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HS011

ESSEX HEALTHY PLACES

Updated Checklist 2023

Essex Health and Sport England Active Design Principles Integrated Impact Assessment Checklist (2022)

(adapted from the London HUDU Rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) tool 3rd edition and WHIASU Health Impact Assessment tool66)
This is an interactive document, click on the box to fill in the forms.

About this new guidance

This provides a new, updated and improved Essex Healthy Places Guidance checklist. Please note that the rest of the wider Essex Healthy Places Guidance remains unchanged at this time. This checklist is provided to enable HIAs to be produced in detail by planning applicants (see weblink provided above to view guidance on approach and methodology). It is acknowledged that a number of checklists of this nature have already been developed, such as the Sport England Active Design guidance and checklist. The key aims in revising and updating the Essex Healthy Places Guidance checklist at this time (2023) are to provide a shorter, simpler and more user-friendly methodology. The new checklist draws heavily on existing good practice work and seeks to combine key elements of other existing checklists, including that cited above; the London HUDU Rapid HIA tool 3rd edition; and Welsh HIASU HIA tool.

This supports and complements the HIA guidance hosted on the Essex Design Guide webpages and has been designed to align with and help enable implementation of the Essex Livewell Development Accreditation system established to demonstrate how developments have been planned carefully to place promotion of health and wellbeing at their core. The checklist sets out a comprehensive range of high-quality development principles and considerations in order to help scheme designers / developers to prepare better development proposals and to raise the quality of design, including promoting health and wellbeing but also promoting better outcomes across the board. The comprehensive scope of considerations covered aims to reflect the broad nature of the wider determinants of health.

Although this new guidance builds upon and complements the Essex Livewell Development Accreditation, the two do not serve exactly the same purpose. It is intended that by using this guidance and checklist to develop better designed developments this will help scheme designers and applicants towards achieving the Livewell accreditation in recognition of the quality of these.

On a positive note, this guidance seeks to promote and ensure better quality designed developments and this in the interests of all concerned. However, the absence of building in good healthy design principles can have long term detrimental effects on the quality of the living environment and the health and wellbeing of residents. This may include negative traits such as increasing health inequalities within the population, inactivity, overweight, obesity and mental health issues. Accordingly, Essex local planning authorities (LPAs) will expect to see evidence that applicants / developers have engaged with a positive design process using healthy design principles and in that regard the use of this guidance is recommended strongly.

How to use this guidance and checklist

The guidance / checklist can be and is best referred to at the outset of scheme design in order to help design proposals to a higher standard. It is acknowledged that at that very early stage, it will generally not be possible to answer many of the questions posed. However, this can be used and completed incrementally throughout the progress and evolution of proposals as further detail becomes available and questions can then be answered more fully and completely, as ‘answers’ become clearer and more defined. In this way, like sustainability appraisal, the HIA exercise should be approached and developed in an iterative way and elements of developments may be improved and redesigned if necessary, as a result of findings and feedback from earlier stages of completing the HIA checklist. The comments columns for each criterion are provided to show explicit analysis and findings in each case and a numbered list is provided at the end of the checklist to summarise key findings and conclusions to draw upon.

For clarity, comments should provide a brief description to support the response / answer to the question. If the question is not applicable to the proposal, please make this clear within the comment section as to why.

Potential impact on health and wellbeing should be assessed as positive, neutral or negative.
The length of effect should be described and if temporary, please provide an estimate of timescale.
Mitigation should be included where applicable; if unsure of actions, please state.

Sport England’s Active design criteria can be found here. The active design principle/s that the question responds to are detailed in the questions below in brackets.

