

the quality, content, and volume of interpersonal interactions within urban and rural and between urban and rural communities. It is also known that these wider determinants are not distributed equally among populations (e.g. those people living in areas of deprivation tend to have poorer health outcomes). By considering these effects and their distribution, development policies and plans can enhance the potential to influence health and wellbeing, and therefore health inequalities.

HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.9 A Health Impact Assessment should:

- Appraise the potential positive and negative health and well-being impacts of the proposed development on planned new communities and the adjacent existing communities in the development area.
- Highlight any potential differential distribution effects of health impacts among groups within the population by asking 'who is affected?' for the impacts identified.
- Suggest actions / mitigations that aim to minimise any potential negative health impacts and maximise potential positive health impacts, referencing where possible the most affected vulnerable group(s).

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSESSMENTS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT)

2.10 For those development proposals that are already required to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) it may make sense to integrate health impacts into the EIA rather than duplicate the assessments as the methodology is very similar and there is a large overlap in the evidence gathered and used in both assessments. The Council's preferred approach is for Health Impact Assessments to be integrated with other similar assessments to ensure the HIA is wide ranging and has adequately examined all the potential health impacts of a development. It also makes it easier to cross reference the impacts helping to ensure the HIA is comprehensive. At the outset it needs to be made clear that environmental impacts are not health impacts. When carrying out the screening and scoping stages for both the HIA and the EIA, it is important to be ensure that:

- All health impacts are included, not only those that result from physical hazards.
- There are opportunities for affected communities to participate early in the assessment.