



**Romford Masterplan
Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
February 2025**

Version Control

Version	Date	Summary of changes
1	25/07/24	First draft, based on results of collaborative HIA process held on 16/07/24
2	26/7/24	Addition of appraisal findings and recommendations
3	29/7/24	Final version for consultation
4	06/02/25	Final version based on updated post consultation draft of RMP

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1. Introduction

This report presents findings and recommendations of the Romford Masterplan HIA undertaken to assess the potential health impacts of the proposed plan.

Romford is identified as an Opportunity Area and Housing Zone in the London Plan and the Romford Masterplan (RMP) is part of Havering Local Plan which sets out the Council's vision and strategy for future growth and development of the borough from 2016 to 2031.

The Local Plan sets out a comprehensive policy (Policy 1) for Romford which is at the centre of a Strategic Development Area (SDA) in Havering's Local Plan. The RMP develops and supplements Policy 1 by creating a framework for the delivery of good growth over the next 20 years, setting out a vision for Romford supported by objectives, strategies and guidance. This RMP aims to deliver growth and opportunities benefiting the entire community drawing on the Romford's unique character, history and qualities.

The health impact of the RMP was undertaken to explore the potential benefits on health and wellbeing, as well as identify any potential health risks and how they could be mitigated.

The findings presented are based on the appraisal undertaken, available evidence and knowledge of the Romford area.

2. Summary of Romford Masterplan key proposals

The RMP aims to guide the housing and economic growth opportunities in a way that respects Romford's qualities and history, strengthens pride in the town, and makes it a distinct and attractive place to live, work, and visit.

The RMP identifies a vision for Romford, introduces themes of space and landscape, movement and connectivity, sustainability, inclusivity, health and wellbeing, uses and mix with the character and townscape for future mixed development in Romford.

2.1 Romford Masterplan objectives

The RMP has been developed based on the objectives and vision in the Local Plan through a series of key objectives:

Opening up the River Rom

The River Rom will be deculverted and partially renaturalised through the Town Centre to create an ecological linear park.

Recharacterising the ring road

Transforming the ring road along its length into an active travel corridor with at-grade crossings, planting and an urban boulevard character, better integrating the Town Centre with the surrounding neighbourhoods and improving the experience of pedestrians and cyclists.

Celebrating Romford Market

Reinforce the importance of the Market Place as a key civic space by upgrading public realm, removing car parking, improved frontages and introducing spaces that can support a variety of events and formal and informal gatherings.

Reinstating the historic urban grain

Introducing new streets and spaces that reflect the finer historic urban grain of the town centre with smaller, more walkable blocks with varied and engaging building frontages.

Wider green links

Introduce new green links that can act as walking and cycling corridors both through the town centre and connecting to wider key public green spaces and parks.

New and improved station entrances

Creating a new station with an attractive public space that acts as a gateway to the town centre and improving the existing station entrance with public realm enhancements, seating and wayfinding.

Infrastructure

The approach is to bring new and improved infrastructure alongside new development. Supporting the community is a primary concern for the RMP. Enhancing and providing infrastructure over time such as schools and healthcare, public realm enhancements, (in

particular those for the Market Place), and public transport and active travel facilities, all play a role in providing such support.

The Havering Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has informed both Havering's Local Plan and the RMP, with the review of the IDP and the RMP informing each other in parallel.

Identified Growth

Importantly, the RMP advocates for growth and change over time, looking at a 20-year trajectory for Romford to ensure the current vibrancy and successes are maintained and enhanced by future development.

A 20-year trajectory takes the RMP beyond the Local Plan period to 2041.

The RMP vision over this period will deliver:

- Potential for between 10,250 to 11,350 total homes;
- 2,150 to 2,500 additional jobs;
- 10-13 form entry total primary

The selected development sites and interventions have significant potential to enhance and benefit Romford and the health and wellbeing of its residents, but may not all come forward, and development will happen incrementally. Equally, further opportunities, sites and interventions may come forward, and these too can be guided by the RMP's vision, objectives and strategies. Trigger points such as infrastructure improvements to the ring road and measured shifts to active travel can also be used to determine appropriate points to commence development in certain locations.

Figure 1: The relationship between the Romford Masterplan vision, themes, objectives and strategies



2.2 Site Visions

Each site has been considered in terms of the vision and principles, the land use; open space, streetscape and ecology; character and townscape; and implementation. An illustrative layout and massing have been provided for each site.

Market Place

Enhance its historical role as a market place and as the town centre's key civic public space. Focus retail, leisure, services, and food and beverage but some limited office and convenience shopping. Upper floors can provide residential uses with potential to incorporate some office, commercial and hotel uses, with consideration of the Romford Conservation area.

St Edwards Way

A string of sites with a vision for urban mixed-use areas that knit the Town Centre into the existing urban grain, rationalising it, drawing in connections to the town centre from the north-west whilst re-configuring and urbanising part of St. Edward's Way with defined edges and active uses. It transforms the character of the ring road from highway to urban street to create an attractive street-based part of town that is safe and convenient for pedestrians and cyclists. It incorporates a supporting retail and commercial mix of uses, enhanced employment, a range of housing types, sizes and tenures, and supporting social infrastructure.

Brewery

Deliver a predominantly commercial development of retail, leisure/culture and business uses that maintains the Brewery's role as a primary destination in Romford, with potential for civic uses, an expanded employment offer and/or housing at ground and on upper floors, with the River Rom forming the central focus of the area.

Station Gateway

Deliver an employment and residential neighbourhood that forms a welcoming gateway to the town centre from the south. A naturalised River Rom and associated green opens pace helps to unite a fragmented part of the town. New high-quality development with improved street definition results in an improved setting for the station and for the southern part of South Street and the River Rom.

Rom Valley

Towards a predominantly residential neighbourhood, with an employment focus along Rom Valley Way, supported by appropriate small-scale retail, community and leisure uses fronting the Rom. Development should transform this out-of-town shopping and employment area into an attractive and vibrant place, with improved street definition and active frontages that take advantage of and enhance the River Rom. It should provide a transition into the Town Centre and feather into the residential hinterland, with an opportunity for emphasis on family housing.

Liberty

From the Market Place to Western Road, phased evolution to an enhanced and nuanced commercial focussed area that provides active ground floor commercial and employment uses with residential accommodation on upper floors. Development to be sensitive to and supportive of the special character and setting of the conservation area, positively engaging with a rejuvenated Market Place and market and with listed buildings, breaking up the existing large-scale blocks to deliver a finer urban grain. The finer urban grain can incorporate a network of publicly accessible streets that stay open at all times and allow for street addresses for ground floor uses and for residential above.

