
Proposed Residential Development at Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Report

March 2024

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environmental planning and management for sustainability



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Proposed Development

- 1.1 The proposed development at Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby comprises 807 dwellings, including a 10% affordable housing provision and with a mix of 2, 3, and 4 bedroom terraced, semi-detached and detached properties. In the northwest part of the site, a number of bungalows will be located. The design includes active frontage on to all streets, pedestrian routes and open spaces, together with landscaped green edges to provide a variety of planting options to enhance biodiversity.
- 1.2 The existing Cherryfield Drive car park will be improved and reconfigured. The new framework of streets and spaces will link to the surrounding area, including to the existing town centre and existing green space, with integrated movement for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles through the site and to the wider area. There will be highways improvements to Cherryfield Drive, and new vehicular links on both Cherryfield Drive and Bewley Drive. The large public carpark off Cherryfield Drive will be enlarged and improved to serve the town centre uses.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

- 1.3 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a tool that is used to inform decision-making for plans, policies, and projects. HIA and health in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) are separate processes, and there are no standard methods for assessing health and wellbeing. It is important that health impact assessment is proportionate, balanced, and relevant.
- 1.4 The complexities of investigating health impacts are recognised by the UK government - Public Health England (PHE, updated 2022)¹ with its Wider Determinants of Health tool is an ongoing project that provides resources for categories of factors that affect health, as follows: built and natural environment; work and the labour market; vulnerability; income; crime; and education.

This HIA Report

- 1.5 This HIA Report is provided to support the planning application for the proposed development at Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby. It is provided to demonstrate compliance with the requirement in the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (to 2028)² Policy CS2 Development Principles for the application of the principles to be implemented using development assessment tools including Health Impact Assessment.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/wider-determinants-of-health-february-2022-update>

² <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/building-and-planning/planning-policy/adopted-documents>

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

National Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012, updated 2019, and revised 2023)³

- 2.1 The revised NPPF acknowledges the importance of considering health impacts during the planning process and covers many issues that are directly related to the determinants of health. The NPPF identifies the three overarching objectives – economic, social, and environmental – that are *interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways* in order to achieve sustainable development (paragraph 8). The social objective should support “*strong, vibrant and healthy communities... by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.*”
- 2.2 Chapter 8 covers promoting healthy and safe communities, acknowledging that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places which:
- “a) *promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages.*
- “b) *are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and*
- “c) *enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.*” (paragraph 92).
- 2.3 Social, recreational, and cultural facilities and services should ‘*support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all sections of the community (paragraph 93). It is important that sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities (paragraph 95). Public safety should be promoted and “take into account wider security and defence requirements” (paragraph 97).*

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

- 2.4 *"Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities"* (paragraph 98). Sustainable transport should be promoted and this *"can help improve air quality and public health"* (paragraph 105). *"An effective use of land should be promoted in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions"* (paragraph 119). *"Developments should create places that are safe, inclusive, and accessible and which promote health and wellbeing..."* (paragraph 130). *"New development must be appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health..."* (paragraph 185).

Public Health England (PHE) Strategy (2019)⁴

- 2.5 This document sets out how PHE intends to protect and improve the public's health and reduce inequalities during 2020 to 2025. The Strategy recognises that the longer term, societal drivers of change represent the principal challenge facing the public's health. However, there are opportunities now, including *"place-based approaches"*. The ten priorities include *healthier diets, healthier weight; cleaner air; and better mental health* with the aim to incorporate the reduction of health inequalities into each of the ten priorities. The purpose of PHE is to protect and improve the nation's health and reduce health inequalities. This is guided by aims – *"to keep people safe; to prevent poor health; to narrow the health gap; and the support a strong economy"*.

Local Planning Policy

Knowsley Local Plan to 2028 (adopted 2016)⁵

- 2.6 The Local Plan is founded on improving health with the Spatial Vision seeking *"more prosperous and healthy populations."* Knowsley's communities will be *better connected; the gap in deprivation levels will be narrowed; and people can choose to become more active and pursue healthier lifestyles*. Strategic Objective 2 aims to regenerate and transform areas of deprivation so that they become *"more sustainable, safer, healthier and more cohesive communities"*. Strategic Objective 9 focuses on health – *"To address existing health inequalities and encourage enhancements to the health and wellbeing of Knowsley's residents by ensuring a health promoting environment and provision of healthy lifestyle options for those living and working in the borough."*
- 2.7 Policy CS2 Development Principles comprise 5 Principles – sustainable economic development; reduce carbon emissions; increase accessibility; environmental limits; and efficient use of resources. Principle 4 includes the requirement for *"Providing opportunities for positive lifestyle choices and health improvement for people of all ages."* The potential negative impacts of traffic on health are considered within the principle of environmental limits.

