

**LOCAL PLAN REVIEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OPTIONS AND POLICY OPTIONS -
JANUARY TO MARCH 2022**

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO Q16

Q16 - DO YOU AGREE WITH THE PROPOSED HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

A summary of the issues raised in the comments received are set out below:

Comments	NWL Officer Response
There is a well established connection between planning and health, and this is apparent in the NPPF. Planning can facilitate improvements to health services and infrastructure and provide a mechanism to address the wider determinants of health.	Comments noted.
Would welcome further engagement with the Council on this matter.	Comments noted.
<p>Policy is a welcome addition as provides a specific focus. However a number of the terms used are considered ambiguous, for example,</p> <p>'creating an inclusive built and natural environment'</p> <p>'promoting and facilitating active and healthy lifestyles'</p> <p>Therefore a risk that policy could be hard to apply at a development management level without sufficient detail on what action would be expected.</p> <p>Measures to improve health and wellbeing include – improving quality of walking and cycling infrastructure, creation of a network of well-designed, functional open spaces, considering sport and active recreation needs, create playable environment, embracing Healthy Street principles etc.</p> <p>Identified the availability of the platform - Healthy Place Making. This should be mentioned in the policy.</p>	Comments noted. It is the intention that the policy wording and supporting text is amended to address these issues and to provide greater clarity as well as the availability of supporting guidance that would assist in the application of the policy, taking into account that there maybe instances that guidance maybe revised or replaced by subsequent guidance.
Recommend policy encourages the use of SuDS to create multi-use amenity space and flood mitigation. Could also be applied alongside sustainable transport routes.	Noted. Recent government announcement has been made with the expectation for SuDS to be mandatory for new developments beginning in 2024.
Promoting health and wellbeing involves decisions where development is located, its design and access to countryside and nature. These should be incorporated directly in decisions and policies for development.	Noted.

<p>The built environment is shaped so people can access green spaces and are enabled to walk and cycle more.</p>	<p>Encouragement of the delivery and use of sustainable forms of travel will be incorporated within the Local Plan. Policy amended to make specific reference to active travel.</p>
<p>Support policy if implemented properly.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>
<p>Design of places can influence people's ability to follow healthy behaviours. Support development which can support and encourage active and healthy lifestyles.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>
<p>Suggest further addition to point 'v' to include specific reference to creating new, and enhancing existing, green spaces and providing multi-functional green infrastructure within new developments, rather than simply ensuring access to existing resources.</p>	<p>Policy amended to refer to the protection and improvement of these spaces/infrastructure. A specific policy on Green Infrastructure provision will also be included within the new Local Plan.</p>
<p>Suggest wording to prevent negative impacts on landscape character, as well as to recognise the specific role of landscape character in enhancing health and well being.</p>	<p>The Health and Well Being policy specifically recognises the benefits of access to green space. Local Plan policy will also seek to protect the character of the natural environment.</p>
<p>Welcome the use of a Health Impact Screening Statement for certain developments.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>With the creation of NWLDC's GI strategy underway, recommend the use of Natural England's Green Infrastructure mapping tool to identify important areas lacking in Green Infrastructure.</p>	<p>This has been used to inform the preparation of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Study for NWL, to identify deficiencies and accessibility issues.</p>
<p>Like to see references to Active Design guidance (Sport England) and other similar guidance . 'Uniting the Movement' which includes the following themes; 'connect communities', 'connect with health and wellbeing' and 'active environments'.</p>	<p>Policy amended to provide link with health and wellbeing and the design of a development. Supporting text of the Plan can make reference to guidance, for example, LLR Healthy Place Making (Active Environments) Design Guide. The wording would also have to take into account that there maybe instances that guidance is revised or replaced by subsequent guidance.</p>
<p>Welcome the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to support the development of community identity and opportunities for residents to come together; • Sufficient green space and local recreational facilities that enable residents to access physical activity with ease. </p>	<p>Support noted.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New developments are designed in such a way to enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing. • Designs that support the reduction in carbon emissions, as this has a direct impact on some resident's health 	
<p>Requirements of the policy should be tested to ensure viability and deliverability is not undermined.</p>	<p>A Viability Assessment will be undertaken of the whole New Local Plan, looking at the cost implications on development of each policy.</p>
<p>How can the proposed housing developments surrounding Diseworth contribute to health and well being of existing or incoming residents.</p>	<p>It is the intention that this type of development will be subject to a Health Impact Assessment and/or Screening Statement in order to enhance the potential positive aspects of a proposal while avoiding or minimising any negative impacts.</p>
<p>Does this policy consider just the future residents of development, or also the existing neighbourhoods and residents of those neighbourhoods?</p>	<p>The policy will apply to all new development and therefore impact on the health and well being of existing and future communities and residents.</p>
<p>Cultural facilities, e.g. theatres have an important role to play in supporting the well-being of local people, in that they provide opportunities for participation and engagement. Policy should be supplemented by a policy which strongly protects facilities from unnecessary loss.</p>	<p>The NPPF also supports the retention of local services and community facilities. This issue will be addressed elsewhere in the Local Plan as well as the accessibility to these services.</p>
<p>New housing development has been allowed but Health Authority have not provided adequate doctor numbers. Surgeries are operating at over capacity.</p>	<p>The Local Authority will continue to work in partnership with the relevant public health organisations to support the provision of appropriate health infrastructure. This partnership working will inform the preparation of the District's Infrastructure Delivery Plan.</p>
<p>Lack of cycle and walking paths. Lack of provision between Coalville and Ashby. Lack of facilities on new development e.g. housing, industrial and retail.</p>	<p>Council has recently published its Walking and Cycling Strategy for 2022-2032. Sets out the approach to improve walking and cycling opportunities. Now developing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to support access to funding to improve the cycling and walking infrastructure and network across the district. This work can be used to inform the decision making process in terms of cycling and walking infrastructure provision and will be addressed in the new Local Plan.</p>
<p>Necessary infrastructure and services should be provided. The remainder is not necessary.</p>	<p>NPPF makes it clear that the planning system has a role to play in the provision</p>

