



Health Impact Assessment for Planning Applications:

Guidance Note

April 2017

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This document has been produced to help guide developers and decision makers on the implementation of policy LP9 Health and Wellbeing in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. This is new guidance, and we are therefore keen to learn from users about what is good, bad, unclear or missing from the guidance. We anticipate updating the guidance, learning from experience, as and when appropriate to do so. To be clear, it is guidance not policy. The policy for decision making remains that as set out in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, April 2017.

1. Introduction

Purpose of the Guidance Note

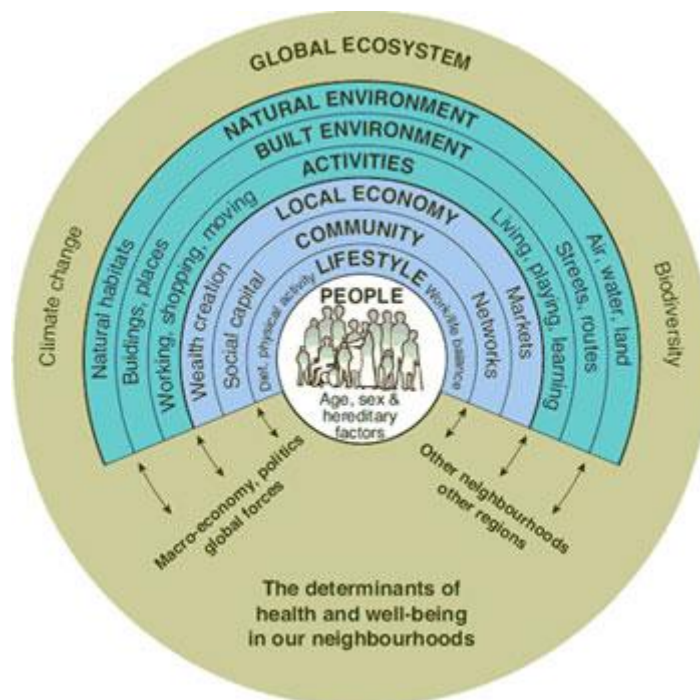
The purpose of this guidance note is to provide advice and guidance on undertaking Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for development proposals within Central Lincolnshire, supporting the implementation of policy LP9 Health and Wellbeing in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, April 2017.

HIA is a process which ensures the impact of development on health and wellbeing is considered and responded to during the planning process.

This guidance note aims to support the preparation of HIAs in relation to planning applications for residential and non-residential development proposals in Central Lincolnshire. It includes advice on those aspects of the built environment that may impact on health, guidance on undertaking HIAs and how HIAs fit into the planning process.

What is Health and Wellbeing?

Health is defined as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing.¹ As well as access to good quality healthcare services and lifestyle choices, there are many factors that affect health and wellbeing. These include the physical and social conditions in which people live, culture, education, housing, transport, employment, crime, income, leisure and other services. These all influence health in either a positive or negative way, both directly and indirectly. These factors are commonly known as the wider determinants of health.



Source: Barton and Grant 2006 adaptation of Dahlgren and Whitehead (1991)²

¹ Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946. http://www.who.int/governance/eb/who_constitution_en.pdf

² From A Health Map for the Local Human Habitat, The Journal of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, November 2006 126: 252-253.

Spatial planning and development proposals have the potential to impact on health and wellbeing. By considering how a proposal may impact on the wider determinants of health and creating health promoting environments, the health and wellbeing of people can be improved and health inequalities can be reduced.

Health Profile of Central Lincolnshire

Improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities is an important issue within Central Lincolnshire. In general, the health of Central Lincolnshire residents is not significantly different to the national average however, there are variations in the health of the population. For example, there are inequalities in life expectancy for both men and women living in the most deprived areas of Central Lincolnshire.

See Appendix 1, Data Sources, for further information regarding the health profile of Central Lincolnshire.

2. Policy Context

National Policy

The *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) came into effect in March 2012. The NPPF supports the role of planning to create healthy, inclusive communities and recognises that the built and natural environment are major determinants of health and wellbeing. The impact of development on human health and wellbeing is therefore a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The *National Planning Practice Guidance* (NPPG) recognises the links between health and planning. It encourages Local Planning Authorities to engage with the Director of Public Health on planning applications where there are likely to be health impacts, and suggests that a Health Impact Assessment may be a useful tool where there are expected to be significant impacts³.

The *Health and Social Care Act* (2012) gave local authorities new duties and responsibilities for health improvement and protection, throughout all their functions, including spatial planning and development management.

Local Policy

The *Central Lincolnshire Local Plan* was adopted on 24 April 2017. The Local Plan includes policies so that new development within Central Lincolnshire can help to improve health and wellbeing.

