

Thurrock Health Impact Assessment Guidance

About This Guidance

This guidance has been created to help anyone carrying out a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for major development proposals in Thurrock. A HIA looks at how a new development might affect the health and wellbeing of local people, including specific community groups. HIA can and is used as a decision-support and engagement tool, helping officers, applicants and consultees to consider potential health and wellbeing impacts of development. While HIA does not in itself determine planning outcomes, it provides evidence and analysis that can inform discussions around design quality, mitigation and enhancement and alignment with wider corporate priorities for health and reducing inequalities.. This can help to identify risks and opportunities and provides clear recommendations to aid decision-makers in understanding how the development can be designed to reduce harm and boost positive health outcomes.

A Local Approach Based on Best Practice

The Thurrock HIA guidance brings together best practices from across the UK, including respected HIA guidance from organisations like the [Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit \(WHIASU\)](#), [NHS London's Healthy Urban Development Unit \(HUDU\) Rapid HIA guidance](#), [Ben Cave Associates HIA review package](#), [the Oxfordshire HIA Toolkit](#), Institute of Sustainability & Environmental Professionals (ISEP – formally IEMA) [effective scoping for human health](#) and [determining significance for human health](#) guidance, and [Public Health England HIA in spatial planning guidance](#).

The aim is to offer a consistent, practical, proportionate and efficient way to carry out HIAs in Thurrock.

When and How to Use This Guidance

Developers and planning consultants should use this guidance when preparing proposals for major developments. It helps inform better design choices by highlighting potential health impacts early in the process.

The level of detail in the HIA should reflect the size and complexity of the project. Discussions about the scope of the assessment—and how the community and other stakeholders will be involved—should take place during the pre-application stage with the Local Planning Authority and as part of pre-application discussions wherever possible. This ensures the HIA is proportionate, focused, and adds real value to the planning process.

Local Policy Context

Thurrock Council's [Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(2022–2026\)](#) plays a key role in linking planning with better health outcomes for our communities. It recognises that factors like good-quality housing, access to green spaces, and safe, walkable neighbourhoods all have a major impact on the wider determinants of people's health. The strategy aims to make these benefits available to everyone, helping to reduce health inequalities across the borough.

At the time of writing a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy is currently being developed for 2026 – 2029 and is out for consultation. Subject to consultation feedback, it will follow a life-course approach. There are five emerging strategic themes which are:

- 1) Growing Well
- 2) Living Well
- 3) Ageing Well
- 4) Dying Well
- 5) Healthy Environments

The Healthy Environments priority focuses on three priorities under the theme of healthy place shaping, inclusive and sustainable economies and healthy connections recognising the impact that the built, economic and social environment has on health outcomes and inequalities. The wider determinants of health include:

Access to Healthcare Services: Availability and accessibility of good quality healthcare, including preventive care impact health.	Social and Community Networks: Strong social support and community engagement improve health outcomes.
Physical Environment: Air and water quality, environmental hazards, and green spaces affect health.	Education: Access to quality education is vital for health literacy and job opportunities.
Housing and Living Environment: Quality of housing and neighbourhood conditions influence health.	Socioeconomic Status: Income, education, and occupation impact health, with higher quality jobs linked

	to better health and resources. Job security and working conditions also play a role.
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Some parts of Thurrock are among the most deprived in England, and people in these areas often face worse health outcomes. The strategy shifts the focus away from individual lifestyle choices and towards the **wider factors**—like income, housing, and environment—that shape our overall health.

The current Health and Wellbeing Strategy is based on strong local evidence, including the **Annual Report of the Director of Public Health** and **Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs)**. These reports, produced by Thurrock Council's Public Health Service, provide a detailed picture of local health needs and challenges. They are used to support decisions that improve health and wellbeing through planning, services, and community support.

You can find the latest JSNA reports and Annual Public Health Reports on the [Thurrock Council website](#).

