

**Prospective  
Rapid Health Impact  
Assessment  
of  
Skelmersdale Town  
Centre Re-Design  
Proposals**

**January 2008**

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## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>What is Health Impact Assessment</b> Why do an HIA?	<b>3</b> <b>4</b>
<b>Purpose of this rapid Health Impact Assessment</b> Objectives Methods Timescales Geographical Boundaries Populations considered in the rHIA Principles / values for the rHIA Key elements of the proposal List of Stakeholders who attended the workshop on 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>4</b> <b>4</b> <b>5</b> <b>5</b> <b>5</b> <b>5</b> <b>6</b> <b>6</b>
<b>Proposals for the Re-design of Skelmersdale Town Centre</b> The Objectives of the Development: Key Elements of the Regeneration	 <b>7</b> <b>7</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Evidence to support specific recommendations</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendix 1 – Programme for the Workshop held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix 2 – Framework for Rapid Health Impact Assessment</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix 3 – Results of Workshop Evaluation</b>	<b>23</b>

# Recommendations from a Rapid Health Impact Assessment (rHIA) of Skelmersdale Town Centre Re-design Proposals

## Introduction

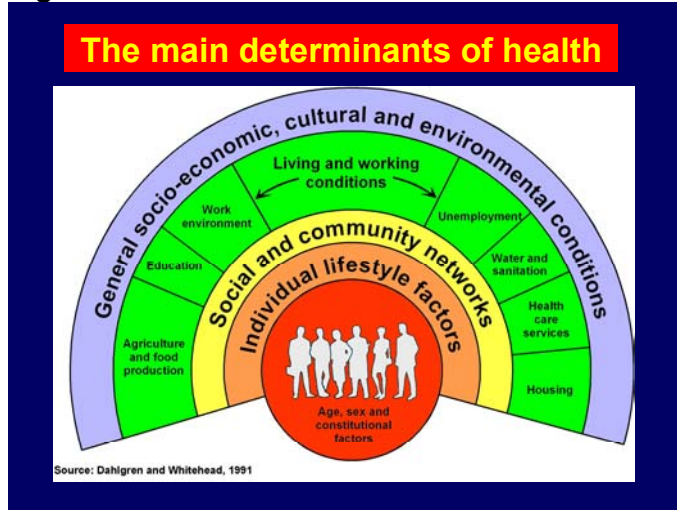
West Lancashire District Council adopted an innovative approach towards the proposals for the regeneration of Skelmersdale town centre by working with Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust to carry out a prospective rapid Health Impact Assessment. After scoping the aims and objectives of the Impact Assessment, a small panel of key stakeholders were invited together to conduct a one day assessment. This report identifies a number of recommendations arising from the workshop, set within an evidence based background where possible.

## What is Health Impact Assessment

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) can be defined as “the estimation of the effects of a specified action on the health of a defined population” (Scott-Samuel, 1998). A health impact assessment involves the examination of a policy, programme or project in terms of its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population. A rapid health impact assessment involves using existing evidence and does not involve any new data gathering activities. The importance of undertaking a health impact assessment stems from the recognition that health, defined as a ‘state of physical, mental and social well-being,’ is influenced by a range of factors from the physical and social environment, individual lifestyle and behaviours, and biological factors such as genetics, sex, and age.

Dahlgren and Whitehead (Whitehead, 1995) proposed a model built around “layers of influence, one on top of the other...” (figure 1). Whereas the inner core consists of factors which are “fixed” and therefore not modifiable (age, sex and hereditary factors), the surrounding layers could theoretically be modified. “Individual lifestyle factors” are the adopted behaviours and way of life that can have health-enhancing or health-damaging effects. Since, however, individuals interact with family, friends and others around them, their behaviour and way of life is influenced by wider social and community influences (next layer). Wider influences on an individual’s health is constituted by the living and working conditions, including access to essential services and facilities. Overarching all these layers is the set of economic, cultural and environmental conditions, many of which “have a bearing on every other layer.”

