

Open

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

6pm
Thursday, 2 February 2023
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Members of Committee:

Chairman: Councillor M J Hart
Vice-Chairman: Councillor S E N Rook

Councillor J Aston

Councillor V Caulfield

Councillor N J Desmond

Councillor P Dyke

Councillor C Edginton-White

Councillor S Miah

Councillor T L Onslow

Councillor C Rogers

Councillor D Ross

Councillor D R Sheppard

Would Members please note that, to ensure continuity in scrutiny, substitutes should only be appointed for the Scrutiny Committee in exceptional circumstances.

Information for Members of the Public:

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

Co-opted Members

Scrutiny Committees may wish to appoint Co-Opted Members to sit on their committee in order to add value to the scrutiny process. To appoint a Co-Opted Member, a Committee must first agree to appoint either a specific person or to approach a relevant organisation to request that they put forward a suitable representative (e.g. the local Police Authority). Co-Optees are non voting by default but Committees can decide to appoint voting rights to a Co-Optee. The Co-Option of the Member will last no longer than the remainder of the municipal year.

Scrutiny Committees can at any meeting agree to terminate the Co-Option of a Co-Opted Member with immediate effect. Where an organisation is appointed to put forward a Co-Opted Member, they are able to send a substitute in exceptional circumstances, provided that they notify Democratic Services in advance. Co-Opted Members must sign up to the Members Code of Conduct before attending their first meeting, failure to sign will mean that they are unable to participate. This also applies to substitute Co-Opted Members, who will need to allow sufficient time before a meeting in order to sign the Code of Conduct.

The following will apply:

- i) The total number of voting co-opted members on any Scrutiny Committee will not exceed 25% at any one time.
- ii) The total number of voting Co-opted Members on any Review Panel will not be limited.
- iii) Those Co-opted Members with voting rights will exercise their rights in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in the constitution.

For Further information:

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information, you should contact Louisa Bright, Principal Committee and Member Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 2 February 2023

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Appointment of Substitute Members To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1 December 2022.	8
5.	Health Supplementary Planning Document To consider a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Strategic Growth to seek approval of the Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) Health and Wellbeing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation.	11
6.	Work Programme To review the work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Corporate Plan Priority, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.	54
7.	Press Involvement To consider any future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.	

8.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
9.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

10.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2022 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S E N Rook (Vice-Chairman), B Brookes, V Caulfield, A Coleman, R H Coleman, N J Desmond, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, I Hardiman, F M Oborski MBE and T L Onslow.

Observers

Councillors: G W Ballinger

Observed remotely: Councillors: J F Byng, M Rayner and L Whitehouse.

OS.36 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J Aston, S Miah, C Rogers, D Ross and D R Sheppard.

OS.37 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor B Brookes was a substitute for Councillor C Rogers.
Councillor A Coleman was a substitute for Councillor J Aston.
Councillor R H Coleman was a substitute for Councillor D R Sheppard.
Councillor I Hardiman was a substitute for Councillor D Ross.
Councillor F M Oborski MBE was a substitute for Councillor S Miah.

OS.38 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.39 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.40 Cost of Living Action Plan

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Strategic Growth that sought approval to the cost of living action plan 2022-23.

The Principal Health and Sustainability Officer presented the report and outlined the key issues.

Agenda Item No. 4

The Committee fully scrutinised the report and action plan. Members supported the key actions that had been identified and welcomed the setting up of warm spaces across the district.

Agreed: Recommendations to Cabinet: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee unanimously agreed to:

Note the report and action plan. The Committee endorsed the direction of travel and were keen for the work on raising awareness of the plan to continue to ensure people were able to get support when they needed it most. In relation to the wording of paragraph 3.4 of the report, the Committee agreed that it should have a sharper focus on the context of Wyre Forest.

OS.41 Provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Consideration of call-in request

The Committee received a briefing note from the Chief Executive and the Head of Strategic Growth which provided information on the points raised in the call-in request that had been signed by three Councillors who are not Cabinet members, and by the Chairman of the Committee. The Committee also received the original strong leader decision notice and report which provided members with relevant facts and information on the wider context and background to the decision.

Councillor N Desmond presented the call-in request. He said that due to the time that had lapsed since Council had given authority to progress, it was important that a full cost appraisal of all the delivery methods should be undertaken to ensure that the chosen option still offered the best value for money.

A robust discussion ensued. Several members spoke in favour of the call-in and welcomed the proposal for an up to date business plan which included detailed information on the leasing model. A number of members spoke against the call-in. Concerns were expressed that the Council was behind other councils across the county and elsewhere in delivering the EVC infrastructure on council owned car parks and further delays would not be helpful.

In addition to the points covered in the briefing note, the Chief Executive added that the Council was able to arrange finance from the PWLB at rates lower than those available to commercial operators due to our high credit rating. He said it was unlikely that the leasing model would represent best value based on this consideration alone.

A member proposed that the Committee support the direction of travel of the Cabinet. Upon a show of hands, the majority of the Committee voted in favour of the proposal.

Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee support the Cabinet decision to proceed with procurement of electric vehicle charging points.

OS.42 Work Programme

The Committee reviewed and noted the work programme for the remainder of the

municipal year. The Chairman advised that if there were no items to consider in January, the meeting would be cancelled.

OS.43 Press Involvement

There were no further items for scrutiny that might require publicity.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.17pm.



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Sally Horne
Date: 2 February 2022

Open

Planning for Health SPD

Summary

Attached is a draft of a Cabinet report on this subject, which Cabinet is expected to consider on 7 February 2023.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the report and provide recommendations to Cabinet.

Officer Contact Details:

Name – Sally Horne
Title - Senior Planning Policy Officer
Contact Number – Ext. 2524

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
7 FEBRUARY 2023

Wyre Forest District Council Health and Wellbeing Supplementary Planning Document

OPEN	
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Helen Dyke, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Localism
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Kate Bailey, Head of Strategic Growth
CONTACT OFFICER:	Sally Horne, Senior Planning Policy Officer
APPENDICES:	<p>Appendix One - WFDC Health and Wellbeing Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Paper</p> <p>Appendix Two - WFDC Health and Wellbeing Supplementary Planning Document</p>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the draft Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) Health and Wellbeing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is invited to:

- 2.1 Agree the Health and Wellbeing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is consulted on from February for 6 weeks.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing SPD is required to support the implementation of policies in the WFDC adopted Local Plan 2016-2036, specifically policies SP.16 Health and Wellbeing and DM.18 Hot food takeaways.
- 3.2 The process for preparing and adopting an SPD is set out in the WFDC Statement of Community Involvement (February 2013), which was published following the issue of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The process includes publishing and consulting on a scoping paper, holding consultation events where necessary, reporting on any consultation responses received and how they have been incorporated into the SPD.

