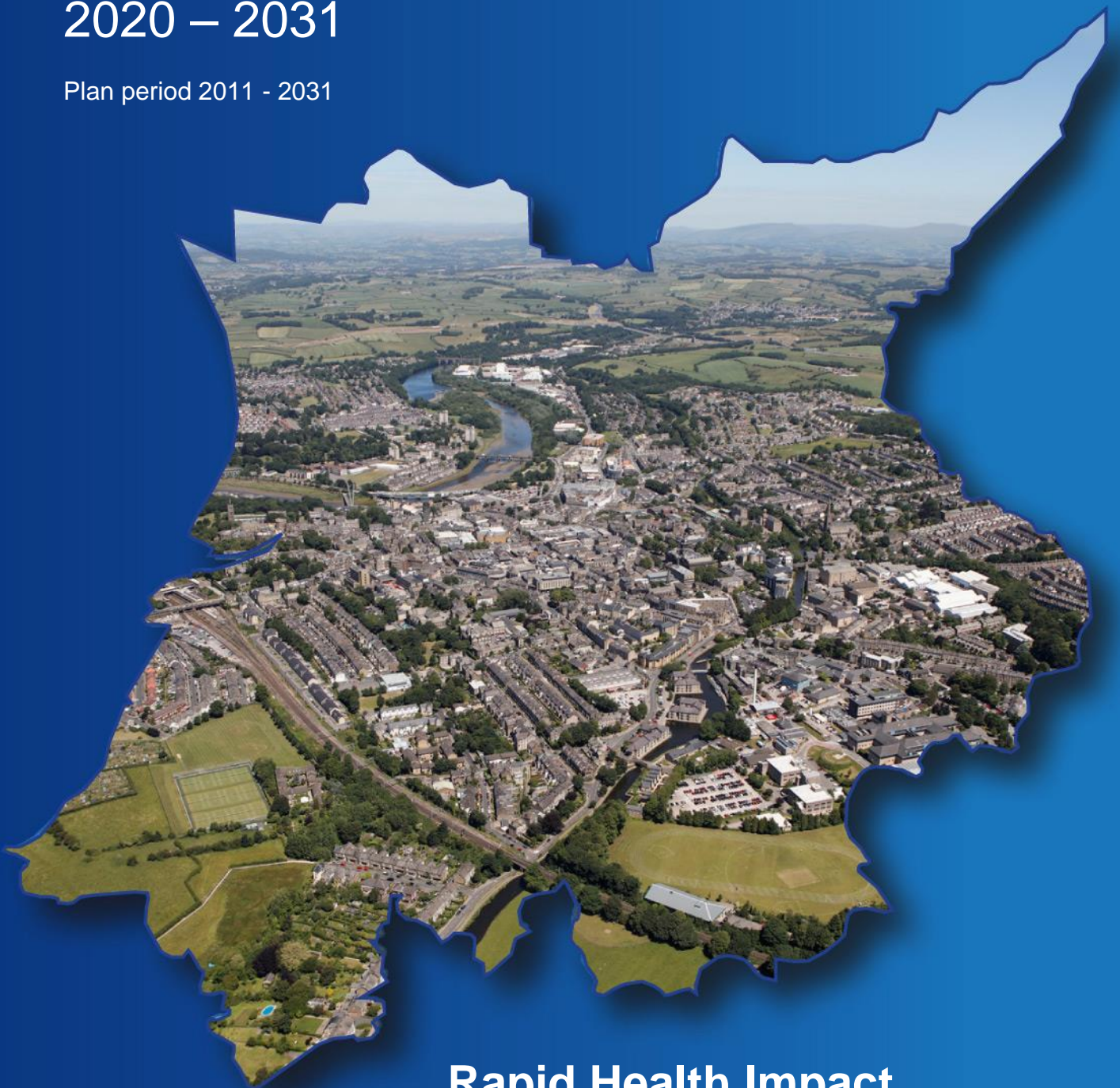


A Local Plan for

Lancaster District

2020 – 2031

Plan period 2011 - 2031



**Rapid Health Impact
Assessment (rHIA)
[May 2021]**

Background

Lancaster City Council adopted a new Local Plan in July 2020. The new Plan, which consists of a Strategic Policies & Land Allocations DPD and a reviewed Development Management DPD sets out a planning framework for how future development needs will be met and how the intrinsic qualities of the district will be protected.