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Background Information	
Name of assessor	
Date	
Proposal name and location	
Planning application reference	
Engagement with health partners? (local authority PH teams, NHS estates team, local authority social care team, CCG, acute trust etc)- describe who and which stages of application Provide summary of outcomes from engagement, e.g. scheme changes and improvements incorporated	
Will this application be submitted to Essex Quality Review Panel or other quality review panel in the future?	
Will this HIA seek to show the scheme's eligibility for the voluntary Livewell Development Accreditation scheme? If so, please be aware of accreditation criteria on EDG webpages here	

1. Active and sustainable environments / Sustainable Travel

1	Criteria	Yes/No or N/A (e.g N/A if a residential	Comment	Impact	Length of Effect	Impacted Groups	Mitigation Proposed
1.1	Is a diverse mix of land uses such as homes, schools, shops, workspace, relevant community facilities and open space provided on site or within a comfortable (800m) walking distance? Is a broader range of land uses available within 5km cycling distance? (ADP2)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
1.2	Does the proposal prioritise pedestrian, cycle and public transport access ahead of the private car?[1](ADP3)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
1.3	Are the non motorised rout–es provided, where feasible and appropriate in wider place making terms, shorter and more direct than vehicular routes? (ADP3)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
1.4	Does the proposal promote a legible, integrated, direct, safe and attractive network of walking and cycling routes suitable for all users and that encourages people to use these readily? (ADP3)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					

1.5	Have off road routes been designed to enhance the user experience (and comfort). Consider places to stop (and rest or enjoy spaces) at regular intervals; need for shade during heat or shelter during wet weather; the benefit of adding interesting features along the routes	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
1.6	Is appropriate provision made to promote access to, and activity by, all users including providing safe route ways for vulnerable pedestrians? (ADP6) Are shared pedestrian and cycle ways clearly demarcated, taking the needs of the vulnerable pedestrian into account? (ADP 1 & 3)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
1.7	Are walkable communities created, providing opportunities to facilitate initiatives such as 'walking buses' to school, and providing the basic pattern of development to support a network of connected walking and cycling routes (ADP 3)?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
1.8	Are the walking and cycling routes provided safe, well lit, overlooked, welcoming, and well maintained, durable and clearly signposted? Do they afford clear sight lines to help avoid blind corners? (ADP3)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					

1.9	Are streets and spaces of a high quality, with durable materials, street furniture and signage? (ADP 6)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
1.10	Do pedestrian and other active travel routes consider air quality and traffic exposures that may impact as part of pedestrian safety?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
1.11	Does the development integrate with existing transport infrastructure and services, or enhance or provide new passenger transport services to the site? Has the developer engaged with the LPA on providing sustainable access to facilities and services?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
1.12	Has the developer provided the means to facilitate digital transport infrastructure (e.g. RTPI [2])?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
1.13	Have sustainable travel plan(s) been developed, approved and funded for the construction and operational phases?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					

[1] This may apply more in designing such routes over a major site area. Other good practice placemaking principles should also be taken into account.

[2] Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI)

2. Design of Homes and Neighbourhoods

2	Criteria	Yes/No	Comment	Impact	Length of effect	Impacted groups	Mitigation proposed
2.1	Is there a mix of homes with different tenures distributed throughout the proposal? [3]	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
2.2	Are homes both internally and externally designed to be adapted for arising health and wellbeing needs i.e. room adaptation, door widening, space to support mobility equipment? (See 'Livewell' Guidance)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
2.3	Does the development have any specialist housing provision proposed?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
2.4	Have homes been built to a recognised buildings standard or quality mark? Do homes meet Building Regulations part M / has development achieved the voluntary national Home Quality Mark framework/ BREEAM standards to showcase the quality of the homes? Or with Livewell Development Accreditation or BRE quality mark?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					

2.5	Is there an appropriate (LPA policy compliant) allocation / mix of affordable housing and if so, at what percentage? [3]	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
2.6	During which phase/s will those affordable homes be released?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
2.7	Do homes have dedicated / appropriate space to allow for working from home?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
2.8	Do homes meet or exceed the nationally described space standards? Have buildings been designed to provide appropriate amounts of internal space for rooms along with circulation and external space? (ADP8)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
2.9	Do homes have access to green space on-site i.e. garden, public open space or useable amenity space?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
2.10	Are homes and all external spaces accessible for all users including people with additional needs?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					

