

Western Gateway Evaluation Tool – Key Features

The Evaluation Tool is intended for use by the Planning Officer responsible for preparing the Local Plan during the spatial strategy stage (e.g. Regulation 18). It supports the early integration of health and wellbeing considerations into the decision-making process by assessing the potential health impacts of development plans and proposals. Future recommendations and actions may require monitoring to ensure that they are implemented. It is acknowledged that the Tool represents an assessment at a specific point in time. As such, it should be reviewed and updated periodically throughout the Local Plan process, with a clear audit trail maintained to document to record this.

This document sets out the methodology underpinning the Evaluation Tool and serves as a practical guide for its use.

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Scoring Criteria

The 'Scoring Criteria' tab of the spreadsheet offers a detailed overview of the three-point scoring system for each screening topic, as shown in the extract below. Its primary purpose is to ensure a consistent approach to evaluating each topic. By providing clear criteria, it helps maintain objectivity and fairness in the scoring process, facilitating more accurate and reliable assessments.

It is suggested to implement a more detailed scoring system at a later stage of the planning process. This enhanced system will help identify strong positives and negatives more accurately once additional details regarding the proposal are known.

	Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure		Access to Open Space and Nature		Air Quality, Noise and Neighbourhood Amenity	
Criteria	<i>Does the proposal assess the impact on health and social care services and has local NHS organisations been contacted regarding existing and planned healthcare capacity?</i>	<i>Does the proposal assess the capacity, location and accessibility of other social infrastructure, eg primary, secondary and post 19 education needs and community facilities?</i>	<i>In areas of deficiency, does the proposal provide new open or natural space, or improve access to existing spaces?</i>	<i>Are the open and natural spaces welcoming and safe and accessible for all?</i>	<i>Does the proposal minimise air pollution caused by traffic and energy facilities?</i>	<i>Does the proposal minimise noise pollution caused by traffic and commercial activities?</i>
	High level of development away from existing health and social care centres with limited potential to provide facilities through growth areas.	High level of development away from existing service centres with limited potential to provide facilities through growth areas.	The growth area could fail to provide new open or natural spaces and would do little to improve access to existing ones, leaving deficiencies largely unaddressed.	The spaces are unwelcoming or unsafe, and difficult to access, with poor maintenance and a lack of inclusive facilities, making them less usable for the community.	The proposal does not effectively minimise air pollution caused by traffic and energy facilities.	The proposal does not adequately result in persistent and significant noise pollution caused by traffic and commercial activities.
	Some development located near health and social care centres but with significant gaps in access.	Some development located near service centres but with significant gaps in access.	The growth area could offer some new open or natural spaces and would make moderate improvements to access, but may not fully address all deficiencies.	The spaces are somewhat welcoming and accessible, but may lack sufficient safety features or inclusive facilities, limiting their overall usability.	The proposal includes some measures to reduce air pollution, but there are notable gaps and inefficiencies that limit its overall effectiveness.	The proposal has some measures to reduce noise pollution caused by traffic and commercial activities, but significant gaps remain.
	Growth areas located near higher-level health and social care centres offering a good range of facilities and services. Development could enhance health and social care facilities to address existing deprivation. Growth areas likely to be able to deliver local facilities. NHS has been contacted.	Growth areas located near higher-level service centres offering a good range of facilities and services. Growth areas likely to be able to deliver good quality local facilities. NHS has been contacted.	The growth area could effectively provide new open or natural spaces and would significantly improve access to existing ones, addressing deficiencies comprehensively.	The open and natural spaces are welcoming, safe, and easily accessible for all. They are well-maintained, with features that encourage community use and enjoyment.	The proposal effectively minimises air pollution caused by traffic and energy facilities, with comprehensive measures and strategies.	The proposal effectively minimises noise pollution caused by traffic and commercial activities, with comprehensive and innovative measures leading to a quieter environment.
	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain

Screening Topics

Each screening topic has its own tab, with the example below displaying access to health, social care services, and other social infrastructure. The Evaluation Tool provides a list of sources for both quantitative and qualitative evidence, along with stakeholders to consult to better understand the impacts. Officers should identify the origin of the information used and provide appropriate references or hyperlinks to the supporting documents where necessary.