This guidance note provides advice to support the implementation of policy LP9 Health and Wellbeing, which sets out a requirement for a HIA for residential developments of 25 dwellings or more, and for non-residential development proposals, 0.5ha or more.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing> (004 Reference ID: 53-004-20140306)

Extract from LP9 Health and Wellbeing
(Adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, April 2017)

“The Central Lincolnshire authorities will expect development proposals to promote, support and enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing, and thus contribute to reducing health inequalities. This will be achieved by:

b. In the case of development of 25 dwellings or more, or 0.5ha or more for other development, developers submitting a fit for purpose Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as part of the application or master planning stage where applicable, and demonstrating how the conclusions of the HIA have been taken into account in the design of the scheme. The HIA should be commensurate with the size of the development”;

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment⁴ reports on the health and wellbeing needs of the people of Lincolnshire. It is made up of 35 different topics each considering specific areas of need. It is the overarching evidence base used by the Health and Wellbeing Board to inform shared priorities and as the basis for the planning and commissioning of services.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lincolnshire⁵ was published by the Health and Well Being Board for Lincolnshire in 2012 and was underpinned by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This is a key strategy to take into account to improve health and wellbeing. The strategy has five main themes:

- Promoting healthier lifestyles
- Improve health and wellbeing of older people
- Delivering high quality systematic care for major causes of ill health and disability
- Improve health and social outcomes for children and reduce inequalities
- Tackling the social determinants of health

⁴ <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Joint-Strategic-Needs-Assessment.aspx>

⁵ <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/public-health/behind-the-scenes/policies-and-publications/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/115339.article>

3. What is a Health Impact Assessment?

“Health Impact Assessment is a combination of procedures, methods and tools that systematically judges the potential, and sometimes unintended, effects of a policy, program or project on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA identifies appropriate actions to manage those effects.”

*The European Centre for Healthy Policy (1999)
Health Impact Assessment: Main concepts and
suggested approach (Gothenburg Consensus),
Brussels.*

It is important to ensure that the health impacts of the wider determinants of health are explicitly considered when making planning decisions. HIA is one method for ensuring this is carried out. A HIA should appraise the potential positive and negative impacts of a proposal on new communities and adjacent existing communities, identify any differential distribution of impacts on health among groups within the population, and suggest actions to minimise any potential negative health impacts and maximise potential positive health impacts.

HIAs can be a freestanding report or they can be incorporated into another required appraisal, such as an Environmental Impact Assessment, to avoid duplication. Where HIA is integrated into another assessment, it is recommended that a separate chapter is included in the assessment on health impacts, with cross-referencing to other relevant chapters, such as transport, noise and air quality.

A HIA can be carried out before a proposal is implemented (prospective), done while the proposal is being implemented (concurrent) or done after a proposal is implemented (retrospective). The preference is for a prospective HIA to be undertaken as early as possible, so the HIA has potential to influence decisions being made on the design, layout and composition of the development.

What type of HIA should be undertaken?

It is commonly recognised that there are three types of Health Impact Assessment:

- A **Desktop** HIA: This provides a broad overview of potential health impacts. It draws on existing knowledge and evidence and can be carried out quickly (a few hours to a day);
- A **Rapid** HIA: This type of HIA involves a more detailed assessment of potential health impacts and mitigation measures. It includes a broader range of knowledge and evidence and may involve stakeholder consultation. It may take days or weeks to complete;
- A **Full** HIA: This is the most detailed form of HIA and is undertaken when the potential scale and severity of health issues warrant an in-depth investigation. It typically involves quantitative and qualitative information, data from health needs assessments and community engagement. This type of HIA may take months to complete and is more suited to complex proposals.

The type of HIA required will depend on the type, size and location of the development scheme as well as the likely implications for local public health issues and health infrastructure. A HIA may fit

in between two of these categories, as the approach taken will also depend on timescales and the resources available to undertake the HIA. It is important to use an approach that makes the best use of the resources available.

For the majority of proposals coming forward in Central Lincolnshire, a desktop HIA in the form of a Healthy Planning Checklist will be sufficient to consider the likely health impacts of the proposal (see section 4 for further details).

Major development proposals, typically above 1,000 dwellings, (such as the Sustainable Urban Extensions allocated in policy LP48 of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan), are likely to require a more detailed assessment of health impacts, most likely in the form of a Rapid HIA, but potentially a Full HIA. Due to their size and scale, and the fact that they adjoin existing communities, such proposals are likely to affect a range of different population groups across a large geographical area. Therefore there may be health impacts on existing residents and users of the areas adjoining the development as well as on new residents and users of the development.

