

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034 Publication Version

Health Impact Assessment

December 2018

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1.0 Introduction

HIA Explained

- 1.1 A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) assess the potential effects a plan, programme or policy can have on the health of the population and the distribution of those effects within the population (Department of Health, 2010). There is no statutory requirement for the Local Plan to complete a HIA but due to the strategic nature of the local plan it has been decided that a HIA should be undertaken to ensure health and wellbeing is a consideration during the decision-making process and is supported by policies contained within the plan. This approach is strongly advocated by central government in recognition that public health is the outcome of a number of factors, not just health services.
- 1.2 Each policy of the Local Plan is assessed in the HIA for its potential positive or negative health impacts. The impacts consider the effect each policy might have on key health determinates selected by evaluating a combination of the general health and wellbeing of the districts population, the key objectives set out in the Local Plan and the Priorities for the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The HIA can help the development of the Local Plan by identifying the impacts each policy has and identifying ways in which negative impact can be mitigated and benefits maximised. There is no fixed method for undertaking a HIA and the approach taken by different Local Authorities varies. The method used in this assessment follows the approach taken in the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

2.0 Overview of the Local Plan

Aim of the Local Plan

- 2.1 Planning has a key role in enabling us to meet the challenges that the district faces whilst protecting what we value about the district and builds on opportunities to make it an even better place.
- 2.2 The South Oxfordshire Local Plan sets out how development will be planned and delivered across the district up to 2034. It sets out our vision, shows how we have developed a strategy which responds to that vision and how we will deliver it working in partnership with everyone with a stake in the future of the district. The Local Plan sets out policies and strategies for delivering growth and a sustainable future for the district. It identifies appropriate areas and sites for development for new homes, employment, retail and community facilities. It identifies the infrastructure provision needed to support that growth, demonstrates how existing communities and settlements will be enhanced and supported, how we will engage with our communities and how our highly valued historic and natural environments will be protected and enhanced. The policies in this plan will be used to help make decisions on planning applications in the district and will have a direct effect on the lives of the people that live and work here.

South Oxfordshire District Councils (SODC) Vision for 2034;

“South Oxfordshire will remain a beautiful and prosperous place to live. It will be an attractive place for people to work and spend their leisure time”.

Structure of the Local Plan

- 2.3 The Local Plan is split into different sections, first is the introductory section which gives context to the document and the district setting out our vision and objectives for the future as well as our overall spatial strategy for achieving them. This is followed by the policies which will be used to assess planning proposals and applications. Further sections provide information on how the development plan will be monitored and reviewed and ends with the appendices which support the text in the earlier stages.

General Structure of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan – Publication Version:

- A vision for South Oxfordshire in 2034
- Objectives and a strategy for showing how we will achieve our vision
- Policies which will be used to assess planning proposals and applications
- Monitoring and review
- Appendices.

Wider Policy Framework

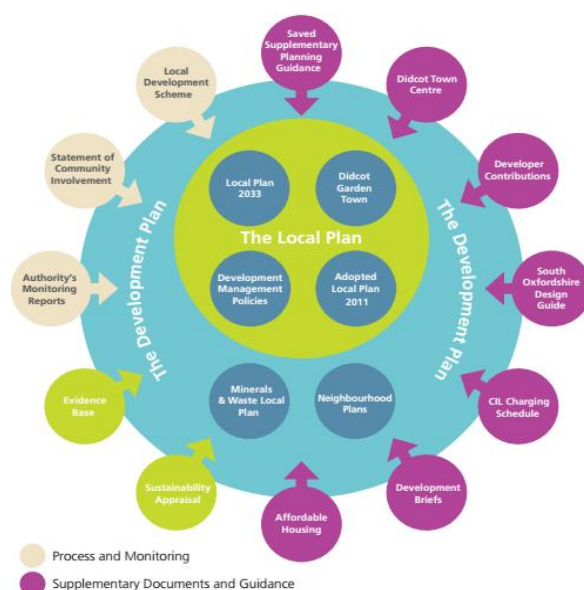
- 2.4 Local plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) gives guidance to local authorities in drawing up their local plans. Development plans should ensure that sustainable development is pursued in an integrated manner, in line with the principles for sustainable development.
- 2.5 Paragraph 91 of NPPF states ‘Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places’. It continues that policies should ‘enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – 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’. It is within this context that this assessment was commissioned to look at the potential impacts of the Local Plan.

Local Policy Framework

- 2.6 The South Oxfordshire Development Plan is the starting point in making decisions on planning applications. All planning applications will be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The Development Plan Comprises:

- The existing Core Strategy (including the “saved policies” of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011) until it is replaced by the Local Plan 2034
 - “Made” (adopted) Neighbourhood Development Plans prepared by local communities
 - Any Development Planning Documents relating to minerals and waste prepared by Oxfordshire County Council.
- 2.7 The Development Plan is supported by several other documents as illustrated in the diagram below:



- 2.8 The Local Plan integrates the priorities of other overarching policies for South Oxfordshire such as Science Vale and Didcot Garden Town. The local plan integrates the aims of Science Vale Area Action Plan, by focusing growth in Science Vale through delivering homes and jobs, retail and leisure facilities and enhanced transport infrastructure. It supports Didcot Garden Town principles by placing its objectives in to the wider planning policy framework to ensure development within that area contributes to the achievement of those principles.
- 2.9 Local planning authorities have a responsibility to plan positively and work collaboratively. South Oxfordshire has been working with, and continues to work with the other Oxfordshire authorities, supported by the Oxfordshire Growth Board, Local Enterprise Partnership, key stakeholders, our parish and town councils and infrastructure providers to develop the most achievable form of sustainable development for the district.
- 2.10 The Local Plan 2034 sets out eight strategic objectives. Each objective has multiple strands setting out our objectives in a more detailed and specific manner. These objectives, along with the findings from the South Oxfordshire Profile (chapter 4), which identifies the profile of the district in terms of demographics, health status, life style and socio-economic status will be used to identify the health determinants to assess the impact of the policies and strategies set out in the Local Plan.

Local Plan 2034 Objectives;

Objective 1 - Settlements:

OBJ 1.1 Support the settlement hierarchy, the growth and development of Didcot Garden Town, the delivery of new development in the heart of the District, the growth of our market towns and the vitality of our villages.

