

HUMAN HEALTH TECHNICAL NOTE

Land to the West of Hatfield

November 2020

1. Introduction

CBRE Ltd has been appointed by Triptych PD Limited on behalf of Arlington Business Parks GP Limited to undertake a review of how health and wellbeing have been incorporated into the design of the proposed scheme at Land to the West of Hatfield. This technical note addresses the requirements of the 2017 EIA Regulations in terms of the consideration of human health and summarises how this has been achieved throughout the various technical chapters of the 2018 Environmental Statement and 2020 Addendum as appropriate. This includes the cumulative impact of the proposed development from a biopsychosocial perspective (physical and psychological health, social interaction and health behaviour).

The technical note comprises:

- Section 2 Baseline Health Conditions;
- Section 3 Residual Effects Review; and
- Section 4 High-Level Assessment of the Cumulative Effects and Conclusion.

Nature of Application

The description of the development as it appears on the outline planning application is as follows:

Large-scale mixed-use development for 1,100 new homes and supporting infrastructure including a primary school, local centre and open space.

Professional expertise has been used to assess the likely form and qualities of the proposed development with regards to potential impacts on health. This has enabled appropriate cumulative impacts to be assumed for the purpose of this technical note, allowing the identification of realistic predicted impacts of the proposed development.

Information Used

The following documents have been used to inform the assessment:

- Public Health England's Health Profile for Welwyn Hatfield (2019); and
- Hertfordshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2013 – 2020).

Details of these documents are contained in Section 2.

People Potentially Affected

The people potentially affected by the proposed development include:

- Construction phase employees;
- New residents of the proposed development;
- New employees of the proposed development within the operational phase;
- New pupils associated with the school to be brought forward as part of the proposed development;

- Existing residents considered to live in close proximity to the application site;
- Existing employees who work on or in close proximity to the application site; and
- Visitors to the proposed development.

Specific consideration is given to potential impacts on vulnerable people within these population groups where appropriate. The vulnerable people considered include:

- Older people;
- Pregnant women;
- Children under the age of 16 years;
- Young people aged 16-25 years;
- Students;
- Unemployed people and their families;
- People on a low income and their families;
- Homeless people;
- People with pre-existing medical conditions (chronic or acute);
- People with mental health problems;
- People with a physical disability;
- People with a learning disability;
- Carers;
- People from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups;
- Refugees and asylum seekers; and
- People from the traveller community.

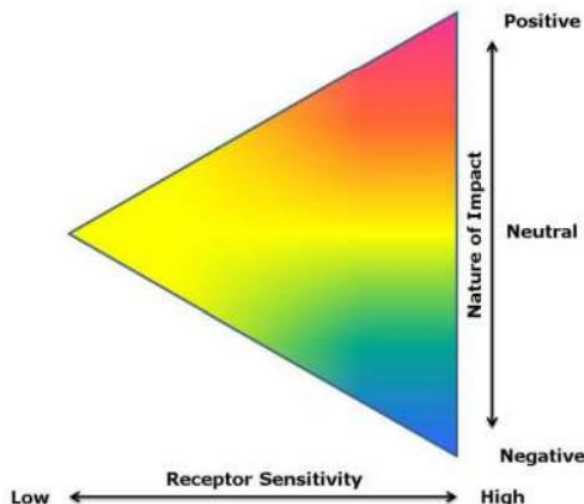
Impact Prediction and Significance Criteria

Several criteria have been used to determine whether the potential health impacts from the proposed development are significant. So far as appropriate, the health impacts are assessed qualitatively using definitive standards and legislation.

The significance of impacts has been assessed, taking into consideration a range of criteria including:

- Sensitivity of the receptor;
- Reversibility and duration (short-term, medium-term, long-term) of the impact;
- Nature of the impact (direct/indirect, positive/negative);
- Extent of influence and magnitude of the impact; and
- Inter-relationship between impacts.

Figure 1
Impact and Receptor Sensitivity Relationship



The significance of residual impacts following mitigation reflects judgements as to sensitivity of the affected receptor(s) and the nature and magnitude of the predicted changes. For example, an adverse impact on a receptor of low sensitivity will be of lesser significance than the same impact on a receptor of high sensitivity (refer to Figure 1).

The following terms have been used to define the significance of effects, where they are predicted to occur:

- Major Beneficial or Adverse – where the proposed development would cause a significant improvement or deterioration to existing health;
- Moderate Beneficial or Adverse – where the proposed development would cause a marginal improvement or deterioration to existing health;
- Minor Beneficial or Adverse – where the proposed development would cause a barely perceptible improvement or deterioration to existing health; and
- Neutral/Negligible – no discernible improvement or deterioration to existing health.

