



# Essex Minerals Local Plan (MLP) 2025-2040

## Health Impact Assessment (HIA): Screening Report

February 2024





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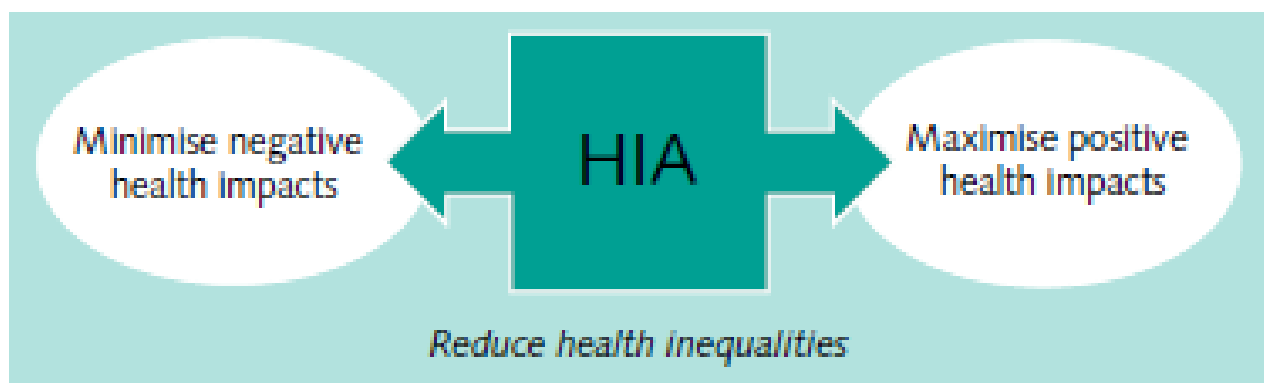
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# 1. Introduction

Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) can be defined as: ‘a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population’.<sup>1</sup> An HIA helps decision-makers in local authorities and other stakeholders make choices about actions to best prevent ill-health, promote good health and reduce health inequalities.

At the time of writing, there is no statutory duty in place to undertake a HIA as part of undertaking a Local Plan, however, mineral activities and accompanying processes have the potential to impact on health, which could be a cause for concern amongst members of the public. The figure below indicates the role that HIA can have in the plan-making process, as well as at the development management stage for individual projects that require planning permission.

**Figure 1: The function of HIA**



Source: Department of Health, 2010

The Department of Health (p.4, 2010)<sup>2</sup> provides a brief overview of what a HIA of a policy document (in the case of this assessment, a Minerals Local Plan) should achieve:

- Screen the plan area to determine if the proposal is likely to result in health impacts, paying specific mind to any local inequality issues;
- Provide recommendations throughout the decision making process, allowing for responses to be made to any issues that are raised;
- Finally, the HIA should maximise positive impacts, while minimising the negative impacts of the plan / policy.

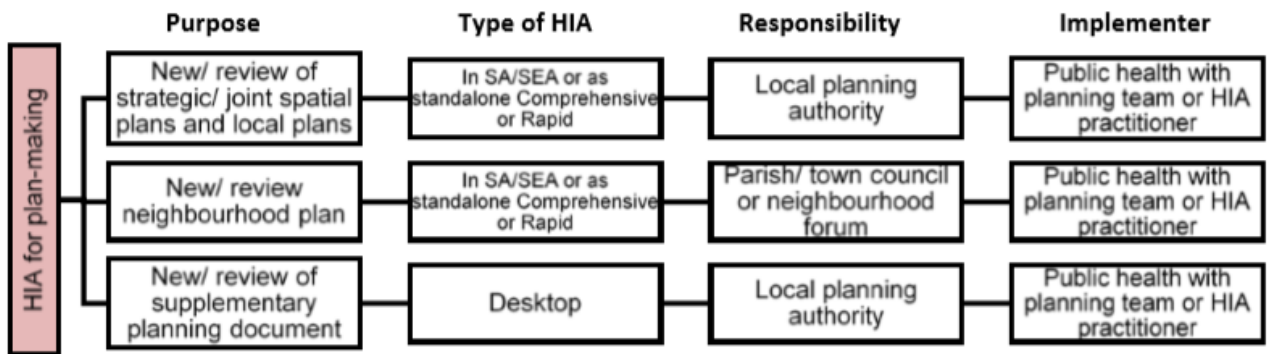
Society has fundamentally changed the way it utilises local spaces and places as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has resulted in an exacerbation of underlying health inequalities that have become prevalent in the most deprived urban and rural areas as highlighted by Public Health England’s review of disparities across the country. Following

<sup>1</sup> Gothenburg Consensus, ECHP

<sup>2</sup> Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, Department of Health, 2010

