

Central Lincolnshire Policy S54: Health and Wellbeing Evidence Report

Formerly Policy S53

March 2022



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan is being updated since the first Local Plan for Central Lincolnshire, an area covering the districts of City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey, was adopted in April 2017.
- 1.2. This Evidence Report (which is one of a collection) provides background information and justification for Policy S54, which relates to health and wellbeing considerations within developments.

2. Policy Context

National Policy and Guidance

- 2.1. Since the Central Lincolnshire Plan was adopted the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in July 2018 with subsequent additional changes being published in February 2019 and a further update in July 2021.

- 2.2. Paragraph 7 of the NPPF explains that:

“The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

- 2.3. Paragraph 8 goes on to state that:

“Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

- a) **a social objective** – *to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and...*”

- 2.4. Chapter 8 relates to promoting healthy and safe communities. In particular, the following paragraphs are of relevance:

- Paragraph 92 - Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:... b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and c) 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.
- Paragraph 93 – To provide the social recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should: ...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;...

- Paragraph 98 - Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities...

- 2.5. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) was first introduced in 2014 which offers 'live' government guidance. The PPG provides guidance to help in the implementation of policy in the NPPF.
- 2.6. The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) includes a section that relates to Healthy and Safe Communities. Within the section, the NPPG states "*The design and use of the built and natural environments, including [green infrastructure](#) are major determinants of health and wellbeing. Planning and health need to be considered together in two ways: in terms of creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles, and in terms of identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care, and the wider health and care system (taking into account the changing needs of the population).*" (Reference ID:53-001-20190722).
- 2.7. The NPPG defines a healthy place as "*...one which supports and promotes healthy behaviours and environments and a reduction in health inequalities for people of all ages. It will provide the community with opportunities to improve their physical and mental health, and support community engagement and wellbeing.*

It is a place which is inclusive and promotes social interaction. The [National Design Guide](#) sets out further detail on promoting social interaction through inclusive design including guidance on tenure neutral design and spaces that can be shared by all residents.

It meets the needs of children and young people to grow and develop, as well as being adaptable to the needs of an increasingly elderly population and those with dementia and other sensory or mobility impairments." (Reference ID:53-003-20191101).

- 2.8. The above national policy and guidance has been taken into account in preparing the Local Plan as a whole, and Policy S54 in particular.

Local Policy

- 2.9. The Adopted Local Plan contains a specific policy relating to Health and Wellbeing. This policy sets out the criteria that development proposals will be assessed against in order to ensure that development proposals promote, support and enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing, and contribute to the reduction in health inequalities.
- 2.10. Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lincolnshire and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment set out the health priorities and issues for Central Lincolnshire, and the County as a whole. The most significant issues include mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people, unpaid carers, obesity levels, adult mental health, dementia, increasing physical activity levels and the link between housing and health.

3. Context and Evidence

- 3.1. Low levels of physical activity, rising levels of obesity (in both adults and children), poor mental health, increasing dementia rates, increasing numbers of unpaid family carers, and

the links between housing quality and health are the key issues being faced by Central Lincolnshire in terms of health and wellbeing. Further detail is provided within the Lincolnshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2018).

- 3.2. The Central Lincolnshire Authorities are responding to these issues in a variety of ways, including the Lincolnshire Health and Care (LHAC) model. The model seeks to establish neighbourhood teams containing a range of health and social care professionals who will provide integrated services and urgent care for local people and thus reduce the pressure on emergency units in main hospitals. Commissioners and providers of healthcare services will work closely with the Central Lincolnshire authorities to ensure that development proposals are planned for, and neighbourhood teams are structured to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

4. Issues and Options Consultation

- 4.1. The Issues and Options consultation identified existing policy LP9: Health and Wellbeing as a policy not intended to be changed. A small number of comments were received on this proposal not to change the policy. The comments are set out below:

- Policy LP9 – Health and Wellbeing
 - More consideration needed for how money is spent in the Sleaford area, particularly in relation to healthcare.
 - Policy should recognise the value of the natural environment to public health and wellbeing and that it delivers solutions to integrate the natural environment with other aspirations. Should include reference to the role of green infrastructure for health and wellbeing to tie into GLNP's 25 year plan (details provided).
 - The continuation of the requirement for a HIA is supported, but it should be required at the earliest possible opportunity in the planning process. NHS and CCG colleagues should see HIAs.
 - Implementing this policy should be aligned more closely with other policies such as LP26.
 - There has been little implementation of this policy despite it saying that it will be taken into account in all development proposals.

5. Regulation 18 Consultation

- 5.1. A Consultation Draft of the Local Plan was published for consultation between 30 June and 24 August 2021. During this eight week consultation comments were received on the plan, the policies within the plan, and supporting information and evidence.

- 5.2. A number of comments were made on this policy. These comments have been summarised as follows:

- Various comments broadly supporting the policy.
- Various detailed suggestions to strengthen policy
- The evidence behind the policy is lacking / weak.
- Concern that the policy as written would add a further cost burden on developers, which could make development unviable.

- 5.3. In response to the comments made during the consultation, a new criterion 'd' has been added to the points setting out how development proposals will promote, support and enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing, and thus contribute to reducing health inequalities.
- 5.4. Since the drafting of the Regulation 18 consultation version of the plan, a new Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) has been published. Paragraph 9.1.2 has, therefore, been updated to reflect the significant issues identified within the new JSNA.

6. Proposed Approach in Draft Local Plan

- 6.1. The Draft Local Plan includes a policy in relation to Health and Wellbeing. This policy has largely been carried forward from the adopted Local Plan. In addition to some minor amendments to bring the policy up to date, the threshold for the submission of a Health Impact Assessment has been increased from 25 dwellings or more, or 0.5ha to 150 dwellings or more, or 5ha.

7. Reasonable Alternative Options

- 7.1. The following alternative options have been considered for this policy (option 1 being the preferred option).

Option 2: To have a local policy on health and wellbeing but no requirement for Health Impact Assessment.

Option 3: To have no local policy on health and wellbeing in the plan. Rely on national policy.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1. This Evidence Report demonstrates the rationale for the proposed policy as contained in the Proposed Submission Draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. This helps bring together relevant evidence that has informed this policy and how we have responded to comments received during the plan making process, as well as how the latest evidence and national guidance has been taken into account.