2. Baseline Health Conditions

Health is largely determined outside of the ‘health’ service – a point reinforced in the report *Securing Good Health for the Whole Population* [1], which uses the term ‘National Sickness Service’. This service deals with almost an exclusive focus, on the urgent need to improve short-term access and quality to health services. Investments in social systems and places in which people spend their time and live their lives are a requirement of effective health improvements.

The health map (refer to Figure 2), originally developed by Barton and Grant [2] shows the complex interrelationships between health, physical, lifestyle, economic and social environments. People are at the core of the map, surrounded by layers of influences that could theoretically be modified. The first of these is lifestyle, for example a person could decide to give up smoking. Beyond this, the map shows how the individual is situated in a

community, a broader social world comprising social networks and social support that can affect an individual’s health.

As the health map radiates outwards, wider influences exist that impact on decisions to stop smoking. The map also illustrates how human health is intimately connected to the health of the wider environment and ecosystems – pointing to the importance of integrating health and sustainable development agendas.

Figure 2
A Health Map for the Human Habitat

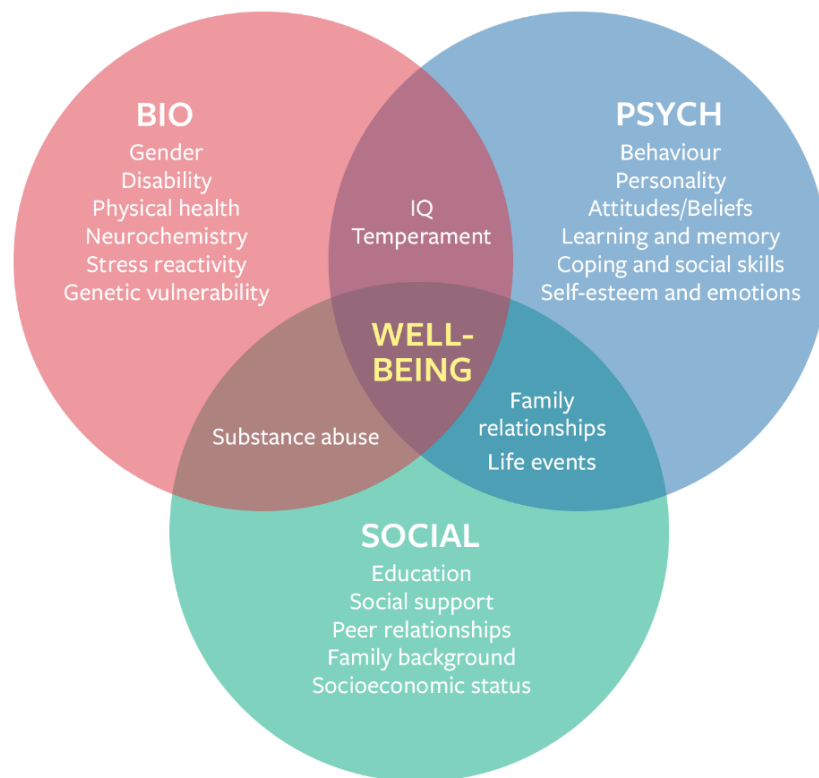


The Determinants of Health (1992) Dahlgren and Whitehead

Before the determinants of health were established, George Engel in 1977 ‘argued that medicine in general and psychiatry in particular ought to shift from a biomedical perspective of disease to a biopsychosocial (BPS) perspective on health’. He argued that the biomedical perspective was too simplistic, and that in order to address health related issues meaningfully a holistic approach was necessary. The World Health Organisation (WHO) supports Engel’s view as it defines its central mission as improving wellbeing which is defined as overall state of health and happiness at the biological, psychological and social levels [3]. The BPS perspective recognises that, in addition to behavioural, social and biology, factors play a major role in human health. This theory is supported by the determinants of health theory (Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1992).

The biopsychosocial model (refer to Figure 3) is a broad view that attributes health to the interaction between biomedical factors (genes/nutrition), psychological factors (emotions/behaviours) and social factors (socio-economics/environment/stress).