The preparation of the Local Plan came too late to take into account the outcomes and actions of the City Council's Climate Emergency Declaration, which was issued in January 2019 (the Local Plan was submitted to Government in May 2018). Consequently, the City Council have resolved to undertake an immediate review of the Local Plan, specifically focused around the issues of Climate Change to see how policies in the Plan can be strengthened to address the causes and impacts of and adaptation to Climate Change.

To implement this review, the Council will have to undertake the full range of legislative requirements in order to prepare both a sound and legally compliant review of the plan. This includes undertaking a full appraisal process to consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed review.

In this context, the Review will have to undertake a refresh of the 2017 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) which was prepared to support the Local Plan.

National Planning Policy Context

The matter of health and wellbeing is addressed in paragraph 91 of the 2019 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 91 states:

Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;

b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and

c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

Assessment Approach

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been carried out for the preparation of the Local Plan, this was undertaken with the support of the Lancashire County Council Public Health Team and underpinned the content and direction of the plan.

Given this review is partial in nature, there is no expectation that the entire plan be re-assessed in terms of its health impact. Consequently, the Council are seeking to undertake a Rapid Health Impact Assessment (rHIA) which seek to draw conclusions on the proposed amendments to policy areas (or assess new policies where they are proposed).

The rHIA will be prepared by Officers of the City Council and will be circulated to local health partners for their comment and input into the process, this will include:

- Lancashire County Council (Public Health Team)
- Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group
- Lancaster City Council Environmental Health Team

Scope of the Assessment

The rHIA will focus on policies which will be amended to address Climate Change issues, specifically these will include:

Strategic Policies & Land Allocations DPD

Policy SP4: Priorities for Sustainable Economic Growth	Policy SP8: Protecting the Natural Environment	Policy SP9: Maintaining Strong and Vibrant Communities
Policy SP10: Improving Transport Connectivity	Policy SG4: Lancaster City Centre	Policy SG12: Port of Heysham and Future Expansion Opportunities
Policy SG13: Heysham Gateway, South Heysham	Policy EN9: Air Quality Management Areas	Policy SC4: Green Space Network, Green and Blue Corridors and Chains
Policy SC5: Recreational Opportunity Areas	Policy T1: Lancaster Park and Ride	Policy T2: Developing the Cycling and Walking Network
Policy T4: Public Transport Corridors		

Development Management DPD

Policy DM2: Housing Standards	Policy DM27: Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities	Policy DM29: Key Design Principles
Policy DM30: Sustainable Design and Construction	Policy DM31: Air Quality Management and Pollution	Policy DM33: Development and Flood Risk
Policy DM34: Surface Water and Sustainable Drainage	Policy DM36: Protecting Water Resources, Water Quality and Infrastructure	Policy DM43: Green and Blue Infrastructure
Policy DM45: Protection of Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland	Policy DM53: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Policy DM57: Health and Well-Being
Policy DM58: Infrastructure Delivery and Funding	Policy DM59: Telecommunications and Broadband Improvements	Policy DM60: Enhancing Accessibility and Transport Linkages
Policy DM61: Prioritising Walking and Cycling	Policy DM62: Vehicle Parking Provision	Policy DM63: Transport Efficiency and Travel Plans
Policy DM64: Lancaster District Highways and Transport Masterplan		

The rHIA will go through each of the policy areas outlined above to consider the health impacts of any proposed changes / amendments to policy direction.

Beyond assessing the proposed changes to existing policy areas, this rHIA will also consider the health implication of three new policy areas which will be specifically included in relation to Climate Change, these include:

Policy CC1: Responding to Climate Change and Creating Environmental Sustainability	Policy CCH1: Retrofit of Buildings of Traditional Construction for Energy Efficiency	Policy CCH2: Micro-Renewables in the Setting or Curtilage of Heritage Assets
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Structure of Assessment

The assessment of health implications has been undertaken by an officer group within the Planning and Housing Policy Team of the City Council. Discussion of the health implications took place through a workshop session which allowed the officer group to consider all the changes proposed through the Local Plan Review, policy by policy.

The content of discussion at the workshop are set out in Appendix A of this assessment and are summarised below. The content of this draft assessment has been circulated to the relevant health partners for their comment, input and refinement.

