

Sandwell Local Plan

(Regulation 19)

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

September 2024

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1 Introduction

1.1 This document sets out a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Sandwell Local Plan (SLP). There is no statutory requirement to conduct an HIA, but it is regarded as best practice and indicates the Council's commitment to promoting health in the Borough.

1.2 The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) process evaluates the mental, physical, and social effects of a proposed development, strategy, policy, or initiative. HIA considers individual factors, like lifestyle, as well as the wider determinants of health such as education, housing, green spaces, environment and employment. This HIA seeks to identify positive and negative health and wellbeing consequences that may result from the Plan's policies and recommendations, as well as to propose ways for minimising bad outcomes and increasing positive ones. HIA is also beneficial for highlighting and improving health inequity and inequality.

1.3 The purpose of this HIA is to:

- Identify the potential health consequences of a proposal on a specific population and/or community; and
- Maximise the positive health benefits and minimise potential adverse effects on health and inequalities.

1.4 HIA examines health in the broadest sense, considering the broader determinants of health as a framework. Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council has identified the following broad factors of health:

- Housing quality and design
- Access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure
- Access to open space and nature
- Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity
- Accessibility and active travel
- Crime reduction and community safety
- Access to healthy food
- Access to work and training
- Social cohesion and lifetime neighbourhoods
- Minimising the use of resources
- Climate change

- Health inequalities

1.5 They are shown graphically in Figure 1 below:

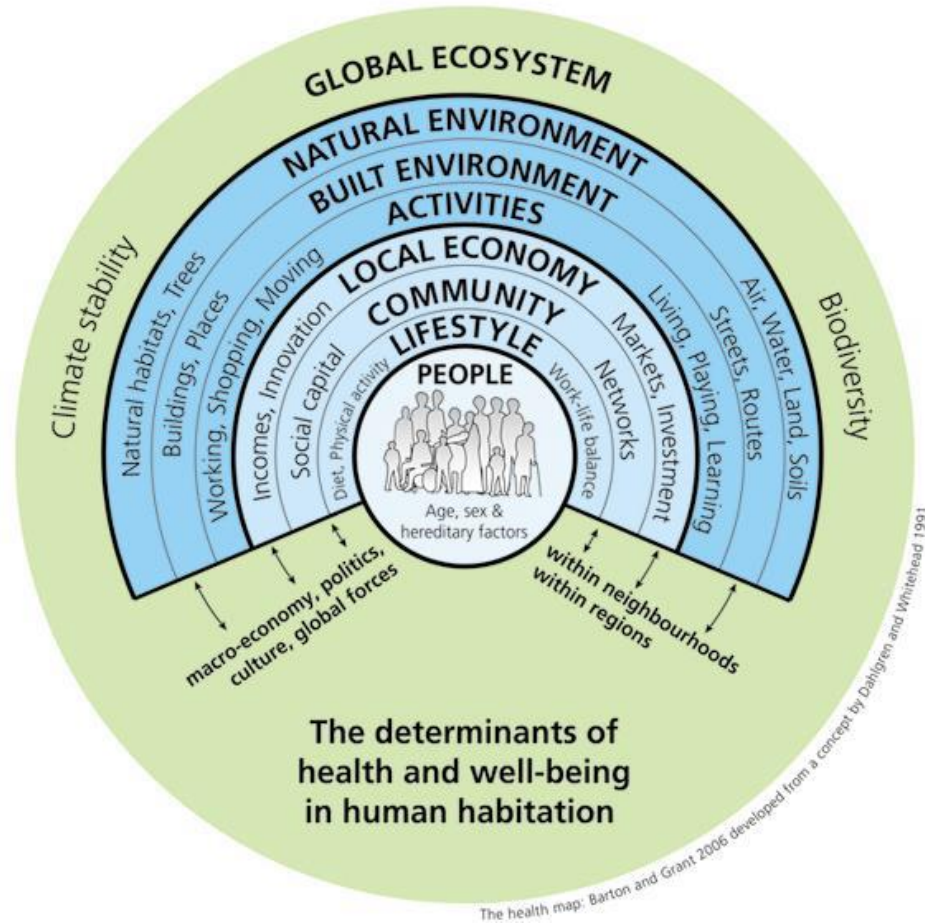


Figure 1: Determinants of health and wellbeing

2 Methodology

There is no one way to conduct an HIA. However, there are a number of tools available that follow the five sequential steps¹:

2.1 **Screening:** This step involves deciding whether a HIA needs to be completed and the form it should take, i.e. rapid or in-depth.

2.2 **Scoping:** This step involves establishing the terms of reference and agreed plan for the health impact assessment.

¹ Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) Guide: www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/Documents/522/improvinghealthenglish.pdf

2.3 **Assessment:** This is the most important step in the HIA process which involves gathering information and completing an appraisal of the potential nature, size, likelihood and distribution of the health impacts of the local plan policies. It also provides an opportunity to suggest possible ways of maximising the health benefits and minimising the risks, particularly to the least healthy or most disadvantaged population groups.

2.4 **Reporting:** This step involves collating and presenting the information gathered at the assessment stage.

