



Tackling Root causes Upstream of
Unhealthy Urban Development

Integrating health in local plans

Dr Anna Le Gouais

Senior Research Associate (University of Bristol) & Researcher-in-Residence (Bristol City Council)

Anna.legouais@bristol.ac.uk

@AnnaLeGouais





Determinants of health

Neighbourhood design

Healthy housing

Healthier food environments

Natural and sustainable environments

Healthy transport



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Spatial Planning for Health
An evidence resource for planning
and designing healthier places

Bird et al., 2018; PHE, 2018



What is health?

Tackling Root causes Upstream of
Unhealthy Urban Development



Physical, mental and planetary health (& health inequalities)



Problems: Health and local plans

- Health is **not sufficiently prioritised** in local plans;
- Local plans **lack incentives** for developers to prioritise health outcomes;
- Developers **lack sufficient understanding** about the form healthy urban development should take;
- Local plans **lack requirements** to strengthen implementation by developers.



An aerial photograph of a suburban residential neighborhood. The image shows a grid of streets with houses, lawns, and trees. The houses have various roof colors, including red, brown, and grey. There are several cars parked on the streets and in driveways. The overall scene is a typical suburban street layout.

Heath & Local Plan Review

Collaboration

Tackling Root causes Upstream of Unhealthy Urban Development





Bristol Local Plan Review
Draft Policies and Development Allocations



 Consultation - March 2019



Bristol Local Plan Review
Draft Policies and Development Allocations



 Further consultation - November 2022

Contents

- Introduction.....
- Building a better Bristol.....
- We need new homes
- The climate crisis.....
- Protecting wildlife and nature.....
- Food.....
- Shops, offices, bars and restaurants.....
- Design
- Building on green land
- What do you think?.....
- For more information

7 local plans

Tackling Root causes Upstream of
Unhealthy Urban Development



Liverpool
(2022)

Bristol
(draft)

Cornwall
(2016/2021)



Plymouth &
Southwest (2019)

Wakefield
(draft)

Havering
(2021)

Brighton & Hove
(2016 & 2022)

Health & Local Plan Review

1. Definitions of health:

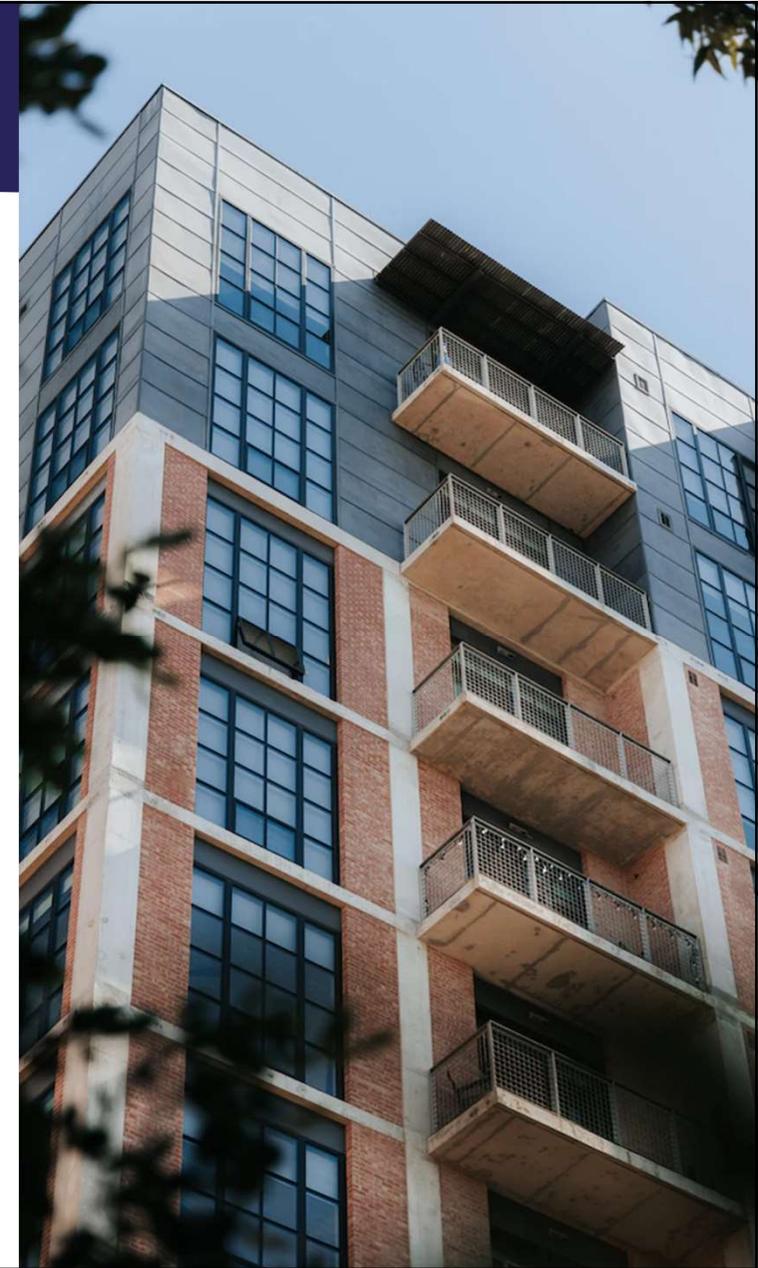
How is health broadly defined and characterised in the local plan, including in terms of local strategic priorities and evidence?

