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Dear Andrew

**PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE MAJOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE CORE STRATEGY PUBLICATION DRAFT**

This response from Public Health to the Planning, Transportation and Highways Department is provided as an addendum to:

- the October 2013 full Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Core Strategy Further Engagement Draft in which Public Health welcomed the Core Strategy as likely to improve the health of the population and assessed and made recommendations on health impact.
- the February 2014 letter to the Planning, Transportation and Highways Department in which Public Health welcomed the changes made to the Core Strategy Publication Draft (CSPD) as a result of the Health Impact Assessment, and noted the matters of 'play areas for young children' and 'social infrastructure' for further attention.

Public Health has since reviewed the Major Modifications to the Core Strategy and provided detailed comments to the Planning, Transportation and Highways Department. This final response focuses on those modifications which link quality standards for new-build housing in the District to national minimum standards.

Whilst such modifications are driven by national standards and policy, Public Health wishes to work with Planning, Transportation and Highways to establish whether the District has a case for seeking higher quality standards locally to deliver our ambition that new housing stock should reduce health inequalities and improve the population's health and potential to live independently as much as possible. Public Health would welcome working together with Planning, Transportation and Highways to:

- agree a sufficient supply of adaptable and accessible housing and an appropriate level of adaptability and accessibility to facilitate independent living throughout the life course;
- establish the case for seeking Level 4 energy efficiency standards, and to attract housing developments that further exceed minimum standards.

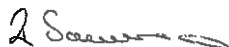
In terms of further development work Public Health would welcome the opportunity to work with Planning, Transportation and Highways to:



- develop a methodology to assess the potential for cumulative health impact from multiple developments in a single settlement or area;
- embed a framework for Health Impact Assessment in the Planning process.

As a step towards this, Public Health welcomes your intention to commission research on the level of need for adaptable and accessible housing within the District. We look forward to agreeing with yourselves how our departments can best work together and with others, through reviewing the Allocations Development Plan Document and other relevant strategic plans, to take every opportunity to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

Yours sincerely



Ralph Saunders  
Head of Public Health