	<p>of health infrastructure as well as the health and well-being of communities.</p> <p>Evidence and justification for a policy of this nature can be found in the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance alongside the Council's Delivery Plan and Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</p>
<p>Removing access to green spaces and destroying the countryside contradicts this policy.</p>	<p>The planning system seeks to balance the district's development needs alongside the protection of the environment and the health and well being of its communities.</p>
<p>Policy provides opportunity to link health and wellbeing with the Council's ongoing assessment of green infrastructure. Suggest part (v) of the policy is amended to read:</p> <p>v. Promoting access for all to green spaces, sports facilities, play and recreation opportunities, [including green infrastructure corridors connecting settlements with the countryside]</p>	<p>Policy to be amended provide this link.</p>
<p>There has been disregard for health and wellbeing having allowed the airport expansion to continue unabated.</p>	<p>The New Local Plan seeks to promote a sustainable pattern of development, balancing the development needs of the area as well as the health and well being of its communities.</p> <p>The suggested policy applies to proposals for new development and to embed health and well being issues in the planning process.</p>
<p>Policy does not go far enough. All developments should connect communities through the provision of walking and cycling facilities.</p>	<p>Policy has been amended to make specific reference to Active Travel and connectivity within development and the wider community.</p> <p>In addition, the Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy for 2022-2032 sets out it approach to improve walking and cycling opportunities. Now developing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to support access to funding to improve the cycling and walking infrastructure and network across the district. This work can be used to inform the decision making process in terms of cycling and walking infrastructure provision.</p>

<p>Health and wellbeing seem to be completely neglected</p>	<p>The health and well being of communities encompasses a range of issues and there are opportunities for the planning system to have a positive impact. An explicit health and well being policy provides a greater opportunity to address the current challenges faced with respect to health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Option 1 would be sufficient. The issues relates to the policing of the guidelines.</p>	<p>This option is considered to be a missed opportunity to explicitly embed health and well being in the Local Plan and to show conformity with the NPPF and the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Policies will be monitored to measure their effectiveness.</p>
<p>Access to countryside and SSSIs is the greatest aspect of health and well being. These areas should be protected.</p>	<p>Policy recognises the importance of access to green spaces and also supports the protection and improvement of these spaces.</p>
<p>Blaby District Council will continue to work with Leicestershire County Council Public Health Team and NWLDC to further develop effective policies and procedures for delivering healthy communities.</p>	<p>The mutual benefits of such an approach are noted, in terms of resourcing, expertise and consistency.</p>
<p>A specific stand alone policy is not necessary. Largely replicates requirements of other policies.</p> <p>Health and well being should be a thread or hook in the Plan that all policies reflect.</p> <p>The draft policy wording can be used as policy justification for a HIA policy or combined into a single HIA policy.</p>	<p>A stand-alone policy supports the principles of health and well-being contained in the NPPF and illustrates conformity with the vision and priorities of the North West Leicestershore Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2028. This policy would apply to all development proposals and is an integral part of the development process.</p> <p>A separate HIA policy is to be applied to specified types of development, whilst being proportionate to the development type.</p>
<p>Part (v) can be met through the creation of green infrastructure.</p>	<p>Noted. Policy to be amended provide link between health and well being and green infrastructure.</p>
<p>Criterion b should only relate to unallocated sites</p>	<p>Agreed. The impact of allocations on existing services and facilities will be addressed as part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Policy wording to be amended to address this.</p>
<p>Should be specific reference to including Active Travel options (which will also link into the Carbon Reduction agenda), with specific mention to supporting delivery of the NWL Cycling and Strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - this</p>	<p>Policy has been amended to explicitly refer to Active Travel. Relevant supporting strategies will be referred to in supporting text.</p>

