Stockport Borough Council

# Local Plan Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Interim ISA Report – Appendix G: Health Impact Assessment

# Stockport Borough Council

# Local Plan Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Interim ISA Report – Appendix F Health Impact Assessment

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

1.1.1 Stockport is a metropolitan borough making up part of Greater Manchester in North West England. It is located south-east of central Manchester and includes the towns of Stockport, Bredbury and Marple, as well as the outlying areas of Hazel Grove, Bramhall, Cheadle and Gatley, Cheadle Hulme, Reddish, Woodley and Romiley.

1.1.2 Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (herein referred to as SMBC) is currently preparing a new Local Plan, which will replace the existing Core Strategy[1] which was adopted in 2011.

1.1.3 The new Local Plan will be used to assess planning applications for new developments in Stockport for the period up to 2041. It will help to deliver the vision that partners, stakeholders and residents set out in the One Stockport Borough Plan.

## 1.2 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

1.2.1 An Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) has been undertaken to ensure that sustainability aspects are incorporated into the SLP. The ISA enables synergies and cross-cutting impacts to be identified, avoids the need to undertake and report on separate assessments, and seeks to reduce any duplication of assessment work. This process also helps to simplify outcomes and recommendations for policymakers.

1.2.2 As part of the ISA, a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been undertaken to assess the impacts of the SLP on human health in Stockport and the likely effects on health outcomes in the local population.

1.2.3 The outcomes of the HIA have informed the ISA.

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[1] Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Local Development Framework, Core Strategy DPD, 2011 [online] available at: https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/live-iag-static-assets/pdf/LDF/AdoptedPlans/Core+Strategy+DPD.pdf (Accessed: 5th July 2024)

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# 2 Scope and Methodology

## 2.1 Introduction

A rapid desktop HIA was undertaken in June 2022. The key tasks for this HIA were as follows:

- Develop a summary health and wellbeing baseline and profile of the population situated within the geographical area of SMBC'S jurisdiction;
- Identify relevant evidence from literature; and
- Assess the potential health and wellbeing impacts of the SLP, and the nature and likelihood of such impacts.

## 2.2 Scope

### Study Area

This is a rapid, desk-based assessment of the direct and indirect health effects on local communities anticipated to result from the implementation of the 7 themes and 60 proposed policies of the SLP. The geographic study area of this HIA is therefore Stockport.

### Study Population

The population scope of this HIA includes the Stockport Metropolitan Borough's (SMB) resident population.

The main vulnerable groups within the population that have been considered are listed below. These have been determined based on professional judgement and experience of undertaking similar assessments.

- Children and young people;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities and mobility impairment;
- People with existing health conditions;
- Unemployed and low-income groups; and
- Socially excluded or isolated groups.

### Determinants of Health

The key determinants of health and wellbeing that have been considered are listed below. These have been determined based on professional judgement and experience of undertaking similar assessments:

- Air Quality;
- Noise;
- Housing and Homelessness;
- Economy and employment;
- Skills and education;

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- Social cohesion and community safety;
- Access to services;
- Physical activity;
- Green Infrastructure; and
- Climate change resilience.

## Baseline and Health Profile

The baseline and health profile of the SMBC area have been compiled using existing, publicly available data, including:

- Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) Local Authority Health Profiles;
- Office for National Statistics Labour Market Profiles (Nomis);
- Stockport Joint Strategic Needs Assessment data; and
- OHID "Local Health" datasets.

## Appraisal

The proposed 7 key policy themes were considered and assessed against each of the identified determinants of health, looking first at the baseline conditions of the study area population, evidence of how each determinant impacts human health, and the effect that the general principles and policies are likely to have on the health of the study area population, as presented in **Section 5.**

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# 3 Health Impact Assessment

## 3.1 Health Impact Assessment Description

HIA is a systematic approach to identifying the differential health and wellbeing impacts, both positive and negative, of policies, projects, plans or strategies.

## 3.2 Function of a Health Impact Assessment

HIA can use both qualitative and quantitative evidence, including public and other stakeholders' perceptions and experiences, as well as public health knowledge. It is particularly concerned with the distribution of effects within a population, as different groups are likely to be affected in different ways, and therefore looks at how health and social inequalities might be reduced or increased by a proposed policy, project or plan.

## 3.3 Objective of a Health Impact Assessment

The objective of a HIA is to support and add value to the decision-making process by providing a systematic analysis of the potential impacts, as well as recommending opportunities, where appropriate, to enhance positive impacts, mitigate negative impacts and reduce health inequalities.

HIA has been defined as:

*"…a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population"*[2].

In this context, 'health' is defined by the World Health Organisation as:

*"…a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity"*[3].

Health determinants are the personal, social, cultural, economic and environmental factors that influence the health of individuals or populations. These include a range of factors such as income, employment, education and social support.

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[2] World Health Organisation, (n/a). Definition of health assessment (HIA). Available online at: http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/health-impact-assessment/definition-of-health-impact-assessment-hia  (Accessed: 5th July 2024)
[3] World Health Organisation (n/a). Constitution. Available online at: https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/constitution (Accessed: 5th July 2024)

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Health inequality can be defined as the difference in either health status, or the distribution of health determinants, between different population groups. Some health inequalities are unavoidable, others are not so and may well be unjust and unfair.

## 3.4    Socio-Environmental Model of Wellbeing

HIAs apply the below model of health and wellbeing (**Figure 3-1**). The Socio-Environmental Model of Wellbeing considers that health and wellbeing are a result of external influences, where an individual or population experiences a combination of adverse external factors which could result in health inequality.

**Figure 3-1 - Socio-Environmental Model of Health and Wellbeing[4]**
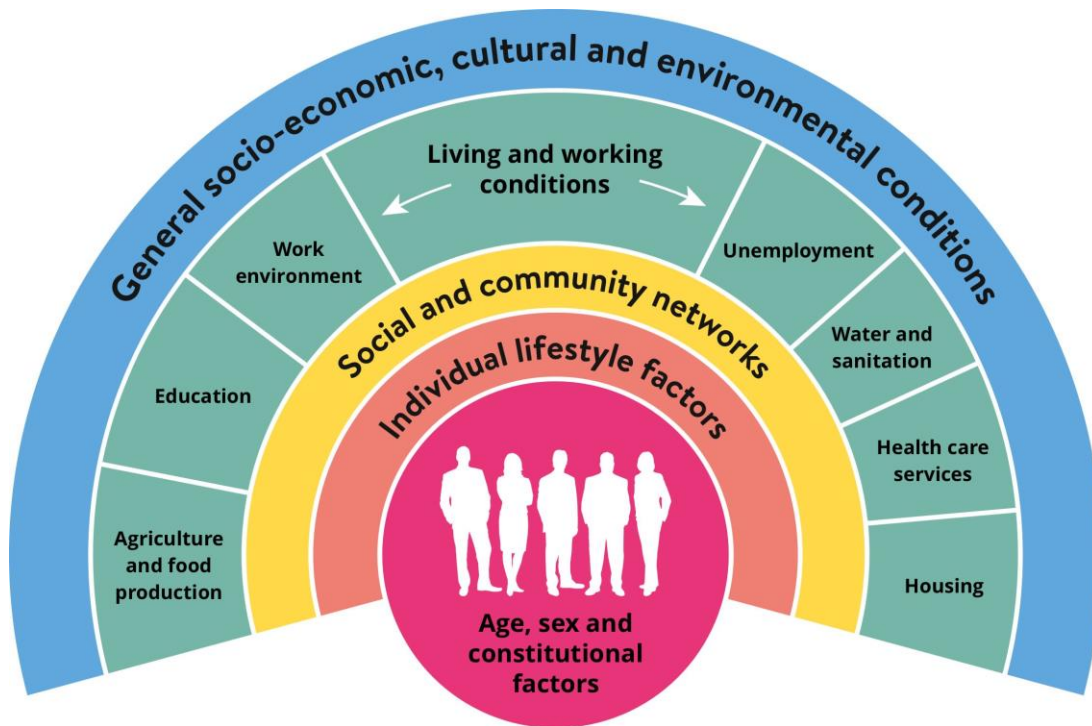


## 3.5    Overall aim of this HIA

The overall aim of this HIA will be to identify the aspects of the SLP which have the potential to affect people's health, both directly and indirectly. Some effects may be positive, others could be negative.

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[4] Dahlgren, G. and Whitehead, M. (1991) Policies and Strategies to Promote Social Equity in Health. Stockholm, Sweden: Institute for Futures Studies

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# 4    Community Profile and Baseline

## 4.1    Introduction

Amongst the communities living in, and directly affected by, any changes brought about by the key themes or policies of the SLP, the proportion and profile of vulnerable groups, identified previously in **Section 2.2,** have been outlined below using publicly available data.