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/PHE_Strategy_2020-25

⁵ <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/building-and-planning/planning-policy/adopted-documents>

The Policy further advises that *the development principles will be implemented using development assessment tools including*

- EIA and associated legislative requirements
- Health Impact Assessment
- Equality & Diversity Impact Assessment
- Transport Assessment & Travel Planning
- Design & Access Statements

- 2.8 Other policies in the Local Plan support health and wellbeing. Policy CS7 Transport Networks requires *"Improve the health and wellbeing of local people."* Policy CS8 Green Infrastructure recognises the positive role that such green spaces have for health and wellbeing. The issues for the Kirkby Area Priorities recognise that high levels of deprivation exist across most of Kirkby including health inequalities. Policy CS10 relates to the Principal Regeneration Area for Kirkby Town Centre.

Other Relevant Policy & Strategy

Public Health England (PHE) Spatial Planning for Health (2017)⁶

- 2.9 This report provides evidence of links between spatial planning and health, focusing on five key built environment topics – neighbourhood design, housing, healthier food, natural and sustainable environment, and transport.

Public Health England (PHE) Health Impact Assessment in Spatial Planning (2020)⁷

- 2.10 This document provides a guide for local authority public health and planning teams setting out process and practice with regard to the wider determinants of health and wellbeing for plan-making and the planning application process. It identifies eight categories of health and wellbeing outcomes in planning: reduce health inequalities; improve mental health and wellbeing; improve diet and weight; improve musculoskeletal health; improve respiratory health; improve cardiovascular health; protect environmental health; and provide access to health and care infrastructure and services. The guide is mostly associated with the plan-making and associated strategic environmental assessment processes. It does include an annex on integrating HIA in EIA and this does confirm the importance of a *"proportionate and justified approach"*.

6

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729727/spatial_planning_for_health.pdf

7

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/929230/HIA_in_Planning_Guide_Sept2020.pdf

Knowsley Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025⁸

2.11 The Knowsley Health & Wellbeing Strategy is founded on the overall priorities of reducing health inequalities, and mental health, wellbeing and social isolation within the core vision for Working Better Together for a Healthier, Happier Knowsley. The Strategy acknowledges that *health and wellbeing can be influenced by a variety of factors including poor housing, unemployment and the environment you live in*. There are two priorities based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA):

- Reducing health inequalities
- Mental health, wellbeing and social isolation

⁸ <https://www.knowsleyhwb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Joint-Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategy-2020.pdf>

3.0 GUIDANCE & ASSESSMENT METHOD

Guidance

- 3.1 There is no standard method for assessing health impacts from proposed development. *Shaping Neighbourhoods: For Local Health and Global Sustainability* (2003, 2010 & 2021)⁹ sets out the complexities of planning for health due to the multiple determinants and the need for cross-sectoral understanding and collaboration. This guide established a health map demonstrating the linkages between the global ecosystem, the natural and built environments, the local economy with communities, people, and their lifestyles. It explains the likely interactions between different sectors and seeks a common language for spatial planning and public health practitioners.
- 3.2 The complexities of investigating health impacts are recognised by Public Health England (PHE) and the Wider Determinants of Health tool¹⁰ is an ongoing project that provides resources for categories of factors that affect health, as follows: built and natural environment; work and the labour market; vulnerability; income; crime; and education.
- 3.3 The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) paper on Health in EIA (2017)¹¹ explains the complexities associated with defining significance for population and human health. This guidance notes that there is an absence of specific significance criteria or defined thresholds for determining significance for population and health in UK EIA practice. Given the multitude of factors that contribute to an individual's health outcomes, it is difficult to draw a quantified conclusion regarding the contribution of a particular development to an increase or decrease in the number of additional cases of a particular physical or mental health outcome. The recently published IEMA guidance (November 2022) on scoping and assessing significance for health in EIA, sets out further details and confirms the importance of a proportionate approach.
- 3.4 The London Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) 'Healthy Urban Planning Checklist' (2017)¹² provides a useful checklist that was developed for London but is applicable to development proposals in urban areas elsewhere in the UK. The checklist aims to promote healthy urban planning by ensuring that the health and wellbeing implications of major planning applications are consistently taken into account, through providing a set of themes and planning issues that can be used to assess development proposals.
- 3.5 This checklist recognises that health and wellbeing can be affected by multiple determinants as shown in the following figure:

⁹ Barton, Grant & Guise (3rd edition, 2021) *Shaping Neighbourhoods: For Local Health and Global Sustainability*

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/wider-determinants-of-health-may-2021-update>

¹¹ <https://www.iema.net/resources/reading-room/2017/05/01/get-primed-for-health-in-eia>