**Figure 1. Health as Part of the Wider Context**



**Why do an HIA?**

The key aim of conducting an HIA is to try to establish how a project or policy may impact, both positively and negatively, on the health of a given population.

The information gained from undertaking an HIA should be used by decision makers in order to minimise potential negative health impacts, while enhancing potential positive impacts across the population affected by the implementation of a policy / project. Thus at the heart of the HIA is the aim of influencing policy direction in order to reduce any health inequalities which may arise or be exacerbated due to the implementation of a policy / project.

**Purpose of this Rapid Health Impact Assessment**

- To outline the potential positive and negative health and well-being impacts for new and existing residents of Skelmersdale, based on proposals to redesign the town centre to include residential, retail and leisure development around the town centre.
- To indicate ways in which any negative impacts could be minimised and any potential positive impacts enhanced.

**Objectives**

- To review an existing profile of Skelmersdale town and the vulnerable groups who will be particularly affected by developments in the town/ on and around the proposed sites.
- To identify any local conditions and circumstances peculiar to Skelmersdale town and the potential health impacts associated with them.
- To consider the potential impacts of development in and adjacent to Skelmersdale to 2017 and beyond to 2027.

- To agree recommendations and report the rHIA in such a way as to inform the next stage of the Master planning process.

## **Methods**

This was a prospective Rapid Health Impact Assessment (rHIA), comprising a desk-top appraisal, written report and presentation of existing area profile data; consideration of the results from a consultation report with local residents carried out in the summer of 2007 (full report available to view at <http://www.westlancsdc.gov.uk/pdf/forms/index.cfm?cl=2549&cls=42>) and a full day Stakeholder Workshop held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007. The programme for the day included a one hour overview of the process of Health Impact Assessment delivered by IMPACT who pioneered the methodology – see Appendix 1 for an outline of the programme, Appendix 2 for the Framework used for the rHIA and Appendix 3 showing the results from stakeholder evaluation of the workshop day.

## **Timescale**

The aim was to complete the rHIA before a draft masterplan was put in place, and therefore give the opportunity to put forward recommendations which may be added into the final masterplanning process. It is anticipated that a draft masterplan document will be ready in early 2008 and the recommendations made in this report can be considered by West Lancashire District Council planners.

## **Geographical Boundaries**

The rHIA focused on proposed developments in the town of Skelmersdale. The town centre covers an area of 98ha and includes the Concourse Shopping Centre, the Asda Supermarket, Skelmersdale College, Skelmersdale Library, Nye Bevan Swimming Pool, Skelmersdale Police Station, Whelmar House and the residential estate of Firbeck.

## **Populations considered in the rHIA**

The rHIA considered the potential new population of the growth areas concerned, based on the profile of the existing population of Skelmersdale town, as well as existing residents. Impacts on the populations of areas of deprivation were considered.

## **Principles / values for the rHIA**

The rHIA was based on a broad definition of health, acknowledging the overarching importance of biological, lifestyle, social, environmental, public service and policy influences on health, as set out in Figure 1 above.

In addition, the following values underpin the rHIA:

- **Sustainability:** The proposed developments constitute urban growth on greenfield sites. It is important to strike a balance wherever possible although it is recognised that a town centre development of this kind will favour greater improvements both economically and socially rather than environmentally (particularly in relation to the loss of open space within the town centre). It is therefore important that the all remaining open space and environmental features within the town centre, such as the Tawd valley are enhanced and valued by the people of Skelmersdale.
- **Reduction of health inequalities:** The Independent Inquiry into Inequalities in Health Report, Acheson 1998 recommended that: ‘As part of health impact assessment, all policies likely to have a direct or indirect impact on health should be evaluated in terms of their impact on health inequalities, and should be formulated in such a way that by favouring the less well off they will, wherever possible, reduce such inequalities’.
- **Health protection:** The rHIA endeavours to highlight potential negative health impacts and consider ways of mitigating these.
- **Accessibility:** The rHIA aims to highlight potential impacts on inclusiveness and accessibility for people of all ages and with a range of physical and sensory abilities
- **Health improvement:** The HIA endeavours to highlight opportunities for the developments to impact positively on the health of the relevant communities, as well as identifying potential negative impacts

### **Key elements of the proposal**

Scoping identified the following issues to be considered in the HIA:

- Proposals for specific services are not yet developed, and were addressed in the rHIA only in broad general terms.
- Possible impacts on services in adjacent areas also need to be broadly considered – for example, if new services are built in the new areas, what will happen to existing services, and how will this impact on inequalities in health and the wider determinants of health?