OBJ 1.2 Support rural communities and “their way of life”, recognising that this is what attracts people to the District.

OBJ 1.3 Meet identified housing needs by delivering high-quality, sustainable, attractive places for people to live and work.

OBJ 1.4 Focus growth in Science Vale through delivering homes and jobs, retail and leisure facilities and enhanced transport infrastructure.

Objective 2 – Housing:

OBJ 2.1 Deliver a wide range of housing options to cater for the housing needs of our community (self-build, older person’s accommodation).

OBJ 2.2 Support the regeneration of housing and facilities to strengthen communities, and address identified poverty and social exclusion.

OBJ 2.3 Support meeting the economic and housing needs of the county as a whole, reflecting the special character of South Oxfordshire.

Objective 3 - Economy

OBJ 3.1 Improve employment opportunities and employment land provision, providing high quality local jobs to help retain more of its skilled residents in the local workforce.

OBJ 3.2 Aim to reduce commuting distances by supporting business growth in locations close to existing business areas, transport connections and broadband provision.

OBJ 3.3 Ensure economic and housing growth are balanced, to support sustainable journeys to work, recognising we cannot determine where people work –some of whom will choose to travel to employment locations beyond our district, such as London, Reading and Oxford.

OBJ 3.4 Support the retail and service sectors as well as low and high-tech industries.

OBJ 3.5 Create the conditions whereby world-renowned and cutting edge industries choose to locate and grow their businesses here, contributing to a

strong and successful economy, in line with the Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire.

OBJ 3.6 Inspire the next generation of workers by planning for high quality education facilities.

OBJ 3.7 Encourage tourism by protecting our built and natural assets, such as the Thames, and providing services and facilities for visitors.

Objective 4 - Infrastructure

OBJ 4.1 Ensure that essential infrastructure is delivered to support our existing residents and services as well as growth.

OBJ 4.2 Make sustainable transport, walking and cycling an attractive and viable choice for people, whilst recognising that car travel and parking provision will continue to be important in this rural District.

Objective 5 - Design

OBJ 5.1 Deliver high quality, innovative, well designed and locally distinctive developments in sustainable locations in accordance with the South Oxfordshire Design Guide.

OBJ 5.2 Support development that respects the scale and character of our towns and villages, enhancing the special character of our historic settlements and the surrounding countryside.

Objective 6 - Community

OBJ 6.1 Champion neighbourhood planning, empowering local communities to direct development within their area and provide support to ensure Neighbourhood Development Plans are deliverable, achievable and sustainable.

OBJ 6.2 Provide access to high quality leisure, recreation, cultural, community and health facilities.

OBJ 6.3 Ensure all communities have access to the services and facilities they value, supporting access to sport and recreation and the health and wellbeing of everyone.

Objective 7 - Natural and Built Environment

OBJ 7.1 Protect and enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity, the landscape, green infrastructure and our waterways, placing particular importance on the value of the Oxford Green Belt, our two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the River Thames.

OBJ 7.2 Conserve and enhance our rich and varied historic assets and their settings, celebrating these as some of our strongest attributes.

Objective 8 - Climate change

OBJ 8.1 Minimise carbon emissions and other pollution such as water, air, noise and light, and increase our resilience to the likely impact of climate change, especially flooding.

Potential for Local Plan to Deliver Health Benefits

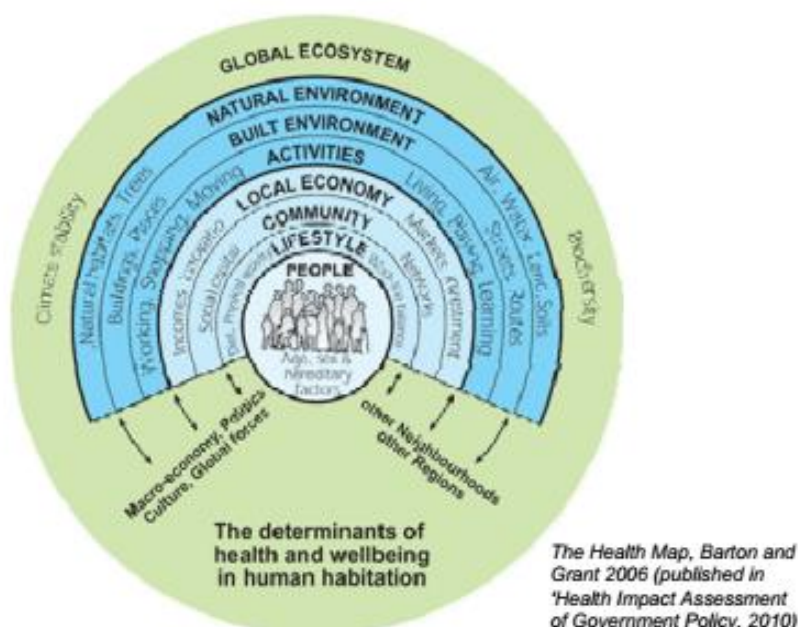
2.11 The Local Plan can help create a healthy and sustainable community through ensuring the impacts upon the health of the population are integrated into planning. The link between planning and health has been long established. The built and natural environments are major determinants of health and wellbeing. The importance of this role is highlighted in paragraph 7 of the NPPF where it sets out the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

- Economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.

- Social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- Environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

3.0 Health Determinates

- 3.1 To assess the health impact of the Local Plan it is necessary to identify health determinates which each policy will be assessed against. Health determinates are the social, economic, environmental and cultural factors that indirectly influence health and wellbeing (Department of Health 2010). The diagram below illustrates the health determinates relating to people and places.



- 3.2 Not all health determinates can be influenced by policies in the Local Plan. To ensure the correct determinates are used in the assessment it is essential to get a picture of the health-related issues that exist within the district to make sure the Local Plan addresses them appropriately.

4.0 South Oxfordshire Profile

- 4.1 The delivery of the Local Plan will influence the lives of everyone within the district. Therefore, it is essential to identify the profile of the district in terms of demographics, health status, life style and socio-economic status. Understanding the needs of the population will make it possible to maximise the benefits and mitigate any potential adverse impact of future development. The following section provides the back-ground data which will be used to identify the health determinates that will be used to assess the Local Plan policies.

