

Essex County Council (ECC) Minerals Local Plan (MLP) as amended (2021) Regulation 18



Health Impact Assessment (HIA): Screening Report

February 2021





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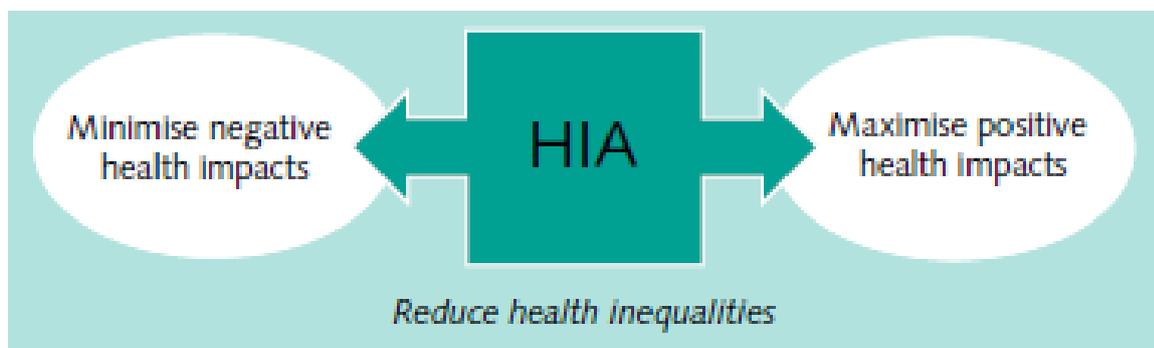
1. Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

1.1 Introduction

Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) can be defined as: ‘a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program 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’.¹ An HIA helps decision-makers in local authorities and other stakeholders make choices about actions to best prevent ill-health, promote good health and reduce health inequalities.

At the time of writing, there is no statutory duty in place to undertake a HIA at the planning stage. However, mineral extraction and its accompanying processes have the potential to impact on health, which could be cause for concern amongst members of the public.

Figure 1: HIA Function



Source: Department of Health, 2010

The Department of Health (p.4, 2010)² provides a brief overview of what a HIA of Government Policy (in the case of this report, a Minerals Local Plan policy) should achieve:

- Screen the plan area to determine if the proposal is likely to result in health impacts, paying specific mind to any local inequality issues;
- Provide recommendations throughout the decision making process, allowing for responses to be made to any issues that are raised;
- Finally, the HIA should maximise positive impacts, while minimising the negative impacts of the plan / policy.

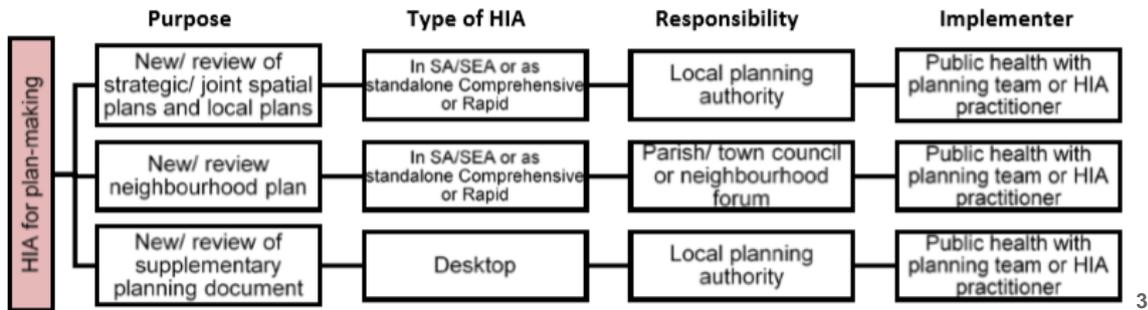
Society has fundamentally changed the way it utilises local spaces and places as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has resulted in an exacerbation of underlying health inequalities that have become prevalent in the most deprived urban and rural areas as highlighted by Public Health England’s review of disparities across the country. Following this, Public Health England published guidance titled ‘Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning’, within this document is a diagram that provides exemplary plan making documents and the most appropriate type of HIA to accompany

¹ Gothenburg Consensus, ECHP

² Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, Department of Health, 2010