### **List of Stakeholders who attended the workshop on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007:**

- ❖ West Lancashire District Council, Planning and Leisure Services
- ❖ Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust – Public Health, Community Engagement, Equality & Diversity
- ❖ West Lancashire CVS
- ❖ Lancashire County Council (District Partnership Officer)
- ❖ Skelmersdale & Ormskirk College (invited but unable to attend)
- ❖ Skelmersdale Library (Lancashire County Council)
- ❖ St Modwen Properties Plc Developer (invited but unable to attend)

## **Proposals for the Re-design of Skelmersdale Town Centre**

### **The Objectives of the Development:**

1. Reconnecting the town centre and the community through the building of new roads and footpaths.
2. An increase in the number of residents within the town centre and a mix of residential accommodation available.
3. The making of Skelmersdale into a residential, leisure, shopping and recreational destination of choice, reflecting its status as a regional centre within the North West.
4. The creation of high quality, cutting edge designs that will create a vibrant and contemporary town centre.
5. Accessible parks and open space around the town centre for the people of Skelmersdale.

### **Key Elements of the Regeneration:**

#### **1. Shopping and Leisure**

In the central area of town there will be a new high street with a range of shopping, leisure and community facilities. This will include a new library, leisure centre, community centre and college. We need to consider where these should be built. Some new housing development is also proposed for the central area to provide a greater range of housing within Skelmersdale.

It is proposed that the new high street could potentially run between Asda and the Concourse, which are currently the busiest parts of the town centre. Part of the plans for the town centre could also include an additional supermarket to provide greater choice for residents and visitors to Skelmersdale. A hotel is also being proposed along with new shopping outlets, café's and bars. A cinema is also suggested.

#### **2. Housing**

New housing will be built in the town centre. This in part will finance the new community and leisure facilities and will ensure that Skelmersdale town centre is a vibrant place to be, offering a range of different types of housing to attract people to live there.

Development may have to take place in the following areas

- Open land around the Town Centre area
- On land close to the Tawd Valley.

There is also an opportunity for the existing properties at Firbeck to be remodelled/ improved or for the estate to be redeveloped as part of the Town Centre proposals.

This could include the following options:

- Redevelop the site as part of the overall Town Centre plan
- Remodel and improve the existing housing at Firbeck
- Leave the housing at Firbeck as it is.

### **3. Transport / Access**

The new high street will be the main route through the town centre and as such, we need to consider whether traffic should be allowed onto the high street.

Options include:

- Cars and buses allowed at all times
- Cars and buses allowed at off-peak times
- Only buses at all times, cars restricted to off-peak
- Fully pedestrianised - no cars or buses allowed.

There are advantages to allowing traffic along the high street, for example it helps people reach the town centre easily, by bus or car. Allowing all traffic, particularly at off-peak times, could ensure that the town centre remains busy into the evening. Of course, people's safety is the top priority. The bus station at the Concourse could be upgraded as part of the project, or alternatively, it could be moved to another location in the town centre.

### **4. Environmental - Tawd Valley**

The Tawd Valley is a valuable environmental asset and should be improved. The area within the Valley nearest to the town centre needs to be cleaned up in order to make it safer and more accessible. The northern areas of the Tawd Valley, beyond the town centre, are of higher ecological value and should be protected from development.

Options include:

- To clean up the Tawd Valley but not improve access
- Improve access for pedestrians and cyclists
- To include specialised activities, such as ropewalks, within the valley to create a country park.

Improving access to the Tawd Valley will provide outdoor recreational space for residents and visitors. Some trees may have to be removed and this will make the area safer, particularly at night.