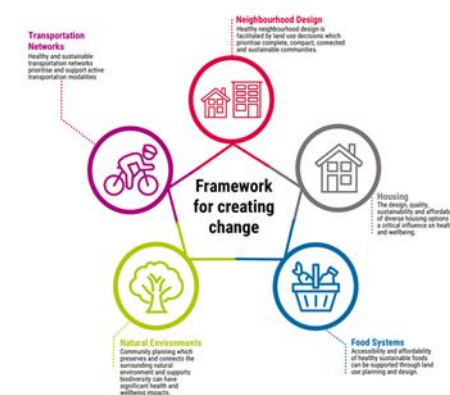
A Health in All Policies (HiAP) Approach to Place-Shaping

Thurrock Council's Public Health team has published guidance called "[A Health in All Policies \(HiAP\) Approach to Place-shaping](#)." This document connects the **Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022–2026)** with other local planning policies, including the emerging **Local Plan**.

The HiAP approach is about making Thurrock a healthier place to live by encouraging long-term changes in how we plan and develop our communities. It brings together public health, planning, housing, transport, and local communities to shape policies that support healthier lifestyles and environments.

The guidance provides **practical recommendations** for action over the short, medium, and long term. It focuses on **five key areas** that influence the wider factors affecting health—such as living conditions, access to services, and the built environment.

This document was published to support the **Regulation 18 consultation** for the Local Plan, serving as part of the evidence base for future planning decisions. The five key themes are outlined below.



Neighbourhood Design

- Enhancing neighbourhood design and character to support community belonging and active lifestyles
- Ensuring that neighbourhoods (existing and new) have a wealth of services and amenities, including green spaces, that are within easy reach
- Enhancing connectivity with safe and effective infrastructure

Food Systems

- Protecting and increasing both the number and the diversity of types of food retail outlets
- Creating and protecting food growing spaces in and around the locality
- Making the best use of our land for food and farming

Transportation Networks

- Increasing the provision of safe, easily accessible active travel infrastructure (cycling, walking, wheeling)
- Increasing the availability, reliability and affordability of public transport
- Reducing air pollution

Housing

- Increasing provision of affordable, accessible and diverse housing
- Improving the quality of housing including indoor air quality and reduced noise pollution
- Improving the energy efficiency and climate resiliency of current and future housing stock

Natural Environments

- Improving access to and engagement with the natural environment for mental health and wellbeing
- Adapting to climate change
- Increasing participation in physical activity
- Reducing exposure to air pollution

How National Planning Policy Supports Healthy Placemaking

The UK's National Planning Policies recognise that the places where we live, work, and spend our time have a big impact on our health and wellbeing. To support healthier communities, national planning policy encourages local councils to put health at the heart of planning decisions.

The [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) which was last updated in February 2025¹ sets out the government's expectations for how planning should promote healthy, inclusive, and safe places. This includes:

- Creating neighbourhoods that encourage **walking, cycling**, and active lifestyles
- Providing **access to green spaces**, parks, and play areas
- Supporting **well-designed housing** and safe, connected communities
- Reducing health inequalities by considering the needs of **vulnerable groups**
- Making it easier for people to access **health services, schools, shops**, and jobs

Alongside the NPPF, the [National Planning Practice Guidance \(NPPG\)](#) gives more detailed advice on how planning can improve public health. It encourages early engagement between planners, developers, and public health professionals to ensure that health is considered from the very beginning of any development.

Together, these national policies help guide local plans and development proposals toward building healthier places that support the wellbeing of all residents.

National Policy Context		
National Planning Policy Framework	Achieving sustainable development	8b. a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being;
	Promoting healthy and safe communities	96. Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which: a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow

¹ At the time of writing this guidance, a further public consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), had recently closed (10th March 2026). No further updates to the NPPF have been published to date. The above therefore represents the most up-to-date NPPF currently available.

		for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages; b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and c) enable and support healthy lives, through both promoting good health and preventing ill-health, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs and reduce health inequalities between the most and least deprived communities – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling. 97. Local planning authorities should refuse applications for hot food takeaways and fast food outlets: a) within walking distance of schools and other places where children and young people congregate, unless the location is within a designated town centre; or b) in locations where there is evidence that a concentration of such uses is having an adverse impact on local health, pollution or anti-social-behaviour. 98. To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should: a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
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		b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community; c) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs; d) ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.
	Open space and recreation	103. Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.
	Promoting sustainable transport	<i>110. The planning system should actively manage patterns of growth in support of these objectives. Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.</i> <u>Considering development proposals</u>