[3] Refer to the LPA's adopted Local Plan policies, plus relevant SPD (if in place for the LPA) and if necessary, the current SHMA / Housing Needs Assessment

3. Provision of / Access to Green, Blue and Open Spaces

3	Criteria	Yes/No	Comment	Impact	Length of effect	Impacted groups	Mitigation proposed
3.1	Are new civic and other open spaces and green / blue infrastructure welcoming, safe and accessible to all and of an appropriate scale and design to allow a range of possible functions and to be multifunctional in nature wherever possible? Please explain the approach taken to multifunctionality, describe the functions provided for and how this is delivered (ADP 5, 6) (Also see 'Livewell' guidance) [4]	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
3.2	Is there a multitude of seating options provided? Is the seating provided accessible to all? (ADP 7)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
3.3	Do new walking and cycling routes integrate with the existing open space and green infrastructure network of the area? (ADP3)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					

3.4	Do the proposed open space and sport / recreation facilities link to existing networks and walking and cycling routes (including those beyond the site) plus wider GI networks, residential areas and employment / commercial areas? (ADP3 & 5)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
3.5	Are the sports and recreation facilities (including green / blue infrastructure) appropriately designed and located in relation to neighbouring uses? (ADP5)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
3.6	Are the sports, physical activity spaces and recreation facilities being provided designed in accordance with best practice guidance or recognised design standard? (ADP5)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
3.7	Are informal facilities for physical activity provided, such as natural play, Greenline routes or nature trails? (ADP3)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					

3.8	Will the development retain, add to and / or enhance green and / or blue infrastructure to support healthy living, physical activity and for nature?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
3.9	Have issues such as the servicing of green spaces, grass pitches, the impact of noise, floodlighting or vehicular access been considered? (ADP 9)	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
3.10	If open space has been lost, what compensatory measures have been made?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
3.11	Has the approach to GI and blue infrastructure provision been shaped by the Essex GI Standards and Principles? If not, adherence to Natural England's own GI Standards for England is considered an appropriate alternative [5]	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
3.12	Are new GI and play / recreation facilities planned to be easily accessible (in walking distance) to the new homes provided?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					

[4] See Essex Green Infrastructure Standards and Principles
[5] See Essex GI Standards and Principles on EDG webpages
[6] Younger people's play facilities this suggests a distance of 400-480m, although a 800m distance is considered accessible for larger facilities including those for neighbourhood youth play / recreation areas

4. Supporting communities and neighbourhoods for the life-course (mainly for public realm)

4	Criteria	yes/no	comment	impact	length of effect	impacted groups	mitigation proposed
4.1	Are large, single purpose uniform land uses avoided as an overall approach? If not, will such spaces be flexible to adapt as may prove necessary? (ADP2)	Yes No N/A					
4.2	Is a range and mix of recreation, sports and play facilities and open spaces provided to encourage physical activity across all neighbourhoods and prominently located? (ADP1/4)	Yes No N/A					
4.3	Where sports (or recreation) facilities are provided, are multiple facilities located in one place, to allow choice of activity? (ADP4)	Yes No N/A					
4.4	Has consideration been given to how facilities and open spaces are to be managed so to encourage a range of activities to allow all to take part, including activities for all genders, all ages and all cultures? (ADP1)	Yes No N/A					
4.5	Do the range of sport and physical activity opportunities to be provided specifically support the identified health and wellbeing issues in the local area ? (ADP1) [1]	Yes No N/A					
4.6	Does the proposal promote the co-location and concentration of key retail, community and associated uses? (ADP4)	Yes No N/A					

