

Health Impact Assessment

A Screening Tool for the GLA

Strategic Level

DRAFT – FOR PILOTING

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Overview

The tool provides a quick and systematic way of identifying key ways in which a particular GLA policy or strategy may affect the health of the people of London.

In particular, it will help you decide whether or not further health appraisal is needed on the policy.

If you decide that further appraisal is not needed, you may still want to draw on existing evidence and expertise to describe the health impacts associated with the policy.

Whichever decision you make, you will find it useful to share your findings with colleagues who have a health remit.

How to use the tool

The screening tool consists of a series of questions in two main parts and designed to be completed in sequence.

Part A begins by helping to clarify or re-state the relative importance of the policy and to identify which groups it might affect. It then goes on to address the potential impacts on health. Questions 7 and 8 are likely to demand particular attention.

Part B begins by summarising your responses to earlier questions, to help you decide whether or not further health appraisal is needed. Depending on the information and knowledge available to you, you should be able to come to a decision about the use of further health appraisal and/or be in a better position to assess whether further evidence or analysis are required to make a judgement.

Each part ends with 'Where do you go from here?', enabling you to summarise decisions and points for action.

What you will need

You will need the following information and knowledge to complete the screening tool:

- Documentation for the policy or strategy – the most recent version is advisable and preferably this should contain aims, objectives and intended outcomes
- The London Health Strategy
- Knowledge of, or access to knowledge of, the evidence relating to health impacts that might arise in relation to the particular strategy topic
- Knowledge of, or access to knowledge of, the results of HIAs on similar policies or strategies.

You will also need a clear twenty minutes or so to work through the questions.

The role of HIA screening at a strategic level in the GLA – at a glance

What is screening?

- Screening is the first stage in health impact assessment (HIA).
- If you would like to know more about HIA, see 'A short guide to Health Impact Assessment' on website www.london.health.gov.uk
- Screening acts as a selection process during which policies are quickly assessed for their potential to affect the health of a population.
- For the GLA, screening is a systematic way of deciding whether it is worth carrying out further health appraisal on a GLA policy. If, after screening, it has been decided that there is a value in undertaking further appraisal, the results of screening provide a foundation for the second step in HIA, known as 'scoping' or 'setting the terms of reference'.

Who does it?

In principle, screening can be undertaken by any one individual. However, given the broad nature of GLA strategies and policies, screening is likely to produce better quality outputs if more than one individual is involved.

For the GLA, screening will probably be undertaken by officers of the GLA and members of the London Health Commission, with reference to relevant Committees of the GLA. Screening will thus take place within the context of a wider, multi-agency process.

What happens after screening?

Two types of decision – and the main reasons for each – are likely to arise from screening, as set out below:

In favour of further appraisal – pass to your colleagues with a health remit. They will initiate stage 2 (scoping).

- The potential health impacts are judged to be unknown, complex, serious, and/or experienced disproportionately by vulnerable, marginalised or disadvantaged groups in the population.
- The policy is important to the organisation/partnership.
- HIA is seen as offering a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations about a policy about which there are community concerns.

Not in favour of further appraisal – again, pass to your colleagues with a health remit. They will not initiate stage 2 (scoping), but will note your findings.

- The potential health impacts associated with the policy are judged to be negligible.
- The potential health impacts are judged to be well known, as are the ways in which negative impacts can be eliminated or ameliorated, and/or positive impacts can be enhanced.

[Design note. Insert flow chart here]

Part A What are the key features of the policy?

How important is the policy?

1 How important is the policy in relation to fulfilling the statutory duties of the Greater London Authority (GLA)?

Please circle the appropriate numbers.

GLA Duty	<i>Important</i>			<i>Not important</i>		
Economic	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Social	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Environmental	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>

2 How important is the policy in relation to current health priorities in the London Health Strategy (LHS)?

Please circle the appropriate numbers.

LHS priority area	<i>Important</i>			<i>Not important</i>		
Regeneration	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Inequalities	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Transport	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Black & minority ethnic health	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Community involvement/Engagement	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>

What populations are affected by the policy?

Underlying assumption

For London-wide strategies, it has been assumed that the total resident population of London (i.e. those people living within GLA boundaries) will be affected in some way. If this assumption does not hold true for the current policy, please say why below:

Reasons why total resident population will not be affected

3 In the matrix below is a list of the GLA Stakeholder Groups. Identify which of them might be affected by the policy, and, if so, will the impacts be positive or negative?

Please circle the appropriate numbers. If you are not sure what the impact will be, circle "Not sure".

If you consider that there are other groups affected by this policy, add these in the spaces provided and circle the appropriate numbers.

GLA Stakeholder Groups	Potential impact					
	Positive		Negative			
Black and ethnic minority communities	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Asian networks	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Irish communities	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Women	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Young people	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Children	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Students	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Lesbian and gay communities	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Disabled people	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Mental health service users	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
People with learning difficulties	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Older people	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Refugees and asylum seekers	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Faith groups	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Voluntary and community sector	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
Rough sleepers	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
<i>Other(s) – please specify:</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure
	1	2	3	4	5	Not sure

4 If you have identified a negative impact (a score of 4 or 5) for any of the GLA Stakeholder Groups, try to characterise the nature of that negative impact in the matrix below?

Please tick the appropriate box.