The 'Potential Health Impact' cell features a drop-down menu to score each question as positive, neutral, negative, or uncertain. Additionally, there are text boxes to enter recommended actions based on the potential health impact and any monitoring and evaluation to be undertaken. Recommended actions should be considered only if applicable, particularly in cases where a low score has been identified.

Access to Health and Social Care Services and Other Social Infrastructure					
Screening Topic	Sources of Quantitative Evidence	Sources of qualitative evidence, including Stakeholders to be engaged with	Potential Health Impact	Recommended Action	Monitoring and Evaluation
Does the proposal assess the impact on health and social care services and has local NHS organisations been contacted regarding existing and planned healthcare capacity?	ONS Census Data, 2021 Health Survey for England, 2022 Indices of Deprivation, 2019 NHS Digital Data	Health Impact Assessments Local NHS organisations Health and Wellbeing Boards Community Health Services			
Does the proposal assess the capacity, location and accessibility of other social infrastructure, eg primary, secondary and post 19 education needs and community facilities?	ONS Census Data, 2021 Equality of access and outcomes in higher education in England Report Office for National Statistics data: Access to local amenities in England and Wales: October 2024 Department for Transport Accessibility Indicators	Local Education Providers and Authorities Community Groups and Organisations Members of the Local Community			
Future Considerations					
Does the proposal retain or re-provide existing social infrastructure?		Strong Negative	Too Early to Say	Strong Positive	
Does the proposal include the provision, or replacement of a healthcare facility and does the facility meet NHS requirements?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the proposal explore opportunities for shared community use and co-location of services?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Future Considerations

Several questions have been excluded from evaluating the Potential Health Impact as they are more suitable for later stages of development. These questions are listed under 'Future Considerations' for each screening topic. Optional tick boxes are available for indicating particularly positive potential or particularly negative impacts, if these are known at this stage. The tick boxes in this section will display 'FALSE' by default. If selected, they will display 'TRUE'.

Future Considerations	Strong Negative	Too Early to Say	Strong Positive
Does the proposal retain or re-provide existing social infrastructure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposal include the provision, or replacement of a healthcare facility and does the facility meet NHS requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the proposal explore opportunities for shared community use and co-location of services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appraisal Framework

The Appraisal Framework tab consolidates the potential health impacts scored for each screening topic into a single sheet. This offers a visual summary of the development's potential health impacts. Access to health, social care services, and other social infrastructure has been filled in as an example to demonstrate the Tool's functionality.

Screening Topic	Access to health and social care services and other social infrastructure		Access to Open Space and Nature		Air Quality, Noise and Neighbourhood Amenity	
Assessment Criteria	<i>Does the proposal assess the impact on health and social care services and has local NHS organisations been contacted regarding existing and planned healthcare capacity?</i>	<i>Does the proposal assess the capacity, location and accessibility of other social infrastructure, eg primary, secondary and post 19 education needs and community facilities?</i>	<i>In areas of deficiency, does the proposal provide new open or natural space, or improve access to existing spaces?</i>	<i>Are the open and natural spaces welcoming and safe and accessible for all?</i>	<i>Does the proposal minimise air pollution caused by traffic and energy facilities?</i>	<i>Does the proposal minimise noise pollution caused by traffic and commercial uses?</i>
Potential Health Impact	Neutral	Positive	0	0	0	0

Outcomes

Sites that perform well in the Evaluation Tool may be taken forward through the Local Plan process. Sites that perform poorly should either not be progressed or should first be subject to appropriate mitigation measures, as outlined in the recommended options, to improve their evaluation outcomes.