Demographics

- 4.2 South Oxfordshire's population is estimated at 138,100 (Source: Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2016), with almost half the population living within the four main towns; Didcot, Henley-on-Thames, Thame and Wallingford. Population growth has been steady with an increase of around 2.5 percent since 2011. Much of the future population growth within the district is to be focused around the main towns, especially Didcot which will account for around 25 percent of the total population of the district within the next 10 years. With this expected growth, it is very important to ensure future development is carried out in a sustainable way that takes in to account the needs of the new communities while continuing to support existing communities and ensure access and provision of high quality services and facilities they value, supporting their health and wellbeing.
- 4.3 The percentage of the population aged over 65 has increased by two percent since 2011 now accounting for 22 percent (Source: Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2015) about 2.5 % higher than the national average. The figure is even higher if only rural areas are counted. People aged 85 or more account for 3.5 percent (Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2015) of the population. The number of people aged over 65 is likely to increase forming an estimated 29 percent of the population by 2039 reflecting a national trend, putting further pressure on services within the district; including access to medical services and appropriate accommodation. The value of living in a suitable home in a sustainable location becomes even more important as people get older.
- 4.4 There are significant proportions of older people living with disabilities across all tenures of housing, however the proportion in the social rented sector is disproportionately high. On average, over the last four years, 185 adaptations have been made each year to properties within South Oxfordshire and most of these were to housing association properties. This demonstrates the need for the Local Plan to consider the housing needs for all sections of the population when developing housing policies.

Health Status

- 4.5 The general health picture of the district is better than the national average, reflected in the higher than national average life expectancy for both men (81.8 years) and women (85 years) from birth (Census 2011), this does not vary much across the district. Only 3.4 percent of the population considered themselves to be in bad or very bad health compared with 52 percent of the population that considered themselves to be in very good health (source Census 2011). About 2 percent of the population a living with long-term health problem or disability.
- 4.6 Public Health England rank South Oxfordshire 16th nationally in terms of its performance when rated against premature deaths. In relation to deaths resulting from cancer its rated 31st and heart disease and stroke ranked 40th in the country. South Oxfordshire scores well as 1 is the best performing and 324 is the poorest performing authority area. This signifies a significant positive overall health picture for the district.
- 4.7 In terms of mental health, the district performs better than the national average with a lower level of incidences. South Oxfordshire records 16.7 cases compared with national average of 24.2 incidences per 100,000 (Source: www.psymaptic.org). The Institute for Public Policy Research (Older People and Wellbeing, 2008) points to the strong association between poverty and poor emotional wellbeing may be partly explained by the stresses associated with poverty. This includes struggling to make ends meet, the impact of problem debt in attempting to cope with poverty; poor housing conditions and wider physical environment; fear of crime; and relatively poor physical health. Those contributing factors can be addressed through the mechanism of planning by providing for the housing and employment needs of everyone, creating sustainable and vibrant places, incorporating high quality design principles and ensuring they are accessible by everyone, promote safe environments,

providing for amenity space and access to the natural environment, encourage walking and cycling through the provision of appropriate infrastructure.

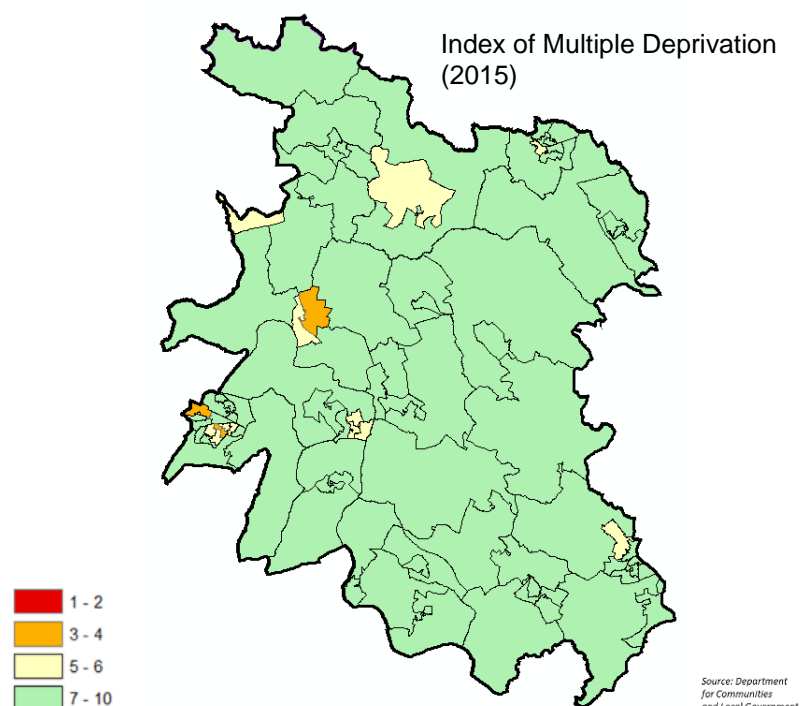
Life Style

- 4.8 Life style is a key component in determining the health of the population. The choices individuals make about how they live their lives, for example a lack of physical activity, unhealthy diet, high alcohol consumption or smoking can have a big impact on the health picture of the district. South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy have prioritised reducing obesity and increasing physical activity to improve the overall health profile of the district.
- 4.9 The percentage of the adult population that are considered physically active (at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week) stands at 61.3 percent (Active People Survey Sport England), this figure has stayed relatively constant over the last few years and is higher than national and regional average. 19.8 percent of the population of the district regularly participation in sport which is higher than the national average 17.7 percent (Active People Survey Sport England).
- 4.10 Obesity levels among children are lower than national average with the proportion of year six children who are obese accounting for 11.8 percent compared with a national average of 19.8 percent (source public Health England). About 46 percent of the adult population of the district are overweight, 14 percent of which would be classed as being obese (source: Active people survey, Sport England). Although obesity levels are lower than national averages the Oxfordshire Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy includes tackling obesity as one of its priority objectives. This is due to obesity being the second biggest underlying cause of ill health. The percentage of people cycling and walking to work in the district is lower than the national average (eight percent for walking and two and half for cycling (census 2011)). This is partly explained by the rural nature of the district, but the local plan can improve this through incorporating sustainable means of travel in the design of new developments by improving access, movement, safety and ensure sufficient and appropriate facilities are available.
- 4.11 The rate of adults smoking in the district is 10.7 percent which is significantly lower than the national average of 15.5 percent (Source: Annual Population Survey (APS)). Although over the last five years there has been a reduction in the number of smokers in the district the rate of fall is lower than the national and regional average. Alcohol related hospital admissions within the district is significantly lower than the national average with 973 admission per 100,000 people compared with 1258 nationally (Source: Calculated by Public Health England). However, the number of admissions has increased by about 30 percent since 2008/09 (Source: Calculated by Public Health England). Lifestyle choices are difficult to change but by encouraging healthy lifestyles through the provision of services and by tackling some of the other socio-economic issues that influence these choices the Local Plan can have a positive effect.