Mercury

A residential-led development together with business and other suitable 'main town centre uses' on lower floors fronting Mercury Gardens. New streets will improve permeability and, together with the redevelopment of the Liberty opposite, high-quality buildings will transform the character of Mercury Gardens into a tree-lined urban street. A new local open space at its centre will provide opportunity food and beverage units.

North Street

An integrated and cohesive area which will feel like an extension of Romford Town Centre with improvement to movement for pedestrians and cyclists across St. Edwards Way and North Street itself. The urban grain is currently disjointed with isolated blocks punctuated by car parking and open spaces. The existing fabric should be stitched together to create a consistent street frontage. This should be supported with public realm improvements, street planting and a new public space that acts as a spill-out space for ground floor commercial uses and a positive gateway to the town centre.

Civic Campus

The vision for the Civic Campus is to improve the setting of the existing buildings and use new development to fill gaps in the streetscape to create a more unified area and stitching together pockets of built form. New development and enhancements should focus on enhancing the existing pattern of pavilion buildings with complementary green pocket parks and civic open spaces.

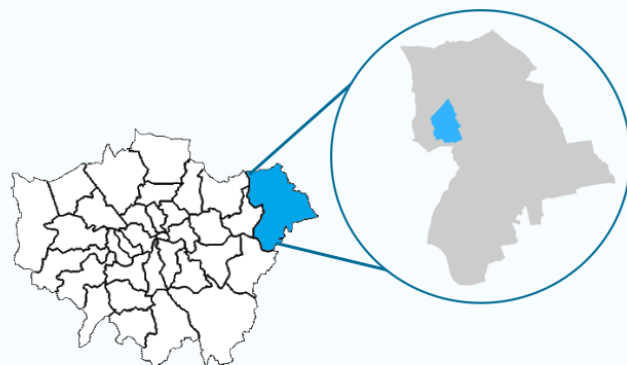
Crow Lane

Towards a cohesive and attractive residential neighbourhood with high-quality public realm and improved walking and cycling connections to the town centre and through the railway embankment. New buildings should complement each other to create a unified character across the neighbourhood, acknowledging the peripheral location.

3. Profile of Romford population and health needs

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

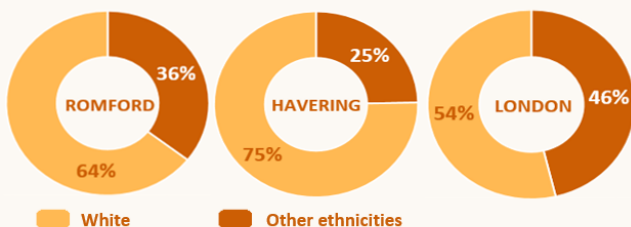
- Romford is the principal town of Havering; a metropolitan area for retail and night-time entertainment.
- The Romford Strategic development area (subsequently described as Romford) covers an area of approximately 3.46km². The area is densely populated, with population density estimated at 6,384.10 people per km² in 2021, higher than averages for both Havering (2,334.07 per km²) and London (5,592.75 per km²).
- Romford currently has little in the way of green space. This is in contrast with the rest of Havering, of which 66% of the surface area is classified as green cover.
- Romford has higher levels of air pollution than the Havering average, and lower levels than London.



Data used to inform this summary is all available via <https://havering.localinsight.org/>.

POPULATION

Ethnicity

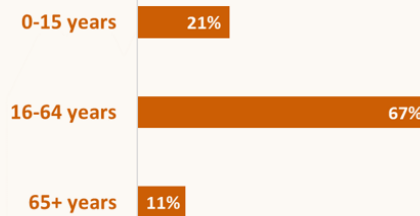


Live births



- The population in Romford stood at 23,176 in 2021 – equalling about 9% of the total Havering population.
- There were 331 live births in Romford in 2021, about 11% of all births in Havering.
- The average life expectancy for a girl born in Romford is 83.6 years, and for a boy is 78.1 years (2016-20).
- One in five people in Romford in 2021 were under the age of 16, and around one in ten were over the age of 65 years, making the population slightly younger than that of Havering as a whole.
- In 2021, 64% of Romford residents report being of white ethnicity, three quarters of which identified as white British. Romford is more ethnically diverse than Havering as a whole, but less so than London.
- 66% of Romford residents were born in the UK, compared to 81% in Havering and 59% across London.
- In Romford, the 2021 Census found 12% of households in Romford did not have English as a main language. This was higher than the proportion in Havering (4.8%) and similar to London (12.3%).

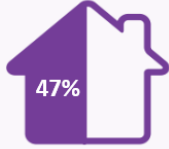
Age profile



Population
23,176

HOUSEHOLDS

Owner-occupied properties



Romford



Havering



London

House prices



Households without access to a car/van



Romford: 37%
Havering: 22%
London: 42%

Overcrowding



Romford: 10%
Havering: 6%
London: 11%

- There were 9,481 households in Romford in 2021.
- The average house price in Romford is £367,517, lower than the average across Havering (£452,272) and London (£714,419) in the 12 months from March 2023 to February 2024.
- In the Romford, 50.74% of households are owner-occupied, which is a lower proportion than in Havering (70.46%) and higher than in London (46.76%).
- The 2021 Census found that 37% of households in Romford have no access to a car or van, above Havering average (22%) and lower than London (42%).
- The 2021 Census estimated a total of 9.90% households in Romford were overcrowded (having at least one too few bedrooms than needed), compared to averages for Havering (6.05%) and London (11.09%).

ECONOMY

Employment rate



Romford



Havering



London



Average income

Romford: £37k
Havering: £37k
London: £42k

Children in income deprived households



About 1 in 6 children in Romford

- The 2019 Index of multiple deprivation found that Romford had higher levels of deprivation than Havering, but lower levels than London.
- Approximately 844 (16.9%) children in Romford were thought to live in income deprived households – this compares to 16.0% of children across Havering and 18.2% across London.
- The average net income in Romford in 2019/20 was £37,194, similar to Havering (£37,658) but lower than London (£42,452).
- Romford is a high employment area, with a job density score (number of jobs per 100 working-age people) of 116.61% in 2022, above averages for Havering (53.52%) and London (93.66%).
- In 2021, Romford had a higher employment rate (62.4%) compared to Havering (58.1%) and London (59.4%).
- As of May 2024, 5.2% of working age Romford residents were claiming unemployment benefits (Jobseekers Allowance, out of work Universal Credit), rising from 2.4% in January 2020. This is higher than Havering (4.14%) and similar to London (5.09%)
- 17.5% of people in Romford responding to the 2021 Census reported having no formal qualifications, which is below Havering average (20%) and above London average (16.2%).