¹² <https://www.healthyurbandevelopment.nhs.uk/hudu-publications-2017/>

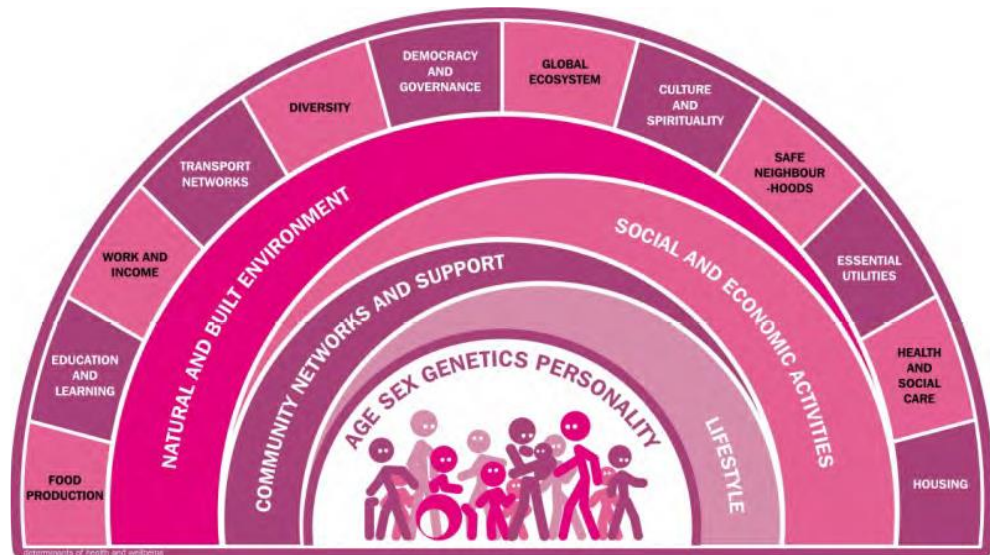


Figure 1: The Determinants of Health and Wellbeing (London HUDU developed from Barton & Grant 2007)

- 3.6 Changes in certain determinants affected by proposed development may impact the health and wellbeing of existing and new residents, workers, and visitors. The HUDU checklist also interprets these determinants into a set of four themes for healthy urban living that recognises the interconnectedness and multifunctionalities, as follows:
- Healthy Housing
 - Active Travel
 - Healthy Environment
 - Vibrant Neighbourhoods
- 3.7 The HUDU has further developed a rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) tool (2019)¹³ that uses existing evidence to assess the impacts of a plan or proposal and recommend measures to address any potential negative impacts and maximise benefits. This HIA tool focuses on the built environment and issues directly or indirectly influenced by planning decisions. The HIA tool sets out the HIA process and suggests eleven topics or broad determinants for health and wellbeing. For each topic there are a number of criteria or questions that may be used to scope the extent of an HIA and then to form the basis of the assessment using existing information.
- 3.8 The HUDU checklist tool sets out the considerations and potential health impacts (negative and positive) that might be associated with the design of a proposed development. These are organised into eleven categories of broad determinants, as follows: Housing quality and design; Access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure; Access to open space and nature; Air quality, Noise and neighbourhood amenity; Accessibility and active travel; Crime reduction and community safety; Access to healthy food; Access to work and training; Social cohesion and lifetime neighbourhoods; Minimising the use of resources; and Climate change. For each topic there

¹³ <https://www.healthyurbandevelopment.nhs.uk/our-services/delivering-healthy-urban-development/health-impact-assessment/>

are a number of criteria or questions that may be used to scope the extent of an HIA and then to form the basis of the assessment using existing information.

Assessment Method

- 3.9 For the purposes of this health impact assessment, we have applied the HUDU checklist and eleven topics to the proposals in order to help determine the scope of the assessment by identifying the relevant topics. Applicable criteria/questions for each of the scoped topics were considered at the assessment stage in order to identify potential health impacts and the need for any mitigation or enhancement. Existing information and evidence were used, and impact assessment undertaken using professional judgment.
- 3.10 **Housing design and affordability** are key factors – provision of good quality residential development is known to have positive effects on health and wellbeing. **Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure** is directly important for health. This health assessment considers the proximity, accessibility, and capacity (where possible) of health and medical centres and dentists in the vicinity of the proposed development. It considers the proximity and accessibility of gyms, leisure centres, sports/recreational and cultural facilities nearby since such activities are important contributors to health and wellbeing. Searches were made through web-based sources and using Google Maps to measure approximate distances by walking and/or public transport from the centre of the development area to the facility. The walkable zone was defined as a distance of about 1 mile from the site and equivalent to about 10-20 minutes' walk.
- 3.11 **Access to open space and nature** is a key factor. The proximity of open spaces and walking/cycling routes is investigated since access to open space and healthy modes of transport strongly contributes to healthier lifestyles and wellbeing.
- 3.12 **Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity** are important factors for health and wellbeing. Summary findings from the technical studies for air quality and noise in the EIA are considered and their implications for health and wellbeing incorporated into this HIA.
- 3.13 **Accessibility and active travel** is well established as a factor in health and wellbeing. The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (six local authorities including Knowsley) Cycling & Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP)¹⁴ to increase physical activity and incorporate active travel into daily life by encouraging more people to take local journeys (around 50% of those less than 5km are taken by car) on foot or by bike. There are 31 key routes outlined and the Knowsley Cycle Route (Kirkby to Speke) is included in Phase 3. Summary findings from the transport assessment technical study for the EIA are considered and their implications for health and wellbeing incorporated into this HIA.