Socio-Economic Status

- 4.12 The general economic picture of the district is good with a low level of unemployment and higher than average salaries along with a well-educated population. Unemployment in the district is lower than the regional and national average at 2.8 percent (ONS annual population survey) and the district has a much lower level of people claiming out of work benefits.
- 4.13 There are no areas within the district ranked within the 20 percent most deprived areas in the country, in fact 92 percent of the areas are in the 40 percent least deprived areas. However, there are pockets of deprivation in the district. Berinsfield and parts of Didcot rank within the 30 and 40 percent most deprived areas in the country. The rural nature of the district means that in terms of access to services (including distance to GP, post office, primary school, supermarket) almost half Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are among the worst

performing 20% in England for access to services (Source: Department for Communities and Local Government). Improving access to services for all, regenerating deprived areas and providing sustainable development and thriving communities are important objectives of the Local Plan which seeks to rectify the disparities across the district. In addition, directing development to those settlements which have a higher level of services and facilities will also support those services and reduce the potential for unsustainable locations of new development.



- 4.14 Home ownership within the district is 73 percent, 10 percent higher than the national average. 11 percent of households are in a socially rented property compared with 18 percent for England (Source: House price & increase: ONS). Despite the high level of home ownership, South Oxfordshire is one of the least affordable areas to buy a home in the country with average house prices costing 11.26 times the average workers wage. This has increased the need for social housing provision within the district and has had a significant negative impact on low income groups, not just financially, but also in terms of their overall health. The impact unsuitable housing has is illustrated in the fact those living in poverty are over three times more likely to suffer from mental health problems and have a much lower life expectancy than those who are not. The Joint Housing Strategy for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse suggests that a significant proportion of existing smaller properties, such as one and two bedroom properties fall below national space standards, this is a concern as these properties are more likely to be fully occupied, particularly if they are privately rented or in the affordable sector. A lack of sufficient space to meet the households needs could have a detrimental impact on their mental and physical health.

5.0 Health Impact Indicators

- 5.1 The health assessment has been undertaken using a matrix to assess the health impact of each individual policy. Each policy will be assessed against its impact on the health determinates selected. The health determinates have been chosen in light of the objectives of the local plan and the health profile of South Oxfordshire's population described in chapter 4. Each health determinate includes various sub categories to provide more clarity in regards to how each policy will be measured. It is the positive, neutral or negative score of those sub-categories which will determine the overall score for that health determinate.

Healthy life style

- Provision of amenity space
- Provide infrastructure for Cycling and Walking
- Access to high quality leisure, recreation and health facilities
- Protect existing open/recreational space
- Reduce risk of ill health

Housing

- Meet housing need for all including travellers, older people, disabled
- Provision for affordable housing
- Adequate space provided - Reduce overcrowding
- Provide mix of housing
- Ensure amenity value of dwelling is maintained/improved

Environment

- Reduce Flood Risk
- Water security
- Sustainable means of transport
- Reduce need to travel and length of travel
- Mitigate existing pollution and minimise new pollutants
- Protect and enhance the natural and built environment

Strengthen communities

- Regenerating areas of deprivation
- Encourage community involvement in planning process
- Improve employment opportunities and range of employment types
- Access to high quality local cultural and community facilities
- Support existing communities and allow communities to grow
- Protect/enhance local character
- Interconnectivity of settlements and wider area
- Support local retail centres

Assessment Methodology

5.2 The basis for the assessment methodology has been informed by the objectives of the Local Plan and the health profile of South Oxfordshire. This resulted in the decision to note the positive, neutral or negative impact a policy has and make a brief note to explain the findings for each policy. It was decided to use this system of scoring rather than assess the level of positive or negative impact to make the assessment easier to understand and to give a clearer overall picture of the performance of the whole plan against a health determinate. This is because certain determinates would score very high against a particular policy set and this could give a skewed overall impression of its performance.

5.3 The health determinates score for each policy is calculated using the following methodology;

Positive if;

- There is a positive outcome for one or more elements of the health determinate and no negatives;
- Negative outcomes can be mitigated and there is a positive outcome for one or more elements of the health determinate;
- There are more positive outcomes than negatives; or
- The positive outcome outweighs any likely negative impact.

Neutral if;

- Negative impacts are mitigated no improvement is likely;
- No impact is expected from policy; or

- Positive impact is cancelled out by equal negative impact.

Negative If;

- Only negative impacts are likely and no mitigation is available;
- More negative impacts than positive impacts; or
- The negative impact outweighs the positive impact.

- 5.4 An example of how this works in practice is a STRAT7 land adjacent to Culham Science Centre, in which 3,500 new homes are planned. The impact a development this size could potential have is considerable particularly in terms of traffic generation and the knock-on effects of that which could negatively impact air quality and neighbouring settlements. However, the policy makes it clear what the development is expected to deliver in terms of infrastructure improvements that would mitigate the increased numbers of cars by the construction of a new Thames road crossing and a by-pass that would improve traffic flow. The policy also makes use of the sites proximity to a train station and the adjacent employment site which would likely reduce the need to travel by car, ultimately helping to improve local air quality and scoring positively in the assessment matrix against the environment health determinate.

