

After Clause 93, insert the following new Clause—

“Duty to reduce health inequalities and improve well-being

(1) For the purposes of this section “the general health and well-being objective” is the reduction of health inequalities and the improvement of well-being through the exercise of planning functions in relation to England.

(2) A local planning authority must ensure that the development plan for their area includes policies designed to secure that the development and use of land contribute to the general health and well-being objective.

(3) In considering whether to grant planning permission or permission in principle and related approvals, a local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State must ensure the decision is consistent with achieving the general health and well-being objective.

(4) In complying with this section, a local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State must have special regard to the desirability of—

(a) delivering mixed-use walkable neighbourhoods which accord with the 20 minute neighbourhood principle;

(b) creating opportunities to enable everyday physical activity, through improving existing and creating new cycling, walking and wheeling routes and networks and natural spaces; and

(c) increasing access to high quality natural green and blue spaces.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4)(a), neighbourhoods which accord with the 20 minute neighbourhood principle are places where people can meet most of their daily needs including food shops, schools, health services and natural space within a 20 minute return walk of their home and include affordable housing.

(6) “Wheeling” means the use of a vehicle that may lawfully be used on a footway within the meaning of the Highways Act 1980.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new Clause would create a requirement for local planning authorities to include policies in their development plans which contribute to a new general health and well-being objective. It also requires LPAs and the Secretary of State to ensure consistency with this objective when deciding whether to grant planning permission or permission in principle and related approvals, such as reserved matters.