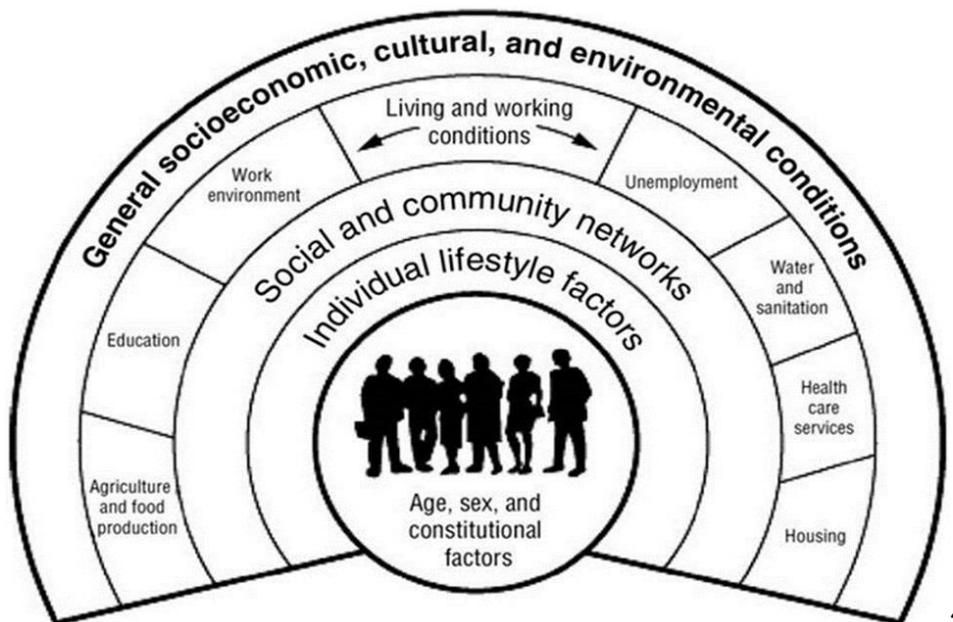
them. This can be seen in figure 2 below. This document has been prepared in parallel with the SA of the Plan review.

Figure 2: Indicative type of HIA appropriate for plans and development projects



Both health and wellbeing can be influenced by a variety of factors. HIA is based upon a broad model of generalised socio-economic, cultural and environmental issues. These issues are more commonly known as ‘determinants of health’. Dahlgren and Whitehead (1991) developed a social determinants framework, it offers insight into how a plan or policy may impact in different ways, on different groups of people, paying attention to an individual’s living and working conditions, the framework is shown in figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Dahlgren and Whitehead model of health determinants

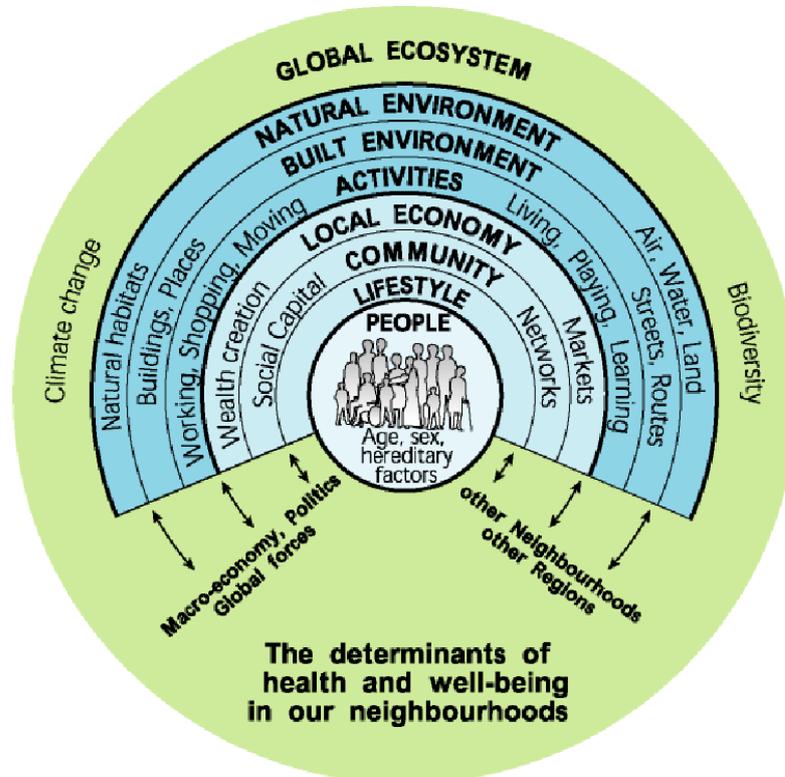


Barton and Grant (1998) also developed a social determinants framework found in figure 4 below, this alternative framework focuses more so on ecology and is utilised when planning people’s lived environments.

³ Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning, Public Health England, 2020

⁴ Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

Figure 4: Barton and Grant model of health determinants



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1.2 Scope

The Minerals Local Plan Review (referred to hereafter as ‘the Plan’) is being undertaken by Essex County Council (ECC) in accordance with and under the provisions of Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017, which sets out that reviews at least every five years are a legal requirement for all local plans. This is supported by Paragraph 33 of the NPPF (2019), which states (inter-alia) that “Policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary. Reviews should be completed no later than five years from the adoption date of a plan and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy.”

The Essex Minerals Local Plan (MLP) was adopted in July 2014 and provides planning policies for minerals development in Essex until 2029. It sets a policy framework within which the best possible use of finite resources can be made and allocates sites for future mineral extraction and associated development. The MLP contains policies promoting recycling and secondary processing, the safeguarding of resources and facilities, and high-quality site restoration, all in the pursuit of sustainable development. The amended MLP focuses on updating the policies found within the adopted 2014 MLP.

⁵ Barton and Grant, 1998

In November 2019, Essex County Council published on its website that, following an initial assessment of the adopted Minerals Local Plan 2014, there was scope to further review its policies. This further review has primarily taken the form of a 'Rationale document' ('Essex Minerals Local Plan Review 2021 – Report setting out the Rationale behind the Proposed Amendments') that documents the process as required by planning regulations and will provide a justification for the decision to propose amendments, or not, to each policy and section of the Minerals Local Plan 2014. More specifically, the report sets out:

- Details of the obligations for the review itself and how the MLP Review has been carried out,
- A broad overview of changes to the National Planning Practice Framework (NPPF) and National Guidance since the initial Minerals Local Plan was adopted in 2014,
- The Review itself, mirroring the structure of the adopted Minerals Local Plan 2014. Consideration will be given to both the continued appropriateness of each policy and its associated supporting text.

Essex County Council operates as the relevant planning authority for minerals related matters across Essex. The administrative area can be seen below in figure 5.

Figure 5: Essex County Council Minerals Administrative Area



Source: Essex County Council Minerals Local Plan.

2. Screening

2.1 Initial Considerations

During the preparation and review of a plan, assessments are carried out as part of the process in order to consider the impacts of the plans policies. This is primarily through the identification of risks and the recommended mitigation for addressing those risks.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has also been carried out alongside the HIA to assess the Plan review. The SA incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) directive requirements set out by the European Union (EU). The SA assesses the plan using a series of objectives that the plan is measured against, these objectives related to broad social and economic factors, whereas the SEA focuses on environmental effects of the plan.

An important component of the Minerals Local Plan process is the identification of mineral extraction sites. The Plan review does not identify any additional sites to those outlined within the 2014 plan. The 2014 Minerals Local Plan SA assessed these sites against a series of sustainability criteria. At that time, the preferred sites were acknowledged to have mitigatable negative impacts on health and well-being.

2.2 Screening Health Impacts

Health was identified within the SA as a Key Sustainability Issue. Such issues represent sustainability and environmental problems that may face the Plan Review area which, in turn, assists in the development of SA Objectives.

General Theme	Focused Theme	Description / Supporting Evidence
Health	Human health and pollution	Potential impacts on health, well-being and quality of life should be taken into account in identifying suitable sites for minerals sites and waste facilities. The potential impact of noise, dust, vibration, lighting and water pollution generated by ongoing operations needs to be considered.

The relevant SA Objectives that align with the above theme are as follows:

SA Objective	Environmental	Social	Economic
14) To protect and where possible enhance human health and well-being.		✓	

In order to determine if the Plan requires an HIA a series of Screening themes have been selected to assess if a HIA is needed. Table 1 below contains the full assessment of topics and includes the key potential impacts surrounding each key theme, how the Minerals Local Plan addresses these impacts, the resultant impact on health and wellbeing and finally recommendations proposed through this HIA screening exercise.

Paragraphs 5.11 and 5.12 of the Minerals Local Plan outline the requirements for HIA in the context of minerals development sites. They provide further clarification on the scenarios where a HIA would be required, primarily where a development will result in either direct or indirect impacts to health and wellbeing. In cases where a HIA is required, it should be produced in connection with other assessment documents, for example those related to the environment and transport.