<p>would be through encouraging active travel options within developments and ensuring there are adequate links to the wider infrastructure.</p>	
<p>Requirement for all applications to be supported by a Screening Statement is not considered proportionate. Only larger developments are likely to benefit from a HIA and it is questioned how uses such as restaurants/café, drinking establishments and hot food takeaways would be able to demonstrate compliance.</p> <p>The form of the HIA is also important as this needs to be proportionate. The approach taken by Nottinghamshire County Council to this matter is considered to be a appropriate approach (https://www.Nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/planning-and-health-framework/planning-and-health-framework-2019-2022).</p>	<p>Early screening is seen as an opportunity to identify any health and well being issues and whether there is a need for a Health Impact Assessment. Only applications of a specific scale or type, would require a screening assessment. Policy will be amended so the requirement of a Screening Statement will depend on the scale of the development.</p>
<p>Health and wellbeing strategies must provide for everyone and not just the able-bodied. For example, closure of day centres, too much focus on those attending university and not enough on practical skills. In regard to older persons, there should be opportunities to use skills they have developed over the course of their working lives.</p>	<p>Policy seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of all the district's communities. However the issues raised are not matters than can be addressed by the planning system.</p>
<p>Amend requirement b should be updated to read "The Council will require: statutory consultees to consider their impact upon existing services and facilities, relating to health, social wellbeing, cultural and recreation through the emerging Infrastructure Delivery Plan, and for applicants to make the necessary provision to mitigate that impact, be that through on-site provision or financial contributions."</p>	<p>Policy to be amended. Consideration to be given to the locational accessibility to services, as well as the impact of development on the infrastructure requirements of services and facilities. The second issue will be supported by the Infrastructure Develivry Plan which will identify the district's infrastructure requirements.</p>
<p>Requirement c should be updated to read "proposals for development schemes that meet the criteria set out in Policy XX Health Impact Assessment (HIA) include a Health Impact Assessment [...]."</p>	<p>Agreed. Policy wording updated.</p>
<p>Can be challenging when setting measureable targets/delivery improvemets. National Design Guide and Building for a Healthy Life includes some useful advice in this regard.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Responsibility of CCG to work with NLW to align the provision of medical facilities with population growth. Developers are unable to</p>	<p>Noted. The Councils engagement with the CCG is an ongoing process and will inform the requirements of the New Local</p>

<p>require the CCGs to commission new primary care facilities. Criterion iv) should be reviewed.</p>	<p>Plan. Policy seeks to maintain or improve accessibility to health care facilities.</p> <p>The provision of health infrastructure will be informed and supported by the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.</p>
<p>Recommend engagement with the CCG informs further refinement of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan as part of the Local Plan review process.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Engagement with the CCG is an ongoing process.</p>
<p>The policy could be amended to refer to a) access to healthy food; b) social interaction; c) children getting the best start in life; d) measurable outcomes.</p>	<p>Policy has been amended to specifically refer to social interaction and healthy food. Approach applies to all generations.</p> <p>Joint working, between multiple stakeholders is being undertaken across the district and county wide referencing healthy eating including a focus on children.</p> <p>Suitable monitoring will be put in place to measure the effectiveness of policy.</p>
<p>The wider Plan SA should highlight links between the historic environment/cultural heritage and well-being opportunities.</p> <p>Approach aligns with the draft Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. There are links between the natural and historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement can assist with place making and well-being.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>