



Public Health:
Working together to improve the health
and wellbeing of our communities

Public Health Response to: Planning Design Guide SPD

Firstly, thank you for inviting Public Health to comment on this SPD. This SPD is a comprehensive and well considered document which does good justice to the complexity of achieving good urban design in a spatially diverse place like Central Bedfordshire.

Public Health support the ambitions of the guidance, there are very good examples of promoting building and urban design that supports residents to lead more active and healthy lives. We laud the ambitions around sustainable design and energy efficiency, as well as addressing climate change mitigation and flood risk.

We have provided comments on specific aspects of the document as a mark-up on the document on the relevant pages, which is attached separately.

One aspect is we would want to see is an overall ambition around Health and Wellbeing adopted for the document. We like the specific focus of the Health and Wellbeing part within the Designing Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Sites section in the document. Public Health think this could be applicable to the whole document and would be keen to meet to discuss this further and agree wording to this effect. This would connect to wider ambitions of Public Health to address health inequalities through the Built Environment as set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2019-2023) as well as the 2022 Director of Public Health Report on obesity, including a section on the role of planning and transport sectors in promoting physical activity and healthy eating

We would be pleased to help draft or provide wording to this effect and would also encourage reference to Public Health strategies and datasets within the document which we can provide links to those relevant.

We would also support the reference to design standards such as the Building for Healthy Life toolkit and would highlight some others we consider to be good practice:

- Quality of Life Foundation Framework: <https://www.qolf.org/framework/>
- Town and Country Planning Association Healthy Homes Principles: <https://tcpa.org.uk/resources/healthy-homes-principles/>

Other resources that might be helpful to consider may include an adapted version of the Healthy Urban Development Checklist:

<https://www.healthyurbandevlopment.nhs.uk/our-services/delivering-healthy-urban-development/health-impact-assessment/>

Public Health would be happy to discuss any of our comments further as necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a meeting to discuss or seek clarifications on any of our feedback.

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