

# Rapid Health Impact Assessment

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## *Langley Sustainable Urban Extension*

### **1 Introduction**

The Langley Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) is one of the largest single residential developments in the UK. It has been identified for approximately 6,000 homes, contributing to the City's delivery of 51,000 new homes over the next 13 years.

The draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) sets out an approach to create sustainable communities, supported by a wide range of infrastructure from new public transport connections, to a network of walking and cycling routes, extensive green infrastructure and public spaces, to education facilities and local amenities.

This document is a health impact assessment (HIA) of the draft SPD to identify, discuss, enhance and mitigate the potential impact of the Langley SUE, on the health of not only the future residents of Langley but also the residents in the existing surrounding neighbourhoods.

The aim of this health impact assessment is to show how the Langley SPD addresses health and wellbeing, and identify sections where it could be strengthened. The assessment makes a series of recommendations to this end.

### **2 Method**

The Birmingham Developer's Toolkit, based on the London Healthy Urban Design Unit model, was created to assist the HIA process.

Using this toolkit as a guide, the SPD was assessed by experts from across the Council, NHS, Police and other stakeholder organisations. The feedback was collated and cross referenced with relevant national and local policy and guidance (such as the National Planning and Policy Framework, the Town and Country Planning Associations Guide 8: Creating health promoting environments and the Birmingham Development Plan) and forms the basis of this report.

### **3 Overview of Health and Demographics for Sutton Coldfield**

Health in Birmingham is on average worse than England. Life expectancy at birth is a commonly used measure of health and indicates the average age of death for that group. In Birmingham the life expectancy for men is 77.2 and for women is 81.9. For men this is 2 years worse than England as a whole. Worryingly, whilst life expectancies historically increased year on year, life expectancy for both men and women in Birmingham has not increased since around 2010.

Healthy life expectancy at birth is also an important measure and describes the average age that people report they are in poor health. In this way it also encompasses the early onset of chronic

conditions and mental health issues. Again, Birmingham is in worse health than England on average and healthy life expectancies for men is 59.7 and for women is 59.3.

This is notably less than retirement age and illustrates the impact that poor health has on productivity and economic growth, as well as the potential demand for health and social care and other public services.

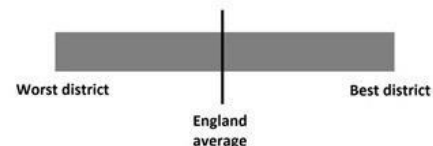
There are large inequalities in health and for the most deprived areas in Birmingham, healthy life expectancies are around 50 years, compared with over 70 years in the most affluent places.












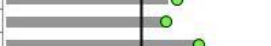
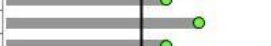







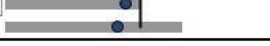
The Sutton Coldfield District is in relatively good health compared to Birmingham, although there are still areas of concern. The IMD2015 showed that 12.4% of Sutton Coldfield's population were in the most deprived 20% of areas in England. 22.1% of the district's population are over 65 (Birmingham 13%, England 18%). Infant mortality is one area of concern: the district rate was 4.6 per 1,000 live births during 2013/15; this compares to 3.9 nationally and 7.5 for Birmingham. More detail is presented in the spine chart below.

## Sutton Coldfield District 2017/18 Spine

### Key:

- Significantly better than England average
- Not significantly different from England average
- Significantly worse than England average
- No significance can be calculated
- Significantly lower than the England average\*
- Significantly higher than the England average\*