4.7	Have you considered how you will promote varied and innovative (active) initiatives for all groups when the development is delivered? This includes how to reach all members of society and how to target hard to reach groups. (ADP1)	Yes No N/A					
4.8	Are open spaces, sport / recreation facilities, workspaces (where provided) supported as appropriate by public conveniences, water fountains and, where appropriate, showers & changing facilities to further increase their appeal to all? These also need to be usable by all users (ADP1 & 7)	Yes No N/A					
4.9	Is safe and secure cycle parking provided for all types of cycles including adapted cycles and trikes * ? (ADP 7)	Yes No N/A					
4.10	Is safe and secure pushchair storage provided where appropriate? (ADP 7)	Yes No N/A					
4.11	Will the facilities target the broadest possible range of users, with particular emphasis on disadvantaged groups? (ADP 9)	Yes No N/A					

4.12	Has the access strategy been designed to ensure safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers?	Yes No N/A					
4.13	Has a designing out-crime or secured by design standard been used?	Yes No N/A					
4.14	Have dementia and autism friendly design principles been used across the development?	Yes No N/A					
4.15	Is Wi-Fi provided in facilities and spaces? (ADP 7)	Yes No N/A					
4.16	Has a community engagement strategy been developed ? What contribution has the community had in developing this? Will a community development resource be provided*(may be for larger sites only)?	Yes No N/A					
4.17	Will residents receive a welcome pack that describes community activities and support when they move in? This may also be used to provide sustainable travel information, such as that on local bus / train services	Yes No N/A					
4.18	How will technology and social media be used to publicise / promote activities or encourage activity? (ADP 10)	Yes No N/A					

4.19	Will local champions be identified to help ensure the sport and physical activity benefits of the development will be realised and how will the local champions be adequately supported? This role should also cover management, care & use and of wider GI (ADP 10)	Yes No N/A					
4.20	Have programs for monitoring and evaluating the success of initiatives (and the wider development) been considered? (ADP 9)	Yes No N/A					
4.21	Is the proposal designed to support and integrate with the wider existing community i.e. connectivity from outside of the proposal linking to new social / community infrastructure? Connectivity to / from the new proposal to outside the site?	Yes No N/A					
4.22	If yes to the previous questions, at what stage will pedestrian and cycling routes be provided and linked up?	Yes No N/A					
4.23	Has consideration been given to alternative stewardship models to provide for long-term, sustainable management and maintenance in perpetuity, other than local authority management of all assets, e.g. public realm, streets, SUDs and formal open green and blue space? (ADP 9)	Yes No N/A					

[1] Refer to relevant Health & Wellbeing strategies; Joint Strategic needs Assessment (JSNA 2022); district profiles
* This includes public spaces, facilities etc., as well as all types of homes
* Refer to the relevant local planning authority's Statement of Community Involvement, which may provide guidance and principles for this

5. Access to Healthier Food Environments							
5	Criteria	Yes/No	Comment	Impact	Length of effect	Impacted groups	Mitigation proposed
5.1	Is there room in the kitchen (or utility area) space for a freezer?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
5.2	Do homes have a separate space for dining (to enable communal dining)?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
5.3	Does the development provide new or improve existing allotments, community shared growing spaces or provide for personal food growth ? [10]	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
5.4	Does the proposal include / enable on-site (or nearby) access to supermarkets, local shopping parades or precincts, farmers markets (or other means of access to healthy food and drink)? See also 5.6 below	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
5.5	Does the above provision support safe and secure cycling parking?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
5.6	Are the majority of these outlets within a comfortable 800m walking distance or within a 5km cycle ride?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
5.7	Does any on-site provision include new hot food take-away provision ? [11]	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					

5.8	If yes, will the new hot food take-away provision be within 400m of schools or places that	Yes No N/A					
5.9	What percentage of the total on-site food provision will be allocated to hot food take-aways uses? (Calculate by number of outlets)	Yes No N/A					
5.10	If no on-site food sales provision, does the proposal provide connective routes to existing provision and provide wayfinding to this (including in the new residents' welcome pack)?	Yes No N/A					
5.11	Do on-site passenger transport options provide a link to healthy local food provision?	Yes No N/A					