In addition to the above, a number of changes have been implemented as part of the Plan Review that both address concerns over health and wellbeing and also provide further support for the matter, primarily through the updating of policies. Policy S12 – Mineral Site Restoration and After-Use, a new section was inserted addressing the direct and indirect health benefits of restoration, notably through access to quality green and blue infrastructure. Allowing users to “achieve and experience better quality lifestyles”. Furthermore, restoration brings with it opportunities to provide local communities with land uses that may be currently missing or in short supply. In addition to the Plan Review, the County Council are also undertaking projects within the same field as this, such as the Through the Green Care project, in order to make more efficient use of the green space available in the County, recognising the opportunity to support and improve health and wellbeing (both mental and physical) of residents.

Policy DM1 is proposed to be amended to include the recognition of wellbeing alongside health as well as requiring an application to consider the wider community in addition to local residents. This update would require applications for minerals development to provide further evidence that unacceptable impacts on these receptors will be avoided, resulting in further positive impacts on health as a result of the review. Policy S2 has also received similar updates where references to wellbeing are proposed to be made through the review.

The following table outlines the screening process of the MLP, factoring in all proposed amendments at this stage, prior to consultation. It raises potential impacts associated with minerals development and activities, and states how each impact is or is not addressed within the Plan. Further, recommendations are given where necessary.

Table 1: Screening of health impacts associated within minerals development / activities

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
Housing	<p>The required supply of houses in Essex is directly reliant on the availability of minerals resources. In Essex, if the housing projections contained in the City, Borough and District Councils' Local Plans are fulfilled it will mean an unprecedented increase in the number of new houses built in the County over the next 10-15 years. In total there are 143,131 new homes to be built in the 2011 to 2037 period.</p> <p>Housing growth if well planned can create a number of direct and indirect opportunities for health and wellbeing in the County, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provision of new and an improvement to the existing infrastructure which can have a positive impact on health, such as good opportunities for active travel to support physical activity which contributes to the reduction of many related health conditions and increased general wellbeing of the population · Access to green space and leisure and open spaces to support social cohesion, physical activity and mental wellbeing of the residents. 	<p>As part of the evidence base for the Minerals Local Plan, the October 2020 Greater Essex Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) sets out the amount of minerals required over the life of the plan to provide a steady and adequate supply of minerals, including aggregates. The LAA is produced annually and includes a rolling ten-year average assessment of sand and gravel sales. The minerals provision figure for the plan is above the 10-year rolling sales average – 4.31mtpa, this figure is in response to local considerations including high growth targets at the district level. The assessments made within the LAA are to be considered when the Plan itself is subjected to full review.</p>	<p>Overall positive impacts over the long term on both health and wellbeing through the support of housing growth within Essex.</p>	<p>The MLP suitably addresses housing. No further recommendations are made.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Supply of affordable housing to reduce homelessness and provide homes for those who cannot get onto the housing ladder · Supporting the local economy and increasing the overall standard of living in the County which in the long term should contribute to the reduction of health inequalities <p>It also needs to be recognised that there may be some potential risks to health and wellbeing as a result of development growth if these are completed to a low standard and not supported by the appropriate infrastructure, however it is expected that this impact will be minimised by the Local Plans policies and the scrutiny of the statutory and regulatory bodies.</p>			
Construction / Operation	<p>Health impacts from extraction operations can be divided into two categories, immediate impacts such as accidents and accumulative and progressive impacts such as stress and pulmonary diseases. Impacts can be felt by both the employees and surrounding communities. The different types of health impacts can be classified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical - includes noise, heat, vibrations, falls and explosions, flooding and 	<p>The MLP contains numerous policies that address potential adverse impacts rising as a result of minerals developments. Specifically addressing impacts such as dust, noise and water quality, for example within; Policies S2, S3, S10, S12 and DM1.</p> <p>The MLP Review includes a requirement for HIAs to be undertaken on new minerals developments – this will assist in</p>	<p>Mineral operations which will come forward during the Plan period have the potential to generate potential health and wellbeing impacts. However, these potential negative impacts will be required to be mitigated to an acceptable level through MLP policies and associated site level HIAs. Therefore, the impact of the MLP can be considered as neutral.</p>	<p>Ensure that site specific HIAs assess the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical and chemical impacts of construction/operation period of minerals developments. - Mental health impacts - Identifies vulnerable population groups and concentrations of ill health.