Summary of the Health Impacts of the Local Plan Review

- **Water Management** – Policies strengthened to provide greater protection against flood risk, promoting natural and sustainable waste management systems, cleaner waterways and promoting active travel – all leading to immediate and long term physical and mental health benefits.
- **Green & Blue Infrastructure** - The inclusion of ‘blue’ infrastructure into this policy will lead to numerous health benefits stemming from improvements in recreation, active travel, water management, landscape, biodiversity and our impact on the climate.
- **Strategic Transport** – changes to this paper support the modal shift towards active travel. Cycling and walking improves physical and mental health and a reduction in motor vehicle use reduces our impact on climate change and improves air quality.
- **Heritage** – New policies in this paper support ‘responsible retrofit’ & the use of micro renewables, both lead to wide ranging health benefits from improvements to air quality, reduced energy costs and reducing our impact on climate change which causes extreme weather conditions such as floods and high temperatures.
- **Sustainable Design, Energy Efficiency and renewable Energy** – all policies in this paper have been designed to support efforts to address the climate emergency so long-term health benefits are clear; more immediate benefits include improved air quality, costs savings and community cohesion.

Conclusions

The Local Plan Review was conducted in light of the climate emergency. Having analysed all the proposed amendments, it is clear that the changes will have an overwhelmingly positive impact on health both in the short term and long term. If efforts are not taken to address climate change, both in mitigating the effects as well as reducing greenhouse gases, health impacts including increases in respiratory disease, injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events will increase as will changes in the prevalence and geographical distribution of food and water-borne illnesses and other infectious diseases, as well as threats to mental health.

Appendix A: Assessment Matrix for Rapid Health Impact Assessment

Policy Number / Title	Page & Paragraph	Section	Comment
TOPIC PAPER 1: WATER MANAGEMENT			
Policy DM33: Development & Flood Risk	Page 9	II to IX	<p>All policies in this topic paper have been strengthened to provide greater protection against flood risk, to protect homes and businesses. Hazards associated with flooding can be divided into the following which all have a negative impact on health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary hazards that occur due to contact with water, such as physical damage to property and land, loss of life or significant harm to people and animals. • Secondary effects that occur because of the flooding, such as disruption of services, access to food, shelter and health care, contaminated drinking water supplies, disrupted energy supplies. • Long-term effects such as income losses, increased insurance costs, destruction of wildlife habitat. <p>The addition VII in DM33 which supports opportunities for on/off site natural flood management techniques will create positive health benefits as, in addition to reducing flood risk, it can also aid biodiversity. Biodiversity is essential for human health as it supports ecosystems which provide us with clean air & water, pollination of plants for food, pest control and they protect our freshwater resources.</p> <p>Policy DM34 prioritises naturalistic and sustainable solutions to surface water drainage, all of which contribute to reducing flood risk, pollution and water waste as well as improving biodiversity and the enhancing the natural landscape. All these factors have positive effects on both mental and physical health.</p> <p>DM36 puts an expectation on developers to make efforts to improve the quality of water resources including specific reference to bathing waters. Having access to clean bathing water will encourage more 'wild swimming' which has many health benefits including soothing muscle aches, relieving depression and boosting the immune system.</p>
Policy DM34: Surface Water & Sustainable Drainage	Page 16 & Page 17	All	
Policy DM35: Water Supply & Wastewater	Page 27	Wastewater	
Policy DM36: Protecting Water Resources, Water Quality and Infrastructure	Page 31	Water Quality	
TOPIC PAPER 2: BLUE & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE			

