

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND SAFETY

Draft NPF4 supports development that reduces health inequalities and creates an environment that promotes active and healthier lifestyles.

Local Development Plan policies should:

- Aim to create vibrant, healthier and safe places, including through proposals to support 20 minute neighbourhoods; delivery of more and better homes that meet the diverse needs of people and communities; protect blue and green infrastructure and identify new, enhanced provision or improved access to play opportunities for children; meet requirements for employment land, infrastructure and investment; supporting opportunities for jobs and investment in the creative sector, culture, heritage and the arts; support delivery of digital infrastructure; reuse vacant and derelict land and redundant buildings as a priority; adaptation of coastlines to the impacts of climate change.
- tackle health inequalities, particularly in places which are experiencing the most disadvantage;
- make the provision of health and social care facilities and infrastructure to meet community needs a key consideration.

Development proposals should:

- be supported when consistent with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods;
- not be supported when they have significant adverse health impacts;
- be accompanied by a Health Impact Assessment if they are considered likely to generate significant health impacts, or are within the categories of national or major developments, or require an Environmental Impact Assessment;
- avoid flood risk areas;
- be supported if they can be connected to the public water mains or exceptionally to an alternative resilient wholesome supply of drinking water;
- not be supported if they would have a significant adverse effect on air quality;
- not be supported if they would give rise to unacceptable levels of noise;
- be accompanied by a noise impact assessment if it is considered likely that significant exposure to noise is likely to arise from the development;

- not be supported where direct, easy, segregated and safe links to local facilities via walking, wheeling and cycling networks are not available or cannot be made available before occupation;
- not be supported where they result in the loss of outdoor sports facilities or children's outdoor play provision;
- be supported if they incorporate and enhance blue and green infrastructure and include space or facilities for local community food growing and allotments;
- not be supported where they contribute to the number and clustering of non-retail uses such as hot-food takeaways including permanently site vans;
- give consideration to where a retail proposal will alleviate a lack of convenience goods/fresh healthier food and drink provision, especially in disadvantaged or remoter areas;
- demonstrate an effective solution to connecting to a heat network or provide an alternative low or zero emissions heating system;
- be designed to promote sustainable temperature management where the buildings will be occupied by people;
- take into account the potential impacts of major-accident hazard sites in the vicinity, and should take account of the potential impacts of any hazardous substances which form part of the proposal;
- demonstrate that the land is, or can be made, safe and suitable for the proposed new use where it is suspected to be unstable or contaminated
- consider in appropriate instances conditions for site restoration at the end of the period of commercial use;
- take account of population health and wellbeing, including inequalities, traffic generation and air quality where it is for business and industrial uses;
- only be supported in areas where existing tourism provision is having adverse impacts on the environment or the quality of life and health and wellbeing of local communities if satisfactory measures to alleviate existing pressures and prevent further adverse impacts are proposed;
- not be supported where they would result in the loss of and arts or cultural venue;

- be supported where they are householder proposals to provide adaptations allowing people with particular accommodation needs arising from health conditions to live in a home or be cared for there.

Responses to the Position Statement

There was support for putting the needs of people and their health and wellbeing at the heart of the planning system, and for the focus on Scotland's six Public Health Priorities. Respondents highlighted the importance of supporting place-based solutions and considering the needs of an ageing population in a way that is inclusive and sustainable, including maximising opportunities for independent living.

Other themes identified included delivering affordable housing in the right places; offering arrange of house types, employment and activities within close walking distance; maintaining or creating access to open spaces and green networks; prioritising active travel solutions and the promotion of digital technology.

In terms of delivery, suggestions included the role that Public Health Scotland should play as a consultation authority, close working with Health and Social Care Partnerships and greater cohesion and co-ordination across local authority areas.

Policy changes

The proposals in Draft NPF4 build on the spatial strategy set out in NPF3 and SPP, expanding its scope to focus more on health outcomes for our communities. Draft NPF4 sets health at the heart of designing places to live and work, connecting them sustainably and linking them to green spaces and networks, to create a healthy environment for communities to thrive and prosper.