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>various forms of dust, aerosols and fine particles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chemical - chemical pollutants in water, solid wastes and air; - Mental health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o of mine workers associated with high risk working environment o Anxiety associated with the risks and perceived risks associated with mining activities such as loss of space, visual and physical impacts. <p>Any impacts, whether negative or positive will be greater in relation to vulnerable population groups and concentrations of ill health. Therefore, special attention should be paid to these groups when new minerals developments come forward. This includes areas of health and economic deprivation, concentration of people at old age etc. This HIA will not attempt to identify any hotspots in Essex as such analysis is best made at the site level, on a case-by-case basis as applications are submitted.</p>	<p>identifying potential health and wellbeing issues at the site level and provide mitigation to address these.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considers the surrounding communities and the mineral sites' employees and visitors. <p>Mitigation of the negative impacts and enhancement of the positive impacts should be part of the assessment.</p>
Development Design	<p>The impacts of development design can be divided into: <u>Operation period implications.</u></p>	<p>The MLP contains numerous policies that address the design of minerals developments to mitigate</p>	<p>Some negative impact may be experienced at some sites through the operational</p>	<p>Any restoration or aftercare schemes should seek to fully utilise health and wellbeing</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>The siting and design of minerals sites can have temporary negative effects on surrounding communities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - affecting visual qualities, reducing the visual attractiveness and sense of place which may affect the general wellbeing of neighbouring communities - affecting opportunities for physical activity through the removal of public open spaces and existing walking/cycling routes used by the residents for exercise, dog walking and leisure. This could have a number of direct and indirect health impacts including increased prevalence of obesity and related conditions, respiratory conditions, cancers and mental health. - affecting the quality of water resources and increasing health risks associated with the water quality as well as impacting the quality of fresh foods grown in the locality. - affecting the natural environment which will have indirect impacts on the health and wellbeing of the residents - the anticipation of likely effects that the development can have on the local community and 	<p>environmental and social impacts arising throughout the working/operational phases. Policy S2 specifically seeks to ensure that appropriate design and procurement routes are taken to both reduce the quantity of minerals used and wasted. Furthermore, Policy S3 seeks to prevent climate change impacts by encouraging minerals sites to be designed in a way to offset or prevent these impacts. Similarly, to S2, Policy S4 specifically seeks to reduce the use of minerals, by reducing waste, applying national and local standards of sustainable design and construction alongside procurement policies that seek to achieve the same. Finally, the implementation of the best practice recycling methods. In addition to mitigating operational impacts, the policies seek to restore sites to provide improvements to the surrounding areas and deliver health benefits for local communities.</p>	<p>period – these would be minimised through Plan policies, and would need to be mitigated to an acceptable level of impact as demonstrated through noise and dust assessments, HRA and through the Environment Agencies permitting process.</p> <p>Site restoration and aftercare will create opportunities for significant health and wellbeing improvements primarily through the restoration at the site level.</p> <p>Site level HIAs would be best placed to pick up on health-related matters and suggest bespoke mitigation.</p>	<p>enhancement opportunities by providing positive outcomes and reducing negative impacts.</p> <p>Any site level HIA should include checklists to ensure all appropriate matters are assessed and addressed during the operational and restoration periods.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>place creating anxiety amongst the residents, in particular those more vulnerable to change such as elderly.</p> <p><u>Restoration and aftercare implications</u> The restoration of mineral sites offers potential for improvements of the health and wellbeing outcomes in Essex. The level of these enhancements will depend on how the area will be utilised after the minerals operations have ceased. These opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Creation of new and enhancements to the existing walking and cycling routes and linking these routes with the wider routes outside of the site – creating opportunities for physical activity · Creation of new green spaces, leisure trails and parks – creating opportunities for social interaction, physical activity and enjoyment of nature and calm environment for people to rest and enjoy · Landscape and habitat enhancements – creation of an attractive and biodiversity rich environment to support mental health and wellbeing · Flood alleviation and planting of trees to reduce the impact of 			