6.0 Summary and Conclusions

- 6.1 Overall it is clear the strategies and policies within the Local Plan have the potential make a positive net impact on the health and wellbeing of the districts population. Some policies or sub groups perform better than others and the overall health impact on the health determinants varies. Overall the health determinate that performed the best during the assessment was Strengthen Communities which received a score of +85 followed by Environment +74, Housing +57 and Healthy Life Styles +49.
- 6.2 A strong emphasis has been placed on an evidence based approach to development that seeks to identify the site constraints and impacts of development across a range of indicates relating to the site and surrounding area identifying any harmful impacts that if cannot be mitigated would result in the proposal being refused. The effect of this evidence based approach has meant a high positive return in relation to the plans impact across the health determinates. This is evident in policy STRAT4 Strategic Development, which scores positively across all the health determinates. The policy sets out the assessments and surveys needed to support the development and ensures health is not negatively impacted. It also sets out what needs to be planned for in the development which allows for a positive return on the health determinates. They include providing leisure facilities, meeting unmet housing need, public transport provisions and site layout and form that respects surrounding character.
- 6.3 A positive approach has been taken to the potential impacts of development. The Local Plan not only requires negative impacts to be mitigated, but also where possible to provide improvements. An example of this approach is in policy ENV3 where it states; all development should provide a net gain in biodiversity where possible and should result as a minimum of a no net loss of biodiversity. It's this approach of using development to providing benefits that is in part why the Local Plan scored highly against the health determinates.
- 6.4 By being bold in its approach to allocating strategic sites for development the plan reduces the risk of speculative development whose potential impact on the health determinates would be harder to control and most likely result in a less positive return. By allocating the sites it allows development to be focused in the most sustainable areas and where the greatest need exists, it also allows for the council to place more specific requirements for infrastructure/service provisions on the developer which would provide a more positive impact. This is evident in policy STRAT9 Land adjacent Culham Science Centre. The

allocation makes use of existing infrastructure both rail and road and expects improvements to be delivered to both. Its located next to a large employment site and within the Science Vale area which has the potential to reduce the need to travel. It makes clear what benefits the allocation is expected to deliver to the development and wider area benefiting existing communities and new.

- 6.5 The plan takes great care to consider the impact of development on existing communities and settlements as well as on the new developments. The new developments will be, where possible integrated into the existing settlements and provide for the services and facilities for use by the whole community while protecting and positively contributing to the characteristics of that community. This approach has the potential to provide benefits to both the newer and existing communities. The chances of a positive outcome are increased due to consulting with those areas and continuing to do so in the form of neighbourhood planning and during the planning application process.
- 6.6 Another example is Policy DES4: Masterplans for allocated sites and major development illustrates how the proposal integrates with the surrounding built, historic and natural environments, maximising existing and potential movement connections and accessibility to encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport. It also seeks the careful siting of community facilities and other amenities to meet the needs of the existing and future community, including access to education/training facilities, health care, community leisure and recreation facilities. It also allows continued community involvement as the masterplans should be produced in consultation with South Oxfordshire District council, the community and other stakeholders where appropriate.

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Matrix

| IMPACT Positive (+), Neutral (0), Negative (-) | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|--|
| STRATEGY | Healthy life style | Housing | Environment | Strengthen communities | Comments |
| STRAT1 The overall strategy | + | + | + | + | Supports sustainable growth for all areas within the district, ensures adequate infrastructure and service provision including leisure and health provided and retained, seeks to protect and enhance natural/built environment. |
| STRAT2 South Oxfordshire Housing and Employment Requirements | 0 | + | 0 | + | Provides for housing need, employment and strengthens communities. |
| STRAT3 Didcot Garden Town | + | + | + | + | The DGT principles will ensure positive health benefits for the town and wider area. |
| STRAT4 Strategic allocations | + | + | + | + | Sets out what assessments will be needed for proposals to develop strategic sites ensuring the most sustainable development possible. Makes clear the proposals must support existing communities as well as new. |
| STRAT5 Residential Densities | + | - | + | - | Increasing densities means less land is required for build development potentially allowing for more recreational or open space, there is also the potential for reduced travel and/or greater use of sustainable means of transport |
| STRAT6 Green Belt | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | The changes to the Green Belt have a positive impact as they allow for development to take place closer to where the need arises reducing need to travel |
| STRAT7 Land at Chalgrove Airfield | + | + | + | + | The allocation is likely to make the existing settlement more sustainable allowing for improvements to service provisions in the area. other benefits are likely including mitigation of surface water runoff, additional educational and retail capacity and enhancement of local environment. |
| STRAT8 Culham Science Centre | 0 | 0 | + | + | The site takes advantage of existing uses to cluster employment and housing growth resulting in less need to travel which will mitigate the impact on the environment resulting from the loss of green belt. |
| STRAT9 Land adjacent Culham Science Centre | + | + | + | + | The allocation makes use of existing infrastructure both rail and road and expects improvements to be delivered to both. Its located next to a large employment site and within the Science Vale area meaning more sustainable travel and reduces the need to travel. Makes clear what benefits the allocation is expected to deliver to the development and wider area. Although land will be removed from the green belt the |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| | | | | | development will allow for great protection and enhancement of ecologically important habitats and will be designed in way to limit its impact on the remaining greenbelt and wider area through appropriate landscaping. |
| STRAT10 Land at Berinsfield | + | + | + | + | The regeneration of Berinsfield is likely to deliver wide ranging benefits to the local community and wider area across various indicators including social, environmental, recreation, housing and public services infrastructure. |
| STRAT10i Berinsfield local green space | + | 0 | + | + | Allocating land as local green space will serve to protect the amenity value of the existing community and provides opportunities for exercise. |
| Policy STRAT11 – Land South of Grenoble Road | + | + | + | + | Will help to meet the overall need for housing at location which can connect to established sustainable means of travel and infrastructure, will also support the regeneration of the area and includes measures to mitigate impact of sewage works |
| Policy STRAT12 – Land at Northfield | + | + | + | + | Will help to meet the overall need for housing at location which can connect to established sustainable means of travel and infrastructure, the provision of additional services will benefit local community |
| Policy STRAT13 – Land North of Bayswater Brook | + | + | + | + | Will help to meet the overall need for housing at location which can connect to established sustainable means of travel and infrastructure, the provision of additional services will benefit local community |
| STRAT14 Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University | + | + | + | + | The site is previously developed land within the green belt, development will be required to limit its impact of the surrounding area and buildings of interest, the site will need to be designed to allow access through site and to rest of Wheatley encourage sustainable transport, the proposals also must incorporate sufficient sporting and leisure facilities. |
| Overall impact on the health determinates | +13 | +10 | +14 | +13 | |

| IMPACT | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------|-------------|------------------------|--|
| Positive (+), Neutral (0), Negative (-) | | | | | |
| SETTLEMENTS AND HOUSING | Healthy life style | Housing | Environment | Strengthen communities | Comments |
| HEN1 The strategy for Henley-on-Thames | + | + | + | + | Health benefits are clear in terms of tackling air quality issues, improving pedestrian and cycle access, improve leisure and visitor opportunities within the town, reducing the need to travel out of town, while enhancing the natural environment. |