Community profile data has been used to express the status of vulnerable groups with respect to their vulnerable health status and / or deprivation. In some cases, Health Profile Indicators are implicit rather than explicit, where direct Health Profile Indicators were not available.

## 4.2    Baseline

This section summarises the socio-economic and community baseline conditions for the spatial scope of the HIA. The most recent publicly available information has been used to create these profiles.

### Population

The total population in Stockport was recorded in 2021 as 294,773 people[5]. Of this population, approximately 48.6 % of the population were recorded as male and 51.4% as female, which is comparable with the male and female percentage for the North West at 49.1% and 50.9%. Stockport is among the top 30% most densely populated local authorities in England and the fifth most densely populated in the North West, with around 17 people living within a football pitch-sized area of land[6].

The 2021 Census data indicates that the majority of SMB's population is composed of groups which are defined as ethnically White (87.4%), which is 7.4% higher than the national average. The proportion of SMB's population which is composed of non-white ethnic groups is 12.7%, lower than the national average of 19.0%. This is outlined in **Table 4-1.**

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[5] Office for National Statistics (2023) How life has changed in Stockport – Census 2021 [online] Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E08000007/ (Accessed: 5th July 2024)
[6] Office for National Statistics (2022) How the population changed in Stockport: Census 2021 [online] Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E08000007/ (Accessed: 5th July 2024)

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## Table 4-1 - Ethnicity of SMB Population, 2021[5]

| Ethnicity | Stockport (%) | England (%) |
|---|---|---|
| White | 87.4 | 81.0 |
| Mixed / multiple ethnic groups | 2.6 | 3.0 |
| Asian / Asian British | 7.3 | 9.6 |
| Black / African / Caribbean / Black British | 1.2 | 4.2 |
| Other Ethnic Groups | 1.6 | 2.2 |

**Table 4-2** uses 2021 Census data to present the principal religious groups reflected in the population of SMB, and how their proportions compare amongst the borough's residents. The population of SMB is principally Christian (63.2%), with the second largest group identifying as of no religion (25.1%), which both reflect the trend in England.

## Table 4-2 - Principal Religious Groups Across Population of SMB in Comparison with England[7]

| Religion | Stockport (%) | England (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Christian | 47.5 | 46.3 |
| Buddhist | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Hindu | 0.8 | 1.8 |
| Jewish | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Muslim | 5.5 | 6.7 |
| Sikh | 0.2 | 0.9 |
| Other Religion | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| No Religion | 39.6 | 36.7 |
| Religion not stated | 5.2 | 6.0 |

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## Age

The age profile of residents within SMB indicates that the population is predominantly middle aged, with 60.9% of the population aged between 16-64 years5. The 2021 Census data on population age shows Stockport has a similar age structure to England and the North West across all age categories[5].The age category with the greatest difference is 16 to 24 years old, which is still only 2.3% lower than the average for England.

**Table 4-3 – Age Profile[5]**

| Age | Stockport (%) | North West (%) | England (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 4 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| 5 to 15 years old | 13.3 | 13.3 | 13.1 |
| 16 to 24 years old | 8.4 | 10.7 | 10.6 |
| 25 to 64 years old | 52.5 | 51.7 | 52.4 |
| 65+ years | 20.1 | 18.7 | 18.3 |

## Life Expectancy

Life expectancy is the measure of the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on contemporary mortality rates and prevalence of self-reported good health. The prevalence of good health is derived from responses to a survey question on general health.

Life expectancy in SMB is about the same as the national average. For males in SMB, life expectancy is 79.4 years, higher than the North West region average of 77.9 years and the same as the England average of 79.4 years. For females in SMB, life expectancy is 83.2

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years, higher than the North West region average of 81.7 years and similar to the England average of 83.1 years[7].

However, despite an average life expectancy aligned with the national average, within SMB there is significant variation between life expectancy in different wards for both males and females. **Table 4-3** details average life expectancy at birth for specific wards in the borough, from 2015 - 2019.

**Table 4-4 - Life Expectancy by ward in SMB (years)[8]**

| Ward | Life Expectancy (Males) | Life Expectancy (Female) |
|---|---|---|
| Bramhall North | 82.1 | 85.3 |
| Bramhall South and Woodford | 83.9 | 87.9 |
| Bredbury Green and Romiley | 80.1 | 82.5 |
| Bredbury and Woodley | 79.4 | 81.4 |
| Brinnington and Central | 72.0 | 76.1 |
| Cheadle and Gatley | 81.1 | 83.9 |
| Cheadle Hulme North | 81.2 | 84.0 |
| Cheadle Hulme South | 82.9 | 86.6 |
| Davenport and Cale Green | 76.0 | 79.3 |
| Edgeley and Cheadle Heath | 77.7 | 81.0 |
| Hazel Grove | 81.0 | 84.6 |
| Heald Green | 81.0 | 85.1 |

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[7] Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (2020 - 2022) Local Authority Health Profile for Stockport [online] Available at https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/0/gid/1938132696/pat/6/par/E12000002/ati/202/are/E08000007/iid/90366/age/1/sex/1/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/3/cid/4/tbm/1 (Accessed: 5th July 2024)
[8] Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2021) Local Health [online] Available at: https://www.localhealth.org.uk/#bbox=371487,400989,34143,21465&c=indicator&i=t4.le_f_v&selcodgeo=E05000795&view=map8(Accessed: 5th July 2024)

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| Ward | Life Expectancy (Males) | Life Expectancy (Female) |
|---|---|---|
| Heatons North | 81.2 | 83.7 |
| Heatons South | 81.4 | 83.7 |
| Manor | 79.4 | 84.3 |
| Marple North | 79.7 | 84.1 |
| Marple South and High Lane | 79.2 | 83.9 |
| Offerton | 79.7 | 83.0 |
| Stepping Hill | 79.5 | 84.2 |
| Reddish North | 79.1 | 82.7 |
| Reddish South | 78.1 | 82.3 |

The variation in life expectancy for both males and females within SMB is indicative of significant variations in health and wellbeing between wards. For males in SMB, the variation in life expectancy between wards is 11.9 years (with the lowest expectancy in Brinnington and Central and the highest in Bramhall South and Woodford). Similarly, for females, the variation in life expectancy between wards is 11.8 years (with the lowest expectancy again in Brinnington and Central and the highest in Bramhall South and Woodford).

Life expectancy is 11.2 years lower for men and 9.8 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Stockport than in the least deprived areas[7].

## Weight and Physical Activity

The proportion of adults (aged 18+) in SMB who are categorised as overweight or obese is 62.5%. This is lower than the North West region and national averages at 66.5% and 64.0%, respectively[7].

The proportion of the adult population describing themselves as physically active within SMB is 68.6%[7]. This is in line with North West region (63.9%), and national averages (66.4%).

Obesity amongst children is measured through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), which measures the weight and obesity level of both reception children (aged 4-5 years) and year 6 children (aged 10-11 years). The prevalence of overweight children

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among year 6 children in SMB was 20.0%, which is significantly lower than North West and national averages at 23.8% and 22.7%, respectively.

## Lifestyle

Smoking is a major risk factor for many diseases, such as lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and heart disease, as well as being linked to cancers in other organs, including lip, mouth, throat, bladder, kidney, stomach, liver and cervix.

Smoking prevalence among adults in SMB in 2022 was marginally lower than both the North West and England averages[7]. The prevalence of current smokers in SMB was 11.8%, compared to 13.4% in the North West region and 12.7% in England.

The number of COPD emergency hospital admissions in SMB in 2019 varied significantly by ward. Table 4-4 shows the number of emergency hospital admission for the condition, with 12 out of 21 wards a having higher hospitalisation rates than the England average of 100 Standardised Admission Ratio (SAR).

**Table 4-5 - Emergency hospital admissions due to COPD in SMB[9]**

| Ward | SMB Hospital Admissions (SAR) |
|---|---|
| Bramhall North | 59.6 |
| Bramhall South and Woodford | 33.0 |
| Bredbury and Woodley | 118.2 |
| Bredbury Green and Romiley | 110.7 |
| Brinnington and Central | 428.9 |
| Cheadle and Gatley | 83.7 |
| Cheadle Hulme North | 105.0 |
| Cheadle Hulme South | 84.7 |
| Davenport and Cale Green | 249.9 |
| Edgeley and Cheadle Heath | 232.5 |

[9] Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (2019) Local Authority Health Profile for Stockport, Available at: https://www.localhealth.org.uk/#bbox=377144,397696,30016,18870&c=indicator&i=t3.em_adm_copd&selcodgeo=E05000784&view=map8

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| Ward | SMB Hospital Admissions (SAR) |
|---|---|
| Hazel Grove | 113.2 |
| Heald Green | 79.8 |
| Heatons North | 85.3 |
| Heatons South | 78.3 |
| Manor | 156.3 |
| Marple North | 79.4 |
| Marple South and High Lane | 76.4 |
| Offerton | 170.9 |
| Stepping Hill | 112.2 |
| Reddish North | 188.1 |
| Reddish South | 150.6 |

Alcohol misuse can be directly attributed to deaths from certain types of disease such as alcoholic liver disease, certain types of cancer and cirrhosis and remains a challenge for many Local Authorities in England.