COMMUNITY AND LIFESTYLES

Travel to work by car



Total crime rate (per 1,000 population)



Physical inactivity (adults)

Romford: 27%
Havering: 28%
London: 21%



- Romford had an total crime rate of 306 reported crimes per 1,000 people between Mar-2023 to Feb-2024. This is higher than the crime rates across Havering (129) and London (169).
- The rate of violent crimes is also high in Romford: 80 per 1,000 people compared to 35 in Havering and 39 across London.
- In 2021, 27% of adults in Romford were estimated to be physically inactive. This is similar to the proportion across Havering (28%), and higher than the figure for London (21%).
- 26% of residents in Romford reported driving to work in 2021. This is lower than the rate across Havering (37%), but higher than London is (21%).
- The proportion of 10-11 year olds in Romford that are overweight or obese (38%) is similar to the Havering (38%) and London (39%) averages (based on pooled data for 2019 to 2022)

4. Health Impact Assessment

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a process that identifies the health and wellbeing impacts (benefits and harms) of a plan or development project and recommends measures to maximise positive impacts whilst minimising negative impacts and reducing health inequalities¹.

HIA is defined by WHO² as “A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which policy, programme 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”.

HIA is largely used for plans or projects not primarily concerned with health or the delivery of health services such as transport or new developments. HIA reflects how the wider determinants of health such as – access to services and amenities, traffic and transport, social and economic factors as well as land use factors influence health outcomes. It therefore supports and informs the planning system and development projects to make them more health focused and sustainable.

HIA of development plans is highly recommended by various national and regional policy and local strategies in recognition of the important connections between planning and the health of communities. This includes the National Planning Practice Guidance, The London Plan as well as the Havering Local which requires HIA to accompany major developments under Policy 12.

Additionally, Havering’s adoption of health in all policy (HiAP) approach recognises the importance of addressing the wider determinants to improve health and wellbeing and this is echoed in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. For further details on wider determinants of Health See Appendix 2.

4.1 Aim and objectives

The assessment of the Romford Masterplan aimed to ensure that the health consequences or effects of the proposed have been considered with the following objectives

- To identify the key health determinants most likely to impact health
- To identify groups that may be impacted by the plan
- To provide recommendations for enhancing positive health impacts of RM and minimising any negative impacts.

4.2 HIA approach and scope

The HIA was undertaken by a team comprising of Public Health and Planning Policy officers- see Appendix 1. As Havering has a defined policy requiring major developments to undertake an HIA, screening was not undertaken and rather a scoping exercise to determine

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f93024ad3bf7f35f184eb24/HIA_in_Planning_Guide_Sept2020.pdf

² International Association of Impact Assessment, Gothenburg consensus, 1999 (WHO Europe)

the approach and data required was affected through a meeting with roles and responsibilities as well as timescale agreed for appraisal.

Due to need for the HIA to support the submission version of the Romford Masterplan and the limited timeframe available, a desktop exercise was carried out using The London Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) tool focusing on 11 key determinants of health. This model was used for the Local Plan HIA hence it made sense to adopt same tool for the RMP HIA.

The assessment was informed by data and characteristics of the Romford area as a market town, the population profile and health needs obtained via strategic documents primarily the JSNA and Local insight.

The HIA focused on key health determinants considered most likely to occur and to have the greatest potential impact on health and inequalities in the Romford area. Factors or policies already covered in both the London Plan and the Local Plan (such as Social Housing Regulation, Building Regulations, Licensing Policy) were not assessed.

5. Appraisal: Findings on health impacts

The RMP was assessed as largely having positive impact on health due to the recognition of the importance of wider health determinants evidenced in one of the seven strategic objectives under section 5.5. Inclusivity, Health and Wellbeing. Commitment to promote and factor health and wellbeing into the RMP are also covered under the following sections:

- 4.4.3: Active travel via healthy streets approach
- 5.7.2. 5: Green strategy - establishing a network of primary, secondary and tertiary green corridors and spaces, new street tree planting and necklace of green space connecting cotton spark with lodge farm park.
- 5.2.2.2: Blue Strategy of re-establishing the River Rom, maximise the experience and ecological potential of existing waterways through naturalisation, de-culverting, landscaping, and Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) feature.
- 5.2.2.3 Public Realm strategy-ensuring all new major development bring significant public space encouraging cultural events and community activity
- 5.5.2.2 Commitment to schools' provision, social amenities to improve air quality including through changes to Ring Road and improved bus service connections.

5.1 Housing

Housing is recognised as one of the key health determinants. The RMP assessment of housing impact focused largely on affordability and the range of housing proposed as given in the Local Plan minima of 6,000 net new homes. The commitment to build additional homes 10,250-11,035 over next 20 years, optimise housing through inclusion of mixed-use schemes, maximising amount of family homes and creating attractive compact places was considered largely beneficial to health. In view of the projected population growth and

relatively high deprivation index of the Romford area (IMD score of 19.85 compared to Havering, IMD score of 16.79) the proposed development of a range of housing to rent and buy as part of mixed use developments aim to increase availability of housing across the Romford SDA and potentially contribute to reducing high overcrowding.

5.2 Healthcare and social infrastructure

The RMP recognised need for additional provision of healthcare services, such as healthcare clinics and health hubs, to meet the growing demands associated with population growth in the area.

A significant piece of healthcare infrastructure currently sited within the RMP footprint is the London Ambulance Station (LAS) Romford depot, which falls within the site of the Bridge Close development. The site of the LAS station is to be redeveloped via a compulsory purchase order, with a new site for the new station has now been selected – delivery of this essential re-provisioning forms part of the Queens Campus and Central Romford Health Masterplan, which brings together joint work between Council and NHS partners.

The RMP identifies at 3 potential healthcare facility locations within the Romford ringroad, including a health centre located within the Bridge Close development and two other health hub locations. A number of other planned infrastructure projects, including a new health provision at Rom Valley Gardens and expansion of the Victoria Hospital site on Pettits Lane, offer further opportunities to expand health care provision in the locality. Continued discussions between the Council, developers and NHS partners throughout the delivery of the RMP will be necessary to ensure that healthcare infrastructure scheme planning and delivery is effectively informed by and aligned with population growth and needs over the lifetime of the masterplan.