2.5 **Monitoring and evaluation:** It involves assessing how effective the health impact assessment process is in influencing decisions within the Council.

3 Policy Context

3.1 The SLP has been prepared in the context of national and local guidance and strategies. A range of evidence has been commissioned by the Council to support the spatial strategy and policies within this plan, which will be available to view on the Sandwell local plan web page alongside the consultation documents.

3.2 The SLP follows the principles set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which is embedded in the Local Plan. Section 8 of the NPPF establishes the framework for how the planning system helps to promote healthy and safe communities, and this influences the SLP.

3.3 The SLP provides a strong policy framework for integrating health and spatial planning. It seeks to improve health and address health inequalities by requiring new developments to be designed, constructed and managed in ways that improve health and promote healthy lifestyles to reduce health inequalities (Policy SHW1 and Policy SHW2).

4 Local Plan

4.1 The Sandwell Local Plan (SLP) contains strategic and non-strategic planning policies and land allocations intended to support the growth of Sandwell over the years to 2041. The planning policies will:

- guide land use and development across the borough; and
- set strong standards for design, growth and transformation

4.2 The SLP contains a Vision for Sandwell in 2041, underpinned by strategic objectives and priorities designed to deliver the Vision and its associated aims.

4.3 Once adopted, the SLP will provide a clear and robust strategy for bringing development sites forward, with a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development on brownfield land. It will provide certainty and transparency to residents, businesses and developers around how Sandwell is expecting to grow to 2041.

4.4 Once the consultation on the SLP closes, the HIA, including all consultation responses, will be submitted alongside the SLP as a supporting document. Adoption of the Plan is anticipated to be in 2025.

5 HIA Step 1: Screening

5.1 Figure 1 illustrates how the built and natural environments affect health. The SLP will have a significant impact on how the built and natural environments are developed throughout the borough. In light of this, it is believed that the SLP will significantly affect people's health and wellbeing, making a rapid HIA imperative.

5.2 Several policies have been found to be especially pertinent to the factors influencing health and well-being, such as:

- **Framework Policies:** Policy SDS5 - Achieving Well-designed Places; Policy SDS8 - Green and Blue Infrastructure in Sandwell
- **Climate Change:** Policy SCC1 – Energy Infrastructure; Policy SCC2 – Reducing operational carbon in new build non-residential development ; Policy SCC3 – Climate-adapted Design and Construction
- **Health and Wellbeing in Sandwell:** Policy SHW1– Health Impact Assessments; Policy SHW2 – Healthcare Infrastructure; Policy SHW3 – Air Quality; Policy SHW4 – Open Space and Recreation; Policy SHW5 – Playing Fields and Sports Facilities; Policy SHW6 – Allotments

- **Sandwell's Housing:** Policy SHO1 - Delivering Sustainable Housing Growth; Policy SHO3 - Housing Density, Type and Accessibility; Policy SHO4 - Affordable Housing; Policy SHO5 - Delivering Accessible and Self / Custom Build Housing; Policy SHO11 - Housing for people with specific needs
- **Sandwell's Economy:** Policy SEC1 – Providing for Economic Growth and Jobs; Policy SEC3 – Local Employment Areas, Policy SEC5 – Improving Access to the Labour Market
- **Sandwell's Centres:** Policy SCE1 - Sandwell's Centres; Policy SCE5 - Provision of Small-Scale Local Facilities not in Centres
- **Transport:** Policy STR5 – Creating Coherent Networks for Cycling and Walking; Policy STR6 – Influencing the Demand for Travel and Travel Choices; Policy STR9 – Planning for Low Emission Vehicles
- **Infrastructure and Delivery:** Policy SID1 – Infrastructure Provision; Policy SID2 – Digital Infrastructure

5.3 It is expected that the policies will have a mostly beneficial impact on people's health and wellbeing because the SLP lays out a positive vision for the borough's future development, striving to preserve the interests of individuals who live, work, and visit the borough.

6 HIA Step 2: Scoping

Timescales

6.1 This is the HIA for the Publication Plan, which will be consulted for six weeks, between 23rd September to 4th November 2024. Following the last round of public comment, the SLP will be submitted to the Secretary of State and made available for public examination in 2025.

Geographical boundaries

6.2 The HIA focuses on the whole of the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough.

Stakeholders

6.3 In carrying out this HIA, no steering group has been formed. As part of the ongoing Duty to Cooperate, consultations regarding the draft SLP have included engagements with health bodies.

Scale

6.4 Given the constraints of time and resources, a rapid HIA has been conducted.

Focus

6.5 The Rapid HIA Matrix includes an assessment of 25 criteria across the 12 themes identified in paragraph 1.4.

6.6 The main health and wellbeing issues in the borough include health inequalities, pressure on health infrastructure, low levels of employment and low qualifications; impacts associated with air quality climate issues, obesity and impacts associated with increase in hot food takeaways.

6.7 Older people, children and people living in areas of relative deprivation are the most affected by health and wellbeing issues within the borough.