Policy Number / Title	Page & Paragraph	Section	Comment
<p>Policy DM43: Green and Blue Infrastructure</p>	<p>Page 8</p>	<p>Blue Infrastructure</p>	<p>The inclusion of 'blue' infrastructure into this policy will lead to numerous health benefits stemming from improvements in recreation, active travel, water management, landscape, biodiversity and our impact on the climate.</p> <p>By ensuring single spaces are not considered to have just one use, we will be able to see their wider potential for example, an open space within a development - whilst its primary purpose may be to meet the recreational needs of the residents of the new development, during periods of intense rainfall it may also provide a valuable space to store water to protect nearby properties and businesses. The same space, if appropriately managed, could also provide a haven for wildlife. Therefore, making the most of the uses a space can enable the same space to perform stronger in terms of its role in climate change adaptation.</p> <p>The health benefits of access to green spaces are well known but if that green space can also reduce flood risk and increase biodiversity then the health benefits are multiplied. Biodiversity is essential for human health as it supports ecosystems which provide us with clean air & water, pollination of plants for food, pest control and protects our freshwater resources.</p> <p>Specific reference to active travel will have positive health benefits. As well as reducing car journeys and our impact in climate change, increasing the use of cycling and walking will reduce cardiovascular disease and obesity, improve mental health from social isolation and reduce noise and air pollution from traffic.</p> <p>The policies in this paper are being supported by a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, prepared with key stakeholders. The multifunctional benefits of GBI are noted throughout the strategy.</p>
<p>Policy SP8: Protecting the Natural Environment</p>	<p>Page 16</p>		<p>Policies have been strengthened and clarified to ensure that the network is as resilient as possible to the impacts of climate change. If efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change are not taken, we will continue to see human loss and suffering from extreme weather conditions such as high temperatures and flooding.</p>
<p>Policy SC4: Green Space Networks, Green and Blue Corridors and Chains</p>	<p>Page 21</p>		

Policy Number / Title	Page & Paragraph	Section	Comment
Policy SC5: Recreational Opportunity Areas	Page 26		Considering multi-functional uses of sites can also lead to an increased sense of community and local engagement which is not only important for climate resilience but also improves well-being by reducing social isolation and encouraging physical activity. It is well known that greenspace is associated with positive physical and mental health. People who spend at least two hours in nature per week are more likely to report higher levels of health and well-being compared to people who spent less time in nature. By increasing the variety of functions recreational spaces provide, we are more likely to see people visit them and reap the health benefits.
Policy DM27: Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities	Page 30		
Policy DM45: Protection of Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland	Page 36		Neutral – no positive or negative impacts due to amendments being minor
TOPIC PAPER 3: TRANSPORT			
Policy T1: Lancaster Park and Ride	Page 9		Neutral – no positive or negative impacts due to amendments being minor
Policy EN9: Air Quality Management Areas	Page 21		
Policy DM31: Air Quality Management and Pollution	Page 23		
Policy DM62: Vehicle Parking Provision	Page 35		The inclusion of electric vehicle charging points on all new developments and changes of use is a welcome addition from a health benefits perspective. The main benefit of an electric car is that it improves air quality. Toxic nitrogen dioxide causes respiratory disease and it is estimated that at least a fifth of new childhood asthma cases in Britain are the result of vehicle pollution.
Policy T2: Developing the Cycling and Walking Network	Page 11		In Policy T2 the wording has been strengthened to support improvements to the Cycling Network – this will have a positive impact on health as people are encouraged to be more physically active, save money and reduce their reliance on cars which contribute to
Policy DM60: Enhancing Accessibility and Transport Linkages	Page 27		

Policy Number / Title	Page & Paragraph	Section	Comment
Policy DM61: Prioritising Walking and Cycling	Page 30		climate change and create air pollution. Cycling has wide health benefits for both our physical and mental wellbeing.
Policy DM63: Transport Efficiency and Travel Plans	Page 38		Equally, Policy DM61 uses stronger wording to protect and maintain pedestrian movements; along with cycling, improving walking routes will lead to the health benefits as outlined above. A modal shift towards active travel promotes happy, healthy communities; Policy DM63 refers to this modal shift which is welcomed. Policy DM64 has changed “may seek” to “will require” in relation to contributions to new infrastructure. Again, this is welcomed as any efforts to enhance walking and cycling opportunities have wide ranging health benefits. Policies SP10 and SG12 both make direct reference to the need for proposals to consider the councils commitment to tackling climate change. Climate change leads to extreme weather conditions such as flooding and high temperatures, the worst health impact of which is loss of life.
Policy DM64: Lancaster District Highways and Transport Masterplan	Page 41		
Policy SP10: Improving Transport Connectivity	Page 44		
Policy SG12: Port of Heysham and Future Expansion Opportunities	Page 48		
Policy T4: Public Transport Corridors			Neutral – no positive or negative impacts due to amendments being minor
TOPIC PAPER 4: HERITAGE			
Policy CCH1: Retrofit of Buildings of Traditional Construction for Energy Efficiency	Page 4	All	The new policies here will have wider ranging health benefits for both occupants and the wider community if proposals are delivered correctly. Policy CCH1 stresses the need for “responsible retrofit” – an approach to retrofit in which all interacting factors across the whole building are considered, and risks and benefits are balanced. The policy also suggests that the biggest risk in introducing retrofit measures is their effect on building permeability. Inadequate permeability poses a risk to both historic building fabric and occupant health. Retrofit measures may be safely introduced individually, but a combination of several may have a harmful effect. Examples of health benefits of responsible retrofitting are – improved air quality and reduced risk of illness caused by damp, reduced energy costs and risk of fuel poverty, mitigating effects of climate change which causes extreme weather conditions such as floods and high temperatures.
Policy CCH2: Micro-Renewables in the Setting or Curtilage of Heritage Assets	Page 8	All	