## Recommendations arising from Health Impact Assessment

### Construction

- Before and during construction phase– opportunity for a big publicity campaign to attract potential businesses from outside the area
- Ensure good and safe access to town Centre, whilst construction ongoing.
- Use local labour and skills
- Heavy goods vehicles should use routes away from current residential areas

### Leisure and Community Centre

- Ensure good design – an attractive, sustainable, energy efficient, clean building – will have a psychologically uplifting impact
- Ensure Crèche facilities at the centre
- Ensure Special mother and child and disabled parking spaces
- Ensure access for all communities including disabled
- Work with PCT to create opportunities for health promotion
- Ensure there are facilities within centre for promotion of Healthy lifestyles including diet and exercise, safer drinking, smoking
- Include student offers
- Offers to people on low incomes, lone mothers, older people
- Include a strong “youth offer” in the form of varied diversionary activities. Fact: approximately a quarter (24%) of population of people living in the 7 wards of Skelmersdale are under 15 years of age. (2001 Census).
- Encourage students to use leisure facilities for enrichment activities
- Take into consideration the varied needs of people with different disabilities as this will save money in the long run from having alterations later and will ensure that the disabled will not be discriminated against in employment or participation.
- Go beyond minimum DDA requirements (i.e., have lifts into pools)
- Local communities could make suggestions as to what facilities they would like at the leisure/community centre as this will not only encourage participation but may also protect against vandalism from a small minority who may feel excluded.
- Ensure the building design is as energy efficient as possible
- Ensure that good quality public transport is available to the leisure/community centre from all areas of Skelmersdale.
- Employ local people
- Longer opening times in line with evening entertainment

### Second super market, retail, bars and restaurants

- Concourse to review rental charges for potential shopping outlets to let
- Ensure new supermarket does not impact on the new retail outlets
- Attract retail outlets that cater outside what is sold in supermarkets (i.e., beauty therapy (can be linked to college courses) DIY).

- Ensure the new retail outlets and restaurants do not promote fast foods only and promote health eating options too. Potential link with Skelmersdale Community Food Initiative.
- Promote Fairtrade products within the town.
- Existing and new supermarket to ensure they provide healthy eating choices (consider possible input from local PCT)
- Well lit areas for evening
- Ensure safety measures in place (i.e., CCTV appropriate places)
- Child friendly restaurants
- Bars and restaurants to link with local PCT and police around safer drinking and alcohol related crime.
- Improve and enhance the night time environment in Skelmersdale Town centre with particular attention to the recommendations set out in the *Nightlife in Lancashire: licensing development and planning initiatives* report published by the Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University in November 2007. (Morleo et al)
- Fact: Synthetic estimates of binge drinking are concentrated in the Skelmersdale (22.6%) area of West Lancashire. Birch Green, Digmoor and Moorside have the three highest estimates of adult binge drinking.
- Teenage pregnancy rates are highest in areas of social deprivation.
- Shatterproof glasses, bottles and vessels used in bars
- Designate the High Street as an Alcohol Free Zone
- Support a Drink Aware Campaign
- Staggering of opening times for licences premises
- Aim to plan the development to avoid disruption from people walking past residential areas after a “night on the town”.

### **Transport / access**

- Ensure that good quality public transport is available to the new developments (Leisure Centre, High Street, new Supermarket) from all areas of Skelmersdale. When planning permission is being sought, it is recommended that environmental and traffic impact assessments take into consideration measures to reduce and monitor accidents, air and noise pollution.
- Fact: One in three households in Skelmersdale don't have access to a vehicle, compared to 1 in 5 for West Lancashire. In Tanhouse nearly 5 in 10 or half of the households have no cars or vans.
- High St could be pedestrian friendly (in the middle section) with access to new housing. Possibility of reduced speed limits on surrounding roads, including traffic calming measures and defined areas for vehicular access. Consider one way arrangements.
- Provision of “Easy Access” toilet facilities, aimed at people with a range of needs (not designated solely as a toilet for people with disabilities, although fully accessible for people with mobility problems).
- For the high street –consideration given to area beyond the boundary of plan to develop further cycle roads and pedestrian access from outside the plan area (to avoid segregation).

