



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Rachel Maclean MP

Minister of State for Housing and Planning
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/dluhc

Our reference: 25529703

Professor Sir Michael Marmot CH
Director
UCL Institute of Health Equity
UCL Dept of Epidemiology and Public Health

21 April 2023

Dear Professor Sir Michael Marmot,

Thank you for your letter of 2 March 2023 to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP about support for Amendment 241 regarding health and well-being to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill, which has been put forward by Lord Stevens of Birmingham, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Lord Young of Cookham and Lord Foster of Bath. I am responding as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill has reached committee stage in the House of Lords, and amendment 241 was debated on 27 March 2023. After careful consideration, Earl Howe outlined in this debate the Government's response and preference for these important health and well-being matters to continue to be dealt with by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The NPPF sets out that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places that enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs. It also contains policies on the provision of open space, green infrastructure, the promotion of walking and cycling, and an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services. The NPPF must, as a matter of law, be taken into account in preparing the development plan, and it is a material consideration in planning decisions.

To support local authorities implementing these policies, the Government has published Planning Practice Guidance, the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code. In addition, the recently published National Framework of Green Infrastructure Standards will provide further detail on principles to guide design.

Furthermore, Active Travel England has been established as a statutory consultee within the planning system and will go live from 1 June 2023. They will press for adequate cycling and walking provision in all major developments over a certain threshold and provide advice on ways in which such provision can be improved. They are responsible for making walking, wheeling and cycling the preferred choice for everyone to get around. Their objective is for half of all trips in England's towns and cities to be walked, wheeled or cycled by 2030.

Thank you again for your letter. Please extend my gratitude to your colleagues for taking the time to write in with their concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Maclean', with a small dot at the end.

RACHEL MACLEAN MP
Minister of State for Housing and Planning