Policy Number / Title	Page & Paragraph	Section	Comment
			<p>The installation of micro-renewables can help create energy efficient buildings which can support healthy air temperatures, humidity levels, noise levels, and improved air quality. Energy efficiency measures also reduce the cost of energy bills, tackling fuel poverty and providing households with more expendable income. Evidence suggest that higher income leads to better health.</p>
TOPIC PAPER 5: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN, ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY			
Policy DM2: Space and Accessibility Standards	Page 7		Neutral – no positive or negative impacts due to amendments being minor
Policy DM29: Key Design Principles	Page 11	<p>General</p> <p>Accessibility</p> <p>Green & Blue Infrastructure</p>	<p>Ensuring developments contribute to efforts to mitigate climate change, will have a positive impact on people’s health. Climate change causes extreme weather conditions such as high temperatures and flooding which negatively impact both physical and mental health.</p> <p>Strengthening efforts to maximise energy efficiency can support good physical and mental health primarily by creating healthy indoor living environments with healthy air temperatures, humidity levels, noise levels, and improved air quality. Energy efficiency measures also reduce the cost of energy bills, tackling fuel poverty and providing households with more expendable income. Studies suggest that higher income leads to better health.</p> <p>The consideration and promotion of a modal shift towards active travel will have positive health benefits. Increasing the use of cycling and walking will reduce cardiovascular disease and obesity, improve mental health from social isolation and reduce noise and air pollution from traffic.</p> <p>The inclusion of food growing space has a wide spectrum of benefits to physical and mental health which can be found through the nutritional benefits of eating the food</p>

Policy Number / Title	Page & Paragraph	Section	Comment
			<p>that's grown, the physical activity involved in growing food and socialising within the food growing community.</p> <p>The addition of onsite composting encourages the production of nutrient rich material which can be reused in gardens and reduces greenhouse gas emissions from landfills.</p>
<p>Policy DM30a: Sustainable Design and Construction – New Development</p>	<p>Page 20</p>		<p>This policy states that a Sustainable Design Statement and Energy Statement must now be submitted with all new developments with the aim of ensuring the highest possible standards of sustainability. The policy outlines an energy hierarchy with minimising demand for energy being at the top and utilising alternative energy sources at the bottom. All elements of this policy are welcome as they lead to short term and long-term health benefits.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use Less Energy <p>If done properly, measures to reduce energy demand in a building can support good physical and mental health primarily by creating healthy indoor living environments with healthy air temperatures, humidity levels, noise levels, and improved air quality. Care will need to be taken to ensure buildings are protected from over-heating, especially as summer temperatures are expected to rise across the UK.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Use Energy Efficiently <p>Energy efficiency measures, as well as supporting healthy indoor living environments, also reduce the cost of energy bills, tackling fuel poverty and providing households with more expendable income. Studies suggest that higher income leads to better health.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Renewable and Low Carbon Energy <p>Renewable energy technology including district heating and cooling systems, mitigate the effects of climate change and will therefore have a positive impact on people's health as climate change causes extreme weather conditions such as high temperatures and flooding which negatively impact both physical and mental health.</p>