The assessment indicates that the RMP supports provision of other infrastructure including childcare provision and additional primary schools and is therefore deemed as having positive impact. The RMP notes that there is limited scope for expansion of existing secondary provision or to accommodate a new secondary school within the RMP footprint. As such, new secondary provision to meet the future place demands within the RMP footprint will need to be located within the wider Havering Schools Central Planning Area, in which the Council is seeking to identify potential suitable sites or scope to extend existing provision.

Plans for nursery as part of the Bridge Close development and on-going commitment from the Council to negotiate inclusion of high-quality childcare facilities within other schemes (as required) provides assurance that there will be childcare provision to support parents and carers to access the health and wellbeing benefits associated with employment, education and volunteering.

The RMP plans to deliver a multi-purpose youth hub as well as other social infrastructure such as shared community spaces also deliver positive impacts on health and wellbeing.

5.3 Access to open space and nature

Access to open space and nature strongly supports physical and mental wellbeing. The RMP commits to enhancing existing open space and nature, providing new spaces and play spaces for children and young people under its green strategy, public realm strategy and blue strategy. The Green strategy plans to establish a new network of primary, secondary and tertiary green corridors and spaces with streets planting exercise to enhance local area as well as introduce new public spaces across the town. The plan recognises the paucity of play spaces and emphasises this provision under Child Friendly Romford with Local play provision (for years 5-11) and Neighbourhood play (for teenagers) in parks and public space. These are positive determinants of health.

Achieving inclusivity, accessibility and safety of green and open spaces is embedded within the RMP inclusive design principles. Effective engagement, including with women, young people and those with disabilities and close working with community safety partners should inform scheme-based approaches to implementing these design principles, to maximise benefits and avoid any unintended consequences.

5.4 Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity

Air pollution and noise, loud and persistent noise over a long period can adversely impact health. Air pollution in particular contributes to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer with disproportionate impact on children young people and those with underlying health conditions. Environmental noise also poses a risk to physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The master plan encourages vibrant night life which may result in noise to local residents but are mitigated through existing local plan policies. The proposals to minimise air pollution and noise arising from traffic, changes to the ring road and residential streets, infrastructure to support modal shift to active travel via healthy street approach together with increased bus connection will have beneficial effects on health.

5.5 Accessibility and active travel

Accessibility and active travel are both strongly supported in the RMP using the healthy streets approach and prioritises walking and cycling with reduction in private vehicle use. These strategies are highlighted in many of the seven key objective areas including sections:

- 4.4.3 Movement & Connectivity, objectives MC1-8
- 4.4.5 Inclusivity, Health and Wellbeing
- 5.5.2.2 Active travel public

Measures to reduce car usage and road injuries and enhance public transport include improvement to the ring road permeability, new station entrance, park-and-ride scheme as well as maintaining town centre bus route to encourage public transport use for short trips. Romford shop mobility scheme alongside inclusive public realm supports increased access for people with mobility problems or disabilities.

Overall plans will encourage healthy behaviours, increase opportunity for physical activity supporting efforts to reduce high obesity level and thus is assessed as achieving positive impact on health.

5.6 Crime reduction and community safety

Feeling safe and secure has an influence on health and well-being. Good design can “design out crime” and encourage people to use communal space.

Data shows that the crime rate in Romford area is higher, at 306.4 per 1,000 population than the average across Havering (129.0 per 1,000 population).

The masterplan promotes community safety ensuring overlooking of public spaces, minimizing opportunity for anti-social behaviour through Active Streets approach. The ambitions for the marketplace, River Rom, South Street and the station were accessed as positive impact to the Romford SDA. The RMP specifically reflects the importance of supporting everyone, but notably, women and disabled people, to feel safe in public spaces, within its inclusive design principles.

5.7 Access to healthy food

This is an important factor impacting all age groups. Access to healthy food contributes to reducing obesity levels and to wider health and wellbeing. Large networks of streets or developments with limited access to local shops, poor transport connections to supermarkets and poor availability of fresh food in local convenience stores can limit healthy food access as well as high density of hot food takeaway shops.

The ambition to develop Romford as a town with mix use, the provision for a range of retail uses, together with Local Plan policies to limit the over proliferation of takeaway units across Havering towns centres stand to improve healthy food access, positively support reduction of the high obesity levels in the Romford SDA and improve overall health and wellbeing.

The RMP also supports the promotion of local, shared food growing spaces as a route to supporting access to healthy foods, with food growing opportunities forming explicit part of RMP Sustainability and Health and Wellbeing objectives.

5.8 Access to work and training

Employment is a key health determinant and is associated with both mental and physical health benefits, and in reducing both inequalities and crime. The Romford area has a high population of young people relative to Havering and a higher number of those of working age. Access to jobs and training are there for important consideration for the health of residents. It worth noting that whilst the area has a low percentage people economically inactive, 12.95% of people compared to 20.97% in Havering, the percentage claiming unemployment benefit has risen from 2.37% in January 2020 to 5.20% in May 2024, and is higher than for Havering (4.14%). Crime rate in Romford area is also high, at 306.4 per 1,000

population than the average across Havering (129.0 per 1,000 population). Links have been made between employment and crime³.

Opportunities and strategies to improve employment and training for the population are assessed as having a positive impact.

Improving employment and training opportunities through strategies below can have positive impact on health and other wider determinants, such as crime:

- Significant change in scale and mix of non-residential uses to provide space for new jobs and improve job opportunities.
- Supporting additional job opportunities for local residents and for businesses to take up supply opportunities through the planning application process.
- Use of creative and innovative strategies to support development and growth rather than reliance on traditional anchors as well as
- Maximizing the unique advantage of Romford location-as a gateway between Essex and London - to increase opportunity for employment through the Thames Estuary corridor.

5.9 Social cohesion and lifetime neighbourhoods

Social cohesion the “glue” that holds a society or community together has no agreed single definition but is described by United Nations as the state of a society’s convergence, or the ‘common bonds’ that unify different people and groups that share space or territory⁴. Social cohesion can be supported by provision of the social infrastructure to enable people of different races, faiths and cultural groups to socialize.

The overall proposals in the plan including strategies set out under sections 4.7.2.1 Retail, Leisure and Culture, aim to nurture existing cultural facilities and provide space for them to expand in the town centre. Green and Public Realm strategies as well as proposal to increase access to public places for those with mobility or disability issues positively impact social cohesion, and they reflect the main components of a lifetime neighbourhood⁵ and thus positively contribute to population wellbeing.