In SMB, hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions were 460 per 100,000 population[7]. This is lower than the North West and the national averages of 475 per 100,000

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## Unemployment / Economy

The proportion of unemployment in Stockport is slightly lower higher than the national average for the UK and the average gross weekly pay is higher than the UK national average. This is shown in **Table 4-6** below.

**Table 4-6 - Economic Profile (January 2023-December 2023)[10]**

| Unemployment and Deprivation | Economically active: Unemployment (%) | Economically inactive (%) | Average Gross Weekly Pay of Full Time workers (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stockport | 3.2 | 20.3 | 729.3 |
| North West | 3.8 | 23.3 | 649.0 |
| Great Britain | 3.7 | 21.2 | 682.6 |

Of those considered economically inactive in SMB, 19.6% are students, 17.5% are looking after family / home, 37.0% are long-term sick, 10.3% are retired and 12.4% fall in the category of "other".

SMB has a higher than average proportion of workers in high value occupations when compared to the North West and Great Britain. **Table 4-7** outlines the percentage of people employed in SMB, within 2021, according to occupation compared to both the North West and Great Britain averages. The data is collated according to the Standard Occupation Classification 2020 descriptions used by the Office for National Statistics.

**Table 4-7 - Employment by occupation in SMB[10]**

| Employment Group | SMB (%) | North West Region (%) | Great Britain (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Managers, Directors and Senior Officials | 14.9 | 9.8 | 10.8 |
| 2 Professional Occupations | 29.3 | 26.3 | 6.9 |
| 3 Associate Professional and Technical | 18.3 | 15.4 | 15.2 |

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[10] Office for National Statistics (2023) Labour Market Profile – Stockport [online] Available online at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157087/report.aspx?town=stockport (Accessed: 4th July 2024)

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| Employment Group | SMB (%) | North West Region (%) | Great Britain (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 Administrative and Secretarial | 9.4 | 10.6 | 9.5 |
| 5 Skilled Trades Occupations | Sample size too small | 7.7 | 8.7 |
| 6 Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations | 6.1 | 8.8 | 8.0 |
| 7 Sales and Customer Service Occupations | 9.1 | 6.6 | 6.2 |
| 8 Process Plant and Machine Operatives | Sample size too small | 5.7 | 5.4 |
| 9 Elementary Occupations | 6.5 | 8.9 | 9.2 |

## Education

The proportion of the population of SMB who have gained formal qualifications is higher at all RQF levels, compared to both the North West and Great Britain. **Table 4-8** shows the percentages of the population in SMB with qualifications compared to the North West and Great Britain averages.

**Table 4-8 - Qualification levels in SMB in 2023[10]**

| Qualification Level | SMB (%) | North West (%) | Great Britain (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| RQF 4 and above | 53.9 | 44.4 | 47.3 |
| RQF 3 and above | 70.9 | 65.8 | 67.8 |
| RQF 2 and above | 93.9 | 86.6 | 86.5 |
| RQF 1 and above | 94.6 | 89.6 | 89.0 |
| Other Qualifications | 2.2 | 3.6 | 4.6 |
| No Qualifications | 3.2 | 6.7 | 6.5 |

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## Health

The average percentage of the population in England with a long term illness or health condition is 17.6%. The proportion of residents within SMB living with a long-term illness or health condition varies significantly between wards. There are 12 wards in the borough that have a greater proportion of people with a long-term illness or health condition. Of these, Brinnington and Central has the highest percentage, with over a quarter (25.7%) of the population living with a long-term illness or health condition.

The remaining nine wards have a lower proportion of people living with a long-term illness or health condition compared with the national average, however every ward in the borough has over 15% of the population living with a long-term illness or health condition[11].

Suicide rates within areas can provide an indication of the current state of mental health of residents. The suicide rate within SMB is 8.8 per 100,000 people. This rate is lower than the North West region rate of 10.7 per 100,000, and it is lower than the England average of 10.4 per 100,000[12].

Self-assessed health from the 2021 Census within SMB indicates that the resident population consider themselves to be a healthy population. In SMB, 82.2% of the population rated their health as 'very good' or 'good', with 12.5% stating they have 'fair' health. Additionally, 4.0% of the population stated they had 'bad' health, and 1.2% as 'very bad'[5].

## Income

In SMB, the proportion of children (under 16 years) in low-income families was 13.5%, which was lower than both the North West average, at 18.0%, and the England average of 17%. This shows that SMB has a significantly lower than average number of children living in low-income families[13].

**Table 4-9** below presents the average gross hourly and weekly wages of residents in full-time employment within SMB, compared to both North West and Great Britain averages. Average wages of SMB residents in full-time employment are significantly higher both per hour and per week compared to both the North West average, and are slightly higher than

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[11] Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (2019) Local Authority Health Profile for Stockport, Available at https://www.localhealth.org.uk/#bbox=378050,397127,28205,17731&c=indicator&i=t3.l_term_ill&selcodgeo=E05000797&view=map8

[12] Public Health England (2020) Suicide rate, 2018 - 2020 [online] Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/3/gid/1938132701/pat/6/par/E12000002/ati/202/are/E08000007/iid/41001/age/285/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/3/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0

[13] Public Health England (2020) Children in low income families (under 16) 2016 data. Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/3/gid/3007000/pat/6/par/E12000002/ati/202/are/E08000007/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0

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the average for Great Britain. This may be linked to the type of employment available in the borough (see **Table 4-7**).

**Table 4-9 - Average Gross and Weekly Earnings of Residents in SMB[10]**

|  | SMB (£) | North West (£) | Great Britain (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gross Weekly Pay | 729.3 | 649.0 | 682.6 |
| Hourly Pay (Excluding Overtime) | 18.91 | 16.59 | 17.49 |

## Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small neighbourhoods in England[14]. IMD is used by local governments to focus programmes in the most deprived areas and develop strategies, such as the SLP in SMB.

Of the 190 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) across SMB, in 2019, 30 were ranked within the 20 - 30% most deprived neighbourhoods, with 17 in the top 10% most deprived neighbourhoods[15]. There were 40 LSOAs are within the 40-50% of most deprived neighbourhoods, 36 LSOAs are within the 40-50% least deprived neighbourhoods, with 41 LSOAs within the 30-20% least deprived neighbourhoods, and 26 LSOAs in SMB within the 10% least deprived neighbourhoods.

The most deprived LSOAs in SMB are located in the north and centre of the borough, largely located in the wards of Brinnington and Central, Davenport and Cale Green, and Offerton.

The least deprived LSOAs in SMB are largely located to the south and east of the borough, within the wards of Bramhall South and Woodford, Marple North, and Marple South and High Lane, amongst others.

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[14] Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) The English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 – Guidance
[15] Indices of Deprivation (2019) Indices of Deprivation: 2019 and 2015 [online] Available at: https://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html# (Accessed: 31/05/2022)

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# 5 Assessment of Policies

## 5.1 Introduction

The policies of the SLP have been reviewed and assessed against the key determinants of health (outlined in **Section 2.2)** to identify potential effects within the study area population.

Policies have been split into the following themes for ease of assessing, as follows:

- Strategic Policies;
- Providing for Our Communities;
- Our Climate Resilient Stockport;
- Our Homes;
- Our Environment;
- Our Town Centres;
- Supporting Our Businesses and Centres; and
- Our Infrastructure.

## 5.2 Strategic Policies

### Assessment Summary

The assessment identified the following social groups that could be affected by the Strategic Policies:

- Children and young people;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities and mobility impairment;
- People with existing health conditions;
- Unemployed and low-income groups; and
- Socially excluded or isolated groups.

The Strategic Policies look at SMB's overarching aims in the SLP. For this reason, they do not include as much detail as the other policies and are unlikely to have direct impacts on air quality, noise, skills and education, physical activity and green infrastructure.

The policies state that SMBC aims to provide at least 15,761 homes by 2041 with a target of 50% of those being affordable and ensure that town district and local centres meet the needs of the growing population. Maintaining the public transport system and improving walking and cycling infrastructure would also improve access to services. Sustainable building design and incorporation of elements such as sustainable drainage systems would also ensure climate change resilience for the future.