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| TH1 The strategy for Thame | + | + | + | + | The policy seeks to improve the town as a destination for visitors and businesses. The effect this will have is on greater service and amenity provision, more local employment and less need to travel or allow sustainable journeys. |
| WAL1 The strategy for Wallingford | + | + | + | + | The policy seeks make to improve the town as a destination for visitors and businesses. The effect this will have is on greater service and amenity provision, more local employment and less need to travel or allow sustainable journeys. |
| H1 Delivering new homes | 0 | + | 0 | + | The housing strategy seeks to provide an appropriate mix of housing meeting the housing need for all and where possible use NDPs encouraging community involvement. |
| H2 New housing in Didcot | + | + | + | + | The Didcot Garden Town principles will ensure positive health benefits for the town and wider area. |
| H3 Housing in the Market towns | + | + | + | + | Encourages development in the most sustainable location at an appropriate scale, making use of existing infrastructure and service provisions reducing the need to travel and encourage more sustainable forms of travel. The allocations of the site will be expected to come from NDP groups. |
| H4 Housing in the larger villages | + | + | + | + | Encourages development in the most sustainable location at an appropriate scale, making use of existing infrastructure and service provisions reducing the need to travel and encourage more sustainable forms of travel. The allocations of the site will be expected to come from NDP groups. |
| H5 Land to the west of Priest Close, Nettlebed | + | + | + | + | Provides for housing in a large village that forms an important part of a network of settlements in the western area of the district. It will support existing services and allow the local community to grow. The environmental impact of development within the AONB will be mitigated through careful selection of site and landscaping so the visual impact is minimal. |
| H6 Land at Joyce Grove, Nettlebed | + | + | + | + | As above |
| H7 Land south and west of Nettlebed service station | + | + | + | + | As above |
| H8 Housing in the smaller villages | + | + | + | + | Allocations not required but support NDP groups if they wish to make them particularly to address local needs. Development will be of an appropriate scale and support existing services within the villages and |

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| | | | | | allow them to grow to support their own needs. Allocations will be delivered through NDP groups. |
| H9 Affordable housing | 0 | + | 0 | + | The policy will ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing and that it meets space standards reducing risk of overcrowding, providing mixed developments will strengthen the community. |
| H10 Exception sites | 0 | + | 0 | + | Only permitted in exceptional circumstances, that would provide a benefit to the local area in terms of meeting a need, no overriding negative impacts expected and only in appropriate areas with exist service provisions. |
| H11 Housing Mix | 0 | + | 0 | + | The policy will ensure an adequate mix of housing and that it meets space standards reducing risk of overcrowding, providing mixed developments that conform with local need will strengthen the community. |
| H12 Self-build and custom housing | 0 | + | 0 | + | It will help meet the housing need especially in terms of accessible homes as can be built to individual need. |
| H13 Specialist housing for older people | 0 | + | 0 | + | Provide needed accommodation for older people and allow them to stay in their community. |
| H14 Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Traveling Showpeople | 0 | + | 0 | + | Provides housing need for a minority group, restricts impact of developments on the environment and only permits where suitable sites and need exist. Encourage the expansion of existing sites supporting that community to grow. |
| H15 Safeguarding Traveller Sites | 0 | + | 0 | + | Supports the housing need and provides security to these communities to grow. |
| H16 Infill development and Redevelopment | 0 | + | + | + | Seeks to protect open/public spaces within settlement, open countryside, amenity value of existing housing, development will be scaled to protect local character. |
| H17 Sub-division and conversion to multiple occupation | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | Meets housing need and ensures no detrimental effect on the local character or environment. |
| H18 Replacement dwellings | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | Help to meet housing need and ensures the natural environment is not adversely effected while improving the built environment. |
| H19 Re-use of rural buildings | 0 | + | 0 | + | Ensures that development meets set criteria that would have a positive impact on amenity value of the area. |
| H20 Rural workers dwellings | 0 | + | + | + | Supports local employment and allows community to grow allowing more sustainable forms of transport while ensuring it is necessary and of an appropriate scale. |
| H21 Extensions to dwellings | + | + | 0 | + | Ensures impact on sensitive areas is minimal and adequate amenity space is available. Allows for the expansion of dwellings to meet the |

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| | | | | | households needs, which in turn may help to keep people in the area and has the potential to improve the sense of community. |
| H22 Loss of existing residential accommodation in town centres | + | + | + | + | Helps limit the need to travel and encourage more sustainable means, also helps maintain the local character and community and supports services while protect from the loss of amenity space. But allows for the loss when there are environmental factors which militate against it continued use. |
| Overall their impact on the health determinates | +12 | +25 | +13 | +23 | |

| IMPACT Positive (+), Neutral (0), Negative (-) | | | | | |
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| EMPLOYMENT | Healthy life style | Housing | Environment | Strengthen communities | Comments |
| EMP1 The amount and distribution of new B-class employment land | 0 | 0 | + | + | The policy improves employment opportunities across the district, encouraging more growth in the most sustainable locations with existing transport infrastructure and most housing growth. This has the potential for more localised working reducing need to travel providing an environmental benefit as well. |
| EMP2 Range, size and mix of employment premises | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | The policy encourages a more diverse economy by supporting a range of employment types and sizes resulting in greater employment opportunities. |
| EMP3 Retention of employment land | 0 | 0 | + | + | Supports local communities through the safeguarding of employment and services either on the existing site or on a suitable alternative site. This will ensure employment opportunities remain at a local level. Retention of local employment opportunities reduces the need to travel and thus minimise pollution. The policy also promotes environmental improvements to existing sites. |
| EMP4 Employment land in Didcot | 0 | 0 | + | + | Employment growth in Didcot supports the wider spatial strategy of focusing development in the Science Vale Area. The policy provides employment opportunities to balance the housing growth in the area reducing the need to travel to work and also making use of existing sustainable means of travel. |
| EMP5 New employment land in Henley-on-Thames | 0 | 0 | + | + | Will support economic growth providing more employment opportunities and encourage community involvement through allocating sites in the NDP. Encouraging growth in existing established settlements will reduce the need to travel and provide alternate means of travel. |

