



Summary of Issues:

- ❖ The provision of outdoor sport and recreation facilities falling below quantity standards
- ❖ Resisting loss of existing outdoor sport and recreation facilities
- ❖ The need to retain allotments provision
- ❖ The need for additional provision of indoor sport and recreation facilities
- ❖ Inequalities across town in access to children's playspace
- ❖ How the future need for school places should be accommodated
- ❖ Significant health issues in the parts of population
- ❖ Retaining the vitality of local service centres
- ❖ The impact of crime on living environments
- ❖ Ensuring accessibility and ease of movement around neighbourhoods

Thriving Communities are communities where people are healthy, safe and have access to activities and opportunities to help them thrive. They encourage active and healthy lifestyles, and create living environments that support social interaction for people of all ages.

Eastbourne has an older age profile, and the average age of the population has been rising over recent years to 45.3 in 2017. 24.9% of Eastbourne's population is aged over 65, and there is a particularly high percentage of people aged over 85 compared to regional and national averages. In 2018, there were approximately 18,000 children under the age of 15, which at 17.3% of the population is a lower proportion than average. 3,685 children live in low-income families (those

with incomes of less than 60% of the national median income)²³.

The evolution of Eastbourne over the last 200 years from small fishing hamlets to a town with a population of over 100,000 people has resulted in the diverse pattern of communities which exists today.

Eastbourne's neighbourhoods each have their individual strengths, opportunities and identities, but each also faces a variety of specific challenges.

Eastbourne is ranked 120th (of the 326 local authorities in England) in terms of deprivation²⁴, but deprivation is localised. Two out of 61 local areas in Eastbourne are

²³ East Sussex in Figures

²⁴ Index of Multiple Deprivation (2015)



within the 10% most deprived in the country, whilst three are in the 10% least deprived in the country. Eastbourne appears to suffer relatively more from deprivation relating to employment and income, and relatively less from deprivation relating to crime and barriers to housing and services.

The life expectancy for men living in more deprived neighbourhoods is 6.9 years lower than the expectancy for men in less deprived areas. For women this difference is 6.3 years.

Eastbourne's population suffers more than average from poor health, with 6.1% of Eastbourne's population describing themselves as having bad or very bad health. There are over 20,000 people with a limiting long-term illness, representing 21% of the total resident population, of which 46% have their day-to-day activities limited a lot by their illness. 10.6% of Eastbourne's population provides unpaid care for others.

In addition, 46.1% of the adult population is overweight or obese, and just 56.1% of the population are estimated to eat at least 5 portions of fruit and veg a day.

People's quality of life is related to the quality of the environment. In promoting healthy communities, access to high-quality open spaces can make an important contribution to health and wellbeing. Eastbourne has a generous quantity of outdoor recreational and amenity open space, with Eastbourne Park as a green open space in the centre of the urban area. Eastbourne also has three parks with Green Flag awards and 20 fields protected in perpetuity through Fields in Trust QEII status.

Sustainable neighbourhoods

The current Eastbourne Core Strategy 2006-2027 decided to follow a 'Neighbourhood' approach to the future planning of the town. It divided the town into 14 neighbourhoods that were defined in consultation with local communities and based on resident perception and an analysis of the built character. The Core Strategy set out separate visions for each neighbourhood that were intended to allow local residents to find out and influence what is likely to change in their area.

Eastbourne's neighbourhoods each have their individual strengths, opportunities and identities but each also faces a variety of specific challenges. The Core Strategy seeks to preserve and enhance each neighbourhood's unique identity and help each grow positively and sustainably over the course of the plan period whilst contributing positively towards meeting the overall needs of Eastbourne. A map of the neighbourhoods is provided at Map 10.