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## Strategic Policies

**Table 5-1** presents the assessment of the Strategic Policies.

**Table 5-1 - Assessment of Strategic Policies**

| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | Strategic Policy 1 states that walking and cycling will be prioritised as the preferred modes of travel. Improving infrastructure will encourage more residents to walk or cycle around the borough and will help to reduce air pollution caused by other modes of transport. This will have a positive impact on air quality. |
| Noise | The Strategic Policies are unlikely to directly impact upon noise within SMB. |
| Housing and Homelessness | Strategic Policy 1, containing the Spatial Strategy seeks to ensure that the borough will achieve its housing target, providing also accessible and affordable housing. Additionally, Strategic Policy 2 includes the encouragement of appropriate density residential developments. This means there is a positive impact on housing in the borough, although there is no specific reference to homelessness. |
| Economy and Employment | Strategic Policy 1 states that new and existing residents will be able to take advantage of new employment opportunities. With a diversity of sites allocated, this means that people with a variety of skills and experience will be able to find employment in the area, contributing to the local economy. Additionally, Strategic Policy 1 outlines the developments of additional office, industrial and warehouse floorspace in SMB. This provides increased opportunities for economic investment in SMB, as well as employment opportunities. |
| Skills and education | The Strategic Policies are unlikely to directly impact upon skills and education within SMB. |
| Social cohesion and community safety | Strategic Policy 4 refers to Equality, Impact and Opportunity. This seeks to ensure that new developments are accessible for all groups of society, do not discriminate against residents and |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | provide opportunities for delivering inclusive wealth. SMBC would also commit to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality and fostering relations between different groups. This would help to increase interactions between people from different groups and have a positive impact on social cohesion.<br><br>The Strategic Policies are unlikely to directly impact upon community safety within SMB. |
| Access to services | The Strategic Policies are likely to have a positive impact upon access to services within SMB. By ensuring new developments are located near town, district or local centres, there will be ease of access for local residents. Maintaining public transport links would also allow those with limited mobility and disabilities to access services, whilst SMBC's commitment to equality would ensure that these services cater to a wide variety of social groups. |
| Physical activity | Strategic Policy 1 states that walking and cycling will be prioritised as the preferred modes of travel. Improving infrastructure will encourage more residents to walk or cycle around the borough and will help to increase physical activity among the population. |
| Green Infrastructure | The Strategic Policies are unlikely to directly impact upon green infrastructure within SMB. |
| Climate change resilience | The Strategic Policies (particularly Strategic Policy 1 and 3) will have a positive direct impact on climate change resilience. They seek to encourage active modes of transport and ensure that new developments are sustainable and resilient to climate change. Addressing Net Zero targets and delivering biodiversity net gain would also help with the adaptation to climate change and increase resilience. |

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## 5.3 Providing for Our Communities

### Assessment Summary

The assessment identified the following social groups that could be affected by 'Providing for Our Communities' policies:

- Children and young people;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities and mobility impairment;
- People with existing health conditions;
- Unemployed and low-income groups; and
- Socially excluded or isolated groups.

Generally, Providing for Our Communities has a positive impact for health determinants. There are a number of resulting beneficial health effects, particularly upon older people, children and young people, and isolated groups.

This theme of policies aims to ensure access to community and social infrastructure, including healthcare facilities for the local population. This would have a positive impact upon access to services, as well as social cohesion as loneliness would be reduced. This improvement of access to community and social infrastructure may also provide job opportunities to local residents and also reduce the need for long distance travel to other parts of the borough. This reduction in travel could reduce pollution and have a slight improvement on air quality. The encouragement of active forms of transport, as discussed in policy Communities 1 would also help to improve air quality in the borough.

Preservation and improvements to parks and open spaces will provide vital open space to the urban borough. The development of additional open spaces will result in positive effects for children and young people, older people, and socially isolated groups. It will also benefit adult residents living local to park developments. Provision of open spaces in education settings is also secured through policy Communities 3, which would provide children and young adults with the opportunity to spend more time outdoors and improve their mental wellbeing.

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## Providing for Our Communities

**Table 5-2** below presents the assessment for Providing for Our Communities policies.

**Table 5-2 - Assessment of Providing for Our Communities Policies**

| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | Policy COM1 aims to encourage the use of more active modes of transport. This would help to reduce air pollution from cars and buses and have slight positive impacts on air quality in the borough. In turn, this may help to reduce the impacts of pollution-related health conditions, such as respiratory illnesses. This is likely to benefit all groups but particularly older people, children and young people and those with existing illnesses. |
| Noise | The policies outlined within Providing for Our Communities are unlikely to directly impact upon noise within SMB. |
| Housing and Homelessness | Although the policies under the Providing for Our Communities theme do not have a direct impact on housing and homelessness, they are important for ensuring the provision of services, including healthcare and leisure facilities, in new developments. |
| Economy and Employment | The impact of policies under the Providing for Our Community theme on the economy and employment is varied.<br><br>Policy COM1 highlights that SMBC, along with partners, would manage the location of hot-food takeaways. Although this might limit residents' intake of food that is unhealthy, this may reduce employment opportunities in some areas of the borough.  However, improvements to energy efficient design and reducing fuel poverty may provide opportunities for employment.<br><br>Despite this, policy COM2 would facilitate access to employment as new developments would be located near to community and social infrastructure. The creation of new healthcare centres would create more jobs in the local area within this field. This will help low income groups and those who are unemployed. |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Skills and education | The policies included within the Providing for Our Community theme will have a positive impact on skills and education, particularly through policy COM3. Within this policy, there is an emphasis on provision of natural spaces on educational land, as well as provision for outdoor curriculum needs, including sport and recreation. This would provide opportunities for children and young adults to spend time outdoors, improving their physical and mental wellbeing. |
| Social cohesion and community safety | Social isolation can lead to loneliness which has the potential to undermine well-being, impacting negatively on people's quality of life. Loneliness can have a huge impact on the wellbeing of many people particularly older people, those with disabilities and new and expectant mothers. It can often result in unhappiness, lowering of self-confidence and the ability to reach out for help.<br><br>According to Age UK[16], 34 LSOAs in Stockport have a population over 65 that is at very high risk of loneliness. Most of these are located in Brinnington and Central ward.<br><br>The proposed policies within the Providing for Our Communities theme are likely to have a positive impact on social cohesion and community safety. Policy COM1 proposes to create community hubs, where healthcare provision, educational facilities and other community facilities are located in close proximity to each other. This, coupled with the creation of greenspace would create areas where people of all ages can meet and socialise and participate in their community. Policy COM2 also supports the creation of a network of community and social infrastructure across the borough, promoting social interaction. These measures would help to reduce loneliness among the population. |

[16] Age UK n.d. Risk of Loneliness [online] Available at: http://data.ageuk.org.uk/loneliness-maps/england-2016/stockport/ (Last Accessed: 5th July 2024)

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | According to the IMD for crime deprivation[17], of SMB's 190 LSOAs, 25 are within the 10% most deprived, 34 are within the 20% most deprived, and 26 are within the 30% most deprived. These LSOAs are located in the north, north-west and centre of the borough. |
| | Policy COM1 is likely to improve community safety as it will support initiatives that would reduce anti-social behaviour. This would help to reduce anti-social crime in the borough and improve feelings of community safety in the area. |
| Access to services | The policies included in the Providing for Our Communities theme are likely to have a positive direct impact on access to services. Policies COM1 and COM7 aim to develop new healthcare facilities in accessible locations, and provide access to sports, leisure and cultural facilities. Meanwhile, policy COM2 would ensure that developers have to demonstrate that new developments are adequately served by community and social infrastructure through the use of an Infrastructure Phasing and Delivery Statement. |
| | This would not affect existing developments however, meaning that residents in these locations may not receive the same benefits. |
| | Policy COM6 highlights the need for sporting facilities to be protected and enhanced, which will provide local residents of the borough with access to leisure and sport services. |
| Physical activity | The proportion of adults who are categorised as overweight or obese in SMB is lower than the average in England. However, it is important to continue to provide spaces for residents to participate in physical activity in order to facilitate a healthy lifestyle. |

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[17] Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2019) Crime Domain [online] Available at: http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html# (Last Accessed: 5th July 2024)

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | The policies included in the Providing for Our Communities theme are likely to have a positive direct impact on physical activity. Policies COM1, COM4, COM5 and COM6 aim to provide access to open spaces, play, sports and leisure facilities. These will all provide opportunities for physical activity for residents of all ages within the borough. |
| Green Infrastructure | Through the maintenance of open spaces and green infrastructure, policies COM1, COM4, and COM5 will have a direct positive impact on this health determinant. The introduction of green infrastructure and protection of existing spaces will allow residents of the borough to use open spaces for leisure and sports activities. Policy COM1 also supports initiatives which enable access to healthy food, such as allotments or community gardens. These not only provide residents with healthy food, but these spaces would also contribute to green infrastructure provision in the borough. |
| Climate change resilience | The policies included in the Providing for Our Communities theme are likely to have a positive direct impact on climate change resilience. They aim to encourage active transport, create greenspaces and improve access to locally sourced healthy food. In addition to this, policy COM1 also supports energy efficient design and location of new development. This aims to reduce fuel poverty as less energy will be needed to be used to heat or cool buildings, improving climate change resilience.

