



# **Greater Cambridge Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document**

**Draft for consultation – Winter 2024**

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## Foreword

Where we live, work, and socialise can have a significant impact on our physical and mental health. Creating developments that provide the highest level of health and wellbeing for all people is fundamental to good placemaking across Greater Cambridge.

The guidance in this Supplementary Planning Document will assist applicants in meeting the policies of the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans that are focused on promoting healthy and inclusive communities. It provides clear guidance on the process of carrying out a Health Impact Assessment, and how assessing health impacts at an early stage of the planning process can benefit our local communities.

We look forward to applicants and developers applying this guidance to development across Greater Cambridge, helping us to deliver places that promote a high quality of life, and make all members of our community feel safe and included.



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## Executive Summary

The planning and design of our built and natural environments can have a major influence on human health and wellbeing. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023 recognises the importance of delivering places that promote social interaction, are accessible for all members of society, are safe, and actively facilitate healthy lifestyles. Policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) and Cambridge Local Plan (2018) set out the need to assess a development's impact on health and wellbeing. This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) aims to provide further detail on how the health and wellbeing impacts of development can be assessed by using Health Impact Assessments (HIAs).

HIAs are a method of assessing the prospective positive and negative health impacts of development on different population groups. They function as a guiding framework for the design and delivery of a development project, identifying how negative health impacts can be mitigated or prevented, how health benefits can be maximised, and how health impacts can be monitored in the long-term.

For HIAs to be successful, they must be considered early in a development's design process and should be discussed with the Local Planning Authority at the pre-application stages of a project to determine the scope of the assessment. This SPD is designed to provide detailed guidance on when HIAs need to be considered as part of a planning application, the different types of HIA, and the general steps involved in the HIA process. The SPD also provides applicants with checklists and tools that can be used to help frame site-specific HIAs and pre-application discussions with Greater Cambridge Shared Planning's officers.

## **1.0 Introduction**

### **Purpose of the Supplementary Planning Document**

- 1.1 The planning and design of the built environment has a major influence on human health and wellbeing. Creating thriving and inclusive places that integrate all members of a community is key to securing a high quality of life and promoting positive health. Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) are critical for the achievement of these development goals as they provide a means of assessing the prospective health impacts of development and a framework through which the health impacts of a development can be monitored.
- 1.2 This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is designed to support the application of planning policies contained within both the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) and the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018), which aim to deliver placemaking that promotes healthy and inclusive living. This SPD clarifies the varying types of HIA that can be used to assess development projects, when a formal HIA is required, and the process of carrying out a HIA for new development in the Greater Cambridge area (the combined area of South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council).
- 1.3 This SPD is a material consideration in the decision-making process for planning applications. Section 4 of the SPD is clear on the thresholds for when an HIA is required and that the work involved should be proportionate to the size of the development. All developers are encouraged to contact the Local Planning Authority (LPA) at an early stage to discuss and agree the scope of work required.

### **How the Supplementary Planning Document has been Prepared**

- 1.4 This SPD has been prepared by Greater Cambridge Shared Planning.
- 1.5 This document is the Consultation Version of the SPD and the Councils welcome comments on this draft document. The consultation runs from Thursday 28 November 2024 to Friday 24 January 2025.

### **Structure of the Document**

- 1.6 The remaining sections of this SPD are structured as follows:
  - Section 2 details the links between planning and health, and the adopted planning policies that this SPD is designed to supplement.

- Section 3 provides an overview of HIAs, and details the different types of HIA, the topics that could be relevant to HIAs, and who should coordinate and author HIAs.
- Section 4 provides applicants with guidance on the different circumstances where an HIA may be needed in the context of planning decision making in the Greater Cambridge area.
- Section 5 provides applicants with guidance on the HIA process, including how to define the scope of an HIA, how a final HIA report should be presented, and how the LPA should be engaged throughout the HIA process.