6.8 As a result, the HIA assessment and reporting focusses primarily on these areas.

7 HIA Step 3: Assessment

7.1 The assessment step is the most significant step in the HIA process, and it entails obtaining information and conducting an assessment of the potential nature, extent, likelihood, and distribution of the health impacts of SLP policies. It also provides an opportunity to identify potential approaches to maximise health benefits while limiting hazards, particularly for the least healthy or most disadvantaged population groups.

7.2 The Rapid Health Impact Assessment Matrix (Appendix 1) has been completed to determine the potential extent of health impacts from the Local Plan's policies, as well as whether these are likely to be good or negative. The matrix is divided into 12 categories based on the health factors identified in paragraph 1.4, with an emphasis on impacts that are directly or indirectly influenced by planning decisions and design.

7.3 This section covers:

- A profile of the borough
- An assessment of potential health impacts informed by knowledge of the wider determinants of health
- A summary of the impact of the health issues identified to be of importance in the borough
- Recommendations for improving potential good effects and minimising potential negative consequences of policies outlined in the SLP.

7.1 Borough Profile

Population

7.4 According to the 2021 Census, Sandwell has 341,900 residents, an 11.0% increase from 2011. This compares to a 6.3% rise in England and Wales. Sandwell's 11% increase since 2011 is the biggest in the West Midlands Metropolitan County region, with Coventry following closely at 8.9%.

7.5 Sandwell has a young and diverse population, with more than 40% of residents under the age of 30, compared to approximately 30% elsewhere in the UK. Just over 40% of residents are from an ethnic minority origin, making the population more diversified than the regional and UK averages of 18.8% and 14%, respectively.

General Health

7.6 Overall, Sandwell's population health is not as good as the national average. Approximately 25.5% (18,495) of Sandwell's children are from low-income homes, making it one of the 20% most impoverished districts/unitary authorities in England. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Sandwell identifies that the general health of people in Sandwell is improving, but not as fast as the England average².

² https://www.sandwelltrends.info/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2018/06/JSNA_Obesity-May-2011.pdf ; <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/subnationalindicatorsexplorer/2022-01-06#E08000028>

Life Expectancy

7.7 Compared to the national average of 79.4 years for men and 83.1 years for women, the life expectancy in Sandwell is lower for both genders, at 76.1 years for men and 80.7 years for women.

7.8 Within Sandwell, there is disparity in life expectancy in the most impoverished parts of the borough, life expectancy is 8.6 years lower for males and 8 years lower for women than in the least impoverished regions.

Employment

7.9 Sandwell has a higher-than-average level of economic inactivity and unemployment. Over the same period, NOMIS identified that 53,700 residents (25.7% of residents aged 16 - 64) were economically inactive (compared with 21.2% in Great Britain). As a percentage of economically active residents, 6% of the working population is classified as unemployed, and 20.2% of households are classified as "workless", meaning that no one over the age of 16 is employed and that at least one member of the home is between the ages of 16 and 64. Weekly gross revenues are less than the national average.

Qualifications and Skills

7.10 The percentage of Sandwell's working-age population without any qualifications is 11.8%, which is significantly higher than the UK average of 6.5%. This indicates that workers in Sandwell have a higher likelihood of working in lower skilled jobs than those in other parts of the UK.

Open Space

7.11 There are 543 green spaces in Sandwell, 323 (59%) of which are open to the public without restriction. This offers more unrestricted access to green space than some comparable local authorities, such as Birmingham, Oldham, Hull, and Knowsley, and provides 3.275 hectares of open space per 1,000 population.

Housing

7.12 Sandwell had 130,246 household spaces as of March 2021. Owner-occupied households made up 54% of all households, followed by social rentals at 27% and private landlord rentals at 19%. Sandwell's average household size is 2.42, which is little larger

than the 2.4 average for Wales and England. In terms of household composition, in Sandwell in 2021 there were 38,042 households with just one person living in them, or little less than 30% of all the households.

Air Quality

7.13 Outside of London, the West Midlands has the greatest regional excess of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) over the EU health-based limit value in the United Kingdom. According to recent studies, the West Midlands region experiences 630 preventable deaths annually as a result of road transport emissions. In addition to increasing the risk of low birth weight and exacerbating asthma, exposure to poor air quality can also result in acute and chronic cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases. In the UK, air pollution is predicted to shorten life expectancy by an average of six months.

Health Infrastructure

7.14 There are 48 GP Practices across the borough to serve the residents of Sandwell. There is pressure on health facilities with some further shortfall in GP floorspace expected as result of sites coming forward for development within the SLP period.

Hot Food Takeaways

7.15 In recent years, a number of retail units in the Borough have been converted into Hot Food Takeaway (HFT) establishments. Where high concentrations occur in our retail centres, they can pose a threat to the retail function and have negative impacts on health of residents.

7.16 Almost three-quarters of the takeaway meals from Sandwell's HFTs were found to have levels of fat, sugar and salt that were above recommended limits in a 2013–2014 study that examined over 250 portions of food. The study also discovered that Sandwell residents are routinely exposed to incredibly huge portion sizes, often surpassing those discovered in certain American studies.