4. How to Undertake a Health Impact Assessment

Healthy Planning Checklist

The District Councils have prepared a Healthy Planning Checklist for use by applicants as a desktop HIA to be completed at the pre-application stage, for both Outline and Full applications. The Councils expect the Checklist to be completed proportionate to the size of the development scheme. Generally, the larger the development the more detail is expected in terms of the description of impacts and proposed mitigation measures, whereas smaller developments are more likely to require a brief summary.

All development proposals of 25 dwellings, or 0.5 hectares or more for non-residential developments, should complete the Healthy Planning Checklist and submit as part of the planning application.

The Healthy Planning Checklist can be used as a screening tool. Screening involves quickly assessing the likely impacts of a proposal on health and deciding whether or not to do a more detailed HIA. It is essential that HIA screening takes place at the earliest opportunity to allow identification and resolution of health issues and so there is sufficient time to complete a HIA where the need for one is identified. This also ensures that the HIA informs and influences the final proposal that is submitted as a planning application..

Further HIA

If the screening process, through the completion of the Healthy Planning Checklist or alternative screening tool, identifies the need for a Rapid or Full HIA, it is recommended that applicants agree the need for further HIAs with the relevant District Council before formally submitting their planning application. Commissioning or preparing a HIA should be done as part of the pre-application process and is the responsibility of the applicant. The District Council, in liaison with Lincolnshire County Council Public Health Wider Determinants Team, can provide advice as to what the HIA should cover as part of the pre-application planning service, using the screening to inform the scope.

The Healthy Planning Checklist and Final HIA Report should be submitted with the planning application. The Local Planning Authorities may use the expertise of the Public Health Wider Determinants Team to help assess the quality of HIAs submitted. It will be considered along with all other planning application documentation and consultation responses.

The main stages in preparing a more detailed HIA in relation to a planning application are outlined in the table below. There is no one agreed methodology for undertaking a HIA, however some useful resources are listed in **Appendix 1**.

Table 1. HIA Stages for Planning Applications

HIA Stage	Description	Planning Application Stage
Stage 1. Screening	<p>Establishes whether a proposal is likely to have an impact on health, how it may impact on different population groups and the likely scale of impacts.</p> <p>Identifies whether there is a need for a more detailed assessment (Rapid or Full HIA).</p>	<p>Pre-application</p> <p>District Councils can advise on need for further HIA work.</p>
Stage 2. Form the HIA team	<p>Identify and get together the team that will prepare the HIA. Different areas of expertise will be required to undertake the HIA and the team should consist of people with a knowledge of; the specific proposal, the local area and population, and health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Pre-application</p>
Stage 3. Scoping	<p>Decide what type of HIA is required, how in depth it needs to be and what it will focus on.</p> <p>Consider setting up a steering group and agree roles and responsibilities, including who will manage the HIA and who will undertake the HIA. Identify key stakeholders.</p> <p>Identify the methods that will be used in the HIA to gather evidence and assess impacts.</p>	<p>Pre-application</p> <p>District Councils can advise on what the HIA needs to cover.</p>
Stage 4. Assessment	<p>Gather evidence.</p> <p>Describe and assess the likely health impacts of the proposal, including the nature, likelihood, scale and significance and timing of the impacts and their distribution.</p> <p>Consider the effects of the proposal on different population groups, both new and existing, and in relation key health issues and inequalities in the local area.</p> <p>Undertake where appropriate stakeholder and community engagement, via workshops, interviews or focus groups.</p>	<p>Pre-application</p>

HIA Stage	Description	Planning Application Stage
Stage 5. Reporting and Recommendations	Use the findings of the HIA to recommend changes to the proposal to mitigate negative impacts or enhance further positive impacts.	Submission and Validation Healthy Planning Checklist and/or HIA Report to be submitted to the District Council as part of the planning application.
Stage 6. Decision Making	Assessment of the quality of the HIA, how the recommendations have been taken into account in the proposal and whether any negative impact on health (after mitigation) are acceptable or not. The District Council accepts the HIA or requests further work to be undertaken.	Planning Decision HIA is considered by the District Council alongside other material considerations and a decision is made on the application
Stage 7. Monitoring and evaluation	Monitor the actual health impacts that arise after the implementation of the proposal to ensure negative impacts are being minimised and positive impacts enhanced. Evaluate the HIA process to consider whether and how well the HIA worked and what could be done differently in the future.	Commencement of Development

Quality Review of the HIA

The relevant District Council will evaluate the quality of HIAs submitted to ensure they are 'fit for purpose'. The Councils will take into account the following criteria when forming a view as to the quality of a HIA report and whether further work is needed to address any shortfalls.