Figure 3
The Biopsychosocial Model



The Local Governments and Public Involvements in Health Act 2007 required local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) (former, Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)) to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) of the health and wellbeing of their local communities. The JSNA provides a core of evidence informing the local authority’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) provides an overall assessment of the needs of the population of Hertfordshire and determines the priorities for commissioning services. The JSNA is the outcome of a continuous process of strategic assessment and planning with the outputs, in the form of evidence and analysis of needs, being used to help determine the actions of the Council, the local NHS and other partners need to take to improve the wellbeing of the local population and reduce inequalities.

Health Profiles are produced by the Public Health England with funding from the Department of Health. They are designed to help local government and health services identify problems in their areas and decide how to tackle them. They provide a snapshot of the overall health of the local population and highlight potential problems through comparison with other areas and the average for England for 32 indicators.

The Welwyn Hatfield Health Profile 2019 shows that health in Welwyn Hatfield is generally worse compared to the England average [4]. It performs significantly worse for the following indicators:

- Diabetes; and
- Hospital Admission Rate for Violence (including sexual violence).

These indicators and their respective implications identify what underlying key determinants may be driving poor health within Welwyn Hatfield. Consequently, the baseline conditions of this technical note have informed the following sections.

Many of the ES technical chapters have addressed the potential implications of their topics on human health by virtue of set target values or objectives (e.g. air quality, contaminated land or noise) based on human health tolerances or through the consideration of policy requirements and targets promoting human health tolerances or through the consideration of policy requirements and targets promoting healthier behaviours (for example, active modes of travel such as walking and cycling).

Consequently, it is considered that the following chapters have already addressed the consideration of human health implications:

Air Quality

- Humans can be adversely affected by exposure to air pollutants in ambient air. Air Quality Standards are concentrations recorded over a given time period, which are considered to be acceptable in terms of what is scientifically known about the effects of each pollutant on health and on the environment. They can also be used as a benchmark to indicate whether air pollution is getting worse. The European Union has developed an extensive body of legislation which establishes health-based standards and objectives for several pollutants present in the air.
- The EU Ambient Air Quality Directive and fourth Daughter Directive contain Limit Values and Target Values. The national Air Quality Objectives and EU limit and target values with which the UK must comply are summarised in the National Air Quality Objectives of the Air Quality Strategy. These objectives and target values have been assessed within the ES.

Ground Conditions & Contamination

- The contaminated land regime under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides a risk-based approach to the identification and remediation of land where contamination poses an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. The regime does not consider future uses which could need a specific grant of planning permission. To ensure a site is suitable for its new use and to prevent unacceptable risk from pollution, the implications of contamination for a new development are considered as part of the planning application process, for example through Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Relevant government bodies such as the Environment Agency and DEFRA use chemical exposure modelling methods and consider the toxicological basis of potential contaminants to subsequently set Health Criteria Values that serve as benchmarks for protecting human health. The Health Criteria Values enable the derivation of Soil Guideline Values and may be used in the overall assessment of risks to human health from land contamination.

Noise & Vibration

- In assessing environmental noise, noise levels are usually quoted in A-weighted decibels – dB(A). The decibel scale is a logarithmic measure of sound intensity relative to a reference value. The A-weighted characteristic is applied to sound pressure levels in order to reflect the variation in sensitivity of the human ear to different frequencies.
- World Health Organisation: Guidelines for Community Noise (1999) - The World Health Organisation has prepared the Guidelines for Community Noise in order to protect people from the harmful effects of noise in non-industrial environments. The risks to health of exposure to noise were evaluated and guideline levels were drawn up.

3. Residual Effects Review

This section contains a review of the residual effects from the ES where applicable and identifies whether they are biomedical, social or psychological in nature.

The following residual effects have been reviewed:

- Air Quality;
- Ground Conditions & Contamination;
- Noise & Vibration;
- Socio-Economics;
- Transport;
- Water Resources, Flood Risk & Drainage; and
- Ecology.

EFFECT CATEGORY	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT	RESIDUAL EFFECT DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE	HEALTH IMPLICATIONS
Air Quality	Construction	Potential damage to health at all existing human sensitive receptors	Neutral	<p>Effect: Dust emissions and GHG emissions produced during the construction phase have the potential to migrate off-site, this is unavoidable for any development. For off-site receptors, the potential for adverse effects from dust and GHG emissions will be reduced as far as possible by the means of best practice measures including dust suppression techniques and non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) controls. Construction works will also be provided with correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and follow appropriate measures as set out in a Construction Management Plan (CMP), which would include a Dust Management Plan (DMP) and a Construction Logistics Plan (CLP).</p> <p>Biopsychological perspective: Due to dust emissions, there is the potential risk of poor air quality, which can affect respiratory systems and is of a greater significance for those who already suffer from respiratory ailments, for example asthma. However, the application of best practice measures on-site and the temporary nature of these works will limit the effects.</p>
Air Quality	Operation	The residual impact of operational traffic on concentrations of NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}	Negligible	<p>Effect: The increase in GHG emissions arising from the proposed development will not result in GHG concentrations exceeding the AQS objectives, thus there are considered to be no effects on human health.</p> <p>Biopsychosocial perspective: There are not considered to be any biopsychosocial implications as the operational air quality is not anticipated to vary.</p>