5.10 Minimising use of resources and climate change

Resources including land, air and water, fossil fuels and how they are utilised constitute important factors in terms of climate change and population well-being. Romford is an area of deprivation with 20% of people claiming universal credit, higher than the proportion in Havering (14.93%). This has an implication for fuel poverty, particularly with prevailing high energy costs. Commitment on use of resources and addressing climate change are set out under various sections of the RMP including 3.4.2 Space and Landscape as shown:

³ Chris L. Gibson, Marvin D. Krohn, (2013) Handbook of Life-Course Criminology: Emerging Trends and Directions for Future Research. Published in https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-4614-5113-6_12

⁴ [SC2_Framework-copy.pdf \(sfcg.org\)](#)

⁵ Supporting residents to develop lifetime neighbourhoods – especially Empowerment, access, services and amenities, built and natural environments, social networks/well-being, housing.

SL4. Urban greening and tree strategy that helps transform the visual qualities and character of the Town Centre and improve the area's resilience to climate changes and mitigate urban heat island effect.

Also, Section 4.4.4 Sustainability set out a number of plans such as

- strategy for an integrated heat and power network linking wind and solar energy generation, battery storage, ambient heat networks and waste heat sources, for future proofing, climate change and greater use of electric vehicles.
- the establishment of a local energy company, such as a Community Interest Company, to supply affordable energy heat and power to Romford residents
- Improving blue and green infrastructure to mitigate and reduce flood risk on River Rom catchment as well as increasing biodiversity for environmental resilience to climate change effects

6. Recommendations

Health Impacts of the RMP proposal were determined to be largely positive, and the areas identified as likely posing negative impacts can be addressed and mitigated.

The HIA recommends prioritising below key areas for action as delivery of the RMP is progressed to improve the health aspects of the Romford area and enhance the identified positive impacts.

- Developers, the Council and NHS partners to continue to collaborate as RMP schemes are brought forward to ensure that healthcare infrastructure planning is effectively informed by and aligned with population growth and needs over the lifetime of the masterplan.
- Developers to ensure that local residents and partners are meaningfully consulted regarding individual schemes, to make sure that their needs and views form an integral part of delivering liveable, accessible neighbourhoods.
- Ensure that individual schemes brought forward within the RMP area embrace and respond to the planning vision, principals and objectives laid out in the RMP, enabling the potential health and wellbeing benefits for the local area to be fully realised.
- Ensure that developers deliver high quality, robust HIAs for individual schemes, and give early consideration of health and wellbeing impacts of schemes from the point of pre-application.

The following recommendations were made when the HIA was initially completed in August 2024. Following further clarification and updates to the RMP, it has been deemed that these issues had been suitably addressed in post consultation draft, on the basis that they will be explored in further detail as individual schemes as brought forward:

- Identify childcare facilities to further maximise positive impacts of access to work

- Enhance the positive impact of social cohesion through provision for voluntary and community sectors and additional space for civic functions
- Consider the provision of community gardens and food growing space to enhance access to healthy food
- Ensure the maintenance and management responsibilities of new open space is clarified and factored into development applications to retain the benefits
- Enhanced accessibility to buildings and places through the reprovision of public toilets, changing places and provision of cycle parking for accessible cycles

7. Report Use

The HIA will form part of the supporting documents for the post consultation draft of the RMP, to be presented to Havering Cabinet in March 2025.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Template for desktop HIA of RMP July 2024

Use below 11 topics to indicate health determinants likely to be influenced by RMP development.

1. Prioritise proposed changes most likely to impact on health.
2. Indicate whether impact is likely to be positive (+) or negative (-) and
3. Indicate group(s) likely to be affected in the Romford area. =Yes; N=No: Un= uncertain N/A = not applicable*

* Any topics marked as N/A reflect the fact that the some/all relevant information is covered within the Local Plan or London Plan – the RMP does not repeat content otherwise covered within these development Plan Policies. The RMP will positively comply with London and Local Plan requirements.

Topics this applies to: 1,2,3, 5, 7, 19, 38, 39, 47.

Theme: Housing quality and design	Y/N/ Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, disability/ low income /minority)
1 Does the proposal seek to meet all 16 design criteria of the Lifetime Homes Standard or meet Building Regulation requirement M4 (2)?	N/A		This is covered by the London Plan	
2 Does the proposal address the housing needs of older people, i.e. extra care housing, sheltered housing, lifetime homes and wheelchair accessible homes?	N/A		This is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan	
3 Does the proposal include homes that can be adapted to support independent living for older and disabled people?	N/A		This is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan	
4 Does the proposal promote good design through layout and orientation, meeting internal space standards?	Y	+	Internal space standards are covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan. The RMP also promotes good design by providing guidance on building height limitations (5.6.2.3) and confirming expectations regarding minimum floor-to-floor height of 4.5m for ground floors of mixed-use buildings (5.7.2.3). Proposed space should also and take account of the checklist in the GLA's Vacant Ground Floors in Mixed-Use Development.	Good design benefits all
5 Does the proposal seek to increase a) affordable housing and b) a range of housing types and sizes, in response to local housing needs?	N/A		This is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan. The RMP is set to deliver an increase in housing stock (anticipated 10,250 –11,035 units) and supports optimisation of housing provision through mixed-use schemes (4.4.7). The RMP encourages a dwelling mix that maximise number of family homes to be delivered (Uses & Mix and 5.7.2.5)	

6	Does the proposal contain homes that are highly energy efficient (e.g. a high SAP rating)?	Un	+	Energy efficiency requirements improvements with CO2 emissions beyond Part L of Building Regulations in line with the London Plan Considers energy source, improved building efficiency and the longer-term occupation efficiencies.	Improving energy efficiency for new homes
Theme: Access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure		Y/N/Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate – impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority/travellers
7	Does the proposal retain or re-provide existing social infrastructure?	Y	+	Retention and re-provision is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan. The RMP recognised the need to re-provide specific social infrastructure provision where it will be redeveloped for other uses, as well as proposing some new social infrastructure (e.g. multi-purpose youth hub (5.7.2.8)) It is vital that in proceeding with individual schemes covered within the RMP, there is early clarity about how existing infrastructure will be sufficiently re-provisioned, to ensure that any health impacts of the approach to re-providing can be fully assessed.	
8	Does the proposal assess the demand for healthcare services and identify requirements and costs using the HUDU model?	Un		Ongoing dialogue with the NHS NE London Infrastructure Partnership and the consultation process has informed the references made to healthcare demand and potential locational based options used to inform the Masterplan and the Site Guidance. 7.4.5 Infrastructure Projects lays out more detail on projects and potential locations for improvements to existing and new infrastructure where this information is available.	
9	Does the proposal provide for healthcare services either in the form of a financial contribution or in-kind? Does a health facility provided as part of the development match NHS requirements and plans?	Un	+	The RMP does not fully detail how emerging healthcare needs will be provided for but does recognise the need for further provision of health care facilities, including a 1,600sqm health hub, 1,000-1,500sqm health centre and proposed 13 full time equivalent GPs. These would sit alongside a number of other planned healthcare infrastructure projects, including a new health provision at Rom Valley Gardens and expansion of the Victoria Hospital site on Pettits Lane. RMP acknowledges the role of local NHS estate strategies in informing and shaping response to emerging local healthcare needs (6.7.2.7).	
Theme: Access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure		Y/N/Un/NA	Impact		