Obesity

7.17 Obesity rates in Sandwell are greater than those in the country overall for both adults and children. According to the NHS model, 23% of adults in the country have a BMI of more than 30 kg/m², making them obese. In Sandwell, this percentage is 25.4%, or over

62,000 adults. Based on a model, it is estimated that approximately 4,000 adults have a BMI of more than 40 kg/m², which is considered severely obese. However, there are specific demographic groups that are more vulnerable to obesity than others, and the prevalence of obesity is not constant throughout the community.

7.18 Evidence suggests obesity is prevalence among Year 6 children (aged 10-11 years). Current trends suggest that around 9% of obese 1–2-year-old children will be obese when they become adults and that around 80% of children who are obese at age 10 –14 years will become obese adults, particularly if one of their parents is also obese.

Deprivation

7.19 In comparison to other districts, Sandwell ranked slightly lower at 12th place out of 317 local authorities in the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Large portions of Smethwick, Tipton, Wednesbury, and West Bromwich are exceedingly deprived. Sandwell's deprivation is dispersed throughout the borough. The less affluent regions are those surrounding Smethwick, Oldbury, Rowley Regis, and northeastern West Bromwich. Within the country's most deprived 10%, one in five Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Sandwell is included.

7.2 Health Impacts

7.20 Evidence indicates that the following problems with health and wellness exist in the borough:

- **Health inequalities:** There are higher levels of poor health in areas of deprivation. Life expectancy is 8.6 years lower for males and 8 years lower for women than in the least impoverished regions mainly due to coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cancers.

Unemployment and low income levels are mostly high in deprived areas which creates stress, which has long-term physiological health impacts and can negatively impact people's mental health, including depression, anxiety, and general health and wellbeing.

- **Risks associated with poor air quality:** Numerous chronic illnesses, including asthma, heart disease, cancer, and neurological abnormalities associated with dementia, are influenced by air pollution. Communities near busy roads are

particularly vulnerable to the harmful impacts of pollution because of the volume of air and car traffic.

- **Pressure on health infrastructure:** The population density will rise in tandem with the anticipated increase in the population size. The demand for statutory services, such as health and social care, will rise as a result.
- **Obesity:** Obesity contributes to the development of numerous diseases and premature mortality, and it is the sixth most important risk factor contributing to the global burden of disease. Market forces, demand and the need for standardisation have resulted in greater consumption of food that is highly processed and high in saturated fat, sugar, salt and additives, often at the expense of important qualities such as fibre content and nutrition. This trend has resulted in obesity in children and adults leading to other severe health conditions.

Increased exposure and opportunity to buy fast food results in increased consumption. Greater consumption and less activity equate to more calories in and fewer calories out, resulting inevitably in rising levels of obesity and poorer health.

8 HIA Step 4: Reporting

8.1 The completed Rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Matrix in Appendix 2 includes 12 general assessment themes. This section draws findings from the assessment of each criterion and identifies appropriate recommendations.

8.2 Below is a summary of the impact of the policies on the health issues that have been specifically identified to be of importance in the borough.

Health Inequalities

8.3 The UK government defines health inequalities as "inequalities in life expectancy or general state of health that are wholly or partly a result of differences in general health determinants." Those living in areas of relative deprivation are more likely to have poorer health, greater rates of unemployment, and could be living in substandard housing.

8.4 Policy SEC1 seeks to provide economic growth and jobs. The policy would ensure a sufficient quantum of development opportunities are provided to meet the demand for economic growth and support the diversification of Sandwell's economy. This will be

beneficial in increasing employment opportunities for people who are currently unemployed.

8.5 Policy SEC3 aims at providing Local Employment Areas characterised by a critical mass of industrial, warehousing and service activity with good access to local markets and employees. This will provide the needed local employment opportunities for people with lower qualifications.

8.6 Policy SEC5 recognises that economic transformation cannot be achieved without new skills and training in the workforce. The policy seeks to ensure initiatives that provide training opportunities to assist residents in accessing employment opportunities are secured. Also, support will be provided to residents in applying jobs arising from development. These initiatives would be of huge benefits for residents in deprived areas where low qualifications are barriers for gaining employment.

8.7 Policy SHO4 seeks to secure between 10% to 25% affordable housing depending on the local housing values and land type. 25% of the affordable homes would be required to be First Homes Tenure. This policy is important in ensuring the housing needs of households of lower income are met and this will help to reduce inequalities.

8.8 Policy SDS5 seeks to ensure that all new homes including affordable homes adhere to the Design Code requirements and accords with the requirements for good design. Poor housing quality negatively impacts general health and wellbeing. As such, this policy is important in addressing health conditions associated with poor housing quality.

8.9 Additionally, other policies in the SLP such as Policy SDS8 relating to green and blue infrastructure and Policy SNE1 relating to nature conservation helps in addressing health inequalities.

8.10 No policies have been identified as having a negative impact on health inequalities in the borough.

Risks Associated with Poor Air Quality

8.11 The quality of air in recent years have been impacted by high pollution resulting in significant negative effects on both human and environmental health. Reducing the exposure to poor air quality aligns with the aims and objectives of the SLP.

