

**Health Protocol Update**

Summary: As part of the wider effort to foster a closer collaboration between local planning authorities, and other health service organisations to plan for future growth and to promote health, an updated engagement protocol has been produced through the Norfolk Strategic Framework between local planning authorities, the Norfolk and Waveney Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health Partners and Public Health Norfolk and Public Health Suffolk.

This report explains the updated Protocol and seeks its endorsement by North Norfolk District Council.

Recommendations: **Recommendation to Cabinet that the Council approves the revisions to the Planning for Health Protocol for use when preparing Local Plans and determining planning applications.**

Cabinet Member(s)	Ward(s) affected
Contact Officer, telephone number and email:	
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**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Planning for Health Protocol is a multiagency-owned document between planning authorities and health organisation and has been updated through the Norfolk Strategic Planning Group. It has been endorsed by Norfolk’s Health and Wellbeing Board District Council Subcommittee and by Norfolk’s Members’ Planning Forum and the commitment to its endorsement in the use of planning is part of the Agreement 18 in the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework shared separation objectives for a growing County and Statement of Common Ground May 2021. All Norfolk Planning Authorities are signatories to the existing Protocol and are currently engaged in a process of endorsing the updated version.

1.2 The process governing how health organisations are consulted about planning applications is set out in the Planning in Health Protocol. It sets out how relevant NHS organisations, public health and local planning authorities jointly consult to ensure that health considerations are adequately accounted for in plan making, planning applications and their subsequent development.

The council first adopted the use of the Health Protocol in late 2017 and endorsed an updated version August 2019.

1.3 This revision is based upon the previously published version from August 2019 and has come about in recognition of a need for greater collaboration between local planning authorities, health service organisations, and public health departments in local government to plan for future growth and to promote health. It reflects changes in national planning policy and structural changes in the wider NHS and the need for health service organisations to deliver on the commitments within the NHS Long Term Plan which sets out how money will be spent on the NHS between 2019 and 2029.

1.4 The Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party is asked to:

- Note the new approach to embedding health and wellbeing in spatial planning
- Adopt the revised Planning in Health Protocol

## **2. Health Protocol**

2.1 The Planning in Health Protocol (known as the Protocol) includes a process describing how relevant NHS organisations, Norfolk & Suffolk County Council Public Health and the Norfolk and East Suffolk Local Planning Authorities jointly consult to ensure the health considerations are adequately accounted for in plan making and in the application process. In essence it sets out when and how Local Authorities will consult health providers and establishes a framework for expected responses.

2.2 In the context of this report, 'Health Considerations' includes planning for health services with the provision of facilities such as doctors' surgeries, as well as ensuring that health promotion is considered in the design and implementation of developments in the context of promoting active travel, cycling infrastructure, or maintaining good air quality.

2.3 The Protocol is designed for use by:

- Norfolk and East Suffolk Local Planning Authorities
- Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System (ICS) Estates Group
- Norfolk and Suffolk County Council's Public Health teams.

2.4 The Protocol should be used when consultation is required on the potential health considerations associated with a development. This will be for:

- A housing development of 50 dwellings or more
- A development of less than 50 dwellings but which is still deemed to potentially impact on health services significantly
- A development that includes care homes, housing for the elderly, or student accommodation
- A development that involves the significant loss of public open space
- Any other type of development that could have significant health implications

- 2.5 In light of the above criteria, most of the Local Plan's proposed allocations would fall under the requirement for a health Protocol to be undertaken, though this is not expressly set out within each site allocation policy as it is already evoked through Policy HC2 'Health and Wellbeing' in the emerging Local Plan, which includes requirements for all major developments to be informed by the Healthy Planning Checklist which is included within the Protocol.
- 2.6 Any applications, including the Local Plan's allocations that fall under the requirements in Policy HC2 are required to consult the ICS Estates Group and Public Health partners. The Council is in regular contact with both of these groups through publishing the Annual Monitoring Report, and ongoing co-operation through the Norfolk Strategic Forum to assess how well the Protocol is working and discuss any other strategic and upcoming issues. A panel of officers meets on a regular basis to review the operation of the protocol and discuss specific proposals.

### **3. Changes to the Revised Protocol**

- 3.1 The currently in-use health protocol was brought to this committee in August 2017, following a period of consultation, the protocol was included within the Norfolk Strategic Framework, NSF Endorsement report in February 2018. The document has been in use since then and was initially updated in August 2019 which was referenced in the NSF Endorsement report in August 2019. The protocol is being reviewed for a second time; the proposed revisions were first drafted in May 2022 and endorsed by the Norfolk Strategic Framework, NSF in September 2022.
- 3.2 The revisions to the currently adopted health protocol involves changes that:
- Recognise and incorporate the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System (ICS), which is an umbrella body that deals with planning and the buying and provision of publicly funded healthcare to the population of the area,
  - Update to reference the latest publication of the National Planning Policy Framework,
  - Simplifies the protocol to make it easier to use and embed into the work of all partner agencies.
  - Provides an updated healthcare population needs assessments, as well population and demographic change estimates that will be published separately to the protocol to increase the longevity of the document and allow for future updates.

### **4. Conclusion / Recommendations**

**Recommendation to Cabinet that the Council approves the revisions to the Planning for Health Protocol for use when preparing Local Plans and determining planning applications.**

### **5. Financial Implications and Risks**

Introduction of the Protocol would have very minor resource implications in terms of staff time but in many respects reflects best practice which is already occurring. There are no financial implications.

**Appendix**  
**Planning for Health Engagement Protocol May 2022 (attached)**