- 3.3 The draft Health and Wellbeing SPD, attached to this report, has been prepared in partnership with the Strategic Planning Team and the Public Health Team at Worcestershire County Council as well as with colleagues in WFDC.
- 3.4 Officers also undertook a public consultation on the scoping document (Please see Appendix One) for the Health and Wellbeing SPD in October 2022. The document set out the proposed contents of the SPD and the process for consultation and adoption. There were no comments received.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The SPD focuses on how matters of health and wellbeing should be positively addressed through the development planning process in the district. It sets out how the applicant/developer will be expected to demonstrate their proposals reflect the principles set out in the SPD, through the use of the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Screening or a full HIA.
- 4.2 The SPD aims to:
- Promote opportunities for healthier lifestyles, encourage healthier choices and reduce the demand on the NHS, health professionals, councils, and individuals across the district
 - Inform communities and provide guidance to aid with the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans
 - Inform pre-application advice of any potential health-related issues
 - Be a material consideration to be taken into consideration in determining applications, where relevant
 - Provide information and guidance that can be used to support an efficient HIA screening and positive HIA.
- 4.3 The emphasis of the SPD is to guide applicants through the HIA, the structure of the report reflects this. The first chapter provides detail on what a HIA is, when it is required and the process that will be followed by WFDC when dealing with applications. The following sections then provide guidance about the principles stated in the HIA template.
- 4.4 The HIA follows a two stage process commencing with HIA screening for the following planning types;
- Restaurants and cafés
 - Drinking establishments
 - Hot food takeaways (see policy DM.18 Hot Food Takeaways)
 - Residential Institutions (
 - Non-residential institutions
 - Leisure facilities
 - Betting shops and pay-day loan shops (Sui Generis)
- 4.5 If the screening highlights an adverse effect on health and wellbeing then a full HIA will be required.
- 4.6 The following planning types will need to proceed straight to a full HIA;
- Residential and mixed-use major development sites
 - Employment sites of 5 ha or more

- Retail development of 500 square metres or more

4.7 Appendix One of the Health and Wellbeing SPD includes templates for both the screening and full HIA.

4.8 The consultation responses and any proposed amendments to the SPD will be taken to Cabinet for approval later in the year.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The costs of adopting and delivering the SPD will be met by existing financial resources.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The National Planning Policy Framework and the National Planning Policy Guidance states that Local Planning Authorities have a duty to produce policies and make decisions that achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places.

6.2 Part five of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 sets out the process for the adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents. This includes the duty to publicly consult on an SPD prior to its adoption for a six week period.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

7.1 An equality impact screening assessment has been undertaken and it has been found that there are no negative impacts because of the Health and Wellbeing SPD.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 The Health and Wellbeing SPD will provide written guidance to applicants, developers and agents prior to an application. This will help reduce planning applications without HIA screening and assessments and will help to reduce demand on officer time regarding this work.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The draft Health and Wellbeing Supplementary Planning Document has been prepared to provide further detail to policies contained within the adopted Local Plan. It is anticipated that the document will assist applicants completing a Health Impact Assessment, if required to do so.

9.2 WFDC is required by part five of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 to consult on an SPD for a period of 6 weeks prior to finalising and adopting the document.

10. CONSULTEES

10.1 CLT

- 10.2 Worcestershire County Council Public Health Team
- 10.3 Worcestershire County Council Strategic Planning Team
- 10.4 Principal Health and Sustainability Officer, WFDC
- 10.5 Planning Manager, WFDC

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Wyre Forest District Council Statement of Community Involvement (2013)

Scoping document for the Wyre Forest Health SPD

Introduction

The Wyre Forest District's Health and Wellbeing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides more detailed advice on the health and wellbeing related policies contained in the Wyre Forest Local Plan. It has been prepared in partnership with Worcestershire County Council's Strategic Planning Team and the Directorate of Public Health.

The SPD will focus on matters of health and wellbeing and how they should be positively addressed through the development planning process in the district. It is aimed at local authority planning officers, applicants, developers, relevant organisations, and the wider community.

We are inviting your comments on this Scoping Report to help us identify the key health issues that need to be addressed through the Health and Wellbeing SPD for Wyre Forest District.

Policy Context

National and Local Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> sets out how Government Planning Policy should be applied. The NPPF requires each council to have robust and comprehensive policies across a broad range of areas to support the delivery of high-quality sustainable and inclusive development. Section of the NPPF, sets out the Government's planning policies, including a specific requirement to promote healthy communities and to draw on evidence of health and wellbeing need. The NPPF is supported by National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) which further outlines the importance of health and wellbeing in planning.

Wyre Forest District adopted their Local Plan in April 2022. The Local Plan is essential in order to successfully plan for development and to enable the Council to make good decisions on planning applications. The proposed SPD will provide detailed guidance on two key policies from the Wyre Forest Local Plan, Policy SP.16 Health and Wellbeing and DM.18 Hot Food Takeaways. There are also general policies applicable across the whole Local Plan which the SPD can help support due to its overarching nature. The SPD will also support any made Neighbourhood Plans in the District.

What is a SPD

SPDs build upon and provide more detailed guidance about policies in the Local Plan. Legally, they do not form part of the Local Plan itself and they are not subject to independent examination but they can be accorded significant weight as a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications, providing a tool in the interpretation and application of policy.

It is intended that this SPD will identify health and wellbeing principles based on the up to date evidence base and good practice and local health and wellbeing needs and issues current at the time of producing the SPD. The proposed SPD will set (out for certain types of

development) the detail the applicant/developer will be expected to provide, to show that their proposals reflect health and wellbeing principles set out in the document.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

National planning policy indicates that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are not required for an SPD unless it is considered that there are likely to be significant environmental effects or exceptional circumstances.

This SPD builds upon policies in the adopted Local Plan for Wyre Forest, all of which have been subject to SA and SEA and detailed scrutiny at the Examination. If you believe an SEA is required, please set out what the exceptional circumstances are requiring one to be undertaken as part of your response.

Table One: Topics to be covered by the Health and Wellbeing SPD

The table below sets out what is proposed for each section, including the principles, the scale of the issue, how it will be addressed and examples of good practice.

Topic	Details
Design and the public realm	How individuals live their lives is influenced by the location, density and mix of land uses around them. The SPD will recognise that the design of the built environment has a significant impact on the physical and mental health of individuals. and demonstrate how good design could be planned into development.
Active travel	The SPD will highlight, promote active travel and detail measures that can be taken to secure its inclusion into developments.
Green infrastructure and green spaces	This section of the SPD will detail the benefits Green Infrastructure and greens spaces can bring to health and wellbeing as well as how it will be expected to be preserved and included in new developments.
Age/dementia friendly environment	Age/dementia friendly environment will be taken account of within the SPD by first identifying the associated issues and how they should be addressed through planning.
Housing and employment	This section will address the issues associated with impact on health and wellbeing from poor quality housing and work environment and how planning might seek to address these issues.
Community and health services and facilities	This section will address the issues associated with the provision of community and health services and facilities and the impact on people’s health and the benefits of addressing it.
Healthy foods	The SPD will acknowledge the impact of a healthy diet on a person’s health and how to address this through planning.
Environmental hazards	The SPD in this section will look at the issues of climate change, fuel poverty and air quality on human health and wellbeing and how they need to be addressed.
Health Impact Assessment	Health Impact Assessment (HIA) ensures that the effects of development on both health and health inequalities are considered and addressed during the planning process. The SPD will detail how HIA should be used to demonstrate how a proposal has taken account of health and well being in its production

Table 2 Timetable for production

Process	Date
Scoping Report Consultation	28/09/22 – 26/10/22
Preparation of The SPD and Evidence	September – end of November 2022
Cabinet	December 2022
Consultation (6 Weeks Statutory)	January 4 – February 15 2023
Preparation of Final SPD	February /March 2023
Adoption	March 2023

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING
DOCUMENT**

Wyre Forest District Council

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council recognises that health and well-being are key issues at both national and local level. Health is not simply about access to medical facilities; it is also about lifestyle and environment. The built environment can impact on the factors that are known to influence a person's health status and lifestyle, including economic, social and environmental conditions.

