

A cacophony of assessments – but where is health?

Dr Margaret Douglas
Scottish Health and Inequalities Impact
Assessment Network

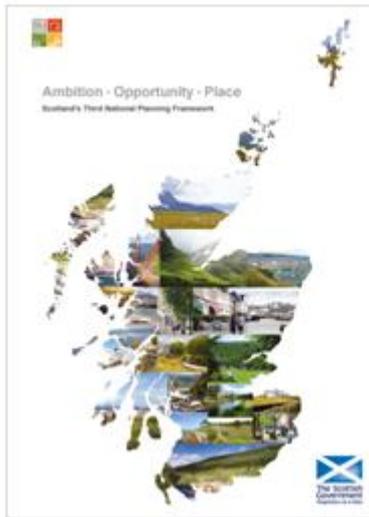
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A residential development



- How will it affect health of people living nearby?
- How will design affect health of new residents?
- How can you judge?





Scotland
Scottish Planning Policy
National Planning Framework



Region
Strategic Development Plan



Local Authority
Local Development Plan



Planning Applications

Scottish planning priorities

- *The Scottish Government's central purpose is to achieve a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through sustainable economic growth.*
- NPF 3 themes:
 - A successful sustainable place
 - A low carbon place
 - A natural, resilient place
 - A connected place

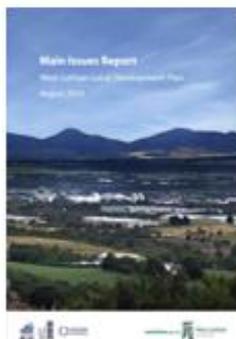




SEA
Equalities Impact Assessment
Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment
Consultation



SEA
Equalities +/- Rights Impact Assessment
Consultation



SEA
Equalities +/- Rights Impact Assessment
Habitat Regulations Appraisal
Consultation

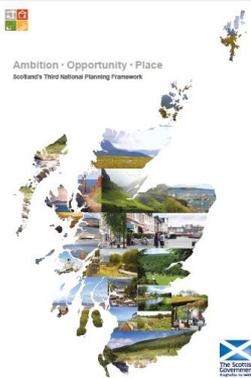


EIA
and/or
technical reports

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- EU regulations, national guidance
- Plans, policies, strategies
- Either in-house or commissioned

- Population and Human Health
- But often defined narrowly
- Consultation Authority for health is SEPA – focus on risks from air, water, soil pollution
- Often poor on differential impacts



SEA of NPF3

- Notes spatial nature of deprivation and impact on health
- Identifies as key health issues:
 - Planning for population change – flood risk, access, public transport
 - Physical environmental quality
 - Outdoor recreation
 - Access to services in remote rural areas
 - Location, layout and building design
- Has 2 SEA objectives for PHH

Equality Impact Assessment

- UK Equality Act
- Required for public bodies only
- Each organisation develops own guidance
- Usually in-house

- Differences by 'Protected Characteristics':
- Age, Disability, Gender, Maternity, Sexual orientation, Race, Religion – but not socio-economic status

Human Rights Impact Assessment

- UK Human Rights Act - Impact assessment not specified but increasingly used by public bodies
- Public bodies design own approach
- Often integrated into EQIA
- Often assess against articles in European Convention of Human Rights
- PANEL – participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment, legality

Chief Planner's advice on HIA

'The Scottish Government has no current intentions of putting Health Impact Assessments on a statutory footing

.... A number of planning authorities have, quite understandably, expressed concern about the challenges in implementing the new planning system. The introduction of Health Impact Assessments can only add to those challenges.'

Letter to all Heads of Planning in 2008

Environmental Assessment

- Specific project types
- EU regulations/ national guidance
- Usually commissioned

- Population – includes ‘effect of emissions, noise etc on health’
- Fauna and flora
- Soil, Water, Air
- Material assets
- Landscape

One application many assessments...

- Transport
- Noise
- Air quality
- Flood risk
- Ecological
- Archaeology
- Sustainability statement
- Tree removal plan





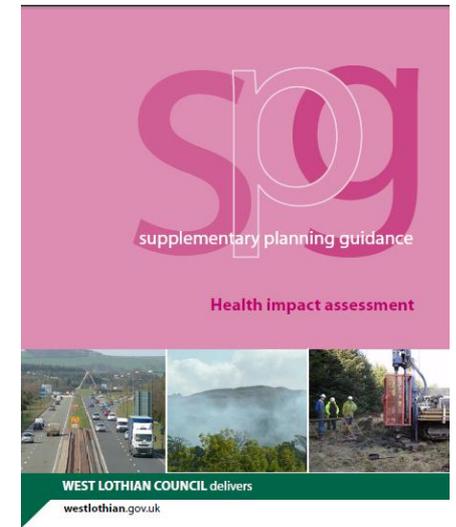
Advice on bats, buildings and burns...