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| EMP6 New employment land in Thame | 0 | 0 | + | + | As EMP5 |
| EMP7 New employment land in Wallingford | 0 | 0 | + | + | As EMP5 |
| EMP8 New employment land in Crowmarsh Gifford | 0 | 0 | + | + | As EMP5 |
| EMP9 New employment land at Chalgrove | 0 | 0 | + | + | As EMP5 |
| EMP10 Community employment plans | 0 | 0 | + | + | Will strengthen the local community by ensuring new development proposals support and benefit the local area and people through 'upskilling' and increased employment opportunities. Provides environmental benefits through sourcing local produce, suppliers and services during both construction and operation, which will reduce the need to travel. |
| EMP11 Development in the countryside and rural areas | + | 0 | + | + | Supports the rural economy and community by allowing growth to meet their needs, retaining services and promoting diversification of businesses. This will reduce the need to travel and improve range of employment opportunities available. Sustainable tourism and leisure will benefit the environment and improve accessibility to the countryside encouraging healthier lifestyles. |
| EMP12 Tourism | + | 0 | + | + | By allowing growth in tourism related services it will provide more employment opportunities and leisure facilities for the wider area while protecting the built and natural environment from unsuitable development. |
| EMP13 Caravan and camping sites | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | Allows for the greater enjoyment of the natural and historical environment by making it more accessible and ensures impacts on environment are mitigated. |
| EMP14 Retention of visitor accommodation | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | Prevents employment being lost unless it proves to be unviable. Supports other business who may need to place visitors or employees in temporary accommodation, a lack which may make them think of relocating. Helps to sustain wide employment opportunities. |
| Overall their impact on the health determinates | +3 | +0 | +11 | +13 | |

| IMPACT Positive (+), Neutral (0), Negative (-) | | | | |
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| INFRASTRUCTURE | Healthy life style | Housing | Environment | Strengthen communities | Comments |
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| INF1 Infrastructure Provision | + | + | + | + | Ensures well balanced infrastructure delivery that serves the on/off-site needs and mitigates impact of development resulting in health benefits. Also, deals with the maintenance of the infrastructure ensure long term benefits as well. |
| TRANS1 Supporting strategic transport investment | 0 | + | + | + | Seeks to improve and mitigate impact on transport infrastructure across the district, reducing congestion on major choke points and improving movement. This will support delivery of housing and encourage greater connectivity between the settlements and help to improve air quality within built up areas. |
| TRANS2 Promoting sustainable transport and accessibility | + | + | + | + | Will encourage more walking and cycling, improve air quality by reducing car journeys, connect settlements better with public transport, make towns and villages more attractive to visit, improve access for all. |
| TRANS3 Safeguarding of land for strategic transport schemes | 0 | + | + | + | Will improve movement and access across the district encouraging greater connectivity and allow developments to go ahead which are dependent on infrastructure provision being in place, will also improve site specific locations by removing large numbers of passing vehicles from the settlements roads improving local air quality. |
| TRANS4 Transport assessment, transport statements and travel plans | + | + | + | + | Will improve travel options by insuring all forms are planned for and allow for greater mitigation of potential impacts. |
| TRANS5 Consideration of development proposals | + | + | + | + | Ensures sites are developed in a way that will produce a range of health benefits. Through providing better access, connectivity, sustainable transport provision and ensuring high standards of design. |
| TRANS6 Rail | + | + | + | + | Will benefit the district through improved sustainable transport, greater connectivity within and outside of the district supporting range of health benefits. |
| TRANS7 Development generating new Lorry movements | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No direct benefits as policy seeks to mitigate impact of such developments. |
| INF2 Electronic Communications | 0 | 0 | + | + | Will improve connectivity especially of the smaller more rural communities, allow working from home reducing need to travel and help to provide for a wider range of employment options for people in rural areas. |

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| INF3 Telecommunication Technology | 0 | + | - | + | Protects local communities and character from potentially harmful effects of installations. Insuring appropriate locations are used. There is a potential for a negative impact on the environment. |
| INF4 Water and Waste Water resources | 0 | + | + | + | Ensures the long-term viability of proposal and settlements by ensuring waters supply and treatment capacity. |
| Overall their impact on the health determinates | +5 | +9 | +8 | +10 | |

| IMPACT Positive (+), Neutral (0), Negative (-) | | | | | |
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| ENVIRONMENT | Healthy life style | Housing | Environment | Strengthen communities | Comments |
| ENV1 Landscape and countryside | + | 0 | + | + | Aims to protect and enhance the natural environment. Ensuring the attractiveness of the local environment and character is preserved encouraging greater use of it. |
| ENV2 biodiversity - designated sites, priority habitats and species | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | Restricts development in environmentally sensitive area helping to protect natural environment. |
| ENV3 biodiversity – non designated sites, habitats and species | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | Promotes a net gain in biodiversity or no net loss, helping to protect and enhance natural environment. |
| ENV4 Watercourses | + | 0 | + | + | Protects and or enhances watercourses boost the environmental value and local character by making area more attractive, but can also provide for leisure activities and enjoyment of these areas. |
| ENV5 Green Infrastructure in new developments | + | + | + | + | Likely improve local environment and character, help to integrate settlements better, encourage healthy lifestyles and improve the amenity value of new developments. |
| ENV6 Historic environment | 0 | 0 | + | + | Will encourage the long-term sustainability of heritage assets by seeking to protect, enhance and make best use of them. It will have a positive impact on the local character. |
| ENV7 Demolition of Listed buildings | 0 | 0 | + | + | As above |

