

## **Executive Summary: Health Impact Assessment**

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) assesses the potential effects that a plan or policy can have on the health of the population and the distribution of those effects within the population (Department of Health, 2010). There is no specific statutory requirement for the Local Plan to complete a separate HIA, though it is required under the umbrella of Sustainability Appraisals. The Council has recently adopted the policy of carrying out and publishing separate HIAs for its policies, to ensure health and wellbeing are properly considered as part of the decision-making process and supported by policies contained within the Plan. This approach is strongly advocated by central government in recognition that public health is the outcome of various factors, not just health services.

The HIA of the East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 has evaluated each of the chapters and policies contained within the Plan and assessed the impact on health. A matrix has been produced, based on the results, which has been overseen and approved by the North Northants Joint Planning and Delivery Unit. Each policy in the HIA has been assessed for its potential positive, negative or neutral health impact.

The impacts consider the effect each policy could have on key health determinates of the key objectives set out in the Local Plan, to identify the impacts each policy has and to propose ways in which negative impact can be mitigated and benefits maximised.

In preparing the HIA, it was concluded (through advice from Northamptonshire Health) that an additional “health and wellbeing” policy would strengthen the Plan as a whole (in terms of its overall benefits for public health) and this has been duly added to the Plan.

In conclusion: The outcome of this exercise is that there are no identifiable negative impacts on health identified as a result of this Plan document. A positive approach has been taken to the potential impacts of development and the Plan not only requires negative impacts to be mitigated but also, where possible, to provide improvements.