- Encourage exercise through walking and cycling by the investment of clearly signed, safe and attractive cycle routes. Include cycle lanes and areas for mobility scooters

## **Housing**

- Ensure new housing is affordable
- Firbeck Housing Estate – ensure effective community development support is provided for residents to involve them fully in decisions about the future of the estate. Adopt a multi-agency approach to the best solution for Firbeck, supporting residents in any transition.
- Mixed tenure
- Housing constructed to meet national housing standards.
- Consult local residents around housing need
- If possible have shared ownership schemes to assist young people onto property ladder, especially single parents.
- Ensure that the new town housing is linked to existing communities
- Ensure energy efficient measures as part of planning stage for developer
- Some housing to consider needs of disabled people, eg Lifetime Homes.
- Housing design to include opportunities for children to play in safe surroundings.
- Affordable heating system in houses.
- Use local skills and labour during construction phase
- Ensure there are recycling facilities for both commercial and household waste within the town centre. Ensure use of wheelie bins for maximum public health.

## **Tawd Valley**

- Ensure it is safer for children (i.e., around the water area)
- Ensure good lighting
- Ensure places of concealment for a potential offender (trees, shrubs and walls) are made safer
- Dangerous areas, which might be vulnerable to criminal activity and accidents, should be eliminated. Community safety advice could be sought by the developers
- Possible opportunity for space for outside performances linked to college and local artists
- Possibility of having a Cafe Bar
- Opportunity for a small farm or country park with potential to attract visitors.
- Encourage exercise through walking and cycling by the investment of clearly signed, safe and attractive cycle routes. Include cycle lanes and areas for mobility scooters
- Development of an attractive cycleway and walkway to encourage physical activity
- Ensure adequate number of litterbins to reduce potential of increased litter on the site.

- Support interest and local investment through guided tours and educational visits from schools and groups with ranger input (same model as for Beacon Country Park).

### **Employment & Training**

- For all retail outlets, Leisure Centre and restaurants ensure affordable access to local people, particularly the unemployed and others on low income.
- Consider with partners, additional provision of childcare facilities within the town centre to support families back into employment. (There are a high number and proportion of lone parent households in Skelmersdale / Up Holland in 2001 Census).
- Link with further educational establishments and business sector to ensure local people are given the skills required for both the construction and development phases and ongoing employment opportunities when the development is complete. This could include basic adult education and support for volunteering activities.
- The developers could work closely with the training agencies so that local people will have right skills for employment and enable them to use their skills (during and after construction phase)
- Every effort should be made to encourage local people to be employed during construction and the operation of the development
- Part time work would be also be useful for parents of young children
- If local further education college was made aware of the employment opportunities it could ensure that local people have the relevant skills and training
- Local people could be encouraged to set up their own business, i.e., crèche facilities, cleaning

### **Community Development Activity**

- Facilities for community members to meet (perhaps within existing provision from the College or Leisure).
- Support from CVS and other agencies to support community development activity eg social enterprises
- Provision of community gardens and / or raised beds.
- Green gym within the heart of the community
- Community approach to the management of Tawd Valley (rather than external management company). For example a social enterprise could manage site.
- Promote civic spaces including art, street furniture, plants and focal points as places where people can meet.
- Promote festivals and events within the town centre.

### **Security and public safety**

- Ensure superior lightening
- CCTV
- Visible presence of security personnel

## Overall

The proposed development will

- Promote mental well being
- Increase job opportunities
- Boost local economy
- Bring new businesses to the area
- Attract inward economic investment from major employers
- Offer a range of new and affordable housing options
- Improve the leisure and retail offer of the town
- Potential to greatly enhance the prosperity and reputation of the town.
- Potential to reduce poverty, through greater access to training and employment.
- Potential to impact negatively on issues around harmful alcohol consumption –requires multi-agency proactive responses.
- Improving and enhancing the night time environment for all sectors of the community is important to sustain the long term future of the town – a real opportunity exists for multi-agency working to plan and develop a positive night time offer.
- Potential to develop opportunities for community development and promote community cohesion and wellbeing.
- Potential to impact positively on wider determinants of health, with long term health gains for those living in the most deprived areas – again a multi-agency approach is recommended in order to maximise opportunities for achieving such health gains.