		<i>115. In assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, or specific applications for development, it should be ensured that:</i> <i>a) sustainable transport modes are prioritised taking account of the vision for the site, the type of development and its location;</i> <i>b) safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users;</i> <i>c) the design of streets, parking areas, other transport elements and the content of associated standards reflects current national guidance, including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code 48; and</i> <i>d) any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree through a vision-led approach.</i> <i>117. Within this context, applications for development should:</i> <i>a) give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas; and second – so far as possible – to facilitating access to high quality public transport, with layouts that maximise the catchment area for bus or other public transport services, and appropriate facilities that encourage public transport use;</i> <i>b) address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility in relation to all modes of transport;</i> <i>c) create places that are safe, secure and attractive – which minimise the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, avoid unnecessary street clutter, and respond to local character and design standards;</i> <i>d) allow for the efficient delivery of goods, and access by service and emergency vehicles; and</i>
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		<i>e) be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations.</i>
	Achieving well-designed places	135. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments: e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.
National Planning Practice Guidance	Healthy and Safe Communities	005. A health impact assessment is a useful tool to use where there are expected to be significant impacts.
National Design Guide	Active Travel	82. Priority is given to pedestrian and cycle movements, creating safe, direct, and accessible routes for all abilities.
	Green / Open spaces	92-95. The guide highlights the importance of incorporating green spaces and open spaces, contributing to physical and mental health by offering areas for exercise, play, and relaxation.
	Social Interaction	100. Well-designed places feature well-located public spaces that support diverse activities and social interaction, promoting health and inclusion. They ensure that these spaces are safe, secure, and attractive. Trees and planting enhance enjoyment, provide shading, and improve air quality and climate resilience.
Building for a Healthy Life Guidance	<u>Building for a Healthy Life</u> centres on the concept of creating places that are better for both people and nature. It is underpinned by 12 principles within three overarching headings: Integrated neighbourhoods: natural connections, active travel, facilities and services and homes for everyone	

- Distinctive places: making the most of what's there, developing a memorable character, well-designed streets and spaces and wayfinding
- Streets for all: healthy streets, cycle and car parking, green/ blue infrastructure and back of pavement, front of house.

[Streets for a Healthy Life](#) – A companion guide Building for a Healthy Life (Issue 2) has recently been published.

HIA Thresholds

Thresholds	Type of HIA	Use Case	Scope
100-499 residential units; 10,000m ² -50,000m ² non-residential floorspace (or equivalent land)	Rapid HIA A rapid HIA is a streamlined version of a full HIA, designed to be completed in a shorter time frame. It involves a focused assessment of direct and indirect health impacts with a more targeted approach than a comprehensive HIA. It uses existing evidence and often incorporates a brief stakeholder consultation. It influences decision making and the design of the development and identifies targeted mitigation and enhancements in response to key health impacts.	For projects where time constraints or resources do not allow for a Comprehensive HIA. It offers a quicker, yet still effective evaluation of health impacts and provides actionable recommendations.	Includes a focused analysis of key health impacts and may involve limited stakeholder input. It is less detailed than a comprehensive HIA but more thorough than a desktop assessment.
500 or more residential units; over 50,000m ² non-residential floorspace (or equivalent land); or if the development requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or is a Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Project (NSIP).	Comprehensive HIA A comprehensive HIA is a detailed and thorough assessment that involves extensive data collection, stakeholder engagement, and in-depth analysis of potential direct and indirect health impacts. It aims to provide a complete understanding of how a project may affect health and wellbeing in a population, influencing decision making and design of the development, and identifying mitigation and enhancement strategies.	Best for large or complex projects where a detailed understanding of health impacts is required. It supports informed decision-making by providing a comprehensive evaluation and extensive recommendations.	Involves data collection, extensive stakeholder engagement, and detailed analysis of both direct and indirect health impacts. It offers a thorough examination of potential health outcomes and mitigation and enhancement strategies.

