

## **Report to Cabinet**

**Subject:** Spatial Planning for the Health & Wellbeing of Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City and Erewash

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Author:** Planning Policy Manager

### **Wards Affected**

All wards

### **Purpose**

To seek support for the use of the Health & Wellbeing Checklist to assess major developments (those of more than 10 dwellings or 500sqm of other floorspace).

### **Key Decision**

Not a key decision.

### **Background**

1. Local planning policies play a vital role in ensuring the health and wellbeing of the population are taken into account in the planning process. There is substantial evidence supporting the fact that health and the environment are inextricably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities.
2. As part of their responsibility for Public Health, Nottinghamshire County Council has worked with Nottingham City Council and Erewash Borough Council to produce a guide for use in planning (attached as [Appendix 1](#)). This document, whilst not having any formal status, provides guidance on addressing the impact of a proposal or plan on the health and wellbeing of the population. The document aims to raise awareness and provide sustainable solutions to guide people to make better healthy lifestyle choices than can be facilitated through the use of sound spatial planning and joined up planning decisions. The document does not address the issue of NHS service delivery as this lies outside the remit of both County and Local Planning Authorities.

3. National planning policy addresses health and wellbeing in a number of different places. Firstly, one of the core planning principles identified in paragraph 17 of the National Planning Policy Framework is to “take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all”. Section 8 (Promoting Healthy Communities) highlights the important role that planning plays in creating healthy, inclusive communities.
4. The National Planning Practice Guidance also identifies that health and wellbeing should be considered in local and neighbourhood plans. This should include consideration of how proposals can:
  - support strong vibrant and healthy communities;
  - make physical activity easier;
  - support community engagement and the creation of social capital;
  - lead to reductions in health inequalities;
  - support people of all ages to make healthy choices;
  - promote access to healthier food and high quality open spaces; and
  - reduce potential pollution and other environmental hazards.
5. There are a number of current local planning policies in the Aligned Core Strategy, the Replacement Local Plan and the emerging Local Planning Document which will help achieve a healthy community. This includes policies on the provision of open space (Policy LPD21), promotion of walking and cycling (Policy LPD 58), restricting the number and location of hot food takeaway units (Policy LPD 54) and promoting health and wellbeing through design solutions (Policy LPD 35).
6. Since 2013, County Councils have had the responsibility of joining up local health policy with other strategies such as planning, transport infrastructure and housing. The Nottinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board was set up to help achieve this with its main focus on improving the health and wellbeing of the residents of Nottinghamshire. Their strategy sets out four key ambitions:
  - To give everyone a good start;
  - To encourage living well;
  - To enable coping well;
  - To encourage and allow working together.
7. In addition specific aims have been identified for planning:
  - Avoiding adverse health impacts from development;
  - Providing a healthy living environment;
  - Promoting and facilitating healthy lifestyles;
  - Providing access to health facilities and services;
  - Responding to global environmental issues.
8. The Health & Wellbeing Document includes a Health & Wellbeing Checklist which can be used to review development proposals and inform the preparation of Local and Neighbourhood Plans. It asks a series of questions

to assess the relevance of the proposal to health and wellbeing, to assess the impact on health and wellbeing and to consider ways that the proposal could be changed to improve the contribution it makes to health and wellbeing.

9. It is proposed that the use of the Health & Wellbeing Checklist be supported for major developments (those involving more than 10 homes or 500sqm of other floorspace). The checklist will help the developer and decision maker consider whether the proposal accords with the various national and local policies identified above. It is considered that the Checklist is proportionate, easy to complete and covers all the key determinates of health and wellbeing that may be affected by development.
10. The Checklist has already been used to assess the impact of the emerging Local Planning Document. The completed checklist is attached as Appendix 2 as an example.

### **Proposal**

11. It is proposed that the Health & Wellbeing Checklist be used to assess major developments (those of more than 10 dwellings or 500sqm of other floorspace).

### **Alternative Options**

12. A different or bespoke checklist or other form of health impact assessment could be used. However the proposed checklist is considered robust and appropriate for use in Gedling Borough and there will be benefits from aligning its use across Nottinghamshire County.
13. No checklist or Health Impact Assessment could be used and impacts considered in a less consistent and formal way when determining planning applications and preparing local plans. This is not recommended as the checklist is considered a robust and proportionate way of ensuring that the impacts of fully considered.

### **Financial Implications**

14. There are no direct financial implications. Officer time will be required to use the Checklist.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Spatial Planning for the Health & Wellbeing of Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City and Erewash

Appendix 2 – Health & Wellbeing Checklist for GBC Local Planning Document

**Background Papers**

None

**Recommendation(s)****THAT :**

- a. Cabinet support the use of the Health & Wellbeing Checklist to assess major developments (those of more than 10 dwellings or 500sqm of other floorspace); and
- b. Cabinet support the referral to Planning Committee Members for information purposes.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

To ensure that the health and wellbeing impacts of development proposals are fully considered when determining planning applications and preparing local plans.

To raise awareness of the proposed approach with Planning Committee Members.