Policy COM4 also encourages the creation of greenspaces that demonstrate climate change adaptation benefits and ecological improvements. Not only will this contribute to improving climate change resilience in the local area, but it will provide local residents with places where they can connect with nature, improving mental wellbeing. |

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## 5.4 Our Environment

### Assessment Summary

The assessment identified the following social groups that could be affected by Our Environment policies:

- Children and young people;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities and mobility impairment;
- People with existing health conditions; and
- Unemployed and low-income groups.

The policies within the Our Environment theme mostly relate to the environmental protections that would be implemented. For this reason, there is very little impact on some of the health determinants, such as the physical activity and housing and homelessness.

The policies are most directly linked to improving climate change resilience as they encourage preservation and enhancement of the environment and sustainable planning practices and building design. This would also have positive impacts on green infrastructure. By limiting development within the flight path for Manchester Airport, residents would not experience disruptive levels of noise. Policy ENV 9 also seeks to improve air quality in the borough, which would help to reduce respiratory health conditions caused by particulates. These policies are beneficial for both children and young people, older people as well as those with existing health conditions. People with disabilities may benefit from accessible shop fronts, and unemployed or low income groups could benefit from the skills and employments opportunities offered by these policies.

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## Our Environment

**Table 5-4** below presents the assessment for Our Environment policies.

**Table 5-3 - Assessment of Our Environment Policies**

| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | The policies outlined within Our Environment will have a positive impact on air quality. Policy ENV8 seeks to limit development that would lead to adverse impacts on the environment, including minimising the risks of adverse impacts to air quality. These polices will likely benefit all groups but particularly older people, children and young people and those with existing illnesses.<br><br>Policy ENV9 seeks to improve air quality in the borough, setting out the plans and strategies which new developments would have to comply with to be granted planning permission. This is particularly important as air pollution is linked to range of health conditions and can cause early deaths. In Greater Manchester, exposure to fine particulates is estimated to contribute to around 1,200 deaths per annum[18]. |
| Noise | The policies outlined within Our Environment will have a positive impact on noise. ENV8 seeks to limit development that would lead to adverse impacts on the environment, including minimising the risks of adverse impacts due to noise pollution. Any developments which are likely to create adverse impacts on health and quality of life which cannot be mitigated will not be permitted. This would benefit local residents as there would be less disturbance which may impact their health. |

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[18] Derived from Public Health England (2020) Public Heath Outcome Framework Indicator - Health Protection [online] Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/1/gid/1000043/pat/15/ati/401/are/E08000007/iid/30101/age/230/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1 (Last Accessed: 5th July 2024)

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | Policy ENV13 also related directly to aircraft noise. As Manchester Airport is directly west of the borough, residents can be affected by aircraft noise, particularly in Gatley and Cheadle Hulme[19]. Ensuring new developments in areas that could experience increased noise have suitable mitigation would help to limit health impacts such as sleep disorders. |
| Housing and Homelessness | ENV16 includes the development of high density housing, particularly within Stockport town centre and other urban areas.. This is likely to provide increased housing opportunities throughout Stockport's urban areas, where high density housing will provide increased opportunities for homes. |
| Economy and Employment | ENV7 seeks to enhance and safeguard soil quality. This is important so that agricultural soils can be maintained and provide high yields in the long term, safeguarding the farming profession, and ensuring it can continue to contribute to the local economy.

Policy ENV22 also seeks to preserve the historic environment within the borough. This is important as conservation of heritage assets may help to bring economic benefits to the local community through tourism. Stockport has a strong industrial heritage, and has around 400 Listed Buildings, 37 Conservation areas and 6 Scheduled Monuments[20]. |
| Skills and education | The policies outlined within Our Environment are unlikely to have large direct impacts on skills and education. However, Policy ENV22 could indirectly influence education in the local community as it |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | seeks to preserve the historic environment within the borough. This may provide opportunities for local people to learn more about their community and where they live. |
| Social cohesion and community safety | ENV20 is likely to result in positive effects upon community safety. The policy includes improvements to the public realm, including provision of appropriate street lighting which avoids dark areas and creating active frontages and increasing natural surveillance. This will likely improve feelings of safety within the public realm and may reduce anti-social behaviour in dark areas. |
| Access to services | Policy ENV14 includes designing socially inclusive spaces for all users, while Policy ENV21 includes ensuring at shop frontages are accessible to all users. This is important for people who may have mobility issues in accessing local services, as they will be able to enter and leave shops or healthcare facilities independently. Additionally, ENV20 includes improvements to the accessibility of the public realm, contributing to improved access to services, facilities and shops. |
| Physical activity | The policies outlined within Our Environment are unlikely to directly impact upon physical activity within Stockport. Despite this, the policies will have a positive impact on green infrastructure (see below) which may encourage residents to spend time outside and provide spaces where residents can exercise. |
| Green Infrastructure | The policies in the Natural Environment sub theme (ENV1 to 7) would all have a positive impact on green infrastructure. They set out how the natural environment can be protected and enhanced through biodiversity net gain; the protection of trees, woodland and hedgerows; and limiting development on Green Belt land. These measures will help to enhance open spaces that already exist within the borough, and protect those that are home to important species. Policy ENV5 specifically sets out how new development proposals must include planting of trees or hedgerows, and for residential development, there should be a new tree planted for each additional bedroom created. This means that green space creation and enhancement will continue within the borough, which allows residents to use the space for exercise or to help improve their mental wellbeing. |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Climate change resilience | The policies in the Our Environment theme would have a positive impact on climate change resilience. Policies ENV1 and 2 set out how the natural environment can be protected and enhanced through green infrastructure biodiversity net gain; the protection of trees, woodland and hedgerows; and limiting development on Green Belt land. These measures will help to enhance open spaces that already exist within the borough, and protect those that are home to important species.

ENV10 aims to limit activities that would reduce the quality or quantity of groundwater resources. This would provide resilience to the supply of drinking water in the area. Policy ENV13 aims to manage the contamination and storage of hazardous substances, and remediation of brownfield sites. This is important as it would enable brownfield sites to be used, reducing environmental impacts on greenfield sites whilst limiting any potential impacts to health.

Policy ENV14 seeks to ensure that building design is sustainable and is consistent with the National Design Guide. This means that developments are resilient to changes in climate as they use sustainable techniques such as Sustainable Drainage Systems to mitigate flood risk or low carbon building materials, for example. Additionally, ENV20 includes ensuring the public realm is resilient to the effects of climate change, including the urban heat island effect. |

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## 5.5 Our Climate Resilient Stockport

### Assessment Summary

The assessment identified the following social groups that could be affected by the Our Climate Resilient Stockport theme policies:

- Children and young people;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities and mobility impairment;
- People with existing health conditions;
- Unemployed and low-income groups; and
- Socially excluded or isolated groups.


The policies within the Our Climate Resilient Stockport theme mostly relate to how buildings and future development can contribute towards net zero goals. For this reason, there is little impact on some of the health determinants, such as the economy and employment, skills and education, and physical activity.

The policies are most directly linked to improving climate change resilience as they encourage sustainable building design. This includes improving energy efficiency within homes and providing evidence of building design standards used by developers. These measures would help improve energy usage and would reduce fuel poverty, which may benefit those on lower incomes and older people. Retrofitting existing homes would also extend these benefits to other residents within the borough. As some areas of the borough are prone to surface water flooding, the implementation of sustainable drainage systems would help to reduce flood risk and increase climate change resilience.

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**Our Climate Resilient Stockport**

Table 5-3below shows the assessment for the policies under the Our Climate Resilient Stockport theme.