Thresholds	Type of HIA	Use Case	Scope
Other application types e.g. C2 Use Class	Request for HIA Development Management and Public Health may identify, comment on and request HIA for other applications where it has been identified that a proposal would give rise to significant health and wellbeing impacts. Advice should be sought as early as possible on the requirement for a HIA.	Other applications types such as C2 Use Class (care homes), betting / gambling shops	This would be determined on a case-by-case basis as either a Rapid or Comprehensive and would follow the scope outlined above for each of these HIA types.

How a Rapid / Comprehensive HIA is Structured

The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is divided into seven sections:

1. **Site Overview** – Description of the local area where the development is planned.
2. **Local Health Policies** – Summary of health and wellbeing policies relevant to the area.
3. **Health Needs and Priorities** – Identification of baseline health needs and priorities in the local community.
4. **Impacted Population Groups** – Identification of groups affected by the development, including vulnerable populations.
5. **Health Impact Assessment** – Evaluation of how the development will affect the wider determinants of health.
6. **Recommendations** – Suggestions on how to improve or mitigate negative or unintended health impacts and enhance health benefits.
7. **Monitoring** - An integral part of the process post implementation of the decision to ensure that mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented as agreed either as part of Planning Conditions or via Section 106 agreements.

Key Sections of the HIA

1. Site Overview

The HIA should begin with a clear description of the site, including its current use, the surrounding area, and the goals of the project. It should also explain how the project aligns with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) definition of health.

2. Local Health Policies

The HIA should outline relevant national and local policies related to health and wellbeing, such as the National Planning Policy Framework and Thurrock's local health strategies. It should show how the project aligns with Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022-2026) and the Health in All Policies approach.

3. Health Needs and Priorities

The HIA should provide information about the health needs of the local community and the wider Thurrock area. This helps set a baseline for understanding health issues and shows why it's important to design places that support good health.

Useful Data Sources:

- a. [Thurrock Public Health Ward Profiles](#)
- b. [Fingertips – Public Health Dashboard](#) For Thurrock (Department of Health and Social Care)
- c. [Fingertips – Ward Level Public Health Information](#) (Department of Health and Social Care)
- d. [Local Statistics Dashboard](#) (Census Data)
- e. [Food Environment Assessment Tool](#) (University of Cambridge MRC Epidemiology Team)

4. Impacted Population Groups

The HIA should identify which groups in the local population may be most affected by the proposed development. Not everyone in a community will be impacted in the same way, so it's important to understand the makeup of the local population. This helps identify those who are most vulnerable to potential negative effects. The following groups should be considered:

Age-Related Vulnerable Groups	Income-Related Vulnerable Groups	Groups at Higher Risk of Discrimination or Social Disadvantage	Geographical Groups and Setting
Children and young people Early years (including pregnancy and the first two years of life) Older people	Economically inactive individuals People with low income Individuals unable to work due to ill health. Individuals with poor job security, for example, those	Black and Minority Ethnic Groups Carers Ex-offenders Gypsies and Travellers Homeless individuals	People in key settings: workplaces, nurseries, schools, hospitals, care homes, prisons People living in areas with poor economic and/or health indicators. People living in isolated or overpopulated areas.

Age-Related Vulnerable Groups	Income-Related Vulnerable Groups	Groups at Higher Risk of Discrimination or Social Disadvantage	Geographical Groups and Setting
	working on zero hours contracts. Self-employed individuals	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people Children Looked After People seeking asylum. People with long-term health or mental health conditions People with physical, sensory, or learning disabilities/difficulties Refugee groups. Lone parent families Veterans	People unable to access services and facilities.

5. Health Impact Assessment

a. Health Significance in HIAs

In a Health Impact Assessment (HIA), *significance* refers to how important a health issue is when making planning decisions. This can relate to things like local health needs, access to healthy food, or opportunities for walking, cycling and wheeling.

Because every project and community is different, understanding what counts as “significant” depends on expert judgment, scientific evidence, and the local context. Being clear and consistent about what makes an impact important helps make sure the HIA supports good decision-making.

What Makes an Impact Significant?

- i. **Based on expert insight:** Informed by evidence but includes professional opinion.
- ii. **Shaped by context:** Local culture, economy, and politics all influence what matters most for health.

iii. **Backed by evidence:** Significance should be explained clearly using facts and data.

b. **Health Sensitivity in HIAs**

Not everyone experiences the same health impacts in the same way. Some people—such as children, older adults, low-income groups, or those with health conditions—may be more vulnerable to changes caused by a development.