- 8.12 Policy SHW3 supports a diverse approach to addressing the issue of poor health quality across the borough. This includes requiring development to promote the integration of cycling, walking, public transport and electric charging points as part of their transport provision and a range of measures relating to energy generation in line with the energy hierarchy. The policy will request the installation of renewables-based systems or the use of ultra-low emission NOx boilers in new developments.
- 8.13 Policy SCC1 relating to energy infrastructure as well as the other climate change policies in the SLP set out a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change. These policies will help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions which would have a positive impact on the quality of air in the borough.
- 8.14 In addition, Policy SDS8 relating to green and blue infrastructure and Policy SNE3 relating to the provision, retention and protection of trees, woodlands and hedgerows requires the provision and protection of green spaces and significant additional tree cover. Compliance to these policies will lead to a gradual improvement in the quality of air in the borough.
- 8.15 Transport policies in the SLP aim at creating coherent networks for cycling and walking, encouraging low emission vehicles, managing demand for road space and car parking by influencing demand for travel and travel choices. These policies are geared towards achieving the vision for sustainable communities and will have a positive impact on air quality in the borough.
- 8.16 Policy SCO2 relating to pollution control requires development proposals that are likely to cause or increase pollution or expose their occupants, users or adjacent residents to new or increased pollution to demonstrate that sufficient mitigation measures are available and will be used to minimise harmful impacts to a level that protects the health and amenity of people and the environment. This will aid in fulfilling both the environmental objective of minimising pollution and the social objective of supporting healthy communities.
- 8.17 No policies have been identified as having a negative impact on air quality in the borough.

Pressure on Health Infrastructure

- 8.18 It is imperative for planning policies and decisions to make sufficient provision for health infrastructure to cater to the health needs of the residents of new developments. Also, the capacity of existing health facilities will have to expand in response to population increase.
- 8.19 Policy SHW2 sets out the requirement for the provision of new health care facilities to address the issue of pressure on existing health infrastructure. Additionally, the policy seeks to ensure the protection of existing primary and secondary healthcare infrastructure and services.
- 8.20 Under this policy, major residential proposals must be assessed against the capacity of existing healthcare facilities. Where new proposals are found to generate unacceptable impact on the capacity of existing facilities, developers will be required to contribute to the provision or improvement of such services.
- 8.21 This policy will be effective in reducing pressure on health infrastructure. No policies have been identified that have negative impacts on health infrastructure within the borough.

Obesity

- 8.22 Reducing the levels of obesity in Sandwell will be a big step towards ensuring residents are healthy and have an increased life expectancy. Key policies that aim at addressing the issue of obesity within children and adults are Policy SHW4, Policy SHW5, Policy SDS8, Policy SDM6 and Policy SDM7
- 8.23 Policy SHW4 relating to open space and recreation provision, Policy SDS8 relating to green and blue infrastructure and Policy SHW5 relating to playing fields and sports facilities seek to provide opportunities for residents in Sandwell to keep active. Major development proposals are expected to contribute towards the provision of unrestricted open space under Policy SHW4. Being in green spaces boosts various aspects of thinking, including attention, memory and creativity, in people both with and without depression. Policy SHW5 ensures existing playing fields and built sports facilities are retained and requires the provision of new sports facilities. Play areas, sports facilities, and publicly accessible urban open spaces are all essential for encouraging healthy lifestyles. SDS8

aims to maintain and where possible enhance the existing network of green infrastructure across the borough. These policies will contribute positively toward the reduction of obesity in adults and children.

8.24 Policy SDM6 sets out controls over the prevalence of hot food takeaways. It seeks to limit hot food takeaways, the clustering of hot food takeaway in centres and implements an exclusion zone near secondary schools and higher education establishments. Also, the policy encourages hot food takeaway operators to adopt healthy eating measures. Policy SDM7 provides guidelines on the prerequisites for the provision of hot food takeaway in addition to Policy SDM6. This is to address the environmental and residential amenity issues that arise such as impact of odours, waste and litter from hot food takeaways. These policies will contribute positively toward the reduction of the negative impacts hot food takeaways have on residents in the borough.

8.25 No policies have been identified to have negative impacts on obesity within the borough.

8.1 Recommendations

8.26 Below are recommendations to further maximise the health benefits and minimise the health risks:

- Collaborating with colleagues in the Development Management team to ensure effective compliance with the SLP policies.
- Ensuring HIA is built into the review process of the SLP and complete integration of Public Health within the planning stages and processes of the SLP review will further enable a more comprehensive HIA to be taken in future.
- Collaborating with the Public Health team to create a procedure for ensuring the quality of submitted HIAs and screening reports in support of Policy SHW1.
- Facilitating and enabling civic engagement, community cohesiveness, and social networks as part of the new development process, taking into account the need to avoid disruption to existing social links while ensuring that new communities and people can integrate.

