

Response from Public Health Warwickshire

Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015-2031 – Public Health Warwickshire’s comments

29th June 2015

The comments given below are based around the evidence and guidance presented in our Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health document. Our document aims to assist in the process of neighbourhood development planning to ensure that where possible the best health outcomes are achieved for communities.

Public Health Warwickshire are pleased that elements that we would consider important to health are included in the draft plan, particularly those related to the wider determinants of health. Comments on each section are as follows:

Housing

- Mix of affordable housing tenure type aligns with the Core Strategy and reflects the Neighbourhood Area’s needs. However, clarity could be given on the percentage intended to be built. Public Health Warwickshire recommends that 40% of housing stock is allocated as affordable housing.
- Affordable housing will be integrated into market housing and designed similarly to support integration and social inclusion.
- Developments of 10 or more dwellings are built to meet the Lifetime Home Standards to allow people to grow in their homes.
- Homes for older people will be located in areas with easy access to public transport and shopping facilities to lessen loneliness and social isolation.
- We recommend that the plan should specify that Building for Life 12 standards (Design Council) are used to inform development.

Employment

- Public Health Warwickshire supports Policy E1 as it aims to protect existing local employment opportunities.
- Consideration should be given regarding ease of access to the proposed new employment development (close to A46 and Stratford Parkway Station). If units are relocated the impact on current employees should be assessed.
- Public Health Warwickshire supports Policy E3 as it supports sustainable economic growth which aligns with current good employment opportunities the area offers.
- Policy E4 should also make specific reference to access of Green Space for the Work/Live Units. Standards set by Fields in Trust and Natural England can be found within our Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health Document 3.4.1.

Town Centre

- Public Health Warwickshire supports the formation of the Town Centre Strategic Partnership

- With regards to the proposed improvements to ‘the pedestrian and cyclist experience’. We strongly recommend that the cycle parking is considered and suggest that developer contributions could fund this. Example costs are detailed within our Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health document 5.3.2.
- Similarly, we strongly recommend referring to section 5.2 of our document for example costs that developer contributions could fund to improve signage and the image of the town.
- Public Health Warwickshire agrees that new car parks should only be permitted where they will help reduce congestion; otherwise we recommend that the use of public transport and active travel is encouraged;
- Therefore we support Policy TC16.

Built Environment and Design

- We strongly support Policy BE6 as in section 1 of our Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health document.

Natural Environment

- The environmental and health benefits of green space are well document (section 3.4. Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health). Public Health Warwickshire support the Plan in stating that all ‘new developments must include green space’. We recommend that reference is made to national recommended standards for green space provision (section 3.4.1 Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health).

Infrastructure

- Public Health Warwickshire supports the Policy’s set out in Infrastructure as they adhere to recommendations set out in section 2 of our Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health document.

Community, Leisure and Wellbeing

- We support the policies set out for Objective A to improve promote strong, resilient communities.
- We support the policies set out in Objective B of the Plan and recommend that you refer to section 5 of our Neighbourhood Development Planning for Health document for example costs that developer contributions could fund.
- We strongly support Objective C and Policies CLW11 and CLW12. We recommend that Public Health Warwickshire’s Health Planners