The design of the built environment can have a significant impact on both physical and mental wellbeing. Well-designed built environment can help to reduce health inequalities in Wyre Forest; while poor environmental quality, housing conditions or pollution can exacerbate them.

Planning can have a positive influence on health in a number of ways:
Planning can:

- help address the issue by ensuring that public open space, recreational facilities and sports pitches are accessible to encourage both children and adults to be active and use outside space.
- encourage the inclusion of active travel routes in developments
- promote the development of sustainable and healthy housing that provides secure and sustainable accommodation for people at different stages of their lives
- promote good quality work environments that encourage a productive and healthy workforce
- help to restrict the location and concentration of hot food takeaways.
- help facilitate access to affordable, nutritious food and maintain, enhance or develop opportunities for local food production such as allotments and community orchards or other community projects
- help mitigate the effects of climate change through sensitive and sustainable development

This SPD therefore aspires to:

- promote opportunities for healthier lifestyles, encourage healthier choices and reduce the demand on the NHS, health professionals, councils and individuals across the district;
- to inform communities and provide guidance to aid with the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans

- Inform pre-application advice of any potential health-related issues
- Be a material consideration to be taken into account in determining applications, where relevant; and
- to provide information and guidance that can be used to support an efficient HIA Screening and positive HIA;

1. INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Status and Purpose

The Wyre Forest District's Health and Wellbeing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides more detailed advice on the health and wellbeing related policies contained in the Wyre Forest Local Plan. It has been prepared in partnership with Worcestershire County Council's Strategic Planning Team and the Public Health Team.

The SPD focuses on how matters of health and wellbeing should be positively addressed through the development planning process in the district. It sets out how the applicant/developer will be expected to demonstrate their proposals reflect the principles set out in the SPD, through the use of Health Impact Assessment Screening or a full Health Impact Assessment. The document is aimed at local authority planning officers, applicants, developers, relevant organisations and the wider community involved with delivering healthier developments.

Planning Policy Context

Section 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) revised in 2021, sets out the Government's planning policies, including a specific requirement to promote healthy communities and to draw on evidence of health and wellbeing need. The NPPF is supported by National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) which further outlines the importance of health and wellbeing in planning.

The SPD provides detailed guidance on the two key policies in the Wyre Forest District Local Plan, SP.16 Health and Wellbeing and DM.18 Hot Food Takeaways.

Health Context

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 made public health one of local government functions. This provided an opportunity for local authorities to address the links between planning and health.

The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy 2022-32 sets the context for other health and wellbeing plans and for commissioning of NHS, public health, social care and related children's services. The Strategy is a basis for the public to hold local organisations to account for achieving its outcomes.

This SPD aims to contribute to the Strategy's key priority, which is:

- Mental health and wellbeing throughout life

Supported by ensuring:

- Healthy living at all ages
- Quality local jobs and opportunities

- Safe, thriving and healthy homes, communities and places

The Strategy and this SPD are based on the findings of a Worcestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA is a continuous process which provides information on health and well-being in order to inform decision making. It is used to determine what actions local authorities, the NHS and other partners need to take to meet people's health and social care needs and to address the wider determinants that impact on their health and well-being. Undertaking the JSNA is a duty under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Key Aims

The SPD aspires to:

- promote opportunities for healthier lifestyles, encourage healthier choices and reduce the demand on the NHS, health professionals, councils and individuals across the district;
- to inform communities and provide guidance to aid with the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans
- Inform pre-application advice of any potential health-related issues
- Be a material consideration to be taken into account in determining applications, where relevant; and
- to provide information and guidance that can be used to support an efficient HIA Screening and positive HIA;

As the emphasis of the report is to guide applicants through the Health Impact Assessment, the structure of the report reflects this. The next chapter provides detail on what a Health Impact Assessment is, when it is required and the process that will be followed by WFDC when dealing with applications. The following sections then provide guidance about the principles stated in the HIA template.

1. HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

A Health Impact Assessment is a tool to help deliver the Local Plan policies and the guidance outlined in this SPD and ensure that the effects of development on both health and health inequalities are considered and addressed during the planning process. It tends to draw on existing knowledge and information and does not generally require specific new research on health impacts.

An HIA should aim to enhance the positive aspects of a proposal through assessment, while avoiding or minimising any negative impacts, with particular emphasis on disadvantaged sections of communities that might be affected.

What Applications will need a Health Impact Assessment?

Not all proposals will necessitate HIA; the HIA screening process will determine whether a HIA is needed for the particular scheme

A **HIA screening** will need to be undertaken for the development types specified below (as per policy SP.16 Health and Wellbeing) to determine whether a full assessment should be completed.

- Restaurants and cafés
- Drinking establishments
- Hot food takeaways (see policy DM.18 Hot Food Takeaways)
- Residential Institutions
- Non-residential institutions
- Leisure facilities
- Betting shops and pay-day loan shops

Depending on the outcomes, a full HIA may be required. In addition, the following will require a **full HIA**;