- Collaborating with Transportation colleagues to ensure that transportation proposals incorporate and implement Healthy Streets concepts.
- Monitoring evidence of the impact of hot food takeaways on unhealthy weight and examine how to encourage, enable, and facilitate healthy eating options in support of policies SDM6 and SDM7.
- Investigating the needs, demands, and benefits of multiple uses of community facilities, such as space for physical or recreational activities that appeal to people from various cultures, and determine whether access to these would enable and facilitate increased physical activity, social inclusion and connection, community cohesiveness, better mental health, and reduced social isolation.
- Working with important partners and stakeholders to reduce air pollution and work towards the goal of becoming carbon neutral in the council by 2030 and within the borough by 2041.
- Supporting Housing colleagues in addressing the borough's residents' housing health needs.

9 HIA Step 5: Monitoring and Evaluating

9.1 Since an HIA's purpose is to provide information for planning and decision-making, it is helpful to assess how much the HIA has influenced the creation of healthy environments in the borough. Through the Council's AMR process, this will be done following the SLP's adoption, which is scheduled for 2025.

10 Conclusion

10.1 This HIA has shown that there is no expectation that the SLP's policies would have an adverse impact on the health and welfare of the borough's citizens. On the contrary, the SLP's policies will have a positive impact and will work towards addressing health issues within borough resulting in the achievement of the Council's 2030 ambition of Sandwell being a 'place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer'.

10.2 This favourable result achieved by the HIA is testament to the high levels of cooperation that currently exist between the Council's Public Health and Planning teams,

as well as the growing body of evidence regarding the connection between human health and the environment, which indicates that health considerations have been a major theme throughout all of the policies in the SLP.

APPENDIX 1: The Rapid Health Impact Assessment Matrix

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
Housing quality and design			
<p>1. Does the plan seek to address the housing needs of the wider community by requiring provision of a variation of housing types including affordable housing and housing that will meet the needs of older or disabled people?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>Policy SHO1 - Delivering Sustainable Housing Growth</u> Seeks to ensure sufficient land is provided to deliver at least 10,434 net new homes over the period 2024 – 2041 across the borough.</p> <p><u>Policy SHO4 - Affordable Housing</u> Ensures a sufficient proportion of new homes provided over the plan period to be affordable to meet local needs.</p> <p><u>Policy SHO5 - Delivering Accessible and Self / Custom Build Housing</u> Requires new homes to meet M4(2) (Category 2: Accessible and adaptable dwellings) requirement in Building Regulations</p>	<p>Positive</p>

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
		<p><u>Policy SHO11 - Housing for people with specific needs</u></p> <p>Seeks to meet the identified needs of all sections of the community, including older people, people with disabilities and other people with special needs</p>	
<p>2. Does the proposal promote good design through layout and orientation, meeting internal space standards??</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>Policy SDS5 - Achieving Well-designed Places</u></p> <p>Requires the design of new development to adhere to the extant Design Code requirements once it is adopted.</p> <p><u>Policy SDM1 – Design Quality</u></p> <p>Requires developments to be designed to high standards and to create a strong sense of place and reflect Sandwell’s unique character; and requires development proposals to demonstrate the use of the Building for a Healthy Life criteria (or subsequent iterations) and compliance with Sandwell’s Design Code, masterplans and guidance for new housing developments, to achieve high design standards, good place-making and sustainable development.</p>	<p>Positive</p>