Why This Is Important:

- i. A project might benefit the general population but still have negative effects on certain groups.
- ii. HIAs should carefully consider how different groups could be affected, especially those more at risk.

<u>High Sensitivity</u> Four or more vulnerable groups likely impacted.	<u>Moderate Sensitivity</u> Three vulnerable groups likely impacted.
<u>Low Sensitivity</u> Two vulnerable groups likely impacted.	<u>Very Low</u> One or fewer vulnerable groups likely impacted.

c. **Magnitude of Health Impacts**

When assessing a development's impact on health, it's important to consider **how big the impact is**, **how long it lasts**, and **who it affects**. This is called the **magnitude** of the impact. Combined with an understanding of *significance* (how important the impact is) and *sensitivity* (who is most affected), this helps determine what actions are needed.

The table below shows how to think about the scale of health impacts:

Magnitude	What It Means	What to Consider
High	A large, long-lasting or permanent impact that affects many people or puts pressure on local services.	Could significantly affect health and wellbeing, especially for vulnerable groups. Needs strong action.
Moderate	A noticeable but smaller impact, over a medium timeframe or in a specific area or group.	May require targeted changes or mitigations, especially if sensitive groups are involved.

Low	A short-term or minor impact that's limited in scale or affects fewer people.	Still worth noting, especially if multiple low impacts add up or affect sensitive individuals.
Negligible	An impact that is very minor, short-lived, or unlikely to affect health or services in a meaningful way.	May not require intervention but should still be recorded for transparency.

d. Understanding Issue Significance in Health Impact Assessments (HIAs)

In a Health Impact Assessment, “significance” helps us understand how important a health issue is when planning a new development.

We look at two things:

Magnitude – How big or serious the health impact could be (e.g. how long it lasts, how many people it affects).

Sensitivity – How vulnerable the people affected are (e.g. children, older adults, or those with existing health issues).

By combining these two factors, we can decide whether an issue is:

Major (needs urgent attention),

Moderate (should be considered),

Minor (may need some action), or

Negligible (unlikely to need action).

Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance Level
High	High	Major
	Moderate	Major / Moderate
	Low	Moderate / Minor
	Negligible	Minor / Negligible
Moderate	High	Major / Moderate
	Moderate	Moderate
	Low	Minor
	Negligible	Minor / Negligible
Low	High	Moderate / Minor

	Moderate	Minor
	Low	Minor
	Negligible	Negligible
Very Low	High	Minor / Negligible
	Moderate	Minor / Negligible
	Low	Negligible
	Negligible	Negligible

e. Types of Health Impacts

When assessing how a development might affect health, we group the effects into four categories: **positive**, **negative**, **neutral**, and **uncertain**. This helps identify where we can improve health and where we need to reduce risks.

Impact Type	What It Means	Examples
Positive	The project is likely to improve health and wellbeing.	- Efforts to improve air quality - Improved housing quality - More green spaces encourage exercise - Improved access to healthcare and jobs
Negative	The project may have unintended negative impacts on health and wellbeing.	- Sustained or increased Air or noise pollution - Reducing of access to green spaces - Burdening local health and wellbeing infrastructure - Limiting space for community interaction
Neutral	The project is likely to have no major effect on health and wellbeing.	- No expected changes in local services, air quality, or behaviour - Health conditions remain the same - No expected increase or decrease in wellbeing
Uncertain	It's unclear how the project will affect health and wellbeing.	- Not enough information yet - Long-term effects are unknown - New technology or approaches involved - Some groups might be affected differently

f. **Mitigation and Enhancements in Health Impact Assessments**

Once health impacts have been identified in a Health Impact Assessment (HIA), the next step is deciding what action to take.

There are two key approaches:

Mitigation: These are steps taken to **reduce or prevent negative or uncertain health impacts**. This might include changes to design, providing more green space, reducing noise, improving access to services. This may also include S106 agreements – these are a mechanism for agreeing mitigation for the impact of a development on the local community or infrastructure; this can be a financial contribution, the provision of a facility, or other actions.

Enhancement: These are actions taken to **build on positive or neutral impacts** and make a project even better for public health. This might include adding community facilities, safe walking routes, or affordable housing.