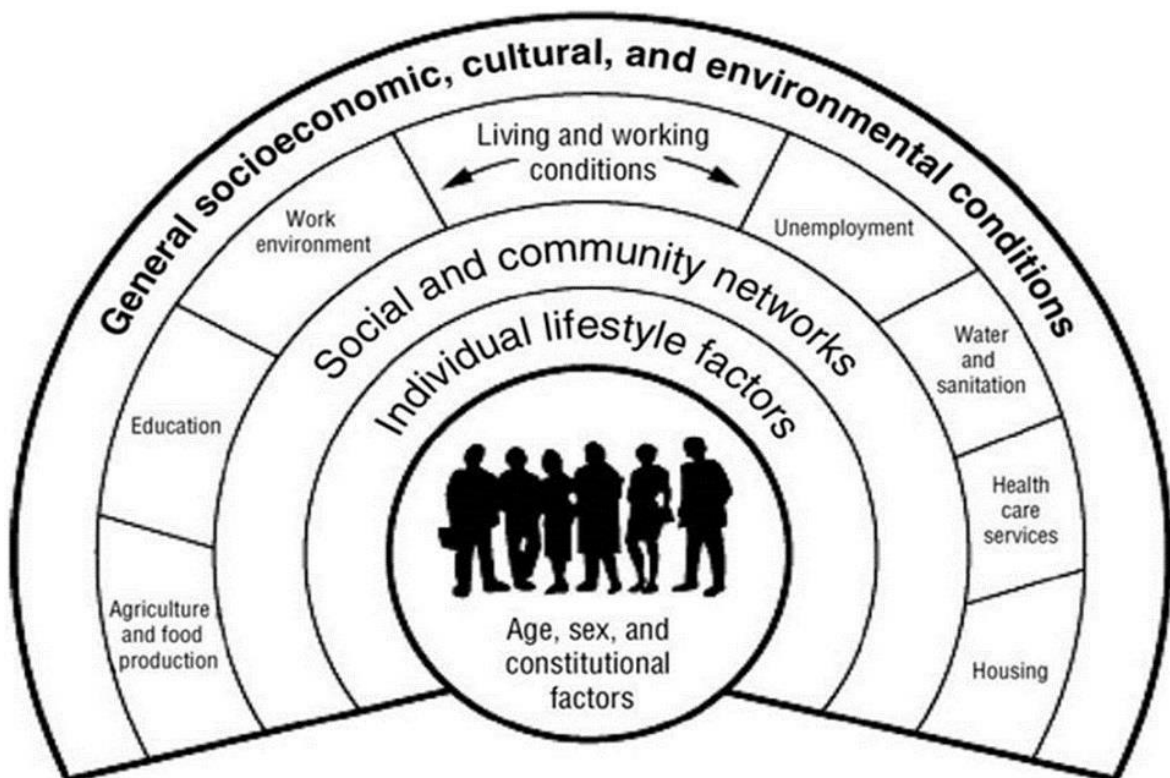
this, Public Health England published guidance titled 'Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning', within this document is a diagram that provides exemplary plan making documents and the most appropriate type of HIA to accompany them. This can be seen in the figure below. This document has been prepared in parallel with the SA of the Plan review.