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| ENV8 conservation areas | 0 | 0 | + | + | As above |
| ENV9 Archaeology | 0 | 0 | + | + | Seek to protect these sites, by assessing potential harm against any potential benefit. will have a positive impact on the local character and environment. |
| ENV10 Historic battlefields, registered parks and gardens and historic landscape | 0 | 0 | + | + | seeks to protect and enhance these sites, by assessing potential harm against any potential benefit. Will have a positive impact on the local character and environment and will encourage their use for leisure. |
| ENV11 Pollution - impact from existing and/or previous land uses on new development (potential receptors of pollution) | + | 0 | + | + | Prohibits development where there is a potentially harmful impact from pollution leading to a risk of ill health or damage to the environment which cannot be successfully mitigated. Helps to ensure the sustainability of new developments and no undue negative impact on surrounding area. |
| ENV12 Pollution - impact of development on Human Health, the natural environment and/or local amenity (potential sources of pollution) | + | 0 | + | + | As above |
| EP1 Air Quality | + | 0 | + | 0 | Reduces risk of ill health and damage to the environment by insuring minimum standards of air quality and potential impact are minimised and mitigated. |
| EP2 Hazardous substances | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | Reduces risk of conflicting land uses, by restricting development where there is a health risk. |
| EP3 Waste collection and recycling | + | + | + | 0 | Ensures waste collection and recycling is incorporated in the design of developments. Protecting the health, amenity value and environment of new developments and neighbouring area by ensuring safe and accessible storage of waste. |
| EP4 Flood risk | 0 | + | + | + | Reduces flood risk for new developments and mitigating impact on existing sites will improve long term sustainability, also seeks to improve water quality and biodiversity. |
| EP5 Minerals safeguarding areas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | No likely health impact. |

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| Overall their impact on the health determinates | +7 | +3 | +15 | +11 |
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| IMPACT Positive (+), Neutral (0), Negative (-) | | | | | |
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| BUILT ENVIRONMENT | Healthy life style | Housing | Environment | Strengthen communities | Comments |
| DES1 Delivering high quality Development | + | + | + | + | Will protect and build on local character, help foster a sense of community, improve accessibility between new and existing settlements for all, ensure high amenity value of development. |
| DES2 Enhancing local character | 0 | 0 | + | + | Ensures the integration of the new development with the existing settlement and that the new developments have a positive impact on the character of the local area. |
| DES3 Design and access statements | 0 | + | + | + | Allows local communities to influence the design process ensuring it positively responds to local character and provides appropriate and high quality design. |
| DES4 Masterplans for allocated sites and major development | + | + | + | + | The master plans will ensure all aspects of the development a clearly thought out and benefits are maximised for the new development and the existing settlement and their residents. |
| DES5 Outdoor amenity space | + | + | 0 | + | Ensures outdoor residential amenity space is properly catered for and is integrated into the design process. This will improve value of both private and shared outdoor space. |
| DES6 Residential Amenity | 0 | + | + | 0 | Protects amenity value of developments from neighbouring uses which could have an adverse effect while providing for better amenity value of new builds through better design maximising the sites potential. |
| DES7 Public art | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | Benefits new and existing communities by making the area a more attractive and stimulating place. By making area more pleasant local community will use it more and take more pride in their local area. |
| DES8 Efficient use of resources | 0 | + | + | 0 | Mitigates potentially harmful impact of developments and seeks environmental improvements promoting more sustainable developments. |
| DES9 Promoting sustainable design | 0 | + | + | 0 | Ensures new developments are built to higher standard improving efficiency and reducing carbon impact, also requires developments to plan for future changes to the environment. |

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| DES10 Renewable energy | 0 | 0 | + | + | Policy will help reduce harmful pollutants. The council will also promote community-led initiatives allowing greater local involvement in energy production to meet local needs. |
| Overall their impact on the health determinates | +3 | +7 | +8 | +7 | |

| IMPACT Positive (+), Neutral (0), Negative (-) | | | | | |
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| TOWN CENTRES AND SHOPPING | Healthy life style | Housing | Environment | Strengthen communities | Comments |
| TC1 Retail in towns and villages | + | 0 | + | + | Improving the vitality of town and villages centres will encourage cycling and walking, reduce need to travel by car, make them more sustainable locations for housing, cater for the needs of everyone and improve general attractiveness. |
| TC2 Amount and location of new retail floorspace | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | Will help provide for the needs to of the local areas by determining suitable levels of growth. |
| TC3 Retail frontages and town centre boundaries | + | 0 | 0 | + | Protects the vitality of settlements, helps maintain the distinctiveness of the area and improve service provision meaning less journeys by car and more walking and cycling. |
| Overall their impact on the health determinates | +2 | 0 | +1 | +3 | |

| IMPACT Positive (+), Neutral (0), Negative (-) | | | | | |
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| COMMUNITY FACILITIES | Healthy life style | Housing | Environment | Strengthen communities | Comments |
| CF1 Safeguarding Community Facilities | + | 0 | + | + | Protects import facilities for the continued benefit of the community. Encourages healthy lifestyles, improves amenity value of area, reduces the need to travel for same service and increases vitality of area. |
| CF2 Provision of Community Facilities and Services | + | 0 | + | + | Encourages healthy lifestyles, improves amenity value of area and housing, reduces the need to travel for same service and increases vitality of area, improves accessibility. |

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| CF3 New Open Space, Sport and recreation facilities | + | + | + | + | Encourages healthy lifestyles, improves amenity value of area and housing, reduces the need to travel for same service and increases vitality of area, improves accessibility. |
| CF4 Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities | + | + | + | + | Protects import facilities for the continued benefit of the community. Encourages healthy lifestyles, improves amenity value of area and housing, reduces the need to travel for same service and increases vitality of area. |
| CF5 Open Space, Sport and Recreation in New Residential Development | + | + | + | + | Requires new developments to contribute to the provision of sporting and leisure facilities in the area having direct health benefits from increased accessibility to high quality facilities and helping to foster greater sense of community between new and existing developments. |
| Overall their impact on the health determinates | +5 | +3 | +5 | +5 | |