

Network Space Developments Ltd – Alchemy Business Park

Statement of Health Impact Assessment – March 2023

Spawforths have prepared this Statement of Health Impact Assessment to support Network Space's full planning application for employment development at Alchemy Way.

FULL APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING TWO UNITS (USE CLASS E (G) (II) (III) / B2 / B8 USE) WITH ANCILLARY E (G) (I) OFFICE SPACE, CAR PARKING AND VEHICULAR, PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION WITH ACCESS ONTO ALCHEMY WAY

This Statement considers the potential impact on health and wellbeing on different groups of people and the environment.

The National Planning Policy Framework (The Framework) sets out the purpose of the planning system as being “to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.” Ensuring a strong and healthy society is recognised by the Framework. This is reinforced within the Council's Local Plan and Strategic Objective 9 ‘Promoting Health and Wellbeing in Knowsley’ and policies in Chapters 4 -11 of the Core Strategy which are intended to help deliver the strategic objective.

Healthy Impact Assessments promotes sustainable developments that should contribute positively to healthy lifestyles. This Statement takes reference from the strategic objectives and relevant policies in the Core Strategy and will assess the impact of the proposals

I. Healthy Neighbourhoods

The Government aims to ensure the planning system promotes and secures economic growth in order to create jobs and prosperity, building on the country's inherent strengths. Income and employment are recognised to have a critical effect on health. Evidence shows that those who experience poverty, low income and unemployment are less able to make healthy choices and so have poorer health than those living in better socio-economic conditions.

Job security, working conditions, opportunities for employment advancement or simply being in paid employment, can all impact on health and wellbeing. While employment that provides job satisfaction and sense of making a contribution can also play a part in improved mental wellbeing, as well as helping people to build wider social networks.

The Planning Statement at Chapter 5 clearly sets out the proposals will help to deliver the Council's employment land supply on this established employment site, which is vacant since closure of the Distillery. This proposal will deliver significant benefits including new jobs and investment.

There is clear policy support for the development of the site for employment use in Core Strategy given the site is allocated under Policy EC3: Primarily Industrial Areas, which recognises these established primary industrial areas are appropriate locations for B1 (now E g (i)), B2 and B8 uses and will deliver key strategic benefits to the Knowsley Council.

Overall, the development proposals will have a positive socio-economic impact and will bring clear benefits to the local and wider area. The proposed development will bring an existing vacant site into beneficial economic use and represents significant investment in the local area resulting in the creation of jobs during both the construction and operational phases. The Applicant is also willing to commit towards providing local employment opportunities during the construction phases.

The proposal seeks flexibility regarding the employment use in order to secure a market facing planning permission which can react to change in market demand.

The opportunity for local employment within the area will be a positive health benefit for employment in future which can help to reduce deprivation in the area.

The development proposal provides a mix of unit sizes to attract a variety of businesses to the Site, within new and attractive workplace, which will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the people who work there and can create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy.

The Site has excellent transport links and thus providing a highly accessible site, which is also a key factor in attracting businesses to the area.

The proposals will promote sustainable economic development, improving business productivity and employment levels in Knowsley and helping reduce economic, health and other social inequalities between Knowsley and other parts of the UK, in accordance with Core Strategy Policy CS2.

2. Planning for Active Lifestyles

Planning can influence healthy lifestyles and maximise opportunities for physical exercise. Increased physical exercise not only has physical health benefits but is also known to have positive impacts on psychological health and well-being.

A key aspect of the Knowsley Core Strategy Local Plan is to support a sustainable transport system and geographical pattern of development which minimises the need to travel and will help grow the borough's economy, ensuring that jobs, shops and services are accessible to all, leading to a lesser reliance on the car for travel. This will help to improve the environment and the health and wellbeing of residents.

Reducing car dependency and the provision of convenient, safe, sustainable transport options (e.g. walking, cycling and public transport) can have a significant effect on health by encouraging participation in physical activity and promoting social interaction, in addition to reducing preventable road traffic accidents, noise and air pollution.

The Planning Application is accompanied by a Travel Plan, which seeks to reduce the dependency of travel by car thus promote sustainable travel. The Travel Plan encourages cycle to work and thus the development provides secure cycle parking facilities within each unit. The cycling parking at each unit will provide cyclists with convenient opportunities to cycle to work.

3. Protecting the Environment

Protecting residents against environmental impacts from infrastructure is important in creating healthy environments.

The Planning Application is supported by a series of technical reports to demonstrate that the Site can be developed with no adverse impacts.

Noise pollution can have an impact on human health and wellbeing. The Travel Plan provides measures to reduce the dependency on the car to further protect air quality levels.

The Noise Assessment sets maximum noise levels in accordance with the WHO guidance to minimise noise and disturbance from the units. The Noise Assessment also recognises the need to minimise and

control the impacts of construction traffic (e.g. dust, noise and congestion) and limit noise and air pollution and their associated health impacts via construction management plans.

Summary

Development proposals have the potential to harm on health and wellbeing on different groups of people and the environment. This Statements highlights the potential negative impacts and identified the solutions proposed to demonstrate how any positive health impacts of proposal's can be increased.