Indicator	Sutton Coldfield Number	Sutton Coldfield Stat	B'ham Avg	Eng Avg	District Range
1 Percentage of Children in Poverty 2014	8,825	8.6	32.9	20.1	
2 Adults with learning dis. in stable accommodation 2015/16	102	68.5	53.9	75.4	
3 Violent Crime Admissions April 2012 - March 2015	81	31.3	58.2	45.8	
4 Low Birth Weight (Percentage Live births (all) +) 2015	68	7.2	9.5	7.1	
5 Excess weight 4-5 year olds 2015/16	194	19.3	23.8	22.1	
5 Excess weight 10-11 year olds 2015/16	242	27.7	39.9	34.1	
6 Injuries due to falls 65+ Persons 2014/15	508	2321.7	2311.1	2124.6	
7 Infant Mortality 2013/15	13	4.6	7.5	3.9	
8 Mortality from all causes U75 2013/15	673	76.1	128.2	100.0	
8 CVD Deaths U75 2013 -15	139	70.2	133.9	100.0	
8 Cancer deaths preventable U75 2013-15	180	83.7	117.2	100.0	
8 Mortality from Coronary heart disease 2013/15	82	76.1	144.7	100.0	
8 Respiratory disease deaths preventable U75 2013-15	28	58.5	133.0	100.0	
8 Communicable disease deaths 2013 -15	175	85.3	116.7	100.0	
8 Diseases of the liver deaths preventable (U75) 2013 -15	26	42.9	100.0	100.0	
9 Hip fractures 65+ emergency admissions 2015/16	141	626.5	666.5	590.1	
9 Alcohol related admissions 2014/15 (narrow)	474	490.6	695.0	640.8	
10 Diabetes Prevalence 2015/16 (QOF)	5,386	6.6%	8.4%	6.6%	
10 Mental Health Prevalence 2015/16 (QOF)	768	0.8%	0.9%	1.1%	
10 Dementia Prevalence 2015/16 (QOF)	729	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	
10 Depression Prevalence 2015/16 (QOF)	5,489	6.9%	7.5%	8.3%	

It is difficult to determine who will eventually buy Langley property and live there. One way of attempting to predict the population is to use geodemographic classifications. By examining the profile of currently populated areas of Birmingham and nearby, we can take an educated guess as to the potential Langley population.

The '2011 Area Classification for Output Areas'<sup>1</sup> product is one such dataset. Here, various census data variables for small areas (output areas, OAs) have been combined in such a way to create clusters where the OAs are very similar. They are then classified and named in an attempt to summarise the socio-demographic make-up of that cluster of OAs. The following cluster classifications are available, termed as Supergroups.

- Rural residents
- Cosmopolitans
- Ethnicity central
- Multicultural metropolitans
- Urbanites
- Suburbanites
- Constrained city dwellers
- Hard-pressed living

The supergroup most likely to live in Langley, we suggest is 'Suburbanites'. The area immediately to the west of Langley is inhabited by this Supergroup. The pen portrait would describe this group as follows:

"The population of this supergroup is most likely to be located on the outskirts of urban areas. They are more likely to own their own home and to live in semi-detached or detached properties. The population tends to be a mixture of those above retirement age and middle-aged parents with school age children. The number of residents who are married or in civil-partnerships is above the national average. Individuals are likely to have higher-level qualifications than the national average, with the levels of unemployment in these areas being below the national average. All non-White ethnic groups have a lower representation when compared with the UK and the proportion of people born in the UK or Ireland is slightly higher. People are more likely to work in the information and communication, financial, public administration, and education sectors, and use private transport to get to work".<sup>1</sup>

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/geographicalproducts/areaclassifications/2011areaclassifications>

## **4 Assessment Indicators**

### **4.1 *Housing Quality and Design***

Access to decent and adequate housing is critically important for health and wellbeing, especially for the very young and very old. Environmental factors, overcrowding and sanitation in buildings, as well as unhealthy urban spaces have been widely recognised as causing illness since urban planning was formally introduced. Post-construction management also has impact on community welfare, cohesion and mental wellbeing.

The SPD does address the need for suitable housing for older and disabled people but focusses primarily on providing family housing. Family housing does not necessarily accommodate the needs of older and disabled people, but a shift of focus to building lifetime homes in place of family homes would benefit household members of all ages and needs. Lifetime homes provide the opportunity to adapt homes more easily in the future, should the needs of the household members change. This supports independent living for both older and disabled people, reducing the length of time or likelihood that people may need adult social care services, and in turn supports a mixed residential community.

The SPD does not directly reference design criteria such as the Lifetime Home standards or Building Regulation requirement M4(2). The design process will need to ensure that development comes forward with these appropriate standards.