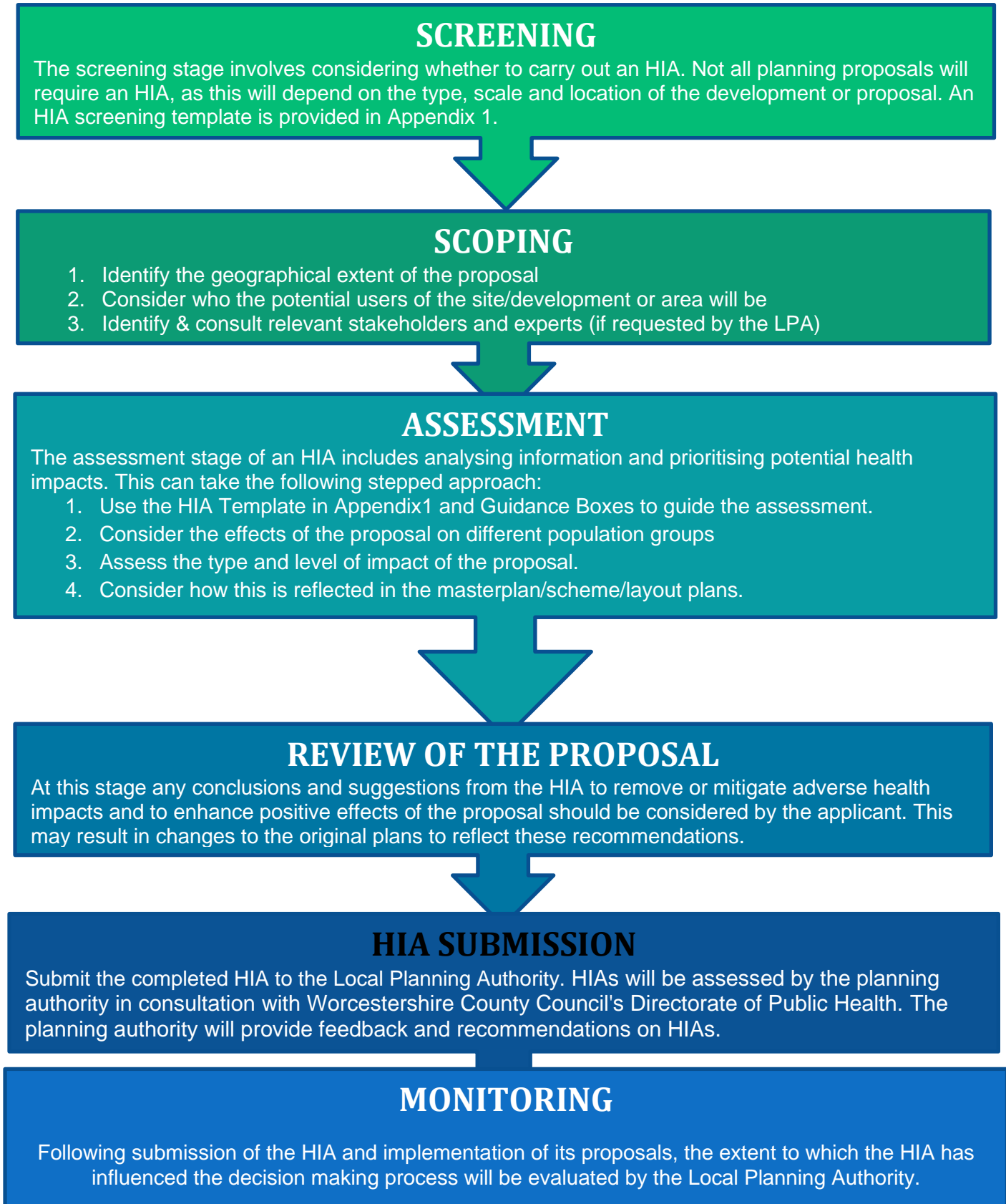
- Residential and mixed-use major development sites
- Employment sites of 5 ha or more
- Retail development of 500 square metres or more.

The Full HIA Process

The HIA, where relevant, will assess whether the proposal meets the health and wellbeing policies in WFDC's adopted Local Plan 2016 to 2036, where relevant. In completing an HIA, the applicant should follow **Template in appendix 1**, which contains both the screening and full HIA templates. This SPD also provides guidance and design principles, which have been drawn from policies contained in the 2016-2036 Local Plan.

The potential for significant impacts from a scheme, as identified through an HIA, will vary according to the size and scale of the proposal. In addition to an HIA, the Local Planning Authority may therefore request a targeted stakeholder consultation to be undertaken for those schemes where significant health impacts are identified.

As with HIA screening, HIAs themselves will be assessed by the planning authority in consultation with the WCC Public Health Team. The planning authority will provide feedback and recommendations on HIAs, as appropriate. Findings of the final HIA should be reflected in the proposals. There are five stages to the HIA process, which are described in the diagram 1.1.



2. HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRINCIPLES

DESIGN AND PUBLIC REALM

The design of the built environment can have a significant impact on physical and mental health and how people perceive their environments. There is need to ‘design in health’ into development to create healthy environments which in turns will have a positive impact on the population.

Planning will look to support the design of environments that promote and encourage physical exercise and psychological wellbeing and improve cognitive functioning. This can include the overall quality of public spaces, from street layouts and connectivity, green infrastructure/landscaping, and traffic calming measures, to a person's interaction with the surrounding cultural and historic environment. The quality of the public realm is vitally important for both mental and physical health.

When proposing new public spaces, it is important to consider all potential users and how they might use the space with the aim in mind of building healthier places and environments that support independence at all stages of life. In particularly the needs of the elderly and vulnerable people should be considered through design.

The table below, outlines the principles taken from policy SP.16, Health and Wellbeing in WFDC’s adopted local plan, that will need to be addressed in the HIA.

Health and Wellbeing Principles: Urban Form – Design and the Public Realm	
HIA template reference¹	Where relevant, proposals must comply with policy by:
1.1	Ensuring public spaces are designed to enable formal and informal physical activity, recreation, and play, and should consider all members of the public including older people and those living with dementia or disabilities.
1.2	Providing safe and attractive public realm and green infrastructure including green spaces, footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes that encourage active travel opportunities.
1.3	Providing easily navigable routes which cater for the needs of all age groups, in particular the elderly, through the provision of benches, shading and simple, clear signage.
1.4	Providing innovative public realm design solutions which prioritise people over motor traffic, allowing for convenient, safe and attractive routes, in particular for walking and cycling.
1.5	Providing opportunities for community cohesion through the creation of permeable environments that will encourage people to get outdoors for recreation, social interaction, and

¹ The HIA template is on page 32 of this SPD

	moving around by non-vehicular means through active travel measures.
1.6	<p>Proposals for new community facilities or the enhancement of existing facilities which offer an increased overall provision will be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where they are demonstrated to meet an identified local need • in accessible locations that serve a wide community • where they promote the opportunities to travel by sustainable modes

Case Study: Kidderminster Town Hall Square

Kidderminster Town has benefitted from a £2 million public realm project which was completed during 2016. This has provided a new look public realm with performance space, bespoke street furniture and a new shared space outside the historic Town Hall.

Several challenges were addressed in the design including traffic conflicts between bus operators, taxis and private vehicles. The needs and movements of pedestrians and cyclists were prioritised. Prior to this there was an excessive range of furniture and paving that was inconsistent in its specification and positioning in the town centre. It was described as an outdated and tired public realm. The new design was simple and included minimal clutter improving the quality and quantity of space available to pedestrians.



ACTIVE TRAVEL

Car travel had been replacing short journeys for decades as it can be seen as more convenient. In addition, people now tend to travel longer distances. This has been a trend for 40 years and is connected to a decline in physical activity².

This decline in physical activity is a factor in health outcomes for Wyre Forest residents. Life expectancy is 7.4 years lower for men and 4.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Wyre Forest than in the least deprived areas (2018-2020 data, Source: Fingertips).

Building walking or cycling into daily routines are the most effective ways to increase physical activity and are a sustainable form of travel.

The table below, outlines the principles that will need to be addressed in the HIA.

Health and Wellbeing Principles: Active Travel	
HIA template reference	Where relevant, proposals must comply with policy by:
2.1	Recognising that active travel is an achievable way to improve health and encourage daily physical activity
2.2	Utilising planning guidance to make active travel an attractive and viable option and therefore reduce dependency on car travel
2.3	Ensuring connectivity between new development and more established active travel routes including cycle routes and canal towpaths
2.4	Providing more opportunities for active travel to take place by ensuring that active travel enables access to wider transport hubs prioritising connectivity to train and bus stations.
2.5	Ensuring that new development values the significance of active travel and makes it an appealing option, for example by offering secure bike storage and ensuring routes are well maintained and lit.