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
Access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure			
3. Does the plan seek to retain, replace or provide health and social care related to infrastructure?	Yes	<u>Policy SHW2 – Healthcare Infrastructure</u> Sets out the requirements for the provision of health infrastructure to serve the residents of new developments and ensures the protection of existing primary and secondary healthcare infrastructure services will be protected.	Positive
4. Does the plan address the proposed growth/assess the impact on healthcare services?	Yes	<u>Policy SHW1– Health Impact Assessments</u> Requires proposals for major development to provide an assessment of its potential impacts on the health and wellbeing of adjacent communities, residents and businesses, and to mitigate any potential negative impacts, maximise potential positive impacts and help reduce health inequalities. <u>Policy SHW2 – Healthcare Infrastructure</u> Requires proposals for major residential developments of ten units or more to be assessed against the capacity of existing healthcare facilities	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
		and / or services as set out in local development documents.	
5. Does the plan explore/allow for opportunities for shared community use and co-location of services?	Yes	<p><u>Policy SID1 – Infrastructure Provision</u></p> <p>Encourages developer contributions to be pooled to allow the infrastructure to be secured in a fair and equitable way where the combined impact of several developments creates the need for infrastructure in an area. This could facilitate shared community use and co-location of services.</p> <p><u>Policy SHW5 – Playing Fields and Sports Facilities</u></p> <p>Encourages wider community use of school playing fields, other school facilities, such as sports halls, and private facilities, especially in areas where public provision is deficient.</p>	Neutral
Access to open space and nature			
6. Does the plan seek to retain and enhance existing and provide new	Yes	<p><u>Policy SDS7 – Sandwell’s Green Belt</u></p> <p>Explores opportunities to improve the value and recreational role of the green belt in Sandwell Valley</p>	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
open and natural spaces to support healthy living and physical activity?		<p>through improving safe accessibility for all users and by providing facilities for active and passive recreation.</p> <p><u>Policy SDS8 - Green and Blue Infrastructure in Sandwell</u></p> <p>Expects development to maintain and where possible enhance the existing network of green infrastructure particularly in relation to its contribution to meeting the social and health-related needs.</p> <p><u>Policy SHW4 – Open Space and Recreation</u></p> <p>Requires all new housing sites providing over ten units to contribute towards the provision of unrestricted open space.</p>	
7. Does the plan promote links between open and natural spaces and areas of residence,	Yes	<p><u>Policy SDS7 – Sandwell’s Green Belt</u></p> <p>Explores opportunities to improve the value and recreational role of the green belt in Sandwell Valley by enhancing safe accessibility.</p>	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
employment and commerce?		<u>Policy SDS8 - Green and Blue Infrastructure in Sandwell</u> Requires major developments to ensure green spaces and urban greening features (including tree planting, vegetation, gardens, green roofs and green walls, sustainable drainage systems, etc.) are planned, designed and managed in an integrated way so that they deliver multiple climate change and environmental benefits over the lifetime of the development	
8. Does the plan seek to ensure that open and natural spaces are welcoming, safe and accessible to all?	Yes	<u>Policy SHW4 – Open Space and Recreation</u> Seeks to extend, increase access to and enhance the ecological value of multifunctional green spaces and networks. <u>Policy SDS7 – Sandwell’s Green Belt</u> Explores opportunities to improve safe accessibility for all users and by providing facilities for active and passive recreation within Sandwell’s green belt	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
9. Does the plan seek to provide a range of play spaces for children and young people (e.g. play pitches, play areas etc.) including provision for those that are disabled ?	Yes	<p><u>Policy SHW4 – Open Space and Recreation</u> Supports informal physical activity, including through footpath and cycle network infrastructure, and providing areas for informal recreation and children’s play.</p> <p><u>Policy SHW5 – Playing Fields and Sports Facilities</u> Seeks to retain existing playing fields and built sport facilities and provide new sport facilities. Also, encourages wider community use of school playing fields, other school facilities, such as sports halls, and private facilities, especially in areas where public provision is deficient.</p>	Positive
Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity			
10. Does the plan seek to minimise construction impacts such as dust, noise, vibration and odours ?	Yes	<p><u>Policy SCO2 - Pollution Control</u> Requires development proposals to not give rise to noise and vibration at such levels that they are likely to adversely impact health and quality of life, both during the construction of development and following its completion.</p>	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
		<p><u>Policy SDM1 – Design Quality</u> Seeks to ensure development do not cause an adverse impact on the living environment of occupiers of existing residential properties, or unacceptable living conditions for future occupiers of new residential properties, in terms of vibration, noise, smell, dust and fumes.</p>	
<p>11. Does the plan seek to minimise air pollution caused by traffic and employment/ commercial facilities?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>Policy SHW3 – Air Quality</u> Supports a diverse approach to addressing the issue of poor air quality across the borough such as an integrated zero-emission public transport system, promoting and requiring the use of sustainable technologies, zero-emission vehicles, design and materials and providing new or extended bus services to meet.</p> <p>Requires new development including employment and commercial uses to demonstrate how its</p>	<p>Positive</p>

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
		occupiers and users would be affected by air quality and how the development itself affects air quality.	
12. Does the plan seek to minimise noise pollution caused by traffic and employment / commercial facilities?	Yes	<u>Policy SCO2 - Pollution Control</u> Requires development proposals that are sensitive to noise to not be located within an area of existing high levels of noise unless it has been demonstrated that noise impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated by the design and layout of the scheme, and / or the incorporation of insulation, including acoustic glazing.	Positive
Accessibility and active transport			
13. Does the plan prioritise and encourage walking (such as through shared spaces) connecting to local walking networks?	Yes	<u>Policy STR1 – Priorities for the Development of the Transport Network</u> Key transport corridors will be prioritised through the delivery of infrastructure to support active travel (walking). <u>Policy STR5 – Creating Coherent Networks for Cycling and Walking</u>	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
		Seeks to create an environment that encourages active travel; requires new developments to link to existing walking networks; and requires new developments to have good walking links to public transport nodes and interchanges	
14. Does the plan prioritise and encourage cycling (for example by providing secure cycle parking, showers and cycle lanes) connecting to local and strategic cycle networks?	Yes	<p><u>Policy STR1 – Priorities for the Development of the Transport Network</u></p> <p>Key transport corridors will be prioritised through the delivery of infrastructure to support active travel (cycling).</p> <p><u>Policy STR5 – Creating Coherent Networks for Cycling and Walking</u></p> <p>Seeks to create an environment that encourages active travel; requires new developments to link to existing cycling networks; seeks to create and maintain a comprehensive cycle network based on the four tiers of the West Midlands cycle network; requires new developments to have good cycling links to public transport nodes and interchanges; and</p>	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
		requires cycle parking facilities to be provided at all new developments and should be in convenient locations with good natural surveillance	
16. Does the plan support traffic management and calming measures to help reduce and minimise road injuries?	Yes	<u>Policy STR1 – Priorities for the Development of the Transport Network</u> Ensures key transport corridors will be prioritised through the delivery of infrastructure to support traffic management and road safety	Positive
Crime reduction and community safety			
17. Does the plan create environments & buildings that make people feel safe, secure and free from crime ?	Yes	<u>Policy SDM1 – Design Quality</u> Requires development proposals to demonstrate that the guidance outlined in policy has been considered and where appropriate used to inform design and access statements that reflect compliance with crime prevention measures, such as Secured by Design and / or Park Mark principles	Positive
Access to healthy food			