2. Health requirements for developers:

What are the specific health-related requirements and determinants of health that developers are expected to address?

3. Implementation of health requirements:

How does the plan encourage delivery of the developer requirements?



1. Definitions of health

Health definitions (NCDs, mental health, life expectancy, inequalities, planetary health)

Health and Wellbeing Strategy references

HIA of local plan

Local health evidence base references (JSNA, IMD)

Health and sustainability standards references (BfHL, plus other standards e.g. BREEAM, WELL, Building with Nature)

Healthy development guidance references (e.g. OHID / PHE)



1. Definitions of health

- = Clearly defined
- = Partially defined
- = Absent

Health definitions (NCDs, mental health, life expectancy, inequalities, planetary health)

- Minimal references to local data on NCDs
- Mental health issues not disaggregated

Health and Wellbeing Strategy references

- No direct reference to local strategies

HIA of local plan

- HIA of local plan: Bristol & Havering. Brighton applied a HEQIA review

Local health evidence base references (JSNA, IMD)

- Only Havering had direct reference to JSNA
- Deprivation data comparing to national average, but not IMD ward level data

Health and sustainability standards references (BfHL, plus other standards e.g. BREEAM, WELL, Building with Nature)

- No reference to 'Building for a Healthy Life' design standard. Cornwall recommends the use of the old 'Building for Life' standard

Healthy development guidance references (e.g. OHID / PHE)

- Limited references

2. Requirements – Healthy development policy & HIAs

Healthy development
policy, including HIA
requirements

HIA in validation
checklist



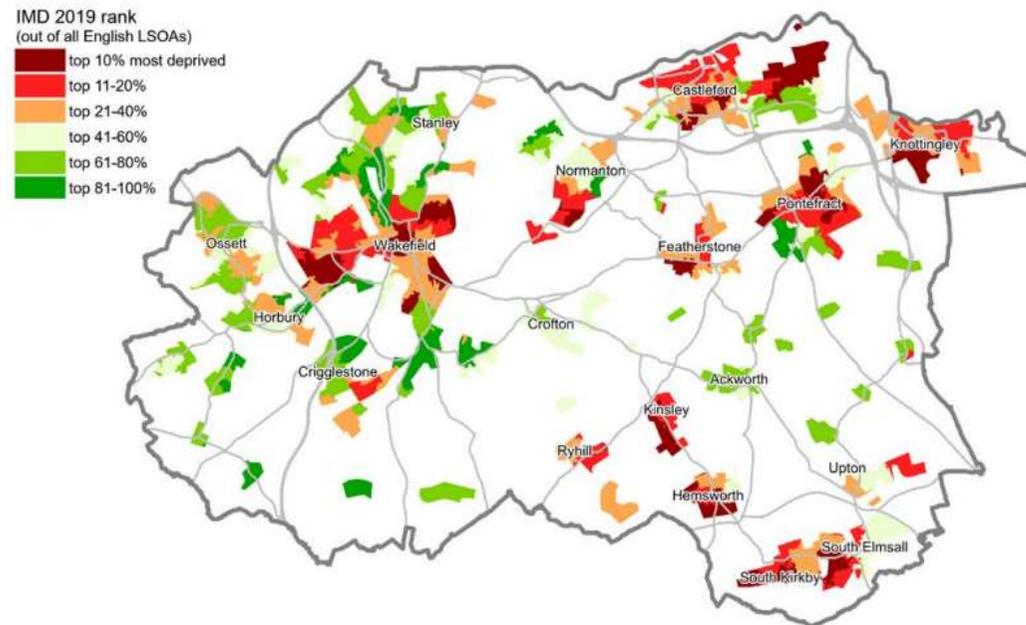
2. Requirements – Healthy development policy & HIAs

