

**Consultation Response from the Nuffield Council on Bioethics
Scottish Planning Policy 3: Planning for housing**

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Responding	On behalf of a group or organisation
The name and address of your organisation will be made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government website). Are you also content for your response to be made available?	Yes
We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Government to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?	Yes
Comments	
<p>In November 2007 the Nuffield Council on Bioethics published <i>Public health: ethical issues</i>, which considers the ethical and social issues arising in relation to public health, illustrating the discussion by reference to case studies, including that of obesity, which raises a number of issues around planning policy. The report can be downloaded from http://www.nuffieldbioethics.org/go/ourwork/publichealth/introduction.</p> <p>The Council concluded that the state has a duty to help people lead a healthy life and to reduce inequalities. It proposes a 'stewardship model' (see paragraphs 2.41–2.45), which outlines how this can be justified and achieved, and an 'intervention ladder' (see paragraphs 3.37–3.38) as a way of thinking about the acceptability of different public health measures.</p> <p>In relation to planning policy, our report concluded that "planning decisions by central and local government should include the objectives of encouraging people to be physically active. This may entail some restrictions of people's freedoms, for instance to drive anywhere they wish to, but these restrictions would be justified in terms of public health benefits" (paragraph 5.32). We</p>	

therefore fully support the criteria in this consultative draft (p.94) of “Build[ing] opportunities for increased everyday physical activity (e.g. functional walking or cycling) into proposals for new or improved housing.”

We go on to recommend also that: “The training of architects and town planners should include measures for increasing people’s physical activity through the design of buildings and public spaces. This can be viewed as analogous to the recent incorporation of the study of energy efficiency and sustainability of buildings. The recommendation is directed to those who design training programmes, including the Architects Registration Board, the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Town Planning Institute. Planning regulations by local planning authorities should set requirements in this area” (paragraph 5.33).