Figure 2: Indicative type of HIA appropriate for plans and development projects



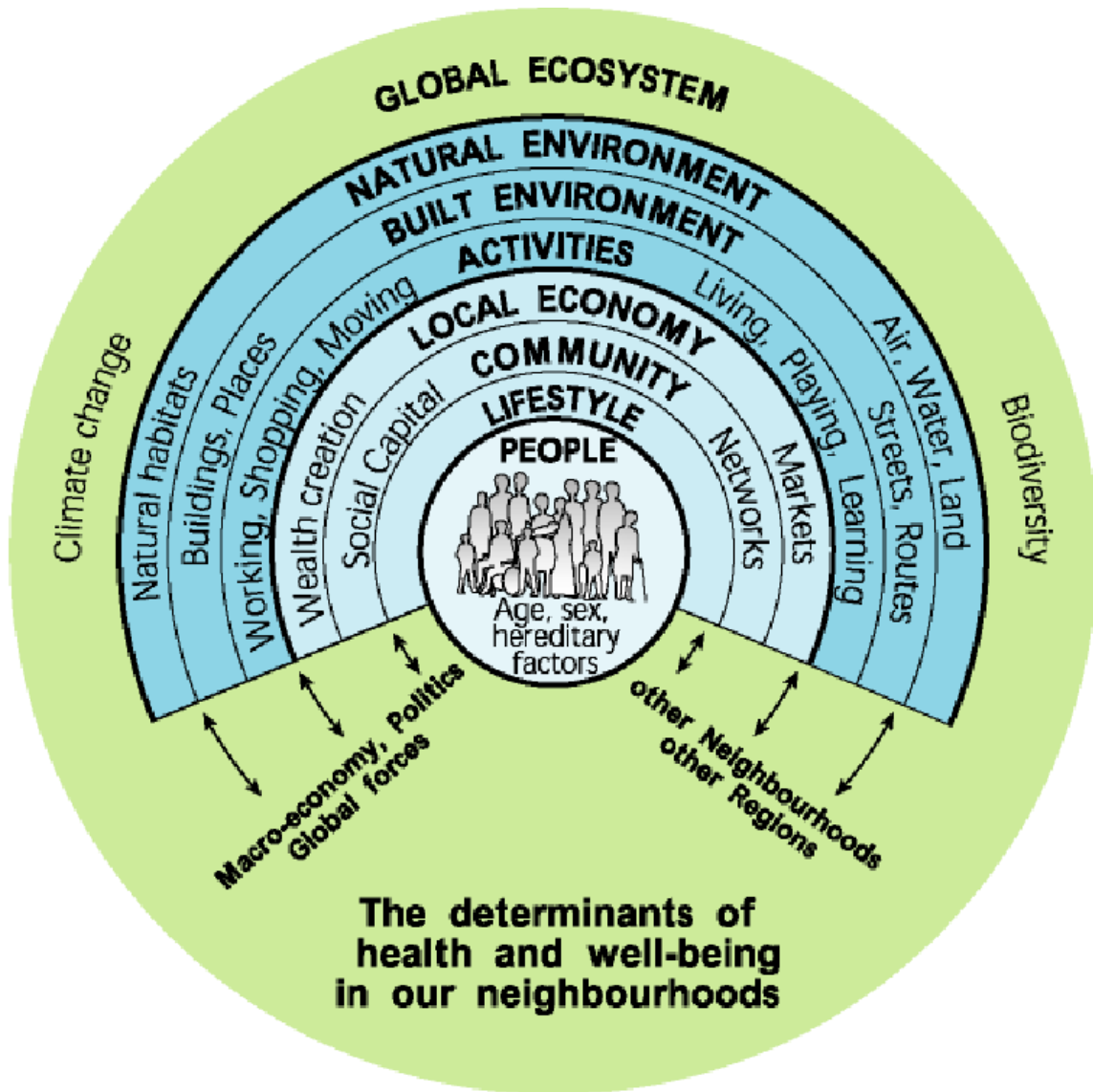
Both health and wellbeing can be influenced by a variety of factors. HIA is based upon a broad model of generalised socio-economic, cultural and environmental issues. These issues are more commonly known as 'determinants of health'. Dahlgren and Whitehead (1991) developed a social determinants framework, it offers insight into how a plan or policy may impact in different ways, on different groups of people, paying attention to an individual's living and working conditions, the framework is shown in figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Dahlgren and Whitehead model of health determinants



Barton and Grant (1998) also developed a ‘social determinants framework’, found in the figure below, which is an alternative framework that focuses more so on ecology and is utilised when planning people’s lived environments.

Figure 4: Barton and Grant model of health determinants



## 2. Scope

### 2.1 The Minerals Local Plan (MLP)

A Minerals Local Plan (referred to hereafter as ‘the Plan’) is being undertaken by ECC. This Regulation 18 Plan follows a ‘review’ process that was undertaken in 2021 of the adopted MLP (2014) in accordance with and under the provisions of Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. That review took into account the changing circumstances affecting the area, as well as relevant changes in national policy, and following consultation it has been determined that the process of a new Minerals Local Plan should be undertaken.

The new Minerals Local Plan (MLP) will provide planning policies for minerals development in Essex until 2040. It will set a policy framework within which the best possible use of finite resources can be made and will allocate sites for future mineral extraction and associated development. The MLP will contain policies promoting recycling and secondary processing, the safeguarding of resources and facilities, and high-quality site restoration, all in the pursuit of sustainable development.

Essex County Council operates as the relevant planning authority for minerals related matters across Essex. The administrative area can be seen in the figure below.

**Figure 5: Essex County Council Minerals Administrative Area**



Source: Essex County Council Minerals Local Plan



### 3. Screening

#### 3.1 Initial Considerations

During the preparation and review of a plan, assessments are carried out as part of the process in order to consider the impacts of the plans policies. This is primarily through the identification of risks and the recommended mitigation for addressing those risks.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been carried out alongside the HIA to assess the Plan at this stage. The SA assesses the Plan using a series of objectives that the plan is measured against; these objectives relate to broad environmental, social, and economic themes. This includes directly and indirectly health related objectives.

An important component of the new MLP is that new allocations for mineral extraction and supporting infrastructure will be required to meet aggregate needs over the Plan period to 2040. The MLP at this Regulation 18 stage does not identify any preferred sites for allocation, which will be included within the Regulation 19 iteration of the MLP, however work regarding the assessment of candidate sites is ongoing. With this in mind, this HIA can and does only focus on the policy framework of the Plan as prepared for consultation at this Regulation 18 stage. Future iterations of the HIA will include the consideration of any site allocations that may be forthcoming in the Plan.

#### 3.2 Screening Health Impacts

Health was identified within the SA as a ‘Key Sustainability Issue’ relevant to the Plan and the Plan area.