Healthy development policy, including HIA requirements

- Not all local plans have a distinct healthy development policy
- Most require HIA for major developments (recommended in Cornwall); Wakefield applies it to 30 areas with high levels of deprivation

HIA in validation checklist

- Two authorities refer to an HIA or health statement in their planning application validation check-list



2. Requirements - Policies

Determinants of Health framework score: Bird et al., 2018; PHE, 2018

Plus local priorities in detail:

- *Fuel poverty & energy security*
- *Outdoor & indoor air quality*
- *Secure tenure*
- *Affordable housing*

| Determinant of Health | Principles |
|--|--|
| 1. Neighbourhood design | 1. Enhance neighbourhood walkability |
| | 2. Build complete and compact neighbourhoods |
| | 3. Enhance connectivity with safe and efficient infrastructure |
| 2. Healthy housing | 1. Improve quality of housing |
| | 2. Increase provision of affordable and diverse housing |
| | 3. Increase provision of affordable housing for groups with specific needs |
| 3. Healthier food environments | 1. Healthy, affordable food for the general population |
| | 2. Enhance community food infrastructure |
| 4. Natural and sustainable environments | 1. Reduce exposure to environmental hazards |
| | 2. Access to and engagement with the natural environment |
| | 3. Adaptation to climate change |
| 5. Healthy transport | 1. Provision of active travel infrastructure |
| | 2. Provision of public transport |
| | 3. Prioritise active travel and road safety |
| | 4. Enable mobility for all ages and activities |

2. Requirements - Policies

Determinants of Health framework score (Bird et al, 2018; PHE, 2018):

Gaps:

Healthy housing

- Affordable housing and specialist needs
- Secure tenure
- Fuel poverty and energy security
- Indoor air quality
- Refurbishment and retrofitting
- Access to daylight / natural light
- Household hazards