GLA Stakeholder Groups (Fill in this column as appropriate)	Might the negative impact for the group be:			
	Serious?	Complex?	Greater than that for the population?	Positive for the population?

5 Apart from the GLA's resident population, which people living outside London might be affected by the policy?

Please circle appropriate answer.

If you consider that there are other groups living outside London affected by this policy, add these in the spaces provided and circle the appropriate answer.

Groups living outside London	Will they be affected?		
Residents of neighbouring local authority areas	Yes	No	Not sure
Residents of non-neighbouring local authority areas	Yes	No	Not sure
Regular commuters into London	Yes	No	Not sure
Occasional business visitors to London	Yes	No	Not sure
UK tourists	Yes	No	Not sure
Foreign tourists	Yes	No	Not sure
Total UK population	Yes	No	Not sure
Others - <i>please specify</i>			
	Yes	No	Not sure
	Yes	No	Not sure

6 If you think that any of the groups living outside London might be affected, indicate whether they contribute to the economic, social, and/or environmental well-being or sustainability of London.

Please complete and tick appropriate box(es) in the matrix below.

Groups living outside London <i>(Fill in this column as appropriate)</i>	Does this group contribute to the well-being or sustainability of London:		
	Economically?	Socially?	Environmentally?

What are the potential impacts on health?

7 Which of the following determinants of health might be affected by the policy, and, if so, will that impact be positive or negative?

Circle the appropriate numbers.

If you are not sure what the impact will be, circle 'Not sure'.

Determinant of health	Potential impact					
	<i>Positive</i>		<i>Negative</i>			
<i>Social and economic factors</i>						
Poverty	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Employment	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Social exclusion	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
<i>Environmental factors</i>						
Air quality	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Housing	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Water quality	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Social environment	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
<i>Lifestyle factors</i>						
Diet	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Physical activity	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Smoking	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Alcohol	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Sexual behaviour	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Drugs	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
<i>Access to services</i>						
Education	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
NHS	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Social services	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Transport	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Leisure	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
<i>Equality</i>						
Age	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Sex	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Sexual orientation	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Race	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
Disability	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
<i>Other – specify:</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	<i>Not sure</i>

Part B Is further health appraisal needed?

Summarising your findings so far

10 Summarise your findings so far by answering the questions below. (The more significant questions are indicated *.)

For each question in the central column, circle the appropriate answer.

<i>Favouring further appraisal</i>	Question	<i>Not favouring further appraisal</i>
Yes/Don't know	1 Is the policy important to the GLA/LHS (Questions 1 and 2)?	No
Yes/Don't know	2 * Does the policy affect in a negative way any of the GLA's Stakeholder Groups (Question 3 and 4)?	No
Yes/Don't know	3 Does the policy affect one or more groups living outside London who contribute to the economic, social or environmental well-being of London (Questions 5 and 6)?	No
Yes/Don't know	4 * For some of the determinants of health, are some of the effects of the policy unknown (Question 8)?	No
Yes/Don't know	5 * Does the policy have any serious or complex negative effects through any of the determinants of health (Question 8)?	No

If you have answered 'Yes' to three or more questions under Question 10 (especially 2, 4 and 5), then you favour further appraisal under the HIA process.

If you answered 'No' to three or more questions (especially 2, 4 and 5), then you do not favour further appraisal under the HIA process

Circle the appropriate box below.

<i>In favour of further appraisal</i>	<i>Not in favour of further appraisal</i>
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Note. It is important to test this decision against other factors that may influence it. See Question 11.

11 Testing the result from Question 10.

For each question in the central column, circle the appropriate answer.

<i>Favouring further appraisal</i>	In your opinion:	<i>Not favouring further appraisal</i>
<i>No/Don't know</i>	1 Is there a robust and readily available evidence or experience base to inform the appraisal of health impacts?	Yes
<i>No/Don't know</i>	2 Is there a robust and readily available evidence or experience base to inform the development of recommendations?	Yes
<i>Yes/Don't know</i>	3 Are there concerns among stakeholders, especially the community , about potential health impacts?	No

If you find that 'don't know' is the response that comes most readily to you, you will probably find it helpful to discuss the issues with a colleague from health. Otherwise, turn to the Question 12 to explore the options now open to you.

Where do you go from here?

12 Read the main options and courses of action summarised below. Which of the actions identified do you need to take? Note that you may well want to discuss your decisions with a colleague from health.

Tick actions as appropriate.

- ***In favour of further health appraisal***

Record the decision here. Now continue to Question 13.

- **Not in favour of further health appraisal**

Either – because the potential health impacts of implementing the policy – set out in Question 7 – are judged to be negligible, that is neither positive nor negative (given a score of 3)

Record the decision here. Then continue to Question 13.

Or – because the potential health impacts are judged to be well known, as are the ways in which negative impacts can be eliminated or ameliorated, and/or positive impacts can be enhanced ('Yes' to Questions 1 and 2 within Question 11).

Record the decision here. Then continue to Question 13. Write a report to accompany the completed screening tool document. This should describe the potential impacts of the policy and the groups affected and include a set of recommendations to modify the policy, with reference to the supporting evidence/HIA experience base.

13 Complete the following.

- *Record in the box at the bottom of this page who is responsible for screening the policy, and the policy document that was used during the process.*
- *Pass the completed screening tool document to a relevant colleague from health.*

Personnel responsible for screening the policy:

Policy document used during screening:

Title:

Date:

**Code number:
(if any)**