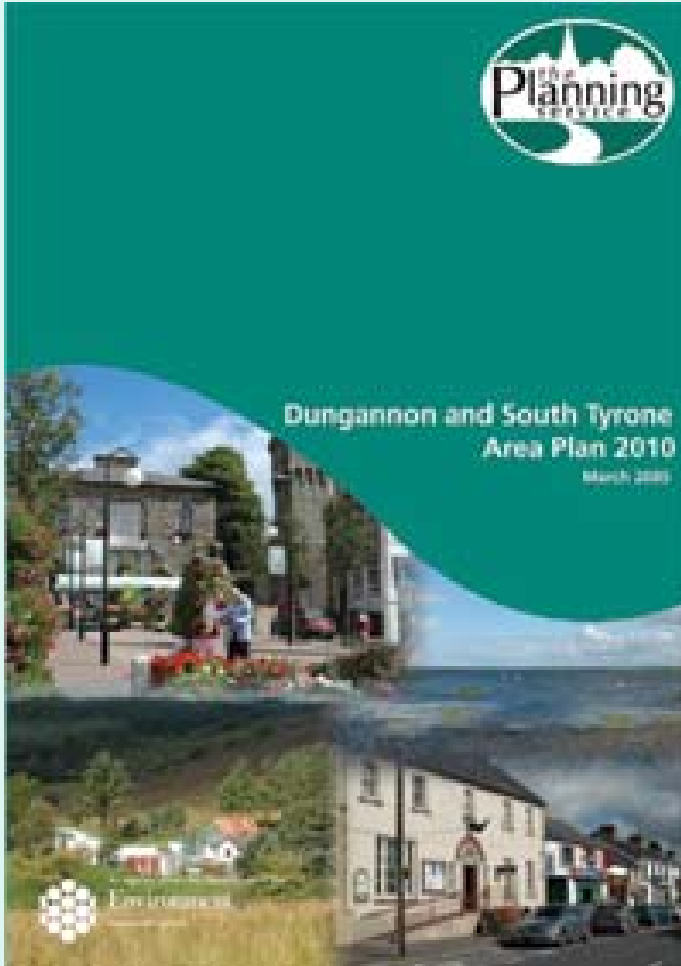


HEALTH IMPACT
ASSESSMENT
IN
DEVELOPMENT PLANS

DR CHRIS BOOMER

The Role of Development Plans



Framework for guiding investment by public, private and community sectors and help harness additional resources through collaboration in tackling problems.

Provide confidence for those wishing to develop and those affected by development proposals;

Establish a framework for positive co-ordination of public policies in joined-up government at both regional and local levels;

Provide an effective land supply phased and allocated to meet the full range of needs to support the life of the local community and social and economic progress; and

Establish a process for involvement and ownership by local communities wishing to influence the future development of their area.

Legislative Framework



Planning (NI) Order 1991 as subsequently amended e.g.. Planning (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

Planning (Development Plans) Regulations (NI) 1991 as subsequently amended i.e.. Planning (Development Plans) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 1994.

The legislation provides a framework for the content and requires general conformity with the Regional Development Strategy.

It also sets out basic consultation requirements for plan preparation

REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Northern Ireland Act 1998

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

RURAL PROOFING

- Required by the Regional Assembly

INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Required by the Regional Assembly



- Regional Development Strategy
 - A strategy based on gateways, hubs and corridors
 - Housing Growth Indicators
- Planning Policy Statements
 - Housing in Settlements (PPS12)
 - Rural policy (Draft PPS14)
 - Quality Housing (PPS7)
 - Industry and Business Uses (PPS4)
 - Retail and town centres (PPS5)
 - Recreation and Open Space (PPS8)
 - Natural Heritage (PPS2)
 - Built Heritage (PPS 6)
- Supplementary Planning Guidance
- Ministerial Statements

CONTENT OF A PLAN

CONSISTS OF

- a map (ordinance survey base)
- a written statement formulating, in such detail, as

The topic areas that it may address include : -

- Population.
- Employment.
- Housing.
- Industry and commerce,
- Transportation,
- Shopping,
- Education,
- Health and personal social services,
- Social and community services,
- Recreation and leisure,
- Conservation and landscape.
- Utility services
- Minerals.
- Any other relevant matters

DO THESE HAVE HEALTH IMPACTS ?

PRODUCT OR PROCESS ?



PROBLEMS TO APPLYING HIA TO DEVELOPMENT PLANS

- Plans are all encompassing and cover a wide range of issues
- Competing interests – health needs wealth, health needs recreation and open space, health needs quality housing, etc
- Needs to be done in a reasonable time frame
- Plans remain confidential until Draft is published
- Planners may become Impact Assessment weary and see this as another stick to be beaten

Health Impact Assessment Guidance or Hindrance?



AN EMPIRICAL BASIS

- Needs to be based on empirical research
- Needs to be professional interpretation and not political opinion

FRONT LOADED

- Needs to identify actions before decisions are made
- Needs to assess strategies rather than specific proposals

MONITORED

- Needs to monitor actual impacts to improve future assessments