**Evidence to support specific recommendations**

***Recommendations***

- 1. Access by all communities to leisure and community centre**
- 2. Development of attractive walk and cycle ways in Tawd Valley and high street**
- 3. Face-lift of Tawd-valley**

**Evidence:**

Ensuring accessible Leisure Centre to all communities, designing an attractive cycle way and walk way and Tawd Valley face-lift could encourage people to undertake greater physical activity, particularly if there was a pleasant landscape site (Tawd Valley). There is irrefutable evidence of the effectiveness of regular physical activity in the primary and secondary prevention of several chronic diseases (e.g., cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, hypertension, obesity, depression and osteoporosis) and premature death (Warburton, 2006).

Leisure Centre targeting increased access by disabled and older people could have a positive health impact on those with chronic conditions (Sawatzky et al., 2007).

Face lift of Tawd Valley could also provide a place in the community for physical activity and recreation and support physical and mental well being. The association between green open spaces and community centres and mental well-being is well documented (Guite et al., 2006).

***Recommendation***

**Working with PCT to create opportunities for health promotion (within the community centre) could have positive health effects.**

**Evidence:**

Effective Health Promotion can lead to individual behavioural changes in determinants of health (Mason et al., 2006; Bunde-Birouste, 2002)

***Recommendation***

**High St could be pedestrian friendly (in the middle section) with access to house owners**

**Evidence:**

Walkers and cyclists in traffic are exposed to accidental injury, noise, pollution and stress (Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, 1997)

***Recommendation***

**Ensure that good quality public transport is available to the new developments**

**Evidence:**

Improved public transport should lead to improved access to people and facilities fundamental to health, such as family and friends, shops, parks and leisure facilities, and health care (Acheson, 1998).

If transport is made more affordable than at present, this would release resources which might be used for health promoting activities and goods (Acheson, 1998).

***Recommendation***

**Traffic calming effects on new High street**

**Evidence:**

Environmental modification of existing roads or design of new roads which has the effect of "traffic calming" reduces speed of traffic and, by effectively excluding heavy goods vehicles, also reduces noise pollution (Department of Transport, 1996)

***Recommendation***

**Existing and new supermarket to ensure they provide healthy eating choices (consider possible input from local PCT)**

**Evidence:**

The protective effects of fruit and green vegetables in the prevention of cancer and coronary heart disease are well documented (Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy, 1994; World Cancer Research Fund/American Cancer Research Fund, 1997).

***Recommendation***

**Every effort should be made to encourage local people to be employed during construction and the operation of the development**

**Evidence:**

Employment will increase psychological well being as well as chances of a better lifestyle in terms of diet and more social contacts. Unemployed people are found to have lower levels of psychological well-being, ranging from symptoms of depression and anxiety to self-harm (Bartley, 1994; Shortt, 1996). Unemployment is the single most important cause of poverty in UK (Dean, 1993).

***Recommendation***

**Ensure superior lightening in town centre and Tawd valley and reduce places of concealment in Tawd valley**

**Evidence:**

Reduced visibility from inadequate lighting and places of concealment for an offender (trees, shrubs, walls) are associated with fear of crime (Painter, 1996; Nasar, 1992).

***Recommendation***

**Community/leisure centre**

**Ensure good design – an attractive, sustainable, energy efficient, clean building – will have a psychologically uplifting impact**

**Evidence:**

Certain police schemes such as “secure by design” as well as health and safety regulations attempt to reduce environment associate fear of crime (Ekholm,1995).

