efficient housing to help reduce fuel poverty;
- Design layouts that minimise the potential for crime and anti-social behaviour and improve community safety;
- Contribute to the development of a high quality, safe and convenient walking and cycling network;
- Contribute to a high quality, attractive and safe public realm to encourage social interaction and facilitate movement on foot and by bicycle;
- Seek to encourage healthy lifestyles by providing opportunities for formal and informal physical activity, exercise, recreation and play and, where possible, healthy diets;
- Improve the quality and quantity of green infrastructure networks and protect and enhance physical access, including public rights of way to open space;
- Deliver, or contribute to, new and improved health services and facilities in locations where they can be accessed by sustainable transport modes;
- Provide good access to local shops, employment opportunities, services, schools and community facilities; and
- Do not involve the loss of essential community buildings and social infrastructure.

8.4. National policy is clear that planning has an important role in creating and maintaining healthy, inclusive communities and in facilitating social interaction. Many policies within this Local Plan have an impact on the overall health and well-being of the Borough and Policy HS1 seeks to

ensure that all factors are considered collectively when new development is proposed. Public Health Warwickshire identifies addressing alcohol misuse, smoking in pregnancy, tackling obesity, dementia and wellbeing, falls prevention, reduction in hospital admissions and tackling worklessness and poverty as priorities in Rugby.

8.5. It is important that this Local Plan supports the delivery of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs. This is not only in the provision of the relevant facilities, but also to prevent the loss of anything that promotes healthy communities. A key element of this is ensuring that sufficient land is made available by good access to all for play, sport and recreation. Policy HS4 safeguarding open spaces should be considered alongside this Policy HS1 in this instance.

#### **Policy HS2: Health Impact Assessments**

Development above the thresholds set out below will need to demonstrate that it would not generate adverse impacts on health and wellbeing:

- All residential development of 150 units and above and where the site area is 5 hectares or above;
- Non-residential development where the area of development exceeds 1ha; and
- Development located on an industrial estate exceeding 5ha.

Where development proposals meet the above criteria, an assessment of potential impacts on health and wellbeing should be demonstrated through:

- A Health Impact Assessment screening report; and
- A full Health Impact Assessment where the screening report identifies that significant impacts on health and wellbeing would arise from the development.

Where required, Health Impact Assessments should be prepared in accordance with the advice and best practice for such assessments as published by the Department of Health and other agencies, such as the Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health Warwickshire, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust.

Where it is demonstrated that a development proposal would have a significant adverse impact on wellbeing, the Borough Council may require appropriate mitigation measures through planning conditions, financial or other contributions secured through planning obligations and/or the Council's CIL charging schedule.

8.6. Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) are an important tool for understanding the potential impacts upon wellbeing arising from development proposals. HIAs aim to both reduce adverse impacts from development on wellbeing and maximise positive effects. This is achieved through providing a holistic approach to wellbeing which seeks to complement, but not replicate, the Local Plan's infrastructure policies. An assessment on wellbeing is required of development as allocated