Healthier food environments

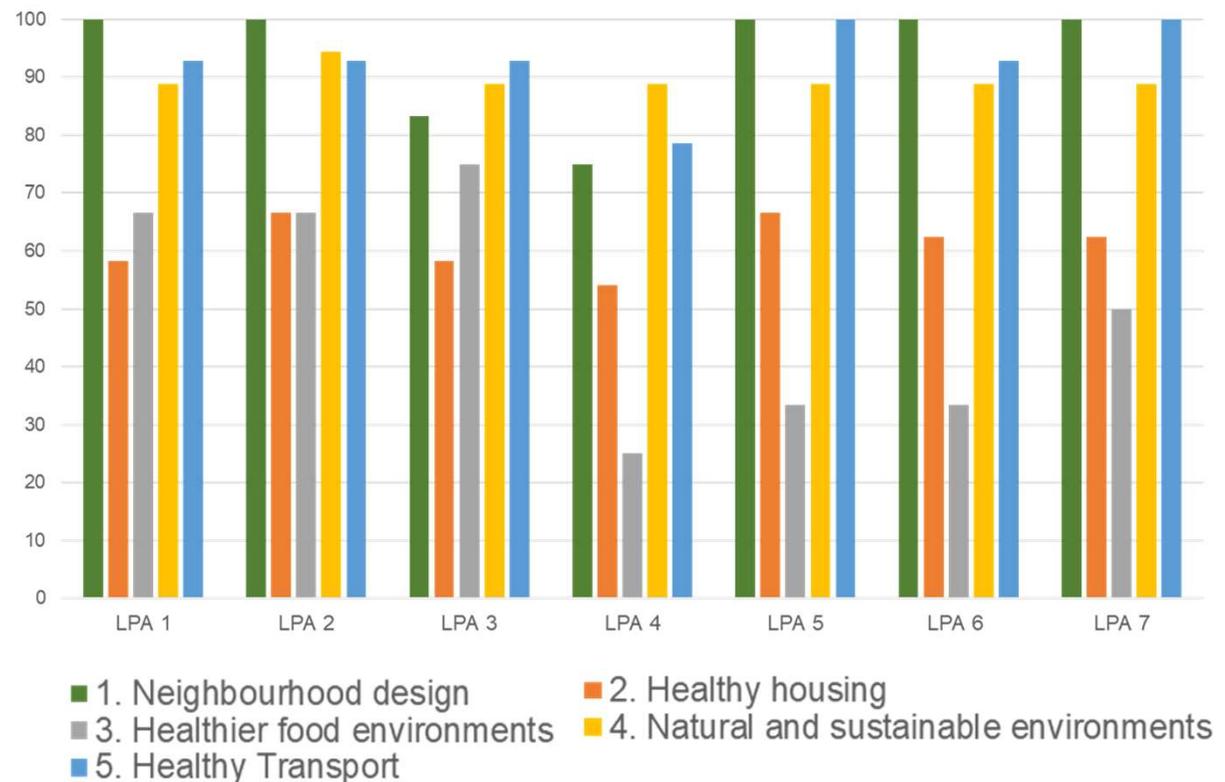
- Healthy food in schools and retail outlets

Natural and sustainable environments

- Climate adaptation

Healthy transport

- Public transport access to recreational spaces



3. Implementation

Developer contributions/
funding (CIL/ S106)

Viability appraisal &
transparency

Monitoring / Post occupancy
evaluation

Management & maintenance
plans

Community leadership &
ownership

Community Involvement



3. Implementation

- = Clearly defined
- = Partially defined
- = Absent

Developer contributions/
funding (CIL/ S106)

- Clearly included in local plans

Viability appraisal &
transparency

- Need clear viability appraisal requirements / guidance for transparency

Monitoring / Post occupancy
evaluation

- No direct health monitoring, or POE requirements
- Indirect examples e.g. biodiversity, water courses

Management & maintenance
plans

- No direct references to health promotion management plans (except in Liverpool's HIA)
- Indirect: Pollution control, biodiversity, GI, open spaces, flood risk / SUDS, low carbon

Community leadership &
ownership

- The Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act (2015) requires authorities to keep register of interest for self build projects
- 'Encourage', 'Support' diverse community-led options, e.g. CLT, co-housing, cooperatives

Community Involvement

- Signpost to guidance on Statements for Community Involvement

1. Definitions

- Health definitions
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy references
- HIA of local plan
- Local health evidence base references
- Health and sustainability standards references
- Healthy development guidance references

2. Requirements

- Healthy development policy, including HIA requirements
- HIA in verification checklist
- Determinants of Health framework score (Bird et al, 2018)

3. Implementation

- Developer contributions/ funding (CIL/ S106)
- Viability appraisal & transparency
- Monitoring / Post occupancy evaluation
- Management & maintenance plans
- Community leadership & ownership
- Community Involvement



Article

Integrating Health into Local Plans: A Comparative Review of Health Requirements for Urban Development in Seven Local Planning Authorities in England

Rosalie Callway ^{1,*}, Anna Le Gouais ¹ , Emma L. Bird ², Michael Chang ³  and Judi Kidger ¹

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20054079>

Acknowledgements

Thanks to TRUUD colleagues: Rosalie Callway, Emma Bird, Michael Chang and Judi Kidger; and Bristol City Council colleagues

This work was supported by the UK Prevention Research Partnership, an initiative funded by UK Research and Innovation Councils, the Department of Health and Social Care (England) and the UK devolved administrations, and leading health research charities.

Weblink: <https://mrc.ukri.org/research/initiatives/prevention-research/ukprp/>