**Table 1: Health related issues as identified within the SA of the MLP**

General Theme	Focused Theme	Description / Supporting Evidence
Health	Human health and pollution	Potential impacts on health, well-being and quality of life should be taken into account in identifying suitable sites for minerals sites and waste facilities. The potential impact of noise, dust, vibration, lighting and water pollution generated by ongoing operations needs to be considered.

This led to the formulation of a directly health related SA Objective, which is included as part of the SA’s sustainability framework. The relevant excerpt from this framework is included in the table below.

**Table 2: Health related objectives in the Sustainability Framework of the MLP’s SA**

SA Objective	Proposed guide questions to meet objective (does the MLP...)	Potential indicators for monitoring effects
<p>14) To protect and where possible enhance human health and well-being.</p>	<p>Have an adverse impact on human health?</p> <p>Improve access to facilities and services including recreational facilities and opportunities?</p> <p>Maximise the benefits of appropriate restoration and after-use of sites for the community?</p>	<p>Access to recreation facilities and opportunities</p> <p>Restoration and after-use of sites that contributes towards recreational opportunities</p> <p>Percentage of residents who are happy with their neighbourhood as a place to live</p>

In order to determine if the Plan requires an HIA a series of Screening themes have been selected to assess if a HIA is needed. The following table contains the full assessment of topics and includes the key potential impacts surrounding each key theme, how the MLP addresses these impacts, the resultant impact on health and wellbeing and finally recommendations proposed through this HIA screening exercise.

The MLP outlines the requirements for HIA in the context of minerals development sites, providing further clarification on when a ‘project level’ HIA would be required to accompany planning applications; primarily where a development will result in either direct or indirect impacts to health and wellbeing. The MLP adds that in cases where a HIA is required, it should be produced in connection with other assessment documents, for example those related to the environment and transport.

In addition to the above, within MLP Policy S12 – Mineral Site Restoration and After-Use, a section addresses the direct and indirect health benefits of restoration, notably through access to quality green and blue infrastructure. In addition to the MLP, Essex County Council are also undertaking projects such as the ‘Through the Green Care’ project, in order to make more efficient use of the green space available in the County, recognising the opportunity to support and improve the health and wellbeing (both mental and physical) of residents. Policy DM1 of the MLP includes the recognition of wellbeing alongside health, as well as requiring an application to consider the wider community in addition to local residents. This would require applications for minerals development to provide further evidence that unacceptable impacts on these receptors will be avoided, resulting in the potential for further positive impacts on health. Policy S2 of the MLP also references wellbeing.

The following table outlines the screening process of the MLP. It raises potential impacts associated with minerals development and activities, and states how each impact is or is not addressed within the Plan. Further, recommendations are given where necessary.

**Table 3: Screening of health impacts associated within minerals development / activities**

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
Housing	<p>The delivery of housing needs in Essex is reliant on the availability of minerals resources. In Essex, if the housing projections contained in the City, Borough and District Councils' Local Plans are fulfilled it will mean an unprecedented increase in the number of new houses built in the County over the next 10-15 years. In total there are 143,131 new homes to be built in the 2011 to 2037 period.</p> <p>Housing growth if well planned can create a number of direct and indirect opportunities for health and wellbeing in the County, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of new and an improvement to the existing infrastructure which can have a positive impact on health, such as good opportunities for active travel to support physical activity which contributes to the reduction of many related</li> </ul>	<p>As part of the evidence base for the Minerals Local Plan, the Greater Essex Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) sets out the amount of minerals required over the life of the plan to provide a steady and adequate supply of minerals, including aggregates. The LAA is produced annually and includes a rolling ten-year average assessment of sand and gravel sales. The minerals provision figure for the plan is above the 10-year rolling sales average – 3.98mtpa. This figure is in response to local considerations including high growth targets at the district level.</p>	<p>Overall positive impacts on both health and wellbeing through the support of housing growth within Essex.</p>	<p>The MLP suitably addresses the mineral need of new housing and wider growth in the Plan area. No further recommendations are made.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>health conditions and increased general wellbeing of the population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to new green space, leisure and open spaces to support social cohesion, physical activity and mental wellbeing of the residents.</li> <li>- Supply of affordable housing to reduce homelessness and provide homes for those who cannot get onto the housing ladder.</li> <li>- Supporting the local economy and increasing the overall standard of living in the County which in the long term should contribute to the reduction of health inequalities.</li> </ul> <p>It also needs to be recognised that there may be some potential risks to health and wellbeing as a result of development growth if these are completed to a low standard and not supported by the appropriate infrastructure,</p>			