EFFECT CATEGORY	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT	RESIDUAL EFFECT DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE	HEALTH IMPLICATIONS
Ground Conditions	Construction	Exposure to potential PCB in Made Ground, contaminations/asbestos in dust, gases within deep excavation, contaminants in imported landscaping soils and unidentified sources	Negligible	<p>Effect: The development of a CMP and a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) including a Materials Management Plan would place environmental controls on the construction activities to ensure any construction related contamination impacts are minimised.</p> <p>Biopsychological perspective: In the absence of any identified contamination, no biopsychosocial effects are anticipated.</p>
Ground Conditions	Operation	Exposure to contaminants by the future site users	Negligible	<p>Effect: Any potential contamination would be identified through on-site investigations and the land would be remediated as appropriate. Although, the likelihood of encountering unidentified contamination is significantly reduced when considering the both the current use and its proposed use.</p> <p>Biopsychological perspective: In the absence of any identified contamination, no biopsychosocial effects are anticipated.</p>
Noise & Vibration	Construction	Temporary noise generation associated with construction	Negligible/ Minor Adverse	<p>Effect: The construction of the proposed development would result in temporary negligible/minor adverse noise effects. Prior to construction, a construction programme will be subject to a CMP approval by Hertfordshire County Council/Welwyn Hatfield Council. Demolition and construction contractors will be subject to controlling noise with 'Best Practicable Means' as per Control of Pollution Act, 1974 and minimum mitigation measures as specified in BS 5228.</p>

EFFECT CATEGORY	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT	RESIDUAL EFFECT DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE	HEALTH IMPLICATIONS
Noise & Vibration	Operation	Increase in noise caused by operation of proposed development.	Negligible	<p>Biopsychological perspective: Noise is seen to have direct health effects, which are divisible into auditory and non-auditory. Auditory effects are a result of impairment of hearing and occur almost exclusively in industrial settings. Environmental noise levels do not produce these effects, but non-auditory effects include, most commonly, sleep disturbance, annoyance, interruption of speech and social interaction and loss of concentration.</p> <p>Exposure to noise has been shown to be associated with increased levels of stress hormones in the blood. These include the adrenal corticosteroids and also adrenaline and noradrenaline which reflect activity of the sympathetic system. However, such increases in concentrations are harmful is uncertain but some authors have linked such changes with the possibility of long-term effects on blood pressure and on cardiovascular disease.</p> <p>There is no real evidence that noise brings about mental illness, there is some evidence to suggest that noise-sensitive people are more prone to mental illness and that the effects of noise may be more pronounced in mentally ill people.</p> <p>However, it is anticipated that the potential for such biopsychosocial effects will be limited in nature, given the relatively short-term nature of when such magnitude of noise impacts will occur and the temporary nature of the construction period.</p> <p>Effect: There is no discernible increase in noise anticipated from using Best Practice Guidance.</p>

EFFECT CATEGORY	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT	RESIDUAL EFFECT DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE	HEALTH IMPLICATIONS
				Biopsychosocial perspective: As no obvious increase in noise levels are predicted it is anticipated that there would be no biopsychosocial effect.
Socio-Economics	Construction	Generation of construction employment and Gross Value Added (GVA)	Major Beneficial	<p>Effect: This effect has the potential to positively affect the local population through provision of additional employment opportunities.</p> <p>Biopsychosocial perspective: Being employed can have a positive psychological effect on a person which would make them more likely to engage in social activities, increasing their wellbeing.</p>
Socio-Economics	Operation	Generation of operational employment, contribution to the local labour supply and increase in household expenditure	Major Beneficial to Negligible	<p>Effect: These effects all have the potential to positively affect the local population through provision of additional employment opportunities, improvement in the local economy and increase in household expenditure.</p> <p>Biopsychosocial perspective: Being employed and living within a good economy can have a positive psychological effect on a person which would make them more likely to engage in social activities, increasing their wellbeing.</p>
Transport	Construction	Changes in traffic conditions (flows or capacity) in the vicinity of the site	Minor Adverse/ Negligible	<p>Effect: With the implementation of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) the residual effects are identified as not significant, without material change to the traffic flows or capacity near the site.</p> <p>Biopsychosocial perspective: Consequently, it is not considered likely to result in variance to biopsychosocial effects.</p>