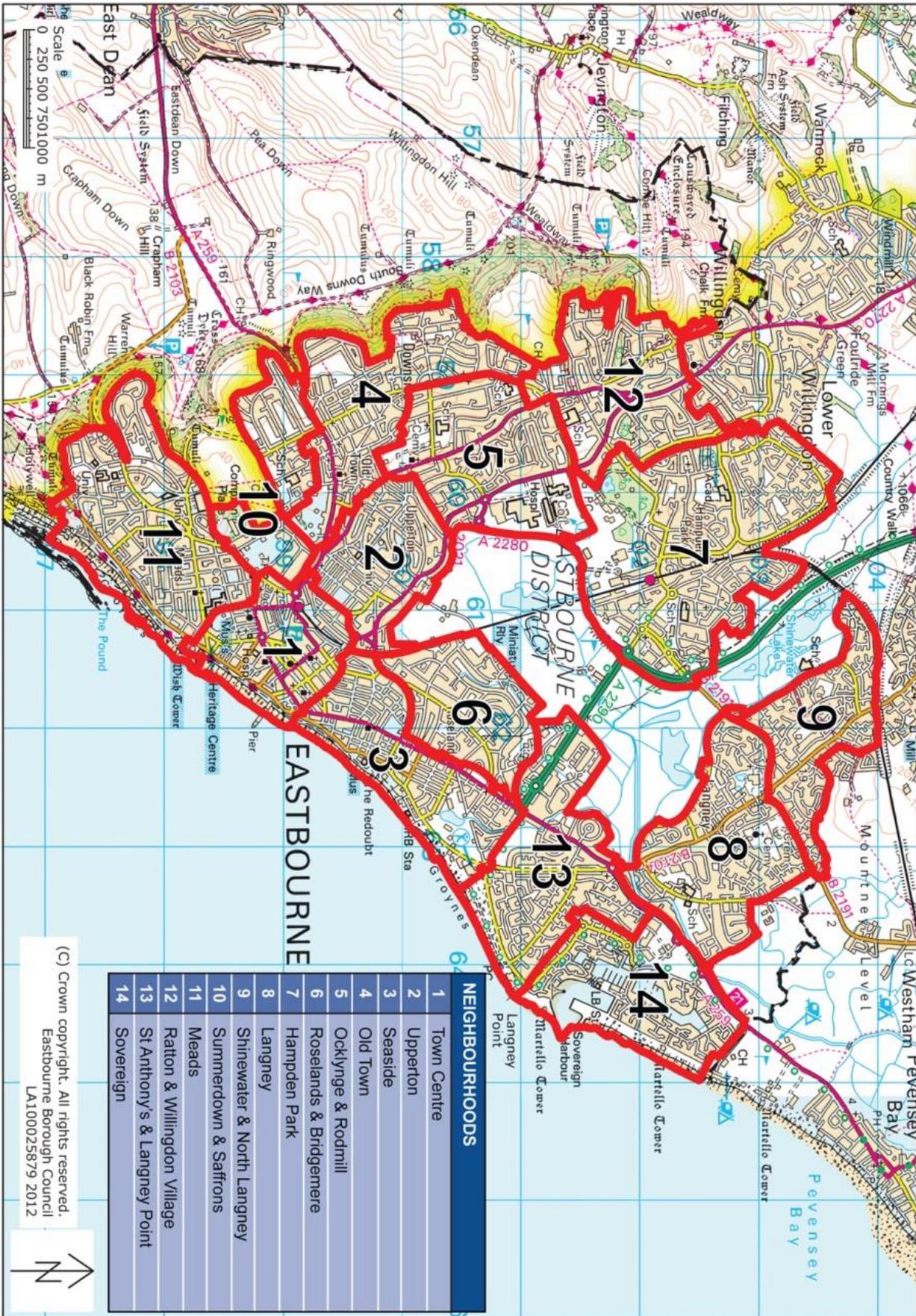
Table 3: Neighbourhood Populations (2017)

Neighbourhood	Population
1 Town Centre	8,914
2 Upperton	7,025
3 Seaside	10,561
4 Old Town	10,880
5 Ocklynge & Rodmill	4,304
6 Roselands & Bridgemere	5,760
7 Hampden Park	13,592
8 Langney	8,200
9 Shinewater & North Langney	7,402
10 Summerdown & Saffrons	1,878
11 Meads	7,725
12 Ratton & Willingdon Village	3,905
13 St Anthony's & Langney Point	6,272
14 Sovereign Harbour	6,834



THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Map 10: Eastbourne's Neighbourhoods





Since the Core Strategy was prepared, the Localism Act 2011 has introduced rights and powers for communities to enable them to get more involved in planning for their areas through the production of Neighbourhood Plans or Orders, or Community Right to Build Orders. In non-parished areas such as Eastbourne, this neighbourhood planning is undertaken by Neighbourhood Forums, which require a minimum of 21 people who live in the neighbourhood area, or work there, and/or

who are elected members for any ward of Eastbourne Borough Council.

In order to encourage and facilitate neighbourhood planning in our communities, it would be useful to understand if a neighbourhood approach to the Local Plan would be helpful, particularly to those who are considering preparing their own neighbourhood plan, and if this approach should be continued in the new Local Plan.

Question 26: Neighbourhood approach

- Should the Local Plan continue with the neighbourhood approach from Core Strategy?

Question 27: Neighbourhood boundaries:

- Are the neighbourhood boundaries, as identified in Map 10: Eastbourne's Neighbourhoods, still relevant?

Sport and Recreation

Eastbourne is well provided for in terms of green spaces with 1,140 hectares of accessible and usable open space, which equates to over a quarter of the total area of the Borough and around 11 hectares per 1,000 population.

Eastbourne has particularly strong provision of Parks and Gardens, equivalent to 0.9 hectares per 1,000 population, which exceeds the standard in many other places comparable to Eastbourne. This means, from a quantitative point of view, there is no additional need for parks/gardens to be delivered in the plan period.

However, there is likely to be a quantitative shortfall in the provision of sports pitches and children's play areas in the town at the end of the plan period if no further provision is made.

In order to achieve a standard of 1.5 hectares of sport pitch per 1,000 population, in quantitative terms, we require the provision of an additional 25 hectares over the plan period. However, there are circumstances that may affect the amount of sports pitches required. These include:

- The decline in sports participation as a result of ageing population



THRIVING COMMUNITIES

- The promotion of small-sided team games resulting in a growing need for smaller pitches
- The provision of more artificial surfaces can sustain significantly higher usage meaning less physical space would be required

Further work will be undertaken to assess the qualitative aspects of open space provision, including the availability and accessibility of existing facilities, to provide a more accurate picture of the amount of additional space required over the plan period.

In terms of children's play space, current provision equates to 0.06 hectares per 1,000 population, which is considered to be a relatively low standard of provision. In order to maintain this level of provision, an additional 0.5 hectares would be required, which equates to around 12 new play areas.

There is an uneven distribution of children's play space across the town with areas such as Old Town, Meads, Ratton, Upperton and the Town Centre particularly deficient, whilst Hampden Park and Langney appear to be well provided for.

Consideration needs to be given to whether to require all housing developments over a certain size threshold to make on-site provision for additional children's play space, or if this requirement should be made only in areas that have been identified as having deficiencies in play space provision.

Areas that have been identified as being deficient in play areas tend to be the areas with higher land values, meaning development is more likely to be able to afford to make such provision. Alternatively, the Local Plan could require financial contributions towards new play space that could be provided in suitable and appropriate locations in lieu of on-site provision.

Options R: Children's Playspace

How should the Local Plan require new provision of children's playspace:

- a) On-site provision of playspace on sites above a certain threshold in deficient neighbourhoods only; or
- b) On-site provision of playspace on sites above a certain threshold across the whole town; or
- c) Financial contributions from developments above a certain threshold rather than on-site provision



In addition to identifying sufficient new outdoor sport and recreation space to meet minimum needs, the Local Plan will also support improvements to existing recreational facilities, including through the use of developer contributions where appropriate.