***Recommendation***

***CCTV and other measures to reduce antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related crime***

**Evidence:**

Anti-social behaviour by youths, perceptions of deterioration, such as litter on streets and vandalism are also associated with fear of crime ((Miethe, TD., Fear and withdrawal from urban life. The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social science, 1995; 539:14-19).

19% of all violent incidents in the UK occur outside a pub or a club and 40% of all (Kershaw et al.,, 2000). Alcohol is strongly related to crime and disorder: particularly violence, anti-social behaviour, public disorder and drink driving (Hughes, et al., 2004).

## **Recommendation**

### **Improving the Night Time Environment in Skelmersdale Town Centre**

**It is recommended that recommendations suggested by Morleo et al (2007) in the Nightlife in Lancashire report are considered for both planning and local licensing considerations. Key recommendations from this report are set out below.**

#### **Local licensing recommendations**

- Police should be able to see all personal licence applications. Even if they cannot object, they should be aware of all applications in case of relevant concerns particularly in areas where there is a high turnover of industry staff. Lead agency: Licensing Authorities
- Where possible, licensing authorities and Social Services should consider creating a system such as in Blackpool whereby Social Services can easily access personal licence details, particularly where there is a high turnover of industry staff. Where this is not feasible, Social Services should consider running checks on the premises licence holder and the DPS, and raise awareness of any concerns. Lead agency: Licensing Authorities & Social Services
- The PCT should consider if a Lancashire personal licence database can be set up if not viable nationally. Lead Agency: PCTs or other relevant authority
- PCTs should continue to influence licensing by working with responsible authorities, for example by providing data and raising awareness of licensing issues and good practice (e.g. via regular workshops or reports). Lead agency: PCTs
- Conditions attached to licences should be enforceable and objective, for example a maximum noise level is easier to enforce than inaudibility at a certain distance. Lead Agency: Responsible authorities, Licensing Authorities & Committees
- Authorities from three different areas reported a downturn in their NTE. Although nightlife can play an important economic role, authorities should be wary of being too flexible in their management of the licensing trade. Responsible authorities, Licensing Authorities & Committees
- Authorities should spread examples of best practice through groups such as the Lancashire Licensing Forum. Lead agency: Licensing Authorities
- The PCT should consider commissioning research amongst residents and licensees to assess the impacts of the Licensing Act on them.

### **Planning recommendations**

- It is important to improve understanding of the issues in the NTE amongst Planning and Regeneration, and help to develop solutions e.g. via involvement in multi-agency visits to licensed premises. Lead agencies: Planning Authorities, Police & Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)
- Partnership working needs to be developed further between Planning, Community Safety, the Police, Licensing and other relevant bodies to develop understanding for all those involved. Lead Agencies: PCTs, CDRPs & other relevant authorities
- The PCT should consider organising a workshop with Community Safety, Police and Planning officers to share expertise, develop stronger partnership working and establish a shared vision for town centre planning. Lead Agency: PCTs
- Planning should become more involved in licensing and use licensing conditions to improve the NTE. Licensing conditions are more flexible than planning permissions and could prove extremely useful in dynamic environments such as the NTE.
- Planning should consider whether changes of use for premises from retail to licensed premises are viable by considering the impacts on their local area both in the day and night. Lead Agency: Planning Authorities
- Planning should build on the examples of best practice and suggestions identified in Table 1 in the report to develop a more sustainable and safer NTE. Lead Agency: Planning & Licensing Authorities, local Community Safety teams/CDRPs
- Planning should promote a range of culturally diverse activities in the NTE which invite different populations into town centres at night.