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>climate change on health and wellbeing of the local residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Air quality improvements · Creation of formal parks may result in the creation of jobs and increased economic prosperity – positive impact on health inequalities. 			
<p>Active Travel & Connectivity</p>	<p>The active travel related health and wellbeing considerations generated by the minerals developments could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential disruptions of the existing walking and cycling networks which will affect the levels of physical activity amongst the local residents. - Creating opportunities for active travel and public transport access of the employees to he employment site. This can include the proximity of bus stops, accessibility by walking and cycling and opportunities for on-site bike storage and shower facilities. <p>The restoration of mineral sites will create a number of opportunities for supporting health and wellbeing such as provision of segregated walking and cycling routes which are linked to national networks and surrounding neighbourhoods which is important in reducing obesity, mental health issues etc.</p>	<p>Policies DM1 and S10 of the MLP encourage the use of sustainable transport option on and off the minerals development. This is enacted throughout both the operational and restorations phases. Policy DM1 specifically refers to both public open space and the PROW networks. Additionally, Policy S11 is concerned with Access and Transportation, this particular policy requires minerals development to not cause ‘unacceptable risks to the safety of pedestrians and road users’.</p>	<p>The likely improvements occurring alongside the delivery of restoration and aftercare schemes, that are guided by policies found within the Plan review, will outweigh any short-term minor negative impacts arising as a result of disruptions to existing walking and cycling network infrastructure alongside the operation of extraction sites.</p>	<p>Site level HIAs alongside proof of concept plans for restoration and aftercare schemes should seek to implement Active Travel and Connectivity networks wherever possible.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	The increased production of minerals will provide materials for the infrastructure provision.			
Public open space	The plan should limit the loss of open/green spaces and routes used by the community. In addition, new functional spaces should be created through the restoration of sites especially in areas where this could reduce health inequalities, for example high quality open space in areas with high obesity levels. Open spaces can also have a positive impact on the mental health of the community.	The MLP sets out a number of policies regarding the creation of public open space. Policy S2 – Point 8 contains a number of guidance notes relating to the creation of long-lasting areas of community and environmental benefit, as well as the alignment with existing blue/green infrastructure strategies. Additionally, Policy S10 seeks to protect both wellbeing and safety and the natural environment, among other areas of concern. Policy S12 outlines the full details of both restoration and after-use of minerals development, this includes a period of ongoing stewardship of no less than five years.	Positive impacts on both health and wellbeing through the creation of new, or improvements to, existing areas and networks of public open space.	This area is covered extensively in the MLP, specifically in policies S2, S10 and S12. Site level HIA should be undertaken and provide guidance to obtain the greatest improvements to locally significant areas of public open space.
Employment and Economy	Minerals development supports new jobs and general economic prosperity both directly as an employer, and also by supplying minerals for housing and infrastructure provision. Well delivered after use creating an attractive environment can in turn lead to a happier local community, who support the economy through increased productivity. This would help to reduce deprivation in the	Policy S6 of the MLP sets the amount of minerals to be plan for from sites across Essex, ensuring this supply remains both steady and at an adequate level. This supply will support growth in Essex in some capacity, providing materials for both housing and infrastructure development. The sustainable use of minerals is a key theme throughout the plan, for example utilising borrow pits to support development projects. Policy S8	Emerging minerals development has the potential for positive impacts on the economy, by creating new jobs in the minerals sector, and through the supply of minerals to other sectors. While the operational period of a site can produce some negative impacts, policies exist to ensure that these are	This area is sufficiently addressed within the MLP, no further recommendations are made.