¹⁴ <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/activetravel/>

- 3.14 **Crime reduction and community safety** is a key factor in health and wellbeing for communities and this HIA considers those elements of the development proposals that contribute to safety.
- 3.15 **Access to healthy food** is another direct factor in health, such as accessibility to a range of retail and smaller food shops, including for affordability. Provision of allotments and encouragement of community gardens for food is not often within the scope or viability of proposed development. The location of new housing close to the town centre and a range of food shops are considered in this HIA.
- 3.16 **Access to work and training** is known to affect health and wellbeing. Whilst provision of training is beyond the scope of the development proposals, the location of the new housing close to employment opportunities are considered within this HIA.
- 3.17 **Social cohesion and inclusive design** are key factors for health and wellbeing. This HIA considers the implications of the design and project proposals in this respect for the new communities and including connectivity with existing residents and communities.
- 3.18 **Minimising use of resources** and addressing the effects of **climate change** are important factors in considering environmental sustainability and a healthy environment – and consequently, health and wellbeing for people and communities. Risks associated with flooding, extreme weather conditions, and ground contamination were identified as not significant for the EIA and these findings are noted within this HIA.
- 3.19 Overall, the HIA aims to consider impacts associated with the construction and the occupational phases. It considers embedded mitigation provided through the design of the project – such as layout, types of homes, and landscaping, together with specific mitigation for potential negative effects – such as the commitment to a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to control and minimise any effects associated with nuisance noise and dust.
- 3.20 The HIA aims to identify any sensitive receptors, such as nearby schools and care homes. The complexities of investigating health impacts are appreciated, including the multifunctionalities and interconnectedness of factors. Therefore, the key findings are then considered within the four themes for healthy urban living - Healthy Housing; Active Travel; Healthy Environment; and Vibrant Neighbourhoods.
- 3.21 The baseline informing the assessment draws upon local health and wellbeing information and priorities, such as those set out in the Knowsley Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)¹⁵, and as reported through Public Health England¹⁶ and the Office for National Statistics (ONS)¹⁷. The key baseline from

¹⁵ <https://www.knowsleyhwb.org.uk/>

¹⁶ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/health-profiles/2019/E08000011.html?area-name=Knowsley>

¹⁷ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

relevant technical studies undertaken for the EIA is considered, including risks to health/wellbeing such as from traffic, air quality, and noise. Also, consideration was given to the baselines for the heritage, landscaping and ecology studies.

- 3.22 Further information on environmental sensitivity that might affect human health and wellbeing has been taken from Defra Magic Mapping¹⁸ and Government flood risk data¹⁹. It has not been necessary for this assessment to undertake primary research or surveys and this desk-based approach using published information and professional judgment provides an appropriate level of detail.

¹⁸ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

¹⁹ <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/risk>

4.0 BASELINE CHARACTERISATION

Health Profiles

- 4.1 The Knowsley, the population size has increased by 5.9%, from around 145,900 in 2011 to 154,500 in 2021. This is lower than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800 (ONS 2021). Nearby areas like West Lancashire and St Helens have seen their populations increase by around 6.1% and 4.5%, respectively, while others such as Sefton saw an increase of 2.0% and Halton saw smaller growth (2.0%). At 5.9%, Knowsley's population increase is higher than the increase for the North West (5.2%). As of 2021, Knowsley is the 11th most densely populated of the North West's 39 local authority areas. The population has continued to age between 2011 and 2021, and across England, more than one in six people (18.4%) are aged 65 years and over. For Knowsley, there has been an increase of 13.8% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 3.7% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 6.6% in children aged under 15 years.
- 4.2 According to the 2011 census, the population in Knowsley is predominantly white (97.2%). Mixed people were the largest minority group accounting for 1.3% of the population. The most populous religious group within Knowsley is Christians, accounting for 80.9% of the population, with "Other" being recorded for 18.5%. The PHE health profile (2020-21)²⁰ for Knowsley presents data on the wider determinants of health. The percentage of people in employment is 74.8% which is increasing and compares to 73.2% for the northwest and 75.1% for England. Attainment 8 is a measure showing the average academic performance of a secondary school. The average attainment 8 score for Knowsley was 43.8 compared with 49.6 for the north-west and 50.9 for England. Children in relative low income families (under 16s) were 20.8% compared to 21.2% for the north-west and 18.5% for England. Homelessness was recorded at 16.6 compared to 11.9 for the north-west and 11.3 for England.
- 4.3 There is a strong correlation between deprivation and poor health. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD, 2019) records the 317 English local authorities for overall IMD ranking. The IMD considers categories of deprivation associated with income, employment, education & training, health & disability, crime, barriers to housing and services, and the living environment. The IMD score for Knowsley was 43.0 which is in the worst to 25th percentile for England as a whole and where the worst score was 45.0. The highest score was 5.8 with an average value of 21.7 for England, and compares to the north-west at 28.1.
- 4.4 Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) at birth (2018-2020) for the Knowsley area is similar to nearby areas and less than the average for the UK as a whole. HLE for males was 58.7 and for females 60.0, compared to approximately 63.0

²⁰ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/ati/102/are/E08000011>

and 64.0 respectively for the UK average. HLE data for Hatton is 61.4 and 58.0, and for St Helens is 59.3 and 61.9.