Eastbourne is well provisioned in terms of allotments, particularly due to recent extensions to allotment areas in Hampden Park, Bridgemere and Upperton. Eastbourne Allotments & Garden Society (EAGS) manages 1,178 allotment plots on

behalf of Eastbourne Borough Council. EAGS affirm that around 400 persons are on the waiting list for allotments, considering it more popular than ever. In quantitative terms, there is a need for a small increase in the amount of allotments to achieve a standard of 0.2 hectares per 1,000 population over the plan period. It is important that the existing allotment provision is retained through the Local Plan, particularly to increase opportunities for urban food production that could help to reduce carbon emissions through reducing food miles.

Direction of Travel

TC1: Open Spaces

In order to ensure sufficient open space provision, the Local Plan will:

- Deliver sufficient outdoor sport and recreation space to meet local provision standards
- Support improvements to existing recreational facilities
- Require contributions to improving outdoor sports pitches
- Seek to retain all existing allotments
- Encourage an increase in opportunities for urban food production

Further work:

- Update Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment to take into account quality and availability of existing facilities



Sovereign Centre

The Council has committed to the construction of a new leisure centre to replace Sovereign Centre, which was originally opened in the 1970s. The Centre is now aged and requires substantial

reinvestment, and the Council has decided that a replacement would provide greater long term value for money. The Local Plan will allocate land adjacent to the existing Sovereign Centre for a new leisure facility.

Direction of Travel

TC2: Sovereign Centre

To improve the provision of indoor leisure and recreation space, the Local Plan will:

- Allocate site adjacent to the Sovereign Centre for new leisure facility

This means that the site of the existing Sovereign Centre will become available for redevelopment. The Council has explored options for the site and considers that a mixed use would provide flexibility to attract the right level of interest from the private

market and operators whilst creating sustainable communities and economic growth. The Local Plan will seek to allocate the site for the type and mix of development is considered to be most appropriate.

Options S: Sovereign Centre

What types and mixes of uses would be considered as most appropriate for the redevelopment of the existing Sovereign Centre site:

- a) High quality residential development
- b) Affordable housing
- c) Retirement homes / village
- d) Beach front leisure / water sports
- e) Convenience Store (under 5,000 sq ft)



Education

East Sussex County Council's Education Commissioning Plan 2017-2021 forecasts that generally there will be sufficient capacity in the existing primary schools, many of which have been expanded over recent years, to meet the forecast demand for primary school places over the next few years due to the falling birth rate in the town. The planned capacity at secondary level should also be sufficient although a shortfall could materialise, and may require expansion of existing establishments.

The Council will continue to work with East Sussex County Council to identify the need for additional provision of school places in light of the amount of housing growth that will be provided through the Local Plan.

Many recent school places have been delivered through permanent expansions to existing schools. The Local Plan will consider appropriate sites for the allocation of a new school, however this may not be necessary and additional school place provision could be made through further expansions to existing schools. However, one potential consequence of this may be that it results in a loss of school playing fields. Consideration needs to be given to the balance between how additional school capacity can be provided and the potential loss of playing fields resulting from extensions to existing establishments.

Options T: Extensions to Educational Establishments

What level of support should be given to extensions to educational establishments in the Local Plan:

- a) Support all extensions to educational establishments; or
- b) Restrict extensions to education establishments where they encroach on school playing fields

Access to primary schools in Eastbourne is good, with 90% of children across town being within a 15 minute walk or public transport journey to their nearest primary school. The location of secondary schools in Eastbourne, mainly to the north and east of the town, means that a lower proportion of children across Eastbourne (46%) are within 15 minutes walk/public transport of a secondary school. However, 86% are within a 15 minute cycle of a secondary school.

Regular journeys to school have significant potential for modal shift to sustainable forms of transport, and it is important that infrastructure and other measures are put in place to facilitate this.



THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Further work:

- Work with East Sussex County Council to identify school provision needs as a result of growth in the Local Plan over the plan period

In the Eastbourne locality, 34% of children aged 10-11 are classified as overweight or obese. In order to help to address these issues, the Local Plan will restrict the opening of new hot food takeaways within walking distance of primary and secondary schools.