Assessment of Impacts

- Has the HIA process and methodology been clearly described?
- Have the potential health impacts been identified, including both positive and negative?
- Has the nature of impacts been considered, for example, are they direct or indirect, permanent or temporary? Has the severity and magnitude of the impacts been considered?
- Have the potential impacts been considered in relation to a population and public health profile? Is there a breakdown of the different population groups potentially affected?
- Have inequalities in the distribution of potential impacts been considered?
- Are the identified impacts supported by evidence/knowledge along with a description of the methods used and any participation undertaken?
- Are cumulative impacts considered?

Reporting and Recommendations

- Is there a description of the proposal and the physical characteristics of the proposed development site and surrounding area?
- Does the report describe the screening and scoping stages and outcomes?
- Is there a description of how quantitative and qualitative evidence was gathered and analysed?
- Is it clear how stakeholder and/or community engagement has influenced the HIA?
- Does the report clearly set out any limitations or constraints encountered in undertaking the HIA?
- Is there a clear and concise discussion of the key recommendations to reduce negative impacts and enhance positive impacts and are the recommendations evidence based?
- Are plans for future monitoring of mitigation measures included?

Appendix 1: Further Information and Resources

Contact Details

City of Lincoln Planning – 01522 873474

North Kesteven Planning – 01529 414155

West Lindsey Planning – 01427 676676

Lincolnshire Public Health, Wider Determinants Team - 01522 553854

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team - 01529 414155

Data Sources

Lincolnshire Research Observatory Provides useful data on a variety of topics at different geographies, including profiles for each Clinical Commissioning Group. Data can be gathered using various tools including interactive mapping. The website hosts data for the Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

<http://www.research-lincs.org.uk>

Public Health England's Fingertips Fingertips is a web based resource that provides access to a wide range of health related data in thematic profiles, including 'Health Profiles', which provide a snapshot overview of health for each local authority in England, and 'Public Health Outcomes Framework' which includes a wide range of indicators.

<http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/>

Public Health England's Local Health A webs based resource that presents health data at a small area geography, through interactive mapping and reports. Areas can be combined to create bespoke geographies and can be compared to the national average.

<http://www.localhealth.org.uk>

Neighbourhood Statistics Online data resource containing datasets with a particular focus on the Census

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

Further Information and Resources

Websites

- Lincolnshire County Council (Key health publications including the Joint Health and Well Being Strategy and Annual Reports by the Director of Public Health)

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/information-for-professionals/health-data-policies-and-publications/>

- Lincolnshire West Clinical Commissioning Group
<http://www.lincolnshirewestccg.nhs.uk/>
- South West Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
<http://southwestlincolnshireccg.nhs.uk/>
- Public Health England's HIA Gateway
www.hiagateway.org.uk
- Wales HIA Support Unit
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/home.cfm?orgid=522>
- World Health Organization
<http://www.who.int/hia/en/>
- International Health Impact Assessment Consortium
www.liv.ac.uk/ihia
- Royal Town Planning Institute
www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/policy/topics/inclusive-planning-and-health
- Town and Country Planning Association
www.tcpa.org.uk
- Healthy Urban Development Unit
www.healthyurbandevlopment.nhs.uk
- Wakefield Council – Health Impact Assessment and Spatial Planning
<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/health-care-and-advice/public-health/what-is-public-health/health-impact-assessment>

Published Reports

Health Impact Assessments

Institute of Public Health Ireland (2009) Health Impact Assessment Guidance

Ben Cave Associates (2009) A Review Package for Health Impact Assessment Reports of Development Projects

Wales HIA Support Unit (2012) Health Impact Assessment – A Practical Guide

Healthy Urban Development Unit (2015) Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool, 2nd edition

Healthy Urban Development Unit (2015) Healthy Urban Planning Checklist, 2nd Edition

Healthy Planning

NICE (2008) Physical Activity and the Environment

Kings Fund (2009) The Health Impacts of Spatial Planning Decisions

City of Stoke on Trent (2010) Health Proofing Masterplan Designs A Guide

Spatial Planning and Health Group (2011) Steps to Healthy Planning: Proposals for Action

Town and County Planning Association (2013) Planning Healthier Places

Town and Country Planning Association (2014) Planning Healthy Weight Environments

RTPI (2014) Promoting Healthy Cities: Why planning is critical to a healthy urban future

Town and Country Planning Association (2015) Public Health in Planning: Good Practice Guide

Sport England (2015) Active Design: Planning for health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity

Urban Land Institute (2015) Building Healthy Places Toolkit



Central Lincolnshire 2012
LOCAL PLAN 2036

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This document is also available in large print, Braille, different languages, on audio tape and CD. If you would like a copy of the document in one of these formats, please contact the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team via the details above.