**Table 5-4 - Assessment of Our Climate Resilient Stockport Policies**

| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | SMBC is committed to a 100% reduction (from 1990 levels) in total carbon emissions produced in the borough by 2038. As part of this commitment, sustainable building design and encouraging sustainable modes of transport (for example active travel) are emphasised in the policies under the Our Climate Resilient Stockport theme. These changes would reduce carbon emissions in the borough, which may lead to improvements in air quality. This effect would not only be present in the borough but may contribute to wider air quality improvements in neighbouring boroughs. |
| Noise | CR1 is anticipated to result in improvements in noise levels for residents of new homes.  Referring to environmental and social design standards in applications will help to emphasise the sustainable design and construction benefits. In terms of noise, standards such as BREEAM/ BREEAM Infrastructure include criteria to reduce disturbance due to noise. CR3 is anticipated to result in improvements to noise from wind energy developments. Noise exposure can result in psychological stress and sleep disorders. Reducing noise in this way provides a quiet environment for residents to rest. |
| Housing and Homelessness | The policies outlined within Our Climate Resilient Stockport are unlikely to directly impact upon the provision of housing or tackling homelessness within SMB, though will result in an improvement in both the quality and fuel efficiency of housing. The beneficial effects within the existing housing stock of improving the energy efficiency performance are set out in policy CR5. |
| Economy and Employment | The policies outlined within Our Climate Resilient Stockport are unlikely to directly impact upon the economy and employment within SMB. |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Skills and education | The policies outlined within Our Climate Resilient Stockport are unlikely to directly impact upon skills and education within SMB. |
| Social cohesion and community safety | Policy CR3 seeks to increase the number of community owned energy schemes. These initiatives not only provide an important role in reducing carbon emissions and increasing renewable energy capacity, but they may provide social benefits. Initiatives like these could foster social cohesion across different groups in the borough. This may also improve mental health and reduce isolation as people get involved in community projects. It is not anticipated that the policies outlined within the Our Climate Resilient Stockport theme will have an impact on community safety. |
| Access to services | The policies outlined within Our Climate Resilient Stockport are unlikely to directly impact upon access to services within SMB. |
| Physical activity | The policies outlined within Our Climate Resilient Stockport are unlikely to directly impact upon physical activity within SMB. |
| Green Infrastructure | Policy CR1 may have a slight positive effect on green infrastructure as it encourages building design and quality developments to incorporate biodiversity net gain and adaptation to climate change through green infrastructure. CR3 also includes the requirement for 20% biodiversity net gain to be incorporated within energy developments. This would help to deliver Net Zero goals for the borough. From a health perspective, green infrastructure near homes and other developments may help to improve physical and mental wellbeing for nearby residents. |
| Climate change resilience | The policies listed under the Our Climate Resilient Stockport theme will have a positive impact on climate change resilience. They include provision for sustainable building design, incorporating flood water management, sustainable drainage, biodiversity net gain and sustainable transport. The majority of the borough is not currently within a flood zone, however there are some areas to |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | the west of the borough, near Cheadle and Gatley, which are in Flood Zone 3[21]. In addition to this, there are pockets across the borough that are at high risk of surface water flooding[22]. By introducing flood water management and sustainable drainage systems, the risk of flooding will be mitigated. In turn this may reduce stress on local residents during a high rainfall event as fewer homes would be affected by flooding.

Policy CR2 will ensure that developments adhere to energy targets and minimise carbon emissions. Policy CR3 outlines how all new development will be zero carbon from 2028. Additionally, Policy CR4 will ensure that consideration is given to how heat networks can contribute to reducing carbon emissions within developments.

Policy CR5 details how existing homes can be retrofitted to improve their carbon footprint. These measures may have positive impacts on health and wellbeing as they allow residents to maintain a comfortable standard of living and heat their homes to a suitable level throughout the winter months. |

[21] Environment Agency (2024) Flood Map for Planning - Stockport. Available at: https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/flood-zone-results?easting=389530&northing=390146&location=Stockport&fullName=%20&recipientemail=%20 (Last Accessed: 5th July 2024)
[22] Environment Agency (2024) Long term flood risk map. Available at: https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/map (Last Accessed: 5th July 2024)

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## 5.6 Our Homes

**Assessment Summary**

The assessment identified the following social groups that could be affected by Our Homes policies:

- Children and young people;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities and mobility impairment;
- People with existing health conditions;
- Unemployed and low-income groups; and
- Socially excluded or isolated groups.

Within this theme, the policies seek to maintain and develop Stockport's housing provision, and ensure that new developments have the required associated infrastructure. Across health determinants, these policies result in a long-term positive effect overall. However, the development and construction activities associated with new housing developments may result in negative effects in the short-term upon air quality and noise.

The policies would have positive impacts on the housing determinant of health in particular, as they develop Stockport's housing provision for the future, including new developments. The requirements of Our Homes Policies also result in positive impacts upon social cohesion, green infrastructure, and access to services in particular. These are most likely to positively impact upon **children and young people**, **older people**, **people with disabilities and mobility impairments**, **existing health conditions** and **socially isolated groups**. Additionally, the requirements for affordable housing results in positive impacts upon **unemployed** and **low-income groups**.

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# Our Homes

**Table 5-9** presents the assessment of policies for the Our Homes theme.

**Table 5-5 - Assessment of Our Homes Policies**

| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | The policies within Our Homes are unlikely to have any direct long-term impact on air quality in Stockport. However, there is the potential for short term negative effects upon air quality as a result of construction related emissions from new housing developments. Without suitable mitigation measures, and the use of best construction practices, this is likely to negatively impact those in close proximity to construction works, particularly children, older people (aged 75+) and those with existing health conditions. |
| Noise | The policies within Our Homes are unlikely to have any direct long-term impact on noise. However, there is the potential for short term negative effects upon noise as a result of construction of new housing developments. Without suitable mitigation measures, and the use of best construction practices, this is likely to have negative effects on those in close proximity to construction works through increasing noise disturbance. |
| Housing and Homelessness | All policies within the Our Homes theme contribute to positive effects upon housing and homelessness in Stockport. Policies HOM1, HOM2, HOM3, HOM5, HOM6, HOM13 and HOM14 all ensure that the housing provision required for Stockport is protected and also grows in the coming years. These policies, specifically Policy HOM5 and HOM6, also outline the need for affordable housing which is beneficial to unemployed and low income groups. Additionally, policy HOM11 contributes to positive effects upon low income groups and unemployed people through the support for HMO housing, providing an affordable housing option for many social groups such as young people. |
| | There are also likely to be positive effects upon older people, particularly as a result of policy HOM7. This policy outlines the requirements for specialist housing for older people, ensuring adequate provisions for this group. |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | There are likely to be additional benefits for young people particularly care leavers and those from low income groups. Policy HOM10 specifically targets children's residential care and semi-independent supported living for young people. Supported housing for young people can also be for those who are at risk of homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, suffering from mental health or other potentially complex issues. |
| Economy and Employment | Our Homes polices are likely to result in positive effects on economy and employment within Stockport. Policy HOM1, in particular contributes to these positive effects as it identifies that new housing developments should have good access to employment opportunities. This is beneficial to all social groups, especially unemployed and low income groups. Additionally, improving access to employment opportunities is likely to reduce stress associated with commuting and enable resident to spend more time at home or participating in social or recreational activities, and less time travelling to work, positively impacting on health. |
| Skills and education | Our Homes, specifically Policy HOM1 is likely to result in positive effects. The policy states that new developments should have good access to education services, this is most likely to have benefits on children and young people in Stockport. |
| Social cohesion and community safety | There are likely to be positive effects upon social cohesion and community safety as a result of the policies within Our Homes. Policy HOM1 outlines the need for green space within new housing developments. This is likely to result in social opportunities as communities have communal spaces to participate in social and/or recreational activities particularly for those who are socially isolated, as well as providing a space for all groups. Policy HOM5 includes fully integrated affordable housing within new housing developments, improving social cohesion within these developments, resulting in positive effects upon those on low incomes.

Additionally, Policies HOM9 and HOM11 also contribute to positive effects upon perceived community safety. Policy HOM9 outlines specific requirements for accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The provision of designated sites for these groups is likely to reduce nuisance issues sometimes associated with unauthorised |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | encampments, and increase perceived community safety within the resident population. Similarly, policy HOM11 outlines the requirements for Housing of Multiple Occupation (HMO) developments and prevents the over proliferation of HMOs. This is likely to improve perceived community safety and social cohesion amongst existing residents. |
| Access to services | Our Homes, specifically Policy HOM1 is likely to result in positive effects. Good access to facilities (such as education, shops, leisure, health services and employment opportunities) is a key element of this policy. This is most likely to have benefits across social groups but particularly older people, socially isolated groups, children and young people, those with disabilities or mobility impairments, long term health conditions, unemployed and low income people. These social groups are likely to face barriers to access such as cost, location, or personal mobility. For example those on a low income may not be able to afford a private car and are therefore reliant on local public transport or services provided locally to their home. Similarly older people or people with reduced mobility might struggle to travel longer distances to reach facilities. |
| Physical activity | Policy HOM1 also contributes to positive effects upon physical activity in Stockport as new developments should have access to open space. This is likely to contribute to positive effects on health  due to the correlation between proximity to open space and levels of physical activity. These positive effects on physical activity are likely to be felt by children and young people and adults in Stockport. |
| Green Infrastructure | There are anticipated positive effects upon green infrastructure as a result of Our Homes, specifically Policy HOM8. The development of green infrastructure will allow residents of the borough to use open spaces for leisure and sports activities. These improvements will also enhance open spaces that already exist within the borough and provide additional infrastructure to be used by a variety of species in the borough. This policy ensures that green space creation and enhancement will continue within the borough, alongside residents being able to use the space for recreation or to help improve their mental wellbeing. Policy HOM8 also provides opportunities for growing food in new housing developments and encourages |

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|---|---|
| | local food production. This can contribute to increased physical activity, opportunities for socialising, encouraging healthier eating habits and improving health overall. |
| Climate change resilience | There are likely to be positive impacts upon climate change resilience, particularly attributed to Policy HOM8. This policy outlines sets out the need for green infrastructure to be included within new housing developments Which can contribute to improving the resilience of developments to the effects of climate change. |

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## 5.7  Our Town Centre

### Assessment Summary

The assessment identified the following social groups that could be affected by Our Town Centre policies:

- Children and young people;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities and mobility impairment;
- People with existing health conditions;
- Unemployed and low-income groups; and
- Socially excluded or isolated groups.