Case Study: Active Travel

Wyre Forest District has many opportunities for active travel due to its river and canal network including the River Severn, River Stour and Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal that connects the District's towns of Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn.

An example of active travel in Wyre Forest, is the canal towpath between Wolverley, Kidderminster and Stourport Town Centre. The tow path provides pedestrian and bicycle friendly travel routes between leisure and employment, urban and rural

² [Public Health England *Working Together to promote Active Travel, a briefing for Local Authorities, May 2016*]

areas. It also brings tourism to the towns via the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal, which benefits the local economy.



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND GREEN SPACES

Green infrastructure (GI) can be defined as the planned and managed network of green spaces and natural elements that intersperse and connect our cities, towns and villages. GI comprises of many different elements including biodiversity, the landscape, the historic environment, the water environment and publicly accessible green spaces and informal recreation sites³.

GI can increase community resilience to a range of climate-related impacts, including air pollution, noise and the impacts of extreme heat and extreme rainfall events. Access to well-designed green spaces can increase levels of physical activity which in turn improves people' physical and psychological health⁴.

GI within new developments will need to be publicly accessible and capable of being managed long term. Therefore, Wyre Forest District Council will not accept private residential plots including domestic gardens or private shared permeable driveways when calculating the total GI provision within new developments.

³ Worcestershire County Council, Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013-18

⁴ Forest Research (2010) Benefits of green infrastructure

Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Framework 3: Access and Recreation document states that the distribution of informal accessible recreational assets in the county is not uniform. Spatial analysis of sites across the county highlights clusters of larger sites in the north of the county in Wyre Forest District, with several smaller community sites such as Blakedown and Wribbenhall. Wyre Forest District Council manages a range of formal parks and green spaces within Stourport, Bewdley and Kidderminster and several large and small nature reserves within the urban areas. The Public Rights of Way network in the district is relatively dense and is well-used for commuting and leisure, with many circular routes in and around the Wyre Forest itself⁵.

Health and Wellbeing Principles: Green Infrastructure and Green Spaces Principles	
HIA template reference	Where relevant, proposals must comply with policy by:
3.1	Safeguarding, retaining, protecting, and enhancing Green Infrastructure networks and assets in terms of their quality and quantity as per SP.28 - Strategic Green Infrastructure
3.2	Providing multifunctional green spaces which perform environmental roles whilst serve the residents to support their physical and mental health
3.3	Ensuring that green spaces are accessible and serve all groups of the population
3.4	Ensuring that the quality of the green spaces is maintained in perpetuity
3.5	Providing quality open space, sports pitches and outdoor community uses in housing development

New development should consider and deliver green infrastructure on their site in line with Policy SP.28 - Strategic Green Infrastructure.

In considering green infrastructure in development, multifunctionality should be at the forefront of the considerations. As well as encouraging physical activity and thereby reducing obesity, access to green space, sports and other recreational facilities promotes relaxation and reduction in stress and can also bring about social interaction within communities.

Access to high-quality and well-maintained green space promotes physical activity, positive mental wellbeing and healthy childhood development. Children with access to safe green spaces are more likely to be physically active and less likely to be overweight. Outdoor play encourages healthy brain development and promotion of wellbeing through adulthood. Natural play areas can allow for adventurous play helping them to develop useful skills through play. New play areas should also consider play facilities for girls (as promoted by Make Space for Girls) and play provision for people with disabilities and for elderly people.

The Fields in Trust recommends a hierarchical approach to planning for play based on: Local Areas for Play (LAPs); Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP); and

⁵ Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Framework (2020) Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Framework 3: Access and Recreation

Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP). The recommendations are for provision related to age, distance and diversity of opportunity. The NPFA also referred to the need for local facilities on the basis of accessibility. It recommends a 20-minute travelling time to specialist facilities such as an artificial turf pitch or athletics track is acceptable, and that a 10-15 minute journey to local sports facilities is reasonable. In this context the NPFA recommends that playing fields (or sports and recreation grounds or other local outdoor facilities) should be within three-quarters of a mile (1.2km) of where people live⁶.

In terms of children's play, the distances considered reasonable to travel from home to public open space are set out below:

- Local Area for Play (LAP) - within 100m.
- Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) - within 400m.
- Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) - within 1km.

Case Study: Springfield Park, Kidderminster

Springfield Park is a large park of 16.95 hectares situated in the Broadwaters area of Kidderminster. The site is adjacent to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and has good links from many parts of Kidderminster. The park has attractive walking and cycling routes. A health walk takes place regularly from one of the local GP practices and utilises the park as part of the route. The park also has a marked and measured trail, an ornamental pool, wooden sculptures and a woodland.



⁶ www.fieldsintrust.org

AGE/DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS

People are living longer, and life expectancy is increasing but the numbers of years spent in poorer health is increasing. Wyre Forest District, like many areas in the UK has seen an increase in the ageing population. The physical and social changes associated with ageing need to be compensated for, to provide supportive and enabling living environments. Reduced mobility, physical disability, and chronic diseases, and psycho-emotional concerns such as stress and isolation are changes that can impact on the ageing population. The prevalence of dementia also increases significantly with age. Wyre Forest District Council has a higher proportion of older people than the national average, inevitably meaning that the sheer numbers of dementia cases will be higher.

To address the above issues, the following principles need to be addressed in an HIA:

Health and Wellbeing Principles: Age/Dementia Friendly Environment Principles	
HIA template reference	Where relevant, proposals must comply with policy by:
4.1	Incorporating dementia-friendly design into all proposals to help those affected residents now and in the future, to continue their everyday lives. This includes buildings that incorporate flexible and adaptable designs and address access to public open space.
4.2	Providing safe and walkable environments in parks, open spaces and community areas with shading, benches, and other facilities. These areas/routes should be clearly signposted with appropriate materials, and consideration should be given to the design of surfaces and street furniture.
4.3	Providing crossing facilities appropriately located (e.g., next to a bus stop) to minimise travel distances for the elderly, as well as public transport links with bus stops which are within walking distance of homes.
4.4	Providing a range of home types which cater for the needs of the elderly to allow an element of choice to older people to stay within the community as long as possible and provide opportunities to downsize.
4.5	Providing adaptable homes which cater for needs at every stage of people's life (for example build to Lifetime Homes standard).
4.6	Delivering housing for elderly including bungalows, supported living and care homes in line with SP.9 - Housing Density & Mix.

The District Council will require all major housing development proposals to contribute towards providing 20% of the total housing requirement to meet the higher access standards of Part M Building Regulations (Access to and use of buildings), (Category 2 M4(2), accessible and adaptable dwelling) of the Building Regulations

(2010); and a further 1% of the overall number of housing units to meet Category 3 M4(3) of the Building Regulations (2010), wheelchair user dwellings standards in properties where the Council has nomination rights.

Well-designed development should include accessible public transport links, such as bus stops within walking distance from people's homes. The Inclusive Mobility guidance published by the Department for Transport is used to help establish appropriate measures for public transport infrastructure to meet the needs of all population groups. For major housing developments and residential care institutions (C2), it is likely that a financial contribution towards Community Transport Services will be sought and secured through a Section 106 Agreement.