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>however it is expected that this impact will be minimised by the policies of Local Plans and the scrutiny of the statutory and regulatory bodies.</p>			
<p>Construction / Operation</p>	<p>Health impacts from extraction operations can be divided into two categories: immediate impacts such as accidents; and accumulative and progressive impacts such as stress and pulmonary diseases. Impacts can be felt by both the employees and surrounding communities. The different types of health impacts can be classified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical - includes noise, heat, vibrations, falls and explosions, flooding and various forms of dust, aerosols and fine particles</li> <li>- Chemical - chemical pollutants in water, solid wastes and air</li> <li>- Mental – mental health of</li> </ul>	<p>The MLP contains numerous policies that address potential adverse impacts rising as a result of minerals developments. Specifically addressing impacts such as dust, noise and water quality, for example within; Policies S2, S3, S10, S12 and DM1.</p> <p>The MLP Review includes a requirement for HIAs to be undertaken on some new minerals developments as relevant. This will assist in identifying potential health and wellbeing issues at the site level and provide mitigation to address these.</p>	<p>Mineral operations which will come forward during the Plan period have the potential to generate potential health and wellbeing impacts. However, these potential negative impacts will be required to be mitigated to an acceptable level through MLP policies and associated project level HIAs. Therefore, the impact of the MLP can be considered as neutral.</p>	<p>The HIA of the MLP Review (2021) identified that the Plan should ensure that site specific HIAs assess the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical and chemical impacts of construction / operation period of minerals developments.</li> <li>- Mental health impacts</li> <li>- Identifies vulnerable population groups and concentrations of ill health.</li> <li>- Considers the surrounding</li> </ul>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>workers associated with high risk working environment</p> <p>- Anxiety - associated with the risks and perceived risks associated with mining activities such as loss of space, visual and physical impacts.</p> <p>Any impacts, whether negative or positive will be greater in relation to vulnerable population groups and concentrations of ill health. Therefore, special attention should be paid to these groups when new minerals developments come forward. This includes areas of health and economic deprivation, concentration of people at old age etc. This HIA will not attempt to identify any hotspots in Essex as such analysis is best made at the site level, on a case-by-case basis as applications are submitted.</p>			<p>communities and the mineral sites' employees and visitors.</p> <p>- Mitigation of the negative impacts and enhancement of the positive impacts should be part of the assessment.</p> <p>These recommendations are considered to be relevant to the project level HIAs themselves, rather than necessary inclusions within the Plan itself.</p>
Development	The impacts of development	The MLP contains numerous policies that	Some negative impacts may be experienced at	Any restoration or aftercare schemes

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
Design	<p>design can be divided into:</p> <p><i>Operation period implications</i></p> <p>The siting and design of minerals sites can have temporary negative effects on surrounding communities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- affecting visual qualities, reducing the visual attractiveness and sense of place which may affect the general wellbeing of neighbouring communities</li> <li>- affecting opportunities for physical activity through the removal of public open spaces and existing walking/cycling routes used by the residents for exercise, dog walking and leisure. This could have a number of direct and indirect health impacts including increased prevalence of obesity and related conditions, respiratory conditions, cancers and mental health.</li> </ul>	<p>address the design of minerals developments to mitigate environmental and social impacts arising throughout the working/operational phases.</p> <p>Policy S3 seeks to prevent climate change impacts by encouraging minerals sites to be designed in a way to offset or prevent these impacts.</p> <p>Policy S4 seeks to reduce the use of minerals, by reducing waste, and applying national and local standards of sustainable design and construction.</p> <p>In addition to mitigating operational impacts, the policies seek to restore sites to provide improvements to the surrounding areas and deliver health benefits for local communities.</p>	<p>some sites through the operational period – these would be minimised through Plan policies, and would need to be mitigated to an acceptable level as demonstrated through noise and dust assessments, HRA, HIA, and through the Environment Agency’s permitting process.</p> <p>Site restoration and aftercare may create opportunities for significant health and wellbeing improvements primarily through the restoration.</p> <p>Project level HIAs would be best placed to pick up on health-related matters and suggest bespoke mitigation.</p>	<p>should seek to fully utilise health and wellbeing enhancement opportunities by providing positive outcomes and reducing negative impacts. Project level HIA should include checklists to ensure all appropriate matters are assessed and addressed during the operational and restoration periods This is considered suitably covered by Plan policy.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- affecting the quality of water resources and increasing health risks associated with the water quality as well as impacting the quality of fresh foods grown in the locality.</li> <li>- affecting the natural environment which will have indirect impacts on the health and wellbeing of the residents</li> <li>- the anticipation of likely effects that the development can have on the local community and place creating anxiety amongst the residents, in particular those more vulnerable to change such as elderly.</li> </ul> <p><i>Restoration and aftercare implications</i></p> <p>The restoration of mineral sites offers potential for improvements of the health and wellbeing outcomes in Essex. The level of these enhancements will depend on how the area will be utilised</p>			



Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>after the minerals operations have ceased. These opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of new and enhancements to the existing walking and cycling routes and linking these routes with the wider routes outside of the site – creating opportunities for physical activity</li> <li>- Creation of new green spaces, leisure trails and parks – creating opportunities for social interaction, physical activity and enjoyment of nature and calm environment for people to rest and enjoy</li> <li>- Landscape and habitat enhancements – creation of an attractive and biodiversity rich environment to support mental health and wellbeing</li> <li>- Flood alleviation and planting of trees to reduce the impact of climate change on health and wellbeing of the local residents</li> </ul>			