The level of mitigation or enhancement needed depends on:

How significant the health issue is (major, moderate, minor, negligible)

The type of impact (negative, uncertain, neutral, or positive)

Type of Impact	Significance	Recommended Action
Negative	Major	Major Mitigation Required
	Moderate	Moderate Mitigation Required
	Minor	
	Negligible	No Mitigation Required
Uncertain	Major	Major Mitigation Required
	Moderate	Moderate Mitigation Required
	Minor	Minor Mitigation Required
	Negligible	No Mitigation Required
Neutral	Major	Major Enhancements Required
	Moderate	Moderate Enhancements Required
	Minor	Minor Enhancements Required
	Negligible	No Enhancements Required

Positive	Major	No Enhancements Required
	Moderate	
	Minor	
	Negligible	

g. **Recommendations following a Health Impact Assessments**

Recommendations are one of the most important parts of a Health Impact Assessment. They help decision-makers take practical steps to improve health outcomes and reduce harm for the community.

Good Recommendations to mitigate or enhance health impacts should consider short-term and long-term impacts during construction and operational phases, and should prioritise:

Active Design Principles: Sport England's Active Design Principles in neighbourhood and housing design to encourage physical activity.

Community Development: Supporting the creation of new communities and their integration with existing ones to foster social connections.

Access to Opportunities: Enhancing access to education, skills training and employment opportunities to improve economic wellbeing.

Healthcare Access: Ensuring convenient access to NHS services and self-care opportunities to promote health

Engaging Open Spaces: Increasing access to stimulating and attractive natural environments to encourage physical activity.

Lifetime Neighbourhoods: Designing developments that support independent living and cater to all stages of life by for example, providing lifetime homes, walkability, retail space etc

Healthy Food Access: Improving access to healthier food options by providing retail space

Active Travel: Promoting cycling, walking and wheeling and reducing reliance on motorised transport to encourage active travel.

Safe Public Spaces: Creating well-designed, safe and accessible public spaces that promote community engagement and incorporate crime prevention measures.

Environmental Sustainability: Implementing sustainability measures to ensure future-proofed and environmentally friendly developments.

Scope and considerations when assessing an HIA

The below table provides an overview of the key elements to include and assess within an HIA. Central to this is the assessment of the Wider Determinants of Health to assess within an HIA.²

Topic	Key questions & considerations
General Project Information	
Project information	Proposal Title, owner/ authors and date
Description of proposal	Description of the proposal location and surround area, including provision of a location / site map. How will the development look and function once complete? Outline the timelines and durations for both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development any plans for decommissioning where this applies.
Environmental Profile	Describe the general environmental quality of the area e.g. are there any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) or noise important areas close to the development. How much green and blue space already exists and is it accessible. What social and community infrastructure if close to the development (within 1km) e.g. schools, libraries, walking, cycling or wheeling networks, public transport links, primary care and secondary care services and other healthcare or community infrastructure.
Population health needs and evidence base	
Population profile / key populations who may likely be affected by the proposal	Review and provide a summary profile of the local populations needs including demographics, key health conditions, other vulnerabilities such as deprivation at both Thurrock and Ward level. The Thurrock Public Health Ward Profiles can support

² Content within the table above is taken and adapted from a range of existing guidance and research including from the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU), the Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) and Essex Healthy Places Checklist.

Topic	Key questions & considerations
	with this. Identification of any vulnerable groups within the study population including at a Thurrock and Ward level.
Nature of the evidence	Describe the evidence which will be used to identify and analyse health impacts (baseline health and wellbeing data, demographics, social-economic indicators, healthcare infrastructure provision and environmental data). The evidence base should contain a literature review which examines and outlines how the wider determinants of health may impact on health and wellbeing (both positively and negatively). For a Rapid HIA this can be in the form of an overview of the main evidence. For a Comprehensive HIA the evidence base should be more extensive and detailed.
Policy Context	
National and Local Policy	Outline the broader national (NPPF, PPG etc) and local policies relevant to the proposal, highlighting any health and wellbeing policies which are relevant.
Wider Determinants of Health Topics	
Healthy Housing	• Does the proposal address the housing need of the local community? • Does the proposal include a range of housing typologies? • Is there a mix of homes with different tenures distributed throughout the proposal? • Does the proposal provide affordable family-sized homes? • Does the proposal provide accessible homes for older and disabled people following HAPPI Housing principles? • Do homes have dedicated / appropriate space to allow for working from home? • Any other considerations? Please specify (e.g. recommended to be scoped in at pre-app)

