

Health and Wellbeing

- 10.18 Inequalities in health and wellbeing will also be addressed through many other policies in the Plan. This integrated approach ensures that the borough demonstrates an example of supporting healthy, robust and sustainable outcomes that benefit everyone in the community over the next few decades.

Policy PE3 - Health and Wellbeing

New development will be expected to take appropriate steps to mitigate any negative effects on health and wellbeing. Health will be prioritised and embedded into every stage of the planning and development process, with an aim of reducing and tackling health inequalities across the borough. The Council will support these measures in new development by ensuring:

- a. Proposals take appropriate steps to mitigate the impact on health;
- b. New development considers all users, are accessible and, where necessary, accommodates need with appropriate adaptations that support independent living;
- c. Residential development is of a high-quality liveable standard and supports wellbeing, and;
- d. Where appropriate, new development supports measures which reduce social inequality, deprivation and isolation.

The Council will require a Health Impact Assessment for planning applications and proposals that would have the potential to have a significant impact on health and wellbeing and where the Council believes there are likely to be clear health implications as a result of the proposal.

The Council will also where necessary, seek the provision of new or improved health facilities to address the unmet need generated by the development. Where the demand resulting from a major residential development will create or exacerbate a shortfall or loss in health provision, this will be expected.

Where appropriate, the Council will work in collaboration with partners to support healthy communities, promote equitable living environments and support development which contributes to reducing health inequalities.

Places for Everyone Links:

Policy JP-P1 Sustainable Places

Policy JP-P6: Health

Reasoned Justification

- 10.19 The Council is committed to improving the health of residents. The health impact of any proposed development is expected to be assessed and considered by the applicant at the earliest stage and throughout the process. Proposals should consider all users appropriately, including vulnerable users and occupants with additional needs such as people living with disabilities. This is to ensure wider positive health outcomes for all the

community. Any development should be of a standard which meets the criteria outlined in the most up to date national planning policy.

- 10.20 A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a structured process that is used to evaluate the effects of development on health, which checks that a policy or project will not have unforeseen impacts. It also provides evidence-based recommendations that can help mitigate negative health impacts but also enhance positive health outcomes and influence environmental conditions. The HIA process helps ensure that public health is prioritised, and that all potential health risks and benefits are considered when decision-making.