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Air quality improvements</li> <li>- Creation of formal parks may result in the creation of jobs and increased economic prosperity – positive impact on health inequalities.</li> </ul>			
<p>Active Travel and Connectivity</p>	<p>The active travel related health and wellbeing considerations generated by minerals developments could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential disruptions of the existing walking and cycling networks which will affect the levels of physical activity amongst the local residents.</li> <li>- Creating opportunities for active travel and public transport access of the employees to operational sites. This can include the proximity of bus stops, accessibility by walking and cycling and opportunities for on-site bike storage and shower facilities.</li> <li>- The restoration of mineral</li> </ul>	<p>Policies DM1 and S10 of the MLP encourage the use of sustainable transport options into and from minerals development sites. This is enacted throughout both the operational and restorations phases. Specifically, Policy S11 regards Access and Transportation; this policy requires minerals development to not cause ‘unacceptable risks to the safety of pedestrians and road users’.</p>	<p>The likely improvements occurring alongside the delivery of restoration and aftercare schemes, that are guided by policies found within the Plan, could be considered to outweigh any short-term minor negative impacts arising as a result of disruptions to existing walking and cycling network infrastructure alongside the operation of extraction sites.</p>	<p>Project level HIAs alongside concept plans for restoration and aftercare schemes could seek to implement Active Travel and Connectivity networks wherever possible.</p> <p>This area is sufficiently addressed within the MLP, and as such no recommendations are made.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>sites may create a number of opportunities for supporting health and wellbeing such as provision of segregated walking and cycling routes which are linked to national networks and surrounding neighbourhoods which is important in reducing obesity, mental health issues etc.</p> <p>- The increased production of minerals may provide materials for infrastructure provision.</p>			
Public open space	<p>The Plan should limit the loss of open/green spaces and routes used by the community. In addition, new functional spaces should be created through the restoration of sites especially in areas where this could reduce health inequalities, for example high quality open space in areas with high obesity levels. Open spaces can also have a positive impact on the mental health of the community.</p>	<p>The MLP sets out a number of policies regarding the creation of public open space. Policy S2 contains a number of guidance notes relating to the creation of long-lasting areas of community and environmental benefit, as well as the alignment with existing blue/green infrastructure strategies. Additionally, Policy S10 seeks to protect both wellbeing and safety and</p>	<p>Positive impacts on both health and wellbeing through the creation of new, or improvements to, existing areas and networks of public open space.</p>	<p>This area is covered extensively in the MLP, specifically in policies S2, S10 and S12. Project level HIA could be undertaken and provide guidance to obtain the greatest improvements to locally significant areas of public open space, where project HIA is required.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
		<p>the natural environment, among other areas of concern. Policy S12 outlines the requirements of restoration schemes and the after-use of minerals development, including a period of ongoing stewardship of no less than five years.</p>		
<p>Employment and Economy</p>	<p>Minerals development supports new jobs and general economic prosperity both directly as an employer, and also by supplying minerals for housing and infrastructure provision. Well delivered after uses that create an attractive environment can in turn lead to benefits in the local community. This may help to reduce deprivation in the surrounding area, as well as health inequalities.</p> <p>Minerals development has the potential for negative impacts on surrounding business such as through noise or dust</p>	<p>Policy S6 of the MLP sets out the mineral provision figure, ensuring that supply remains both steady and at an adequate level. This supply will support growth in Essex in some capacity, providing materials for both housing and infrastructure development. The sustainable use of minerals is a key theme throughout the Plan, for example utilising borrow pits to support development projects, and a heightened focus on windfalls. Policy S8 safeguards mineral resources through the</p>	<p>Minerals development has the potential for positive impacts on the economy, by creating new jobs in the minerals sector, and through the supply of minerals to other sectors.</p> <p>While the operational period of a site can produce some negative impacts, policies exist to ensure that these are required to be identified and minimised to an acceptable level through assessments required as part of a planning</p>	<p>This area is sufficiently addressed within the MLP, and as such no recommendations are made.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>nuisance. Additionally, a deficit in minerals supply has the potential to both increase prices and inhibit building rates.</p>	<p>implementation of Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas, which both act to prevent the sterilisation of minerals resources, but also have the effect of protecting nearby properties.</p>	<p>application.</p>	
<p>Equality and social cohesion</p>	<p>Social interaction has an impact on people’s overall health and well-being. The after use of mineral extraction sites can take steps to ensure they promote community cohesion and provide benefits accessible to the whole community. The design of sites could address health inequalities.</p>	<p>Policies S2, S10 and S12 of the MLP ensure that existing and future green and amenity space is accessible and of high quality. In addition to accessible open space, Policy S2 seeks to prevent significant adverse impacts on public health and wellbeing, public safety, amenity, quality of life and the environment.</p>	<p>The policies of the MLP can ensure positive long-term impacts on equality and social cohesion, largely through relevant after uses and requirements for the stewardship of any new public open space.</p>	<p>Project level HIAs should be undertaken alongside relevant future proposals to allow for the delivery of public open space at the highest quality.</p> <p>This area is sufficiently addressed within the MLP, and as such no recommendations are made.</p>
<p>Climate change</p>	<p>Any new development has the potential to increase the risks associated with climate change related events such as flooding. There are, however, opportunities to mitigate</p>	<p>Policy S3 specifically addresses the potential impacts of minerals development that could contribute to climate change. The Policy outlines</p>	<p>There can be minor positive impacts through the provision of mitigation that addresses certain facets of climate change,</p>	<p>This area is sufficiently addressed within the MLP, and as such no further recommendations are</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>against and adapt to, some of these effects. Climate change related to extreme weather events could affect the health and well-being of communities and the wider population.</p> <p>Possible measures that could be implemented include; Sustainable Drainage Systems, water quality mitigation, biodiversity enhancements, protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and the implementation of sustainable transport.</p>	<p>the after use benefits established as a result of habitat creation, improved flood resilience, countryside enhancement, green and blue infrastructure as well as the provision of living carbon sinks.</p>	<p>primarily through the development of relevant restoration schemes.</p>	<p>made.</p>
<p>Environmental Hazards</p>	<p>Air quality – New developments can have a cumulative impact on localised air quality. Mitigation measures can be introduced during the working phase of a site to help limit these effects.</p> <p>Noise – Sites may create additional noise particularly during the working phase but also after restoration. Any new developments should be</p>	<p>Policy DM1 outlines the criteria for minerals development proposals to be demonstrably acceptable. The criteria largely relate to potential unacceptable impacts (including those that are cumulative), addressing topics related to environmental hazards, specifically; quality and quantity of water (including</p>	<p>The MLP can be expected to have a generally neutral impact on Environmental Hazards by ensuring the effects of minerals development are understood at the planning application stage. This is on the premise that projects that can not demonstrate that</p>	<p>This area is sufficiently addressed within the MLP, and as such no further recommendations are made.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	<p>sensitive to the prevailing acoustic environment.</p> <p>Flooding – Developments must mitigate against detrimentally affecting flooding both on site and downstream. This helps ensure the development will not have a detrimental impact on the health of local communities through flooding.</p> <p>Land stability – Developments must ensure they will have no detrimental impact on land stability both during the working phase and in its after-use.</p>	<p>groundwater and flood risk), drainage, noise, air quality/dust, light pollution, vibration and land stability.</p>	<p>impacts will be acceptable would not receive planning permission.</p>	
<p>Infrastructure provision (including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects)</p>	<p>In addition to housing, minerals resources are also required for the development of infrastructure provision, including those of national significance. Supporting key growth areas, specifically infrastructure projects, can minimise mineral miles and subsequently reduce any additional contributions to emissions, preventing impacts</p>	<p>In addition to providing minerals for housing development, the MLP acknowledges the need for minerals for infrastructure projects. This includes larger infrastructure projects being undertaken across Essex. Policy S6 sets out the general principles for sand and gravel provision. Plan provision is greater</p>	<p>The Plan will have a positive impact on enabling the delivery of infrastructure projects where relevant and required, by ensuring that provision remains above current sales to allow any upturn in need that may arise from, amongst other factors, growth such as for</p>	<p>This area is sufficiently addressed within the MLP and as such, no recommendations are made.</p>