Well maintained and safe routes and walkways, accessible open spaces and walkable neighbourhoods would encourage and facilitate increased physical activity amongst the elderly. These walkways and paths need to be:

- Well-lit.
- Evenly surfaced.
- The transition should be gradual where there are changes in ground levels.
- Where steps are unavoidable, the provision of railings is necessary.
- Should include seating areas in strategic places, such as at crossroads that are particularly useful for people living with dementia as it gives them time to rest and gather their thoughts.
- Circular routes can also encourage physical activity amongst people living with dementia as they allow them to return to the start of their walk despite some potential moments of confusion.
- The design of street furniture should be kept simple and familiar to avoid it being mistaken for some other object.
- By placing street furniture such as benches under street trees, allows shading during hot weather.
- When using paving and tarmac it should be plain and non-reflective and should contrast with walls in colour and texture. Because, dementia can affect people's perception of their surroundings and different surfaces. Dark areas might appear to them as a hole in the ground, whilst glaring/shining surfaces can look like water or slippery surfaces, this can be very disorientating and scary.
- Sites should be well signposted using a tonal contrast of colours with a clear and simple font.

Case Study: Berrington Court

Berrington Court comprises 165, 1 and 2 bed flats, located on the Silverwood's mixed-use estate in Kidderminster. The scheme provides independent accommodation alongside communal facilities such as a restaurant, hair and beauty salon and provision of 24-hour care, if needed. The scheme neighbours the Wyre Forest Leisure Centre, a supermarket and is in closer proximity to public transport and pedestrian routes along the canal to Kidderminster and Stourport.



HOUSING

The condition of the housing that we live in can affect both our physical and mental health. Inadequate housing can cause or contribute to many preventable diseases and injuries these include diseases of the respiratory system, the nervous system, cardiovascular disease and cancer. Some groups are more vulnerable to the conditions that they live in such as babies, children, the elderly, those with a disability, those with health conditions and those that spend much of their time inside their house. A house that is warm and dry can have a positive effect on our health and specifically reduce respiratory health conditions. A house that is poorly designed, poorly constructed or has been constructed of unsuitable materials can lead to mould that can have an effect on those with asthma, allergies or respiratory disease.

There are different ways that housing affects the health of its occupants.

- An unhealthy home can have issues such as cold, damp or hazards that affect health.
- Homes that are unsuitable for meeting the needs of the occupants due to overcrowding or a lack of appropriate adaptations
- Insecure tenancies where the occupant may be living with the risk of eviction especially in the private rented sector.
- Lack of outdoor amenity space or accessibility to nearby public open space

Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty is defined as the inability to keep your home adequately heated. In England, fuel poverty is currently measured by the Low Income, High Cost definition (LIHC). This states that a household is in fuel poverty when energy costs to heat to adequate levels are above the national average and, if they were to heat to this level, the residual income would leave the household below the poverty line. Fuel poverty

data is released annually by central government; in 2017 (the latest available data) 11.2% of Wyre Forest households were living in fuel poverty. The key factors influencing whether a household is fuel poor are the energy efficiency of their home, household income and energy costs.

According to the NEA 15.7% of people in Wyre Forest live in Fuel Poverty⁷ compared to a national average of 13.23%. In the 2019 Local Authority Health profile, Wyre Forest has an incidence of 32.9% winter deaths compared to a West Midlands regional average of 30.8%⁸

Therefore, the following principles must be considered when designing new residential schemes.

Health and Wellbeing Principles: Housing	
HIA template reference	Where relevant, proposals must comply with policy by:
5.1	Providing safe, comfortable, affordable housing that caters for the needs of the occupants throughout the different stages of life (lifetime homes principles)
5.2	Providing different size and style of dwellings to cater for the needs of all members of society.
5.3	Housing should be constructed of suitable materials and design, that ensures high quality and energy efficiency.
5.4	Improvements to energy efficiency in existing stock is encouraged.
5.5	Ensuring layout design of new developments maximise the opportunity for accessibility to green spaces, local facilities, public transport and services.
5.6	Maximise the opportunities for walking and cycling routes.
5.7	All new developments and where possible redevelopment of existing buildings should consider location, design, siting and orientation to maximise the use of natural heat (Policy DM.24)
5.8	All new dwellings should incorporate the energy from renewable or low carbon sources equivalent to at least 10% of predicted energy requirements unless demonstrated that this would make the development unviable (Policy DM.24)
5.9	Providing an area outside for drying washing which will reduce drying washing indoors that can add to moisture in the air and damp which can exacerbate health conditions.
5.10	Providing new development with superfast broadband or alternative solutions

⁷ www.nea.org.uk

⁸ www.fingertips.phe.org.uk

EMPLOYMENT

Being in work is better for your health than not being in work. One of the important determinants of health inequalities within society is the availability and nature of employment. Employment matters because:

- Having a poor-quality job or no job can be bad for your health.
- It helps to prevent social exclusion.
- Paid employment has the potential to protect health and contribute to reduced health inequalities.

Wyre Forest District Council needs to ensure that enough employment land is allocated within the district to achieve sustainable growth, creating opportunities for people to work. The district’s economy is vital to the prosperity, health and quality of life of its residents. The Council aims to ensure that the right amount of suitable land is available to attract new business to the district and enable existing businesses to expand and adapt to changing markets in both urban and rural environments. If there are a wide range of employment opportunities within the district many residents will not need to travel far to work, this has benefits including encouraging travel to work by walking and cycling, reducing traffic movement, and helping the environment by reducing the carbon footprint.

Therefore, the following principles need to be considered as part of an HIA.

Health and Wellbeing Principles: Employment	
HIA template reference	Where relevant, proposals must comply with policy by:
6.1	Incorporating green space in the surrounding areas wherever possible.
6.2	Providing well ventilated and lit areas that maximise natural sunlight
6.3	Designing layouts that maximise the opportunities for pedestrian and cycle linkages and minimise the demand for travel
6.4	Incorporating flexible designs, addressing access to open space and enabling adaption for future needs and use of internal spaces or extensions
6.5	Providing new development with superfast broadband or alternative solutions
6.6	Providing the generation of energy from renewable or low carbon sources equivalent to at least 10% of predicted energy requirements. Large scale developments should consider the potential for a decentralised energy and heating network

Case Study: Wyre Forest House

Wyre Forest House was built in 2011 and is the headquarters for a number of companies, including Wyre Forest District Council. The building provides a versatile

and flexible space, which has been adapted to meet the requirements of its tenants over the years. It has courtyard areas and outside space for staff to sit, is near to active travel routes such as the canal tow path, is near a bus stop and provides bike parking. Heating is provided by ground source heat pumps and the natural light is maximised through the incorporation of windows and sky lights in the offices.



HEALTHY FOODS

Obesity is a significant public health concern, it can lead to long term ill health, poor quality of life or a reduced life expectancy. Being overweight or obese increases the risk of many health conditions including diabetes, heart disease and some cancers. Furthermore, obesity can deprive an individual of an extra 9 years of life, preventing some older people to not reach retirement⁹

Planning can have a positive influence on the provision of healthy foods in several ways:

- Planning can help address the issue by ensuring that public open space, recreational facilities and allotments are accessible to encourage both children and adults to be active and use outside space.