- But no formal consultation authority for human health

West Lothian Supplementary Planning Guidance on HIA

- Introduced in 2008
- Followed an HIA of a large residential application
- Requires HIA of range of applications
- 1 HIA since 2008, limited evidence and no recommendations
- Uncertainty about how to appraise/ who to consult



A Planner's Life

**SG
requirements**

**Local policy
requirements**

**Delivery of
housing
land**



**Community
interests**

**Time to
decision -
targets**

**Potential
appeal**

**Developer
interests**

Abundant guidance and requirements

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) - West Lothian Council - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/SPG

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) - West Lothian Council

planning guidance.
developer contributions.
National Planning Policy

Developers

- Residential development guide (RDG) [1 Mb] 2013
- Single plot and small scale infill residential development in urban areas (how to avoid town cramming) [540kb] 2013
- Surface water management (including SUDS) - planning guidance for developers [393kb] 2012
- Provision for digital ducting within new development [293kb] 2010
- Construction training and local employment agreements [235kb] 2009
- Development on contaminated land [483kb] 2009
- West Lothian flood risk and drainage [555kb] 2008
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems for roads [1.3Mb] 2008
- Health impact assessment [349kb] 2008
- Delivering the next round of major housing developments in West Lothian [9Mb] 2003

Minor/other

- Planning for Nature: Development Management and Wildlife [4Mb] 2015
- Controlling light pollution [694kb] 2009
- Planning and noise [215kb] 2008
- Management and after use of soils on development sites [1 Mb] 2006
- West Lothian soil sustainability report [2Mb] 2004
- Mud on roads [1 Mb] 2003
- Tipping of builders' material [1.8kb] 2002
- Determination of radio telecommunications planning applications [3Mb] 2001
- Controlling the extraction of oil shale bings in West Lothian [2Mb] 1998
- Mobile snack bars [260kb] 1998

Related Documents

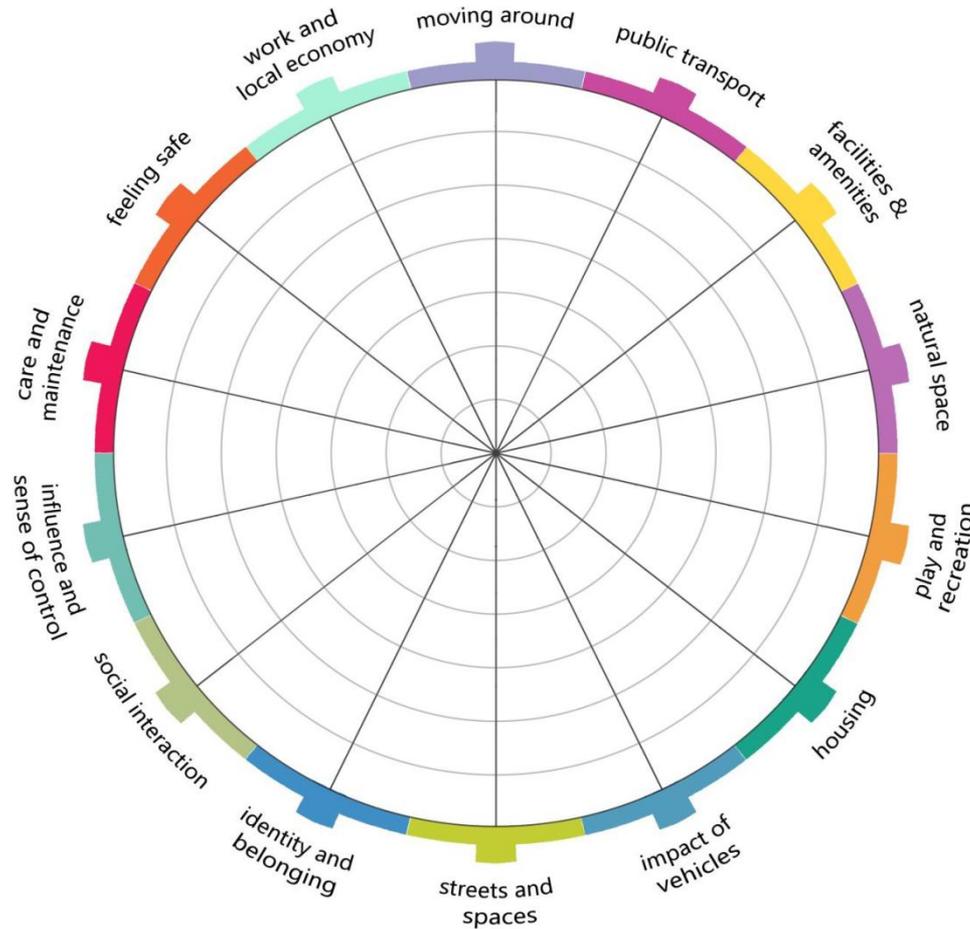
- SPG Landscape capacity Study for Wind Energy Development in West Lothian [4Mb] (subscribe)

Expand

Place Standard Tool



A tool to assist communities and professionals to assess the quality of places



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designing ACTION PLAN

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‘We ask about those things already – we just don’t call them health’

does this matter?

Overall...

- At policy level, focus is on promoting economic growth
- Applications have many relevant assessments ... but links to health not highlighted
- And other health determinants not considered
- Planning policy and planning applications need different approaches