Theme	Potential impact	How does the MLP Review address this?	Impact on health & wellbeing	HIA Recommendations
	on local air quality.	than the 10-year rolling sales average, with a 20% buffer or 'uplift' proposed to be maintained to meet future any increases in sales.	infrastructure.	



## 4. Summary of Impacts

In order to determine if the Plan requires an HIA a series of Screening Questions have been utilised to assess if a comprehensive HIA of the entire plan is needed. The Department of Health<sup>3</sup> provide a set of questions to help decision makers understand if their proposal will require a full HIA through a screening exercise, which also serves as a summary to the themes assessed in the table above.

Screening Question	If there will be no health impact, provide a brief explanation for your response	If there will be health impact(s) provide a brief explanation
Will the proposal have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?	No, the Plan itself will not give rise to any such effects as drafted. The implications of site allocations will be explored in future iterations of the HIA, although it should be acknowledged that Plan policy requires HIA of qualifying proposals. These impacts are currently unknown and will not be understood until the planning application stage.	There is the potential for impacts to arise as a result of unmitigated minerals development. Plan policy supports positive impacts on health and wellbeing however. Project level HIAs should be undertaken to prevent any identified negative impacts and promote positive impacts on the local and wider community.
Will the policy have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?	No, the Plan itself will not give rise to any such effects as drafted. The implications of site allocations will be explored in future iterations of the HIA, although it should be acknowledged that Plan policy requires HIA of qualifying proposals. These impacts are currently unknown and will not be understood until the planning application stage.	There is the potential for impacts to arise as a result of unmitigated minerals development. Plan policy supports positive impacts on health and wellbeing however. Project level HIAs should be undertaken to prevent any identified negative impacts and promote positive impacts on the local and wider community.
Will the proposal affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?	No, this is not considered relevant to a strategic Plan. Plan policy however requires HIA of qualifying	There is the potential for impacts to arise as a result of unmitigated minerals development. Plan policy