Policy Number / Title	Page & Paragraph	Section	Comment
			<p>Requiring new developments to select the most sustainable heating/cooling system will have wide ranging health benefits for those within the district and beyond. Sustainable heating/cooling systems mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels which emit greenhouse gases and contribute to climate change. If efforts to mitigate climate change are not taken, we will continue to see human loss and suffering from extreme weather conditions such as high temperatures and flooding. In many cases, sustainable heating/cooling systems are more affordable and therefore support efforts to tackle fuel poverty.</p>
<p>Policy DM30b: Sustainable Design and Construction – Water Efficiency</p>	<p>Page 29</p>		<p>Increased efforts to minimise water use helps with flood risk management but also reduces the energy required to process and deliver it to homes, businesses, farms, and communities, which, in turn, helps to reduce our impact on the climate. In addition, reducing domestic water consumption reduces bills (increased wealth, equals increased health) and water flowing into the sewer system, thereby reducing flood risk which has numerous health impacts such as loss of life.</p>
<p>Policy DM30c: Sustainable Design and Construction – Materials, Waste and Construction</p>	<p>Page 31</p>		<p>Reusing and recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions which in turn, reduces the impact on health from climate change.</p> <p>Green roofs and walls improve air quality and support biodiversity. Biodiversity is essential for human health as it supports ecosystems which provide us with clean air & water, pollination of plants for food, pest control and protects our freshwater resources.</p>
<p>Policy DM53: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation</p>	<p>Page 37</p>	<p>Renewable Energy Generation</p>	<p>Supporting renewable energy generation will have wide ranging health benefits for those within the district and beyond. Renewable energy generators such as hydro and solar, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels which emit greenhouse gases and contribute to climate change. If efforts to mitigate climate change are not taken, we will continue to see human loss and suffering from extreme weather conditions such as high temperatures and flooding.</p>

Policy Number / Title	Page & Paragraph	Section	Comment
TOPIC PAPER 6: MISCILLANEOUS POLICIES			
Policy SP4: Priorities for Sustainable Economic Growth	Page 7	Section 8	Amendments to Policy SP4 relate to maximising economic opportunities for people, particularly in sectors which seek to address matters of Climate Change. There are no direct impacts on health arising from the proposed changes. However, policies which seek to maximise job creation can lead in-directly to better health outcomes, lower deprivation and better quality of life. There are no recommendations to strengthen this policy in relation of health.
Policy SP9: Maintaining Strong and Vibrant Communities	Page 11		The additional reference in this policy to ensure new developments are resilient to climate change will generate numerous long term health benefits. The following are examples of some of the health impacts that could be avoided through implementation of the strengthened policies :
Policy DM57: Health and Well-Being	Page 24	Section V & IX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power outages in extreme weather could cripple hospitals and transportation systems when we need them most. • Crop declines could lead to undernutrition, hunger, and higher food prices. More CO₂ in the air could make staple crops less nutritious. • Occupational hazards such as risk of heatstroke will rise, especially among farmers and construction workers. Labour could shift to dawn and dusk, times when more disease-carrying insects are out. • Hotter days, more rain, and higher humidity will produce more ticks, which spread infectious diseases like Lyme disease. • Trauma from floods, droughts, and heat waves can lead to direct loss of life and livelihood as well as mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and suicide. <p>Safe sustainable travel is promoted and prioritised. This is supported. Increased walking and cycling has clear positive impacts on both physical and mental health.</p>
Policy SG4: Lancaster City Centre	Page 15		This inclusion of enhancements to Green and Blue infrastructure in this policy will lead to numerous health benefits stemming from improvements in recreation, active travel, water management, landscape, biodiversity and our impact on the climate.

Policy Number / Title	Page & Paragraph	Section	Comment
			Prioritising more sustainable forms of transport will improve air quality and increase physical activity and mental well-being.
Policy SG13: Heysham Gateway, South Heysham	Page 20		Neutral – no positive or negative impacts due to amendments being minor
Policy DM58: Infrastructure Delivery and Funding	Page 28 & 29		Neutral – no positive or negative impacts due to amendments being minor
Policy DM59: Telecommunications and Broadband Improvements	Page 33		Improving digital connectivity can have many positive health outcomes. A digitally inclusive community is important to economic and workforce development, education, healthcare, and public safety. On an individual level, improved connectivity will enable better communication with friends and family, tackling loneliness and isolation.
Policy CC1: Responding to Climate Change and Creating Environmental Sustainability			<p>policy brings all of the above points together in one clear summary. It ensures that climate change considerations are at the forefront of all planning decisions which will inevitably be beneficial for health – helping avoid extreme weather events, reduce air pollution, reduce fuel poverty, encourage physical activity and time in nature, improve biodiversity and mental well-being.</p> <p>Climate change has now been given a strategic focus in the Plan with the development of a single policy, similar to other policy areas such as housing and employment, providing a strong direction which can only be beneficial.</p>