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>surrounding area, as well as health inequalities.</p> <p>If not well managed, minerals development could have negative impacts on surrounding business such as through noise or dust nuisance. Additionally, a deficit in the minerals supply has the potential to both increase prices and inhibit building rates.</p>	<p>safeguards mineral resources through the implementation of Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas, which both act to prevent the sterilisation of minerals resources.</p>	<p>required to be identified and minimised through assessments required as part of a planning application.</p>	
Equality and social cohesion	<p>Both social interaction and the way people feel treated have an impact on how an individual feels about themselves and consequently has an impact on their overall health and well-being. The after use of minerals sites must take steps to ensure it promotes community cohesion and provides community benefits accessible to the whole community. The design of sites could address health inequalities.</p>	<p>Policies S2, S10 and S12 of the MLP ensure that existing and future green and amenity space is accessible and of high quality. In addition to accessible open space, Policy S2 seeks to prevent significant adverse impacts on public health and wellbeing, public safety, amenity, quality of life and the environment.</p>	<p>The MLP will have positive impacts on equality and social cohesion. Mainly through the creation and stewardship of new public open space.</p>	<p>Site level HIAs should be undertaken alongside any future proposals to allow for the delivery of public open space at the highest quality.</p>
Climate change	<p>Any new development has the potential to increase the risks associated with climate change related events such as flooding. There are, however, also opportunities for new environments to mitigate against and adapt to, some of these effects. Climate change related to extreme weather events could affect the health and well-being of future site residents,</p>	<p>Policy S3 is specifically in place to address the potential impacts of minerals development that could contribute to climate change. Point 7 also outlines the after use benefits established as a result of habitat creation, improved flood resilience, countryside enhancement, green and blue infrastructure as well as the provision of living carbon sinks.</p>	<p>Minor positive impact through the provision of mitigation that addresses certain facets of climate change, primarily through the development of restoration schemes.</p>	<p>This area is sufficiently addressed within the MLP, no further recommendations are made.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>neighbouring communities and the wider population.</p> <p>Possible measures that could be implemented include; Sustainable Drainage Systems, water and air quality betterment, biodiversity enhancements, protection of best and most versatile agricultural land, and the implementation of sustainable transport.</p>			
<p>Environmental Hazards</p>	<p>Air quality – New developments can have a cumulative impact on the air quality of the local area. Mitigation measures can be introduced during the working phase of a site to help limit these effects. By promoting sustainable transport and energy efficiency in the design of the after use of the site, the impact of air quality changes can be mitigated against, or provide an area of high quality air for public access purposes, increasing the health of the local community. The impact will be greater for the more vulnerable groups of population including elderly.</p> <p>Noise – Sites may create additional noise particularly during the working phase but also after restoration. Any new developments should be sensitive to the prevailing acoustic environment.</p>	<p>Policy DM1 outlines the criteria for minerals development proposals to be demonstrably acceptable. The criteria largely relate to potential unacceptable impacts (including cumulative). The criteria address topics relating to environmental hazards, specifically; quality and quantity of water (including groundwater and flood risk), drainage, noise, air quality/dust, light pollution, vibration and land stability.</p>	<p>The plan will have a neutral impact on Environmental Hazards by ensuring mineral working avoids causing potential hazards.</p>	<p>This area is sufficiently addressed within the MLP, no further recommendations are made.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>Flooding – Developments must mitigate against detrimentally affecting flooding both on site and downstream, and provide betterment wherever possible. This helps ensure the development will not have a detrimental impact on the health of local communities through flooding.</p> <p>Land stability – Developments must ensure they will have no detrimental impact on land stability both during the working phase and in its after-use.</p>			
<p>Infrastructure provision (including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects)</p>	<p>In addition to housing, minerals resources are also utilised for the development of infrastructure provision including those of National Significance. Supporting key growth areas, specifically infrastructure projects, can minimise mineral miles and subsequently reduce any additional contributions to GHG emissions, preventing impacts on local air quality.</p>	<p>In addition to providing minerals for housing development, the plan seeks to provide ample mineral provision for infrastructure projects. This includes larger infrastructure projects being undertaken across Essex such as the Bradwell B power station and Lower Thames Crossing. Policy S6 sets out the general principles for sand and gravel provision, the annualised plan provision is greater than the 10-year rolling sales average, this has been maintained as an effective method to manage minerals in order to provide specifically for major infrastructure projects in the area.</p>	<p>The plan will have a positive impact on infrastructure projects by ensuring that the annual planned provision remains above current sales to allow any upturn in need arising as a result of 'one-off' projects to be accommodated without requiring a plan revision.</p>	<p>This area is sufficiently addressed within the MLP and associated 'Rationale document', no further recommendations are made.</p>

3. Summary of Impacts

In order to determine if the Plan requires an HIA a series of Screening Questions have been utilised to assess if a comprehensive HIA of the entire plan is needed. The Department of Health⁶ provide a set of questions to help decision makers understand if their proposal will require a full HIA through a screening exercise, which also serves as a summary to the themes assessed in Table 1 above.

Screening Question	If there will be no health impact, provide a brief explanation for your response	If there will be health impact(s) provide a brief explanation
Will the proposal have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?	No significant negative impacts identified at the strategic level, yet specific impacts unknown at the site level.	Potential for impacts to arise as a result of unmitigated minerals development. Plan and policy updates support positive impacts on health and wellbeing. Project level HIAs should be undertaken to prevent identified negative impacts and promote positive impacts on the local and wider community.
Will the policy have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?	No significant negative impacts identified at the strategic level, yet specific impacts unknown at the site level.	Potential for impacts to arise as a result of unmitigated minerals development. Plan and policy updates support positive impacts on health and wellbeing. Project level HIAs should be undertaken to prevent identified negative impacts and promote positive impacts on the local and wider community.
Will the proposal affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?	No significant negative impacts identified at the strategic level, yet specific impacts unknown at the site level.	Potential for impacts to arise as a result of unmitigated minerals development. Plan and policy updates support positive impacts on health and wellbeing. Project level

⁶ Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, p.12, Department of Health, 2010