The SPD confirms a mix of housing by size, tenure and affordability in each neighbourhood and will be subject to the relevant BDP policies as well as the housing market and demographics over the development period. This is important in terms of supporting a mixed community. With reference to 'affordable' homes, it might be useful to think about the context in which 'affordable' is used and include a reference to the costs of running and maintaining the household. For instance, the SPD does not make reference to SAP ratings and energy efficiency.

In terms of space, the SPD references The Technical Housing Standards – Nationally described space Standards as the benchmark. The SPD does not contain any further information with regard to layout and orientation.

### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

1. The SPD includes positive sections on ensuring a mix of housing types to meet a range of needs and support a mixed community.
2. The SPD references family homes; this might not meet the longer term needs of those families. It should incorporate a reference about ensuring that this housing could also be made appropriate for families in the longer term.
3. The SPD should make reference to the importance of SAP rating and energy efficient homes as part of providing affordable housing.

## ***4.2 Access to Healthcare Services and other Social Infrastructure***

Strong, vibrant, sustainable and cohesive communities require good quality, accessible public services and infrastructure. Encouraging the use of local services is influenced by accessibility, in terms of transport and access into a building, and the range and quality of services offered. Access to good quality health & social care, education (primary, secondary and post-19) and community facilities has a direct positive effect on human health. Opportunities for the community to participate in the planning of these services has the potential to impact positively on mental health and wellbeing and can lead to greater community cohesion.

The SPD incorporates many positive references to some of the infrastructure that supports the development of the community. This includes a new District Centre for the whole site, which includes shops and restaurant, public space, and space for community uses such as arts and culture.

The sports hub in the District Centre also supports the development of community life through sports pitches and other recreation and leisure activities.

A secondary school and three primary schools are also anticipated. As well as an increase in pupil numbers overall, any potential required provision for children with special educational needs and disability should also be referenced.

Health care facilities are referenced but not expanded in detail. The reference to the needs of the local Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) is positive but could be built on by highlighting the need to reference other NHS guidance documents. This will ensure that aspects such as the list size of proposed primary care facilities or developing models of care are addressed, and that the buildings are appropriate for this.

The SPD could also highlight the importance of ensuring a connection between the new social infrastructure and already existing communities.

### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

4. Given the size of the development, the SPD includes several different components that will help to strengthen the quality of community life.
5. As well as overall demand for community facilities, the SPD should include references to people with disabilities. This could include the accessibility of the sports hub to promote use by those with a range of abilities, and ensuring education provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
6. The section on health services could also include references to NHS guidance to ensure that it incorporates relevant guidance on GP list size and new models of care.

### ***4.3 Access to Open Space and Nature***

Providing secure, convenient and attractive open/green space can lead to more physical activity and reduce levels of ill-health problems that are associated with both sedentary occupations and stressful lifestyles. There is growing evidence that access to parks and open spaces and nature can help to maintain or improve mental health.

The patterns of physical activity established in childhood are perceived to be a key determinant of adult behaviour; a growing number of children are missing out on regular exercise, and an increasing number of children are being diagnosed as obese. There is a strong correlation between the quality of open space and the frequency of use for physical activity, social interaction or relaxation

The SPD does protect the existing open and natural spaces and features, in retaining field boundary hedges, trees, ponds and conservation and heritage sites. This could be further improved by making more of the existing woodlands and ponds, better protecting and adding to the existing assets. Building in a circulation route around the whole site, incorporating a variety of green space would offer the greatest health returns

The proposal makes green space accessible from closed farmland. It can be made more effective with the combination of natural/drainage water features. The proposal needs to do more to provide more ponds and woodlands as representing the local natural character. The health benefit would be greatest if housing areas are no further than 400m from their local green space.

The SPD suggests a range of proposals which should connect people with nature. However noise could be as cause for concern as the site is relatively flat and open. This can be mitigated with green infrastructure and would encourage all year round use.

The SPD proposes a good circulation route encompassing open and natural spaces and transport routes beyond the site. Incorporating green space variety would create the right conditions for a healthy lifestyle.

A healthy environment really supports wellbeing and a variety of interconnected green infrastructure would provide the greatest benefit.

#### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

7. The focus on existing green assets on the site is positive, especially given the location and character of surrounding area, as well as the references to accessibility of the space and bio-diversity.
8. The role of green infrastructure in reducing noise pollution is an important aspect to draw out given how flat the site is.
9. The circulation route through the green space with connections beyond the site will help to support healthy life styles. This could be expanded to include on site circulation routes too. The proposal could say more about how green infrastructure will define the feel of the place. With very careful use of scale, the outer countryside feel could be brought into the heart of the development. If delivered well this could result in an exemplary scheme.
10. The document is unclear on the long term ownership and management of the green space.



#### ***4.4 Air Quality, Noise and Neighbourhood Amenity***

The quality of the local environment can have a significant impact on physical and mental health. Pollution caused by construction, traffic and commercial activity can result in poor air quality, noise nuisance and vibration. Poor air quality is linked to incidence of chronic lung disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) and heart conditions and asthma levels of among children. Noise pollution can have a detrimental impact on health resulting in sleep disturbance, cardiovascular and psycho-physiological effects. Good design and the separation of land uses can lessen noise impacts.

Active travel is an important aspect of reducing emissions and this is dealt with in a later section.

The SPD includes reference to making a positive contribution to managing air quality. This would typically include understanding the traffic generated by the scheme and where it may contribute to increased concentrations of pollutants. Other documents are produced that may also contain important context or recommendations such as the emerging Clean Air Strategy or the Local Air Quality Management Plan.

One issue that isn't addressed is the changing nature of the vehicle fleet, especially given the proposals to phase out petrol and diesel engines. It is important that appropriate infrastructure is put in place for this change in new developments.

As well as reducing emissions and concentrations, reducing the exposure to pollution is also a way to improve health.

#### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

11. The SPD should make reference to statutory and non-statutory documents produced by BCC on air quality, as these will contain recommendations for new developments.
12. Given the proposals to phase out petrol and diesel engines, the SPD should include facilities for Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles, including recharging points
13. The framework should also specifically include references to reducing exposure to air pollution such as ensuring appropriate separation between pedestrians and roads and the risk of pollution being trapped in street canyons or similar tall features.

#### ***4.5 Accessibility and Active Travel (including severance and walkability)***

Convenient access to a range of services and facilities minimises the need to travel and provides greater opportunities for social interaction. Buildings and spaces that are easily accessible and safe also encourage all groups, including older people and people with a disability, to use them. Discouraging car use and providing opportunities for walking and cycling can increase physical activity and help prevent chronic diseases, reduce risk of premature death and improve mental health.

The SPD references a network of walking and cycling routes that connect the development to the local area and link key destinations. These are supplemented in the SPD by pedestrian focussed streets similar in home zones. Pedestrian priority will be important in these spaces to encourage less able residents to walk.

The SPD should highlight that walking and cycling routes are also appropriately lit to enable cycling and walking trips in a greater variety of conditions.

Public transport is also more physically active than driving given the walk to and from stops at either end of the trip, and this level of physical activity routinely can have a positive impact on the health of people who would otherwise be inactive. Inclusion of the majority of homes within 400m of a SPRINT stop will enable that physical activity.

Cycle parking is also referenced and provided for in the document. Ensuring easy access to it from both residential properties and within the hubs will be essential to promoting its use.

#### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

14. The references to walking and cycling around the site and to district centres are positive and will hopefully reduce the number of shorter trips that may have been made by car. if these are followed through to the final design.
15. Pedestrian focussed streets open up opportunities for more community connections. The SPD should reiterate pedestrian priority in these spaces.
16. The accessibility of cycle parking for residents - and location to reduce the risk of crimes such as cycle theft - will be important to encouraging cycling.



## **4.6 Crime Reduction and Community Safety**

Thoughtful planning and urban design that promotes natural surveillance and social interaction can help to reduce crime and the ‘fear of crime’, both of which impacts on the mental wellbeing of residents. As well as the immediate physical and psychological impact of being a victim of crime, people can also suffer indirect long-term health consequences including disability, victimisation and isolation because of fear. Community engagement in development proposals can lessen fears and concerns

This is also re-enforced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which sets out that “Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which 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”.