The Local Plan will also encourage the relocation of colleges and universities into the town centre in order to generate more footfall and support the vitality and viability of the town centre, and also allow more students to access their education by sustainable transport modes.

Direction of Travel

TC3: Health and Education

In order to provide education facilities and support the health of young people, the Local Plan will:

- Consider the allocation of a site for a new school if necessary
- Restrict hot food takeaways within walking distance of school
- Encourage the relocation of colleges/university into town centre

Health and Community

Eastbourne has 11 GP practices and 77 doctors, which equates to around 1 doctor per 1,340 people. The Council will work with the Eastbourne Hailsham and Seaford

Clinical Commissioning Group to identify future need for GP surgeries, and will allocate land for new facilities if there is a need to do so.

Further work:

- Work with Eastbourne Hailsham and Seaford Clinical Commissioning Group to identify GP provision needs as a result of growth in the Local Plan over the plan period



National planning guidance refers to the use of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) that can be used to assess how development proposals will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of the local population. They can be used to identify the potential

for health improvements and risks to health, and help to identify additional measures to reduce or avoid these risks. Consideration needs to be given to whether this is an appropriate requirement to make of development on strategic sites.

Question 28: Health Impact Assessments

- Should the Local Plan require Health Impact Assessments for new strategic sites development?

Public houses within local communities are part of the town's social and cultural heritage and can play an important role as a meeting place and venue for community events. However, over recent years a number of public houses outside of the town

centre have been lost to other uses such as shops and homes. Consideration needs to be given to whether there is justification for a policy that protects public houses from being lost, and what would need to be taken into account within such a policy.

Question 29: Public houses

- Should the Local Plan contain a policy to protect public houses?

Community facilities – venues or meeting places that can be used or hired by the public or community organisations for meetings and events – play a vital role in a community and contribute to the social health and wellbeing of individuals. Community facilities allow for social interaction between people and can support the development of new community groups.

Eastbourne has 65 community facilities, and the majority of the urban area is within a 10-minute walk of such a facility. This equates to a standard of 1 community facility per 1,640 population, which is comparable with locations such as Hastings and is a better level of provision than best practice guidance suggests. The Town Centre has a

very good provision, which is particularly relevant as it is the location most easily accessed by public transport.





THRIVING COMMUNITIES

In order to ensure that the town is adequately provided with community facilities, the Local Plan will seek to protect the current provision, especially in light of the increasing pressure to deliver residential development within the built-up area. Any new community facilities should be capable of providing a floorspace extension of 50% in order to cater for increased community need in the future.

Communities have the right to ask the Council to designate assets that further the social well-being or social interests (cultural,

recreational, or sporting interests) of the local community as an Asset of Community Value. Once designated, the owner cannot dispose of the asset without giving the local community six months to raise funds to bid for the asset. Designation as an Asset of Community Value also removes certain permitted development rights and is a material consideration in determining a planning application. The Local Plan will seek to go further and provide a policy on resisting the loss of community uses that have been designated as an Asset of Community Value.

Direction of Travel

TC4: Community Facilities

To ensure appropriate provision of facilities for the community, the Local Plan will:

- Resist developments that would result in the loss of a community facility
- Require new community facilities to design in ability for possible future expansion
- Resist the loss of buildings and land designated as an Asset of Community Value

There has been a general trend of increased recycling and composting of household waste, with 8,457 tonnes of waste being recycled (22.7%) in 2017/18. However, the amount of household waste per head in Eastbourne has remained at a similar level over the last 10 years.

There are a range of facilities that can be included within new development to minimise the amount of domestic waste, including facilities for source separation and storage of waste for collection or on-site re-use, and greater home composting can also make a valuable contribution.

In order to encourage recycling, it is important that new development, particularly residential and development employing or attracting a large number of people, makes suitable provision for recycling facilities.

The presence of bins on the street can have a significant impact on the street scene and also cause a safety issues for pedestrians, so the Local Plan will require new development to make appropriate provision for bins.