- 4.5 Personal wellbeing estimates for anxiety, happiness, life satisfaction, and worthwhile are available (ONS 2020-21) and indicate a wide range. For example, life satisfaction for Knowsley residents was estimated at poor 9.39, fair 19.43, good 46.4, and very good at 24.99 – this compares that that estimated for the North West at poor 7.0, Fair 17.6, good 50.95, and very good at 24.44.
- 4.6 The Health Index for England²¹ declined from 100.5 in 2019 to 100.1 in 2020, taking it back to 2015 levels, although this decline was not seen for all areas of health. The Health Index has three domains, covering different areas of health: Healthy People declined considerably (by 4.2 points), Healthy Lives declined (by 0.6 points), and Healthy Places improved considerably (by 3.7 points) over the period 2019 to 2020.
- 4.7 The decline in Healthy People was predominantly seen in the personal well-being and mortality subdomains: while mortality worsened by 4.8 points, personal well-being had the greatest subdomain decline in 2020 (of 12.0 points), within which was the greatest indicator decline in the whole index, for life satisfaction (13.8 point decline). Worsening mental health (falling by 0.9 points) also contributed to the declining Healthy People score. The improvement in Healthy Places was largely because of the crime subdomain having the greatest subdomain improvement compared with its 2019 score (up 6.6 points), and air pollution in the living conditions subdomain showing the greatest year-on-year improvement of any indicator (15.7 points). Not every aspect of Healthy Places improved: economic and working conditions declined by 2.9 points, mostly because of worsening unemployment.
- 4.8 For Knowsley Council area in 2020, the indices for Healthy People and Health Lives has worsened to 78.2 and 80.3 respectively and below the England average. Healthy Places has improved to 111.4 and above the England average.
- 4.9 Health and wellbeing data for Knowsley were investigated through the JSNA to inform the development of the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy (2020-25). Knowsley Now notes that life expectancy in Knowsley has improved over the years but is still lower than the England average. 73.7% of adults in Knowsley are overweight or obese, more than the England average of 62.3%. 27.1% of adults in Knowsley are inactive compared to 21.4% across England. 42.7% of children at year 6 are overweight or obese compared to 34.3% in England. Knowsley has the 3rd highest rate of smoking in the north-west and is almost

²¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/healthinenland/2015to2020>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/healthinenland/2015to2020>

The provisional Health Index is comprised of 56 indicators, summarised into 14 subdomains, 3 domains and then an overall score for each geographical area. A score of 100 means health is equal to England's health in 2015. A score higher than 100 means health is better; a score lower than 100 means health is worse.

double the England rate. One in four adults in Knowsley drink more than the recommended units of alcohol. Adults in Knowsley are more likely to suffer from or have experienced mental health issues. 13.9% of households in Knowsley live in fuel poverty compared to 10.9% across England.

Housing, Communities & Accessibility

- 4.10 The site lies to the south of Kirkby Town Centre and is adjacent to Cherryfield Drive on the northern and eastern site boundaries, Bewdley Drive to the south and Valley Park to the west. There will be three points of vehicular access into the site, three off Cherryfield Drive and the third off Bewley Drive. The surrounding area of the site consists of Kirkby Town Centre to the north, existing housing to the east and south, and Valley Park to the west.
- 4.11 The adopted Knowsley Local Plan (2016) identified that that the housing market in Knowsley is unbalanced with particular needs for larger executive market homes, smaller 1 and 2 bedroom units in affordable housing, and housing suitable for occupation by older people. There are residential streets to the south and east of the site; also, residential streets to the west beyond the A506, and with the town centre adjacent to the north of Cherryfield Drive.
- 4.12 There is a range of services and community facilities within close proximity (10-20 minute walk, a 1 mile radius)²² of the site. There are six medical centres/General Practitioners and four dentists - it is not known if they are accepting new patients. There are seven primary schools, two secondary schools, and a special education school within a mile radius of the site. The Kirkby post office is within 0.3 mile in the town centre and there are numerous and various shopping facilities. There are two community centres nearby and a number of places of worship. Also, diverse public houses, cafes and a range of food outlets/restaurants, as well as the Kirkby Gallery, and two gyms including the Leisure Centre on Cherryfield Drive. The local area is served by buses with the bus station nearby in the town centre. The railway station is to the north-west of the site and within one mile distance.
- 4.13 There are green spaces to the east – Webster Park, and to the west – Valley Park. There are also other parks nearby, including Wignall Park, Millennium Park, St Chad's Garden and Millbrook Millennium Green. There are several Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) within the vicinity of the site, including routes KB/7/3, KB/8/1 and KB/8/2 to the south of the site, KB/4/1 is to the west, and KB/2/1, KB/2/2 and KB/2a/2 to the north of the site.²³
- 4.14 The overall crime rate²⁴ in Knowsley in 2021 was 102 crimes per 1,000 residents. This compares favourably to the overall crime rate for Merseyside, coming in 2.6% lower than the Merseyside rate of 105 per 1,000 residents. The most common crimes in Knowsley are violence and sexual offences with a crime rate of 52 during 2021 that is higher than 2020's rate of 39, and compares to 46 for Merseyside and 24.6 for the north-west overall. Knowsley's least common

²² Estimated through use of Google maps <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/>

²³ Mode Transport Planning for BDW (March 2024) Transport Assessment, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby

²⁴ <https://crimerate.co.uk/merseyside/knowsley>

crime is shoplifting. Anti-social behaviour has decreased in Knowsley from 32.7 in 2016 to 15.5 in 2021 – similar to rates in 2019 and before the covid pandemic.