⁹ Public Health England (2017) Health matters: obesity and the food environment; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-obesity-and-the-food-environment/health-matters-obesity-and-the-food-environment--2>

- Planning also can help to restrict the location of hot food takeaways. Policy DM.18 Hot Food Takeaways in the Wyre Forest District Local Plan Submission Version states that

Outside of designated centres, hot food takeaways will not be permitted where the proposal is within 400m as the crow flies of any boundary of a school.

- Planning can help development maintain or enhance opportunities for food production such as allotments and community orchards.

This is reflected in the following principles in the table below:

Health and Wellbeing Principles: Healthy Foods	
HIA template reference	Where relevant, proposals <u>must comply with policy by:</u>
7.1	Ensure there is access to healthy and nutritious food which can help to improve the diet of the local community and prevent long term conditions related to obesity, such as diabetes and heart disease.
7.2	Use good practice in planning to support a localised food system, including local food production such as allotments, orchards, and other community projects ensuring a variety of healthy, affordable food is available, especially to those who are on a low income.
7.3	Take positive action to change the food environment to increase the diversity of local food shopping opportunities and limit the number and concentration of hot food takeaways generally serve foods high in fat, salt and sugar.

Wyre Forest District Council considers that the location of hot food takeaways in close proximity to schools would lead to children consuming a greater amount of unhealthy food which would undermine initiatives to promote healthier diets, particularly in schools. Therefore, outside of designated centres, hot food takeaways (sui- generis) will not be permitted where the proposal is within 400m of the boundary of a school (see DM.18 Hot Food Takeaways) and proposals for hot food takeaway uses should not result in two or more hot food takeaway uses adjacent to one another in all the District's centres.

A hot food takeaway is defined within the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) as falling within sui generis (r) and being for the sale of hot food where consumption of that food is mostly undertaken off the premises.

Over recent years individuals and communities have become more interested in growing fruit and vegetables as the health and environmental benefits are further recognised. This resurgence has meant that local authorities are increasingly unable to meet demand for allotment plots across the country.¹⁰ There is also now national

¹⁰ Local Government Association (2009) Growing in the Community

recognition that access to fresh and healthy food is something that should be encouraged within the planning process to improve health and wellbeing¹¹

The provision of allotments can improve community wellbeing, providing a source of fresh food and opportunities for healthy outdoor exercise and social interaction. Other schemes providing opportunities for food growing include community gardens orchards and other community-managed projects in urban areas. Vertical gardening and the use of green walls should also be encouraged as a means of local food production to householders who may not have access to allotments. Community orchards can help to revive an interest in fruit growing, provide a way of sharing knowledge and horticultural skills and encourage the local community to grow food for themselves.

The location of new allotments, orchards and other food growing areas is important to minimise their exposure to exhaust emissions. Any edible planting should grow in areas away from busy roads.

Case Study: Growing Routes Community Allotment

The Growing Roots Community Allotment is a project which aims to bring people in the community together and use the grounds of St Peter's Community Church Birchen Coppice in a productive and ecologically friendly way.

There are a number of different areas within the grounds, including individual allotment plots, shared community growing spaces and garden, shared fruit bushes and fruit trees, herb garden, wildflower meadow to encourage bees and butterflies, cob oven and BBQ area.

Members of the community are encouraged to help on the allotment for free. They can have their own small plot or can just work on shared spaces. The area is inclusive with a raised bed for wheelchair uses and a secure children's play area.

¹¹ Town and Country Planning Association (July 2015) Public Health in Planning - Good Practice Guide



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Climate change and carbon emissions

Our climate is changing and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future due to carbon emissions already emitted and locked into our climate systems. The more that is done to reduce carbon emissions, the less extreme the future impacts are likely to be. Worcestershire's climate has changed over the last century, with changes including an increase in average annual temperature and with winters becoming wetter relative to summers. Predictions for our future climate include increasing temperature and changes to precipitation patterns and an increase in extreme weather events such as heat-waves and flooding.

The potential impacts of climate change upon health include the increased risk of sunburn / skin cancer, increased numbers / types of pests, agricultural impacts such as changes to food growing patterns, overheating in buildings affecting living and working conditions and the physical and mental health impacts of flooding.

The types and amounts of fuel we use to generate energy determine the amount of carbon emissions released into the atmosphere, which in turn impacts on climate change. Heat and power provision from fossil fuels such as coal and gas contributes significantly to our overall carbon emissions. This can be reduced by generating energy from renewable sources through use of systems such as solar panels and air and ground source heating. Whilst clean energy technology and markets continue to develop, new development in the near term will still rely upon fossil fuel generated heat and power to some extent. Whatever source of fuel is used, it is important economically, as well as environmentally, to use energy generated as efficiently as possible.

Air Quality

Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas.

Two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared by WFDC for exceedances of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). These are at Welch Gate in Bewdley and in the Horsefair and Coventry Street area of Kidderminster.

Health and Wellbeing Principles: Environmental Hazards	
HIA template reference	Where relevant, proposals must comply with policy by:
8.1	Recognise that development can lead to an increase in environmental hazards that impact upon health and wellbeing. These include poor air quality, noise pollution, increased carbon emissions and climate impacts such as increased flooding frequency.
8.2	Ensure that the impact of individual developments, as well as the cumulative impact, is considered.
8.3	Ensure that steps are taken throughout the planning process to identify, minimise and mitigate potential environmental hazards caused by new development.

Through the Climate Change Act, 2021, the UK has set a legally binding target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership’s Energy Strategy 2019-2030 aims to reduce carbon emissions by 50% from 2005 levels by 2030, to double the size of the low carbon sector by 2030 and triple energy production from renewable generation by 2030.

The potential impacts of climate change are far reaching and it is vital that new development considers the impacts and includes measures to adapt accordingly. Climate impacts must be considered in development of the built environment, including buildings, roads, drains and utilities, which are designed for the long-term – 50 to 60 years or longer. Structures designed now will need to cope with the climate of the 2070s at least and development built to withstand the likely impacts of climate change. Houses built today will be there way beyond 2050 and ensuring they are built as efficiently as possible will help to minimise carbon emissions as well as the risk of fuel poverty. Retrofitting of existing properties is also very important in tackling fuel poverty and various schemes are in place to help upgrade heating and insulation in these homes.

Noise Pollution

Noise can impact upon health, productivity and quality of life, particularly at home. However, there are a number of design and layout principles that can reduce the adverse impacts of noise. The mitigation of noise, particularly in residential development, needs to be carefully designed into new development using building design and internal layout. Developers should take into consideration existing sources of noise and overall ambient noise levels. This will be particularly relevant where new development is located near a busy road, railway lines or other noise-generating infrastructure. Additionally, the transmission of noise between dwellings such as flats and terraced properties can be a problem. The appropriate use of measures such as sound insulation, bunds and noise barriers can mitigate disturbances from noise.

Case study idea: Bewdley Medical Centre

The new Bewdley Medical Centre opened to patients in 2016. The site is located within easy reach of the town centre, enabling access by bus, foot, bicycle or car. Bicycle parking and showering/ drying facilities are provided.