Direction of Travel

TC5: Recycling

To encourage increase recycling rates, the Local Plan will:

- Require appropriate recycling facilities in new development
- Require provision of suitable bin space in new development

Local Service Centres

Local Service Centres, usually in the form of District, Local and Neighbourhood Shopping Centres, provide an important function for local communities by providing services and facilities in close proximity to where people live.

Most district, local and neighbourhood centres have a high proportion of retail uses, and the predominance of retail has been enforced by planning policy over recent years. However, there has been an increase in the amount of non-retail uses that have been seeking to locate to these centres.

Consideration needs to be given to whether these local service centres should retain a predominance of retail in order to reduce the amount of 'dead frontage' that would make the centre less attractive to shoppers so that ultimately it becomes less viable. Alternatively, a more flexible approach could be taken to uses in these centres to allow other employment and community uses to be located there to provide an increased range of services and facilities in an accessible location.

Options U: Local service centres

What approach should the Local Plan take to local services centres:

- a) Provide policies that retain a predominance of retail in local service centres; or
- b) A flexible approach to employment and community uses in local service centres

It is important that any new community infrastructure – doctors surgeries, dentists – are located in locations that are particularly

accessible by sustainable modes of travel. Local Service Centres provide suitable locations for the grouping of a variety of



THRIVING COMMUNITIES

uses in the heart of community, which could make sustainable transport provision more viable. However, there are limited opportunities for new development within and on the edge of these existing centres, which means that requiring community infrastructure to be located here could stifle additional provision or mean that they are

located in unsuitable premises. Alternatively, such provision could be required to be located within walking distance of a bus stop, or a more flexible approach could be taken to allow community infrastructure on the most available sites.

Options V: Community Infrastructure

Where should new community infrastructure be provided:

- a) New community infrastructure located within walking distance of a bus stop; or
- b) New community infrastructure located with designated local centre; or
- c) Flexible approach to location of new community infrastructure

Crime

The level of crime in Eastbourne had fallen quite significantly over the last 15 years, although it has increased recently in line with national trends.

The overall crime rate per 1,000 population (all recorded offences) in Eastbourne is higher than the national average. The majority of offences are related to theft, however the rate of theft offences (with the exception of shoplifting) are lower than national average.

According to a resident survey²⁵, 52% of people think that the level of crime is important in making somewhere a good place to live. However, just 18% think that the level of crime is an issue for their local area. The survey also indicates that the

²⁵ Eastbourne Borough Council, Eastbourne Resident Consultation Survey, 2015

feeling of community safety in Eastbourne is increasing, with 91% feeling safe when outside in their local area during the day and 62% after dark in 2015, compared to 88% and 50% respectively in 2008.

The NPPF requires planning policies to create healthy, inclusive and safe places where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion. Appropriate planning and the design of development can help to prevent certain types of crime and disorder, but it is important that the requirements made of development are proportionate and based on a clear understanding of the local situation. Consideration needs to be given to whether there needs to be specific policies that place a higher emphasis on requiring 'designing out crime principles' in new development.



Question 30: Designing out crime in new development

- Should the local plan place a higher emphasis on crime reduction and have locally relevant policies and criteria for designing out crime?

Access and Movement

It is estimated that there are 19,800 people with a disability in Eastbourne, which equates to approximately 20% of the total population. Therefore it is important that inclusive environments acknowledge diversity and difference that are created through good design, where the needs of everyone are considered.

In order to create safe and inclusive spaces, it is important that priority is given to

pedestrians within all new development, and the Local Plan will require this. Policies will also be prepared to ensure that development is in close proximity to public transport and is fully accessible by other forms of sustainable travel, that public spaces are designed to ensure they meet the needs of people with mobility problems and visual impairments, and that gradients within development are restricted to make it easier for people to access them.

Direction of Travel

TC6: Access and Movement

In order to ensure new development is accessible, the Local Plan will:

- Require pedestrian priority as part of all new developments
- Require safe pedestrian access to bus stops
- Restrict gradients in new development
- Encourage opportunities to improve disabled access to buildings and public spaces
- Ensure that new development is fully accessible by sustainable forms of transport