[10] his may take the form of domestic garden space if these are large enough to allow for home food cultivation. Community growing spaces could include community orchards, for example
[11] This is likely to require particular attention within the HIA

[12] Or other nearby, accessible passenger transport facilities, such as bus stops just off site

6. Access to Education, Employment, Skills and Training

6	Criteria	Yes/No	Comment	Impact	Length of effect	Impacted groups	Mitigation proposed
6.1	Does the proposal include educational (or other learning) premises and have these been agreed with Essex County Council (or other LEA)?	Yes No N/A					
6.2	Has the Essex Design Guide Schools Design information been taken into account?Will the education / learning facilities include provision of green space(s)?	Yes No N/A					
6.3	Will the educational / learning premises have a car-free or car restricted and safely designed pedestrian zone around it?	Yes No N/A					
6.4	If no car-free (or car restricted) zone, what road safety and air quality measures are included in the proposal? This may include active travel routes, for example, or suitable public transport access nearby	Yes No N/A					
6.5	Does the proposal include employment or commercial space, or shared / communal workspace areas?	Yes No N/A					
6.6	Is an economic / employment strategy being developed as part of this proposal?	Yes No N/A					

6.7	Are educational / learning premises and employment centres well located in relation to surrounding walking and cycling routes, with direct access by these modes prioritised over vehicular modes? (ADP8)	Yes No N/A					
6.8	Has provision been made for safe / secure cycle storage, including spaces within buildings i.e. for workplaces have showers and changing facilities been provided?	Yes No N/A					
6.9	Have active travel routes to educational and key employment centres been connected to the development at the earliest phase so to reduce motorised travel need?	Yes No N/A					
6.10	Are there links to sustainable travel provision including public transport within a comfortable 5 minutes walking distance to educational premises or employment sites?	Yes No N/A					
6.11	In educational premises and workplaces, is the use of stairs promoted (over the lift or escalators) utilising signage and creating spacious and clean stairwells that are welcoming? (This should be balanced with the need to ensure lifts etc. are easily accessible for those who cannot use the stairs) (ADP8)	Yes No N/A					

6.12	Have innovative design features within buildings and surroundings been utilised which encourage activity e.g. feature staircases, cycle access ramps or other architectural features? (ADP8)	Yes No N/A					
6.13	Does the public realm around sites encourage social interaction and address personal safety and comfort?	Yes No N/A					
6.14	Has the early years team at Essex County Council (or other responsible authority) been engaged with discussions on early years / childcare provision?	Yes No N/A					
6.15	If there is early years / childcare provision, is it within active travel distances to employment or educational sites ?[13]	Yes No N/A					
6.16	Does the construction phase provide training, skills or employment opportunities to local people either directly or via supply chains?	Yes No N/A					

[13] This is to enable convenient linked trips for parents or other child carers

7. Access to Healthcare Infrastructure and Self-Care							
7	Criteria	Yes/No	Comment	Impact	Length of effect	Impacted groups	Mitigation proposed
7.1	Has the relevant NHS estates group been contacted about this proposal? i.e. Integrated Care Partnership (ICS), or NHS etc. health partners	Yes No N/A					
7.2	Has the proposal considered the wider impact on local hospitals, primary care, community health services, dental and mental health services? Please state engagement and signpost to sources / outcomes	Yes No N/A					
7.3	Has pharmacy provision been considered using the most up-to date pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) [14] ?	Yes No N/A					
7.4	Has the proposal considered the impacts on social care? [15] Please state engagement [16]	Yes No N/A					
7.5	Has the development considered access requirements / capacity of blue light services? (Please state engagement).	Yes No N/A					