The centre was built to BREEAM 'very good' standard. The materials used were locally sourced with low embodied energy, recyclable and long lasting. The building was constructed based on the principle of lower resource demand, with low energy use being an essential feature. The building features solar photovoltaic panels and efficient lighting. Natural ventilation is in place where possible and high efficient heat recovery units are in place in rooms where mechanical ventilation is necessary.



APPENDIX ONE

HIA SCREENING FORM

**HIA IMPACT ASSESSMENT
TEMPLATE**

Health Impact Assessment Screening Sheet: Residential institutions, Non-residential institutions and leisure facilities						
A short description of the proposal:						
Impact Category	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown	Recommendation HIA required?	
Design and the Public Realm					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Active Travel					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Green Infrastructure and Spaces					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Age and Dementia friendly environments					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Housing					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Employment					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Community Health Services and Facilities					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Healthy Foods					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Environmental Hazards					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Date Completed:						
Contact Details:						

Health Impact Assessment Screening Sheet - Hot food takeaways, Restaurants and cafes, Drinking establishments, Betting shops and Pay-day loan shops						
A short description of the proposal:						
Impact Category	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unknown	Recommendation HIA required?	
Noise					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Odour					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Contaminated land e.g. disposal of oil					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Air Quality					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Litter					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Anti-Social Behaviour					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Working Conditions					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Healthy Foods					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Accidental injury and public safety					Yes	No
<i>Brief description of potential impacts and how these will be mitigated or enhanced</i>						
Date Completed:						
Contact Details:						

Health Impact Assessment Template					
Planning Application reference:					
Description of the project:					
Date completed:					
Contact details:					
Socio-economic make-up of the area:					
Consultation evidence (if relevant):					
Questions to inform the assessment	Guidance Box Reference	Assessment	Details/evidence/policy compliance (where relevant)	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement options
Does the proposal improve social, economic, and environmental conditions and reflect the NPPS's presumption in favour of sustainable development?	1.5, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 3.2, 4.4, 5.1, 5.6-5.9, 6.4, 6.6, 8.1 - 8.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal contribute towards the provision, maintenance, improvement and connectivity of green infrastructure?	1.2, 2.3, 3.1-3.5, 4.2, 5.5, 5.6, 6.1, 6.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal integrate effectively with its surroundings, reinforce local distinctiveness and enhance cultural and heritage assets and there surroundings where appropriate?	1.1-1.6, 2.3, 3.1, 5.5,	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal provide opportunities for community cohesion and human interaction through the creation of permeable environments, provision of green space and outdoor community uses which encourage incidental human interaction?	1.1-1.6, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	

Questions to inform the assessment	Guidance Box Reference	Assessment	Details/evidence/policy compliance (where relevant)	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement options
Does the proposal provide well-designed, safe, accessible, attractive and well-maintained public realm areas and open/green spaces, children’s play areas and other outdoor community uses that support active travel and prioritise people over motor traffic?	1.1 -1.6, 2.1-2.5, 3.1-3.5, 4.2, 5.5, 6.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the site layout maximise opportunities for pedestrian and cycle linkages to the surrounding area and local services and provide links to existing public rights of way (PROW) and improvements to PROW and cycle networks where possible?	1.2, 2.3-2.5, 4.3, 5.5, 5.6, 6.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal demonstrate how the layout will minimise demand for travel by offering appropriate infrastructure which supports sustainable travel choices including public transport, walking, and cycling?	1.2-1.6, 2.1-2.5, 4.2-4.3, 5.6, 6.3,	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal encourage physical activity and healthy eating, and (for employment/academic developments) support positive mental health and wellbeing?	1.1, 2.1-2.5, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 4.2, 5.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.1-7.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	

Questions to inform the assessment	Guidance Box Reference	Assessment	Details/evidence/policy compliance (where relevant)	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement options
Does the proposal provide an environment which caters for the needs of all age groups, in particular the elderly and people with dementia? Is the proposal future proofed by incorporating inclusive/adaptable design, addressing access to open space, and enabling adaptation to an individual’s changing needs, such as ageing or disability?	1.1, 1.3, 3.3, 4.1-4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 6.4	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal provide safe and valuable environments in parks, open spaces and community areas with shading, benches and other facilities? Does it consider pathways in parks that are circular parks that are clearly signposted, and which use appropriate materials and designs for surfaces and street furniture?	1.1-1.5, 3.2-3.3, 4.1-4.3,	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the development provide appropriately located pedestrian crossing facilities to minimise travel distances for the elderly, as well as public transport links with bus stops, which are within walking distance to homes?	4.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	

Questions to inform the assessment	Guidance Box Reference	Assessment	Details/evidence/policy compliance (where relevant)	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement options
Does the proposal ensure that homes are warm, dry and efficient?	5.3, 5.7	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal follow the technical planning standards in the nationally described space standard when dealing with internal space?	5.1- 5.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal provide new development with superfast broadband or alternative solutions?	5.10, 6.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal avoid any significant adverse pollution impacts, including cumulative impacts on human health and wellbeing, the water environment, the effective operation of neighbouring uses, biodiversity of any Air Quality Management Area?	8.1-8.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal minimise the impacts of and from all forms of flood risk, including site drainage and run off?	8.1-8.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	

Questions to inform the assessment	Guidance Box Reference	Assessment	Details/evidence/policy compliance (where relevant)	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement options
Does the proposal ensure adequate water supply and water treatment facilities will be in place to serve the whole development?	8.1-8.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal mitigate the air quality and noise impacts of construction activities?	8.1-8.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the development consider mitigation measures for any light pollution that could result from the development?	8.1-8.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the building design within the proposal minimise public exposure to air and noise pollution sources and maximise energy efficiency and the use of low-polluting systems?	8.1-8.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal contribute to healthy food and drink provision?	7.1-7.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Does the proposal demonstrate how any potentially negative impacts of the surrounding environment and existing neighbours will be minimised or mitigated?	8.1-8.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	

Questions to inform the assessment	Guidance Box Reference	Assessment	Details/evidence/policy compliance (where relevant)	Potential health impacts	Recommended mitigation or enhancement options
Is the proposal supported by sufficient and accessible health care provision?	1.6	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Summary of the HIA findings					

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2022-2023**

May 2022

“How are we doing?” Q4 update

June 2022 - Overview & Scrutiny Committee Sub Committee

Acquisition of Property in Kidderminster

July 2022

Nominations for Treasury Management Review Panel (Chair to be appointed)

UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Investment Plan 2022-25

September 2022

Stourport Sports Club: Consideration of call in request

Performance and Budget Monitoring Q1 update

Worcestershire’s Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2025

Report on the progress around the Top Ten Actions in the Climate Change Strategy
Action Plan

November 2022

Performance and Budget Monitoring Q2 update

Council Tax Reduction Scheme Review 2023/24

December 2022

Cost of Living Action Plan

Provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Consideration of call-in request

February 2023

Health Supplementary Planning Document

March 2023

Annual review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2022-
2023

Worcestershire Housing Strategy

Performance and Budget Monitoring Q3 update

Bewdley Leisure Centre

June 2023

Performance and Budget Monitoring Q4 update