

Appendix 2: Proposed Health and Well-being modifications

Changes are set out: ~~deletion in strikethrough~~ – **addition in red** (dots denote where the existing paragraph continues before/after text). Subsequent paragraph numbering will change if these additions are accepted.

Modifications proposed to the Vision

‘.....Harlow’s residents will be more active, taking advantage of Harlow’s excellent sporting, leisure and cultural facilities. **The overall health and well-being of Harlow’s residents will be improved....’**

Modifications proposed to the Objectives (Lifestyles)

11. To provide and enhance sporting, leisure, recreational facilities and cultural opportunities in the district

12 Provide opportunities to improve the overall health and well-being of Harlow’s residents

(Subsequent objective numbers shift)

Modifications proposed to Chapter 2: Spatial Context (Population Profile)

2.13 ‘Deprivation levels in the district are overall lower than the England average but high compared to most parts of Essex. There are some variances between different parts of Harlow, with the east being less deprived than areas to the west and south. **Furthermore the district’s health profile is in some respects, such as smoking rates, alcohol related hospital admissions and obesity, higher than the England averages. Physical activity is also low and therefore there are overall health and well-being issues across the town.**

Modifications proposed to Chapter 4: Spatial Development Strategy (Lifestyles)

4.24 The Policies in the Local Plan as a whole aim to improve the overall health and well-being of residents by ensuring that there are access to jobs and education opportunities, improving infrastructure for more sustainable, active and healthy transport choices, protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment for the benefits of residents, the provision of leisure, recreation, sporting and retail facilities and the creation of well-designed developments. The Plan will ensure there is sufficient health infrastructure in place to support new development. To support these objectives, The Harlow Health and Well-being Strategy and Essex Joint Health and Well-being Strategy will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

(Subsequent paragraph numbers shift)

Proposed Policy L4: Chapter 16: Lifestyles

L4 Health and Well-being

The Council will seek to deliver development and growth which has a positive impact on the health and well-being of residents, and address issues of health deprivation and health inequality in the district in accordance with the objectives of the Harlow Health and Well-being Strategy and in response to the various evidence base sources.

When promoting development applicants should consider their impact on the health and well-being of new and existing residents having regard to the following principles:

- infrastructure required to encourage physical exercise including sport and recreation facilities, walking, cycling and bridleway routes
- the provision of accessible open space, green infrastructure and landscaping
- provision of new or enhanced healthcare facilities working with the relevant health authorities
- the location and links between community facilities, homes, education and employment opportunities and sustainable travel options
- providing opportunities to grow food and avoiding unhealthy eating options
- good quality design, having regard to the Essex Design Guide, which incorporates active design principles.

Applicants may be required to prepare a Health Impact Assessment to determine the extent of potential health impacts from development proposals and set out appropriate mitigation measures.

Justification

16.17 Harlow District Council wants all residents to live in environments that support good health and wellbeing and is committed to ensuring that residents benefit from the positive impacts that development and infrastructure growth can have on health and wellbeing. This is further supported through the outcomes of the Harlow Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Along with policies in the Local Plan as a whole, Policy L4 ensures that development proposals have considered measures that will improve the health and well-being of residents and not contribute towards further worsening health issues across the district.

16.18 The principles set out in Policy L4 have been informed by the Town and Country Planning Associations guide to creating health-promoting environments which states that good living environments can have a positive impact on health equalities. It has also been developed having regard to health and well-being issues identified in the town as evidenced by the Essex Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Public Health Profiles produced by Public Health England. The Harlow and Gilston Garden Town partners are also developing a health framework using the NHS Healthy Towns Criteria. It will set out projects or interventions that could be enhanced in proposed developments and other opportunities for improving health and well-being across the Garden Town. Once complete it will be endorsed by the Garden Town local authorities and the health and well-being boards.

Implementation

16.19 Policy L4 refers to the Essex Design Guide which addresses health and well-being through the following sections:

- Landscape and Greenspaces
- Layout Design
- Street and Roads
- Internal Design Details
- Architectural Details
- Thematic sections dealing with: ageing populations; digital and smart technology; active design; plus health & wellbeing itself

16.20 The Essex Design Guide alongside the Harlow Design Guide and Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Vision and Design Guide should be used to help design good quality schemes that limit adverse impacts on and promote health and well-being in the first instance. These will help ensure that health and wellbeing are addressed at the earliest possible, conceptual / design stage of any development, as is important. This is necessary to help enable smoother and more timely progress through the development and planning application process. Accordingly, masterplanning work (for larger developments) will be required to ensure that these matters are addressed from the outset.

16.21 Where appropriate the policy does support the use of Health Impact Assessments (HIA) for certain types of developments. HIAs allow the planning authority to assess the impact the proposed development will have on the health and well-being of residents. These assessments ensure that the Council can work with developers to optimise the positive impacts on health and well-being of potential development and reduce, remove or mitigate any identified unintended consequences that may arise on health from the submitted proposal.

16.22 Applicants should refer to the Essex wide HIA guidance, updated and agreed by the Essex local authorities, which assists in the preparation of HIAs.

16.23 Policy L4 also refers to active design principles which have been produced by Sport England in partnership with Public Health England and is embedded in the Essex Design Guide. Active design is about designing and adapting where we live to encourage activity in everyday lives. It is a combination of ten principles that promote activity, health and stronger communities through built design and is an important consideration for new development proposals.