			Positive (+) Negative (-)			
10	Does the proposal assess the capacity, location and accessibility of other social infrastructure, e.g. schools, social care and community facilities?	Y to some extent	+	<p>The RMP recognises need to make provision for additional social infrastructure and services to keep pace with population growth.</p> <p>Refers to additional schools (primary) proposed as part of bridge close development and local plan policy 1. Acknowledges the need for additional secondary school provision to cater for the growing local population in the longer term (2026/27 to 2030/31). The RMP notes that there is limited scope for expansion of existing secondary provision or to accommodate a new secondary school within the RMP footprint. As such, new provision will need to be located within the wider Havering Schools Central Planning Area, in which the Council is seeking to identify further potential suitable sites.</p> <p>Refers to a range of scheme-specific plans to support community infrastructure e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planned Increased nursery provision referred to as part of Bridge Close development and proposes multi-purpose youth hub for children and YP. - provide a replacement community/leisure use at ground floor level fronting St. Edward's Way and Mawney Road - retain Trinity Methodist church and integrate with other community uses 		
11	Does the proposal explore opportunities for shared community use and co-location of services?	Y	+	As previously described, proposes development of a health hub, multi-purpose youth centre.		
12	Does the proposal contribute to meeting pre-school, primary, secondary and post 19 education needs?	Y	+	<p>The RMP supports the provision of primary schools within the area, with 3FE to be provided as part of a new school in the proposed Bridge Close development and a number of potential other sites identified within site specific guidance. Primary expansion opportunities are limited, additional primary schools will need to be provided as part of large mixed-use developments so that additional school places to cater for the expected increase in residents.</p> <p>The RMP notes that there is limited scope for expansion of existing secondary provision or to accommodate a new secondary school within the RMP footprint. As</p>	Children and young people	

				<p>such, new provision will need to be located within the wider Havering Schools Central Planning Area, in which the Council is seeking to identify further potential suitable sites.</p> <p>A new nursery is planned as part of the proposed Bridge Close development, with commitment to work with developers to continue to identify further opportunities for these facilities in individual schemes as needed.</p> <p>Any potential for post 19 education unclear.</p>	
Theme: Access to open space and nature		Y/N/Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority/travellers)
13	Does the proposal retain and enhance existing open and natural spaces?	Y	+	<p>The RMP recognises the paucity of existing green space, and makes provision for increasing this, including plans for a network of primary secondary and tertiary green corridors and spaces (5.7.2.5) and new Street tree planting.</p> <p>The RMP also promotes improvements to other open and civic spaces e.g. enhancements to the marketplace to provide new seating and planting (5.6.2.6).</p>	Those without access to private green space, residents and other users of community space
14	In areas of deficiency, does the proposal provide new open or natural space, or improve access to existing spaces?	Y	+	<p>As above, RMP makes provisions to address paucity of green and blue space, including through green routes, urban greening, linear park, cycle routes re-establishing the River Rom through re-naturalising or de-culverting the rivers, landscaping, and Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS).</p> <p>Also makes proposals about activating green and open space by locating cafes and restaurants (5.6.2.6)</p>	
15	Does the proposal provide a range of play spaces for children and young people?	Un		<p>The requirement for play spaces is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan.</p> <p>The RMP recognises the existing paucity of play spaces and emphasises the need for this provision in new developments (see Child Friendly Romford) - notes that Local (for years 5-11) and Neighbourhood play (for teenagers) should be provided in parks and public space.</p>	Children and young people
16	Does the proposal provide links between open and natural spaces and the public realm?	Y	+	The RMP lays out approaches to ensuring that new and existing green space are connected with other community resources via cycling and walking routes to improve accessibility.	

				The RMP emphasises that all new major developments are to bring significant public space and in line with green and blue strategies (5.2.2.3)	
Theme: Access to open space and nature		Y/N/Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority/travellers)
17	Are the open and natural spaces welcoming and safe and accessible for all?	Y	+	The RMP outlines a number of approaches to improving inclusivity, including via healthy streets approach, mixed-use spaces, child friendly spaces and those for all ages (4.4.5). Plus promotes/encourages inclusive design and inclusive environments. The RMP promotes the use of active and passive surveillance to provide a safe, child-friendly environments (5.5.2.1), enhancing safety and accessibility and designing out crime, while also acknowledging the natural surveillance often afforded in more densely populated urban settings.	People with mobility issues, CYP, Women
18	Does the proposal set out how new open space will be managed and maintained?	+Y	+	Maintenance of open spaces is likely to be a combination of responsibility between developers and the local authority – it is essential to ensure that there is a clear plan and agreement around maintenance. Evidence suggests that quality of greenspace has a stronger impact on health and wellbeing than quantity, so every effort should be made to maximise the quality of green spaces in scope of the RMP. The Local plan requires all development schemes to demonstrate that arrangements are in place for on-going maintenance and management of green space (policy 27). This should be considered in consultation with local authority grounds maintenance team where required.	
Theme: Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity		Y/N/Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority)
19	Does the proposal minimise construction impacts such as dust, noise, vibration and odours?	N/A		This is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan	