7.6	Does the proposal have onsite health and care	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
7.7	Have funding and land / premises for the above proposal(s) been agreed with the relevant health bodies?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
7.8	Is the onsite facility stand-alone or part of a hub complex?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
7.9	if an on-site facility is to be provided is that facility in the most accessible location (walking radius) and is it served by a bus route?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
7.10	Does the facility have capacity / flexibility for modular / incremental growth?	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					
7.11	If no on-site facility provided, has an assessment been made of the impact this proposal will have on existing GP and primary care provision? Please state sources used i.e. CCG direct information, NHS choices etc	**Yes** **No** **N/A**					

[14] As at early 2023, this is provided by the PNA 2022-2025 (updated 2022)
[15] The ECC Adult Social Care Business Plan 2021-2025 may be referred to in this context
[16] Contact information (ECC ASC general contact)
[20] Refer to current Building Regulations (for minimum provision requirements)

[21] This reflects the requirement for developments to deliver Biodiversity New Gain (BNG) and in recognition of the health and wellbeing benefits of connecting with nature

8. Environmental Sustainability / Addressing Health Impacts

8	Criteria	Yes/No	Comment	Impact	Length of effect	Impacted groups	Mitigation proposed
8.1	Has the proposal been designed to comply with the LPA's sustainability / climate change / net zero policies / SPD, criteria or checlklist?	**Yes No N/A**					
8.2	Has an environmental statement been prepared for this proposal that includes a chapter on population and human health [17]?	**Yes No N/A**					
8.3	If yes, were public health officer(s) part of scoping process?	**Yes No**					
8.4	Has the local environmental health team been engaged with this proposal for elements related to human health and environmental protection (examples include air quality, noise, contaminated land etc)?	**Yes No N/A**					
8.5	Have homes been designed to minimise carbon release and energy use through passive design measures (such as natural ventilation and solar orientation),+ provision of renewable energy sources and use of low carbon materials and technologies?	**Yes No N/A**					

8.6	Has social infrastructure such as community buildings, employment spaces, schools and/or healthcare buildings been designed to minimise carbon release and energy use through passive design measures (such as natural ventilation and solar orientation), provision of renewable energy sources and use of low carbon materials and technologies?	**Yes No N/A**					
8.7	Do homes and other buildings have measures to support cooling during periods of excess heat, prioritising natural measures [18] and avoiding mechanical cooling wherever possible (to minimise carbon release)?	**Yes No N/A**					
8.8	Do streets and open spaces provide areas of shade?	**Yes No N/A**					
8.9	Is the development designed to be resilient and adaptable to climate change? Explain how.	**Yes No N/A**					
8.10	Have air quality impacts of the development been assessed and avoidance / mitigation measures been detailed?	**Yes No N/A**					
8.11	Have water conservation measures been included for the proposal, including for homes?	**Yes No N/A**					

8.12	Have impacts of potential flooding been taken account for this scheme and has the LLFA[19] team, / Environment Agency had input into plans?	**Yes No N/A**					
8.13	Has renewable, clean energy infrastructure been built into the development to support travel such as electric car charging points? (Explain the approach to provision.)	**Yes No N/A**					
8.14	Are homes sited and orientated to mitigate noise intrusion to both inside and outside spaces in a way that maintains a high quality of local environment, public safety and design quality?	**Yes No N/A**					
8.15	Are educational / learning facilities sited and orientated to mitigate noise intrusion to both inside and outside spaces in a way that maintains a high quality of local environment, public safety and design quality?	**Yes No N/A**					
8.1 6	Does the proposal maintain or enhance biodiversity ?	**Yes No N/A**					

[17] Alternatively, a free-standing HIA could provide the equivalent information (in a different document format)
[18] The potential to maximise the benefits of spaces such as roofs and walls in urban area i.e. green roofs and walls to aid cooling, shading, while benefiting biodiversity needs to be considered.

[19] LLFA – Lead Local Flood authority. These are upper tier local authorities, e.g. Essex County Council, Southend on Sea City Council, Thurrock Borough Council