The policies within the Our Town Centre theme aim to improve provision of homes, local services and transport in the Stockport Town Centre area. Due to the nature of these policies, there is very little direct impact on some of the health determinants, such as skills and education and climate change resilience.

The policies seek to provide new residential development within the town centre for a wide range of social groups, including elderly people and families, although there is no specific mention of how to tackle homelessness in this regard. There is also no mention of community housing provision so there may be less housing available for low-income groups. The inclusion of retail and commercial provision as well as cultural and leisure facilities within the policies would positively impact the economy and employment health determinant as there will be more opportunities available in the local area. In terms of social cohesion, the creation of new community spaces will provide opportunities for social interaction, which will help to reduce loneliness within the community.

Access to services would be improved in two main ways. Firstly, ensuring that there is provision near new residential developments will ensure demand is satisfied, whilst improvements in public transport would enable those with mobility problems to access local services. Where existing developments lack access to services, the improved transport offering may make it easier to reach nearby services. The improvements to active transport provision, including improved connectivity and increased safety may help to encourage more physical activity among the population.

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## Our Town Centre

**Table 5-5** below presents the assessment for Our Town Centre policies.

**Table 5-6 - Assessment of Our Town Centre Policies**

| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | The policies outlined within Our Town Centre are unlikely to have direct adverse impact upon air quality within Stockport. However, Policy STC7 is encouraging more active modes of transport and improvements to public transport, which may could potentially result in improvements to air quality, through vehicle emission reduction. This is likely to benefit all groups but particularly older people, children and young people and those with existing illnesses. |
| Noise | The policies outlined within Our Town Centre are unlikely to have direct adverse impact upon noise within Stockport, however an increase in active travel may reduce vehicle use, ad improve tranquillity within the town centre. There may also be potential issues of increase noise for residents due to town centre living in conjunction with a vibrant evening economy. People can be especially sensitive to noise disturbance due their age and/ or disability. |
| Housing and Homelessness | The policies included within Our Town Centre are likely to have positive impacts upon housing and homelessness in Stockport. Policies STC1 to STC3 aim to provide new homes in the town centre area. Although details are not defined at this stage, this would include affordable homes, and provision of homes for older people and families. |
| Economy and Employment | The policies included within Our Town Centre are likely to have positive impacts upon the economy and employment in Stockport. The policies seek to optimise the development of the town centre, creating new venues for cultural events, and develop high quality conference facilities that would encourage businesses into the area. |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | Policies STC2 and STC3 outlines different Town Centre Policy Areas and key projects which are earmarked for new developments, which include retail and commercial spaces. These would provide employment opportunities to local people. |
| Skills and education | The policies outlined within Our Town Centre are unlikely to directly impact upon skills and education within SMB. |
| Social cohesion and community safety | The policies included within Our Town Centre are likely to have positive impacts upon social cohesion in SMB. They aim to enhance and broaden community facilities and infrastructure, which would allow expansion of cultural and creative uses. An example of this is at Weir Mill, which would provide a mixed-use community facility and high quality public spaces. The policies seek to establish the town centre as a place to gather and spend leisure time, further promoting social interaction. As outlined in Policy STC2, new residential developments would be located near community facilities which would enable residents to use these facilities regularly. These policies would foster community cohesion as they allow local residents to participate in their community, and meet others through a range of activities, which would help to reduce loneliness. Reductions in the number of vacant shops in town centres may improve community safety, through the presence of investment, active frontages, and greater footfall in the area. |
| | Policy STC6 states that there will be improvements to the public realm within Town Centres.. This may have a positive impact on feelings of community safety and social cohesion . |
| Access to services | The policies included within Our Town Centre are likely to have positive impacts upon access to services in Stockport. Policy STC1 seeks to provide more community and cultural facilities in the town centre, which would be easily accessible to local people. Additionally, Policy STC1 outlines development of a new hospital to serve the community. |
| | As outlined in Policy STC2, new residential developments would be located near community facilities which would enable residents to use these facilities regularly. The short distance between |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | residential developments and local facilities would enable easy access to such services. Policy STC3 also outlines how residential developments may be expected to contribute towards the provision of social infrastructure, including retail and community facilities, healthcare, education and leisure provision. This would help to ensure that needs of the local residents are met, however existing developments may not experience these improvements, therefore the benefits would not be experienced equally across the borough,

Policies STC6 and7aim to improve active transport infrastructure and increase public transport provision. This would facilitate access to services within the town centre and help to reduce journey times. Residents in existing developments would benefit from improved transport infrastructure as it would be easier to access services in nearby areas. |
| Physical activity | Policy STC6 seeks to improve connectivity of the Town Centre Area. One way it aims to do this is by overcoming barriers to pedestrian and cycle routes, for example of the A6 corridor. By improving connectivity, residents may feel safer using more active forms of transport throughout their daily lives, therefore increasing their level of physical activity.

Policy STC7 also contributes to encouraging physical activity through designing developments to encourage walking and cycling within the town centre. |
| Green Infrastructure | Policy STC6 stipulates that all developments within the town centres shall contribute to the public realm and enhance it for all groups inclusively. This include the introduction of green infrastructure and play parks. These additions are likely to benefit all groups. |
| Climate change resilience | The policies outlined within Our Town Centre are unlikely to directly impact upon climate change resilience within Stockport. Policies from the Our Environment theme are cross-referred to within this theme, however their impact is not assessed here. |

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## 5.8 Supporting Our Businesses and Centres

### Assessment Summary

For ease of assessment, this theme has been split into two sub-themes:

- Businesses (Policy numbers BUS 1 - BUS 6); and
- Centres (Policy numbers CEN 1 to CEN 8).

The assessment identified the following social groups that could be affected by Supporting Our Businesses and Centres policies:

- Children and young people;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities and mobility impairment;
- Unemployed and low-income groups; and
- Socially excluded or isolated groups.

The policies within the Businesses sub-theme are related to skills and education and employment and the economy. They aim to safeguard Employment Areas and ensure that new workspace allows for flexible working patterns. This may benefit families with young children, for example as parents would be able to work in more flexible locations. Policy BUS 6 also seeks to provide skills and training to the local community which would benefit those who are unemployed or in low-income groups as it provides the opportunity to retrain and learn new skills.

The policies within the Centres sub-theme seek to ensure that district and local centres have a range of uses within them. For this reason, they have positive impacts on economy and employment, social cohesion and access to services. Ensuring that district and local centres provide a wide range of community services would help to reduce loneliness, particularly among older people, and could improve social cohesion. As services will be located more locally to residential areas, people with disabilities and mobility impairments may find it easier to access local services as they do not have to travel as far.