20	Does the proposal minimise air pollution caused by traffic and energy facilities?	Y	+	The RMP lays out proposed changes to the existing ring road and 'residential' streets, including traffic calming measures. The RMP seeks to embed infrastructure to support modal shift to active travel, while retaining bus connectivity to enable public transport use for short trips. The RMP also lays out several sustainability objectives regarding heat and power networking via sustainable sources.	
21	Does the proposal minimise noise pollution caused by traffic and commercial uses?	Y	+	As above	
Theme: Accessibility and Active Travel		Y/N/ Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority)
22	Does the proposal prioritise and encourage walking (such as through shared spaces?)	Y	+	The RMP recognises importance of active travel using the healthy streets approach, being set out throughout the documents and within many of the seven key themes (4.4.3, 4.4.5, 5.5.2.2). The RMP acknowledges the role of active travel in encouraging healthy behaviours and the need for these modes to be considered equitably with other forms of transport to reduce private vehicle use and congestion. Reconfigured streets and public realm will create a more attractive, safe and inclusive Romford with engaging spaces to walk, cycle, improving connectivity via these modes.	
23	Does the proposal prioritise and encourage cycling (e.g. by providing cycle parking, showers, cycle lanes)?	Y	+	As above The RMP identifies the need for a bicycle parking hub in the vicinity of Romford station to encourage more mixed-mode trips. RMP inclusive design principles also reflects need to provide cycle parking for accessible cycles. Cycle parking for accessible bikes should also be considered more broadly as part of review of Local Plan.	
24	Does the proposal connect public realm and internal routes to local	Y	+	As above	

	and strategic cycle/walking networks?				
25	Does the proposal include traffic management and calming measures to help reduce and minimise road injuries?	Y	+	The RMP proposes changes to ring road and 'residential' streets, including traffic calming measures and changes to road layouts to minimise congestion. This includes plans to improve the permeability of the ring road through re-provisioned routes for walking and cycling which will support efforts to reduce road traffic injuries.	
26	Is proposal well connected to public transport, local services and facilities and does it enhance public transport?	Y	+	The RMP emphasises importance of maintaining town centre bus route provision to encourage public transport use for short trips. Also proposes new station entrance, Park and Ride scheme to improve connectivity, and a cycle parking hub to support multi-modal journeys.	
27	Does the proposal seek to reduce car use by reducing car parking provision, supported by the controlled parking zones, car clubs and travel plans measures?	Y	+	Partly covered by London Plan/ Local Plan in relation to residential car parking standards. The RMP lays out proposals to rationalise commercial car parking, while enhancing active travel plans and opportunities to support modal shift. Unclear about car clubs.	
Theme: Accessibility and Active Travel		Y/N/Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority)
28	Does the proposal allow people with mobility problems or a disability to access buildings and places?	Y	+	4.4.5 Inclusivity, Health recognises need to create inclusive spaces. Objectives IHW3- 4 refers to creating accessible streets and public spaces for members of the community of all ages and abilities. Includes plans to reprovide public toilets, including a Changing Places' facility and Romford Shopmobility scheme alongside inclusive public realm, being embedded within inclusive design principles.	Older adults, children and families, those with mobility or other long-term conditions
Theme: Crime reduction and community safety		Y/N/Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority)

29	Does the proposal incorporate elements to help design out crime?	Y	+	Largely covered by the London plan Policy 7.3 Designing out crime. The RMP highlights the importance of opportunities for natural and active surveillance to improve safety, notably within play spaces. RMP includes a specific inclusive design principle of enhancing safety and appeal of public spaces for all, but particularly for women and the disabled. Practical approaches highlighted include effective lighting, that furniture and planting do not create areas to hide behind or within, removing underpasses and encouraging positive social interaction.	
30	Does the proposal incorporate design techniques to help people feel secure and avoid creating 'gated communities'?	Y	+	Encouraging active streets approach toward maximising shared use of community/public space will support natural surveillance and improved sense of security. Development permeability and increased urban grain minimises risk of sense of 'gated communities'.	
31	Does the proposal include attractive, multi-use public spaces and buildings?	Y	+	The RMP makes reference to a range of scheme-specific improvements that deliver multi-use public spaces for example i. improving flexibility of public space in the marketplace, to continue to offer space for stalls while also being available for community and public events, ii. Offering schemes planned to include mix use (e.g. mix of industrial/commercial/hospitality/office space planned for Rom Valley).	
32	Has engagement and consultation been carried out with the local community?	Y	+	A further consultation has been undertaken on the full draft of the RMP since the last HIA was completed, as part of the statutory process of preparing a Supplementary Planning Document. In bringing forward individual schemes, effective public consultation will be a vital part of delivering homes and public realm that meet the needs of local residents.	
Theme: Access to healthy food		Y/N/Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority)
33	Does the proposal facilitate the supply of local food, i.e. allotments, community farms and farmers' markets?	Y	+	Romford Market to offer dining options with healthier and diverse food options Reference to community growing schemes – RMP Sustainability objectives (4.3.3) and Inclusivity, Health & Wellbeing objectives (4.3.4) both reference opportunities to promote local, shared food growing spaces includes specific reference to the need to 'Promote local, shared food growing opportunities including small allotments, communal gardens and growing spaces within developments.'	

34	Is there a range of retail uses, including food stores and smaller affordable shops for social enterprises?	Y	+	The RMP lays out aspirations for Romford to be a mixed-use town centre, offering diversity of retail and hospitality options, alongside increased leisure and culture offer and business space.	
35	Does the proposal avoid contributing towards an over-concentration of hot food takeaways in the local area?	Y	+	This is largely covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan which is part of the Development Plan for Havering, and within the new National Planning Policy Framework. Alongside the aspiration to ensure a mixed-use town centre, the RMP will also speak to existing local and regional policies aimed at reducing the concentration of fast-food outlets.	
Theme: Access to work and training		Y/N/ Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority)
36	Does the proposal provide access to local employment and training opportunities, including temporary construction and permanent 'end-use' jobs?	Y	+	Delivering on the ambition to improve Romford town centre and maximise mix of uses should support development of employment opportunities across a range of sectors. The RMP will likely support the delivery of scheme-by-scheme employment and training opportunities during construction phase, building on skills and training requirements of local plan.	
37	Does the proposal provide childcare facilities?	Y	+	The Bridge Close development includes specific plans to provide a nursery and Site Guidance for the key Opportunity Sites (set out in Chapter 6) highlight other opportunities for inclusion of this provision. The RMP confirms that the Council will	

				negotiate the inclusion of high-quality childcare facilities (as required) during pre-application discussions on other schemes. Provision of childcare facilities also recognised as an inclusive design principle. Locating childcare facilities in proximity to development areas can support a positive work-life balance, and maximise the positive impacts of access to work.	
38	Does the proposal include managed and affordable workspace for local businesses?	N/A		This is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan which is part of the Development Plan for Havering.	
39	Does the proposal include opportunities for work for local people via local procurement arrangements?	N/A		This is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan which is part of the Development Plan for Havering.	
Theme: Social cohesion and lifetime neighbourhoods		Y/N/Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority)
40	Does the proposal connect with existing communities, i.e. layout and movement which avoids physical barriers and severance and land uses and spaces which encourage social interaction?	Y	+	The RMP seeks to deliver a community feel within individual developments, while also reducing urban grain and permeability to support ease of movement between and within different areas of the RMP footprint, as well as surrounding areas. The RMP identifies that value of high quality open spaces and mix use venues, which offer opportunities for organic and structured social interaction.	
41	Does the proposal include a mix of uses and a range of community facilities?	Y	+	The RMP proposes a wide range of community developments across the site-specific proposals, with strong emphasis on importance of mix use spaces.	

