**Possible wording on health and wellbeing for Core Plan/Site Allocation Policies. Please amend as appropriate to your local needs:**

Local planning policy has a crucial role to play in ensuring that the opportunities exist for people to be able to make healthier life choices and addressing health inequalities. The policies in this document aim to create and support strong vibrant, sustainable and healthy communities by promoting and facilitating healthy living and creating environments, which offer opportunities for healthy choices. The health and well-being of communities must begin with the planning process and it is accepted that if a community has access to the services and facilities set out above, it will be happier, healthier and more resilient.

Chapter 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) acknowledges that the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Over recent years evidence has accumulated, which shows just how important the physical, social and economic environment is for our health and wellbeing. It is imperative to ensure that the design of the built environment and new developments does not exacerbate health inequalities and make it harder for people to live healthy lives. The evidence suggests that the following issues impact on the physical, social and mental health of communities:

• The location, density and mix of land uses

• Street layout and connectivity

• Access to public services, employment, local fresh food, education, leisure and recreation activities and other community services

• Safety and security

• Open and green space

• Affordable and energy efficient housing

• Air quality and noise

• Extreme weather events and a changing climate

• Community interaction

• Transport

(For areas that have adopted a Health Impact Assessment) All development proposals will be required to assess their impact upon health and well-being, upon the capacity of existing health and social care services and facilities, the environmental impact and the promotion of health improvement activities. For Use Class C2 developments comprising residential care homes and nursing homes, and Use Class C3 residential developments in excess of 50 units (or less than 50 units at the discretion of the planning authority where the number of units could propose a significant impact on the community and infrastructure) and non-residential developments in excess of 1,000m2, this will take the form of a Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment which will measure the impact on health and wellbeing, the demands on the capacity of health and social care services and facilities arising from the development. Where significant impacts are identified, planning permission will be refused unless infrastructure provision and/ or funding to reasonably meet the health and wellbeing and service requirements of the development are provided and/ or secured by planning obligations, or by CIL, as appropriate.

The District Council will require a Health and Wellbeing Impact Assessment to be prepared and carried out in accordance with the advice and best practice for such assessments as published by Public Health England and locally through the Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA)

Further detailed guidance will be published in due course, focusing on the areas where the fundamental links between planning and health and wellbeing and health and social care service provision can be seen, along with how developers will liaise with planners, when assessing the scope and scale of likely health and wellbeing impacts and the nature of the mitigation required. Developers will be expected to contact the Council at pre-application stage to complete the Healthy Communities Checklist (as part of the validations checklist), to enable joint discussions to take place on the likely health and wellbeing impacts of proposals. This is an opportunity to strengthen the process of spatial planning through partnership working, community engagement, evidence sharing and coordination and how this impacts on health and wellbeing.

Further information on Health and Wellbeing across Essex is available:

<http://www.essexinsight.org.uk/mainmenu.aspx>

Locality Profiles: <http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx>

Essex Planning Officers Association: <http://theedi.co.uk/epoaguidancedocuments.php>

Further information on Health and Wellbeing Assessments can be found at <http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=40141>