Topic	Key questions & considerations
Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods across the Life-course	• Does the design of the public realm / communal spaces maximise opportunities for social interaction and connect the proposal with neighbouring communities, enabling people to meet safely? • Does the proposal take account of inclusive design? • Are homes and all external spaces accessible and adaptable for all users, including people with additional needs? • Have dementia friendly design principles been used across the development? (See dementiatownplanningpracticeadvice2020.pdf) • Has a community engagement strategy been developed and how have residents been able to contribute to it? • Any other considerations? Please specify (e.g. recommended to be scoped in at pre-app)
Mental Wellbeing and Community Safety	• Does the proposal include elements that “design out crime” and help people feel safe including use of “Secured by Design” principles? • Are walking, cycling and wheeling routes provided safe, well-lit, over-looked and welcoming, well maintained durable and clearly signposted? • Does the proposal include traffic management and calming measures and safe well-lit pedestrian and cyclists crossings and route? • Any other considerations? Please specify (e.g. recommended to be scoped in at pre-app)
Access to Services	• Are proposals likely to affect access to healthcare services (including GP practices, pharmacies, dentists, community health provision, and hospitals including minor injuries

Topic	Key questions & considerations
	units? E.g. through increasing demand or in changing physical access to such services? • How has any potential impact on healthcare facilities been addressed? • Is social infrastructure such as community amenities, libraries and shops etc within easy access to the proposal? E.g. within walking distance (800m) or accessible by public transport? • Have the relevant NHS Estates group been contacted about this proposal e.g. Integrated Care System (ICS), NHS Partners etc? If so, what impacts have been identified, and who is likely to be impacted? • Any other considerations? Please specify (e.g. recommended to be scoped in at pre-app)
Physical Activity, Active Travel and Public Transport	• Does the proposal provide access to a range of play spaces for children and young people? Does this include benches, adequate shading and spaces for people to socialise? • Are informal facilities for physical activity provided such as natural play or nature trails? • Is the proposal likely to influence the level of physical activity for the population of the development and the surrounding community? • Does the proposal prioritise pedestrian, cycle and public transport access ahead of the private car / van to key destinations such as shops, schools, community settings and healthcare facilities? Does it follow Active Design Principles? • Does the proposal promote cycling, walking and wheeling including through provision of adequate secure cycle parking and storage?

Topic	Key questions & considerations
	• Does the proposal connect public realm and internal routes to local and strategic cycling and walking networks and public transport? • Does the proposal provide open space and sport / recreation facilities including outdoor gyms? And if so, do these link to existing networks and walking / cycling / wheeling networks (including those beyond the site), plus the wider green infrastructure network and residential and commercial areas? • Are the conditions of existing and new pathways, including widths, condition, dropped kerbs, and accessible for individuals with disabilities and those with pushchairs / buggies? • Does the proposal provide access to public transport and active travel opportunities to enable connection and integration to existing and new facilities? • Where assessments demonstrate that the site will be largely underserved by public transport, what actionable opportunities exist to support public transport provision to the area? • Any other considerations? Please specify (e.g. recommended to be scoped in at pre-app)
Access to open, green and blues spaces	• Does the proposal retain and enhance access to good quality existing open and natural spaces? • Does it provide new areas of green, blue and open spaces? • Does the proposal set out how new open, green and blue spaces will be managed and maintained? • If open, green or blue space has been lost what compensatory measures have been made?

