

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Charnwood Local Plan Examination - Response to Matters, Issues and Questions

MATTER 3 – CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH

ISSUE 1 – WHETHER THE POLICIES RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT, ARE POSITIVELY PREPARED, JUSTIFIED, EFFECTIVE AND CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL POLICY

Policy EV9 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation

3.29 Is the evidence base supporting the policy robust and up to date?

1. Inequalities around access to open space is evidenced through the Charnwood Open Spaces Strategy, which uses a 2017 the Communities and Local Government Committee (CLGC) report. There is 2020 information around inequalities within access to private open space, reflected in this Ordinance Survey data i.e.

Area	Percentage of addresses with private outdoor space		
	House	Flat	All properties
Charnwood	97%	68%	93%
East Midlands	96%	62%	91%
England	97%	65%	88%

2. If EV9 is underpinned by physical activity data in the profile section, there has been an update:

“In terms of the level of sport activity per week by Charnwood residents, ~~65.0%~~ **62.7%** undertake at least 150 minutes; ~~14.1%~~ **12.4%** undertake 30-149 minutes; and ~~20.9%~~ **24.9%** undertake less than 30 minutes (Active Lives Survey ~~2018/19~~ **2020/21**, Sport England)”

Policy DS5 – Design

3.35 Will the policy secure inclusive and accessible design as required by the NPPF? Is it clear what scale and type of development will trigger the requirements for design codes and independent design review? Should the policy make reference to density requirements and health impact assessments?

3. Leicestershire County Council support the notion of the use of independent design reviews for strategic or sensitive development proposals and expectation that they will be funded by the applicant and also suggested that a reference is incorporated as to how high-quality design can also facilitate community interaction and social action – movement on foot, meeting places etc.
4. Public Health agree that the policy should therefore, as identified within 3.35, refer to health impact assessments (HIA). The World Health Organisation (2022) identifies HIA as an objective tool, conducted in a systematic manner to assess “policy decisions made outside of the health sector influence many determinants of health”. The benefits of HIA on design include the involvement of multi-stakeholders considering health determinants in an integrated way to provide sound information on the health implications of a policy, programme, or project, truly facilitating health by design.
5. There is currently no reference to HIA or a threshold for this process being instigated, which is a concern to sustainable, healthy designs and health and wellbeing of the population of Charnwood. *Policy DS5: High Quality Design* should therefore contain amendments as follows:

*We will require new developments to make a positive contribution to Charnwood, by responding positively to the local distinctiveness of the area and providing attractive, **healthy**, and functional places where people will want to live, work and visit. We will specifically require new developments to:*

- *respect and enhance the character of the area, having regard to scale, density, massing, height, landscape, layout, materials, access arrangements, and heritage assets and their setting*
- *protect the amenity of people who live or work nearby and those who will live in the new development*
- *be built to last and add to the quality of the area, not just in the short term but over the lifetime of the development*
- *provide attractive, safe, and well managed public and private amenity spaces which support active lifestyles*
- *provide well-defined, legible, and multi-functional streets and spaces that support all users and encourage social interaction; and*
- *reduce their impacts upon, and be resilient to, the effects of climate change in accordance with Policy CC4.*

An independent design review should be carried out for strategic or sensitive development proposals. We will determine on a case-by-case basis whether an independent design review is required based on the scale of the proposals and the sensitivity of their location.

Any design reviews that are required by the Council will be funded by the applicant.

Planning permission will be refused for developments that are not well designed, especially where appropriate design methods to achieve well-designed places, such as Building for a Healthy Life, appropriate place-based reference points and engagement with the local community, have not been used.

Screening for a health impact assessment will be required for all development over a threshold set by the Council, completed by the applicant to explore the health needs of residents, any positive health impacts, risks, and mitigation required.