Local Environmental Quality

- 4.15 The site was undeveloped until the 1960s, with the construction of the college campus in the north-western sector and a school in the south-eastern sector. There is a disused landfill site adjacent to the site to the south-west. Most of the previously developed buildings were demolished and cleared during the 2010s. At present, the site is largely vacant, with the former roads and hardstanding at the north of the site and areas of car parking associated with the now-demolished school and college. A building associated with the former college remains in the north-western sector, and it is understood that the underground storage tanks from a disused fuel station are still present. There are potential risks to human health from previously developed land.
- 4.16 Ground investigation studies were undertaken to identify the ground conditions and extent of any contamination. Elevated concentrations of heavy metals, mercury, non-volatile polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), naphthalene, asbestos and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs) have been identified within the soil analysis. Mercury, naphthalene and dibutyl phthalate have been noted to be elevated in isolated locations across the site, and present a vapour risk to future end-users. The assessment model has not identified any potentially complete pollutant linkage or risk to controlled waters. Ground gas monitoring to date has characterised the site as low risk with areas of Made Ground material adhering to a low moderate classification.
- 4.17 The main sources of air pollution in Knowsley are from road traffic vehicle emissions and from industrial sources. Knowsley Council has not declared any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). The latest annual air quality results were published by Knowsley Council in 2019. Automatic monitoring was undertaken at three sites in 2019, measuring concentrations of NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring was also carried out at various locations, including some in close proximity to the site. The air quality monitoring carried out closest to the proposed development shows a general compliance of the NO₂ annual mean objective in 2019, apart from at one location. The closest automatic monitor to the Site was compliant with the NO₂ annual mean and 1-hour mean objectives and the PM₁₀ annual mean and 24-hour mean objectives in 2019. From 2019, a continuous roadside monitor was installed in Kirkby to monitor nitrogen dioxide NO₂ and particulate matter PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. It was shown that the monitoring site complied with the air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter²⁵.
- 4.18 The site is within flood risk zone 1 and with no risk of flooding from rivers²⁶ - the Kirkby Brook is some 52m to the west of the site. There are no land-based designations on or near the site²⁷.

²⁵ <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/knowsleycouncil/media/Documents/Knowsley-ASR-2020.pdf>

²⁶ <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/risk>

²⁷ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>

- 4.19 The Transport Assessment studies²⁸ undertaken for the EIA to support the planning application investigated the current situation regarding highway safety. Cherryfield Drive benefits from a network of streetlighting and bus stops, as well as 5no. signalised pedestrian crossing points, mainly within the vicinity of Kirkby Town Centre. Double yellow lines are present on Cherryfield Drive, extending from A506/Cherryfield Drive/Kirkby Row roundabout junction to c. 90m south of Wellfield Avenue. Loading is also prohibited along the section of Cherryfield Drive closest to Kirkby Town Centre. Personal Injury Collision (PIC) data in the vicinity of the development site were investigated for the 5year period 2018-2022. It was found that there had been 29 collisions on the local highway network within this period, of which most were categorised as slight.

²⁸ Mode Transport Planning for BDW (March 2024) Transport Assessment, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby

5.0 HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Healthy Housing

- 5.1 The proposals comprise 807 dwellings, incorporating a 10% affordable housing provision in accordance with Core Strategy Policy CS15 that ensures tenure is blind and distributed across the site. There is a mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom terraced, semi-detached and detached properties with a number of bungalows located to the northwest part of the site. Thus, the proposed dwellings cover a wide range of household sizes and incomes. The proposed mix addresses the unbalanced housing need identified in the adopted Local Plan – larger executive market homes, smaller units in affordable housing, and housing suitable for occupation by older people. It may be noted that the quality of the dwellings units will be in accord with relevant building regulations and legislation that is established to protect people's health.
- 5.2 The provision of such a mix of good quality dwellings, including affordable housing, is likely to have major positive effects on human health and wellbeing and to progress objectives for reducing health inequalities by the improvement in housing stock.
- 5.3 There are six medical centres/General Practitioners and four dentists within close proximity of approximately 1 mile radius of the site - it is not known if they are accepting new patients. It is not known at this stage but it might be assumed that many of the new occupants are already living in the Kirkby area and are already registered with health and social care facilities such that any impacts on capacity are unlikely to be significant. The proximity of the site to the town centre with a diversity of cultural, amenity and social services and facilities including shops, community centres, public houses, cafes, restaurants, the Kirkby Gallery, and gyms including the Leisure Centre on Cherryfield Drive – all indicate positive effects. The proximity of green spaces and parks also indicates positive effects for accessibility to open space and nature.