There is nothing specific in the SPD that references crime or the impact of perceptions and feeling of safety on how people will use the development. Developers should be encouraged to follow the underlying principles of ‘Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design’ (Armitage, Rachel) the Secured by Design Guides for Schools, Commercial and Homes and ‘Lighting Against Crime: A Guide for Crime Reduction Professionals’ (Association of Chief Police Officers, 2011).

WMP also recommend making reference to the Information Commissioners Office guides to the installation and maintenance of CCTV schemes.

The development should have clear indications as to the intended use for the public spaces and buildings so that ambiguity over how the space should be used does not allow conflicting interests to occur.

### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

17. The development should include references to documentation produced by WMP and ICO that will support the provision of safe communities with lower risks of crime.

## **4.7 Access to Healthy Food**

Access to healthy and nutritious food can improve diet and prevent chronic diseases related to obesity. People on low incomes, including young families, older people are the least able to eat well because of lack of access to nutritious food. They are more likely to have access to food that is high in salt, oil, energy-dense fat and sugar. Opportunities to grow and purchase local healthy food and limiting concentrations of hot food takeaways can change eating behaviour and improve physical and mental health.

The SPD highlights the provision of growing spaces such as allotments and community orchards as part of the overall network of public green spaces. The District centre serving the whole site will include restaurants, cafes and food stores. BCC already has policies in place about hot food takeaways.

Other options for the provision of healthy food, including farmers markets and the provision of potential space for market stalls close to community facilities, will help to provide fresh local produce as well as supporting businesses and promoting community cohesion. The closeness to community facilities will ensure that they are easily accessible by walking, cycling or using public transport.

The size of the retail units that are provided is not discussed. This is an important issue as some businesses that might support the community, such as social enterprises, may not have the ability to occupy larger retail spaces. There is guidance on this point in the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) TP23/24.

The type of food offer is also not discussed and it is important to prevent an over-concentration of hot food takeaways. Local authority policies are in place to avoid over-concentration of hot-food takeaways and to restrict their proximity to schools, town centres or other facilities aimed at children, young people, and families. Shopping and Local Centres SPD Policy 6 sets out take away thresholds.

### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

18. Retail units and community space should also support a broader range of businesses such as social enterprises and farmer's markets that may support healthy food choices.
19. Existing local authority guidance should be followed to prevent any concentration of hot food takeaways.

## ***4.8 Access to Work and Training***

Employment and income is a key determinant of health and wellbeing. Unemployment generally leads to poverty, illness and a reduction in personal and social esteem. Work aids recovery from physical and mental illnesses.

Locating employment in inaccessible locations or failing to provide a diversity of local jobs or training opportunities can negatively affect health and mental wellbeing both directly and indirectly.

In combination with Peddimore, the site is anticipated to bring significant new investment into the area. The Primary Movement Network (PMN) will be a key structuring element determining the built form and place-making requirements of Langley SUE. It will play an important role, integrating walking and cycle routes, prioritising accessibility for high quality public transport services, connecting centres and schools, and providing legible routes for traffic entering and exiting the site. The PMN will act as more than just conventional roads, and will include public space and street landscaping to a high specification.

Movement between the Langley and Peddimore sites is also important. The SPD highlights that the SPRINT route connects the two and this could be developed to show how cycling and walking infrastructure will also prevent severance from the A38.

The development could look further at jobs and skills. The Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility, the Procurement Policy Framework and Planning Protocol for Jobs and Skills could be used to ensure that we maximise and capture jobs and skills opportunities from planning and design stage through the construction delivery phase and into end use employment opportunities. Work closely with the principal contractor and their supply chain to capture jobs, apprenticeships and work experience supporting local residents through progression pathways into training and employment.

All associated construction development contracts will be subject to the Procurement and Planning requirements associated with jobs and skills to ensure that appointed contractors and their supply chains understand the commitment required in creating opportunities for local residents

Early discussions with the principal contractor could ensure that the on-site facilities include a functional jobs and skills training hub. BCC would work with local training providers to bring forward skills development provision on to the construction development site and promote opportunities within the construction and built environment sector to new entrants. There would also be an opportunity to look at developing skills of the existing workforce. The provision developed during the construction phase could be retained and further supported post development through the community hub facilities bringing forward a legacy approach to jobs and skills.

### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

20. The references to local employment and jobs and skills are essential parts of this proposal and their inclusion is important to retain.
21. Walking and cycling links to local employment opportunities need to also address how they will deal with severance caused by the A38.
22. Local skills and job opportunities could be developed through the use of the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility, the Procurement Policy Framework and Planning Protocol for Jobs and Skills and as such would require dialogue with the principal developer/contractor.

## ***4.9 Social Cohesion and Lifetime Neighbourhoods***

Friendship and supportive networks in a community can reduce depression/ levels of chronic illness as well as speed up recovery after illness and improve wellbeing. Fragmentation of social structures can lead to communities demarcated by socio-economic status, age and/or ethnicity. Building networks for people who are isolated and disconnected, and to provide meaningful interaction to improve mental wellbeing.

Lifetime Neighbourhoods places the design criteria of Lifetime Homes into a wider context, creating environments that people of all ages and abilities can access and enjoy, facilitating communities that people can participate in, interact and feel safe.

The SPD highlights that each Neighbourhood will have a distinctive character that relates well to adjoining places, and well-defined gateways that help people to identify with their local area.

The SPD describes each new neighbourhood area including if, where and how it links to neighbouring residential areas such as Lindridge Road and Springfield Road. It references how the Primary Movement Network will assist in joining and integrating the new and existing neighbourhoods. Home Zone style areas where pedestrians have priority will also help to develop social connections where the flow and speed of traffic through residential areas can be reduced.

The SPD makes reference to schools, healthcare, open spaces, leisure and recreation amongst other things and that neighbourhoods will be supported by a lively mix of services and conveniences that are an essential part to creating new communities, and to ensure people have access to facilities for their day to day lives. The SPD also focusses on delivering a strong sense of place that puts the health and wellbeing of residents at its heart. However a criteria or framework for assessing this has not been referenced and the Lifetime Neighbourhoods components may help to strengthen the implementation of this idea.

Ensuring that these facilities are in place for early residents will help to establish social habits and cohesion from the start and this is an important aspect to consider.

### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

23. The neighbourhood characteristics in the SPD will help to create social cohesion through design and mix of facilities. It could be considered about how references to frameworks such as Lifetime Neighbourhoods will support the implementation of this vision,
24. The positive impact of home zones or similar environments on community connections should be referenced in the SPD.

## ***4.10 Minimising the use of Resources***

Reducing or minimising waste including disposal, processes for construction as well as encouraging recycling at all levels can improve human health directly and indirectly by minimising environmental impact, such as air pollution.

For this development, this area is covered under air quality and access to green space and nature.

### ***4.11 Climate Change***

There is a clear link between climate change and health. The Marmot Review is clear that local areas should prioritise policies and interventions that ‘reduce both health inequalities and mitigate climate change’ because of the likelihood that people with the poorest health would be hit hardest by the impacts of climate change.

Planning is at the forefront of both trying to reduce carbon emissions and to adapt urban environments. Poorly designed homes can lead to fuel poverty in winter and overheating in summer contributing to excess winter and summer deaths. Developments also have the potential to contribute towards mental wellbeing of residents.

Some aspects of this section are covered under active travel and access to space and nature.

New developments should be planned for in ways that avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When a new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure;

The SPD encompasses a wide range of climate change issues, these include: building design to reduce energy demand, technology to monitor energy use, and references to recycling and home composting. Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) will be integral to development at Langley SUE as part of the approach to flood risk management (BDP policy TP6) and biodiversity enhancements with Langley Brook and Peddimore Brook on the site. It offers a long term sustainable solution which contributes towards the overall character of the site, including the green infrastructure and transport and movement networks. It will need to include flood risk assessment and flood risk modelling for the Langley Brook.

#### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

25. The integrated approach to sustainable urban drainage techniques is an important characteristic of the development.



## ***4.12 Digital and Technology***

Understanding the role digital and technology have in the planning process is instrumental to ensure developments are able to adapt and evolve with changing technologies and digital advancements.