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## Supporting Our Businesses and Centres

**Table 5-7** below presents the assessment for the sub-theme of Businesses policies.

**Table 5-7 - Assessment of Policies within the Businesses sub-theme**

| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | The policies outlined within the Businesses sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon air quality within SMB. |
| Noise | The policies outlined within the Businesses sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon noise within SMB. |
| Housing and Homelessness | The policies outlined within the Businesses sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon housing and homelessness within SMB. |
| Economy and Employment | The policies within the Business sub-theme are likely to have a positive direct impact on economy and employment. The policies aim to safeguard Employment Areas and maintain a strong and diverse supply of employment sites. There would be a creation of workspaces that allow for more flexible working patterns. This would benefit the local economy and provide opportunities to the local community. |
| Skills and education | Policy BUS6 seeks to increase access to a range of employment skills and opportunities across the borough. For developments that exceed the £1 million design and build cost threshold, Stockport will seek to enter into an Employment and Skills Agreement that would include an Employment and Skills Plan for training and recruitment. This would provide local people with the opportunity to gain new skills, and remain employed after a development is complete. |
| Social cohesion and community safety | The policies outlined within the Businesses sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon social cohesion and community safety within SMB. |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Access to services | The policies outlined within the Businesses sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon access to services within SMB. |
| Physical activity | The policies outlined within the Businesses sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon physical activity within SMB. |
| Green Infrastructure | The policies outlined within the Businesses sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon green infrastructure within SMB. |
| Climate change resilience | The policies outlined within the Businesses sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon climate change resilience within SMB. |

**Table 5-8** below presents the assessment for the sub-theme of Centres policies.

**Table 5-8 - Assessment of Policies within the Centres sub-theme**

| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | The policies outlined within the Centres sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon air quality within SMB. |
| Noise | Policy CEN5 includes the requirement for hot food takeaways to utilise appropriate extraction systems to disperse and prevent odours. As part of this, systems much be acoustically attenuated and not have unacceptable vibration impacts. This will improve the wellbeing of residents living and working close to hot food takeaways. However, increased development in town centres may increase overall levels of noise. |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Housing and Homelessness | The policies outlined within the Centres sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon housing and homelessness within SMB, however it is stated that centres have potential for residential growth, and housing will be encouraged above active ground floor uses. |
| Economy and Employment | The policies in the Centres sub-theme are likely to have a positive impact on the economy and employment as they seek to provide sustainable growth in district and neighbourhood centres around the borough, providing employment to local people. Locating core services and facilities near homes and workspaces would increase convenience for local people, and benefit the local economy. Policy CEN7 aims to encourage applications which would support evening economy uses which are welcoming and inclusive for a range of users, including families.<br><br>Despite this, CEN5 and CEN6 could potentially result in an adverse impact on the economy and employment as these policies plan to limit the approval of planning permissions for hot-food takeaways, amusement arcades, betting shops and pawnbrokers. Although this would have a beneficial impact on health outcomes, and enable diversity in commercial and retail offerings in town centres, it could restrict the availability of low-skilled employment opportunities and discourage investment from certain businesses in the area. |
| Skills and education | The policies outlined within the Centres sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon skills and education within SMB. |
| Social cohesion and community safety | The policies outlined within the Centres sub-theme are likely to have a positive impact on social cohesion within SMB. By diversifying district and local centres and ensuring they are the focal point for communities, there will be increased opportunities for social interaction. In turn, this could help reduce loneliness and improve social cohesion in the local community.<br><br>Reductions in the number of vacant shops in town centres may improve community safety, through the presence of investment, active frontages, and greater footfall in the area. |

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| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Access to services | The policies in the Centres sub-theme are likely to have a positive impact on access to services as they seek to provide sustainable growth in district and neighbourhood centres around the borough. This will mean that core services and facilities, for a variety of users, are within easy reach of homes and workspaces, improving access to services. Policy CEN3 sets out the goals for each district centre, and these aim to improve access to retail, improved sustainable transport provision, and new leisure services. Policy CEN8 seeks to ensure that out-of-centre locations do not detract from main town centres, and that services in out-of-centre locations are complementary to those in defined centres. This ensures that those who cannot travel to out-of-centre locations still have access to services. |
| Physical activity | The policies outlined within the Centres sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon physical activity within SMB. |
| Green Infrastructure | The policies outlined within the Centres sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon green infrastructure within SMB. |
| Climate change resilience | The policies outlined within the Centres sub-theme are unlikely to directly impact upon climate change resilience within SMB. |

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## 5.9 Our Infrastructure

### Assessment Summary

The assessment identified the following social groups that could be affected by Our Infrastructure policies:

- Children and young people;
- Older people;
- People with disabilities and mobility impairment;
- People with existing health conditions;
- Unemployed and low-income groups; and
- Socially excluded or isolated groups.

Within this theme, the policies seek to maintain and enhance infrastructure, and ensure that new developments have sufficient infrastructure to meet future needs. Despite this, there may not be the same provision for existing developments, meaning the benefits may not be experienced the same across the borough. There is unlikely to be a direct impact on housing and homelessness, skills and education, and social cohesion and community safety.

The policies would have positive impacts on air quality and noise as they seek to improve access to active methods of transport and mitigate impacts from pollution and nuisance. This would be particularly beneficial for those who live near main roads and experience health issues related to air pollution or noise. The improvements to transport infrastructure outlined in the policies would also improve access to services. This is particularly important for groups who have mobility issues as they may be able to reach local centres more easily. Improving walking and cycling infrastructure and Public Rights of Way would also facilitate increased physical activity as local residents may feel safer using more active forms of transport.

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## Our Infrastructure

**Table 5-8** presents the assessment of policies for the Our Infrastructure theme.

**Table 5-9 - Assessment of Our Infrastructure Policies**

| Determinant of Health | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | The policies outlined within the Our Infrastructure theme are likely to have a direct positive impact upon air quality within SMB. The development of a low carbon transport network would mean that there is less reliance on more polluting methods, such as private car use. Policy INF8 also aims to ensure that the effects of air pollution from road transport are mitigated. In turn, this would improve air quality and could lead to improvements in symptoms of those with respiratory conditions. |
| Noise | Policy INF8 seeks to mitigate the effects of noise pollution from road transport. There are few details on how this could be achieved however mitigating noise pollution would ensure that residents and other sensitive receptors that are located near busy roads would experience lower noise levels. This could help to reduce stress and sleep disorders caused by excessive noise. |
| Housing and Homelessness | The policies outlined within the Our Infrastructure theme are unlikely to directly impact upon housing and homelessness within SMB. |
| Economy and Employment | Policy INF11 would have a positive impact on the economy and employment. The policy seeks to ensure more efficient and sustainable movement of freight, which would provide jobs in the local area and contribute to the stability of local supply chains. |
| Skills and education | The policies outlined within the Our Infrastructure theme are unlikely to directly impact upon skills and education within SMB. |
| Social cohesion and community safety | Policy INF8 aims to improve road safety in the borough. It will ensure that streets and road layouts are safe for all users and help people feel safe enough to choose walking, cycling or public transport. Lower speed schemes such as 20mph zones and quiet lanes will be used to improve |

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|---|---|
| | road safety. Between 2016 and 2018 there were 21.8 per 100,000 population killed or seriously injured in SMB. This is significantly better than the England average of 42.6 per 100,000[23]. However, improving road safety would improve the sense of community safety in the borough.<br><br>The policies outlined within the Our Infrastructure theme are unlikely to directly impact upon social cohesion within SMB. |
| Access to services | The policies outlined within the Our Infrastructure theme are likely to have a positive direct impact upon access to services within SMB. The policies seek to ensure that proposals demonstrate that infrastructure, facilities and services can be provided to support the needs of new development. Policy INF2 ensures that digital infrastructure is enhanced, allowing residents more reliable access to online services. Policy INF10 aims to improve public transport services and ensure new developments have sufficient provision. As set out in Policy INF15, parking within new developments would facilitate a range of users, including disabled badge holders and car club vehicles. This would ensure that residents are able to access local services and could help those with mobility problems to reach services more easily. These routes would be safeguarded for the future, (Policy INF16) so there would be long term positive impacts on access to services. |
| Physical activity | The policies outlined within the Our Infrastructure theme are likely to have a positive direct impact upon physical activity within SMB. Policy INF9 seeks to prioritise walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure within new developments. This would include increasing safety and creating spaces for mobility scooters, prams and buggies and age-friendly seating, and infrastructure to support blind and partially sighted people. With these measures, a wide variety of social groups would be |

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[23] Public Health England (2022) Local Authority Health Profiles - Injuries and Ill Health. Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938132695/pat/6/par/E12000002/ati/202/are/E08000007/yrr/3/cid/4/tbm/1

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| | able to take advantage of enhanced infrastructure for active transport, improving opportunities for physical activity.<br><br>Policy INF12 also seeks to maintain Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and Strategic Recreation Routes. By ensuring these routes are safe and fit for purpose this may encourage their use, and help facilitate opportunities for physical activity within the borough. |
| Green Infrastructure | The policies outlined within the Our Infrastructure theme are unlikely to directly impact upon green infrastructure within SMB, although sustainable water management Policies INF3 (Flood Risk), INF4 (Drainage), INF5 (Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)) and INF8 (Sustainable streets) may have an indirect positive impact on green infrastructure in the borough. |
| Climate change resilience | The policies outlined within the Our Infrastructure theme are likely to have a positive direct impact upon climate change resilience within SMB. Policies INF3, 4 and 5 are concerned with flood risk, drainage and SuDs. These policies aim to work with natural processes to manage surface runoff and flood risk. This would increase resilience to flooding events. Policy INF6 aims to increase resilience in water usage, by ensuring that rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling are used to reduce pressure on the sewer network. |

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