EFFECT CATEGORY	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT	RESIDUAL EFFECT DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE	HEALTH IMPLICATIONS
Transport	Operation	Changes in traffic conditions (flows or capacity) in the vicinity of the site	Minor Adverse/ Negligible	<p>Effect: Both future residents and employees of the proposed development, and visitors to the development will benefit from the site design which seeks to ensure good access and to encourage sustainable modes of transport, with the provision of cycle parking on-site, limiting car parking on-site, diversion of bus services, provision of pedestrian and cycle links and implementation of Travel Plans.</p> <p>Biopsychosocial perspective: Cycling promotes both mental wellbeing and physical fitness and with the new or extended accessibility to local public transport nodes, site users will be encouraged to undertake brief walks to access bus and rail facilities which will also promote physical fitness, which in turn can lead to better mental wellbeing.</p>
Water Resources, Flood Risk & Drainage	Construction & Operation	Design and implementation of appropriate drainage strategy and Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)	Negligible	<p>Effect: The majority of the site is located within Flood Zone 1 meaning it is at a low risk of flooding. Therefore, with the appropriate implementation of a drainage strategy it is considered the proposed development will be effectively attenuated, and therefore will not create any significant effects.</p> <p>Biopsychosocial perspective: If the proposed development was at risk of flooding, it would have the potential to have a predominantly biological adverse effect and a psychological one. However, in the absence of flood risk, no biopsychosocial effects are anticipated.</p>
Ecology	Construction & Operation	Effects on important ecological features	Moderate Beneficial to Minor Adverse	<p>Effect: Through the implementation of a CMP and a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP), no significant ecological adverse effects are anticipated.</p>

EFFECT CATEGORY	STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT	RESIDUAL EFFECT DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE	HEALTH IMPLICATIONS
				<p>The proposed development would incorporate extensive ecological mitigation and would retain much of the ecological value of the site, including for protected species such as great crested newts and bats, and habitats such as open grassland, woodland, the Ellenbrook stream and ponds. There would be extensive off-site habitat creation to compensate for the unavoidable on-site habitat loss, and to provide an overall net gain in habitat biodiversity in the proposed development. The off-site habitat creation would result in a significant ecological beneficial effect on semi-improved grassland (and on habitat biodiversity generally).</p> <p>Biopsychological perspective: The landscaping can beneficially improve both the physical and mental health of people.</p>

4. High-Level Assessment of the Cumulative Effects and Conclusions

This section provides a high-level assessment of whether the residual effects stated in the previous section are likely to result in more significant cumulative effects from a biopsychosocial perspective; particularly on any vulnerable groups either brought forward within the proposed development or within the existing community.

It should be noted that in terms of the sensitivity of receptors, the technical assessments have only identified sensitivity of their respective receptors, therefore this technical note would only highlight, where relevant, if the effects were considered likely to disproportionately affect a vulnerable group/s.

Cumulative Effects

Within the construction phase it is considered that the only effects which have the potential for cumulative effects, from a biopsychosocial perspective, are the increase in dust and noise emissions. These are considered to cause nuisance to both users of the site and surrounding area. In terms of the associated health implications of a nuisance element experienced during the day-time, predominantly when combined, is likely to result in limited effects on wellbeing over this period but it is not disproportionate to any other construction site. These effects are of a temporary nature and through appropriate mitigation, such as the implementation of a CMP, these effects can be alleviated accordingly.

Within the operational phase it is considered that there are no significant effects which have the potential for cumulative effects, from a biopsychosocial perspective. Those stated are not considered to combine to create more significant effects.

Conclusions

The proposed development is not anticipated to have any permanent significant adverse health effects. The proposed development has been identified to have some significant beneficial health effects during its operation such as the generation of construction employment and GVA, the contribution to the local labour supply and the extensive off-site habitat creation. These effects would have a beneficial effect on people's physical and mental well-being.

5. Bibliography

- [1] D. Wanless, "Securing Good Health for the Whole Population: Final Report," 2004.
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