Active Travel

- 5.4 The location of the site close to the town centre and a range (10-20 minute walk, a 1 mile radius) should encourage residents to use active travel in their daily lives with positive effects. The proposals are founded on integrated movement for pedestrians and cyclists through the site and to the wider area including to the town centre and the existing green space – and beyond, for example, linking to the network of cycling routes in and around Knowsley²⁹. The layout of the dwellings, spaces, and streets is proposed within a logical framework that links to the surrounding area.

²⁹ <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/pdf/cyclemap.pdf> and <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/things-to-do/knowsley-cycling>

- 5.6 It is appreciated that there will still be some need to car travel and the proposals include highway improvements to Cherryfield Drive and new vehicular links on both Cherryfield Drive and Bewley Drive. The four new access junctions onto the local highway network are detailed in the Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) Report³⁰. This embedded mitigation in the design proposals will reduce potential negative effects associated with highway safety. Improvement and reconfiguration of the existing Cherryfield Drive car park, together with enlargement and improvement of the large public car park to serve town centre uses will all contribute to mitigating potential negative effects on car use/parking.
- 5.7 The TIA aligns with guideline walking distances provided by the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (2000, CIHT). These suggest that, for commuting purposes, up to 500m is a desirable walking distance, up to 1,000m is considered an acceptable walking distance and 1,000m is the preferred maximum walking distance. The TIA confirms the extensive and diverse range of local amenities accessible within 500m and 1,000m walking catchments from the site. Multiple bus stops are accessible with a 500m walk, including bus stops on Cherryfield Drive providing services in both directions. Kirkby Bus Station is also c.340m (3-minute walk) from the site, providing a wide range of services. The closest rail station to the site is Kirkby Station c.1km northwest of the site, and within both the 1,000m walking catchment and 2km cycle catchment. It is also accessible via the local bus route network.
- 5.8 The TIA confirms that the development is connected to local amenities via a network of good quality footways with dropped kerbs, signalised crossing points and good quality surfaces. This provides sufficient access to all uses, including those with various forms of disability. It has therefore been demonstrated that the site is well-placed in terms of pedestrian connectivity, with walking representing a realistic alternative to car trips.
- 5.9 As regards the cycling network, the site has direct access to NCN Route 862 which runs along the A508 (Valley Road) on the western boundary of the development site. NCN Route 62 is accessible within the 5km cycle catchment to the west of the site, providing a cycle route between Fleetwood and Selby via Warrington and Doncaster. The local area also benefits from a network of local cycle route. The extensive cycle network, that includes both national cycle routes and local routes, makes cycling a viable and realistic method travel to and from the site, particularly as an alternative to private car trips.
- 5.10 The TIA concluded that it has been shown that the site is highly accessible via sustainable modes of travel, including walking, cycling and public transport - thereby offering a realistic and convenient alternative to single occupancy car trips. Therefore, the proposals are likely to progress objectives for active travel and this will progress objectives for human health with likely positive effects.

³⁰ Mode Transport Planning for BDW (Draft, November 2022) Transport Assessment, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby

Healthy Environment

- 5.11 The **land contamination** studies, undertaken for the EIA that accompanies the planning application for the proposed development, determined the necessary mitigation for identified potential risks to human health. The Remediation and Enabling Works Strategy³¹ details all the mitigation measures that reduce/avoid risks to construction workers and future end users to a residual negligible risk. This Strategy has been submitted to the relevant environmental regulator, the Environment Agency.
- 5.12 During the construction phase, potential risks were identified for construction workers through excavation of potentially contaminated soils, and to controlled waters through leaching of contaminated soils. Works will be carried out in line with the Remediation Strategy, including in strict accordance with UK Environmental Permitting and local planning authority requirements. Full details are provided in the Remediation Strategy. Excavation and processing of Made Ground will be undertaken in a controlled manner with the sorting, processing and segregation of identified deleterious materials to geotechnical specification. Validation sampling and leachate testing will confirm material retained on-site poses no unacceptable risk to the residential end-users controlled waters or the wider environment. A full Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be agreed and help ensure that mitigation measures will be implemented in accordance with requirements.
- 5.13 The developer's works will include provision of a 600mm cover system using certified material within the proposed garden areas; a 300mm cover system using certified material within proposed areas of public open space; construction of dwellings with appropriate gas monitoring; and construction of appropriate potable water supply infrastructure. Buildings will be constructed in accordance with the relevant Construction Industry and British Standards such that ingress of ground gas will be prevented. Cover systems will be designed in line with industry best practice and validated in line with warranty providers (NHBC/LABC)³². Therefore, overall any potential risk to the health of construction workers, future residents and visitors of the proposed development has been identified and reduced to negligible through project design and implementation of the Remediation Strategy.
- 5.14 The **Air Quality** studies³³ undertaken for the EIA to accompany the planning application identified potentially sensitive receptors - 25 residential, 4 schools, one care home and one hospital for air quality and dust modelling purposes. During the construction phase, the CEMP will ensure that potential adverse effects for air quality and dust are minimised to negligible significance. The studies confirmed that the predicted effects of the proposed development on occupation are negligible for the identified potential sensitive receptors.