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<b>Appendix 1 – Programme for the Workshop held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007</b>
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## Rapid Health Impact Assessment Workshop

### Skelmersdale Town Centre Re-Design

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007, 9.45am to 4.30pm at Skelmersdale Library, Southway, WN8 6NL

### Programme

9.45am	<b>Arrival, refreshments</b>
10.00am	<b>Welcome, introductions and outline of the day; housekeeping</b> – Davina Parr, Public Health Programme Manager, Central Lancs PCT
10.10am	<b>Introduction to Health Impact Assessment methodology</b> – IMPACT (International Health Impact Assessment Consortium)  The consortium is made up of the <a href="#">Department of Public Health</a> at The University of Liverpool and individuals from various institutions, early pioneers of HIA.  For more information visit the website: <a href="http://www.ihia.org.uk/">http://www.ihia.org.uk/</a>
10.40am	<b>Case Study / the process - IMPACT</b>
11.10am	Refreshment break
11.20am	<b>Health and wellbeing profile of Skelmersdale</b> – Farha Abbas, Public Health Programme Manager, Central Lancs PCT
11.50am	<b>Overview of proposed development</b> – West Lancs District Council Planning Department / St Mowden developers  For the latest information about the development and the results of a public consultation refer to this website: <a href="http://www.westlancsdc.gov.uk/yourviews/index.cfm?ccs=145&amp;cs=3907">http://www.westlancsdc.gov.uk/yourviews/index.cfm?ccs=145&amp;cs=3907</a>
12.30pm	<b>Stage 1 - Group work briefing</b> – Davina Parr
1.00pm	Lunch and chance to walk the site
1.45pm	<b>Stage 2</b> – What elements of the development will impact on the health and wellbeing of affected population groups? Group work
2.45pm	<b>Stage 3</b> – Discuss and record the potential positive and negative health impacts – what is the scale / severity of those impacts? Group work
3.45pm	<b>Stage 4</b> – Identify recommendations which arise from discussions
4.00pm	<b>Stage 5</b> - Feedback and agreement of key recommendations
4.20pm	Agree key actions from today; evaluation and close.

**Appendix 2 – Framework for Rapid Health Impact Assessment.**

**Framework for Rapid Health Impact Assessment**

Activity or element of the regeneration	Population group affected	Predicted Health impacts		Comments / recommendations
		Positive – beneficial impacts	Negative – adverse effects	

**(Measurability:** Q=qualitative; E=estimable; C=calculable **Risk of Impact:** D=definite; P=Probable; S=speculative)

**Appendix 3 – Results of rHIA Workshop Evaluation**



**RAPID HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT**  
**SKELMERSDALE TOWN CENTRE REDESIGN**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

**EVALUATION RESULTS**

1. **WERE THE OBJECTIVES AGREED AND MADE CLEAR IN ADVANCE?**  
 (Scale: 1 = poor 5 = excellent – please circle)

1 2 3 4 5

**Responses:** 28% scored 4  
 72% scored 5 (excellent)

2. **HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE VENUE? (Scale: 1 = poor 5 = excellent – please circle)**

1 2 3 4 5

**Responses:** 14% scored 3  
 72% scored 4  
 14% scored 5

3. **HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE SESSIONS? (Scale: 1 = poor 5 = excellent – please circle)**

**Introduction to HIA (IMPACT)** 42% scored 4; 58% scored 5

**Case Study / the process (IMPACT)** 14% scored 2; 28% scored 4; 56% scored 4

**Profile of Skelmersdale** 28% scored 4; 72% scored 5

**Overview of development** 28% scored 4; 72% scored 5

**Group work sessions** 14% scored 3; 14% scored 4; 72% scored 5

**Comments:**

Group work session was good but could have been more focused on “health”  
 Great day – lots of thought into the future of Skelmersdale

**4. WERE YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF THE DAY MET?**

YES

100%

NO

NOT SURE

Comments:

And more

**5. WHAT WAS THE MOST USEFUL PART OF THE DAY?**

- Group work in particular – helped put all other info into place
- All
- Initial HIA project outline
- Discussions about effects of proposals and walk about the plan
- HIA will help me to introduce equality impact assessments at the PCT. The walk was useful to visually note the proposed changes. Also the workshop.
- Workshop and walk of area.

**6. WHAT WAS THE LEAST USEFUL PART OF THE DAY?**

- All useful
- None
- None
- None
- None

**7. HOW COULD THE DAY BE IMPROVED?**

- Would have liked a local resident
- Very good day no changes needed.
- Possibly a few more non PCT people attending?
- Longer time to conduct assessment, less time on theory.