As well as providing greater connectivity for a growing flexible workforce who are required to work from home or on the move, technology advancements also allow for improved healthcare provision at home via telecare, ability to introduce smarthome adaptations to better regulate environments, improved information points for transport infrastructure, and the opportunity to harness new energy provision and work smarter using existing infrastructure.

The ability to move flexibly and stay connected is paramount to maintain both physical and mental health wellbeing.

The SPD highlights how the development will need to accommodate wired and wireless infrastructure. There is the opportunity to develop this section in line with the NPPF and reference future support for next generation technologies such as 5G and full fibre broadband connections. Street based assets can also be digitally enabled to allow future technologies such as smart lighting or sensors to monitor air or noise pollution.

### **Key Recommendations from This Section**

26. The digital section of the SPD could be expanded to show the role of this technology in improving the quality of life for residents and how some of the assets on streets could be used.

## 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

The complete list of recommendations is set out below:

1. The SPD includes positive sections on ensuring a mix of housing types to meet a range of needs and support a mixed community.
2. The SPD references family homes; this might not meet the longer term needs of those families. It should incorporate a reference about ensuring that this housing could also be made appropriate for families in the longer term.
3. The SPD should make reference to the importance of SAP rating and energy efficient homes as part of providing affordable housing.
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7. The focus on existing green assets on the site is positive, especially given the location and character of surrounding area, as well as the references to accessibility of the space and bio-diversity.
8. The role of green infrastructure in reducing noise pollution is an important aspect to draw out given how flat the site is.
9. The circulation route through the green space with connections beyond the site will help to support healthy life styles. This could be expanded to include on site circulation routes too. The proposal could say more about how green infrastructure will define the feel of the place. With very careful use of scale, the outer countryside feel could be brought into the heart of the development. If delivered well this could result in an exemplary scheme.
10. The document is unclear on the long term ownership and management of the green space.
11. The SPD should make reference to statutory and non-statutory documents produced by BCC on air quality, as these will contain recommendations for new developments.
12. Given the proposals to phase out petrol and diesel engines, the SPD should include facilities for Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles including recharging points
13. The framework should also specifically include references to reducing exposure to air pollution such as ensuring appropriate separation between pedestrians and roads and the risk of pollution being trapped in street canyons or similar tall features.
14. The references to walking and cycling around the site and to district centres are positive and will hopefully reduce the number of shorter trips that may have been made by car. If these are followed through to the final design
15. Pedestrian focussed streets open up opportunities for more community connections. The SPD should reiterate pedestrian priority in these spaces.
16. The accessibility of cycle parking for residents, and location to reduce the risk of crimes such as cycle theft will be important to encouraging cycling.
17. The development should include references to documentation produced by WMP and ICO that will support the provision of safe communities with lower risks of crime.
18. Retail units and community space should also support a broader range of businesses such as social enterprises and farmer's markets that may support healthy food choices.
19. Existing local authority guidance should be followed to prevent any concentration of hot food takeaways.

20. The references to local employment and jobs and skills are essential parts of this proposal and their inclusion is important to retain.
21. Walking and cycling links to local employment opportunities need to also address how they will deal with severance caused by the A38.
22. Local skills and job opportunities could be developed through the use of the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility, the Procurement Policy Framework and Planning Protocol for Jobs and Skills
23. The neighbourhood characteristics in the SPD will help to create social cohesion through design and mix of facilities. It could be considered about how references to frameworks such as Lifetime Neighbourhoods will support the implementation of this vision,
24. The positive impact of home zones or similar environments on community connections should be referenced in the SPD.
25. The integrated approach to sustainable urban drainage techniques is an important characteristic of the development.
26. The digital section of the SPD could be expanded to show the role of this technology in improving the quality of life for residents and how some of the assets on streets could be used.

## 6 Acknowledgements

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Due to the rapid nature of this health impact assessment, content from the following documents may have been used either wholly or in part:

- London HUDU Planning for Health Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool
- TCPA Practical Guides - Guide 8: Creating health promoting environments
- National Planning Policy Framework July 2018
- Langley Sustainable Urban Extension Draft Supplementary Planning Document

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