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
18. Does the plan support the retention and creation of food growing areas , allotments and community gardens in order to support a healthy diet and physical activity ?	Yes	<u>Policy SHW6 – Allotments</u> Supports proposals for community agriculture where appropriate. This will result in more sustainably produced food and promotes healthy eating.	Positive
19. Does the plan seek to restrict the development of hot food takeaways in specific areas?	Yes	<u>Policy SDM6 - Hot Food Takeaway</u> Sets out controls over the prevalence of hot food takeaways; seeks to limit hot food takeaways and the clustering of hot food takeaway in centres and implements an exclusion zone near secondary schools and higher education establishments; and encourages hot food takeaway operators to adopt healthy eating measures. <u>Policy SDM7 - Management of Hot Food Takeaways</u>	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
		Provides guidelines on the prerequisites for the provision of hot food takeaway in addition to Policy SDM6.	
Access to work and training			
20. Does the plan seek to provide new employment opportunities and encourage local employment and training ?	Yes	<p><u>Policy SEC1 – Providing for Economic Growth and Jobs</u> Seeks to provide economic growth and jobs and ensure a sufficient quantum of development opportunities are provided to meet the demand for economic growth and support the diversification of the local economy.</p> <p><u>Policy SEC3 – Local Employment Areas</u> Aims at providing Local Employment Areas characterised by a critical mass of industrial, warehousing and service activity with good access to local markets and employees.</p> <p><u>Policy SEC5 – Improving Access to the Labour Market</u></p>	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
		Seeks to ensure initiatives that provide training opportunities to assist residents in accessing employment opportunities are secured and seeks to provide support to residents in applying jobs arising from development.	
Social cohesion and lifetime neighbourhoods			
21. Does the plan connect with existing communities where the layout and movement avoid physical barriers and severance and encourages social interaction?	Yes	<p><u>Policy SCE1 - Sandwell's Centres</u> Seeks to create pleasant, safe public spaces to increase social interaction and cohesion.</p> <p><u>Policy STR5 – Creating Coherent Networks for Cycling and Walking</u> Requires new developments to link to existing walking and cycling networks. This encourages social interaction.</p> <p><u>Policy SDM1 – Design Quality</u> Requires developments to be designed to high standards and to create a strong sense of place and reflect Sandwell's unique character.</p>	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
Minimising the use of resources			
22. Does the plan seek to incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques?	Yes	<p><u>Policy SCC3 – Climate adapted Design and Construction</u> Encourages development proposals to minimise both internal heat gain and the impacts of urban heat islands by using appropriate design, layout, orientation and materials to achieve a healthy and sustainable environment for new occupiers.</p> <p><u>Policy SCC6 - Sustainable drainage</u> Expects major developments in Sandwell to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) unless clear and robust evidence can be provided to demonstrate why this would be inappropriate.</p> <p><u>Policy SDM2 – Development and Design Standards</u> Expects new development to reflect National Design Guide principle H1 in delivering functional, healthy and sustainable homes and buildings,</p>	Positive
Climate change			

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
<p>23. Does the plan incorporate renewable energy and ensure that buildings and public spaces are designed to respond to winter and summer temperatures, i.e. ventilation, shading and landscaping?</p>	Yes	<p><u>Policy SCC1 – Energy Infrastructure</u> Set outs how energy infrastructure will be considered, including how opportunities for decentralised energy and district heating will be identified. Requires all new builds to submit an energy statement to demonstrate that the development meets requirements set out in the policy.</p> <p><u>Policy SCC3 – Climate adapted Design and Construction</u> Encourages development proposals to minimise both internal heat gain and the impacts of urban heat islands by using appropriate design, layout, orientation and materials to achieve a healthy and sustainable environment for new occupiers.</p>	Positive
<p>24. Does the plan maintain or enhance biodiversity?</p>	Yes	<p><u>Policy SNE2 – Protection and Enhancement of Wildlife Habitats</u></p>	Positive

Assessment Criteria	Relevance (Yes/Partial/No)	Evidence Relevant SLP Policies	Impact of SLP Policies on Health and Wellbeing (Positive/Negative/Neutral/Uncertain)
		Requires all development proposals to deliver a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity value when measured against baseline site information.	
Health inequalities			
25. Does the plan consider health inequalities and encourage engagement by underserved communities?	Yes	<u>Policy SDS5 - Achieving Well-designed Places</u> Expects development to contribute positively to creating high quality, active, safe and accessible places; and requires design approaches that will help contribute to healthier communities and reduce health inequalities to be incorporated in developments.	Positive