³¹ E3P Ltd for Barrett & David Wilson Homes (BDW) Remediation and Enabling Works Strategy (Ref 15-280-R2-1, dated April 2022)

³² National House Building Council <https://www.nhbc.co.uk/> and <https://www.labcwarranty.co.uk/>

³³ Air Quality & Dust Assessment for BDW (March 2024) Air and Acoustic Consultants Ltd (AAC)

- 5.15 The **Noise** Survey³⁴ undertaken for the EIA to accompany the planning application identified a number of potentially sensitive receptors which were agreed with Knowsley Council Environmental Health Officers.

During the construction phase, the CEMP will ensure that potential adverse effects for noise are minimised to negligible significance. The results of the survey highlighted that no significant effects are anticipated during the construction and operational phases of the development in relation to noise. With the exception of controlling the potential impact of any new building services plant that might come forward under the approved development (such as ASHPs) that can be secured by condition to be not significant, no further noise mitigation measures are necessary for the completed and operational development.

- 5.16 The **landscape** design³⁵ of the proposals is founded on provision of a multi-functional landscape that provides for amenity, wellbeing, education, wildlife, biodiversity, natural drainage, natural flood prevention, mitigates air pollution, and creates a healthy environment to live/work/play. It includes landscape to promote active travel, sequester carbon, reduce fuel miles whilst also mitigating the impact of climate change through appropriate planting, soil specification and flood risk reduction. It will deliver biodiversity net-gain by retaining as much existing mature vegetation/ soil as possible and reinforcing and expanding existing site wild flora and habitats.

- 5.17 The **historic environment** is an important factor in the cultural wellbeing of people and their communities. The Heritage Impact Assessment³⁶ undertaken as part of the EIA to accompany the planning application for the proposals identified that there are no designated or non-designated built heritage assets within the site. However, there are heritage assets within a wider study area, including Old Hall Conservation Area and six Listed Buildings. The studies found that during the construction phase effects would be slight/not significant; and during the occupational phase effects would be neutral and not significant. Therefore, there are no implications for human health and wellbeing.

Vibrant Neighbourhoods

- 5.18 The layout of the dwellings, spaces, and streets is proposed within a logical framework that links to the surrounding area and thus encourages social cohesion through inclusive design. This is for both the new residents and the existing communities. The design³⁷ seeks to create a strong sense of place and identity with a mix of accessible public places and routes throughout development that encourage use by all sections of the existing and future community throughout their lives.

³⁴ Noise Survey for BDW (March 2024) Noise Consultants

³⁵ Design & Access Statement (DAS) for BDW (March 2024) Barratt Developments PLC Urban Design Department

³⁶ Heritage Impact Assessment by Turley Heritage for BDW (March 2024)

³⁷ Design & Access Statement (DAS) for BDW (March 2024) Barratt Developments PLC Urban Design Department

- 5.19 The design includes active frontage onto all streets, pedestrian routes and open spaces and this will further encourage social cohesion, including reducing the likelihood of crime and fear of crime. Thus, potential negative effects on community safety have been reduced through mitigation measures developed during the iterative design process.
- 5.20 No employment uses are proposed but the proximity to the town centre and other employment possibilities is likely to have positive effects with regard to accessibility and active travel for nearby employment – and overall, progression of objectives for vibrant neighbourhoods to support health and wellbeing.

6.0 SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This HIA Report is provided to support the planning application for the proposed development at Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby. It is provided to demonstrate compliance with the requirement in the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (to 2028)³⁸ Policy CS2 Development Principles for the application of the principles to be implemented using development assessment tools including Health Impact Assessment.
- 6.2 This HIA aligns with the approach detailed in the Healthy Urban Development Unity (HUDU) toolkit, recognising that health and wellbeing can be affected by multiple and interacting determinants - built and natural environment; work and the labour market; vulnerability; income; crime; education. The HIA tool sets out the HIA process and includes eleven topics or broad determinants for health and wellbeing relevant to development proposals.
- 6.3 The national and local policy context has been investigated to identify the key objectives for health and wellbeing in the Kirkby area. These include reducing health inequalities, improving mental health and wellbeing and reducing social isolation. The current baseline conditions were explored and it was found that there are still concerns for healthy life expectancies and deprivation in Kirkby.
- 6.4 Various technical studies considered the likely impacts from the proposed development on topics including contaminated land, traffic, air quality and dust, noise, and heritage. These studies detailed any necessary mitigation measures and concluded that there would be no residual negative effects. Potential risks to the health and wellbeing of construction workers, residents and visitors were thus identified and it has been ensured that any potential negative impacts have been avoided or minimised to insignificance.
- 6.5 The design of the proposed development has been founded upon sustainability principles such that objectives for health housing, active travel, environmental quality and vibrant neighbourhoods are progressed. The provision of good quality housing near to the Kirkby town centre that is strongly accessible, through sustainable transport modes and with good linkages to green infrastructure networks will have positive effects for the health and wellbeing of residents.

³⁸ <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/building-and-planning/planning-policy/adopted-documents>