

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2011-2026)



EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC:

**Matter 2: Growth & Spatial Strategies, Overarching
& Area Based Policies**



Action Point 12

The Council to consider how best to draw out the contribution of other plan policies towards Policy SP2 Health, and how to monitor the policy.

Council's Response

If deemed acceptable and appropriate by the Inspectors, the Council would propose the following changes to be addressed via Matters Arising Changes:

Chapter 2: The Strategy

2.2 Objectives - add reference to Key Issue 2 (KI 2)¹ to all relevant Plan Objectives (i.e. all Objectives with the exception of OB14; OB18; OB19; OB20).

2.4 Growth

Sub-Heading: Climate Change, Health & the Environment

New Paragraphs - add new text after Paragraph 2.4.9:

'Both the natural and built environments contain features that can impact on the health and well being of the population. A well designed, adequately resourced and well-connected neighbourhood can have positive health benefits. Ensuring that connections between the places where the residents of Neath Port Talbot work, live, play, relax and socialise can help contribute towards the creation of healthy and sustainable communities.

The quality of the natural environment and the basic natural needs that it provides are of great importance for health and well-being. The Strategy will seek to protect the environment (air, water and ground quality) and the amenity of the local communities and ensure the location of major housing developments takes account of the need to reduce people's exposure to those elements that can have an adverse impact on their health, including siting sensitive developments away from sources of noise, air pollution and flood risk.

The quality of the built environment can also influence the health and well-being of the population. Well connected, accessible, attractive and safe communities with access to community facilities (such as shops, schools, health-care facilities and open

¹ KI 2: Residents in Neath Port Talbot experience some of the worst health in Wales.

space) may encourage greater levels of physical activity (walking and cycling) and social activity which in turn can improve health and well-being.

The employment-led strategy aims to encourage economic development throughout the County Borough providing a range of jobs. The strategy seeks to increase economic activity rates and reduce unemployment levels in line with the Welsh average. The provision of new employment opportunities may also result in positive health benefits’.

Chapter 3: Overarching Policies

Policy SP2 Health - add reference to the relevant key policies under each of the criteria to ensure that the contribution from other policies towards addressing the health issues is highlighted.

Note for the Inspectors - this approach, if deemed acceptable and appropriate, could also be applied to Policy SP1 Climate Change and addressed via Matters Arising Changes.

Policy SP2

Health

The following measures will be taken in relation to the high levels of poor long term health and sickness in Neath Port Talbot:

1. The development of sustainable, safe and confident communities will be promoted through the co-location of jobs and facilities and the development of community facilities and services in accordance with the settlement framework;

Relevant Key Policies - SC1; SC2; I1; EC1-EC6; BE1.

2. People's exposure to those elements that can have an adverse impact on their health (such as their social, economic or physical environment) ~~the determinants of poor health~~² will be reduced where possible through consideration of the environmental and safety impacts of new developments;

Relevant Key Policies: H1; AH1-AH2; GT1-2; OS1-OS2; EN8-EN10; BE1.

3. Healthier, more active and safer lifestyles will be encouraged through the retention of a range of accessible leisure, recreational, health, retail³, social and community facilities throughout the County Borough;

Relevant Key Policies: OS1-OS2; SC2; I1, R1-R3; BE1.

4. Accessibility within and between communities will be improved to encourage active travel;

Relevant Key Policies: TR1; TR2; BE1.

5. The provision of new employment opportunities will be promoted to reduce unemployment and economic inactivity rates.

Relevant Key Policies: EC1-EC6.

² Refer to Matter 2 (Action Point 13).

³ Refer to Matter 2 (Action Point 13).

Paragraph 3.0.7 - amend to read:

'As with Policy SP1 Climate Change, the measures outlined to address health issues will be implemented through a number of all the Plan policies and proposals: ~~focusing on sustainable development principles, strengthening communities and encouraging more healthy lifestyles through the provision of facilities. Environmental and housing issues will be addressed, and increased employment opportunities encouraged.~~

- *Sustainable Settlements - the development of sustainable, healthy and cohesive communities, either newly-built settlements such as Coed Darcy or through the enhancement and improvement of existing settlements is a fundamental element of the LDP's strategic approach. In defining a 'settlement hierarchy', development is directed to the most sustainable locations helping to sustain the existing services and facilities on offer and also provide the opportunity to deliver additional services and facilities for the benefit of the wider community. A well designed, adequately resourced and well-connected neighbourhood can provide positive health benefits;*
- *Housing Allocations - the location of the major housing developments takes account of the need to reduce people's exposure to those elements that can have an adverse impact on their health, including siting sensitive developments away from sources of noise, air pollution and flood risk. Furthermore, new housing is built to strict environmental standards to increase energy efficiency;*
- *Protection of Community Facilities - healthier, more active and safer lifestyles are encouraged through policies seeking the retention of a range of accessible leisure, recreational, health, social and community facilities throughout the County Borough. Multi-use facilities and the co-location of new health and community facilities are also encouraged;*
- *Provision and Protection of Open Space - policies seek to ensure that all residents have access to adequate open space through ensuring that new development addresses local needs and that existing open spaces are retained and protected. Such provision includes outdoor sport facilities, children's play facilities, informal open space, green space and allotments;*
- *Accessibility - policies seek to improve accessibility between communities, encouraging active travel wherever possible. New developments are required to be served by sustainable transport options and facilitate connectivity between existing and new development, providing footpath/ cycle links where feasible;*
- *Employment - policies seek to provide new employment opportunities to reduce unemployment and economic inactivity rates;*
- *Environment - the quality of the environment and the basic natural needs that it provides for are of great importance for health and well being. Policies therefore seek to protect the environment and the amenity of local communities. Air, water, ground quality and the environment generally are protected. In particular, policies seek to ensure that developments do not increase the number of people exposed to significant levels of pollution'.*

Strategic Policies - add reference to the Health Objective (OB2) to all relevant Strategic Policies (i.e. all Strategic Policies with the exception of SP5; SP6; SP13; SP14; SP15; SP17; SP18; SP19; SP22).

Table 6.2 Monitoring Framework - the following contextual / local indicators were identified to monitor Policy SP2 Health. The monitoring framework is however subject to change and will be reviewed as part of the Council’s response to Action Point 12.1.

<i>Strategic Policy</i>	<i>Contextual / Local Indicators</i>
<i>SP2 - Health</i>	<p><i>Contextual Indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The proportion of the population residing within 400 m of a range of community facilities;</i> • <i>Levels of economic activity/inactivity; and</i> • <i>Levels of employment/unemployment.</i> <p><i>Local Indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The amount & type of new development permitted & delivered within the settlement hierarchy;</i> • <i>The net change, type and spatial distribution of open space;</i> • <i>The net change, type and spatial distribution of community facilities;</i> • <i>The provision of improved Walking & Cycling Infrastructure;</i> • <i>The provision of new Transport Infrastructure;</i> • <i>The provision of improved Public Transport Infrastructure; and</i> • <i>The net change and spatial distribution of employment land and floorspace by use class.</i>