Screening Question	If there will be no health impact, provide a brief explanation for your response	If there will be health impact(s) provide a brief explanation
		HIAs should be undertaken to prevent identified negative impacts and promote positive impacts on the local and wider community.
Will there be a change in demand for or access to health and social care services?	No identified impacts as a result of review implementation, no changes to health or social care services	N/A
Will the proposal have an impact on global health?	No identified impacts as a result of review implementation, not relevant to the scope of plan.	N/A

4. Conclusion

As the MLP is strategic in nature and the proposed amendments build upon an existing, adopted policy framework, it will not have a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals in Essex. The review seeks to improve the visibility of health and wellbeing throughout the Minerals Local Plan, highlighting its importance within the planning process. While it is not the Plan's remit to improve the health and wellbeing of the area, it is within its responsibility to set out policies that will mitigate and offset any impacts arising as a result of minerals development.

Any future site proposals that arise as a result of the Plan would have the potential to impact on both health and wellbeing. It is considered that, factoring in the new recommendations within the Plan (in particular those found within paragraphs 5.11 and 5.12), that where any impacts are recognised, priority is satisfactorily given to the preparation of a site level HIA identifying and mitigating local impacts on health and wellbeing. There are therefore no recommendations to make within this strategic HIA as a result.

Appendix A: Essex Health Profile

Key Issues

Health Summary

- The health of people in Essex is generally better than the England average.
- Life Expectancy for men is higher than the England average
- Essex is generally less deprived compared to the rest of England, with an average IMD (2015) score of 17.2 compared to national average of 21.8.

Health Inequalities

- Life Expectancy is 8.1 years lower for men and 6.3 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Essex than in the least deprived areas.
- In 2018, the smoking prevalence in adults in routine and manual occupations was 26.0, higher than the average for England of 25.4. However, this was not a significant difference.
- Between 2016-2018, the suicide rate for Essex (11.7 per 100,000) was significantly worse than both the regional (9.96) and national average (9.64). This represents around 150 cases of suicide per year in Essex).

Injuries & Ill-Health

- KSI (Killed/Seriously Injured) rate on England's roads (between 2016-2018) was significantly worse (54.3) than national average (42.6).
- For 2018/2019, the emergency hospital admissions rate for hip fractures for those aged 65 + was 585.1, worse than the England average of 558.4. This represents 905 admissions per year.

Adult Health

- In 2018, smoking prevalence in adults was found to be marginally lower (14.0) than average for England (14.4)
- Between 2017-2018, the percentage of physically active adults in Essex (66.1%) was slightly lower than average for England (66.3%).
- Between 2017-2018, the percentage of adults classified as obese (62.5%) was higher than the average for England (62%)
- In 2019, the estimated dementia diagnosis rate for adults aged 65+ in Essex was 64.5, better than the average for England of 68.7.

Wider Determinants of Health

- For 2018/2019, average GCSE attainment (46.6) was marginally lower than England average (46.9).
- Between 2018-2019, the percentage of people in employment (age group 16-64 years) (78.6%) was significantly better than England average (75.6%).

- Between 2017-2018, the statutory homelessness rate of 0.67 was significantly better than England average of 0.79. However, this has got worse since the previous report.
- For 2016/2017 and 2018/2019, violent crime (measured by hospital admission rate for violence) (31.1) was significantly better than England average (44.9).

Child Health

- Infant Mortality Rate of 2.96 is significantly better than England average of 3.93.
- In Year 6, 18% (2,847) of children are classified as obese, better than the average for England.
- The rate for alcohol-specific hospital admissions for those under 18 is 19 per 100,000 population, significantly better than the average for England (this represents 60 admissions per year).

Behavioural Risk Factors

- The rate for alcohol-related harm hospital admissions is 618 per 100,000 population (significantly better than England average). However, this has got worse since the previous report.
- Between 2016-2018, the suicide rate for Essex (11.7 per 100,000) was higher than both the regional (9.96) and national average (9.64). This represents around 150 cases of suicide per year).
- For 2018-2019, the hospital admission rate for alcohol-related conditions was 618.4, better than the average for England of 663.7
- In 2016, the percentage of children in low income families in Essex was 14.4% (37,200), which was significantly better than the average for England (17%). However, this has got worse since the previous report.

Health Protection

- Between August 2017 – July 2018, the excess winter deaths index of 32.8 was higher than both the regional (30.9) and national average (30.1)
- Between 2016-2018, the TB incidence rate for Essex was lower (4.0) than the average for England (9.19).

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