

# Active Travel and Planning


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# What is Planning?

- Planning permission is required for ‘Development’
- S.55 of TCPA 1990 defines ‘Development’ as:  
*“...the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any buildings or other land”*



# What is Planning?

- 'Plan-led' system
  - National Planning Policy Framework
  - Local Plan
  - Neighbourhood Plan
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# Local Plan Policy STRAT10

- *Development should be located so that local services and facilities can be accessed by a range of transport modes.*
- *Development and associated transport infrastructure should contribute to safer and secure transport and promote forms of transport that are beneficial to health.*
- *Developers must demonstrate that measures have been incorporated to improve physical accessibility and remove barriers to mobility, especially for disabled and older people.*
- *The safety of ALL road users should be taken into account in the design and layout of new developments.*
- *Adequate levels of cycle (and car) parking must be provided.*
- *Opportunities will be sought to extend and improve access to local footpath and cycle networks.*



# In practice

- Refusing most applications for new development in places where there is no access to public transport and some facilities (e.g. school, shop) – this is why you don't see a lot of big new development in the countryside.
  - Looking for opportunities to make developers design their schemes to link into existing pedestrian and cycle routes.
  - Getting developers to provide cycle parking on site, in line with our Parking SPD.
  - Asking developers to complete a Health Impact Assessment form for major development
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# Health Impact Statement

- Developed jointly between Public Health, Planning Policy and Development Management
- Applicants are advised to fill it in when they receive their acknowledgement letter for all major planning applications (will eventually form part of the local list)
- Trialled over summer 2020, launched January 2021
- [https://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portals/dm/guidance\\_forms/hia](https://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portals/dm/guidance_forms/hia)

# Health Impact Statement

## Health Impact Statement

### Transport and public service accessibility

#### Local Plan policies

- Local Plan (Part One) STRAT 1, STRAT 2, STRAT 10 and SOC 5
- Local Plan (Part Two) T 5, DM 3, DM 29, DM 37 and DM 39

#### What makes a healthy development?

Traffic management and calming measures and safe crossings can reduce road accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians and increase levels of walking and cycling.

Active travel contributes to increased physical activity levels, reducing rates of cardiovascular disease and obesity.

Cycle parking and storage in residential dwellings can encourage cycling. Developments should be accessible by public transport. Developments should prioritise the access needs of cyclists and pedestrians. Routes should be safe and direct.

#### TP.1

Is the development located within an identified settlement (within the settlement boundary of a City, Town, Key Service Centre or Local Service Centre)?

This can be checked on the [Policies Map](#).

#### TP.2

Is there a pedestrian pavement/footway linking the application site to services and facilities? If so, is the entire route lit by street lighting?

## Health Impact Statement

#### TP.3

Is there a Public Right Of Way within or immediately adjacent the site? This includes footpaths, bridleways and byways.

This can be checked on the [constraints map](#).

#### TP.4

How far away (actual walking or cycling distance) is the nearest bus stop? Please give your answer in km and specify the bus services (i.e. service number and start and end points) serving the nearest bus stop.

#### TP.5

How far away is the nearest operational railway station (via a walking/cycling or driving route)? Please give your answer in km.

#### TP.6

How far away (actual cycling distance) is the nearest Regional or National Cycle Way?

This can be checked on the [constraints map - Regional and National Cycle Network](#).



# Challenges

- Most development is too 'minor' to deliver significant infrastructure improvements
- Need to consider economic, social and environmental impacts in the round
- Competing interests
- Increasing use of 'Permitted Development'





# Opportunities

- How can we make it easy and safe for people to use active travel modes for their day to day needs?
  - Short term – can we use existing Local Plan policies more effectively?
  - Longer term – what do we need to be thinking about in the next Local Plan?
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