<sup>3</sup> Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy, p.12, Department of Health, 2010

Screening Question	If there will be no health impact, provide a brief explanation for your response	If there will be health impact(s) provide a brief explanation
	proposals. Any such impacts will be understood at the planning application stage.	supports positive impacts on health and wellbeing however. Project level HIAs should be undertaken to prevent any identified negative impacts and promote positive impacts on the local and wider community.
Will there be a change in demand for or access to health and social care services?	No, this is not considered relevant to the remit of the MLP.	N/A
Will the proposal have an impact on global health?	No, this is not considered relevant to the remit of the MLP.	N/A

## 5. Conclusions

As the MLP is strategic in nature and at this stage primarily focused on its policy framework, it will not have any direct impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals in Essex. The Plan seeks to improve health and wellbeing in the long term through restoration and after uses that focus on a wide range of environmental and social benefits. In the short to medium term, associated with extraction / operational periods of sites, the Plan equally seeks to mitigate any health related impacts to an acceptable level.

Any future site proposals that arise as a result of the Plan, including allocations within future iterations on the Plan at the Regulation 19 stage, have the potential to impact on both health and wellbeing. It is considered that, where any impacts are recognised, priority is satisfactorily given to the preparation of a project level HIA within the Plan. This will allow the identification and mitigation of impacts related to detailed schemes to be understood prior to planning permission is granted. There are therefore no recommendations to make within this strategic HIA as a result.

# Appendix A: Essex Health Profile

## Key Issues

### Health Summary

- The health of people in Essex is generally better than the England average.
- Life Expectancy for men is higher than the England average
- Essex is generally less deprived compared to the rest of England, with an average IMD (2015) score of 17.2 compared to national average of 21.8.

### Health Inequalities

- Life Expectancy is 8.1 years lower for men and 6.3 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Essex than in the least deprived areas.
- In 2018, the smoking prevalence in adults in routine and manual occupations was 26.0, higher than the average for England of 25.4. However, this was not a significant difference.
- Between 2016-2018, the suicide rate for Essex (11.7 per 100,000) was significantly worse than both the regional (9.96) and national average (9.64). This represents around 150 cases of suicide per year in Essex).

### Injuries & Ill-Health

- KSI (Killed/Seriously Injured) rate on England's roads (between 2016-2018) was significantly worse (54.3) than national average (42.6).
- For 2018/2019, the emergency hospital admissions rate for hip fractures for those aged 65 + was 585.1, worse than the England average of 558.4. This represents 905 admissions per year.

### Adult Health

- In 2018, smoking prevalence in adults was found to be marginally lower (14.0) than average for England (14.4)
- Between 2017-2018, the percentage of physically active adults in Essex (66.1%) was slightly lower than average for England (66.3%).
- Between 2017-2018, the percentage of adults classified as obese (62.5%) was higher than the average for England (62%)
- In 2019, the estimated dementia diagnosis rate for adults aged 65+ in Essex was 64.5, better than the average for England of 68.7.

## Wider Determinants of Health

- For 2018/2019, average GCSE attainment (46.6) was marginally lower than England average (46.9).
- Between 2018-2019, the percentage of people in employment (age group 16-64 years) (78.6%) was significantly better than England average (75.6%).
- Between 2017-2018, the statutory homelessness rate of 0.67 was significantly better than England average of 0.79. However, this has got worse since the previous report.
- For 2016/2017 and 2018/2019, violent crime (measured by hospital admission rate for violence) (31.1) was significantly better than England average (44.9).

## Child Health

- Infant Mortality Rate of 2.96 is significantly better than England average of 3.93.
- In Year 6, 18% (2,847) of children are classified as obese, better than the average for England.
- The rate for alcohol-specific hospital admissions for those under 18 is 19 per 100,000 population, significantly better than the average for England (this represents 60 admissions per year).

## Behavioural Risk Factors

- The rate for alcohol-related harm hospital admissions is 618 per 100,000 population (significantly better than England average). However, this has got worse since the previous report.
- Between 2016-2018, the suicide rate for Essex (11.7 per 100,000) was higher than both the regional (9.96) and national average (9.64). This represents around 150 cases of suicide per year).
- For 2018-2019, the hospital admission rate for alcohol-related conditions was 618.4, better than the average for England of 663.7
- In 2016, the percentage of children in low income families in Essex was 14.4% (37,200), which was significantly better than the average for England (17%). However, this has got worse since the previous report.

## Health Protection

- Between August 2017 – July 2018, the excess winter deaths index of 32.8 was higher than both the regional (30.9) and national average (30.1)
- Between 2016-2018, the TB incidence rate for Essex was lower (4.0) than the average for England (9.19).



Essex County Council