42	Does the proposal provide opportunities for the voluntary and community sectors?			<p>RMP Inclusive design principles reflects the importance of provision for voluntary and community sectors to support community cohesion. RMP also notes Council’s commitment to brokering discussions between community groups and prospective developers at the pre-application stage for individual schemes, to help bring forward opportunities for use by both existing and new community groups.</p> <p>The RMP also outlines the intention to retain or reprovide civic spaces accommodate community or public functions.</p>	
43	Does the proposal address the principles of Lifetime Neighbourhoods?	Y	+	Plan refers to improving access, services and amenities, social networks/well-being, improved housing which are important component of Lifetime Neighbourhoods.	
Theme: Minimising use of resources		Y/N/Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority)
44	Does the proposal make best use of existing land?			5.4.4 Sustainability outlines RMP proposals to deliver a town centre that is resilient and sustainable, maximising use of available space to deliver to best effect. Scheme-by-scheme proposals aim to deliver positive changes, which address hyper-local issues and needs while supporting the delivery of the overarching objectives and vision for Romford.	
45	Does the proposal encourage recycling (including building materials)?	Y	+	This is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan. RMP proposes adopting principles of the circular economy for all development, incentivising building adaptation and reuse. Incorporating strategies to ensure zero waste to landfill through reuse and recycling of building elements.	

46	Does the proposal incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques?	Y	+	This is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan. Encourage zero carbon development through energy efficient design that considers both operational and embodied carbon.	
Theme: Climate change		Y/N/ Un/NA	Impact Positive (+) Negative (-)	Comments- include actions to enhance + impact or mitigate - impact	Groups most likely to be impacted (e.g. children, elderly, with disability/ low income /minority)
47	Does the proposal incorporate renewable energy?	N/A	+	This is covered by the London Plan/ Local Plan 5.4.4 Sustainability objectives S1 -S7 proposes transitioning Romford to a Zero Carbon Town by 2030 and a strategy for an integrated heat and power network linking wind and solar energy generation, battery storage, ambient heat networks.	
48	Does the proposal ensure that buildings and public spaces are designed to respond to winter and summer temperatures, i.e. ventilation, shading and landscaping?	Y	+	Expectation that developments would adhere to London Plan policy re Overheating and Cooling (5.9), including utilisation of appropriate ventilation, insulation and shading strategies. In the context of adaption to rising temperatures, opportunities to offer well-positioned natural or fabricated shading across the open and green spaces and walkways should be delivered across schemes in the RMP footprint.	Children and young people, elderly, those with long term conditions less able to regulate temperature

49	Does the proposal maintain or enhance biodiversity?	Y	+	<p>The RMPs approach to the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure supports efforts to improve local biodiversity.</p> <p>The RMP promotes inclusion of a range of interlinked green spaces that can support different habitats, including the use of urban drainage techniques, provision of street trees, green roofs, green walls, rain gardens, hedgerows, shrubs and bushes, flower gardens and grassland (5.4.2.1).</p> <p>Also lays out requirement for all new developments to be able to demonstrate a net biodiversity gain of 20%.</p>	
50	Does the proposal incorporate sustainable urban drainage techniques?	Y	+	<p>RMP proposes approaches to implementation of Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), alongside other improvements to blue and green infrastructure to mitigate and reduce the risk of flooding on River Rom catchment. These improvements also intended to increase biodiversity to provide environmental resilience to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Note that national and London plan policies to inform local approaches to urban drainage.</p>	

Appendix 2: Wider determinants of health and impact of the built environment

The wider determinants of health cover the social, cultural, political, economic, commercial and environmental factors that shape the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These show that opportunities for creating good health often occur long before the point at which individuals need to access health care. Many of these factors are highlighted in Dahlgren and Whitehead diagram (Figure 2) which illustrates the many factors that interact to influence health status.

Whilst central factors such as age, sex and genetically inherited propensity to disease, cannot be readily altered, our interaction with the wider environment in which we live, not just our immediate surroundings, the socio-political and cultural environment, is crucial to determining health.

Figure 2. The Wider Determinants of Health Model

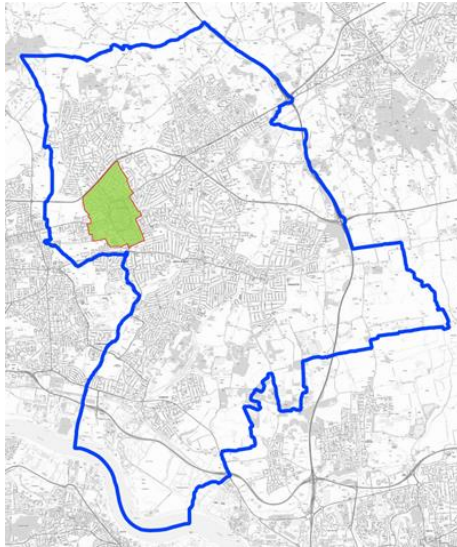


People living in areas of deprivation, with potentially poor housing conditions, overcrowding, high levels of unemployment, on low incomes, and poor education, live significantly shorter lives than their more affluent counterparts.

The environmental aspects of the local place also interplay with the social conditions; large networks of streets or estates can impact on our ability to access green and open spaces, important not just for physical activity, but for our mental health and wellbeing too. Housing design and density, access to shops, supermarkets, leisure facilities and other retailers can affect our diet and behaviours, including how we build and maintain our social relationships. Additionally, how we travel through our environments, provision or absence

of traffic calming measures, play spaces for children and the impact of traffic pollution on air quality are important factors. For this reason, the HIA has focused on those wider determinants most relevant to the proposed Romford development masterplan

Appendix 3: Map of Romford Masterplan Area



Appendix 4: Contributors to the HIA

Public Health Team	Planning Policy Team
Kate Ezeoke-Griffiths - Assistant Director/ Public Health Consultant Emily Grundy - Assistant Director/ Public Health Consultant Parth Pillar - Public Health Practitioner Luke T. Squires - Public Health Practitioner Jack Davis - Public Health Strategist	Jill Warren - Deputy Team Leader (Development Planning), Planning & Public Protection Lauren Miller - Team Leader (Development Planning) Planning & Public Protection