Topic	Key questions & considerations
	Any other considerations? Please specify (e.g. recommended to be scoped in at pre-app)
Access to Healthier Food Environments	- Does the proposal include / enable on-site / nearby access to supermarkets, local shopping parades or precincts, farmers markets (or other means of access to healthy food and drink)? - Are the majority of local food provision within walking distance (800m) or cycling distance (5km)? - Does the proposal provide opportunities for food growing, for example by providing new, or enhancing existing allotments, and / or providing private and community gardens and green roofs? - Does any on-site provision include new hot food takeaway provision? - Any other considerations? Please specify (e.g. recommended to be scoped in at pre-app)
Community Training, Education and Employment Opportunities	- Will the proposal affect access to education and training? - Will the proposal affect employment opportunities locally? - Does the construction phase provide training, skills or employment opportunities to local people either directly or via supply chains? - Does the proposal include any commercial uses and provide opportunities for local employment and training, including temporary construction and permanent “end-use” jobs? - Any other considerations? Please specify (e.g. recommended to be scoped in at pre-app)
Environmental Conditions and Climate Change and Health	Is air quality likely to be affected by the proposal during construction and / or operation? If so, how might these

Topic	Key questions & considerations
	changes affect sensitive receptors / populations e.g. children and young people or older adults etc? • Are noise impacts likely to arise from the proposal during construction and / or operation? If so, how might these changes affect sensitive receptors / populations e.g. children and young people or older adults etc? • Have buildings have been designed to manage indoor humidity levels effectively to prevent moisture build up, mould growth and discomfort? • Does the proposal include climate resilience within the design e.g. natural light and shading, shelter, ventilation, insulation and drainage etc? • Any other considerations? Please specify (e.g. recommended to be scoped in at pre-app)
Recommendations and Monitoring	
Monitoring	Have programmes for monitoring and evaluating the success of the initiative(s) and the wider development been considered? How will monitoring be secured, undertaken and who will be responsible for delivering this? How will recommendations for mitigation and enhancement secured by planning conditions and / or Developer Contributions be delivered in a timely manner?

HIA Reporting Checklist

The HIA reporting checklist helps planning officers make sure that Health Impact Assessments are clear, complete, and useful. It provides a simple way to check that all key parts—like health impacts, mitigation and enhancement measures and recommendations are included.

This checklist should not serve as a substitution for a HIA report within the planning process.

HIA Reporting Checklist Wider Determinants of Health	Scoped into HIA	Overall Health Impacts	Required Recommendations (<i>Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible</i>)
Healthy Housing	Yes / No	Negative / Uncertain / Neutral / Positive	Mitigation (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg) or Enhancement (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg)
Please complete			
Recommendations to be Actioned: Construction phase/Temporary Impacts Operational Phase/Permanent Impacts			
Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods across the Life-course	Yes / No	Negative / Uncertain / Neutral / Positive	Mitigation (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg) or Enhancement (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg)

Please complete			
Recommendations to be Actioned: Construction phase/Temporary Impacts Operational Phase/Permanent Impacts			
Mental Wellbeing and Community Safety	Yes / No	Negative / Uncertain / Neutral / Positive	Mitigation (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg) or Enhancement (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg)
Please complete			
Recommendations to be Actioned: Construction phase/Temporary Impacts Operational Phase/Permanent Impacts			

[illegible]

Recommendations to be Actioned: Construction phase/Temporary Impacts Operational Phase/Permanent Impacts			
Access to Open, Green and Blue Spaces	Yes / No	Negative / Uncertain / Neutral / Positive	Mitigation (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg) or Enhancement (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg)
Please complete			
Recommendations to be Actioned: Construction phase/Temporary Impacts Operational Phase/Permanent Impacts			
Access to Healthier Food Environments	Yes / No	Negative / Uncertain / Neutral / Positive	Mitigation (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg) or Enhancement (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg)

Please complete			
Recommendations to be Actioned: Construction phase/Temporary Impacts Operational Phase/Permanent Impacts			
Community Training, Education and Employment Opportunities	Yes / No	Negative / Uncertain / Neutral / Positive	Mitigation (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg) or Enhancement (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg)
Please complete			
Recommendations to be Actioned: Construction phase/Temporary Impacts Operational Phase/Permanent Impacts			
Environmental Conditions and Climate Change and Health	Yes / No	Negative / Uncertain / Neutral / Positive	Mitigation (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg) Or Enhancement (Maj, Mod, Min, Neg)

Please complete			
Recommendations to be Actioned: Construction phase/Temporary Impacts			
Operational Phase/Permanent Impacts			